

TO: City Council Members  
FROM: Adam Smith, City Manager  
DATE: February 23, 2023  
RE: Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant – Round Two – Jaycee Park

**Update on the Spark Grant - Round One:** The City submitted a Round One Spark Grant application to address significant renovations for Jaycee Park in December 2022. On February 9, 2023, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced they received 462 Round One applications with a total funding request of over \$280M. For Round One, the DNR elected to fund 21 projects with just over \$14M. The City's application was not selected for Round One funding.

- **Summary of 21 Projects Funded in Round One**

- Four communities are above the Michigan average for Median Household Income (MHI) (\$63,202 average/family of four).
  - Note: the City of Grand Ledge is above the MHI.
- Six communities are Low Income
- Two communities are Very Low Income
- Nine communities had populations too low to pull Census data (population ranges between 350 to 2,856)
- The DNR plans to make scoring for all Round One applicants available in March 2023.

**Round Two Resubmission:** The City will resubmit the Jaycee Park application when the Round Two window is open and make any modifications based on scoring feedback from Round One.

- **Spark Due Date:** The DNR has not announced an official due date for Round Two. We anticipate it will be in April 2023.
- **Spark Available Funding:** Approximately \$50M is available via the Spark grants. The DNR will allocate this in Round Two and Round Three in 2023.
- **Spark Funding Regulations:** All of the Spark grant funds, regardless of the award date, must have funds fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully completed by October 31, 2026.
- **Application Amount:** The Jaycee Park application amount will remain the same, with the total project costs estimated at \$1,217,500. The DDA has committed \$150,000, the City Council has committed \$50,000, and having received a total of \$17,500 in private donations, the City has \$217,500 in matching funds.
- **Project Priority:** Spark grant applicants are allowed to submit more than one grant application as long as they are prioritized. The City plans to resubmit the Jaycee Park project as the #1 priority and the Project Home Run as the #2 priority.

TO: City Council Members  
FROM: Adam Smith, City Manager  
DATE: December 6, 2022  
RE: Department of Natural Resources Spark Grant

**Background:** Michigan Spark Grants are a \$65 million program, funded by the American Rescue Plan, that represents a milestone moment for outdoor recreation, helping local communities that want to create, renovate or redevelop public outdoor opportunities for residents and visitors – especially those whose economic opportunities and health were hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Administered by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Michigan Spark Grants will support projects that provide safe, accessible public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people’s health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure, and make it easier for people to enjoy the outdoors. This grant is possible because of the Building Michigan Together Plan, signed in March 2022, which included a historic infusion of federal funding in our state and local parks.

**Eligibility and Important Dates:** Based on eligibility requirements, the City can apply for up to a \$1 million grant to support and enhance neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes in the Grand Ledge community that has been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. *The DNR is prioritizing projects that are “shovel ready” with existing plans in order to help ensure the federally mandated timelines are met.*

Summary of the Spark Grant Requirements:

- The completed grant application is due Monday, December 19, 2022.
- Ability to obligate all funds by December 31, 2024, and complete the project by October 31, 2026.
- Ability for this project to address COVID-19 impacts to aid with new outdoor recreational opportunities for people of all abilities.
- Eligible financial match is encouraged.
- Ability for the project to provide a long-term impact on the community.
- Long-term financial viability from the City to maintain the project.
- Ability to show how the project supports the vision and goals within plans incorporating public input such as the City’s Master Plan, DDA Priorities, and Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

**Project Components for the Grant Application:** To capitalize on the up to \$1 million of potential grant funding available per applicant and meet the requirements of providing permanent outdoor infrastructure that will leverage federal, state, local, and private resources toward sustainable, public, outdoor recreation. The following project elements may include, but are not limited to:

- **\*Public Gathering Space** adjacent to the Performance Shelter
- **\*ADA Permanent Bathrooms** near the GL Splashpad
- **\*Shade Structure** near the Wheelchair Swing and GL Splashpad
- **\*Wheelchair Swing and Other Swings** near the GL Splashpad
- **\*Sign Language-Shaped Bike Racks** near the GL Splashpad
- **\*Pave Gravel Parking Lot** to aid in ADA access to the Riverwalk Trail, Memorial Tree Trail, and additional amenities at and connecting to Jaycee Park
- **Butterfly Garden** on the north side of Jaycee Park adjacent to the Performance Shelter
- **Site Furnishings** throughout the park to upgrade and add additional seating options
- **Entrance Sign** informing visitors they have arrived at Jaycee Park
- **Boardwalk Repairs & Improvements** adding an ADA-accessible area for fishing on the existing pier

