

Who should attend?

- State, county and local government agency parks and planning staff
- Non-profit organizations
- Trail builders and enthusiasts
- Planning and design consulting firms
- Trail planners & advocates

MRPA Trails Committee

Anita Twardesky, Co-Chair
Riverside Kayak Connection
Melissa Prowse, Co-Chair
Oakland County Parks and Recreation
Mary Bohling
Michigan State University Extension
Nancy Krupiarz
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
Sam Lovall
Hamilton Anderson Associates
Barbara Nelson-Jameson
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

Did you know?

- There are 131 established trails and more than 2000 miles of trails in Michigan.
- An April 2003 study for the Surface Transportation Policy Project found that 55% of adults would like to walk more throughout the day either for work or travel.
- Businesses along the Hart-Montague Trail, a 22-mile trail in West Michigan found that their sales revenues increased 25% – 30% within the first six months of the trail's existence.
- A 2000 Michigan State University study of the Pere Marquette Trail found that 62% of trail users cited exercise as a primary reason for using the trail, and 73% reported an improvement in their health due to use of the trail.
- In 2002 and 2004 surveys of recent homebuyers, trails were ranked as the second most important community amenity on a list of 18 choices, bettering even golf courses and playgrounds.

For additional information, please contact
Melissa Prowse (prowsem@oakgov.com,
248.858.4611) or Anita Twardesky
(anita@riversidekayak.com, 734.626.5465).


Michigan Recreation
and Park Association
2465 Woodlake Circle, Suite 180
Okemos, MI 48864

Michigan's premiere professional development event for the Parks and Recreation industry

2008 MRPA Annual Conference and Trade Show

The Trails, Greenways and Blueways Committee of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association is pleased to invite you to the first:

MRPA Trails Forum

January 22, 2008

Grand Traverse Resort and Spa
Traverse City, Michigan

Join trail representatives and organizations from around the state for a day of education and networking on a wide variety of trail-related issues.

Trails Forum AGENDA: *At a Glance*

8:00 a.m.	The Grand Scheme to Connect Michigan's Trails (CEU's .1) Featuring representatives from the following Michigan trail use groups: <i>Water Trails, Snowmobile/ATV Trails, Equestrian Trails, Mountain Bike Trails, Multi-Use Trails and Pathways, Hiking/Skiing Trails</i>
9:15 a.m.	State Trailways at the Crossroads – Connecting Michigan
10:00 a.m.	Break
10:15 a.m.	Break-Out Session #1 (concurrent sessions) (CEU's .1) a. Legal & Liability Issues for Trails b. Technology and Trails c. Now That It's Built... Trail Operation & Maintenance
11:30 a.m.	Organizing and Sustaining a Successful Friends Group/Lunch with the Experts (CEU's .1)
12:45 p.m.	Break-Out Session #2 (concurrent sessions) (CEU's .1) a. Trails Programming & Promotion b. Overcoming User Conflict on Trails c. Designing Trails for Universal Access
2:00 p.m.	Trails and Eco-Tourism (CEU's .1)
3:15 – 5:15	MRPA Opening General Session and Keynote Speaker
5:30 – 8:00	Trade Show and Strolling Buffet

MRPA TRAILS FORUM SESSIONS Tuesday, January 22, 2008

THE GRAND SCHEME TO CONNECT MICHIGAN TRAILS

Nancy Krupiarz, Director, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance
Barbara Nelson-Jameson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance
Dennis Hansen, Author, Hansen Publishing - Published "Trails Atlas of Michigan"

Jean Ligon, Board Member, Michigan Horse Council

Todd Scott, Biking Advocate, Michigan State Parks Citizens Committee
Michigan Snowmobile Association

Tuesday, 8:00 - 9:15 a.m.

Join all the disciplines of trails across the State of Michigan. Learn what our trails systems look like, what our trail constituency & friends groups look like and what lies ahead for the coming year.

CEU's .1

STATE TRAILWAYS AT THE CROSSROADS - CONNECTING MICHIGAN - ENTIRE GROUP

Jim Radabaugh, Section Manager- Recreation and Trails Section; Forest, Mineral and Fire Management, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Nancy Krupiarz, Director, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

Tuesday, 9:15 - 10:00 a.m.

Details from the Governor's Trail Plan "Michigan Trails at the Crossroads" and the "Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan" will be explored, with particular emphasis on implementing recommendations.

LEGAL & LIABILITY ISSUES FOR TRAILS

Nancy Krupiarz, Director, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance

Tuesday, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

Find out whether owning a trail creates liability headaches for you and your organization. Are there ways of lowering your risk for lawsuits? Taking care of liability concerns up front can make it easier when life happens!

CEU's .1

TECHNOLOGY & TRAILS

Tom Woiwode, Director, GreenWays Initiative, Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

Larry Falardeau, Principal Planner/Program Coordinator, Oakland County Environmental Program

Tuesday, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

This session will be an interactive look into the world of technology and trails. Learn how

the latest and greatest in computer technology is benefiting trail development in Michigan.

CEU's .1

NOW THAT IT'S BUILT - TRAIL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE

Kim Haller, Director, Midland County Parks

Clare Cain, Director of Trail Management, North Country Trail Association

Tuesday, 10:15 - 11:30 a.m.

