



TART TRAILS SNOW REMOVAL VOLUNTEER PROTOCOL BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL

Thank you for interest in helping keep the trails clear throughout the winter. The Boardman Lake Trail bridge and boardwalks aren't accessible to City equipment and we need help keeping the trail open and accessible all winter!

Need: – Volunteers are needed to help shovel the bridge and boardwalks between the water treatment plant and Oryana. The City prohibits metal blades on the Boardman Lake Trail bridge so shovels tackle the boardwalk and bridge. The snow blower from Oryana is available to trained volunteers for help on the boardwalk.

BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL SHOVELING PROTOCOL

1. All volunteers need to sign a waiver. We can email you a waiver form and you can email a signed copy back or drop it by the TART office.
2. Our goal is to clear a 4 to 6 foot wide path from along the bridge and boardwalks. You don't have to clear the whole trail. In fact, snowshoers and skiers like the snow left on the trail. To help all users enjoy the trail, please make sure piles of snow are directed to the side of the trail that is not used by skiers and snowshoers.
3. A little bit of snow on the trail is a good thing to prevent slippage
4. Shovels should be used the majority of the time with the snow blower as a backup. There are numerous different shovels used for different types and quantities of snow -- their types, locations and uses are outlined below. **Nothing with a metal blade is allowed on the bridge.**
5. Please send us pictures of your work, notes on trail conditions, people on the trail, anything of the sort are highly encouraged and are a very useful tool in our marketing efforts.
6. As way to say "Thank You," Oryana provides volunteers working on snow removal a free hot drink (coffee, tea, hot chocolate) after their shift. After your shift, just let the Café worker know you're a TART Trails' Volunteer and then sign for your drink at the customer service desk.
7. Log hours – Please e-mail a monthly summary of time spent snow clearing to Chris Kushman at ckushman@traversetrails.org.

BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL SNOW CLEARING EQUIPMENT

- 1) Feel free to bring whatever shovel you like best for the job. Just remember, **NO METAL BLADES CAN BE USED ON THE BOARDMAN LAKE TRAIL BRIDGE.**

2) For your convenience, there are also several shovels available for use on the trail. There are specific types of shovels for specific types of snow. These shovels can be found at Oryana's shed and along the trail

Blue Push Plow (at Oryana shed): Good for 3 inches or less of fluffy, dry snow.

There is a small chip in the blade, but it still functions just fine. Use this shovel to push snow, not to lift.

Red Shovel (at Oryana shed): Good for wet/heavy snow of 3---6 inches.

Shovel the east boardwalk: Good for pushing snow and light lifting. (Combination is 7777)

SHOVELING TIPS (BE GOOD TO YOUR BODY!)

- When shoveling on the boardwalks and bridge, be careful not to scrape too hard on the wood surface so as to not pull up any splinters of wood. You'll also want to avoid shoveling directly over the rivets and the metal lips. They will easily catch your shovel and lead to a broken shovel, not to mention they can also hurt when you hit them.
- You can shovel more than you think and you can overdo it. Be careful and know your limits. It hurts the first couple of times you shovel like this, but by the end of the winter you are strong as a horse. Use your arm and leg muscles, not your back.
- Push the snow instead of scooping & lifting it. The **Blue Push Plow** (with wheels) is perfect for this. You can simply move the snow to one side or the other and then go back with a lifting shovel or the snow blower to widen the trail.
- Sometimes, scooping is necessary, but use the proper shovel and the proper technique. Scooping is hard on the body, so be careful! The **Red Push Shovel** with the big handle is good for when there is too much snow for the **Blue Push Plow** to push safely. Generally, the **Blue Push Plow** is good for 3 inches or less of fluffy stuff and the **Red Shovel** for heavy stuff of when there is 3 to 6 inches.
- Shovel when the snow is coldest, it moves better. This is usually in the morning, but fronts can come at weird times. If you shovel in the morning before people walk on it, you don't have to work as hard because the snow is not compacted. Once the snow warms up, it gets heavy.
- Ice is a dangerous problem on the trail when brief thaws are followed by freezes. Scraping a narrow path down to the pavement helps tremendously, but it takes a lot of effort and perfect timing. If ever possible, scrape the snow off the trail in a narrow path when the snow is cold or when the thaw creates slush. If time is limited (and it usually is) focus your efforts on scraping the steep Oryana hill and any tight curves and use a plastic shovel to remove slush from the wooden portions of the bridge before it refreezes. Get a scooper shovel and a metal blade scraper.

THE SNOWBLOWER

To use the snowblower, volunteers must be trained by Oryana.

If you are interested in using the snowblower, contact Oryana's Facilities Coordinator – Phillip Kiteley, at 231-947-6088 or pkiteley@oryana.coop. All new volunteers must be trained first to operate the snow blower, review protocol and storage and access.

- The blower is available for trained volunteers during Oryana operating hours

(M---F, 8am to 4pm) and checked out at the Customer Service station.

- When returning the snow blower after use, please clean all the snow out of the auger and in the chute. If snow is left it can melt and then freeze preventing the auger from spinning.
- The gas can also has a tendency to freeze on the floor, so when possible, place on top of something.
- The snow blower at Oryana is a perfect tool both when the snow is too deep to push with the Blue Push Plow and when the width of the trail needs to be widened for future shoveling.
- The snow blower should only be used when absolutely needed. Oryana donates the machine and the gas. We want to be careful not to take advantage of their generosity. The snow blower is also a small unit designed for light use. Overuse on the trail will ruin the unit.

We hope you enjoy your time on the trail and appreciate the work you're doing to help us keep our community healthy and active. We are always looking for ways to help support or volunteers so please let us know when you have a great idea or if there's a way to improve our processes.

Any questions? Call Chris Kushman at 231-941-4300 or ckushman@traversetrails.org

