



Rotary Park Case Study

Project Name: Jackson Square by Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club

Project Location: Inner City Minneapolis, MN Jackson Square Rotary Park – Adjacent to Thomas Edison High School

Date Purchased: 2010

Purchased: Contrabass Chimes, Imbarimba, Pegasus, Manta Ray, Swirl, Tuned Drums, Yantzee – 7 instruments

Project Description: The Rotary Club wanted to donate instruments to the park as an exploratory study of a music park installation. Initially Park & Rec Board staff expressed concern about this location since past data revealed a relatively high level of theft and vandalism, but the club had a theory – Music in communities reduces vandalism. They worked in conjunction with the University of Minnesota and Dr. Scott D. Lipscomb to facilitate this study. In order to capture interactions, a motion detecting video camera was installed on the roof of the YMCA across the street from the park. [See copy of Research results for music and vandalism under White Papers on website.](#)

Tools used: Website

How Funded: A donation of 40,000 from the City of Lakes Rotary Club, part of the organization's 40th anniversary celebration.

Community Response: The presence of the Musical Playground has been a positive addition to the neighborhood, providing more opportunities for social interaction through collaborative music-making. The local community appear to have taken pride in the instruments and enjoyment of making music or of listening to others do so. The Musical Playground provided opportunities for visitors of all ages to interact in ways that would not have otherwise been possible. We are pleased to report, as confirmed by staff at Minneapolis PRB, that to date, there have been zero instances of vandalism or theft regarding these instruments.

Awards: Minneapolis City of Lakes Rotary Club earned a **Rotary International Significant Achievement Award** in 2011 for this music park installation/study. From over 33,000 Rotary Club nominations only 143 awards were given worldwide.