

## **August 2015 Storm Cleanup**

Heavy storm damage occurred Sunday, August 2nd across local trail systems. Hundreds of trees were down blocking the trails causing them to be impassable. The amount of debris from this storm was unprecedented. While most of the major logging has been completed, clean up of debris on trail shoulders continues. Volunteers and trail users are needed to continue clean-up efforts hand clearing or raking twigs and branches off the trail shoulders. A good rule of thumb to keep in mind if you're looking to help out - if your lawn mower wouldn't like it, you can toss it from the shoulder.

## **Storm Clean-Up & Timber Harvest on the Headwaters**

Thursday, November 12th, 2015

Warm and dry weather conditions this fall helped the DNR and loggers from Dan Bundy Logging Company complete the salvage logging project on the Headwaters 5K section of the Vasa Pathway. The project served to remove downed aspen trees that fell in this summer's August 2nd wind storm that took out thousands of trees in the region. Loggers also harvested mature aspens that were nearing the end of their life span in order to make room for hardwoods and evergreens to replace them and prevent more significant damage in future storm events. The goal of the project is to create a more sustainable forest populated with longer-lived tree species with the focus on long-term recreation and public enjoyment.

Bundy Logging Company donated extra time to reshape and widen the trail once their logging was completed, going above and beyond the scope of work normally expected in a state forest logging operation, to ensure the Vasa Pathway was returned to conditions supporting year round non-motorized recreation and enjoyment. TART Trails' volunteers are now out grading and leveling the surface where exposed roots and debris have appeared in order to have the Headwaters ready for winter grooming.

TART Trails commends the DNR, Dan Bundy Logging Company, and partner groups including the Northern Michigan Mountain Biking Association, North American Vasa, and the Cherry Capital Cycling Club for working together on this project to make the most of a bad situation following the aftermath of this year's storm. The DNR, recognizing the importance of the Vasa Pathway to the community, worked closely with trail users groups from the beginning of the project to ensure trail user needs were being met in the short and long term.

While the trail is not closed, it is still very soft and needs time to harden up and set. To ensure a great trail is ready for the winter, users are encouraged to stay off the trail until all the work is complete.