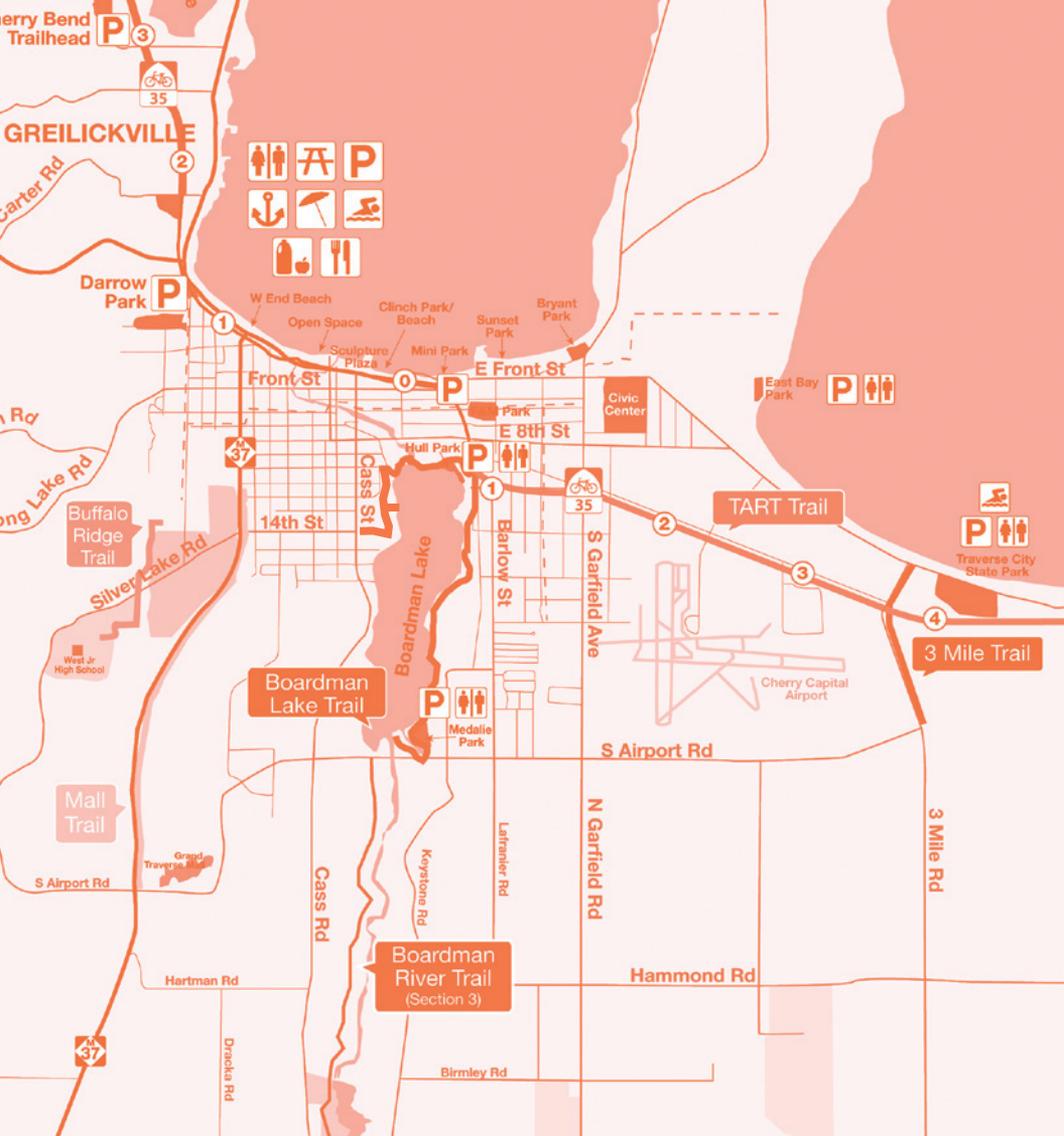




ANNUAL REPORT

2015-16

Photo: Gary Howe



CONNECT WITH TART TRAILS

 // traversetrails.org

 // facebook.com/TARTTrails

 // [@TARTTrails](https://twitter.com/TARTTrails)



Photo:
Bill Lancaster

T·A·R·T
TRAILS



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last year was memorable for me and my family for many reasons and some of our best memories hinged on the role the trails play in our lives. We shared the joy of the wind in our face and the sun on our backs riding our bicycles on the trails. We shared family training runs and many happy walks with a new puppy on the trails. At times we went for miles without seeing a soul and other times we'd say goodbye to one friend and travel a mere ten feet before greeting another. Our memories were enriched by the experiences shared with the people we journeyed with and those we bumped into along the way.

