

# WaterOne CURRENT

Winter 2019

We believe in the meaningful work of producing clean water.

## WaterOne Wins National Sustainability Award

WaterOne was recently honored with the **Sustainable Water Utility Management Award** by the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA). This prestigious award recognizes water utilities who demonstrate innovative economic, social, and environmental efforts. In receiving the award, WaterOne was recognized for its success in responsible resource management, protection of public health, meeting responsibilities to the community, and providing cost-effective services to ratepayers.

WaterOne has taken a leading role in water policy and resource management, through involvement in efforts like the state's 50-year Vision for Water Sustainability, regional advisory committees and stakeholder groups, Water Research Foundation studies, and studying Missouri River bed degradation. WaterOne was a founding partner of the Milford Lake Regional Conservation Partnership Program, an initiative which is working to address harmful algae blooms in Kansas drinking water sources.

The award additionally recognized WaterOne for its investment in forward-looking facilities, including a state-of-the-art water quality laboratory and Wolcott Treatment Plant. Current and future projects include a soon-to-be-complete ozone treatment facility, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), and a planned hydropower plant on the Kansas River.

AMWA judges also looked at WaterOne's sustainable operations strategies. This included criteria such as plant and facility design, technology choices, asset management, fleet improvements, recycling policies, and planet-friendly cleaning products. Judges favorably noted that WaterOne coordinates water main replacements with city street improvement projects, which helps avoid the expense, inconvenience, and environmental impact of unnecessary excavating.

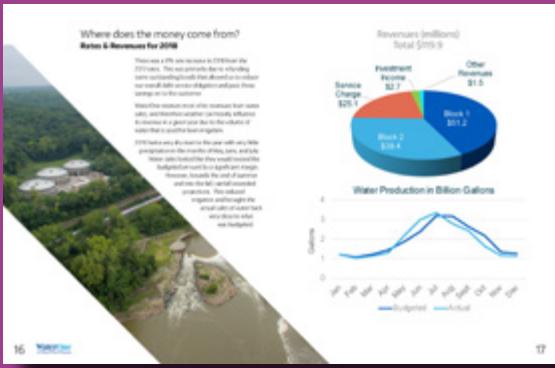
The award highlighted WaterOne's strong financial performance, exemplified by its AAA bond rating and stable fiscal practices, policies, and planning. WaterOne also cultivates an award-winning communication and outreach program, including its pro-tap water initiative "I Love Tap" ([ILoveTap.org](http://ILoveTap.org).)

WaterOne is proud to maintain an overall customer satisfaction rating above 90%, and the award reflects that its customers are significantly satisfied in the performance of their public utility.

AMWA is an organization of the largest publicly owned drinking water systems in the United States. AMWA's membership serves more than 156 million people – from Alaska to Puerto Rico – with safe drinking water.

Additional recognition earned by WaterOne can be found at [waterone.org/awards](http://waterone.org/awards). ♦

## WaterOne Unveils New Financial Report



WaterOne has published a Popular Annual Financial Report, commonly known as a PAFR, for its 2018 fiscal year. The PAFR format has been widely adopted by governments and organizations as a supplement to in-depth public financial reporting. The report offers an easy-to-understand general summary of the organization's revenue and expenditures, financial strategies, and performance over the preceding year, as well as information about WaterOne's history, service area, and projects.

"At WaterOne, one of our strategic objectives is to provide our customers and stakeholders with accurate and timely information about WaterOne's finances," said Director of Finance Darin Kamradt. "As part of achieving that objective, we are proud to present WaterOne's Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018." ♦

Read the 2018 report at  
[WaterOne.org/PAFR](http://WaterOne.org/PAFR)

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## Service Project Brings Water To Historic Kansas Cemetery

A historic cemetery in Prairie Village, KS now has access to water, thanks to a collaborative effort between WaterOne, the City of Prairie Village, and HomeServe USA.

Highland Cemetery, located in Prairie Village near 65th Street and Hodges Drive, was originally a family cemetery established in the 1870s. Over the years, the surrounding farmlands were developed into suburban neighborhoods and the cemetery was chartered and platted for use of the community. The volunteer-run cemetery is still actively used for burials, making it a unique part of Prairie Village's ongoing history.

In keeping with its pioneer character, the cemetery has had few updates over the years. The lack of a water service connection at the site was a burden for families and caretakers, who had to haul in water for watering flowers, cleaning monuments, and mixing concrete for grave-setting. All of Highland's ongoing maintenance needs are funded from limited revenue generated by new gravesite sales and donations. The expense of a new water service connection was not in the budget.

