

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application 2020

Organization: City of Bridgman

TF20-0113

Section A: Applicant Site and Project Information: Toth Park

*Is the application for site development <u>or</u> land acquisition? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Development Acquisition			
*Name of Applicant (Government Unit) City of Bridgman		*SIGMA VSS CV0048805	*SIGMA Address Code 01
			*County Berrien County
*Name of Authorized Representative Milo Root		*Title Parks and Recreation Director	
*Address 9765 Maple Street, Box 366		*Telephone (269) 465-5407	
		Fax	
*City Bridgman	*State MI	*ZIP 49106	*E-mail mroot@bridgman.org
*State House District District 79	*State Senate District District 21		*U.S. Congress District District 6

*Proposal Title (Not to exceed 60 characters) Toth Park Improvements
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*Proposal Description Proposed project includes replacing aged playscapes and adding access pathway.
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*Address of Site 9841 Toth	*City, Village or Township of Site Bridgman, MI	*Zip 49106
*County in which Site is located Berrien	*Town, Range and Section Numbers of Site Location <i>Letters must be upper-case: (examples: T02N, R13E, 22)</i> (Town) T06S (Range)R22W (Section)19	*Latitude/Longitude at park entrance 41.940950 -86.561180
*Park Name Toth Park		

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Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

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SOURCES OF MATCHING FUNDS

PROJECT COST AMOUNTS

*Grant amount requested (round to the nearest hundred dollars)	\$50,000
Total Match	\$30,000
Total Project Cost	\$80,000
Percentage of match commitment (Must be at least 25% of total project cost)	37%
a) General Funds or Local Restricted Funds (Applicant's own cash)	\$30,000
b) Force Account Labor/Materials (Applicant's own paid labor or materials)	
c) Federal or State Funds	

You have entered a value for item c). Please provide the information below for each federal or state program from which matching funds will be provided. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) AND RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM (RTP) ARE THE ONLY FEDERAL FUNDS THAT CAN BE USED AS MATCH:

*(1) Program Name	*Administering Agency	
*Contact Name for Administering Agency	*Telephone	*Amount

***Type of Funds**

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

***Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?**

Yes No

***Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?**

Yes No

Check to add program information for additional State of Federal funds that will be used as Match.

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(2) Program Name	Administering Agency	
Contact Name for Administering Agency	Telephone	Amount

Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

Check to add program information for additional State of Federal funds that will be used as Match.

(3) Program Name	Administering Agency	
Contact Name for Administering Agency	Telephone	Amount

Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

Date grant funds approved

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

Estimated approval date

Appropriated funds

Date appropriated

Other, explain

Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes No

Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes No

d) Cash Donations

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You have entered a value for item d). Please list the individual sources and the amounts to be donated below.

SOURCE	AMOUNT
*	
Total	\$0

*Is a letter of intent from each donor included with the application?
 Yes No

e) Donated Labor and/or Materials

You have entered a value for item e). Please include each item to be donated, the source, dollar value, and how the dollar value was determined.

ITEM	SOURCE	DOLLAR VALUE	VALUATION METHOD
*			
Total		\$0	

*Is a letter of intent from each donor included with application?
 Yes No

f) Donated Land Value (acquisition applications only)

You have entered a value for item f). Please describe how the value of the land donation was determined.

*

*Is a letter from the landowner committing to the donation of a portion of fair market value and any conditions placed upon their commitment included with application?
 Yes No

Section C2: Project Details

Development Applications ONLY

*Applicant's current control of the site:

- ✓ Fee Simple
- Lease
- Easement
- Other (describe)

*Age of Park 43 Years

*Acres 7

Project Cost Estimate Table

<u>SCOPE ITEM</u>	<u>DNR ONLY</u> <u>Accessibility Guidelines</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED</u> <u>COST</u>
Access Pathway 6' wide or more		2	\$70,000.00
Play Equipment (including safety surfacing)		LSUM	\$10,000.00

(New rows will appear as rows are completed and Saved)

Other:

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Do not list the aspects of project execution, such as labor, construction equipment, contingency or raw materials. (New rows will appear as rows are completed and Saved)

Permit Fees

MNRTF Sign

Subtotal

\$80,000.00

Engineering (These fees may not exceed 15% of subtotal)

Total Estimated Cost (Must equal Total Project Cost amount on Section B page.)

