



NEWS RELEASE

Nearly \$400 million in grant opportunities announced to enhance and revitalize local parks and park systems across Indiana

INDIANAPOLIS – With a \$400 million grant from Lilly Endowment, Indiana Community Development Projects (ICDP) announced today that invited Indiana cities and towns may now apply for grants through the multi-year, two-phase Community Parks Initiative, that will help cities and towns develop and implement plans to support, strengthen, beautify and activate their public parks and greenspaces.

Parks in towns and cities are vital and treasured community assets that not only improve the quality of life for residents but also serve as amenities to attract tourists and new residents. Parks can also be catalysts for additional investments, connectors to broader community revitalization efforts, and places for residents to access services and programming.

With today's announcement, 126 invited Indiana cities and towns, each with a population of at least 5,000 residents according to [2025 population estimates from STATS Indiana](#), may apply for Community Parks Initiative grants to help enhance their local park systems, excluding Indy Parks and Recreation, which recently received funding from Lilly Endowment directly.

The nonprofit ICDP will administer the Community Parks Initiative grants, providing up to \$14 million in noncompetitive planning grants to eligible cities and towns with individual grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$250,000 based on population. ICDP also expects to award up to \$380 million in competitive implementation grants to eligible cities and towns with individual grants ranging from \$1 million to \$30 million based on population.

"Parks are essential community assets that enrich quality of life and create a stronger sense of place. They provide green spaces and recreational amenities that encourage health and wellness while connecting people to the area's natural features, including waterways, forests and other outdoor landscapes," said Fred Glass, Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana CEO and ICDP board chair. "By providing grants to help cities and towns revitalize their public parks, we are investing in destinations that bring people together, attract new residents and visitors, spark additional economic development, deliver services and strengthen the long-term vitality of communities across Indiana."

Lilly Endowment helped establish ICDP to complement the Endowment's efforts to enhance the quality of life and place in communities throughout the state of Indiana.

"For many years, Lilly Endowment has observed that vibrant and inviting parks are highly valued by broad cross sections of communities throughout the country," said N. Clay Robbins, Lilly Endowment's chairman and CEO. "We are pleased to support ICDP's initiative to help Indiana communities improve their residents' quality of life by significantly expanding and enhancing their parks."

More details about the Community Parks Initiative, including eligibility, grant guidelines, and timelines can be found on the ICDP website at www.indianacpi.org.



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About Indiana Community Development Projects

Indiana Community Development Projects is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established to support selected projects to improve the quality of life and place for individuals and communities throughout the state of Indiana. For more information about ICDP and the Community Parks Initiative, visit www.indianacpi.org.

About Lilly Endowment

Lilly Endowment Inc. is an Indianapolis-based, private foundation created in 1937 by J.K. Lilly and his sons, Eli and J.K. Jr., through gifts of stock in their pharmaceutical business, Eli Lilly and Company. While those gifts remain the financial bedrock of the Endowment, the Endowment is a separate entity from the company, with a distinct governing board, staff and location. Although the Endowment maintains a special commitment to its founders' hometown, Indianapolis, and home state, Indiana, it also funds programs throughout the United States, especially in the field of religion.