

Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Expansion Project: Phase One

Black Hawk County Grant Application

Grant #: 20121260

Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens

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FollowUp Form

Report Fields

Project Name*

Cedar Valley Arboretum & Botanic Gardens Expansion Project: Phase One

Grant Number*

Grant Number

20121260

Story

Date Grant Approved*

Choose the first day of the month in which the grant was approved (i.e. June 1, 2012)

06/01/2012

Story

Please share a story that exemplifies what happened in the project. (This may be used on our website or in press materials; please ensure confidentiality standards are met.)

The Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanic gardens is a 74 acre public green space that connects people with nature through horticulture, education programs, volunteer opportunities and beautiful gardens to enjoy. The Arboretum was started in 1996, entirely by a dedicated group of volunteers from the Cedar Valley community. Currently, we have developed approximately 24 acres of our total available land, into an amazing green space for educators, students, residents and visitors of the Cedar Valley. Unlike an amusement park, zoo or similar attraction, the Arboretum does not have a gate with admittance fees. The gardens are free and open to the public to enjoy from dawn until dusk, April through October.

To continue our growth and fulfill our mission to “connect” people with nature, it was determined that the Arboretum needed a starting point for visitors. The Welcome Center would provide visitors with a handshake to the Arboretum, a place to be greeted, get a map and then begin their journey through our gardens. In addition to a place to inform and greet visitors, the Welcome center provides the Arboretum with additional space for year round office staff, a central coordination point for our many volunteers, an enhanced rental space for community celebrations, a meeting place for our stakeholders and a gift shop which will bring additional revenue to the Arboretum.

Through the generous grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, our Welcome Center is open!

Results

Activities*

Briefly describe activities that were implemented as a result of the grant. How many volunteers were involved in the effort? (if any) Who were other collaborative partners involved? (if any)

There were portions of the project that we chose to do as a group to save money, such as painting, landscaping, brick path work, etc. Many volunteers(10+) put in a great deal of time, effort and hard work for the Welcome Center. The Arboretum also had many volunteers involved in the planning and supervising aspects of the Welcome Center.

Our other collaborative partner is the Black Hawk Gaming Association.

Outputs- Children Served*

How many children were directly served/affected?

1000

Outputs- Adults Served*

How many adults were directly served/affected?

10000

Outcomes*

Please list the outcomes you planned to achieve in your original application. Then, describe the current outcomes of the project. (Outcomes are benefits or changes for individuals/communities resulting from a project. Outcomes often relate to a change in condition, skill, behavior, attitude, etc.) Were there any unanticipated outcomes? If the grant supported a capital project or equipment request, use this space to address the improvement/change that the new facility or equipment has made in the environment (i.e. school, community, etc.)

1. The Welcome Center will be a space for visitors to connect, educate about the grounds and track attendance. We will fully begin to realize and appreciate all of the outcomes of our new Welcome Center when our gardens open in April, 2013.
2. Expand education offerings. For 2013, we have doubled our class offerings.
3. Improve current gardens. Not realized due to project budget limitations.
4. Enhance the usability and accessibility of the Arboretum. The Welcome Center is a visible, obvious and easy to access starting point for visitors.
5. Increase revenue by creating additional attractive space for private rentals. We are beginning to accept rentals for 2013.
6. Provide on-site staff offices. Our new offices are an excellent place to coordinate volunteers.

A pleasant and unexpected outcome is the ability to use a portion of the space to create a gift shop which will be an excellent opportunity for generating income for the Arboretum.

Learning & Planning

Lessons*

What is the most important lesson learned from this project/effort?

The most important lesson we learned from this project is the importance of "community". Everything about our Welcome Center focuses around community: the involvement of volunteers to create the plans, the help with construction and even the purpose of the Welcome Center, which is to serve the community. It's a vision... a dream...by the community, not just one person, to serve and benefit everyone.

Changes*

What would you change if you were to implement this project again?

If we were to do this project again, I think the only thing we would change would be realizing that projects take longer than you anticipate. There are always delays in construction, errors in the orders (such as sending the wrong cabinets) and weather delays as well.

Future*

Will this project/work continue, and if so, how will it be sustained?

Our Welcome Center will definitely continue. The addition of our new gift shop in our plan will help the Welcome Center sustain itself. The Arboretum as a whole, is sustained by a combination of grants, fundraising activities and the generosity of our many donors from our community.

Inputs

Project Budget*

Please upload a detailed list in either Microsoft Word or Excel, of revenue and expenses related to the project (including other donations, in-kind gifts, etc.). Identify which expenses were covered by grant funds. Use the space provided to provide any necessary narrative explanation of the project budget.

We are waiting to make our final payment to Hoffman Construction as there is a dispute over some finishing stone work that needs to be corrected.

Welcome Center budget.xls

Balance*

Have all the grant funds been spent?

Yes

Extension

If the grant funds are not fully spent, indicate when they will likely be fully expended. An extension will be given until that date, and a Final Report will be expected at that time.

[Unanswered]

Signatures: Required signatures certifying the accuracy of submitted information

Please Note: By entering data into the next three (3) fields calling for insertion of your Name, Title, and Date, you are:

- (1) representing that you are an officer or other agent for the Grant Recipient duly authorized to enter into legally binding agreements on behalf of the Legal Grant Recipient
- (2) agreeing to submit this grant report in an electronic form on behalf of the Grant Recipient, which shall be bound by its contents as an electronic transaction
- (3) agreeing that your insertion of data into these following fields constitutes an electronic signature.

Chief Executive Officer Signature*

Robert Pruitt

Title*

Executive Director

Date*

01/22/2013

FollowUp Files

Applicant File Uploads

- Welcome Center budget.xls

Supporting Documents

No files were uploaded

Arboretum Welcome Center Budget

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Payment Method</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Memo</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Welcome Center (Phase 1) Expenses					
	07/23/2012	Check #5027	Jim Hoffman Construction	Down Payment renovation	16,276.00
	10/10/2012	Check #5035	Jim Hoffman Construction	Interim Payment	38,500.00
	10/15/2012	Check #5336	Sherwin Williams	Exterior Paint	139.19
	10/27/2012	Check #5037	Pruitt, Rob	Interior Paint	512.90
	11/08/2012	Check #5039	Jim Hoffman Construction	Interim Payment	18,942.30
	11/13/2012	FSB Debit	Lowes	Bathroom Mirror & Hangers	61.48
	12/03/2012	FSB Bill Pay	Gary Blonigan	Painting Equipment Rental	130.90
					<u>74,562.77</u>
TOTAL					<u>74,562.77</u>
Funding Sources					
	Pending		Gaming Commission		59,000.00
	Received		Community Foundation		15,000.00
	Realized to date		Arboretum Budget		562.77
TOTAL					<u>74,562.77</u>
			Hoffman Construction	Original Contract plus changes	84,857.54
			Hoffman Construction	Paid to date	73,718.30
			Outstanding due contractor pending rock façade dispute.		11,139.24