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October 2017

Parks & Recreation



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Looking to save space in your shop? Easily attached to most two post lifts, Turf Rail is the go-to for doing just that while allowing technicians to safely work on a variety of equipment, from lawn mowers to cars. Turf Rail is the perfect solution for parks departments, golf courses, airports and the turf industry as a whole. Read more on page 10.



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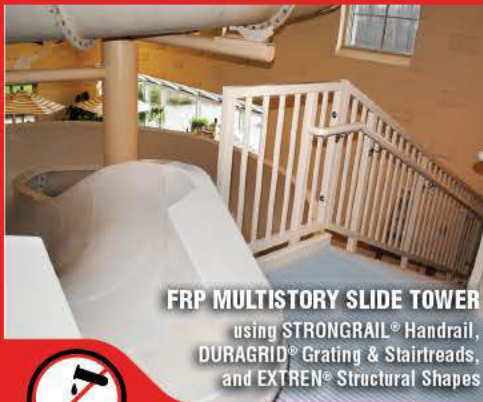
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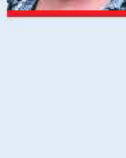
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Building community



Sarah Wright | Editor

IT WAS BEYOND DISHEARTENING TO witness what occurred this past August in Emancipation Park in Charlottesville, Va. From the Nazi flags being carried about to the loss of a young woman's life, the best of the U.S. was not on display Aug. 11-12.

That most of these events transpired in a public park is also saddening. Routinely, park systems across our nation bring together people from all walks of life—those of different financial circumstances, races, cultures and so on. Through events, programming and simply the act of providing public access, parks broaden our appreciation for others and different cultures. With their public access, yearlong events and programming, park systems encourage us to step outside our own immediate circles while also reconnecting with nature and simply enjoying life.

Parks and rec employees go a long way to ensure their parks and programming are inclusive. With free and low-cost programming, children who might not have been given a lot

of resources in life have safe places to spend their free time while receiving leadership that can shape their lives in addition to creating a network of friends. Some parks directors have gotten very creative when approaching that mission.

In her parks and rec themed article this month, Catey Traylor highlights Louisville, Ky., Parks and Recreation Director Seve Ghose's out-of-the-box idea to reach youth in his community: converting a decommissioned fire truck into a mobile playground. It's a concept Ghose has brought to the three other cities he has worked for before landing in Kentucky. The concept has been well received by the children who are excited to see the fire truck pull up to the different sites and has definitely made an impact on the community as a whole.

While children get a large amount of enjoyment out of parks, adults do as well. In fact a National Recreation and Park Association survey found "the typical American spends five hours per week on outdoor play, which includes exercising, participating in organized sports, playing with kids at a playground, taking a walk in a neighborhood or local park, or taking a swim."

Seniors, in particular, benefit from parks, with most parks departments offering exercise classes and other programming for them—allowing seniors to age healthy. In a survey of 524 parks departments,

NRPA found 91 percent of the agencies offer exercise classes to older adults while 76 percent offer one or more evidence-based programs for older adults.

Parks and their programming build and promote community. There is no doubt about that, and it's something we need more of at this moment.

However, while the beginning of August failed to show our best side, as I write this, the end of August is showing the U.S. at its finest. Across Texas, community members are reaching out to neighbors and strangers alike in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey—all differences far away, leaving only humanity.

Our thoughts are with those impacted by the disaster in addition to the first responders, military personnel and volunteers who are working around the clock, particularly as they mourn the loss of one of their own, Houston police officer Sgt. Steve Perez. In a series of Tweets, Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner noted Perez's dedication to the task ahead, with him having told his wife before leaving home: "I've got work to do."

We here at The Municipal wish Texas godspeed in its recovery efforts in the months to come. **M**



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Get the most out of your shop with Turf Rail



by SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

Shane Tatom saw a need in parks departments, golf courses, airports and the turf industry as a whole for a way to safely and efficiently work on the wide range of equipment that enters their shops daily. The solution was an attachment for two post automotive lifts that was designed to pick up turf and all-terrain equipment by wheel engagement — Turf Rail.

"You can lift and work on a car and then work on other (smaller) pieces of equipment," Tatom said. "The attachment was created specifically for a parks department in Ohio that was struggling with finding one piece of lifting equipment that would not only lift their turf equipment for easy access for service and repairs, but also lift the wide range of cars and trucks they use for the multiple parks and golf courses they maintain."

He created a prototype and then took it to The Great Parks of Hamilton County, Ohio's, shop. After a month of use, the park district critiqued Turf Rail, allowing Tatom to take that information and make changes, resulting in four different prototypes. The

entire process proved exciting for everyone involved.

"After seeing the excitement of the employees who tested my product and the ability of the Turf Rail to lift a wide range of equipment, I filed my patent paperwork and began to critique my design to have the best product I could produce for the safe and effective lifting (in) both the outdoor and automotive industries," Tatom said.

Turf Rail fits most surface mounted two post lifts and takes up less space than four post systems — a major plus in a shop where space is critical. Tatom noted, "The Turf Rail, when combined with a two post automotive lift, will allow maintenance and repair



Shane Tatom, owner at Indiana Automotive Equipment and creator of the Turf Rail

LEFT: Turf Rail allows parks departments, golf courses, airports and the turf industry as a whole work safely and efficiently on the wide range of equipment that enters their shops daily. (Photo provided)

RIGHT: Turf Rail fits most surface mounted two post lifts and takes up less space than four post systems. (Photo provided)

BELOW RIGHT: With Turf Rail's service height ranging from zero to 70 inches, workers no longer need to lie on the ground or kneel in awkward positions, making their jobs easier and safer. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: Turf Rail only takes between a minute or two to install and allows technicians to switch from working on smaller equipment to larger vehicles. (Photo provided)

facilities the ability to lift small equipment with wheelbase ranges from 26 inches up to 120 inches and capacities up to 7,000 pounds."

Unlike other similar systems that might take hours to install, Turf Rail only takes between a minute or two. It also offers great versatility by allowing technicians to easily switch between turf lift and arm engaging lift.

"You can literally go from working on a mower or a Bobcat to working on a car or a van," Tatom said. "Shops would have to buy two lifts to cover the range of product we can with one lift."

And most importantly, Turf Rail increases safety in the shop, with Tatom commenting, "(technicians) have never been able to work so safely."

Rather than laying on the ground or kneeling in awkward positions, technicians can work standing beneath the vehicle or piece of equipment, with service height ranging from zero to 70 inches. According to Herb Tatom, equipment service manager for the



Indianapolis International Airport, "After using the Turf Rail System for a while, I was asked what I thought of the product, and the first word that came to my mind was 'safe.' My men love it. They work on a wide range of equipment, and to not have to lay on the ground or try using a crane to lift partially has changed the way we service our equipment."

A month after launching his website, Tatom said he was contacted by Snap On Tools and Equipment and is now selling Turf Rail to it. "They just released the product across the USA, Mexico and Canada through their

distributors in the Snap On lifting brand of equipment called Challenger."

In the fourth quarter of 2017, Turf Rail will also be available in the NAPA Real Deals catalog and in the publications of Pep Boys, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Advance Auto Parts and Auto Zone. Tatom added, "My company and Snap On/Challenger Lift are the only two companies offering the Turf Rail product." ■

For information, call (800) 359-2974 or visit www.turftrail.com.

Native American attractions

Chillicothe, Ohio

by RAY BALOGH | The Municipal

Two millennia of Native American culture and customs are always front and center in and around Chillicothe, Ohio.

The city of 21,725 is bounded north and south by the largest concentration of American Indian burial mounds in the nation. The Hopewell Mound Group, centered in the Scioto River valley a few miles north of downtown Chillicothe, consists of geometric earthworks and two dozen burial mounds framed by an earthen wall 3 feet high extending 2,050 feet on a side and resembling a square with rounded corners.

The mounds were erected in various shapes, including square, circular, conical and loaf-shaped, and some rise 30 feet above the surrounding landscape.

When tribe members died, they were cremated and their remains were placed in charnel houses. Those houses were then burned. Artifacts such as copper figurines, shells and pipes were placed with the ashes and the site was covered with a mound.

The Hopewell site was first mapped in the 1840s and excavations unearthed hundreds of artifacts now preserved at the British Museum in London.

The Ohio Historical Society conducted an archaeological dig from 1920 to 1922, and in 1923 the U.S. Department of the Interior declared the Mound City Group a national monument.

The mound group was renamed and expanded as Hopewell Culture National Historic Park and is now administered by the U.S. National Park Service.

Chillicothe is also home to "Tecumseh," a popular outdoor drama performed at the 1,800-seat Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre south



Downtown Chillicothe hosts the annual Feast of the Flowering Moon, a four-day festival featuring American Indian music and dance and a mountain man encampment reenactment. The festival just completed its 34th year. (Photo provided)

of the city. Now in its 45th season, the play, performed six nights a week from early June through Labor Day Sunday, has attracted 2.5 million patrons.

LEFT: The entrance to Hopewell Mound Group, a Native American burial ground 3 miles north of Chillicothe. The earthen ridge stretches 2,050 feet on a side and encases a square parcel of land containing 23 burial mounds dating from 200 B.C. to the fourth century. (Photo provided)

RIGHT: The outdoor drama "Tecumseh" has been the feature attraction at the Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre for 45 years. During its summer seasons, the play about the famed Shawnee warrior chief has drawn 2.5 million attendees. The drama runs six days a week from early June through Labor Day Sunday. (Photo provided)



The eponymous drama highlights the Shawnee warrior and tribal leader Tecumseh's struggles to coalesce a multi-tribal confederacy to establish an independent Indian nation and protect sacred homeland from American and British interlopers.

The play, which involves a cast and crew of more than 100 people nightly, was written by seven-time Pulitzer Prize nominee Allan Wesley Eckert, who also authored the book, "A Sorrow in Our Heart: The Life of Tecumseh."

Eckert wrote more than 225 episodes of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom," for which he won an Emmy Award.

The musical score was recorded exclusively by the London Symphony Orchestra and the narration sequences are presented by Oscar-nominated actor, Graham Greene, a Native American born on Six Nations Reserve in Ontario, Canada.

Even though the burial mounds and amphitheater are located outside Chillicothe's city limits, they noticeably benefit the local economy.

"These two attractions contribute more than 100,000 visitors each year," said Gene Betts, communication assistant with Ross-Chillicothe Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"These visitors are staying in our hotels, cabins and bed and breakfasts; purchasing fuel for their vehicles; dining at our local restaurants; and purchasing souvenirs or gifts in our boutique shops," he said. "This makes a very large impact on our local economy."

Several outlets in Chillicothe offer clothing, jewelry and other "items derived from Native American culture," Betts said.

Chillicothe also hosts the annual Feast of the Flowering Moon festival during Memorial Day weekend in its historic downtown area.

The four-day festival celebrates its 35th year in 2018 and features Native American music and dancing, a mountain men encampment rendezvous, craftsmen, demonstrations, an arts and crafts show, singing competitions, food and family-friendly rides and games.

There were, in fact, several Chillicothes who dotted Shawnee tribal lands in Ohio, Missouri and Indiana.

Chillicothe is the English form of the Shawnee word Chalahgawtha, meaning "principal village."

The title designated the village in which the regional or divisional chief resided. When the village was relocated, by war or expansion of pioneer settlement, the new settlement would acquire the name "Chillicothe." When the chief died, the name would migrate to the village of the deceased leader's successor.

Chillicothe, county seat of Ross County, was platted in 1796 and quickly became a hub of political influence within the Northwest Territory.




ABOVE: Chillicothe, Ohio, derives its name from the Shawnee word for "principal village." Throughout the tribe's history, villages where the divisional chief resided were called Chalahgawtha. The name migrated from village to village as old chiefs died and new ones from other villages succeeded them. (Photo provided)

The town originally consisted of 456 lots, and during its first year, several stores, taverns and artisan shops sprang up. Two years later Ross County was incorporated, and in 1800, the territorial capital moved to Chillicothe.

In 1802, as Ohio moved toward statehood, the city hosted the Ohio Constitutional Convention and became the state's first capital when Ohio became the American Union's 17th state on March 1, 1803.

Chillicothe remained the capital until 1810 when Zanesville, a comparably sized town 80 miles to the northeast, acquired the status in a partisan attempt by Democratic-Republicans to solidify their political control over eastern Ohio.

The capital returned to Chillicothe in 1812 until it was permanently moved to Columbus in 1816. 

For more information, call (740) 702-7677 or (800) 413-4118 or visit www.visitchillicotheohio.com.

To learn more about Hopewell Culture National Historical Park, visit the National Park Service website at www.nps.com and click "Find a Park."

For information about "Tecumseh," visit www.tecumsehdrama.com; for the Feast of the Flowering Moon festival, visit www.feast-of-the-flowering-moon.org.

Raeford, N.C.

The city seal of Raeford, N.C., is as honest and no frills as the work ethic and culture of its residents, which number slightly less than 5,000.



Centered on the seal is a depiction of the Raeford Institute, a facility of higher learning established in 1895, predating the town by half a dozen years.

The image is circumscribed by references to the town's quartet of signal historical attributes: education, churches, manufacturing and agriculture.

Raeford, county seat of Hoke County, was established in 1901. It originated from a settlement founded by John McRae, who operated a turpentine distillery, and A. A. Willford, who owned the local general store.

The last syllables of their respective surnames were combined to form the name of the post office they established and later the name of the town settled largely by Gaelic-speaking Highland Scots.

The four characteristics on the seal facilitated Raeford's historical growth and marked the foundation of the town's culture.

Education: The Raeford Institute was initially established to provide a location to teach the 13 children of Dr. Albert Pickett Dickson (1853-1921), described by the state's medical society as "one of Hoke County's most useful men."

Within 10 years, student enrollment had grown to more than 300 and the school operated for several decades, educating many of the town's well-known early denizens.

