

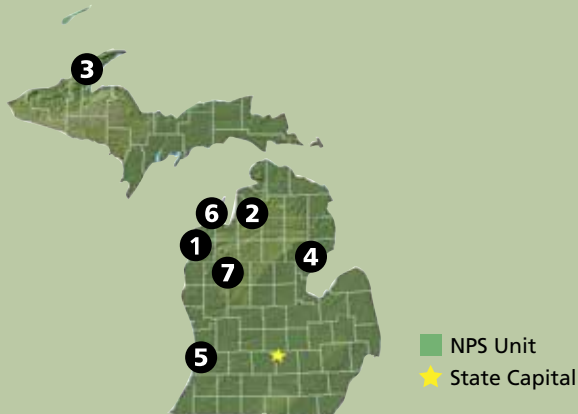


# Michigan News



Bay to Bay Water Trail Epic Paddle. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2014



### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Bay to Bay Hiking and Water Trail**  
Friends of Sleeping Bear
- 2. Charlevoix to Traverse City Trail Connections**  
Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails
- 3. Copper Country Heritage Trail**  
Keweenaw National Historic Park
- 4. Great Lakes Water Trail**  
Michigan Sea Grant
- 5. Lake Michigan Trails Organizational Development**  
Lake Michigan Water Trail Association
- 6. Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail**  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Friends of Sleeping Bear
- 7. White Pine Trail Connector**  
City of Cadillac, Friends of the White Pine Trail

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### Clinton-Ionia-Shiawasee Rail Trail

Forty two miles of the Clinton-Ionia-Shiawasee Rail Trail (CIS) is under construction and will be opened in 2014. The CIS is part of a 125-mile, mid-Michigan, rail-trail network and the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trails. The NPS worked with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Friends of the CIS, the Fred Meijer River Valley Rail Trail, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Midwest Michigan Trails Authority, and local units of government on the master plan to create a pedal and paddle trail. The trail incorporates the adjacent Flat, Grand, and Maple Rivers and connects the communities of Owosso, Ovid, St. Johns, Pewamo, Muir, Ionia, Lowell, Belding, and Greenville. The “pedal and paddle” system provides tremendous recreational opportunities and a variety of experiences for public use and enjoyment.



Flat River Trail winter trail riders. Photo: NPS

# Current Projects

## 1. Bay to Bay Hiking and Water Trail

Project Partner: Friends of Sleeping Bear

NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson

Location: Benzie, Leelanau Counties

Congressional District: MI - 1

### Project Goal

Develop a water trail and backcountry hiking trail that runs the length of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore coastline along Lake Michigan from Platte Bay in the south to Good Harbor Bay in the north (approximately 30 miles).

### NPS Role

Convene a project steering committee, stakeholder advisory group, and facilitate the planning process to determine the Bay to Bay Trail route, campground and launch locations, signage and funding strategy.



University of Michigan Graduate Students working with Friends of Sleeping Bear and the NPS on the route for the Bay to Bay Hiking and Paddling Trail. Photo: NPS

## 2. Charlevoix to Traverse City Trail Connections

Project Partner: Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation Trails

NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson

Location: Antrim and Charlevoix Counties, Villages of Elk Rapids, Eastport, Norwood, and City of Charlevoix

Congressional District: MI - 1

### Project Goal

Develop a 45-mile non-motorized trail connecting Traverse City to Elk Rapids to Charlevoix which will then connect to the existing 250-mile northern Michigan rail-trail network. In total, this trail will create a 300-mile network of alternative transportation trails.

### NPS Role

Help facilitate a unifying vision and goals for the trail, engage the broader public in the process to build support

for the trail, and help determine the preferred route. Develop a funding strategy and timeline for grants and implementation.

## 3. Copper Country Heritage Trail

Project Partner: Keweenaw National Historic Park

NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson

Location: Keweenaw County

Congressional District: MI - 1

### Project Goal

Enhance the Copper Heritage Trail, a 40-mile non-motorized and/or multiple use rail-trail route that connects the historic communities of the Copper Country, the area served by Keweenaw National Historical Park, an NPS unit headquartered in Calumet with several cooperative sites along the proposed route.

