



# EQUINE TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE (ETS)

## Meeting Minutes

Lansing, Michigan

March 12, 2025

1:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### Welcome – Roll Call

#### EQUINE TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE (ETS):

- Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf, Chairperson
- Jenny Cook, Vice Chairperson
- Dug Jordan (Virtual)
- Brandy Miller
- Anna Lee
- Sam Norman (Virtual)

#### DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

- Tim Novak, Annalisa Centofanti, Scott Slavin, Sage Hegdal, Paige Perry, Nicole Hunt, Lee Maynard, Jill Sell, Dave Merk, Greg Kinser, Blake Gingrich, Earl Flegler, Griselda Trevino

### Meeting minutes

#### ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Motion is made to approve Sept. 11, 2024, and Nov. 13, 2024, draft minutes made by Brandy Miller and seconded by Jenny Cook. With all in favor, **motion carried**.

Motion is made to add agenda item "DEI Presentation" by Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf and seconded by Jenny Cook. With all in favor, **motion carried**.

Motion is made to approve modified March 12, 2025, agenda by Jenny Cook and seconded by Brandy Miller. With all in favor, **motion carried**.

## PUBLIC COMMENT (none)

## BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### CRITERIA TO CLOSE EQUESTRIAN TRAIL

#### Nicole Hunt, DNR

As the result of a recent proposed Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) identifying state designated equestrian trails, additional dialogue to include the criteria for short-term, long-term, and permanent trail closures is needed. (**SEE ATTACHED DRAFT**)

Anna Lee questioned if a long-term temporary closure can be provisioned under a sunset termination clause when the reason for closure no longer exists. Nicole Hunt will check into this.

Sage Hegdal, DNR suggested adding mining to the list. Greg Kinser, DNR, proposed to combine timber and mining, land management phase activities into one category.

Sage Hegdal, DNR, suggested to adding language as to how the trail will be reopen after closure. Nicole Hunt stated this language is not necessary for reroutes and can be addressed under normal operations.

### CAPITAL OUTLAY

#### Scott Pratt, DNR

Capital Outlay & Special Facilities Dollars Update.

Scott Pratt, DNR, reported that staff recently received an estimate for the concession stand at Metamora Recreation Area, and it came in higher than expected. As a result, staff will be reallocating those funds back into the *Special Facilities* budget and reviewing our high-priority project list, including equestrian projects. Once we meet internally, we should have a clearer breakdown of which equestrian projects will receive funding. While this isn't the ideal outcome, the good news is that we are getting some dollars back this fiscal year that can be used for other priority projects. More details to come after our review.

### ETS MISSION STATEMENT REVIEW AND VOTE

#### Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf

*"ETS works in collaboration with and to advise the DNR, MTAC, SAW, ORVAW and NAW and represents equestrian organizations, volunteers, and the public to promote, protect, maintain and enhance access to high-quality equestrian trail and camping experiences in Michigan."*

Motion is made to approve ETS statement as presented by Jenny cook and seconded by Anna Lee. With all in favor, motion carried.

## **ETS BY-LAWS / REVIEW**

### **Tim Novak, DNR**

ETS members reviewed the draft by-laws and have the following comments:

- Amy; add working with other groups along with MTAC
  - Work in collaboration with other MTAC workgroups to advance trails throughout the state
- Vacancy will be appointed according to EQ MCL
- Amy; add language on sub-committees making a recommendation for MTAC appointment by majority vote
- Tim; move section 5 to section 4 under article III (membership)
- Amy; add ETS and NAW work together on nonmotorized trails use etiquette, trail designation, maintenance, and signage in Michigan
- Anna Lee; add and any other issues that pertain to nonmotorized trails
- Anna Lee; add meeting section #4 policy: provided by the DNR
- Anna Lee; add article 6; section II change to they (remove he/she)
- Tim; meeting section 2: attendance amend to 2 consecutive meetings
- Provide clarity and details on issuing an absent notice
- Change all workgroup reference to committee
- Sage the way the board composition is written does not introduce flexibility for diversity (Nicole Hunt will research the MCL language to see if there is flexibility for this statement of staffing and funding by user groups or interested persons). Nicole Hunt mentioned you can include a reference in the by-laws for the allowance of members and that they will be non-voting.

Tim Novak will update the draft and distribute to committee for review prior to the May ETS meeting.

## **EQUESTRIAN DESIGN GUIDE**

### **Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf**

*(see attached)*

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf mentioned that horse groups and trail users requested corrals the most when questioned about equestrian designs.

## **MICHIGAN HORSE TRAILS DIRECTORY UPDATES**

### **Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf**

Amy has updated the Michigan Horse Trails Directory website, and it now includes detailed descriptions, which used to be only found on Facebook. These added descriptions include amenities at camps, locations, and GIS maps. Everything needed to have a fun and safe experience.

## **TRAILS BUILDING LAW & POLICY TEXTBOOK (MSU)**

**Anna Lee**

The textbook is complete and can be downloaded in PDF format or purchase a hard copy.

[TRAIL BUILDING LAW & POLICY](#)

## **TRAIL OUTREACH**

**Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf/Jenny Cook**

- Outdoor Skill Academy (Cadillac / March 22
- Ortonville Ride into Camping Weekend / May 31-June 1
- Trail Encounters Clinics / April 26 & May 10
- OAC Trail EXPO / April 26 (Detroit)

## **DNR DEI PRESENTATION**

**Griselda Trevino, DNR**

DNR grant programs offered to under-represented youth in Michigan provide opportunities for youth to engage in natural resource conservation and outdoor recreational activities. The Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) and LEAF are great examples where the DNR has provided educational and hands on experiences focused on natural resource conservation skillsets and career paths. These are done through skills training, outdoor recreation opportunities, career prep workshops, park clean-up and small park projects. The goal is to get youth more involved through volunteering, learning new skills, more educated on green spaces, ultimately taking an interest in preserving natural resources as a career path.

Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf said this does this create opportunities to have these groups involved in smaller horse projects followed up by a horse trail ride.

## **UPDATES**

### **ETS REGIONAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Jenny Cook** – see attached report.

**Brandy Miller** - see attached report.

**Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf**- see attached report.

**Sam Norman** - see attached report.

**Dug Jordan** – see attached report.

**Anna Lee** - see attached report.

### **Workgroup Subcommittee Updates**

#### **Nonmotorized Maintenance and Funding Workgroup**

**Amy Scharmen-Burgdolf**

*(see attached report- Amy's Q1 report)*

**Nonmotorized Signage Workgroup**

**Stephanie Swanberg**

*(see attached report)*

**EBIKE TRAIL SURVEY**

**Tim Novak, DNR**

The DNR is working with MSU students to analyze and compile the current survey results. The survey will remain open during the summer.

**2025 MEETING DATES**

- May 13 (RAM Center)
- September 10 (TBD)
- November 5 (Grayling Twp. Hall)

**ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING COMMENTS**

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

**324.72115 Pack and saddle animals; access to pack and saddle trails on public land; restrictions.**

(1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), pack and saddle animals shall be allowed to access pack and saddle trails on public land managed by the department as follows:

(a) Access on land of the state forest system is allowed unless restricted by statute, deed restriction, land use order, or other legal mechanism, in effect on April 2, 2010.

(b) Access on land of the state park system or state game area system is prohibited unless authorized by land use order or other legal mechanism in effect on April 2, 2010.

(c) Access on other land managed by the department is allowed according to the specific authorization or restriction applicable to the land.

(2) Access by pack and saddle animals may only be restricted on lands described in subsection (1) after April 2, 2010 if conditions are not suitable for pack and saddle animals because of public safety concerns, necessary maintenance, or for reasons related to the mission of the department. Restrictions related to the mission of the department shall be supported, to the greatest extent practicable, by a written science-based rationale that is supported with documentation that is made available to the public. Prior to determining that access by pack and saddle animals be restricted, the department shall make every effort to resolve any public safety or maintenance concerns. Subject to subsection (3), the department shall not restrict pack and saddle animals from lands described in subsection (1) unless all of the following conditions are met:

(a) The department holds a public meeting on a proposal to restrict access by pack and saddle animals on pack and saddle trails to receive testimony from the general public. The department shall invite the advisory council and the equine trails subcommittee created in section 72110a to attend the meeting.

(b) The department, after considering testimony at the meeting under subdivision (a), provides a specific rationale for its determination to restrict access by pack and saddle animals.

(c) Any decision by the department to restrict access by pack and saddle animals shall not take effect for a period of time set by the department, but not less than 60 days. However, if the director determines that a restriction must be imposed because of user conflicts or due to an imminent threat to public health, safety, welfare, or to natural resources or the environment, the director may issue a temporary order restricting access by pack and saddle animals for 30 days or until the threat or user conflict is abated. A temporary order under this subdivision may be reissued if the threat or user conflict persists.

(d) A written statement shall be posted at the trailhead in which the restriction is imposed stating the cause and estimated duration of the closure.

(e) A list of pack and saddle trails on which the department has restricted access for pack and saddle animals, including temporary orders, shall be posted on the department's website and notification shall be provided to the equine trails subcommittee created in section 72110a.