\$80,000.00

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Section D: Justification of Need

*1) If you are submitting multiple acquisition or development applications, what is the priority for this application? (1 = highest) 1

*2) What page(s) of your recreation plan is the need for the proposed project discussed? From: 35 To: 39
If proposed project is on only one page, please enter the page number in both boxes

*3) What was the date(s) of public meeting to discuss submission of the grant application? 3/16/2020
Additional dates:

*4) Did you gather public input from individuals with disabilities, their families, or advocates? No Yes

*5) Are you the primary provider of recreation services to any surrounding communities, as documented in your recreation plan? No Yes

List Communities:

*6) Explain how you plan to address safety considerations and crime prevention in the project area?

Safety and crime prevention of the project area will consist of clear sight lines from the adjacent roads and providing residents with an updated, well-maintained recreation site which will help prevent physical injuries and crime in the area. Safety paroling this area as part of their regular route.

*7) Explain how you will make the public aware of the project, as well as the efforts you will use to publicize and promote your project. Include marketing methods that will effectively communicate with persons with disabilities.

The proposed project will be marketed to the community through the City of Bridgman's website, as well as the Township's website. The project will also be mentioned in the City of Bridgman's social media channels. Other types of promotion will include mentions in newspapers, radio, etc.

*8) Does the applicant have a formal recreation department or committee? Please explain below. For park committees, describe how members are appointed, their roles and responsibilities. List of members and meeting schedule.

The City of Bridgman has historically operated the Parks under the supervision of the Water and Sewer Superintendent. In addition, a Park Committee comprised of several Council members worked to develop oversight for the parks. The committee appointed the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to provide input, exchange ideas and promote awareness of the parks.

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Section E: Application History and Stewardship

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NO YES

1) *Questions 1 is for acquisition applications only - for development projects, leave blank and move to question 2.*

Will the applicant have adequate funds on hand to complete the acquisition transaction without any third party assistance (i.e. loans, lines of credit, etc.) **until partial reimbursement and final audit is completed** (approximately 180 days after closing)?

* 2) Has applicant received DNR recreation grant(s) in the past?

✓

 If yes, does applicant currently have an open, active grant?

✓

*3) Has applicant closed, sold, or transferred any parkland or recreation facilities in the past 5 years?

✓

*4) Does applicant have a known unresolved conversion of grant-assisted parkland? (a conversion is a change from public outdoor recreation use to some other use)

✓

*5) Does applicant have a "residents only" policy for this park or other parks or recreation facilities?

✓

*6) Do you now or do you intend in the future to charge an entrance fee to the project site?

✓

 If yes, fee schedule and policy for reduced entrance fees for low-income users included with application?

If yes, attach supporting Documentation on Required Attachments page.

*7) What is the applicant's current year budget for parks and recreation?

\$480,550.00

*8) What are the estimated operation and maintenance costs associated with the project?

\$45,000.00

Comments:

2) Bridgman Township has received several DNR grants in the past. See Rec plan p. 13 for reference.

Section F: Site Conditions

	<u>NO</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>UNKNOWN</u>
*1) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is or has been used for industrial purposes, including manufacturing and/or minerals' processing or extraction (sand, gravel, oil, or gas) at this time or in the past?	✓		
*2) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is currently being used or has been used in the past for a gas station, motor vehicle service or repair facility, commercial printing facility, dry cleaners, photo developing lab, junkyard, landfill, waste treatment, storage, processing or recycling or disposal facility?	✓		
*3) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the following are or have in the past been stored, discarded, or used on the property – automotive or industrial batteries, pesticides or other chemicals used in agricultural practices, paints, industrial waste, or other chemicals in drums or other containers?	✓		
*4) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that fill dirt or other fill material of unknown origin is on this property or has in the past been placed on the property?	✓		
*5) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge of any evidence of leaks, spills, or stains from a substance other than water at this time or in the past?	✓		
*6) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are or have in the past been waste disposal pits, lagoons, or ponds on the property?	✓		
*7) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are at this time or have in the past been registered or unregistered storage tanks on the property?	✓		
*8) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminated groundwater lies below the property?	✓		
*9) If there is a water well on the property, does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminants have been identified in the well that exceeded legal standards or has the well been identified as contaminated by a government agency?	✓		

