



Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 5, 2016

Sunflower awards more than \$560,000 for trails

The Sunflower Foundation Board of Trustees has awarded \$561,047 to 12 communities and one school district to build new trails, or connect and enhance existing trails.

The Sunflower Trails program is designed to promote healthy living by helping communities provide all populations with safe and accessible opportunities for outdoor physical activity.

“For more than a decade, Sunflower has partnered with communities and schools to enhance options for outdoor activity,” said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation. “We are pleased to announce this year’s Sunflower Trails grants, which are supporting projects across the state in communities both large and small. The diversity of the projects is exciting and we look forward to seeing our partners’ visions become reality.”

The following communities and school district were awarded grants by Sunflower’s board at its June meeting. All Sunflower Trails grants require a cash match by each community or school.

2016 Sunflower Trails grantees

Atchison: South Atchison Trail

Working with Live Well Live Atchison, the City of Atchison will build a 1.55-mile long, 10-foot wide, asphalt, shared-use trail. The trail will be anchored on one end by the county hospital, and on the other the historic downtown, connecting commercial and residential properties along the way. **Grant amount: \$55,000**

Augusta: Shryrock Park Trail

The City of Augusta will build a .64-mile long, 8-foot wide, concrete trail throughout the city’s most popular park. The trail will serve as a looped, scenic path to many park destinations as well as a connector to nearby neighborhoods and commercial districts. **Grant amount: \$48,000**

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Clearwater: Chisholm Trail Sports Complex Trail

Working with the Clearwater Recreation Commission, the City of Clearwater will build a .65-mile long, 6-foot wide concrete trail through the town's sports complex. The trail will connect with sidewalks on each end, increasing walkability across town. **Grant amount: \$40,000**

Iola: King of Trails Bridge connector

Working with Thrive Allen County, the City of Iola will oversee construction and installation of a 150-foot long pedestrian truss bridge over Elm Creek. The bridge will connect the vast majority of Iola's residential and commercial development to a growing recreational area, which includes the Lehigh Portland Trails. The bridge will also enable more the 700 employees of an industrial park on the south side of Elm Creek to walk or bike to work. **Grant amount: \$30,000**

Lawrence: Lawrence Loop

The City of Lawrence will build a .7-mile long 10-foot wide concrete trail north of Rock Chalk Park, connecting the west leg of the Lawrence Loop Trail to the Baldwin Creek section of the loop. Currently, 13.5 miles of the loop are complete; once finished, the 22.4-mile trail will encircle the entire city. The partners in this project include LiveWell Lawrence, Lawrence Douglas County Health Department, Lawrence Parks & Recreation, and Lawrence Pedestrian Bicycle Task Force. **Grant amount: \$120,000**

Maize: 45th Street Trail

The City of Maize will build a .53-mile long, 8-foot wide concrete trail connecting two large neighborhoods, a park, and a middle school to a network of 20 miles of trails in the Wichita metro area. The trail will enable residents to safely walk or bike to a school, park and commercial areas. **Grant amount: \$55,000**

Manhattan: Old Blue River Trail

The City of Manhattan will build a .6-mile long crushed limestone trail, ranging in width from 6 to 10 feet, connecting a residential area to the city's existing trail network. This recreation trail will also serve as an active commuting link for about 4,000 nearby residents to commercial districts and services. **Grant amount: \$46,625**

Nickerson: Panther Pass

The City of Nickerson will build a .67-mile long, 6-foot wide concrete trail around the city's only park. This will be just the second publicly accessible trail in town, in addition

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to the Sunflower Trail at Nickerson Elementary School. The trail will also connect to a sidewalk, which leads downtown and then connects to the elementary school trail.

Grant amount: \$39,978

Paola: Lake Miola Trail connector

The City of Paola will build a 1.4-mile, 8-foot wide crushed limestone connector trail, completing a 7.5-mile long trail system around Lake Miola, a popular recreation site for the town and visitors. Among the project’s supporters is the Paola Pathways task force, representing diverse stakeholders and a strong volunteer coalition.

Grant amount: \$9,022

Pittsburg: Pittsco Sunflower PSU Trail connector

Working with Livewell Crawford County, the City of Pittsburg is building a 308-foot long, 6-foot wide connector trail that will allow passage through a railway crossing. The connector links the popular Pittsco Trail to other trails and sidewalk systems.

Grant amount: \$9,114

St. Francis: Keller’s Pond Nature Area Trail

The City of St. Francis will build a .63-mile long, 6-foot wide gravel trail around a popular local pond and wildlife area, increasing access to the pond particularly for residents with limited mobility. This trail is intended to be the first phase of a four-phase master trail plan, eventually linking the pond to the downtown area.

Grant amount: \$41,613

Tribune: Trail to be named

Growing The Vision Inc.—a Greeley County Community Development foundation—will build a 1.02-mile long, 6-foot wide concrete and asphalt trail, encircling the county’s largest park and connecting its recreational amenities. It will be the first publicly accessible trail in the county.

Grant amount: \$48,675

USD #457 Garden City School District, Victor Ornelas Elementary School

The Garden City School District will build a .25-mile long, 6-foot wide asphalt trail on Victor Ornelas Elementary School property. The trail will provide a comfortable training area for the school’s running club, and will also be accessible to the nearby middle school and residential areas.

Grant amount: \$18,020

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Since its inception in 2005, the Sunflower Trails program has supported more than 150 trail projects in 57 Kansas counties.

The Sunflower Foundation believes a trail is more than simply a trail. Trails can improve our lives in so many ways. Trails can strengthen communities by fostering stronger social ties. They can stimulate economic activity and job creation. And of course trails are fun places for physical activity. The more we get outdoors and get active, the healthier we are as individuals and communities.

A statewide map of all Sunflower Trails projects and details about them is at SunflowerFoundation.org/TrailFinder

The Sunflower Foundation was established in 2000 to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans. The Topeka-based nonprofit directs resources statewide aimed at promoting healthy living in partnership with Kansas communities and schools, improving health care for the whole person, and developing leaders of Kansas organizations in a variety of sectors to be even more effective advocates for the causes and communities they serve.

For more information about Sunflower Trails or Sunflower Foundation, visit our website SunflowerFoundation.org or contact Phil Cauthon, Director of Communications, at (785) 232-3000, ext. 101 or pcauthon@sunflowerfoundation.org.