

GRATIOT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**RESOLUTION TO APPROVE SPLASH PAD
CONSTRUCTION AND MANAGEMENT**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 26-443
ADOPTED JULY 21, 2026**

WHEREAS on August 4, 2020, Gratiot County voters approved a millage to provide funds necessary for creation, operation, maintenance, and improvements to parks, trails, and recreational programs within Gratiot County, including parks, trails, and recreational programs of Gratiot County and public parks and trails of townships, cities and villages within the County; and

WHEREAS on December 15, 2020, upon recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Board of Commissioners approved the Gratiot County Recreation Plan to improve and maintain park land and recreation facilities (Resolution 20-261) as allowed by the County and Regional Parks Act (MCL 46.356); and

WHEREAS construction of a splash pad was identified as a priority in 2020-2025 Recreation Plan, and it was determined that locating the splash pad in Alma, Ithaca, or St. Louis would be preferable to serve the highest concentration of residents; and

WHEREAS Section V.4 of the approved Plan calls for collaboration to promote and offer outdoor recreation opportunities within the County; and

WHEREAS, in collaboration with the City of Alma, the Parks and Recreation Commission proposes locating the splash pad in Wright Park near downtown Alma; and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Commission requested proposals from potential vendors and, after thorough consideration, recommended approval of a proposal submitted by Vortex, a splash pad design and manufacturer with a business presence in Michigan; and

WHEREAS the Vortex proposal uniquely includes design, equipment, and construction elements essential to the proposed splash pad; and

WHEREAS ongoing operational and maintenance costs associated with the splash pad will be minimal and will not be burdensome to the Parks and Recreation Department.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the recommendation of the Parks and Recreation Commission to approve the proposal submitted by Vortex for design, equipment, and construction of a splash pad at Wright Park in the City of Alma at a cost not to exceed \$400,000.00

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board invokes Section 6.5 of the Purchasing Policy to award a contract to Vortex without competitive bidding in recognition of their Michigan presence and their unique ability to design, equip, and construct the splash pad.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funding for this project shall be taken exclusively from the Parks and Recreation Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Board of Commissioners is authorized to sign any documents consistent with this resolution, subject to approval as to form by the County Attorney.

The resolution set forth was offered by Commissioner _____ and supported by Commissioner _____.

A vote was thereupon taken on the foregoing resolution and the voter for such resolution was as follows:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

A majority of the members-elect having approved such resolution deems the resolution APPROVED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
)ss
COUNTY OF GRATIOT)

I certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the resolution adopted by the Gratiot County Board of Commissioners, that such resolution was duly adopted at a regular meeting held on the 21st day of July 2026, and that notice of such meeting was given as required by law.

Angie Thompson, Gratiot County Clerk



Gratiot County Parks and Recreation

214 E. Center Street Ithaca, MI 48847

Phone: 989-875-5278

Email: parksandrec@gratiotmi.com



DATE: July 7th, 2026

TO: Gratiot County Board of Commissioners

FROM: Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Board

Jon Rayburn, Director, Tim Lambrecht, Chairperson

RE: Splash Pad

Commissioners,

The Parks and Recreation Department is seeking approval to construct and manage a splash pad at Wright Park in the city of Alma. The idea of building a splash pad has been a topic of discussion for many years, was identified as a priority in our Five-Year Master Plan, and is the last project to be completed. Because most of the population lives in the northern part of the county and our two major parks already have water recreation, it was determined that locating the splash pad in Alma, Ithaca, or St. Louis would make the most sense. Neither Ithaca nor St. Louis expressed much interest, while Alma has an ideal location, with new bathrooms, playscape, pavilions, and the necessary infrastructure. The splash pad will be a strong draw, and Wright Park's proximity to downtown should help local businesses.

