

# AGENDA

## Committee on Ways and Means November 19, 2025 at 3:30 PM



Lansing City Hall, City Council Conference Room  
124 W. Michigan Avenue, 10th Floor

To provide input or ask questions on any item that is listed on the agenda, members of the public may contact the City Council at [city.council@lansingmi.gov](mailto:city.council@lansingmi.gov) or (517) 483-4177 prior to the meeting. To view the meeting live and participate in virtual public comment: <https://www.lansingmi.gov/1212/Council-Committee-Meetings>

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Council Member Hussain, Chairperson  
Council Member Garza, Vice Chairperson  
Council Member Spadafore, Member

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Roll Call**
- 3. Minutes**
  - A. November 5, 2025
- 4. Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)**
- 5. Discussion/Action:**
  - B. RESOLUTION - Grant Acceptance; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women grant
  - C. RESOLUTION - Grant Acceptance; Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Domestic Violence Services Capital Area Response Effort (DVS-CARE) Grant
  - D. RESOLUTION - Grant Acceptance; Michigan State Police (MSP), Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)
  - E. PLACE ON FILE - Sole Source Purchase; Parks and Recreation Department notification of Nature Playscapes LLC as the vendor for Outdoor Fitness Center, Sycamore Creek Park
- 6. Other**
- 7. Adjourn**

Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation to fully participate in these meetings should contact the City Council Office at 517-483-4177 (TTY 711) 24 hour notice may be needed for certain accommodations. An attempt will be made to grant all reasonable accommodation requests.



**MINUTES**  
**Committee on Ways and Means**  
**Wednesday, November 5, 2025 @ 3:30 p.m.**  
**City Council Conference Room**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Hussain called the meeting to order at 3:30pm

**PRESENT**

Council Member Adam Hussain, Chair  
Council Member Jeremy Garza, Vice Chair  
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Member

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Renee Richmond, Council Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Hagen-Lawrence, OCA  
Lori Thomas, Parks & Rec  
Brett Kaschinske, Director Parks & Rec  
Eric Petrovslas, Meijer Inc.

**Minutes**

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2025 AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**Public Comment**

**Discussion/Action:**

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant, United States Department of Energy

Ms. Thomas said that this is not a traditional grant, they were told how much they were going to get. They then accepted and had to tell what they were going to be used for which is fleet electrification. Councilmember Garza asked if these are like golf carts, used by city employees, and how often they are replaced. Ms. Thomas responded yes like golf carts, employees, and was unsure when replaced. Councilmember Spadafore commented he believes Mr. Kilpatrick indicated that they replace when resale makes sense. Councilmember Garza asked if they were already purchased, Ms. Thomas replied they have some.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE; ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION BLOCK GRANT, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Grant Acceptance; Frances River Lot Improvements, MNRTF

Mr. Kaschinske indicated this item has been seen before, when they apply they need approval from the highest governing board, and were awarded the maximum amount of \$400,000. It will be used for the shoreline along Frances which is very popular for fishing and access. They are looking to improve two docks currently wood timber and looking to hopefully make concrete. Also, flex pavement between docks with trees and want to keep those. Councilmember Garza noted the completion time of 10/2027, and asked if it will be done before that, Mr. Kaschinske is unsure. Councilmember Hussain asked if the pathway is new, Mr. Kaschinske responded no they are just looking at a different product.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE GRANT ACCEPTANCE; FRANCES RIVER LOT IMPROVEMENTS, MNRTF. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Donation Acceptance; Meijer for the Great Bubble Barrier in the Grand River

Mr. Petrovslas introduced himself, he is the Director of Environmental Compliance and Sustainability at Meijer. Continuing that they did a study with customers and the number one issue to work on was plastic pollution. He became aware of this technology out of Milwaukee that a hose is placed at the base of a river at an angle and a compressor makes bubbles, so it pushes pollutants to the surface and directs to a catchment area on the Bank of the river. Adding the donation is for the design, permitting, and ongoing discussions to move forward. Councilmember Garza asked about sustaining it ongoing, Mr. Kaschinske noted the study mentions \$100,000/year in utilities and they can do that from the CIP and budget.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER GARZA TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR THE DONATION ACCEPTANCE; MEIJER FOR THE GREAT BUBBLE BARRIER IN THE GRAND RIVER. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

**OTHER**

**ADJOURN**

Adjourned at 3:44pm

Submitted by,

Renee Richmond, Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on



LANSING CITY COUNCIL

FY26 GRANT INFORMATION FORM

(Required for all grant applications and acceptances)

