



To: Main Street Oakland County – Attn. Annaka Norris
From: Janet Bloom – Community & Economic Development/DDA Director
Date: July 30, 2026
RE: Placemaking and Public Spaces Grant – ARPA Q2 2026 Status Report

Background:

The Placemaking and Public Spaces ARPA Grant is focused on replacing the existing City of Lathrup Village Municipal Park playscape, which is not currently ADA-compliant, with a new accessible and inclusive playground. Current concept materials include accessible, transfer-based play components; adaptive swings; inclusive play features; poured-in-place safety surfacing; and an accessible connection to the existing walkway system.

The project has concept drawings, a quote for materials, and additional funding sources.

Economic Impact:

There are multiple funding sources associated with the Municipal Park Playscape project. Currently, funding is coming from the Placemaking and Public Spaces Grant, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund, and Gametime. With the current funds in play, the City of Lathrup Village will have around \$28,000 to cover, and the City of Lathrup Village and Lathrup Village Downtown Development Authority have previously earmarked funds to complete this project.

	Expenses	Revenues
Playscape/PIP/Installation	513,291.40	
Giffels DNR Survey Work	6,000.00	
County ARPA Grant		135,767.00
MNRTF Grant (67%)		256,961.35
GameTime Grant		98,232.06
Sub Total	519,291.40	490,960.41
City Share	28,330.99	

The project is scheduled to begin installation in spring 2027, after final Michigan DNR approval.

Second Quarter Project Progress:

GiffelsWebster continued their work on completing the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) boundary survey and legal description and completing a topographic survey of the proposed playscape area. The topographic survey provided updated information regarding site grades, existing pathways, nearby trees, open space conditions, and surrounding infrastructure. This information will help guide final playground placement, accessible route design, grading, surfacing transitions, utility review, and permit preparation. Giffels Webster quoted the cost at \$920.00 and the final cost came in at that price, noted in chart. The final price on the Boundary Survey work/Studies/Due Diligence and Project Coordination was quoted at \$6,000.00 and total charges to date for Q1 and Q2 are \$4,088.00. The second quarter portion of that work for \$2,098.00 is noted in chart below.

Documentation of Expenditures				
No.	Date	Amount	Project Budget Line Item	Purpose/Description of the Expenditure
1	4/6/2026	\$2098.00		Giffels Webster- Boundary Survey (Inv. 137329)
2	4/6/2026	\$920.00		Giffels Webster- Studies/Due Diligence (title work) (Inv. 137329)
3				
TOTAL		\$3,018.00		

Surface Material Concerns:

The Lathrup Village City Council and some members of the public have brought up concerns about the surface material to be used in the project. The Council has requested additional information regarding alternate surfacing and estimated costs. The vendor write-up is included. In summary, what they provided outlines two alternatives to PIP playground surfacing: Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) and synthetic turf with a cushion system. EWF is the least expensive option, estimated at \$12,000–\$14,000 installed, but requires more frequent maintenance, including raking and periodic top-offs to maintain the required 12-inch depth.

However, this does not appear to meet the ADA requirements of the Trust Fund grant. Synthetic turf offers accessibility and a seamless surface with fewer displacement issues, but has a higher initial cost, approximately the same as PIP, and requires ongoing grooming, cleaning, seam inspections, and more difficult repairs. The document also clarifies that PIP does not require automatic resurfacing every two years; rather, a two-year condition assessment is recommended, with routine inspections and localized repairs as needed and more significant maintenance potentially occurring around years 4–5 or later depending on use and conditions. Overall, EWF is the best option for minimizing upfront costs, while PIP and synthetic turf provide stronger options for accessibility, durability, and lower routine maintenance.

They believe PIP is the best option for ADA, appearance, wear, maintenance, and long-term satisfaction. Especially if the City added the small granule for the high-use areas under swings, slide exits, and around the inclusive whirl.

As for the safety of PIP:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC/ATSDR), and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) jointly conducted the largest U.S. study of recycled tire crumb rubber under the Federal Research Action Plan (FRAP).

Key findings include:

- Recycled tire rubber contains numerous chemicals, including metals and organic compounds that originate from tires.
- Only small amounts of most organic chemicals were released into the air during field testing.
- Only 1–3% of most metals were found to be bioaccessible (available for absorption by the human body).
- Biomonitoring of athletes found metal concentrations similar to the general U.S. population.
- Researchers found no measurable difference in PAH metabolites in urine between people using synthetic turf with tire crumb and those using natural grass fields.
- The agencies concluded that the research did not identify evidence of elevated health risks from typical recreational exposure, but also noted that additional research continues because uncertainties remain.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has not concluded that playground surfaces made from recycled tire rubber are hazardous.

Instead, CPSC states:

- No specific chemical hazards from recycled tire playground surfacing are currently known.
- It continues to evaluate children's exposure through an ongoing risk assessment.
- As a precaution, CPSC recommends:
- Washing hands after playground use.
- Avoid eating while on rubber surfaces.
- Discouraging children from chewing or swallowing rubber pieces.
- Limiting time on extremely hot playgrounds.

Next Steps:

The City of Lathrup Village has made substantial strides in the second quarter to bring a new accessible Municipal Park play structure to the residents and visitors.

The grant draw amount of \$101,825.25 needs to be spent by August 30, 2026. It is slated to be used for a deposit to Sinclair Recreation for the playscape equipment and materials, pending Lathrup Village City Council approval.

The second draw amount of \$33,941.75, anticipated in September 2026 will also be applied to the Sinclair Recreation deposit.

As the project moves forward, further discussions will take place with the DNR regarding surface material before installation.

We are moving closer to a final playground and site design. This includes confirming the final layout, grading, surfacing, accessible route details, edge treatment, restoration areas, and any other site improvements necessary to construct the project. Final design documents and technical specifications will need to be prepared for permit review and procurement.

Looking forward, once final plans are complete, the City will proceed with engineering review, permit submission, and procurement authorization. If the playscape replacement remains connected to the broader MNRTF-supported Municipal Park redevelopment effort, the City will also coordinate any required grant-related review of updated boundary materials and construction documents before purchase or construction activity proceeds.

Following permit and agency review, the City will need to complete procurement, award the contract, finalize a construction schedule, provide public notification, and prepare for construction administration and project closeout. Closeout will include final inspection, accessibility and safety documentation, reimbursement support, and reconciliation of ARPA funds with any other local or grant funding sources used for the project.

Respectfully Submitted:

Janet Bloom
Community & Economic Development Director/DDA Director