

MML Innovation Award Winners

Each year at the MML Annual Conference, members recognize the year's MML Innovation Award winners. In 2017, 30 projects were submitted, and winners were chosen in categories based on municipal population. In addition, all MML members are given the opportunity to vote on a Members' Choice winner. The Innovation Awards highlight the creative ways cities work to serve their citizens. From environmental improvements to citizen engagement opportunities and simplifying taxes, Missouri cities prove over and over that they are closest to the people and making a positive impact on day-to-day life for Missouri citizens.

Judges had a tough job to choose just a few winners, but the projects highlighted below rose to the top. Winners were honored at the MML Awards Luncheon at the MML Annual Conference in September. In addition, each community submitting a project had the opportunity to set up a display during the Conference at the Innovations Award Showcase. Review the summaries of each project and past projects on the League's website at www.mocities.com/Innovation.



City of Kansas City: Increasing Revenue Utilizing Data Analytics

Larger City Category

In 2013, the city of Kansas City implemented new tax administration software to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of revenue collections. As part of this process, the finance department's revenue division embarked on a multi-year project to maximize revenue by fully utilizing the tools available in the new software. Prior to 2013, the City's outdated software and business processes could not accommodate the security controls required to automate the process for identifying non-filing taxpayers. As such,

the ability to match IRS data was limited to a cumbersome and time-consuming manual process that lent itself to inefficiencies, as well as potential for human error. As the new process was implemented, the City created a data warehouse to match data and built the software programs to accurately identify under-reported tax liabilities and non-filing taxpayers through an automated process. The results thus far show an increase in revenue of more than \$10 million over three years. This amount includes collection of past years' delinquencies, as well as expansion of the tax base as more taxpayers become aware of the City's tax-filing requirements. Even greater successes are predicted to result from the new system in the years ahead.

MIRMA

Missouri Intergovernmental Risk
Management Association

Phone: 573.817.2554

Web: www.mirma.org

Missouri's First Municipal Self Insurance Pool

BENEFITS:

- One comprehensive package!
- Proactive loss prevention training
- On-site safety training
- Annual police firearms training
- Risk Management Grant Program
- Aquatic audit reimbursement
- Police accreditation reimbursement
- Seminars & workshops
- Video library

COVERAGE:

- Workers' Compensation
- Property
- General Liability
- Public Officials Liability
- Employment Practices Liability
- Law Enforcement Liability
- Automobile
- Boiler & Machinery
- Airport



City of Nixa: Alternative Sentencing Court

Large City Category

The Nixa Alternative Sentencing Court has an ongoing objective to break the systemic causes of recidivism by addressing the underlying causes of criminal behavior in municipal offenders suffering from homelessness, mental illness, drug abuse, alcohol abuse and poverty. The Nixa Alternative Sentencing Court has admitted 16 participants since October 2016, that has resulted in one graduate and zero incidents of recidivism. However, the lasting effects of the sentencing court are found in the true-to-life impacts each individual participant has on their friends, family and community. The sentencing court has engaged its participants by utilizing an innovative approach to treatment courts through personal connections and community involvement. Every community resource

organization involved has volunteered their time and efforts toward this cause and the program boasts community partners such as Missouri State University, Nixa Police Department, Burrell Behavioral Health, Least of These and Alternatives. Recently (05/25/2017) the program served as a model to municipal courts throughout the state as Judge Joel Harris presented “Treatment Court Efforts in Municipal Courts” to 350 municipal and associate court judges at the MMACJA Annual Conference.



City Of Fulton: Fulton Stream Team

Medium City Category

Two years ago, the portion of Stinson Creek that flows through Fulton was found to have lower-than-allowed dissolved oxygen levels. The Missouri Department of Natural Resources required the City to improve those numbers. One solution has been the creation of the Fulton Stream Team, to help inform and educate citizens about the impact of stormwater pollution. Thanks to the efforts of the city of Fulton Engineering Department and the cooperation of local schools, colleges and youth-based organizations, the

stream team has been able to educate more than 200 students. From incorporating Halloween costumes into a stream cleanup to getting into the streams and showing kids the tiny creatures living there, the use of creativity and interactivity has left an indelible impression on students. The success of the Fulton Stream Team’s programs has been noticeable as community groups continue to seek out the team for presentations. Creating a stream team can be beneficial to any city with a stormwater system. We all live in a watershed and it is important to know what can be done to protect it. Each municipality has the opportunity to craft educational programs that focus on the pollution issues that their community faces.



Rockaway Beach - Merriam Woods: Multijurisdictional Agreement Small City Category

The Keeping Our Communities Safe program objectives were to join together the law enforcement agencies of two adjacent municipalities, the city of Merriam Wood and city of Rockaway Beach, to assist each other in routine law enforcement operations that cross jurisdictional boundaries to ensure public safety of citizens by providing adequate levels of police services to address any foreseeable routine or emergency situation. The program's objectives were successfully achieved through the mutual collaboration of both municipalities. The program was implemented in October 2016 and is directed and overseen by both chiefs of police representing the city of Merriam Woods and city of Rockaway Beach.

Rural communities throughout the country face significant issues when trying to solve the problem of providing increased levels of law enforcement coverage and other services to their communities. The issues include lack of funding; local control; not enough manpower to provide respite for law enforcement; and long shifts for the officers who must be on-call 24 hours/7 days a week, causing undue stress and fatigue for the officers. Keeping Our Communities Safe program is an innovative, cutting-edge program that is applicable to other cities with similar issues, allowing cities to provide safety for all.

providing increased levels of law enforcement coverage and other services to their communities. The issues include lack of funding; local control; not enough manpower to provide respite for law enforcement; and long shifts for the officers who must be on-call 24 hours/7 days a week, causing undue stress and fatigue for the officers. Keeping Our Communities Safe program is an innovative, cutting-edge program that is applicable to other cities with similar issues, allowing cities to provide safety for all.



Brentwood: Alternative Sidewalk Slab Repairs Members' Choice Category

The city of Brentwood, Missouri, a recognized Tree City USA municipality, is home to hundreds of trees in the city's rights of way. Over the years, some of the tree roots have grown and lifted the adjacent sidewalk slabs, but not broken the concrete slabs themselves. Although the lifted slabs were structurally sufficient, some of the angled and tilted slabs could present pedestrian hazards. Typically, angled and uneven adjacent sidewalk slabs were removed, new materials installed, and site restoration completed. A typical sidewalk replacement process could span two or more days from commencement to completion. In late 2016, the Brentwood Public Works Department discussed usage of a polymer known as PolyLevel that could, under certain instances, be utilized to lift sunken concrete slabs

in lieu of demolition and replacement of the slabs. In January 2017, the director of public works reviewed a candidate project at St. Clair Avenue, where approximately 50 linear feet of sidewalk along the avenue was raised due to the roots of sweetgum trees. In late February 2017, Woods Basement raised approximately 195 feet of sidewalk in about four hours. The contract cost was approximately \$2,200 versus \$3,175 for conventional replacement work.

Congratulations To This Year's Winners!