



DIP Application

Applicant:

Toledo Celtics Soccer Club

Project Contact:

Yousef Aliakbar

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Project Name:

Schneider Park Improvement Project - District 2

Location:

Schneider Park

Grant Request:

\$32,338.95

Total Project Budget:

\$32,338.95

Brief Description of the Project:

Toledo Celtics has taken on the responsibility, for the past 3 years, of maintaining Schneider Park, including the playing space, the perimeter area, and entrances. This has allowed for the drastic improvement of the field quality. Due to limited resources this maintenance has been done with minimally adequate but inefficient equipment, owned by Toledo Celtics. Because of the inefficient equipment and multiple repairs needed, the improvement and maintenance has

often been delayed. As the park begins to grow in usable space, the current equipment accessible for the maintenance of the park is insufficient. A high-quality mower will provide the one critical piece of equipment needed to continue both maintenance and improvement of the playing space at the park.

Purpose/Need:

This improvement project is intended to increase the quality, functionality, and aesthetics of the Schneider Park Soccer Complex, owned by the City of Toledo. The funding being requested is to purchase a new mower that increases efficiency and requires less overall maintenance than the antiquated equipment currently being used on site. Toledo Celtics is more than happy to continue to improve and maintain the park with the utilization of this equipment, as well as taking on the ongoing maintenance of the equipment.

Objectives for this project include:

Ordering new commercial grade equipment appropriate for Schneider Park's needs.

Ordering warranty to cover the health and longevity of the equipment

*Note: An exemplary and appropriate quote is included in the application.

As stated above, the need that is addressed in this improvement project is an increase in quality, functionality, and aesthetic at Schneider Park. Over the 8 years, a portion of Schneider Park, has been premitted for use by the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club. The park has most recently been leased to Toledo Celtics and Toledo Football Academy for the past year. Accounting for the 200+ players that play with Toledo Celtics, the dozens of teams from the area that travel to play the Toledo Celtics, and 1000+ players that play with the club's recreational affiliate, the Toledo Leprechauns, Schneider park is accessed by well over 2000 players. Additionally, the portion that is permitted for use by Toledo Celtics has had shared access with various other organizations, such as Bowser High School and the Special Olympics organization, as well as members of the public looking to enjoy the soccer park. Beyond this, with the large-scale expansions and improvements, the park will draw in many more visitors. The Toledo residents that will benefit from these improvements are very wide reaching.

Property Location:

The location of this project is Schneider Soccer Park. The address is 2698 Schneider Rd #2648, Toledo, OH 43614. This property is owned by the City of Toledo and is overseen by the City of Toledo's Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Support and Sustainability:

Additional potential funds to complete this project:
Allocation funds from the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club's budget
Allocation funds from the Toledo Celtics' Leprechaun's budget
Requested funding from individual donors

The Toledo Celtics Soccer Club will provide in-kind, ongoing maintenance for this project, and the equipment associated with this project, for at least the five years required by the Toledo City Council District Improvement Grant.

Organizational Background:

The Toledo Celtics Soccer Club was founded with great vision and influential perspective by Dr. James King and Lee Aliakbar in 1987. As the club started out and began to establish a foothold within the Toledo and Northwest Ohio soccer community, the teams were primarily focused on the older, high school aged age groups to grow the game in these age groups. But as both Dr. King and Lee soon realized, there was so much more that they could offer to the Northwest Ohio soccer community and decided to expand the club to incorporate a full lineup of teams from all age groups.

In 1991, the Club made the old DeVilbiss High School stadium their home field. This facility was furnished with lights in 1992. After the club was able to acquire Celtics Stadium and stabilize its facilities, the Board of Directors decided to establish a youth program in 1994 and success came rapidly. As the club success and impact began to grow through the fall of 1995, the club directors decided to establish the Toledo Leprechauns recreational soccer program, which is designed to allow all children ages of 3 -14 an opportunity to learn, grow and develop at the grass roots recreational level of soccer. Since its inception, the Toledo Leprechauns has proudly worked with thousands of youth players across the Northwest Ohio area, and has coupled with the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club to offer all levels of soccer to the community.

As club offerings expanded to both the boys and girl's youth soccer and instruction, rapid success soon followed, and the club quickly established itself as one of the pillars of the competitive soccer not only in Northwest Ohio, but also across the state and Midwest region. With the new standards of success leading to new offerings and opportunities for players and coaches in the area, the board then decided to venture into the adult amateur and semi-professional ranks, and became the first organization to offer professional development level soccer in Toledo since the long defunct Toledo Pride professional indoor soccer team.

