



## Greater Nashville Regional Council 2020 Local Government Award Recipients

### Public Works and Utility Infrastructure

- **Milcrofton Utility—Water Quality with Advanced Metering System**  
Milcrofton Utility was selected for the implementation of its Water Quality with Advanced Metering System. The new system improves data collection and monitoring and customer service. The district and customers now receive real-time notifications and can more easily pinpoint specific system issues. Early intervention has saved customers tens of thousands of gallons of water that previously would have been wasted, saving resources and costs to the district and customers.
- **City of Gallatin—Gallatin Public Utilities Advanced Metering Infrastructure**  
GNRC selected the City of Gallatin for its Public Utilities Advanced Metering Infrastructure improvements. With the implementation of an Advanced Metering system, real-time consumption data and leakage warnings are detected more efficiently than manual meter readings and on-site leakage evaluations. This initiative has led to a five percent savings to the utility or 300,000 gallons per day.

### Aging Services and Senior Activity Programs

- **Town of Westmoreland—Downtown Adaptive Reuse for New Senior Citizens Center**  
The Town of Westmoreland leveraged the donation of a 5,000 sq. ft. building, a former grocery store facility in the center of town, to create a new Senior Center for its residents. The facility houses various activities, including fitness, senior gaming nights, breakfast events, classes for computer training, finance, and medical screenings. With the local food bank right down the street, this new facility provides seniors with an excellent source for nutrition.
- **Wilson County and Senior Ride Wilson – Older Adult Transportation Program**  
GNRC selected the public-private partnership between Wilson County and Senior Ride Wilson for addressing a growing need among the County's older adult population. The Senior Ride Wilson program provides a volunteer-based transportation system for older adults, filling a gap in public transportation service for the County. The only other provider, Mid Cumberland Human Resources Agency, is operating at capacity.

### Economic Development

- **Town of Smyrna—Depot District Canopy Project**  
The Town of Smyrna was selected for its continued efforts to implement the Lowry Street Revitalization Plan through a partnership with local non-profits. With support from the Rutherford County Chamber of Commerce, SiMA, and Carpe Arista, the Town was awarded a tourism grant in 2018 to fund the Depot Canopy project partially. The final product is a well-built stage canopy to the south end of the 147-year-old Smyrna Train Depot that has added to the placemaking and continued economic development investment in the area.

- City Clarksville and Montgomery County EDC—Rebranding Initiative**  
 GNRC selected Clarksville-Montgomery County Economic Development Council's partnership with Montgomery County and the City of Clarksville to elevate Clarksville as a tourist destination. The group launched a collective multi-faceted print, social media, radio, and web campaign for establishing the Clarksville, Tennessee brand. The branding campaign focused on talent and industry recruitment efforts and workforce initiatives, paired with the quality of life statistics and imagery to market Clarksville-Montgomery County as the premier place to build a business, raise a family and retire, all while instilling community pride.
- City of Portland—Adaptive Reuse of Temple Theatre**  
 The City of Portland was selected for the development of a workforce training facility. With funding secured from USDA Rural Development to purchase equipment, the Portland Preservation Foundation opened a state-of-the-art training facility in the heart of downtown Portland in January 2020. The local industrial base has many safety and educational training needs for their employees and space to accommodate corporate visits. The City envisioned this space as a designated area for brainstorming and entrepreneurial idea-sharing and is within close walking distance for many local businesses and local governments.
- City of Gallatin—Economic Development Planning**  
 GNRC selected the City of Gallatin for its economic development efforts to improve business and workforce recruitment tools to align with the City's strategic plan. The City and the Gallatin Economic Development Agencies worked to inventory its assets and tailor its business recruiting activities to leverage the strengths of the City. This effort led to 400 new jobs being secured by recruiting three headquarter operations that support the City's vision and strategic plan.
- City of Lebanon—Adaptive Reuse of the Historic Mitchell House**  
 The City of Lebanon was selected for its adaptive reuse of the Neo-Classical Revival style Mitchell House. The redevelopment of this property protected its historical importance and retained much of the original design. The new facility provided space to make multiple Administration departments more accessible to the public for conducting business with the City. It established a refreshed presence for the City as it welcomes new residents and recruits new businesses to the area.
- Wilson County and Wilson, Mt. Juliet, and Lebanon Chambers of Commerce - COVID-19 Blue Ribbon Program**  
 GNRC recognized coordination between the County government and local Chambers of Commerce to encourage commerce within the County. Following Gov. Lee's Tennessee Pledge program's announcement, the County sought the support of the Chambers to develop a plan that would communicate that a business had taken the Tennessee Pledge and was operating safely within COVID-19 guidelines. The Chambers pulled together a Blue Ribbon Program to communicate to customers or clients they had taken the pledge. This program helped retail, restaurants, and other public-facing businesses welcome customers back.

## **Recreation and Youth Engagement**

- Town of Smyrna – Synthetic Ballfield at Cedar Stone Community Park**  
 GNRC recognized the Town of Smyrna for its Synthetic Ballfield at Cedar Stone Community Park. This project fulfilled a long-range recreational land use goal of the Town and applied the latest technology to construct the park and athletic complex. The completion of this park gives Smyrna citizens and visitors an excellent destination for years to come, with savings on facility operating costs with the need for less maintenance staff to prepare/maintain the turf ball fields, as well as the energy savings from the use of LED lighting throughout the park.