Churches: According to the town's website, www.raefordcity.org, "Blessed by both our southern heritage and cosmopolitan influences, our region is home to a wonderful diversity of religious institutions. People of all faiths and denominations will find a place to worship and ... find opportunities for involvement in service programs and projects for the greater good."

Manufacturing: Raeford is home to components of several international corporations, including Burlington, a global leader in textiles; the cosmetic division of Unilever; and Sun Path Products, a maker of skydiving equipment.

Agriculture: Raeford's diverse agricultural mosaic includes cotton, poultry, livestock, ornamental nurseries, logging and forestry. Turkey farming is prevalent, with Butterball maintaining a poultry processing plant in town.

Raeford could very well add two modern characteristics.

Military: Personnel at nearby Fort Bragg and Pope Airfield interface with the town. "Our military heroes are honored on a daily basis," touts the website. "Many of our residents have chosen to stay or come to Raeford/Hoke County after leaving the military."

Recreation: Raeford boasts museums, theaters, historic sites, some of the best public golf courses in the region and the world's largest vertical wind tunnel where patrons can simulate skydiving. For more serene entertainment, the town offers quaint village shops and a diverse selection of restaurants. ☐

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Focus on:

Parks & Recreation

22

This number of volunteers, on average, who sign up each summer to serve as ambassadors in Bettendorf, Iowa's, parks. In addition to patrolling the parks and bike paths to deter vandalism, these ambassadors help park visitors, ensuring they have a fun and safe experience.

Learn more on page 22

91 percent

A National Recreation and Park Association survey of 524 park and recreation professionals nationwide — “Healthy Aging in Parks Survey” — found that this percentage of agencies offer exercise classes to older adults, among other findings.



Source: www.nrpa.org/About-National-Recreation-and-Park-Association/press-room/new-survey-highlights-the-role-of-parks-and-recreation-in-keeping-older-adults-active-and-healthy/



182

The Office of the New York City Comptroller inspected 333 privately owned public spaces and found 182 had failed to provide required public amenities.

Learn about POPS on page 32.

151

The number of standards Germantown, Tenn.'s, parks department had to comply with for national accreditation through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. Germantown first became accredited in 1996 and has maintained its accreditation for a record fifth time in 2016.

Learn more about Germantown Parks and Recreation on page 26.

\$140 Million

U.S. local and regional parks create \$140 billion in economic activity per year and support almost 1 million jobs. Nationally, consumers spend \$887 billion annually on outdoor recreation, including many of the outdoor activities offered by local parks and recreation departments.



Source: www.nrpa.org/About-National-Recreation-and-Park-Association/press-room/new-survey-park-and-recreation-amenities-popular-among-vacation-goers/

200

On average, 200 Louisville, Ky., children participate in activities at each site that Louisville Metro Parks and Recreation brings its mobile playground — a decommissioned fire truck — to.

Read more on page 18.

5 hours a week

The amount of time most Americans dedicate to outdoor play. The survey conducted by NRPA also found that parents and baby boomers averaged more than an hour a day on playing outdoors. A significant number of millennials and genXers also spend an hour or more a day on average on outdoor play.

Source: www.nrpa.org/About-National-Recreation-and-Park-Association/press-room/new-survey-most-americans-dedicate-five-hours-a-week-to-outdoor-play/





Mobile playground brings the fun to Louisville's children

by CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

When children in underprivileged neighborhoods missed out on the city's summer programming due to lack of transportation, money and resources, Louisville, Ky., Metro Parks and Recreation organizers banded together to bring the summer programming to them.

This is done in the form of a fire-truck-turned-playground that travels to various neighborhoods and hosts afternoons of activities like arts and crafts, board games, athletics, demonstrations and educational games. The playground on wheels serves as an option for families with youth who, for whatever reason, may not be able to attend traditional summer camps and activities.

Louisville Parks and Recreation Director Seve Ghose is no stranger to mobile playgrounds as he started the same program in three other cities before landing in Louisville. The key, he said, is to give people something they have never seen before.

"We're always trying to be creative in engaging youth during the summer with free and affordable programs," he said. "A fire truck definitely raises interest. The lights,

the sirens, it's something people don't see every day."

Working in conjunction with a local fire department, Ghose requested to be alerted when the department was going to retire a truck. The chief, Ghose said, was surprised by the odd request but worked with him to make it happen. They converted the truck into a totally hands-on experience, and the station now handles yearly maintenance on the vehicle.

In another local collaboration, the truck is operated by school bus drivers. According to Ghose, the arrangement could not have been any better.

"We initially had a hard time finding a driver because we needed someone with a CDL," Ghose said. "We overcame that challenge by seeing if any school bus drivers wanted the

ABOVE: Louisville, Ky., Metro Parks and Recreation converted a 30-foot decommissioned fire truck into a mobile playground driven by school bus drivers in the summer months. It is used to reach kids who might not be able to participate in summer programming for various reasons. (Photo provided)

summer gig. We needed the right personality, too — they needed to be able to engage. They also know the city streets like the back of their hands and are used to working with children. It's a win-win."

The truck operates Monday through Friday and typically visits three sites per day, staying a few hours at each. On average, 200 children participate in activities at each site.

While the mobile playground is innovative and fun, the impact it's having on the community is unparalleled.

"The impact to the city has been enormous. We're growing into a department of mobile recreation leisure activities, and we will probably end up with another mobile playground again soon," Louisville Recreation Administrator Anthony Williams said.



ABOVE: The repurposed fire truck, now Rec on the Go, has had an enormous impacted on Louisville, going to places where kids either don't have leadership or don't have a safe physical space to use. (Photo provided)

"We go to places where kids either don't have leadership or don't have a physical space to go. You see kids grow from being on the cusp of making poor life choices to communicating with us and each other and engaging with our activities."

Local entities have begun requesting the playground come to their events. Organizers of events everywhere from public schools to neighborhood block parties have reached out to see how the truck could be utilized.

"In the off-season, the plan is to offer up the truck for local events," Ghose said. "It's free to the community, and we hope it's utilized to engage children year-round."

On a municipal level, the operation and maintenance of the truck is fairly straightforward. Funding for activities comes from the city's general summer operational budget, and summer camp staff run the ▶



Rec on the Go has become so popular that local entities are requesting the playground come to their events—something the city is considering in the off-season. (Photo provided)

truck on a daily basis. The tough part? All the advance planning an operation of this magnitude requires.

"It does take a lot of scheduling, programming, equipment, hiring and maintenance to run the mobile vehicle," Williams said. "My advice to other cities would be to start small and grow bigger as you go. You've got to know your city first. Be able to say how you'd start and sustain this thing to make the process work. Remember that not having people come to you, but going to them, is key."

Just as important as planning is the cross-city collaboration, Ghose said.

"Kids love it when the 30-foot red fire truck pops up in their neighborhood, but it doesn't happen overnight," he said. "We've worked with a lot of departments to make this happen, and we want to keep growing. For example, next year we're trying to work with the water department to be able to open up the fire hydrants and create sprinklers for the kids."

Despite the long hours and manpower that go into the mobile playground, Williams reiterates that it's all worth it for the positive impact it has on children in Louisville neighborhoods.

"Some of our kids are in neighborhoods where people would be hesitant to walk around in—crime-ridden areas, low income, high drug areas. To go get kids out of those areas to participate in this program has been the biggest plus of any," he said. "Seeing the kids grow from being part of this is a miracle moment for me." ■



Louisville's mobile playground brings with it a variety of activities, including arts and crafts, board games, athletics, demonstrations and educational games. (Photo provided)

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Battling the threat of vandalism in city parks

By NICHOLETTE CARLSON | The Municipal

VANDALISM IN PARKS HAS BEEN A long-standing issue, particularly during the summer months when parks have their most patrons. Cities are now using a variety of methods to combat vandalism in parks. Some are working harder to enforce rules with volunteer patrols. Others are installing prefabricated restrooms, which are designed to make vandalism more difficult. Security cameras and zero tolerance policies are other ways to monitor and work against vandals.

The prefabricated restroom way

In the fall of 2011 the city of Perryville, Mo., began researching options to replace outside park restrooms that were not only continuously getting vandalized but also worn out from age. City employees took road trips to visit other facilities with various types of prefabricated restrooms, and in the end, they chose the CXT restrooms based on the attraction that they were vandal resistant.

According to Keith Riney, parks maintenance manager, the city was in charge of all the site's necessary prep work prior to installation of the restrooms. The site requirements included a flat surface of concrete or compacted rock and the installation of sewer pipes, water lines and electrical lines. Each prefabricated restroom was shipped to the site on a lowboy flat bed trailer and set in place by a crane. CXT was in charge of hiring crews to set the units in place and make all final utility connections on the prepared site.

The prefabricated restrooms seem to be doing their job. The city "had had such good luck with the CXT restrooms that the parks and recreation department installed two additional CXT restrooms in 2013," stated Riney. He went on to explain, "Currently the



The parks in Bettendorf, Iowa, are patrolled each night by volunteers during the summer season. This program and the city's teamwork with the local police department help to cut down on vandalism. Pictured are Kurt Weiler, left, and Greg Shelangouski, two of the long-time park ambassadors in Middle Park. (Photo provided)

city of Perryville has three CXT restrooms in the City Park and one CXT restroom at the Bank of Missouri Soccer Complex."

Riney believes that the installation of these restrooms has decreased vandalism by between 25 and 50 percent.

The park ambassador way

The park ambassador program in Bettendorf, Iowa, was created because "community members thought it would be a good idea to have one or two people a night making rounds in city parks in an effort to not only remind patrons of park rules and city



Sewer pipes, water lines and electrical lines needed to be installed prior to the installation of the prefabricated restrooms. The city of Perryville, Mo., is installing these restrooms to cut down on instances of vandalism. (Photo by Keith Riney)

City employees researched various options and travelled to find the best prefabricated restroom for their needs. They settled on CXT prefabricated restrooms with one of the main draws being that they are vandal resistant. (Photo by Keith Riney)

ordinances, but also to answer any questions, provide directions or offer any other courtesy services that a park patron may require," Isaac Jacobs, park ambassador and volunteer project program coordinator, said.

The program began in 2002 through the teamwork of Ron Maday, former park ambassador coordinator, and Steve Grimes, director of parks and recreation. In the beginning it was just a few volunteers going around to the city's parks as many nights as possible a week. While the number of

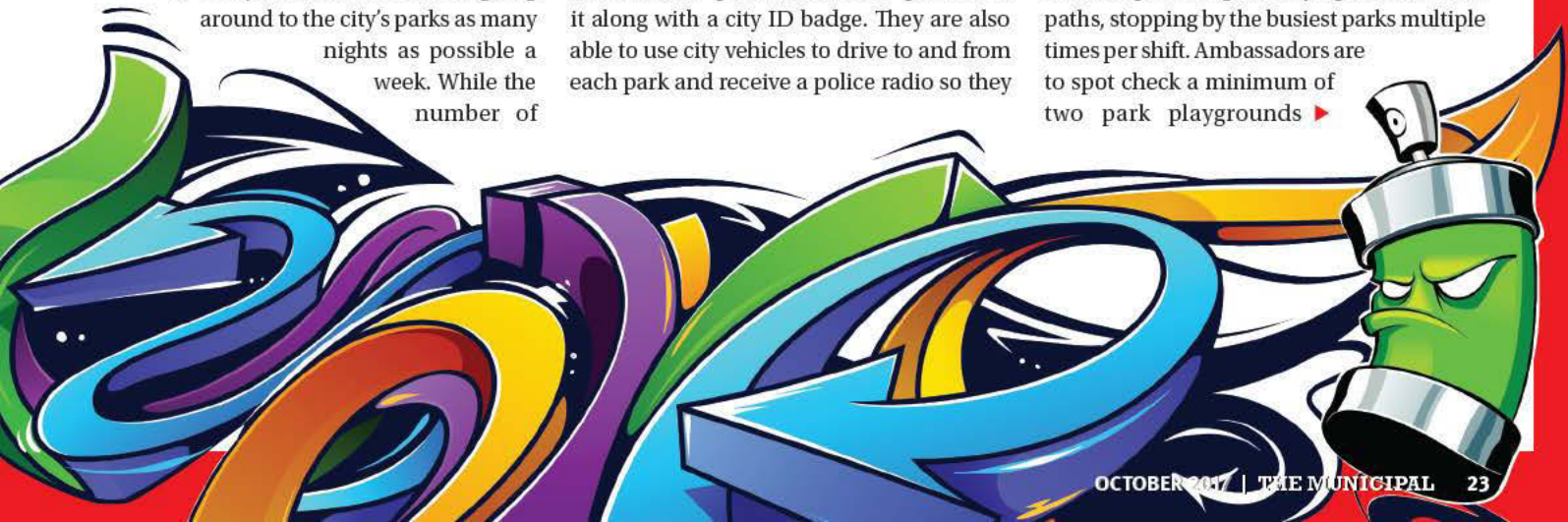
volunteers has fluctuated throughout the years, they average 22 ambassadors every summer. This year volunteers numbered only 15, but at its peak, there were 30 ambassadors.

Each summer the ambassadors are required to attend an orientation meeting to go over common infractions of park rules and tips on how to best inform a visitor at the park that they are breaking a rule. They receive a uniform with "park ambassador" printed on it along with a city ID badge. They are also able to use city vehicles to drive to and from each park and receive a police radio so they

are able to communicate with the police department if needed.

Jacobs reminds park patrons that the "program is not intended or designed to catch patrons misbehaving, but rather to inform patrons of park rules that they may be violating in hopes of creating a safer environment for all park users."

