



Record-Eagle file photo/Jan-Michael Stump

Dave Bale of Team Elmer's works on a barge as posts are driven into Boardman Lake for the boardwalk portion of the Boardman Lake Trail under construction at the lake's south end. The final section of the trail will complete a loop around the lake when completed.

TRAIL MAINTENANCE

*\$800K endowment set to care
for Boardman Lake Loop Trail*

BY SALLY BARBER

of life goals of the Community Develop- Sailing center, Oryana food co-op, brew-

Traverse Regional Community Foundation for care and upkeep of the TART-managed Boardman Lake Loop Trail provides \$32,000 annually beginning in 2023, said GTRCF president and CEO David Mengebier.

Boardman Lake Trail's environmental and social goals align with GTRCF's objectives for community mobility, talent attraction and economic growth, Mengebier said. The trail also supports quality

ment Strategy and Coalition — a group of 30 Northwest Michigan government, shows the generosity of Garfield Township," Mengebier said. "It's a fantastic piece tying together the Township, City, County and TART, and shows the value in working together for the benefit of the region."

Circling Boardman Lake, the trail offers recreation and transportation options with access to the Traverse Area District Library, parks, art installations, residences, Traverse Area Community

eries, woods, wildlife and more.

"It's a great destination for families to path connected to the greater TART trail system.

"Since COVID, trail use has increased 30 percent," Beauchamp said. "We don't expect it to subside."

The increasing number of feet and wheels on the trail add to inevitable maintenance issues.

Typical trail care involves

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weatherization, root trenching, path repairs, snow removal and boardwalk and bridge repairs.

TART trail-building efforts began in the 1990s. Beauchamp said the organization learned through the decades of the importance of establishing maintenance funding as trails are established.

“We’re incredibly grateful to Garfield Township for investing in the long-term maintenance,” Beauchamp said. “It’s a real demonstration of leadership.”

Garfield Township Supervisor Chuck Korn said that the township is excited to partner with the Community Foundation to create the long-term endowment — and that it has been a partner with Tart, the county and Traverse City for many years.

The amount was commensurate with the contributions of the other partners, and came from the township’s General Fund Balance without impacting the parks budget, he said.

“With so many partners collaborating on this project, we are happy that this commitment will secure the future of the trail,” Korn said.

TART plans a formal Boardman Lake Loop Trail ribbon cutting next summer.

To follow the trail’s construction progress and to learn more about it, visit TART’s website <https://traversetrails.org/projects/boardman-lake-loop/>.



Photos special to the Record-Eagle/Prein & Newhof

Above, the last push of the Boardman Lake Trail runs through challenging terrain, which in many spots hugged a railroad right-of-way and will involve more than 900 feet of boardwalk. Below left, the \$6.3 million trail’s scheduled completion date is Independence Day 2022.



Record-Eagle file photo/Jan-Michael Stumpf

Right, the final section of the trail — under construction between Northwestern Michigan College’s University Center and Medalie Park — will include two bridges over the forks of the Boardman River and lengthy retaining walls.

