

# 2024 Neighborhood Grant Proposal

Applicant Organization: **Bay Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA)**

Project Name: Building Community with a Small Gathering Space

Contact Person: Cindy McCallum

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## 1. Project Scope

*Describe the project and its creativity, followed by tasks, outcomes or products, responsible parties, and project completion date. 500 words or less (0–50 points). Attach additional materials like site plans, design drawings, photo examples, etc., or email to Linda Horvath at [lhovath@cityofmadison.com](mailto:lhovath@cityofmadison.com)*

### Project Description:

The BCNA proposes creating an outdoor community gathering space, also called a *third place*, at Bernie's Beach to help build community (home and work are first and second places).

We surveyed the neighborhood; the top location choice was Bernie's Beach and the next was the Bay Creek Orchard (just north of the pool). People remarked that Bernie's is quieter and they had concerns about wasps from fruit at the orchard.

Bernie's is currently targeted towards young kids, so we'll add items to expand its intergenerational appeal as a third place. We'll add one ADA accessible checkers/chess concrete game table, a backgammon placemat, a Little Free Library, and a bike repair stand.

The Little Free Library could hold the chess/checker pieces, backgammon game, current issues of the Bay Creek Bulletin, and a small how-to guide for minor bike repairs.

### Neighborhood Involvement/Tasks/Schedule:

We asked neighbors for grant ideas via the BCNA listserv (~270 people), Facebook page (~880 people), and at our January general membership meeting (~12 people). We received about two dozen suggestions with some overlap; input came from all six [areas](#) in Bay Creek.

We chose a community gathering space as our project partly based on the popularity with neighbors. Next, we shared a survey on the listserv and Facebook to ask for desirable amenities and locations. More than 60 people responded. We received pledges from nine people and ten offers to help; we'll ask for their help with the items below. We also received pledges from two businesses.

If we are awarded a grant, we will:

**May/June:**

1. Notify neighbors via listserv, Facebook and the newsletter of the approval.
2. Order the Little Free Library kit.
3. Coordinate with the City to pour the bases for the table and bike stand and install them.
4. Order the table.\*
5. Order the bike repair station.\*
6. Coordinate assembling the Little Free Library.

**July:**

7. Pick a grand opening date and notify the neighbors via the listserv, Facebook and Bulletin. Ideally, complete this by 8/24 in time for the annual ice cream social.

**Ongoing:**

8. Monitor the Little Free Library, the game pieces, and bring the bike pump in during winter as recommended by Renee Callaway.
9. Replace the game pieces as needed; the BCNA treasurer will keep \$200 of the donations from this project in a separate BCNA fund.
10. The Bulletin deliverer for the Bernie's Beach area will deliver a newsletter to the Little Free Library as part of their route.

\*Understanding the items cannot be delivered before the City has poured the concrete.

## Responsible Parties:

Jim Winkle and Cindy McCallum will co-chair the project.

BCNA will be responsible for the maintenance of the amenities added to the park. We received approval to submit this project on behalf of BCNA at the February meeting. The motion was made at 01:38:34 and the vote took place after that and was announced 01:42:28 with 13 out of 14 voting yes in [this recording](#) (the passcode is: \*0E089\*Y).

## 2. Community Benefit and Neighborhood Participation

*What issues will be addressed and what creative solutions are being proposed? How will you involve people of different ages, ethnicities, races, and incomes? How will residents take on leadership roles and/or develop new skills? Will new partnerships be created with other neighborhoods, community-based groups, and/or private entities? 200 words or less (0–35 points)*

We asked Bay Creekers why they thought a gathering space would be beneficial. We heard this:

- “Loneliness is an epidemic in our country. Encouraging social interactions is more important than ever.”
- “It will help form connections and build relationships within the community.”
- Many respondents said it will help build or strengthen community.

Will residents take on leadership roles simply because they met a new friend at a gathering space? We’ve seen it happen before: safety improvements to the Wingra Creek ped/bike path were made at an intersection after concerned residents connected and lobbied the City. People take pride in a neighborhood where they have connections and a third place “is one ideal way to increase [the] opportunity [for] civic engagement”, a neighbor noted. In addition, working on this grant attracted people who have never volunteered to write a grant before and skills were developed in this process.

Ten people volunteered their time to implement the third place and one offered to plan events at the space.

The amenities we selected will appeal to people of varying ages, ethnicities, races, and incomes. We believe the enhancements at Bernie’s Beach will serve people in the neighborhood and beyond!

## 3. Consistency with Adopted Plans and Policies

*Describe how this project will implement recommendations from an adopted plan, and how it is consistent with City policies. Send an email to [neighborhoods@cityofmadison.com](mailto:neighborhoods@cityofmadison.com) for assistance. 150 words or less (0–15 points)*

The 2005 South Madison Neighborhood Plan states “The uniform theme that is evident throughout all of the recommendations is to create an environment that allows for human interaction between its residents.” That is our main goal with this third place project. It also

states “Enhancement of these park and open space areas will strengthen the neighborhood parks as gathering places....” We agree!

One of the mission statements for Parks talks about providing affordable opportunities for recreational and educational experiences. A neighbor noted “This will provide a place to congregate that doesn't require buying anything.”

We've discussed our proposal with Ann Freiwald of Parks. With her advice, we are proposing amenities she thinks are appropriate for Bernie's Beach. We removed flower gardens with art from our proposal. Parks is currently developing policies regarding art in parks and does not want art added to Bernie's Beach until the policies are in place.

## Budget

<b>A. Project Costs</b>		<b>B. Project Cash</b>		<b>C. Volunteer Hours/Other Contributions</b>	
<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Proposed volunteer hours</b>	<b>20 hrs.</b>
ADA compliant concrete game table for 3, TF3128	\$2160	<b>Neighborhood Grant Request</b>	\$4294	<b>Multiply above x \$20</b>	\$400
Two sets of Chess / Checkers / Backgammon game pieces, two Backgammon foldable cloth placemats, and sidewalk chalk	\$221	<b>Cash from Neighborhood</b>	\$680	<b>Donated and/or in-kind goods and services (please describe and include dollar amount)</b>	\$0
Little Free Library	\$693	<b>Cash from Other Sources (Businesses)</b>	\$150		
Bike Repair Stand	\$2050				
<b>Total:</b>	\$5124				

Volunteer hours:

- Contract for purchase of a concrete game table and coordinate the install with the City: 8 hours
- Purchase game pieces, Backgammon placemat, and chalk: 1 hour
- Purchase Little Free Library: 1 hour
- Assemble and install Little Free Library: 8 hours
- Purchase Bike Repair Stand: 2 hours

## Program Understanding

I have read the Grant Program Guidelines, and this application adheres to the requirements therein.

### **Applicant Signature**

Cynthia K. McCallum

### **Name and Organization**

Cindy McCallum, Bay Creek Neighborhood Association