

**MISSOURI MUNICIPAL LEAGUE**

**INNOVATION AWARD**

**CATALOG OF PROJECTS**

**FORWARD:** The Innovation Award program began in 2006. The intent of the program is to highlight municipal projects that address community issues in a creative manner. More information on any of the following projects can be obtained by contacting the project's city or by contacting League staff.

<b>City</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Summary</b>
Blue Springs	Stand-Up! Blue Springs	Planning	2006	Blue Spring's project entitled "StandUp! Blue Springs" was conceptualized by co founders Carol Journagan and David Wright. A series of "summits" were held to introduce the mission statement of StandUp Blue Springs - <i>Volunteers engaging citizens in the Blue Springs community, and facilitating involvement, growth, communication, and collaboration.</i> StandUp's guiding principles are: Involvement - A commitment to include more citizens in decision making through endeavors to encourage voting and the emergence of new leaders; Growth - A commitment to economic, community and personal vitality in order to improve the quality of life for all citizens; Communication - A commitment to promote communication among entities, within entities, and with individual citizens; and Collaboration - A commitment to collaboration for the purpose of maximizing resources.
Dardenne Prairie	Public-Private Partnership	Downtown Revitalization	2006	The city of Dardenne Prairie's project involved creating its own sense of identity by leveraging a public/private partnership for parks development.
Ferguson	Ferguson Responsible Landlord Initiative	Property Maintenance	2006	The city of Ferguson's responsible landlord initiative was developed in response to the concerns of citizens living in neighborhoods with high concentrations of rental property, particularly one- and two-family dwellings. It is a performance-based approach that uses property maintenance code enforcement as a method of encouraging and protecting private investment and stabilizing neighborhoods. The initiative creates three landlord classifications - responsible, provisional, and suspended. The Livability Code sets the standard for safe, attractive, sustainable housing. For property owners classified as provisional or suspended, the property must be inspected by a certified ASHI inspector at the expense of the landlord.

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Gladstone	Northland Wellness Challenge	Health	2006	A weight loss program for employees.
Independence	Independence Citizen Corps Volunteer Program	Volunteers; Finance	2006	Independence's project "Missouri Citizen Corps Volunteer Program" created an opportunity for expanding existing volunteer programs and training these volunteers in community preparedness and citizen readiness.
Jackson	East Main Street Interchange	Transportation	2006	A new interchange with Interstate 55.
Mexico	Advanced Technology Center	Education	2006	Mexico's Advanced Technology Center (ATC) is a result of a collaborative effort among Linn State Technical College (LSTC), Moberly Area Community College (MACC), the University of Missouri Extension and the city of Mexico. The ATC consists of a 40,000-square-foot original building with a 16,464-square-foot addition built in 2005-06. It sits on 8.75 acres donated by a local family. Funding for the original college facility was made up of numerous sources. \$2.25 million was granted from Missouri Lottery proceeds, \$1 million from the U. S. Department of Education, and more than \$584,000 was raised from community donations. Funding for the addition came from the federal agencies: HUD, EDI, EDA; local businesses; and community contributions. This unique cooperative was established to provide higher education and training opportunities to the residents of Mexico, Audrain County, surrounding counties, and the state of Missouri.

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Raymore	Raymore Municipal Center & City Hall	Downtown Revitalization	2006	The city of Raymore's Municipal Center is the first of its kind in Cass County in incorporating civic, commercial, vehicular, and pedestrian environments into an integrated neighborhood that reflects the philosophy and sense of community that is the city of Raymore. The approximately 19.2-acre development is nestled within an established residential neighborhood and is connected and in close proximity to Missouri State Highway 58 that is the main commercial thoroughfare for the city of Raymore. The City Hall, an approximately 24,000-square-foot facility incorporating city offices, police department, municipal courts and a community room is the anchor and focal point of the development. A total of twelve lots suitable for development of office or light retail are included in the project. The city center concept is implemented by use of an overlay district that imposes additional criteria on the underlying zoning districts.
St. Charles	Police Mobile Reserve Unit	Police	2006	St. Charles created a unique and specialized unit of police officers dedicated to respond to incidents and events of criminal activity which might otherwise go unattended to in a timely manner or by traditional police assignment. The need for a mobile reserve unit (MRU) grew from the desire for a unified and timely response to identify and remove criminals through innovative assignment and scheduling. The unit also is flexible enough to operate in traditional police duties across a varying schedule that might be otherwise overlooked because of time and service demands. The department assigned four officers and a sergeant from its patrol contingent after a thorough screening and selection process. By varying their schedules, the mobile reserve unit can be deployed at various times in order to effectively address the events or incidents of concerned.