Surely, many of your great memories of 2016 involved time spent on the trails. The difference the trails make in the lives of those of us lucky enough to live in or visit the Grand Traverse region is undeniable. If you are reading this report it is clear you share not just an appreciation for the trails, but also an understanding of our shared responsibility to support them. Thank you for standing with thousands of others who feel the same.

Here's to one last look at 2016; may we spend another year on the trails making memories to carry us into 2018.

Sincerely,

Chris DeGood

TART Trails' Board President



Volunteers, local government officials, and trail supporters at the ribbon cutting celebrating the completion of Phase II of the Buffalo Ridge Trail from West Middle School to the new YMCA.

Photo: John Robert Williams

// ADDING TO THE NETWORK OF TRAILS

This past year 7.85 miles of new trail were designed or constructed thanks to the efforts of TART Trails' volunteers, donors, and community partners. Notable accomplishments from the past year thanks to your support include:

- Construction of the one mile section of the Buffalo Ridge Trail from West Middle School to the YMCA on Silver Lake Road
- Construction of the half mile section of the Boardman River Trail between the Nature Education Reserve to Meadow Park on Cass Road
- Adoption of design plans to complete the loop around Boardman Lake
- Adoption of design plans for the 1.25 mile Acme Connector Trail
- Construction of 3.8 miles of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail from Port Oneida Road to Bohemian Road

Behind every new trail development are countless hours of planning, site visits, design reviews, volunteer efforts, and more. Thanks to your support we are increasing miles of trail and making meaningful community connections.

NEW MILES OF TRAIL



Photo: John Robert Williams

// SLEEPING BEAR HERITAGE TRAIL ON A ROLL

Support for the world-class trail through the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore remains strong and keeps the project moving along toward completion. In 2016, 3.8 miles of trail were completed between Port Oneida and Bohemian Roads. This brings the total trail mileage to 17 miles with 7 miles to go. When complete, the trail will extend to Good Harbor Trail, the northern boundary of the Lakeshore, and south of Empire to Manning Road.

Above shows the ribbon cutting in June highlighting the many individuals who have contributed to the construction of the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, including our partners at the National Park Service, Friends of Sleeping Bear Dunes, and the Michigan Department of Transportation.



// BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL - COMPLETING THE LOOP

We often say it takes a village (or two) to develop and maintain trails, and completion of the loop around Boardman Lake has proven to be no exception. Over the past year and a half, hundreds of individuals attended public meetings, sent emails to local officials, rallied colleagues and friends expressing support for this important community project. And now thanks to all of your efforts we are moving ahead toward completion of this vision that has been 30 years in the making. We are grateful for your amazing

support and look forward to breaking ground for construction in 2018.

Boardman Lake Trail design was supported by extensive public input that reflects the values of trail users and the community. A portion of the adopted trail design is a boardwalk across the lake's southwestern cove that will include lookout points for wildlife viewing. The image above shows this area.