PREFERRED REFERRAL DATE: -  
GRANT NAME: - STOPL (MDHHS-STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN)  
GRANT AGENCY: - MDHHS  
ASSISTANCE LISTING (CDFA): -  
DEPARTMENT: - LPD  
CONTACT NAME: - CHERYL RUPPRECHT  
CONTACT PHONE: - 517-483-4808  
GRANT PERIOD START: - OCTOBER 1, 2025  
GRANT PERIOD END: - SEPTEMBER 30, 2026  
APPLICATION DATE: - JULY 2025  
AWARD DATE: - SEPTEMBER 2025  
TOTAL AMOUNT: - \$236,103 (75% REIMBURSEMENT OF \$177,077/25%MATCH OF \$59,026)  
ADMINISTRATIVE COST RECOVERY AMOUNT: -

SUMMARY OF GRANT PURPOSE AND ALLOWABLE USES:

LPD plans to utilize the grant funds to fund two (2) positions – 1) a detective dedicated to investigating crimes related to domestic violence and stalking, and 2) a contracted crime analyst to support the investigations conducted by the grant detective



BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Lansing Police Department (LPD) submitted an application to the State of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) for a Services-Training-Officers-Prosecutors (STOP) Violence Against Women grant; and

WHEREAS, LPD was informed SEPTEMBER 2025, that it has been approved to receive grant funding reimbursement of salaries and fringes; and

WHEREAS, the total grant compensation is \$236,103 of which \$177,077 is grant reimbursement funding, while \$59,026 is local match amount; and

WHEREAS, the local match amount is 25% of the total grant amount; and

WHEREAS, LPD plans to utilize the grant funds to fund two (2) positions – 1) a detective dedicated to investigating crimes related to domestic violence and stalking, and 2) a contracted crime analyst to support the investigations conducted by the grant detective; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansing City Council approves acceptance of the \$236,103 grant from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Administration is authorized to create appropriate accounts and to make the necessary operating transfers for the expenditure and control of the balance of the awarded grant funds.



LANSING CITY COUNCIL

FY26 GRANT INFORMATION FORM

(Required for all grant applications and acceptances)

PREFERRED REFERRAL DATE: -  
GRANT NAME: - VOCA/CVSF (MDHHS-DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES)  
GRANT AGENCY: - MDHHS  
ASSISTANCE LISTING (CDFA): - 20260327-00  
DEPARTMENT: - LPD  
CONTACT NAME: - CHERYL RUPPRECHT  
CONTACT PHONE: - 517-483-4808  
GRANT PERIOD START: - OCTOBER 1, 2025  
GRANT PERIOD END: - SEPTEMBER 30, 2026  
APPLICATION DATE: - JULY 2025  
AWARD DATE: - AUGUST 2025  
TOTAL AMOUNT: - \$164,897 (21% CVSF SUBSIDY OF \$35,077 - NO MATCH)  
ADMINISTRATIVE COST RECOVERY AMOUNT: -

SUMMARY OF GRANT PURPOSE AND ALLOWABLE USES:

The CARE Program provides empathic listening to the victims; assesses a victim's risk of further injury or homicide; provides education on power and control dynamics; assists with personal safety planning; helps to arrange safe shelter; provides advocacy with legal and civil court proceedings; assists with Victims' Rights Compensation medical forms; provide free 911 phones; provides transportation to local community agencies; accesses other community resources available to victims; dispenses emergency personal need items



BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, the Capital Area Response Effort (CARE) Programs has served the City of Lansing in ending intimate partner violence in Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Program provides empathic listening to the victims; assesses a victim's risk of further injury or homicide; provides education on power and control dynamics; assists with personal safety planning; helps to arrange safe shelter; provides advocacy with legal and civil court proceedings; assists with Victims' Rights Compensation medical forms; provide free 911 phones; provides transportation to local community agencies; accesses other community resources available to victims; dispenses emergency personal need items; and

WHEREAS, drawing as necessary on community referrals, the CARE program acts as a post-arrest response team responding to victims of intimate partner violence in Lansing, East Lansing, Lansing and Meridian Townships and Michigan State University; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Program utilizes 3 full-time staff, one intern per semester (Summer, Fall, Spring) and approximately 30 volunteers (on-call 7-days a week from 0800 – 0100 hours) via Tri-county dispatch center; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Program also responds to victims of non-arrest intimate partner violence via phone contracts and/or of dispatched by local hospitals; and

