



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Adam Smith, City Administrator
Phone: (517) 627-2149
E-mail: asmith@cityofgrandledge.com
Website: www.cityofgrandledge.com

Grand Opening of the GL Splashpad Announced



GRAND LEDGE, MI, August 7, 2018 —

The first splashpad in the City of Grand Ledge will open at Jaycee Park, located downtown on East River Street, on Monday, August 13, 2018, with the public invited to a ribbon-cutting ceremony beginning at 11:00 AM. The 2,000 square foot splashpad has 19 water sprays within different spray zones allowing visitors to choose how much they are sprayed. The splashpad is universally accessible, making it the first amenity of this kind in all of the City's 13 parks and open spaces. Two additional handicap parking spaces with ramp access to the splashpad have been added along East River Street. A 3-foot high bollard with a large button located on the splashpad activates the water sprays when pressed. The water sprays are set on a timer allowing it to only be in use when visitors have engaged the button.

There is no charge to utilize the GL Splashpad and visitors can play in the water seven days a week from 10:00 am – 9:00 pm. The splashpad will typically operate from Memorial Day through Labor Day, but the City is looking to keep the splashpad open further into September this year, depending on the weather. Please visit CityofGrandLedge.com/Splashpad to check the GL Splashpad's hours. Please note that all City parks are open from dawn until dusk, seven days a week.

On July 6, 2017, with confirmation that the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), Public Spaces, Community Places Program and mParks Foundation had committed a total of \$66,666, the City began a 60-day crowdfunding campaign to raise \$33,333 to cover the initial estimate of \$100,000 to build the splashpad. The campaign ended on September 4, 2017, with generous community contributions of \$54,865, surpassing the initial goal. Approximately 80% of the total patron donations were amounts of \$10 - \$100 making this success truly about the significant support of Grand Ledge residents, businesses, and visitors who believed in the project. Larger donations between \$500 - \$1,000 accounted for nearly 20% with a minimum of \$5,000 contributions from McDonald's – Grand Ledge, Roberts Sinto Corporation, Michigan Watermain Tapping, and M. French Concrete. Those who donated \$100 or more are noted on a sign marking the entrance to the splashpad.

The campaign ended last September with a \$10,000 Tsunami sponsorship from Farm Bureau Insurance – Nick Cypher Agency. "At Farm Bureau Insurance we value family and strive to be there for all of life's moments. The good and when the unfortunate happens. Our dedication to local families

that call Grand Ledge home is strong and we couldn't be more thrilled to be a part of making the Grand Ledge Splashpad dream a reality for our community," said Nick Cypher owner of the Nick Cypher Agency. "We are grateful for the generous support of over 200 patrons and businesses, and having the Nick Cypher Agency sponsor at the "Tsunami" level shows their strong commitment to the community and the GL Splashpad," said Adam Smith, City Administrator.

Construction for the splashpad started in May 2018, with the City receiving discounted and donated services for the design and construction of the splashpad from Michigan-based companies: Jim Bryant Excavating/Michigan Watermain Tapping, TriTerra, M. French Concrete, ENG, and Etna Supply.

The demand for a splashpad has been driven by public input as far back as 2013 when a Master Plan for Jaycee Park used this feedback to illustrate future amenities. Additionally, public survey results used to create the 2017-2021 Parks and Recreation Master Plan highlighted the desire for a splashpad and the need for universally accessible park amenities.

For additional information on the GL Splashpad, including hours of operation, visit www.cityofgrandledge.com/splashpad and follow [@CityofGrandLedgeGovernment](https://www.facebook.com/CityofGrandLedgeGovernment) on Facebook for updates.

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