



**SPRING & SUMMER 2024
NEWSLETTER
Vol. 29 No. 60**



National Recreational Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

OPENING: Spring and Summer of 2024 are gone as we have now moved into the Fall. The Friends of the Musketawa Trail board hopes that our readers/trail users are continuing to utilize and enjoy the trail. Our Friends group appreciates your continued support, interest in, and utilization of the trail! Please enjoy this newsletter with the latest news about the Musketawa Trail.

Musketawa Trail Reconstruction News: The latest on the Musketawa Trail rebuild comes from Jill Sell with the Michigan DNR. Jill stated:

“We are continuing to make good progress on the trail reconstruction project. We will be going out to bid late fall with a TBD project start date. Due to the extensive amount of work that needs to be done, we had to narrow our project area in to match up with available funding. Our base bid will be for trail reconstruction work, including bridges, culverts, and trail paving, between the Marne trailhead and 40th St. We will also request pricing for the remaining work within Ottawa County from 40th St. to Squires Rd. if bids come in lower than expected or more funding becomes available.”

The Michigan DNR plan is to rebuild the entire length of the Musketawa Trail. Jill and others continue to work on funding to complete the remaining section in Muskegon County. If you wish to contact Jill with any questions, she can be reached via email: sellj1@michigan.gov

While waiting for the new pavement, the Michigan DNR got out and removed a bad surface section between Conklin and Marne. They put in limestone as a



substitute for the time being as repairing the area with patches wasn't feasible. We thank the DNR for their efforts to keep this small section “rideable”.

Stay tuned for more updates!



Trail Projects (2024 and beyond): The Friends of the Musketawa Trail 2024 project work continued with



the “sprucing up” of the last metal-arts bike rack in Marne. Board president, Tim Nink and his wife Sheri Nink prepped, prime coated

and finish coated the unit at the Marne (8th Avenue) trail head. We hope that everyone enjoys the “fresh” look.



Photos by: Tim & Sheri Nink



Another event/project that continues to be a “staple” for our group are the Ravenna caboose “Open House” days! We hope that those of you who have joined have enjoyed seeing inside the caboose and replica depot.

Our board vice president, Gary DeKock and his wife Linda are planning on hosting open houses again in 2025. Dates for 2025 are tentatively set for June 7, July 12, and August 2 (all Saturdays). Times for the events will be from 9AM –



VP Gary DeKock

1PM. We will provide any event updates (including any date/time changes) via our Facebook page.



Replica Depot

a fundraising drive to help with Musketawa Trail funding shortfalls for trail amenities. Costs for rebuilding the entire length of the Musketawa Trail are much higher than they were when the trail was originally built/paved. Hence, the Michigan DNR asked if we could assist with fundraising efforts. Our group “seeded” the fund with an initial donation. You can find a link to the WMT page on our website www.musketawatrail.com or the direct web address to the fund/project is: www.wmtrails.org/musketawa-trail-fund

On the site you can donate money towards the fund. There is also a link that will provide construction progress updates. We have also put up signs and kiosk postings along the trail with similar details (as below). Please help us in renewing and making the Musketawa Trail a better experience for everyone.

NEW PAVEMENT PLANNED
FOR THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL

Get the latest on construction details & how you can help by visiting

<https://www.wmtrails.org/musketawa-trail-fund>



SCAN TO DONATE



We are in the initial stages of planning an event to say “goodbye” to the old/original pavement of the Musketawa Trail. Details such as dates and offerings are not finalized. Ideas include a “open” ride on the trail with Friends/ volunteers staged at trail heads to offer t-shirts for sale and goodies. The event date(s) will be determined later as the trail rebuild timeline comes into focus. The event will likely be in two (2) parts as the Musketawa Trail is likely to be rebuilt in at least two (2) stages.

We will share event details in future news.

We continue to take donations for the Ed Holovka Memorial. The project will include a concrete pad, covered shelter, picnic table and bike repair station along the trail surface at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head.



