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October 2016

PARKS & RECREATION



INSIDE:

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ON THE COVER

True Pitch Inc.'s baseball mound products are the preferred choice of discerning parks, high schools, colleges, indoor sports facilities and tournament ballfields. With 10 portable game and practice mounds, plus numerous field products, this Iowa company offers plenty of options to help perfect the pitch and games of baseball players. Pictured is the True Pitch 318G Mound. (Photo provided)





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Parks remain as relevant today as ever



Sarah Wright | Editor

THIS YEAR MARKS THE CENTENNIAL year for our U.S. National Park Service, which was created in 1916 with just 35 national parks and monuments to be overseen. That number has since soared to more than 400, with thousands of visitors turning out each year — in some cases displaying some headline-grabbing misbehavior. Yet as they mark this milestone, our national parks face some real challenges from underfunding to climate change and relevancy. It is a challenge city parks and recreation departments might be able to relate to, even if they are only overseeing a few acres of land versus the 84 million acres that fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. National Park Service.

However, with growing rates of obesity, parks — particularly urban parks — have never been more important. According to the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases website, data from a National Health and Nutrition Examination survey in 2009–10 found more than two in three adults are considered to be overweight or obese while one-third of children and adolescents ages 6 to 19 are considered to be overweight or obese. The Center for Disease Control on its website noted links between obesity and sedentary lifestyles to a host of health issues from diabetes and heart disease to cancer and hypertension. Linked diseases account for more than 20 percent of

total U.S. health care costs, according to the CDC.

One solution being bandied about? More parks and within walking distance to more residents. In 12 Los Angeles public parks, a RAND Corporation team, led by researcher Deborah Cohen, found “people — especially adults and seniors — were more likely to exercise at parks that had areas for moderate exercise, such as tracks, walking paths, and trails. Having a park near one’s home was more important than the size of the park itself — people were more likely to use their neighborhood park even if a larger park was just a few miles away.”

In fact, The Trust for Public Land’s 2006 report, “The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More Parks and Open Space,” using data from the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, found “that ‘creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach’ produced a 48.4 percent increase in the frequency of physical activity.”

Minnesota seems to have it down to a science, with two of its largest cities, Minneapolis and St. Paul, scoring exceedingly well in the ParkScore index, a ranking of urban parks systems published by the Trust for Public Land. In Minneapolis, roughly 95 percent of residents — across a large demographic — live within a 10-minute walk to a park. In St. Paul, it is approximately 96 percent.

Another case for parks’ relevancy nowadays is community. Writer Julie Young examined the “parklet” trend — see page 20 — and one of its major draws, beyond encouraging non-motorized transit and pedestrian safety, is the way it fosters neighborhood interaction and support for local businesses. In an increasingly digital age, with people’s faces buried in their devices,

we need more interaction. Albeit, some park departments are wisely tapping into digital trends liked Pokemon Go to encourage visits and exercise in their local parks.

Thriving and unique local parks, beaches and gardens have the potential to draw in visitors from outside of a city, making for vibrant communities. In fact, writer Anne Meyer Byler found through the American Shore and Beach Preservation Association that our beaches have twice as many visitors annually than national parks combine. This makes beaches and beach-related tourism a \$1.3 trillion business; \$124 billion of that goes to governments of all levels in annual taxes. To harness this economic boost, municipalities may want to consider restoring their beaches like Highland Park, Ill., did — see page 24.

With the many pluses — and I’m just hitting the top of the iceberg — of having strong parks and recreational activities, both for the people and the economy of our local towns and cities, it should be hard to argue that parks are no longer relevant; after all, people need access to nature in this day in age just as much, if not more, than times in the past. While visiting Prophetstown State Park in West Lafayette, Ind., I was struck by that thought quite profoundly as I stood in awe of the restored prairie and listened to the birds’ calls.

While “Parks and Recreation” is October’s theme, we will also be sharing information about Zika virus from the CDC, sustainable asset management, temporary structures, building safety from threats within and out, how to avoid false positive when testing water and more.

We hope you find this issue of The Municipal useful. And let’s keep “America’s Best Idea” going for another 100 years. **M**



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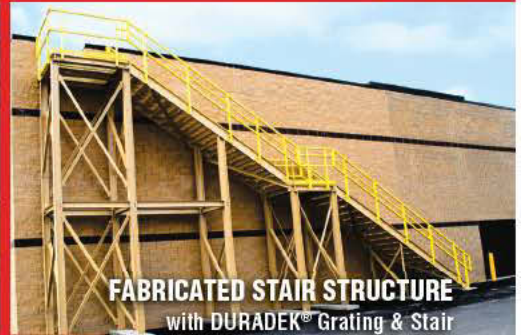
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A young baseball player prepares to pitch on the True Pitch 202-6 Mound. True Pitch mound products are the only portable mounds approved by Little League for official game use. (Photo provided)

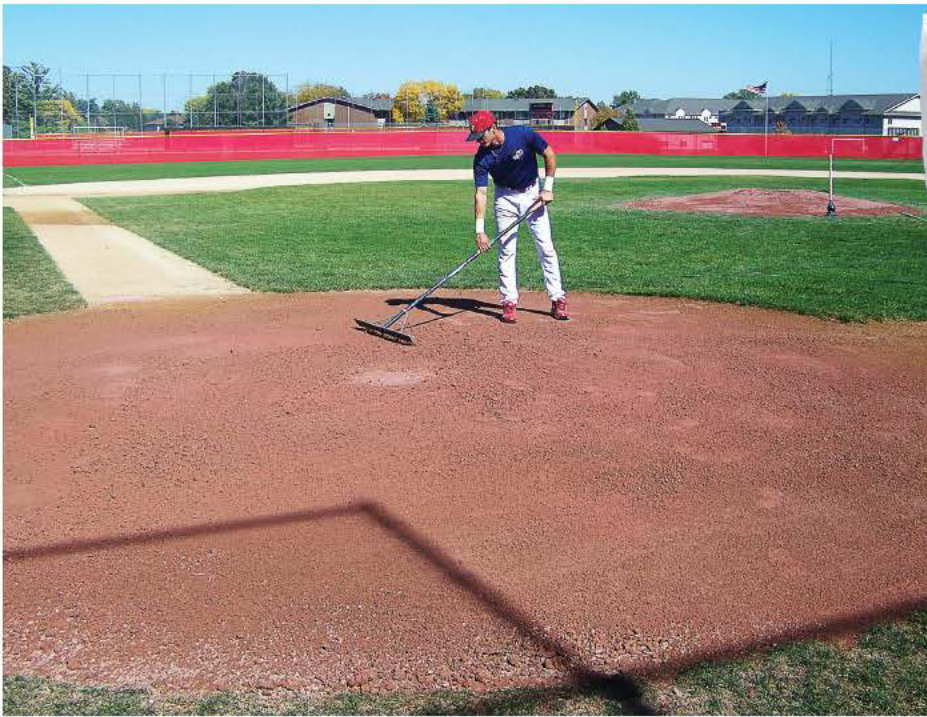


True Pitch Mounds:

A father's dream becomes reality for generations of baseball players

IN 1962, JOHN GOEDERS WATCHED HIS SON'S ALTOONA, IOWA, Little League team lose their first and only game at the Little League state tournament in Des Moines, Iowa. His son pitched from a baseball mound for the first time. Every pitch was wild. You see, his son's team had played their league games on girl softball fields, so they were use to pitching on a flat

surface and simply could not hit the strike zone during the tournament game. John concluded that his son's team lost due to a lack of experience pitching from an actual mound. Determined to test his theory, he decided to develop a portable pitching mound for practice, which also replicated actual game mound pitching experience. True Pitch Inc. was born.



ABOVE : Flex-A-Clay is another product offered by True Pitch. It is a specifically formulated and processed dry soil composition that creates a safe playing field with great traction. (Photo provided)

ABOVE LEFT: A ballplayer spreads Flex-A-Clay in the area of the batter's box and home plate. (Photo provided)

John developed several models of fiberglass pitching mounds and tested them at high schools and colleges throughout his native home state of Iowa to great results and demand. He applied for his first mound patent in 1966 and was approved by the United States Patent and Trademark Office in 1969. John continued to refine his mounds and in 1972 earned a coveted endorsement from Little League Baseball.

Today, nearly 50 years later, True Pitch is still located in Altoona, Iowa, and has mound products in use around the world. In America alone, True Pitch mound products are the preferred choice of discerning parks and recreation facilities, high schools, colleges, indoor sports facilities and tournament ball fields. Its products are distributed through many channels, including Athletic Dealers of America, Sports Inc., M.A.S.A., BSN Sports and On Deck Sports, to name few. In 2015

True Pitch developed a direct relationship with Wal-Mart, which allows direct-to-consumer purchasing of select products with free or nominal shipping rates.

The company is headed by Dennis Goeders, the son whose team lost the Little League state tournament game in 1962. He leads a highly experienced and dedicated sales, marketing and administrative staff, who have helped make True Pitch one of the best — if not the best — brands in the portable baseball mound industry. Considered by many the portable mound industry pioneer, True Pitch holds 40 patents and trademarks on various products. The company offers a product line of 10 portable game and practice mounds as well as numerous field products, including Flex-A-Clay, a specifically formulated and processed dry soil composition that creates a safe playing field with great traction.

BELOW: True Pitch offers a product line of 10 portable game and practice mounds, including the True Pitch 600G Mound. (Photo provided)

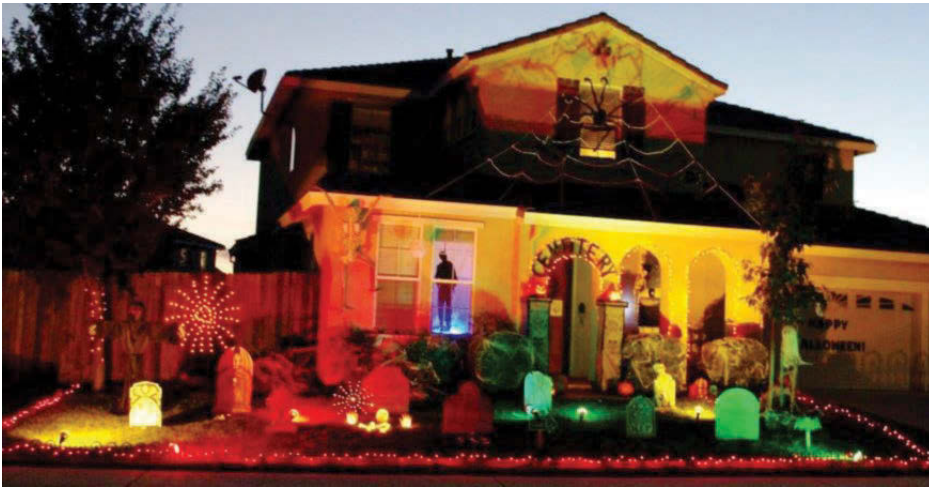
True Pitch also enjoys professional baseball endorsements and even has a connection to Hollywood. Its mounds were first endorsed by Bob Feller, the Cleveland Indians pitching legend, and Pee Wee Reese, the 10-time All-Star Baseball player and Hall of Famer. You might also be surprised to know that their Flex-A-Clay product was featured in the major motion picture film "Field of Dreams," starring Academy Award winner Kevin Costner.

True Pitch mound products are the only portable mounds approved by Little League for official game use. True Pitch mounds are also approved for game use by other noted baseball organizations, including Pony Baseball, Babe Ruth League Baseball, Dixie Youth Baseball and Youth Baseball Networks.

John Goeders passed away in 2013. He saw his dream fulfilled of creating products to help perfect the pitch of baseball players, and leaves a legacy that will impact the game of baseball for generations to come. **M**



For more information about True Pitch mounds and field products, visit them at www.truepitch.com or call (800) 647-3539



Halloween Capital of the World *Anoka, Minn.*

by RAY BALOGH | The Municipal

On Nov. 1, 1919, residents of Anoka, Minn., woke up to a scene of serial depredation. They saw wagons spirited onto rooftops, cap-sized outhouses and cows wandering along Main Street. House windows were soaped. Several cows were locked in the town's jail, and one was sleeping in the sheriff's office. A bull was locked in a classroom.



LEFT: A local house in Anoka gets in the Halloween spirit. Anoka's Halloween legacy dates back to 1920 when it launched a weeklong community-wide celebration to lessen pranks. (Photo provided)

BELOW: Anoka, Minn.'s 2015 parade had 212 floats and 15 marching bands from all over the Midwest, drawing in crowds to watch. (Photo provided)

The young men of Anoka had once again spent Halloween night wreaking mischief.

The town had had enough. Civic leaders met to discuss solutions to the perennial scourge of increasingly malignant pranksterism. One town father, George Green, suggested diverting the attention of the mischievous youth by holding a weeklong community-wide celebration to usher in the next Halloween.

The local Kiwanis Club and the Anoka Commercial Club spearheaded the preparations with the cooperation of businessmen, teachers and parents. In the weeks leading up to the big event, more than 1,000 school children created costumes and assisted in planning.

The plan was a rousing success. According to one contemporary newspaper account:

"On that Halloween evening, October 31, 1920, local bands and drum corps, neighboring musical units, the Anoka Fire Department, Anoka Police Department, the Kiwanis Club, Commercial Club, Anoka National Guard, the Boy Scouts, and the school district all joined hands to make the evening a success."



ABOVE: *Anoka Halloween Inc., a nonprofit, all volunteer organization, organizes the festivities nowadays. (Photo provided)*

Hundreds of bags of popcorn, candy, peanuts and other goodies were given away and the evening was capped off with a huge bonfire.

The following year's event was even larger. According to the Anoka County Union, the parade, illuminated by spotlights along Main Street, was headed by the Punkville Band. The band was followed by 64 Boy Scouts, 60 nurses from the local asylum and a variety of floats. Comprising the centerpiece of the parade were 1,000 costumed school children. Even the crowd chimed in on the revelry.

According to the article, "The American Legion Drum Corps made a lot of noise, and every kid on the street had a horn, a bell, a squawker, or some noise-making device."

The vandalism evaporated in light of the community-wide celebration and Anoka has never looked back.

The festival has been held every October since 1920 with two exceptions — 1943 and 1944 — when the event was scuttled by America's involvement in World War II.

Officially dubbed the "Halloween Capital of the World" by congressional proclamation in 1937, the city of 17,000 hosts a monthlong family-friendly celebration that draws more than twice the city's population in visitors.

Currently, the world-class celebration includes:

- three parades
- football games
- block parties
- Bingo nights
- a medallion hunt

- a 5k run and one-mile walk
- contests for human and pet costumes, house decorating and pumpkin recipes
- scholarship awards
- wine tasting
- pillow fights
- bonfire
- fireworks

Last year's parades featured 212 floats and 15 marching bands from all over the Midwest; nearly 1,800 runners finished the 5K Gray Ghost Run.

The ever-evolving celebration is decidedly community, family and kid friendly. Parade participants are required to adhere to two iron-fisted rules: No. 1 no depictions of gore, blood or violence, and No. 2 no political campaigning.

The year-round planning is now conducted by Anoka Halloween Inc., a 501(c)(3) all-volunteer organization. Its mission is "to provide opportunities in our community using unique family-friendly ways to celebrate Halloween while raising money for scholarships and schools."

For more information about the organization and this year's festival, visit www.anokahalloween.com.

An added attraction this year, the United States Postal Service unveiled four commemorative Halloween "forever" stamps on Sept. 29 in Anoka's City Hall Plaza.

The series of stamps features lit jack-o'-lanterns designed and carved by artist Paul Montari and photographed by Sally Andersen-Bruce.


The ceremony coincided with the 100th anniversary of the city's historical "Old Post Office."

But Anoka is not just about Halloween. "Anoka's downtown business community continues to grow into a fully developed shopping destination housed within the framework of historical buildings and our nostalgic Main Street," touted www.discoveranoka.com, a website administered by Discover Anoka, a downtown promotional organization.

