



## 2021 SPRING & SUMMER NEWSLETTER Vol. 25 No. 53

**OPENING:** We, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail, hope this newsletter reaches out and gives some comfort during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. Outdoor activities and usage of trails continues to be on an elevated trend.

Our Friends board has returned to "in-person" board meetings. This is a welcome change as meetings allow us to gather and talk about the Musketawa Trail in a great setting. Our group is small, but we have a "family" atmosphere in the spirit of giving back to the community in support of the Musketawa Trail

Please accept our humble thanks for all our new and continued supporters and donors. We cannot work without YOU! Also thank you for your continued interest, support and use of the Musketawa Trail!

**TRAIL PROJECTS (2021 AND BEYOND):** After a lengthened delay because of COVID-19 and some cost increases, we have completed the Musketawa Trail upgrade project at the trail head in Ravenna. The project was conceived to replace the existing wood deck and handicap access table that began to show their age. These items would be replaced by a concrete pad that included a handicap access table, new bollards, and a bike repair station. It was expanded a bit to also include two (2) handicap



an extended Saturday morning. Then we had a contractor come out and pour the new concrete pad inserting the new, steel bollards and steel table center support. Once the concrete was cured, Tim & Sheri Nink returned to assemble the

parking spaces in front of the area with painting, bumpers, and signage.

The project started with Friends board president, Tim Nink, his wife, Sheri, and board member, James Smith, removing the old wood decking and table during



National Recreation Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000



2021, completed the project with the install of the parking bumpers and handicap space signs.

We hope you enjoy the new upgrades (and the included pictures)! Please provide any feedback you may have on the newly installed bike repair station. We have tentative plans to install these at the trail heads in Conklin, Marne, and Muskegon.

handicap access table and do some landscaping. A return trip saw the install of the bike repair station.

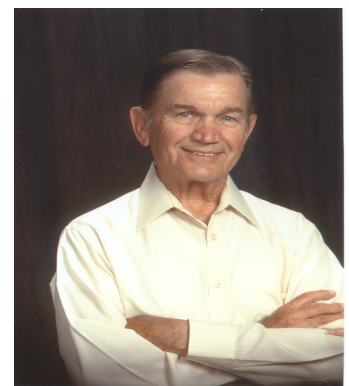
A bit later, the Michigan DNR removed the excess soil materials from the concrete pour and painted the handicap parking space and access lines. The final project trip by Tim Nink and James Smith on October 28,



Handicap parking

**(Please note more Ravenna Trailhead photos on back page.)**

The Ed Holovka memorial is still being planned. As many of you likely know, Ed was the first and longtime Friends of the Musketawa Trail President. The current idea is to have a memorial area near the trail access at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. After a recent Friends board meeting, the memorial plans have "shifted gears" some. Upon review with the Michigan DNR, it was suggested that we might be able to enhance the memorial if we hold off for short time. As some of you may know, the Michigan DNR has tentative plans for future re-pavement of the entire Musketawa Trail. Currently, this re-pavement project is still a few years off and without a firm project plan or schedule. However, if we hold off on the memorial, we can likely enhance it, possibly



with a covered shelter, to go along with a planned table and a bike repair station. If you still wish to donate to Ed Holovka memorial, please submit any donation with a notation of your desire for it to be applied to the "Ed Holovka memorial". Donations can be submitted via our website ([www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com)) or via standard mail: to 4467 Spruce Ct. Norton Shores, Mi. 49441, payable to: **Friends of the Musketawa Trail**



We are in the final stages of our project to redesign the printed Musketawa Trail map/brochure. Our old design served us well for MANY years, but we wanted to bring the new one into the future with a "fresh" design. We have employed a graphic artist (Amy Gustin) to help our group with the design work on this project. We are now approaching possible supporters and offering sponsorship areas on the new brochure. This work will allow us to raise funds in support of the printing/design of the new brochure. We will also be including a PDF copy of the new map/brochure on our website. Current plans are to release the new map/brochure in Spring of 2022!