WHEREAS, in partnership with Ending Violent Encounters (EVE, Inc.) and MSU Safe Place shelters, the CARE Program provides twenty hours volunteer training sessions, three times a year and 60 days probation period for CARE staff as well as volunteers. Volunteer training is geared specifically to domestic violence laws, victim's rights, community resources, empathic listening, crisis intervention and safety planning; and

WHEREAS, via numerous agencies and organizations, the CARE Program also promotes better community awareness of intimate partner violence by providing community education and training; and

WHEREAS, the CARE Program is funded for 10/01/2025 – 09/30/2026 by a renewable pass through federal Domestic Violence Services (DVS) Grant of \$129,820 with an "Other Item" budget listed as the CVSF Federal subsidy component for one of the above described 3 full-time staff's wages and fringes in the amount of \$35,077.00; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match requirement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansing City council approves acceptance of the DVS-CARE grant from the Michigan Department of Human Services in the amount of \$164,897 for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.



LANSING CITY COUNCIL

GRANT INFORMATION FORM

(Required for all grant applications and acceptances)

REFERRAL DATE:

GRANT NAME: JAG-72460 Grant – LPD CARE Unit

DEPARTMENT: Police

CONTACT PERSON (INCLUDE EMAIL AND PHONE): Cheryl Rupprecht (Cheryl.rupprecht@lansingmi.gov 517-483-4808)

APPLIICATION DATE: AWARD DATE: September 9, 2025

GRANT CYCLE: \_\_\_\_\_ Check One: \_\_\_ Annual  One-Time

FUND AMOUNT: \$107,096 (Breakdown below should total this amount)

GOODS & SERVICES

PERSONNEL \$55,145 (\$51,000 wages/\$4,145 fringes)

CONSTRUCTION \$0.00

LAND \$0.00

OTHER (Victim assistance) \$51,951

CITY MATCH (IF APPLICABLE): \$0.00

GRANT PAYS FOR: Salary and fringes of one contract employee, victim assistance support

FUND ALLOCATIONS (Please describe the purpose of the grant and allowable uses):

The overall goal of this project is to promote victim safety. This grant has been approved for expenditures related to salary and fringes plus direct assistance for victims of intimate partner violence.

BY THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LANSING

WHEREAS, Lansing Police Department's, Capital Area Response Effort (CARE) Unit provides advocacy to victims of intimate partner violence in Ingham County; and

WHEREAS, in July 2025, CARE submitted an application to the Michigan State Police (MSP) for a Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) which enhances the current \$164,897 Michigan Department of Health and Human Services grant recently submitted to Ways & Means Council; and

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2025, MSP informed the CARE Unit that its grant application was selected to receive grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the grant amount approved is \$107,096 (due to federal funding delays) at this time the award is approximately 50% or \$53,548 with anticipation of modification explained in the award letter received; and

WHEREAS, there is no local match requirement; and

WHEREAS, the grant period is October 1, 2025 through September 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, CARE plans to utilize the grant funds to 1) provide extensive victim assistance in the form of Emergency Hotel lodging/food/clothing, prepaid cell phones for victims without phone access, gas and grocery gift cards for victims, Office Consumables/Coordinator phone service, home security items, relocation assistance and housing application assistance for fleeing victims and process serving (\$56,096) and 2) hire a new contract employee (\$51,000 plus \$4,145 in unemployment/health insurance stipends) to oversee these new assistance services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Lansing City council approves acceptance of the JAG grant from the Michigan State Police in the amount of \$107,096 for the period October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Administration is authorized to create appropriate accounts and to make the necessary operating transfers for the expenditure and control of the balance of the awarded grant funds.

**CITY of LANSING**  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

**TO:** Andy Schor, Mayor  
**FROM:** Stephanie Robinson, Senior Buyer  
**DATE:** **October 20, 2025**  
**SUBJECT:** Sole Source Purchase – Nature Playscapes LLC

The Parks and Recreation Department requests that Nature Playscapes LLC be designated a sole source for the construction and installation of an outdoor fitness center at Sycamore Creek Park, Fenner Conservancy Pre-School.

Nature Playscapes create unique natural playgrounds inspired by the natural world. Please see the attached request from Brett Kaschinske. This is a Michigan Based small business and follows the national ASTM and CPSC standards for public playground safety and ADA Accessibility Guidelines for play areas. This is an eco-friendly decomposable playground that follows sustainable practices.

Based on the attached letter we recommend issuing a sole source purchase order to Nature Playscapes in the amount of \$65,000 from account 208-933890-977000-13019 per the request of the Department. This is the portion that the City is paying for the project, there are other partners providing funding of the balance of the \$129,028.91.