The city recently completed its two-year downtown makeover, installing wider sidewalks, constructing new roads and surrounding the 120 retail shops, service businesses and restaurants with "stunning landscaping."

"Our revitalized downtown features a growing number of thriving businesses with unique products and services that you can only find in Anoka," beckoned the website.

"Choose from clothing, personal accessories, shoes, locally made products, one-of-a-kind gifts, home decor, furniture, original art, toys, teaching supplies, music supplies, fine jewelry and even mattresses and unique plumbing fixtures.

"Regardless of where you stop in Anoka, it will be a treat you won't forget." 

William McIntosh Jr.: *Peachtree City, Ga.*

As a planned community chartered March 9, 1959, Peachtree City, Ga., is a relative newcomer to the nation's family of municipalities.

But the city of 35,000 carries ubiquitous earmarks harkening to the person and heritage of William McIntosh Jr. (1775-1825), who purportedly settled the area by treaty with the federal government.

McIntosh, also known as White Warrior, was born to a Scottish father and Creek Indian mother. He became chief of a coalition of Creek tribes and worked for peace between the Native Americans and white settlers.

A successful businessman and politician, McIntosh owned two plantations and operated a ferryboat company. He helped the Creek National Council centralize tribal governance and assisted in formulating the Code of 1818, which codified Creek laws and established a police force known as the Law Defenders.

In 1824 the council, including McIntosh, passed legislation making the alienation of communal land a capital crime.

McIntosh violated that statute by negotiating the transfer of Creek land to the federal government in 1825. Sentenced to death, he was soon afterward executed on his plantation by a sizable band of "law menders."

Though the Creeks never forgave McIntosh, posterity apparently has.

A bronze tablet placed on McIntosh's grave cites his "heroic devotion," "un-selfish friendship" and "valiant service" and noted he "sacrificed his life for his patriotism."

In the 1950s a group of real estate developers accumulated more than 12,000 acres to build a planned community, divided into villages, each with its own shopping areas, recreational facilities and elementary schools.

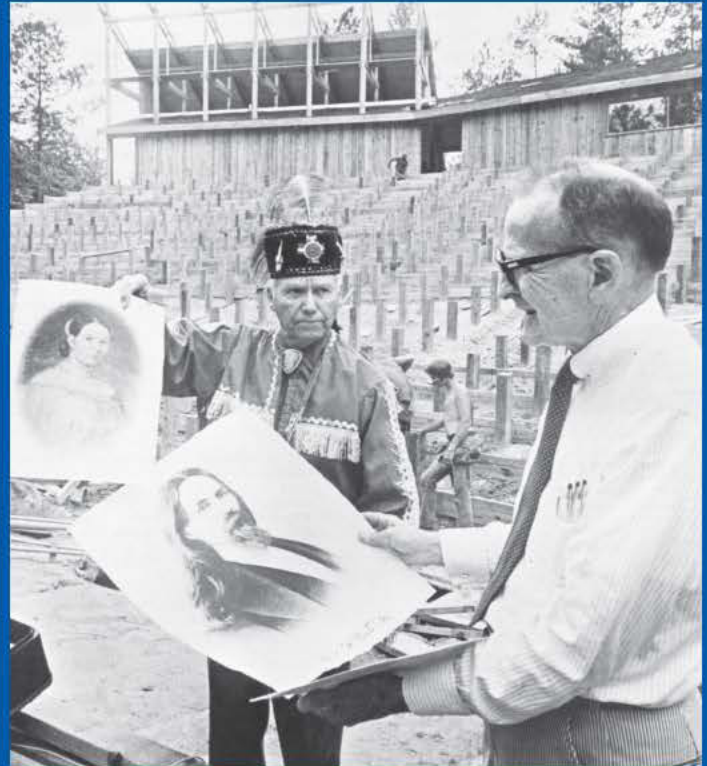
Although scaled back from its original anticipated dimensions, Peachtree City was the first successful preplanned city in the southwestern United States.

Two years before the charter, nearby Flat Creek was dammed to form Lake Peachtree, a sprawling 240-acre recreational attraction in the heart of the city.

Beginning in 1965, Peachtree City saw the steady proliferation of public services.

That year the volunteer fire department, police department — then consisting of one squad car — and elementary school were established.

In the decades to come, several more public amenities were added, including a local airport (1968), public library and permission by the state to use golf carts on city streets (1974), a unique ZIP code (1972) and telephone exchange (1976), first traffic light (1979) and high school (1981).



Kermit Hunter, right, author of "The McIntosh Trail," looks at artist renditions of William and Susanna McIntosh with Chief W.E. "Dode" McIntosh, their great-great-grandson. In the background, workers finish up construction of the Peachtree City Amphitheater, which hosted Hunter's play as its inaugural production. (Photo by Glen Allen)

The National Weather Service relocated its central office from Atlanta to Peachtree City in 1994.

The McIntosh influence remains evident throughout the city. The city's five villages — Aberdeen, Glenloch, Braelinn, Kedron and Wilksmoor — are named in honor of his Scottish heritage, and the inaugural theatrical production upon the opening of the Peachtree City Amphitheater in 1976 was the biographical sketch, "The McIntosh Trail."

The city was hailed "one of America's best suburbs" in 1975 by the Ladies' Home Journal and was designated a "Tree City USA" by the Arbor Day Foundation in 2001. ■

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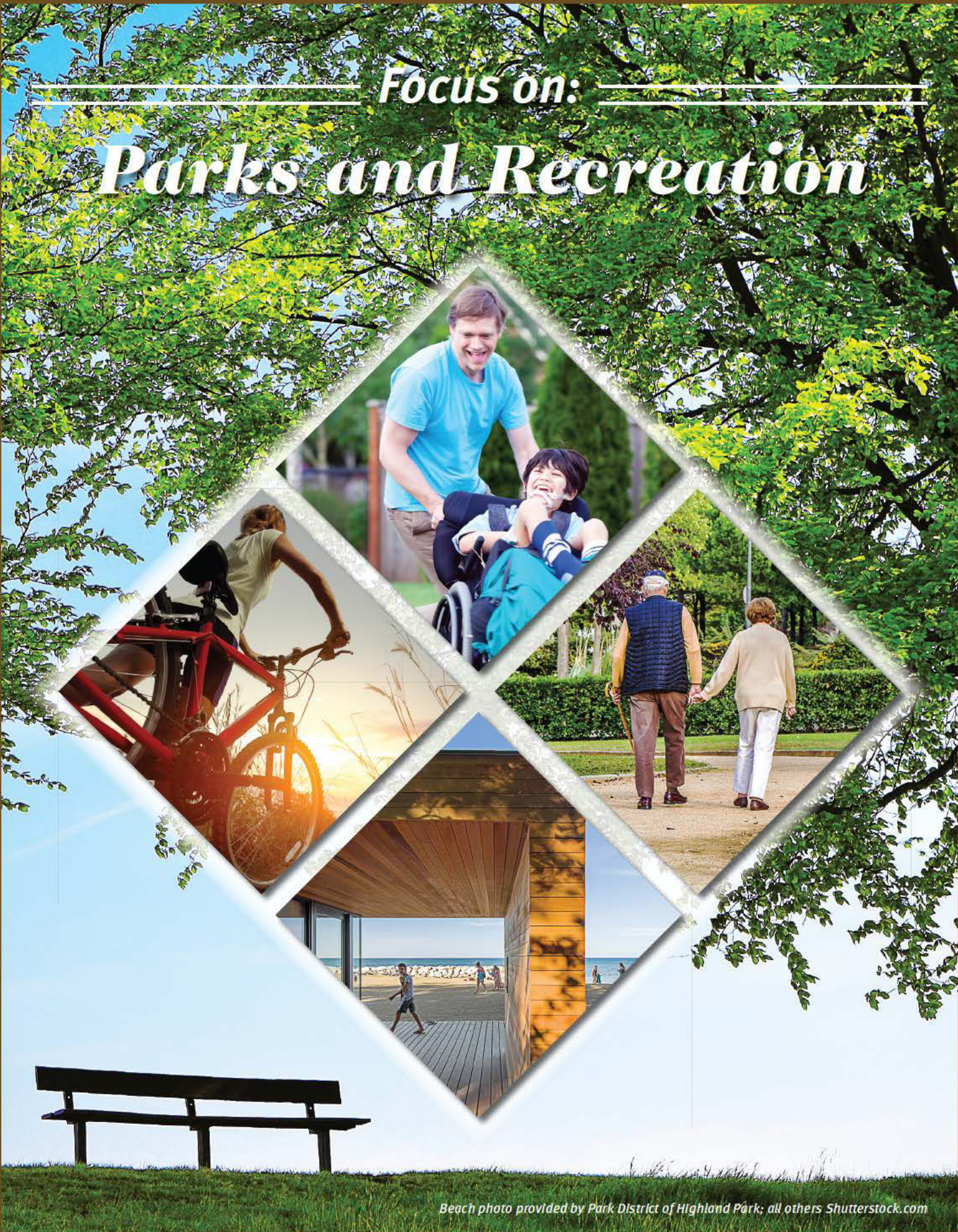
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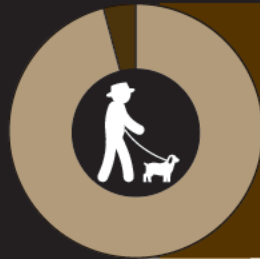
BY THE NUMBERS

300,000



The number of premature deaths per year in the U.S. that were attributable to obesity and overweight.

Source: www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits_HealthBenefitsReport.pdf



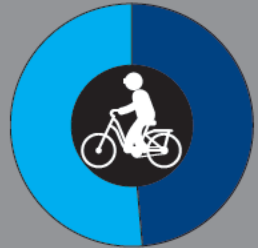
4 percent

The percentage of adults 60 and up who visited the 174 parks in 25 major cities that were a part of the American Journal of Preventive Medicine's study; this is despite the fact that the age demographic makes up 20 percent of the population.

Source: www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/05/18/478402956/girls-and-older-adults-are-missing-out-on-parks-for-recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION

48.4 percent



The increase in frequency of physical activity when there was enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach.

Source: www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits_HealthBenefitsReport.pdf

\$830,000

The amount raised by the Madison Claire Foundation to bring a limitless playground, Madison's Place, to fruition in Woodbury, Minn.



See story on page 28

PUBLIC PARKS MAINTENANCE

\$1.3 trillion



The combined revenue from beaches and beach-related U.S. tourism. \$124 billion in annual taxes goes to all levels of government.

Learn more on page 24

LAWNS AND GARDENS

11,000 pounds

The number of fresh produce produced by 15 community gardens in New York City, of which 50 percent was donated to local soup kitchens and food pantries.



Source: https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits_HealthBenefitsReport.pdf

PARKS AND RECREATION



DID YOU KNOW?

12-18 months

The amount of time parklets typically take to plan and construct. Cost can range anywhere from \$8,000 to \$14,000.

Read more about parklets on page 20

Park place:

Pop-up parks provide casual gathering areas for communities

By JULIE YOUNG | The Municipal

It all began in 2005 with a single parking space, a patch of turf, a bench and a potted tree. There was also a sign that read, “if you’d like to enjoy this little park, please put some coins in the meter.” With a small investment and a little effort, the first “parklet” was created.

A parklet is a sidewalk extension built over several parking spaces that is designed to provide more space and amenities to pedestrian traffic. Parklets offer folks a place to sit, read and relax, or provide some much needed green space to an area that needs it. The first parklet was created by the San Francisco arts collective Rebar, and over the past decade, parklets have become one of the hottest urban design trends in communities nationwide.

Pavement to parks

Once the initial prototype proved successful, the City by the Bay decided it needed more. In 2010, they created the Pavements to Parks program — a partnership between the San Francisco Planning Department, the Department of Public Works and the Municipal Transportation Agency. The organization conducted some research and learned that 25 percent of the city’s land was streets and public right-of-ways, more than all of the public parks combined. They also realized that many of those streets are excessively wide and underutilized, especially near intersections. They decided to test the possibilities of these areas by converting them into pedestrian spaces that would be enjoyed by people of all ages.

According to the Pavement to Parks website, parklets are temporary structures that can be changed easily according to need, may fold into the local landscape and can consist



of outdoor seating arrangements or something much more elaborate. When properly designed and executed, parklets reimagine the potential of city streets, encourage non-motorized transportation, enhance pedestrian safety and activities, foster neighborhood interaction and support local businesses. Parklets typically take between 12 and 18 months to plan and construct and can cost anywhere from \$8,000 to \$14,000;

however, those who have them say they are well worth the time and effort.

“It’s a go-to for people,” said Tony Gemignani, owner of a parklet outside his pizzeria in New York City. “It just grabs people.”

Parklets populate big cities and small towns

After San Francisco’s parklet movement took off, other communities wanted to get in on



the act. Today, parklets can be found in a variety of locations — including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Seattle, Philadelphia and even Auckland, New Zealand — and are making their way to small municipalities as well. Covington, Ky., installed five parklets in May that will be on display until

LEFT: Pictured is one of Lafayette, Calif.'s parklets, both of which have been positioned near local restaurants, providing roadside eating for city residents. (Photo provided)

ABOVE: San Francisco launched the parklet movement and now has several, which are hosted by local nonprofits, small businesses, neighborhood groups and others. Pictured is its 1331 Ninth Ave. parklet that Arizmendi Bakery hosts. (Photo by Jack Verdoni Architecture; <https://www.flickr.com/photos/sfplanning/8457445788/in/album-72157632723108182/>; <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/>)

the beginning of October and range from a wooden igloo — known as a Wish Igloo — to a hopscotch garden and a parklet that enables visitors to pedal stationary bicycles. Lafayette, Ind., has also installed five parklets to be part of the community's long-term streetscape plan, and even Rochester, N.Y., is working on bringing its first parklet prototype to the community.

"We started our parklet as a demonstration at our Earth Day festival to see the community's reaction to it," said Adam Foster, code enforcement officer/assistant planner of the city of Lafayette, Calif. "It was so well-received that the Downtown Development Authority approved a pilot parklet project for this summer."

With a budget of \$5,000, Lafayette constructed two parklets consisting of palettes, plywood, tables, chairs and umbrellas arranged in two parking spaces at local intersections. Thanks to their proximity to a local coffee shop and restaurant, it didn't take long for the community to gravitate toward the open-air seating areas and enjoy their

food alfresco. It may not be as elaborate as the parklets in San Francisco, but the installation will help the city determine whether or not repurposing a parking space is more beneficial to the community.

"It's something that we are going to have to study further. We have to determine if the space costs more to the city as a parking space or as a parklet," Foster says. "With a parking space, you have to maintain it all year long, but a parklet may encourage people to spend more time downtown, which gives the local economy a boost. We are fortunate that we can maintain a parklet all year-round. Colder climate areas can't do that."

Naturally, there are those who lament the loss of the parking spaces, but Foster said they are generally older residents who live in the suburbs and whose lives are designed around the car. However, he says many of those same people genuinely like the idea of the parklets because they remind them of a time when people ambled along sidewalks and interacted with their neighbors. ▶



Foster said that Lafayette has created a community survey to determine if the parklets were a success. As of this writing in August, they are two months into the four-month trial period, but so far 53 percent of the respondents are supportive of the concept while 47 percent are opposed. Foster said that approval has been as high as two-thirds so it will be interesting to see what the final numbers will be.

Ultimately, he feels that parklets are a great opportunity for community input, and as the movement grows, it will be interesting to see how their parklets will evolve. Will they be city funded or sponsored by local businesses? Will they include free wi-fi so that students can gather and do their homework or be tutored? If so, how will those kids be protected from motor vehicles? What about theft? How will the furniture be protected? If it is anchored down, will that compromise the integrity of the structure?

