

# Morton Township Planning Committee 2017-2021

# + Why Trails



- Recent Morton TWP Survey indicated 82% of responding residents were interested in Hiking, Biking and Running Trails.
- Mecosta County survey indicated similar interest.
- A recent survey of CL residents indicated 87% of their respondents wanted trails that allowed them to move within the community safely or provide a connection to a Regional Trail.
- New Michigan community development rates trails as one of the most important and most utilized amenities supporting a safe and healthy lifestyle.

# **+What Do Trails Contribute**

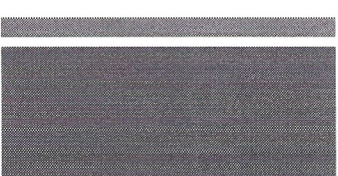
- Means of Transportation
- Recreational Benefits
  - Walking, Running, Biking, Exploration of surrounding communities.
- Connection to Nature and Communities
- Safety and Health of Our Citizens
- Make the Community More Desirable
- Connection to Major Trails and Parks
- Means for Disabled to Enjoy the Outdoors

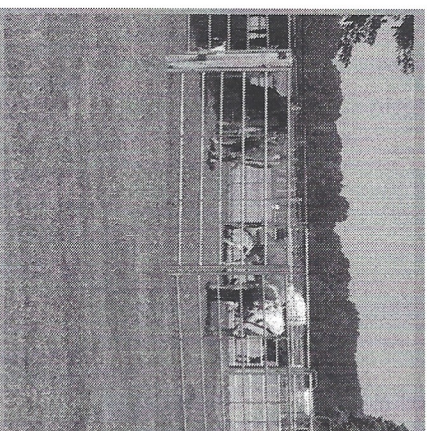
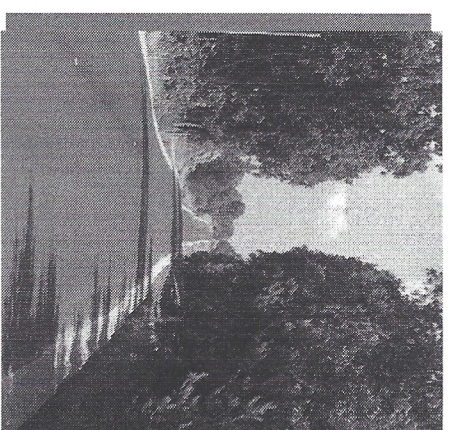
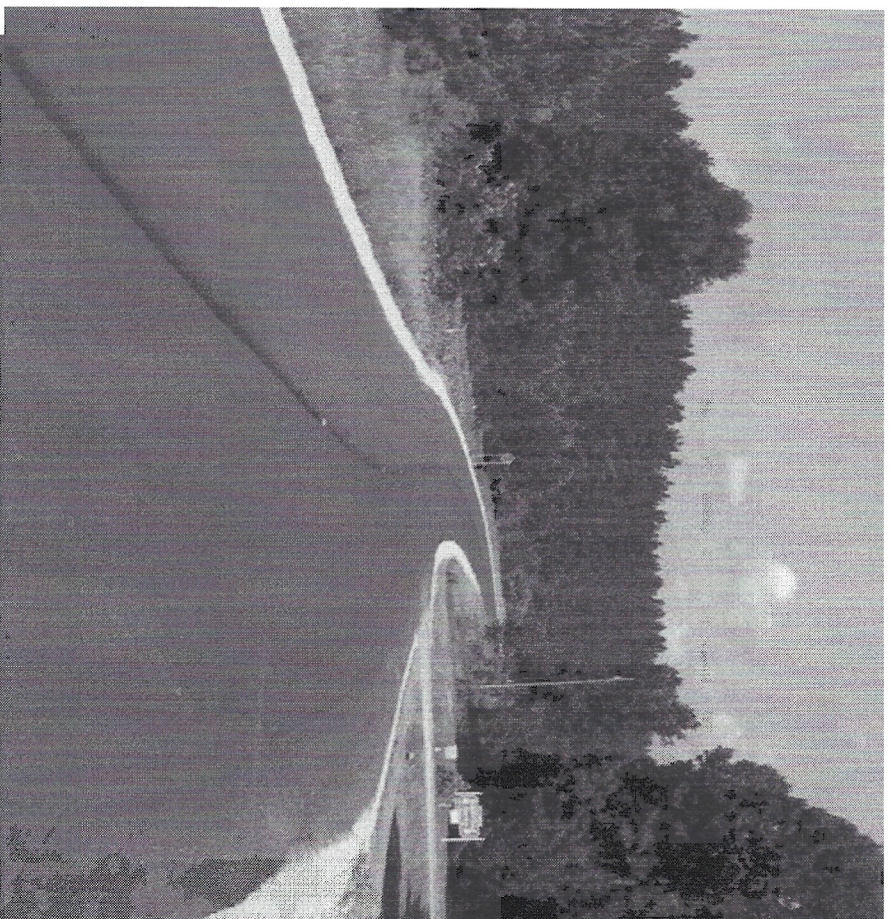




