

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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“Norfolk Parks Win with Keno Funds”



There's a Keno winner every day in Norfolk. A person may get their winnings from playing a Keno game in one of the fourteen game hosting locations in Norfolk or be a winner when they benefit from the many Keno funded recreational improvements in Norfolk.

The most recent winners of those improvements funded by Keno are the campers at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park south of Norfolk. There Keno funds have enabled the City of Norfolk to put in new restrooms and showers and

spruce up the camping area that was under water from Elkhorn River flood water just a year ago.

Baseball players are also winners from Keno as the money from game proceeds has funded upgrades for Ta-Ha-Zouka ball fields. Adult and youth ball players enjoy the benefits of improved ball field lighting and a new field at the park thanks to Keno funds.

Kids at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park jump and twirl with new electronic playground equipment near the entrance of the park. It's the outdoor entertainment of the new millennium and allows kids to combine video game technology with outdoor fun. Keno money was used to fund the new equipment which has since been used by hundreds of park goers.

Anyone who attends any of Norfolk's thirteen parks benefits from Keno earnings as the money has gone towards paying for additional staff to help mow and maintain the grass, flowers and other amenities at the parks.

Even sports fans are winners at Keno as the funds from those playing the game have paid for modifications of bleachers throughout the city. The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 requires that bleachers be handicapped accessible. City workers have worked to make the bleachers ADA compliant without having to replace them with new ones.

New trees, additional trash carts and even a snowplow attachment have been some of the purchases made possible through Keno funds.

"It's great to have the additional money from Keno to make the city's recreational areas more useful for Norfolk citizens and welcoming for the visitors who come to Norfolk," said Pat Mrsny, City of Norfolk Parks Superintendent.

Keno receipts have been up this year with an increase of 18.3% in funds raised in March 2011 compared with March 2010 and a 43.7% increase in funds raised in April 2011 compared to April 2010.

Since Norfolk residents approved Keno in 2008, nearly \$700,000 has been raised for recreational projects and improvements. Nebraska State law requires that no less than 65% of the funds wagered in Keno be rewarded to the players as prizes. In Norfolk, 73.5% of the funds wagered are rewarded to the players. Twelve and a half percent goes toward city recreation projects.

Keno headquarters in Norfolk are located at the Big Red Sports Bar and Grill at 2101 West Pasewalk Avenue. When selected as the keno operator in Norfolk, Big Red Keno donated \$100,000 to the City of Norfolk for recreational improvements and has since donated one dollar from every Memorial Field burger they sell to the city. That amount has averaged about \$600 since the main keno location opened last year.

Other locations around Norfolk where people can play Keno are the American Legion Club, TJ's Sports Bar, The Phoenix Room, Michael's Cantina, Eagle's Norfolk Aerie 3611, Fifth Street Tavern, Harbor Bar, Mel's Drive Inn, the "O" Lounge, the Office Bar, The Vet's Club Post 1544, Wolfgang's Pub and the Mint Bar.