



Glacial Hills 2018 Annual Report

August 1, 2019

ABSTRACT

This report summarizes the progress the Friends of Glacial Hills have made in their effort to create a financially sustainable organization that, “Preserves the natural resource values of Glacial Hills while providing a premier public recreational area that significantly contributes to the health and prosperity of Antrim County”.

Glacial Hills Annual Report - 2018

Successes

Activities - The Friends Group continuing mission to host a variety of outdoor activities throughout the year remains strong. Again, this past winter saw a substantial increase in cross-country skiing, winter biking, and snowshoeing as a result of volunteer efforts to maintain groomed sections of the trail. The expansion of the winter groomed trails was praised by users and brought in visitors from across the midwest. Daily use for biking, hiking, trail running, etc... continues to grow as Glacial Hills is now, more than ever, a destination point for outdoor recreation.

Infrastructure Improvements - Vault toilets and changing rooms have been fully installed at Eckhardt and Vandermark parking lots. Currently we are exploring the addition of hand pump wells for fresh water at the trailheads. Storage shed for tools, as well as, snowmobile and grooming equipment with easy volunteer access has been beneficial and we also installed a second storage shed at the Eckhardt trailhead. There has been extensive work on the trails to improve drainage in problematic areas and the latest connector trail has been opened. Split rail fencing has also been installed at the trail heads. Expansion and resurfacing of the parking lots at both Orchard Hill and Vandermark trailheads has been completed.

Marketing Efforts - Social networking through Facebook, and Instagram, has been well received and participation has been consistently increasing. The marketing firm through the Northern Michigan Mountain Bike Association remains engaged to help with Facebook, Instagram, and monthly blogs and newsletters for addition to website. We continue to collect donations through our website.

Equipment Purchase - Through a fundraising event by Short's Brewing Company and help from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, the Friends of Glacial Hills was able to pilot a new signage program which will be installed in 2019. A new ATV was purchased for trail maintenance, such as hauling stone, through fundraising efforts along with an anonymous matching grant. Chainsaw and safety equipment has been purchased for trail maintenance, along with replacement tools.

Partnerships - New in 2018, the Friends of Glacial Hills formalized a partnership with the Traverse City Track Club, who awarded Glacial Hills a \$2500 grant to be used on the new signage purchase.

We want to recognize and thank the below listed organizations for their ongoing support and counsel:

Short's Brewing Co. for their support with event sponsorship, merchandising, and the engagement of their volunteer network.

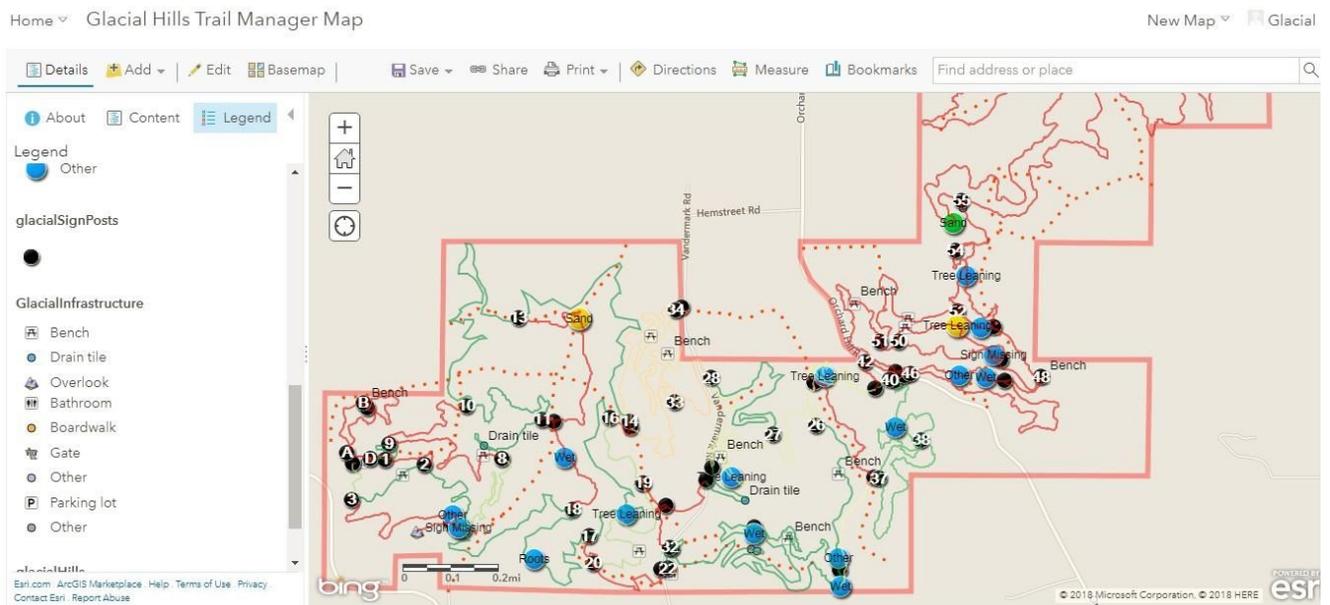
Antrim County Conservation District for in aiding with the preservation and improvement of the trail system.

Forest Home Township by providing mowing at the Eckhardt trailhead, servicing the porta johns, and aiding in our financial management of the pathway.

Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy for providing resources for trail maintenance as well as procurement of various building and infrastructure needs..
Antrim County for providing financial support and direction as we continue to find ways to enhance our ability to deliver an exceptional outdoor experience.

Volunteers - Our volunteer group continues to grow and remains an outstanding resource for Glacial Hills. Jim Fisher's leadership in managing projects and trail maintenance has been invaluable. Volunteers recorded 2000 plus man hours for 2018.

