

DNR Trails

Connectivity and Trail Management

July 27, 2022





DNR Parks and Recreation

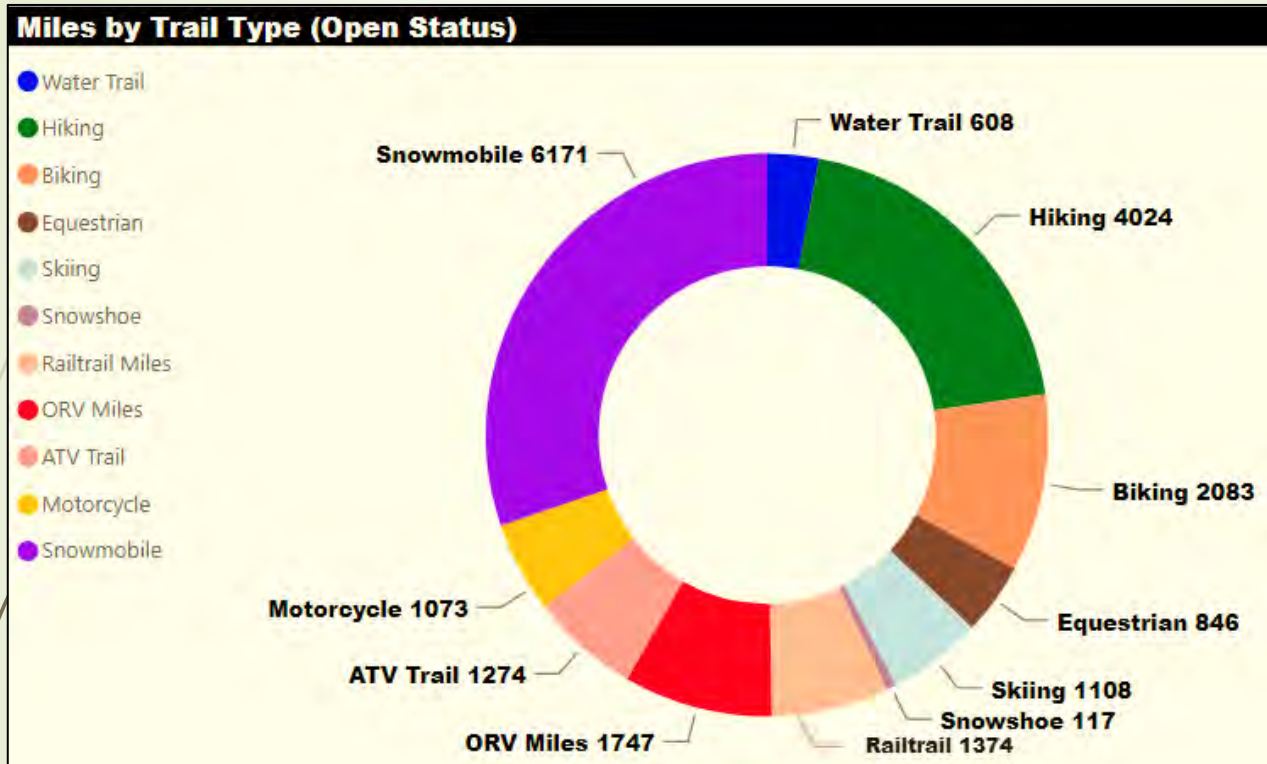
- 352,000 acres
- 103 State Parks
- 1,800 Boating Access Sites
- 13,000 miles of Trails
- 139 State Forest Campgrounds
- Outdoor Adventure Center
- Ralph A. MacMullen Conference Center
- Historic Sites

State Designated Trails



Michigan.gov/DNRtrails

Michigan: The Trails State



Use Category	Miles
Both	1020.9
Motorized	7757.2
Non-Motorized	4766.9
Total	13545.0

Peninsula	Miles
Lower Peninsula	8311.8
Upper Peninsula	5233.2
Total	13545.0

- Total State Designated Trails – 13,545 miles
- DNR land types – parks, forests, and game areas
- Management partners include volunteers, clubs, and local municipalities
- DNR regularly receives input from five trail advisory groups

DNR Trail Regions



2022-2023 Trails Plan



Outcomes

- Quality trail experiences and resource management
- Public stewardship
- Community and economic prosperity

Themes

- Strong emphasis on strengthening and creating partnerships
- Utilizing and aligning currently available resources
- Generating studies and data to guide decision making



DNR Trails Plan Goals

Goal I: Sustainable Maintenance and Development

Manage Michigan's state-designated trails system to sustainably maintain and improve existing conditions while supporting the DNR's long-term natural and cultural resource management goals.