Ed Holovka and John Morrison, Director of WMT

Work on this project is planned to begin after the trail rebuilding is complete in Muskegon County. If you are able, please consider a donation for this cause. Any donations should have the following note: “Please apply donation to the Ed Holovka Memorial.” Donations can be submitted via PayPal at our website: www.musketawatrail.com or via standard mail. Any donations we receive for Ed will be reserved solely for this project.

Stay tuned for updates.

Trail Maintenance News: With the 2024 Fall season arrival, here is a reminder of who oversees trail maintenance for the Musketawa Trail. The trail maintenance contacts and their operation dates are:

April 1st – November 30th

Ottawa County: Kate Alvarez
Phone: 616-610-0440,
Email: kalvarez@miottawa.org

Muskegon County: Gregory Sherburn
Phone: 231-744-3480,
Email: sherburng@michigan.gov

December 1st-March 31st

Ottawa & Muskegon Counties: Steve Veltman
Phone: 231-861-2442
Email: veltmanhardware@aol.com

Other Trail Update News: Lake Harbor Trail: Work has started on the Lake Harbor Trail in Norton Shores. When completed the Lake Harbor Trail will travel along the west side of Lake Harbor Road connecting Lake Harbor Park to Hoffmaster State Park. Tree clearing and trail sub-surface work has begun on the north end of this project near Lake Harbor Park and Maranatha.

Pere Marquette Rail Trail: The final 2.5 mile segment (“The Gap”) connecting the two halves of the Pere Marquette Trail has been completed. This section that is west of Clare now allows the trail to extend between Baldwin and Midland, MI. The surface is all paved except the segment between Baldwin and Reed City (this section is limestone).

Closing Statement: We hope you have enjoyed this Spring/Summer 2024 update for the Musketawa Trail and other trail happenings. We are always happy to hear any comments and/or questions that you have. Please feel free to share your outdoor experiences on the trail. We encourage you to utilize the Musketawa Trail (and all trails) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way. Also, the public is always welcome to join us at any upcoming board meeting. Meeting dates and times for 2025 can be found on our website www.musketawatrail.com

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL
2025 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

April 3, 2025 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
June 5, 2025 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
August 7, 2025 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.
October 2, 2025 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

**Meetings are held at Ravenna Village Hall
12090 Crockery Creek Drive**

**Come join us,
we appreciate your input and insight**

Thank you for your continued support and all the best,

Tim Nink, President
Friends of the Musketawa Trail

Friends of the Musketawa Trail is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization with donations tax deductible. Thank you for your contributions and enjoy the trail. Your donations can be made via PayPal on the trail web site or mail them in the enclosed envelope to:

**Friends of the Musketawa Trail
4467 Spruce Ct
Norton Shores, MI 49441**

Your donations provide us with the means to continue our trail enhancements, promotions, and maintenance projects so you can enjoy a safe ride.

Provided you are 59 1/2 years of age, donations from your 401(k) or IRA, can be made without tax liability. Also they would NOT count as income or a deduction from your income. Please consult with your Financial Advisor or Income Tax preparer.



MEMORIES

I do believe Ed is still biking and walking the Musketawa Trail enjoying the outdoors and environment. Its been five years since his passing (October 8, 2019). He is still remembered among friends and family as being a dedicated trail user and advocate. He became involved in the rails-to-trails to help provide a safe place for his grandchildren to bicycle.

Job well done
Rest in peace Ed.

By wife, Diana Holovka

FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL BOARD MEMBERS



President-Tim Nink



V-President-Gary DeKock



Secretary-Cari Draft



Treasurer- Diana Holovka

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Director-George Czinder



Director-James Smith



Director-Mark Fritsma



Director-Oscar Reed



Director-Paul Boucon



*Here is the whole Friends of the Musketawa Board of Directors,
Tim, George, Cari, James, Gary, Oscar, Paul,
Diana, and Mark, all wishing you a very
Happy, Healthy, and Safe Holiday Season.*



4467 Spruce Ct
Norton Shores MI 49441