Construction of the Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line almost is complete. We installed the last of the 753 structures in late August. We’ve completed conductor (wire) stringing in South Dakota and are in the process of stringing in North Dakota. We expect to complete construction in late 2018 or early 2019 and to energize the line shortly after. Community partnerships have been critical to the project’s success. Continue reading to learn how the project is giving back to those communities.
COMMUNITY GRANT RECIPIENTS

We recently awarded grants totaling more than $25,000 to 16 organizations along the project route. Representatives from Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. traveled throughout the project area to award the grants.

“Improving the quality of life in the communities we impact is important to us. We want to continue empowering local stewardship efforts, promoting health and safety, and supporting local organizations. These grants help us do that.”

-Al Koeckeritz, Project Manager

GRANT RECIPIENTS:

• Oakes Park and Recreation for enhancements at Westside Park and softball complex.
• Oakes Park and Recreation Board for the community pool.
• Ellendale Historical Society to restore the Van Meter Schoolhouse.
• Ellendale School District for flexible seating options in first grade classrooms.
• Frederick Forward for park improvements.
• Frederick Area Fire Protection District for new equipment.
• Aberdeen Swim Club for toddler dock platforms.
• Groton Baseball/Softball Foundation for handicap-accessible upgrades to the ball field entryway.
• Good Friends Daycare for facility and playground upgrades.
• Backyard Bulldogs Child Care for new outdoor activity equipment.
• Grant County Development Corporation for a farmers market and green space.
• City of Milbank Volunteer Fire Department for new pagers and portable radios.
• Little Lions’ Learning Center for supplies and curriculum.
• Webster Diamond Club for a batting cage and bullpen for youth programs.
• Webster Area School District for an AED on site for football and track seasons.
• City of Groton for a shelter and picnic tables at the community pool.

SAFETY MOMENT

Safety is our top priority. Please be mindful of our crews while you or those on your land are hunting. We’ll be wearing required protective gear, including highly visible clothing.

CROP OR PROPERTY DAMAGE

We’re committed to working with you during and after construction to ensure accurate compensation for damages. Contact Land Agent Vicki Severson at VSeverson@otpco.com or 218-770-1561 if you have not been contacted regarding damage on your land. We’ll schedule an on-site meeting with you to discuss and jointly determine any crop or property damaged by construction activity.