Attachment

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_ Denied \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Andy Schor, Mayor



# ESTIMATE #20308

SENT ON:

**RECIPIENT:**

**Fenner Nature Center Preschool**

1526 East Mount Hope Avenue  
Lansing, Michigan 48910

Phone: 5178946274

**SENDER:**

**Nature Playscapes**

6338 Lovers Lane  
Portage, Michigan 49002

Phone: 269-598-5383

Email: [Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com](mailto:Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com)

Website: <https://NaturePlayscapes.com/>

## Nature Playscapes

Get ready for an exciting adventure with Nature Playscapes! Our projects are truly one of a kind and custom crafted just for you! We specialize in creating playscape designs which carefully align with national CPSC safety and ADA accessibility standards for public playgrounds. Our Founder, Tricia Keala, brings a wealth of playground expertise and credentials as both a parks professional and playground industry expert. With our talented team, your project will beautifully connect children to nature in a playful, inclusive, and safe manor. Plus, our unique sourcing process ensures we use selective materials that are locally sourced and environmentally friendly. Let's create some joyful play spaces together!

Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
				<i>Optional</i>
Tunnel with Grassy Knoll and Log/Boulder retaining walls (material & install)	ALL AGES (42"D) (example shown in photo) AGES 2-5 YEARS (30"D) ALLOWANCE PER DESIGN Built to suite the pass-through tunnel connects play and/or garden areas while creating a grassy knoll for even more fun hillside play! [?][?]	1	\$16,275.00	\$16,275.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Sideways Tree Climber (material & install)	AGES 2-5 YEARS (under 30"H) (example shown in photo) AGES 5-12 YEARS (upcharge) PER UNIT	1	\$5,565.00	\$5,565.00*

SENT ON:

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Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
				<i>Optional</i>
Log Spillway (material & install)	AGES 6-23 MONTHS AGES 2-5 YEARS PER UNIT Set of 2 - 3 hardwood logs, varying in size, will be debarked and cored out. Logs will be arranged in a descending fashion, secured to earth with treated timbers, galvanized fasteners, and concrete footings. Water shall be introduced to the spillway manually from an available water source. Water shall spill into washed gravel basin area to minimize muddy messes.	1	\$4,973.50	\$4,973.50*
				<i>Optional</i>
Other Services	ALLOWANCE Install manual hand pump to fill Spillway. Run line extension and connect to an existing water source.	1	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Other Materials	TBD Manual pump and tank for public use of Spillway.	1	\$5,875.00	\$5,875.00
				<i>Optional</i>
Spider Web Climber (material)	AGES 2-12 YEARS	1	\$6,155.69	\$6,155.69
				<i>Optional</i>
Spider Web Climber (install)	PER UNIT Assembly and installation in concrete footing/s.	1	\$3,701.70	\$3,701.70*
				<i>Optional</i>
Embankment Slide 5-7'H (material)	AGES 2-12 YEARS	1	\$7,296.12	\$7,296.12
				<i>Optional</i>
Embankment Slide 5-7'H with ADA accessible steps (install)	PER DESIGN Assembly and installation of slide. Sub-base and material/installation of embankment and outcropping stone steps.	1	\$8,977.50	\$8,977.50*
				<i>Optional</i>
Sandscape (material & install)	Two-tier freeform landscape to include 9-12" of screened play sand, geosynthetic fabric base and natural log/boulder borders. ALL AGES	1	\$14,063.40	\$14,063.40*

SENT ON:

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Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
				<i>Optional</i>
Crushed Limestone Pathway (material & install)	TBD Pathway connecting play spaces made of compacted crushed limestone with aluminum edging . Graded and dimensionally designed to meet ADA accessible. Per design.	1	\$12,792.00	\$12,792.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Hardwood Logs (material)	TBD PER SEMI-LOAD as applicable per design Generally used for containment border material. 10"-18"D hardwood logs. White and/or Red Oak or Black Locust.	1	\$3,920.00	\$3,920.00
				<i>Optional</i>
Borders (install)	TBD Log/Boulder borders installed. Includes supplemental Rock Boulders & Aggregate Base material	1	\$11,900.00	\$11,900.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Wildflower Meadow (material & install)	BY VOLUNTEERS  Flagstone and log slice steppers nestled among fresh topsoil and the seeding of a vibrant Wildflower Meadow!   ALL AGES	0	\$2,744.00	\$0.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Peastone subbase layer (material & install)	TBD Pea gravel subsurface layer for flood prone areas. 4" depth for estimated 1,200SF use zone 4" depth for estimated 1,000SF sandscape PER CY	27	\$156.00	\$4,212.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Geotextile woven barrier (material & install per SF)	TBD Below EWF surfacing in use zone areas.	1200	\$0.76	\$912.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Engineered Wood Fiber (EWF) (material & install per CY)	BY CITY OF LANSING PARKS  Priced for minimum of 60CY IPEMA certified playground safety compliant surfacing. 12"D in use zones and 4-6"D outside use zones.	0	\$46.80	\$0.00