The City of Prairie Village approached WaterOne to discuss a solution for Highland Cemetery's water needs. As a public, non-profit agency, WaterOne is not able to provide service line extensions at no charge. However, WaterOne recommended the project to its service-line warranty partner HomeServe as a possible candidate for their charitable grant program. Thanks to funding provided by "HomeServe Cares," it was possible to install an 80 foot water main to connect Highland Cemetery to the distribution system. A yard hydrant was also installed for use of the Highland Cemetery patrons.

"Now with water, we will be able to have live, beautiful flowers all summer and all fall," said Marianne Noll, President of the Highland Cemetery Board. "This project just shows how connected we are as a community, and I think that's what makes Johnson County and Prairie Village a great place to live." ♦

Learn more about Highland and see a video of the project at  
[highlandcemeteryprairievillage.com](http://highlandcemeteryprairievillage.com)

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## WaterOne Staff Win Awards & Recognition

WaterOne staff received recognition for recent work.

WaterOne's **Communications Department** has been presented with awards from the City-County Communications & Marketing Association (3CMA). WaterOne took home an Award of Excellence for its 2018 Year in Review Storymap and a Silver Circle award for the Milford Lake Regional Partnership Program (RCPP) website ([milfordwatershed.org](http://milfordwatershed.org)).

WaterOne's "Sprinkler Dance" video was also featured at the conference's film festival. The video promotes WaterOne's Smart Watering initiative.

WaterOne's **Procurement Department** recently earned the 2019 Achievement of Excellence in Procurement Award from the National Procurement Institute (NPI). The award recognizes procurement teams for professionalism, productivity, innovation, e-procurement efforts, and leadership. WaterOne's procurement staff implemented changes and enhancements to its operations over several years to qualify for the award.

The Kansas Government Finance Officers Association (KsGFOA) awarded its 2019 Innovation Award to WaterOne. **Financial Planning and Analysis** Manager Natalie Morrison. Natalie developed a billing impact statement, which provided clarification for customers about the personal impact a rate change would have on them. The billing impact statement was part of a larger consumption and affordability analysis, and KsGFOA recognized Natalie for developing this effective communications tool for management and ratepayers.



L-R: WaterOne's Hydrant Hysteria teams included Steve McMullin, Marcus Cook, Spencer Plush, Dusty Sease, Tyler Nickel, and Ethan Smith.

At the 2019 Kansas Water/ Wastewater Joint Conference, WaterOne staff received top scores in several utility skills contests. WaterOne took first & second place for the second year in a row in the **Hydrant Hysteria competition**, which is a timed contest that has teams of two assembling a fire hydrant. The winning time of 1:33 was achieved by Distribution Tech 1-6 Ethan Smith and Construction Inspector Tyler Nickle.

WaterOne HR Generalist Katie Shapiro took second place in the **Meter Madness competition** in a very close match. Katie entered the competition spontaneously, having never assembled a water meter before competition try-outs. Her time of 59.7 seconds was a mere second slower than the winning time.

"I was bummed I didn't win, because I ended up beating last year's winning time by almost 23 seconds!" said Katie. ♦

## Bowl Raised on Johnson Drive Water Tower

After nearly a year of construction, contractors raised the bowl of WaterOne's new Johnson Drive water tower in Shawnee on Wednesday, August 7th. The tower will serve a growing population in the northwestern Johnson County area and will help regulate water pressure and improve distribution system efficiency.

The bowl of the tank was originally constructed on the ground, and then incrementally lifted into position using 70 hydraulic jacks. The entire process was captured in a video timelapse, available on WaterOne's YouTube channel.

The new tank is 116 feet in diameter and will hold 3 million gallons of water. Over 600 tons of steel and 101 truckloads of concrete was used in the construction process.



The project is expected to be completed in Spring 2020. ♦

See the timelapse video at  
[Youtube.com/ourwaterone!](https://Youtube.com/ourwaterone)

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# WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

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## Setting the Standard for Utility Excellence

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## PROTECT YOUR PIPES THIS WINTER!

Your home plumbing (and your pets) need to be kept warm during the cold months.

Learn how to prevent frozen pipes at  
[waterone.org/NoFrozenPipes](http://waterone.org/NoFrozenPipes)



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