

WILSON PARK SPARK GRANT FAQ'S

Can money from this grant be used at Nature Park instead?

The SPARK grant application we submitted was written specifically for Wilson Park as it was the most appropriate location based on the grant qualifications. All the funds awarded must be spent as outlined in our grant application or we will be in violation of the grant agreement and will not be reimbursed for our expenses.

What happens if we choose not to move forward with this grant?

None of the proposed enhancements would happen. The City would not be reimbursed for the money already spent for engineering and design which would normally be funded by the grant. We must fulfill **all** the requirements of the grant application to get the reimbursement funding.

Can we give the money back now and reapply later?

We cannot reapply for this grant in the future as it was a one-time funding bill available through the State of Michigan from the American Rescue Plan for Covid relief.

When will construction of this project happen in Wilson Park?

Construction will take place in 2025. The projects supported by the SPARK grant must be implemented in FY 2025.

Is the concept plan for Wilson Park final?

This is a concept only. The final plan may differ from the concept. We are still in the process of considering a variety of factors and input before approving a final plan. That said, all the elements that you see in the concept will be incorporated into the final plan.

Why are you moving forward with a new project in Wilson Park when you haven't completed the BMX track at Nature Park?

The BMX track is currently on hold while we await approval on a permit from EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy). Although they had originally granted a permit for the BMX track, while working with EGLE during the construction of the kayak launch, they determined further consideration was needed. As such, the material removed for the kayak launch and the roadway to the launch was left in location should EGLE allow the BMX project to be completed. If they determine it is not permissible, the fill dirt will be removed, and the ground will be leveled.

Have you considered how flooding in the park will impact your plans?

Before beginning a design concept, OHM Advisors (the project engineers) conducted a survey of the park to identify the 100-year floodplain. Once completed, they planned the placement of the new features in the optimal locations to mitigate the risk of flooding and subsequent damage. The placement of anything within a floodplain is accompanied by a strict permitting process through EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy). We will work with EGLE to ensure that the new park features are properly designed and placed according to their requirements.

Why were these amenities and enhancements selected?

Resident feedback, public needs and demand, and trends in parks and recreation are all things we considered when determining what to include as part of the SPARK grant application. The short answer is all these potential park improvements came directly from...YOU!

Why are you adding more basketball courts when we already have two courts?

The current basketball courts will be transformed into pickleball courts. New basketball courts are planned for another location in the park.

How will the city address making improvements to the other parks in the City of Milan?

The Parks and Recreation Commission are conducting walk-throughs at all the city's parks to identify needed improvements and determine suggested enhancements. The first walk-through for this year took place at Nature Park in early May. They will report their findings back to the city council and city staff and work on possible solutions. Public input and feedback are always welcome.

Does the City of Milan benefit financially from the fair?

The Milan Fair Board is a separate entity from the city. The Fair Board operates independently and is made up of incredibly hard-working and dedicated volunteers. The city extends the use of the park to the fair at no cost and provides a variety of services including support from the Milan Police Department, Milan DPW, and fire personnel. All the money raised from the annual event go directly back to the Milan Fair Board to produce future fair and fireworks events. The Milan Fair Board makes an annual donation to Milan Parks and Recreation and the Milan Police and Fire departments.

What will happen to big events like the fair and fireworks if this plan is implemented?

While we do anticipate that some events may be displaced during construction in the park, most (if not all) events should continue without interruption or change. Conversations are ongoing with event leaders to determine if they need to adapt and how we can accommodate them moving forward. Discussions with the Fair Board have been taking place for several months to understand their needs and to determine solutions that will allow the fair to continue. Those conversations include a variety of options from changing the layout, altering the size, and/or moving the fair to another one of our parks. The fair is welcome to use any of the open green spaces available in our parks system, including space in Wilson Park.

How can I share my feedback, concerns, and ideas?

We want to hear from you. Choose the method that is best for you (or use them all).

- Call City Hall: 734.439.1501
- Email: You can find emails for City Council members and department heads on our website.
- Attend City Council meetings and speak during public comments
- Attend meetings of appointed boards and commissions and speak during public comments
- Have a conversation with one or all of your elected officials
- Send us a message on Facebook
- Submit a question on our website using the ASK THE CITY button/link