



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Improvements are Springing Up, Gaining Momentum in St. Johns

ST. JOHNS, MI: Improvements in accessibility, safety and sustainability are springing up around the City of St. Johns. As the weather warms, a series of springtime projects is underway and includes updates at the St. Johns City Park, a strategic trail connection and transformative road work.

“It is exciting to see projects like these taking off and gaining momentum,” shares City Manager Chad Gamble. “St. Johns is growing, and these updates are helping to make the community even safer, more beautiful and enjoyable for residents and guests.”

At the 92.5-acre City Park, a Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Fund Grant is behind renovations to the sand volleyball court, including the addition of paved parking, sidewalks, an ADA-accessible viewing area, bleachers and a drinking fountain. Electrical work will brighten outdoor lighting and provide service to the park’s south drive, and an eco-friendly upgrade at the Spray Park will conserve water using a new recirculating pump.

These projects complement plans to replace the wooden Fantasy Forest structure with a new cutting-edge playground. Universally accessible and designed to accommodate children of all abilities, Fantasy Forest 2.0 is supported by more than \$919,000 in grants, donations and financial pledges—made possible by a DNR [Spark Grant](#) and collaboration between the City and various stakeholders, including the St. Johns Area Community Fund, Parks and Recreation Board, Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club.

Work began March 25 to add 2,500 linear feet of eight-foot-wide non-motorized pathway that will connect the multi-use paths along Townsend and Scott roads to the 43.3-mile Fred Meijer Clinton-Ionia-Shiawassee Rail Trail. Also funded by a DNR Trust Fund Grant, the newly linked trails will result in a crushed-limestone loop around the City and provide easy access to Michigan’s vast trail network.

A three-block section of Brush Street is also being transformed this spring through the Streets and Sidewalks Program. “The road is being milled and resurfaced and the curbs and sidewalks will also be renovated,” shares Gamble. Approved by voters in 2022, the program attends to repairs along the 45-miles of City-maintained streets with an added focus on sidewalk and curbs.

“St. Johns is a vibrant city. These improvements continue to enrich the quality of life for residents, making the area a safer and more inclusive place to enjoy,” says Gamble.

The City of St. Johns, Michigan is a historic community founded in 1856. Known as the Mint City due to its unique agricultural heritage, St. Johns honors its roots while also planting the seeds for thriving small businesses and industry hubs. The best of both worlds, the city offers a charming, small-town feel with an easy commute to downtown Lansing. St. Johns serves as the Clinton County seat and provides a full range of municipal services to about 8,000 residents. Learn more at cityofstjohnsmi.com.

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