

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

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**DG-5**

**Kalkaska**

District Local Grant

Grant Title: KART Trail Berm Restoration Project

Amount Awarded: \$2,500

The project will restore/enhance the berm located along the Kalkaska Area Recreation Trail (KART) system that surrounds the Kalkaska County Fairgrounds, Michigan Department of Transportation, Kalkaska Public Schools and Kalkaska County administrative buildings. Located at the southeast corner of M-72 and W. Kalkaska Road, the berm borders a highly visible entryway from the west to the Village of Kalkaska. This is one of the first impressions that travelers receive about Kalkaska. In addition, many area residents walk, run or bike the KART Trail on a daily basis. A 2017 survey of area residents done by the village's Planning Committee indicated that the KART Trail is one of the most valued park facilities in the village. The berm was originally constructed in 2007 and was to be maintained by county and village personnel. However, due to budget constraints, the berm had become overgrown with weeds, dead trees and the berm had significantly flattened. After discussions with various local officials and organizations, the prospect of other organizations coming forward to restore the berm were non-existent.

Various options were researched and solicited bids were from local landscape contractors. In addition, to reduce costs, our club determined how much of the work we could do with our own labor. After much discussion about the poor state of the berm and what needed to be done, we selected a local landscape contractor who was capable of handling the size of this project.

Initially, the contractor sprayed the weeds, removed debris and reshaped the berm. They pruned, shaped and fertilized the remaining evergreen trees. They installed edging around the entire berm to define the edge and keep grass and weeds from growing into the berm. They installed landscape fabric over the entire berm to keep weeds out. They installed an irrigation system of 360-degree rotary sprinklers to reach all plants and trees. They spread hardwood mulch at least 4" thick over the entire berm.

Our club then held a "Berm Planting Day" on Saturday September 29, 2018. We planted a mix of over 200 ornamental grasses, Hosta, day lilies, daisies, Black-eyed Susans, Upright Sedum and Shrub Roses. This mix will provide a season-long display of greenery and color.