

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

BRYAN K. BARNETT, MAYOR

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Community Comes Together for First Look at Innovation Hills

Rochester Hills, MI - The City's newest park, Innovation Hills, officially opened to the public on Wednesday night. Located at 2800 W Hamlin, the park has been long anticipated since it was closed for construction over the summer.

Nestled on the corner of Hamlin and Adams, Innovation Hills is a park intended to be unlike any other. The park design was developed through several community conversations with residents, parent groups, nonprofits, and business leaders led by Mayor Bryan K. Barnett.

Residents made it clear they wanted something that was reflective of their innovative spirit while embracing the natural features of the property. As designs were shared with the community, the city received strong community support. To date, the city has received over \$2.4 million in donations, grants, and sponsorships.

Guests were shuttled in golf carts throughout the 74 acre park to explore the new boardwalks and water features. Because of the park's focus on nature, attendees witnessed a variety of wildlife including white tailed deer and small box turtles.

As the sun went down the pathways began to emit a soft glow, creating a surreal nighttime environment. Mayor Barnett stood beside the ambient light of a collection of stones in the shape of the City's champion Bebb Oak as he addressed the crowd.

"This is unique because this isn't a ribbon cutting or a grand opening. It is the end of phase one and two," states Mayor Bryan K. Barnett. "We have six phases that, once completed, will create a one of a kind outdoor experience. We are so excited to share our progress!"

Signage placed around the park highlighted upcoming projects including a Universal Play Area designed to allow children of all abilities to engage in outdoor play.

At the conclusion of remarks glowing light orbs were lit across the lake. As colors illuminated the lake, guests enjoyed walking on the glow pathways.

The event left a lasting impression on families. "The pathways were unlike anything we expected," stated Rochester Hills resident Lindsay Wood. "My kids can't wait to go back tomorrow."

This park is free and open to the public every day in October from 8:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. For more information, visit rochesterhills.org/innovationhills

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 *CNN Money* 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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