

## Valparaiso Awards 16 Neighborhood Grants

The City of Valparaiso has awarded 16 new grants in the 2020 Neighborhood Improvement Grant program. The grant program was created to encourage neighborhood unity and support community improvements. In total, \$132,000 was awarded in this third annual grant release, bringing the total to more than \$320,000 in grant funding awarded since the program was created in 2018.

“It’s really gratifying to see so many neighborhoods coming together and submitting quality ideas to both improve their spaces and their connections to each other as neighbors,” said Maggie Clifton, Valparaiso’s Director of Community Engagement, and administrator of the grant program, which is funded by the Valparaiso Redevelopment Commission. “We saw some outstanding proposals this year and really applaud the creativity neighborhoods used both in coming up with ideas and coming together safely during the pandemic,” she said.

The projects funded this year include enhanced signage, neighborhood tree plantings, sidewalk improvements, bus stop benches, playground equipment, and more. Combined with neighborhood matches, more than \$157,000 will be invested into the community. The Neighborhood Grant program grants up to \$15,000 to neighborhood groups for neighborhood-based projects that offer community-wide benefit.

The neighborhoods receiving grants in 2020 include Audubon Estates, Banta, Beauty Creek Estates, Beauty Creek Villas, Central, College Hill, Essex Park, Forest Park, Hawthorne, Jefferson Park North Townhomes, Jessee-Pifer, Kingsridge, Keystone Commons, Mistwood, Sierra, and Windsor Park.

To learn more about the Neighborhood Improvement Grant program, including how to apply for funding next year, visit <https://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/1636/Neighborhood-Improvement-Grant>.

Caption (photo attached): This colorful art is one of two enhanced intersections in Valparaiso’s Banta neighborhood, funded by a Neighborhood Improvement grant. The art serves as both a traffic-calming feature and creates a sense of place for the neighborhood. Valparaiso’s Neighborhood Improvement Grant program offers up to \$15,000 to neighborhood groups for neighborhood-based projects that offer community-wide benefit. For more information and how to apply, visit <http://www.ci.valparaiso.in.us/1636/Neighborhood-Improvement-Grant>

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