

LGIA 2017 Category Awards: Townships



Category Overall Winner:

Broadband Initiative - Sunrise Township

Sunrise Township spearheaded an extensive effort consisting of community meetings, required notices and securing buy-in from 50% of property owners to bring broadband infrastructure to their residents. In a collaborative effort between residents and the township board, they created a Subordinate Service District (SSD) to help facilitate the installation and financing of high speed internet through Century Link. The township received a grant and began acquiring a bond while Century Link assists with funding and works to install fiber optics to SSD area residents by December 2018.

Category Winners:

Oxford Township Water Monitoring Project - Oxford Township

In 2016, Oxford Township took a proactive approach to manage and protect health of the township's seven shallow water lakes. The township reached out the Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to collaborate on a 10-year plan that includes monitoring and tracking surface water data collection, vegetation and shoreline surveys and environmental conditions. As a result, the township can review the area's inevitable development plans and make decisions within the best interests of their local resources.

Townships Working Together - Township Maintenance Association

The Township Maintenance Association is a cooperative effort of four townships in western Renville County - Ericson, Hawk Creek, Sacred Heart and Wang. The association, established in 1945 to provide township road maintenance services for the member townships, also provides these services to a fifth area township. The association maintains 191 miles of roadway, employing two full-time operators, managing costs, contractors and equipment and ensuring tasks are performed with a high level of consistency and quality.

Mission Township Park Expansion -Mission Township

Mission Township in Crow Wing County near Brainerd, MN, owns and maintains a pristine 20-acre park where visitors come to enjoy outdoor activities. When the 200 acres of land adjacent to the park became available, they worked with their local broadband provider, Consolidated Telecommunications (CTC), to secure a seven-year 0% rural economic development loan and grant to purchase it. Thus the township avoided creating an undue hardship of taxation for its residents while setting a bright future to protect this valuable asset.

2016 Gravel Road Improvement Project - Clearwater Township

Clearwater Township graded and compacted a one-mile stretch of existing gravel road to a proper crown and level of smoothness with a chip-seal surface that looks and performs like an asphalt road at approximately one fourth of the cost. The surface eliminates dust and stabilizes road integrity with an anticipated life of five to seven years without major rework. This treatment takes one day, keeps traffic disruptions to a minimum and eliminates the cost of replacing lost gravel and applying chloride treatments.