

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

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Phone (608) 943-6363

www.biddickfoundation.com

Jason B. Biddick - President
Rachael E. Jordan - Vice-President
Bradley D. Biddick - Secretary-Treasurer

Peggy J. Biddick
Dinah Overlien
James W. Neuenhofer
Wendy Potter

GRANT APPLICATION

***Must be received in our office on or before the due dates below**

Due Dates April 15th and October 15th

Date: October 15, 2021

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Village of Cobb-Parks and Recreation,

With a Special Exemption as a Municipality and with a Separate Savings Account at Royal Bank

Address 501 Benson Street

City, State, Zip Cobb, WI 53526

Phone 608-623-2777

Person Responsible for the Grant Mary Foley - 608-341-7754

Position in the Organization Parks and Rec Volunteer Committee Coordinator

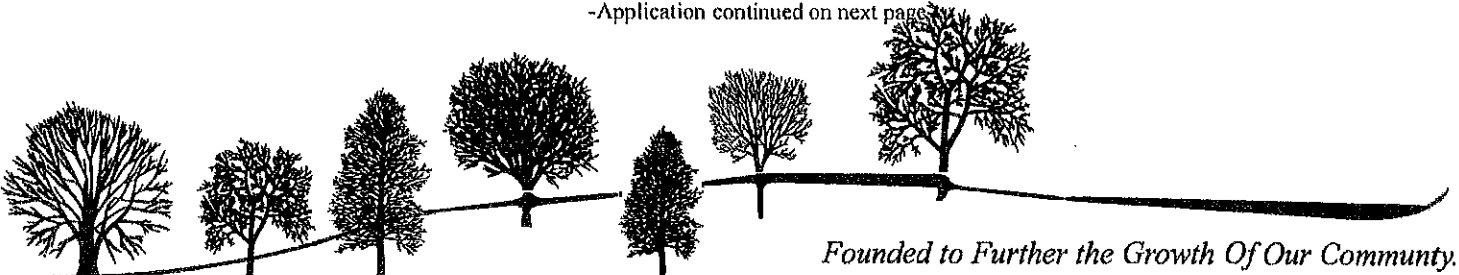
Organization's Purpose The Village of Cobb Parks and Recreation's Committee Mission is to enhance the lives of its residents and visitors by providing safe and well-maintained parks and public spaces to strengthen the bond of community. It is our Vision to provide growth to our parks' system and improving facilities so people will make visiting and inhabiting our community a priority.

This application must include your organization's latest IRS Letter of Determination showing exemption and public support status. (Not required for units of Government & public schools).

Grant Request \$ 2,650 (which can be donated in multiple increments as an option)

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below: We are requesting consideration of the Elmer G. Biddick Foundation to sponsor an above-ground "Aqua Dome" water feature at the Scheper Splash Pad in the Spring/early Summer on Highway 18, Cobb. This is a final phase of fundraising for the above-ground features that fit over each of the nine water sprays in the Pad, i.e. water sprays from the surfaces and from these unique features. A Splash Pad encourages physical, social, cognitive, and sensorial development in children of all ages and abilities. Water is a source of fun where activity is abundant and where creativity thrives.

-Application continued on next page-



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Organization's Purpose: The Village of Cobb Parks and Recreational Committee's Mission is to enhance the lives of its residents and visitors by providing safe, well-maintained parks and public spaces to strengthen the bond of community. It is our Vision to provide growth to our park system by offering unique facilities so people will make visiting and inhabiting our community a priority.

EXPLAIN REASON FOR THIS GRANT TO BE SUBMITTED:

We are requesting funds from the Elmer G. Biddick Foundation to consider sponsoring an above-ground water feature related to a planned Spring/early Summer construction of the only Splash Pad in Iowa County. It will be located at Scheper Park on Highway 18 at the west side in the Village of Cobb. A Splash Pad is a designated zero- depth aquatic play structure. It is commonly described as a "Water Playground" or "Sprinkler Pad," i.e., water sprays from the surfaces and from unique features. A Splash Pad encourages physical, social, cognitive, and sensorial development in children of all ages and abilities. As we know, water play is a source of fun where activity is abundant and creativity thrives. The Splash Pad will be entirely handicapped accessible for persons in wheelchairs, walkers, and crutches.