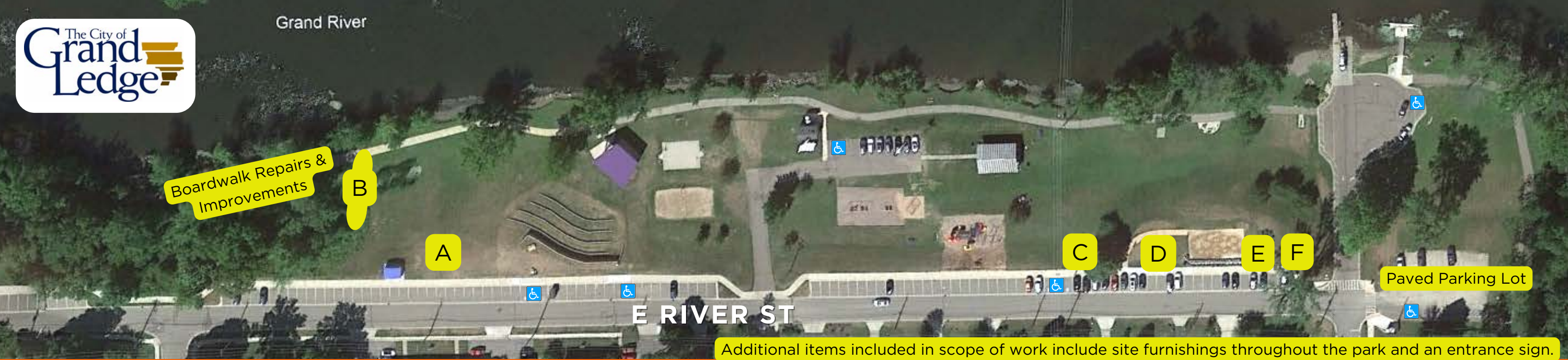
**\*Notes project components with existing plans.**

**Project Cost Estimates:** Per the DNR Spark Grant requirements, the total project cost may exceed \$1 million if the applicant is able to provide documentation of secured matching funding sources. City staff is estimating the total project costs to be approximately \$1,217,500.

In accordance with the City Council Tier 1 priority of Public Places & Park Enhancements, City staff are in support of a grant application submission for the DNR Spark Grant.

The DDA Board, in accordance with their priorities, took action at Nov. 9, 2022 meeting recommending City Council submit the Spark Grant application and the utilization of \$150,000 in DDA funds towards a matching funds commitment. City staff recommends that City Council allocate an additional \$50,000 in match from the General Fund for a total local unit of government match of \$200,000. [The City received a total of \\$17,500 in private donations for a total match of \\$217,500.](#)

The Spark Grant is due on December 19, 2022, with notifications on grant awards to be made by the DNR the last week of January 2023.