“There is still so much to be learned and many people will be impacted... These are small differences to a community, but it is exciting to be part of something so creative that could have big benefits,” Foster said. **M**

Lafayette's two parklets were started on a four-month trial; half-way through that trial period in August, a community survey found that 53 percent of respondents were supportive of the parklets. (Photo provided)

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Renovated beaches bring economic benefits



By Anne Meyer Byler | The Municipal

IT WAS 1926 WHEN THE AMERICAN Shore and Beach Preservation Association began to deal with the erosion of beaches nationwide. In this setting, the ASBPA started to work with the federal government to create legislation to share costs in protecting beaches from erosion. For more than 30 years, communities around the U.S. have been restoring their beaches. Today the projects are varied, focusing on management and protection of coastal areas. In many places, beach visitors are unaware of the restoration because it happens off-season.

There are several reasons why it is important to restore beaches. Beach restoration puts sand on the beach to make it higher and wider and can place dunes in the back beach area. Reasons for restoration, from the ASBPA, include:

- **Storm protection** — More sand between the waves and the inland infrastructure

creates less erosion and damage to inland areas by flooding.

- **Habitat restoration** — Many species are at home on the sandy beaches as a place to live and nest.
- **Recreation** — The ASBPA said, “America’s beaches have twice as many visitors annually (more than 2 billion) as all of America’s national parks combined. The combined revenue from beaches and beach-related U.S. tourism is \$1.3 trillion, with \$124 billion in annual taxes going to all levels of government.”

The ASBPA gives awards for Best Restored Beaches. There were five beaches given the award in 2016, which were in the cities of Galveston, Texas; Highland Park, Ill.; Seabrook Island, S.C.; Redondo Beach, Calif.; and Top Sail, N.C. According to the ASBPA, restored beaches are judged on the following criteria:

- The economic and ecological benefits the beach brings to its community
- The short- and long-term success of the restoration project
- The challenges each community overcame during the course of the project

There is wide-ranging membership in the ASBPA, including individuals, libraries, associations, state governments, corporations and universities. Kate Gooderham, co-managing director, stated, “A wonderful thing about the organization is that you can meet people from all areas. It provides a platform, connecting people from various entities. Conferences bring together local government people who can meet with top coastal engineers.” The 2016 conference had 190 presenters, including The Environmental Defense Fund and the University of Hawaii.

An important reason to restore a beach is that it restores the towns and areas of



LEFT: *The Rosewood Beach's renovation included three separate coves for nature, swimming and recreational use. It also expanded the beach with 65,000 cubic yards of sand. (Photo provided by Park District of Highland Park)*

ABOVE: *In addition to expanding the beach, environmentally friendly educational and recreational buildings were added to Rosewood Beach; they are all connected with a 1,500-foot-long boardwalk. (Photo provided by Park District of Highland Park)*

the country that have been hit by storms. Restored beaches are the first defense of a community against storm damage. This also affects the economy since good beaches raise the value of property and increase tourism. The environment benefits as well from restoration, giving nesting, feeding and resting sites for sea turtles, native birds and migratory birds. "We forget how important our coast is to all aspects of our lives," said Gooderham.

Policy making on the part of the ASBPA enables local, state and federal governments to protect and maintain coastal lands.

"Restored beaches are the first defense of a community against storm damage."

Policies come about through agenda actions and then legislation. "Some local governments get involved with the ASBPA because they want to understand and influence the federal process," remarked Gooderham.

Rosewood Beach — located in Highland Park, Ill. — was named one of the five 2016 Best Restored Beaches by the ASBPA. Rosewood Beach is a facility of the Park District of Highland Park and is under the park district board.

Rosewood's \$14.5 million renovation project was completed in June 2015 with much resident involvement, as well as, "strong partnerships and a clear vision to put together ecological best practices with forward-thinking recreational and educational programming to serve the community's needs today and for future generations," according to the Park District of Highland Park's website.

The funds came from a variety of sources listed on the site: \$400,000 — Open Space Land Acquisition and Development Fund through the Illinois Department of

Natural Resources; \$250,000 — Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity; \$200,000 — Illinois Public Museum Capital Grant, which is through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and is slated to support lakefront education and an interpretive room with exhibit panels; and \$48,393 — Illinois Coastal Grant Program for environmental education and outreach. Being in touch with the ASBPA could connect a city with resources such as these that are available to help restore a local beach.


The Rosewood preservation project first began with a broad park district Lakefront Master Plan in 2007. In 2011 as the more specific planning began, they formed a resident volunteer "Rosewood Task Force," which met for over a year to come up with a design. They encouraged other residents to come to meetings. The main object was to "revitalize the community's swimming beach and protect the delicate bluff, ravine and beachfront that were in danger of being swept away forever." The task force presented the design to the ▶

community in May 2012, which was then approved by the park district board in August. Construction began in 2013, and the beach was open to the community in 2015.

Ongoing community input and engagement were very important throughout this whole process, a hallmark of planning by the Park District of Highland Park. A group, "Friends of Rosewood Beach," came to include more than 300 families. Additionally, a 2009 Community-wide Attitude and Interest Survey showed that more than 50 percent of residents ranked the need for a lakefront swimming beach, ravine and bluff system as a top priority.

The renovation involved three separate coves — nature, swimming and recreational; expanded the beach with 65,000 cubic yards of sand; and added environmentally friendly educational and recreational buildings — all connected with a 1,500-foot-long boardwalk.

Among the environmental aspects, the park district's website stated that "for the first time in 40 years, native lake fish made their way up the now accessible ravine stream to spawn... Nearly 20,000 native plants were planted by hand along the bluff and stream to prevent erosion and pollutants in the stream." In addition, Rosewood Beach includes sustainable practices and infrastructure too numerous to mention here and is also free to the public and ADA accessible.

Finally, as predicted earlier, the local economy of Highland Park has benefitted from a positive increase through more tourists enjoying the restored coastline. 



In addition to swimming, the beach allows for other recreational uses, making it beneficial to Highland Park's economy through increased tourists. (Photo provided by Park District of Highland Park)

ON THE WEB



To learn more about the Rosewood Beach Project, visit pdhp.org/rosewood-beach-project.

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Best practices ease recovery

One thing to be aware of in beach restoration is the impact of dredging and sand placement on a beach on the bottom rungs of the marine food chain—the worms, clams, crabs and other tiny animals. It is important to monitor the presence of these small animals after the restoration and pay attention to what hinders or helps them in the restoration as well.

A Beach News Service article called “Managing Beach Projects to Manage the Coastal Food Chain” includes the following best management practices from the ASBPA Science and Technology Committee for restoring beaches in ways that protect natural food chains:

- Beaches nourished with sand that matches what is already there show better recovery rates than those where the sediment is a mismatch—because the organisms find a compatible home on a properly restored beach and will return to good health faster.
- Avoid active nourishment efforts during the period when these organisms are at “peak larval recruitment”—meaning when new organisms are being established.
- Beaches that were restored during the warmer months showed a better recovery than those finished in colder months. They posit that the organisms have a chance to begin recovery if the waters are still warm enough to encourage

Source: <http://asbpa.org/2016/07/12/managing-beach-projects-to-manage-the-coastal-food-chain>

repopulation before the weather turns cold—rather than having to wait all winter to begin their recovery.

- Organisms at offshore borrow sites—the places where sand is dredged to be placed on the beach—overall tend to recover pretty well, particularly if there are compatible sites nearby where they can move until the sand removal process is complete.
- Borrow sites in active shoal areas—where natural in-filling is likely to be quicker—recover better than sites in less active bottom areas. This can help guide the engineers to certain areas of a shoal to be used as a borrow site, where the natural forces moving sediment around will expedite in-filling and, thus, recovery.
- How sand is removed also affects recovery. Shallow cuts, leaving areas of undisturbed sand between borrow site strips and avoiding deep steep-sloped pits all can expedite recovery.



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Limitless parks offer access to all



ABOVE LEFT: People gathered prior to the formal dedication ceremony for Madison's Place on June 4, 2016, in Woodbury, Minn. (Provided by city of Woodbury)

ABOVE RIGHT: A young park goer visits the splash pad water feature, which is adjacent to Madison's Place. The city funded the construction of the splash pad as part of the Bielenberg Sports Center expansion project. (Provided by city of Woodbury)

LEFT: The whole family can access Madison's Place upper levels, allowing for plenty of quality time. (Provided by city of Woodbury)

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

IT USED TO BE THE SKY WAS THE LIMIT when describing how far someone ambitious could go in achieving something great. Subtract the sky from the equation and think again: "Madison's Place" in Woodbury, Minn., is declaring its first park "limitless" and providing an incredible playground not only for young children, but for children who grew up to become adults, meaning the fun never has to stop. According to Dana Millington — who started the Madison Claire Foundation to honor her daughter Madison who passed away at the age of two, from spinal muscular atrophy complications in 2004 — the park accommodates people of all ages.

"I can give you a good example," Millington said. "The East Ridge High School tennis coach is a Paralympian who suffered a spinal cord injury as a child. He has young children and has not been able to go play with his kids on a playground.

"He said that he and his kids are at Madison's Place all the time, and he is out playing with his kids on the playground. It is a great place for parents who are disabled to join in with their kids. And grandparents, too — the ramps and rubber surfacing make it easier for them to navigate territory with their grandkids."

Asked if Madison's Place was user-friendly to autistic children, Millington

answered in the affirmative, listing several sensory play components:

- **Cozy Dome** — A quiet space for overstimulated kids to take time by themselves or to socialize together.
- **Oodles Swing** — A large circle swing that hangs from cables and swings back and forth. It is a great sensory piece for kids with autism who like to swing. One can sit or lay on it; it swings with up to six kids.
- **Custom sensory tunnel** — A unique piece that only Madison's Place has, the walk-thru tunnel has colored star cutouts that reflect different colors around the tunnel from the sun shining, and it also has other large marbles for touch.

No matter the municipality, there are always going to be residents or visitors who will need additional help with everyday issues: ramps to aid in going up steps or traversing uneven ground; levers to make entering a building easier; blue flashing lights in halls or offices for those who cannot hear a fire alarm; ad infinitum. A growing trend has been putting people first; this in addition to building modifications, has included changing language to be more inclusive, such as morphing “the wheelchair-bound boy,” into a kinder, people-first declaration of, “the boy who uses a wheelchair.”

It’s little wonder then that municipalities have been quietly integrating limitless parks that accept children and adults of all ages and abilities.

Jason Egerstrom, Woodbury communications coordinator, related further details of attaining such a park through the efforts of Dana and Dave Millington who started the Madison Claire Foundation.

“Madison, who used a wheelchair, had two older, able-bodied, active siblings at the time (ages 3 and 5),” said Egerstrom. “When the family went to the park together, Madison was forced to watch from the sidelines as the park structure was not wheelchair-accessible.

“After Madison left us, Dana saw a story on the Today Show about a California family raising money for a universal playground. Given her family’s experience, she knew that was exactly what she wanted to do to honor Madison. The Millingtons launched the foundation in 2005,” Egerstrom said.

He added, “Woodbury has been recognized nationally for its extensive parks and trails system. Adding a universal playground to the system — the first of its kind in the Twin Cities east metro area — was simply the right thing to do. When the city began planning to expand its indoor field house at Bielenberg Sports Center, it just made sense to work with Dana in replacing the original 18-year-old BSC playground with an accessible structure.”

The foundation raised \$830,000 for the playground through a number of community events and private donations from residents and the business community. The actual cost was approximately \$1 million, if including the city’s contributions, which related to site grading, landscaping, etc.

Asked what effect the park had on the community, Egerstrom used one word: Immeasurable.

“Creating a place where kids and adults of all capacities can play together side-by-side and build friendships fits one of the community’s priorities of fostering an inclusive, welcoming community,” said Egerstrom.

It also expanded the versatility of the public, 320-acre athletics complex. Coupled with the accessible splash pad water feature the city constructed adjacent to Madison’s Place during the BSC expansion project, the site now attracts a wider audience of users in addition to thousands of local athletes and their families who use the site year-round. BSC also houses a 90,000-square-foot indoor field house, two indoor ice arenas, an outdoor refrigerated recreational skating rink and 36 outdoor athletic fields.

Fort Wayne, Ind., boasts Taylor’s Dream Boundless Park, which was begun in 2008 by enterprising 11-year-old Taylor Reuille. Reuille, who is able-bodied, realized that her friend, who had a disability, could not join in the park fun like she and the rest of the kids could. It took four years to build, and now the park stands in proud tribute to the thoughtful heart of a child who enabled tangible playtime for all ages and abilities. The park was ranked 21st in the Early Childhood Education Zone’s 2016 Best 50 Playgrounds in America competition.

Ormond Beach, Fla., has worked to make its Ormond Beach Limitless Playground accessible to all, said Stefan Sibley, assistant Leisure Services director.

“We have an extremely supportive administration and have been provided various funding to expand and enhance play throughout Ormond Beach,” said Sibley, who with Leisure Services Director Robert Carolin handles the logistics of bringing accessible play to the municipality.

“As a city, we’ve spent the greater part of the last decade replacing aging equipment with new and inclusive apparatus to better serve our residents,” Sibley said. “The need presented itself close to 15 years ago when a group of parents requested expanded programming for their children with special needs. Realizing, that playground equipment was changing to include children of all abilities, it seemed the right path for our city.”

He added, “Cost-wise, on average, we have found that limitless playgrounds cost close to the same as other playgrounds. We also have several amenities including various sensory items like drums, bells, mirrors, ▶



Ormond Beach Limitless Playground came about after city officials were approached by parents requesting expanded programming for their children with special needs. Through that they saw the opportunity for an limitless park. (Provided by city of Ormond Beach)

ON THE WEB



Below are helpful links for inclusive parks:

MADISON’S PLACE:

www.ci.woodbury.mn.us/madison-s-place-universal-access-playground
www.youtube.com/watch?v=qOJ7pqiFIY
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyEt-hbuZoM
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ysnYh-uvQ94

MADISON CLAIRE FOUNDATION:

madisonclairefoundation.org, or contact Dana Millington at dana@madisonclairefoundation.org

50 BEST PLAYGROUNDS IN AMERICA:

www.earlychildhoodeducationzone.com/best-playgrounds-in-america

TAYLOR’S DREAM BOUNDLESS PARK IN FORT WAYNE, IND.:

www.accessibleplayground.net/2011/06/24/taylors-dream-now-opened-started-as-an-11-year-old-girls-idea-that-children-of-all-abilities-should-play-together

wheels, cogs and much more for children who are autistic.”

Funding for the project came from a matching grant through a local civic organization; the Daytona Beach Racing and Recreational Facilities District funded nearly half the total costs for the playground.

Jeff Beebe, a coach for the city of Ormond Beach and Special Olympics, has a special-needs child and is grateful for the limitless park.

“The park provides opportunities for Allacyn, our daughter, even though she is getting older and just turned 20,” Beebe said. “We remember when the park first opened, and we will still visit the playground because it provides a good opportunity for her. She can explore in a non-restrictive, safe environment and use both physical and mental abilities. Her first choice would be the slides, and she also likes the swings.”

The intent of many limitless playground is also to introduce able-bodied kids to kids with disabilities/special needs to create friendships, “and we are seeing that happen,” Millington said of Madison’s Place.



Ormond Beach, Fla., found that a limitless park was comparative in cost to other playgrounds. (Provided by city of Ormond Beach)

“You’re seeing the kids with disabilities having independence to maneuver through the playground and play without help from a parent as well as parents playing with their kids. Parents are also bringing their kids to do their sensory OT,” she added. “Almost every one of these inclusive playgrounds has a great story behind how they came to be. Hopefully,

we’ll see more being built by the cities instead of the families having to fight for them by raising so much money.”

Sibley said limitless parks enable families with special needs children to have a playground for their enjoyment. Families with both able-bodied and disabled children can play on the same playground, and the location of the playground is centralized enough that special-needs kids from surrounding areas play there as well. In addition, Ormond Beach’s playground is located at the sports complex so special-needs siblings can go to the playground while their siblings participate in sports.

