



# Downtown News

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## East Park receives furnishings monies

*State of Michigan awards \$25,321 Waterfront Redevelopment Grant*

Even a public space as beautiful as Downtown Charlevoix's East Park isn't complete without the proper furnishings. And a recent grant award from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will go a long way towards making certain that park users have places to rest their shopping-weary feet and deposit their refuse and recyclables.

Through its Waterfront Redevelopment Grant program, the DEQ has awarded \$25,321 to the City of Charlevoix for the purchase and placement of park benches and trash and recycling receptacles. The Charlevoix East Park Site Furnishings proposal was one of 10 requests selected for funding.

"The DEQ is excited to partner with these 10 communities in working to make local waterfronts more attractive and a destination spot for residents and visitors," said DEQ Director Steven E. Chester.

Successful applications are required to provide a 25 percent match in dollars or in-kind resources. The City of Charlevoix is expecting to provide roughly \$4,300 worth of installation work, leaving only \$4,000 in actual city funds required.

City officials believe the recycling component of the grant application was of most interest to the DEQ.

"Charlevoix County is leading the way regionally in its recycling efforts," said Charlevoix City Manager Rob Straebel. "We'll certainly do our part by making numerous recycling containers readily available near our marina for our boaters and park visitors."

City officials hope to finalize a grant contract with the State of Michigan within the next 2-3 weeks, meaning installation of furnishings will likely be completed in early fall.

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