Section F: Site Conditions

- *10) Has the landowner been notified about any current violations of environmental laws pertaining to activities on the property or does applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge about past violations? ✓
 - *11) Has the landowner been notified of any environmental assessments of the property that identified a) the presence of hazardous substances, petroleum products, or contamination; or b) the need for further assessment? ✓
 - *12) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any hazardous substances, unidentified waste materials, tires, or automotive or industrial batteries have been dumped above ground, buried, or burned on the property? ✓
 - *13) Is the property listed on any federal or state list of contaminated sites, including the site of a leaking underground storage tank? ✓
 - *14) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the adjoining properties are currently being used or have been used in the past for the purposes listed in the previous questions 1-13? ✓
 - *15) Has an environmental assessment been completed for the site?
If yes, provide the most current on the Required Attachments page. ✓
- NO YES UNKNOWN
- *16) Are permits required for the development of the site?
If yes, please complete the following table: ✓

TYPE OF PERMIT	PERMITTING AGENCY	EFFORTS TAKEN TO OBTAIN PERMIT OR DETERMINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
soil erosion and sedimentation control	Berrien County	permit will be obtained when project schedule is determined

If 'Yes' or 'Unknown' was selected for any of the questions on this page, please explain here:
 A soil erosion and sedimentation grant will be obtained from Berrien County once project schedule has been determined .

Section G: Natural Features of The Project Site

To the best of your knowledge, does the project site include:

***Great Lakes shoreline or Great Lakes connecting water frontage?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, name of Great Lake or Great Lakes connecting water:

How many linear feet of shoreline or frontage?

***Inland lake frontage?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, name of water body:

What is the size of the total water body in acres?

How many linear feet of frontage are on site?

***River and/or tributary frontage?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, name of water body:

How many linear feet of frontage?

Is the river or tributary a state natural river or a federally dedicated wild and scenic river? No Yes

***Wetland acreage or frontage?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, please list the number of acres of the type(s) of wetland(s) on site:

Marsh	Bog	Dune and swale complex
Prairie	Forest	Boreal Forest
Fen	Shrub	Type unknown

Is documentation of type and quality with application? No Yes

If yes, source of information:

***Other water acreage or frontage?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, name of other water body:

Is the entire water body completely within the site boundaries? No Yes

How many linear feet of frontage or acres of water are on site?

***Sand dunes?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, list the number of acres of sand dunes on the site:

Critical Not designed as critical, or designation unknown

Is documentation of type and quality provided with application? No Yes

If yes, source of information:

***Dedicated state or federal listed wilderness or dedicated natural area or Pigeon River County State Forest land or inholding?** ✓ No Yes

If yes, name of area:

How many acres on site?

Section G: Natural Features of The Project Site

***Rare species or any other significant feature as defined by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory?**

No Yes

If yes, list species or feature and status.

if too many to list here, include in the application narrative.

Population/range locations denoted on site plan or other map?

No Yes

Section H: Wildlife Values of The Project Site

Will the proposed park or park development:

* **Protect wildlife habitat** (for example, breeding grounds, winter deeryards, den sites)? ✓ **No Yes**

If yes, list species:

How many acres of habitat does the site provide?

* **Act as a wildlife corridor between existing protected areas or buffer an existing protected area?** ✓ **No Yes**

If yes, name the existing park(s) or protected area(s):

How many acres are currently in protected status?

Is documentation of the ecological value of adjacent protected areas and/or the ability of the project site to act as a corridor/buffer provided with application? No Yes

If yes, source of information:

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Section J: Public Access Opportunities

* Will the site be open to the general public?

No Yes

List the hours open to the public:

	From	To	Closed
Sunday	dusk	dawn	
Monday	dusk	dawn	
Tuesday	dusk	dawn	
Wednesday	dusk	dawn	
Thursday	dusk	dawn	
Friday	dusk	dawn	
Saturday	dusk	dawn	
Holidays	dusk	dawn	

Comment:

How will the public reasonably be able to access this site?

