

The Intentional Tourist  
by Jarrod McCartney  
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Our downtown transformation is taking place. We're slowly but surely making it a place that will thrive for years to come thanks to multiple projects, including the adaptive reuse of the Potter Block into the Hotel Garber. But what about the rest of town?

Organizers of the Hardwick Park restoration project have been presented with a unique opportunity. Thanks to Red Cloud's recent designation as a Creative District and the inclusion of the park in its' 5 year strategic plan, Hardwick Park is eligible for one-time funding from between \$100,000 and \$562,000 from the State of Nebraska's Civic and Community Center Financing Fund.

*Here's the catch: the funding requires a 1:1 match and in order to apply I need to have those pledges in place by the submission deadline of February 15<sup>th</sup>. That means we need to raise at least \$100K in 2-3 weeks.*

The good news is if we secure four \$25,000 pledges, ten \$10,000 pledges, or twenty \$5,000 pledges we'll be able to get another \$100,000. We could even get up to \$562,000 matched—which is more than \$1.1 million total. If we were able to do that, we'd have all the funding we need to get started on transforming Hardwick Park and the area surrounding the Scout Lodge into a place that we can truly be proud of—a place where families can gather in a beautiful setting and a place that honors the sacrifices of our military veterans.

Hardwick Park's restoration will also provide a home for a piece of the USS Arizona, donated by the family of native son and Pearl Harbor survivor Donald G. Stratton. The park will honor all branches of the military. It will be a place of restoration and recreation and bring new life to that part of town. It will also complement the Scout Lodge improvements, which has become the home for the Donald G. Stratton American Legion Post #238 and other military service organizations.

I strongly encourage you to reach out to Brad Frey with the American Legion or myself if you're interested in making a donation. You can call Brad at 520-419-4899 or shoot me an email at [jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com](mailto:jmccartney@redcloudnebraska.com) to learn more. If you want to donate now, please send a check to: Donald G. Stratton American Legion Post #238, c/o Brad Frey, 742 N. Chestnut St., Red Cloud, NE 68970 or simply send a check to the City of Red Cloud at 540 N. Webster St. If you send a check to the City be sure to specify that it's for the Hardwick Park project. Donations to the City of Red Cloud are tax deductible in this instance. Should we not meet our \$100,000 threshold for the CCCFF grant or have our application rejected, funds will remain dedicated to the Hardwick Park restoration project. We will add this amazing feature to Red Cloud. With your help, we can do it in 1-2 years instead of 5-10.