These cool playgrounds are becoming a welcomed trend across the country. No more do kids in wheelchairs, on crutches or with sight or hearing issues have to stand aside while their more able peers laugh and have fun on the monkey bars, the merry-go-rounds, swings, zip lines and slides. The inclusive playground is the great equalizer, and kids and parents couldn’t be happier. ■

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Hosting the largest public collection of antique roses in the state of Virginia, Lynchburg's Old City Cemetery Museum and Arboretum draws people to town to view them. (Photo provided by Southern Memorial Association, Ted Delaney)

Public gardens entice tourists

By ANNE MEYER-BYLER | The Municipal

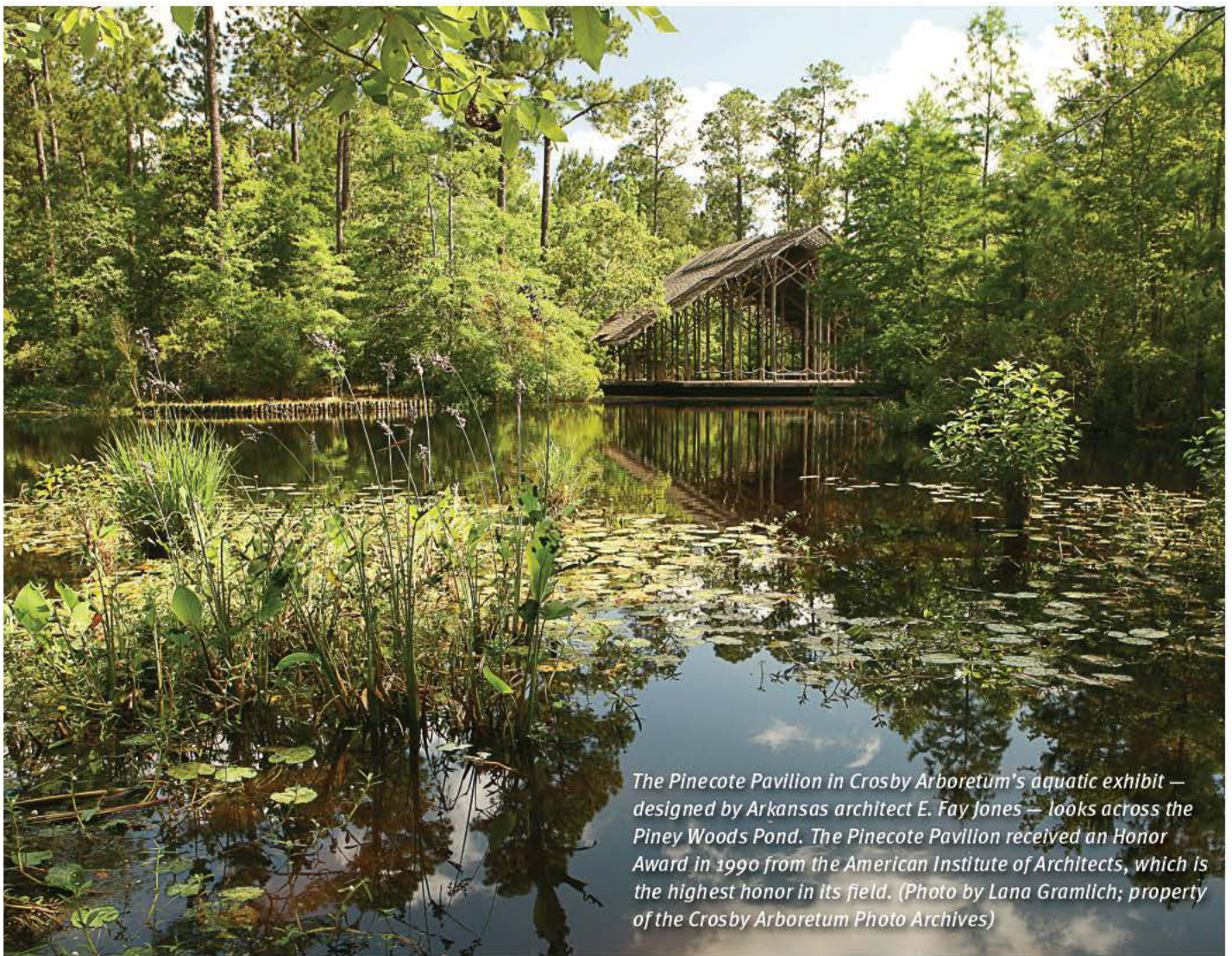
WHEN YOU HEAR “PUBLIC garden” in the American Public Garden Association, think very broadly. The APGA includes numerous arboreta, zoos, cemeteries, university gardens, retirement communities and many city/county green spaces among its 600 member gardens. Staff members include 9,000 people. According to Casey Sclar, APGA executive director, the public garden movement has never been better. The location of gardens in the U.S. follow the general population trends. Then again, Sclar said, “Having a public garden with plant collections that is a relevant and wonderful gathering space for the community could be viewed as what sets

a more progressive community apart.”

Keys to successful public gardens include their relevance, innovation, leadership, community buy-in and collaboration. The APGA has 20 professional sections that continue to strive for better garden practices. From an equipment operation perspective, “better” can encompass snow removal and innovative ways to plant and transfer plant material, ensuring the highest standards of horticulture while not harming valuable plant material, etc. Sclar stated, “I’ve seen everything from electrically operated mowers to the largest trommel screens and grinders involved in compost programs. Loaders, backhoes, lifts, you name it.”

Old City Cemetery Museum and Arboretum

Old City Cemetery Museum and Arboretum, one of APGA’s successful gardens, is housed in and owned by Lynchburg, Va., and is the oldest cemetery still in use in the state. Over the years it has grown to become not only a place of burial and memorial, but gardens with an arboretum. In addition, the 27 acres contain the museum with five buildings to help tell the story of the area and its people. The Southern Memorial Association is a nonprofit with a staff of three who do all of the programs, tours and activities there. The grounds are filled with hundreds of varieties of native and heirloom plants, including the largest public collection of antique roses



The Pinecote Pavilion in Crosby Arboretum's aquatic exhibit — designed by Arkansas architect E. Fay Jones — looks across the Piney Woods Pond. The Pinecote Pavilion received an Honor Award in 1990 from the American Institute of Architects, which is the highest honor in its field. (Photo by Lana Gramlich; property of the Crosby Arboretum Photo Archives)

in the state of Virginia as seen through the website's roster, www.gravegarden.org/roses.

There are over 250 varieties of antique roses, or "old garden roses," planted throughout the area." Old garden roses" are a group of roses existing before 1967, when the first Hybrid Tea Rose was introduced. The original antique rose collection included 60 varieties and was planted in 1986 along the 800-foot remains of the cemetery's old 1860s brick boundary wall. Those roses came from all over the country, and other ones have been added since.

Karen Bracco is the public relations and visitor services manager. She and the director, Ted Delaney, plan events throughout the year, some directly related to raising funds for continuation of the programs at the cemetery, museum and arboretum. Since 21 years ago, Karen shared that the SMA has been taking cuttings from its collection of old roses and

"stock" that it has cultivate nearby and rooting them. On Mother's Day weekend, SMA sells these plants to the public.

"We do 'Rose Walks' that weekend also," says Karen, "We plan specific activities here every year to promote the horticulture, as an example: bee programs — we have hives that are maintained by the local beekeepers — tree walks, pond programs and many varied bird programs."

There are 130 volunteers who help at Old City Cemetery in some way. Karen said they volunteer because it is peaceful and fun, and they can focus on a specific job such as gardening, repairing tombstones, working in the museum, etc. The SMA also tracks visitors to the gardens, museum and arboretum. In 2005 there were 20,977 visitors, and in 2015 there were 33,821. Each year there has been an increase in visitors.

Crosby Arboretum

The Crosby Arboretum in Mississippi is a very small public garden, designed to operate with minimal maintenance. Its success is due to the fact that its development is based on a very meticulously designed, award-winning master plan. The arboretum opened to the public in 1986, with planning for the public garden beginning after the death of L.O. Crosby Jr. in December 1978. In 2016, the Crosby Arboretum earned the Horticulture Magazine Award for Garden Excellence Recipients.

The arboretum became part of Mississippi State University in 1997. While operated by the extension service, it is funded through the university. Annual fundraising appeals to arboretum members allow it to continue to build site improvements, such as constructing new trails or interpretive signage. It has ►

built a number of educational exhibits through grant funding. Since the arboretum is owned by the university, an annual operating budget enables regular maintenance of the 3-mile trail system, buildings and the Pinecote Pavilion, a designated landmark by the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Maintenance can sometimes still be difficult with a limited staff, and Patricia R. Drackett, director and assistant extension professor of landscape architecture, said, "We use prescribed fire to manage our 20-acre savanna exhibit and have a narrow window each winter for the suitable environmental conditions."

Arboretum staff in the late 1990s called it the "first fully realized ecologically designed arboretum in the United States." In 1991 Crosby Arboretum was described by the American Society of Landscape Architects as the "premier native plant conservatory in the Southeast" when it conferred on the arboretum its 1991 Honor Award, the highest national award given in its field, for the arboretum's site master plan.

Drackett said, "Our public garden preserves, protects and displays regional flora, that of the Pearl River Drainage Basin. Our programs and events celebrate the natural world and provide education on identifying, using and cultivating native plants. The garden includes several pitcher plant bogs. The fire-adapted Gulf Coast perennials found in this wet pine savanna landscape offer visitors a dazzling color show that changes with the seasons."



*A bench offers a rest at the edge of Crosby Arboretum's south pitcher plant bog, which contains *Sarracenia alata*, the yellow pitcher plant. (Photo by Lana Gramlich; property of the Crosby Arboretum Photo Archives)*

Explore the American Public Garden Association website, publicgardens.org, to find more jewels in the U.S.'s public landscape. Also learn how to create a public garden in your geographic area to benefit your residents with year-round beauty. 



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In a litigious society, parks can never be too careful

by LAUREN CAGGIANO | The Municipal

When it comes to risk mitigation for parks and recreation department employees and patrons, managers can never be too careful.

Ron Pearson with Meadowbrook Insurance Group knows this firsthand. Meadowbrook is an Ann Arbor-based service provider for the Michigan Municipal League Liability and Property Pool and the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund. The pool and the fund are the insurer, or risk taker. Meadowbrook provides loss control, claim handling, underwriting and marketing services to both programs. Pearson has been

with Meadowbrook for 18 years as part of a dedicated team working solely on the MML's insurance programs.

According to Pearson, following best practices regarding risk mitigation steps is the best course of action. However, each situation will warrant a unique response, "based on the specific recreational activities offered or hosted at a given park, or area within a

Each park department will have its own response toward risk mitigation based on the specific recreational activities offered or hosted at a given park, or area within a park. (Shutterstock)

park." Generally speaking, frequent documented inspections are always a good idea.

"These inspections are to make sure that trails, paths or sidewalks are clear of tripping hazards," he said. "(They ensure) that equipment is in good condition and maintained following manufacturer recommendations and recognized standards."



Other necessary actions, according to Pearson, include providing that fall zone attenuation materials are adequate under or around equipment, and are appropriate for the height of the equipment. It's recommended that zones for differing activities have appropriate separation. Signage warning users of known hazards should be prominently posted. Lastly, follow recognized standards on installation of new equipment, Pearson said.

Steve Kleinman of the Park District Risk Management Agency shares a similar opinion. PDRMA is an intergovernmental risk pool offering self-insured property/casualty and health coverage to park districts, special recreation associations and forest preserve/

conservation districts throughout Illinois. He serves as general counsel and has been with PDRMA since 1992. He's responsible for legal defense functions of the agency and serves as a general legal resource to PDRMA staff and their 160 members—providing legal counsel on risk management, employment practices liability, workers' compensation, general liability and civil rights.

Parks and recreation facilities, he said, by their very nature are laden with risk. In his words, "In today's highly litigious 'no fee if no recovery' society, the greatest threat is diverting limited public funds and staffing resources from risk management to defending frivolous litigation arising out of the inherent risks of recreation. This threat is unabatingly placing park and recreation agencies between the proverbial rock and a hard place."

That's because facilities are often already struggling with allocating their limited financial and staffing resources. Defending

Regular inspections are key to ensuring that that trails, paths or sidewalks are clear of tripping hazards and in good shape; inspections also make sure equipment used by visitors and employees are in working order. (Shutterstock)

against claims and lawsuits arising out of the use (and misuse) of their respective facilities and programs only makes them more over-extended, Kleinman added.

One way to minimize risk and maximize safety is by fostering a culture of safety and wellness. That includes but is not limited to minding legal considerations.

"This commitment is demonstrated through identifying, monitoring and complying with the ever-increasing local, state and federal laws, codes, rules and regulations enacted for the safety of the public and employees and applicable to their respective operations, services, facilities and programs," he said. ▶



Steve Kleinman serves as the general counsel for the Park District Risk Management Agency. He says you can never fully eliminate risk, but you can take a balanced approach to making facilities safer for both staff and patrons. (Photo provided)

Best practices further include a commitment to allocating both staffing and financial resources to risk management and safety. This can be a tall order at times and therefore calls for prioritization. Recreation providers should focus and target their efforts on employee training and education, adopting a scheduled inspection and maintenance program, and compliance with manufacturer and industry guidelines. It's also necessary "to adopt prudent rules and regulations for the use of public property and programs, and communicating and reinforcing important safety information through brochures, signage, websites and social media," he said.

Kleinman recommends agencies look to the past as an indication of the likelihood and nature of future claims. This approach calls for "identifying and prioritizing the particular risks of the individual agency, which includes a statistical analysis of the types, frequency, location and severity of past losses and injuries."

Last, Kleinman reminds readers that risk mitigation is more of an art than a science. And there are really no hard

and fast rules to follow. "(T)here is no one-size-fits-all approach or precise formula," he said. "Rather, it's a common commitment to taking a measured, balanced, genuine and well-informed approach to safety and wellness—targeting the specific needs of the community being served."

Speaking of information, there are a few resources available that managers might lean on for further reference. Pearson recommends the National Recreation and Parks Association.

In addition to a wealth of useful information on their website, they offer certification programs for Park and Recreation directors. Additionally, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission publishes many voluntary standards related to parks and recreational activities. Primary among them is their Public Playground Safety Handbook. The websites are nrpa.org and cpsc.gov, respectively. ■



Park managers can never be too careful when it comes to mitigating risks. For instance, managers should make sure signage warning users of known hazards is prominently posted. (Shutterstock)



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Edina, Minn.

Residents enjoy a high quality of life



by **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

Edina, Minn., has an especially good reason to be patting itself on the back this year.

The Hennepin County city — population of 49,376 in 2013 — placed 22nd in the 2016 third annual Top 100 Best Places to Live, which is put together by Livability.com. The site has showcased hundreds of communities over its 28 years. The objective is a simple one, according to Livability, which strives, “to help small- to medium-sized cities attract and retain residents and businesses through proprietary research studies, engaging articles and original photography and video.” The site examines topics related to community amenities, education, sustainability, transportation, housing and the economy. It then leverages that expertise to develop city rankings for a range of topics, including small

towns, college towns and its annual Top 100 Best Places to Live.

So what does Edina offer the outside world, in addition to more than 1,550 acres of well-manicured parkland and wide-open spaces?

The parks themselves are noteworthy. Edinborough Park is a popular indoor park year-round with a four-story play structure that parents are invited to climb up on and make merry with their kids. It also has a Kids Zone, kid-friendly vendors, a bounce house and basketball court. The fun park particularly shines in winter when the blizzards howl — everyone comes out to play, especially when school is cancelled.

A summer tradition, the Edina Art Fair features more than 100 artisans each year, and

Another one of Edina’s parks is Weber Woods; the city operates nearly 40 parks and recreational facilities. (Provided by city of Edina)

the 2015 art fair was the first to include a craft beer garden hosted by the local Edina Grill. The 2016 marked the fair’s 50th anniversary.

