

# PROJECT BRIEF



**Project Name: Exploration Place Destination Playscape**

**Grant Program: BASE 2.0**

**Project Date: April 2023 - June 2025**

## Project Summary

Exploration Place in Wichita, Kansas, received grant funds to transform its 19.4-acre riverfront property into a major outdoor tourist attraction, complementing its existing science and technology museum. The expansion includes world-class adventure, water, and sensory play areas, gardens, trails, classrooms, and amenities, aiming to boost annual attendance from 315,000 to over 1 million visitors, including a significant increase in out-of-state tourism.

## Goals and Objectives

**Goal:** Enhance Wichita’s appeal as a regional tourism hub.

**Objective:** Construct a 19.4 acre destination playspace, including signature thematic installations and supporting amenities.

## Budget Overview

- BASE amount: \$3,000,000.00
- Match amount: \$1,000,000.00
- Total project budget: \$4,000,000.00\*

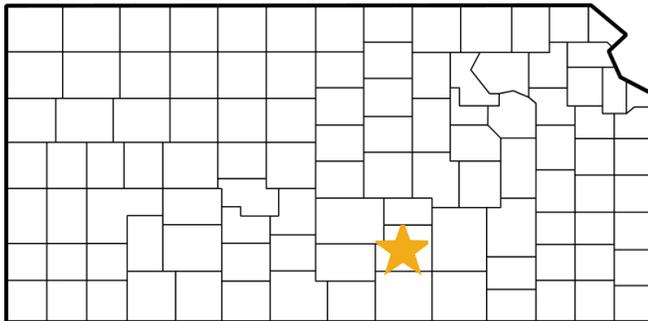
*Note\**Total cost this phase is \$4.6 million, total project is \$27 million

Expense categories:

- Construction: \$3,724,643.28
- Design: \$655,842.46
- Permitting: \$29,963.71
- Other non-construction: \$246,038.60

## Location

Wichita, Kansas



## Grantee Information

Exploration Place is Wichita’s leading science and technology museum, attracting over 300,000 visitors annually and known for its interactive, educational exhibits.

## Target Population

The target population for this grant includes families and visitors of all ages in the Wichita metropolitan area and the broader regional tourism market. The project especially aims to attract a diverse audience, including underserved communities through programs like free admission for SNAP recipients, Title I schools, and military families.

## Sustainability

- Adding significant outdoor components reduces dependence on indoor spaces vulnerable to weather and other interruptions, increasing operational resilience and year-round appeal.
- Ticket sales will boost revenue through increased attendance, ensuring financial stability.

## Outcomes

- Enhanced quality of life for local residents through expanded family-friendly outdoor recreational and educational opportunities.
- Wichita's reputation as a regional tourism destination will be strengthened, supporting economic development along the Arkansas River corridor.

## Activities and Timeline

2023 Q2 - 2024 Q1: Phase 2 project design  
2023 Q3 - 2024 Q4 : play equipment selection  
2023 Q4: construction ground breaking  
2025 Q2: overall construction ongoing; grant supported construction completed

## Contact Information

For any queries or additional information, please contact

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