

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: Golden Heart Softball Association of Fairbanks****Federal Tax ID: 92-0140760****Project Title:****Project Type: New Construction and Land Acquisition**

Golden Heart Softball Association of Fairbanks - Softball Complex Renovation and Improvements

State Funding Requested: \$120,000
One-Time Need**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (7-11)****Brief Project Description:**

Softball field completion and improvements to current Fairbanks softball field complex.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$395,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$125,000)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$120,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$150,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The Golden Heart Softball Association (GHSA) was formed to offer organized slow pitch softball games for ages 18 and up. (16 and 17 year olds can play with parental permission.) The season goes from May 1st until September 15th and is broken into two parts: the main season which goes from May 1st until the first week of August; and late season which starts around the first week of August and goes until September 15th. In 2010 we had 87 teams for the main session with a total of around 900 players. Late season, due to weather, start up of school, etc, is smaller with a total of around 100 players. The players come from an area ranging from Nenana and Clear to the South of Fairbanks all the way to Delta Junction to the East. GHSA has a strong participation in the association from military members.

GHSA offers a number of local tournaments such as the Umpires, Golden Days, and One Pitch. The One Pitch is very popular, starting at Midnight on a Friday and going continuously until the winner is determined (usually late Saturday afternoon.) All the tournaments are open to any team in the state and many teams from around the state participate in the tournaments. During August GHSA also holds various state tournaments. The specific state tournaments held in Fairbanks are decided at a state meeting in the fall.

GHSA is comprised of a board of 9 members and is responsible for the Hez Ray Complex. The Fairbanks Parks and Rec Department of the Fairbanks North Star Borough helps by cutting and fertilizing the grass. Otherwise all work and expenses are covered by GHSA. For the three new fields GHSA will be responsible for everything including cutting and fertilizing the grass. Funding is from sponsorships and player fees

During the 1990's the GHSA was given the right to develop adult softball fields across Davis Road from the current softball complex (Hez Rey Fields). The driving force was the desire to have all seven fields close together. In the past we have used

the three school fields along with the four at the Hez Ray Complex. This has presented scheduling problems due to the transit time between the two groups of fields. (All teams play two games a night). Last summer one of the school fields, Lathrop field, was redone for other purposes leaving GHSA with only six fields. This left two nights a week with more teams than six fields could accomodate. We did reduce game times slightly and scheduled four games per field instead of three. This didn't work as games for various reasons went too late into the night. Thus the urgency to develop the new fields. About 900 players, both military and civilian participate each year. The GHSA has invested \$57,000 so far and has committed to investing another \$68,000 by next summer. This is slightly more than a match for the \$120,000 we are requesting from the state.

Project Timeline:

Planning and intitial dirt work - complted 1996-1999
 Final dirt work - started fall 2010 completion summer 2011
 Fencing, electric, wells - Sumemr 2011
 Equipment placement - summer 2011 - spring 2012

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Golden Heart Softball Association (GHSA)

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

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Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No