

Elmer G Biddick

CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

11623 State Road 80 Livingston, WI 53554

Phone (608) 943-6363

www.biddickfoundation.com

GRANT APPLICATION

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

Due Dates April 15th and October 15th

Date: April 8, 2025

Name of Organization (must match IRS 501(c)(3) designation) Village of Ridgeway

Address 208 Jarvis St Suite A

City, State, Zip Ridgeway WI 53582

Phone 608-924-5881

Person Responsible for the Grant Lori Phelan / Marj Riniker

Position in the Organization Clerk/Treasurer Admin Services

Organization's Purpose To bring in business, grow events and tourism. To manage, control and improve all public parks and secure suitable use and enjoyment thereof by the people.

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 \$ 15000.00

Describe the reason for this grant request in the space below:

- Picnic tables for users of the Military Ridge Trail
- Improve access to off-leash Dog park
- update playground equipment
- advertising to encourage people to not drive by
- see attached for more explanation. Planning.

-Application continued on next page



Founded to Further the Growth Of Our Community.

Attachments to this grant that we find useful in considering your grant request.

A. Supporting information.

1. Specific use of grant.
2. Time schedule.
3. Other sources of funding.
4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time.
5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt.

B. Your organization's history, activities, services, and composition. (Videos are of limited use.)

See attached.

Truthfully, we would be very grateful if you could grant us any amount towards these projects. We aim to make Ridgeway a welcome destination and all these improvements will go a long way to helping with that.

Thank you for your consideration

Mari Riniker

Applications are considered in June and December of each year. The corresponding deadlines are April 15th and October 15th. Concise grants that address the needed information are appreciated.

PLEASE SEND THIS APPLICATION TO ELMER G BIDDICK CHARITABLE FOUNDATION:

Elmer Biddick Foundation
c/o Biddick, Inc.
11623 State Road 80
Livingston, WI 53554

Phone (608) 943-6363

Elmer G Biddick Charitable Foundation Grant Application

A. Supporting Information

1. Specific use of grant:

- a. 3-4 Picnic tables: Military Ridge is an excellent source of traffic in Ridgeway. The Village of Ridgeway is undergoing a revitalization of its green space on Main Street, near the historic Train Depot, with the Veteran's Memorial being dedicated this Memorial Day. Within those plans, we would like to provide an excellent rest stop with adequate seating for the over 200,000 annual Military Ridge Trail users to encourage them to come off and spend some time in the park, whether it is to just take a break, or eat their lunch, or visit one of the establishments that serve food and take it to the park to enjoy some leisure time. (\$3500)
- b. Improve Access to Off-Leash Dog Park: We currently have a nice-sized dog park, that entertains not only the Ridgeway community, but pulls in neighboring communities that do not have dog parks. The park is free for all to use and is a nicely mown, fenced area with exercise equipment, making it a highly utilized park of our community. With Ridgeway's large dog population, we want to make this a great space and elderly friendly, but the access to is can get quite muddy and rutted and some vehicles have gotten stuck, not to mention people not liking the dogs getting all muddy as they exit just before getting in the cars. We would like to improve the entrance and possibly get a few benches so more people will be willing to use the park. This might also encourage dog walkers on the Military Ridge Trail to come off the trail for an off-leash break for their dogs. (\$5000)
- c. Update playground equipment: The current playground equipment is becoming old and unsafe and many pieces need to be replaced. We would like to purchase at least 2 more spring-riding pieces to replace the broken one and the ones that need replacing. (\$5000)
- d. Advertising: As our Ridgeway Farmer's Market continues to grow, and word of the dog park spreads, it is attracting more people to Ridgeway. However, there is a lack of signage for the dog park, making it difficult to easily locate when entering the town, and we would like to have signs when exiting the highway, as well as throughout town directing people to the park. Being able to meet any one of these requests would be wonderful, and our goal is to try to meet them all. (\$1500)

2. Time Schedule:

- a. We would like to accomplish purchasing the tables as soon as possible so we have the seating when the summer travel on the Military Ridge Trail reaches its peak. The playground equipment goal is to have the new pieces installed and in place prior to our summer activities, with our first major event being June 28 for our Independence Day celebration.
- b. Improving the Dog Park would best be accomplished this summer, but would definitely want it to be done before spring of 2026 so we can avoid the muddy mess.

3. Other Sources of Funding:

- a. At this time we have some funds left over from a DNR grant that we will be using to improve the lighting at the dog park and there are funds from our community events that we hope to use towards these projects.