The average shift is from 6-11 p.m. and involves patrolling the city's parks and bike paths, stopping by the busiest parks multiple times per shift. Ambassadors are to spot check a minimum of two park playgrounds ▶





The original two prefabricated restrooms worked so well that the city installed two more in 2013. They have been said to have decreased vandalism by 25 to 50 percent. (Photo by Keith Riney)

and two park restrooms each shift looking for vandalism or broken playground equipment. If vandalism is present, ambassadors are equipped with spray paint to cover it. If the vandalism appears to be gang related, the

ambassadors will contact the police and ask them if they'd like the ambassadors to take photos of the graffiti.

Graffiti tends to be the most common method of vandalism, typically underneath

overpasses and in or on structures like bathrooms or shelters. Since the parks tend to be busiest — and, therefore, vandalism more prevalent — between Memorial Day and Labor Day, that is how long the program runs each year.

A safe and enjoyable park experience for all patrons is due to a close relationship between the police department and the parks department. The goal of the park ambassador program is to create a safe and enjoyable park experience for the citizens, and without them, the goal would be much harder to achieve. Jacob is happy to report that “park patrons repeatedly tell us how much more secure they feel in the parks after seeing our presence, which, to us, is the biggest benefit.”

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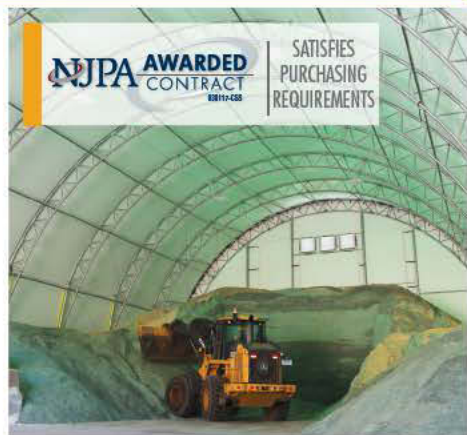
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Young Farm Park visitors test the view from a tractor. (Photo provided by Germantown Parks and Recreation)



Sarah Blackwell, Germantown Parks and Recreation extended school manager, explains how to grow vegetables in raised beds to school field trip visitors at the Farm Park. (Photo provided by Germantown Parks and Recreation)

Germantown's Farm Park taps into local food movement

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

Situated near the Memphis metropolis, the city of Germantown, Tenn., is making headlines for several different reasons in an effort to make the locale even more pleasing where leisure is concerned, thanks to the ever-ambitious and high-achieving parks and recreation department.

This year, for example, marks the 26th consecutive year that this community of over 40,000, located in Shelby County, has achieved the Tree City USA designation from the National Arbor Day Foundation program. Additionally, it has an even more prestigious achievement under its belt: It is accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies. It is also the only parks department in the state of Tennessee that is bestowed with that honor.

"We became accredited in 1996 as the 12th department in the nation to do so. Not only that, we have maintained our accreditation for a record fifth time in 2016," Pam Beasley, CPRP, director of Germantown Parks and Recreation, said.

"This accreditation forces us to look at ourselves through someone else's eyes, and we can then validate our strengths and get honest feedback on how to become even better." She added, "Accreditation is based on an agency's compliance with the 151 standards for national accreditation. The teamwork of four divisions continues to make our own leisure time successful: parks and recreation administration and planning; recreation and sports; the Farm Park; and rangers."

Beasley honed in on one of the shining stars of her city's program — the Bobby Lanier Farm Park, a 10-acre education and demonstration center for sustainable living through agriculture and stewardship. Bobby Lanier, 88, is a long-time Germantown resident and



Pam Beasley, CPRP, director of Germantown Parks and Recreation

parks supporter who assisted the city in negotiating the farm property purchase.

"The city of Germantown Parks and Recreation Department has tapped into the local food movement by developing a working suburban farm that serves as an educational and demonstration site for sustainable living," Beasley said, adding that the site comes complete with every vegetable that will grow in the mid-south, a variety of fruit trees and berries, chickens, a stable and several other unique places.

"Our summer farmer's market has created a gathering place for the community, which also features live music, food trucks,



Farmer's market customers buy forest-raised pork from a Rendlesance Farm producer. (Photo provided by Germantown Parks and Recreation)

community garden tours, cooking demonstrations and children's activities. Market vendors are 'producers only' meaning that they must grow or make goods sold."

As far as challenges when creating a successful farm park, Beasley said, "City and elected officials must understand the difference in operating a typical municipal park versus a working suburban farm; they must have 'buy-in' for and about the sustainable agricultural model."

"Also, there are some revenue opportunities at the farm, but the project will need financial support from the city and/or private sector, and finally, volunteers are critical in all aspects of the farm operations."

Asked how the Farm Park came into being, Beasley was quick to credit the proletariat movement.

"It was truly a grassroots effort with citizens, stakeholders and partners, along with city officials and staff, contributing to the creation of the comprehensive master plan for project several years ago," she said.

"Many improvements have taken place at the Farm Park, including the construction of the Harvest Moon Pavilion with grant assistance from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Long-range strategic plans include the construction of a hoop house to extend the growing season and expand agricultural opportunities; continued practice of the Sustainable Sites Initiatives standards where appropriate; and expanding farm-based education opportunities. A fully equipped outdoor kitchen right in the community garden is also desired (and) will serve as a multi-use space for programs, events and rentals. Recently, a farm maintenance facility was constructed, and a local contractor is gearing up to renovate the welcome cottage as a gift to the parks department."

According to Germantown Mayor Mike Palazzolo, his municipality is a "very unique place with values woven together by his residents." He noted, "We cherish parks in our community, and our capital assets associated with the parks system literally have an impact within all nine focus areas contained in the Germantown Forward 2030 strategic plan."

He added, "Accreditation of our parks department is critical to assure adherence to process and commitment to an organizational



Master gardener volunteers spruce up Oaklawn Garden for the arboretum opening last spring. Germantown was designated a Tree City USA. (Photo provided by Germantown Parks and Recreation)

framework. As a community, we are proud to commit to having an accredited parks department."

Another highlight of Farm Park is the community garden, which is tended by the 60 members of the community garden association. These members pay a fee and work a two-hour shift per week in exchange for a portion of the harvest. In doing so, these enthusiastic folks are learning biointensive growing techniques and networking with other passionate gardeners.

"No chemicals, pesticides, herbicides or synthetic fertilizers are used," Beasley said, adding that only natural, organic practices, drip irrigation and on-site composting were employed.

She noted, "Staff at the Farm Park, with help from community garden members, are preparing to expand the growing plan to include south field crop production. Income generated through the sale of cut flowers and other seasonal produce will provide financial support for operational costs. However, we've found our highest revenue is from private rentals, including weddings, corporate functions and a variety of other outdoor venues."

Partnerships have contributed to Farm Park's success, Beasley said.

"The Germantown Charity Horse Show renovated the stable building in 2013, valued at more than \$250,000," Beasley said, adding that the Germantown Methodist Hospital sponsored the youth educational programs and events on an annual basis.

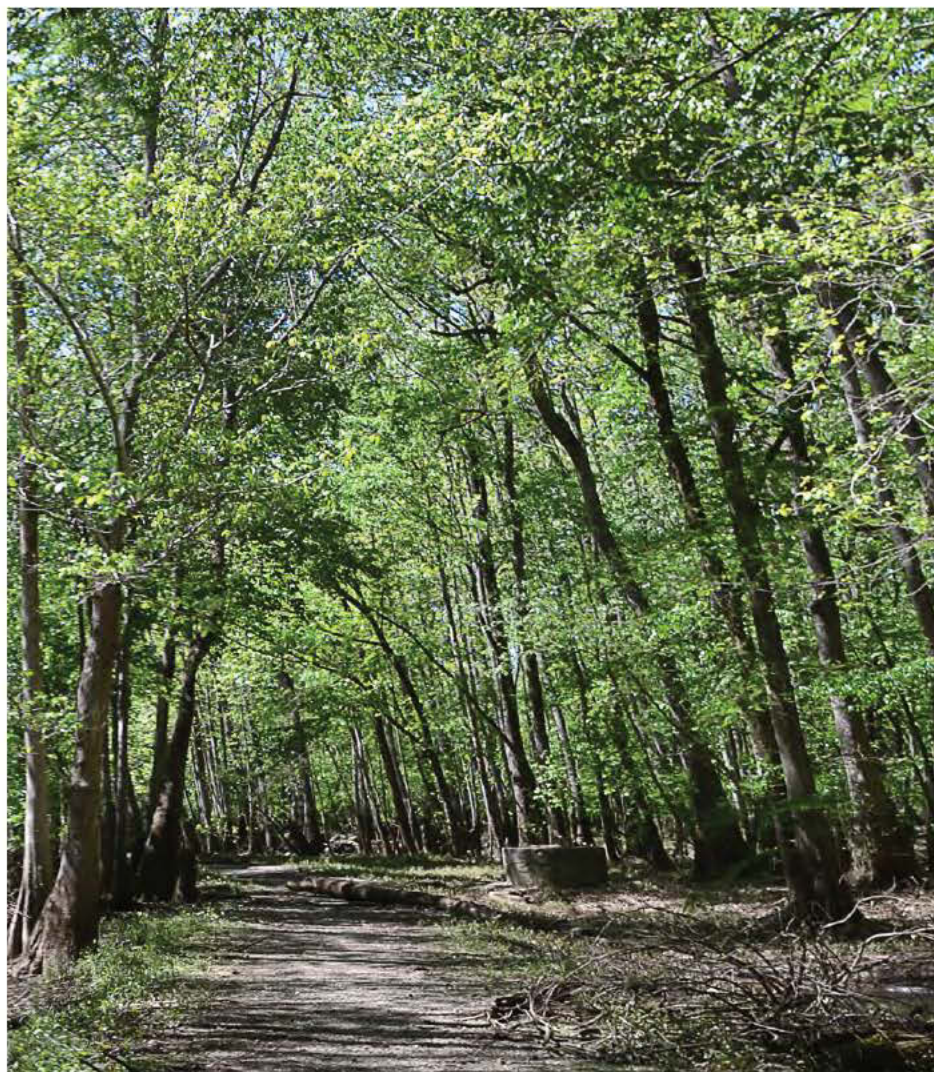
"The Leadership Germantown class produced a highly successful fundraising event to implement the renovation of the welcome cottage, which is set to begin right away. Other partnerships continue to be created and include building a goat shed to expand the presence of farm animals at the site. Universities have provided seasonal interns as a way for them to gain 'hands-on' experience in a sustainable agricultural environment. An advocacy nonprofit board, the Bobby Lanier Farm Park Inc., has organized to implement a capital campaign to complete the building renovations and new construction in the master plan. And finally, there are the many volunteers who serve as 'farm hands' for everything from operating the farmer's market to maintaining the grounds," Beasley said.

Mayor Palazzolo concluded with a final comment:

"I'm very proud of our commitment to long-term planning and applaud our parks director and citizen-led parks and recreation commission for making the investment in a strategic master plan of parks system. The master plan will allow us to have a clear vision for our park system for the next 50 years." ■

Impacting the community: park revitalizations

By ELISA WALKER | The Municipal



Parks are an important center of the community. While they can add more value to surrounding properties, they also enrich neighborhoods and invest in communities, building bonds that make a town, a home. Parks bring tourism and impact an area's economy by creating opportunities for business. Park revitalization can potentially create an economic revitalization, which is why municipalities are showing initiative by refreshing them into friendly areas for people of all ages and abilities.

A revitalizing revolution

Many of the changes happening in Greenville, N.C., had been prepped and planned for years before action was taken. Through multiple public surveys and assessments, Greenville was able to document the needs citizens had for parks and what resources were lacking.

The two major plans are the Tar River Legacy Plan, which is a long-term program to embrace the Tar River and its surrounding environs, and the master parks plan that includes the Town Common Master Plan, which addresses a 25-acre park that rests along the Tar River. Since the parks department has plans for already existing or newly built parks, the plans are broken down into sections. Parts of each plan are selected to be worked on every year so none of them are paused.

"We used that (master plan) to prioritize projects and make existing parks better. We also had park expansions in areas of the city that didn't have them before," Parks Planner Lamarco Morrison said. "We let our survey run for about six months. We did a couple different surveys. In 2005 we did a comprehensive parks and rec master plan, so we looked at that again to see what the main concerns were for parks and then sent out another survey, which was left open for six months for people to comment. Then we looked at it again."

Greenville's two main reasons for the revitalization revolution is to improve the quality life for the community and to retain younger

ABOVE LEFT: The benefits of having refreshing parks also extends to the environment, by helping protect animal habitats and reduce air pollution while giving people a safe means of interacting with nature. (Photo provided)



LEFT: Pictured is an illustrative plan of the Town Common park along the Tar River in Greenville, N.C. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: Greenville built an enclosed camping platform along the Tar River, which is great for nervous first-time campers. (Photo provided)

people in the area. Greenville is a large college town for those interested in the medical industry. Unfortunately, most graduates leave to go elsewhere. The goal is to make the city a final destination by giving people more things to do. That could lead to people staying in the area and raising a family.

"Most of our projects have been done in the underserved areas of the city," Morrison commented. "They don't really have the opportunity to join health clubs like swimming, so a lot of our facilities are free. It's providing a resource and other things for people to do rather than having nothing to do and potentially getting into trouble. It's an oasis or a safe haven in some areas."

A lot of the facilities that already exist are being renovated into nice buildings, having more added so if people want to try something new, they have the opportunity. Another part to getting people healthy is also getting people outside in the wilderness. Many inner city people may not have seen certain wild animals or camped out

before, but new nature-related parks make it possible for them to have that experience. Introducing new possibilities is what Greenville strives towards by offering classes in various sports for kids and adults.

Plans of plans for plans

Every community-impacting project has to face the challenges of budgeting head-on. Staying within budget while investing in large projects is difficult, but with the right amount of grants to help and small cutbacks in the department, it's possible to achieve. While grants and small interest loans are a great source for financial help, looking into public-private partnerships is another recommended option.

