

MML 2018 Innovation Award Winners



Columbia Extra Large City Category and Members' Choice *Community Scholars Program*

The Community Scholars Program provides at-risk students and their families with the support they need and is centered on the fundamental premise that it takes a whole community to raise a child. This innovative program utilizes community partnerships to more effectively target existing resources to empower the students to achieve success in high school and in life. The program was successfully implemented in the summer of 2017 by the city of Columbia and Hickman High School. At-risk, ninth grade students participated in a summer school class that included job shadowing opportunities with city staff in order to jump start the State of Missouri's A+ Scholarship program. These students had the opportunity to earn one unit of high school credit and up to 12 hours of job shadowing, that counted towards the 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring for the A+ scholarship. The City's CARE program assisted the teachers by providing job readiness skills training and an opportunity to apply for a CARE summer job in 2018. Together, the City and Hickman High School are developing a curriculum guide and forms to make the program easily replicable and scalable in other communities.



A promotional graphic for EFCMoen's 20th anniversary. It features a large '20 Years' logo with 'EFCMoen' underneath. To the right, the words 'TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING' are written in large, colorful, block letters. Below this, it says 'PROUDLY SERVING MISSOURI' followed by the address '13523 Barrett Parkway Dr., Suite 250 | St. Louis, MO 63021 | 14.394.3100'. At the bottom, there are six vertical panels showing different services: ROADWAYS, BRIDGES, SURVEYING, TRAFFIC, WATER RESOURCES, and CONSTRUCTION SERVICES.





Nixa – Large City Category Nixa Solar Farm



The Nixa Solar Farm project had three main objectives: 1) to provide cost savings over the long-term; 2) to reduce the City’s carbon footprint into the future; 3) to bolster the City’s reputation as a progressive community. Missouri’s largest solar farm was developed west of town, providing about 9 percent of the City’s current annual electric demand. The 25-year purchase power agreement will save the City \$2.5 million dollars, while reducing the City’s carbon footprint by more than 10,500 metric tons per year. Positive press coverage bolstered the City’s reputation as a progressive community capable of working in public/private partnerships to develop large projects with tangible benefits for the community. Other cities, whether they own their own electric system or not, could also achieve cost savings, reduce environmental impact, and enhance their progressive reputation by working with the private equity firms, co-ops or investor owned utilities, to develop solar arrays. The City’s savings came primarily from reduced transmission costs because of the solar farm’s proximity.

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Willard **Medium City Category** *D.A.R.E./PAL Outdoor Character Camp*

When people think of innovation, their minds often think of the latest new “app” or technology gadget that can change lives. However, innovation in land use can have an equally large impact on the lives within a community. The city of Willard has committed to repurposing land through an intentional process, that intertwines activity between the schools, businesses and the local government. Beginning in 2012, the Willard Police Department, the Police Athletic League (PAL) program and volunteers envisioned using overgrown and unutilized city property to provide a place where youth could interact with police officers beyond their participation in the schools D.A.R.E. program. By accomplishing this outcome, an excellent outdoor environment for the youth to be strengthened in the areas of responsibility, honor, self-control and discernment has been realized. Today, youth can center on those competencies with police instructors while learning the science of boxing, tactical jiu-jitsu and camping through this new D.A.R.E./PAL Outdoor Character Camp.



North Kansas City **Small City Category** *Armour Road Pop-Up Parklet*

The Armour Road Pop-Up Parklet was a one-day demonstration project that included the installation of decorative crosswalks; a temporary park in three downtown parking spaces; and a temporary bike lane as a way to demonstrate the recommendations of the Armour Road Complete Street Plan, engage the community and build support for future street improvements. The pop-up event was successful in engaging with many more community members than a typical public meeting, including many who had not previously attended a public meeting. The event also garnered an extremely high level of media interest that is not typical for a public meeting. The pop-up was covered by three TV stations, a radio station and the *Kansas City Star*. The project was led by staff from the community development and public works departments, with assistance from consultants working on the Armour Road Complete Street Plan. The project also drew on assistance from Better Block KC, the Missouri Chapter of the American Planning Association, and TrailNet for supplies and technical assistance. The project showed how unique, hands-on events can result in increased community engagement, greater visibility for a proposed project, and support for future improvements.