Coming in 2020 to
St. Patrick’s County Park
Premier Amenities Sponsorship Opportunities

Central Pavilion

**Description:**
The central pavilion will serve as the premier focal point for the River Ramble PlayScape, providing shade and a 360° view of the play area and reached by an accessible path. It will be the welcoming site for families to gather. Approximately 30 feet in diameter, it will offer space for multiple families. The interpretive naturalist team for the County Parks will host periodic events and educational programs for the public, school groups and Scouts here making it a “learning place” as well as a social gathering site.

**Encourages:**
Community / Learning

Education Plaza

**Description:**
This functional, yet decorative, space will provide a venue for children and families to gather for nature programs and activities offered by St. Joseph County Parks interpretive naturalists. The plaza will feature an animal native to the St. Joseph River. Rustic benches provide seating.

**Encourages:**
Social interaction / Learning
Fencing

Description:
This “boundary” defines the River Ramble and allows accompanying adults to feel comfortable allowing children to freely and safely explore the PlayScape. The chain link and wood combination is designed to blend into the landscape.

Water & Sand Play Area

Description:
The St. Joseph River has changed course over time from natural and human causes. The premier play feature in the River Ramble will feature a hand pump to generate flowing water. Children can use movable chutes and a large sand area for creating channels and dams. A new well will supply the water.

An adjoining sand area will encourage digging. A shade structure over the top will filter the sunlight.

An interpretive sign will include information on the river’s journey to Lake Michigan.

Encourages:
Free play / Problem solving / Engineering / Cooperation
River Overlook

Description:
This rustic overlook perched on a bluff in the wooded section of the River Ramble, provides a space for quiet reflection and observation, where families can enjoy a view of the wetland below and a glimpse of the St. Joseph River.

Encourages:
Community / Nature observation

Entry Arch & Bridge

Description:
The St. Joseph River welcomes us to many experiences and is a gateway to appreciation for our natural resources. Wetlands along the river protect the water quality by absorbing flood waters and trapping pollutants. The simple welcome arch sets the tone for the experience to come as children enter the River Ramble. As children cross the bridge over the mini-wetland, native plants grow below.

Encourages:
A sense of adventure!
**Concrete Path**

**Description:**
The St. Joseph River has long been a transportation “connector” linking communities, industries and natural areas. Like the river, this pathway will curve and wind on its journey between destinations – the various play areas that make up the PlayScape. This .2-mile (final distance to be determined) pathway with variable textures and imprints will connect the play areas. It ensures that visitors with varying mobility levels can access the play features. The defined measured distance will encourage accompanying adults to walk while allowing their children to play in the defined PlaySpace.

**Encourages:**
Physical activity / Tactile exploration / Accessibility for all mobilities

**Composting Restroom**

**Description:**
Not your ordinary restroom! This state-of-the-art composting restroom is a model of sustainability, saves water and its ventilation is powered by solar energy.
**Eagle Nest Build**

**Description:**
One of the more majestic creatures that use the river as a hunting location, bald eagles have nested at St. Patrick’s County Park since 2015. Even in winter, bald eagles use the river as a travel corridor.

This station will include a wood or metal frame and a supply of sticks that kids can build on to (or dismantle!) It will be roughly the same diameter as the actual nest in the park (7 feet)!

The station will include a playground surface base/containment and an interpretive sign about bald eagles.

**Encourages:**
Free building / Cooperation

**Fishing Net Climber**

**Description:**
Fishing has been a significant activity on the St. Joseph River for human survival and recreation. This elevated rope and post climbing structure will be 10-12 feet in diameter and includes a playground mulch base and containment border.

An interpretive sign will include information about fish that live in the river, and safety tips.

**Encourages:**
Physical activity / Climbing / Balance
Rock & Log Adventure Area

Description:
Rocks and logs are an important part of the St. Joseph River habitat. While paddling or hiking along the river, it is not uncommon to see herons, turtles and ducks resting and hunting from these natural perches. Underwater logs are a critical habitat for fish.

This balance area will feature a series of rocks and logs where children can choose their own path and challenges, surrounded by playground safety surfacing.

An interpretive sign will provide information on animals that use rocks and logs in the river.