Jim also manages an online and mobile database that he trains volunteers to use. This allows for accurate and immediate access to trail conditions and reported problems.



Bob Holtzmann's ongoing efforts to share the great things happening at Glacial Hills has been outstanding. He has spent several hours in front of various civic organizations giving a formal PowerPoint presentation that he assembled. Bob has worked closely with the Grass River Natural Area in presentations to the Clean Water Symposium.

Opportunities

Fundraising – This area remains a challenge for the team. We recognize that our reliance on volunteer efforts for fund-raising opportunities has been minimally successful. We feel that Glacial Hills would be best served with a dedicated Administrative assistant to thank donors, write annual thank you letters and requests, as well as research grant opportunities that would be used to fund projects included in our work plan.

Management Structure – Below is a listing of the current members of the Friends of Glacial Hills Board

- Tim Reicha: Board Chair/at large
- Scott Beal: Vice Chair/at large County
- Steve Osborn: Forest Home Twp.
- David Foote: Secretary/GTRLC
- Patrick Boyd: Forest Home Twp.
- Josh Watrous: Antrim County
- Eldon McPherson: Village of Bellaire

Financials

New Budget – The GH board has prepared a 2020 proposed budget and included it with an appropriation request and work plan.

2020 Capital and Expense Items:

- Pursue direct trail access from Bellaire
- Fuel and Equipment for Winter Grooming ~ \$3,000.00
- Purchase replacement tools for trail maintenance ~ \$1,500.00
- Well drilling with water hydrant and well pump at Eckhardt trailhead to provide drinking water for trail users and pets. ~ \$10,000.00
- Move utility pole impeding driveway at Eckhardt Rd trailhead. ~ \$6,250.00
- Fuel and line for weed wacker ~ \$250.00
- Administrative supplies ~ \$1,050.00
- Development of Disk Golf Course. To be Village Park managed and maintained by Glacial Hills with multi-use commitment. ~ \$5,000.00
- FoGH entered into agreement with Antrim County Conservation District to hire shared employee. The Trail Manager position will be \$10,200.00 for 2019.
- Hiring of Administrative Assistant - ~ \$10,000

Scheduled Events – The Friends Group continues to hold events that do not require trail closure. Volunteer guided events like snowshoeing, hiking, and biking take place on an ongoing basis. The only foreseen event that will require closure is the Glacial Hills Challenge bike event scheduled for August 18 2019. This event provides funding for the management of the pathway and is an economic opportunity for the community.

As we continually work to improve the trail system, we want to thank the volunteers, partners, and governmental agencies for their support. Please accept our sincere appreciation.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Friends of Glacial Hills Board of Directors

Appendix B.

Calendar 2018 Friends of Glacial Hills Balance Sheet

Monthly Income	Jan-18	Feb-18	Mar-18	Apr-18	May-18	Jun-18	Jul-18	Aug-18	Sep-18	Oct-18	Nov-18	Dec-18	Annual Net Income
Individual Donations	\$ 1,750.00	\$ 100.00		\$ 1,500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 672.50	\$ 8,556.00
Business/Gov. Donations	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 4,884.01	\$ 1,925.75	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 1,785.00	\$ 14,697.76
Tubas/Tops/Cash	\$ 58.55	\$ 58.00		\$ -	\$ 85.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 155.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 21.00	\$ 1,425.00
Square Pay	\$ 555.55	\$ 1,057.95	\$ 101.85	\$ 55.10	\$ 150.00	\$ 125.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 80.00	\$ 150.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 3,671.05
Monthly Total Income	\$ 3,353.33	\$ 1,396.95	\$ 4,735.66	\$ 3,481.85	\$ 1,195.00	\$ 1,427.50	\$ 1,522.50	\$ 1,307.50	\$ 3,057.50	\$ 2,912.50	\$ 2,982.50	\$ 2,978.50	\$ 30,349.57
ADD Prior Month Balance	\$14,191.35	\$ 17,408.09	\$18,805.02	\$23,560.68	\$25,959.83								
Monthly Total	\$17,524.68	\$18,805.02	\$23,560.68	\$27,042.53	\$27,134.83	\$ 1,427.50	\$ 1,522.50	\$ 1,307.50	\$ 3,057.50	\$ 2,912.50	\$ 2,982.50	\$ 2,978.50	
Monthly Expenses	Jan-17	Feb-17	Mar-17	Apr-17	May-17	Jun-17	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	Annual Net Expenses
Payroll - Trail Manager					\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
Reimbursement	116.59			\$ 152.00		\$ 500.00					\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 748.59
Mileage Reim.				\$ 150.00	\$ 15.58								\$ 165.58
Underground/Printing													\$ -
Northern Trail/Treas North													\$ -
Young										\$ 77.40			\$ 77.40
Gar Excavating LLC					\$ 6,000.00	\$ 420.00							\$ 6,420.00
Shore's Art Work Room													\$ -
Belair Chamber dues												\$ 210.00	\$ 210.00
Brand Evolutions													\$ -
JF - Reimbursement Parts				\$ 485.20									\$ 485.20
Shandy - Maps Printing													\$ -
Boo Wall Meal													\$ -
Creative Connections				\$ 557.50	\$ 45.00								\$ 602.50
ATV/Trailer/Storage Shed						\$ 1,500.00							\$ 1,500.00
Monthly Total Expenses	\$ 116.59	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,102.70	\$ 6,028.38	\$ 14,720.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,077.40	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,310.00	\$ 28,485.07
Ending Monthly Balance	\$17,408.09	\$ 18,805.02	\$23,560.68	\$25,959.83	\$21,076.45	\$13,292.70	\$ 522.50	\$ 307.50	\$ 2,057.50	\$ 1,834.90	\$ 1,882.50	\$ 1,668.50	
											Projected Variance		1,864.80