This spring, West Bloomfield Parks (WB Parks) will be breaking ground on its new spray park dubbed “Splash Landing.” The name was chosen by the community from a list of three top contenders submitted by residents, as determined by a WB Parks stakeholder panel. The family that submitted the entry will receive free admittance for a year, recognition at the ribbon cutting, and some fun swag.

Why a spray park? WB Parks has done extensive research on a national trend where parks and recreation agencies are transitioning from pools to spray parks. This is happening for several reasons including decreased levels of public pool use, safety risks associated with pools, high maintenance costs and an increasing number of private pools. In many cases, municipalities are subsidizing pool operating costs with tax dollars, which is not a sustainable model.

Additionally, spray parks use far less chemicals and water, making them much more environmentally friendly. Several communities in Michigan such as Wyoming, Grand Rapids and Mt. Pleasant have already jumped on this trend with very positive results.

Design plans for Splash Landing have already been completed and approved by the Commission. The splash pad will be larger than others in the area (6,400 sq. feet), with exciting play features including three large slides, separate areas for tots and older kids, a giant bucket that dumps water and plenty of shaded seating for parents to enjoy. The entire park will be universally accessible for those with disabilities. Design plans are all available online at www.wbparks.org/splashlanding. A nominal admittance fee will be charged.

This project will be split into two phases. The first phase will include the installation of the splash pad, maintenance building and restrooms, and will be completed in 2019. The second phase will include a playground and other amenities and will be completed at a later date once additional funding is secured.

We are thrilled to bring this new aquatic feature to the West Bloomfield community to enjoy for many years to come. Sign up for our weekly e-blast at www.wbparks.org to receive updates on the project as construction gets underway.