

CITY OF EATON RAPIDS

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Michigan Strategic Fund Board Awards \$2.8M to City of Eaton Rapids for Island City Parks Improvement Project

Eaton Rapids, Michigan (September 28, 2020) - The City of Eaton Rapids has been awarded \$2,885,498 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for area wide improvements for the Island City Parks Improvement Project.

G.A.R. Island Park is an approximately 2-acre park located on an island on the Grand River in downtown Eaton Rapids. The park is historically significant to area residents as it serves as a site for weddings, memorials, concerts, and other significant events. The park houses a playground, natural areas for fishing/picnicking, historic monuments such as civil war cannons, a fire station monument, and historic gazebo. The project includes rehabilitating existing park sea walls and east end bridge, constructing a new walkway system from the island to the City's Outdoor Recreation Center, and the replacement of existing playground equipment.

The walkway system will feature non-motorized community connectivity, leading patrons along a beautiful rivers-edge path connecting G.A.R. Island Park to Mill Pointe Park. Along the way will be piers for fishing, benches for gathering and LED solar lighting to enhance the boardwalk.

This placemaking effort is intended to increase vibrancy, walkability, universal accessibility and activity in the downtown. The proposed project will encourage more residents and visitors to come to the downtown, which will help stimulate economic development.