

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Design Work Kicks Off for Boardman Lake Trail Completion

Traverse City, Michigan – TART Trails, Inc. will present information to the Traverse City Commission at 7:00 PM on Monday February 1st regarding next steps in the design of the Boardman Lake Trail. There will be a similar presentation made to the Garfield Township Board of Trustees on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:00pm at the Garfield Township Hall.

TART Trails, Inc. is working with governmental partners at the City of Traverse City, Garfield Township, and Grand Traverse County to complete schematic design of the final segment of the Boardman Lake Trail. The proposed two mile segment along the west side of the lake is needed to complete the five mile trail encircling Boardman Lake, which was first conceptualized more than 25 years ago with a trail master plan funded by the Coastal Zone Management Program.

Earlier this winter, Grand Traverse County, with unanimous support from the board of commissioners, hired the engineering firm Prein & Newhof to complete schematic design of the trail between 14th Street and South Airport Road. The effort is being funded through a grant from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program with matching funds from the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority. Schematic is anticipated to be completed by July 2016.

Over the next two months, TART Trails will be reaching out to seek input and ideas from landowners, businesses, and neighborhoods within the West Boardman Lake corridor between Eighth Street and Logan's Landing/South Airport Road as well as community wide public input to better understand different needs and desired trail uses and help inform the trail's design.

Later in February, TART Trails will host a stakeholder advisory committee meeting which will seek input from local organizations such as BATA, Traverse City Light & Power, Northwestern Michigan College, Traverse Area District Library, the Disability Network of Northern Michigan, and environmental groups, as well as governmental staff and elected officials from the City, Grand Traverse County and Garfield Township. The purpose of that meeting is to identify current programs, projects, activities or services that may relate the trail's use, design, or users' experiences. The group will meet three to four times over the next six months to provide feedback on draft designs and ensure that the trail's design is consistent with other governmental plans.

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc.

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Julie Clark, Executive Director of TART Trails said, "Completing the Boardman Lake Trail around the lake has been a vision thirty years in the making. We are excited to be at a point, thanks to the support of so many community leaders and willing landowners, where we can be talking about how and when to complete the loop around the lake. Building and maintaining this trail will take leadership from a lot of public and private interests. This design work is the next step in getting this done, together."

Anyone with questions about the trail design process can contact TART Trails' office for information at (231) 941-4300 or stay tuned on the project website:

<http://traversetrails.org/boardman-lake-trail-project/>.

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About TART Trails

TART Trails, Inc. is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization formed in 1998 and located in Traverse City, Michigan. TART works to enrich the Traverse region by providing a network of trails, bikeways and pedestrian ways; and encouraging their use.

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