



MAIN STREET PARK ALLIANCE

Chelsea's Gathering Space

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 8, 2025

Main Street Park Alliance Awarded \$1,000,000 RAP Grant!





Main Street Park Alliance is thrilled to announce the award of a \$1,000,000 Revitalization and Placemaking (RAP) Grant from the Michigan Economic Development Corporation! In a competitive application, members of the grassroots board met with state and local representatives to garner support for this transformative project. The former Federal Screw Works brownfield has been a blighted, vacant lot for over twenty years. Redeveloping it into a public space will improve the local ecosystem, provide an active space for all ages, and increase adjacent property values. The Revitalization and Placemaking Grant significantly helps fulfill the \$2 million fundraising gap to bring this project to completion. Located at the southern gateway to downtown, the park will serve as a beautiful and welcoming public space.

“The Main Street Park Project will convert a blighted and contaminated property in Downtown Chelsea into a vibrant public space that will help the community to achieve its environmental, recreational, and economic goals,” said Chelsea City Manager Marty Colburn. “Many generations will benefit from this park’s impact on our community’s vitality. The City of Chelsea appreciates the Main Street Park Alliance, community members, and the State of Michigan for all the support and effort to take on such an impactful project.”

“I know how important it is to have a place where families can come together, where kids can play safely, and where everyone feels welcome,” said State Representative Kathy Schmaltz (R-Jackson). “Main Street Park will be that special place for Chelsea—a space that reflects the heart of the community. So many people have come together to bring this vision to life. I support this, and I’m glad the state is stepping up to support it too.”

“The old Federal Screw Works property sat vacant and contaminated, unusable for many years. With the support of this grant, the City of Chelsea will complete the fabulous and

long-awaited Main Street Park project, revitalizing a key space in the heart of its historic downtown,” said State Senator Sue Shink (D-Northfield Twp.). “I thank Gov. Whitmer and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation for recognizing the importance of this investment and supporting the creative energy of our community.”

Main Street Park Alliance is grateful for the support of state and local leaders in its grant application and for Governor Whitmer's and the Michigan Economic Development Corporation's recognition. In addition to this tremendous grant funding, MSPA passed another milestone towards the park's completion with the construction contract awarded to a local business, Construction Design Services. Owner Jess Spike has been incredibly valuable in the design process, finding creative ways to value-engineer the build while maintaining the design integrity. Jess shares, “As a local Chelsea family, business owner, and proud supporter of MSPA, Construction Design Services is honored to have been chosen as the general contractor for this exceptional project. We look forward to the coming year of construction and the opening of a new chapter in downtown Chelsea.”

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Main Street Park Alliance's mission is to create an intergenerational community park for Chelsea. Through the power of grassroots volunteerism, they will revitalize this downtown property for a better human experience. If you have comments, questions, concerns or want to support the project with time, expertise, or a financial contribution, please email info@mainstreetpark.org or join the Construction Campaign at this [link](#).

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