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Crestwood	Strategic Planning	Planning	2007	Crestwood's project detailed the implementation of a much needed and far reaching strategic plan. Following a period of declining sales tax revenues, the City of Crestwood spiraled into a financial crisis. This downward spiral left the organization unfocused with a low energy level and a bunker mentality among departments leading to poor interdepartmental cooperation. Following the election of a new Mayor, the hiring of a new City Administrator and the passage of a major tax initiative to eliminate the City's need for a line of credit, the City's elected leadership engaged in a strategic planning process to boldly move the City toward a positive future. This strategic planning process resulted in the creation of a fifteen-year vision for the City, supported by five year goals.
De Soto	Park and Recreation Project for ADA Improvements	Parks; ADA	2007	The De Soto project concentrated on the implementation of ADA compliant access to the city's park system. The main goal was to create an environment so these individuals could access areas that they could not explore before. With the financial help from the CDBG Grant, labor provided by the Public Works Department and local volunteers, the City has been able to provide some of these much-needed items.
Gladstone	Natatorium Partnership	Parks; Finance	2007	Partnership between city and school district to build and use swimming pool.

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Harrisonville	Paintball Park	Parks	2007	Harrisonville's project was a first ever for Missouri. It involved creating a paintball park. For years, the sport of paintball has been played renegade-style (unsupervised) on hundreds of acres of public parkland across the country. Harrisonville Parks and Recreation became only the fourth parks department in the United States to formally support the sport of paintball by establishing a paintball field and allowing organized play to commence on a regular basis. The sport of paintball generates over one billion dollars in sales a year and has been televised on ESPN, TNT, and The Outdoor Channel. Field operations in Harrisonville are on parks property, but are contracted out to a third party, High Performance Paintball, creating a unique partnership between the public and private sectors. The City of Harrisonville receives monthly rent and a percentage of day pass fees and paintball sales, but the benefits don't stop there.
Hollister	Town Hall Square Park	Parks	2007	Hollister's project focused on the creation of a 'mini-park' in the city's downtown area. The park came about as a response to a needs assessment survey conducted by the city. The Town Hall Square Park supplies a multipurpose green area, providing recreational exercise, entertainment, and a nature trail. Town Hall Square Park is a 1.83 acre tract of grassy land surrounded by an asphalt pedestrian and bicycle trail that connects to a waterfall and nature area. A unique feature of the park is a pedestrian bridge that is reconstructed from the Turkey Creek Bridge, the first iron bridge in Taney County, which was taken down in March 2001. The park also features a stage for entertainment, a decorative wall composed of shaped and stacked limestone blocks, picnic tables, and two horseshoe pits.

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Jackson	East Main Street Interchange	Transportation	2007	The City of Jackson's project involved the creation of a brand-new front door to the city; a new interchange on Interstate 55. The project detailed the extension of East Main Street and the building of its interchange from Interstate 55. Fifty-four (54) acres of land will be used over the next year to construct the \$10.8 million interchange, which should be opened to drivers in mid to late 2008. It will include a five-lane East Main Street with two eastbound and two westbound lanes and a center turn lane. It will also have a dual left-turn lane at the interchange ramps. The City of Jackson is responsible for a two-phase project extending East Main Street from Oak Hill Road to the interchange. Construction on the first phase of the project is now complete.
Maryland Heights	Howard Bend Future Land Uses & Implementation Plan	Planning	2007	The city of Maryland Height's submission for the Innovation award dealt with land use planning. The Howard Bend Future Land use and Implementation Plan was created in response to various public capital improvements in an area of the city that was traditionally Missouri River Floodplain and high quality agricultural lands. Capital improvement projects in the area included the construction of a 500-year levee by the Howard Bend Levee District, construction of the Page Avenue Extension (Missouri Route 364) by the Missouri Department of Transportation and the construction of the Maryland Heights Expressway by the City of Maryland Heights. These public investment decisions enhanced market pressure for development in the area. In response, the city embarked on the creation of the land use plan to ensure responsible sustainable development while also ensuring that the environmental and open space systems of the area were preserved and enhanced.

