

Some updates from the Wabana Township Recreation Committee

I'm sure you've all heard by now that we were NOT awarded the DNR grant request. 82 grant requests were made to the DNR and of those only 18 were awarded. With that information we recently had another recreation committee meeting with Sarah Carling (CEDA) and Jeremey Schwarze (Engineer from Benchmark Engineering, Inc.) to take a hard look at our finances and hear suggestions of how to move forward.

It was recommended that we have a "field work survey" done and "test pit" soil sampling done this fall. With these two pieces of information, we will be able to develop a master plan map of the entire complex and have a firm determine where the different elements of the complex should be located. This information is also needed by contractors to determine bids for the amounts/types of sub-ground work needed for each area.

We HAVE received a grant from IRRR for 30K (we must match 30K with our own funding to receive reimbursement for this grant) and a grant from the Blandin Foundation of 50K. These two grants need to be used by the end of this year or we can file for an extension. These grant funds were awarded to apply towards the hockey rink or the playground.

We are so grateful to all of you who have pledged or already donated to this project thus far. To date with your pledges, donations, grants, and fund raisers we have generated \$277,920. Pretty good for a township of 500 people! Currently, we are short of funds in order to complete the entire project and this is our plan going forward:

(Phase I) What we are focusing on this fall (2023):

- Survey of the entire project area
- Soil samples
- Develop a master plan
- Demolish the old playground structure (Swings will be saved!)
- Order playground equipment
- Purchase lumber for the hockey rink area
- Advertise and obtain bids (this winter 2023/2024)

Spring of 2024:

- Demolish and construct a new Hockey rink area (including new lighting)/ kiddy rink addition
- Construct a new playground area
- Request phase II funding from the IRRR
- Cultural and Tourism grant request from the DNR

- Additional fund-raising projects
- Determine the work to be done on the tennis, pickleball, and basketball courts

**If you have made a pledge, we would really appreciate receiving your tax-deductible payment of your pledge. This should be paid to the Grand Rapids Community Foundation. You can go to their website at [grafc.org](http://grafc.org) to make the payment. Or call them at 218-999-9100. Please make sure and indicate this payment is for the Wabana Community Fund.**

If you have a question on the above or additional suggestions, please send me an email with your ideas. This is a community project and we cherish the community's support and comments.

Thanks again for all the help, patience, and devotion to this momentous project.

On behalf of the Recreation Committee,  
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Or mail suggestions to:  
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