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WEST MICHIGAN

FRIENDS



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Way being paved for dedication of 'rail trail'

By John S. Hausman
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

Easy riders — of the bicycle kind — soon will find the riding easier on the Musketawa Trail's Muskegon County half.

So will inline skaters, wheelchair users and other travelers on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' recreational path.

To mark the completion of the Muskegon-to-Marne trail's physical development, trail fans plan what they call a Gold SPIKE Trail Tour and Dedication Sept. 30. (For you acronym buffs, SPIKE stands for Smooth Pavement Inline Kick-off Event.)

Contractors soon are to begin laying asphalt on the 12 miles of trail between Ravenna and Black Creek Road on the southeast edge of Muskegon. The work is expected to be done by late September. The rest of the 26-mile trail — through Ravenna and southeast to Marne — was paved in 1997-98.

The event is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., "rain or shine."

for skates, bicycles, wheelchairs and anyone else who wants to participate. A dedication is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the trailhead in the village of Ravenna, with a ribbon cutting, acknowledgment of trail supporters and driving of a "Golden Spike" — a historical nod to the ceremonial last link in the United States' first transcontinental railroad in 1869.

Former state Rep. Bill Bobler of Hesperia, a member of Michigan Rails to Trails Conservancy, and DNR State Trails Coordinator Hector Chiunti will speak at the dedication.

Trail dedication

■ **What:** Gold SPIKE Trail Tour and Dedication for the Musketawa Trail.

■ **When:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 30; A dedication is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the trailhead in the village of Ravenna.

■ **To register:** Registrations for the tour received by Sept. 16 cost \$15 and include lunch; they cost \$25 with an event T-shirt. The cost is \$2 for children 10 and younger, if accompanied by an adult registration. Late registration costs \$20, with no T-shirt.

■ **Where to call:** For more information and registration, contact the Friends of the Musketawa Trail at (231) 853-5476, or stop by any West Michigan MC Sporting Goods store for a registration form.