



NEIGHBORHOOD GRANTS PROGRAM 2018 REPORT

a collaborative grantmaking program of



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS

HomeStart

The Community Foundation of Northern Illinois (CFNIL) and NW HomeStart are proud to announce the recipients of the 2018 Neighborhood Grants Program. The grants will be awarded to 13 organizations that are working to improve the quality of life in their communities. CFNIL has operated a neighborhood grants program since 1995, distributing more than \$700,000 to build better neighborhoods in Rockford. This is the third year the two organizations are collaborating in order to expand the availability of funds to neighborhood-based groups throughout Northern Illinois.

Edgewater Neighborhood Association: *Neighborhood and Association Anniversary Preparation*

Edgewater will prepare for two upcoming anniversaries by improving communication to and engagement with neighbors through a new website and an expanded print newsletter.

Edgewater is bordered by Auburn Street to the South, North Main Street to the West, the Rock River to the East, and railroad tracks to the north.
\$900 from Neighborhood Grants

Galapagos Rockford Charter School NFP: *GRCS Playground Enhancement*

Galapagos will expand a community playground to provide seating, equipment and landscaping including a community garden area. *The GRCS Playground serves the neighborhood bordered by Day Street to the West, Johnston to the East, School Street to the North, and Ashland to the South.*

\$1,000 from Neighborhood Grants

Haight Village National Register Historic District: *Haight Village Signage Update*

Haight Village will replace lamppost banners which are deteriorating as a result of the harshness of the Illinois weather and add three more banners to enhance the identity of the District while continuing to improve the physical look of the neighborhood. *Haight Village National Register Historic District is bordered by Walnut Street to the North, Madison Street to the West, railroad tracks to the South, and Kishwaukee Street to the East.*

\$2,240 from Neighborhood Grants

Natural Land Institute: *Community Conservation Program Demonstration Rain Garden*

Using the Conservation@Home program Natural Land Institute (NLI) will inform residents and neighborhood associations about the use of native plants in their yards and gardens for providing pollination and bird habitat. NLI will encourage residents to directly participate and engage with wildflowers in their own backyards. Residents will also discover the role of wildflowers in food production, clean drinking water and an enhanced quality of life, and demonstration rain gardens will allow people to see first-hand how a native plant garden functions and how they can install one.

Natural Land Institute serves neighborhood associations in Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson, and portions of Ogle and northern DeKalb Counties
\$2,500 from Neighborhood Grants

North End Square: *Neighborhood Grant 2018*

The grant will support the production of a Welcome Home Kit for new neighbors, necessary signage for meeting/picnic awareness, a picnic, and other smaller social gatherings. These activities will encourage interaction between neighbors that may not otherwise meet, increase opportunities to build strong relationships, and foster pride in the neighborhood and community.

North End Square is bordered by Fulton on the North, North Main on the East, Auburn on the South, and Ridge on the West.
\$2,500 from Neighborhood Grants

North Highland Square Neighborhood Association: Branding and Beautification

North Highland Square Neighborhood Association will create branding for their neighborhood by creating a website that is accessible to everyone, encouraging neighbors to access the website through newsletters, creating yard signs, designing welcome packets, and celebrating with a neighborhood picnic. The project includes the design of signs and planters that will be placed around the neighborhood.

North Highland Square is bordered by Rural Street to the North, James Avenue to the East, East State Street to the South, and Prospect Avenue to the West.

\$2,100 from Neighborhood Grants

ORCHiD - Third Union College Neighborhood Watch: Historical Markers

The funds will be used to place two historical markers that illustrate the history of ORCHiD - Third Union College Neighborhood Watch in Rockford. One marker will feature the former Water Power District on the Rock River; the other marker will feature the former Rockford Female Seminary where Jane Addams, the famous social activist and Nobel Peace Prize winner, attended college.

ORCHiD is bordered by the Rock River on the West, Union Pacific Railroad to the North, Kishwaukee Street to the East, and Keith Creek to the South.

\$2,500 from Neighborhood Grants

River District Association: River District Ambassador Tour User Experience Upgrade

Feedback from the River District's Historic walking and biking tours participants has indicated that the experience would be enhanced with the ability to hear the docent more clearly. Funds will be used to purchase audio tour equipment for both docent and participant.

River District Association serves the area bounded by Court Street to the West, Auburn Street to the North, North Second Street to the East, and Morgan Street to the South.

\$2,500 from Neighborhood Grants

Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity, Inc.: Building Identity in Beverly Park

Following the successful launch of the Beverly Park Neighborhood Association in 2017, Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity will partner with the Neighborhood Association to increase neighborhood identity by designing and installing neighborhood signage.

This project will serve residents in the Beverly Park Neighborhood, which is bordered by Auburn Street to the south, Kilburn Avenue to the north and east, and Central Avenue to the west.

\$1,000 from Neighborhood Grants

Rockford Park District: City of Gardens Beautification Project at South Henrietta Park

Over the past five years the Rockford Park District has seen the loss of 3,200 trees due to the infestation of the Emerald Ash Borer and severe storms. This project will beautify South Henrietta Neighborhood Park by providing 12 new shade trees in a park that currently has very few trees and limited shade options. It will result in a park that is more inviting and encourages neighbors to gather and enjoy being outside.

The Rockford Park District serves the people of Rockford, Loves Park, Cherry Valley, and New Milford as well as all visitors to the area.

\$1,500 from Neighborhood Grants

Rolling Green Association: Friendship Parks

Rolling Green Association will continue beautifying their neighborhood by establishing community areas to provide spaces for neighbors to gather. Increased interaction should lead to a greater sense of community within the neighborhood.

The Rolling Green Association serves residents living between Alpine Road to the east, Harrison Avenue to the south, 20th Street to the west, and Broadway to the north.

\$500 from Neighborhood Grants

Tabor Lutheran Church: Tabor/RockView Community Garden

Tabor Lutheran Church will provide space and land to be tilled for organic gardens through a joint community effort and encourage garden planting to produce organic vegetables that will enhance resident's diets.

This project will serve residents in the area bordered by 12th Avenue to 23rd Street/Eastside and Woodruff Avenue to 22nd Avenue.

\$750 from Neighborhood Grants

Youth Services Network, Inc.: Parenthood Promise Ellis Heights Beautification and Clean-Up Project

Funds will transform the Ellis Heights neighborhood by planting perennials, painting garbage cans, and clearing the neighborhood of trash and debris. It promotes community involvement and inclusivity, as well as promoting a positive outlook of the neighborhood surroundings.

Ellis Heights is bordered by Kilburn Avenue, Johnston Avenue, School Street, and Preston Avenue.

\$2,500 from Neighborhood Grants