Automobile

Boat

Public Transportation

Motorized Trail

Non-Motorized Trail including Mountain Bike and Hiking Trails

Sidewalk or Pathway

Other (describe)

Section K: Trails

* Is the proposed site a trail?

No Yes

Who is the primary intended user? (Check one)

- Hikers/Pedestrians
- Mountain Bicyclists
- Other motorized vehicle users
- Road Bicyclists
- Cross-Country Skiers
- Other, explain:
- Equestrians
- Snowmobilers

Who are the secondary users?

- Hikers/Pedestrians
- Mountain Bicyclists
- Other motorized vehicle users
- Road Bicyclists
- Cross-Country Skiers
- Other, explain:
- Equestrians
- Snowmobilers

Is the trail connected to another trail(s) or part of a larger trail network?

No Yes

If yes, what is the name of the network?

How long is the trail?

- Total linear feet
- Linear feet bituminous (paved)
- Linear feet boardwalk (if applicable)
- Linear feet sidewalk
- Linear feet other hard surface

What is the width of the trail?

- Linear feet

* Is this proposed project part of the Iron Belle Trail (Governor's Showcase Trail)?

Yes No

Application Narrative

***I. Project Justification and Support:**

Toth Park consists of 7 acres of land and is located at the end of Toth Street in the center of the city. The three playscapes at Toth Park are in poor condition and in need of replacement. The City of Bridgman conducted an Accessibility Evaluation for the park, and Toth Park scored a 2 in the accessibility rating scale (refer to Rec Plan pg. 10). This means that although some of the facility's elements meet accessibility guidelines, improvements are still needed.

The overall goals for Toth Park will include replacing the aged play equipment (which are 23 years old) and adding an ADA accessible pathway. These improvements are included in the City of Bridgman's 5-Year Rec Plan and aim to provide all local residents with better recreation opportunities. People of all demographics will be able to enjoy these improvements as they will incorporate these Universal Design guidelines – accessible pathways will allow people of all mobility levels to reach all park amenities, well-maintained and updated playscape will accommodate a wide range of individual preferences and abilities as well. These improvements will also minimize any potential hazards and adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions by providing play equipment that is functioning correctly and safe to use.

The proposed project also aligns with key SCORP objectives, including ensuring that the community's recreation system meets the needs of residents and visitors, raising awareness of the variety of outdoor recreational opportunities in the community, improving recreational access and making it accessible to all residents and visitors of all backgrounds, abilities and means, etc. These improvements will also enhance health benefits within the community and support Master Plan goals to ensure the area is safe, attractive, well-maintained and inviting, with connection to walkable streets, other recreation facilities, schools, shops, services and natural areas.

Toth Park is within walking distance of a public library, a public school, restaurants, and residential homes. Two major highways provide easy access to the park – I-94 and Red Arrow Highway. Improving park amenities will attract residents and visitors to surrounding businesses, enhancing the economic growth of the community. The park is also part of a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat, which protects wildlife in the area.

The public was also asked to provide feedback and suggestions through a survey regarding the recreational desires for the community. Survey results show that, overall, there is overwhelming support for the continued improvement of Toth Park.

***II. Project Description:**

The proposed project includes replacement of the aged play equipment and adding ADA accessible pathways. The playscapes, which are 23 years old, are in poor condition and have outlived their useful life. The park's surface areas are also relatively flat all throughout, allowing visitors of all mobility levels and abilities to access all park amenities without much physical effort. The new playscapes will be placed to south side of the pavilion to increase safety for those using these amenities, reducing vehicle/human conflict and leaving a clear separation between recreation area and vehicles.

Toth Park has the following amenities: 3 large playscapes, 2 swing sets, 2 basketball courts, a paved walking track, a pavilion, restrooms, cornhole boards, a dog park, 2 grills and a drinking fountain.

