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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Easling Pool Hits Original Goal for Renovations  
Locker Room Improvements Targeted for Second Phase**

**Traverse City**—Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commissioners learned during their regular meeting last night that the Friends of Easling Pool fundraising organizers hit their \$625,000 goal this week. The project will move forward this summer, and now, a second phase has begun to raise money for improvements to the locker rooms and the restrooms.

The first phase of the campaign was accomplished months ahead of the expected August target. Renovations are being scheduled to begin July 1. “We have seen so much public enthusiasm for this campaign,” said Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Director Kristine Erickson. “It’s a sign that our community sees Easling Pool as a valuable asset that needs to be protected.”

The first fundraising phase will enable renovations of the pool sanitation system, air-handling equipment, liner, and decking. “The second phase allows us to raise our sights and do even more than we first believed possible,” said Friends of Easling Pool President Bridget Thuente (Ten-tay). A second campaign to raise \$125,000 has begun and will run through June 30 to help renovate the locker rooms, including the restrooms.

According to the Friends group, over 400 donors contributed to the first phase of the campaign, with major gifts from Rotary Charities, the N. Paul and Jane Easling Family, Tom’s Markets, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan, the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, The Mahogany Foundation (Meridith and Dan Falconer), Dr. and Mrs. Timothy Hanley, and the William and Susanne Janis Family.

In 2017, Easling Pool attracted a record 40,000 visits, up 60 percent from just two years earlier. Regular users include U.S Coast Guard rescue swimmers, Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District and Traverse City Area Public School students, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, and competitive and recreational swimmers of all ages.

The Easling Pool campaign is a public-private partnership among pool owner Grand Traverse County, pool management team Grand Traverse Bay YMCA, and the citizens group, Friends of Easling Pool.

Easling Pool was built in 1970 with memorial gifts, donated materials, and labor to honor Paul Easling, a local builder and community leader who was one of the first proponents of a community pool. Son Marty Easling, who is co-chair of the Easling Pool Community Campaign with Susanne Janis, said, “Once again, our community has demonstrated its generosity. Thanks to our donors, the pool will be around for the health and safety of future generations of families.” To make a tax-deductible gift to the Easling Pool Community Campaign, or for more information, visit [www.EaslingPool.com](http://www.EaslingPool.com).

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