



PO Box 1250
Bradenton, FL 34206-1250

www.bradentonkiwanis.org

May 8, 2023

Manatee County Government
Manatee County Sports and Leisure Services
GT Bray Recreation Center
5502 33rd Avenue Drive West
Bradenton, FL 34205

RE: Letter of Intent to Donate

Manatee County Board of County Commissioners:

The Bradenton Kiwanis Club requesting the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners accept a donation in the amount of \$784,142.10 towards a destination all- inclusive playground to be installed at Tom Bennett Park. This can provide a regional and local impact to our community as we have not seen a playground of this type in the immediate area. This is in celebration of Bradenton Kiwanis' 100 years as a club impacting our community through service and treasure. This will be a signature legacy project for the future generations in Manatee County.

The children, adults and families of all abilities of our community and region will benefit from the utilization of an all-inclusive playground. This would ensure that children of all abilities and special needs are accommodated through the design of this playground.

The Bradenton Kiwanis Club would be donating this money to the County to design and build an all-inclusive playground. This playground would go in Tom Bennett Park, along with a splash pad that the County would be constructing. It would replace the existing aged playground equipment that is at the park and we would expand the footprint of the playground to ensure structures for multiple ages and abilities.

We are currently working on designs for particular elements and structures, but envision a primary structure for the 5-12 age group with a smaller structure(s) for the 2-5 year old age group. The playground would include a swing zone for all ages and abilities, as well as a zip line. We also envision this to include inclusive benches and tables with shade. To commemorate or recognize donors, including Bradenton Kiwanis, to this project we are looking at a memory wall or pathway recognizing those that have given to this park.

We will be enlisting additional support from the community to join in this endeavor. The gift will be for the County to purchase and install the playground equipment, and the Club will assist inground breaking and opening ceremonies in a community service effort when it is completed. The County would then maintain and inspect the playground after it has been installed.

If we are able to raise additional funds beyond this, we understand the playground could be potentially built in phases to enhance what is currently being planned.

The Bradenton Kiwanis Club would work in conjunction with County personnel to design the layout and pick the playground equipment that best fits the vision of the Club and County of serving the community one child at a time, with our club motto of Building a Better Bradenton. We would also assist in marketing the playground and perform additional fundraising.

It is our desire to at least break ground on this project during the calendar year of 2023.

Again, the Bradenton Kiwanis Club has provided great leadership and service to this community for 100 years, and hope to continue this for the next 100 years. We feel that this project will be a regional draw to the park, becoming a destination for all children of any abilities to enjoy. We look forward to providing this gift of \$784,142.10 and our service to making Manatee County a continued destination to live, work and play.

Thank you for your consideration and acceptance of this gift.



Neil Unruh, President Bradenton Kiwanis Club 2022-2023

Playground Committee:

Jayne Kocher

Susan Agruso

Danielle Crawford

Kent Jimison

Ron Springer