

COVERT TOWNSHIP

73943 E. LAKE STREET

P.O. BOX 35

COVERT, MICHIGAN 49043

PHONE: (269) 764-8986 • FAX: (269) 764-1771

website: www.coverttwp.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Covert Township Awarded \$146,462 for Development of Covert Community Park via the MEDC's Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program

COVERT TOWNSHIP, VAN BUREN COUNTY, MICHIGAN – On Thursday, February 23, 2023, Southwest Michigan First officially announced Covert Township will receive \$146,462 toward funding the development of Covert Community Park, located downtown on the southwest corner of M-140 Hwy and 34th Avenue. This will cover 50% of the total project cost, with the remaining 50% to be funded by Covert Township's ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds.

The Michigan Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Program provides access to real estate and place-based infrastructure development gap financing through grants of up to \$5 million per project for real estate rehabilitation and development, grants of up to \$1 million per project for public space improvements and grants of up to \$20 million to local or regional partners who develop a coordinated subgrant program. Recipients of the first round of financing were announced September 7, 2022, which included, Southwest Michigan First's regional application in which a total of \$7,910.99 was awarded. Covert Township's project has been identified as one of the subgrant recipients to be funded.

Covert Community Park is on a 1 acre parcel in the center of the commercial corridor in Covert Township. A veteran's memorial was installed on the northeast corner in 2014. Further installations funded by donations, grants and local governmental funds began in 2018. This included a playground, donated benches, a sidewalk looping around the play area and a fence. The rest of space is vacant with ample room to install additional amenities and landscaping.

The \$293,000 project will be used to install more play equipment, a pavilion, picnic areas, walkways, landscaping, lighting and more. The project is consistent with the Township's capital improvement plan detailed in the five-year park plan and is in line with the program's goal of sparking revitalization downtown via placemaking to support quality of life and economic growth in the community.

For more information on this project, please contact Covert Township at (269) 764-8986 or visit coverttwp.com.

Media Contact: Daywi Cook, Covert Township Supervisor, supervisor@coverttwp.com, (269) 764-5137

