



# Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

*August 28, 2014*

## **Sunflower Foundation Awards More Than \$240,000 To Develop Community Trails**

The Sunflower Foundation Board of Trustees has awarded a total of \$244,675 to seven Kansas communities and one school district to build new public trails or enhance existing ones.

“It’s a pleasure to grow the Sunflower Trails family, creating more and more outdoor space for communities to share,” said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation.

“What started as a way to help communities enhance their built environment has evolved over ten years into a dynamic way to engage people around health and wellness,” Hall said. “Each trail project reflects its unique community, and its exciting to see the creative ways each one is used.”

So far, the program has helped fund more than 125 trail projects across the state. You can find Sunflower Trails near you with this trail finder:  
<http://SunflowerFoundation.org/TrailFinder>.

The Board of Trustees approved the following eight grants at its August board meeting:

### **City of Lawrence**

A popular footpath along the Kansas River in Douglas County will soon be much more accessible thanks to this community-driven project. The city plans to open the new 10-foot wide, ADA-friendly trail by spring of 2015. The improved trail — located in Lawrence’s Burcham Park — will connect several existing trails, including a recently completed one behind Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center (see photo).

### **City of Derby**

Madison Avenue Central Park will be the site of Derby’s new one-mile, concrete walking trail. Residents of the Sedgwick County town voted for a ½-cent sales tax in 2013 to fund transformation of the park from a treeless lot to an inviting green space. Plans for the park have been developed by a citizen task force and community meetings.



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## **City of Roeland Park**

Volunteers in Roeland Park are working to restore an urban green space called “R Park.” Thanks to vigorous fundraising, this community in northern Johnson County will build an activity center and arts space in the park. A new ½-mile trail will serve to complete a ¾-mile walking loop.

## **Riley County**

The Riley County Parks Department proactively creating new spaces for the people of Manhattan to enjoy active living outdoors. This ½-mile trail in Fairmont Park will connect with a new outdoor activity center, and will eventually tie into a proposed nature trail along the river.

## **City of Conway Springs**

Conway Springs in Sumner County plans to build its first community trail this fall. It ½-mile long fitness trail is part of a larger plan to transform a treeless lot into a shaded activity center for parents and children to enjoy the outdoors.

## **City of Paola**

This seven-mile trail will encircle Lake Miola just outside of town. The project is part of the “Paola Pathways” initiative, a grassroots effort to make this Miami County community more liveable and walkable.

## **City of Tonganoxie**

The popular Chieftain Trail in Tonganoxie will be enhanced with a trailhead kiosk showcasing trail maps, exercise information, and local history. Distance markers will also be installed on this three-mile community trail in Leavenworth County.

## **USD #233 Olathe Public Schools**

Sunnyside Elementary School will build a ¼-mile asphalt trail loop just inside the school-yard boundary to create a safe walking/running environment for students and staff. The school’s match comes from several years of fundraising by the school booster club. The “Sunrunners” was the first marathon club in the school district and is the largest with more than 200 students.

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Since its inception in 2005, the [Sunflower Trails program](#) has helped more than 125 trail projects in more than 45 Kansas counties. For additional information about the Sunflower Trails program, please contact Sunflower Trails program officer at Elizabeth Stewart [estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org](mailto:estewart@sunflowerfoundation.org) or (785) 232-3000.

The mission of the Sunflower Foundation is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans, which it supports through a program of grants and related activities. Further details about the foundation's programs and grants are available at [SunflowerFoundation.org](http://SunflowerFoundation.org).