## **Additional Benefits**

- Increased Road Longevity
- Emergency Vehicle Safety
- Increased Safety for Amish Community
- Health and Safety of Citizenship



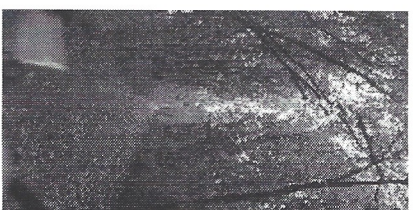
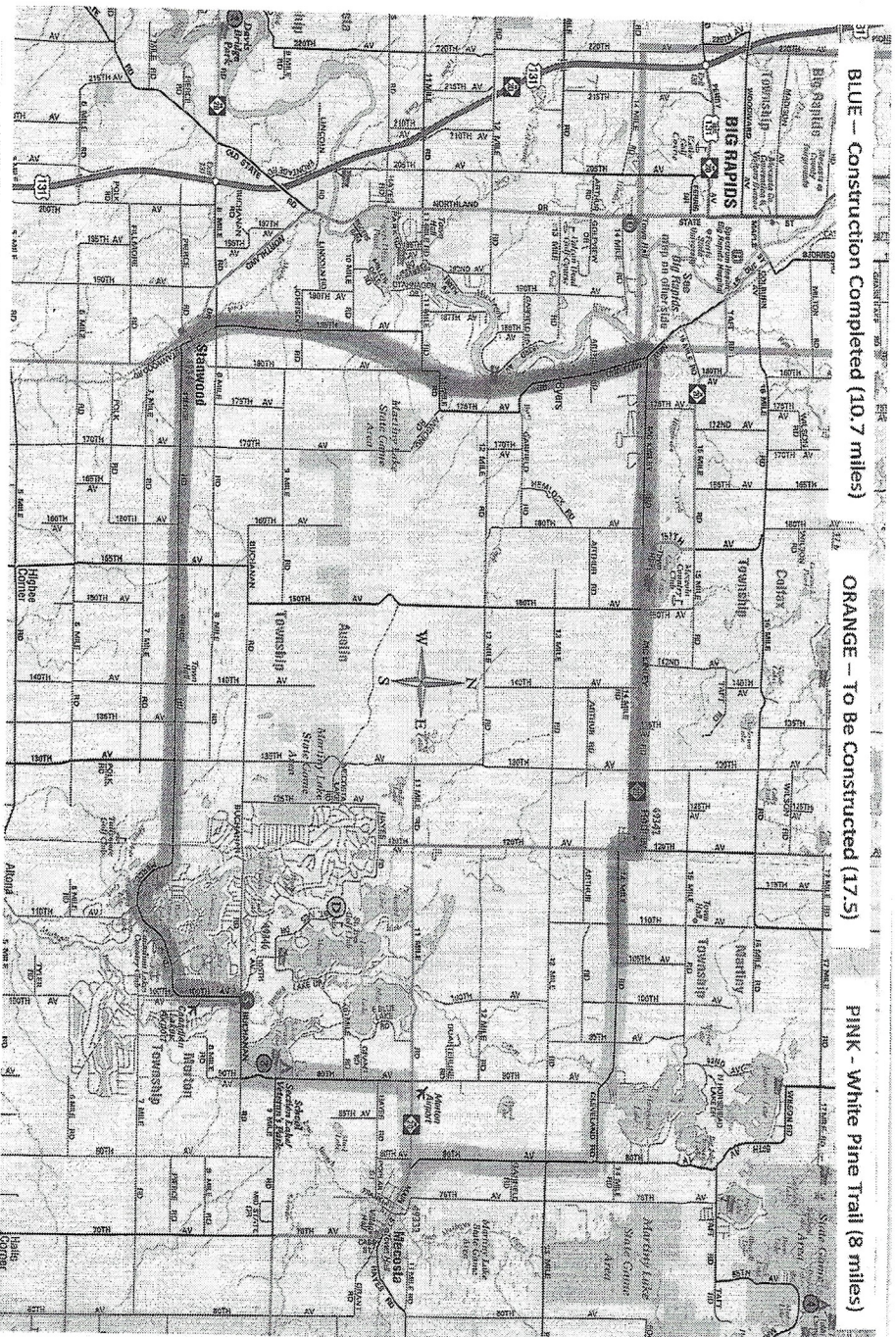


