



Mayor Robert E. Simison

City Council Members:

Treg Bernt
Joe Borton
Luke Cavener

Brad Hoaglund
Jessica Perreault
Liz Strader

October 19, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Robert Simison & City Council Members

FROM: Steve Siddoway, Parks & Recreation Director

RE: Together Treasure Valley Grant

Background

Earlier this summer, we had the opportunity to apply for a grant from Together Treasure Valley to add permanent cornhole boards in Settlers Park. We were recently notified by Together Treasure Valley that the project was selected for funding, with a \$9,500 grant. They would like to present the check and announce the award for all grant recipients on October 28. For more details, the application text is included below.

The fund recipient agreement has been reviewed and approved by the Legal department.

Proposal

We propose to approve the Together Treasure Valley Fund Recipient Agreement and a budget amendment to add those funds to our budget.

Additional Details from the Application

The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department would like to request Together Treasure Valley funding for a proposed new cornhole amenity which would enhance the recreation opportunities available to Treasure Valley families and residents of all ages in Meridian's Settlers Park, located at 3245 N. Meridian Road.

Settlers Park is a 58-acre regional park centrally located in north Meridian, right in the heart of the Treasure Valley. It is heavily utilized by youth and teen athletic teams due to its large number of grass playing fields. It is also home to the award-winning all-abilities Adventure Island Playground, a large splash pad, a tennis/pickleball complex, fishing pond, children's sound garden, tournament-caliber horseshoe pits, and a concession stand and restroom. A number of large community events are also held at the park, including popular summertime Friday night movie showings on a gigantic inflatable outdoor movie screen.

With your funding assistance, we would like to expand the park's outdoor activity offerings by installing five sets of permanent concrete cornhole courts in Settlers Park. The cornhole courts could be utilized on a first-come, first-served basis by the public and/or be used for occasional league or tournament play. Players could bring their own corn-filled "beanbags" to play with and we could also have bags available for check-out from our concession stand during its regular hours of operation.

For anyone who might be unfamiliar with the game of cornhole (sometimes known as bags, sack toss, or bean bag toss), it is a backyard style lawn game in which players take turns tossing 16-ounce bags of corn kernels at a gently sloped platform with a hole in the far end. The two boards which comprise a cornhole "court" are placed approximately 27 feet apart (regulation distance). A bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one that lands on the board scores 1 point. Play continues until a team or player reaches or exceeds the score of 21. Cornhole can be played solo, but it generally intended for 2 to 4 players. It is a popular game enjoyed by people of all ages.

We have identified Kay Park and Recreation, a provider of outdoor commercial and park furnishings, as the best source of concrete cornhole boards that are ACA (American Cornhole Association) regulation size and slope. The logos of Together Treasure Valley and the City of Meridian could be added to each concrete board to personalize them. We would also want to install a sign introducing the cornhole amenity and the rules for its use.

In all, we are requesting a grant of \$9,500, the full price of the project, to purchase the cornhole boards and sign. Additional funding for this project is not readily available through the City of Meridian or any other sources at this time.

If approved for this purchase, we would order the concrete cornhole boards and sign right away and they could be installed by members of the Meridian Parks and Recreation Department's maintenance staff, most likely within 4-6 weeks after the initial order is placed.

We feel this cornhole amenity would benefit Treasure Valley residents in a variety of ways. We believe people are social creatures. We thrive amongst company; we like to be surrounded by friends and acquaintances, and enjoy meeting new people. Games such as cornhole bring people together and meet their social needs, their health and fitness needs, and their occasional need for good-natured competition. It has been suggested that when people play games such as cornhole and focus on strategies to win the game, they utilize productive thinking, which can boost cognitive skills and improve confidence. Plus, cornhole is a low-cost or no-cost activity that individuals of nearly all fitness levels, ages and abilities can take part in. Compared to other sports and games, cornhole also has very few rules and is easy to understand.

The Meridian Parks and Recreation Department is committed to helping the approximately 130,000 residents of Meridian, Idaho, enjoy high quality living, complete with opportunities to experience outstanding recreation activities and park facilities that help them stay healthy and fit; build relationships with family, friend and neighbors; and develop a deep sense of community pride. We're confident this new addition to Settlers Park, centrally located in the heart of the valley, would truly be an asset that would be used and enjoyed by residents and visitors of all ages for many, many years to come.