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Omaha neighborhoods awarded grant money

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The neatly landscaped entry to north Omaha's Concord Square was used today to showcase the neighborhoods that benefit from grant money.

Omaha Mayor Mike Fahey said that since starting the neighborhood grant program, his administration has awarded more than 100 grants. The money continues to encourage neighborhoods to improve and enhance life in their communities, he said.

This year, the city received more than \$135,000 in requests from neighborhoods and groups serving them. In the end, the city awarded 21 grants worth slightly more than \$74,000.

The Concord Square Homeowners Association is among the recipients. It received \$3,880 to buy a neighborhood sign and additional plants to supplement those already lining its park near 21st and Charles Streets.

The other grant recipients:

Bemis Park Neighborhood Association: \$5,000 to improve the toddler play area at Bemis Park, just north of Cuming Street between 34th and 35th Streets.

Benson Neighborhood Association: \$5,000 to refresh and refurbish the triangular median at the Maple Street and Northwest Radial junction. It's part of the Benson East gateway project.

Blackstone Neighborhood Association & West Central Development Council: \$3,000 for street landscaping improvements and large planters being placed in the neighborhood, which is between Leavenworth and Dewey Streets, from 36th Street to 38th Street.

City Sprouts: \$4,081 for the redesign of the Orchard Hill garden, near 40th and Franklin Streets.

Country Club Community Council: \$5,000 to restore historic street lamps.

Dundee Memorial Park Association: \$5,000 to refinish 210 old-style cast iron streetlights.

Escalante Hills Homeowner's Association II, Inc.: \$5,000 to build a neighborhood picnic shelter. The neighborhood is between 108th and 112th Streets, from Fort Street to Fowler Avenue.

Ford Birthsite Neighborhood Association: Two grants, each worth \$2,725. They will be used to help restore the Gerald Ford Birthsite Park and the Betty Ford Rose Garden, 3202 Woolworth Ave., and to replace radios and other equipment for the association's citizens patrol.

Gifford Park Neighborhood Association: Two grants, with \$1,000 for "greenscaping" and to buy large flower pots. The money also will pay for expenses associated with a preservation tour that will be part of a Restore Omaha conference. In addition, \$700 will support code enforcement efforts. The neighborhood is between Dodge and Cuming Streets, from 30th to 38th Streets.

Maple Village Neighborhood Association: \$4,943 to buy equipment for the citizens' patrol.

Miller Park/Minne Lusa Neighborhood Association/Miller Park/Minne Lusa Citizens Patrol: \$4,825 to buy four radios, 35 vests and identification magnets for the citizens patrol.

Morton Meadows Neighborhood Association: \$270 to buy a neighborhood identity sign and new citizens patrol signs. The neighborhood lies between Center and Leavenworth Streets, from 42nd Street to Saddle Creek.

Neighborhood Center Greater Omaha: \$5,000 for a pilot project to reduce the number of properties without a posted legal address.

Old Market/Downtown Residential District: \$2,314 to establish a "smoker's station" where cigarettes can be disposed of safely and neatly.

Roanoke Neighborhood Association: \$5,000 to buy and install a modern playground structure at Roanoke Park, 11235 Fowler Ave.

Spring Lake Neighborhood Association: Two grants, with \$3,000 for four additional park benches in Spring Lake Park, 4020 Hocter Blvd.; and \$779 for new car signs and 15 vests for the Omaha Coalition of Citizen Patrols. The second grant is a partnership with the Spring Lake Citizen Patrol/Spring Lake Neighborhood Association.

Walnut Grove Homeowners Association: \$5,000 to install keystone block around four neighborhood entrance signs and landscape Walnut Grove Park and Bryan Park. The neighborhood lies between 144th and 150th Streets, from N to Q Streets.

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