The board decided to purchase a United Soccer Leagues franchise and brought the Toledo Slayers – a USL PDL team – into existence in 2003 and immediately offered the best pathway for the Toledo area and nationwide youth to work their way into the

professional soccer landscape. From there, club and community inclusive youth USL Super-Y league teams were formed and offered to all interested and operated in successful coordination with the Toledo Slayers PDL team for the next 4 years. Ultimately, the franchise operation and growth costs proved to be too much in a market that just wasn't quite ready to embrace those visions of soccer at the time, and the Toledo Slayers franchise was forced to cease operations after 5 years of successful and meaningful competition for the Toledo community.

Even with facing this setback, the Toledo Celtics continued to pursue the pathway for success for the area soccer community and has surged with success once again up to the present day. Some of the highlights of this success include being a participating

member of the best local, regional and national conferences and competitions in the country, and the countless success of so many of our teams, character and personal accomplishments of so many of our club alumni. The club has achieved success at every level possible across the country, qualifying for the USYS and Super Clubs National Championships, 11 USYS and US Club Soccer Regional Championships qualifiers, won 10 Ohio North State Cup Championships, and countless state finalist, semi and quarterfinalist teams. The Toledo Celtics have helped to foster and develop players and teams that have achieved numerous awards and recognitions, from top 5 national rankings to individual accolades including All-American, All-Region, All-State, All-District and All-Conference teams, and have helped hundreds of aspiring youth soccer players to reach their goals in the collegiate and professional arenas.

The club has been able to feature, compete and succeed at the highest levels of competition across the country, with participation and championships at major events such as the Dallas Cup, USA Cup, Disney Collegiate Showcase, Jefferson Cup, Las Vegas Mayors Cup, Annandale Premier Showcase, Crossroads of America Showcase, Blue Chip Showcase, St. Louis Cup, Memphis Invitational and Best of the Midwest just to mention a few. On the international stage, the club has taken upon itself to participate and fully compete and win at world renowned tournaments such as the Gothia Cup in Sweden, Dana Cup and Cup1 Cup in Denmark and Holland Cup in the Netherlands, electing to provide actually meaningful international games and competition for our teams, not just arranged friendlies.

Toledo Celtics has been a part of the Toledo community for the past 36 years and is truly the definition of a resilient Toledo entity who fully believes in that "You Will do Better in Toledo". We take great pride in the city of Toledo and have worked tirelessly to give our time to enhancing the game of soccer for the youth in the greater Toledo area. The Toledo Celtics fully believes in promoting the positive aspects of what the city of Toledo has to offer and have endless belief in the abilities that our Toledo area youth possess.

Organizational Structure:

Key Staff Members include:
Chief Executive Officer - Lee Aliakbar
Director of Youth - Yousef Aliakbar
Coaching Staff - Art Johnson
Coaching Staff - Yadi Aliakbar
Coaching Staff - Raymon Richardson

Implementation:

Contingent upon acquiring grant funding through the District Improvement Program, the Toledo Celtics will implement and execute the objectives immediately. It is the organization's hope that the equipment and storage be outfitted at Schneider Park, and the staff be fully trained by April 1, 2023. However the Toledo Celtics are prepared to transition the equipment, arrange the storage area, and train its staff as soon as possible should the grant be acquired earlier.

Budget:

<u>Source of funding</u>	<u>Target amount</u>	<u>Amount Pledged</u>
Toledo Celtics Annual Budget (accounted for maintenance and expenses)	\$750	\$750
Toledo Leprechauns Annual Budget (accounted for maintenance and expenses)	\$750	\$750
Individual donors (accounted for maintenance and expenses)	\$500	\$500
Total		\$2,000
<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Average Cost</u>	<u>Expected Cost</u>
Commercial Grade Mower/Deck	\$32,189.00	\$32,189.00
Processing, assembly, and warranty	\$149.95	\$149.95
Total		\$32,338.95
Note : We do not pay sales taxes as 501(c)(3)		

Please see attached quote.

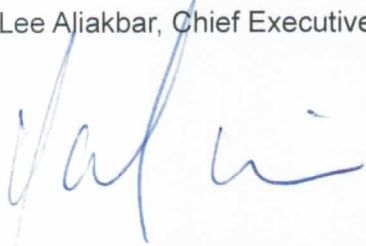
Note:

All equipment quotes meet the intended goal of increasing the quality, functionality, and aesthetics of the Schneider Park Soccer Complex, but also reflect and consider price appropriateness.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Lee Aliakbar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Lee Aliakbar, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yousef Aliakbar', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Yousef Aliakbar, Director of Youth