



# Garrison Diversion Grants

## Enhance Recreation Opportunities Across the State

By Kimberly Cook

The Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion) strongly believes in developing recreational opportunities that provide North Dakotans with areas to enjoy the state's great outdoors. How does Garrison Diversion accomplish that goal? By providing the Matching Recreation Grant Program.

Garrison Diversion dedicates two-tenths, or 20 percent, of its one-mill levy to the Matching Recreation Grant Program. Funds from the program have been awarded to a wide variety of projects, including the installation of new playground equipment at parks, developing campground facilities and walking paths, installing boat ramps and docks, and developing disc golf courses. Since the program's inception in 1990, \$4.6 million has been awarded to recreation projects across the state.

### How the Matching Recreation Grant Program Works

Grants may be requested for new recreation facilities or the enhancement, renovation, or expansion of existing

facilities. Political subdivisions located within Garrison Diversion's 28-county district are eligible to apply for the program.

Twice a year, Garrison Diversion's Recreation Committee meets to disburse funds to project applicants. Applications must be received by April 1 for the spring meeting and Sept. 1 for the fall meeting.

Garrison Diversion is committed to assisting with a variety of projects, both big and small, and welcomes projects of any size to apply for grant funds.

### Dead Colt Creek Recreation Area

The Ransom County Water Resource District was awarded nearly \$40,000 to assist with the development and improvement of multiple projects in the Dead Colt Creek Recreation Area. Over several years, three main projects have been completed at the campsite with the assistance of Garrison Diversion grant funds, enhancing the recreation area to benefit its visitors.

The project's first matching recreation grant funds were

*The Ransom County Water Resource District was awarded nearly \$40,000 to help develop and improve multiple projects in the Dead Colt Creek Recreation Area. One of these projects was a new visitor center.*





*The Tobacco Garden Recreation Area north of Watford City received a \$25,000 grant from Garrison Diversion to install new playground equipment at the area's north and south playgrounds. The area is pictured before **(above)** and after **(below)** the new equipment was installed.*

used to construct a new bathhouse. The updated bathhouse is appealing to visitors and provides a neater, cleaner facility.

More recently, a new visitor center was constructed, and is the focal point of the campground. The visitor center keeps the campground organized, allowing for a central location to display visitor information and information on how to contact the park's manager.

In addition, a new playground was just completed, providing further recreation opportunities for children, helping to make the facility more family friendly.

"The campground is heavily utilized by locals and visitors alike," says Jay Anderson, Ransom County's director on the Garrison Diversion board. "The improvements at the Dead Colt Creek Recreation Area go to show that dollars invested in a community through the Matching Recreation Grant Program can go a long way to benefit the community and to make it more appealing to the public."



## Tobacco Garden Playground

Another project that received funding was the Tobacco Garden Playground Project. Sponsored by the McKenzie County Commission, the project received a \$25,000 matching recreation grant from Garrison Diversion to install new playground equipment at the Tobacco Garden Recreation Area north of Watford City. The recreation area has thousands of visitors each year, and was in need of safe places for children to play. New playground equipment was installed at both the north and south campgrounds to replace the existing old, rundown equipment. A picnic shelter was also added at the north campground.

“The Matching Recreation Grant Program is awesome! We are very thankful for the funds. The playground project turned into much more than we could have realized,” says Stacy Arnegard, playground project coordinator. “I would encourage every project that is eligible to apply for the grant funds.”

For years, Garrison Diversion has provided funds to support local recreation projects in communities across the state. Big or small, all eligible projects are invited to apply for grant funding. For more information, and to obtain an application for the Garrison Diversion Matching Recreation Grant Program, visit the Garrison Diversion website [www.garrisondiversion.org](http://www.garrisondiversion.org) and look under “Recreation Programs.”



## Grant Funding Awarded

Garrison Diversion’s Recreation Committee recently awarded Matching Recreation Grants to various projects totaling more than \$300,000. The following applicants received grant approval from the Recreation Committee:

- *Barnes County Park Board* – \$21,855 for a vault toilet and playground equipment at Clausen Springs and a vault toilet at Little Yellowstone Park
- *Bismarck Parks and Recreation District* – \$24,668 for the development of an interpretive trail at General Sibley Park
- *Cass County* – \$21,831 for enhancements at the Red River Valley Fairgrounds to include campsite updates, tree plantings, and bathhouse modifications
- *Carrington Park Board* – \$5,000 for a concession stand at the city park
- *Grand Forks County Water Resource District* – \$7,400 for electrical updates at the Fordville Dam RV Park
- *Anamoose Park Board* – \$10,000 for playground equipment at the Anamoose City Park
- *McHenry County Park Board* – \$3,000 for picnic shelters at Buffalo Lodge and George Lake
- *Watford City Park District* – \$50,000 for enhancements at the Kent Pelton Nature Park
- *City of Devils Lake* – \$9,974 for playground equipment at East Ditch Recreation Site
- *Mooreton Park Board* – \$13,175 for playground equipment, surface material, and benches at the Mooreton Park
- *Sargent County Park Board* – \$8,250 for playground equipment and benches at Silver Lake Park
- *Sheridan County Park Board* – \$2,620 for beach improvements at Hoffer Lake
- *Steele County Park Board* – \$7,500 for playground equipment, picnic tables, and charcoal grills at Golden Lake
- *City of Burlington* – \$50,000 for the construction of a splash pad
- *North Dakota State Fair* – \$6,000 for electrical upgrades at the on-grounds camping lot
- *City of Harvey* – \$25,000 for playground equipment at Centennial Park
- *Williams County Park Board* – \$35,000 for picnic shelters at Blacktail Dam, Springbrook Dam, Kota Ray Dam, Little Egypt, and McGregor Dam