

MML Innovation Awards

Serving Citizens With New And Efficient Ideas

The Missouri Municipal League awarded four Innovation Awards at the MML Annual Conference in September. Categories include large-sized city, medium-sized city, small-sized city and members' choice.

A panel of judges chose one winner from each of the first three categories and all MML members were provided the opportunity to vote online for the members' choice award. With nearly 30 projects submitted this year, both the panel and MML members had tough choices!

Submissions are judged based on innovation, benefit to the citizens and how easily another city could replicate this project.

Find details of submission, a full list of this year's submitted projects and a list of previous winners on the Innovation Awards page of www.mocities.com.

MML wants to make sure all projects are highlighted so they can benefit other municipalities. To share great experiences, a session at the MML Annual Conference was dedicated to the Innovation Awards Showcase, where any city that submitted a project could have a table and spend time talking with attendees about their innovation. It is a valuable networking and learning opportunity for both presenters and attendees.

Congratulations to all of the winners of this year's MML Innovation Awards! 🍀

**Do you have a project to share?
Think about the great services your
city provides and plan to submit your
information to MML for next year's
Innovation Awards by July 2017!**

Photo (l-r): Blue Springs City Administrator Eric Johnson, Mayor Carson Ross, Parks & Recreation Director Dennis Dovel and Mayor Pro Tem Chris Lievsay. Mayor Ross and Mayor Pro Tem Lievsay serve on the Board of Directors for the Missouri Municipal League, with Mayor Ross serving as a past president. Photos by Kevin Morgan.

City of Blue Springs Blue Springs Fieldhouse



Blue Springs continues to be a growing city with a population of more than 53,000 residents. In order to meet the ever-changing needs and challenges of the community, citizens had a vision of providing an indoor recreation facility the entire community could use. The Parks and Recreation Department used a community input process that determined what amenities the community wanted in a facility.

Involvement from the parks commission and the City Council was extremely important in making sure the project was achieved. Along with SFS Architecture, the development and construction of what is now the Blue Springs Fieldhouse became a reality and the facility opened in October 2015. The facility offers four full basketball and volleyball courts, one large soccer turf field, three party or meeting rooms, two indoor tracks, fitness center with advanced fitness technology, aerobic studio, spin studio, child watch, support offices, concessions and an administration area.

With approximately 76,560 square feet of space, the Blue Springs Fieldhouse is now a usable municipal recreational space with a simple mission of providing fitness and recreation for all! The facility serves more than residents of the City, but surrounding communities that do not have family friendly recreation or fitness establishments.

City of Battlefield Autism-Friendly City



Photo (l-r): Dr. Linda Barboa, City of Battlefield alderman and founder, Stars For Autism; Battlefield Mayor Debra Hickey; Jan Luck, president, Stars For Autism.

The City was honored for its initiative to create an autism-friendly city.

Autism is the fastest growing developmental disability in the world today, affecting more than 3.5 million Americans. A recent Strategic Park Planning Survey recognized Battlefield's desire to be a family friendly community, including parks, schools, churches, and businesses free of physical and social barriers, and welcoming to all citizens. Fueled by a proclamation identifying Battlefield as an "Autism Friendly City," the mayor, Board of Aldermen and local nonprofit organizations implemented this innovative program. The project offers free training to virtually every citizen, allowing the public to understand and support families living with this life-long disorder.

The objective of the project is to promote awareness of the social and environmental factors that affect people who have autism and support those citizens through public training, environmental upgrades and improved services. The City successfully achieved these objectives by partnering with Springfield Public Schools, Steps Care Incorporated, Greene County 911, Greene County Office of Emergency Management and local media, under the guidance of the nonprofit organization Stars for Autism. There are families living with autism in virtually every city in America. The implementers of the program have created written materials and presentations that offer step-by-step guidance to any city replicating this timely program.

City of Mount Vernon Veterans' Way Project



Photo: Pictured are (l-r) Max Springer, city administrator; Karen Millsap, director, Mount Vernon Regional Arts Council; Sue Lee, alderwoman; Raine Clotfelter, artist, and Tricia Clotfelter, assistant artist; and Dave Eden, mayor.

Mount Vernon was honored for its Veterans' Way Project in the small city category and in the members' choice category, where Missouri local government officials vote for their favorite project from all submissions.

Veterans' Way is a citizen-led effort in Mount Vernon, Missouri, established to express gratitude to a large segment of the population who served or are presently serving in the military.

The project's main objective is to instill a sense of pride in the community. Other objectives are to honor service people, past and present, to beautify their city, and to give Mount Vernon an identity of being a Veteran-friendly city.

The project began by Mount Vernon City Council designating the main thoroughfare in Mount Vernon as Veterans' Way. Linking our efforts with that of Mount Vernon's Regional Arts Council and the Mount Vernon City Council, the committee created works of art that stand as constant and daily reminders that Mount Vernon appreciates veterans. Commissioning a world-class muralist, Veterans Way has begun to transform the cityscape with red, white and blue themes. The art has birthed an effort with local businesses to offer discounts to veterans and their families.