## 80<sup>TH</sup> & 90<sup>TH</sup> Avenue Segments 11 Miles Completed 2018-2021

Morton Township Recreational  
Planning Committee



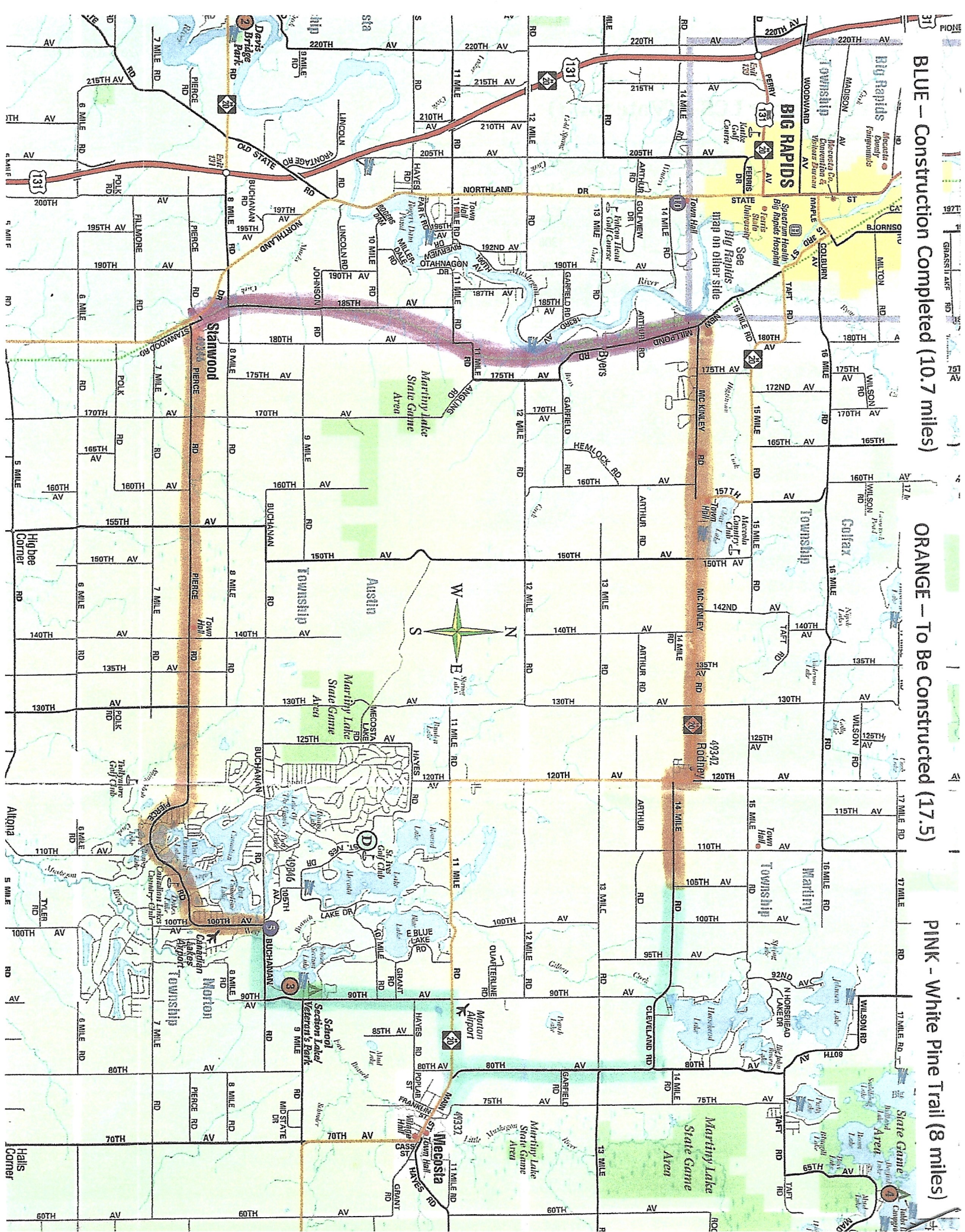
# White Pine Communities Loop



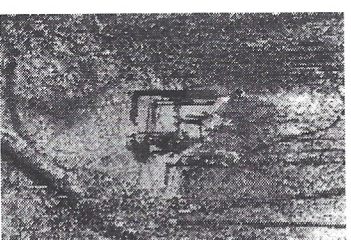
BLUE - Construction Completed (10.7 miles)

ORANGE - To Be Constructed (17.5)

PINK - White Pine Trail (8 miles)



# + Regional Trails in Your Area or Coming Soon



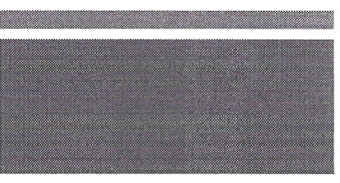
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| ■ Fred Meijer White Pine Trail          | 94 MI |
| ■ Fred Meijer Pere Marquette Trail      | 56 MI |
| ■ Fred Meijer Heartland Trail           | 46 MI |
| ■ Montague Trail State Park             | 22 MI |
| ■ Dragon Trail (d- 50 % complete)       | 47 MI |
| ■ Mid-Michigan Trail Alliance Trail (d) | 32 MI |
| ■ Isabella County (d)                   | 15MI  |

This is just a small sampling of major trails available within one hour of our communities.

