



May 12, 2025

City Manager Ashley Latsch
519 Washington Ave
Grand Haven, MI 49417

Dear City Manager Ashley Latsch and City Council members,

ODC Network supports Grand Haven Children's Museum's proposal to lease a portion of the Community Center — *Central Park Place* — as a home for the museum. This beautiful building, located next to the library and directly across from Central Park, includes available space in the rear of the main level and most of the lower level. The proposed space, with a modest addition, would be an ideal space for the Grand Haven Children's Museum.

ODC Network manages over 800 acres of land, operates two nature centers, and runs multiple nature based early childhood education centers. Our involvement in the Grand Haven Area Public Schools' summer programs includes offering a free six-week educational enrichment program to hundreds of K-5 students. With more than 25 years of experience in hands-on learning, interpretation, and conservation projects, we are confident that a Grand Haven Children's Museum at this location would greatly benefit both residents and visitors.

Our trained educators are ready to collaborate with the Children's Museum to deliver water-quality education programs related to the Grand River, alongside high-quality interpretive signage and displays. Additionally, our dedicated team has expertise in designing and constructing nature-based playgrounds, which are essential for enhancing coordination skills, encouraging appropriate risk taking, fostering creative play, and increasing awareness of the natural environment among young community members. To date, ODC has created over 22 playscapes for schools, libraries, and other community spaces, and is eager to partner in developing an immersive outdoor play area for the Grand Haven Children's Museum.

ODC views this proposed move as a wonderful opportunity to partner with the City and create a vibrant, inclusive space for children and families right in the heart of the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Nyitray".

Dave Nyitray
President & COO
616-368-2348