

# SILVER LEAD CREEK GREENWAY UPDATE

Marquette County Planning Division Newsletter



**JOIN US!**  
KI SAWYER COMMUNITY FOREST INPUT SESSION ON  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup> AT 6PM  
AT KI SAWYER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## Little Trout Lake Park

It's been a busy year, and Little Trout Lake Park (LTL) is looking fabulous! Construction will hibernate over the winter, and finishing touches will take place in the spring. A grand opening celebration is being planned for May/June- stay tuned.

The revived LTL Park serves as a community wellness hub and trailhead for the Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail. When you visit, you will find restrooms, picnic areas, pickleball, sand volleyball, basketball, cornhole, kids' sand and water play station, outside shower, water bottle filling station, and ADA accessible paths and features.

We have beefed up security, including lights and cameras, but you are the best measure of security. Please report any suspicious or illegal activity right away by calling 911.



Volunteers at Little Trout Lake Park

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## Silver Lead Creek Greenway update

The Silver Lead Creek Greenway broke ground in 2025 with the intention of creating a continuous green space and non-motorized trail for KI Sawyer residents and visitors to connect to nature and each other. A total of 3.5 miles of trail was established in 2025. An additional 1.5 miles will be added in 2026, connecting the Air Force Planes Memorial to LTL Park. Signage and restoration work will resume in 2026. Have you noticed the new bridge over the SLC, the accessible pathway along Scorpion St., or the bus shelter at the LTL entrance?

Check out the full trail plan on page 3!





## Why non-motorized trails?

Non-motorized pathways serve as a mode of transportation for pedestrians separate from vehicles and ORVs. They provide a safe alternative to using a vehicle. Think of children biking to school, families walking to the community garden, or seniors on a leisurely stroll. They offer communities safe access to walk, bike, and run outdoors, promoting both physical and mental health. The Silver Lead Creek Greenway Trail network connects the residential and commercial areas of KI Sawyer, neighborhoods, and recreation areas, with the intention of building community connections while enhancing the quality of life of residents. Trails also increase economic value, attracting tourism and increasing property value.

## KI Sawyer motorized access

We also want to recognize the importance of motorized trails in the KI Sawyer area. Motorized vehicles and trails provide access to the outdoors, support local businesses, and are highly valued assets. The County Forest adjacent to KI Sawyer is open to motorized use; however, we encourage riders to stay on designated trails and follow posted signage to help keep access open and sustainable. Motorized vehicles can cause trail and road damage by eroding soil, widening travel surfaces, and degrading drainage systems through repeated weight and tire impact. Marquette County Planning is currently working with motorized stakeholders in KI Sawyer to enhance access, connectivity, and safety for riders. A snowmobile trail reroute is underway and is expected to deliver these improvements, with the potential for year-round use as a designated ORV route.

## Clean the Creek Event

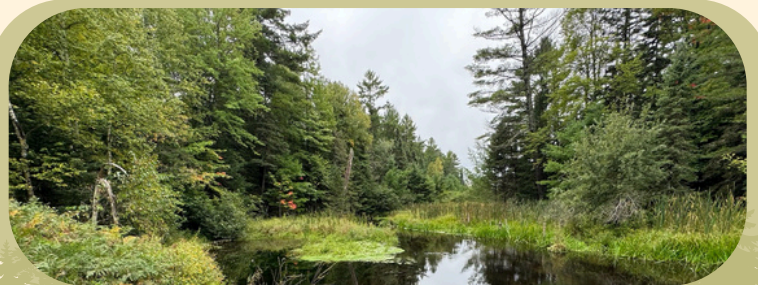
On October 18, local volunteers gathered at the new Silver Lead Creek Greenway to remove litter along the trail, road crossings, and waterways. The cleanup was organized with support from Trout Unlimited-Fred Waara Chapter, the Marquette County Conservation District, Marquette County Planning and Recreation, and EGLE's Environmental Justice Program, with Forsyth Township providing in-kind disposal at its transfer station. Volunteers cleared trash from the creek and surrounding trail areas to help protect this cold-water stream. "Events like these are a great opportunity for all of us to work together to conserve and protect the natural areas that we are lucky enough to have right in our backyards," said Christy Foye of the Marquette County Conservation District.

Big kudos to the volunteers and partners who dedicated their time and efforts to improving this beautiful natural area. Thanks to the teamwork and dedication, the Silver Lead Creek is cleaner, the Greenway is more inviting, and meaningful connections were made within the community.

## Interested in volunteering?

We're forming a "Friends of the Silver Lead Creek Greenway" group to support maintaining, fundraising, and collecting community input for the new trail network.

If you want to pitch in to help care for local trails and wildlife, while building community, email [astephens@mqtco.org](mailto:astephens@mqtco.org) to sign up or learn more.



# KI Sawyer Sustainable Forest & Community Orchard Project

Let's Grow KI, in partnership with the Marquette County Conservation District and Marquette County, is launching an exciting community orchard project. The KI Sawyer Sustainable Forest (KISS Forest) is made possible thanks to funding provided by the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program in partnership with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

The vision is to create a public space where food, nature, and community can connect and thrive in harmony, all within the Silver Lead Creek Greenway and along the new ADA accessible pathway between the KI Elementary School and Little Trout Lake Park.

Please join us at **6:00 PM, Tuesday, 12/2, at the KI Elementary School gym** to learn about this exciting community project and to let us know what fruit and nut trees you would love to see in the KISS Forest. It takes a community to plan and plant a food forest; find out more about the planting schedule and upcoming workshops.

Questions and comments? Please contact [jordan@letsgrowki.org](mailto:jordan@letsgrowki.org) or Christy at [mqtcondist@gmail.com](mailto:mqtcondist@gmail.com)

## Littering is illegal



Litter in the forest and throughout KI Sawyer is not only ugly to look at, but it's also damaging to the environment and animals. Not to mention, it's illegal! It pollutes waterways, harms wildlife, and increases the risk of fires. If you witness someone dumping trash in the community or forested areas, call 911 to report it immediately.

It is our duty to steward these areas to continue building a stronger, cleaner, and more connected community – together.



## Follow Leave No Trace principles

It is everyone's responsibility to leave no trace in outdoor spaces so generations to come can enjoy the same beauty, serenity, and peace that we all find in natural areas. The following are some key principles to follow to minimize our collective impact on the environment:

- Plan and prepare
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces
- Dispose of waste properly
- Leave what you find
- Respect wildlife
- Be considerate of other visitors



Questions, comments, ideas to share? Please contact Amy at [astephens@mqtco.org](mailto:astephens@mqtco.org)

Happy Trails!