Also during the summer, visitors at the 24-acre Centennial Lakes Park can rent paddleboats; fish for sunfish, largemouth bass and catfish; watch remote-control sailboat races by the Edina Model Yacht Club; navigate the maze; play golf on the bent grass putting course; or challenge friends on croquet and lawn bowling courts. Take a scenic walk on 1.5 miles of paved pathway around the 10-acre lake or enjoy the separate bike paths. Each Thursday from June through September, the Centennial Lakes Farmers Market invites passersby to stop



Centennial Lakes Park is a popular Edina destination in the summertime, with its paddleboat rentals, fishing, remote-control sailboat races, maze and more. (Provided by city of Edina)

and shop the always-fresh produce and other items from local growers and vendors.

Then ice skate in winter — the park rents figure and hockey skates for kids and adults — or hop on one of the park’s Norwegian ice sleds for a thrill. Then, for a break from the biting wind, pop inside the pavilion and enjoy one of its three fireplaces while sipping a cuppa hot chocolate from the concession stand. Enjoy the theatre, entertainment and events year-round.

There is also the Edina Promenade, an 80-foot-wide greenway extension of Centennial Lakes Park that leads to retail, residential and recreational amenities.

“Edina residents enjoy a high quality of life,” said Jennifer Bennerotte, Communications and Technology Services director of Edina, adding that the close proximity to downtown Minneapolis, Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport and major highways is a major plus, too.

“Some of the things we are known for include the Minnesota Streetcar Museum, and the Braemar Golf Course, Braemar Arena, Edinborough Park, Centennial Lakes Park and the Edina Aquatic Center, the latter five of which are all premier recreation facilities. Also, we are known for our hockey legacy, with Braemar Arena being the hub of hockey activity in the community.”

Bennerotte added, “Our school district is renowned — Quality of Life surveys, typically completed in odd-numbered years, show that Edina Public Schools is the No. 1 reason people choose to live in Edina.”

The city’s planned development is another plus.

“Edina has one of the country’s first planned neighborhoods: the historic Country Club District around the Edina Country Club,” Bennerotte said. “Edina was also the first city in Minnesota to have a comprehensive plan and has been a leader in mixed-use development. Some mixed-use developments include Centennial Lakes and Edinborough.

“Sophisticated retail — Edina is home to the first fully enclosed, climate-controlled shopping mall in the United States, in Southdale Center. It is also home to a thriving downtown at 50th and France, and an upscale mall, Galleria. There are also several neighborhood retail areas. Medical and professional service industries are also ►



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strong in Edina. The medical community is anchored by Fairview Southdale Hospital.”

Major employers in the metropolis include the headquarters for Jerry’s Food, Lund Food Holdings, Regis Corporation and Dairy Queen.


Recently, the town was proclaimed a self-designated Human Rights City by the Edina City Council — it was the first city in the state of Minnesota to dedicate itself to being such. Its website explains why:

“Cities around the world are making this declaration after the United Nations began a project aimed to develop Human Rights Cities to build infrastructure for racial justice, conflict prevention, human security, enduring development, and create a place for active civic engagement at the local, national and global level.”

By having human rights protection within the city, the residents are creating a more equitable community for all. The Edina Human Rights & Relations Commission is responsible for advising and counseling the Edina City Council on discrimination and

human relations. Last year the commission celebrated the goal of equity and human rights with several events, including a program titled “Combating Human Trafficking in Minnesota,” co-sponsored by the Edina High School’s Against Modern-Day Slavery student club. The purpose of this program was to educate the community and raise awareness of the human and sex trafficking issues in Minnesota and to encourage the community to take action.

Annually, Edina and the Human Rights & Relations Commission presents “Days of Remembrance,” with the goal of remembering those who perished and honoring the survivors, rescuers and liberators of the Holocaust and other genocides around the world today that continue to impact our residents daily.

Finally, Bennerotte recommended when visiting the town website that readers view two special pages — Living Streets Champions and Meet Edina’s Hometown Heroes — for a more intimate glimpse of what makes Edina so special. 



Edinborough Park is a popular indoor park, which is always sunny and 70 degrees all year-round. (Provided by city of Edina)

ON THE WEB



To learn more about Edina, visit the city’s website:
www.ci.edina.mn.us.

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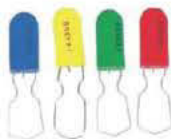
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Ensuring safety in public buildings

By DENISE FEDOROW | The Municipal

A FACILITY MANAGER'S JOB DESCRIPTION IS LENGTHY AND varied and includes tasks such as inspecting the premises to ensure everything is stocked for the day's work; creating a maintenance schedule for the interior and exterior of the building; conference room setups; electrical, plumbing and HVAC maintenance — either in-house or contracted out — and safety and hazards control.

Ensuring facilities are safe can be complex these days with a multitude of potential threats and hazards that could come from within the facility or outside the facility. Adding to the complexity is the fact that many of these facilities are open to the public and therefore don't want to be as secure as Fort Knox. That's an issue that Manassas, Va.'s City Manager William Patrick Pate said his city is wrestling with.

"Our philosophy is we want a transparent government so the public feels the building is inviting, but we have good common sense practices for safety," Pate said.

Some of those common sense practices include locking up the facilities at night, plus having alarm systems and panic buttons if an employee feels threatened, but Pate said, "Typically that hasn't been an issue for us."

In the utility departments, he said, "We have high counters for folks dealing with the public and glass windows — it keeps people from reaching across the counter and grabbing money."

When it comes to safety features of buildings, several of the features are incorporated at the planning stages. It would be at that point where it would be decided whether a building needed bullet proof glass or safety film on the windows. Safety films helps windows heat



ABOVE LEFT: The entranceway to Manassas City Hall is monitored for any possible tripping hazards. (Photo provided)

ABOVE: City hall in Manassas, Va., is going through a renovation to make it more accessible to the public while maintaining a safe working environment for employees. (Photo provided)

and cool a facility more efficiently, but it can also protect against flying debris in a storm and even protect against vandalism and theft. Alarm systems, counter heights and visual aids such as security mirrors and closed circuit televisions and cameras are usually incorporated in the planning stages, but if a facility is older and some of those items were not included, they can generally be added easily enough.

Safety on the job

Some safety measures in government facilities include making sure walkways are clear and marked when wet, using proper techniques and tools like being careful when picking up boxes or using hydraulic tools. Hydraulic tools prevent injuries to workers plus prevent fires that could occur if sparks from traditional power tools ignite a natural gas source.

“Our philosophy is we want a transparent government so the public feels the building is inviting, but we have good common sense practices for safety.”

Pate said in Manassas they try to do a lot of training on safe work environments.

“We have a safety officer and a risk manager. They try to be proactive in looking at issues that will create safety concerns,” he said.

Those concerns include making sure people working outside in the field on hot days have enough water to stay hydrated. Pate said Manassas is ADA compliant and is also a walkable community so it identifies and eliminates any possible trip hazards.

“We work with our crews to identify any safety hazards and potential liabilities,” he said.

Manassas, a city of about 38,000, has its own electric utility. Pate said the electrical workers are very diligent about safety: “Working around high voltage electricity all the time, you have to be extremely careful or there’s a potential loss of life.”

Manassas Police Department just installed the Body One cameras this year, protecting officers inside the buildings and while out on patrol. The fire department spends lots of time on safety protocols and conducting drills, according to Pate.

Several new government buildings across the country have improved fire safety measures to control smoke, heat and flames in a fire event. Some of those features include ventilation that removes smoke, doors that will release smoke through louvers or will contain the fire to a certain area of the building, fire suppression valves and, of course, smoke alarms and typical water-based sprinkler systems. These features help keep building occupants safe while minimizing damage to the facility.

Emergency and automatic safety shut-offs for water and gas are critical to protect facilities in case of a water leak or plumbing problem, flooding for water services and in case of an earthquake or tornado for natural gas.

Dan Miceli is a licensed stationary engineer in Maryland who has worked in government facilities for over 35 years, currently at a Food and Drug Administration Facility. He said as a power plant engineer working with steam turbines, electricity, heat, chilling and air conditioning units, when a lightning storm is coming, their facility automatically separates from the municipal power plant and goes on “island mode” to ensure their equipment continues to operate. If they have advance warning, the engineers will manually switch to “island mode” to be on the safe side. He said the natural gas furnaces and boilers also have an automatic shut off. Miceli said he just completed safety training on approximately 20 different topics and the training is conducted annually or bi-annually.

Many government facilities have metal detectors — some are only put in use during court proceedings.

Pate said tighter security measures have been taken at water treatment plants — facilities that the Department of Homeland Security ►

identified as being at high risk — and in Manassas gates and locks were installed at their facility.

Two of Manassas' municipal buildings are or will soon be undergoing renovations. Manassas City Hall and the public safety building. At city hall Pate said they are trying to open up customer service areas so that it is more apparent where visitors need to go to conduct business. They are consolidating all the customer service areas on the main floor where the council chambers are also located so there is better access for the public to departments such as clerk-treasurer, utility departments and code enforcement.

"Which will create better security on the upper floors as most of the things the public needs in the building will be on the main floor," he said.

"We're looking at ways to make sure we have the appropriate barriers and privacy areas while having it be environmentally friendly to the public, with some level of protection for our staff," he said. "Our thought is if it's more open, everyone will be able to see what's going on." Pate said currently departments are walled off and he felt that made them more unsafe.

Improvements to the public safety building include adding security features such as ways to better protect evidence storage and to transport prisoners; even though that's something they do only rarely. The improvements will create an even safer environment for citizens and the police.



Officials from Manassas, Va., including Police Chief Doug Keen — third from left in uniform; Mayor Harry J. Parrish II — next to Keen in the white shirt; and City Manager W. Patrick Pate — middle with glasses — gathered recently with members of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies and police personnel in front of the Manassas Police Department. (Photo provided)

In Manassas Pate said when it comes to safety, "we try to make sure we are constantly talking about it and showing examples of what potential bad things can happen, hoping that they remain vigilant. Our goal is to ensure that they all make it home to their families each day." **M**

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by JOHN DAVID THACKER | The Municipal

IN APRIL 2014, THE WATER COMING out of the taps in Flint, Mich., began to turn a strange color. Residents began to complain about its taste, color and odor. The water would later test positive for high levels of trihalomethanes and lead. The ongoing water contamination crisis focused national attention on the importance of regularly monitoring the quality of our drinking water.

The Environmental Protection Agency requires that water districts frequently test their water for bacteria, chemicals and metals that could harm the public. Technicians draw samples not only from the water source or the water treatment plant, but also from sites across the district. Decades ago, the only way to take these field samples was not the most convenient.

"The old way of doing it would be to go into someone's house or place of business,"

said Jim Lyon, product manager for American Machine & Conveyor, which manufactures water sampling stations. "You go out to a zone, you pick a house that's kind of centrally located in that zone and hopefully that person's home and will give you permission to enter the property or give you access to a spigot where you can either hook up a meter sampler or just take your cup and put it right there in the sink and take a sample. And that's not always convenient, especially if you're trying to time it so that people are home."

Old and poorly maintained pipes in the home or business could also introduce contaminants not in the public water supply, yielding a false positive.

These days, technicians usually take water samples from designated sampling sites using water sampling stations. These sampling stations are outside and

Technicians at one time had to visit residential homes in zones to test water, often having to wait until someone was at home. The use of water sampling stations eliminates that middleman. (Shutterstock)

connect directly to the water main. American Machine & Conveyor recommends that their stations be anchored to a 2-foot concrete pad covering a French drain. A 6-inch pipe connects the water main with the above-ground sample tap. A secondary shut-off valve and check valve are also installed to protect the water supply.

Sampling stations have made it more convenient for technicians to quickly collect water samples throughout the community. They also have more control over the source of their samples, which is important for maintaining the integrity of the water sampling. Lyon said, "Now the technician can come out, unlock the sampling station,



A technician draws a water sample from a water sampling station; water sampling stations reduce chances of receiving a false positive when testing water. (Photo provided)

“Water sampling stations have become vital to protecting the nation’s water quality.”

flush it or let the line run however long he’s required to and then take his sample and go. He doesn’t have to wait for anybody to give him access. He doesn’t have to hook up a sampler to a water line.” Water samples are then sent to a laboratory for testing.

But what if the sampling station itself becomes contaminated? Since the sampling tap is outside, it must be protected from damage, tampering and contamination, usually by enclosing all above-ground components in a locked metal box. “It can be a real big hassle if they get a bad test from not having a clean water sample station,” said Lyon. “So we’ve got these side wind guards and our lid is flush to the body so there’s no way even ants can get in there.”

The stations also need to be periodically maintained and occasionally replaced. The city of Coral Springs, Fla., has upgraded aging stations in the past few years.

Chief Water Plant Operator Bryan Heller for Coral Springs said, “They were in pretty decent service for as old as they looked like they ▶



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were, but seeing as how we have a lot of new lead-free standards in the water industry, I just wanted to make sure that we were able to provide some lead-free ones and bring things up to standard. I pay close attention to the American Water Works Association. They print standards on everything. When they made adjustments a few years ago to all the lead-free requirements instead of just reduced-lead requirements, I wanted to make sure that we complied with that. So we got new lead-free sample taps. We also made sure to get enclosures that were durable and would not break and did not take an exorbitant amount of time to install or maintain.”

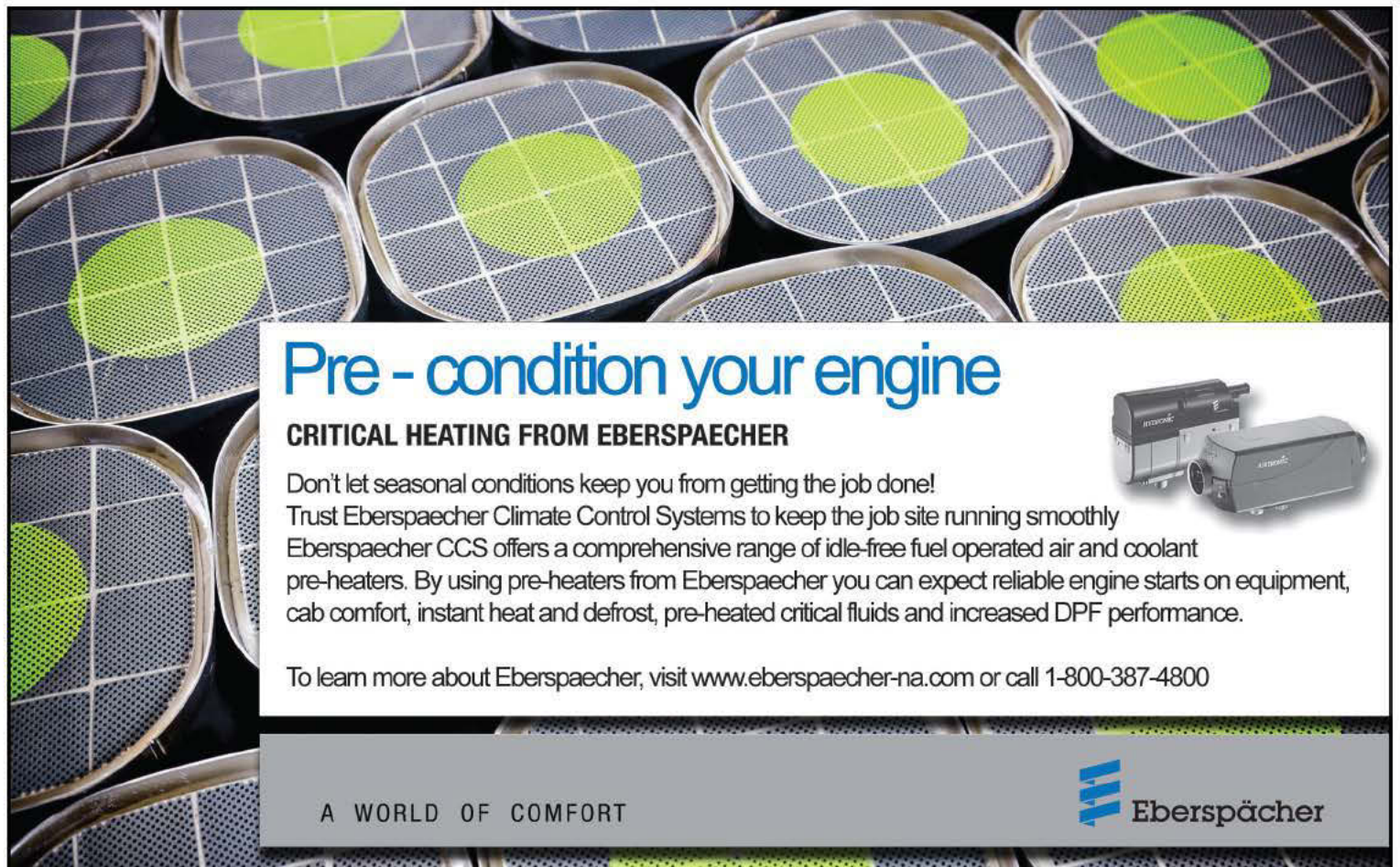
Heller has been satisfied with the results of upgrading the city’s water sampling stations. “We’ve been getting really good samples. As a matter of fact, I did notice a drop in our heterotrophic plate counts. That’s something we do that’s not really required, but we use that as a monitoring tool for our system and the fact that we have an ‘ND’ on the lab results, which means ‘Not Detected,’ every single month for the last four months, that’s a real good indication that it was a good decision to go ahead and be proactive and install those new sample taps.”