D= under development

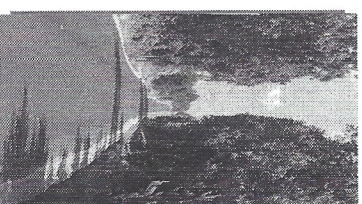
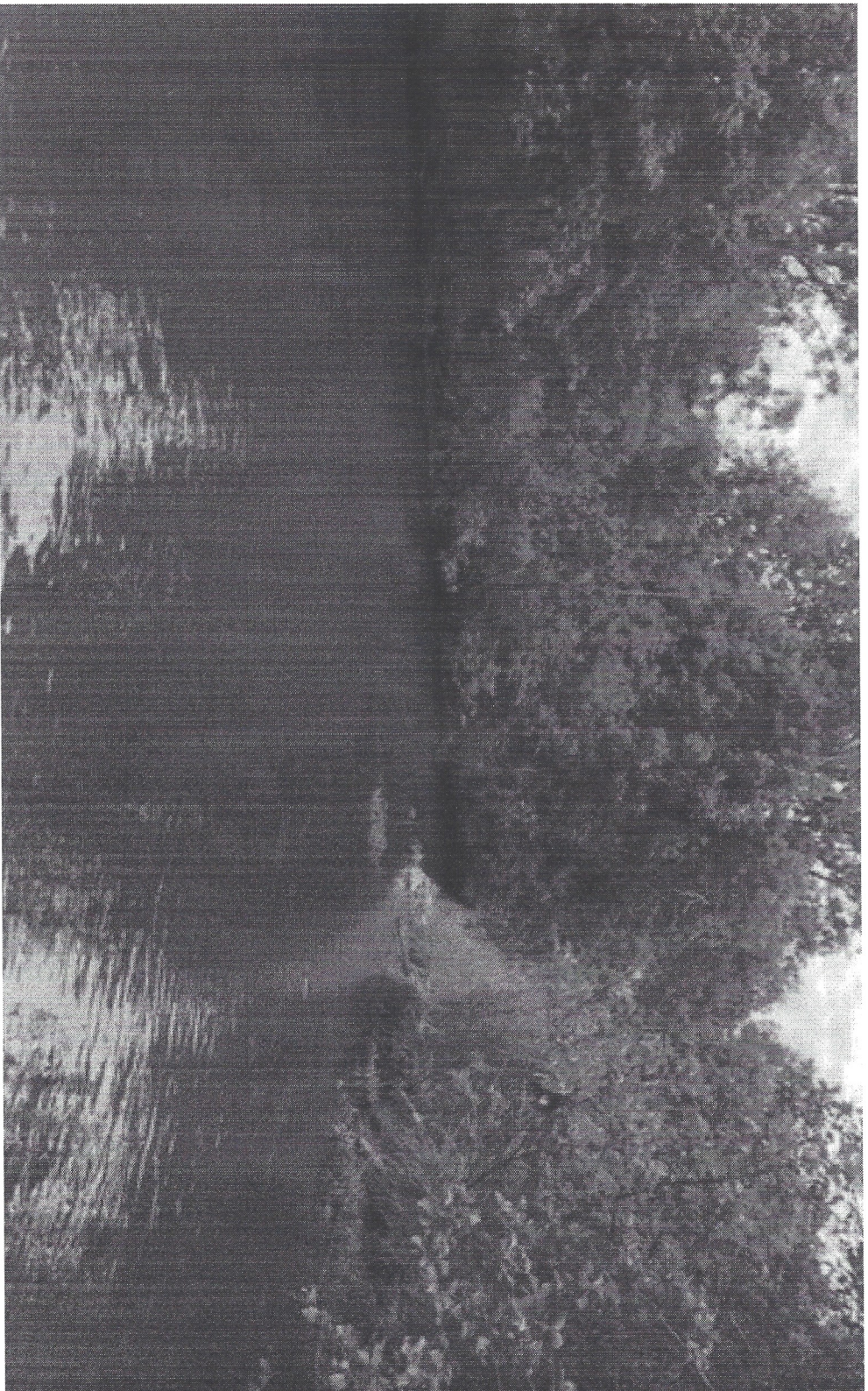
# **+ Cost and Funding Opportunities**

- Cost is approximately \$40,000 / MI.
  - Austin project is 6.4 MI..
- Funding Opportunities
  - Grants from TC Energy, Ice Mountain and others.
  - Governor's \$150M Michigan Rescue Plan for Recreational Projects and similar funding opportunities.
  - Non-motorized Mecosta County Road Commission funds
  - Donations and Fund Raising opportunities.



# + Little Muskegon Water Trail

Keeping 7 Mile to Altona Open and Clean





# Sponsored and Developed by Morton & Martiny Township and the Morton Township Recreational Committee

Presented By:

Stephanie McNeal Morton TWP Clerk.  
[clerk@mortontownship.org](mailto:clerk@mortontownship.org) 231 823-4260

Joe Lisuzzo Recreation Committee  
[jlisuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:jlisuzzo@gmail.com) 248 444-9462

**MORTON TWP. CURRENTLY PROPOSED TWO BIKE LANES TO THE WHITE PINE TRAIL**

**SOUTH BIKE LANE TO STANWOOD – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80<sup>th</sup> Ave. west on M 20 to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 1.0 mile **2021 Construction**

M 20/90<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 Mile Rd. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 2.0 miles **2021 Construction**

90th Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd. - .5 miles **and** 90th Ave./Buchanan Rd. to Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. Ave. (4 way stop – shopping area) - 1.0 mile TOTAL 1.5 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. to Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. TOTAL 4.4 miles

Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. south to 155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. TOTAL .5 miles

155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. west to the White Pine Trail TOTAL 3.0 miles

LENGTH OF SOUTH BIKE LANE – 12.4 Miles

**NORTH BIKE LANE TO BIG RAPIDS – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80th Ave. north to 80th Ave./13 Mile TOTAL 2.0 miles **2018 Construction (Done)**

