

Lathrup Village Nature Group Request for Partnership with the City of Lathrup Village

To the City Council of Lathrup Village,

We respectfully submit to you our request for a Partnership with the City of Lathrup Village. Following is information about our overall purpose and our past and planned contributions to the City. We thank you kindly for your consideration.

WHAT WE ARE

Lathrup Village Nature Group (LVNG) is a group for like-minded people to discuss and simply enjoy the natural environment and cultivated gardens of Lathrup Village. We have a Facebook platform (Lathrup Village Nature Group, formed in March 2020) with about 270 members. Our Facebook group is very active and is a warm and welcoming environment for beginning and advanced gardeners. The platform also has many experts on a variety of subjects such as native plants, insects, garden design, pruning, trees, and more, who provide helpful information to members. We are planning to implement live meetings for the whole Group in 2025 to expand beyond just a Facebook group.

We have a Planning Committee of six (6) members who meet on a regular basis to formulate ideas and activities for the group. LVNG is a progressive garden group that is very much involved in sustainability, native plants, pollinators, organic growing techniques, vegetable gardening, and the natural environment, among other interests. We sponsored and produced the recent 2023 Garden Tour and the 2024 "Rock the Village" recognition of outstanding homes and gardens, both of which highlighted the beautiful neighborhoods of Lathrup Village.

Our Mission Statement is to encourage and support appreciation of and education about nature and the gardens of Lathrup Village.

LVNG is open to all people of Lathrup Village and outside of Lathrup Village. However, we do keep it Lathrup Village-focused.

WHAT WE DO

Besides the online platform, we have created and implemented the following for the City:

- Wrote an article about coyotes for the city.
- Presented Garden Tour Summer 2023.
- Hosted plant swap with DDA Spring 2024.
- Cleaned, weeded, and planted the Veteran's Memorial Grove at City Hall in the Spring of 2024.
- Created a landscape plan and sourced plants for City Hall with DDA Beautification Spring 2024.
- Helped DDA Beautification to plant hanging baskets in Spring 2024.
- Presented "Rock the Village" Summer 2024 (home & garden excellence recognition).
- LVNG members installed the trees and shrubs at City Hall in Fall 2024 with DDA Beautification.

PLANS FOR 2025

- Manage the June 2025 Lathrup Village Garden Tour.
- Maintain the Prairie Garden by Goldengate NE at City Hall starting Spring 2025 (minimum 10 hours of maintenance).
- Maintain the Veteran's Grove at City Hall (minimum 10 hours of maintenance).
- Present a seminar on a gardening/nature subject in the Community Room first quarter of 2025.

- Host three (3) live meetings in the Meeting Room at City Hall, topics to be determined.
- Partner with the DDA Beautification Committee to assist with hanging baskets.
- Host a Native plant sale at City Hall in Spring and possibly Fall.
- Collaborate with other groups in the City as needed/requested.

OUR REQUESTS TO THE CITY

The Lathrup Village Nature Group (LVNG) respectfully makes the following requests for the use of City Resources at no charge for our services to the City.

The use of the **Meeting Room three (3) times per year, M-Th only, after City Hall office hours.** We ask for a 3-hour time span which includes setup and cleanup. Usage is for LV Nature Group and open to all.

The use of the Community Room **one (1) time in the first quarter of 2025 after City Hall office hours, M-Th only.** We request a 4-hour time span to include set-up and cleanup and do not require kitchen facilities. Usage is for speaker presentations and is open to all. Light refreshments are to be provided by LVNG.

The Picnic Shelter **(2 times per year) Weekends (Saturday or Sunday) for activity TBD, 1x spring and 1x fall. 4 hours total including setup and cleanup.** Open to all.

The use of the City Hall outside space (does not have to be a Gazebo or Picnic Shelter) for ticket sales of Garden Tour 2025 on Saturday, June 21, the day of the Tour from 9 am to 4 pm. Open to all. We also request access to Public Restrooms in City Hall.

We respectfully ask that the **City promote our events** when scheduled, on the City website, email newsletter, and via banners/flyers (provided by LVNG).

Thank you kindly for your consideration and please advise with any questions or concerns you may have.

The Lathrup Village Nature Group.

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

This Hold Harmless Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of August 19th, 2024, between The Lathrup Village Nature Group, hereinafter referred to as the "LVNG," and the City of Lathrup Village, located at 27400 Southfield Rd. Lathrup Village MI 48076 hereinafter referred to as the "City."

1. **Purpose:** LVNG and the City are entering into a collaborative effort for the purpose of community benefit.
2. **Hold Harmless Provision:** LVNG agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City and its officers, employees, agents, and representatives (collectively, the "City Parties") from any and all claims, demands, suits, actions, liabilities, damages, losses, costs, and expenses, including attorney's fees (collectively, "Claims"), arising out of or in connection with LVNG activities, negligence, or breach of any obligation under this Agreement.
3. **Exceptions:** This indemnification obligation does not apply to Claims caused solely by the gross negligence or willful misconduct of the City Parties.
4. **Notice and Defense:** In the event of any Claim against the City Parties, LVNG agrees to promptly notify the City in writing. LVNG further agrees to assume the defense of such Claim, including the selection of legal counsel and shall keep the City reasonably informed of the progress of the defense.
5. **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the state of Michigan, without regard to its conflict of law principles.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Hold Harmless Agreement as of the date first above written.

Lathrup Village Nature Group

Signature