Goal II: Funding

Develop and refine funding structures to ensure state-designated trails provide quality recreation and transportation experiences.

Goal III: Planning and Collaboration

Model trail planning best practices to maintain and improve strong relationships and partnerships with the public, stakeholders and other governmental agencies.

Goal IV: Marketing, Promotion, and Education

Michigan's diverse trail opportunities to residents and visitors, accurately depicting experiences found throughout the state.

Building a Trail

Who is involved?

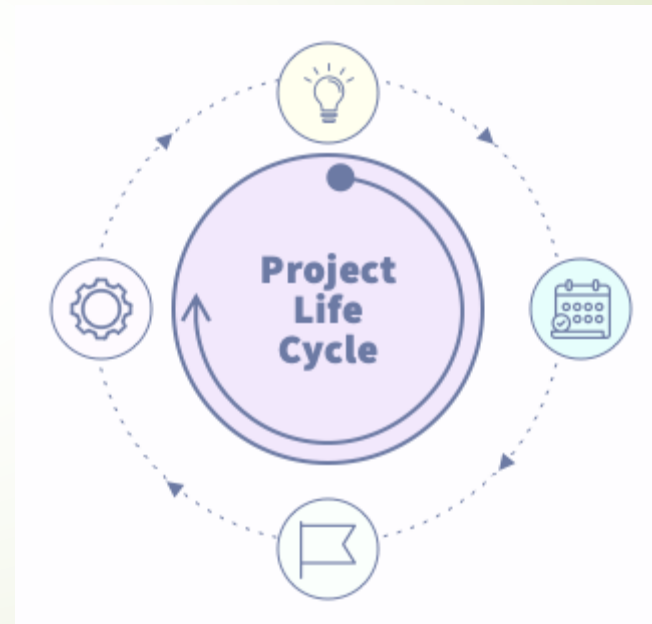
- Local Agencies
- State Agencies
- Partners
- Stakeholders

Leveraging partners and funding



Trail Lifecycle

- Idea → Community Input
- Planning/Feasibility
- Design/Engineering
- Construction
- Maintenance



Trail Funding

Design Funding

- Local, private, some grant sources

Construction Funding

- Grants and local match/private funds





Funding Sources

- ▶ Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (DNR)
 - Land acquisition and development, \$300,000 max
- ▶ Recreation Passport Grants (DNR)
- ▶ Land and Water Conservation Fund (DNR)
- ▶ Transportation Alternatives Program (MDOT)
 - Trails with transportation value
 - Development only, larger projects
- ▶ Snowmobile and Off-Road Vehicle Trail Grants (DNR)
- ▶ Private Fundraising

Emerging Trends and Issues

- Increase in demand for recreation
- E-bikes and electric devices
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion
- Aging infrastructure
- Trail Etiquette



Promoting Positive Interaction

- ▶ Smile, say “Hi”
- ▶ Clear Communication
- ▶ Respectful Speed
- ▶ Keep it simple, keep it positive
- ▶ Understand the needs of other trail users





STOP

SPEAK

SMILE

Events and Use Permits

State Parks and Trails are great locations for events!



Permit required for special event/commercial use of DNR trails and State Parks

- Visit: [Michigan.gov/dnrlanduse](https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/landuse)

Questions?

Contact Information

Dakota Hewlett
Nonmotorized Trails
Grant Coordinator
Hewlettd@michigan.gov

Links

Michigan.gov/DNRtrails

Michigan.gov/DNRgrants

Michigan.gov/DNRlanduse

