



## SPRING & SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER Vol. 30 No. 62

**OPENING:** Fall is upon us. It seems like we had a long Summer season. We, the Friends of the Musketawa Trail, hope that many of you got out and enjoyed the Musketawa Trail (and other trails). The Musketawa Trail has had a LOT going on with improvements, so read on about the happenings from this past Spring and Summer and what is in store for the future!

**Musketawa Trail Reconstruction News:** Musketawa Trail re-construction of the Ottawa County portion of the Musketawa Trail is well underway. Jill Sell (Michigan DNR) has been managing the project and has kindly shared updates (and pictures) with us. Jill states the following:



Installation of a box culvert in progress

*“Considerable progress has been made since the last newsletter update! The first round of trail paving has been completed with more scheduled to be completed in the next 4-6 weeks, prior to asphalt plants closing for the season. Several new culverts have also been installed, and work has begun on the repairs and rehabilitation of the Crocker Creek Bridge main span. Construction is scheduled to be completed in July 2026, and the trail will remain closed while construction is occurring.*

*Engineering, permitting, and acquiring funding are being worked on for Phase 2 of the project. Phase 2 will include the remaining trail work within Muskegon County that will not be completed during the current construction work.*



Paved trail over a new box culvert, handrail installation in progress

*We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we work hard to bring you an improved trail experience! “Happy Trails!”*

If you wish to contact Jill with any questions, she can be reached via email: [sellj1@michigan.gov](mailto:sellj1@michigan.gov)



National Recreation Trail 2008



Millennium Trail 2000

We know that this project is taking a bit longer than expected. Delays in components for the rebuild, such as engineered culverts and bridge components, have “pushed” the timeline. However, in the end, the Musketawa Trail will be better off for this work. We ask you to please respect the closure signs on the trail for both your safety and out of respect for the work of the contractors. Also, as the Winter season begins, if you are a snowmobile user, please be aware of the trail reconstruction work. You may need to find an alternate route for your recreational plans. We want everyone to stay safe out there. July of 2026 will be upon us sooner than your think.

We have many pictures of the construction work to share. Please enjoy and stay tuned for more updates!!

**Trail Projects-2025 and beyond:** Ravenna Caboose “Open House” days continued in 2025. This event series provided 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 led this project for a few years



The Depot at Ravenna Trailhead



now. The 2025 dates were 6/7, 7/12, & 8/2. We are planning on hosting more open houses for 2026 on the following dates: 6/6, 7/18, 8/1 (all Saturdays). Times for the

event on all days are tentatively planned from 9AM – 1PM. Come join us! Any unforeseen changes to dates/times will be posted on our Facebook page.

We continue to promote a 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. The funds from this drive are planned to go towards items like new trail head kiosk signs, benches, etc. The Michigan DNR will utilize



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 West Michigan Trails website link. If you are able, please consider donating to this fund. Thank you.

The Ed Holovka Memorial project is still an important one for our group. Recently, we received good news from the Michigan DNR. They are allowing us to move forward with this project before the Muskegon County section of the trail is reconstructed. We hope to have the final funds in place to move forward in Spring/Summer of 2026. Currently, we have a roughly \$16,000 shortfall in funds. For those of you who do not know and as a re-



These photos are just an example of what we are looking to do for the Ed Holovka memorial. They follow the guidelines of the DNR.

Friends of the Musketawa Trail. He spent hundreds of hours leading our Friends group in meetings, organizing/managing enhancement projects, going after grant money, and preparing newsletter content (like this one). Ed devoted a lot of time to the Muskegon/Broadway trail head as it was a special place for him. We find this project to be a fitting tribute to all his volunteered time and efforts for the Musketawa Trail.

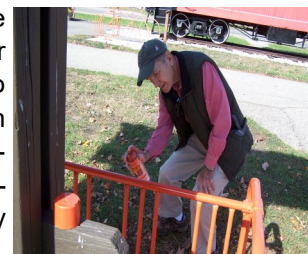
If you have not donated (or want to donate again), please consider helping the Friends of the Musketawa Trail make the Ed Holovka Memorial happen. Donations for this project should include the following note: “Please apply donation to the Ed Holovka Memorial.” Donations can be submitted



Ed finished painting the bike

these funds once the fundraiser is complete. The initial fundraising goal is \$10,000. As stated before, our Friends group made an initial donation (in 2024) to get this fundraiser started. If you are interested in this project, a link to the WMT

via PayPal at our website [www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com) or via check (standard mail) to 4467 Spruce Ct., Norton Shores MI 49441. Any donations we receive for Ed’s memorial will be reserved solely for said project. As a reminder, the Friends of the Musketawa



Ed refreshing paint on bike rack

is a (501) (C3) non-profit organization. All donations to the Musketawa Trail including memorial funds, are fully tax deductible per IRS guidelines. Funds from your IRA’s can be sent directly to the Musketawa Trail with no tax liability on your part. We will provide updates as this project unfolds.

While on the topic of the Muskegon/Broadway trail head, we wanted to mention that we will be planning another “Clean-Up” day at said parking lot. This will be a Sat-



Broadway cleanup & flower planting



urday or Sunday morning in April of 2026. This is a great volunteer opportunity to “give back” to the Musketawa Trail. This entails simple work cleaning up trash, planting flowers, and/or raking and picking up leaves. If interested, keep an eye on our Facebook page next April for the date/time.

**Trail Maintenance News:** With arrival of the Fall 2025 / Winter 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:** We want to take a moment to thank all our supporters, both long-time and new. Your financial support and kind words help us to continue providing enhancements and advocacy for the Musketawa Trail. We want to assure you that as a volunteer organization, we are very respectful and responsible with all donations. Any expenditures are voted upon by our board of directors at our public board meetings. If you are curious about how this works, please feel free to join us at a board meeting in 2026. Dates/times can be found on the calendar at our website [www.musketawatrail.com](http://www.musketawatrail.com) All meetings are held in Ravenna.

We hope that you have enjoyed this Spring/Summer 2025 update for the Musketawa Trail. As always, please feel free to share any comments and/or questions that you may have with us. 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



Crockery Creek Bridge steel mid-span. Freshly painted and sealed. New deck and railings will be installed after repairs are complete. New, pre-fabricated bridges will be installed at both ends to complete the span over Crockery Creek.



One of the Crockery Creek Bridge piers is prepped for repair work.



Paved section of trail

## FRIENDS OF THE MUSKETAWA TRAIL 2026 SCHEDULED BOARD MEETINGS

April 2, 2026 Thursday, 7:00 p.m.  
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 hearing from our trail users

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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!!



Paved trail



Credits for photos of the construction work goes to Jill/Michigan DNR and their contractor. Thanks Jill for letting us show our trail users what's happening on the trail.

## 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

*The Friends of the Musketawa Trail want to wish you all a very  
Happy and safe Holiday Season*



4467 Spruce Ct  
Norton Shores MI 49441