

# Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award Winners



APWA's Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award was established to promote excellence in the management and administration of public works snow and ice operations, and to promote the best practices in snow and ice removal while minimizing environmental impacts. The award will be presented at the 2019 APWA North American Snow Conference, May 19-22, in Salt Lake City, Utah. Following are this year's recipients.



## Village of Niles, Illinois, Public Works Department

A number of years ago the Village hired a contracted weather service to provide site-specific forecast information, as well as consultation and support from meteorological staff 24/7. Accurate weather and pavement forecasts coupled with insights of a professional support staff gives the Village the ability to plan and execute effective operations. For example, knowing whether the area will receive rain before a snow event determines anti-icing strategy, and knowing when a storm is forecast to stop helps to plan crew resources.

This year the Village entered into a data services agreement with a company to provide data from two newly installed Road Weather Information System (RWIS) stations in Niles. RWIS consists of remote sensing equipment, which gathers and transmits road-related weather information. The information includes atmospheric (temperature, wind, precipitation, etc.), roadway (temperature, pavement conditions, friction level), and sub-surface pavement temperature characteristics. RWIS has been around for decades; however, recent improvements allow data to be obtained non-invasively using infrared and laser technology, and is the equipment obtaining data for the Village.



## City of Omaha, Nebraska

In the last five years, the City of Omaha has added 42 single- and tandem-axle plow trucks to the fleet, which is a replacement of approximately 43% of the total fleet for these vehicles. All recent purchases were upgrades to the fleet in that they have state-of-the-art controllers and conform to the latest emission standards for these vehicles. In addition, there are currently four single-axle plow trucks and four tandem-axle plow trucks on order.

Within the past five years, the City of Omaha has added the first wing plows to the fleet. There are currently four trucks equipped with wing plows, all tandem-axle plow trucks. Moving forward, beginning with the current pending order, all tandem-axle plow trucks will be equipped with wing plows as well as large capacity liquid saddle tanks to allow for brine distribution without switching from a tank to a spreader. Additionally, the City of Omaha has begun adding liquid capability to the single-axle fleet. In years past, only tandem-axle trucks were set up for liquids, but the City has recently purchased five hook interchange roll-off liquid distributors sized for single-axle trucks.



## City of Surrey, British Columbia

Last year, to continue the improvements in winter maintenance levels of service, the City of Surrey purchased new sidewalk clearing equipment with the priorities of:

- Establish key sidewalk linkages that requiring clearing, such as arterial routes, around schools or areas with mobility concerns.
- Investment in dual-purpose equipment, creating efficiencies with equipment that complete sweeping operations as well.

The City of Surrey has a GIS system based on Esri and Arc GIS platform. This system is used for first-priorities roads (arterial roads), second-priorities roads (collectors), and third-priorities roads. The City uses this system to create map books for drivers and community tools such as address look up (see <https://www.surrey.ca/city-services/7488.aspx>). The City also uses the GIS system for public service requests through City Works. This system allows requests to be tracked digitally and sent directly to field staff on their tablets for a field response.