In this session, participants will learn innovative ways to help operate and maintain trails. Setting up an endowment, tracking tasks, volunteer organization and volunteer coordination with land managing organizations will be presented as ways to keep your trails on the right path to good maintenance.

CEU's .1

ORGANIZING AND SUSTAINING A SUCCESSFUL FRIENDS GROUP / LUNCH WITH THE EXPERTS

Desiree Sorenson-Groves, Vice President Government Affairs, National Wildlife Refuge Association

Tuesday, 11:30 - 12:45 p.m.

Desiree Sorenson-Groves, Vice President of Government Affairs for the National Wildlife Refuge Association in Washington DC, will share her national expertise on the development of sustainable friends groups. She will share ideas and resources from the Taking Flight Workshop, which is used by refuges throughout the United States to build the capacity of local stakeholders and refuges through grassroots activities. Don't miss this opportunity!

CEU's .1

TRAILS PROGRAMMING & PROMOTION

Leonard Marszalek, Chief Operating Officer, Detroit RiverFront Conservancy

Melissa Prowse, Trail Network Coordinator, Oakland County Parks

Anita Twardesky, Public Relations/Marketing Manager, Riverside Kayak Connection, LLC

Tuesday, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

A variety of trail organizations will utilize case studies to demonstrate opportunities for programming special and annual events, including ideas for generating revenue and the potential role of endowments. Speakers will discuss the elements of successful programming and promotions related to trails.

CEU's .1

OVERCOMING USER CONFLICTS ON TRAILS

Dr. Charles Nelson, Professor, Dept. of Community, Agriculture, and Recreation Resource Studies, Michigan State University

Tuesday, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

User conflict can be an issue on all types of trails. In this session, Dr. Nelson will present management policies, trail design guidelines and enforcement methods that will support your efforts to minimize conflict and maximize user experience.

CEU's .1

DESIGNING TRAILS FOR UNIVERSAL ACCESS

Cindy Burkhour, Access to Recreation Initiative, Access Recreation Group

Tuesday, 12:45 - 2:00 p.m.

Trails designed to be universally accessible are easier to use by everyone in your community, including people with disabilities. We will discuss creative planning, design and maintenance strategies to develop universally accessible trails in a variety of outdoor environments.

CEU's .1

TRAILS & ECO-TOURISM... HOW IT CAN ALL WORK TOGETHER

Susan Phillips, Executive Vice President, Metropolitan Affairs Coalition

Mary Bohling, Sea Grant Educator, MSU Extension

Sam Lovall, Landscape Architect, Hamilton Anderson Associates

Tuesday, 2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Speakers will describe a variety of tourism efforts to demonstrate the various roles of trails in developing comprehensive tourism initiatives, identify successes and share lessons learned.

CEU's .1

The Grand Scheme to Connect Michigan's Trails

The Michigan Recreation and Park Association's Trails, Greenways & Blueways Committee is proud to announce its first state-wide Trails Forum. This day-long Forum will focus on an update from all trail disciplines across Michigan, a report on Governor Granholm's Plan: Trails at the Crossroads, and the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance "Connecting Michigan" plan. In addition, concurrent break-out sessions will focus on technology and trails, legal and liability issues, operations and maintenance, programming, user-conflict, and designing for universal access. Our closing remarks will focus on the potential for trails to add to Michigan's economy by providing eco-tourism opportunities.

Desiree Sorenson-Groves, Vice-President of Government Affairs for the National Wildlife Refuge Association, Washington D.C., will be our plenary lunch speaker. Ms. Sorenson-Groves will provide us with a great overview of the National Wildlife Refuge Program "Taking Flight." This is a nationally acclaimed program to help organizations create and sustain a successful "friends" group, something which is becoming increasingly valuable for trail operations and maintenance. In addition, our lunch break will provide an opportunity to have "lunch with the experts" - all of our guest speakers will be available for this great networking opportunity.

Space is limited for the Trails Forum. Early bird registration deadline is January 7, 2008.

Interested in becoming a member of the Michigan Recreation and Park Association?

Visit www.mrpaonline.org for more information.

MRPA Trails Forum Registration

Please clip and return with payment.

Note: do not use this form if you are registering for the full MRPA conference or you will be registered twice.

NAME (as desired for badge)

ORGANIZATION

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE, ZIP

PHONE

E-MAIL

Conference rate

The Trails Forum is offered at a fee of **\$99**. This includes all sessions, lunch, access to the MRPA Trade Show, and a strolling buffet dinner.

Note: if you have already registered for the full MRPA conference, you do not need to fill out this form.

Vegetarian lunch option (check here):

Accommodations

The Grand Traverse Resort and Spa is the host hotel. Please see the enclosed hotel form for lodging rates and reservation details.

Payment

*** THIS IS YOUR INVOICE ***

Payment methods: Choose A, B, C or D

A. Fax: 517.485.7932

B. Mail with payment enclosed, checks payable to MRPA. Mail to:

2465 Woodlake Circle, Suite 180

Okemos, MI 48864

C. Online at www.mrpaonline.org

D. Charge to my credit card

(circle one: Visa / Mastercard)

Card # _____

Exp. _____

Signature _____

All registrations will be confirmed. Cancellations received up to 7 working days before the conference are refundable, minus a \$25 registration service fee. After that, cancellations are subject to the entire forum fee, which you may apply toward a future workshop.