

What: City of St. Louis Park receives Local Government Innovation Award
When: 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 15
Where: Humphrey Center, 301 19th Ave. S., Minneapolis
Who: Representatives of the City of St. Louis Park, representatives of the Humphrey Institute's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center
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City of St. Louis Park to Receive Local Government Innovation Award from the Humphrey Institute

Award honors success in combating graffiti

Minneapolis, MN (04/06/09) – The Humphrey Institute's Public and Nonprofit Leadership Center will honor the City of St. Louis Park with a 2008–2009 Local Government Innovation Award at a 3 p.m. ceremony on Wednesday, April 15, at the Humphrey Center.

Faced with a growing graffiti problem, the City of St. Louis Park realized that information from the public and surrounding municipalities would help it bring perpetrators to justice and keep the community clean. But the question remained how to join forces with surrounding communities while remaining cost effective.

The answer was a combination of a public information campaign and GraffitiNet, a web-based site for cities to share pertinent information. This aggregate data has allowed the Hennepin County Attorney to strengthen cases that would otherwise have remained city-specific and has earned the City of St. Louis Park a Local Government Innovation Award.

“This award recognizes exactly what GraffitiNet and our public information campaign aimed to do – find a creative approach to graffiti problems,” says Tom Harmening, St. Louis Park City Manager. **“It’s an honor for our city and all of the cities involved to be recognized for this collaboration and its success.”**

“I am very impressed with the quality of the many applications we received. The winners deserve the public’s gratitude for real innovation that saves taxpayer dollars in these difficult economic times,” says Jay Kiedrowski, senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute.

The Humphrey Institute's Center for Public and Nonprofit Leadership launched the awards program in 2006 to recognize outstanding Minnesota local governments. Awards are given to cities, counties, and schools that have demonstrated results in improving local services in collaboration with public, nonprofit, and private organizations; increasing efficiency and cost effectiveness; and management process improvement. The Local Government Innovation Awards are presented in partnership with the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC), and the Minnesota School Boards Association (MSBA).

A reception will follow the awards ceremony, which is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/pnlc/events_happenings.html.