



## 2017 U.S. Bank Places to Play Grant Recipients

### **Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Cloud**

#### **St. Cloud, MN**

##### South Side Community Playground

South Side Community Playground is one of the only playgrounds in a neighborhood that is heavily populated by families and their young children. This project replaced the deteriorating and outdated play structures, updated/repared ground surfaces and improved landscaping. The playground is safer and provides more green space for this community to rest and play.

### **Gideon Pond Elementary (ISD #191)**

#### **Burnsville, MN**

##### Gideon Pond Barrier Free Playground

Gideon Pond prides itself on being a place that works hard to ensure that all students have the opportunity to thrive, grow and develop. This is the driving force of a new, truly inclusive/barrier-free playground – one that is the first of its kind in Burnsville. The playground includes signature equipment pieces that are easily accessible and safe for students of all ability levels.

### **Mower County Seniors**

#### **Austin, MN**

##### Austin Morning Lions Park-Equipment

This well-used park is a great area to play outside and gather as a family. Replacing the current modular play equipment and adding adult exercise equipment will allow intergenerational groups a safe, accessible, enjoyable place to play and gather.

### **The Sanneh Foundation**

#### **St. Paul, MN**

##### Gym Improvement at Conway Community Center

The gym at Conway is the center of activity for more than 600 neighborhood youth. The Sanneh Foundation will use funding to improve the gym by upgrading the surface from the current tile and concrete to a wood gym floor. Improving the gym will keep participants healthy, safe and free from injury, and contribute to an atmosphere of positive self-worth among participants at Conway Community Center.

### **Springbrook Nature Center Foundation**

#### **Fridley, MN**

##### Springbrook Nature Center Nature-based Play Area

Springbrook Nature Center is a regional amenity where families can come to experience and interact with nature. There was a long-standing need for a play area for toddlers and young children. A nature-based play area featuring elements such as crawling logs, animal sculptures and boulders provides a place to introduce children to nature in a way that is fun, creative and experiential.



**St. Paul Urban Tennis Program (SPUT)**

**St. Paul, MN**

Eastview Park Tennis Complex

SPUT's mission is to provide positive activity in parks that engage youth and families in healthy activity and teach character development through a lifetime sport. Six courts will be added to an existing two-court facility at Eastview Park.

**Talahi Community School (District 742)**

**St. Cloud, MN**

Accessible Playground for Talahi

Talahi Community School is making a difference in the lives of children, especially those with disabilities, by providing them a safe, accessible place to play. In addition to a playground, a sand table and fossil pit provides children with a sensory experience that is critical to learning. This is the first playground of its kind in the St. Cloud area.

**Tracy Area Public Schools**

**Tracy, MN**

Tracy Area Elementary Playground Structure

A new playground better serves younger students and kids in Tracy, including those children that attend the community daycare and preschool. The playground features themed pieces to enhance imaginative play, including a fire station, bank and police station as well as a padded surface imprinted with street crossings. As the main playground area for the community, this addition makes the park more appropriate for young children.

**Warren/Alvarado/Oslo School District**

**Warren, MN**

Warren Activity Complex

An existing indoor natural ice skating rink in dangerous condition will be replaced with an activity complex that will include a warming area, locker rooms and a snack bar. Warren is a regional center and the new, steel complex will provide a center for area youth to gather. Students will also use the facility for physical education classes, practices and events.

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**Beltrami Neighborhood Council**

**Minneapolis, MN**

Beltrami Park Timber Frame Pavilion

As the only public space in the neighborhood, Beltrami Park is the primary gathering spot for residents and several community groups. The newly constructed timber frame pavilion will provide long-lasting outdoor shelter for neighbors, friends, families and organizations to gather.



**Ecolibrium3  
Duluth, MN**

Lincoln Park Play Area

Lincoln Park playground will be upgraded, expanded, and integrated with existing open space, picnic and restroom facilities. Construction of the play areas closer to the picnic and open spaces will create better options for family recreation.

**Fairmont Area Schools  
Fairmont, MN**

Community Baseball Bleachers

The community is extremely supportive of Fairmont's baseball and softball teams, which draw large crowds at each game. The unsafe, 42-year-old wooden baseball bleachers were replaced with low-maintenance aluminum bleachers.

**Family Pathways  
North Branch, MN**

Central Park Playground Improvement Project

Central Park is one of the most prominent landscape features in North Branch and the vision is that it will serve as a tremendous community asset, providing recreational and relaxation opportunities for all ages, especially the community's youth. The quality, safety and accessibility of Central Park Playground was improved by replacing old, unsafe equipment.

**Joy of the People Foundation  
St. Paul, MN**

Campinho Project

The Campinho Project is the creation of a turf field where there is currently a worn grass play space. The new field will inspire play through clear and cogent spaces and will extend the hours and seasons of use. The turf will offer free play opportunities for up to 600 kids per week.

**The Trust for Public Land  
St. Paul, MN**

Frogtown Park and Farm Nature-based Play Area

The dream of Frogtown Park and Farm has been long held by the community, which for years has been among the most park-poor neighborhoods in St. Paul. The addition of a nature-based play area has enhanced a well-known sledding hill. More play areas, a log fort, picnic table, shade trees, and improved landscaping provides children the option to select from multiple play activities.

**Urban Ventures Leadership Foundation  
Minneapolis, MN**

Urban Stars Soccer Program

The Urban Stars Soccer program uses soccer to reduce school drop-out rates, gang participation and dysfunctional family relationships. Upgrading the soccer field with artificial turf has helped increase participants from 500 to 1,000 players. This project provides a positive gathering place for families in an area once notorious for violence.