The Elmer G. Biddick Foundation graciously and generously donated to this building project in last year's Fall Grant Cycle for building costs with a grant of \$1,250. **Now we are requesting consideration for funding for either part or all of the "Aqua Dome" Water Feature for \$2625, which conceivably could be split during the Fall, 2021, and Spring, 2022, Biddick Foundation Grant periods as an option or other options as negotiated.**

ATTACHMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR BIDDICK FOUNDATION GRANT:

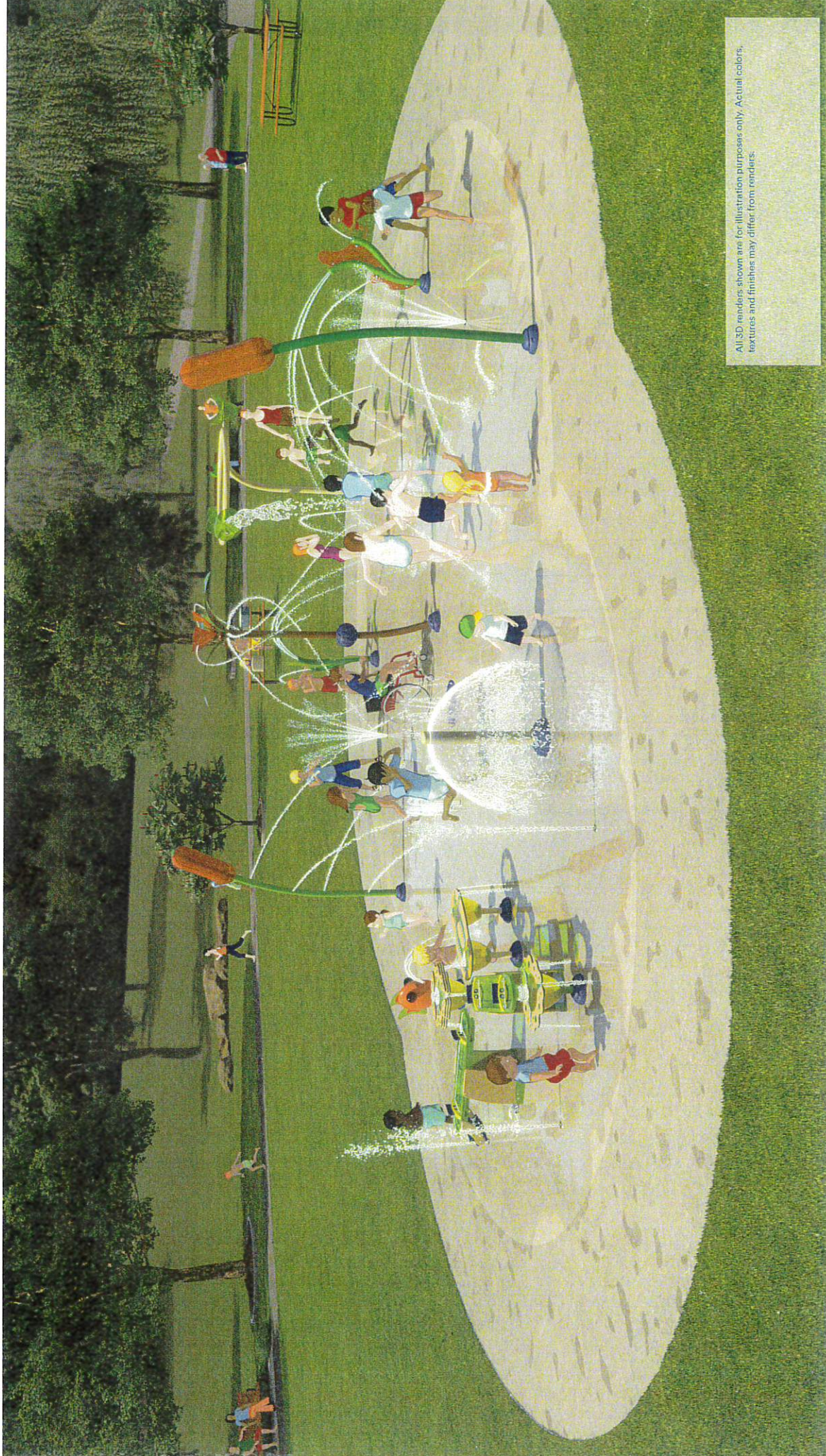
- 1) **Specific Use of Grant:** The Elmer G. Biddick Foundation Grant request will help sponsor a unique above-ground water feature in the planned “Growing Together” designated zero-depth Splash Pad, the only Splash Pad in Iowa County and accessible to residents in Grant County communities including Livingston, Montfort, and Fennimore, etc. This is the final phase of raising funds to complete the Splash Pad. Please see the revised attached visual example of the Splash Pad. (Note: The “Aqua Dome” Water Feature is on the lower mid-center of the rendering.)

