



104 United Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
Phone: (618) 346-4905
Email: info@meprd.org

Press Release

Contact: Bryan Werner or Cole Preston
Phone: (618) 346-4905

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 14, 2025

MEPRD GRANT FUNDING LEVERAGES \$10.65 MILLION IN PARK AND TRAIL PROJECTS ACROSS MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES

Nineteen projects were awarded under MEPRD's Park and Trail Grant Program, this cycle, which will help fund significant trail development and park enhancements through the Metro East region, representing a \$10.65 million total investment in the area's recreational infrastructure.

MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, IL – The Metro East Park and Recreation District (MEPRD) is pleased to announce the successful conclusion of its FY 2025 Park and Trail Grant Program following the approval of its nineteenth and final award in March 2025. A total of \$3 million was awarded this cycle between 19 diverse projects, representing a \$10.65 million total investment in the area's recreational infrastructure.

The Park and Trail Grant Program—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—provides partial funding to local public agencies, transit agencies, and others for local projects that improve public parks and green spaces, enhance accessibility of existing facilities, and grow the regional trail network.

"This year's grant cycle demonstrates a continued commitment shared by MEPRD and its partners to providing high-quality recreational spaces and active transportation corridors throughout the Metro East," said Cole Preston, MEPRD Grant Coordinator. "These investments not only enhance public recreation but also improve public health, promote active transportation, boost local economies, and elevate overall quality of life for residents across Madison and St. Clair Counties."

The FY 2025 grant cycle awarded funding to 19 projects, with an almost even split between trail development/improvements (10 projects) and park/recreation facility improvements (9 projects). Trail projects accounted for approximately 71% of MEPRD's total grant awards for FY 2025, representing \$2.14 million in funding toward \$8.05 million in total trail development costs. Collectively, these trail projects will add approximately 6.45 miles of new 10-foot-wide paved regional trails and reconstruct a 2.6-mile existing segment along the MCT Confluence Trail, further expanding and enhancing the region's active transportation network.

"These grants play a pivotal role in fostering vibrant, healthy communities by improving access to parks and trails and continually adding and enhancing recreation opportunities that can be enjoyed by people

of all ages and abilities," Preston added. "By strategically blending MEPRD dollars with sponsor contributions and other public grants, we're able to maximize the impact of each dollar invested."

Since its inception in 2000, MEPRD has worked extensively with its partners across the region in transforming public outdoor spaces into community assets and growing the regional trail system. The FY 2025 Park and Trail Grant Program exemplifies this ongoing commitment by leveraging diverse funding sources to create a lasting impact on the quality of life for residents across Madison and St. Clair Counties.

See below for a detailed listing of all nineteen FY25 Park and Trail Grant recipients and their projects or view them on our [interactive online map](#).

For more information on the awarded projects and additional funding opportunities, please visit www.meprd.org/funding or contact MEPRD at (618) 346-4905 or by sending an email to info@meprd.org.

MEPRD FY 2025 Park and Trail Grant Recipients:

- **Caseyville Township** (\$90,000) for the installation of field lighting at Baseball Field #3 in the Caseyville Township Recreation Complex.
- **City of Collinsville** (\$216,353.50) for the construction of a 0.11-mile, 10'-wide shared-use path (Phase 1) along St. Louis Road featuring high-visibility crosswalks, lighting, benches, and a bike rack.
- **City of Edwardsville** (\$119,298.20) for the construction of a 0.43-mile, 10'-wide concrete shared-use path along IL-157 from Enclave Blvd. to the W. Schwarz St./IL-157 intersection.
- **City of Fairview Heights** (\$280,345) for the construction of a 0.25-mile shared-use path connecting the Bountiful Heights neighborhood to Grant Middle School.
- **Village of Glen Carbon** (\$190,981) for the construction of Phase 3 of the Glen Carbon Shared-Use Path—a 0.2-mile, 10-foot wide asphalt path along Glen Carbon Road. **Award is contingent upon a pending ITEP request.*
- **Granite City Park District** (\$150,000) for the redevelopment of Wilson Park's tennis and pickleball courts, including excavation and replacement with new surfacing, fencing, backboard, and nets/posts.
- **Village of Hartford** (\$150,000) for enhancements to the Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower, including a new shade-sail, pavilion with concrete pad and sidewalks, upgraded amphitheater risers, and landscaping.
- **Madison County Mass Transit District (MCT)** (\$300,000) for the reconstruction of a 2.6-mile segment of the Confluence Trail from 7th Street in Hartford to Canal Road in Wood River.
- **Village of Millstadt** (\$34,016) for improvements to the tennis courts at Millstadt Village Park, including surface repairs, court resurfacing, and partial reconfiguration for pickleball.
- **City of O'Fallon** (\$300,000) for the construction of a 0.7-mile, 10'-wide shared-use path along the south end of Pierce Boulevard from Lincoln Avenue to the Meijer redevelopment connection.

- **St. Clair County** (\$149,858) for improvements to Foley Park, including parking lot resurfacing and the installation of a 1-mile, 10'-wide walking trail.
- **St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD)** (\$300,000) for the construction of a 3-mile, 10'-wide shared-use path (MetroBikeLink Extension) connecting the Shiloh-Scott Station to Reider Road.
- **St. Clair Township** (\$82,237) for the initial development of Chenot Park, featuring an 8-space parking lot and a 0.25-mile, 10'-wide walking trail with benches and wayfinding signage.
- **Stookey Township** (\$128,465.20) for the installation of four pickleball courts, a sand volleyball court, a shelter/pavilion, and connecting sidewalks at Stookey Athletic Park.
- **Village of Swansea** (\$71,971.20) for the replacement of playground equipment at Melvin Price Park with new play equipment and rubber poured-in-place surfacing.
- **City of Troy** (\$201,956.91) for the construction of a 0.53-mile, 10'-wide shared-use path (Silver Creek Trail, Phase 3) along US-40 from South Main Street to Creekside Drive.
- **Village of Williamson** (\$61,318.80) for the installation of an inclusive playground at Williamson Park, including a concrete slab, rubber mulch surfacing, playground equipment, and ADA-accessible parking.
- **City of Wood River** (\$30,798.26) for enhancements to the Wood River Recreation Center's fitness facilities with new strength and conditioning equipment, free weights, wellness flooring, and gym mirrors.
- **Wood River Township** (\$142,400) for the installation of an ADA-compliant restroom at Kutter Park near the pickleball courts, complete with a drinking fountain, accessible PCC sidewalk, retaining wall, bollards, and parking blocks.

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.

###

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.