4. Describe the effect of postponing your request to another time:

- a. If we postpone our request, then none of these projects will get done in 2025 and we will need to wait until 2026 and try to see if the budget can cover any of it. This will result in a loss of visitors to the Village, which will translate to loss of income from concession stand sales at the park, as well as loss of sales from the business that surround the park.

5. Describe who, when, how and where will the effects of this grant be felt:

- a. **Who:** Ridgeway is located on a main thoroughfare thru Wisconsin. Having a nice playground and an easily-accessible off-leash dog park, with picnic tables for seating will draw in people from the Military Ridge Trail, as well as encourage people to stay and relax after their visit to the Farmer's Market. Giving people a destination to stop while on the trail, whether it be for a rest, a visit to the Veteran's Memorial, a bite to eat or just a comfortable place to stop in a park along the trail will draw people from destinations around Wisconsin who utilize the trail.
- b. **When:** We expect that the playground and the dog park and tables will mostly be utilized during the spring to fall season, but the Trail is also utilized by snowmobilers in the winter and they might like to sit for a while and enjoy the peace as well.
- c. **How:** The effects of the grant will be felt by all those who currently utilize the dog park and the playground, which are all public locations and have no entry fees. People can come to enjoy the Farmer's Market, play at the park, play with their dogs, watch a baseball game all for free. The Farmers Market runs every Sunday from Mother's Day to October. They will now have easy access to the dog park, with benches to sit on to watch their dogs have the zoomies. There will be safe, up-to-date toys for the children to play on while the adults enjoy sitting on the nice, splinter-free picnic tables.
- d. **Where:** This grant will be felt mostly by the Village residents, but really many people in communities around the village would come to enjoy the parks if we could only advertise it better. It is a perfect spot to stop for travelers going from Madison to Dubuque, or from Milwaukee to Des Moines. The seniors in our community have indicated they would enjoy just sitting and dog-watching if there were more seating available at the dog park, as well as if there were safe, level access to it.

Expense Description	Cost per unit	Quantity	Total Cost	Grant funding requested	Match amount
Dog Park Signage	\$500	3	\$1500	\$1500	N/A
Dog Park Access	\$4000	1	\$4000	\$4000	N/A
Picnic Tables	\$600-\$900	3-4	\$3500	\$3500	N/A
Playground Toys	\$3000	2	\$6000	\$6000	N/A

B. Your organization's history, activities, services and composition:

1. Ridgeway is a village in scenic Iowa County, Wisconsin. The village is home to an estimated population of about 650, not including the famous Ridgeway Ghost. There are many area businesses and organizations, expansive scenic views, an incredible community park with many amenities and abundant area recreational opportunities. Untouched by the glaciers, the community lies in the unglaciated "driftless" area where rolling hills and rugged stone bluffs stand proud giving shape to a landscape of wooded hills, ravines and the cultivated mosaic of farm fields.
2. The Military Ridge State Trail runs right through the center of town. Walk or ride your bike in the warm weather, or when there is enough snow, take your snowmobile! On one side of the trail you will find the Village Community Park - enjoy the Zip Crooz, swings, playground, volleyball courts, basketball court, and baseball fields and incredible scenic ridge views. The park Shelter is available to rent for private events, such as graduation or birthday parties. On the other side of the trail, discover the Historic Ridgeway Train Depot, open on scheduled dates from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It is the ONLY remaining railroad depot along the trail and is a museum of railroad artifacts and history accompanied by a striking mural and pictures. The Depot and caboose are open the first Sunday of the month from 12-3 pm from June through September. Visit the [Friends of Military Ridge website](#) for more information. Grab a picnic for the park or relax on the green under the water tower right off Main Street.
3. **Community events** are always posted on the [Village Calendar](#) on the Village website and shared on the [Village Facebook page](#). Village staff and volunteers with the Park and Recreation Commission are working to grow events including Spectacular Fireworks Display, local parade, Home Talent baseball, and live music. You definitely don't want to miss the [Farmer's Market](#) every Sunday, or the fireworks on the ball field at dusk.
4. We have an amazing Community Center, which houses an entirely free, Volunteer Library. There is a gym for daily PickleBall and afternoon open gym sessions, and also the Winter Market from Dec-April when weather is too inclement to hold The Farmer's Market at the park. The Village offices are located in the Community Center, and the gym and a large common room are available to rent for special events or even for basketball and baseball practice by surrounding communities.