(3) Any restrictions described in subsection (1) on access by pack and saddle animals that were in effect on April 2, 2010 shall remain in effect until those restrictions are reviewed using the process under subsection (2).

(4) An individual shall not use pack and saddle animals on state-owned land except on pack and saddle trails that are open for access by pack and saddle animals. However, an individual

may use a pack and saddle animal in an area in which public hunting is permitted to retrieve legally harvested deer, bear, or elk using the most direct route that does not enter a stream, river, or wetland except over a bridge, culvert, or similar structure.

Short-term temporary closure shall be any closure that is anticipated to be less than a year.

Long-term temporary closure shall be any closure that is anticipated to be over a year.

Permanent closure of a trail system shall be the closure of a complete trail system resulting in removal of designation.

Reroutes or short-term temporary closures of a segment of a trail because of maintenance would not trigger the requirements of this section.

Permanent closure of a trail system, a long-term temporary closure, and/or a short-term temporary closure that exceeds the one-year period would trigger the requirements of this section.

- Criteria for permanent closure of a segment of a trail system.
  - User conflict
  - Danger on the trail system that cannot be resolved through maintenance and management
  - Closure of one segment of a trail system when other segments within the trail system exist that retain access to the area.
  - Presence of archeological, cultural, or T&E in the area of the trail system.
  - Court Order or other legal requirement.
- Criteria for conditions not being suitable for pack and saddle animals because of public safety concerns requiring a long-term temporary closure or permanent closure of a trail system.
  - trail erosion
  - condition of a bridge
  - severe storm damage
  - Fluctuating water levels anticipated to last longer than a year
- Criteria constitute necessary maintenance requiring a long-term temporary closure or permanent closure of a trail system.
  - trail erosion
  - bridge conditions
  - severe storm damage
  - Planned trail improvements anticipated to last longer than a year
  - Fluctuating water levels anticipated to impact the trail for longer than a year
- Criteria constituting Department mission related reasons requiring a long-term temporary closure or permanent closure of a trail system.
  - T&E

- cultural or archeological significance
- User conflict
- Timber harvest/prescribed burn
- For any Department mission related reasons for a long-term temporary or permanent closure of a trail system – criteria satisfy the requirement of “supported, to the greatest extent practicable, by a written science-based rationale that is supported with documentation that is made available to the public.”
  - Safety/user conflict – written report documenting the conflict and the aspects of safety due to the concern, summary of committee input on the identified conflict and proposal for closure, summary of public input on the identified conflict and proposal for closure.
  - T&E, cultural, archeological – written report identifying presence of any of those items on the trail that cannot be addressed with a reroute.
  - Court Order or legal requirement – Written Court Opinion or written legal analysis requiring closure.
  - Timber harvest/prescribed fire activities where the closure is anticipated to be longer than one year – Compartment review documentation.

Closure is not appropriate when development occurs on a trail segment/system modifying the use of the developed area. (i.e. development of a GEM on a trail system)

# **BYLAWS OF THE EQUINE TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE**

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Equine Trails Subcommittee (ETS), herein referred to as “The Committee.”

## **ARTICLE II - PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Committee is to:

- Advise and make recommendations to the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC), the Trails Section of the Parks & Recreation Division, the Chief of the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Director of the DNR on state-designated equine trail development, management, stewardship, funding, and planning issues.
- Seek the development of a broad variety of programs, facilities, and services for citizens utilizing state-designated equine trails.
- Inform and educate the public about the importance of, and need for, Michigan’s equine trails.
- Strive to involve citizens in the planning and development of Michigan’s equine trails.
- Advise on financial planning and pursue adequate budget support for Michigan’s equine trails.
- Evaluate the state’s equine trail programs, including their facilities, services, and relationships to ensure that the committee’s goals and objectives are being achieved.

## **ARTICLE III - COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

### Section 1: Composition

The Committee shall consist of the following members appointed by the director:

1 individual representing the state's tourism industry.

5 individuals representing the equine industry as follows:

- 1 individual from the Upper Peninsula.
- 1 individual from the northern Lower Peninsula.
- 1 individual from the central Lower Peninsula.
- 1 individual from the southeastern Lower Peninsula.
- 1 individual from the southwestern Lower Peninsula.

The senate majority leader and the speaker of the house of representatives shall each submit a list of 3 persons to the director. The director shall appoint at least 1 person from each of those lists.

The members of the committee should consist of a broad geographic representation of the state and a diverse representation of the populace.

**Qualifications:**

- 1) Geographic location
- 2) Personal or professional familiarity with off-road vehicle and motorcycle trails
- 3) Outdoor recreation organizational involvement
- 4) Other public service or advisory board experience
- 5) Assessment of their reason for serving

**Section 2: Compensation**

Members shall serve without pay. Members of the committee may be reimbursed for their actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties as members of the committee pursuant to established guidelines.

**Section 3: Terms**

Committee members shall serve a term of four years, unless otherwise noted in their appointment letter, as directed by the Director of the DNR.

**ARTICLE IV - OFFICERS**

**Section 1: Title and Number**

The elective officers of the committee shall be a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

**Section 2: Election**

The officers shall be appointed by a majority vote of the Committee. The officers will remain for the duration of the appointee's term, until the officer willingly steps down, or until a majority vote of the Committee for removal occurs. If the officer is reappointed to the Committee by the Director of the DNR after the expiration of their term, they will also need to be reappointed to the officer position by a majority vote of the Committee.

**Section 3: Chairperson**

The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the committee, appoint sub-committees, and perform all duties generally pertaining to the office of the Chairperson.

**Section 4: Vice-Chairperson**

The Vice-Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in their absence.

### Section 5: Vacancy

The Director of the DNR and Chief of Parks and Recreation will select a member to fill a committee vacancy. A person so appointed shall serve for the remainder of the term or until otherwise noted in their appointment letter.

## **ARTICLE V – MEETINGS**

### Section 1: Number

The committee shall meet a minimum of four times per year that coincide, if possible, with regularly scheduled NRC meetings and other trail advisory committee meetings.

### Section 2: Special Meetings

Special meetings may be called by the Chairperson with at least 48-hours' notice.

### Section 3: Quorum

A majority of the appointed members of the committee at the time of the meeting constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the committee. Vacancies shall not impact the committee's ability to transact business.

### Section 4: Policy Position

All proposed policy positions shall be sent to the committee members at least one week in advance of the next scheduled meeting. Electronic mailings are acceptable.

### Section 5: Emergency Resolutions

The adoption of emergency resolutions - those not sent out one week prior to a scheduled meeting shall require the approval of three-fourths of those constituting a quorum.

### Section 6: Official Records

The official records of the committee shall be kept by and at the offices of the Department of Natural Resources. A writing prepared, owned, used in the possession of or retained by the committee in the performance of an official function is subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

### Section 7: Notice

Notice of all meetings of the committee shall follow the notification procedures consistent with those of the Natural Resources Commission. Minutes of the previous meeting shall be submitted to the committee members prior to the next meeting.

### Section 8: Open Meetings

The business that the committee may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

### Section 9: Conduct

Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the committee, except as provided in the adopted bylaws.

## **ARTICLE VI - REMOVAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

### Section 1: Removal

The committee or the DNR may remove a member of the committee for incompetence, dereliction of duty, malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance in office, or any other good cause. Removal may occur upon a majority vote of the members or under the direction of the Director or the Parks & Recreation Division Chief.

### Section 2: Non-Attendance at Meetings

An individual shall be removed from the committee if he or she does not attend three consecutive meetings of the committee.

## **ARTICLE VII - AMENDMENTS**

These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Committee at a meeting at which a quorum is present, provided that the proposed amendment is circulated to the members at least ten days in advance of the regular or special meetings at which the members are to vote.