The board requested proposals from two companies, Penchura and Vortex. They are the only installers who have a presence in Michigan. Though initially enthusiastic, Ventura has been unreliable in meeting plan deadlines and has yet to provide a final quote 75 days after our in-person meeting. They rely on subcontractors for labor and on a third party for equipment. Vortex, which has completed over 20,000 splash pads in the U.S., ranging in size from what we are proposing to full-scale commercial waterparks and cruise ship installations, provided a full plan and quote within a week. Vortex has five full-time technicians in Michigan, a Michigan representative in East Lansing, and factories in Montreal and New York, where they produce their own products for installation. They have over 30 years of experience in the field.

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation would install and manage the facility through a land lease with the city. Land leases are a common way for municipalities to partner on projects such as the splash pad proposal. The parks currently have a land lease with Sumner Township, which extends the walking trails at Hubscher Park into township land to the north of the park. Under the terms of the lease, the city would provide water and electricity. The parks department would provide maintenance; however, there is very little maintenance required, since we are proposing a flow-through design that does not require pumps, filters, or water testing.

The Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Board is seeking approval from the Board of Commissioners to move forward with Vortex for the installation of a splash pad with an expenditure not to exceed \$400,000 from our

fund balance. We will seek grants and potential donations for enhancements such as benches, shade canopies, and similar features.

Thank you,

Gratiot County Parks and Recreation Board

Jon Rayburn, Director

Tim Lambrecht, Chairperson

QUOTE



Account Name: City of Alma, MI
 Project Name: 46263-City of Alma Splashpad, MI
 Project ID: 46263
 Bill To Name: City of Alma, MI
 Bill To Address: Alma, MI
 united states
 Contact Name: Jonathan Rayburn
 Email: jrayburn@gratiotmi.com

Created Date: 6/16/2026 3:51 PM
 Quote Number: QUO-36450-K0V2N3
 Quote Name: Version A - Sample 1
 Prepared By: Angie Monroe
 Email: amonroe@vortex-intl.com
 Incoterm:
 Cooperative
 Purchasing: NPPGOV contract #2510

VOR	Product No.	Product Name	Description	QTY
1- Play Products				
0555	104602-304L	AQUA DOME N°1 (SW,PC)		1
7699	104557-304L	ASTRA No.3 (SW,PC)		1
0623	148672-304L	ACTIVATOR NO5 (SW, PC)		1
0103	104268-304L	BUCKET TRIO (SW,PC)		1
0307	104069-304L	CYLINDER SPRAY (EM)		1
0305	101461-304L	DIRECTIONAL JET N°1 (EM)		4
7513	103778-304L	FOUNTAIN SPRAY N°1 (EM)		2
7512	101126-304L	JET STREAM N°1 (EM)		5
7799	102557-304L	SPIROO (SW,PC)		2
0519	102524-304L	SPRAY LOOP (SW, PC)		3
7242	100241-304L	TWINSPLASH (SW,PC)		1
2- Water Management System and Controls				
2- Water Distribution System 'WDS'				
		WDS ECCC 2.0 20V 2X2" FT MaestroPro 120V BLV	ECCC 2.0 Cabinet Mounted Flow Through Configuration Inlet: 2 x 2" Supply Lines Outlet: 20 x 1" Line with Solenoid and Ball Valve Controller: MaestroPro 24/12-O/I 120VAC/60Hz LTE Cell Module: AT&T	1
4- Drains				
1004	103080-304L	PLAYSAFE DRAIN N°4 (EM,PC)	PLAYSAFE DRAIN N°4 (EM,PC)	2
5- Discount				
	12010	Buying Group - Products		1
	12020	Buying Group - Services		1
6- Services				
14010	14010	Installation Fees		1

7- Installation Kits				
	101143-304L	INSTALLATION KIT #SAFESWAP NO1		4
	101146-304	INSTALLATION KIT # (LARGE SW) SURFACE MOUNT		1
	101474-304L	INSTALLATION KIT #HEAVY DUTY SAFE SWAP No 1		1
	103534-304	INSTALLATION KIT FOR GROUND EQUIPEMENT		39
	103543-304L	INSTALLATION KIT #SAFESWAP NO2		8
	102313	TOOL KIT #0 :		1
	102314	TOOL KIT #1 :SECURITY BITS (ALL)		1
	100308	TOOL KIT #28:RIV-VOZZLE TOOL		1
	102301-304L	TOOL KIT #3 : 2 PIN KEY_WELDING		1
	123637-304L	TOOL KIT #128: INSTALLATION KIT FOR SPRAY LOOP (1 LOOP)		1
9- Transport				
19030	19030	Freight Fee		1
18020	18020	Packaging Fee		1