SENT ON:

Product/Service	Description	Qty.	Unit Price	Total
Freight	ALLOWANCE Freight charges apply to most manufactured components. Please note that freight charges change frequently and are determined at time of shipment. This allowance is our best estimate at time of proposal.	1	\$4,950.00	\$4,950.00
Site Preparation & Repair - Mobilization, Equipment, Excavation, etc.	TBD	1	\$15,360.00	\$15,360.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Site Repair & Lawn Installation	TBD Final grading, top soil, seeding and blanket for lawn installation per design.	1	\$0.00	\$0.00*
				<i>Optional</i>
Other Services	TBD Material & install of perimeter drains and/or interactive stormwater management system. Per Landscape Architect recommendation.	1	\$0.00	\$0.00*

\* Non-taxable

<b>Subtotal</b>	\$129,028.91
<b>Tax Exempt (0.0%)</b>	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$129,028.91</b>

## Images

View online <https://jbbr.io/1EDx5Bb3ygnniP7z9>





# ESTIMATE #20308

SENT ON: \_\_\_\_\_

## PROPOSAL INFORMATION

Proposal is interactive, simply CLICK ON PHOTOS to enlarge and select or deselect options for automatic recalculation of the project "Total".

Final costs for site preparation, repair, grading, surfacing and freight are determined upon approval of final design/selections.

The combination of these may cost 15-25% or more of project total.

Project design and photos are conceptual only and actual materials and sizes will vary based on availability of natural materials at time of project creation. Nature Playscapes are custom created and each is unique!

## DEFINITIONS

Allowance - Final cost determined at time of selections.

Material - May require additional freight or delivery charges.

Material & Install - Generally includes delivery.

## ESTIMATE TERMS

This estimate is valid for the next 30 days, after which values may be subject to change.

A deposit of 60% of the project total is required to be confirmed on our project schedule and to begin sourcing materials which may take 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Client will be invoiced with payment terms due as stated in forthcoming project agreement (if applicable), at time of service or within 30-days, whichever is sooner. Any changes to information provided on locations or site conditions, may result in additional fees. If necessary, for services outside the project scope, client approval and an hourly rate of \$155/hour plus travel costs may apply.

Permit fees, freight/delivery and sales tax may not be included in this estimate and may be further calculated at time of delivery.

Project contingencies are not included, and we recommend clients to plan for 10% of project total in contingency funds.

## WOOD PRODUCTS

The wood products are treated with non-toxic preservatives and some checking, oxidization or aging is to be expected. Bark is expected to shed within the first 12-months. Wood checking is to be expected and may be filled with wood filler if desired.

## TECHNICAL & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Please note that technical services such as impact attenuation or surface compaction testing and professional engineering or architectural design and design renderings must be specifically requested by the client and are not included in this estimate/invoice.

## RELEASE OF LIABILITY

The client and playground owner, its respective affiliates, officers, agents, ctive affiliates, officers, agents, employees employees and permitted successors hereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless Nature Playscapes LLC, its parent company RecWise LLC, and all respeand pererson or property claims, losses, damagemitted successors from and against any and all ps, liabilities, penalties, punitive damages, expenses, reasonable legal fees and costs of any kind or amount whatsoever, which result from or arise out of any act, omission or any cause whatsoever of the indemnifying party, Nature Playscapes LLC, it's respective affiliates, officers, agents, employees, and permitted successors and assigns that occurs in connection with their service.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# NATURE PLAYSCAPES LLC



Tricia Keala, CPRP, CPSI  
Nature Playscapes LLC  
6338 Lovers Lane  
Portage, MI 49002  
(269) 598-5383  
[Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com](mailto:Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com)

## NATURE PLAYSCAPES

Nature Playscapes LLC is a division of RecWise LLC, serving the industries of parks, recreation, primary schools and early childhood development. Nature Playscapes is a licensed Michigan small business which is woman and minority owned.