Increasing the staff is another issue that many municipality departments experience. With the expansion Greenville has experienced, making cuts and pursuing grants saved room for hiring more operations employees, who will help facilities nice.

"One thing us planners try to plan for upfront is to keep these facilities nice," Morrison explained. "Another challenge is vandalism. Some people aren't used to nice things around here. That's one of the things we're finding as we continue. We're growing and we're still looking to expand but wrestling with a way to plan for future maintenance. That's always a challenge."

Years will be spent on projects as every idea leads to more action. Greenville recently completed a large, all-inclusive playground that has doubled the demand for parking. Other projects include building a new pier, building a new plaza, plus a canoe and kayak launch all along the Tar River. A future BMX bike and skateboard park will be across 10 acres, the largest in the East. Projects from

both the Town Common Master Plan and the Tar River Legacy Plan will be added to the year's project priority list every year for the next five years.

A risk management assessment is a good route to take on any large or small scale project. Unforeseen circumstances always linger around options of opportunity so it's important to be prepared whenever something might go wrong; otherwise, the project could be delayed or even die. Investing in a comprehensive master plan to figure out what citizens need is another must-do.

"Make it viable. Plans aren't meant to be a wish list of the unrealistic," Morrison advised. "Make sure that the projects are realistic based on the city's budget and that it's something the city council can approve of. I've never submitted a project that's above on what I'm used to getting financially for projects."

"Once your master plan is approved, go look (for) grants on state and federal levels. Look into your funding resources. Never go in and build something that the community didn't ask for. You might build this nice scenic pass, but nobody will visit it because they didn't want it."

Restoration after natural disasters

Highland Park in Kokomo, Ind., is the oldest park in the local area. Established in 1892, the seasoned trees that stretch toward space can attest to the age and preservation of the park. Highland Park suffered from many natural disasters in the past few years, with over a 100 trees uprooted by tornadoes and the inclusive disability access playground demolished. Locals became emotional upon seeing the park in such a distraught state.

"People took it personally when Highland Park got hit and felt ownership of the park," Superintendent Torrey Roe said. "They were very eager to help with the park campaign. We had a lot of the public's and private businesses' support in seeing that changes be made. Many people cared about it and contributed to the funding, which helped purchase some of the new playground equipment."

"The community has really supported what we've done financially but also in ►


just showing up. We've had about 400 times the amount in attendance we've had in previous years. We've had so many people playing and picnicking, which then leads to them seeing the basketball and tennis courts available. The activity has grown exponentially. We actually had a lady complaining that there were too many people in the park now, which is a great problem to have."

Kokomo's pride is displayed in the park, which takes a more natural route. The location of the park along the Kokomo Creek presented some natural challenges to overcome when it came to implementing changes. Fighting a few floods and being delayed by rain impacted the construction projects, but the town succeeded. Clean-up from Mother Nature's disasters and quick brainstorming with the park board on what could be done made the changes in Highland Park possible.

The parks department wanted to make sure that there was something for everyone. Originally the handicap access playground was separate from the abled playground, but both have now been joined together. Families and children aren't kept separate; instead, they have the ability to interact with each other and not feel isolated. Kokomo received a lot of positive feedback on the new inclusive playground features. While most of what was destroyed was replaced, alterations were still made to continue the park's legacy as a homey area. With the new playground, a new restroom facility was built and many trees were planted to replace the empty spaces.



Inclusive playgrounds are being made more and more available in parks, which will bring even more visitors. This one in Kokomo, Ind., allows children and parents to interact with people from all walks of life. (Photo provided)

"For every tree we take down, we add three more," elaborated Roe. "The majority of these trees are about 50 years old. The ones we're putting in would take quite a bit of time to grow, but future generations will be able to enjoy Highland Park in the beauty that we see now." 

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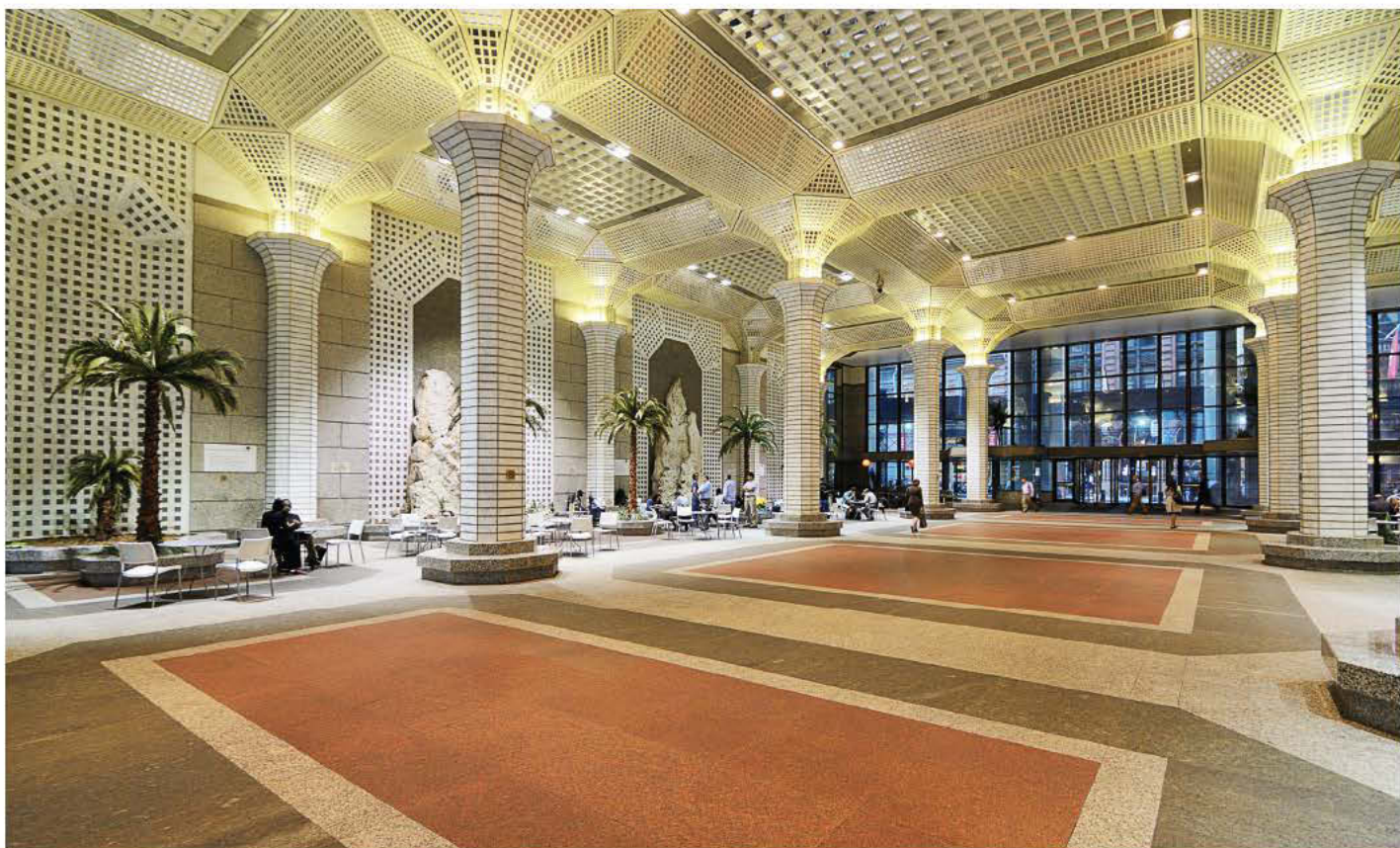
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POPS serve as downtown gathering spots

By LAUREN CAGGIANO | The Municipal

The privatization of public spaces, or POPS, can present a benefit to municipalities and the public at large, under certain conditions.

In the context of cities and towns, POPS are small plazas, arcades and other outdoor and indoor spaces that are provided with a specific understanding. “Developers want to get extra credit in exchange for opening (the space) to the public under certain conditions,” said Richard Dolesh, vice president for strategic initiatives with the National Recreation and Park Association.

This “extra credit” often means they are allowed to build bigger buildings than they might have been able to pursue otherwise.

In return, they agree to provide these privately owned public spaces. This idea can be enticing to municipal governments, who seem to tighten their belts every year. POPS can be a good way to get public space for free without the local government having to dedicate any resources. What’s more, many local governments have realized that attractively designed and well-maintained spaces can help to attract investors and certain types of affluent and influential users.



*Richard Dolesh,
vice president for
strategic initiatives,
National Recreation
and Park Association*

While the idea is not novel, the number of these spaces has been on the rise in recent years, especially on the U.S. coasts. The concept started in New York City, with plazas and arcades in the early ’60s. Today, it is estimated that there are several hundreds of these privately owned public spaces in New York, and ones located in countries as far away as Japan.

LEFT: Within 60 Wall St Atrium in New York City, there is a 2,360-square-foot pedestrian arcade, which is a privately owned public space completed in 1989. The concept of POPS started in New York City, with plazas and arcades in the early '60s. (Shutterstock.com)



Sometimes POPS are not well marked — particularly on the East Coast — and can be overlooked. (Shutterstock.com)

Dolesh said there are pros and cons to these spaces. For example, such real estate can be a boon to city life, adding vitality, innovation, walkability and public art to locales.

“They can be pleasant spaces to be but also a good way to expand the public benefit,” he said.

On the other hand, he said such spaces — on the East Coast in particular — are often not well marked; therefore, they are obscured and can be easily overlooked. The West Coast has made a concerted effort to promote standardized signage he said, which provides a way to invite the public in. Privately owned public open spaces — or POPOS — have been synonymous with San Francisco’s downtown public space strategy for some time. In 2012, the planning department “strengthened their standards for POPOS signage and public access, and stepped up enforcement of their requirements,” according to livablecity.org.

While such efforts can help advance the cause of greater awareness and accessibility, Dolesh said there can be some uncertainty when it comes to public education. “The public doesn’t necessarily know the boundaries, rules and regulations for use,” he said.

And this is where the waters can get muddied. Dolesh is familiar with a few cases in New York City, which serve as a cautionary tale for what can sometimes go wrong in public-private arrangements. He referenced a recent audit from the Office of the New York City Comptroller, which found that more than half of the properties weren’t being used as originally intended.



A new office tower included a new plaza in downtown San Francisco in 2008, which in addition to public seating brought “Moonrise Sculptures: March, October and December” by Ugo Rondinone. San Francisco requires developers to provide privately owned public open spaces with new downtown buildings. (Shutterstock.com)



San Francisco’s Federal Building faced criticism when it was built, particularly when its cafeteria was placed outside the building on the public plaza. (Shutterstock.com)

“We inspected all 333 of the POPS locations and found that more than half (182 of the 333) failed to provide required public amenities,” the comptroller website states. Some cases were more egregious than others. For example, in some locations, the required amenities simply did not exist; while others were “non-functioning.”

The New York City violations underline an important point about the nature of the

public-private beast. The heart of the matter, according to Dolesh, is that once POPS are built, there’s nobody who’s responsible for peoples’ benefit after the fact.

For this reason, Dolesh suggests that municipalities considering entering in such agreements do their due diligence. His advice: “Create a mechanism that allows you to monitor and easily report how these spaces are being managed.” **M**



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Zimmerman guides Cleveland Metroparks toward reclaiming Lake Erie

By **BARB SIEMINSKI** | The Municipal

A tip of the hat to the rolling whitecaps of Lake Erie!

That sparkling body of water is what Brian Zimmerman, CEO of Cleveland Metroparks, considers his region's *creme de la creme*, during this, the centennial year of the park district.

"I am most proud of increasing public access to the lakefront, connecting the community with the region's most valuable resource," Zimmerman — a 1997 University of Wisconsin graduate, with a Bachelor of Science in agricultural science-soils — said.

"We started with the opening of Rivergate Park in the heart of Cleveland's urban core, and that evolved into the reclamation of eight lakefront parks. Today, we are engaged in activating a community sailing program that will be yet another opportunity for guests to connect with the lakefront."

Zimmerman, who assumed his role of CEO in 2010, led Cleveland Metroparks into the title of best park district in the nation, for which it was presented the 2016 National Gold Medal Award for excellence in parks and recreation management by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. By leading Cleveland Metroparks' largest year of land acquisition since the '60s, Zimmerman has continued to take advantage of opportunities to provide the community with greater accessibility to green spaces while increasing connectivity in his region. Zimmerman's leadership has been essential in activating transformative projects for northeast Ohio, including an \$8 million federal grant, the largest awarded to Cleveland Metroparks yet.



Brian Zimmerman, CEO of Cleveland Metroparks

With nearly 2,087 full-time, part-time, seasonal and variable employees, more than 23,000 acres, 18 park reservations, eight golf courses and a nationally acclaimed zoo, Zimmerman's management empowers Cleveland Metroparks to serve the community at the highest possible level. There were nearly 18 million recreational visits in 2016, and the park district continues to enhance the quality of life for northeast Ohioans.

Nothing worth attaining comes without challenges, however, whether it is in the area of funding, personal obstacles, human resources or any number of things. Mayor Frank G. Jackson of Cleveland, while not specifically addressing the parks department, said something in his "2016 State of the City" speech last year that seems to work well here and could apply to all of Cleveland's residents:

"It is never the challenge that matters. What matters is how we deal with the challenges. All that we do is about people and whether or not they are better off as a result of what we do.

"A great city will be measured by the condition and well-being of its people, in particular, the least of us — not in terms of welfare and charity, but whether everyone is able to participate in the prosperity and quality of life that we create as a community. A place where children can live and play safely, receive a quality education and someday find a good job to make a living."

Zimmerman's response to overcoming challenges was to continue moving forward, to resume his visionary plans into the future.

"As an organization turns 100 years old, there are internal and external driving forces to consider as you look to position the organization to stay relevant for the future," Zimmerman said. "In today's on-demand world, Cleveland Metroparks offers guests an opportunity to unplug from the daily stresses of life. Nature is there to re-direct the spirit of individuals and allow them to re-enter themselves." Spoken like a modern-day Thoreau.