Additional Information

Provided by Vortex USA Certified Installers:

- Set all safe-swap anchors, ground sprays, features, and Water Management to grade
- Bolt and flow adjustments for all features
- Pipe all features with schedule 80 PVC or PEX to water/sewer (final hook ups by GC)
- Wire from activation bollards to controller
- Provide a 95% compacted sand base to leave a 6" reveal for concrete pad
- 6" Concrete for splashpad area - 2% slope to drain
- 3/8 Rebar – 18" on center – Bonded
- 4" Concrete spray-free zone
- Minimum 5' buffer zone with wire mesh pitched slope to drain and all poured together with 6" spray zone
- Startup training for staff, once complete

Provided by General Contractor/City:

- Site restoration. Topsoil and seed disturbed areas.
- All utilities brought to pad by and ALL final connections made by GC/City
- Need 2" dedicated water feed line brought to pad after city provided back flow preventer and/or water meter is installed to have 55psi for system to function properly.
- Electricity brought to pad - Final connections made by GC
- 6" schedule 35 or 40 sewer drain line brought to pad.
- Site excavation- remove 16"-18" from finish grade
- ALL Permits - ALL Inspections by GC/City
- City's Electrician to install bonding loop to features, as shown in construction documents and on concrete rebar (Pull permit and call for inspection).

QUOTE



Total Summary

Customer Signature:

**Enquire about our cooperative purchasing programs.
Thank you for doing business with us!
Pricing is valid for a period of 45 days.**

Products:	119,546.30
Discount:	(18,477.32)
Services:	250,000.00
Transport:	5,700.00
Subtotal:	356,768.98
Total:	356,768.98
Currency:	US Dollar
Incoterm:	

Terms & Conditions

Products Payment Terms: Product >\$250K+: 30% deposit at PO, 50% at shipment, 20% net 45

Services Payment Terms: Installation: 25% mobilization prior to start of installation, 75% progressive payments

