



Omaha Parks Foundation Mini-Grant Program

The City of Omaha (the "City") has created a dynamic parks and recreation system over the past 150 years. As the City has grown, so has the continued need for parks, trails, and green spaces. The Omaha Parks Foundation enlists the help of individuals, corporations, and other groups in its efforts to conserve and enhance the City's parks, trails, and green spaces.

The Omaha Parks Foundation Mini-Grant Program (the "Program") provides a method for rewarding the dedication and community involvement in the development and care of our parks system through citizen, neighborhood, and group suggestions and action.

The intent of the Program is to provide small amounts of seed money for small-scale community park and/or recreation improvements developed by individuals or groups within the Omaha community. Proposals may include projects suggested by park users, identified through interaction with City of Omaha employees, individual experiences, or those developed exclusively by the individual applicant. City of Omaha employees themselves are not eligible to apply for a mini-grant.

PROJECT ELIGIBILITY:

Proposed projects must enhance existing Omaha parks, trails, green spaces, or recreation areas (i.e., pools, ice rinks, senior centers). Mini-grants may only support projects on public land and must have City of Omaha Parks, Recreation and Public Property ("PRPP") approval prior to being officially granted.

As the intent of the Program is to assist the development of small projects, the maximum amount for individual grants should not exceed \$2,000.00. Awards are based on the merits of each proposal and the ability of the Omaha Parks Foundation to fund the proposal. Partial funding may be awarded.

GRANT GUIDELINES:

The Omaha Parks Foundation funds programs that are a one-time purchase or installation and do not require ongoing maintenance by the City.

Grant proposals should:

- have a clearly defined action plan for implementation of the proposal;
- provide appropriate evaluation criteria for the success of the proposal; and
- demonstrate breadth of impact.

Evaluation criteria will include:

- whether the applicant has a strong history of collaborative work with the Omaha Parks Foundation or PRPP;
- whether the applicant supports neighborhood parks in historically under-resourced areas; and
- whether the applicant is a park-focused community member who has a long-term commitment to his/her/its neighborhood park, trails, recreation sites, and/or green spaces.

However, any individual who has a passion for the park and recreation system in the City is encouraged and welcome to apply. The Omaha Parks Foundation does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, or socioeconomic status.

If you are unsure whether your proposal aligns with the Foundation's priorities, calls or e-mails to the Omaha Parks Foundation are encouraged.

REVIEW AND AWARDING:

Funding proposals are accepted at any time.

Once submitted, proposals are reviewed by the Omaha Parks Foundation Funding Committee ("Funding Committee"). The Funding Committee normally meets on a monthly basis, and final notification may take up to 90 days. Details of all proposals are considered confidential information between the applicant and the Omaha Parks Foundation except that the Omaha Parks Foundation reserves the right to seek input from outside individuals and the City as part of its evaluation process. The Omaha Parks Foundation may also need to communicate with other funders, partner organizations, and members of the impacted community in the course of its evaluation of any proposal. Information obtained as part of an Omaha Parks Foundation evaluation is considered confidential to the Omaha Parks Foundation but may be shared with a grant-seeker if deemed appropriate and helpful to the ultimate decision of the Omaha Parks Foundation.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:

Grant activities *must* be completed, and grant funds spent within one year of receiving the award. Applicants are required to ***submit a grant report upon completion of the project***. Groups who receive grants may reapply one year after their award date but must have completed and submitted a final report for all previous grant activities.

Applicants are not required to have 501(c)(3) status, but if groups are not 501(c)(3) organizations or do not have an outside fiscal sponsor, grant funds can only be accessed by reimbursement or paid invoice directly to vendors.

If you or your organization have been awarded a grant, you will be expected to credit the Omaha Parks Foundation as a grant sponsor and use our logo in any publicity.

EXAMPLES OF OTHER PARKS FOUNDATION MINI-GRANT AWARDS:

Funds from the Mini-Grant will be used to purchase an additional **recumbent bike for the Devonshire Senior Center Fitness room**. The fitness room program is currently offered year-round and attracts over 4,000 participants throughout the year. Frequently, there is a wait-list of participants wanting to use the equipment, and the addition of this bike will help increase the availability of exercise equipment to members of the Senior Center. Congratulations Devonshire Senior Center on providing healthy activities to our community.

Examples of previously submitted proposals include **additional trees** along Central Avenue horse/walk trail, **basketball summer camp**, an **ADA pool lift** at Washington Park, **camping equipment for Adaptive Recreation Services**, **new computers for Eastlake Park Community Center**, and a **youth activity scholarship** at Desert West Community Center.

Mini-Grant funds will help seven **local teens to design, build, and install three park benches** in Heritage and Science Park. These benches will include LED features to enhance safety and visitor experience in the park. The teen participants will be from the schools and neighborhoods around the Park who have an interest in careers that center on engineering and public service. Congratulations Heritage and Science Park; we appreciate your dedication to serving our Phoenix community's students!