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from: **Parks Commission OKs 35 Outdoor Projects;
[Bulldog Edition]**Gene Hornbeck. Omaha World - Herald. Omaha, Neb.: Jan 10, 1985.
pg. 1**Abstract (Summary)**

Thirty-five community outdoor recreation projects totaling \$1.05 million were approved Wednesday morning by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

The governing board of the agency approved projects ranging from \$120,000 for renovation of **Columbus Park** in Omaha to \$6,000 for a playground in Ewing for financing under the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is administered by the commission at a state level.

The projects, which include ballfields, swimming pools, tennis courts, playgrounds and park construction or renovation, are financed under a 50-50 cost-sharing agreement between the local community or sponsor and the federal program.

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Del Whiteley, program and planning chief for the commission, said 76 projects valued at \$3.2 million were considered in allocating the \$505,225 of federal funds available to the political subdivisions for fiscal 1985.

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Superfund

The approved projects include:

Fort Calhoun:

ballfield development _ \$64,300.

Gretna:

ballfield acquisition and development _ \$30,000.

Omaha:

Columbus Park renovation _ \$120,000.

Murray:

Tyson Park development _ \$12,500.

Weston:

playground restroom _ \$30,000.

Pawnee City:

restroom and court lighting _ \$20,000.

Table Rock schools:

replace ballfield lighting _ \$34,000.

Crete:

tennis courts _ \$52,000.

Milford:

ballfield lighting _ \$40,000.

Beatrice:

ballfields _ \$15,000.

Jansen:

acquisition and park development _ \$12,000.

Pickrell:

picnic and playground development _ \$10,000.

Scribner:

ballfield development _ \$28,400.

West Point:

picnic and playground development _ \$7,500.

Albion:

picnic and playground development _ \$11,000.

Cedar Rapids:

ballfield improvement _ \$10,000.

Columbus:

picnic and ballfield renovation _ \$60,000.

Loup Public Power District:

picnic and playground _ \$40,800.

Platte Center:

playground restroom _ \$16,000.

Madison:

ballfield and park development _ \$35,000.

Plainview:

replace ballfield lighting _ \$46,100.

Alda:

ballfield development _ \$45,000.

Phillips:

ballfield and playground _ \$12,700.

Red Cloud:

ballfield and restroom _ \$53,000.

Alma:

lighted ballfield _ \$37,600.

Curtis:

picnic and playground _ \$8,000.

Brule:

ballfield renovation _ \$10,000.

Paxton:

ballfield renovation _ \$30,000.

Wauneta:

pool renovation _ \$34,000.

Gering:

ballfield lighting _ \$54,000.

Ericson:

ballfield improvement _ \$10,000.

Ewing:

playground _ \$6,000.

Valentine:

park restroom and road _ \$31,500.

Arcadia:

park and ballfield improvement _ \$10,000.

Spalding:

ballfield _ \$13,600.

Nebraska's total grant under the Land and Water Conservation fund for fiscal 1985 is \$842,042. Whiteley said 60 percent of that total goes into the political subdivision grants and 40 percent is used for Game and Parks Commission projects within the state park system.

The \$505,225 available to the communities this year was aided by a \$19,775 carry-over of federal funds from fiscal 84.

The federal program was started in 1965. To date, some \$34 million in federal funds have come to the state for outdoor recreation facilities.






The peak funding years occurred in the mid-70s when the total grant reached the \$2 million to \$3 million mark annually. The program was suspended in 1982 due to federal budget restrictions. It was restored in 1983 when Nebraska received \$790,000. The 1984 grant was \$815,000.

Credit: WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

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