- 2) **Time Schedule:** The Village of Cobb Board of Directors approved designating a portion of land for the building of the Splash Pad on June 12th, 2019. Since then, an organizational and volunteer fundraising committee was created and coordinates benefits and activities. Fundraisers have been coordinated and held since September, 2019. To date, the fundraising committee has **raised \$ 145,000.**

“Community Recreation Specialists,” Verona, has been selected to be our consulting Splash Pad building provider and will assist in all pertinent aspects of the project. We now have Mr. Dan Pustina, a civil engineer and long-time resident and Business Owner in Cobb, to serve as the Volunteer Project Manager.

We are finalizing details with the Village Board regarding further public bidding processes, contracts, and working with a Delta 3 Engineer.

Our original fundraising goal of \$100,000 was reached in April, 2021, received as a generous pledge from a Cobb business. In addition, we also raised an additional \$45,000 used to purchase the Splash Pad’s mechanicals and are continuing to raise funds for the final fundraising phase of the project, i.e. to pay for maintenance costs and the nine above-ground water



All 3D renders shown are for illustration purposes only. Actual colors, textures and finishes may differ from renders.



Scheper Park Splashpad, WI
Version B - 33781

Splashpad
View 3

features. We hoped to reach our funding goal during 2020, but following Iowa County Health Department's Covid- guidelines, most of our fundraisers needed to be held outside which caused delays in our fundraising opportunities and plans.

We are endeavoring to solicit families and businesses to sponsor the above-ground water feature including donations or memorials for family members, families, or businesses. The "Seaweed Spray" Water Feature, for instance, is being sponsored as a memorial to a person whose farm family used to live outside Cobb for \$5,040; there is also another "Seaweed Spray" available. Other features to be sponsored include two "Tall Cattails" Water Features for a suggested donation of \$4,935 each; the "Dumping Bucket" for \$6,615; the "Fish" for \$6,720; the "Flower" for \$9,135; and the "Cascade" for \$11,130.00. Regardless of finding sponsors for all the water features- that fit over the water sprays- we will be installing the 9 water sprays to get the project started.

We will display the list of all the donors for the water features on signage by the Pad.

3) **Other Sources of Funding:** As mentioned previously, fundraisers for the Splash Pad began in September, 2019 and continue. In total, as of October, 2021, we have raised **\$ 145,000** in donations for the building of the Splash Pad.

We submitted a grant request to the Wal-Mart Foundation in September and are waiting to hear from them. We are planning on submitting a grant application to the Lands' End Foundation per their funding cycle. We received \$1,000 from the Culver's Communities Share Project.

We were most excited to learn about and work with the Southwestern Regional Planning Commission for them to complete a Comprehensive

Outdoor Recreation Park Plan to help shape planning for the four parks in our area. In January and February, 2021, we circulated an Outdoor Recreation Plan Community Survey to get input from area residents on ideas they would like to see in their parks. It was completed and presented to the Village Board in April, 2021. Our committee paid the entire cost of the Park Plan totaling \$3000. We will use the Park Plan to write and submit grant applications through the DNR to make important upgrades to all the parks including for accessibility needs, security, and safety per their funding cycles. (Note: If you wish, we could email you a copy of the Comprehensive Park Plan.)

In 2021, we coordinated a number of fundraising activities including: a "Packer Paraphernalia Silent Auction" before the NFC Championship game in January; in March, we received the \$1000 from the Culver's Community Share Event, partnered with "Signs By Caitlyn" as a fundraising project, and then began coordinating the new "Easter Egg My Yard" fundraiser, sponsored by the Phoenix Shop, an online store created by a former Cobb resident. In April, we "egged" 24 yards in Cobb, Highland, Montfort, Dodgeville, Mineral Point, and even one in Blue Mounds with a total of 850 plastic-filled eggs delivered also to homes of veterans and elder individuals by an Easter bunny; later in the month we had our first outdoor Brat Stand of 2021. In May, we sold our "Our Communities HONOR & SUPPORT Our Veterans" yard signs in honor of Memorial Day and also had a Plant Sale and "Yard Sale for a Cause" during Memorial Day weekend. Over the summer, we began planning for the Second Annual Women's Business Forum held in Cobb during Corn Roast Days. We hosted 15 women-owned businesses, raised \$1300 for the Splash Pad, and raised another \$350 for area benefits, groups and causes. This September we sponsored a Fall Fling ATV/UTV Ride with concessions and games at Scheper Park for families, raising \$2200. In late October, we are planning our Second Annual "Night of the Jack-O-Lanterns" pumpkin carving activities along with food, games and concessions as well as an on-line Silent Auction. In November, we will

