



**FALL & WINTER 2025/2026  
NEWSLETTER  
Vol. 31 No. 63**



**National Recreational Trail 2008**



**Millennium Trail 2000**

**OPENING:** Here we are, finally to that Spring of 2026 season after a seemingly LONG winter! The Friends of the Musketawa Trail hope that our readers are getting out and enjoying the warmer weather on the open portion of the Musketawa Trail and other local trails. The Musketawa Trail has a lot going on with trail reconstruction in Ottawa County and project work! Read on to know about the latest happenings.

**Musketawa Trail Reconstruction News:** Re-construction work on the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail continues in 2026. Our Michigan DNR contact and partner, Jill Sell, is managing the project and has shared a project update with us along with some nice pictures. Jill stated the following:

*“Trail reconstruction work continued through the winter with a 6-week pause due to weather conditions. Work has been continuing as spring has finally arrived! All the culvert installations have been completed along with the railing installations. The Rio Grande Creek bridge was installed on April 10. They will now be working on pouring the concrete deck and installing the protective epoxy coating on the concrete.*



**Rio Grande Creek Bridge being delivered to the site.**

*Progress at the Crockery Creek bridge has been made as well. The first pier concrete restoration and replacement work is nearing completion. Crews will then move to the second pier. There is a significant amount of work remaining on this bridge, which will continue into the early fall.*

**Crockery Creek Bridge being prepared for concrete restoration work.**



**First pier is almost complete with concrete restoration work at the Crockery Creek crossing.**

*Pulverizing of the existing trail has started again in preparation for*

*new asphalt surfacing later this spring. We will also be replacing the surface at the Marne Trailhead parking lot since it was used as a construction staging area. New signage will be installed along the trail as well. We anticipate that this work will be completed by late summer. We are continuing to evaluate potentially opening a portion of trail for public use later this summer. The Crockery Creek Bridge area will remain closed until work is complete. Jill Sell*



**Pulverizing of existing trail preparing for new pavement**



**Complete culvert and handrail**

We thank Jill, Greg Sherburn, and the other Michigan DNR staff involved with this project for their hard work getting this project in motion. If you wish to contact Jill with any questions, she can be reached via email: [sellj1@michigan.gov](mailto:sellj1@michigan.gov)

**(Photos provided by Jill, the Michigan DNR, and their contractor.)**

We have received a lot of emails asking about this construction work and about when the closed portion will be re-opened. Before sending any related emails via our website, please refer to our Facebook page for the latest construction updates. We will post new project information as we receive it from the Michigan DNR.

We look forward to this work being completed and sharing the renewed portion of the trail. We might even have a “pop-up” ride event when the current re-construction work is completed. Stay tuned and please enjoy photos of the work!



This year we had a young volunteer helping out along with the cleanup crew. They filled a few garbage bags and enjoyed some snacks.

**Trail Projects (2026 and beyond):**

Friends project work opened in 2026 with the Muskegon/Broadway trail head clean-up work. The event took place on Saturday, April 18, 2026, on a chilly, misty morning. We had a small crew of Friends board members and a few other volunteers including a “hearty” little female helper. We would like to thank our board secretary, Cari Draft, for organizing this event (again) in 2026 and for bringing the snacks! We would also like to thank all those individuals



Ravenna Caboose “Open House” days will continue in 2026. This event series provides an opportunity to take a self-guided tour of the caboose and replica depot. Our board vice president, Gary Dekock and his wife Linda have kindly planned this event and graciously act as hosts. The 2026 dates are 6/6, 7/18, & 8/1 (all Saturdays). Times for the event on all days are planned from 9AM – 1PM. Come enjoy this event at one of the listed dates and meet some Friends board members! (Any unforeseen changes to dates/times will be posted on our Facebook page.)

Come meet board member Gary Dekock and his wife Linda, host volunteers of the Caboose Open House



2026 dates  
6/6, 7/18, & 8/1

We are promoting a couple of worthy projects associated with the Musketawa Trail and other West Michigan Trails. The first is the fundraising drive for the Musketawa Trail in partnership with West Michigan Trails (WMT) to assist with trail amenities not included in the Michigan DNR reconstruction project(s). The funds from this drive are expected to go towards items like new trail head kiosk signs, benches, etc. The items listed are not covered by the reconstruction project funds. The Michigan DNR will utilize these monies once the fundraiser is complete. The initial fundraising goal is \$10,000.