According to Jacqueline Gerling, director of communications at Cleveland Metroparks, Zimmerman's leadership has



LEFT: Cleveland Metroparks' new Edgewater Beach House offers breathtaking views of Lake Erie. (Photo provided by Cleveland Metroparks)



ABOVE: *Guests and boaters gather for Cleveland Metroparks Centennial Celebration presented by KeyBank, taking in a performance by Michael Stanley and a spectacular fireworks display. (Photo provided by Cleveland Metroparks)*



A sign of things to come at Cleveland Metroparks In 2018, the Asian Highlands will be a global destination area and home to a snow leopard, red pandas, takin and a Amur leopard, one of the most endangered big cats on earth. (Photo provided by Cleveland Metroparks/Kyle Lanzer)



Pictured is a scene from the Cleveland Zoo, which is part of the Metroparks. (Photo provided by Cleveland Metroparks/Kyle Lanzer)

“guided the reclamation of eight lakefront parks, which have attracted more than 8 million visitors; hosting thousands of first-time visitors and inspiring longtime Clevelanders to fall back in love with our greatest natural asset, Lake Erie.”

She noted, “By strategically acquiring nearly 750 acres of urban parks and working with partners to build expanded trail connections, Zimmerman’s vision leads the park district in fulfilling a goal of bringing park access to densely populated and underserved neighborhoods.”

Cleveland, the great city that gave us Bob Hope, the James Gang, Drew Carey, Henry Mancini and Dr. Mehmet Oz, boasts more

than just a commitment to its parks by Zimmerman.


Indeed there is enough of Zimmerman to go around the entire city. Civic-minded, he belongs to the boards of Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, Destination Cleveland and Flats Forward. He also serves as chairman of the board for Cleveland Neighborhood Progress, an organization that implements neighborhood recovery strategies, building community capacity and investing in physical development.

Gerling named some of Zimmerman’s achievements.

“I would include the accreditation of Cleveland Metroparks among the highlights,”

Gerling said, “along with winning the National Gold Medal Award for excellence in park and recreation management for the fourth time in the park district’s history. That is a nod to the park district’s mission and continued focus on conservation, education and recreation.

“Finally, Brian has been responsible for acquiring the lakefront parks, which has turned the Emerald Necklace into a more complete circle of parks that surround the city.”

Though Zimmerman lives in Strongsville, Ohio, with his wife and son, he enjoys being outdoors, exploring Cleveland Metroparks on his bike as well as golfing and boating. 



A potential future recruit for the Holland Fire Department participates in one of the activities held during Fire Prevention Week. (Photo provided)

Holland, Mich., and surrounding communities roll out a parade

By CATEY TRAYLOR | The Municipal

When National Fire Prevention Week rolls around each year, residents of Holland, Mich., eagerly anticipate lights, cameras ... and sirens.

The highlight of the week is the Fire Prevention Week Parade, which consists of about 40 fire trucks, a marching honor guard, a Coast Guard boat and a bagpiper, among other features.

The best part? Every single fire truck has lights on and sirens blaring.

Now in its 35th year, the parade, which will be held at 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, was started as a way to grab the attention of residents and find a way to teach them about fire safety and prevention. The event has now grown into a community favorite and includes an open house at the Civic Center at the end, where residents can tour

fire trucks and witness demonstrations of equipment. There are also booths galore packed with knowledge and activities highlighting both fire prevention and general safety practices.

"Years ago, we looked at this issue of fire prevention realized Fire Prevention Week, and specifically the parade, was our opportunity to engage the community," Holland Department of Public Safety Captain of Fire Operations Chris Tinney said. "The big kick-off is always the Friday or Saturday before Fire Prevention Week. Every fire truck in the area participates, and then afterward, we all meet in a common area. While residents

were here, we feed them information about how to prevent fires. Our purpose is to provide the community with the tools to prevent fires at home."

Holland is one of many cities that are a part of the West Michigan Fire Prevention Council. In conjunction with a number of municipalities, the city of Holland hosts the parade and encourages community involvement in activities throughout the week.

"Lots of people come together to promote fire safety during Fire Prevention Week," said West Michigan Fire Prevention Council President Jeff Potter. "There is great support throughout the municipalities, and we could not exist without the collaboration of these different departments. That's what allows us to put on the parade and the other events."



Holland, Mich.'s, fire department—along with the other fire departments and organizations that make up the West Michigan Fire Prevention Council—takes fire prevention seriously all year-round and uses Fire Prevention Week to really bring attention to the subject. (Photo provided)



A young girl learns about what to do in case of a fire. (Photo provided)

Potter has served on the council for a number of years and notes the parade as a favorite event. Nearly six months of planning goes into it, and a number of municipalities are invited to participate.

"There's something about watching 40 trucks lit up, accompanied by the honor guard and bagpipes, rolling down the street," he said. "It's neat to see the different departments and the community come together. Seeing the kids smiling and pointing and looking at all the different trucks, all the firemen take the time to talk to the kids about the trucks and explain the department ... it's a great day."

This year's theme is "Every Second Counts: Plan Two Ways Out," and the council has designed a number of activities to encourage families to plan and practice their exit strategies in the event of a fire.

The real takeaway, Tinney said, is the educational benefits the community gains from taking an entire week to focus on such an important topic.

"Fire prevention is a year-round project. We use this week to really focus on it, but as a department, we do this all the time," he said. "Fires are preventable. They are a result of human behavior, and the public needs to take an active role in helping us prevent that. Understanding that your local fire departments are a key resource is huge, and this week helps us make a point of that."

Fire Prevention Week is also crucial in making citizens aware that their local fire department is there for them in a multitude of ways.

"We don't just sit and wait for fires to occur," Tinney said. "We run EMS and do fire education throughout the year. Fire departments should be out in the community educating them. It's not just about



Sparky the Fire Dog made an appearance to teach children about fire prevention. (Photo provided)

fires anymore. There are lots of situations we have the expertise to help prevent."

A few general tips Tinney said he shares all yearlong can prevent a world of trouble for residents.

"First and foremost, you need smoke alarms in your home and you need to maintain them," he said. "Secondly, our experience shows that fires originate in the kitchen. Use care and pay attention while cooking. Other causes in the home include electrical, using appliances improperly and having candles and other open flames unsupervised."

While fire departments work hard to make communities aware of these risk factors, Potter said having a week dedicated to the effort is helpful in grabbing the community's attention. The cross-community collaboration is an added bonus and does nothing but help spread the message.

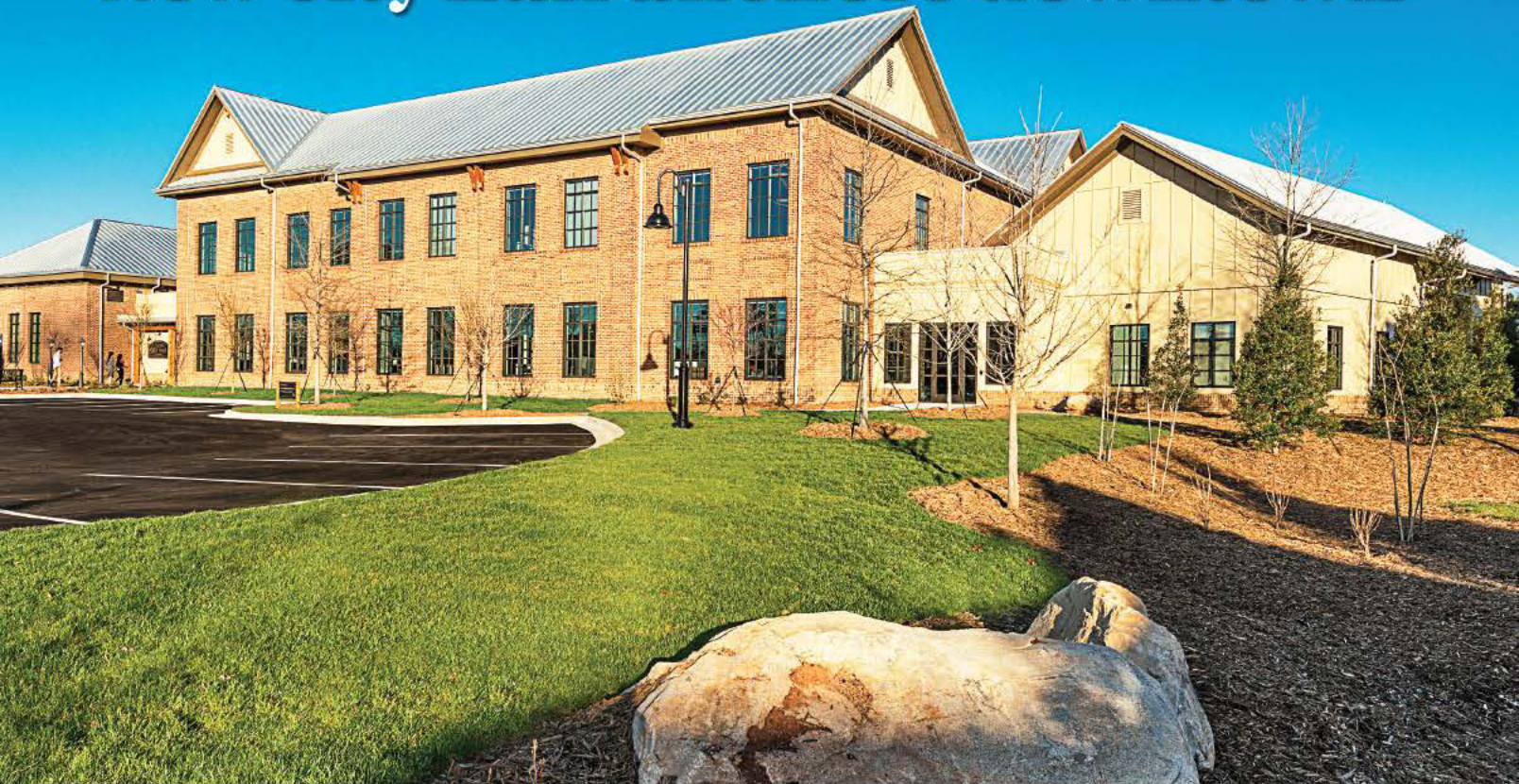
"Anybody who works in any type of city government can attest to this: Anytime you can get agencies to share the load and work together in harmony, not only is it spectacular, it shows how important this is to our community," he said. "Together, we can do a lot more by pooling our resources than we can do by ourselves."

This year, Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 8-14, and events include open houses, educational visits to schools and family-friendly activities to encourage proper planning and knowledge of the risk of fires in the home. **M**

On the Web

View a 15 second time lapse of the parade at
<https://www.cityofholland.com/fire/2017-fire-truck-parade-o>

New city hall anchors downtown



by SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

Milton, Ga., might be relatively new on the municipal scene, having only been incorporated since Dec. 1, 2006, but its city hall gives the appearance of having existed for a while — despite just celebrating its grand opening March 13. Featuring red brick and stable-like features, the new city hall captures Milton's character and past while its interior reveals it as a city of innovation.

Kathleen Field, Milton community development director, noted it was time for a larger space as the city approached its 10th anniversary and a site within the historic downtown Crabapple district was chosen.

"We felt city hall should anchor the downtown," she said; however, the property didn't come without its challenges. "It was a retention pond that had to be filled. It added to the expense of the project, but the space was important."

This decision to take on land that was otherwise undesirable also served as a statement, according to Brian Parker, AIA, LEED AP, associate principal with Cooper Carry,

the architecture firm designing the complex. With its selection, he noted, "The city said we will take on this property, lay the infrastructure, get it back onto grade and leave more easily developed land for others — to spur development around them."

In its short existence, Field said city hall has already become that anchor they envisioned when the project first began, and while community members waited to see what the complex would look like, they have since embraced it. Because of its location, Cooper Carry made sure the complex — which is approximately 32,000 square feet and includes a community

center — would fit in with the rest of the historic neighborhood.

Kim Rousseau, principal with Cooper Carry, who was a project leader alongside Sean McLendon, AIA, a principal with Cooper Carry, noted Milton came into the process with a clear idea. "From the beginning, they said, 'We just want a project that is representative of us.'"

"It was modeled off the Milton County Courthouse," Field said, noting the detached community center was modeled off Milton's old farmhouses.

The city hall's two wings — administrative and legislative — and community center building further emphasize Milton's culture through the use of barn wood, a fitting touch with Milton's horse farms and its logo of a galloping horse.

As an added touch, Field said, "All the signs to the offices have a barn wood trim on them."

While matching its surroundings, city hall's administrative wing could be

LEFT: Celebrating its grand opening March 13, Milton, Ga.'s, city hall captures the city's essence and blends into its surroundings as if it has been there far longer. It has quickly become the downtown's anchor. (Photo provided)

RIGHT: City council meetings can be even more interactive with the new chamber's screens. (Photo provided)



described only as Google-esque — and it is having quite the impact on employees day-to-day.

High-tech workplace

“Previously (Milton) had one meeting room with less than modern technology,” Parker said, noting the importance of integrating new technologies into the new city hall while leaving the city room to grow as even newer technologies become available. “They are ready to layer (when the time comes).”

