

Burt Lake Trail Update June 2017

The volunteer group maintaining the existing five miles of trail on the west side has completed the spring maintenance involving raking, removing tree limbs, spraying for weeds, and applying additional crushed limestone where required. A special thank you to this group for their dedication, led by Gary Street.

Phase II, 1.8 miles, will continue the existing trail as a separated paved trail along West Burt Lake Road, somewhat parallel along the southern radius of Riggsville Road, terminating on East Burt Lake Road south of Riggsville Rd. The University of Michigan Biological Station has pledged a valuable easement to Burt Township allowing continuation of the trail as a separated non-motorized shared use trail through Burt and Munro Townships and the UMBS. The easement ends near Birchwood Road. The plan is for design and engineering to be completed in 2017, with construction following in 2018.

Also this summer, Mullet-Burt Road (1.4 miles), from near Hoppies to Topinabee Mail Route Road will be reconstructed with 5 foot paved shoulders, completing another segment of the trail.

The trail committee has been very busy since December, with many meetings with Northwest Design Group and joint calls with the Trust Fund and MDOT/TAP Grant Coordinators. December 7, 2016 the DNR Trust Fund approved our Grant request for \$295,000. We are awaiting the Michigan legislature to pass the bill to release all Trust Fund grant money.

On May 12, 2017, we received a conditional commitment from MDOT/TAP for \$374,500, with full support from Brent Shank, Cheboygan County Road Commission manager/engineer. To put that in perspective, for Phase I, the Trust Fund Grant was approved in Dec, 2010, and the MDOT/TAP Grant was approved 11 months later, November 2011.

Several recent meetings with Northwest Design Group of Petoskey have led to a contract extension with NDG for \$94,000 for the detail design, engineering, required grant documentation, followed by construction bids and selection of the construction company to build the trail in 2018.

The trail committee has spent considerable effort categorizing fund raising methods and donors to reach our local match of up to \$75,000. A new Burt Lake Trail Handbook for trail supporters is now available.

Donations are welcome and are tax deductible through Top of Michigan Trails Council-Burt Lake Trail, 1687 M-119, Petoskey, MI 49770. You MUST designate "Burt Lake Trail" on any check written.

Additional information is available on our web site, www.burttownship.org, click on the "Burt LAKE Trail" ICON on the home page and scroll down toward the bottom of the page, or call Gene Hodulik, Trail Chair, 238-8824, or any member of the trail committee.