

Lathrup Village Nature Group Request for Partnership with the City of Lathrup Village 2026

To the City Council of Lathrup Village,

We respectfully submit to you our request for a Partnership with the City of Lathrup Village in 2026. The 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 enjoy the natural environment and cultivated gardens of Lathrup Village. We have a Facebook platform (Lathrup Village Nature Group, formed in March 2020) with almost 350 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 have a Planning Committee of eight (8) members who meet monthly 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, wildlife, and the natural environment, among other interests. We sponsored and produced the 2023 & 2025 Garden Tours and the 2024 “Rock the Village” recognition of outstanding homes and gardens, which highlighted the beautiful neighborhoods of Lathrup Village. We are currently planning the 2026 “Rock the Village” initiative. We have also hosted multiple activities and events over the past year for Lathrup Village residents as well as neighboring cities.

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 focused on Lathrup Village.

WHAT WE DO AND HAVE DONE

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 & 2025.
- Hosted plant swap with DDA Spring 2024.
- Cleaned, weeded, and planted the Veteran’s Memorial Grove gardens at City Hall in 2024 & 2025.
- 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.
- Hosted a program about Native Plants 1Q 2025.
- Hosted a program about Witches and Herbs 4Q 2025.
- Had a booth for LV Holiday Festival 4Q 2025.
- LVNG planted 10 trees at Sarrackwood Park and The Arboretum to assist Tree Committee planting initiative 2Q 2025.
- Hosted native plant sale 2Q 2025.

PLANS FOR 2026

- Manage the 2026 “Rock the Village” beautiful home and garden recognition.
- Maintain the Prairie Garden by Goldengate NE at City Hall starting Spring 2026.
- Maintain and plant the Veteran’s Memorial Grove garden at City Hall.
- Present a seminar on Winter Seed Sowing in the Community Room 1Q of 2026.
- Host presentations of a gardening/ nature topic in 3Q and 4Q.

- Host a Native plant sale at City Hall in Spring and possibly Fall.
- Donate \$1,000 to the Tree Committee for the purchase of trees at Sarrackwood Park and The Arboretum.
- Other activities that may come up during the year, such as a Plant Swap, Meet & Greet, etc.
- 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 Community Room three (3) times in 2026 after City Hall office hours, M-Th only. There may be requests for Saturday mornings if there are children-focused events planned. We would like to keep this open-ended and flexible. We request a 4-hour time span to include set-up and cleanup, and do not require kitchen facilities. We request access to audio and PA equipment. Usage is for speaker presentations and workshops 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 plant sales/swaps, 1x spring and 1x fall. 4 hours total per event, including setup and cleanup. Open to all.

We also request access to Public Restrooms in City Hall during outside events.

We respectfully ask that the City promote our events when scheduled, on the City website, email newsletter, and via banners/flyers/lawn signs to be 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

2025 Volunteer Hours

- 1Q presentation on native plants. 5 members @20 hours
- Planted 10 trees at Sarrackwood and Arboretum from DTE grant. 3 members @9 hours
- New Tree Watering/Bricks at Sarrackwood and Arboretum. 3 members @9 hours
- Weeded City Hall Planting. 3 members @15 hours
- Spring Clean Up and Planting Veterans Grove. 3 members @6 hours
- Fall Clean Up and Planting Veterans Grove plus wreaths. 1 member @12 hours
- Presentation at City Hall "Witches and Herbs." 5 members @15 hours.
- Holiday Festival at City Hall. 2 members @6 hours
- Lathrup Village Garden Tour. 40+ volunteers, at least 100 hours, including planning, set up, volunteer homes, greeters, and break down.

Summary of Volunteer Hours given to Lathrup Village in 2025:

At a minimum, 192 total hours

City Council Approved

XXXX

HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

This Hold Harmless Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into as of _____, 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