

Case Studies

City of Watsonville - Watsonville, CA (2002)

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund will provide funding to the City of Watsonville to construct a PONY baseball field in Martin John Franich Park in Watsonville, Calif. This field will be a part of a four-field complex that will include Little League, PONY League, girls softball, Challenger League, other city-sponsored youth leagues and elementary school physical education baseball and softball programs.

Contact on 5-15-03:

Director of Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services
831-728-6081

Their Story:

- It took 3 months from letter of inquiry to award of grant
- BTF desires projects that are 1 year or less
- Their project was \$225,000 for 3 fields
- BTF grant was \$18,500 for irrigation, sod, and fencing
- The Kelly Foundation provided most of the funding and labor for the project
- You really need to justify the need with numbers; they did it more with potential population growth
- BTF did a site visit
- BTF provided a sign that needs to be put up

Oklahoma City PAL- Oklahoma City, OK (2001)

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant will provide the Police Athletic League Baseball and Softball program a home and increase field availability by constructing three fields; one t-ball, one PONY and one prep field. Approximately 300 kids will benefit from this expansion, most from low-income families.

Contact on 05-16-03:

Lt.
405-297-1230

Their Story:

- Process from letter of inquiry to grant award took 6 months – they consider this lengthy
- They needed to itemize a list of all projects
- Their project was to renovate 3 fields for \$95,000. They requested \$70,000 from BTF and received \$69,000.
- BTF said the average cost to build a baseball field is about \$200,000. PAL got the cost down by providing all their own labor for almost everything.
- BTF did a two day site visit after award of grant
- Project included: fencing, pavement, bringing in dirt, seed, irrigation, dugouts, cement, bleachers, field equipment
- They needed other participants in the project to provide a letter stating that they were committing \$xx to the project

Sunnyside School District - Sunnyside, WA (2000)

The Sunnyside School District provides baseball to 300 players ages 12-18. The grant will provide funding for the renovation of the principal baseball field in the community of Sunnyside, Wash., and will provide a safe, quality facility for the spring and summer baseball leagues.

Contact on 05-19-03:

Head baseball coach

509-837-2601

Their Story:

- Their project was \$30,000 for automated sprinklers, infield dirt, and new sod.
- He asked for \$14,500 from BTF and got it.
- Originally his request to BTF was turned down. He wrote letter of inquiry in August, called in November, and was awarded in January. Wishes he'd have asked for more – meaning had a bigger vision of what he wanted and needed done there.
- The city donated equipment and labor.
- Wishes he'd have used school staff for sprinkler install – he spent \$8,000 with a contractor who didn't do a good job
- BTF says volunteer labor is worth \$10 an hour when calculating 'in-kind' donations
- His school has 1500 students grade 9-12. This field is also used for Babe Ruth league baseball. Also has a JV field
- Stressed the need for numbers for justifying grant. Says key to success is also emphasizing dealing with safety issues and promoting growth of baseball to a diverse population
- Mentioned Federal title 9 issues for equal facility access for girls – says that including girl's softball in the scope of the project is an excellent approach – wishes he'd done that
- He received his grant check at a Mariner game from Mike Cameron. Suggests that we tie in MLB camps or player visits from A's or Giants if we can.

Paris Independent Schools - Paris, KY (2001)

The Baseball Tomorrow Fund will provide a grant to fund a baseball and softball field on the Paris High School grounds, which will be used by school and community youth leagues. These fields will be used by approximately 600 kids, ages 11-18 years old.

Contact on 05-23-03:

Athletic Director

859-987-2168

Their Story:

- Their project was \$74,000+ to build a softball field on land recently acquired and add improvements to an existing baseball field
- He asked for \$37,000 and had to match it with cash or in-kind donations. Coca-Cola donated money for fencing to help match the grant.
- He applied in October and was awarded in December with several phone calls and a site visit from BTF in between
- They are a private school with 25% African American and 5% Hispanic
- The school has 200 students in grade 9-12 and the community has about 10,000 people
- He is willing to fax a copy of his grant application if our AD requests it
- Ms. Bradley from BTF visited the site before award; she was looking to see if they were competent to complete the project and looking for commitment from them to actually build it
- Title 9 – equal facility for girls, and opening the fields up to community use were key to getting the grant

Eufaula Parks and Recreation Department- Eufaula, AL (2001)

Currently, there are only five fields in Eufaula to support over 800 participants, ranging from 4-18 years old. Eufaula Parks and Recreation Department recently formed partnerships with the public housing authority and other local youth organizations to provide baseball and softball programs and facilities. The Baseball Tomorrow Fund grant will provide funding for four baseball and softball fields, dugouts, backstops and fencing to support this partnership and their efforts.

Contact on 05-23-03:

Park Director

334-687-1213

Their Story:

- Project took about a year
- Project cost = about \$180,000 to build 4 fields to be used as practice sites
- \$60,000 grant + \$15,000 other cash + \$80,000 in-kind
- They used City services to do most of the earth moving and then used internal labor for building the fences, backstops, etc
- He said the BTF grant does not have as much paperwork as most and does not come with as many conditions as most grants

Another lead to check out:

Dept of Interior, Land & Water Conservation Fund provides funding to develop recreation areas, particularly ball fields; it's a 50-50 match grant based on community population and capacity for parks