80th Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. **and** 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.7 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. west to 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.5 miles **2021 Construction**

105<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. to 14 Mile/M 20 (Rodney) TOTAL 1.5 miles **2023 Construction**

14 Mile Rd./M 20 west to M 20/McKinley Rd. (Clear Lake) TOTAL 4.1 miles

M 20/McKinley Rd. west to McKinley Rd./New Millpond Rd. (Blinker Light) and north .1 mile to White Pine Trail TOTAL 2.5 miles

LENGTH OF NORTH BIKE LANE - 13.3 Miles

**TOTAL Length of Both Bike Lanes – 25.7 miles**

**Total Miles Constructed to Date – 5.2 miles**

**Additional Miles of Planned Construction (2021 - 2023) – 6.0 miles**

**MORTON TWP. CURRENTLY PROPOSED TWO BIKE LANES TO THE WHITE PINE TRAIL**

**SOUTH BIKE LANE TO STANWOOD – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80<sup>th</sup> Ave. west on M 20 to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 1.0 mile **2021 Construction**

M 20/90<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 Mile Rd. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 2.0 miles **2021 Construction**

90th Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd. - .5 miles **and** 90th Ave./Buchanan Rd. to Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. Ave. (4 way stop – shopping area) - 1.0 mile TOTAL 1.5 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. to Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. TOTAL 4.4 miles

Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. south to 155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. TOTAL .5 miles

155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. west to the White Pine Trail TOTAL 3.0 miles

LENGTH OF SOUTH BIKE LANE – 12.4 Miles

**NORTH BIKE LANE TO BIG RAPIDS – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80th Ave. north to 80th Ave./13 Mile TOTAL 2.0 miles **2018 Construction (Done)**

80th Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. **and** 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.7 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. west to 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.5 miles **2021 Construction**

105<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. to 14 Mile/M 20 (Rodney) TOTAL 1.5 miles **2023 Construction**

14 Mile Rd./M 20 west to M 20/McKinley Rd. (Clear Lake) TOTAL 4.1 miles

M 20/McKinley Rd. west to McKinley Rd./New Millpond Rd. (Blinker Light) and north .1 mile to White Pine Trail TOTAL 2.5 miles

LENGTH OF NORTH BIKE LANE - 13.3 Miles

**TOTAL Length of Both Bike Lanes – 25.7 miles**

**Total Miles Constructed to Date – 5.2 miles**

**Additional Miles of Planned Construction (2021 - 2023) – 6.0 miles**

**MORTON TWP. CURRENTLY PROPOSED TWO BIKE LANES TO THE WHITE PINE TRAIL**

**SOUTH BIKE LANE TO STANWOOD – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80<sup>th</sup> Ave. west on M 20 to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 1.0 mile **2021 Construction**

M 20/90<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 Mile Rd. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 2.0 miles **2021 Construction**

90th Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd. - .5 miles **and** 90th Ave./Buchanan Rd. to Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. Ave. (4 way stop – shopping area) - 1.0 mile TOTAL 1.5 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. to Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. TOTAL 4.4 miles

Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. south to 155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. TOTAL .5 miles

155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. west to the White Pine Trail TOTAL 3.0 miles

LENGTH OF SOUTH BIKE LANE – 12.4 Miles

**NORTH BIKE LANE TO BIG RAPIDS – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80th Ave. north to 80th Ave./13 Mile TOTAL 2.0 miles **2018 Construction (Done)**

80th Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. **and** 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.7 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. west to 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.5 miles **2021 Construction**

105<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. to 14 Mile/M 20 (Rodney) TOTAL 1.5 miles **2023 Construction**

14 Mile Rd./M 20 west to M 20/McKinley Rd. (Clear Lake) TOTAL 4.1 miles

M 20/McKinley Rd. west to McKinley Rd./New Millpond Rd. (Blinker Light) and north .1 mile to White Pine Trail TOTAL 2.5 miles