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Pierce City	New Life for Old Armory	Downtown Revitalization	2007	Pierce City's project "New Life for Old Armory" demonstrated how perseverance in the face of disaster can turn around a community. The city had major decisions to make after the tornado of 2003 destroyed most of the town. The biggest building located in the middle of town was the "203 <sup>rd</sup> Battery "a" National Guard Armory." The fortress type structure was severely damaged. The drill hall was completely destroyed, although the original structure was mostly intact. The City took the initiative and convinced the State of Missouri to give the building to the City. Negotiations persuaded Clark Mental Health Center to come in as a tenant and eventually to take ownership of the building. Securing the Clark Mental Health Center as a tenant was a critical boost to the local economy supplying over 50 good jobs for the small community.
Riverside	Snip'n'Tip Feral Cat TNR Program	Animals	2007	In 2006, the City of Riverside partnered with No More Homeless Pets, Inc. out of Kansas City, Missouri to address the issue of feral cats in the City. It was important to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen to address this issue in the most humane manner possible while still addressing the rapid growth of the feral cat colonies. The feral cat program was designed to trap, neuter and return (TNR) the cats to their home area. TNR is widely recognized as the most humane and effective strategy for reducing feral cat populations. Since the cats are no longer reproducing, the colony will gradually diminish in size. As part of the program, veterinarians also tipped the left ear of each animal neutered in order to later identify the ones that had been through the program. After two phases with more than 40 volunteers, a total of 124 cats were trapped, 109 fixed and 19 adopted. Although the City originally allocated close to \$25,000 for the program, only \$7,032 was expended, leaving more than \$17,500 for future expenditures.

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Shrewsbury	Competitive Bidding of Capital Appreciation Bond Issue of Capital Improvements	Finance	2007	Shrewsbury's project focused on the creative use of competitive bidding for capital appreciation bonds. In the April elections of 2007 the voters of Shrewsbury passed three capital projects bond issues. The bond issues were to make improvements within the City in the areas of Parks, Streets and Public Safety. While the funding mechanism of bond issues are nothing new to municipalities in Missouri the type of bond in combination with the innovative bidding process is a first for the State. The City of Shrewsbury decided to use Capital Appreciation Bonds to fund the capital improvements needed by the City. Capital Appreciation Bonds as defined are purchased at a discounted rate and yield no capital payouts until the maturity date of the bond is reached. Once the maturity date is reached the bonds are paid out at full value. By using this type of bond the City of Shrewsbury will have no effect on its Debt Service Fund.
Sikeston	Doing more with Less...An Integrated Software Solution	Technology	2007	Sikeston's project involved using information technology. In response to public concern over the condition of local neighborhoods, Sikeston's City Council implemented Zero Tolerance Property Maintenance Violation and Rental Property Registration Programs. To effectively manage these programs, City staff needed to identify property owners, property managers and tenants of Sikeston's approximately 3,200 rental units. To effectively operate these programs, the records needed to be consolidated into a central database from which all departments could access and update this information in a timely manner.
Velda Village Hills	Velda Village Hills Park	Parks	2007	In a story of perseverance, Velda Village Hills project relates how the city was able to get a much needed parks project. This project was the vision of the Chairman of Velda Village Hills, Mrs. Mollie Bradford; she wanted a park, not just any park but a park with the amenities that everyone could enjoy. Velda Village Hills received a \$5000 grant to start the planning of Chairman Bradford vision. Velda Village Hills received \$241,000 for the first phase of the park project, which is now called Velda Village, Beverly Hills Memorial Park.

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Arnold	Intergovernmental Agreement for Joint Residential Inspections with Rock Community Fire Protection District	Intergovernmental	2008	Rock Community Fire Protection District (RCFPD) and the City of Arnold require review, permits and inspections for residential construction/property maintenance. The dual process resulted in conflict. The jurisdictions were concerned about the dual process and impact it had on our residents and customers because of the inconsistencies. Both agreed that safety of the occupant was the utmost goal. Both jurisdictions went to work creating a compromise that would eliminate the dual process and streamline the review and inspections. RCFPD adopted the same building codes as the City of Arnold with no local amendments to eliminate contradictions. The authorities sat down to decide who would review, permit and inspect which provisions of the building codes leading to the adoption of the intergovernmental agreement. The main objective is to maintain the safety of the end user while eliminating confusion with the contradicting codes and dual process. Another objective is to streamline the process creating a "one stop" shop that can be duplicated elsewhere.
Belton	Wellness Program	Health	2008	For years, research has proven the effectiveness of employee wellness programs through fewer sick days and improved productivity. Recognizing the benefits to both employee and employer, the city formed a Safety Committee with leaders from each of the city's seven departments, to develop its own program to improve employee health and happiness. The result: the City of Belton Wellness Program. All city employees received a free membership to the Belton Community Center for a minimum of six months. Membership included access to state-of-the-art fitness equipment and aerobics classes. Employees also received three visits with a Wellness Coach to develop a personalized workout plan and a means to stay on track to meet their goals. In return, employees had to work out eight times a month. Any city committed to improving the health and wellness of its employees could implement all or some of the components of this program and reap the benefits the city has seen the past seven months.

