



City of Hartford * County of Van Buren * State of Michigan

TO: Mayor Hall and the Hartford Commission
FROM: Nicol Brown, City Manager
DATE: July 22, 2024
RE: Spark Grant

ITEM BEFORE THE COMMISSION:

The item before the Commission is to accept the grant award of \$869,900 from the Department of Natural Resources.

DISCUSSION:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (the “Department”) can issue grants for developing public outdoor recreation facilities. The State of Michigan was awarded \$6.54 billion under the Fiscal Recovery Fund. In section 451 of Public Act 53 of 2022, the State of Michigan Legislature appropriated funds to the Department for an ARPA grant to the Council of Michigan Foundations (CMF) for \$27,500,000. In consideration of receiving the Grant, CMF has been tasked with providing technical assistance and distribution of ARPA funding to support expanding access to healthy indoor and outdoor recreation opportunities in communities. Communities are experiencing significant health, social, and economic disparities with little or no previous parks and recreation investment. CMF intends to advance transformative change for Michigan’s historically under-resourced and underrepresented communities. CMF entered a Spark Partnership Agreement (the “Partnership Agreement”) with the Department to receive the Grant.

This innovative partnership will help ensure community voice is centered in this work to advance equitable and transformative change for Michigan’s historically under-resourced and underrepresented communities.

The Spark grant, awarded to the city for \$869,900, will provide additional parking spaces, sidewalks, lighting and electrical upgrades, and pavilion and restroom improvements.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Hartford City Commission accepts the grant award of \$869,900 from the Department of Natural Resources.