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Press Release

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MEPRD GRANT CYCLE FUELS \$11.4 MILLION IN PARK AND TRAIL PROJECTS ACROSS MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES

More than \$2.6 million was awarded under the FY 2024 grant cycle, which ran from July 2023 through May 2024. The awarded grants will support twenty-seven local park and trail enhancements in the Metro East, which represent a \$11.4 million investment in the region's recreational facilities and outdoor spaces.

MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, IL – The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) Board of Directors approved twenty-seven grant requests totaling \$2.6 million as part of the FY 2024 Park and Trail Grant Program. These grants will support local and county agencies, municipalities, park districts, and transit districts in Madison and St. Clair Counties, IL, funding projects aimed at enhancing public parks, regional trails, and recreation facilities. In total, the awarded projects represent a \$11.4 million investment in the region's parks and recreation.

The Park and Trail Grant Program is an annual grant opportunity offered by MEPRD to local and county governments, park districts, transit districts, 501(c)3 nonprofits, and other entities in Madison and St. Clair Counties, IL. The program—which is funded by the Metro East Park and Recreation District Tax, a one-tenth (1/10) percent sales tax approved by the voters of Madison and St. Clair counties in 2000—focuses on improving and expanding public parks and green space, enhancing access to/accessibility of existing facilities, and growing the trail network.

Since its inception in 2001, MEPRD has committed more than \$40.5 million in grant funding. A total of 212 projects have been completed and another 63 projects are currently underway, including trail development, pools and splash pads, sports lighting, all-inclusive playgrounds, accessibility upgrades, and other recreation amenities.

Under the FY 2024 grant cycle, which ran from July 2023 through May 2024, qualifying applicants could apply for a reimbursement grant of up to 40% of the eligible project cost, with a maximum award of \$100,000 for park projects or \$300,000 for trail projects. In total, a record twenty-seven Park and Trail Grants were awarded last cycle totaling \$2.6 million.

MEPRD Grant Coordinator Cole Preston remarks, "Investing in quality parks and recreation can have a profound impact on both communities and the region as a whole. It not only enhances public recreation but also improves public health, promotes active transportation, boosts the local economy, and elevates

overall quality of life. With the record number of projects awarded last cycle, we are excited and optimistic about the future, and MEPRD is proud to contribute to this positive momentum.”

Additionally, two (2) [Community Planning Grants](#) were also awarded by MEPRD last cycle. The Village of Hamel received funding for developing a parks master plan, and Jarvis Township was granted funds for a bicycle-pedestrian infrastructure master plan. MEPRD also approved five (5) [Event Sponsorship Grants](#), supporting events that make use of or promote the use of public parks and trails in the Metro East.

MEPRD FY 2024 Park and Trail Grant Recipients:

1. City of Alton

Project Title: Killion Park Restoration
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$81,233

2. City of Belleville

Project Title: Citizens Park Improvements
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$100,000

3. Village of Bethalto

Project Title: Erwin Plegge Multi-Use Path, Phase 1
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$300,000

4. Caseyville Township

Project Title: Picnic Shelters/Pavilions and Tables
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$25,600

5. City of Collinsville

Project Title: Glidden Park Inclusive Playground
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$100,000

6. City of Edwardsville

Project Title: Schwarz Street Shared-Use Path
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$66,604.51

7. Edwardsville Township

Project Title: Trail Connection, Solar & Drinking Fountain
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$28,080

8. Village of Glen Carbon

Project Title: Glen Carbon Road Shared-Use Path, Phase 2
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$300,000

9. Village of Hamel

Project Title: Park Avenue Shared-Use Path
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$61,280

10. Horner Park District

Project Title: Sidewalk/Walking Trail Installation and Playground Equipment Upgrades
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$12,867.76

11. Madison County Transit (MCT)

Project Title: MCT Schoolhouse Trail | Route 111 Bridge
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$300,000

12. City of Mascoutah

Project Title: N. Jefferson Street Shared-Use Path, Phase 1
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$87,117

13. Village of Millstadt

Project Title: Millstadt Municipal Pool Restoration
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$27,300.80

14. City of O’Fallon

Project Title: Community Amphitheater
Project Type: Park Development
Grant: \$100,000

15. Village of Pontoon Beach

Project Title: Jamie Lynn Pagano Memorial Park Pickleball Court Enhancements
Project Type: Park Development
Grant: \$86,426.54

16. St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD)

Project Title: Fairview Heights – Swansea Connector Trail
Project Type: Trail Development
Grant: \$300,000

17. St. Clair Township

Project Title: Loop Creek Park Pickleball
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$55,133.05

18. Village of St. Jacob

Project Title: Restroom at Mill Pond Park
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$55,702.40

19. Village of Smithton

Project Title: Smithton Park Ballfield Lighting
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$100,000

20. Stookey Township

Project Title: Stookey Park Pavilion Project
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$69,597.61

21. Sugar Loaf Township

Project Title: Sugar Loaf Township Park North | Playground Equipment & Electric
Project Type: Park Development
Grant: \$10,589

22. Village of Swansea

Project Title: Schranz Park | Swansea Kingdom Playground Equipment
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$100,000

23. Tri-Township Park District

Project Title: Activity Center Skate Floor
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$34,285

24. City of Troy

Project Title: Bouse Road Shared-Use Path, Phase 1
Project Type: Trail Development
Contingent Grant: \$49,523

25. City of Wood River

Project Title: Parking Lot & Walkway Improvements at Emerson Sports Complex
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$62,062

26. Wood River Township

Project Title: Kutter Park | New Parking for Pickleball Courts
Project Type: Park Development
Grant: \$25,963

27. Village of Worden

Project Title: Community Park Improvement
Project Type: Park Improvement
Grant: \$60,000

MEPRD FY 2024 Community Planning Grant Recipients:

1. Village of Hamel

Project Title: Hamel Parks Master Plan
Project Type: Parks Master Plan
Grant: \$9,724

2. Jarvis Township

Project Title: Jarvis Twp. Bicycle Master Plan
Project Type: Bike/Ped Master Plan
Grant: \$31,800

MEPRD FY 2024 Event Sponsorship Grant Recipients:

1. City of Belleville

Event: Gingerbread 5K Walk/Run
Date: December 2, 2023
Grant: \$2,500

2. City of Highland

Event: Gobble Hobble
Date: November 23, 2023
Grant: \$1,899

3. Illinois Center for Autism (ICA)

Event: Pedal for Autism / Family Fun Fest
Date: August 17, 2024
Grant: \$1,000

4. Village of Millstadt

Event: Millstadt 35th Annual Parks Biathlon
& 3rd Annual Parks 5K
Date: September 17, 2023
Grant: \$2,481.25

5. SIUE Foundation

Event: SIUE Cougars Unleashed
Homecoming Run
Date: October 11-15, 2023
Grant: \$1,000

MEPRD encourages you to visit your local park or trail and take a moment to appreciate the value it adds to your life and those around you. To see a full list of the ongoing and completed projects funded in part by MEPRD, go to: www.meprd.org/projects.

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The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) was established by the voters of Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, in November 2000. MEPRD collaborates with local governments, special districts, and other jurisdictions to develop and improve parks, recreational facilities, and trails throughout the two-county area. Additionally, MEPRD works to increase awareness and utilization of these amenities by providing related maps, data, statistics, and marketing materials.

For more information, visit www.meprd.org.