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Brentwood, Clayton, Maplewood, and Richmond Heights	Mid-Metro 4	Economic Development	2008	When St. Louis area communities heard about the I-64 closure, they predicted an economic disaster. Brentwood, Clayton, Maplewood and Richmond Heights saw an opportunity to invite residents and visitors alike to rediscover the fantastic amenities the central corridor has to offer. Thus, the coalition, which includes city governments, chambers of commerce, large and small employers, retailers, restaurants, school districts, and non-profit organizations that operate in the four cities, launched Mid-Metro 4. The outreach program was designed to ensure the stability of the area's businesses over the 2 years of construction and beyond, while reemphasizing accessibility to the area's exceptional offerings. Featuring a unique promotions-based program, incentive cards, and informational Web site, Mid-Metro 4 united businesses, buyers, and visitors by offering a reason and the resources for St. Louisans to rise above the construction. The organization took the initiative to work together outside of their own municipal boundaries in order to stimulate the area's economy, a model that could have a resounding effect on the region, especially in St. Louis C
Ferguson	Façade Easement Improvement Program	Downtown Revitalization	2008	The Façade Improvement Program was designed to encourage the revitalization of aging buildings in the downtown "Citywalk" business district. The program allows property owners to receive up to \$25,000 in matching funds to be used for façade improvement. The program includes 50% matching grants; City grant contribution range of between \$2,500 and \$25,000; and an easement requirement with the property owner. The project's objectives were to promote the continued revitalization of the central business district, offer a financial incentive to encourage façade rehabilitation, and restore the unique architectural feel of downtown Ferguson.

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Independence	Neighborhood Code Compliance	Property Maintenance	2008	Independence developed the Neighborhood Code Compliance Program (NCCP), to foster partnerships between all parties and provide additional methods for residents to dispose of trash and brush that usually isn't accepted by trash haulers or is too expensive for them to throw away. The NCCP provides a forum to interact with City government without citizens making the first move. The meeting, clean-up, and correspondence are all initiated by the City. Citizens are provided the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions, and ask for help without having to "track down" someone in the City. During the clean-up, citizens work hand in hand with neighbors, community volunteers and City staff to clean up their neighborhood. Since inception, citizens and the City have worked together to remove more than 1.4 million pounds of trash and brush from 19 neighborhoods (5,831 addresses). By simply advising citizens of violations and providing a free clean-up, compliance has risen from 62% to 90%.
Lee's Summit	EITC Tax Preparation and Finance Education Program	Volunteers	2008	In 2008, the City of Lee's Summit collaborated with United Way and the Chamber of Commerce to implement a free tax preparation service for residents eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The intent of this program was to increase awareness of the EITC while providing recipients the tools to make sound educated decisions about their financial future. The City saw this program as an opportunity to connect Lee's Summit workers to the EITC in hopes that more residents would become better equipped to provide financial support for themselves and their families. This additional income would not only help the EITC recipients, but also help to support local economic development, strengthen our neighborhoods, and assist small local businesses during these difficult financial times. By providing financial education and tax preparation support to our residents, we are promoting the long term financial health of our community and our residents for many generations. Establishing this program in other Missouri cities would support Missouri residents in gaining financial stability while encouraging the economic growth of the State.

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Oak Grove	Downtown Revitalization Project	Downtown Revitalization	2008	In 2007, a multi-faceted 5-Year Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) was approved to address concerns over deteriorating public infrastructure. As part of the City's CIP, funding was allocated for the Downtown Revitalization Project. The downtown business district is centrally located and is commonly recognized for its historic significance. The project's ultimate goal was to address deteriorated public infrastructure including sidewalks, curbs, street lights, and traffic/pedestrian signals. In addressing these fundamental concerns the City recognized a unique opportunity to balance several competing aspects, including: architectural form, aesthetics, increased function and safety, and ongoing maintenance challenges. Any community could benefit from implementing some or all of the creative solutions implemented by Oak Grove. For example, the City accomplished two of its primary objectives (e.g. Minimizing maintenance and protecting public investments) by installing a maintenance-free heating system into the sidewalk itself. This system works by generating enough ambient heat to melt ice and snow, hence, eliminating the need
Riverside	Healthy Citizens Initiative	Health	2008	The Riverside Healthy Citizens Initiative provides City residents reduced rates to the Platte County Community Center (YMCA) and the North Kansas City Community Center. The Initiative aims to provide Riverside residents with the opportunity to participate in health, wellness and physical recreation activities. City staff worked closely with the Mayor, Board of Aldermen as well as representatives from both community centers to develop the program. Since both are within minutes of Riverside, the City utilized the centers' existing fitness and recreation programming options as an alternative to expanding the Riverside Community Center. The City designed a residency verification system and has memorandums of understanding with both centers outlining the process. Residents are responsible for 25 percent of the centers' normal rate while the City subsidizes the remaining 75 percent and covers all joining fees. One year after starting, 25 percent of Riverside residents are now participating in the Healthy Citizens Initiative. The total cost of the program to date has been less than \$70,000.