MICHIGAN  
**HORSE  
TRAILS**  
ASSOCIATION

# EQUESTRIAN AMENITIES DESIGN GUIDE



# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

## 1. BRIDGE:

- A. Wooden bridge: drawing with pictures and material list - Ortonville

## 2. CORRALS

- A. Wooden Corral: drawing with pictures and material list – Ortonville
- B. Pipe Corral
  - 1) Covered Metal pipe corral: pictures - Fort Custer
  - 2) Metal pipe corral: Ionia
    - a) Countyline 12 ft. Heavy Duty Tube Panel with 6ft. Gate - Tractor Supply Co.
    - b) JLGate.com for bulk purchases
    - c) 6” Gravel Base raised and sloped for drainage

## 3. HITCHING POST:

- A. Wooden hitching post: drawing with picture and material list- Ortonville

## 4. KIOSK:

- A. Wooden kiosk: drawing with pictures, material list and estimate – Yankee Springs

## 5. MANURE BUNKER:

- A. Wooden bunker: drawing with material list – Ortonville

## 6. MOUNTING BLOCK:

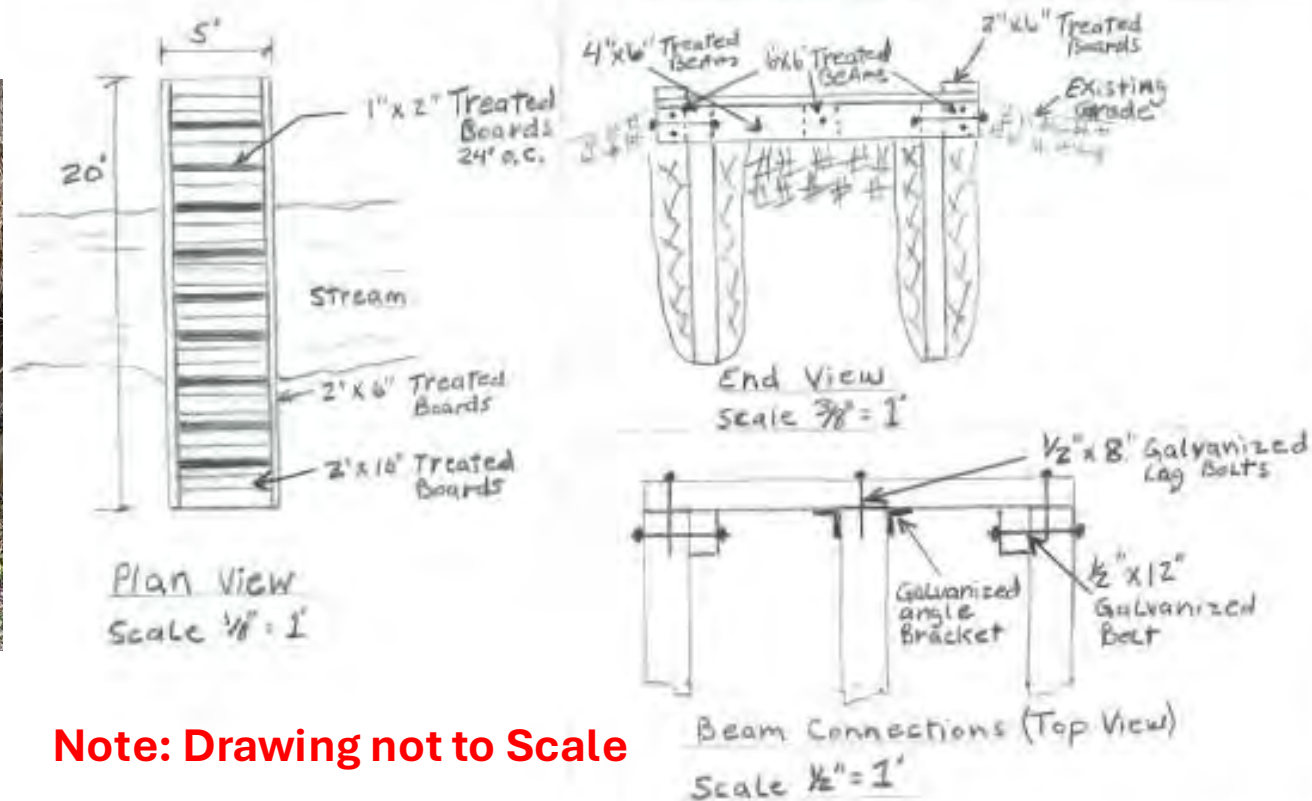
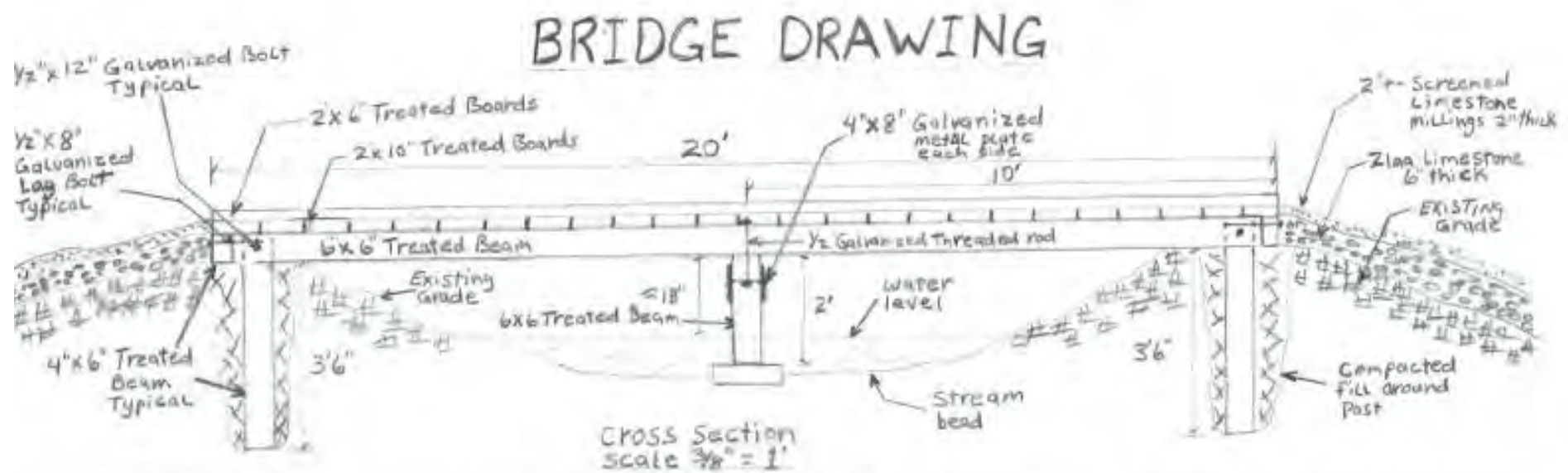
- A. Wooden 4-riser: drawing with pictures and material list - Ortonville
- B. Wooden 4 & 5-riser with platform: pictures and material list - Waterloo

## 7. PICKET POLES: Drawing with material list - Vendors: Local Lumber Yard, McBain Forest Products in West Branch, Consumers/DTE

# TABLE OF CONTENTS cont. :

- 8. RAMP STREAM CROSSING:
  - A. Stone ramp: drawing with pictures and material list - Ortonville
- 9. STEPS STREAM CROSSING:
  - A. Wooden steps: drawing with pictures and material list - Ortonville
- 10. TRAFFIC CROSSING LIGHTS: Equine height button is set at about 70”
- 11. TAIL REPAIR:
  - A. Drawing and pictures

# Ortonville Bridge



## Material List:

1. 3- 6"x6"x20' Treated Beams
2. 2- 4"x6"x8' Treated Beams
3. 1- 4"x6"x10' Treated Beam
4. 1- 6"x6"x12' Treated Beam
5. 13- 2"x10"x10' Treated Boards
6. 4- 2"x6"x10' Treated Boards
7. 5- 1"x2"x10' Treated Boards
8. 4- 6"x6" Angle Brackets (Galv)
9. 4- 4"x8" Metal Plates (Galv)
10. 10- 1/2"x8" Galv. Lag Bolts
11. 4- 1/2"x12" Galv. Bolts
12. 24- 1/2" Galv. Washers
13. 2- 1/2"x14" Galv. Threaded Rod
14. ≈ 275- 3 1/2" 10 Gauge Star drive Coated Screws