host a brat stand and our Second Annual Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser partnering with Betsey's Restaurant, Highland. In December, we plan community, holiday family activities.

We sent out an initial general appeal letter to businesses during the pandemic and now will be planning a general appeal letter to businesses to sponsor the above-ground water features. **However, due to Coronavirus issues affecting family incomes, we respectfully have stepped back from sending out our general appeal letters to individuals.**

- 4) **Describe the Effects of Postponing your Request:** With regard to describing the effect of postponing our request to a different cycle, building costs will continue to rise. After we reached our goal of \$100,000.00 and \$44,000 for the mechanicals, we have continued to raise community funding for possible rises in building costs and the final phase of adding above-ground water features to enhance the creativity of the Splash Pad as well as ongoing maintenance expenses of the Splash Pad.
- 5) **Describe who, when, how, and where the effects of this grant will be felt:** We envision this park being utilized by a regional group of families, especially because it will be a unique zero- depth recreational water pad. There are NO zero-depth water pools in our area.

We are also not planning on requesting an admission fee; rather, we will have receptacles available for donations.

As this recreational activity is in a park, we plan on all area communities to utilize the Splash Pad. We have attached 2020 population statistics for towns and villages in our area for your review.

Let's start with the population make-up of Cobb itself. According to 2020 U.S. Census information, there are approximately 455 Cobb residents. Families with children under 18 make up approximately 39% of Cobb's population. More specifically, there are approximately 125 children and early teens from 0 – 15 years of age who live in Cobb. (We know, of course, not all children will use the splash pad.) However, add to the potential attendees the number of parents, teen babysitters, and family members who would accompany these children to the Splash Pad. And our local day care center made a sizeable donation to the Splash Pad...

The Splash Pad's proposed operational timeline will be open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, albeit additional discretionary days of operation to be extended due to high heat and weather conditions. The splash will be open from 10:00 am to 7:00 pm (?) 7 days a week. There will NOT be an admission fee.

In addition to being a zero depth fun water park, the Splash Pad encourages physical, social, cognitive and sensorial development in children of all ages and abilities including physically disabled children. The functioning of the Splash Pad primarily encourages physical development by the unique way it encourages children to move from one spray area to another.

In terms of water conservation practices, water sprays are activated when a child moves their hand over a sensor to begin the spraying. Therefore, water is conserved when no one is in the Splash Pad area. And, in further conservation practices, the water will be recycled back into the ground water via the Splash Pad's "Flow-Through Trough" recycling process.

(Continued)

In conclusion, please allow us to share a story with you about one of the future child users of the Splash Pad. The story happened during our Women's Business Forum in August. An elder widowed mother and her daughter, a former Air Force Veteran and a mother, stopped at the Forum. The daughter asked, "Are you raising funds for a Splash Pad?" We indicated Cobb and the surrounding communities were. She said, "Our entire extended family has been camping at Blackhawk Lake for the last 51 years. I have a daughter who has cerebral palsy and is in a wheelchair. She can't go into the lake because of her wheelchair. She has to sit and watch her brothers and sisters and cousins going swimming. When you get this done, I will bring her over here so that she can have some water fun and activity now!"

Thank you for all you do!

**ATTACHMENT WITH 2020 POPULATION INFORMATION FROM
SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES:**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's City and Town Population Statistics website link for 2020, area statistics include:

FENNIMORE had a population of 2,469 residents with approximately 529 children ages 15 and under

HIGHLAND had a population of 826 residents with approximately 272 children ages 15 and under

LINDEN had a population of 523 residents with approximately 123 children ages 15 and under

LIVINGSTON had a population of 632 residents with approximately 181 children ages 15 and under

MONTFORT had a population of 883 residents with approximately 235 children ages 15 and under.

REWEY had a population of 283 residents with approximately 87 children ages 15 and under

NOTE: There are also unincorporated areas in our geographical area