



MICHAEL MAREK
VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Marek has over fifteen years experience working as a landscape designer/builder and urban forester. In 1996, Marek began providing landscaping consulting and construction services to clients and in 2000 incorporated Marek Landscaping, LLC with a commitment to provide sustainable design and installation while balancing aesthetics, ecology, engineering needs, and budget to form cohesive and sustainable results in Southeastern Wisconsin.

Marek serves as Lead Designer and Project Manager for projects involving aquatic, prairie, and woodland restorations, shoreline and bluff stabilizations, historic preservation, storm water solutions, public and private gardens, green roofs, and community gardens while collaborating with a wide network of engineers, scientists, and planners during design and construction phases. He is a member of the Land Stewardship Committee for the Milwaukee Area Land Conservancy and the Wisconsin Prescribed Fire Council.

Education/Certifications

- Filtrexx International, Inc. - Certified Installer and Vendor
- Prescribed Fire Training – up through Intermediate Wildland Fire Behavior
- University of Wisconsin – Stevens Point/Urban Forestry Major

Work History

Owner/Vice President 1996 – Present	Marek Landscaping, LLC Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Village Forester 1990 – 1995	Elm Grove Department of Public Works Elm Grove, Wisconsin

Partial Project Experience

Milwaukee River Trail Design and Bluff/Riverbank Restoration Plan

The Village of Shorewood hired Marek Landscaping to design a trail system and bluff/riverbank restoration plan along the Milwaukee River. The project area consisted of a narrow floodplain abutted by steep slopes, was about ½ mile in length, and 19 acres in area. Tasks included assessing the hydrology and drainage, erosion, plant communities, and trail accessibility, connections, and use by the public. Meetings were held with stakeholders, Village staff, and the public for input. These efforts culminated into a plan that provided recommendations on trail alignment and connections, vegetation management, bluff and riverbank stabilization and erosion controls, trail maintenance, trail signage, permits, budgets, and funding opportunities. The vegetation management plan included recommended phased invasive plant removals, revegetation strategies, and ongoing management. Strategies for bluff and riverbank stabilization included the use of soft and hard armoring along with compost-based best management practices.

Cuyahoga River Habitat System

Mike participated in installing the Cuyahoga Habitat Underwater Baskets (CHUBs) in the Cuyahoga River shipping canal in Cleveland, Ohio. The work involved delivering materials, safely loading and operating the barge with the assistance of a tender boat, attaching the CHUB anchoring system to sheet



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piling using powder actuated tools, selecting plant species for their ideal sun aspect and aesthetic arrangement, and affixing CHUBs to the anchoring system. Mike has continued to develop ideas on applying CHUBs to the rivers of Milwaukee.

Menomonee River Valley Passage & Hank Aaron State Trail Design

The project involves designing a pedestrian bridge and passage way across the Menomonee River to connect a nearby neighborhood to the Menomonee Valley and the Hank Aaron State Trail. Marek completed the riverbank vegetation inventory, cataloged and photographed the most valuable plants based on species, size, location, and overall condition, provided recommendations for tree protection and removals related to site grading, engineering, and landscape layout, identified opportunities to use regionally available and recycled materials in the project, assisted with identifying low-impact construction techniques, and assisted in developing stormwater management solutions. Marek and the design team will continue this work as part of the project's second phase. This will include two additional pedestrian bridges, more than 4,000 feet of riverbank, and 23 acres will be transformed into a park. Steep slopes, narrow quarters, and a tight budget will once again challenge conventional construction means and methods, all while diverse, functional ecosystems are the end goal.

Milwaukee River East Bank Trail

This one mile low impact trail was specified and constructed by Marek in cooperation with Milwaukee County Parks and River Revitalization Foundation. It is a 4-foot wide gravel trail constructed partly within the limits of the wetlands and through endangered Butler's gartersnake habitat. One bridge, spanning an MMSD outfall structure and several retaining walls were constructed in tight quarters and steep slopes. Permit restrictions were strict and the budget was tight, but all work was completed on schedule and within budget with no negative water quality impact. Marek worked in conjunction with federal Americorps troops and helped coordinate their work and training. The restoration of the sides of the trail included a wet mesic native prairie planting and natural, erosion stabilization.

The Urban Ecology Center Milwaukee River Access

The Urban Ecology Center (UEC) is a neighborhood based, non-profit community center located in Milwaukee's historic Riverside Park. The UEC wanted to improve their Milwaukee River shoreline by restoring the riverbank and providing an accessible boat launch and fishing pier to better manage river access and the degradation of the shoreline. Marek was part of a design team leading the master planning and management of this important historic and natural resource. His work involved; coordinating with the UEC board and river access committee to determine overall goals and considerations for the project; coordinating with stakeholders, such as the WDNR, SEWRPC, & Milwaukee County Parks to discuss permits, design considerations for public use, and the connection of the river access and trails to the County Park system; developing "adaptive" paddling and boat launch designs for the disabled with the U.S. Forest Service and American Canoe Association; designing & specifying the boat launch and trail system; and assisting with the preparation of the master plan & construction documents.

Wahl Avenue Bluff

Marek was contracted by Milwaukee County Parks to perform emergency bluff stabilization and erosion control for a section of Lake Michigan's bluff along North Lincoln Memorial Drive after the majority of



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soil stabilizing vegetation from about a one acre section of the bluff was mistakenly cleared. The emergency stabilization measures included a compost blanket and Filtrexx slope interrupters, were in place three days after Marek was contacted, and successfully maintained the stability of the slope during a 2-inch storm event occurring shortly after completion. No runoff sediment was deposited onto the public bike path after the storm. Within less than a week the cover crop germinated further stabilizing the soil until the native plants were able to germinate.

Grafton Bluff Stabilization

The highly eroded bluff on the residential property elevates 140-feet over Lake Michigan. The client sought to reduce the erosion potential and to access the shoreline while not undertaking a complete bluff stabilization project. Marek designed a top of bluff cut along with a pedestrian trail that traverses the slope with several stair sections on stable portions of the bluff, two small log bridges, and low investment foot path sections that cross the unstable slip faces of the slope. Marek worked with a civil and geotechnical engineer to design the bluff stabilization plan, prepared & submitted construction permits to state and local agencies, and attended a public hearing on behalf of the client. The \$60,000 project was successfully built in the summer of 2004.

Bradford Beach Stormwater Controls – Phase I

This project involved the construction of five storm water infiltration cells on Bradford Beach and three rain gardens in Lake Park on Milwaukee's coast. The purpose of this project was to treat storm water from upland sewers which discharge onto the sands of Bradford Beach. Mike Marek was the project manager for the restoration work. This was a key project in the successful revitalization of the beach, greatly improving beach and water quality. Marek completed construction in 2008 and has been involved in the ongoing maintenance of the project.

Mequon Bluff Stabilization

The 140 foot high, 3 acre bluff in Mequon was highly eroded with severe slumping and toe erosion. Marek led the design, construction, and ongoing maintenance for the \$250,000 project, which was completed in the summer of 2002. The residential project involved the re-shaping of the bluff, hard armoring of the toe of slope, extensive drainage system for groundwater, and high diversity native plantings. Still stable after two, 100 year storm events, the project has met all of its engineering and ecological goals.