

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2014

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**Bloomington's Department of Public Works Receives
APWA 2014 Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award**

KANSAS CITY, MO. – Bloomington's Department of Public Works (DPW) was recently named to receive a national American Public Works Association (APWA) Award for the City's snow and ice removal program. APWA's Excellence in Snow and Ice Control Award will be presented at the 2014 North American Snow Conference on May 4-7, 2014, in Cincinnati, Ohio in the Duke Energy Center. The APWA 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.

Bloomington hosts major industries, including retail and entertainment, as well as the Mall of America with 341 miles of road, 520 cul-de-sacs, and 251 miles of sidewalk. The City's snow and ice control season can start as early as October and last until May, bringing an average of 45-50 inches of snow. Municipal parking lots are also maintained to provide access to city buildings for the public and employees. The snow and ice control require many divisions in the City, including snowplow operators from Street Maintenance, Park Maintenance, Facilities Maintenance, Traffic Maintenance, Equipment Maintenance, Utilities, Engineering and the City-owned golf course. In recent surveys among cities in the U.S. that are similar in size and demographics, Bloomington ranked #1 in 2012 and #2 in 2013 for resident satisfaction in snow and ice control.

A new public works garage was constructed in 2001, allowing all snow and ice control equipment to be stored inside. In addition to a decrease of weather-related issues that could interfere with operations, the ability to store equipment inside allows public works personnel to pre-load trucks in advance of upcoming snow events, which increases efficiency. In 2003, an almost 18,000 square-foot salt shed was constructed to store, load and mix salt. The facility is entirely enclosed with no exposure to weather, which eliminates unwanted chloride transport via stormwater runoff or the wind. The City also added an adjacent property that included an additional 60,000-plus square-foot facility in 2006, which allowed all equipment to be stored in one location.

"These recent improvements in conjunction with the strong City Council support for equipment and operating budgets and tireless dedication of our employees allows us to provide service that is among the best in the nation. We are very proud to be recognized by APWA," said Bloomington Director of Public Works, Karl Keel.

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For more information about the City of Bloomington's DPW, please contact Public Works Director Karl Keel at publicworks@bloomingtonMN.gov. For more information about the 2014 APWA North American Snow Conference that will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio during May 4-7, please visit the APWA website at: www.apwa.net/snow. For APWA media queries, contact Laura Bynum, the APWA media relations and communications manager, at lbynum@apwa.net.

About APWA

The American Public Works Association (www.apwa.net) is a not-for-profit, international organization of more than 29,500 members involved in the field of public works. APWA serves its members by promoting professional excellence and public awareness through education, advocacy and the exchange of knowledge. APWA is headquartered in Kansas City, Missouri, has an office in Washington, D.C. and 64 chapters in North America.

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