**Boardman Lake Trail
Open House**

Photo: Gary Howe

LEELANAU TRAIL

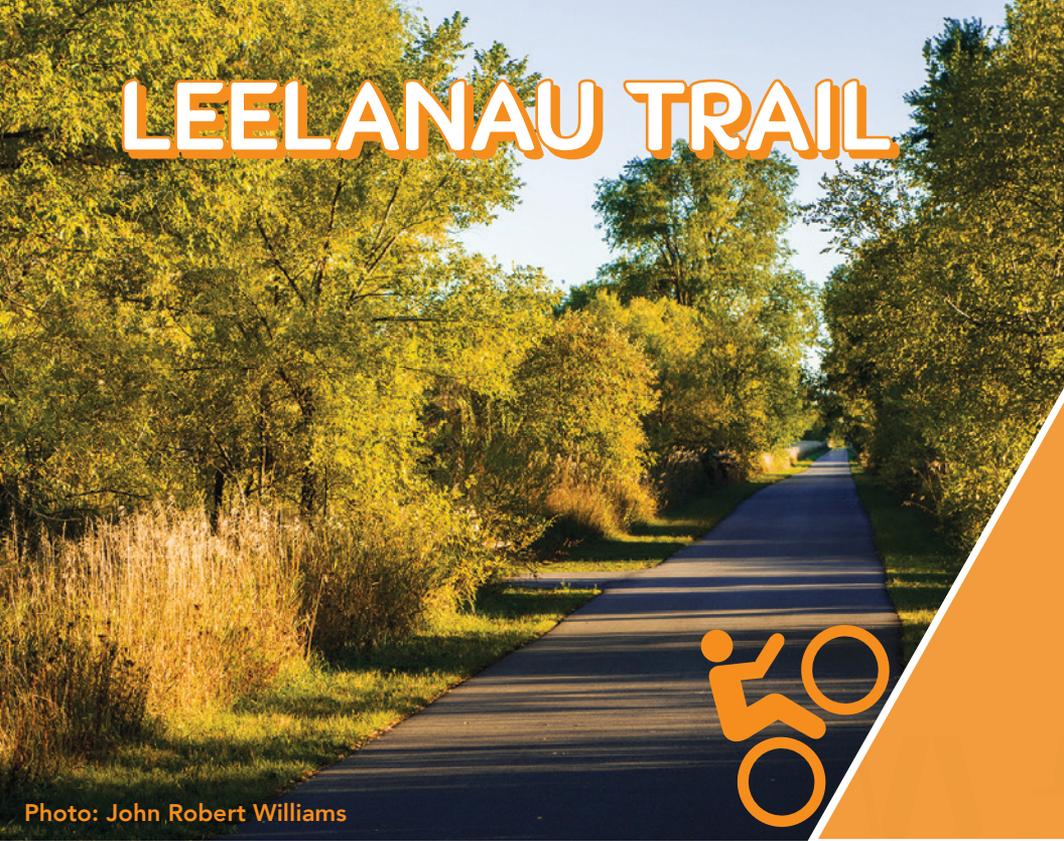


Photo: John Robert Williams

// TRAILS MAKING AN IMPACT

It's the stories we hear that drive home the message:

A woman wrote to us and shared her story about her 64-year-old husband who was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, but otherwise is in excellent physical condition. Due to his diagnosis he is no longer able to drive a car, but he can ride his bicycle. She shared that, "Because of the wonderful system of trails in Traverse City, my husband can get almost anywhere by himself." The empowering nature of trails has given this gentleman freedom and independence; a priceless gift made possible by your generosity!

A family residing outside of Michigan reached out to us and shared their trail story. Prior to their son's attendance at Interlochen Arts Academy they knew very little about Traverse City. They fell in love with the community, particularly the trails. Their long-term plan is to spend more time here and eventually make it their home.

You probably have your own story that was shaped by the network of trails. Thank you for helping provide opportunities for happy, healthy, active and connected communities.

// RECYCLE-A-BICYCLE

Last year the Recycle-A-Bicycle (RAB) program made quite the community impact by providing 175 economically disadvantaged individuals in the Grand Traverse region refurbished bicycles for transportation purposes.



52

free bicycle repairs
made last year



175

bikes given away to
individuals in need last year



400

bikes purchased at the
6th Annual RAB bike swap



1450

bikes that RAB has
given away since 2007



VOLUNTEERS THEY GET THE JOB DONE

Above: TART Trails Ambassadors getting the job done in all kinds of weather.

In 2016 over 300 volunteers contributed 5,550 hours of their time to help maintain the network of trails, lend a hand during events, conduct trail surveys, and assist at the TART office. The national average value of an hour of a volunteer's time is \$23.56, which equates to \$130,758 in volunteer efforts. TART Trails is grateful for the generosity of volunteers.

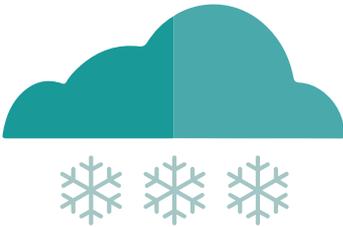


Above: Volunteers and Ambassadors helping out at registration for Tour de TART, our largest annual fundraising event held the third Friday in July. Tour de TART, a family friendly ride from TC to Suttons Bay along the Leelanau Trail, helped raise over \$20,000.

// KEEPING THE TRAILS OPERATIONAL ALL YEAR

Thanks to your help we have been working to ensure that all trails within the network are operational year-round. In our vision of happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system, we work with our partners to keep the in-town trails cleared of snow. We are pleased to share that data collected from trail counters in various locations demonstrate that the more consistently the trails are kept clear of snow the more use they get.