The Nature Playscapes leadership team brings experience, insight, and is exceptionally qualified to identify components and playful landscape features for each unique project scope, site and audience. Proposed designs are prepared in response to the goals and vision of the client and in alignment with **CPSC safety standards for public playgrounds** and the **U.S. Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board Guide to ADA Accessibility Guidelines for Play Areas**. Our team brings specific expertise to the planning, design, cost opinion development, project implementation and management of inclusive and multi-generation playscapes which often highlight native plantings, green infrastructure solutions and strategic use of locally available natural resources.

## MISSION AND SERVICES

Our mission is for every child to have daily access to inclusive and playful nature environments within their local schools, parks and community spaces.

Nature Playscapes LLC offers consultation, design, creation, installation, materials sourcing and project management of nature playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, sensory gardens and alike.

## BACKGROUND SUMMARY

Company Name: Nature Playscapes LLC, a division of RecWise LLC  
Address: 6338 Lovers Lane / Portage, MI 49002  
Contact: Tricia Keala, Founder & CEO / 269-598-5383 / [Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com](mailto:Tricia@NaturePlayscapes.com) (preferred)  
Legal Formation: Limited Liability Company  
Company Description: Nature Playscapes LLC offers consultation, design, creation, installation and sourcing for nature playgrounds, outdoor classrooms, sensory gardens and alike. Its parent company, RecWise, provides a wide variety of services to the Parks & Recreation industry including safety and ADA assessments, sports field maintenance, playground maintenance, grant writing, project management for capital improvement projects (playgrounds, trails, parks, etc.) and consulting.  
Principal Officers: Tricia Keala, CEO - 20+ years in parks and recreation management  
Robin Ehardt, CFO - 30+ years as accounting and CPA professional  
EIN: Nature Playscapes 88-3388049 / RecWise 82-4813636  
Michigan Business ID #: Nature Playscapes 802890815 / RecWise 802171583  
Financial Status: RecWise LLC and Nature Playscapes LLC are in good standing and have never filed for bankruptcy. Both free of any and all state and federal sanctions.  
Evidence of Experience: [www.NaturePlayscapes.com](http://www.NaturePlayscapes.com) / [www.SaferOutdoors.com](http://www.SaferOutdoors.com)  
Refer to website to view project portfolio and services offered. Refer to references. Client and project listing available upon request.

# NATURE PLAYSCAPES LLC

## QUALIFICATIONS

Tricia Keala - CPSI, CPRP is the Founder of Nature Playscapes (and Owner of RecWise), a Michigan based small business which is minority and female owned and operated. Tricia advises best practice principles utilizing applicable industry standards such as ASTM, CPSC, OSHA, ADA, etc. Particularly in non-traditional play settings, it is critical to identify acceptable risk levels and to assess materials, design layouts, evaluate components and specify installation methods which will produce a safe play area for children, limit liability for the owner and create engaging learning environments. Furthermore, she has performed and consulted on numerous ADA park and playground assessments in response to Office of Civil Rights Resolution Agreements.

In addition to extensive capital improvement project management experience in the Parks industry, Tricia offers nearly 20 years of risk management experience in the recreation setting, 18 years as a Certified Playground Safety Inspector, 6 years as a Certified Parks and Recreation Professional. Tricia has led playground installation teams internationally and continues to arrange equipment donations for related mission trips.

## UNIQUE QUALIFICATIONS WHICH SUPPORT SOLE SOURCE CONTRACTS

Project Creation Team – Due to the custom nature of our playscapes, professional experience and unique qualifications are critical to ensure each feature is supportive of the native environment and in alignment with national safety and ADA standards for public playgrounds. All Nature Playscape projects are managed by an experienced Certified Playground Safety Inspector with installation teams which have been trained and experienced in custom crafting of natural elements, playscape creation and landscape construction and design. Depending on the level of expertise needed for your project scope, our team members may consist of a professional Landscape Designer, Michigan Licensed Builder and/or Aquascapes Certified Contractor (waterscape projects). The combination of these qualifications is unique and necessary to ensure your playscape investment is properly designed, installed and complimentary to its environment.

## PROJECT SITE AND EQUIPMENT EXPECTATIONS

Project performance often requires a variety of heavy equipment such as; dingo, skid steer and mini-excavator. Space for these, project materials and up to 3 work trucks/trailers will be needed near the project site during the full period of construction. For safety purposes, the work site is off limits to children and the public during this time.