Date: 12-18-24 SC

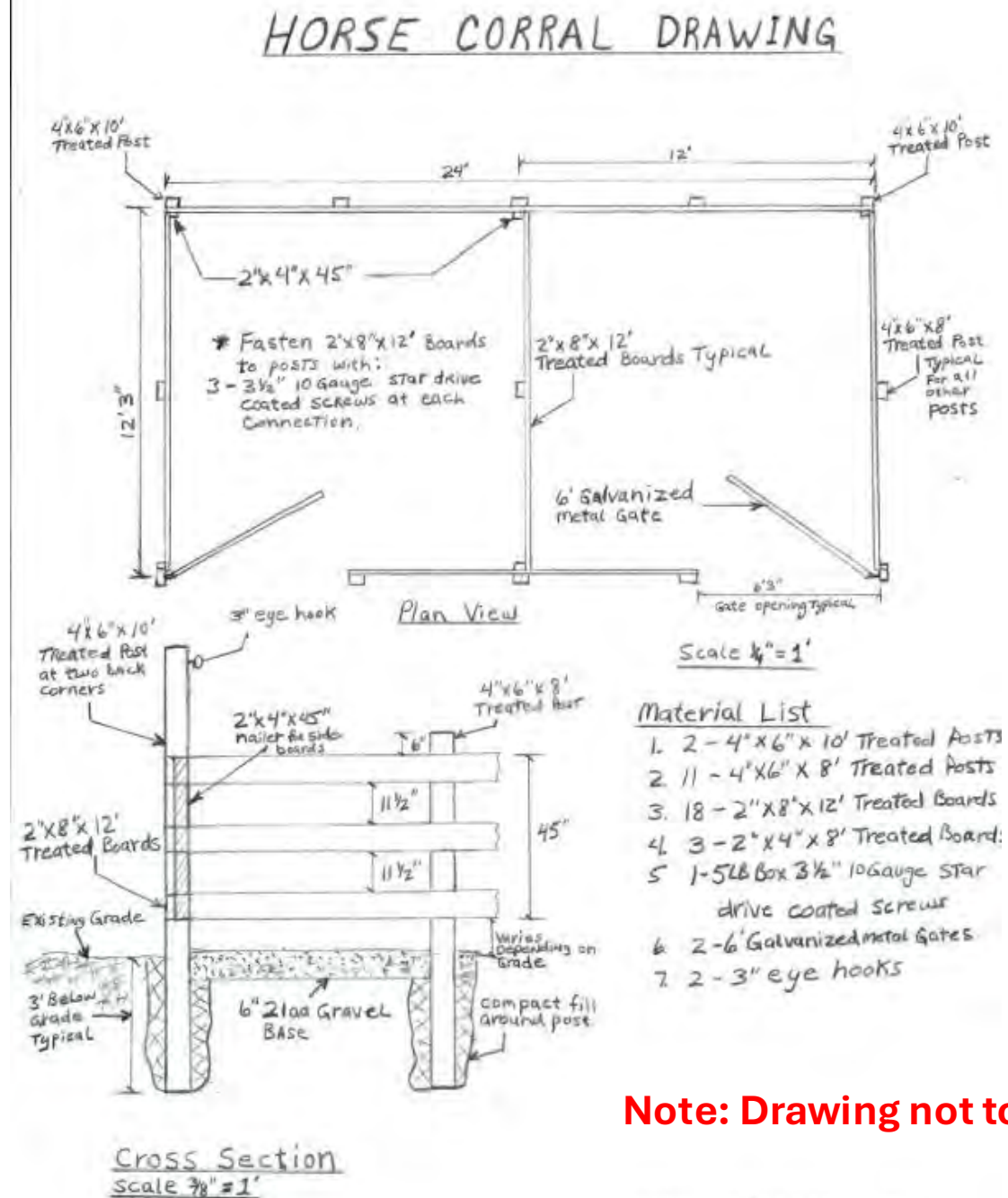
**Note: Drawing not to Scale**



# Ortonville Bridge



# Ortonville Corrals



**Note: Drawing not to Scale**

Date: 6-5-2024 SC

# Ortonville Corral Pictures 1 of 2



# Ortonville Corral Pictures 2 OF 2



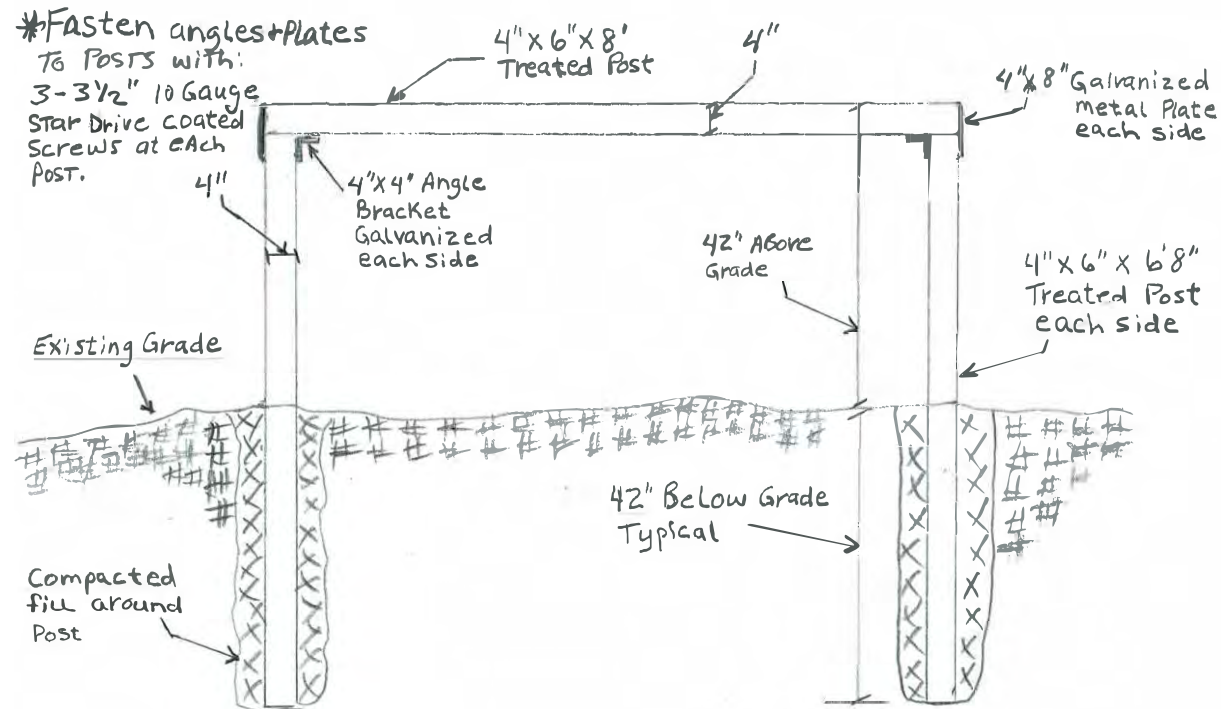
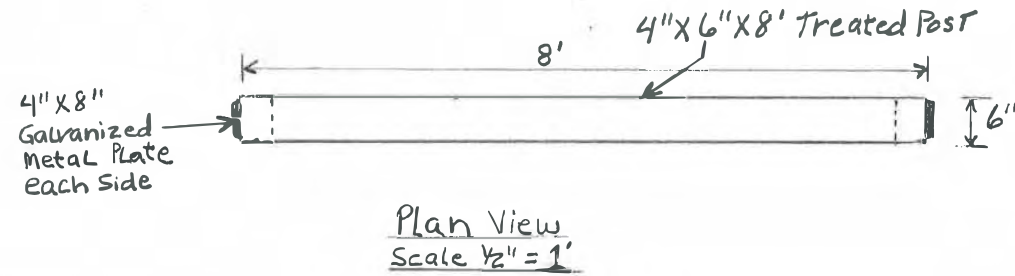
# Fort Custer Corrals

Gate and Heavy-Duty Tarp cover from Shelter Logic



# Ortonville Hitching Post

## Hitching Post Drawing



Cross Section  
Scale  $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$

### Material List

1. 3 - 4\" x 6\" x 8' Treated Post
2. 2 - 4\" x 4\" Galvanized Angle Bracket
3. 2 - 4\" x 8\" Galvanized Metal Plate
4. 24 - 3 1/2\" 10 Gauge Star Drive Coated screws