Freight Charges

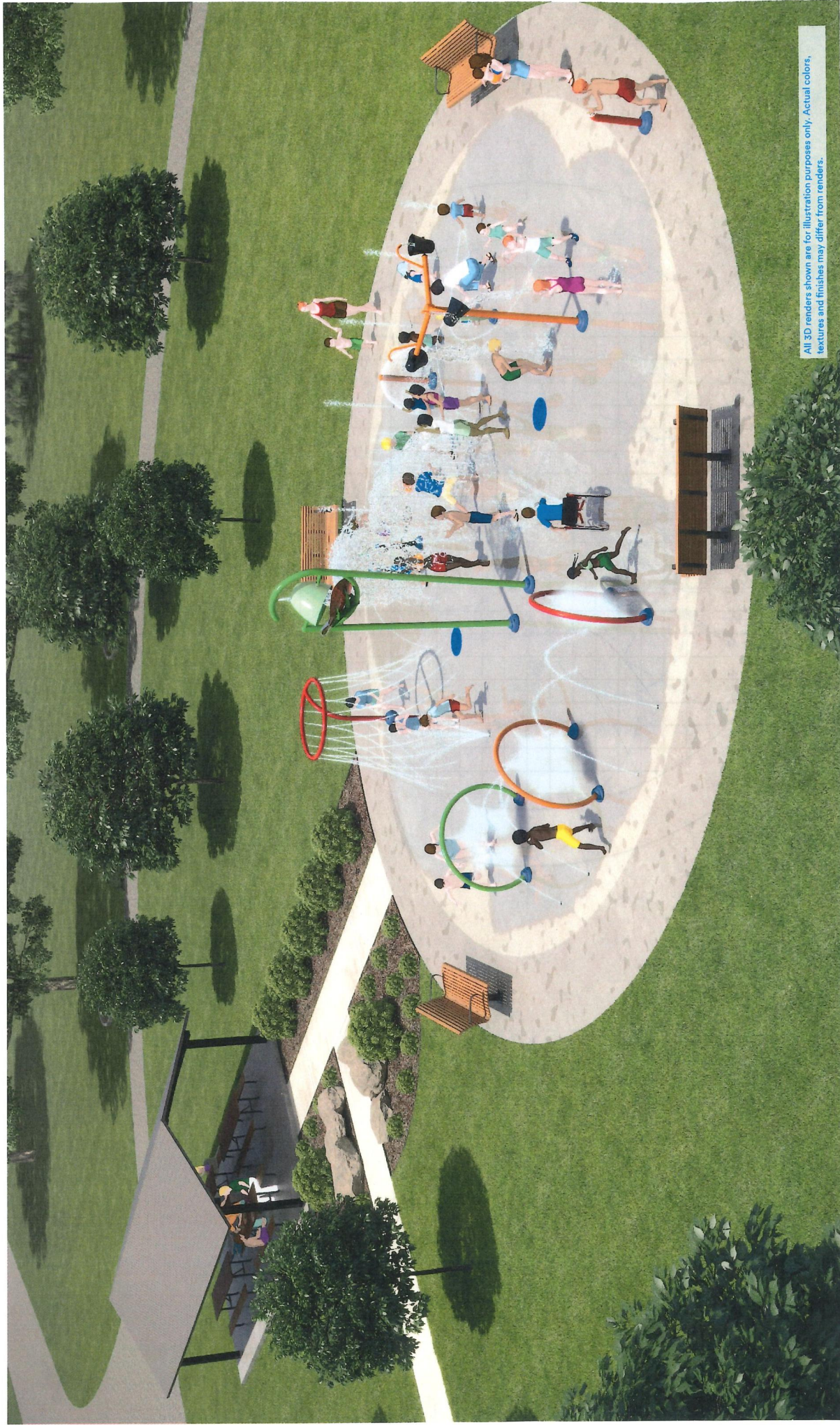
Please note: freight charge is an estimate and is subject to change without notice. Vortex reserves the right to adjust the freight charge quoted above. Should embed equipment be required ahead of scheduled delivery date, additional freight charges will apply.

Installation Charges

Please note: Installation fees are an estimate at the time of quoting and is subject to change without notice. Vortex reserves the right to adjust the installation fees quoted above.

Purchase Contract Terms & Conditions of Sales

The following terms and conditions (the "Terms and Conditions") form part of the Purchase Contract (the "Purchase Contract") between yourself (the "Customer, and Vortex Aquatic Structures International and/or Vortex USA Inc. ("Vortex"). The Customer's acceptance and understanding of these Terms and Conditions and all other supporting documentation provided as part of this package is evidenced by signing of the Purchase Contract.



All 3D renders shown are for illustration purposes only. Actual colors, textures and finishes may differ from renders.

