Michigan Trails

Jon W. Allan
Director, Office of the Great Lakes
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The Future of Michigan’s Parks and Outdoor Recreation:  
* A Report to Governor Rick Snyder

September 23, 2012

**Recommendation 3:**
Make the development of statewide and regional systems of connected trail networks one of the state’s highest priorities for outdoor recreation investment over the next ten years.

**Recommendation 4:**
Encourage greater connections between communities and their recreational assets to strengthen regional identities.
Develop asset strategies using a cultural-landscape approach

Combine elements of outdoor recreation, natural resources, and cultural heritage
  • Ernest Hemingway heritage places
  • Maritime history
  • Area specific history (geology, industry)
  • Unique or significant wildlife-related trails, like birding trails

Identify areas and themes, develop plans, market assets as part of Michigan’s overall recreation and tourism system.

Create stronger connections between State Parks, local communities, and the private sector.
Making it Easy

Sleeping Bear Birding Trail
Strategic Investments

Conceptual Non-motorized Pathway Connecting Belle Isle to Wisconsin through Michigan's Trail Network

Legend
Belle Isle to Wisconsin Trail Network
- Existing Trails
- *Critical link with sponsor (Proposed)
- **Critical link with no sponsor (TBD)
- North Country Trail Temporary Connector
- Featured Proposed and Existing Trails

Other Features
- Highway US 2
- Lakes and Rivers
- Cities
- County Boundaries
- State Park Boundaries
- State Land
- Federal Land
Strategic Investments
Regional Trail Initiatives

Noquemanon Trails Network
Susan Brian (906) 228-6182
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Top of Michigan Trails Council
Ann McDavitt (231) 348-8280
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Huron Greenways Initiative
c/o Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
Diane Rekowski (989) 732-3351
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Saginaw Bay Greenways
c/o Conservation Fund
Mike Kelly (989) 892-5171
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Genesee Regional Trails Network
Heidi Peterson (810) 766-6565
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www.flintriver.org/greenlinks

Traverse Area Recreational and Transportation Trails
Bob Otwell (231) 941-4300
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Kalkaska Area Recreational and Transportation Trails
Bob Burgin (231) 258-3307 and Tom Shaneman
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Michigan Water Trails

• 10 Coastal Zone Management grants awarded in 2013 totaling $342,141

• Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
• Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
• West Michigan Environmental Action Council
• Land Information Access Association
• Mason-Lake Conservation District
• Clinton River Watershed Council
• Western Michigan University
• Monroe County
• Arenac County
• Bay County
Michigan Water Trails

2013 Coastal Zone Management Program Water Trail Grantees

1. West Michigan Environmental Action Council
2. Mason-Lake Conservation District
3. Land Information Access Association
4. Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
5. Northeast Michigan Council of Governments
6. Arenac County
7. Bay County
8. Clinton River Watershed Council
9. Monroe County
10. Western Michigan University