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For Immediate Release

Historic Charlton Park selected as a 2024 AARP Community Challenge Grantee!

Hastings, MI - Historic Charlton Park (HCP) is thrilled to announce they have been selected to receive a 2024 AARP Community Challenge grant. They are one of only 343 grantees selected (out of 3,300+ applications!) from across all 50 states, Washington D.C, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

This quick-action grant will provide accessibility modifications and support the addition of a concrete sidewalk behind the Sixberry House, Lee School, Hastings Township Hall, Hall House, and Barber Shop. Once the sidewalk is complete, ramps will be added from the sidewalk to provide building access. The accessibility modifications will allow ease of access and participation opportunities for everyone, with particular focus on the older adult population and school age children that utilize assistive mobility devices. AARP funding will be put toward the completion of the sidewalk, which is already underway (photo).

“We are incredibly proud that AARP selected Historic Charlton Park for this investment to make Barry County more livable for residents of all ages,” stated Dan Patton, HCP Director. “AARP is a nationwide leader in making communities more livable and we are honored that they see the tangible value this project will bring to our area.” HCP will hold a community ribbon cutting event in the fall of 2024, all are welcome to attend.

To learn more about this project and see photos, visit HCP's website:

https://www.charltonpark.org/news_events/current-projects.html

About the AARP Community Challenge

The AARP Community Challenge grant program funds innovative, quick-action projects that inspire change in areas such as public places; housing; transportation; digital connectivity; community resilience; and more. With additional funding support provided by Toyota Motor North America, the program is also increasing its investment in pedestrian safety projects that will improve streets and sidewalks, create vibrant pedestrian infrastructure, engage community members and much more.

This is all part of AARP's nationwide work on livable communities, which supports the efforts of neighborhoods, towns, cities and counties across the country to become great places for all. AARP believes that communities should provide safe, walkable streets; affordable and accessible housing and transportation options; access to needed services; and opportunities for residents to participate in community life.

To learn more about the projects being funded by the AARP Community Challenge across the nation, including all 343 granted projects this year, visit www.aarp.org/CommunityChallenge. You can also view an interactive map of current and past AARP Community Challenge projects and AARP's Livable Communities work at www.aarp.org/livable.

For additional information or questions about HCP, please call 269-945-3775 or email info@charltonpark.org. Historic Charlton Park is located north of M-79 at 2545 S. Charlton Park Rd., Hastings, MI 49058, and is part of the Barry County Parks system.

