



**West Michigan Trails – Spring Trail Summit, West Area**  
**March 20, 2024 2:00pm – 4:30 pm**  
**Kent County Parks Department**  
**1700 Butterworth Street, SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49534**

## Attendance:

Kate Tepstra, Coopersville North Bank Trail	Dan Callum, Outdoor Discovery Center
Dennis Luce, Coopersville North Bank Trail	Brian Mulligan, Ken County Parks
Rick Sprague, KCRC	Leah Groya, Planning Consultant (via web)
Ben Swayze, Kent County Parks	Megan Motil, Parallel Solutions
Scott Post, Prein+Newhof	Norm Cox, The Greenway Collaborative
John Arendshorst, Varnum LLP	Carolyn Prudhomme, The Greenway Collaborative
Todd Olson, Cannon Township	Jennifer Antel, West Michigan Trails
Rick Chaplin, Consultant	John Morrison, West Michigan Trails
Aaron Bodbyl-Mast, Ottawa County Parks	
Mara Gericke, Metro Council	

## Meeting Notes:

- **Macatawa Trail:** Designate as Active Planning.
- **Regional Parks:** Ottawa County offered to provide information on other regionally significant parks. Follow up with Aaron.
- **Fred Meijer Kenowa Trail:** Efforts ongoing to close the gap through Byron Township.
- **Muskegon Area New Trail Developments:** Trails planned between Muskegon Heights and Dune Harbor, and Duck Lake to Muskegon State Park.
- **Idema Explorers Trail:** Update to include recent construction. Follow up with Aaron on alignment.
- **Grand River Greenway:** Routing update required. Follow up with Ben on trail routing plan.



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- **Add Conceptual Railroad Connection in Grand Rapids** Proposed addition between Grand River and Ada following railroad. It has been turned down in the past, but worth keeping in for future opportunities.
- **Side Path Upgrades:** Request for recommended cross-sections for upgrading existing side paths, such as Lakeshore Drive, to align with current best practices. Emphasized the potential appeal of urban trails if designed effectively, citing Joe Louis Greenway as an example.
- **Redundancy of Trails:** Discussion on the value of the loop between Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, despite existing redundancy. Highlighted the need for additional bridges to connect the north and south sides of the river.
- **Norton Shores Development:** Norton Shores is progressing with the connection between Grand Haven and Muskegon.
- **Desire for Information Sharing:** Participants expressed interest in convening a larger meeting to share best practices, including topics such as e-bikes and trail regulations.
- **Meeting Materials:** PowerPoint and recording to be distributed to participants.



WEST MICHIGAN  
*trails*

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## Meeting Survey Results:

### What Trail Are You Most Closely Affiliated With?

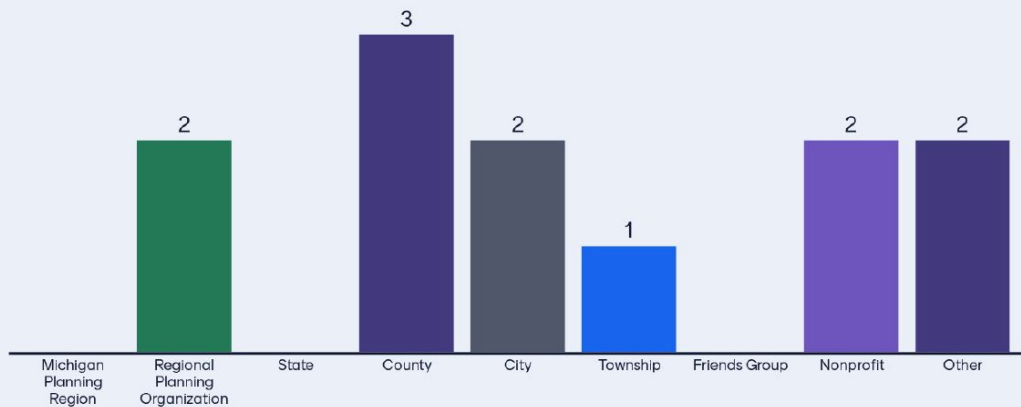
15 responses

kent and ottawa systems  
cannon township  
macatawa river greenway  
north bank trail idema explorers trail  
reeds lake trail **kent trails**  
m-6 trail white pine trail  
several others nbt  
grand river greenway  
i help many communities  
kent county



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## What Type of Organization Are You With?



## What three words best describe a world-class trail experience? 25 responses





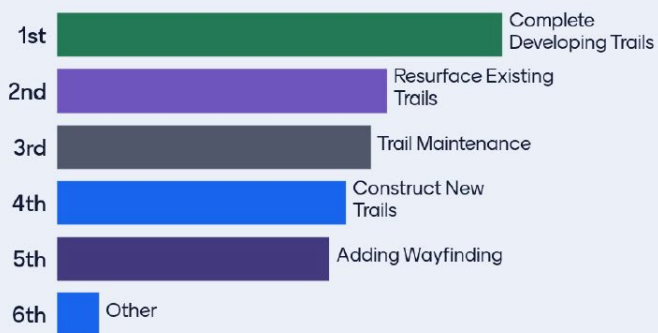
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### What three words best describe a regional trail system?

34 responses



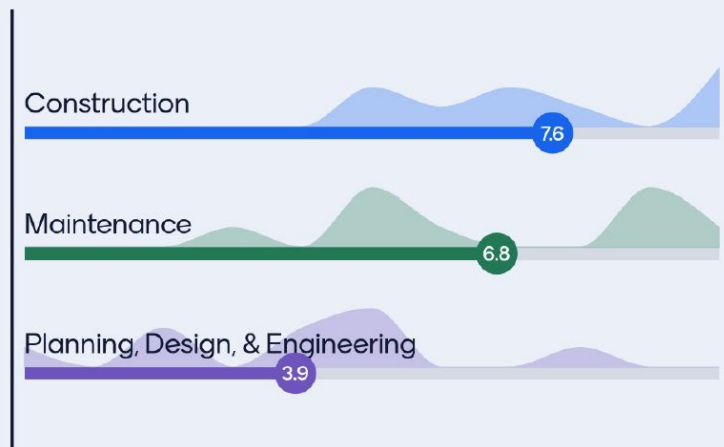
### How Would You Prioritize Spending Trail Dollars?





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## How Difficult is it to Obtain Funding For:



## What Is Your Biggest Non-Funding Related Roadblock in Developing Trails?

21 responses

