



City of Gustavus

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January 29, 2024

Malia D'Alio

Grant Administrator

Reuben E. Crossett Endowed Alaskan Fund

Via Email: Malia.Dalio@seattlechildrens.org

Dear Ms. D'Alio:

Subject: Gustavus Thanks the Crossett Fund for the Generous Grant for Our Play Equipment.

On behalf of the Gustavus children in particular, I want to express the gratitude of the community of Gustavus, Alaska for the generous grant from the Reuben E. Crossett Endowed Alaskan Fund that made possible the purchase of new play equipment for our Salmon River Park. It's hard to communicate the excitement the children exhibited at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Saturday, January 20, but I hope the attached photos will give you some idea.

It was the students of grades 2 to 5 of the Gustavus School who first approached the City in the fall of 2022 asking for an expansion of the park play equipment to accommodate children of all ages and abilities. They suggested a handicapped-accessible path to the site and benches for adults who watch over the playing kids. Our existing equipment was most suited for smaller kids and the students had a vision for equipment suitable for the enjoyment of entire families. The park is in the center of Gustavus adjacent to City Hall and the Fire Hall and is the center for many community events, celebrations, and private assemblies. It is especially jammed around Independence Day when Gustavus hosts visitors from far and wide.

Our local contractor, Gustavus Landscaping, installed the equipment as weather allowed in the late fall, finishing in December. We held our grand opening in January after the holiday break when school was back in session.

Despite the recent snow and cold temperature we had a wonderful turnout with a bonfire and hot chocolate. School Principal Karen McSpadden gave a nice speech expressing her gratitude to the Crossett Fund and the City of Gustavus for realizing the vision of the students.

Your grant made it possible for us to expand the equipment purchase to include the popular ReviWheel spinner, which accommodates handicapped children. It also positions us to apply other City funds toward building the suggested handicapped-accessible pathway and benches adjacent to the play area this coming spring. Our contractor is now preparing that plan.

We ordered a sign thanking the Crossett Fund for the generous grant and will post it prominently at the site. We are truly grateful for your partnership.

With kind regards,



Shelley K. Owens
Mayor, City of Gustavus

Attachments: Photos from January 20, 2024, Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