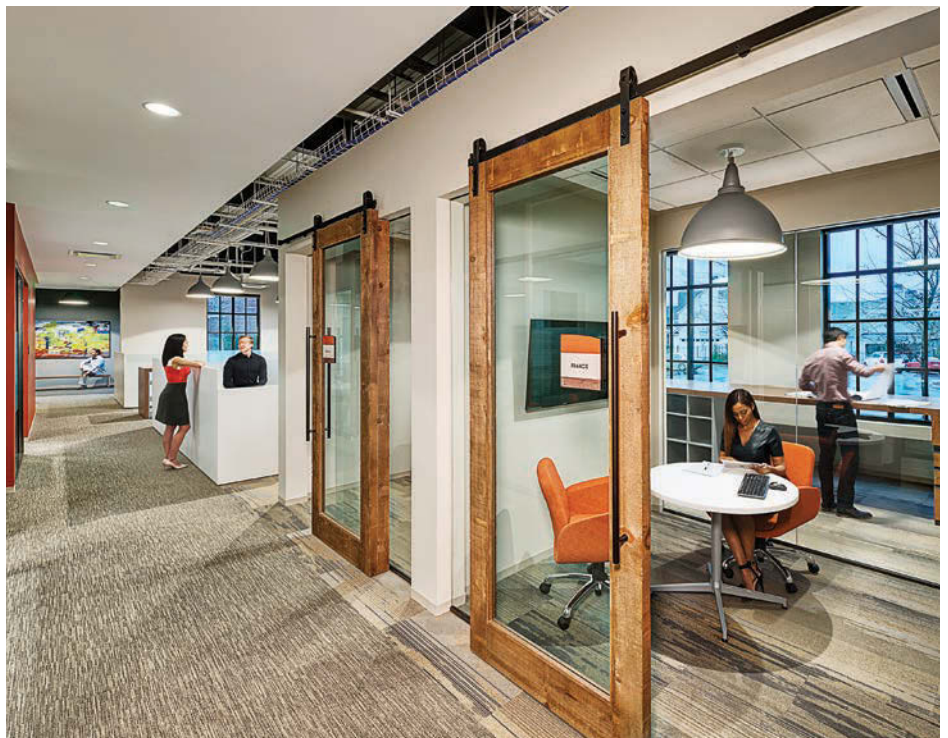
The city hall now has all the latest gadgets. According to Milton’s city architect Robert Buscemi, the city now has an innovation area on the second floor complete with all manner of technology and writable glass surfaces. “If we are attracting new businesses,” Buscemi said, “we now have a space to show our innovativeness.”

He noted a goal has been to showcase Milton as an innovation hub, and the space can evolve over time. “It might take on purposes that we couldn’t predict today.”

Since moving into the new city hall, Field said, “We are always pulling up accessor documents now on the screen. We no longer have to print them.”

She added the new conference phones will be another asset to the city as will the screens in the new city council chamber, which provide an opportunity to make city meetings truly interactive while also getting information out to the public. Another bonus for staff is each office area has its own thermostat.

To add to the collaborative atmosphere, the administrative wing is open and extremely light with numerous windows welcoming in natural light. Parker said, “Another unselfish move the city did was it flipped management to the inner core to open up the windows so



Management offices are at the core of city hall’s administrative wing, allowing staff members to reap the full benefits of the city hall’s many windows. These management offices utilize glass to still have a view of the exterior windows. (Photo provided)

they are not blocked by perimeter offices.” Management offices then have glass front doors to still benefit from the exterior windows. “It was a decision made very early on so staff would have the most opportunity to benefit (from the natural light).”

While some might think sound would be an issue with an open layout, this potential problem was remedied using white noise systems, which add a neutral amount of noise to the space.

Another achievement with the building project, according to Buscemi, is everything

is energy efficient from the air conditioning and insulation to the lighting, which is all LED. Other green building practices were also used, with the painting being completed with low-VOC paint. He said, “We wanted to create a healthy space so people with allergies would have no reaction to anything.”

Because of these choices during the process, Buscemi said, “The cost of ownership will be low.”

As for the end result, Field said, “The staff love it. People are just happy and collaborating. It is working as we hoped it would.” ▶



She added city employees feel such ownership of the space if they see a spot on the floor they will clean it.

Bringing the community in

While creating a modern workplace, the city also wanted to welcome the community into the complex, a major reason why the community center and public plaza were included in the plans. The community center contains public bathrooms and a community meeting room.

Another key component of the Milton City Hall design was to make it welcoming to the public while also giving them a clear view of the city's inner workings. (Photo provided)

"The community center has been very well received," Field said. "The community has rented and leased it out a lot, not only for city meetings. It's been a really popular space." She added for the city it was important to bring in the community because as she puts it, "It's their building as well."

Within city hall, there are also kiosks available right when one walks into the building. Of the kiosks Buscemi said, "They celebrate what Milton is about." He added the kiosks relay community service information from the police and fire departments, the city's Facebook page and community events. "Some of them have photos and we can trade them out. Some are just interactive. We wanted to showcase what the city was about."

Other choices in the design and building phase also were intended to create a welcoming environment — including those many windows. "(Buscemi) and (Field) would tell us this building is for the people," Parker said. "They wanted it to be very open so people could see the business of the city taking place."

Everything feeds into each other, with Field adding, "It really allows us to bring the community in." ■



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The irrelevance of political parties

By RICHARD HADLEY | Chairman, Board of Supervisors, Cranberry Township, Pa.

In a preamble to the blog our township has maintained for the past eight years, there's a statement that says "No level of government has more impact on daily life than local government."



*Richard Hadley,
chairman of
the Cranberry
Township Board
of Supervisors*

That's not just a hollow conceit to those of us who have worked in local government. It's a fact. But it's a fact that's sometimes hard to see because most news organizations focus on the sharp-elbowed, sharp-tongued dysfunction that takes place in our state and national capitals. As a result, most people's conversations about government center around the ideological dogma and partisan clamor that goes on in legislative chambers, frequently amped up to stadium levels by cable news pundits. So their conclusions about the democratic process are understandably cynical.

What's overlooked is that the services, which make civilized life possible — water, schools, sewers, police, parks, traffic control and more — are the responsibility of local governments, authorities and boards, not of the federal government or its abundance of specialized departments. Local governments are pragmatic, not philosophical. There is no liberal or conservative approach to fixing

a broken sewer line or to filling a pothole. Even an anarchist would likely see it the same way.

Global issues

Of course, there are big issues, like foreign policy, which may be suitable for the federal government to work on. But even there — as in most of the other issues people tend to think of as national in scope — local government is where the consequences actually play out. And it is at the local level where they tend to get addressed most meaningfully.

Take, for example, environmental protection. In Pittsburgh, which is only 15 miles from Cranberry Township, smoke control legislation was implemented as far back as World War II — decades before there was a federal Environmental Protection Agency. When the Trump administration rejected the Paris Accord on climate change, the mayors of local governments around the country stood up to say they would continue the work of reducing greenhouse gases through building codes designed to increase the energy efficiency of new structures, minimizing dwell times for vehicles at intersections and more.

Foreign relations and immigration are the focus of Sister Cities, diversity fairs, English language instruction and other locally based



A Cranberry Township employee works on a traffic light. (Photo provided)

programs designed to bring new arrivals into the American mainstream. Interstate communications are made possible by municipal leases to phone and cable companies for using local rights of way to hang wires, bury cables and erect towers. Our transportation network is dependent on municipally owned and maintained traffic signals, signs, lane markings and other control mechanisms. Public health is the responsibility of municipal water systems, ambulance services and restaurant inspectors as well as other local resources. And the list goes on.

What they all have in common is that they're pragmatic issues, not ideological ones.

The triumph of pragmatism

About a year ago, Fordham University professor Benjamin Barber gave a TED talk in which he repeated a wonderful anecdote about the legendary mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek—a practical-minded civic leader who served from 1965 to 1993. One day, Kollek's office was besieged by religious leaders of all different faiths — Christian, Prelates, Rabbis, Imams. They were arguing with one another about access to the holy sites. And their squabble went on and on. Kollek listened and listened and finally said: "Gentlemen: Spare me your sermons and I will fix your sewers."

That's what local leaders and municipal governments do. And it transcends traditional party lines—which are ideological affiliations that get in the way more than they help. That may also be why it's usually more difficult to choose candidates to support in local elections than in national ones: It's that most of them are practical people, not party hacks. They don't, as a rule, grandstand about wedge issues that have little to do with life in local communities. Candidates who showcase



Local governments often have more of an impact on daily lives of citizens, through maintaining necessary infrastructure. Pictured, a Cranberry Township employee flushes a fire hydrant. (Photo provided)



The integration of politics at a local level can prove to be a hindrance when providing citizens with quality services. There is no liberal or conservative approach to fixing a broken sewer line or to filling a pothole. Pictured, Cranberry Township public works employees repair a waterline break. (Photo provided)

their views about abortion, gay marriage, stem cell research and religious convictions in local elections should be treated with suspicion; they're distracting you from what it is that local governments actually do.

I'll admit that good candidates with practical ideas can be hard to differentiate, which may be why turnout for local office elections tends to be embarrassingly low, even though their importance to residents' daily lives is huge. At the same time, however,

most communities tend to be dominated by one political party or another, so party line differences are largely irrelevant. What that means is if there's a candidate whose public pronouncements tend to mirror a party's line too closely, they probably aren't paying enough attention to what's happening in their own home community.

For most American communities, party ideologies are not only irrelevant, they're toxic. And they should be rejected. **M**

Snowfighting prep is a yearlong endeavor

The ability to clean up after a snowstorm requires yearlong preparation to ensure every piece of equipment is in tip-top shape, from major repairs and preventative maintenance to securing media contacts and setting up weather contacts. (Photo provided)



By ANDREW MENTOCK | The Municipal

With winter around the corner, it's time for drivers to prepare for icy roads and snowy conditions. This includes ordering snow tires, dusting off that old window scraper and finding a warm hat.

Some may think that October is too early to worry about the winter. That is until they realize many snowfighting maintenance crews have already been preparing for months — almost as soon as the previous winter ended.

"We actually start our snowfighting maintenance in April," Jeffrey Tews, fleet service manager for the city of Milwaukee, Wis., said. "It may seem a little early but that's when you want to spend the most time figuring out what you're going to have to get done before the next time snow falls."

The department starts by taking an inventory of the equipment it still has so officials can purchase what it doesn't. This includes warning lights, backup alarms, hydraulic equipment and whatever else it might need. Just as long as each specific type of equipment is the same.

"We have the same equipment installed on virtually every truck," Tews said. "It makes it a lot easier for our guys to repair things."

Next, it's time to get equipment ready for storage.

"Prepping it for storage is essential," he said. "You're flushing out the liquid, you're reapplying rust proofing and you're repairing any known defects."

But it doesn't stop there. Workers also seal up all hydraulic and electric connections and grease up equipment so that it's fresh and

ready to be used the following fall. Chlorides are washed off all equipment.

In the summer, the crew will then begin to work on major repairs that they didn't have time for in the winter as well as preventative maintenance.

"We're also looking at solutions to any problems that we might have discovered over the course of the past winter," Tews said. "(Like finding solutions) to unusual rust problems like some of our Freightliner trucks had, where we wound up finding rusted coolant lines that we couldn't get to."

By the end of the summer, a snowfighting maintenance crew should make sure that it has enough major parts.

"In August we're going to start looking at our parts contracts," he said. "We make sure we have enough cutting edges, plow shoes, wiper blades, batteries and (that) all of our contracts are refreshed or renewed. If we need to go out and get new contracts, we figure that this is the time to do it."

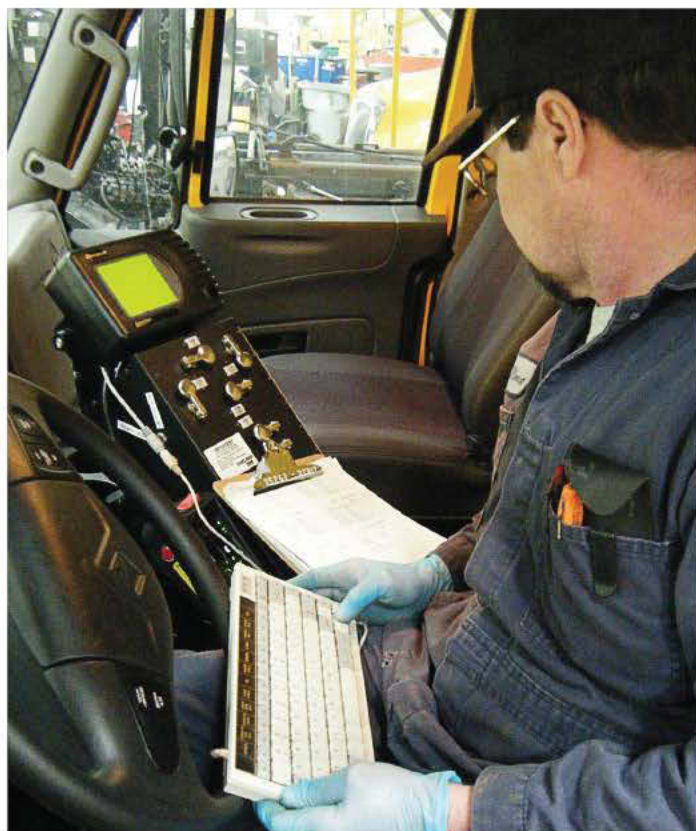
At this time, it's also a good idea to reach out to other local municipalities that way if the snowfighting crew runs out of parts, it can borrow some. Then in the fall start mounting equipment and make sure everyone on the team is trained and up to speed on procedures so that when winter finally hits, everybody is ready to go.



LEFT: A fleet service employee of the city of Milwaukee completes repair work. The city completes its major repairs and preventative maintenance in the summer months. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: Milwaukee installs the same equipment on almost all its trucks to make it easier for its technicians to make repairs. (Photo provided)



ABOVE: An important part of winter preparedness is to inventory what equipment is currently in hand and its status. A Milwaukee Fleet Services employee runs a diagnosis on a truck. (Photo provided)

It's also important to establish media contacts with television and radio stations. These contacts allow fleet managers to quickly notify the public in case of a snow emergency. Another effective way to reach the public is to have notifications pushed out to the community on social media outlets.

"We're very happily obliged anybody who wants to get (social media) notifications," Tews said.

Weather service contacts are also crucial to have.