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Rock Port	Loess Hills Wind Farm	Utilities; Environmental	2008	Located in the northwest corner of Missouri, Rock Port is surrounded by elevated bluffs. The Loess Hills Wind Farm consists of four turbines constructed on the bluffs, inside city limits, and interconnected into the city's utility system. Wind generated electricity is used by Rock Port homes and businesses, while excess energy goes onto the transmission grid to serve other communities. Rock Port continues to receive energy on low wind production days from the Missouri Joint Municipal Utilities (MJMU). The project was a combined effort by the Rock Port Board of Aldermen and Board of Public Utilities, John Deere Wind Energy, MJMU, and the Wind Capital Group.
St. Joseph	Remington Nature Center	Parks: Economic Development	2008	The City of St. Joseph has constructed a 17,000 square foot nature center with financial assistance from funding partners, Missouri Department of Conservation, Federal Government, Buchanan County, and Friends of the Park. The nature center will provide opportunities for education and understanding of the development of the Missouri River and Northwest Missouri. It is important to portray the native land and abundant plant and animal life that sustained human habitation. This will be accomplished through many exhibits inside the facility, including a 7,000 gallon native river life aquarium and extensive native plant and tree landscaping around the center for outdoor educational opportunities. This facility will not only be a great educational facility for schools and organizations in the Northwest Missouri region, it will help attract visitors to our area and should have a great impact on enhancing the tourism experience. The center should provide great opportunities for other communities in the state and region to utilize the facility for educational purposes.

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Trenton	Youth Council	Youth	2008	The City of Trenton's Youth City Council Program, instituted by the city council in 2007, helps bridge the gap between government and youth. The youth city council program was created by the home town competitiveness committee that is made up of leaders from the chamber of commerce, the local community college, the city of Trenton, the Wright memorial hospital and the general public. Youth from the high school are selected to serve on council members for a two year term to provide a voice for the youth to the governing body of the community. The goal of this program is to bridge the gap between policy makers and youth in the community. Another objective of the program is to address the youth out-migration that many rural communities face. Every city in the state can benefit from better communication with the people that will shape the community in the next generation.
Union	Code Red	Emergency Management	2008	Union Officials began receiving complaints that some residents of the City were not hearing the emergency warning sirens during severe weather events. The City Administrator was tasked to research and recommend placement of additional sirens to increase the coverage. The results were inconclusive and it was discovered that the addition of sirens was probably not-going to achieve the desired coverage. The City began researching the possibility of a telephone warning system for severe weather warnings and other emergency warnings. Talks began with an Ormond Beach, Florida company, Emergency Communications Network, Inc. The initial presentations were impressive and the possibilities for achieving a higher percentage of coverage seem probable. Residents must sign-up for the weather warning system, but the process of registering is very simple and requires minimal input for the residents. Funds received from the recent settlements with the telecommunications companies were used to provide the service to residents free of charge. The annual cost of the service is \$7,500 for the CodeRED Warning System and \$3,750 for the Severe W

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University City	Wellness Program	Health	2008	University City is committed to assisting its employees in achieving personal and organizational wellness. As such, February 2007, the City introduced a Wellness Program to facilitate accomplishing these goals. The program's focal points are fitness, mental health, nutrition and weight management, and personal health and safety. Objectives of the program were: education - to build awareness of health issues through a variety of learning opportunities including workshops and literature opportunities-build cultural support by encouraging employees' involvement in a variety of healthy activities and encouraging staff commitment to allow reasonable on-duty time to participate. The wellness committee make up included at least one employee from each department who participated in implementation and discussions and provides feedback, guidance, and ideas that target employee and organizational needs. Benefits to other cities include: employees' personal satisfaction, workplace morale-happier, well-adjusted employees, internally managed health care costs, enhanced work performance/productivity, minimized employees injuries/work
Wentzville	Protection of Natural Water course	Environmental	2008	The City of Wentzville recently adopted legislation to: Protect natural watercourses, retain and absorb stormwater runoff, and prohibit damaging development practices in order to grow a compact, safe, efficient, and attractive City in harmony with existing natural and physical attributes. The project originated from the City's Planning Commission after public processes in 2005-2006 where input was gathered to create the City's Master Plan, adopted in April 2006. Wentzville's Board of Aldermen, City staff and its consultant researched and created a document for ordinance enforcement to protect existing waterways. Local Home Building Association, participated in this process and mapping. Communities experiencing stream degradation, loss of natural riparian habitat, flooding, water quality concerns and/or desire to be proactive to preserve the natural and physical environment within their community and growth/planning area, can model this process. Setback standards from top of bank of existing waterways and use of a Natural Watercourse and Riparian Protection Buffer Map, created via the public process,