SPLASHPAD DIMENSION

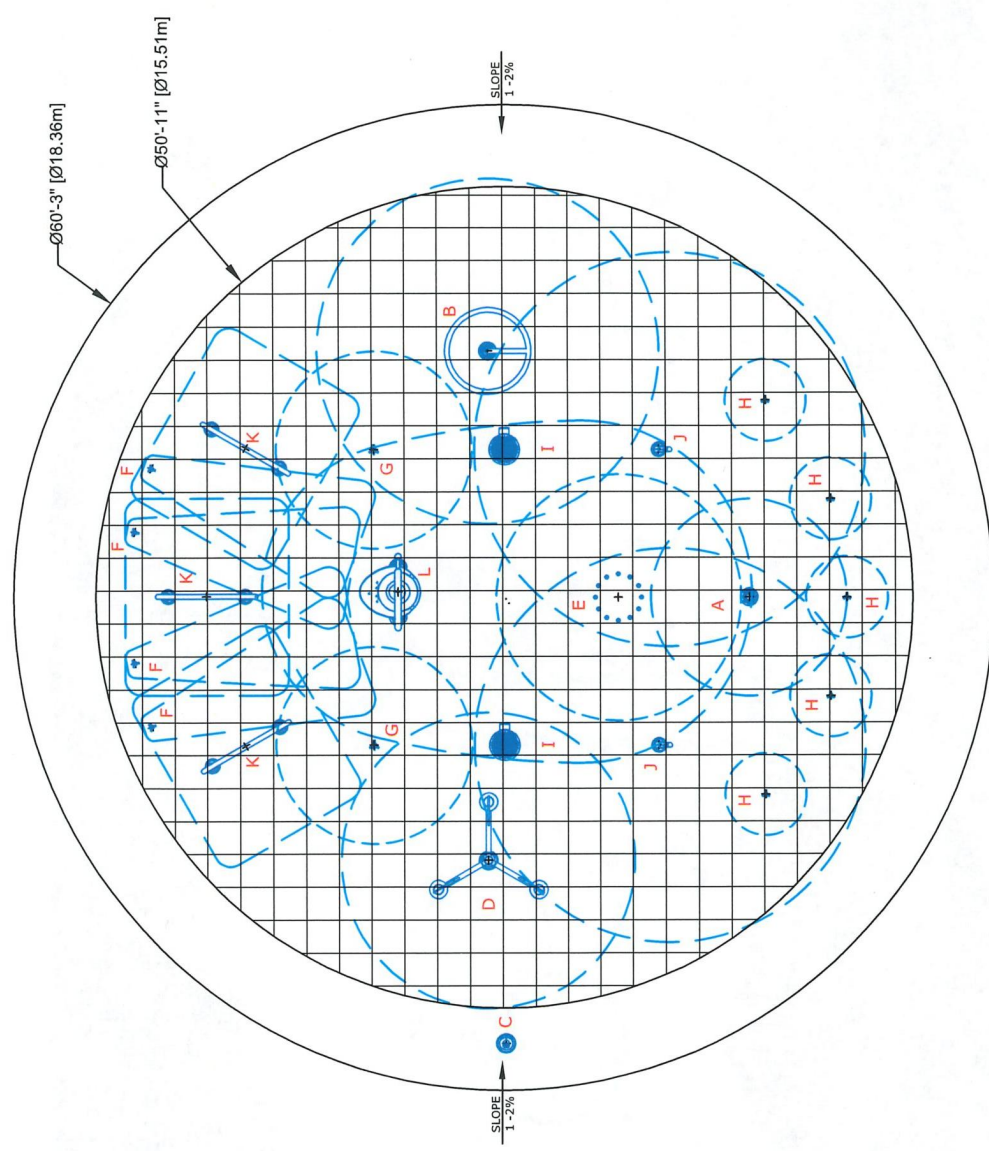
TOTAL AREA : 2826 ft² 263 m²

SPRAY AREA : 1963 ft² 182 m²

GRID SIZE : 2 x 2 ft 0.6 x 0.6 m

PRODUCT LEGEND

REF	PRODUCT	QTY	GPM	LPM
A	Aqua Dome N°1 VOR 0555	1	14	53
B	Astra No.3 VOR-7699	1	17.5	66.2
C	Bollard Activator No.3 VOR 0611	1	0	0
D	Bucket Trio VOR 0103	1	12	45.4
E	Cylinder Spray VOR 0307	1	32	121.1
F	Directional Jet N°1 VOR 0305	4	8	30.3
G	Fountain Spray N°1 VOR 7513	2	10	37.9
H	Jet Stream N°1 VOR 7512	5	12.5	47.3
I	Playsafe Drain N°4 VOR 1004	2	0	0
J	Spirroo VOR 7799	2	14	53
K	Spray Loop VOR 0519	3	22.5	85.2
L	Twinsplash VOR 7242	1	12	45.4
TOTAL		24	154.5	584.8



5' [1.5m] SPRAY FREE CONCRETE AREA ALL AROUND THE SPLASHPAD