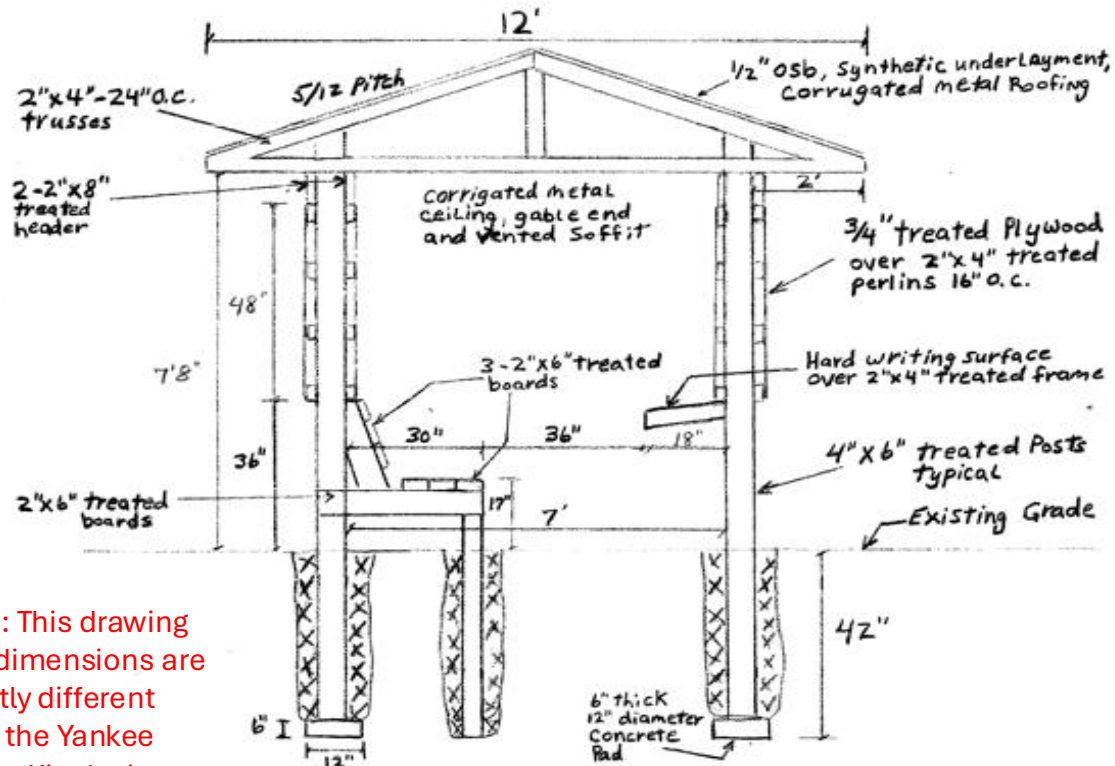
**Note: Drawing not to Scale**

Date: 11-22-24 SC

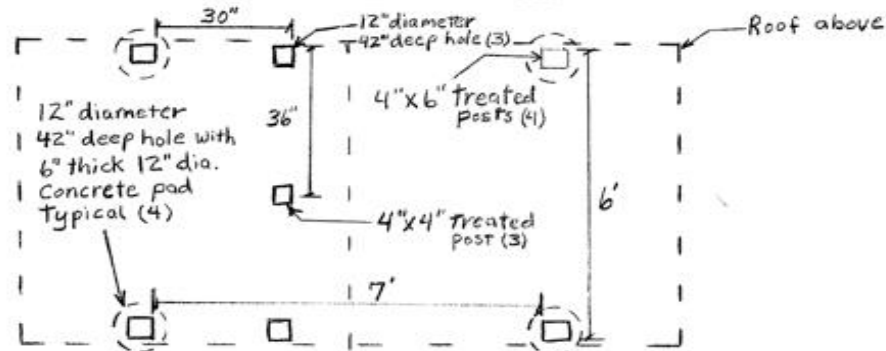
# Ortonville Hitching Post



# Kiosk Drawing



cross section scale:  $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'$



Foundation Plan scale:  $\frac{3}{8}'' = 1'$

Date: 1-25-25 SC

## KIOSK Material List and Estimate

Cost of materials based on online research January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025

		Price	TOTAL
1.	8' metal roof ridge vent	10'	45.51
2.	14' Metals Ridge vent closure strips	2"x3'	5.42x5
3.	6 - 36"x8' Corrugated metal roof panel	red	43.01x6
4.	2 - 3' inside closure strip foam small rib roof	4 pack	6.82x2
5.	1 1/2 "wood screws #10 galvanized (Metal Roof)	250 in box	34.47
6.	91 SQ FT synthetic underlayment	4'x250'	69.97
7.	T50 3/8" Leg x 3/8" 506IP galvanized staples	5,000	12.97
8.	4 - 1/2" 4'x8' OSB		14.88x4
9.	5# box 2 1/2" 8D galvanized nails		23.98
10.	4 - 12' Common Trusses with 5/12 pitch		48.99x4
11.	2 - 12' End Frame Trusses with 5/12 pitch		54.99x2
12.	26' metal gable rake flashing	10'	39.45x3
13.	14' metal eaves flashing	10'	24.13x2
14.	26' metal fascia on gable ends	2'	20.48x3
15.	14' metal fascia on sides	12'	20.48x2
16.	2' wide vented soffit (14')	12'x11.5"	17.43x3
17.	30' SQ FT corrugated metal siding for gable	3'x8'	41.47x2
18.	64 SQ FT metal non vent ceiling material	16"x144"	27.48x3
19.	4 - 3/4" 4'x8' treated plywood		50.38x4
20.	26 - 2"x4"x8' treated boards		5.78x26
21.	2 - 2"x10"x8' treated boards		15.98x2
22.	4 - 2"x8"x8' treated boards		11.48x4
23.	3 - 2"x6"x12' treated boards		13.48x3
24.	3 - 2"x6"x 8' treated boards		8.78x3
25.	1 - 4'x4' hard surface board for writing (Formica)		48.38
26.	8 - 1/2"x10" galvanized bolts	10 Pack	39.35
27.	16 - 1/2" galvanized washers		.45x16
28.	8 - 1/2" galvanized nuts		.55x8
29.	4 - 4"x6"x14' treated posts	16'	40.98x4
30.	2 - 4"x4"x10' treated posts		27.58x2
31.	8 - 80# bags of Concrete		5.98x8
32.	2 - 5# box nails 3 1/2 "galvanized		24.23x2
33.	2 - 5# box 3 1/2" 10 gauged star drive coated screws		29.97x2
Total estimate.			\$2,308.95

Note: This drawing and dimensions are slightly different from the Yankee Spring Kiosk pictures

Note: Drawings not to scale

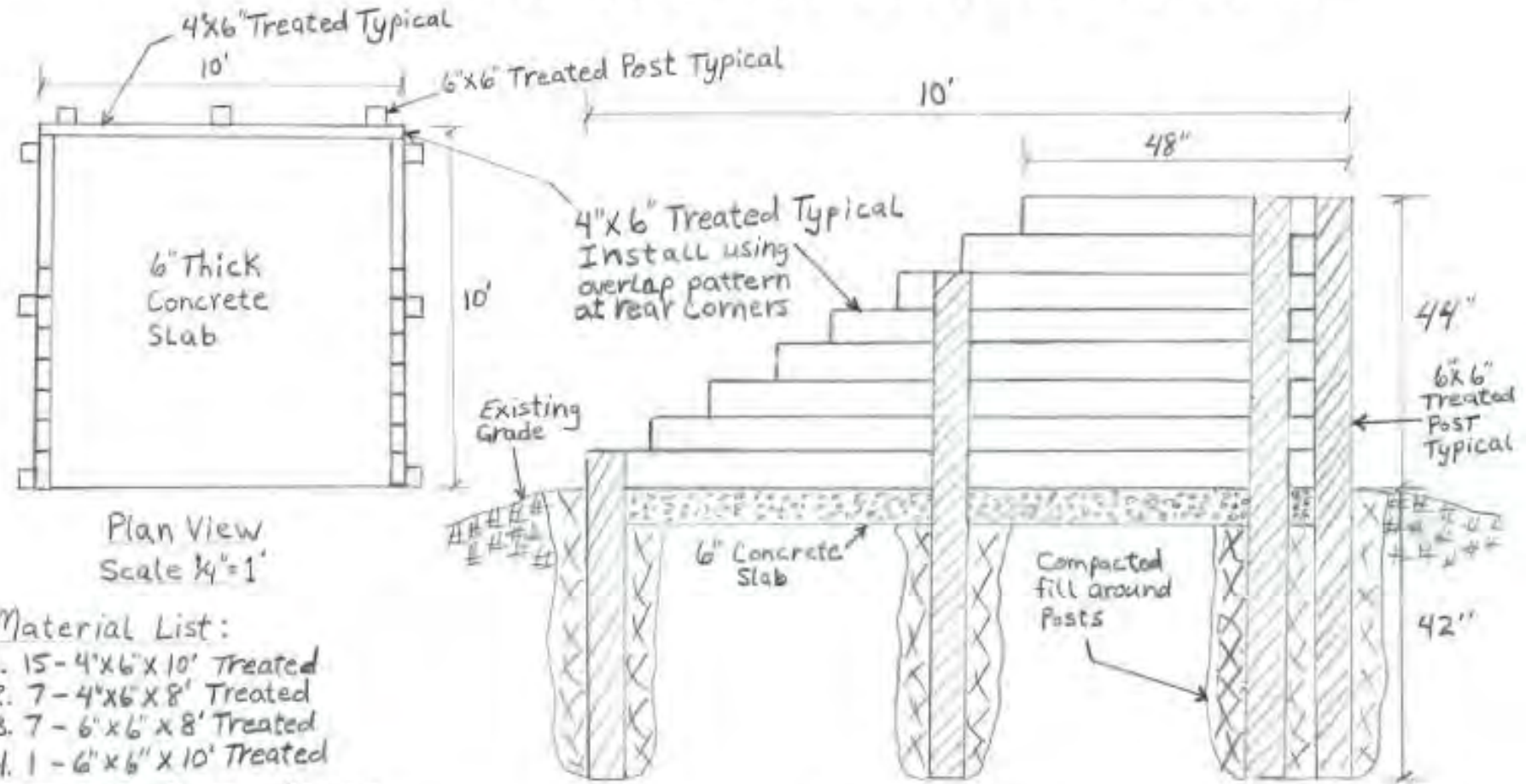


# Yankee Springs Kiosk



# Ortonville Manure Bunker

## MANURE BUNKER DRAWING



Plan View  
Scale  $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'$

### Material List:

1. 15 - 4'x6'x10' Treated
2. 7 - 4'x6'x8' Treated
3. 7 - 6'x6'x8' Treated
4. 1 - 6'x6'x10' Treated
5.  $\approx$  240 - Fasten Master  
8" Timber Loc  
Hex Head Screws  
or Equivalent
6.  $\approx$  2 yds of concrete
7. 2 - 2'x6'x12' > Form material  
2 - 2'x6'x10'