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Des Peres	Des Peres Lake Restoration Project	Parks, Environmental	2009	The Des Peres Lake Restoration Project was identified in the 2007 Des Peres Parks Master Plan. The lake serves as a detention basin for Edward Jones and surrounding residences. The recent expansion of the Edward Jones campus required an expansion of the lake to meet MSD storm water requirements. A partnership between Edward Jones and the City of Des Peres combined with a grant from the St. Louis County Municipal Park Grant Commission allowed for the lake restoration. The project is unique in its effort to incorporate state-of-the-art storm water practice with a focus on recreational use and nature interpretation. The project included lake dredging, construction of a fore-bay area to reduce sedimentation: a renovated lake edge incorporating aquatic plant life and boulders to help preserve and enhance the lake environment. A new boardwalk and bridge enhanced ADA access and created interpretive opportunities in keeping with the parks and recreation department's goal of increasing nature activities. Replacement of the current rip-rap rock with aquatic plant life filter run off and improves water quality as well as significantly
Ferguson	Responsible Landlord Initiative	Nuisance Abatement	2009	The Responsible Landlord Initiative is an innovative, performance-based approach to regulating residential rental property that emphasizes the use of code enforcement as a tool for neighborhood stabilization. The Initiative balanced the City's planning and regulatory efforts to increase more livable neighborhoods. The Initiative was created to hold landlords responsible for property maintenance and tenant conduct by establishing a three-tiered classification of the City's landlord license - Responsible, Provisional, and Suspended. Each classification sets different guidelines about how landlords can continue to do business with the City and provide quality living opportunities for our residents. The concept of the Initiative was developed out of a proposal from a neighborhood association to have the City conduct interior inspections of rental property. The City was not in a financial position to increase its inspection staff; therefore, City staff developed the Responsible Landlord Initiative to be consistent with the Neighborhood Agenda.

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Gerald	Veterans Memorial	Parks	2009	The Gerald Veteran's Memorial serves as a memorable site for travelers to visit while traveling Hwy. 50. A committee of eight volunteers was formed with two from city government (Mayor and one alderman), two from the Park Board, two from the Citizens Committee and two from the Chamber of Commerce, to administer and oversee the project. Over 21 companies and businesses contributed to the project as well as 32 volunteers donating hundreds of hours of labor. The entire community was involved with this project either by lending a hand, helping with fund raisers, purchasing bricks, granite stones or some other item to provide funding for the completion of this project.
Hannibal	Baseball Franchise Initiative	Parks	2009	This project involved the establishment of a Collegiate League Baseball franchise in Hannibal, a multi-year stadium lease between the city and baseball investors, a \$4.2 million private investment to renovate the stadium, revenue bond financing to fund public improvements, relocation of the Parks Department and Street Department to permanent facilities, partnership with the local school district to co-locate little league fields on school grounds – accommodating the baseball franchise and local YMCA, a permanent home for National Tom Sawyer Days, and revitalization of the street corridor where these facilities lie. The initial objective was to secure the baseball franchise, while minimizing public funds for necessary improvements. In the end, a new and exciting investment resulted in a baseball franchise in Hannibal, two city departments obtained upgraded permanent facilities, a partnership with the school district allowed co-location of little league fields on school grounds, creative financing funded the public investment, and a significant revitalization of the main corridor occurred.

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Harrisonville	Single Family Cost of Living Survey	Planning, Finance	2009	Earlier this year, staff from the City of Harrisonville conducted a single family cost of living survey among 50 cities in the Kansas City metro area. City officials had received testimony from residents concerning the high cost of living in Harrisonville compared to surrounding cities, and they wanted to compare all relevant costs in an accurate manner. City Administrator Keith Moody designed the survey instrument, setting consistent assumptions for family size, housing, annual income, real and personal property owned, then asked how much would be spent on taxes (income taxes, real and personal property taxes and sales tax), and utilities in each city. Communication Information Specialist Sheryl Stanley coordinated the data gathering for the survey. All cities want to know where they rank compared to their neighbors on subjects such as property taxes, utilities, etc. Comparing taxes and fees are the most basic from of performance measurement. The information was shared with all cities included in the survey. Since the spreadsheet is built upon a consistent set of assumptions and formulas,
Jackson	Community Outreach Board	City Council	2009	Jackson's Community Outreach Board was born on April 7, 2003 from an idea hatched by then-Mayor Paul Sander. His goal was to fuse together two pre-existing committees - the Human Relations Board and the Health Board - into one definitive group that could help make long-lasting connections with Jackson residents and businesses. With an eye to developing stronger ties to the community, the board was designed to address constituent needs and concerns in an on-going fashion. The new Community Outreach Board consists of thirteen members, appointed by the mayor and approved by the board of aldermen. Additionally, the mayor assigns elected officials and staff members to serve as voting members. All members are volunteers who serve without compensation and represent different sectors of the community, including the business sector, academia, local government, special interest groups, and the general public. The mission of the Community Outreach Board is to address health, youth, and senior issues; as well as to improve understanding and communication within the community at-large through training, education and i

