

AARP FLAGSHIP GRANT APPLICATION 2023

Attach map

Basic Information:

Applicant Organization

Town of Saratoga, Wyoming

PO Box 486

Saratoga, WY 82331

<https://www.townofsaratoga.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/saratogatownhall>

Organization Contact

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Community Details:

Rural

Carbon County

Project Details:

Project Description

The Town of Saratoga is creating a new landscaped park: "Never Forget Park". The park project began in 2008 after a local young man, Army SSgt. Tyler Pickett, was killed in action in Iraq and will be a tribute to all those who have sacrificed their precious lives for the sake of others.

Never Forget Park will include a memorial sculpture, open-air pavilion, ADA compliant benches, handicapped accessible restrooms and parking. Lush plantings of native species will provide shade to the open space. Light posts installed along the sidewalk will aid those using the park after dark. Flagpoles with each of the five armed forces flags will be installed and lit from dusk to dawn. Several gabion basket benches will be installed and will have veteran's memorial plates attached.

Volunteers will fill gabion baskets with river rock use high-density composite decking for the seats. A work day will be organized for community members to complete this project and at least half of the volunteers are expected to be over the age of 50. School children will work with the local conservation district to plant the trees and shrubs as part of their school curriculum.

Currently, the space is a patch of gravel and weeds and is used for overflow parking to the adjacent Veterans Island Park. The North Platte River flows around the island. This park is the location of numerous events such as family reunions, music festivals, and community picnics. It features a playground, walking path with connection to the free mineral hot springs, barbeque picnic shelter and a skate park. "Never Forget Park" is along a busy street that leads to premier lodging facilities and to Saratoga Lake and will be a source of pride for residents and visitors alike.

The Town of Saratoga's (pop. 1700) park committee is comprised of private citizens, veterans and councilmen and has collaborated with American Legion Post #54, Platte Valley Arts Council, Inc. and Order of the Eastern Star.

Project Short Summary

The Town of Saratoga is creating a new landscaped park: "Never Forget Park". The park project began in 2008 after a local young man, Army SSgt. Tyler Pickett, was killed in action in Iraq and will be a tribute to all those who have sacrificed their precious lives for the sake of others.

Project Timeline

June: Curb & gutter, sidewalks, flag poles, irrigation and hydro-seeding installed and completed

July: benches, plantings and lighting installed

August: park open to the public

September: asphalt and parking lot striping installed

October:

November: pavilion built and installed

Social Impact Goal

Increasing social connections between older adults and all residents of the community

Project Type

Permanent physical improvements in the community

Project Category

Public space activation with a focus on the needs of those 50-plus

Project Deliverables

Deliverable 1: The Town of Saratoga will install new decorative light posts along sidewalks

Quantity: 12 posts

Deliverable 2: The Town of Saratoga will purchase materials to make gabion basket benches with composite decking seats, which are ADA compliant

Quantity: 20 benches

Deliverable 3: The Town of Saratoga will organize volunteers (50% being age 50 and older) to assemble benches and install them in the park

Quantity: 50 volunteers

Deliverable 4: The Town of Saratoga will organize volunteers (75% being age 50 and older) to compile list of veterans from Saratoga and install memorial plaques

Quantity: 12 volunteers

Deliverable 5: The Town of Saratoga will install AARP branded signage in the park

Quantity: 3 signs

Deliverable 6: The Town of Saratoga will plant trees and shrubs in the park, with help from school children and volunteers over the age of 50 years

Quantity: 150 children, 5 volunteers

Deliverable 7: The Town of Saratoga will open the park to the public with a ribbon cutting ceremony by August 15, 2023

Quantity: 1 event

Deliverable 8: The Town of Saratoga has a goal of attendees at the ceremony, with at least 50% over the age of 50

Quantity: 100 attendees

Project Narrative:

Organizational Livable Community Activities

The Town of Saratoga has developed into a retirement community over the past three decades and amenities (ex. parks, mineral hot springs, restaurants, shopping, community center) and services (ex. police, paved streets, snow plowing) have positively affected residents over the age of 50 years.

A new full-service medical clinic and long-term nursing facility is due to open Spring 2023 and will satisfy the medical needs of the entire community, including those over the age of 50 years. This project enhances the outdoor public spaces of the community and encourages multi-generational social experiences.

Community Engagement

In 2013, a 50,000 square foot community center with theater, banquet hall, and meeting rooms was opened. The facility was all privately funded and raises funds (in excess of \$40,000) each year for new maintenance projects.

The new “Never Forget Park” will need many volunteers to complete the project, given the tight budget of the project. Most volunteers will be older than 50 years of age, but projects will encourage all age groups to participate.

Goals of Project

Commitment of additional funds by private or public sector

Overcome funding barriers in implementing larger efforts

Other: Honor Veterans from all five branches of the armed services

Older Adults

The park will honor veterans (KIA, POW, active duty or deceased) by creating a serene memorial area for remembrance. The new park will have handicapped accessible parking spaces and restrooms.

Role of Volunteers

Yes

Volunteers will assemble gabion basket benches, plant trees and shrubs, and compile a list of veterans for memorial plaques.

Diversity and Inclusion

None (92% of Saratoga residents are White)

Disparities

Yes

The new park will be free for anyone who wishes to enjoy it. Saratoga's poverty level is 8.9% and that demographic is mostly females under the age of 44. About 10.6% of those living in poverty are over the age of 50 years.

Veterans and Military Families

Yes

"Never Forget Park" is a tribute to SSgt. Tyler Pickett who was killed in action, but also to everyone who serves/served our country to protect our freedoms and rights. Seventy-seven (or 70%) of Saratoga's veterans served in Vietnam, which is two times greater than any other conflict and greater than the US's 43%.

Federal Investment

No

Project Budget:

Grant Amount and Budget

Total Grant Amount Requested: \$50,000

Contracted services costs--\$10,000 : electrical contractor

Materials and supplies--\$40,000 : benches, plantings, light poles, restrooms

Travel expenses-- \$0

Staff costs--\$0

Matching/Supporting Funds and In-Kind Support

Nonprofit--\$2500 : volunteers @ \$15/hour

Private--\$5000 : grant writer, project coordinator

Public-- \$20,000 : heavy equipment use and labor