



## City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation Services

301 E. Huron Street

Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

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March 18, 2024

Missy Stults

Sustainability and Innovations Director, City of Ann Arbor

301 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear City of Ann Arbor Office of Sustainability and Innovations,

On behalf of the Ann Arbor Parks Department, I am delighted to submit this letter of support for the Office of Sustainability and Innovation's application to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant opportunity for support with implementing a district geothermal system in and around the adjacent Bryant neighborhood, inclusive of Arbor Oaks Park. We are also supportive of launching public engagement and outreach related to designing a second system in the neighborhood directly to the east of the Bryant neighborhood, inclusive of Bicentennial Park and Ellsworth Park.

As you know, the City of Ann Arbor has an aggressive goal of equitably decarbonizing the entire community by the year 2030. And while we are seeing great success in deploying solar systems, energy storage systems, EV chargers, and adopting electric vehicles in our fleet, we are struggling with efficiently and effectively transitioning our heating and cooling operations to sustainable sources. That is why we are excited about this project – not only will it help us reduce the climate pollution associated with heating and cooling, but it will help the surrounding neighborhoods.

This is the exact type of project we hope to see scale throughout the City and we are excited to be involved. To help support work, we are prepared to offer our public parks as meeting space to engage with residents about district geothermal and to explore what geothermal looks like in practice. As the owners of the Bryant Community Center, we are in full support of transitioning this site to a fully carbon neutral building, inclusive of a living, learning laboratory of climate change in action. Put another way, Parks is fully supportive of this work, stands ready to collaborate however we can, and is an ally in our shared efforts to make Ann Arbor one of the most sustainable and equitable communities in America.

For these reasons and many more, the City's Parks Department is delighted to support the City's application to the CPRG program. That said, should you have any questions about our support for this project or the role the Parks Department is prepared to play to ensure successful project implementation, please let me know.

Sincerely,

*Josh Landefeld*

Josh Landefeld

City of Ann Arbor Parks Manager

[jlandefeld@a2gov.org](mailto:jlandefeld@a2gov.org)