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Joplin	Sunshine Lamp Trolley	Downtown Reviatlization, Transportation	2009	The Sunshine Lamp Trolley, Joplin's deviated fixed route transit system, celebrates the City's heritage and success of the early lead and zinc mining era that Joplin was founded upon. The initial Trolley route was based out of the historical downtown area entitled the Sunshine Lamp District, named after the miners' hats worn to illuminate their paths in the mines. Started with one route as a pilot program, this service quickly gained a following because of its convenience and affordability. As the City increased the service, decisions were based on the public's needs and requests. Route expansion and the placement of stops were essentially market-driven, as citizens provided comments and suggestions through a City survey about the transit service. As a result, residents can board a trolley in front of their house and reach destinations in virtually any part of Joplin. Throughout the development of the Trolley, a committee of City staff worked with the expressed needs of the public for convenient, comfortable and modestly- priced transportation. Through the research of our residents' past transportation use and a concentrated effort to fulf
Lee's Summit	Abandoned Property Registration	Nuisance	2009	The City of Lee's Summit created and adopted an Abandoned Residential Property Registration Program to proactively manage the impact of foreclosures within the community and neighborhoods and to make it clear to lenders that if a residential property goes into foreclosure, the City would hold the lender(s) responsible for maintenance and upkeep of the property until new ownership is achieved. The registration program requires lenders to notify the City of foreclosed/ abandoned residential properties through a registration process and to identify a local representative to contact in case of emergency or should a violation exist on the property.

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Maryland Heights	Intrepretive Zoning Code	Planning	2009	In conjunction with a complete review and reorganization of the City of Maryland Heights' Zoning Code beginning in the spring of 2007, the city's Planning and Zoning division has created a separate version of the code to address a problem common to many cities: how to assist residents and developers in navigating the "planner speak" and "legalese" of the Zoning Code without compromising the code's integrity. The separate version, known as the "Interpretive Version," provides the reader with valuable supplemental information in a side-by-side format; the ratified code on the white section of the page with the definitions, illustrations, and examples in the grey sidebar. The objective of this project is quite simple: provide readers of the code with plain-language explanations of the various requirements to add efficiency to the development process. Simultaneously, the separate version also provides documentation of staff's interpretations of the regulations which helps to ensure consistency in application of the code.
Mexico	Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility	Environmental	2009	Every community experiences the need for disposal of household hazardous waste to eliminate their county from being a "dump site". Mexico explored ways to address this problem and as an active member of the Mid-Missouri Solid Waste Management District (MMSWMD), the City of Mexico discovered available grant monies to build such a facility. The grant was received July 1, 2007. Cost of the facility was \$26,382.53. Solicitation of bids for a pre-fabricated facility, training, waste handling/processing and supplies were advertised. Following site preparation and staff training, the HHW Collection Facility was located at the City's Singleton Maintenance Complex, 201 South Morris and opened in April, 2008. The community is extremely grateful to have this HHW facility in Mexico.

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New London	Outdoor Classroom for Earth Day	Parks	2009	A joint effort by the City of New London, New London Park Board, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New London Elementary School, Mark Twain High School, Missouri Department of Conservation, and Ralls County Soil and Water Conservation Service resulted in an Earth Day project that rejuvenated the New London Community Park. Area students had an enjoyable day outdoors while discovering new lessons along the way. 2009 was the initial introduction of the outdoor classroom plans for the project to be an annual event for the elementary school students.
Riverside	Healthy Citizens Initiative	Health, Personnel	2009	In 2007, the City of Riverside kicked off the Healthy Citizens Initiative, a project aimed at promoting health and wellness in the community. Through the Healthy Citizens Initiative, the City subsidizes 75% of residents' membership fees to area community centers, including the Platte County Community Centers (YMCA), North Kansas City Community Center and Gladstone Community Center. To date, more than 20% of Riverside residents are participating in the program. Due to the success of this initiative, the City launched a spin - off program, the Healthy Employees Initiative, in 2008 to provide the same benefits to City employees. The Healthy Citizens Initiative was developed in response to a citizen survey conducted by the City in 2006, which identified expanded fitness facilities at the current Riverside Community Center as a high priority for residents. After a study concluded it would cost approximately \$8 - 10 million in capital costs to expand the center and \$1 million per year to operate it, the Healthy Citizens Initiative was launched to capitalize on the four community centers located within 5 miles of Riverside. As a result, this program not only me

