

City of Gardner wins 2007 Kansas Taste Test

It's clear, high quality and best of all – it tastes great! The City of Gardner, Kansas was the winner of the 2007 KRWA Water Taste Test Contest held at the annual conference in March. KRWA took a fresh sample of Gardner's water along to Washington in early May as part of the Great American Water Taste Test. The national winner wasn't Gardner, but instead water from the 3 Rivers Massachusetts. That doesn't dampen spirits in Gardner however, as city staff is excited about another chance to compete at the Annual KRWA conference in Wichita in 2008.

In the past Gardner produced water from Gardner Lake. Originally, water was produced through the Navy plant serving the Naval Air Station from the early 1940s. Later the Naval Air Station became New Century Air Center. Gardner began operating a new plant at Hillsdale Lake in 1998. "The water industry generally in this area is growing so fast, water projects are



Accepting the "Best Tasting Water In Kansas" plaque in early April. Sitting: Council Member Brad Weisenburger, Council Member Tom Breen, Council Vice President Mary Peters, Council President Dave Drovetta and Council Member Mark Raney. Standing: Trevis Scott - Water Plant Maintenance, Elmer Ronnebaum - KRWA, Jerry Sicks - Water Plant Operator, Mayor Carol Lehman, Don Roberts - Water Plant Supervisor and Mike Howard, former Water and Wastewater Manager.

really going to have to start happening," says Donald Roberts, plant supervisor. "Within in our region we're already looking for new sources of water, the

availability of water, where it's going to be for us. We have several neighboring water systems which are also doing the same."

But the city doesn't see neighboring systems as competitors. Johnson RWD 7 surrounds Gardner; the District helped the City out during construction of Gardner's Hillsdale plant expansion in 2006 when the City wasn't able to produce water to meet peak demands. "We have worked with RWD 7 on occasion for expansions and transfers of service areas and work well together. Olathe has also been very instrumental in the professional development of our water utility staff. With the help of Dewayne McAllister and Garry Turner, Gardner staff has learned many new treatment techniques that have helped Gardner to work through



LARKIN GROUP INC.

- **Drinking Water**
- **Aquatics**
- **Wastewater**
- **Stormwater**
- **Site & Survey**



"Dependable people providing reliable solutions."
- the Larkin commitment

some of the growing pains,” Roberts says.

Planning for plant upgrade was started in the beginning of 2004. The City’s 1998 plant was not going to keep up with the rapid increase in population in the area. A plant expansion from 2 million gallons per day (MGD) to 4 million gallon per day (MGD) was constructed through a design-build concept; that plant was substantially complete in September 2006.

Gardner is already making plans for additional water production capacity.

“Our 10-year plan has turned into more of a five or six year plan due to the explosive population growth. So far in 2007, we’ve already seen a 12% increase in water use over the same period last year.” Roberts says.

Gardner is doing its homework to consider the best options. For example, the City is

looking at options to construct a new Gardner Lake facility or possible another expansion at the Hillsdale Plant. The City has also applied for water rights as it projects its’ need for future allocations.

Historically, Gardner, Kansas is known as where the Trails Divide. Two miles to the west of present day Gardner rests the former junction of the Santa Fe, Oregon and California Trails. Today, Gardner seems to be attracting the new settlers; Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) is proposing a new Intermodal and Logistics Park that will add up to 7,700 more jobs over a projected twenty-year period starting in 2010.



Gardner constructed a new 6 MGD treatment facility several years ago. Below, the water production staff., left to right, are: Mike Kessler, Donald Roberts, Jerry Sicks and Freddy Pitts.

Advanced Membrane Technology

- Ultrafiltration
- Cryptosporidium
 - Giardia
 - Virus Removal
 - Pre-treatment

*Design
Support
Leasing*

- RO & Nanofiltration
- Radium Removal
 - Arsenic Removal
 - Iron/Manganese
 - Color
 - TDS Reduction/
Softening



Norit UF Membranes



Layne Christensen Company

913-321-5000 • treatment@laynechristensen.com