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GRAND TRAVERSE RESORT AND SPA GREEN PRACTICES

Blanketing 900 acres of a region blessed with natural attributes, Grand Traverse Resort and Spa holds deep roots as an environmental partner while achieving new heights in eco-hospitality. A stream of green accolades earned over the years for initiatives at both at the Resort and beyond includes “Leader” certification from Green Lodging Michigan, being named 2011 Business of the Year by the Northern Michigan Environmental Action Council, and a “Keep Michigan Beautiful Award” in 2015.

In 2010, the Resort introduced an Environmental Management System (EMS) to minimize environmental impacts on the 900-acre property. The following items have been put in place for resource conservation during the last decade and continue to be a part of standard operating procedures.

Hotel and Housekeeping

- Recycling bins are in rooms, offices, meeting spaces, and common areas for the collection and recycling of paper, cardboard, and #1-7 plastics throughout the Resort.
- Electric vehicle charging stations are available on property.
- Guests are provided with a linen reuse option.
- Housekeeping participates with a company called TerraCycle, which pays one penny for each empty shampoo, conditioner, and body wash bottle. Twice a year, that money is donated to local groups such as the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay, the TART Trail, and others.
- The four primary cleaning products used by housekeeping are green certified and waste bags are bio-degradable.
- Bay Area Recycling for Charities helps recycle hard-to-recycle materials such as mattresses and Styrofoam.

Golf and Grounds:

- Certified as a Michigan Turf-grass Environmental Steward, the Resort was lauded by the Environmental Institute for Golf for retrofitting maintenance equipment with recycled catalytic converters.
- In 2009, an additional 30 acres were designated as no mow zones, allowing these areas to become naturalized.
- An on-site composting program has been established to capture plant waste and reuse it for various projects as topsoil.

- Buffer zones have been established surrounding most waterways with a minimum width of 3–5 feet ranging to well over 100 feet.
- Eco-friendly hydraulic oil is used in all mowing equipment.
- Most plastic bottles and cans are collected and sorted from golf course waste bins for either return for deposit or recycling.
- All scrap metal, (steel, copper, aluminum and brass), is taken to a local recycling center. The golf course maintenance staff also collects and recycles discarded metal material from other departments on property.
- Three tractors were equipped with emission reducing exhaust systems in 2007.
- Native plants, trees, and grasses have been utilized in ornamental beds and lawn areas during any new landscaping.
- Native rocks and boulders have been utilized in landscape areas rather than manufactured concrete products during any renovations to landscape areas.

Dining

- An herb garden was created to source herbs used by Resort dining venues.
- Food waste is collected at the clubhouse and all hotel food & beverage outlets for composting by a local non-profit recycler, Bay Area Recycling for Charities; approximately 100 tons annually.

Utilities

- In 2016, the Resort replaced an aging boiler with a Micro CHP (Combined Heat and Power) unit, which has an engine that runs on natural gas to generate electricity with useful heat—clean hot water—as a by-product of cooling the engine. The Micro CHP is estimated to save up to \$20,000 in electric energy each year, and received an EPA certificate of approval for commercial emission standards.
- In 2017–2018, LED lighting was installed throughout the Resort property.

The Green Committee

- The Resort's Green Committee is a group of employees dedicated to environmental stewardship that works to implement "green" practices across the property. Each year, the Green Committee participates in Adopt a Highway (US 31), Adopt a Stream (Acme Creek), and Adopt a Beach (Bayside Park and Resort beaches). They also host a weeklong celebration leading up to Earth Day and sponsor a recycled art contest in November in honor of America Recycles Day.

For more information, please contact Jillian Manning, Public Relations Manager at Grand Traverse Resort and Spa, at publicrelations@gtresort.com