

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Come One, Come All: Boardman Lake Trail Open House on March 9

Public Invited to Share Ideas about Trail Design to Complete the Loop Around the Lake

Traverse City, Michigan – TART Trails, Inc. will host a public open house from 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9th to gather ideas and input regarding the design of the West Boardman Lake Trail. The gathering will be held in Room 219 of the University Center located at 2200 Dendrinos Drive, off of Cass Road in Traverse City. The event is free and open to the public. TART Trails' staff and project consultants will be available to share information about the project. Maps will be displayed for review, and comment cards will be handed out for people to share their thoughts and ideas about trail design and future trail amenities.

Participants may come at any time and stay for any length of time during the open house. There will be no formal presentations. Community members of all ages are encouraged to attend, and there will be an activity table for children that will invite them to share their thoughts and ideas about the trail.

TART Trails 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. Work is anticipated to be completed by July 2016. The effort is being funded through a grant from the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program with matching funds from the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

TART Trails is also 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 design. Earlier this month, TART Trails hosted a stakeholder advisory committee meeting which sought input from local organizations

Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails, Inc.

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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 was to identify current plans, programs, projects, activities or services that may relate the trail's use, design, or users' experiences, and to solicit ideas regarding trail design, development, and maintenance.

Julie Clark, Executive Director of TART Trails said, "This public open house is a place where members of the community can share their ideas related to the trail's design. We want to hear about people's experiences as trail users, what they like about the current trail, how and when they use the trail, what they think needs improvement, and what type of amenities and connections they think are important for the design, development and maintenance of the West Boardman Lake Trail. We are excited to hear their opinions. Obviously, there are physical and financial factors that will impact what gets built, and how it will be maintained. We want to learn about people's needs and preferences in order to inform the design and management process."

Anyone with questions about the 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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Financial assistance for the Boardman Lake Trail design project was provided, in part, by the Michigan Coastal Zone Management Program, Office of the Great Lakes, Department of Environmental Quality, under the National Coastal Zone Management Program, through a grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. The statements, findings, conclusions, and recommendations in the products are those of the Grantee and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Environmental Quality and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

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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.