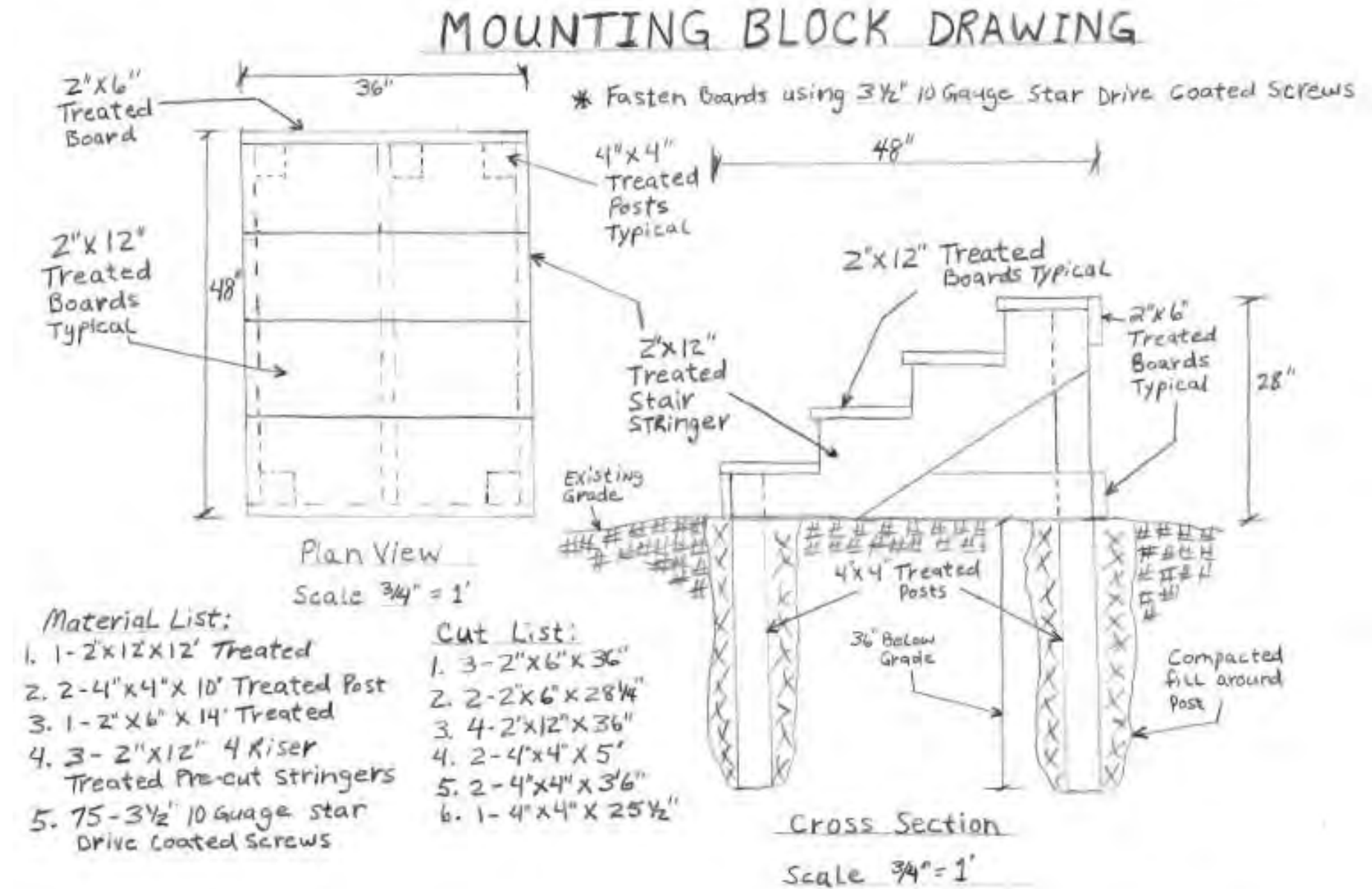
Cross Section  
Scale  $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'$

Note: Manure Bunker size can be modified to your specific situation. Materials should be used for durability and longevity

**Note: Drawing not to Scale**

Date: 11-25-24 SC

# Ortonville Mounting Block



Note: Drawing not to Scale

Date: 11-23-24 SC

# Ortonville Mounting Block



# Waterloo Mounting Blocks

## Waterloo 5 Riser Mounting Block Materials:

1. 5 - 4"x6"x10' Treated posts
2. 2 - 4"x6"x8' Treated posts
3. 8 - 5/4"x6"x16' Treated deck boards
4. 9 - 2"x6"x12' Treated boards
5. 3 - 2"x6"x10' Treated boards
6. 1 - 2"x8"x10' Treated board
7. 34 - 2"x2"x42" Treated wood balusters
8. 5 - 5 Riser treated stringers

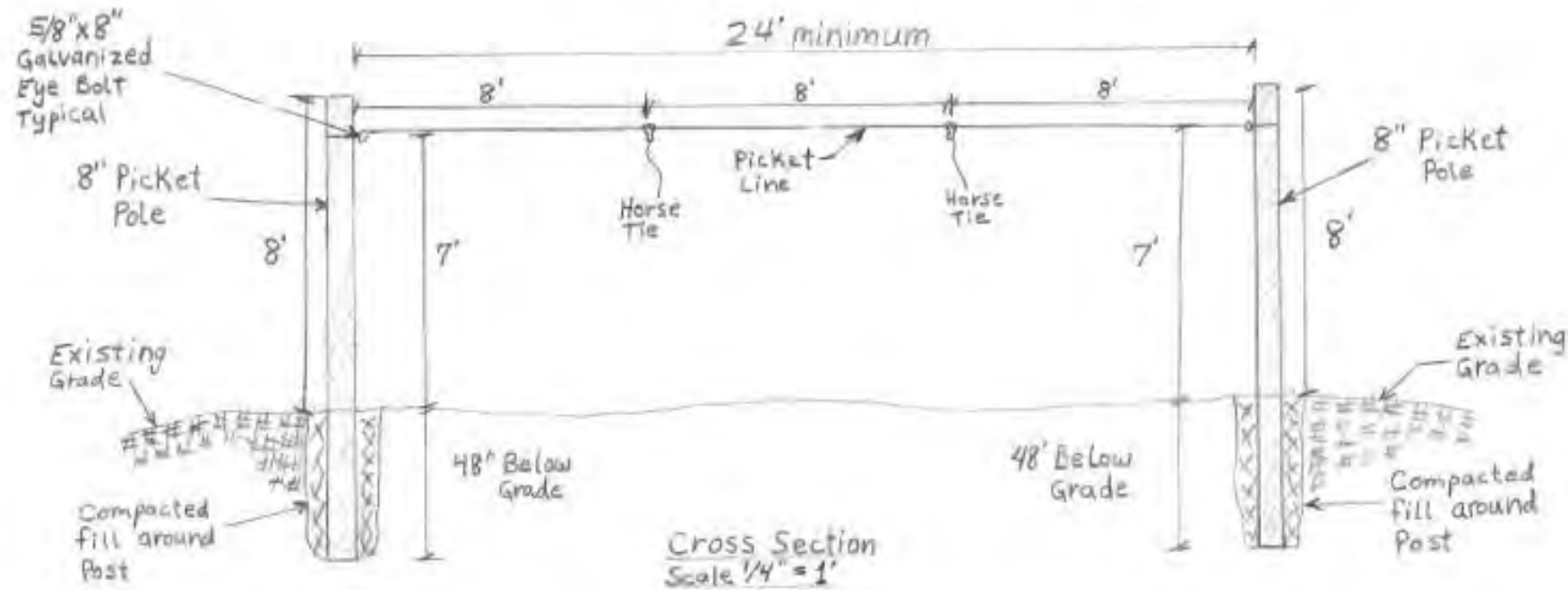


## Waterloo 4 Riser Mounting Block Materials:

1. 4 - 4"x6"x10' Treated posts
2. 3 - 4"x6"x8' Treated posts
3. 9 - 5/4"x6"x16' Treated deck boards
4. 6 - 2"x6"x12' Treated boards
5. 4 - 2"x6"x10' Treated boards
6. 1 - 2"x8"x10' Treated board
7. 35 - 2"x2"x42" Treated wood balusters
8. 5 - 4 Riser treated stringers