"Some services are providing us daily updates and they also give us forecast when they know that trouble is coming," he said. "We get a special alert."

Not only is Tews told what weather is coming, but he is also informed on what the temperature will be at the start of a snowstorm and during it, when the snowstorm should end and other pertinent information.

"Dew points are extremely important to us because we need to use them to determine how much salt to put out on a per lane and mile basis," he said.

If a snowfighting crew uses too much salt, it could create problems.

"We're always trying to weigh the best possible ways to treat a storm (by) using just enough (salt) and never using too much," Tews said. "The last thing we want to do is see the streets white with salt after the snow is long gone — that means we over treated. We're environmentally conscious as well, so we are stewards of the environment and our resources."

But there's always unpredictability when it comes to the weather, so it's best to prepare for the worst and hope for the best.

"We have contingency plans for the worst-case scenario," Tews said. "You have to plan that way and execute your plan based on what's happening."

For instance, if weather services have told Tews to expect 4 inches of snow to fall, not only does he prepare for 4 inches, but he will also prepare for 8 inches. In some cases, Milwaukee will even call upon private vendors that they have on retainer to provide extra equipment.

Another important aspect of effective snowfighting is to use the best plow features. For example, Milwaukee will only purchase plows that are coated with two-part epoxy paint. That way, snow will roll in front of them.

"You don't want to be pushing it," Tews said. "You want it to roll right off of your plow because it moves quicker and (that way) you're not wasting as much fuel."

Everything that Tews and his crew uses has a story behind it, and over the years, they have figured out what works best for them, but they aren't done trying to improve.

"The best thing that you can do is talk to your people — the guys who are doing the work — and get their best ideas and suggestions," he said.

At the end of the day, it's up to each snowfighting crew to figure out what equipment and procedures will help it be successful.

"Things that work for us may or may not work for others," Tews said. "It's really up to you to figure out where that sweet spot is — what's best for your operation." ■

Council Bluffs finds creative solutions to drainage issues

By DENISE FEDOROW | The Municipal

The old saying, “Necessity is the mother of invention” could be applied to Council Bluffs, Iowa’s, public works department as challenges faced in a high water table neighborhood created the need for them to think outside the box for solutions.

City Engineer Matt Cox explained the city has been working on a multi-phase project to correct wastewater and drainage issues in the East Manawa neighborhood. According to Cox, when the neighborhood was developed in the '70s, it was not within the city limits, so it likely didn't have to comply with the same standards as developments within the city.

“Our current residents expect higher standards,” Cox said.

Mayor Matt Walsh said he believed the development was annexed into the city limits sometime in the '80s.

Council Bluffs is in Pottawattamie County and is located on the east bank of the Missouri River across from Omaha, Neb. The United States Census Bureau estimates that as of 2016 the population is around 62,544.

The East Manawa neighborhood has nearly 500 homes and is adjacent to Lake Manawa State Park. Cox said it was a flat area with no storm sewers and high water tables. The neighborhood is nearly surrounded by water as besides the lake it also has the Missouri River on west side and Mosquito Creek on another.

“When it rains there’s nowhere for the water to go,” he said.

Even more challenging was the narrow right of way they had to deal with. Cox said they were dealing with older utility lines for gas and water and some cast-iron pipes.

“This is a tight neighborhood for right of way — very narrow,” Cox said. “There’s only 30 feet for the street and utilities.”

So, they got creative with thinking about what type of sewer system to use if not the traditional gravity sanitary sewer system, which would mean having to do a lot of de-watering, “which would be expensive,” Cox said.

They considered low pressure systems with pump grinders, septic tank effluent pumping systems and vacuum pump systems.

“We selected the vacuum sewer — we could place it relatively shallow — but it had never been done in Council Bluffs before,” he said.

The city engineer said they had to do a lot of work to convince the Department of Natural Resources that this was the best way to go — it helped that it had been done in the state before. They had to come up with a plan and document all the challenges they faced before receiving an okay from the DNR.



This map shows the East Manawa neighborhood in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which was developed in the '70s but not annexed into the city limits until sometime in the '80s. The proximity to Lake Manawa, the Missouri River and Mosquito Creek creates a high water table and challenges for utilities and drainage. (Photo provided)

Cox explained that a traditional gravity line carries the wastewater from the residence to an AirVac valve pit package. When 10 gallons of wastewater fills the valve pit, it opens and differential pressure propels the contents into the AirVac main. The main is laid out in a sawtooth manner to ensure proper vacuum pressure. The wastewater then enters the collection tank, and when that fills, it is transferred to the treatment plant via a force main. The vacuum pumps cycle on and off as needed to maintain a consistent level throughout the system.

“From the homeowner’s standpoint, it’s no different,” he said.

The public works department typically ties two houses together on one line. Benefits to the system include the allowance of laying pipe shallow so there’s less excavating. The system also eliminates the need for all the lift pump stations a gravity system would require.

“Now we’re putting all the power at one central location,” Cox said, saving money on electrical costs as well as the building costs of additional pump stations.

When it came to cost, the department looked at all the options for not only upfront costs, but also costs projected for a 20-year life cycle. Cox said had they gone the grinder pump route, it would've been more expensive, and maintenance-wise, they could be replacing hundreds of them at a time.

"None of the options were cheap," he said, but added that the vacuum sewer system came in around mid-range, and when looking at the long-term cost of maintaining one large station versus multiple stations and the simple piping required, they broke even on the sanitary sewer costs.

"It solved a lot of challenges we were having, and it wasn't any more expensive," Cox said.

He admitted there were some concerns about using this system in the cold Midwest but said the pipes are installed at 5 feet below the freeze line. He said AirVac is located in Indiana, and they gave him a whole list of cities where the system has been installed.

"After talking to the operators we were convinced," he said. "Nothing negative was said."

Porous Asphalt

The secondary issue for the area was storm drainage, and since Lake Manawa is highly used for recreational purposes, the city wanted to eliminate any potential pollutants from storm drainage finding its way into the lake.

The porous asphalt acts as a filter for the stormwater and the large rock base makes it cleaner before it discharges.

"Normally, there's a 6-inch rock base under the street, but with porous asphalt we have 18 inches, and the rocks are larger with more voids and gaps," he said.

The stormwater drains through the asphalt into the rock base and is collected through slotted piping before entering the discharge station, he explained. Porous asphalt is more expensive, but Cox said the city gains by not having to have as many manholes in the street for drainage.

The porous asphalt is used more in southern coastal areas so one concern officials had was would it work and hold up in the Midwest with the cold winters?

In fact, the city discovered a secondary benefit for the porous asphalt, namely it stays warmer so it melts snow and ice faster — clearing the streets faster.

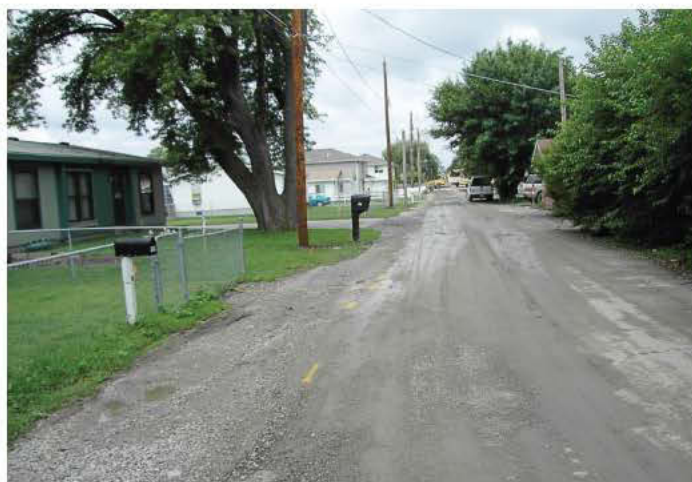
Multi-phases

Because this is such a large neighborhood the public works department has to phase the project out. Cox said phase one began in 2010, and the city is now working on phase five. The project will likely go through 20 phases before it is all completed, possibly taking another 15 years since workers have been able to complete a phase per year in recent years. The cost has been roughly \$1 million a year.

"I expect we'll likely exceed \$20 million before it's all done," Cox said.

Mayor Matt Walsh agreed this was a challenging area because it wasn't serviced by typical infrastructure — it was streets with ditches — and repeated that when there was a heavy rainfall there was nowhere for the water to go.

"Such a high water table with flat surfaces created unique problems and made it incredibly difficult," Walsh said. "The efforts



This "before" photo shows a road in the East Manawa neighborhood with gravel runoff and puddling along the road. These types of issues are common in this area and created the need for the city of Council Bluffs to look at some creative ways to deal with them — like porous asphalt. (Photo provided)



This "after" photo shows a recently installed porous asphalt road in the East Manawa neighborhood of Council Bluffs. The pores in the asphalt are visible in the photo. Not only does the porous asphalt help with drainage, it's been making cleaning the streets of ice and snow easier, plus it improves the overall look of the neighborhood. (Photo provided)

we've made with porous asphalt reducing the runoff into the ditch has so far been successful."

Walsh said the solutions found for the East Manawa neighborhood weren't "the be all and end all — this is not an application we'd likely use widespread around the city, but in areas where absorption into the ground is imperative, it's proven successful."

Walsh said the residents in the area are very happy, and when asked whether he would recommend the vacuum sewer and porous asphalt to other mayors, he replied, "It's certainly something worth investigating as an affordable alternative." ■

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. 1-3 Virginia Municipal League Annual Conference

Williamsburg Lodge,
Williamsburg, Va.
www.vml.org/2017-annual-conference-williamsburg

Oct. 3-4 Sustainable Communities 10th Annual Conference

Grand River Center, Dubuque,
Iowa
www.gscdubuque.com

Oct. 3-6 Kentucky League of Cities

Northern Kentucky Convention
Center, Covington, Ky.
http://www.klc.org/news/4099/KLC_Conference_Expo_-_October_3-6_in_Covington

Oct. 5 Southeastern Wisconsin Fourth Annual Outdoor Public Works/Parks/Building & Grounds Expo

5151 W. Layton Ave., Greenfield,
Wis.
www.ci.greenfield.wi.us/564/2017-Public-Works-Expo

Oct. 5-7 Pennsylvania Municipal League 118th Annual Summit

Bayfront Convention Center,
Erie, Pa.
www.pamunicipalleague.org/summit

Oct. 6-8 IAEMSC Annual Leadership Summit

Washington, D.C.
iaemsc.org

Oct. 8-11 Southeast Governmental Fleet Managers Annual Meeting

Embassy Suites & North
Charleston Convention Center,
North Charleston, S.C.
www.sgfma.org

Oct. 8-11 APTA Annual Meeting & Expo

Georgia World Congress Center,
Atlanta, Ga.
www.apta.com

Oct. 9-11 SFPE 2017 North America Conference & Expo

Fairmont the Queen Elizabeth,
Montreal, Canada
sfpe.site-ym.com/mpage/MontrealHome

Oct. 10-12 Aim Ideas Summit

Evansville, Ind.
aimindiana.org

Oct. 12-15 Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York 2017 Fall Leadership Summit & Vendor Expo

Saratoga Hilton & City Center,
Saratoga Springs, N.Y.
www.afdsny.org/fall_education_and_conference.php

Oct. 16-20 EMS World Expo

Las Vegas, Nev.
www.emsworldexpo.com

Oct. 17-20 National Procurement Institute Annual National Conference & Presentation of the Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Awards

The Crowne Plaza New Orleans
French Quarter, New Orleans,
La.
npiconnection.org/development/conference.asp

Oct. 17-20 Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations Annual Conference

Westin Savannah Harbor Golf
Resort & Spa, Savannah, Ga.
www.ampo.org/news-events/ampo-annual-conference-2017/

Oct. 17-21 Firehouse Expo

Music City Center, Nashville,
Tenn.
www.firehouseexpo.com

Oct. 18-20 League of Wisconsin Municipalities' 119th Annual Conference

Radisson Paper Valley Hotel,
Appleton, Wis.
www.lwm-info.org/731/119th-Annual-Conference

Oct. 19-20 GIE+Expo

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

Oct. 21-24 International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference & Exposition

Philadelphia, Pa.
www.theiacpconference.org

Oct. 22-25 ICMA Annual Conference

San Antonio/Bexar County,
Texas
icma.org/icma-annual-conference

Oct. 23-26 Tennessee Recreation & Parks Association Get Your Kicks Conference 66

Drury Plaza Hotel, Franklin,
Tenn.
www.trpa.net

Oct. 25-26 ARTBA Southern Regional Meeting

Nashville, Tenn.
www.artba.org/news/training-events/

Oct. 25-27 2017 WJTA-IMCA Conference & Expo

Ernest N. Morial Convention
Center
www.wjtaimcaexpo.com

Oct. 30-Nov. 1 Fire Department Training Network Live-Fire Training Camp

Indianapolis, Ind.
www.fdttraining.com

Oct. 31-Nov. 3 SEMA Show

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

NOVEMBER

Nov. 1-3 Ohio Municipal League Annual Conference

Renaissance Hotel, Columbus,
Ohio
www.omloho.org

Nov. 5-9 2017 American Water Resources Association Annual Conference

Red Lion on the River-Jantzen
Beach Hotel, Portland, Ore.
www.awra.org/meetings/Portland2017/

Nov. 6-9 Campus Fire Forum 2017

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Fueling our future: Making the switch and commitment to alternative fuel vehicles

In September, the National Joint Power Alliance released a report written by Jenny Holmes called "Fueling Our Future: Making the Switch, and Commitment, to Alternative Fuel Vehicles." The report shares the benefits, impacts and best strategies for the deployment of alternative fueled vehicles — such as battery electric, plug-in hybrid, natural gas, propane autogas, etc. — in public fleets. Fleets for the Future, a partnership of regional councils, Clean Cities coalitions and fleet industry leaders, has taken it upon itself to share more knowledge and understanding of AFVs, encouraging public fleets increasingly deploy AFVs to reap the environmental benefits and enjoy lower long-term operating costs.

