

9271 - Crystal Playground Project

Application Details

Funding Opportunity:	7583-Outdoor Heritage Fund May 2021 - Round 18	Initial Submit Date:	Feb 26, 2021 7:32 AM
Funding Opportunity Due Date:	May 3, 2021 11:59 PM	Initially Submitted By:	Kierstin Hurtt
Program Area:	Outdoor Heritage Fund	Last Submit Date:	
Status:	Under Review	Last Submitted By:	
Stage:	Final Application		

Contact Information

Primary Contact Information

Active User*: Yes

Type: External User

Name: Salutation Kierstin Shaila
First Name Middle Name
Hurtt
Last Name

Title: Principal

Email*:
kierstin.hurtt@valley-edinburgk12.com

Address*: 4013 Euclid Ave.

Valley-Edinburg Public Schools
Crystal North Dakota
City State/Province
58222
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: 701-331-9861 Ext.
Phone
###-###-####

Fax: ###-###-####

Organization Information

Status*: Approved

Name*: Valley-Edinburg School District #118 - DPI

Organization Type*: Public LEA

Tax Id:

Organization Website:

Address*: 4013 Euclid Ave

Crystal North Dakota
City State/Province
58222-____
Postal Code/Zip

Phone*: (701) 657-2163 Ext.
###-###-####

Fax: (701) 657-2163
###-###-####

Comments:

Restricted Indirect Cost Rate:	0.0%
Unrestricted Indirect Cost Rate:	0.0%

Budget

Objective of Grant

Objective of Grant:

Provide age-appropriate recreational activity for students in the Crystal Middle School, recreational spaces and play options for inhabitants of Crystal, and appropriate outdoor gathering spaces that may become necessary in the instance of a future pandemic.

Summary

Grant Request:	\$10,000.00
Matching Funds:	\$30,000.00
Total Project Costs:	\$40,000.00

You must have at least 25% match

Percentage of Match: 75.0%

Project Expenses

Project Expense Description	OHF Request	Match Share (Cash)	Match Share (In- Kind)	Match Share (Indirect)	Other Project Sponsor's Share	Total Each Project Expense
Play and Recreation Equipment	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40,000.00

Budget Narrative

Budget Narrative:

Crystal School first opened its doors in 1939 and has since seen two important consolidations: first, with the Hoople School District, then most recently, with the Edinburg School District.

Today, the Crystal school building serves students in grades four through eight. Our Hoople school building serves our pre-kindergarten students through our third grade students; this building also houses a group daycare facility called Lil' Spuds Childcare. This building has, for obvious reasons, received priority in the past when updating playground facilities. We are very happy with the playground projects we've been able to fund for our early elementary students. Finally, our Edinburg school building houses our ninth through twelfth grade students, and we have been able to create outdoor recreational space to adequately fit the needs of our high school students.

Although our school district is considered small, we are committed to our vision of rural excellence in education and opportunity. Although we offer many opportunities in extracurricular athletics (football, basketball, volleyball, track and field, and baseball), we are most proud of our commitment to co-curricular opportunities. Our small school is well known for its accomplishment in the sciences and STEM-related activities, whether it is through science fair and robotics competitions, to place-based learning experiences such as River Watch through the International Water Institute. Our students are taught the importance of environmental awareness, as well as their role in sustaining their rural environments. We work tirelessly to create partnerships with local entities so that our students receive continuous quality hands-on experiences year round; these experiences will ultimately help us reach our goal of creating conscientious rural citizens.

Our three towns each have their own unique history and physical environments. We do not look at three buildings in three separate towns as a hindrance; instead, we see it as an opportunity to give our students a real-world, hands-on opportunity to become the caretakers of communities that desperately need caretakers. Our students take part in quality leadership programs that require them to take a close look at what communities need to ultimately sustain. Our school building in Crystal is arguably the center of civic involvement.

Because our Crystal building houses students who are between the ages of nine to thirteen, our playground needs vary drastically from that of our lower elementary building in Hoople. Our project's goal is to ultimately create outdoor space conducive for both play and recreation. We will have space for recreation that will include picnic tables and benches. Our play space will include a challenge course. We find it necessary that our play space complement our physical education classes, and a challenge course that tests students' agility best serves this purpose. Our last component for play will be a set of swings.

