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Hiawatha Receives USDA Loan for Sewer Improvements

In celebration of Earth Day, USDA Rural Development recognized the city of Hiawatha Thursday for investing in its future by partnering with the agency to improve the city's wastewater infrastructure.

During a presentation at Starr Park, L.D. " Kent " Evans with USDA Rural Development announced the agency is providing the city with a \$998,000 loan to help fund improvements to the city's sewer system. In addition to the USDA funding, the city previously received a \$500,000 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce.

Hiawatha is under an executive order from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to reduce rain and ground water from entering the city's sanitary sewer system.

Hiawatha Mayor Crosby Gernon thanked USDA Rural Development officials for the financing assistance...(play audio)

In celebration of Earth Day, freshman students from Hiawatha High School planted some trees and did other landscaping at Starr Park.

Mayor Gernon had this message for the students..(continue audio)

Earth Day is observed annually on April 22nd to raise awareness about the role each person can play to protect vital natural resources and safeguard the environment.