Where we are not clearing snow, we are busy grooming trails for winter use. Despite relatively low snowfall last year, trail groomers completed 49 full groomings of the Vasa Pathway, contributing over 850 hours grooming and maintaining the trails.



Average increase
of **28%** winter trail
usage per year!



of **hours** spent
grooming the
VASA Pathway

Snow Removal

If You Clear It, They Will Come...

17.7 Miles of Trail Cleared

TART Trail

Mall Trail

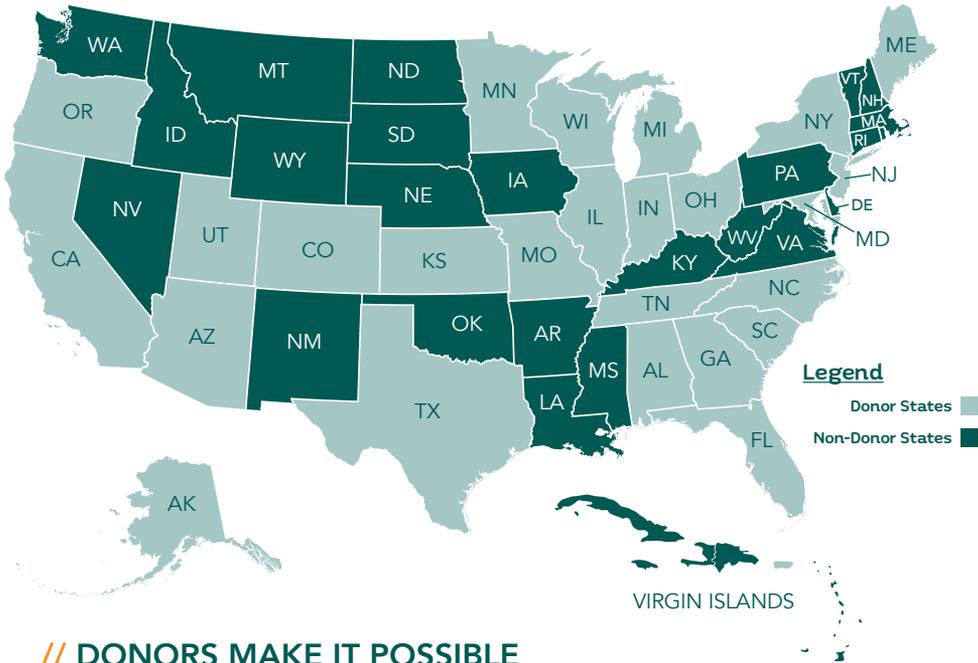
Buffalo Ridge Trail

Boardman
Lake Trail

Leelanau Trail



TART TRAILS' DONORS HAIL FROM: 113 CITIES IN MICHIGAN AND 26 STATES ACROSS THE U.S.



// DONORS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

TART Trails is grateful to the over 1,300 donors who value our mission enough to support it with a monetary contribution. This represents over a 10% increase in the total number of donors from the previous year. Thanks to your generosity we can continue to move forward our long-term vision:

Happy, active people enjoying a world-class trail system.

In the past year you did this by:

- Sponsoring a mile marker, wayfinding, Vasa K Marker, or an event.
- Recurring Monthly Donations - easy to set up on our donation page.
- Company Matching Gifts - a wonderful way to double your donation.
- Planned Giving - designating TART Trails in your estate plans.
- Transfer of Stock - an option that has potential tax benefits for you.

TART Trails depends on private donations from individuals and foundations for nearly 99% of our annual operating budget. No gift is too small and all gifts are appreciated. Let's keep it going!