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Rolla	Volunteers in Police Services	Volunteers, Police	2009	The Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program (part of a national program available to every law enforcement agency in Missouri) was established in January 2009 to promote effective use of the citizens of Rolla who wish to donate their time and talents to further the goals of the Rolla Police Department (RPD) in response to President George W. Bush's call to service for all citizens of the United States in his State of the Union address in 2002. Rolla Police Chief Mark Kearse together with City Administration gave birth to the VIPS program, which was implemented to better protect and serve the needs of Rolla residents, and to make our community safer. At a time when the department's limited resources are being stretched, the VIPS program and civilian volunteers to enable police officers to be on the front lines solving community problems, reducing crime, and making the Rolla community a safer place to live.
St. Joseph	Boulevard System Master Plan	Planning	2009	The existing parkway and boulevard system is a priceless historic amenity of St. Joseph, but does not currently encircle the entire city. Following the original intent of the designers, the Boulevard System Master Plan will lay the foundation to complete the true vision of encompassing the entire city with interconnected boulevards, parks and parkways while creating future green space development on the east side of the City. The primary objective of the Plan is to establish comprehensive and general framework to direct the future expansion and creation of a boulevard system providing interconnectivity with existing and future park systems. To ensure consistency with other long range planning documents, this Plan is designed to be a multifunctional plan that will provide guidance and cohesiveness with other plans including the City's Land Use Plan, Long Range Transportation Plan, Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan, and pertinent development codes. The Plan is designed to be flexible enough to guide policy making decisions, but strict enough to implement its long-range vision of setting clear development goals for the Boulevard System. Those involv

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University City	Ruth Park Driving Range	Parks	2009	<p>Until this year, University City Golf Course at Ruth Park had operated at a significant deficit. Reducing the deficit and reinvesting in the course would mean saving the course for future generations. After much study, the City approved the proposal and grant funding was secured. University City applied for a received a \$255,000 Municipal Park Grant, a \$30,000 partnership match from the City of Clayton which helped assure the grant would be awarded based on the extra points, and a \$10,000 contribution from a local foundation. The City of University City's general fund contribution was \$73,556. The range earned back 100% of the \$73,566 in the first 8 months of operation. The range has 25 hitting stations, is lighted for night use and has a state-of-the-art computerized ball dispensing machine. The range has generated increase rounds of play, pro shop and concession sales, as well as, the perfect place to teach lessons for our expanded youth golf program which we operate with The First Tee.</p>
Warrensburg	WAPIP: Alcohol Management Program	Police	2009	<p>From 1998 to 2006 liquor arrests in the City of Warrensburg's downtown district increased by 89%, from 155 annual arrests to 293. Assault/fight/disturbance calls for the same period and area increased by 223%, from 64 to 207. In response to the increased crime and violence, in 2007 the City of Warrensburg collaborated with the University of Central Missouri to establish the Warrensburg Area Partners in Prevention (WAPIP) Alcohol Management Program. This program brought together University of Central Missouri, City Staff, local liquor license holders, state agencies, and Whiteman Air Force Base leadership to collaborate in addressing the two objectives of the program: 1) reduce the number of alcohol-related crimes and 2) ensure the public's safety and health. The City and WAPIP utilizes five strategies of ordinance revision, training, prevention efforts, increased enforcement, and system changes. Since implementing the City of Warrensburg and WAPIP's alcohol management program, the City of Warrensburg's downtown district liquor arrests have been reduced from 293 in 2006 to nine in 2008, a 97% decrease. Assault /fight/disturb</p>

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Wentzville	Volunteer Host Program	Volunteers	2009	The City of Wentzville, Parks and Recreation Department was struggling to keep up with the staffing demands of a growing community. Faced with the choice of decreasing services offered to the community or maintaining the level of services despite rapid population growth, staff decided to offer a volunteer program. After attempting a traditional volunteer program and recognizing little or no benefit, staff created a Recreation Host program to allow for a more quid pro quo approach. Individuals would volunteer in exchange for "Park Bucks" to be used toward programs and activities. Another viable option is to donate back to the youth scholarship fund. The primary objective of the program was to provide additional staff. The secondary objective was to create a program to involve senior citizens thus allowing them to be active in the community. In addition to senior citizens, the program would allow individuals from disadvantaged families an opportunity to earn enough park bucks to participate in programs they might not otherwise be able to afford. The host program would also allow the individual volunteers the opportunity to donate th