- **City of Lebanon – Scout Your Ride Youth Engagement**  
The City of Lebanon was honored for its Scout Your Route Youth Engagement and Land Use Initiative. This project engaged younger community members to identify obstacles to non-motorized travel within Lebanon Square with photos and responded to questions with text messages back to the City. Through the stories and images the participants provided, the City gathered information about the obstacles citizens faced when walking and used that information as an innovative art project. These artistic inspirations will be a part of the general guiding principles that the City is creating for its Comprehensive Plan and the community's betterment.
- **Maury County Schools and the City of Columbia—Community First Partnership Project**  
GNRC recognized the intergovernmental initiative between Maury County Public Schools and the City of Columbia, born from a new fire station's cost-savings effort. When bids for a new fire station came in significantly over budget, the City had to assess opportunities for containing costs. The cost containment evaluation led to creating a public partnership that identified \$1.8 million in savings by leveraging and coordinating improvements to sports facilities for the nearby schools and a new City nature park with walking trails accessible to students, firefighters, and the public.
- **Montgomery County—The Rotary Field of Dreams-Civitan Park Expansion**  
Montgomery County Government was honored for its investments in accessible outdoor recreation. Specifically, a new, specially designed ball field to support citizens with special needs, the Rotary Field of Dreams multipurpose sports field. The project was completed in partnership with the Rotary Club and Clarksville Montgomery County Community Health Foundation. Other expansion features included three new Little League baseball fields, three multipurpose soccer practice fields, open-air pavilions, bleachers, a concession stand and bathroom facilities, and additional parking.

## Protective Services

- **Sumner County— Sumner County Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management Agency COVID-19 Response**  
GNRC recognized Sumner County's first responders for the multi-agency coordination that saved lives amid a COVID-19 outbreak at the Gallatin Center for Rehabilitation and Healing. In late March, the Sumner County Emergency Medical Services and Sumner County Emergency Management Agency served as Incident Commanders for a mass evacuation and relocation of 167 residents over 4-days. Along with support from the Tennessee Department of Health and the Tennessee Office of EMS, a regional mutual aid request resulted in 94 ambulances responding to Sumner County from across the state to relocate the patients. This demonstration of multi-agency coordination exemplifies the critical role of the County's first responders.

## Land Use Initiatives

- **City of Hendersonville—Zoning Ordinance Update Initiative**  
GNRC recognized the City of Hendersonville for its multi-year interdepartmental project that resulted in a significant revision to the zoning ordinance. The revised zoning ordinance is a comprehensive update to many land-use control tools, notably a streamlined site development plan process for applicants, user-friendly color-coded charts with zoning and development requirements. The in-depth review that led to the revisions addressed balancing the needs of the citizens and business community. This accomplishment continues implementing the policy-making and place-making actions outlined in the City's long-range plan.

- **Sumner County—Zoning Resolution Update and Map**  
Sumner County was honored for its first comprehensive amendments to the County Zoning Resolution and County Zoning Map since its initial adoption in 1973. GNRC's research and analytics team supported this effort with its planning and analytical, technical assistance. After extensive public work sessions, modifications were defined to incorporate recommendations in the county comprehensive plan and align the Zoning Resolution with that plan and the County Subdivision Regulations
- **Williamson County—Williamson 2040 Comprehensive Plan**  
GNRC recognized Williamson County for its comprehensive land-use plan, Williamson 2040. The plan provides a blueprint for future growth that retains the rural character that makes the County desirable. The plan communicates how the recommended land use patterns more closely align with the wishes of the vast majority of citizens, addressing increasing concerns that have been intensified by the County's fast growth. As a next step, the County is in the process of updating its zoning to help implement identified goals and policies outlined in the comprehensive plan.

## Community Engagement and Outreach

- **Wilson County and Wilson County Joint Economic and Community Development Board —Tornado Response Partnership**  
GNRC honored Wilson County and the Wilson County Joint Economic and Community Development Board (JECDB) for its coordinated response to the March tornado that impacted hundreds of businesses and commercial establishments. Working with the JECDB staff, the County quickly identified and relocated over 2.5M square feet of damaged industrial and logistic space. Additionally, local and County governments streamlined application and approval timelines, providing emergency temporary occupancy permits and off-hour inspections to help these businesses and industries remain within the County and open.
- **Wilson County— Coordinated Tornado Response and Partnerships**  
Wilson County and community leaders were honored for their efforts to organize help for residents after the tornado quickly. Specific recognition was given to Recover Wilson and the Wilson County Election Commission's effort to support people and critical government functions following the natural disaster. Recover Wilson, formed by local pastors and leaders in the community, offered immediate assistance after the storm and is now a long-term recovery team with a solid foundation for the next disaster. The Wilson County Election Commission pivoted quickly following the damage to two of its polling locations. Through support from the Tennessee General Assembly and the Wilson County Commission, all polling locations were opened to residents regardless of district zoning. This flexibility provided seamless access to voters on election day.
- **Wilson County— New Wilson County Flag**  
GNRC recognized Wilson County for the creation of its first county flag. After significant research, a design was selected that provides a visual identity for the County. The flag bears the county seal, reflects the area's deep commitment to education through its gold trim, the seal sits atop a field of blue representing the County's location between Percy Priest Lake and the Cumberland River, and "The Place to Be" appears in a green banner symbolic of the county' agriculture and public safety. This flag serves as a symbol of Wilson County's strength, unity, and pride for generations to come.