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Saint Paul Becomes First City in U.S. to Install All-Natural Water Treatment System in Public Pools in Pilot Project with Innovative Minnesota Company

Sphagnum moss significantly reduced chemical usage in Highland Park Aquatic Center while providing cost savings and real benefits to swimmers, staff and pool equipment

SAINT PAUL – Mayor Chris Coleman, Creative Water Solutions, LLC President and CEO David Knighton, MD, and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Hahm will unveil preliminary results of the nation’s first public pool moss-based water treatment system installation 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, at the Highland Park Aquatic Center, 1840 Edgcombe Rd, St Paul, Mn 55116:
<http://www.stpaul.gov/index.aspx?nid=2665>

The pilot project was undertaken with the innovative Minnesota-based company, which already has demonstrated the moss-based system’s effectiveness in residential pools and spas.

In early June, the City installed a new sphagnum moss-based water treatment system at the Highland Park Aquatic Center, and due to its success, recently installed the system at the Great River Water Park. The pilot project involved installing a series of canisters housing the water conditioning sphagnum moss that work along with state-mandated chemical systems to ensure pools are safe for large general public usage.

The benefits of the new commercial system are dramatic and include:

- **Significant reduction in chemical usage, such as chlorine and cyanuric acid.**
- **Less time for maintenance due to reduction in backwashing and algae growth.**
- **Less chemical corrosion of pipes, heaters, pumps and liners and less costly repairs.**
- **Higher customer satisfaction, with the majority of those surveyed at Highland this summer reporting very clear water with no taste, clear vision in the water, and smooth feeling skin before and after swimming.**

(EDITOR’S NOTE: See Backgrounder for more insights, benefits and testimonials about the Highland Park Aquatics all-natural water treatment pilot project.)

“Saint Paul continues to be a national leader when it comes to embracing innovative green practices like this moss-based filtration system for public pools,” Mayor Coleman said. “Proving the capability

of this product in the real world, we're bringing immeasurable environmental benefits to our residents and pool users, generating cost savings for taxpayers, and helping a Minnesota company grow."

"We believe the overall results from the test of the Highland Pools and the other sites we just started testing in Saint Paul will one day be viewed as a historical benchmark in the natural, or Green, water treatment of recreational water environments of all kind," notes Dr Knighton, co-founder, CEO and president of Creative Water Solutions. "This was an ideal pool setting to conduct our experiment. The four pools at the Aquatic Center became a laboratory for the summer. We were successful in significantly lowering the pool's chemical loads, especially chlorine, and creating more natural water conditions and less harmful impacts to swimmers' bodies and suits, and pool hardware, while still maintaining a safe — but healthier — and more enjoyable swimming experience that met all of the city's and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) standards."

Pool Users Were Not Told of the Project But Loved the Pool Water

"All summer, people of all ages who have swum here for many years have asked us, 'What have you done to the water, it feels so good?!' adds Lynn Waldorf, supervisor of aquatics, City of Saint Paul. "We kept them in the dark about the actual project during the testing period. But we all learned a lot about how the science of natural water conditioning really works and witnessed first hand its impact on our pool users, staff and equipment. We are thankful for being involved and look forward to the day when the use of moss in public pools is the standard rather than the exception."

"It's a completely different pool! My eyes and the kid's eyes didn't get red, the water didn't smell of chlorine and it was a lot softer feeling in general," said 19-year-old Mary Schmidt, a regular weekly visitor to the pool as a summer nanny. "I love it!"

"Installing this system in our public pool facilities was an opportunity to test a product that has been widely successful at the private level," Mike Hahm said. "Responding creatively to change and developing a partnership with Creative Water Solutions was a terrific risk-reward situation, and we are excited to see results are far exceeding our expectations."

About Sphagnum Moss and Creative Water Solutions

Nature has been naturally conditioning water for eons by controlling the growth of microorganisms such as bacteria, algae and other waterborne agents and by reducing metals and other deleterious elements. It does so by using a species of sphagnum moss to clarify the water and improve its overall quality. That same moss has now been harnessed in PoolNaturally[®] and SpaNaturally[®]. — the first breakthrough, all-natural Green products for the home from Creative Water Solutions.

About the Highland Park Aquatic Center

The City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department operates the outdoor Highland Park Aquatic Center and the indoor Great River Water Park. The city also features the Phalen Park Beach along with the outdoor Como Pool facility, which is under construction and was not open for the 2009 summer season. Each of the facilities features a maximum capacity of more than 400 swimmers and proved to be ideal for testing with high bather loads.

For more information, contact Brad Meyer or Martin Keller at the numbers and emails above — and see the CWS Media Kit (hard copies), or online at <http://www.cwsnaturally.com/about/media.php>.