LENGTH OF NORTH BIKE LANE - 13.3 Miles

**TOTAL Length of Both Bike Lanes – 25.7 miles**

**Total Miles Constructed to Date – 5.2 miles**

**Additional Miles of Planned Construction (2021 - 2023) – 6.0 miles**

**MORTON TWP. CURRENTLY PROPOSED TWO BIKE LANES TO THE WHITE PINE TRAIL**

**SOUTH BIKE LANE TO STANWOOD – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80<sup>th</sup> Ave. west on M 20 to 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 1.0 mile **2021 Construction**

M 20/90<sup>th</sup> Ave. south on 90<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 9 Mile Rd. – shoulders widen to 4 feet. TOTAL 2.0 miles **2021 Construction**

90th Ave./9 Mile Rd. south to Buchanan Rd. - .5 miles **and** 90th Ave./Buchanan Rd. to Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. Ave. (4 way stop – shopping area) - 1.0 mile TOTAL 1.5 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

Buchanan Rd./100th Ave. to Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. TOTAL 4.4 miles

Buchanan Rd./155th Ave. south to 155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. TOTAL .5 miles

155th Ave./8 Mile Rd. west to the White Pine Trail TOTAL 3.0 miles

LENGTH OF SOUTH BIKE LANE – 12.4 Miles

**NORTH BIKE LANE TO BIG RAPIDS – updated 4/26/21**

M 20/80th Ave. north to 80th Ave./13 Mile TOTAL 2.0 miles **2018 Construction (Done)**

80th Ave./13 Mile Rd. north to 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. **and** 80th Ave./Cleveland Rd. west to 90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. TOTAL 1.7 miles **2019 Construction (Done)**

90th Ave./14 Mile Rd. west to 105<sup>th</sup> Ave. TOTAL 1.5 miles **2021 Construction**

105<sup>th</sup> Ave./14 Mile Rd. to 14 Mile/M 20 (Rodney) TOTAL 1.5 miles **2023 Construction**

14 Mile Rd./M 20 west to M 20/McKinley Rd. (Clear Lake) TOTAL 4.1 miles

M 20/McKinley Rd. west to McKinley Rd./New Millpond Rd. (Blinker Light) and north .1 mile to White Pine Trail TOTAL 2.5 miles

LENGTH OF NORTH BIKE LANE - 13.3 Miles

**TOTAL Length of Both Bike Lanes – 25.7 miles**

**Total Miles Constructed to Date – 5.2 miles**

**Additional Miles of Planned Construction (2021 - 2023) – 6.0 miles**

## **Facts about the White Pine Trail**

The White Pine Trail is part of the old Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad, which went from Richmond, IN to Mackinaw City, MI, with the average age of the WPT section from Grand Rapids to Cadillac, now being over 150 years old!!

This is a 92-mile trail, with Grand Rapids to Sand Lake and Big Rapids to Cadillac paved (63 miles) with 29 miles unpaved. Progress is being made towards the entire trail being paved, as one bad culvert north of Stanwood was replaced last year, two more are going to be repaired and additional engineering work is currently being conducted.

The WPT is one of the Top 100 national Rails-to-Trails, as determined by the National Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

The Trail passes completely through three counties and parts of two others and through 31 municipalities and townships.

The Trail crosses 22 rivers, streams and creeks.

The Trail crosses 167 streets, roads and private drives.

At Stanwood, the WPT is only 3.5 miles west along 8 Mile/M 20 to the Dragon Trail.

## **Facts about the Dragon Trail**

The Dragon Trail is a 47-mile non-motorized mountain bike, hiking and running trail on the 4,000 acre back waters of the Hardy Dam on the Muskegon River.

This trail is being built to International Mountain Biking Association standards and will be widely known in the Midwest and beyond.

By the end of this construction season, half of this trail will be built and open for full use, with funding available for next year's construction of another 10 miles.

The southwest end of this trail is at Hardy Dam itself, with the northeast end at Davis Bridge on M 20. All of the Trail is on Consumers Energy land, as they need to own at least the first 200 feet from the water's edge.

The trail got its name from its shape.

The trail runs through five public parks in both Mecosta and Newaygo counties.

One third of the trail is located in Mecosta County and two-thirds in Newaygo County.

The trail is groomed in the winter for fat tire biking.

You can see water from 80% of the trail, with some spectacular views, including several bridges over creeks and streams.