# PICKET POLE DRAWING



## Material List:

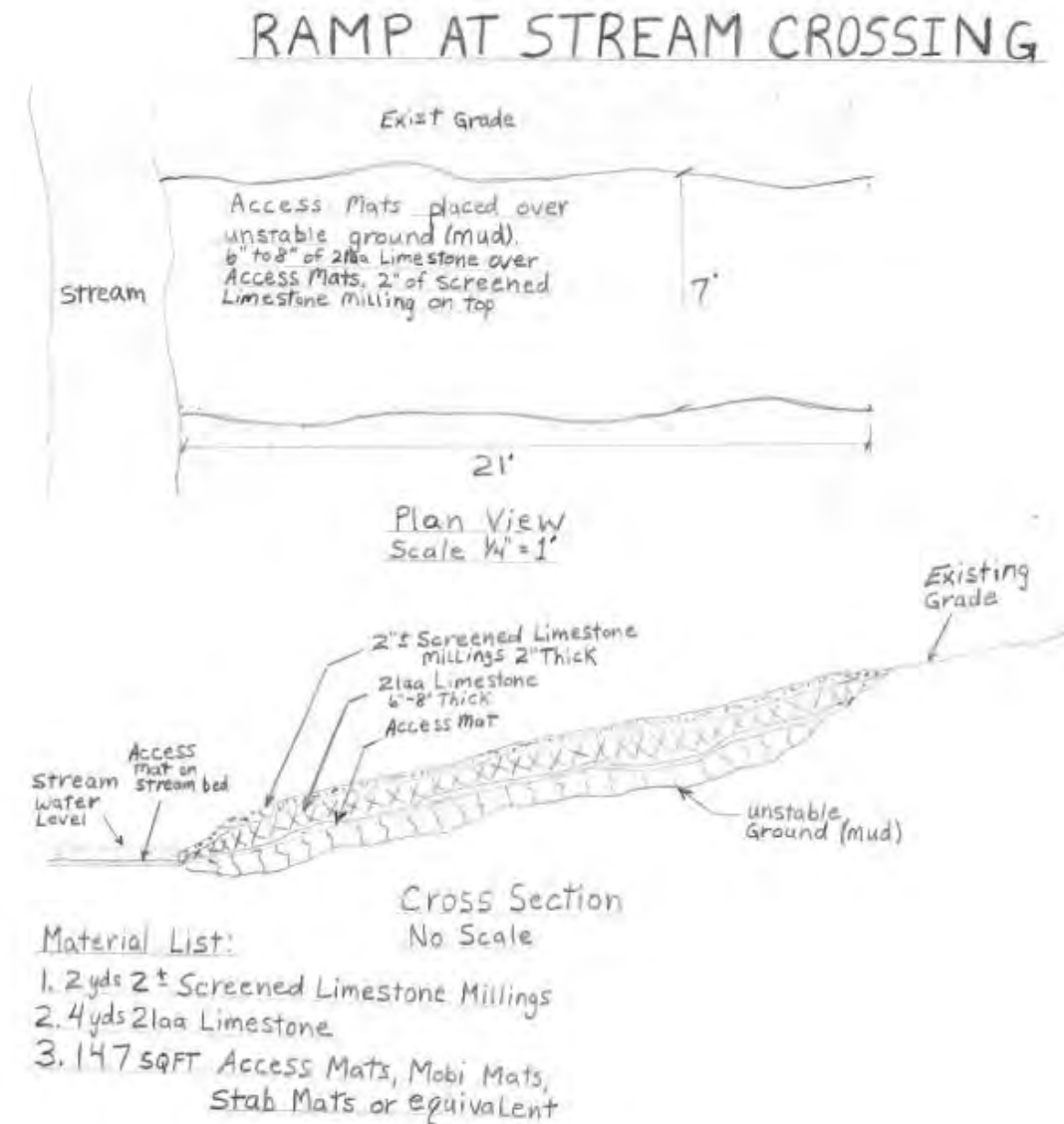
1. 2- 8"x8"x12' Treated Post or 8" Diameter Treated Pole
2. 2- 5/8" x 8" Galvanized Eye Bolt

Note: It is recommended that horses are tied at least 8' from the picket poles and at least 8' from another horse. Drawing designed for two horses between picket poles.

**Note: Drawing not to Scale**

Date: 11-26-24 SC

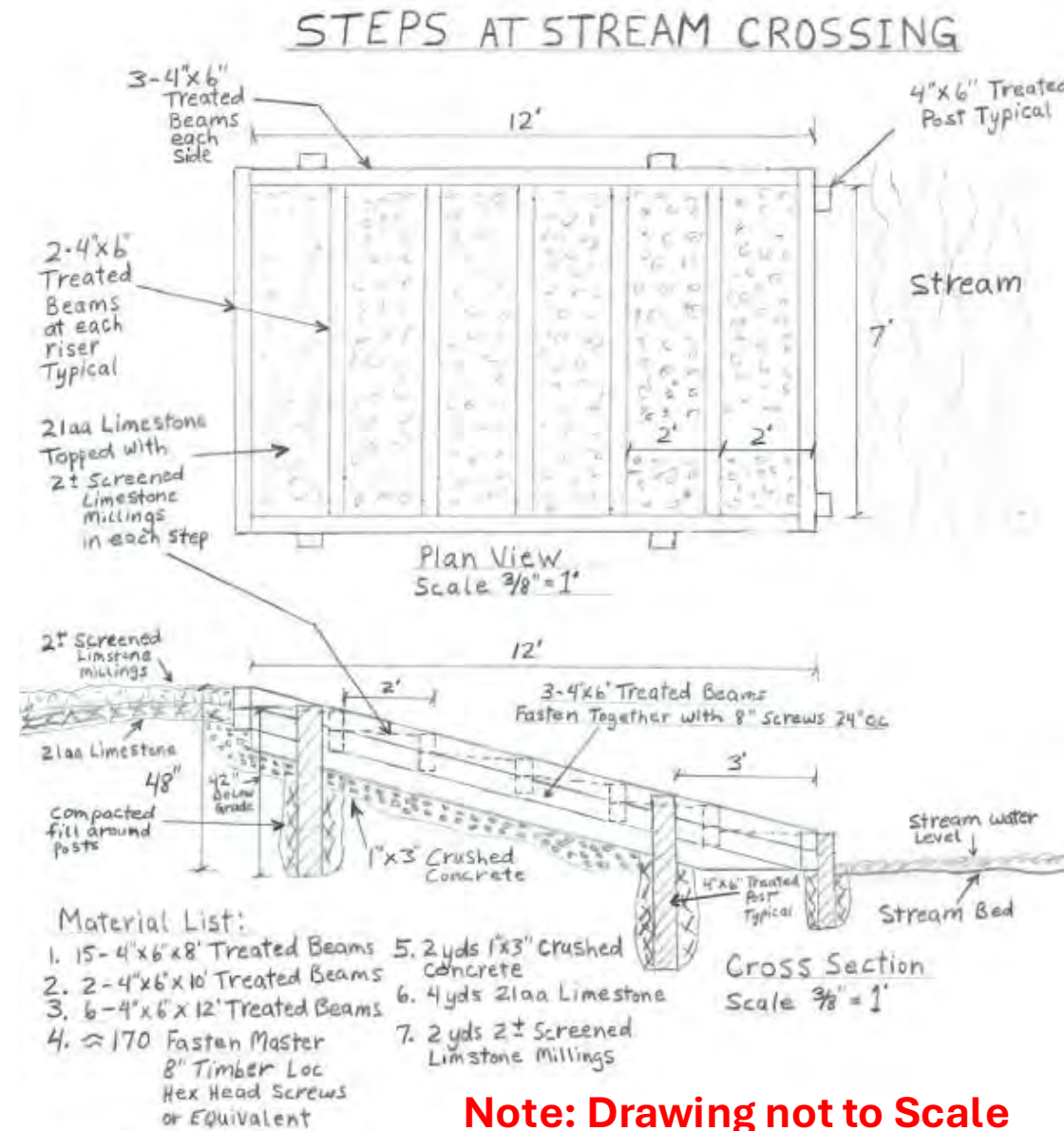
# Ortonville Ramp at Stream Crossing



**Note: Drawing not to Scale**

Date: 11-27-24 Sc

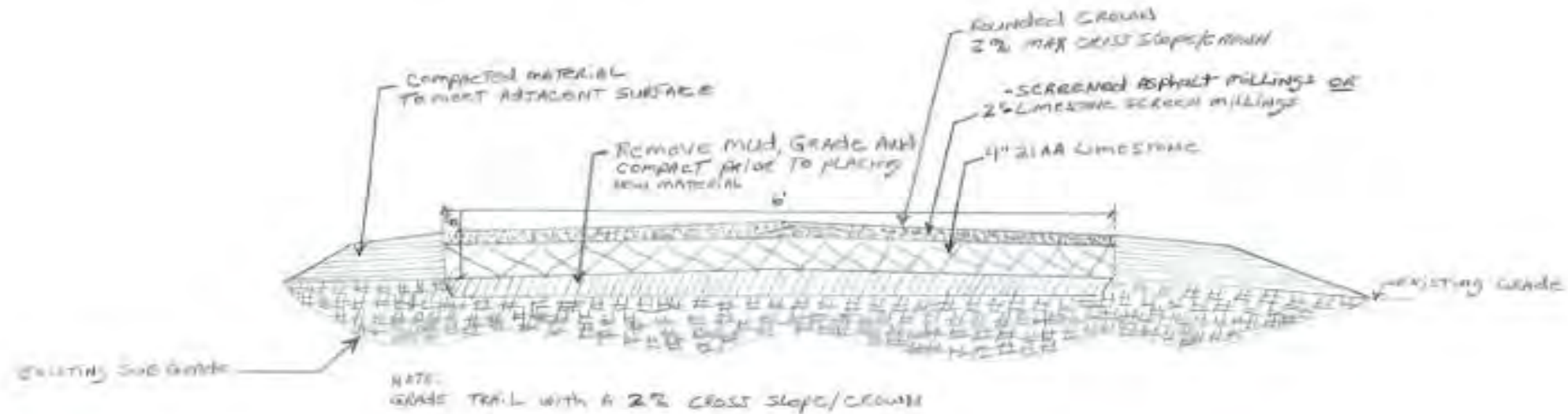
# Ortonville Steps at Stream Crossing



Note: Step design should be modified to your specific situation. However, the materials and construction methods should be used for durability and longevity.