## INSURANCE & SUBCONTRACTOR INFORMATION

<u>Nature Playscapes</u>		<u>Subcontractors (upon request)</u>	
General Liability	1,000,000 / 3,000,000	General Liability	1,000,000 / 2,000,000
Professional Liability	1,000,000	Professional Liability	1,000,000
Workers Compensation	1,000,000	Workers Compensation	1,000,000

The following qualified and trusted subcontractors may perform installation and/or landscaping services on our projects. Subcontractor COI's are available upon request; Only Outdoor Living, Bears Playgrounds, OCBA, others as needed.

## REFERENCES

City of Novi Parks & Recreation	Traci Ringle	<a href="mailto:tringle@cityofnovi.org">tringle@cityofnovi.org</a>
Kalamazoo Regional Education Service Agency, KRESA	Rachel Roberts	<a href="mailto:rachel.roberts@kresa.org">rachel.roberts@kresa.org</a>
Northfield Township	Jennifer DeLisle	<a href="mailto:jennifer.n.delisle@gmail.com">jennifer.n.delisle@gmail.com</a>
North Central Michigan College	Anne Thornton	<a href="mailto:athornton1@ncmich.edu">athornton1@ncmich.edu</a>
City of Muskegon	Kyle Karczewski	<a href="mailto:Kyle.Karczewski@shorelinecity.com">Kyle.Karczewski@shorelinecity.com</a>
O'Boyle, Cowell, Blalock & Associates	Sandy Bliesener	<a href="mailto:sbliesener@ocba.com">sbliesener@ocba.com</a>

## MAINTENANCE AND WARRANTY INFORMATION\*

### WHAT TO EXPECT

- Bark will naturally fall off during the first year and subsequent years.
- Natural checking “cracking” is expected and occurs during expansion and contraction of wood components.
- Color and temperature will vary and change through seasons and life cycles.
- Regular maintenance is recommended for optimal results. Refer to forthcoming maintenance documentation provided upon project completion.

### Manufactured Components (refer to terms provided by manufacturer/supplier warranty information):

Embankment Slide and Cedar <u>structural</u> wood parts:	10 years
Slide plastic parts:	5 years
Waterscapes & Pumps:	1 year

### Nature Playscapes Components:

Unaltered Hardscapes:	5 years
Natural Log Play Components and Borders:	2 years
Altered Hardscape Play Components:	2 years
Plantings:	1 year

*\*Warranty Terms: Specific terms vary by supplier and will be provided in ownership documents. In general, warranties cover manufacturer defects or premature rotting within warranty period. Does not cover force of impact from nature, misuse or vandalism. Log components are expected to lose their bark within the warranty period. Warranty void in absence of documented maintenance and annual oil treatment of exposed / debarked wood surfaces. Planting warranty void in absence of an irrigation system designed, contracted and installed by, or approved by a Nature Playscapes approved contractor prior to installation.*

## NATURE PLAYSCAPE FEATURES

### NATURE PLAYGROUNDS by NATURE PLAYSCAPES

- Designed, created and installed in alignment with Public Playground standards; CPSC, ASTM 1487, 2010 ADA Standards for Accessibility.
- Environmentally resilient through the re-purpose of sustainable and native (as available) natural materials.
- Contribute to improved air quality, biodiversity and climate resilience.
- Surface color, texture and temperature naturally evolve with climate, time and use offering endless learning and engagement experiences.
- Only dense and long-lasting hardwoods are used.
- With proper maintenance, life expectancy is similar to that of traditional playgrounds.
- Upon end of use, log components naturally decompose into the earth leaving behind little to no waste.
- Dynamic play develops mental focus and physical ability progression.

### SENSORY ELEMENTS

- Encourages intergenerational play and suitable for all ages.
- Promotes sensory development and passive play opportunities.
- Soothing audible sounds produced from water, plants or music components can calm the senses and drown out unpleasant environmental sounds such as street noise.
- Once plants are established, a variety of colors and scents are enjoyed.
- Diversity of textures found in sand, wood, plants, rocks and water aid in sensory development and appreciation for nature.



