



Musketawa Trail • Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail

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During the summer of 2015, Friends of the Musketawa Trail added a historic caboose to the collection of railroad artifacts at the Ravenna Staging Area.



On the trail north of the Marne Trailhead.

Musketawa Trail

The 26-mile Musketawa Trail is a slice of pure Americana. Originally the Central Michigan Railroad, the rail bed was acquired in 1992 and turned into a rail trail through the efforts of the Friends of the Musketawa Trail. It's a peaceful, comfortable ride or run past quintessential farms with plenty of birds, butterflies and natural beauty to keep you entertained along the way. The entire length of the trail is paved with asphalt.

Set against the backdrop of rural America, your journey takes you through small country towns and wide expanses of farm fields, marshes and shady woodlands. The trail features 13 wooden trestles, the longest a 200-foot trestle over Crockery Creek in Ravenna, plus five observation decks (two of which are roofed). The Friends have also added railroad memorabilia along the way with railroad crossing signs, and a restored 100-year-old water tower and a railroad caboose at the trail mid-point in the Ravenna Staging Area.

When you reach the end of the trail in Muskegon, look for the directional signs that guide you north along a connecting route on Latimer Drive to the Laketon Trail and Muskegon Lakeshore Trail.

The entire trail, from the Marne trailhead to Muskegon, is open to snowmobiling and skiing during the winter season.

Musketawa and Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail Access			
Access Site	Parking	Restrooms	Water
1 Broadway Street Trailhead	Yes	Portable	No
2 Ravenna Staging Area	Yes	Portable	No
3 Conklin Staging Area	Yes	Portable	No
4 Marne Trailhead	Yes	Portable	No
5 Irwin Trailhead	Yes	No	No

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1 Location on map.

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2 Location on map.

Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail

The dream of one continuous trail connecting Grand Rapids to Muskegon is inching closer to reality. In the summer of 2012, the first 6 miles of the new Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail was completed from Marne to Walker Avenue in Grand Rapids. This past summer, the trail was extended another 2 miles along Three Mile Road from Walker Avenue to Alpine Avenue. The Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail begins where the Musketawa Trail ends, at the Marne trailhead, and will eventually continue on to Comstock Park where it will converge with the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail and Grand River Edges Trail. The trail is paved with asphalt, passing through a scenic landscape of farmland, woodlands and urban neighborhoods, including a tunnel under Fruitridge Avenue. Kent County Parks is in the process of acquiring right-of-ways to complete the remaining eastern section of trail in the next couple of years.