### NPS Role

Help develop leadership and support, and facilitate the planning and development process for a 40-mile Copper Heritage Trail connecting historic copper mining towns in Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.



You've got to have "Friends!" Photo: NPS

# Current Projects cont.

## 4. Great Lakes Water Trail

Project Partner: Michigan Sea Grant  
NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson  
Location: Statewide  
Congressional District: Statewide

### Project Goal

Statewide water trail system that includes rivers, lakes, and the great lakes of Michigan.

### NPS Role

Assist with statewide resource inventory and database of paddling access sites and associated amenities; develop public information and website to support and encourage Great Lakes Water Trail access and use. Convene key stakeholders including Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Coastal Zone Management to discuss needs and options for a statewide water trail program and organization.

## 5. Lake Michigan Trails Organizational Development

Project Partner: Lake Michigan Water Trail Association  
NPS Contact: Diane Banta  
Location: IL, IN, MI, WI  
Congressional Districts: MI - 1, 4, 5, 6, 8

### Project Goal

Build a partnership organization to work on the Lake Michigan trails which will provide access to Lake Michigan in four states. Plan three recreation travel modes and market the trail for increased tourism and economic development opportunities.

### NPS Role

Convene quad state organizations, local governments, and state governments to set vision, mission, goals, and outcomes leading to the development of land and water trails, US bike routes, and the enhancement of the Lake Michigan Circle Route.

## 6. Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail

Project Partner: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Friends of Sleeping Bear  
NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson  
Location: Leelanau County  
Congressional District: MI - 4

### Project Goal

Plan a 27-mile non-motorized, ADA accessible, multi-use trail through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. This trail will connect primary visitor destinations with the two gateway communities of Glen Arbor and Empire.

### NPS Role

Assist with the planning and development of the 27-mile Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail, a non-motorized multi use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore. Complete a special resource

study and make recommendations to the National Park Service which will help preserve and interpret Michigan's maritime heritage.

## 7. White Pine Trail Connector

Project Partner: City of Cadillac, Friends of the White Pine Trail  
NPS Contact: Barbara Nelson-Jameson  
Location: City of Cadillac, Wexford County  
Congressional District: MI - 4

### Project Goal

Connect the 92-mile White Pine State Trailway to the City of Cadillac.

### NPS Role

Work with the City of Cadillac, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, and other partners to identify alternatives for extending the White Pine Trail into downtown Cadillac. Determine the best alternative, and develop a trail concept plan and a funding strategy.



Visitors enjoy a ride on the Sleeping Bear Heritage Trail. Another 6 miles of the trail will be opening in 2014. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You!

Could your project benefit from NPS Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.



**Barb Nelson-Jameson**

231-334-3130

barbara\_nelson-jameson@nps.gov



**Diane Banta**

312-863-6287

diane\_banta@nps.gov



**David Thomson**

402-661-1570

dave\_thomson@nps.gov

## 2013 Nationwide Partnership Success

1,357 Miles of Trail Developed

736 Miles of River Conserved

20,270 Acres of Open Space and Parkland Protected

Find more information online at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

## Recent Successes cont.

The Midwest Michigan Trail Authority, made up of local units of government, was created to assist the state with routine trail maintenance and to serve as the local land manager to address day-to-day operations and management. The authority directs the expenditures of the Fred Meijer Midwest Michigan Rail Trail Endowment, funded by the Meijer Foundation, to cover annual maintenance costs of the rail-trail network.

*“In July 2007, the State of Michigan embarked on a journey with the acquisition of the 42-mile rail corridor from Ionia to Owosso. The evolution of this rail to trail project was a journey and the outcome that transpired began over five year ago. A special thank you is extended to Barbara Nelson-Jameson, National Park Service, who guided us through the comprehensive process to produce this design and development guidance document. “*

- James Radabaugh, State Trails Coordinator



Flat River paddler. Photo: NPS

### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.