Improvements will be placed in the least environmentally sensitive areas of the site to ensure minimal impact on natural features. Sustainable materials are used at Toth Park as well – tree branches are trimmed and reused as compost and mulch. Water is naturally drained and filtered through soil into the St. Joseph River

Application Narrative

watershed below (<http://www.fotsjr.org/SJRW>). No pesticides are used in the area. As a statement of its commitment to the natural environment, Toth Park is also part of a NWF Certified Wildlife Habitat – there is a small pond and forest area to the South of the park, which provides supporting shelter, food, and water source for wildlife in the area.

Project will be maintained to protect and improve the quality of the natural environment while serving the needs of the population and giving visitors appropriate access to enjoy natural features. The community will benefit from these improvements, as they will provide better access to recreation opportunities and improve the overall quality of life of local residents and visitors. All amenities will be accessible to individuals of all mobility levels and abilities. Pathway will enable site visitors to access all areas of the park.

Park is located at the end of Toth Street in the center of the city. This provides visitors many options to access the site by auto and non-motorized forms of transportation. Parking is available for visitors accessing park, with 3 ADA accessible spaces. Visitors can access the park through sidewalk or bike lane. Public transportation is also available, including Dial A Ride and Berrien Bus services, which can be used by all residents at low cost (reduced fare prices are available for seniors and/or people with disabilities). Park visitors will also have easy access to other community facilities, including restaurants which are within walking distance. Public library and public school are also nearby, and two major highways are within 0.5 miles from the site.

The layout of the park allows for maximum visibility, increasing safety. Police patrols the area as part of their route. Hours of operation is clearly posted on signage placed at parking entrance.

***III. Natural Resource Access and Protection:**

Toth Park consists of 7 acres of land and is a Certified Wildlife Habitat. (See link for checklist referencing required standards of qualifications: https://www.nwf.org/-/media/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Certified-Wildlife-Habitat/NWF_Garden-Certification-Checklist.ashx?la=en&hash=FFAA30B3AE06687A881FC4BE615DEFB0E2BACF42). The park provides the four basic habitat elements needed for wildlife to thrive – native plants and trees provide important food sources to wildlife in the area, a pond to the South of the park provides wildlife with clean water source (this pond also provides cover for aquatic life and a place to raise their offspring), and a wooded area to the South of the park provides cover for wildlife as well.

A Maintenance Plan has been developed to maintain and protect the park and its resources. This maintenance is handled on a routine basis – the City of Bridgman is in charge of caring for the lawn during the spring, summer, and fall months. The parking lot area is plowed by the City of Bridgman during the winter months. Maintenance of the park also includes sustainable practices. Mulch is used in the area, twigs and branches are collected and turned into compost, and pesticides are not used whatsoever. Maintenance is paid for by the Parks and Rec Department of the City of Bridgman (budget of \$45,000), and a thorough inspection is conducted during spring to identify any necessary maintenance issues.

The park provides resting areas which allow for residents and visitors to sit and observe birds, butterflies, small insects, and other forms of wildlife in the area.

***IV. Other Information:**

Toth Park also connects to several bike trails running through the area. They include: the U.S. Bicycle Route 35 and Harbor Country Trail. Toth Park provides supporting bike trail amenities such as: rest at bench areas, drink from the water fountain, use the restroom, and play in the area. Local restaurants, which are also easily accessible from trail routes, are available for those who want to eat during their trip. Project plans are also in

Application Narrative

place in order to connect Red Arrow Highway to two other major bike trail routes: Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail and Marquette Greenway Trail (see attached map location regarding future plans in Project Location).

The Parks and Rec Department also plans to recruit volunteers to help maintain the park. Several groups and organizations have already committed to this endeavor, including Bridgman Public Schools and Lighthouse Group. Volunteer helpers will be paid \$12 per hour – as the park requires 8 hours per week to be maintained, the Parks and Rec Department is expected to pay \$1500 per month.

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Additional Information

Provide the information listed below, as applicable, and any other information you believe will give us a more complete understanding of your proposed project and assist us in evaluating your application.

- 1) Explain the circumstances under which you closed, sold, or transferred control of any parkland or recreation facilities within your park system.
- 2) List any parks within your system for which you have a "residents only" policy.
- 3) Discuss any health advisories for the water bodies accessed by your project. Describe how these advisories will affect the use of the site and your proposed facilities.

- 1) N/A
- 2) None
- 3) N/A