City: Larchwood

Title of Project: Broadway Streetscape Project

City's Population: 866

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed:

Larchwood, Iowa is a small community nestled in the extreme northwest corner of Lyon County within a few short miles to the South Dakota or Minnesota border with an ever growing population of 866.

We needed to completely rebuild our downtown main street due to deteriorating sidewalks, updating 1936 original water lines, and adding storm sewer to keep up with heavy rainfalls. The City Council decided it was time for improvements which would include streetscape features, landscaping, and wider sidewalks. Driving lanes were narrowed to incorporate more pedestrian space closer to the businesses and bump-outs were created at each intersection in order to increase pedestrian safety and create nodes of interest through landscaping and new streetscape features and furnishings. A new city logo and unifying element centered around the history of Larchwood and the larch tree was created. This element is now located throughout the downtown streetscape and acts as signage where Broadway St. intersects Hwy. 9 in order to draw people into downtown.

Explain the specific role of your city in this project:

City staff was responsible for the construction management and oversight of the project. In order to ensure effective collaboration and partnerships with the community, the staff held a weekly project meeting where the Project Engineers, City Staff, Contractor and Sub-Contractors met to discuss the various phases of the project.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?

This project has updated public infrastructure and utilities. Downtown pedestrians and customers are enjoying the new street, sidewalks and beautiful landscaping with native plants of Iowa. It has given a cleaner, fresher appearance to our town. We hope to make our town an inviting place for people to gather, work and live.

This project has spurred businesses along the street to take advantage of the city's Store Front Incentive Grant Program to brighten up the look of their buildings.

Total cost of project: 1,505,848
List where funding came from. (grants, donations, city funds, etc):
Local Option Sales Tax, TIF, Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission taxes received from Grand Falls Casino

Total time project took/projected to take for completion. Please include start date and end date. (To qualify the project must be operating or completed between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015):
April - September 2015

Resources. (Please list Web sites judges may reference if they seek additional information.):
citylarchwood.org