From: Paul Griffith [psaagriffith@gmail.com](mailto:psaagriffith@gmail.com)  
Subject: White Pine Trail Update

Date: July 26, 2021 at 11:07 AM

To: sharon338@live.com, Art artdiehm@gmail.com, Ashley Dunkel [adunkel@cityofbr.org](mailto:adunkel@cityofbr.org), Dietrich, Benjamin (DNR) [DietrichB3@michigan.gov](mailto:DietrichB3@michigan.gov), bikerbaker33@gmail.com, Connie Koepke [director@bigrapids.org](mailto:director@bigrapids.org), Daniel Valley [valleydaniel.r@gmail.com](mailto:valleydaniel.r@gmail.com), davidskaja [davidskaja@gmail.com](mailto:davidskaja@gmail.com), David Petrakovitz [petroartz@charter.net](mailto:petroartz@charter.net), Deb Ahlich [debahlich@gmail.com](mailto:debahlich@gmail.com), Gene Sperry [gisperry@charter.net](mailto:gisperry@charter.net), ljackr38 [ljackr38@gmail.com](mailto:ljackr38@gmail.com), Joseph Lisuzzo 1 [jlisuzzo@gmail.com](mailto:jlisuzzo@gmail.com), Mark Lagerwey [mark.lagerwey@baker.edu](mailto:mark.lagerwey@baker.edu), Paula Priebe [ppriebe@cityofbr.org](mailto:ppriebe@cityofbr.org)  
Cc: Paul Griffith [psaagriffith@gmail.com](mailto:psaagriffith@gmail.com), Slavin, Scott (DNR) [SlavinS@michigan.gov](mailto:SlavinS@michigan.gov), Zeits, Gary (DNR) [ZeitsG@michigan.gov](mailto:ZeitsG@michigan.gov), David Heyboer [davidjheyboer@gmail.com](mailto:davidjheyboer@gmail.com)

Here is an update on some exciting activities related to the White Pine Trail.

1. Construction began July 1st on replacing the Ashton culvert - the infamous 3/10's of a mile of unpaved trail just south of Ashton and about 5 miles north of Reed City. The construction area was so large, that AT&T had to first splice the backbone fiber optic cable and temporarily relocate it before the construction could begin. I've attached a picture of a small portion of the construction site. Plans are to have this project done by the end October, but hopefully sooner.
2. A new pit toilet has been installed at the E 44 Rd. trailhead south of Cadillac and we're waiting for the arrival of a picnic shelter (just like the one in Tustin), which will be installed south of the pit toilet. These new amenities with connecting sidewalks will greatly enhance this area, thanks to our great partner the Cadillac Rotary, who have donated 50% of the proceeds of their first two White Pine Rides to the Friends of the White Pine Trail and plan to do so again this year, so go to [whitepineride.com](http://whitepineride.com) and check out the details of this October 2nd ride and participate if at all possible!!
3. At the July 19th Big Rapids City Commission meeting, the Commissioners unanimously passed a motion authoring the City Manager to bid up to \$60,000 on an approximate half acre that includes the old Big Rapids Depot, which DNR has owned for 24 years. This online auction will be held August 25th. Earlier this year the City Commission purchased two acres south of the Depot from the DNR. We're hoping the City is successful in the auction and can move forward in developing a site that a wide variety of trail users will be attracted to more extensively use this 92 mile rail-to-trail that dates back 150 years.
4. You may have heard about Governor Whitmer's proposal to use \$250M of American Rescue Plan funds to do backlogged maintenance work in Michigan's State Parks and Trails. Her proposal needs to be negotiated with the Michigan Legislature. The WPT is one of only five "Linear State Parks," so we are hoping that agreement will be reached with all parties that will include the WPT being one of the projects that will receive funding to at least complete the paving of the unpaved 29 miles and hopefully do some other badly needed repairs throughout the trail.
5. Finally, a project meeting for the engineering work of the 29 miles of unpaved trail (Sand Lake (Kent/Montcalm County line) to Big Rapids) is scheduled for August, with the work to begin shortly thereafter, which is great to hear!!

Enjoy this summer weather!!

