



## FALL 2024 & WINTER 2025 NEWSLETTER Vol. 30 No. 61

**OPENING:** The Winter of 2024/2025 finally looks to be gone and Spring 2025 is upon us. The Friends of the Musketawa Trail board looks forward to another season on the Musketawa Trail with big changes coming, so read on! Our Friends group appreciates your continued support, interest in, and utilization of the trail! We hope that you enjoy this newsletter with the latest news about the Musketawa Trail.

**Musketawa Trail Reconstruction News:** As many of you may already know, the re-construction of the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail has begun. The latest on the rebuild project comes from Jill Sell with the Michigan DNR. Jill states: *"The project scope has been expanded to include trail reconstruction from 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Marne to Conklin St. in Ravenna. Construction will be complete in 2026. Tree clearing continues from the Rio Grande Creek bridge to the Ravenna trailhead. The smaller culverts have all been installed and the larger box culvert installations are beginning. All the existing smaller, timber bridges are being replaced with concrete box culverts. These have a much longer life expectancy and are virtually maintenance-free. As a reminder to trail users, please respect the closure signs and barricades as they are there for your protection and the workers protection. Thank you for your patience as we work to bring you a quality trail experience!"*



National Recreational Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

The Michigan DNR plans 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](mailto:sellj1@michigan.gov)

Please enjoy some re-construction pictures shared by Jill and stay tuned for more updates!

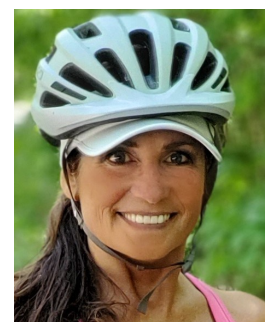


**Trail Promotion:** On Saturday, March 1, our group participated in the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Quiet Adventures Symposium in Lansing on the campus of MSU. The event promoted non-motorized outdoor recreation and environmental stewardship. New presentations started every hour, and the exhibit floor was filled with over 100 exhibitors.

The event was sponsored in part by the Tri-County Bicycle Association and DALMAC. Gary De Kock (board vice president) and his wife Linda attended this event to set up the Friends of the Musketawa Trail exhibit and distribute our trail map/brochure. Over 800 attendees packed the floor, and many stopped at our space for an update on trail reconstruction.

The Michigan DNR and a dozen other trail groups also exhibited this year, so it was a good fit for us to promote our piece of the statewide trail system.

**Trail Projects-2025 and beyond:** Our 2025 project season opened with a clean-up of the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. We have started our project "year" with this event for the past few years. Board secretary, Cari Draft, graciously organized this project again. Joining Cari at this event were



some of our other Friends board members including board president, Tim Nink, directors Paul Boucon, James Smith and George Czinder, Sheri Nink and a handful of other “early rising” volunteers. Cari also visited the site prior to the event and to our surprise found that the Musketawa Trail entrance sign was



“down”. One of the sign posts rotted and broke near the ground after many years of being in the elements. Our group reacted quickly and added repair and re-install of the sign to the scope of our work for the day. New posts were purchased and attached to the structure. Then the sign was put back in its standing location. Clean-up work for the day included

picking up trash, blowing of leaves, trimming a bit of brush and planting additional fresh flowers in the flower box at the trail head entrance. Thank you to everyone that joined us to help do this work. Please enjoy some photos from this event and consider joining us next year! [Photos by Sheri Nink & Cari Draft]



We are continuing to host Ravenna caboose “Open House” days in 2025. This event has been very rewarding and we hope that

our attendees have enjoyed getting to tour inside the caboose and replica depot. Our board vice president, Gary DeKock and his wife Linda are planning on hosting open houses on the following 2025 dates: June 7, July 12, and August 2 (all Saturdays). Times for the event on all days will be from 9AM – 1PM. Come join us!



If there are any unforeseen changes to dates/times, they will be posted on our **Facebook page**.

We are still promoting a fundraising drive in conjunction with West Michigan Trails (WMT) to assist with Musketawa Trail funding shortfalls for trail amenities. The drive funds will go towards items like new trail head kiosk signs, benches, etc. The costs for rebuilding the entire length of the Musketawa Trail are definitely a lot higher than they were when the trail was originally built. The Michigan DNR will be the recipient of the funds once the fundraiser is complete. The initial fundraising goal is \$10,000. Our Friends group made an initial donation last year (2024) to get this fundraiser going. If you are interested, a link to the WMT page is located on our website: [www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com) or the direct web address to the WMT community engagement page is:

[www.wmtrails.org/community-engagement](http://www.wmtrails.org/community-engagement)

[Scroll to the “Musketawa Trail Fund” section]

Donations can be made directly to this fund via the WMT website link. We have also put up signs and kiosk postings along the trail with similar information. If you are able, please consider a donation to this fund and thank you.

**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





With the quick start to the reconstruction of the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail, we were unable to put together a “Goodbye to the Old Trail Surface” event. We are discussing the idea of putting together an event to welcome the new pavement once the Ottawa County portion of reconstruction is completed. At this time, we foresee the Ottawa County work to be done sometime in 2026.

Stay tuned!!

If you haven’t donated already (or want to donate again), please consider a donation to the Friends of the Musketawa Trail for the Ed Holovka Memorial. The project will include a concrete pad, covered shelter, picnic table and bike repair station next to the trail at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head.

Once we have all the funds in place, construction work on this project will begin after the trail rebuild is complete for the Muskegon County section of the Musketawa Trail. We don’t have details on a timeline for the Muskegon County portion work but the Michigan DNR will focus on this portion after the



Ottawa County section is complete. Donations for this project should include the following note: "Please apply donation to the Ed Holovka Memorial." Donations can be submitted via PayPal at our website [www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com) or via check (standard mail).

Any donations we receive for Ed's memorial will be reserved solely for said project. Updates will follow once we get closer to the project build.



**Trail Maintenance News:** With arrival of the Spring 2025 season, here is our reminder of who oversees trail maintenance for the Musketawa Trail. The trail maintenance contacts, and their operation dates are:

**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)

**Other Trail Update News:**

**Lake Harbor Trail:** Work has re-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. North end work is completed from Lake Harbor Park to just past Marantha to the south. Work continues on the remaining section and seems to be progressing quickly.

**Connection between the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail and the Fred Meijer Standale Trail:** Work has begun on removal of the old and installation of the new Fruit Ridge Ave bridge over I-96 from

two to four lanes. Once the work is completed, expected thru 2025, the new bridge will include a pedestrian path/lane. This project includes a connection of the Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail (southeast continuation of Musketawa Trail from Marne/8<sup>th</sup> Ave) and the Fred Meijer Standale Trail. We are excited for this project as it will be a great connection for longer rides and further "exploration".

**Closing Statement:**

We hope that you have enjoyed this Fall/Winter 2024/2025 update for the Musketawa Trail and other trail happenings. Please feel free to share any comments and/or questions that you may have with us. We encourage everyone to utilize the Musketawa Trail (and all trails) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way. In addition, 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](http://www.musketawatrail.com)

Thank you for your continued support and all the best,

Tim Nink. President  
Friends of the Musketawa Trail

**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**

**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.**

**HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!!**

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



**President-Tim Nink**



**V-President-Gary DeKock**



**Secretary-Cari Draft**



**Treasurer- Diana Holovka**



**Director-George Czinder**



**Director-James Smith**



**Director-Mark Fritsma**



**Director-Oscar Reed**



**Director-Paul Boucon**



4467 Spruce Ct  
Norton Shores MI 49441