

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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“Play Michigan!” Universally-Accessible Playground Construction Announced After Pandemic Delays

LANSING, MICH. —After a 2-year delay due to the pandemic and permitting issues, the Community Foundation is delighted to announce that construction is finally underway for Play Michigan!, the region's first universally-accessible playground.

"We are thrilled to finally break ground on Play Michigan! and bring this much-needed project to our community," said Laurie Strauss Baumer, president & CEO of the Community Foundation. "This \$3.2 million playground will be a safe, inclusive, and accessible space for all children, regardless of their abilities."

Play Michigan! is designed to meet the needs of children with physical, sensory, and other disabilities. The playground will feature wheelchair-accessible play equipment, specialty swings and ramps, sensory play areas, and other inclusive features, ensuring that children of all abilities can play side by side.

The project is made possible through the leadership of the Community Foundation, in partnership with the City of Lansing, along with local businesses and individuals who have made generous contributions, matched 1:1 by the Foundation.

"We're inspired by the vision of this project and are so proud to support its development, which will provide a safe and inclusive play space for children in our community for years to come," said Keri Kittmann, senior vice president, Business Performance, Strategy and Chief of Staff for AF Group.

Construction for Play Michigan! is expected to take several months, with the playground slated to open in September 2023.

This unique park will be located on the Grand River in downtown Lansing, highly visible near the southwest corner of Saginaw Street and Grand Avenue. The 66,000-square-foot park will include a custom, state-of-the-art, all-access playground that is 10,000 square feet. The park will also include a picnic deck, pavilion, dedicated barrier-free parking, and universal access to the river's edge with a boardwalk and large platform designed for all children and adults to be up close to the river for viewing, picnicking, and fishing.

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For more information on Play Michigan! and how to support this important project, visit www.ourcommunity.org or contact Laurie Baumer, president & CEO of the Community Foundation, at LBaumer@ourcommunity.org or (517) 281-9054.

The Community Foundation is passionate about creating vibrant, thriving communities throughout Michigan's capital region. The Foundation serves donors to meet their unique charitable goals, supports area nonprofits with grants and coaching, and leads innovative projects that drive community growth. The Community Foundation (also known as the Capital Region Community Foundation) is a tax-exempt public charity whose mission is to lead philanthropic solutions that build vibrant communities in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties.

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