



August 13, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TC Track Club Awards Grants for Improvements to County Parks

Traverse City, MI – Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation and the Grand Traverse Conservation District were recently awarded grants from the Traverse City Track Club to fund over \$8,000 of county park improvements.

“We are thrilled and privileged to receive such generous gifts from the Track Club,” said County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson. Parks and Recreation received \$3,500 to pay for “transitional pavers” installed at the base of the recently completed Northwest Corner Connector Path Project at the county’s Civic Center Park in Traverse City. According to Erickson, the funds helped make possible an “accessible connection for all” between the walking-jogging track at the Civic Center and the sidewalk along Front Street. She also said the new path “makes it much easier and safer” to enter and exit the northwest corner of the park, and to visit the businesses at the corner of Front and Garfield. “Not only does the path provide a new point of access to the Civic Center,” she explained, “it further connects the “TART-in-Town” system of trails and walkways.”

The Grand Traverse Conservation District, which manages the 505-acre Natural Education Reserve on behalf of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission, received \$4,850 for three timber footbridge spans over Boardman River tributaries which run through the park. The footbridges will help formalize a safe and sustainable trail along the east side of the river through the recently exposed bottomlands, following removal of the Sabin Dam in 2018. “We are very grateful to the Traverse City Track Club for the generous support,” said Grand Traverse Conservation District Executive Director Koffi Kpachavi. “Spending time in the outdoors these days has become more than a luxury. To many, it is crucial part of maintaining balance in today's world. This grant not only allows us to further the work of making the trails and parks available, safe, and usable for our community, but will also enable visitors to view restoration efforts up close.”

Despite cancelling its Bayshore events this year due to the pandemic, the Traverse City Track Club awarded grants this summer to four local organizations. According to Executive Director Lisa Taylor, “Each of these organization’s projects align with the Track Club’s mission ‘to encourage running and walking as a means to promote health, enhanced fitness, family recreation and competition for all.’” Grant awards support non-profit programs located in Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, and Leelanau County. Including the most recent grants, the Traverse City Track Club Community Grants and Scholarships program has now awarded over \$2 million total, since being formally launched in 2007. Profits from the Bayshore events each Memorial Weekend support this program.

To learn more about the Charitable Gifts program of the Traverse City Track Club, please contact Executive Director, Lisa Taylor, at 231-631-2195. The Traverse City Track Club was founded in 1962 to encourage running and walking as a means to promote health, enhanced fitness, family recreation and competition for all individuals. For more information, visit www.tctrackclub.com on line.

###

Contact: Kristine Erickson, Director of Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation, kerickson@grandtraverse.org; 231-922-4511