2018 All-Star Community Award Application

City: West Des Moines

Title of Project: Softball Complex Irrigation Modifications

City's Population: 64560

In a few sentences, give a summary of the project and why it was needed:
The Raccoon River Park Softball Complex in West Des Moines is one of Iowa’s premier recreational facilities located within the beautiful setting of the 632 acre Raccoon River Park. In 2017, the complex hosted over 1,400 teams of all ages playing nearly 3,500 games. Tournaments attract thousands of highly satisfied visitors from not only Iowa, but from across the nation. This heavy use requires a high level of outfield turf maintenance, including irrigation. The irrigation system at the Raccoon River Park Softball Complex is one of the largest users of water in the City of West Des Moines with approximately 3.3 million gallons used every year. That equates to over one and a half water towers full of drinking water. To eliminate the use of treated water, the water supply for the irrigation system was modified in 2017 to pump water from nearby Blue Heron Lake. A low profile submersible pump was placed in the lake, and underground piping was installed to connect it to the existing irrigation system. The total $180,000 cost of the project was split equally by the City and West Des Moines Water Works. Both entities recognized the need to minimize the use of treated water for turf irrigation during peak seasonal periods as a way to offset the continually increasing demand for potable water in our growing community. This partnership has resulted in a much more sustainable approach to irrigation.

Explain the specific role of your city in this project:
The City provided 50% of the funding for the project. Also, City staff were involved in project planning, design, and construction management. Since it took place at a City-owned facility, City staff will also be responsible for the on-going operation and maintenance of the modified irrigation system.

In a few sentences, what future impact will this project have on your community?
The Softball Complex Irrigation Modifications project will annually save 3.3 million gallons of potable water and will allow for West Des Moines Water Works to better serve a growing number of customers during peak times. Educational and promotional efforts about the project will cause residents to consider their own use of water for irrigation.

Total cost of project: $180,000

List where funding came from. (grants, donations, city funds, etc):

City Funds / Water Works Funds

West Des Moines | Softball Complex Irrigation Modifications
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):

July 2015 - December 2017

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

www.wdm.iowa.gov