

For Immediate Release

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Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism Announces Funding For Tourism Attractions

TOPEKA – The Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism’s (KDWPT) Tourism Division recently announced it will provide a combined total of \$123,471 in Attraction Development Grant funding for six tourism-based projects. Funds will be used to assist in the development of dynamic and authentic experiences that encourage travelers to select Kansas as a destination.

The six grant recipients are:

- Sternberg Museum of Natural History, Hays – To develop four new exhibits and a traveling museum
- Council Grove Riverwalk Amphitheatre – For the establishment of an event and festival space along the river
- 5.4.7 Arts Center, Greensburg – To construct the M.T. Liggett Visitor Center in Mullinville
- KC Rock Island Railroad Bridge, Kansas City – To develop America’s first destination landmark bridge
- City of Parsons – To construct an 18-hole disc golf course
- Medicine Lodge Peace Treaty Association – To build permanent intertribal powwow grounds, historical and cultural education center and walking trails

“We are pleased to support these new initiatives in Kansas,” KDWPT Tourism director Bridgette Jobe said. “As travelers continue to seek new and exciting adventures, it is important that we do everything we can to assist the Kansas tourism industry and continue to make our state a destination for tourists. The Attraction Development Grant Program is a wonderful tool to help potential tourism destinations become a reality and maximize their potential.”

Applications were reviewed by a committee of three Kansas travel industry representatives appointed by KDWPT Secretary Brad Loveless. The committee made its selections based on the projects’ economic impact to the state, availability of leveraged funding, ability to finish the project within 18 months, and the presence of a sound business and marketing plan. Grant dollars may fund up to 40 percent of a project, with the community or business funding the remaining 60 percent. In total, these six grant recipients will invest more than \$6.5 million toward the approved projects.

Funding for the Attraction Development Grant Program is provided by the Economic Development Initiatives Fund (EDIF) that is derived from state lottery proceeds.

About Kansas Tourism: KDWPPT's Tourism Division is charged with encouraging the public to visit and travel within Kansas by promoting recreational, historic and natural advantages of the state and its facilities. The Division focuses on measurable goals in all of its marketing and promotional efforts, which include increasing domestic and international inquiries through advertising and public relations efforts and converting those inquiries into visits to Kansas, increasing group tour visits, and generating positive public perceptions about the state as a travel destination. For more information, visit TravelKS.com.

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