

For Immediate Release

## Exciting improvements planned for Elk Rapids Rotary Park

Paddle Antrim  
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Elk Rapids, MI – Paddle Antrim is working with the Village of Elk Rapids to design improvements to Rotary Park. This project will include identified improvements and provide opportunities for community input. “Improvements to Rotary Park, including a kayak launch, were identified in the Village of Elk Rapids’ Recreation Survey in 2017,” says Caroline Kennedy, Elk Rapids Assistant Village Manager. “We appreciate Paddle Antrim’s support in securing the funding for this project and look forward to working with the entire community to better utilize this beautiful park.”

Paddle Antrim is leading the development of the Chain of Lakes Water Trail and Rotary Park is a key access site for the water trail. This water trail is one of eight state-designated water trails and the only one in Northern Michigan. Paddlers can explore over 80 miles of trail through sixteen different lakes and rivers, providing a variety of different paddling experiences for all levels. “The Village of Elk Rapids is a key community on the Chain of Lakes Water Trail and Rotary Park is the ideal location for paddlers to begin or end a quality experience on the water,” says Deana Jerdee, Paddle Antrim Executive Director. “We are excited to work with the Village and other partners to make improvements, including a universal kayak launch to assist those with varying levels of mobility be able to access the water. This project would not be possible without the generous support of many organizations.”

Generous funding for this project was provided by Elk Skegemog Lakes Association, Elk Rapids Rotary Club, Community Foundation, Village of Elk Rapids, Disability Network Northern Michigan, Gourdie-Frasier & Associates and individual Elk Rapids Rotarians. “Elk Skegemog Lakes Association is proud to support the improvement of access to our waterways. We support Paddle Antrim’s water trail efforts and inclusion of stewardship of our resources as part of the trail,” says Mary Beth Kazanski, President of the Elk Skegemog Lakes Association.

For more information on this project contact Paddle Antrim directly at [info@paddleantrim.com](mailto:info@paddleantrim.com) or 231-492-0171 or go online at [www.paddleantrim.com](http://www.paddleantrim.com).

### About Paddle Antrim

Paddle Antrim is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization who uses paddle sports to educate the public about our precious water resources. We support and promote investments in water trail infrastructures that facilitate public access to the waterways. We believe education, increased access, and promotion of our waterways will increase protection as well as enhance the economic vitality of Northern Michigan.

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**Photo 1 (Left to Right):** Deana Jerdee-Paddle Antrim, Tom Stephenson-Elk Rapids Rotary, Jennifer Hodges-GFA, Steve Francis-Elk Rapids Rotary, Gina Thornbury-Community Foundation, Alison Metiva-Community Foundation, Jim Moore-Disability Network Northern Michigan, Carol Heles-Elk Rapids Rotary, Dean Branson-Elk Rapids Rotary, Camille Campbell-Elk Rapids Rotary, and Lisa Worsley-Matthews-Elk Rapids Rotary.

**Photo 2 (Left to Right):** Tom Stephenson-Elk Rapids Rotary Club, Deana Jerdee-Paddle Antrim, Caroline Kennedy-Village of Elk Rapids, Jennifer Hodges-GFA

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