

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Capital Area Soccer League approves \$24,000 in grant dollars**

*Sixteen local communities receive funds to develop, improve soccer fields*

LANSING, Mich. –The Capital Area Soccer League (CASL) Board of Directors voted to approve 16 grants totaling \$24,000 to improve or develop community soccer fields in the Greater Lansing area.

The CASL Field Grant Program awarded one-time grants of up to \$1,500 for projects designed to specifically improve or develop soccer fields used by CASL teams for games and/or practices. Projects range in scope from maintenance to new field development.

“This is the first time that CASL has been able to designate a large sum of money for field improvements,” said Capital Area Soccer League Executive Director Scott Dane.

The Board was able to designate funds for the Field Grant Program due to the success of the Capital Area Classic – Michigan’s fastest growing soccer tournament. The Capital Area Classic, held in September of each year, raised \$24,000 in 2009 toward the Field Grant Program.

The CASL Board of Directors received 16 proposal applications within one month of announcing requests for proposals. Projects ranged from \$1,500 to \$10,000. Funds will go to field maintenance, development of new fields, improvements to existing fields and contribute toward the purchase of new goals.

Scott Dane is extremely happy to make funds available to the community stating, “The Board of Directors had great foresight when they decided to implement the Field Grant Program. Enhancing the fields gives players a greater opportunity to participate in soccer, which teaches sportsmanship, teamwork, camaraderie and other life-long lessons.”

Every year CASL has made available matching grants up to \$500 in various communities. In 2010, the League set out to make a larger impact by enhancing local soccer fields for the 165 CASL teams that compete in the Fall and Spring of each year.

“We determined that the biggest impact CASL could have on the quality of soccer in the Capital Area was to make a significant investment in the fields,” said Dane.

CASL strives to maximize available resources to provide the highest quality of soccer services and ensure that all players, staff and stakeholders have a positive climate for learning and development. The League has more than 2,700 soccer players and 600 volunteer team officials.

Communities receiving grants are as follows: Mason United Soccer Association, Springport Soccer Club, Grand Ledge Soccer Club, Holt Dimondale Soccer Organization, Leslie Youth Soccer Club, Okemos Soccer Club, Bath Soccer Club, Haslett Soccer Club, Waverly Soccer Club, Fowlerville Select Soccer, East Lansing Soccer Club, St. Johns Soccer Club, DeWitt Soccer Club, Eaton Rapids Soccer Club, Lansing Soccer Club and Williamston Soccer Club.

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