2018 All-Star Community Award Application

City: Ames

Title of Project: Ames Water Treatment Plant

City's Population: 0

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed:
A new 15 million gallon per day drinking water facility was constructed to replace the aging 1924 facility. The old facility could not meet the projected capacity needs, and could not be cost-effectively renovated. The new facility provides increased capacity to meet the needs of the growing community, and provides the level of security, reliability, the sustainability expected by today's municipal water customers.

Explain the specific role of your city in this project:
The City of Ames is the owner and operator of the facility. Front-line staff were heavily involved during the design, with the goal that at the conclusion of the project, every employee could point to something and say, "That was built that way because of my suggestion."

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
The facility was designed to be the home of drinking water for the next 80-100 years, and was intentionally designed with future expansion in mind. As a LEED-certified facility (the largest LEED certified water plant in the state), the facility will have a lower operating cost and a lower carbon footprint; something that will provide value to the customers and residents of the City for generations. The rates needed to cover the debt service on the facility were in place prior to breaking ground; those rates are well below the state-wide median for municipal water systems, allowing water to remain affordable even after a $70 million investment. And, after only a few months in operation, the facility was named "Best Tasting Water in Iowa" by the Iowa Section of the American Water Works Association!

Total cost of project: $70,000,000.00

List where funding came from. (grants, donations, city funds, etc):
Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan
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, 2017 and December 31, 2017):

Fall 2008 - Fall 2017

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

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6675ioi4pls; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LrQXP5QeGQ