STAY TUNED for updates, new project news, and our new brochure!!!!

**TRAIL MAINTENANCE NEWS:** With the change in seasons and weather, we would like to provide a small reminder of who handles trail maintenance for the Musketawa Trail. Here are the trail maintenance contacts and their operation dates:

**April 1<sup>st</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup>:**

**Ottawa County:** Kate Alvarez - phone: 616-610-0440, email: [kalvarez@miottawa.org](mailto:kalvarez@miottawa.org)

**Muskegon County:** Gregory Sherburn - phone: 231-744-3480, email: [sherburng@michigan.gov](mailto:sherburng@michigan.gov)

**December 1<sup>st</sup>-March 31<sup>st</sup>:**

**Ottawa & Muskegon Counties:** Steve Veltman - phone: 231-861-2442, email: [veltmanhardware@aol.com](mailto:veltmanhardware@aol.com)

### **Ottawa County News:**

Some of you may have heard some sad news with regards to Ottawa County Parks and ultimately the maintenance of the Musketawa Trail. A fire occurred at Grose Park on September 14, 2021, that consumed the maintenance building. This building was a total loss and housed maintenance equipment used to maintain local Ottawa County Parks.



This equipment was also used by Ottawa County Parks to perform mowing and maintenance on the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail. There was also damage to the bathroom facility. Arson and deliberate damage are suspected by one or more individuals with no suspects or good

leads. With current lead times being long, it may be Summer of 2022 or later before the maintenance equipment can be replaced. This is very sad news!



On the bright side, Greg Sherburn with the Michigan DNR and his staff assisted Kate Alvarez and Ottawa County Parks and Recreation with the maintenance of the Musketawa Trail in Ottawa County for the remainder of the 2021 non-winter season. This arrangement may need to continue into 2022. We want to thank both Ottawa County Parks and the Michigan DNR for their diligence during this tough time performing maintenance work on our beloved Musketawa Trail!

**OTHER TRAIL NEWS:** The Musketawa Trail will finally get fully connected to the Laketon Trail in Muskegon. The City of Muskegon Public Works Department has plans to get the final connection completed this Fall. The Laketon Trail previously ended at the intersection of Port City Boulevard and Keating. The Musketawa Trail ends at Black Creek Road. A ¾ mile asphalt connector will be constructed through the Port City Industrial Park from the current end of the Laketon Trail on Port City Boulevard. It will travel south along Port City Boulevard, east on Latimer Drive and south on Black Creek Road. To get space for the separated asphalt trail, Black Creek Road will get a road "diet" (narrowing) to allow the trail to run next to the road.

In the future, there are tentative plans to connect the Laketon Trail to the Muskegon Lakeshore Trail. Currently you can get between the two (2) trails via a street connector route.

These connections are exciting and will allow users to access more areas via a dedicated trail! We hope you enjoy reading this

### **WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE TRAIL???**

By Gary De Kock

Our friends at the West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition organized this year's West Michigan Trails Challenge as a way to get procrastinators like me out on our local trails. The Challenge featured 40 trails, and participants had to explore as many as possible between June 5 and December 31, 2021.

I took the Challenge and on June 15, I added my first trail, the Fred Meijer Millennium Park Trail. On July 7, I made it up to Hart for the first time in 20 years on the William Field Memorial Hart-Montague Trail. Then, for the first time ever, I rode to Greenville on August 5 via the Fred Meijer Flat River Valley Rail Trail. Once there in Fred Meijer's hometown, I followed the Fred Meijer Flat River Trail on a tour of the city. The high point was the winding descent from the Meijer store to the staging area at the Baldwin Lake Beach.

One way to explore four trails in the Spring Lake area in one ride of 40 miles is to connect the Grand River Explorers Trail, the Spoonville Trail, the Northbank Trail, and the Lakeside Trail. I am always amazed by the hard work and creativity that trail builders and managers use to provide such world class opportunities for trail users.

As of November 1, I have cycled on 22 of the 40 West Michigan trails. This means that I am now eligible for the event medal and tee shirt. With a little luck, I hope to ride one or two more trails before the end of the year.

