

Garrison Diversion Conservancy District Committed to NORTH DAKOTA Through Grant Programs

By Kimberly Cook

The enhancement of one of North Dakota’s most treasured resources – its recreational opportunities – is a key initiative for the Garrison Diversion Conservancy District (Garrison Diversion), and this spring, the Recreation Committee awarded matching recreation grants to 22 projects, totaling \$622,894.

Garrison Diversion staff and directors are proud to invest in the promotion, development and enhancement of recreation facilities and opportunities within the district.

Garrison Diversion established a Matching Recreation Grant Program dedicated to returning mill-levy funds within the 28-county member district in 1990, enabling communities of all sizes to enhance their recreation facilities or develop new opportunities through this beneficial program.

The Matching Recreation Grant Program distributes 20 percent of Garrison Diversion’s one-mill levy to eligible projects within the district. Projects are eligible to receive up to 25 percent of the non-federal share of the project. Garrison Diversion’s Recreation Committee meets twice a year, in the spring and fall, to award money to applicants.

Over the life of the program, over \$9.0 million has been awarded in matching recreation grants, enabling the completion of valuable recreation projects around the state. Through the years, projects have included boat ramps and docks, picnic facilities, restrooms, campgrounds, bathhouses, playground areas, and recreational trails.



New Application Guidelines Going Forward

With the growing popularity of the program, the Garrison Diversion Recreation Committee examined application guidelines at the spring meeting. The committee determined in order to better accommodate the larger number of requests, the maximum individual project award was reduced to \$50,000. This is a change from the maximum \$75,000 grant award previously allowed. Additionally, multiple county-sponsored projects are now only eligible for up to 25 percent of the nonfederal share of the project, rather than the 50 percent previously permissible.

“It’s exciting that Garrison Diversion can help beautify and improve recreation amenities across the state through the Matching Recreation Grant Program,” says committee chairman Bruce Klein. “We’re proud to support the needs of our member counties and give back to them through this program.”



The following counties received Matching Recreation Grant funds in spring 2025:

- **Barnes County:** \$34,700 to Barnes and Ransom counties to continue developing the Sheyenne River Water Trail
- **Bottineau County:** \$5,571 to Bottineau County to install a vault toilet at the Carbury Dam Recreation Area; \$50,000 to Bottineau County to purchase a snow system for Bottineau Winter Park; \$1,195 to the city of Souris to purchase park benches for the city park
- **Burleigh County:** \$16,000 to Bismarck Parks & Recreation to install a playground at General Sibley Park; \$28,699 to the Burleigh County Water Resource District to create an accessible playground area at McDowell Dam
- **Cass County:** \$50,000 to Mapleton Park Board to create the new Ashmoor Glen Park; \$50,000 to the city of Reile’s Acres for the Reile’s Park Revitalization project; \$50,000 to the Fargo Park District to develop the SW Regional Pond Recreation Area
- **Dickey County:** \$460 to the Dickey County Park Board to purchase a picnic table for Wilson Dam
- **Eddy County:** \$25,000 to construct new restrooms at the Eddy County Fairgrounds; \$2,473 for the Jim Johnson Park bathroom renovation
- **Grand Forks County:** \$39,560 to the Grand Forks Park District to construct a new playground at Elks Park
- **McLean County:** \$50,000 to the city of Mercer for the Mercer Community Center building project
- **Ramsey County:** \$43,977 to the Devils Lake Park District for the Merle Baisch Memorial Wheelchair Ramp project; \$50,000 to the Ramsey County Fair Board for retractable bleachers at the Ramsey County Fairgrounds multi-purpose building
- **Ransom County:** \$25,688 to the Lisbon Park District for multiple improvements at Sandager Park
- **Sargent County:** \$19,097 to the Sargent County Park Board to construct a new bathhouse on the south side of the Silver Lake Recreation Area
- **Stutsman County:** \$6,209 to Jamestown Parks & Recreation for the lighting project at Jack Brown Stadium; \$4,000 to the Medina City Park to install water hookups at the campsites
- **Trail County:** \$20,265 to the Mayville Park District to create a skate park in Mayville
- **Ward County:** \$50,000 to the Kenmare Park District to assist with the construction of a splash pad

The fall deadline of **September 2** is the next chance to apply for grant funds. For additional information regarding the Matching Recreation Grant Program, please visit www.garrisondiversion.org or contact Garrison Diversion at 701-652-3194.

Water Supply Assistance Grant Program Awards \$302,076

Garrison Diversion's MR&I Water Supply Assistance Grant Program was developed in 2021 to help fulfill the mission to provide a reliable, high-quality and affordable water supply to the people of North Dakota. The relatively new program provides funding assistance to offset the costs of new customer hookups to a rural water system or district within Garrison Diversion's member counties.

The Water Supply Assistance Grant Program is also in place to aid municipal water systems or districts with extraordinary OM&R projects or emergencies impacting the delivery of water to users, introduce health and safety issues, or bring potential harm to other infrastructure if not repaired.

"Rural water provides a better quality of life for North Dakota citizens, and strengthens our rural communities," says MR&I Committee Chair Larry Kassian. "Garrison Diversion is proud to support rural water in North Dakota, and this program is an excellent example of giving back to our district."

Assistance for new customer hookups comes with a 50 percent cost-share for projects exceeding \$2,500, with a maximum reimbursement of \$10,000 per customer hookup. If it becomes necessary to prioritize grant requests, they will be evaluated as such: residential use; livestock use; commercial/business use.

In May, the MR&I Committee awarded a program high \$302,076 to 49 rural water users in the district for residential, livestock and business use.

The following systems had projects receiving funding from the Water Supply Assistance Grant Program:

- **All Seasons Water Users District:** \$46,407 for five customer hookups
- **Barnes Rural Water District:** \$45,988 for seven customer hookups
- **Cass Rural Water:** \$32,761 for four customer hookups
- **Central Plains Water District:** \$20,753 for five customer hookups
- **Dakota Rural Water District:** \$9,558 for two customer hookups
- **East Central Regional Water District:** \$19,011 for two customer hookups
- **Greater Ramsey Water District:** \$7,016 for one customer hookup
- **McKenzie County Rural Water:** \$5,696 for three customer hookups
- **McLean-Sheridan Rural Water District:** \$1,911 for one customer hookup
- **North Prairie Regional Water District:** \$4,750 for one customer hookup
- **South Central Regional Water District:** \$10,000 for one customer hookup
- **Southeast Water Users District:** \$42,225 for five customer hookups
- **Stutsman Rural Water District:** \$56,000 for 12 customer hookups

There are two grant application periods each year. The next deadline for new customer hookup applications is **August 1, although emergency requests are considered as needed**. There continues to be no deadline on extraordinary OM&R projects for municipalities, as these will occur on an as-needed basis.

Eligibility requirements state the applicant must reside within one of Garrison Diversion's 28 member counties, must be or have a member sponsor that is a political subdivision (municipality or rural water district), and a municipality must serve a population of 5,000 people or less.

Grant guidelines and applications can be found at www.garrisondiversion.org.