

# Working on the TART Trail

**Challenge:** Intall wood piles along railroad and in sensitive habitat  
**Solution:** Coordinate with several agencies and narrow construction area impact



Northern Michigan is known for many things — beautiful vistas, lakes for fishing and boating, wildlife, agriculture and farming — cherries most specifically. When you hear the term tart — you usually think of cherry pie - but that does not always apply. The TART Trail is a network of paths throughout the Traverse City region that allows pedestrians and bikers alike to enjoy the peaceful vistas of our area without worrying about traffic signals and road enraged motorist. The trail system will expand to eventually include several recreational trails reaching beyond Williamsburg to Suttons Bay. .

Life is not always a bowl full of cherries, many difficult challenges were conquered before construction could begin. Team Elmer's, as always, is able to meet the challenge. In a time when right of ways are more and more sacred, it is a wonder the two-mile section of trails between Lautner Road and Bates road in the Acme/Williamsburg Area was able to be constructed in an operating railroad system's area.

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Special planning was required to complete piling and other preliminary work in conjunction with The Tuscola-Saginaw Bay railroad schedules. Due to the sensitive nature of an operating railroad system, Tuscola-Saginaw Bay had their own inspector on site at all times. In addition to the two miles of trail (6,000 ton of gravel and 1,635 ton of asphalt), two bridge structures were constructed. We answered the call to build 130 ft. and 290 ft. of bridge decking to span two creek areas. These bridge sections are built with over 50,000 board feet of rustic rough sawn lumber on 88 piles that are 30 ft. tall and driven into the soft soil for support. One call really does it all to overcome obstacles in soil types, scheduling, and construction.