Some of F4F's observations included:

- Alternative fuels allow drivers and fleet managers to reduce petroleum use, minimize emissions and save on fuel costs.
- Alternative fuels reduce dependence on foreign exports and create a more stable energy market less susceptible to supply and price volatility.
- Alternative fuels offer air quality benefits to make communities cleaner and more safe as well as help meet increasingly stringent emission requirements and Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards.

In addition to sharing benefits and financial impact, the report outlines best practices for a successful deployment of AFVs, including fleet management and procurement best practices. "These best practices building upon both the extensive information provided by the U.S. Department of Energy and a number of recent successful case studies. The specific goal of these best practice guides is to educate procurement officers, fleet managers, and other interested stakeholders to plan for a large-scale deployment of AFVs."

The full NJPA report can be found at themunicipal.com.

Former Aurora Mayor, Thomas Weisner, Receives Exemplary Service to Public Works Award

KANSAS CITY, MO. — Thomas J. Weisner, former mayor of Aurora, Ill., and founding chairman of the Northwest Water Planning Alliance, was the recipient of the American Public Works Association's Commendation for Exemplary Service to Public Works Award at its national conference in Orlando, Fla., on Aug. 29.

The award recognizes an elected government service leader for their far-reaching positive impact on local, state or national public works programs, services or policies through exemplary public service and commitment. The award particularly recognizes leadership in furthering the mission and goals of APWA.

The Northwest Water Planning Alliance is an organization that is dedicated to helping communities provide a sustainable water supply that is both economically and environmentally sound. Through his leadership with the NWP, Weisner has been a driving force in focusing the attention of water utilities on the preservation and conservation of valuable water resources. Weisner pushed for the implementation of the Aurora Water Conservation Ordinance in 2006, which conserves drinking water sources and has allowed for the postponement of more than \$7 million in capital improvement projects. Several area communities have since adopted a model conservation ordinance developed by NWP.

Aurora is Illinois' second largest city and has also become a leader in the use of green Infrastructure, constructing 130 rain gardens in its downtown and nearby residential neighborhoods. Rain gardens capture and filter polluted stormwater, reducing flows directly to the Fox River and returning cleaner water to the ecosystem.

In its strong effort to maintain its heavy bridge infrastructure, Aurora has re-constructed 12 major bridges under Weisner's leadership in the past 12 years.

In his 11-plus years as Aurora's mayor, he propelled this former "blue collar town" into the 21st century as a high-performing, progressive city. In each of the last two years, Aurora was recognized as one of the top 20 best-run cities in a national study, which ranked the 150 largest cities in the U.S. During Weisner's tenure, a new LEED Gold police facility was constructed, which included bioswales and permeable parking lots, as well as cutting edge crime-solving technology. Aurora has since experienced a remarkable drop in crime. The city was highlighted by national media attention in 2012 when Aurora experienced zero homicides, and again, in early 2014 when a national survey recognized Aurora as one of the nation's top 10 safest mid-size cities. ■

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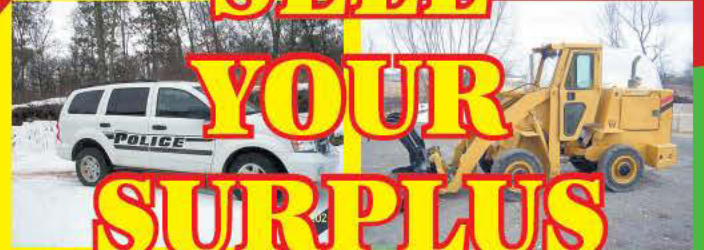
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RAVO has remained passionate about sweeping for over 50 years



The RAVO 5 iSeries was developed to clean a street in one pass, no matter which season it is and no matter what the conditions are like. There are also a variety of customized options available to ensure specific needs are met. (Photo provided)

by SARAH WRIGHT | The Municipal

SINCE 1964, RAVO HAS PRODUCED high-quality street sweepers for customers all over the world. Worldwide RAVO has delivered already more than 16,000 RAVO 5 and 5 iSeries sweepers to customers, including Berlin, Rome, Amsterdam, Barcelona, Dubai, Kuwait, Greenland and many more. The RAVO 5 iSeries is built according to Dutch quality standards, focusing on robustness, superior technology and innovative design.

Its compact vacuum street sweepers deliver at all levels, with their incredible uptime, fuel savings compared to truck-mounted sweepers, designs with operator's comfort in mind and their state-of-the-art build quality.

The RAVO 5 iSeries was developed to clean a street in one pass, no matter which season it is and what the conditions are. It is perfect for urban or rural areas, sand or leaves, desert heat or arctic cold, downtown areas, suburbs or bicycle lanes. Every RAVO is standard equipped with an ergonomically designed cabin that includes an adjustable steering column and air conditioning. Additionally,

each RAVO comes with a powerful Cummins engine and Linde hydraulics.

With a stainless-steel container that has a volume of up to 6.4 cubic yards real usable volume and a loading capacity of 12,125 pounds and a gross vehicle weight of 25,125 pounds, the RAVO 5 iSeries is extremely maneuverable and has a turning circle of just over 16 feet curb to curb. Its unique pulled brush system uses constant brush pressure that extends the brush life by 50 percent and is maintenance friendly — no greasing required. In fact, there are only 15 greasing points on the whole machine. Its hydraulic front suspension also comes with an automatic leveling system.

RAVO supports customers to find solutions for modern-day issues, whether that is lowering noise emissions or producing a sweeper that sweeps and washes simultaneously.

Customize to fit needs

RAVO offers a wide range of options to customize the RAVO 5 iSeries, catering to many different needs and situations.

Standard dumping height is 3.3 feet and an optional 5.3 feet to dump directly in a container. The machine comes standard with a heavy-duty package, which includes a coated suction line and borium fan designed to extend its lifetime when working under the heaviest conditions.

The front broom option increases the sweeping width of the RAVO 5 iSeries and allows drivers to clean pavements, shoulders and street gutters more efficiently. Combine this option with the weed cutter broom and you have an environmentally friendly way to remove weeds. The third broom can be equipped with a quick release feature, which shortens the removal or installation time to less than 5 minutes.

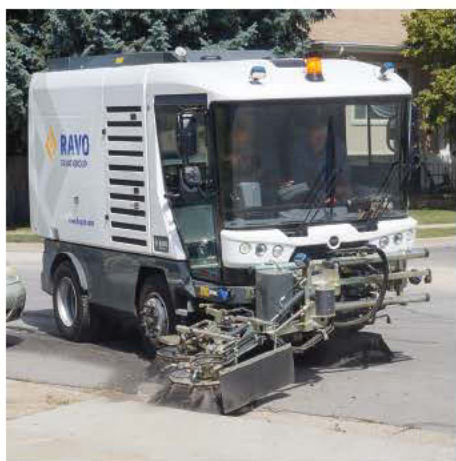
Other options include the high-pressure water pump to clean the inside of the container, broom and suction system or street furniture and independent broom lifting, which can reduce broom wear. The Swasher installation allows drivers to sweep and spray roads and sidewalks



Every RAVO is designed with operator's comfort in mind. This includes an ergonomically designed cabin with an adjustable steering column, dashboard and armrest. (Photo provided)



RAVO allows operators to sweep more curb miles because of its large hopper size and most importantly its compaction rate. Operators can then easily dump their load. (Photo provided)



The RAVO 5 iSeries is extremely maneuverable and has a turning circle of 16 feet curb to curb. Its unique pulled brush system uses constant brush pressure that extends the brush life by 50 percent and is maintenance friendly. (Photo provided)

in just one go. Water recirculation doubles your action radius and reduces dust emissions at the same time. The optional suction hose mounted on top with a 360 degrees rotation is perfect for sucking up piles of leaves, but also emptying gutter drains and waste bins.

The silent package, meanwhile, can reduce the noise level of the RAVO 5 iSeries by 15 percent.

A preferred partner

RAVO's U.S.-based service office, parts supply and nationwide distributors network allows it to provide high-standing service to its fast-growing customer base in North America with more than 300 sweepers delivered in the past four years. RAVO stands by the quality of its product and offers a standard warranty of two years or 2,000 hours with every sweeper that leaves its factory. On top of that, RAVO also offers a five-year warranty on the container and chassis.

Toms River, N.J., maintains 351.13 miles of roadway and was drawn to the simplicity of the RAVO. After a demo, the township purchased two RAVOs, which were delivered Sept. 8, 2014. Staff members subsequently fell in love with them and one more was purchased in 2015, followed by another in 2016.

"We demoed the machine and truth be told when (RAVO) showed up, I thought it was a parking lot sweeper," Michael Mazzola, Toms River road foreman, said. "But I couldn't have been more wrong. The machine was superior in all aspects to any (mechanical) truck mounted sweepers we had been running and any other machine we had been demoing."

Mazzola said, "The RAVO has a lot less moving parts and requires very little maintenance compared to any sweeper we have

experienced. We are also able to sweep a lot more curb miles with the machine because of its large hopper size and most importantly its compaction rate. The machine leaves a much cleaner road behind compared to what we were used to while being more efficient in every aspect."

He highlighted RAVO's loading capacity; fuel consumption, which saves the township around 40 percent; its low noise level that allows operators to sweep in the early morning without complaints; emphasis on driver comfort; ability to sweep up a variety of materials like sand, leaves, pine needles, millings or refuse left after a parade; and the easy maintenance.

"Our operators like it a lot that it takes only 10 to 15 minutes to clean the machine after a shift, and greasing is only once a month, which takes five minutes."

Mazzola noted RAVO's excellent responsive service. "The down time is kept to a minimum if there are any issues that come up. That is really important." He added, "We are hoping to get more of them in the near future. We just love these machines: our operators love driving them; our mechanics love working on them; and last but not least, our finance department loves the cost savings we have achieved with them. I dare say that they are far superior to any sweeper that we have had or seen." ■

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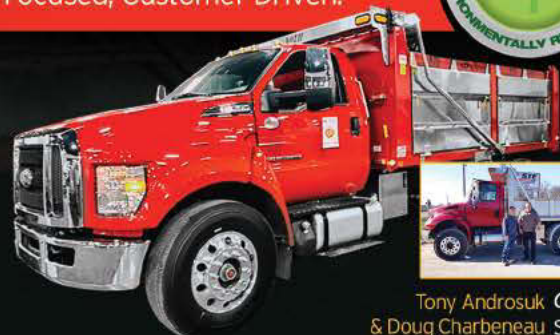
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M**TOP
10**

Best beer cities in the U.S.

In honor of Oktoberfest, we are sharing Infogroup's list of the best U.S. cities for beer drinkers — the group had also compiled a list of best cities for wine drinkers. To rank the top beer cities, the company "analyzed U.S. Metropolitan Statistical Areas of more than 1 million in population based on their concentration of beer and wine businesses per 10,000 residents."

beer and wine cities, and the top 10 of both groups were based off the company's consumer database of more than 150 million households. Through its efforts, Infogroup also sought out types of industries that were closely related to beer business, such as breweries, including craft and microbreweries, in addition to beer and ale — retail.

It concluded that the top 10 cities for beer drinkers were:

Infogroup also compared consumer demographics and interests between

1. Portland, Ore.

2. Denver, Colo.

3. Grand Rapids, Mich.

4. Seattle, Wash.

5. Detroit, Mich.

6. Raleigh, N.C.

7. San Diego, Calif.

8. Cincinnati, Ohio

9. Milwaukee, Wis.

10. Pittsburgh, Pa.



Source: www.infogroup.com/cant-choose-between-beer-or-wine-in-portland-you-dont-have-to

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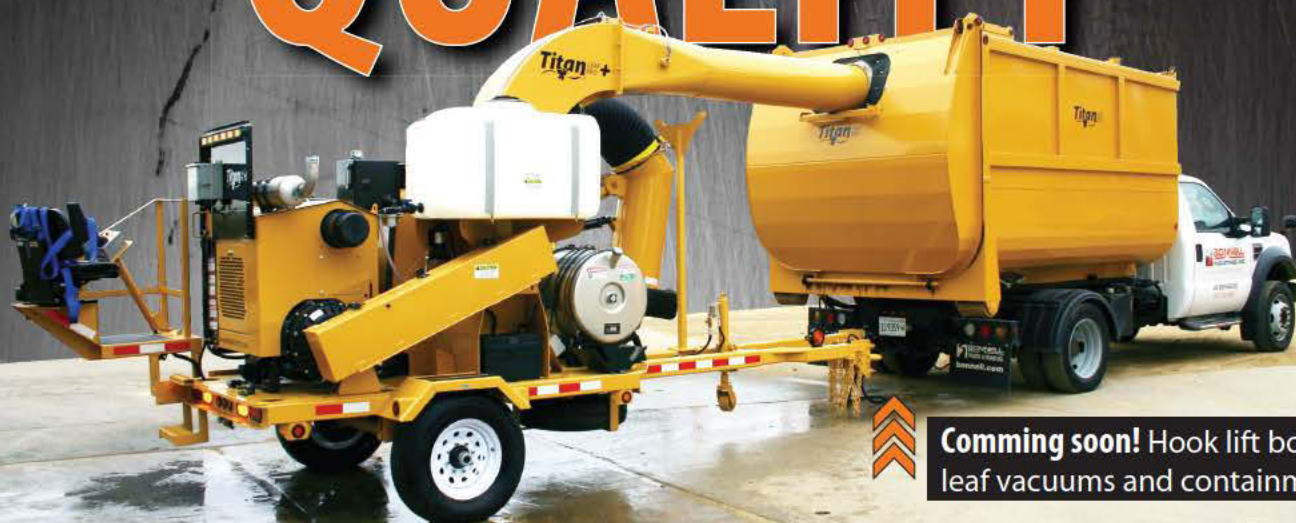
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