Even if I somehow manage to ride all 40 West Michigan trails, I still think that my favorite trail will be the Musketawa. I know that because, for me, it is not a trail's beautiful forests, fields, lakes. rivers or trailside towns that I most enjoy. It is all those wonderful memories that I have of building and promoting the Musketawa.



**Gary & wife Linda biking thru the Ravenna Trailhead.**

There are few places on our 25 mile Musketawa Trail that do not call to mind people and events from the last 30 years. As I ride, I remember rolling tires, discarded near the E. Broadway Ave. trailhead, to Ed Holovka's trailer for disposal. Who could forget watching Joel Mikkelsen nail up the supports for the viewing deck on the Crockery Creek bridge? What a privilege it was to work

with Wes Lomax on building the water tank at the Ravenna trailhead. The 1998 trail dedication, with Harold Drake as Master of Ceremonies, always flashes through my mind as I roll off the trestle into Ravenna

Even if your history with the Musketawa does not go back to 1991, you can make new memories each time you visit a trail. Before you know it, you will have a lifetime of memories of people and places that will bring you the greatest pleasure when you look back or when you add new adventures going forward.

Next time the weather is good, or you just need to boost your spirits, visit the Musketawa. It will be time not just well spent but well invested in a connection to the best of people and places.

(Thank you Gary for the historical ride on the Musketawa and other trails in west Michigan.)



#### **CLOSING REMARKS:**

We hope you have enjoyed this Spring/Summer 2021 update on the Musketawa Trail and other trail news. Please share with us any comments or questions you may have. We love to hear about how our users are enjoying and using the Musketawa Trail. Please continue to enjoy the Musketawa Trail in a safe and responsible

way! As always, if you are interested in getting involved, please join us as at an upcoming board meeting or reach out via email.

Thank you for your continued support and best regards,

Tim Nink, President,  
Friends of the Musketawa Trail

(Thank you Tim for your photos, trail update info., and all your hard work. Also, thanks to Sheri Nink and James Smith for their volunteer help with the Ravenna Trailhead update.)

## **FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL 2021 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

**April 7, 2022 Thursday 7:00 p.m.**

**June 2 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

**August 4, 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

**October 6 2022 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.**

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

**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**

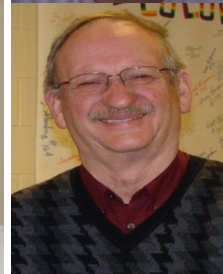
**Your donations provide us with the means to continue our trail enhancements, promotions, and maintenance projects so you can enjoy a safe ride.**

## **FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL BOARD MEMBERS**

Tim Nink, President	(231) 747-6116
Gary DeKock, Vice President	(616) 791-9490
Diana Holovka, Treasurer	(231) 744-8133
James Smith, Director	(231) 266-3263
Secretary	<b>O P E N</b>
George Czinder, Director	(616) 847-0947
Joann Schmitt, Director	(231) 733-2196
Mark Fritsma, Director	(616) 897-2198
Oscar Reed, Director	(231) 744-5731



**SECRETARY  
OPEN**





Original table & decking



Preparing site



Bollards in place



Installing handicap table



Handicap table installed



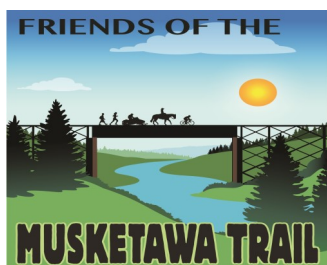
Night-time at Ravenna



Rainbow over Ravenna Trailhead

Ravenna Trailhead photos  
courtesy of president,  
Tim Nink.

**We would like to add trail users' insight to our newsletters. Let us know how you use the trail, walking, biking, roller-blading, and wildlife activities you see along the way. Thank you for your interest in the Musketawa Trail. Please visit us on [Face Book](https://www.Musketawatrail.com) and website: [www.Musketawatrail.com](http://www.Musketawatrail.com)**



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