Water sampling stations have become vital to protecting the nation’s water quality. Maintaining them and occasionally upgrading them to meet new water quality standards is important for ensuring the integrity of the testing process.



A water sampling station in Ventura County, Calif., is sealed to protect it from damage, tampering and contamination. (Photo provided)


“You want to maintain your standards,” said Heller. “You want to have the best equipment available. And you want to make sure that you’re not going to have any forms of false positives. It’s a small price to pay to make sure that we don’t get false positives.” 



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Temporary structures

allow cities to adapt quickly during worst-case scenarios

by AJ HUGHES | The Municipal

When twenty-five inches of snow in early February 2010 caused a total roof collapse at the Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department in Falls Church, Va., multiple pieces of firefighting apparatus suffered millions of dollars in damage. Located near Washington, D.C., and responding to nearly 10,000 calls a year, the station couldn’t afford to be out of commission. Officials knew they had to act quickly.

The immediate solution, at least until a permanent structure could be rebuilt, was a temporary fabric building.

“We’re very busy — we can’t afford to be out of service,” said Dennis Corl, a project manager with the department. “The only other option would have been to distribute equipment to other stations. The key was to protect apparatus. We also wanted to keep the crew together.”

After researching their options, department leaders learned about ClearSpan Fabric Structures. They decided to go with a 50-by-40 ClearSpan Hercules Truss Arch

Building. It took ClearSpan only a week to complete the project.

“We were looking for tension-fabric structure to house apparatus,” said Corl. “ClearSpan came through and jumped right on it. They did a marvelous job.”

One immediate advantage of the new temporary structure was increased floor space, since all supports were located on the perimeter. It also featured two exterior personnel doors and a ventilation fan. The department utilized this structure until 2013 when the decision was made to build a new station to replace the damaged one.

ABOVE LEFT: After the roof on Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department’s station collapsed, a temporary structure became the best way to protect apparatus. Pictured is the structure going up in front of the collapsed fire station. (Photo provided)

ABOVE RIGHT: Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department’s temporary structure was up in a week’s time. In 2013 the department moved into a second temporary structure, leading up to the completion of its new station in October 2014. (Photo provided)

They moved several blocks away into a new temporary fabric structure constructed by Rubb Building Systems. In October 2014, the department moved into its new permanent home.

Thanks to two temporary buildings made with tensile fabric, the Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department didn’t miss a beat during the four-and-a-half-year span between the roof collapse and the completion of its new station.

“This year, we’re the top-running station in Fairfax County,” Corl said, proudly.

The ability to quickly adapt and customize is one of the key reasons ClearSpan was able to step in so quickly to help the fire



Temporary structures are popular options for storing commodities like sand and salt; this prevents runoff that could create an environmental disaster. (Photo provided by Calhoun)



In the event of a disaster, temporary structures can be used for a variety of applications, including as an emergency medical center. (Shutterstock)

department, according to Geoffrey Ching, a sales manager with the company.

“With natural disasters, time is of essence — our customers can’t afford to wait,” Ching said. “We’re used to working with very tight deadlines.”

Municipal projects make up a sizable chunk of business for ClearSpan — numerous buildings it erects are used for salt storage, said Ching.

“We focus on temporary and permanent construction solutions, with in-house manufacturing, design and engineering,” he said. “We build with both fabric and steel, although fabric is quicker. Because of our ability to pre-design, we offer a very fast response time.”

While some may assume that fabric buildings aren’t made for the long haul, actually they are. Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department depended on fabric structures for four years, and in fact, they’re designed to last much longer. ClearSpan fabric comes with a 20-year warranty. Fabric has other advantages as well.

“People generally like white fabric because no lights are needed during the day,” Ching said. “It’s energy-saving and sustainable, relocatable, and able to withstand different types of climates.”

Temporary structures offer a variety of applications for municipal use, particularly

in response to disasters — from providing shelter to those who have been displaced from their homes to serving as temporary medical/first-aid centers and more. Schools across the nation have been turning to temporary structures, such as modular homes, to serve as offices or classroom spaces to match rapid growth. Many cities have embraced temporary structures to protect equipment — much like Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department did — or commodities.

“Temporary structures offer a variety of applications for municipal use, particularly in response to disasters.”

Calhoun, a manufacturer of fabric structures based in Tara, Ontario, Canada, has not done much in the way of direct disaster relief, but it is positioned to do so throughout the United States and Canada, said Dan Dalzell, a dealer development manager with the company.

“We offer quick turnaround and can get structures up-and-running very quickly,” Dalzell said.

Much of Calhoun’s business is building structures devoted to sand and salt storage, which helps prevent disasters by keeping roadways free of ice. Dalzell also pointed to the positive environmental impact of such buildings.


“We don’t want salt runoff in the elements,” he said. “Ultimately, these structures save taxpayers money.”

As more and more businesses and organizations turn to temporary fabric structures for a wide array of reasons, it’s also important

to keep these buildings safe, especially in storms. Mahaffey, another developer of temporary buildings, urges its customers to install lightning protection in its temporary structures. Long-term structures, such as the one used by Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, contain a variety of electrical equipment. Because most fabric buildings

rely on metal frames, they are easy targets for lightning, which can fry internal communications infrastructure.

And since lightning can cause fire, the ClearSpan structure used by the Bailey’s Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department had to comply with county building codes — specifically, the fabric needed to be non-flammable.

“Fire marshals had to approve it,” Corl said. 



Sanitation and education key to combatting Zika

by SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

Zika is officially here, and cities are stepping up to spread information and reduce mosquito populations, often building strong partnerships to do so. And while Zika is making all the headlines at the moment, other mosquito-related diseases, like West Nile and dengue fever, have long been on cities' radars, with many adjusting to combat aedes aegypti mosquitos' and the aedes albopictus mosquito, which is another possible vector for Zika.

What to know

Dr. Janet McAllister, PhD, with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and a leading entomologist, recently participated in a National Recreation and Park Association webinar called "Zika and Parks: What You Need to Know" where she noted, "One in five infected show any symptoms (of Zika). It is not a severe disease."

The disease — in addition to being spread by mosquito bites — can be sexually transmitted by both men and women and spread through blood transfusions.

Symptoms, if they do show, include fever, rash, joint pain, conjunctivitis, or red eyes, and less commonly headaches. The danger comes from Zika's ability to pass from a pregnant woman to her fetus during pregnancy, resulting in microcephaly and other severe fetal brain defects.

"Future pregnancies are not going to be affected," McAllister said, adding the CDC believes those who contract Zika receive lifetime immunity afterwards.

As for the vectors, the aedes aegypti mosquito is particularly of concern since

Aedes aegypti is easily identified by its striped legs and thorax, which has a white stripe down its center. It is the main vector for Zika. (Shutterstock)

it prefers to feed on humans. The aedes albopictus mosquito could also be a vector, McAllister said; however, since it feeds on animals, too, it is less likely to complete the cycle necessary to spread Zika.

When it comes to monitoring for ae. aegypti and ae. albopictus, forget about using the same procedures from the West Nile surveillance program. "The traps you use for that will not be effective," McAllister said.

Monitoring programs will need BG-Sentinel mosquito traps and Ovitrap cups rather than the gravid and light traps used for culex pipiens mosquitos and culex quinquefasciatus, which can be vectors for West Nile disease. McAllister, however, noted ae. aegypti can be identified by the naked eye due to its striped legs and thorax, which has a white stripe that runs down it.



Site reduction and education

During mosquito season, the CDC recommends implementing all mosquito control strategies, including immature mosquito monitoring, adult mosquito monitoring, removal of water sources where larvae can grow, use of larvicides in water sources that cannot be dumped and insecticide resistance testing.

When it comes to control, McAllister stressed: “Sanitation, sanitation, sanitation.” *Ae. aegypti* mosquitoes prefer manmade containers for their breeding grounds, so it is important to clear small containers, utensils, recreation objects, pots and similar items of standing water; these spaces are preferred because they are without natural predators. Advance stormwater features like bioswales should not be an issue since often such features are larger than these mosquitoes prefer, have moving water or have natural predators like dragonfly larvae in them.

“During peak summer heat, it takes as little as five days for larval development,” she said, adding the eggs, which attach themselves to the sides of containers, can be viable for up to a month without water, hatching when water again returns to the container. This makes it important to scrub the eggs off containers after dumping.

It is vital to address junk and litter that might contain water not just in municipal maintenance yards or parks, but in residential properties and local businesses.

“Actively engage communities to perform source reduction,” McAllister said.

Weston, Fla., has been following that advice to the T, forming numerous partnerships to distribute information. Denise Barrett-Miller, director of communications for Weston, said, “Partnerships and having good relationships with community groups and organizations has really been essential for us. Numerous groups have taken the information that we have provided from the Florida Department of Health and then forwarded it on through their members, and those people in turn send information to people they know and so on and so forth.”

This network of distribution includes cable TV and radio, plus the city’s website, Twitter, Youtube and newsletter. “We have also sent the information to our schools, (homeowners associations), clergy, sports leagues, YMCA, community groups, CERT program, COP program, arts council and others to educate them and ask that they pass information to those within their organizations,” she added.

Materials from the health department and fliers — including some in Spanish — have been posted at Weston’s local Publix stores and taken to other locations with a lot of foot traffic like the library, Bonaventure Town Center, the YMCA and others.

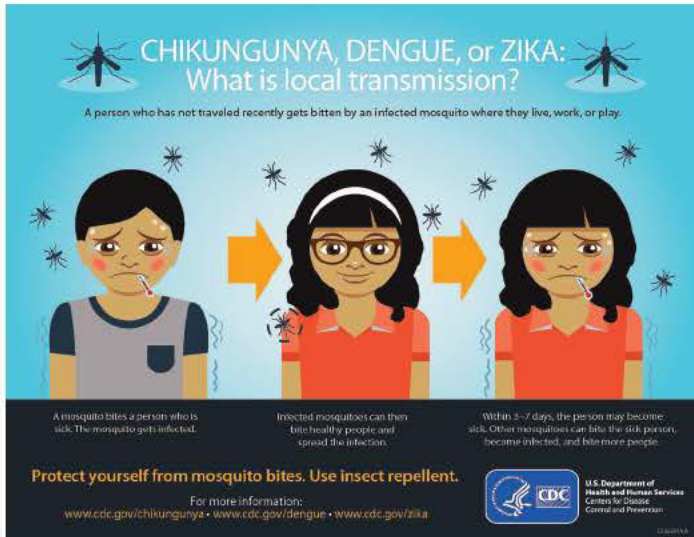
“Our code enforcement officers also have door hangers and postcards to distribute and look for any possible large infestation such as an unkept pool,” Barrett-Miller said.

Mosquito traps — like this gravid trap — used to monitor for West Nile disease will be ineffective when monitoring for Zika; instead, BG-Sentinel mosquito traps and Ovitrap cups will need to be used. (Photo by Sarah Wright)

The spread of information — beyond encouraging site reduction — also gives the public information to avoid mosquito bites. “Preventing mosquito bites is also a huge, huge, huge part of our messaging,” McAllister said of the CDC. “Because it’s not just about what the government can do to help people, but what people can do to help protect themselves as well.”

To reduce bites in a parks and recreation setting, for an example, McAllister encouraged municipalities to use air conditioning in recreation buildings, or at least make sure good screens are in place and doors are not propped open — the same advice given to residential homes and businesses.

When it comes to municipal workers, particularly those who work outdoors, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health have issued “Interim Guidance for Protecting Workers from Occupational Exposure to Zika Virus.” The guide provides suggestions to employers for reducing risk of bites and infection to ▶



Pictured is just one of the many fliers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention the city of Weston, Fla., is distributing throughout its community. (Photo provided)

outdoor workers and others who might come into contact with mosquitoes carrying the Zika virus.

Some of these guidances include providing workers with insect repellents and encouraging their use; providing workers, or encouraging them to wear, clothing that covers hands, arms, legs and other exposed skin; training workers about the importance of eliminating areas where mosquitos can breed at a work-site; potentially reassigning, if requested by a worker, anyone who is or may become pregnant, or who is male and has a sexual partner who is or may become pregnant, to indoor tasks to reduce their risk of mosquito bites; among others.

Spraying

Targeted residential spraying is another option being used to combat Zika and other mosquito-related diseases. "Target areas near the foundation, under steps or behind junk on the front porch where adult mosquitos are going to be found," McAllister advised for *Aedes aegypti*. "Don't spray where pollinators are going to be."

As an example, she said targeted areas to spray would be around visitors centers or

other buildings where people gather rather than broadly spraying around a park or city property. *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes are going to be where people are gathering.

Don Decker, director of parks and recreation for Weston, stated the city coordinates with Broward County to spray public parks since the county is responsible for mosquito spraying measures in the area; however, a more localized system was also installed.

"A number of years ago, we were introduced to a more localized, natural deterrent system offered by a company called Platinum Mosquito Protection. They installed a delivery system on the exteriors of our restroom and concession buildings," Decker said, noting that it is made up of tanks, tubing and nozzles. "The system emits a mist of Pyrethrum, which is a natural insecticide derived from the chrysanthemum flower. This insecticide has the added benefit of repelling flies, wasps and other insects. So, while we cannot provide this additional measure throughout a 100-acre park, it does help in areas where people congregate."

Should Zika be identified in an area, McAllister and the CDC recom-

end mobilizing a comprehensive mosquito control strategy without delay to prevent local transmission. This includes implementing a targeted vector control for adult and immature mosquitos in and within 150 yards around an infected individual's location in addition to intensifying larval control and source reduction efforts. Cities and towns should also consider adding community-based mosquito control, which includes residual treatment and space treatments.

