

District 6290 Grants Committee
District & Global Grants
Approved November 13, 2018 for Rotary Years 2018-2019

DG-14

Frankfort

District Local Grant:

Grant Title: Frankfort Community Bike Rack Project

Amount Awarded: \$2,500

The City of Frankfort is a small beach-front community on the east shore of Lake Michigan. It is a popular tourist destination for family-oriented vacations focusing on outdoor activity for all ages. Frankfort is well endowed with parks and trails. These are much used by residents and visitors as a source of enjoyment and as supportive of a healthy life-style.

A component of the City's parks and trails asset is the Betsie Valley Trail system. The entire system starts in Frankfort and extends 21 miles from Frankfort, through Beulah and finishing at Thompsonville. The City's Beach to Beach portion of the Trail runs adjacent to Betsie Bay and Frankfort's Main Street through various public spaces, connecting the Betsie Valley Trail to the Frankfort Beach on Lake Michigan.

As the "Frankfort Community Bike Rack Project" name implies, this project relates to bike racks for only that part of the .22-mile Betsie Valley Trail that falls within Frankfort city limits.

We will procure and install 12 bike racks: one each at locations along the Beach to Beach Trail and in various City of Frankfort parks and public spaces to encourage and promote bicycle activity in the community. Each rack will be attached to a concrete base that makes for an attractive installation that helps deter theft of the metal racks. Bike rack installations will be carried out by City of Frankfort Parks Department personnel.

Project Benefits:

In addition to promoting physical activity for people of all ages, it is also anticipated that the City of Frankfort will experience an increase in commerce due to enhanced access to the Main Street corridor with the placement of additional bike racks at access points from the Trail to Main Street.

As a popular summer beach-front destination on Lake Michigan, Frankfort experiences significant parking congestion in the tourist season. The

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convenience of plentiful well-placed bike racks throughout the Trail's Main Street corridor is expected to help alleviate this problem.

In the summer tourist season, Frankfort (which is largely flat and ideal for bicycling) experiences a huge influx of happy bicyclists, they are everywhere! Numbers are difficult to estimate. However, the need for plentiful bike racks is evidenced by bikes being leaned against park and city street trees and against posts and buildings on city streets, particularly on Main Street.