



*We will enhance community and quality of life through people, parks, and programs.*

**September 25, 2018**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Easling Pool Reopens During "Community Connections" Celebration at Civic Center Park**

**Traverse City** – Following three years of planning and more than \$750,000 in funds raised from over 450 donors, a ribbon cutting ceremony at 12 p.m. and free open swim will take place at the newly remodeled Easling Pool on Saturday, September 29, 2018. The community pool's grand reopening is part of a larger "Community Connections" celebration to be held in Civic Center Park that day between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Sponsored by Traverse City Roller Derby and County Parks and Recreation, the Community Connections event features fun activities for all ages to promote the unique Parks and Recreation collaborations and partnerships that serve the community.

Pool renovations include a new pool liner, ultraviolet water sanitizing system, new air-handling equipment, new decking, high-efficiency lighting, and updated locker rooms, all completed since July 1. "We are most grateful for the breadth of support for this well-loved and well-used swimming pool," says Bridget Thuente, president of Friends of Easling Pool. "Now, we are ready for the next 50 years, serving our community's health and water safety needs."

"The Easling Pool project is a model for other public-private park partnerships," commented County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson. "For example, our department and Traverse City Roller Derby have partnered and collaborated with many organizations over the years, and the Community Connections event is an opportunity to recognize them and showcase all that's going on in our Civic Center Park." During its season in spring and summer, Roller Derby calls the Civic Center "home", along with other organizations, such as Norte, Centre I.C.E. and, starting in 2019, Parallel 45 Theatre.

Community Connection festivities throughout the park will offer something for everyone: open swimming in Easling Pool from noon to 4 p.m.; "Street Art in the Skate Park," featuring live music and graffiti artists painting the skate park; free open skating with complimentary skate rentals in Howe Arena, along with TC Figure Skating Club coaches promoting the "Learn to Skate" program; recreation and programming partner demonstrations and games; a rugby match; and prizes.

During the Community Connections event, park visitors will be issued "passports" to be stamped when they visit each partner throughout the park. Partners participating in the event are: Centre I.C.E., Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, Grand Traverse Social Sports, Norte, Parallel 45 Theatre, TBAYS North Storm Soccer, TC Figure Skating Club, Traverse Bay Blues Rugby, Traverse City Roller Derby, Traverse City Junior Derby. Completed passports will be entered into a prize drawing. Prizes include Norte "swag", an overnight stay at the new "Holiday Cabin" in Twin Lakes Park, tickets for Parallel 45 Theatre's 2019 season, and more.

So, come out and play at YOUR Civic Center Park this Saturday. Become acquainted with the many partners who provide recreation in our county parks. For more information, check out Roller Derby's and Parks and Recreation's Facebook pages.

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