She added during her presentation the CDC has many resources available to cities through its website. "Borrow widely from what we've already developed and maybe tailor that to your specific situation as needed." **M**

ON THE WEB — ZIKA RESOURCES

Here are links to the CDC's Zika homepage and the "Interim Guidance for Protecting Workers from Occupational Exposure to Zika Virus" PDF:

- www.cdc.gov/zika/index.html
- www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/outdoor/mosquito-borne/pdfs/osh-niosh-fs-3855-zika-virus-04-2016.pdf

Below is a link to the "Zika and Parks: What You Need to Know" webinar:

- www.nrpa.org/zika/





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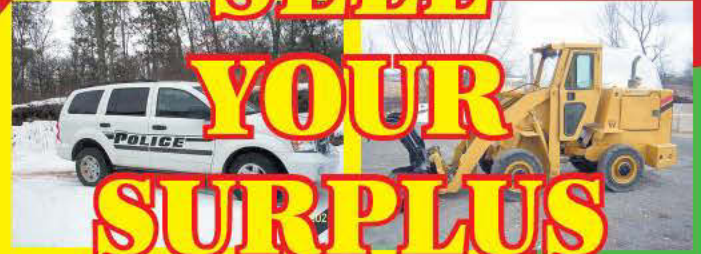


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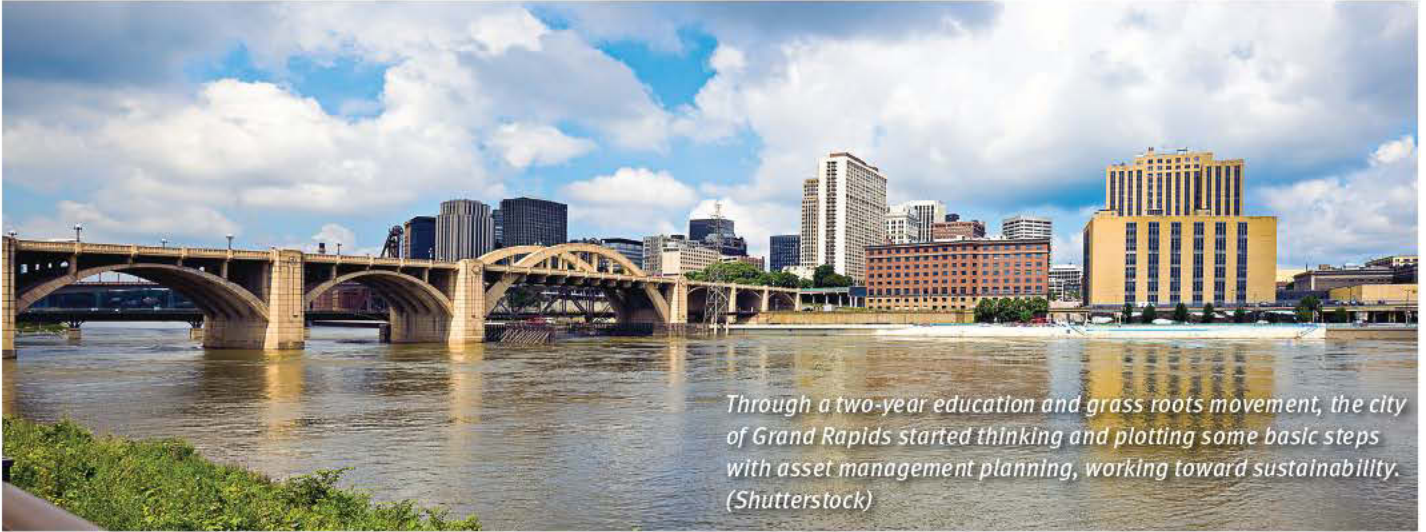
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Implementing sustainable asset management



Through a two-year education and grass roots movement, the city of Grand Rapids started thinking and plotting some basic steps with asset management planning, working toward sustainability. (Shutterstock)

by MARK DECLERCQ, P.E. | City of Grand Rapids city engineer

WHAT IS ASSET MANAGEMENT? For the city of Grand Rapids, Mich., asset management is transformational. As city engineer for the second largest city in Michigan, transformation at multiple levels of our local government was necessary if the city of Grand Rapids was going to get through the “Great Recession” and move forward on a sustainable path. As in many municipal cities during this period, there were many reductions and changes in how services were delivered to its customers. However, there was one topic that was sure to emerge, and that was called sustainable asset management.

To break it down, think of your personal vehicle. You purchase a brand-new car and begin to enjoy the ride. Next, you’re reminded every so many miles to get your oil changed. After about 50,000 miles or so, you begin to experience light-duty repairs such as new brakes. Then once you get over a certain amount of miles, more heavy-duty repairs occur like a set of four new tires. By

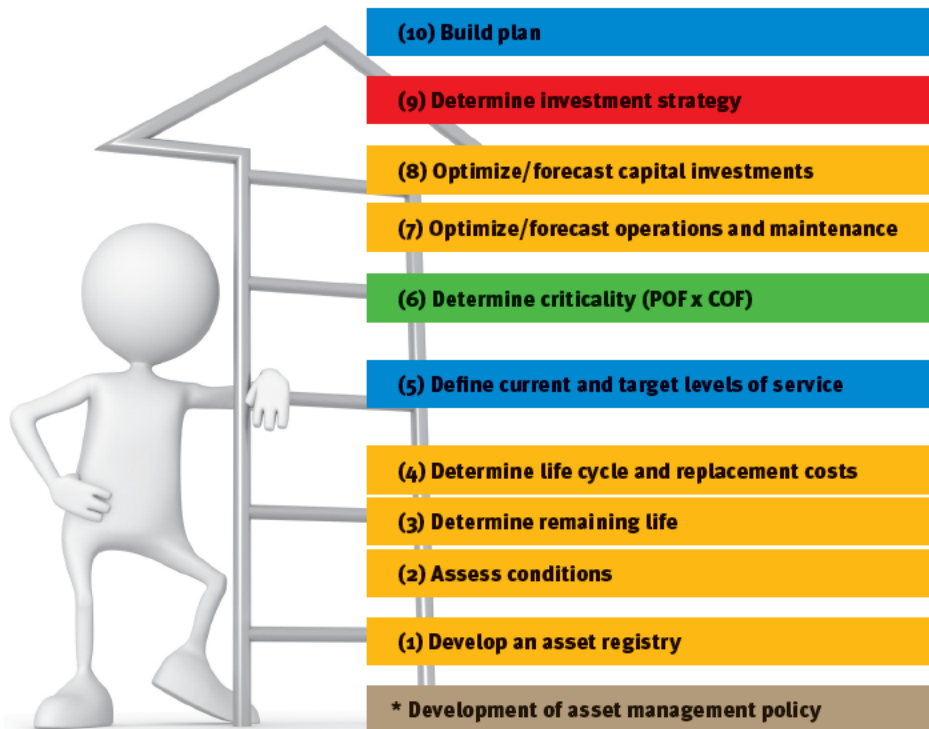
now, these repairs are beginning to become more frequent and add up in cost.

Perhaps you’ve weathered the cash flow on repair bills and your vehicle is on its second wind. Or, the frequency and cost of repairs is burning a hole through your wallet. At this point, your vehicle has simply reached the end of its life and you decide, “I need a new car!”

In the example above, routine maintenance referred to the oil changes. If it’s frequently skipped or forgotten, your engine performance or life may be reduced. There are always repairs on your vehicle just from the nature of owning it. Think of all the repairs that have cost you over \$250, or perhaps you forgave all of the ownership hassles and just leased. Not a bad idea, but probably not too many of your municipal assets are leased. Finally, you’ve racked up tens of thousands of miles, a few thousand dollars in repair costs and an interior that shows it’s been to one too many of your kids’ sporting events. You finally trade that jalopy in for a new car; and, the cycle begins all over again. Sound familiar on your municipal assets?

Apply this to your assets at a municipal level. Perhaps you’re a city manager and have to deal with presenting a challenging fiscal budget of deferred maintenance costs to your mayor and city commissioners. Maybe you’re the chief financial officer who has to go find the funding — by the way, these folks can get really creative and be your best advocates for these situations. Perhaps you’re the department head who has to painstakingly witness your staff constantly attend to failed equipment or potholed riddled streets. Don’t fret, there is a solution and it begins with planning and managing your assets.

In any of these cases, asset management planning can help you deal with this by getting your arms wrapped around the assets you manage. Ask yourself, “what do I oversee, what condition is it in and how much longer is it going to last?” Don’t be embarrassed if you can’t answer this question. It is a common expression. I saw the frustration on the faces of my fellow colleagues, but in the wake of needing to transform, start somewhere and start small. Let’s face it, it’s not likely that your municipal fiscal budget



There are typically 10 steps within asset management in order to build a simple plan. It is recommended to start small when completing the first plan. (Shutterstock.com)

will be able to afford to fund all of the deferred maintenance, or at least not all at once. But understanding what you have as a current state and being able to identify a fundable path to the future state is a step toward the direction of sustainable asset management.

For Grand Rapids, it was about a two-year education and grass roots movement in order to start thinking and plotting some basic steps with asset management planning. As a result of the community, city commission, mayor and organizational team effort, the city of Grand Rapids has asset management plans for assets in its general operating fund; enterprise and public works portfolio; capital improvement fund; and Vital Streets program. The parks system, bridges, street lighting, sidewalks, flood protection system, roofs, surface parking lots are all under asset management plans, or at least inventoried and assessed. The current value of these assets exceeds \$800 million.

Rome wasn't built overnight, neither were our asset management plans. The city engineer's office began with a 12-plus month education program, teaching what asset management is and its value to top managers, middle managers, senior operators and others who oversee city assets. The heavy lifting of asset inventory and condition assessment was typically performed by local consultants whose skill set was able to deliver on such a specialized scope of work that


required matching the professional expertise with the asset being assessed.

In its basic form, there are typically 10 steps within asset management in order to build a simple plan. I call this the 10 rungs of a "ladder." For most of this article, I've talked about inventory, condition assessment and

life cycle of an asset. This represents the bottom third of the "ladder." But there needs to be some level of importance and priority of what gets funded first, second, third, etc. And most importantly, there needs to be a discussion on level of service. In other words, what are the expectations of the public using the asset versus the services that a municipality will need to deliver in order to meet those expectations?

Where the shortfall occurs is called the "gap" — either human, financial or technical resources provided by the municipality. This represents the middle third of the "ladder." The upper third of the "ladder" is aligning your investment strategies and building two plans: a level of maintenance plan and a capital improvement plan. The city of Grand Rapids most commonly has 10-year plans that substantiate its 5-year fiscal plan that is adopted by the city commission. Like mentioned earlier, this is where I like to bring in my fiscal friends. They are very creative in aligning the best investment strategy to execute the asset management plan(s).

The Institute for Asset Management, or IAM, and International Infrastructure Management Manual, or IIMM, are great resources for asset management planning. The United States is still evolving in the area of asset management, yet some state or federal regulatory agencies require asset management best practices for major assets like streets, water mains and sanitary sewers. Asset Management is a very prominent practice in countries like Canada, Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom and others. The ISO 55000 series is the international standard for asset management.

As my Calgary, Canada, asset management friends would say: Asset management is not for the faint of heart. But the moral of the story is, it can be done! They've done it, and Grand Rapids is well on its mission toward sustainable asset management. Remember, start small and complete your first plan. 

Grand Rapids Fun Facts

- From 1926 to 1935, Grand Rapids had the premiere street car system in all of the U.S.
- Grand Rapids was the first city in the U.S. to start adding fluoride to the water in 1945.
- The Grand Rapids water system serves an area of 137 square miles.
- The city of Grand Rapids has 588 miles of street with over a 1,000 miles of sidewalk.
- Grand Rapids has paved over 226,000 square feet of porous pavement.
- On the city's 27 facility buildings, there is 509,000 square feet of roofing.
- Grand Rapids has 26,000 linear feet of soil embankment and 18,000 linear feet of concrete flood wall in its flood protection system.

Mark DeClercq is the city engineer for the city of Grand Rapids. You may contact him at (616) 456-3063 or mdeclercq@grand-rapids.mi.us.

For a complete list of all upcoming events, visit themunicipal.com/events.

To list your upcoming conference or seminar in The Municipal at no charge, call (800) 733-4111, ext. 2307, or email the information to swright@the-papers.com.

OCTOBER

Oct. 17-18 2016 Ohio Public Works Expo

Dayton Convention Center,
Dayton, Ohio
<http://ohio.apwa.net/EventDetails/8619>

Oct. 18-22 Firehouse Expo 2016

Music City Center,
Nashville, Tenn.
firehouseexpo.com

Oct. 19-21 League of Wisconsin Municipalities 118th Annual Conference

Holiday Inn Hotel & Convention Center, Stevens Point, Wis.
www.lwm-info.org

Oct. 20-21 GIE+ Expo

Kentucky Expo Center,
Louisville, Ky.
www.gie-expo.com

Oct. 23-26 North Carolina League of Municipalities Annual Conference

Raleigh, N.C.
www.nclm.org

Oct. 23-25 Illuminating Engineering Society Annual Conference

Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress Hotel, Orlando, Fla.
www.ies.org/ac

Oct. 25-28 ISSA/ Interclean Chicago

McCormick Place South Hall,
Chicago, Ill.
www.issa.com/trade-shows

Oct. 25-28 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Annual Conference

The Worthington Renaissance Fort Worth Hotel
Fort Worth, Texas
www.ampo.org

Oct. 26-28 American Road & Transportation Builders Association Southern Regional Meeting

Ritz Carlton, New Orleans, La.
www.artba.org/news/training-events

Oct. 26-28 Ohio Municipal League 65th Annual Conference

Renaissance Hotel,
Columbus, Ohio
www.omohio.org

Nov. 1-4 Campus Fire Forum

Hilton Phoenix, Mesa, Ariz.
www.campusfiresafety.org

Nov. 1-4 Specialty Equipment Managers Association Annual Conference

Las Vegas Convention Center
Las Vegas, Nev.
www.semashow.com

Nov. 1-4 Fire Findings Investigation of Gas & Electric Appliance Fires

Fire Findings laboratory testing facility, Benton Harbor, Mich.
www.firefindings.com/seminars/info/gas-electric

NOVEMBER

Nov. 2-3 2016 WaterJet Technology Association-Industrial & Municipal Cleaning Association Expo

Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, New Orleans, La.
www.wjtaimcaexpo.com/assnfe/Ev.asp?ID=21

Nov. 2-4 Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association 107th annual meeting

Rosen Shingle Creek Resort,
Orlando, Fla.
<https://www.wwema.org/annual.php>

Nov. 2-5 EMS Associates Summit 2016

Utah Valley Convention Center,
Provo, Utah
emsassociates.com/provo/

Nov. 9-11 Sweeper Summit 2016

Hilton Lake Las Vegas Resort & Spa, Henderson, Nev.
www.sweepersummit.com

Nov. 11-12 Iowa Society of Fire Service Instructors Annual Instructors Conference

www.iasfsi.org/#!events/c19ml

Nov. 13-17 2016 American Water Resources Association Annual Water Resources Conference

Florida Hotel & Conference Center, Orlando, Fla.
www.awra.org/meetings/Orlando2016

Nov. 14-15 Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association 84th Annual Conference

Hilton Memphis,
Memphis, Tenn.
www.trpa.net/conference

Nov. 16-19 National League of Cities City Summit David L. Lawrence Convention Center

Pittsburgh, Pa.
citysummit.nlc.org

Nov. 30-Dec. 2 Florida Parking Association 2016 annual conference & trade show Omni ChampionsGate Resort

ChampionsGate, Fla.
flparking.org/december-conference

DECEMBER

Dec. 6-8 Groundwater Week 2016 Westgate Las Vegas Resort & Casino

Las Vegas, Nev.
groundwaterexpo.com

Dec. 13-15 2016 International Association of EMS Chiefs Leadership Summit & Annual National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference

Washington Hilton Hotel
Washington, D.C.
iaemsc.org

Dec. 13-15 Power-Gen International Conference 2016 Orange County Convention Center

Orlando, Fla.
www.power-gen.com

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The Rotary Lift AR-18 medium-duty four-post lift's drive-on capabilities and 18,000 pounds of capacity lets technicians work on cars, vans and trucks. (Photo provided)

Maintaining the municipal fleet

To maintain a full range of vehicles, turn to the company with a full range of lifts.

Municipal fleet managers are challenged with maintaining an incredibly broad range of vehicles, from cars, pickup trucks and vans to buses, fire trucks and refuse collection vehicles. Choosing the right lifts to service all of these vehicles is crucial.

Vehicle lifts are designed to safely raise vehicles to a comfortable working height in order to increase technician productivity and save labor during maintenance, service and repair operations. There are a wide range of lift designs and capacities available for various vehicle service needs. To help you determine which vehicle lift(s) best meets your needs, turn to the lift manufacturer that invented the modern hydraulic lift and offers municipalities the broadest line of lifts in the country, Rotary Lift.

