



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Lauracindy Plague Dávila
Communications Manager
lplaguedavila@fhgov.com
248-871-2509 (office)

City of Farmington Hills Nature Center Receives Grant from Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education

The grant funds will support learning materials for Heritage Park Nature Preschool

FARMINGTON HILLS, Mich. (Nov. 20, 2023) - The City of Farmington Hills Nature Center was recently awarded a grant from the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education to support the Heritage Park Nature Preschool. The \$500 grant was used to purchase classroom learning materials, including books, puppets, musical instruments, insect exploration tools and animal figures that will enhance the students' experience and help to develop the skills they need to be lifelong, curious learners.

“We’re honored that the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education chose to support our unique and immersive preschool program,” said Ashlie Smith, Farmington Hills Nature Center Supervisor. “With these new materials, we will be able to further expand our lesson plans to provide our preschoolers with a truly enriching education.”

The Heritage Park Nature Preschool provides a nature-based, immersive learning program for children ages of three and five-years-old at the City of Farmington Hills Nature Center. While learning objectives are similar to a traditional preschool, the experience is be far from conventional. At the Nature Preschool, children spend time outdoors connecting deeply with nature, while participating in research-based curriculum focused on play and discovery.

The Heritage Park Nature Center Preschool teachers have developed updated lesson plans to incorporate the newly funded learning materials, which will have an immediate impact for 50 students this fall. Additionally, the materials, which were thoughtfully sourced to withstand use for many years to come, will help to ensure the Heritage Park Nature Preschool continues to exceed the State of Michigan Early Childhood Education Guidelines and follows the philosophy of a certified Forest School. Enrollment for the Nature Preschool is open throughout the year, as capacity allows. The Heritage Park Nature Preschool is a licensed childcare center and part of the City’s Department of Special Services.

For more information about the Heritage Park Nature Preschool and other Nature Center programs, call the Farmington Hills Nature Center at 248-473-1870.

###

About the City of Farmington Hills

The City of Farmington Hills is a place where everyone is welcome. Founded in 1973, it is one of the largest and most diverse communities in Oakland County. Farmington Hills is home to more than 83,000 residents who speak more than 60 languages, and more than 75 Fortune 500 businesses, including multinational corporations like Nissan and Bosch. The city is known for its extensive amenities, including its 600 acres of parks, 90 athletic fields, six

miles of hiking and walking trails, the Farmington Hills Golf Club, and an Ice Arena. Farmington Hills is also home to The Hawk, an award-winning, 245,000-square-foot recreational facility, which houses the largest municipal performance venue in the State of Michigan, The Hawk Theatre. For more information, visit www.fhgov.com.

31555 West Eleven Mile Road • Farmington Hills, MI 48336 • 248.871.2500 Phone • 248.871.2501 Fax
Follow the City on [Facebook](#) • Subscribe to the [eNews](#) • Sign Up for [FH ALERTS](#)