Boardwalk Repairs & Improvements

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A

C

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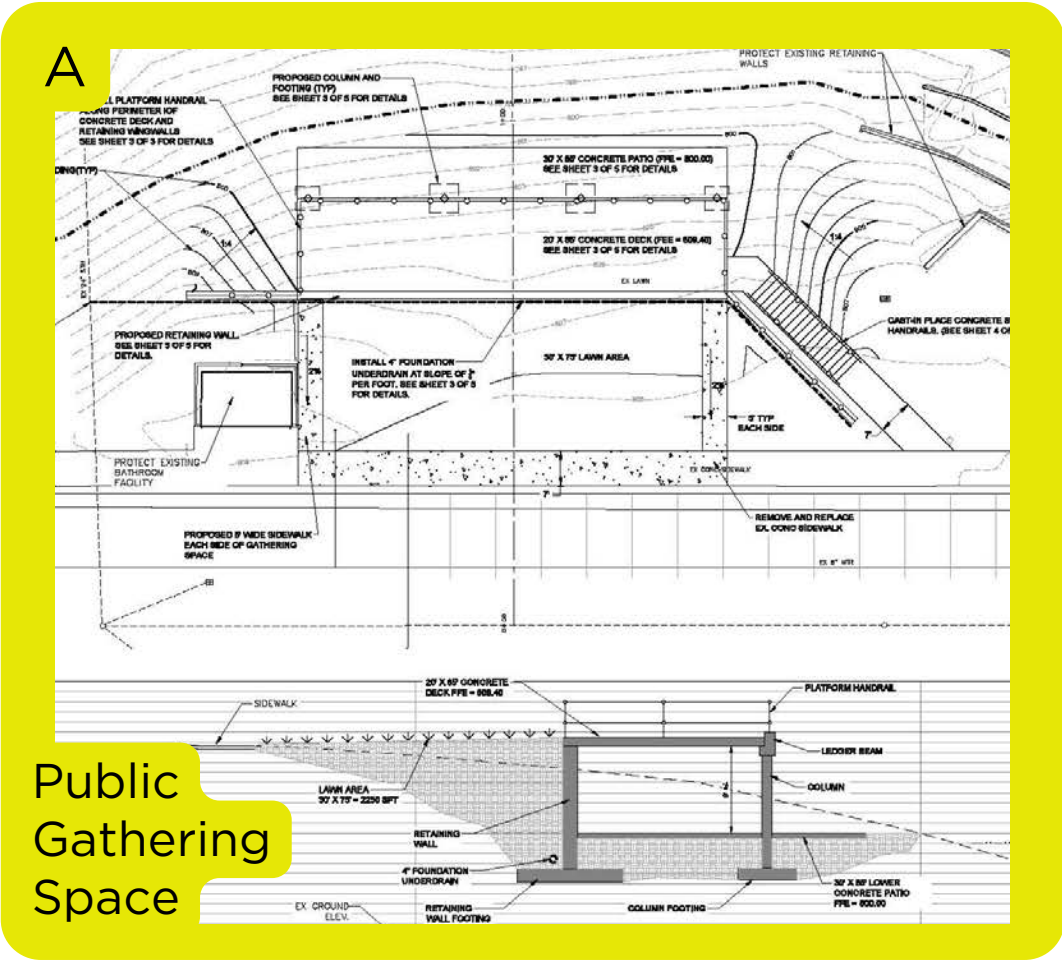
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Paved Parking Lot

E RIVER ST

Additional items included in scope of work include site furnishings throughout the park and an entrance sign.



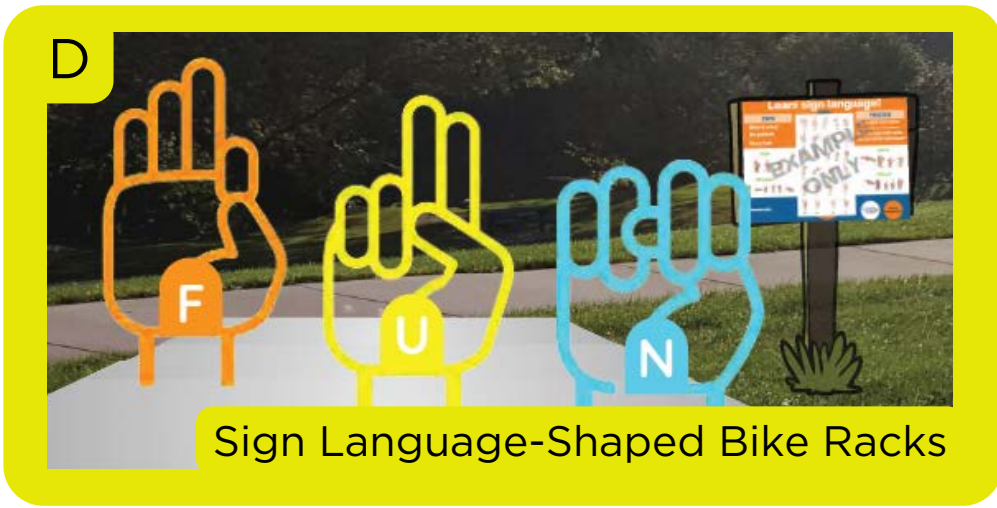
Public Gathering Space



Wheelchair & Other Swings



Shade Structure



Sign Language-Shaped Bike Racks



ADA Permanent Bathrooms



Butterfly Garden

# Jaycee Park

Site Development Plan - Spark Improvements  
City of Grand Ledge | December 2022

## PROPOSED AMENITIES

*For illustrative purposes only.*