Valley-Edinburg School's ultimate goal is to become not just an academic experience for its students, but a holistic experience as well. We know that the healthy development of a whole child requires not just academic rigor, but physical rigor as well. With the rise of mental health cases in the rural part of North Dakota, we find it necessary to combat this phenomenon with an array of solutions: mental health services as well as routine exposure to natural environments. When the pandemic hit in the spring of 2020, schools everywhere found themselves looking beyond their school walls to find learning environments with fresh air circulation.

Unfortunately, many schools have done little to outfit their campuses with the necessary equipment for students to learn comfortably outdoors -- we hope that, with the help of this grant, Valley-Edinburg's Crystal campus can become the rural model for student recreation.

Bid Attachments

Description	File Name	Type	Size	Upload Date
No files attached.				

Match Funding

Match Amount	Funding Source	Match Type
\$30,000.00	Valley-Edinburg Public School	Cash
\$30,000.00		

Description

Directives

Major Directive*:	Directive D Choose One
Additional Directive:	Choose All That Apply
Type of Agency*:	State Agency Choose One

Abstract/Executive Summary

Abstract/Executive Summary*:

Valley-Edinburg Public Schools is a school system located in the heart of North Dakota's Red River Valley. As rural communities continue to face pressure to consolidate smaller schools into larger districts, our school is committed to investing in our three buildings and their grounds: our elementary school located in Hoople, North Dakota; our middle school building located in Crystal, North Dakota; and our high school building located in Edinburg, North Dakota. As rural citizens, we understand better than anyone else that when a school shuts down in a small town, the town begins to deteriorate. A quality playground system not only serves the school -- it provides a community center for the entire community. Playgrounds become places where kids of all socio-economic backgrounds come together to build a community of their own. We are fortunate enough to have a quality playground system in Hoople; however, our middle schoolers in grades 4 through 8 play on dangerous, outdated equipment that was installed over 40 years ago. Our students have written petitions to our school board time and time again requesting a safer, better quality playground, but other building needs seem to always take precedence. It is our hope to receive assistance in funding this project from the Outdoor Heritage Fund. We greatly admire your commitment to today's youth, and we appreciate your consideration of our project.

Objectives:

Provide age-appropriate recreational activity for our students in the Crystal Middle School.

Provide recreational spaces and play options for both the rural and in-town inhabitants of Crystal.

Help attract future citizens to the town of Crystal.

Create appropriate outdoor gathering spaces that may become necessary in the instance of future pandemic-related instances.

Expected Results:

Success will be measured by both student and citizen satisfaction and interest in utilizing these facilities. Success will also be measured by observing school enrollment trends throughout the five years following the project.

Project Duration

Project Duration*:

Duration: 2 Years

Planning for this project will begin during the summer of 2021. When our plan is finalized by the fall of 2021, we will order the equipment and recruit community volunteers to help with installation in the late spring of 2022.

Narrative

Narrative

Briefly summarize your organization's history, mission, current programs and activities. Include an overview of your organizational structure, including board, staff and volunteer involvement.

Organization Information*:

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Our three towns each have their own unique history and physical environments. We do not look at three buildings in three separate towns as a hindrance; instead, we see i

Describe the proposed project identifying how the project will meet the specific directive(s) of the Outdoor Heritage Fund Program.

Identify project goals, strategies and benefits and your timetable for implementation. Include information about the need for the project and whether there is urgency for funding. Indicate if this is a new project or if it is replacing funding that is no longer available to your organization. Identify any innovative features or processes of your project.

Note: if your proposal provides funding to an individual, the names of the recipients must be reported to the Industrial Commission/Outdoor Heritage Fund. These names will be disclosed upon request.

If your project involves an extenuating circumstance to exempted activities please explain.

Purpose of Grant*:

Purpose of Grant

We hope to meet the following goals through this grant:

Improve the quality of recreational life for citizens of Crystal, North Dakota.

Provide students with quality recreational activity while attending Valley-Edinburg's Crystal Middle School.

Improve future readiness for instances, such as pandemics, that require the use of quality outdoor space for large gatherings.

The benefits of improved play and recreation space at the Valley-Edinburg Crystal Middle School are innumerable. When a school in a small town is able to provide quality recreational space for the community, the town prospers in ways oftentimes unforeseen.

Students will receive all of the health benefits that come from regular outdoor play and recreation: physical health improvement, mental health improvement, as well as social-emotional health improvement that comes from regular social interaction with peers. With healthy children comes the following potential benefits:

Reduced behavioral referrals in school.

Reduced pharmaceutical prescriptions filled for students who are considered to be overly active or attention deficit.