Encourages:
Physical activity / Balance / Risk taking

Hollow Log Crawl

Description:
Sycamore trees, with their blotchy white, green and brown bark, grow in places where their roots are in damp soil. Many can be seen growing in natural areas along the banks of the St. Joseph River. Mature trees are often hollow.

Incorporated into the Rock and Log Adventure Area, this massive hollow log, (6 feet in diameter) provides a place to climb, crawl and hide!

An interpretive sign will share information about sycamores.

Encourages:
Physical activity / Exploration
Build-a-Shelter Area

**Description:**
The St. Joseph River has always been attractive to development. Native Americans hunted and camped along its shores. Military forts, trading posts, businesses and factories have relied on the water for power and transportation. At this play station, children can build or take apart their own shelter, house, factory or fort using sticks and adding onto an established framework.

**Encourages:**
Physical activity / Creativity / Cooperation / Engineering

Wood Boat & Split-log Bench Seats

**Description:**
The St. Joseph River has been an important transportation corridor and a popular recreation venue for boating. This large wood boat with internal seating can be whatever a child would like it to be. A boat, barge or canoe? A storage bin?

In keeping with the natural theme, seating around the central plaza and in other locations of the PlayScape will be rustic log benches, places to share with friends or enjoy a quiet solo sit-down.

**Encourages:**
Creativity / Community
Sun Dial & Animal Den

Description:
Years ago, navigating on the river utilized simple tools and a knowledge of the position of the sun. This human sun dial works just like a regular sun dial, with a child's (or adult's) shadow casting across the hours to determine the time of day!

Many animals den in the banks of the Saint Joseph River, such as minks, beavers, even Banded Kingfishers! This is a space for children to crawl through on their journey to the next play feature!

Encourages:
Math / Intergeneration activity / Exploration / Imagination / Physical activity

* These features can also be sponsored independently at $2,500 each.
Site Enhancement Sponsorship Opportunities

**Interpretive Signage**

**Description:**
An interpretive sign at each play station will provide kid-friendly information about how the activity relates to the St. Joseph River, river fun facts, safety tips and sponsor recognition. A welcome sign will greet visitors in the Central Pavilion.

**Encourages:**
Reading / Learning / Safety

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**Hammock Village**

**Description:**
A couple of rope hammocks is a perfect place to “hang-out” with friends and family and overlook the River Ramble.

**Encourages:**
Relaxation / Observation / Intergenerational space
Drinking Fountain & Foot Wash

**Description:**
This amenity helps keep kids cool and hydrated, with a place to wash off sandy feet, something parents will appreciate before loading back into the car for home! Run-off will head down a swale towards the “welcome wetland.”

Picnic Tables

**Description:**
These furnishings for the Central Pavilion provide a place for small family picnics and learning space for interpretive programs with park naturalists. A table with accessibility for wheel chairs is included.

**Encourages:**
Learning / Community / Family time
River Ramble Donor Form

Donor Information:

Name (and title if applicable):

Company/Organization:

Address:

City, State, and Zip Code:

Telephone:

Email Address:

Name as you would like it to appear in donor recognition:

I/we are supporting the River Ramble with our donation!

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Please invoice me for the balance in (date)

☐ I/we are contributing a general donation to the project to use as needed.

OR

☐ I/we would like to sponsor (list feature or amenity):

Payment Method: (Please check one)

☐ Check Enclosed - payable to the Friends of St. Joseph County Parks. See mailing info. below.

☐ Please charge my credit card. (Note that your gift will be reduced by the amount of the credit card processing fees, approx. 3% or more. If you wish to cover the credit card fees, check here and we will notify you of the amount prior to processing ☐ .)

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☐ I commit to the donation described above, payable to the Friends of St. Joseph County Parks. I understand the Friends will use the funds solely for construction and support of the “River Ramble Playscape” at St. Patrick’s County Park. ____________________________ (signature)

Please mail this form (or send us the equivalent information) with your donation to:
Friends of the St. Joseph County Parks
Attn. River Ramble, 50651 Laurel Rd., South Bend, IN 46637

Questions? Phone Evie Kirkwood, St. Joseph County Parks Director: (574)277-4828

The St. Joseph County Parks Foundation, dba Friends of St. Joseph County Parks is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization (EIN 35-1459569) supporting the St. Joseph County Parks.