**CITY OF LANSING**  
 124 W. Michigan Ave  
 Lansing, MI 48933  
 (517) 483-4128

**TO:** NATURE PLAYSCAPES LLC  
 PO BOX 424  
 OSHTEMO, MI 49077

TRICIA@NATUREPLAYSCAPES.COM  
 (269) 598-5383

PURCHASE ORDER	
P.O. NUMBER	[REDACTED]
DATE	11/05/2025
VENDOR I.D.	[REDACTED]
FOB	DELIVERED
REQUISITION NO	[REDACTED] 873

OUR PURCHASE ORDER NUMBER MUST APPEAR ON ALL INVOICES, PACKING LIST AND CORRESPONDENCE

DELIVER ITEMS TO:
PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN OFFICE 200 N FOSTER LANSING, MI 48912 <b>ATTN</b> KATHRYN MCNICHOL

SEND INVOICE TO:
PARKS & RECREATION ADMIN OFFICE 200 N FOSTER LANSING 48912

Item No.	QTY	Description	Unit Price	Extended Price
1	65,000.00	FENNER PLAYGROUND <small>208-933890-977000-13019 \$65,000.00</small>	\$1.00	\$65,000.00
			Total:	\$65,000.00

**THE ARTICLES SPECIFIED ARE SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:**

1. Goods other than those specified on this order must not be substituted or prices changed without authorization.
2. If the quantity shipped is short of the purchase order quantity, specify on the packing slip if that quantity is on back order or cancelled.

Federal Tax ID: 38-6004628

**AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE**

*Crystal L Thomas*

Date  
 Printed: 11/06/2025

CITY of LANSING  
INTEROFFICE COMMUNICATION

TO: Stephanie Robinson, CPPB, Senior Buyer  
FROM: Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director  
RE: Sole Source Nature Playscapes LLC  
DATE: October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025


The Parks Department requests that Nature Playscapes LLC be designated as sole source vendor for the installation of the playground set at Sycamore Creek Park. Fenner Conservancy has a pre-school that will utilize a playground that encourages intergenerational play, promotes sensory development and passive play opportunities. This playground will also be available to the community during Park hours.

Nature Playscapes creates unique natural playgrounds inspired by the natural world. Designs are not created with your traditional equipment, instead utilizing elements like logs, rocks, water, sand and climbing structures to spark children's imaginations and encourage unstructured play. Nature Playscape projects are managed by an experienced Certified Playground Safety Inspector with installation teams which have been trained and experienced in custom crafting of natural elements, playscape creation and landscape construction and design.

We recommend issuing a sole source purchase order in the amount of \$65,000 to Nature Playscapes LLC due to their knowledge of this specific playground application and their ability to complete the install safely and quickly by certified and licensed contractors.

Funds will be utilized from the Playground account number 208-933890-97700013019.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Approved:  Date: 10/16/2025

Brett Kaschinske, Parks and Recreation Director

**COMING  
SPRING 2026!**



# fenner nature playscape

at Sycamore Creek

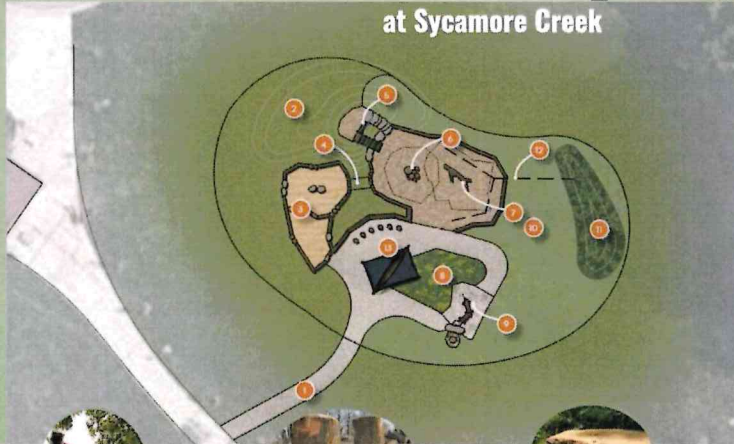
Made possible by:



PNC Foundation



City of Lansing



- 1 Crushed Limestone Path, 6' width
- 2 Lawn
- 3 Two-tier Sandcastle with Log/Boulder Border, Boulder Seats, and Stone ADA Transfer Platform
- 4 42" Tunnel x 6' Length
- 5 Embankment Slide with Stone Steps
- 6 Stump Tower (placeholder)
- 7 Sideways Tree Climber
- 8 Pollinator Plantings (By Volunteers)
- 9 Dry Creekbed with Stone Bridge and Spillway with Handpump
- 10 Meadow Seed Mix
- 11 Rain Garden Plantings
- 12 Underdrain to Rain Garden
- 13 Phase 2: 10'x15' Platform with Triangular Shade Sails, Amphitheatre Seating



*We want to hear from you about this project!*

Use this QR code or **MyNatureCenter.org** to provide your input.

Aim your phone camera here to see more!

**Complete your survey now for a chance to win a Fenner T-shirt!**