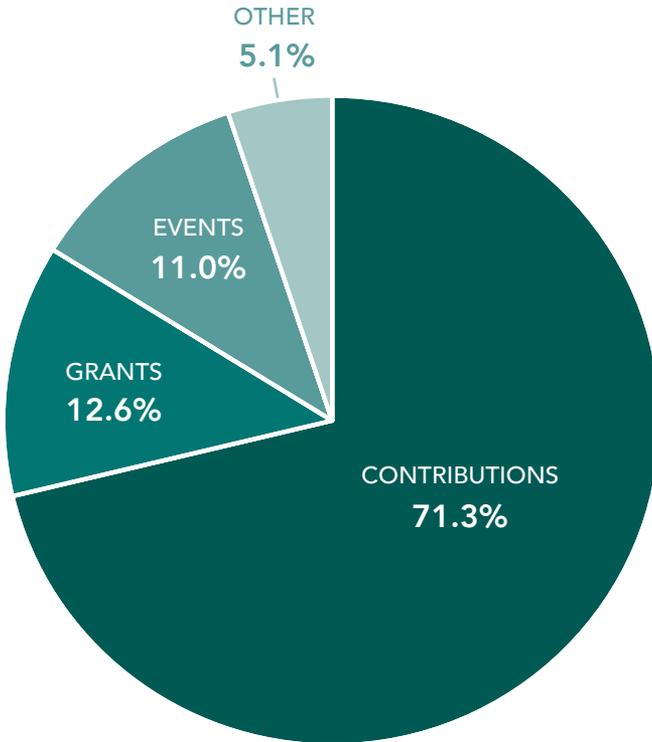
// YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK:

For every dollar donated to TART Trails between 2012-2016, an additional \$7 was leveraged for trail development. Now that's smart investing!



FINANCIALS

OCTOBER 1, 2015 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

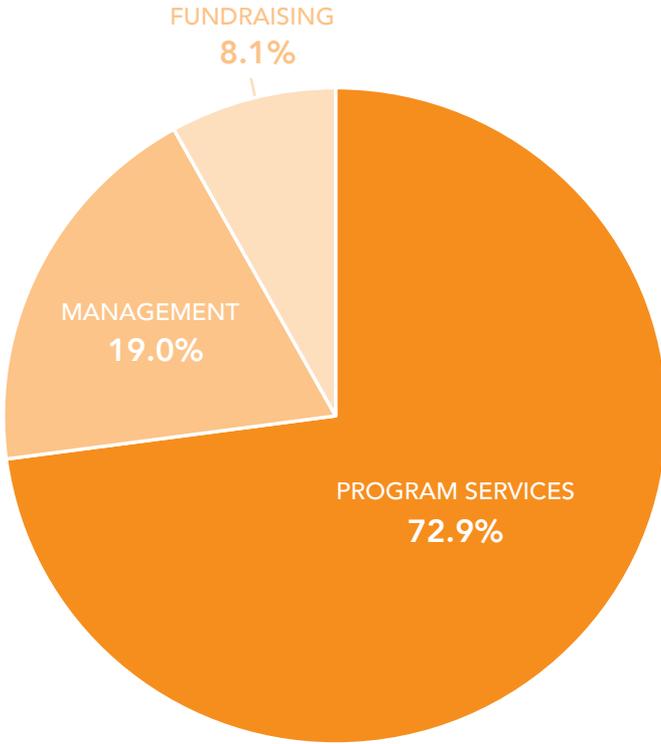


// REVENUE

Contributions	\$546,100
Grants (Foundation & Corporate)	\$96,300
Events	\$84,656
Other Revenue (incl. interest)	\$39,293

\$766,349*

* Revenue does not include in-kind contributions of \$116,163 (\$10,737 in non-cash contributions and \$105,426 in donated services)



// EXPENSES

Program Services	\$490,626
Management	\$127,917
Fundraising	\$54,491
	\$673,034

*West Boardman Lake Non-Motorized Path
Conceptual Design by Prein and Newhof*



DONATING TO TART TRAILS MATTERS

Trails contribute to our community's health and economic vibrancy. TART Trails' success depends on continued support from donors and volunteers. Thank you so much for your support.



// TART TRAILS BOARD

Chris DeGood *President*
Susan Vigland *Vice President*
Mike Tarnow *Secretary*
Chris Gallagher *Treasurer*
Brian Fisher *Past President*
Laura Galbraith
Ross Hammersley
Scott Howard
Wayne Olsen
John Paul
Kelley Peterson
Rick Simonton
Howard Yamaguchi

// STAFF

Julie Clark *Executive Director*
Brian Beauchamp... *Outreach & Program Director*
Pam Darling *Development Director*
Chris Deyo *Admin. Assistant*
Chris Kushman *Planning & Management Director*
Kate Lewis *Marketing & Event Coordinator*
Deb Westphal *Office Manager*

THANK YOU to the following Board Directors for their years of service: Tom Auer and Jim Dombrowski

**Enriching the Traverse region
by providing a network of trails,
bikeways, and pedestrian ways;
and encouraging their use.**

