



Pentwater Hart Trail End of Year Report

Hello Trail Supporters!

Every year we take steps forward, month by month. While there is significantly more detail to the work completed, I would like to share with you the highlights of what was accomplished this year toward making the Pentwater-Hart Trail a reality.

After reading this report, please consider donating to the Pentwater-Hart Trail if you have not already done so. For those of you that have generously donated throughout the year, we are very grateful and hope you will continue to be a regular donor.

“Our Trail Begins With You”

Donations can be made by using this link:

https://oceana-foundation.org/give/our-funds/?fwp_fund_search=Pentwater%20Hart%20Trail

January 2019

-An important part of trail development is working with the Coordinator for Michigan’s Transportation Alternative Program. In January, we continued our discussions that began in 2018 and confirmed the planned route with our coordinator.

-At the Michigan Trail Summit meeting on January 29th Senator Goeff Hansen was designated as the elected official of the year by the Michigan Parks &

Recreation Association for his work to obtain appropriation money for the Pentwater Hart Trail. This brought us positive notoriety across the state.

February 2019

-Conversations with Hart Township officials focused on the route, including initial approval for the trail to be adjacent to the Hart Cemetery property.

-Conversations with Hart Schools also began, discussing the Safe Route to School program (SRTS). This program offers a win-win for the trail and school. The trail offers safe passage for district students, while the Pentwater-Hart Trail receives a \$400,000 grant.

- An agreement was reached with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the paved shoulder along 6th Street (Monroe Road). This portion of paved shoulders, south of Pentwater to Longbridge Road, are five feet wide. This opportunity to join with MDOT saved the P-H Trail a significant amount of money.

March 2019

- The Trail Committee met to review survey results and the SRTS route.

April 2019

- Planning for SRTS with Hart Schools and planning for the required surveys and bike/walk audits began.

May 2019

-A meeting held with the Michigan State Historic Preservation Office determined that there were no issues related to the portion of the trail near the Hart Cemetery.

-The SRTS bike/walk event and audit occurred.

- A “Tacos for the Trail” fundraising event was very successful and will be an annual event the last Saturday in June.

June 2019

- The Trail Planning Committee met to begin planning for the Transportation Alternative Grant (TAP).
- Pentwater-Hart Trail volunteers participated in Pentwater's Spring Fest to continue to share information for the trail and raise funds.
- A Trail fundraiser, the "Ride through Village" occurred. Following the ride, Clay Summers, Executive Director of Michigan Parks and Recreation, presented Senator Hansen the elected official of the year award.
- A new Trail logo, representing the Trail's multi-use nature, was adopted.

July 2019

- The Trail Planning Committee met to continue work toward the TAP grant.

August 2019

- Pentwater-Hart Trail volunteers participated in the Pentwater Homecoming Parade
- Work toward the Safe Route to School grant continued.

September 2019

- Trail representatives met with Hart School officials to discuss audit results and the proposed route.
- Pentwater-Hart Trail volunteers participated in Fall Fest, again raising funds and building awareness for the Trail effort.

October 2019

- The Trail Committee met with representatives of Townships along the route to determine if any could contribute matching funds.

November 2019

- The Pentwater Hart Trail joined with the Oceana County Road Commission in paying for four-foot paved shoulders on Longbridge Road, to the bridge.

- Trail representatives held a tele-conference with the TAP grant coordinator regarding status and a projected application date.
- Trail representatives met with City and Village Managers and Township and County Supervisors.
- The City of Hart passed a resolution of Trail Support and contributed \$22,500 in matching funds.
- Trail representatives met with Oceana County Parks and Recreation representatives to begin discussing Trail maintenance.

December 2019

- The Village of Pentwater passed resolution of support and contributed \$5,000 in matching funds.
- Oceana County passed a resolution of support.
- Trail representatives met with Hart Township Officials

In addition to these highlights, I would like to acknowledge the Pentwater Hart Trail Planning Committee and Volunteers this year.

Planning Committee

John Wilson-Retired Parks and Recreation Director from Lansing, Illinois. and resident

David Bluhm- Engineer- Fleis & Vanenbrink and resident

Mark Timmer- Manager Oceana County Road Commission

Tammy Carey-Director Community Foundation for Oceana County

Consultant- Steve DeBranbender-Shoreline Development Assistance

Volunteers of 2019

Sue Squire, Carrie Robertson, Brad Bradely, Julie Burdick, Nancy and Frank Arvai, Rande and Dan Listerman,

Thank You All Trail Supporters!

Sincerely,

Claudia Ressel-Hodan Psy.D.

Chair Pentwater Hart Trail

www.pentwaterharttrail.com