Improved attendance in future athletic endeavors offered by the school (football, basketball, baseball, volleyball, etc.).

The community of Crystal will receive the communal benefits that come from accessible play and recreation space. Small communities that offer attractive and inspiring outdoor space will thrive from the following potential benefits:

Growing population, which could ultimately bring in more locally owned businesses for the community.

Improved quality of life, which could ultimately improve the overall quality of mental health among local citizens.

The Crystal Middle School of Valley-Edinburg will receive the long-term educational benefits that come from providing quality play and recreation experiences for its students. Schools that offer this amenity will grow by receiving the following potential benefits:

Growing student enrollment, which is crucial to the livelihood of small schools across rural North Dakota.

Complement the quality education we are already able to provide our students; we believe that small schools that are able to provide as much quality, personal student-teacher relationships are the future of education. Without quality, sustainable amenities, rural schools stand a small chance at surviving against the larger schools in our area.

The school will be prepared to provide appropriate outdoor space conducive for social distancing should the need arise in the future. This can be used by both the school and community alike.

Please list the counties that would be impacted by this project:

Counties*: Pembina

Is This Project Part of a Comprehensive Conservation Plan?* No

If Yes, Please Provide Copy of Plan:

Does Your Project Involve an Extenuating Circumstance?* No

Please Explain:

Provide a description of how you will manage and oversee the project to ensure it is carried out on schedule and in a manner that best ensures its objectives will be met. Include a brief background and work experience for those managing the project.

Management of Project*:

Management of Project

The Crystal Play and Recreation Space Project will be managed by the incoming Superintendent of Valley-Edinburg School, Mrs. Kierstin Hurtt, as well as the Valley-Edinburg School Board of Education.

Indicate how the project will be funded or sustained in future years. Include information on the sustainability of this project after OHF funds have been expended and whether the sustainability will be in the form of ongoing management or additional funding from a different source.

Sustainability*:

Project Evaluation

Valley-Edinburg School's Superintendent, in cooperation with its School Board of Education, will evaluate the Crystal Play and Recreation Space Project's accomplishments with the following tools:

Student feedback questionnaires

Family feedback questionnaires

Community member feedback questionnaires

Comparable enrollment data: present and future

Indicate how the project will be affected if less funding is available than that requested.

Partial Funding*:

If we do not receive the amount of funding requested, we plan to prioritize this project into phases to be completed over the course of four years. As our current play equipment is arguably dangerous for students to play on, we will begin by funding equipment to simply replace any equipment that is considered dangerous. When we have accomplished this, we will attempt to secure more funding for our recreational needs.

If you are a successful recipient of Outdoor Heritage Fund dollars, how would you recognize the Outdoor Heritage Fund partnership? * There must be signage at the location of the project acknowledging OHF funding when appropriate. If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be.

Partnership Recognition*:

If Valley-Edinburg Public School were to receive the Outdoor Heritage Fund grant opportunity, we would use all available media sources (school website; school social media; and local print news such as the Walsh County Press, the Cavalier Chronicle, and the Walsh County Record) to share our story of success. Because our school playground also serves as the local town's playground, we plan to create signage that acknowledges the Outdoor Heritage Fund's generous contribution to our project.

Do you have any supporting documents, such as maps or letters of support that you would like to provide? If so, please provide them in a single file.

Supporting Documents*: No

If Yes, Please Provide Copies in a Single File:

Awarding of Grants - Review the appropriate sample contract for your organization. Sample Contract

Can You Meet All the Provisions of the Sample Contract?* Yes

If there are provisions in that contract that your organization is unable to meet, please indicate below what those provisions would be:

Provisions Unable to Meet:

Tasks

Tasks

Task	Start Date	Completion Date
Installation Phase	05/30/2022	08/05/2022
Planning Phase	05/24/2021	08/13/2021

Description of Tasks

Please Describe Tasks:

Timetable
Summer 2021: Planning Phase
Plan Play and Recreational Spaces in Crystal School Space
Order Equipment
Create Community Volunteer Group for Equipment Installation
Summer 2022: Installation
Install Equipment

Deliverables

Deliverables

Deliverable	Quantity	Unit of Measurement, if applicable
Community Satisfaction	1.000	(annual surveys)
Student Satisfaction	1.000	(annual surveys)

Certification

Certification

Certification: Yes
Name: Kierstin Hurtt
First Name Last Name
Title: School Grant Writer
Title
Date: 02/26/2021

Internal Application Number

#/ID: 18-14