In 2024, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail group made an initial donation to get this fundraiser started. If you are interested in this project, 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 West Michigan Trails “Programs and Initiatives” page is: <https://wmtrails.org/programs-initiatives/> [Scroll to the “Other Priorities” section titled “Musketawa Trail: A Legacy Renewed”]. Donations can be made directly to this fund via the West Michigan Trails website link.

While you are at the West Michigan Trails website, please consider making a one-time or monthly recurring donation to West Michigan Trails. Their current “Priority” fundraising goal is the “West Michigan Wayfinding Guide” project. This project will add similarly designed signage to West Michigan trails to guide users of the trails in a familiar format. Signage will give wayfinding information to other trail links, cities, etc. Please consider giving to this group and this project. West Michigan Trails provides support and promotion for our lovely trails in West Michigan.



The Ed Holovka Memorial project is finally making headway in 2026. Our board voted to make the majority purchase of the project which is the covered shelter. Our vendor has the order and will start production once we’ve cleared the approval process with the DNR.

This memorial project will honor our first board president, Ed Holovka, by adding a covered shelter and picnic table right next to the trail surface at the Muskegon/Broadway trail head. We hope to have project work started later this year.



Joel Mikkelson, trail advocate, volunteer Brian Hopwood, with Board members, Ed Holovka, Tim Nink, and Oscar Reed, just installed the railroad crossing signal at the Broadway Trail Head.



Ed with the first bike rack at the Broadway Trail Head

As a reminder, we still have a shortfall of project funds to cover the picnic table, concrete foundation, and structure construction. We are still taking donations to help cover the shortfall. If you can, please consider donating to this project. Donations can be made at our website or via check/ U.S. mail. If donating, please note your donation is for the "Ed Holovka Memorial" so that funds are processed appropriately. Thank you to all those who have kindly supported this project. Stay tuned for updates. As a reminder, we, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail are a 501 (3) © non-profit organization. Your donation is tax deductible according to the IRS guidelines . Please refer to your tax preparer /expert.

**Trail Maintenance News:** With the arrival of the Spring/Summer 2026 season, here is a 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)

**Closing Statement:** As board president, I want to thank our Friends board members both past and present for their dedication to the Musketawa Trail. This dedication and support is shown with both your physical presence and work at meetings/projects and also financial support/donations. I am proud to be a member of this group and have the opportunity to provide direction as president.

To our trail users, supporters and readers, we hope that you have enjoyed this Fall/Winter 2025/2026 update for happenings associated with the Musketawa Trail. We welcome any comments and/or questions that you may have, so please feel free to share. We encourage everyone to continue to utilize the Musketawa Trail (and all trails) in a safe, responsible, and respectful way.

Thank you for your continued support and all the best,

Tim Nink, President  
 Friends of the Musketawa Trail



Caboose back in the day

**FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL  
 2026 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS**

June 4, 2026 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
 August 6, 2026 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
 October 1, 2026 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at Ravenna Village Hall  
 12090 Crockery Creek Drive

Come join us,  
 we would appreciate your input and insight

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 the disbursement would NOT count as income nor a deduction from your income. Please consult with your Financial Advisor, CPA, or Income Tax preparer.



Caboose today after Friends volunteers cleaned, painted, and installed new railroad printed curtains, sewn by Diana Holovka, treasurer.

## 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



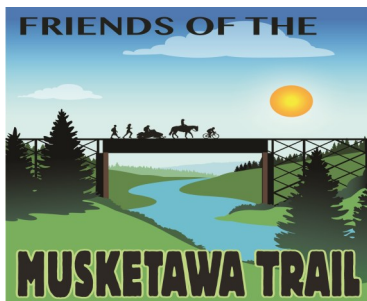
Director-Mark Fritsma



Director-Oscar Reed



Director-Paul Boucon



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