Vehicle lift varieties for municipal maintenance facilities

Rotary Lift offers all of the lift types commonly used in municipal maintenance facilities: inground lifts, mobile column lifts, four-post lifts, two-post lifts, scissor lifts, platform lifts and parallelogram lifts. Since most municipalities have "mixed fleets," including light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicles, their maintenance facilities should be equipped with a corresponding mix of vehicle lifts.

In general terms:

- Light-duty lifts, like the Rotary Lift SPOA10 two-post surface and SL210 SmartLift inground lifts, have rated capacities of up to 10,000 pounds and can lift Class 1 or 2 vehicles.
- Medium-duty lifts, like the Rotary Lift SPO18 two-post, SM30 four-post, SL212 SmartLift and unique vertical rise Y-Lift, have rated capacities of 10,001 pounds to 30,000 pounds. Depending on the lift, they can be used for vehicles up to Class 6 or even lighter Class 7 trucks.
- Heavy-duty lifts, like the industry's best-selling Rotary Lift MOD Series inground lifts, Mach Series mobile columns, EFX60 inground scissor lift and V-Rex vertical rise platform lift, have rated capacities of 30,000 pounds or more and can handle Class 7 and 8 vehicles.



ABOVE: Rotary Lift is a Vehicle Service Group brand. Its American headquarters and ISO 9001-certified manufacturing facilities are located in Madison, Ind. (Photo provided)



LEFT: Rotary Lift heavy-duty parallelogram lifts are available with 30,000 to 100,000 pounds capacity to easily raise Class 7 and 8 vehicles. (Photo provided)

Which lifts to consider for different jobs

Typically, two-post lifts and light-duty inground lifts are used to service light- or medium-duty trucks and vans. Rotary Lift offers its two-post surface lifts either as true asymmetrical models designed specifically for cars and other small vehicles or as symmetrical models that offer better weight distribution for trucks and other large vehicles.

Medium-duty four-post lifts are ideal for alignments, fast-turn service — such as oil changes — center undercarriage and exhaust work, and tasks requiring loaded suspensions.

Heavy-duty inground lifts are typically used for lifting large two-, three- and tandem-axle vehicles for most preventive maintenance and repair tasks. Rotary Lift offers all three inground lift styles: traditional, modular and scissor.

Mobile column lifts are increasingly popular because they can be used throughout the shop. Each lift consists of two, four, six or eight moveable columns — capacity range of 13,000 to 18,000 pounds per column — that lift the vehicle by its wheels.

Rotary Lift's heavy-duty parallelogram lifts are available with capacities up to 100,000 pounds for performing

preventive maintenance, repairs, inspections and alignments on a variety of vehicles. They are also popular options for wash bays because the vehicle's engine compartment can be positioned beyond the end of the runway for easy steam cleaning.

Why municipalities prefer Rotary Lift

Rotary Lift was founded in 1925 and has grown into the largest lift manufacturer in North America. There are more Rotary Lift products used in vehicle repair facilities around the world than any other lift brand. Rotary Lift brings more to the table for municipalities than any other lift manufacturer.

Unique productivity-enhancing technology — Rotary Lift offers patent-pending Shockwave technology exclusively on its light- and medium-duty two-post, four-post and inground lifts. Shockwave-equipped lifts are twice as fast as standard lifts, enabling technicians to complete more jobs each day.

Safety leadership — As the only charter member of the Automotive Lift Institute still in business, Rotary Lift strongly encourages municipalities to buy lifts that have been third-party tested and certified by ALI to meet the industry safety and performance standards outlined in ANSI/ALI ALCTV-2011.

Facility planning assistance — Rotary Lift's free assistPRO facility planning program is available to help municipalities and architects determine the optimal number, placement and arrangement of vehicle lifts for a new or remodeled facility to maximize space utilization and efficiency.

Governmental purchasing power

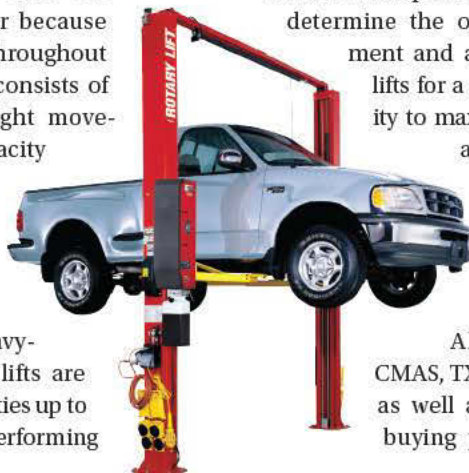
— Rotary Lift is a member of the National Joint Powers Alliance, HGACBuy, CMAS, TXMAS, KCRPC and OGC, as well as other governmental buying programs that provide

municipalities with cooperative purchasing solutions for vehicle lifts. Rotary Lift is also a GSA contract holder.

Environmental leadership — Rotary Lift's SmartLift inground lifts and MOD Series heavy-duty inground lifts have been designed to protect both the environment and the lift itself. Rotary Lift's environmentally friendly inground lifts are totally self-contained, eliminating worries about leaks, corrosion and electrolysis.

Unparalleled Support — Rotary Lift has the largest lift distribution network in North America, providing municipalities with local factory-trained lift service providers who are fully equipped to provide installation, service, inspections, maintenance, training, repair and OEM replacement parts.

No other lift manufacturer can offer municipalities a broader line of high-quality, ALI-certified vehicle lifts, industry leadership and knowledgeable, experienced support both before and after installation. **M**



To learn what Rotary Lift can do for you, call (800) 640-5438 or email userlink@rotarylift.com. For pricing information, contact Christine Bilz, government sales leader, at (800) 455-5438, ext. 5655.



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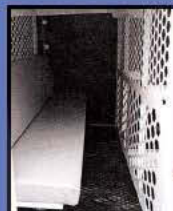


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The recipe for sustainability: A matter of taste not technology



Shawn Lindsey | Guest columnist
*Public Works Director,
city of Athens, Tenn*



Jonathon Riggsbee | Guest columnist
*Geographic Information Systems Technician,
city of Athens, Tenn*

MUNICIPALITIES ARE THE most visible and accessible forms of government. With federal and state policies continually being handed down to local governments, these municipalities are often awarded no additional resources to follow the policy changes. Add in the level of growing mistrust in the government by the population, and the public opinion for government waste can quickly manifest against local governments — even if the funds were obtained at little to no cost to the citizen through grant funding. Environmental issues are quickly becoming the focus of these policy changes. We experience, firsthand, the effects of climate change, deforestation and unsustainable water practices; all contributing to reduced air quality, increased flooding, increased energy consumption and pollution of our waterways.

Pessimism seems the easy choice in our current socio-political environment; however, municipalities must look toward the positive by providing solutions and enacting the most positive change. In addressing these challenges lies the great reward of public service: meeting the needs of our citizens and promoting growth from the personal level all the way to a societal level. The problem is not the environment, but how people interact and take for granted the benefits of a clean environment. In that essence, we don't really have an environmental problem, rather a perception problem.

Without human interference, the environment would heal itself. Thus, the goal of environmental policy is not to “save the planet,” but “maintain a clean habitat.” Arguing against a sustainable environment reminds me of the Latin phrase, “De gustibus non est disputandum,” meaning “of taste there can be no dispute.” The issue is not restricted by lack in ability or technology, rather the financial restrictions set in place based on personal tastes. The solution lies in changing our tastes from traditional to sustainable. That is where the difficulty is found.

An example I have encountered is the concept of a natural swimming pool. Currently a popular concept in Europe, the scale ranges from backyard pools to large community swimming pools. These pools function without chemicals or high-powered pumps, instead utilizing nature's filtration system, wetlands. The natural swimming pool results in lower operating costs. Unfortunately, the concept has not migrated to the US in part because of people's distaste for swimming with natural flora and fauna. Americans love nature, but require it to be separated from our daily lives. This fracture between nature and urbanization will culminate to an inhabitable environment unless we accept these foreign tastes into our palette.

The most recent project in Athens, Tenn., demonstrates this concept. The application for the Tennessee Clean Energy Grant was submitted. The grant was funded by fines levied against the harmful impacts of energy production. The grant funded the construction of a 50 kW solar array. The array saves/

earns the city of Athens approximately \$55,000 annually. With a 30-year warranty on the panels, it is conceivable they will save/earn the city \$1.5 million over their lifetime. The money saved/earned by the panels has been earmarked for more energy efficiency or pollution prevention improvements, thus adding additional savings/earning potential for the city of Athens. A current proposal for these earmarked funds is either installation of LED streetlights, or increasing city buildings' energy efficiency. Either would produce a compounding financial payback for the city.

In addition to the 50 kW solar arrays, the grant addressed another need for the city, replacing the dilapidated building at the recycling center. The grant funded an earth-sheltered building and an additional 5 kW solar array for the site. The thermal properties of the earth-sheltered building insulate the interior by approximately +/- 15 degrees Fahrenheit in the winter and summer. The exterior is covered with soil and plants on top of the recycled fiberglass resin structure. The epitome of sustainability, it will save/earn the city's matched funds back in the first 5 years of the project. However, it has become a divisive element in the community — affectionately and disdainfully earning the name “Hobbit House.”

The city of Athens receives multiple out of state visitors each month, as well as numerous inquiries via phone from those outside the U.S. with specific interest in the “Hobbit House”; yet a vocal minority has yet to embrace the new technology. The earth

shelter building addressed the issue with the dilapidated building while also providing a new environmental education center. The center now serves local groups throughout the year, offering visitors opportunities to learn about recycling, composting, rain gardens and other sustainable topics. In addition, the building serves as the office of Keep McMinn Beautiful, a local organization formerly inoperable due to funding issues, but with the assistance of office space and the annual fundraiser “Tennessee Wetland Festival,” it has returned to flourish within the community.

Returning to the thought of changing tastes, perhaps we need to look to previously successful PSA campaigns. If so, the focus should rely on the appeal and benefits it provides individuals, countered beside the unappealing and detriments it places on individuals.

1. Sustainable infrastructure, whether rain gardens, wetlands or energy has to become more appetizing, and not just the healthier option.

2. Demonstrate who among their local communities are malnourished/sick due to our energy preferences.

3. Provide a clear display of the buffets of energy choices today, will be gone tomorrow.

4. The foreign energy cuisine may seem fairly priced today, but it will soon be a delicacy only few can obtain.

5. We must embrace the old-time meals our ancestors made while still adding the spice of modern day.

The table is set with a feast before us. It now becomes our decision how we fill our plate: with healthy and appetizing options, or the unwholesome and convenient options. ■

Shawn Lindsey has been a director of public works for the past 18 years. He has a bachelors of science in political science and a master’s degree in public management from East Tennessee State University. Lindsey is a former president of the Tennessee chapter of American Public Works Association. He is a popular environmental speaker and has led his current city of Athens, Tenn., to win several awards in public works management, soil conservation, natural resource preservation and aquatic resource protect. Lindsey is known for his innovated approaches to solving local problems, using community involvement and green infrastructure.

Jonathon Riggsbee is the Geographic Information Systems technician for the city of Athens, Tenn. He graduated with a bachelors of science in GIS from Tennessee Tech University. Riggsbee is the sole operator for the city’s GIS division, collecting and maintaining the city’s data with pride in his precision. He is in current development of a public works management system that will revolutionize the way the city of Athens records and maintains its public works department.

The city of Athens, Tenn., replaced a dilapidated building at its recycling center with an earth-sheltered building, which was funded by the Tennessee Clean Energy Grant. It is expected to save/earn the city’s matched funds back in the first five years of the project; however, it has become a divisive element, affectionately and disdainfully earning the name “Hobbit House.” (Photo provided)



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\$59,500

2007 INTERNATIONAL 4300

Fresh DT466, Allison automatic, air brakes! 33,000# GVW, all new 10' dump w/snow plow pkg!
Optional Meyer V blade available w/5 yr warranty — call for price.



\$64,000

2012 INTERNATIONAL 4300

DT466 diesel, AT, air-brake, under CDL, w/new snow plow pkg.



\$65,000

2009 INTERNATIONAL 4300

Oklahoma truck, 250 hp. DT466, Allison AT, 33,000# GVW, all new snowplow pkg. w/central hyd. & stainless tail gate sanders.



\$57,500

2007 GMC 7500

Under CDL! Last year for no emissions! 7.8 inline 6 Duramax turbo diesel (power house!) AT, hydraulic brakes, new 10' dump snow plow package w/ plow & salter



\$55,000

2011 INTERNATIONAL 4300 CHIP TRUCK

Under CDL, new Arbortech 14' Chip Box.



\$48,500

2009 INTERNATIONAL 4400

Long wheelbase tandem, DT466 big power, Allison automatic w/ PTO Provision, low miles! 52,000# GVW, air ride.

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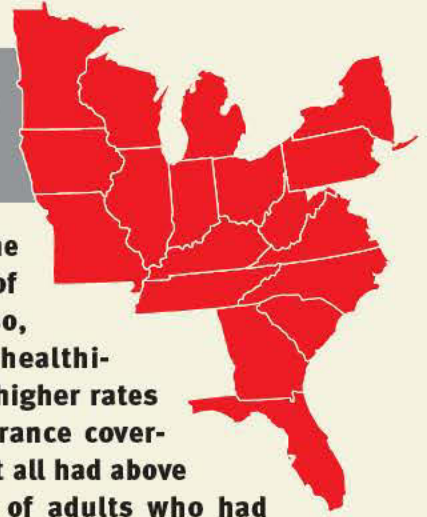
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M**TOP
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‘The Healthiest Cities’



Last year, 24/7 Wall St. created an index identifying the healthiest cities in each state. It ranked cities using overall health outcomes, including length and quality of life, based on population statistics. Other factors—such as healthy behaviors, clinical care, social and economic indicators and physical environment—were also considered in the index.

compared to the national rates of exercise.” Also, the most of healthiest cities had higher rates of health insurance coverage and almost all had above average rates of adults who had completed some college.

24/7 Wall St. found that “healthy behavior tends to correlate strongly with healthier populations. High rates of exercise, for example, were common in these cities

Below are the healthiest cities within The Municipal’s 18 state coverage area, listed in alphabetical order by state:

	Percentage without health insurance	Percentage food insecure	Obesity rate	Unemployment rate 2014
1. Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island, Florida	21.0%	8.1%	19.9%	5.9%
2. Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, Georgia	18.7%	7.8%	27.6%	6.8%
3. Champaign-Urbana, Illinois	9.1%	3.7%	27.0%	6.0%
4. Lafayette-West Lafayette, Indiana	12.5%	8.7%	27.0%	5.1%
5. Ames, Iowa	4.5%	7.6%	25.4%	2.9%
6. Lexington-Fayette, Kentucky	12.8%	5.1%	28.7%	5.0%
7. Ann Arbor, Michigan	7.9%	6.8%	23.6%	4.8%
8. Rochester, Minnesota	7.1%	3.2%	24.6%	3.6%
9. Columbia, Missouri	8.6%	11.6%	25.3%	4.1%
10. Ithaca, New York	9.6%	5.8%	23.8%	4.3%
11. Raleigh, North Carolina	13.5%	3.7%	23.8%	4.9%
12. Columbus, Ohio	11.6%	3.7%	30.7%	4.8%
13. State College, Pennsylvania	7.0%	3.1%	23.9%	4.1%
14. Hilton Head Island Bluffton-Beaufort, South Carolina	18.9%	8.3%	24.4%	5.7%
15. Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro Franklin, Tennessee	13.5%	5.9%	31.3%	5.2%
16. Harrisonburg, Virginia	14.7%	5.5%	28.4%	5.2%
17. Morgantown, West Virginia	11.9%	8.8%	30.1%	4.7%
18. La Crosse-Onalaska, Wisconsin	7.8%	4.8%	22.5%	4.4%



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