



**City of Ypsilanti**  
Parks & Recreation Department

---

# News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: April 1, 2005

Contact: Robert Bruner, Assistant City Manager  
Office: (734) 483-7290

## **Riverside Park Grant Match Secured**

City of Ypsilanti and its partners are proud to announce the successful completion of the first step in an aggressive initiative to revitalize Riverside Park. Riverside Park, the City's most frequented park, is a key park within the Huron River Corridor. The 13.8 acre park connects Downtown with Depot Town and is part of the Historic District. Riverside is the place for community celebrations. The Park's passive landscape and asphalt walkways are well-suited for special events.

The capital improvement plan will cost an estimated \$116,000. The City will apply for a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant in the amount of \$87,000, 75% of the total project budget. The remaining \$29,000 must be funded locally. Rather than increasing special event fees to fund the project, the City began a campaign in February to raise the funds and in just two months has exceeded the goal by raising nearly \$36,000 in cash and in-kind labor. City Council Member Bill Nickels said of this unique partnership, "Other communities permanently close facilities and cancel programs as they lose funding. The volunteer spirit of the Ypsilanti community that sponsors Heritage Festival, 4th of July Parade, and many other events now fills the financial void our local government cannot fund." City Council Member Brian Filipiak, a contributor to the campaign and former Recreation Commissioner, said of the fundraising effort, "I'm so glad the local business community, individuals, and the major users of Riverside Park, were able to see that by working together, we could raise the funds needed for upgrading one of the jewels of the community."

Among the special event organizers to support the project was Latinos Unidos, organizers of Festival Latino. Vice President Liliana Mariona said, "Latinos Unidos is proud to support the effort that is being put forth and lead by the City of Ypsilanti. I believe all the Festivals that utilize Frog Island and Riverside Park will benefit from this grant and allow us to have more and extend our activities in the park due to the expected improvements." Debbie Locke-Daniel, Executive Director of the Ypsilanti Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and tireless fundraiser for this project stated, "Ypsilanti has become the 'City of Festivals' and our parks make this possible. I think it is great that so many organizations/festivals stepped up to the plate to solidify the City's contribution to this grant." Other special event organizers supporting the project include Heritage Festival, Michigan Elvisfest, Michigan Brewers Guild, and Ypsi Pride.

Contributors

<u>Contributor</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>% of Local Match Requirement</u>
Heritage Festival	\$ 10,000	34%
Depot Town Association (Michigan Elvisfest) - cash	\$ 7,500	26%
Michigan Brewers Guild	\$ 5,000	17%
Egan-Tooley-Doyle	\$ 4,561	16%
Recreation Equipment & Design Individuals - cash & labor	\$ 2,450	8%
Depot Town Association (Michigan Elvisfest) - labor	\$ 1,030	4%
Heritage Foundation	\$ 1,000	3%
Ypsilanti Area Jaycees - cash	\$ 1,000	3%
Pfizer	\$ 1,000	3%
Ypsilanti Area Chamber of Commerce	\$ 1,000	3%
Ypsi Pride - labor	\$ 515	2%
Latinos Unidos	\$ 500	2%
Ypsilanti Area Jaycees - labor	\$ 258	1%
Ypsilanti Kiwanis Club	\$ 100	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 35,914</b>	<b>124%</b>
Local Match Required	\$ 29,000	
Difference	\$ 6,914	24%