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## Community Foundation Hosts Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting for \$1.8 million Rotary Park

*First of several projects to create a vibrant riverfront, attract a talented workforce*

**LANSING, MICH.** – The [Community Foundation](#) celebrated the grand opening of a downtown Lansing attraction, [Rotary Park](#), with a ribbon cutting ceremony on August 28, 2019.

In partnership with the City of Lansing and Wieland, the Community Foundation created this \$1.8 million park, located in downtown Lansing on the Grand River, stretching from the Lansing Center to the Shiawassee Street Bridge. It features a sandy beach and patio, a vibrant plaza with a large fireplace, a magical lighted forest and a new venue for small concerts and events under the Bridge.

“Rotary Park is the first of many riverfront projects we are planning to make the riverfront more vibrant and user-friendly,” said Laurie Baumer, Community Foundation Executive Vice President. “The riverfront is one of our greatest assets and provides a tremendous opportunity to attract skilled workers and businesses to the region and inspire economic growth.”

“I am thrilled to have officially cut the ribbon to open Rotary Park,” said Mayor Andy Schor. “Revitalization and activation of the Lansing riverfront is a priority of my administration and all of the innovative pieces that make up Rotary Park will be transformative for residents and visitors alike. We are excited to see this work being done and appreciate the private donations made by great Lansing partners to accomplish this. Lansing’s time is now and this new park is an exciting part of all of our growth in the City.”

In 2017, the Foundation commenced a major placemaking initiative to revitalize Lansing’s riverfront to create a vibrant thriving region where people want to visit and live. After two years of fundraising and planning, the Foundation has raised over \$1 million from private donors for riverfront projects and has also committed \$1.5 million so far to match funds raised, dollar for dollar. The Foundation also established a fund to help the City of Lansing maintain the park’s amenities, and contributed staffing to oversee the park’s design and construction. A Wieland retiree volunteered his time and expertise as project manager.

Rotary Park’s financial contributors include: Rotary Club of Lansing Foundation, Delta Dental of Michigan, Dewpoint, Red Cedar Investment Management, Auto-Owners Insurance, Gillespie Group, Team Lansing Foundation and the Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau, and several individual donors. In addition, the Lansing Brownfield Redevelopment Authority awarded \$343,000 for

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the park, and Ingham County Parks Board allocated \$100,000 toward bank stabilization, bringing the total riverfront investment to almost \$3 million to date.

Rotary Park is open from dawn to dusk every day and is free to the public.

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*The Community Foundation is passionate about creating vibrant, thriving communities throughout Michigan's capital region. The Foundation serves donors to meet their unique charitable goals, supports area nonprofits with grants and coaching, and leads innovative projects that drive community growth. The Community Foundation (also known as the Capital Region Community Foundation) is a tax-exempt public charity that serves the charitable needs and enhances the quality of life for people in Ingham, Clinton and Eaton counties.*

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