

mParks
TRAIL
★ **SUMMIT** ★

Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Grand Rapids, Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
AGENDA
(as of January 19, 2017)

8:30 a.m. Optional Breakfast: Pantlind Ballroom

Trail organizations will answer questions and provide information about their organizations and resources available.

- West Michigan Trails and Greenways Coalition
- Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance/Michigander
- Michigan Mountain Biking Association
- Michigan DNR
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- The National Park Service –
 - Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
- North Country Trail Association
- LIAA
- Michigan State Industries
- Prein and Newhoff
- Rowe

9:30 a.m. Keynote: Culture and Heritage Trails with Tribal Community

Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director, United Tribes of Michigan

Anishinaabe heritage and culture is the foundation upon which present day Michigan is built. Today's roads and lifeways continue patterns established long before European explorers and settlers arrived. Incorporating awareness of this history into the awareness of our collective Michigan experience benefits us all. The richness of the tapestry woven from myriad paths traveled by generations before us gives us comfort and balance as we look to our collective future. These paths are physical and can be mapped out, but they are also sometimes intangible, needing to be experienced or felt. The work of preserving, reviving, and experiencing our past is an essential part of building healthy communities, ready and eager to tackle a challenging but promising future.

10: 15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

➤ **Trail Management**

This presentation will focus on preventative maintenance work for recreational trails. It will look at how, why, and when. Included will be information on winter trail maintenance from TART Trails, and a way-finding trail signage project that was led by the MDNR.

Speakers: Dr. Chuck Nelson, MSU; Steve Buchtel, Trails for Illinois; Emily Meyerson, MDNR; Julie Clark, TART Trails

➤ **Collective Impact and Non-Motorized Trails**

Non-motorized trails are important to the health and vitality of people and their communities. Featuring a panel presentation and followed by a roundtable discussion, this session highlights the benefits of collaboration across user groups to increase impact.

Speakers: Andrea Ketchmark, North Country Trail Association; Melissa Werkman, Michigan Mountain Biking Association; Jonathan Jarosz, Heart of the Lakes; Candy Kozeluh, Travel Marquette; Kristen Thrall, Huron-Manistee National Forest, Dr. Dawn De Vries, Grand Valley State University.

➤ **Emerging Trail Trends and Issues**

- Technology Trends and its Potential Impact on Trail Use
 - New bicycle industry innovations, such as electric-assist bicycles, are attempting to meet the demands of the present consumer market, i.e., people wanting to extend beyond their physical capacity, thereby boosting their trail experience and enjoyment. However, to what extent should the state and communities go to accommodate this new technology, based on potential risk to other trail users and other factors? Examine the types of new products on the market today and the issues surrounding their use, and what policy might we put into place to allow these products where they are appropriate on Michigan's trails.
- Heritage Trails: The Opposite of Generic
 - Discover how the new Heritage Trails program at the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is enabling trail users a deeper, more personal experience of the communities along the trail route. The

DNR's pilot project at the Kal-Haven Trail and a description of historical interpretation along the Iron Ore Heritage Trail will be featured.

- "What is Your Burning Issue?" Roundtable

Speakers: Nancy Krupiarz, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance; Daniel Spegel, Michigan DNR; Michael Reuter, American Cycle and Fitness; Paul Yauk, Michigan DNR;

12 noon- 1:30 p.m. LUNCH and Networking

- Nancy Krupiarz, Survey of Trail Economic Impact
- MDOT, update on current research
- Paul Yauk, MDNR, Developing Relationships with elected officials

1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

➤ **Connecting Trails and Health**

We say adding a local trail improves the health of a community, but engaging programs and relationships can ensure it does. Learn about creating partnerships with health agencies and finding the funding to make these programs successful.

Speakers: Reiley Curran St. Joseph Mercy Health System and Huron Waterloo Pathway; Brent Bayer – Missouri State Parks; Lynda Lancaster, National Park Service

➤ **Community Trail Networks**

This breakout will focus on several initiatives involving community and statewide trail networks.

- Learn how some communities are working to better integrate their trails into their community-wide transportation system.
- Get an update on water trails in Michigan, including a new state-wide "how to" manual and how to secure a formal water trail designation from the MDNR.
- Learn how local Chambers of Commerce and CVB's can help support the economic impact of trails as well as a new Trail Town handbook from the NCTA.
- The session concludes with an update on several regional trail building efforts, including the Grand River Corridor in Grand Rapids.

Speakers: Harry Burkholder, LIAA; Julie Clark, TART Trails

➤ **How you use metrics and Creative ideas to secure funding**

The trail world is currently awash in reports, studies and enough numbers to make your head spin. This session will discuss what is out there, where to find it and what all of it means. Learn how to use this information to help in your work. New tools that are accessible to anyone will be introduced and shown how to use. This session will open the door to both understanding the breadth of what is available to you in the research world as well as equip you with beginning or enhancing your own data collection efforts.

Speaker: Eric Oberg Rails-To-Trails Conservancy, Midwest Regional

Please join us for the Opening Keynote of the mParks Conference and Trade Show at 4 p.m. and the Trade Show at 6 p.m. at DeVos Place (*connected to the Hotel*)

The 2017 Michigan Trail Summit is sponsored by



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