

**CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**

BRYAN K. BARNETT, MAYOR

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**Media Contact: Maria Willett
willettm@rochesterhills.org
248-841-2545**

**ROCHESTER HILLS RECEIVES GRANT FROM AARP
TO BUILD INTERGENERATIONAL PLAY AREA IN BLOOMER PARK**

A First Within Our Community

Earlier this year, the City of Rochester Hills received a \$30,000 grant from AARP to build the City's first multi-generational activity area. Installed at Bloomer Park, the area features outdoor fitness equipment and amenities specifically designed and curated for people age 50+. Construction is now complete.

As part of the application process for its Community Challenge Grant, AARP received 1,600 submissions from municipalities and non-profit groups across the country. From those, they selected 129 to receive a grant this year. Rochester Hills was recognized as only one of two organizations in the nation to obtain the highest grant award of \$30,000.

Mayor Barnett commented, "We were thrilled to receive this grant and are thankful for AARP's continued commitment to helping communities like Rochester Hills be great places to live for everyone. We're especially appreciative for the work done by the City's Parks and Natural Resources, Building, Facilities and Purchasing teams for completing construction within the accelerated timeframe specified by the grant." The opportunity came to the City through its affiliation with the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

The equipment in this area will focus on stretching, flexibility, mobility and safety, all proven to be critical to maintaining good physical health, muscle coordination and strength for older adults. The equipment will facilitate assisted squats, assisted pull-ups and push-ups, cardiovascular endurance, leg raises, ankle push-ups and basic stretching exercises. Importantly, a large children's playground is located near this new area, allowing kids, parents and grandparents to enjoy the park simultaneously.

The site selected is especially friendly for adults 50+, with ample nearby parking, nearby restrooms, paved paths, benches, and a grilling and picnic area. Funds from the grant will also allow the City to upgrade a drinking fountain to be installed this coming spring.

About AARP

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people 50 and older to choose how they live as they age. With a nationwide presence and nearly 38 million members, AARP strengthens communities and advocates for what matters most to families: health security, financial stability and personal fulfillment. AARP also produces the nation's largest circulation publications: AARP The Magazine and AARP Bulletin. To learn more, visit www.aarp.org or follow @AARP and @AARPadvocates on social media.

About the City of Rochester Hills

Established in 1984, the City of Rochester Hills is a prosperous community offering residents and businesses superior services. Voted one of the top places to live by several sources including CNNMoney Magazine, Rochester Hills is committed to sustaining its position among the nation's preeminent places to live, work and raise a family. Through the city's focus on health, education, and technology, the community continues to attract forward-thinking leaders and businesses.

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