

City of Austin, Minnesota
Examples of Current Cooperation with
Area Local Units of Government
August 2011

(See KEY at end of list for type of agreement)

General Administration

- City and County have Joint Powers Agreement to run AMCAT Transit 4,6
- City HRA and County HRA joint housing needs assessment 5
- Austin-Mower County Homeownership Fund Board 4,6
- Share Council Chambers + cable access TV for monthly School Board meetings 5
- Jointly fund Mower County Senior Center 5
- Help fund Assessor's Office 5
- Use of cable TV PEG funds 5
- Election cooperation (locations, ballot box use for educational purposes) 5
- Tri-government newsletter 5
- City Council and County Board representatives meet quarterly 5
- Austin Utilities payment to City in lieu of taxes (joint resolution)
- Implemented a Housing Improvement program with City HRA & Mower County 5
- Downtown revitalization via the Main Street Project Inc (with Port Authority and HRA) 8
- Economic development partnership and funding (with Port Authority and Development Corporation of Austin 5

Parks and Recreation

Austin Public School District

- Joint project to build Riverland College baseball diamonds 6
- Joint project for maintenance of Riverland College baseball diamonds (Austin Youth Baseball) 5
- Share cost of new tennis courts 5
- Trim trees at Wescott Field 5
- During week, P&R youth activities receive free use of gyms 5
- Weekend youth programs pay custodians 5
- Park & Rec supplies volleyball equipment for middle school and high school 5
- Elementary schools use our basketballs, soccer, and volleyball equipment 5
- Educational programs at Nature Center 5
- Bank School (uses Youth Activity Center) 5
- Austin High School softball program uses Todd Park fields 5
- Park & Rec supplies picnic tables for football tailgating 5

Austin Utilities

- Park & Rec mows substations 1
- Park & Rec grinds brush for AU's trimming 5
- Park & Rec tests booms 5

Mower County

- Youth Activities Center at Riverside Arena 5
- (With Public Works) Equipment sharing and property use for Mower County fair 5
- Lend curtains from arena for fair and barrow show 5

Austin Public Library (municipal library)

Regional

- Member of SE Library System's regional library system 1,2 (several contracts)
- Bulk purchasing, computer systems maintenance & support 10

Austin Public School District

- Shared computer catalog 5
- 25% of children's materials budget (about \$10,000 annually) goes to school curriculum support materials, and adequate copies of books on assigned reading lists. 5
- Materials, reference help, and computer resources are heavily used by students outside of school hours 5
- Children's librarian devotes 20% of time to developing and managing a summer reading program designed to maintain children's reading abilities over the summer break. Another 10% of her time is devoted to literacy development for pre-school aged children in the district year round. 5
- Community Education provides preschool and youth programming at the library 5
- (via an integration grant) provides bilingual youth programming at the library 5
- APL provides literacy programming to students every Wednesday morning during the summer at the free lunch site 5
- Collections and computer resources used heavily by students of all ages and from public and private institutions 5
- APL has experienced a sharp increase in students in distance education programs 5

Mower County

- Provides service (20% circulation) to people living outside of the municipal library taxing districts and Mower County provides funding for this service, using its own library tax 1
- Supports Austin Public Library financially for non-city residents – negotiated amount
- Joint programming with libraries counties in Mower County 5
- Share one computer catalog 5
- Provides instructors for Community Education's basic computer classes 5

Police Department

Mower County

- Shared Law Enforcement Center – shared personnel, records, dispatch, training and projects 2
- City purchased land for new justice center 1
- Shared calls – for officers and deputies 5
- Division of Investigation/search warrants 5
- Shared evidence room 5
- Police reserves 5
- Mobile Dispatch Terminal project 5

- Humane Society – Community Service Officer 5, 8
- Police Department and Sheriff’s Office assist each other on calls (state patrol, too) 5
- Police Department/Sheriff’s Office firearms range 5
- Explorer program 5
- Prescription drug box 5
- Shared SIRT Team 5
- Investigator assigned to meet weekly and liaison with Human Services 5

Austin Public School District

- Liaison program at Austin High School and Ellis Middle School 1
- Give educational programs such as bike safety and junior police 5
- Crossing guard program 1
- Provide security at function throughout the year 5

Austin Utilities + Austin Public Schools

- Renovation of police pistol range
- Spoke to customer service reps on dealing with irate customers 5

Community Development

Austin Public School District

- Approval of local participation of JOBZ legislation and other Minnesota subsidy programs 5

Austin Utilities

- Review of new subdivision under review for necessary infrastructure needs, easements, etc. 5
- Installation of natural gas appliances and gas piping coordinated with Austin Utilities Gas Division verifying compliance to minimum mechanical code and AU installation policies 9
- Drafting of development agreements for upcoming private developments identifying municipal improvements, cost of these improvements and responsibilities thereof. 5

Mower County

- Communications with Assessor’s Office relating to parcel information 5
- County Planning, Zoning and Environmental Services – Discussion of regional planning issues. 5
- County Highway Department review of transportation issues relating to upcoming developments 5
- County Auditor’s Office – annexations and recording of new plats and subdivisions 5

Fire Department

Austin Public School District

- Jr. Fire Department Program 5

Austin Utilities

- Flush hydrants and provide routine annual inspections and maintenance 1
- Designated Confined Space Rescue for Utilities 5

Mower County

- Assist with grandstand events during the fair 1
- Fire protection contract with Austin and Lansing Townships 1
- Fire emergency coverage 3, 1

Public Works Department

Austin Public Schools

- Snow removal around high school 5
- GPS station 5

Austin Utilities

- Capital Improvement Program planning 5
- Gopher State One Call services (Joint Notification Center) 5
- Base map information (also shared with Mower County) 1

Mower County

- Equipment loans 5
- Flood reduction group 5
- Oil tank joint use 5
- Training 5
- Joint road salt bids 5, 10
- Building permit information (sharing Assessor's Office) 5
- Fairgrounds cooperation including barricades and equipment use
- Joint equipment ownership with Highway Dept – Chipper and Oiler 4
- Share equipment with Highway Dept 4
- Joint ownership of fixed-base antenna (also shared with Austin Utilities and private company) 4
- Joint ownership of sign production equipment 5
- City maintains all County roads in City, and County maintains all bridges in City 5
- Yard waste program – County provides advertising in return for City operating program 5
- Exchange of employees who require specialized training (e.g. signal lights for MnDOT certifications) 5
- Share training program for Sign Departments 5
- City provides building permit information in exchange for access to web site 5
- Share base map information (also shared with Austin Utilities) 5
- Engineering lab shared between City and County. This joint venture was developed five years ago; testing equipment was jointly purchased. 5

KEY–Type of Agreement

1. Written service contract to *provide* services
2. Written service contract to *receive* services
3. Mutual aid agreement
4. Joint powers board
5. Informal, unwritten agreement
6. Joint powers agreement
7. Joint service district for pollution control or sewer
8. Joint non-profit agency or association
9. Services to other entities through a cooperative or municipal utility
10. Participated in other cooperative authorities (such as for bulk purchasing)
11. Other (e.g., agreement between departments)