Date: 11-27-24 SC

## TYPICAL CROSS SECTION FOR TRAIL REPAIRS



SECTION  
TYPICAL TRAIL CROSS SECTION  
NO SCALE

# Ortonville Recreation Area Equestrian Trail Improvements

# Ortonville Recreation Area Equestrian Trail Improvements



**MICHIGAN FATALITIES of PEOPLE WITH HORSES from PEOPLE WITH VEHICLES 11/2017 – 3/2025**

November 2017 Montcalm County, **THREE CHILDREN KILLED, FOUR CHILDREN SEVERELY INJURED, TWO ADULTS CRITICALLY INJURED:** <https://www.1800leefree.com/blog/fatal-horse-drawn-buggy-accident/>

June 2019 Branch County, **THREE CHILDREN AND ONE ADULT KILLED, TWO CHILDREN AND ADULT SEVERELY INJURED:** <https://www.fox17online.com/2019/06/11/3-children-who-died-after-buggy-crash-idd>

July 2020 Allegan County, **ONE PERSON KILLED, ONE PERSON INJURED, AND TWO HORSES KILLED:** <https://wwmt.com/news/local/two-hit-by-car-one-killed-while-riding-horses-in-leighton-township>

December 2020 Wayne County, **ONE PERSON KILLED AND ONE HORSE KILLED:** <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/wayne-county/2020/12/21/man-horse-die-single-vehicle-crash-rural-wayne-county/3992470001/>

January 2021 Branch County, **ONE PERSON KILLED, SIX OTHERS INJURED:** <https://www.woodtv.com/news/southwest-michigan/parents-5-children-injured-in-branch-county-buggy-crash/>

April 2021 Muskegon County, **TWO HORSES KILLED WHILE SAVING THE LIVES OF TWO GIRLS:** <https://www.mlive.com/news/muskegon/2021/04/girls-injured-horses-dead-after-car-hits-riders-in-muskegon-county.html>

<https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/a-kick-in-the-teeth-family-of-girl-injured-in-dui-crash-that-killed-2-horses-upset-by-sentence/69-dba62534-070f-4186-9d0f-a3a0c4721971>

August 2021 Van Buren County, **ONE PERSON KILLED:** <https://wkzo.com/2021/08/13/woman-and-her-horse-injured-after-being-struck-by-vehicle-in-van-buren-county/>

October 2021 Branch County, **TWO PEOPLE INJURED, ONE CRITICALLY, TWO HORSES KILLED:** <https://www.woodtv.com/video/1-critically-injured-2-horses-killed-in-crash-near-coldwater-driver-sought/7078303/>

October 2021 Calhoun County, **TWO PEOPLE INJURED, ONE CRITICALLY, AND TWO HORSES KILLED:** <https://www.abc57.com/news/michigan-state-police-troopers-investigating-2-car-2-horse-and-2-pedestrian-crash>

October 2021 Mecosta County, **ONE PERSON AND HORSE KILLED:** <https://bigrapidsdailynews.com/breaking-news/491762>

September 13, 2023 Barry County, **TWO PEOPLE KILLED, ONE INJURED:** [https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/fatal-amish-cart-crash-barry-county/69-1dd26ad7-fa3d-4d2e-b391-36c2021cdc89?fbclid=IwAR3Eps4V-nA6ZNS7ExuOz401ZAbHX0kTfw6NQIU1tdAcbmB6neGMewBtGhQ\\_aem\\_AWKtDZKON8Mrdrql\\_6dqLXE\\_GKdeiRDFzrznLagSLDAdkkzKq0lmsLN\\_5PZuE6cl-zds#lmjxpwyu037ydniutdcx](https://www.wzzm13.com/article/news/local/fatal-amish-cart-crash-barry-county/69-1dd26ad7-fa3d-4d2e-b391-36c2021cdc89?fbclid=IwAR3Eps4V-nA6ZNS7ExuOz401ZAbHX0kTfw6NQIU1tdAcbmB6neGMewBtGhQ_aem_AWKtDZKON8Mrdrql_6dqLXE_GKdeiRDFzrznLagSLDAdkkzKq0lmsLN_5PZuE6cl-zds#lmjxpwyu037ydniutdcx)

March 3, 2025 Gladwin County, **ONE PERSON CRITICALLY INJURED, AND ONE HORSE KILLED:**  
<https://www.mlive.com/news/2025/03/amish-man-critically-injured-horse-dead-after-head-on-collision.html>

## 2025 Q1 ETS Report - Central Lower - Brandy Miller (3/12/25)

[MHTA - Trails Incident Report- Form](#)

[MHTA - Trails Incident Report - Spreadsheet](#)

### **Sleepy Hollow** <https://shtra.org/>

- Recent Events:
  - Feb 1 -Annual banquet and Meeting
- Project Updates:
  - Most of the disruptions from the pipeline are completed
- Upcoming Events:
  - April 26 - Spring Clean up Work be
  - May 23-26 -Memorial Day Ride
  - Aug 29-Sept 1 - Labor Day Weekend
  - Oct 17-19 - Explore the Hollow Camp out

### **Ioniah** <https://www.ioniahorsetrailsassociation.org/>

- Recent Events:
- Upcoming Events:
  - April 15 - Board meeting 6:00
  - June 6-8 - Forbidden Trail Ride Weekend
  - Oct 3-5 - Chili Cook off

### **Yankee Springs** <https://ystra.org/>

- Recent Events:
  -
- Upcoming Events:
  - April 19 - Vaccine/Coggins event
- Project Updates:
  -

### **Waterloo**

- Recent Events:
  - March 1 - Annual Banquet and Meeting
- Upcoming Events:
  - May 3 - Green Lake Ride weekend
- 

### **Waterloo Hunt Club** - No Report

**Southeast Trail Associations:** Everyone attended the Michigan Horse Expo, collected memberships and talked to trail riders about their plans for 2025. Now they'll be getting ready for their spring events and heading to the woods to check out the trails for downfall and clearing needed before everyone hits the trails. It is great to have the DNR back at the Expo, thank you!

**Outdoor Skills Academy:** March 22, Barb Kurti and I will help teach a Beginner Horse Camping and Trail Riding informational course, along with Scott Slavin at the Carl T. Johnson Hunting and Fishing Center in Cadillac. Riders are very excited about this, it is sold out with a waiting list. There is definitely a desire for this education around the state.

**Thunder Valley and Cedar River North LUOD:** I want to thank the DNR, NAW and MTAC for their support of the LUOD to close these two trail systems to bikes. This support validates that the concerns of trail riders have been considered and heard and we thank you for that. It's very important to trail riders that they have some safe, separate trails around the state of Michigan to ride with young horses, young riders or just when you need a relaxing ride.

**Design Guide:** Updated Version has been submitted

**MHTA Volunteer Recognition Awards:** Recognize cumulation of volunteer hours, trailer decals for the various levels of hours. And going to have nominated awards too. Hope to bring awareness of the effort our volunteers put forth and encourage more to join in. Will award them at an annual banquet.

**Campground Data:** The EQ campgrounds saw increased usage in 2024 with improvements. Headquarters Lake had an increase in EQ usage with the addition of reservations. Fort Custer' usage increased 133% with the addition of electricity and covered corrals. Ortonville's usage increased 202% with the improvements, time and energy both the volunteers and DNR have put into the campground. Reservations, corrals, redesigned campsites, Fall Fest and more have all made it a much more welcoming place to camp, great job there!

**Incident Reporting:** Trail Associations have requested they be able to post QR codes at trailheads for the incident report to help spread the word.

**2023 BEA Outdoor Recreation Report:** <https://apps.bea.gov/data/special-topics/orsa/summary-sheets/ORSA%20-%20Michigan.pdf>

\$142,525 million contributed by EQ in Michigan

**Non-motorized Maintenance and Funding Subcommittee Report:**

We created a survey to send out to unit supervisors to rank needs on the non-motorized, natural surface trails and to find out who is doing the work now, do they have volunteers who assist, do they

feel their needs for NM trails and training are met and more. We thought it would be released by the end of January, but we have not received word that it's gone out to supervisors yet.

We have identified many potential sources for funding for these trails, Anna will present findings to ETS, MTAC and NAW when her company's final report is complete which looked into funding sources that other states utilize for conservation efforts.

We're in the process of creating a survey to send out to unit supervisors to complete in cooperation with their staff and volunteers to catalog the needs on the trails. Included are repair, re-route, new trail, and desired facilities too. Sage, Neal and Amy will do a trial run potentially with Ortonville, Island Lake and Brighton to make sure the process can go smoothly when released statewide.

## **2025 ETS REPORT - UPPER PENNSULA Q1**

- **Due to the heavy snowfall and severe weather along the Lake Superior shoreline areas, the assessment of equestrian volunteer trail maintenance requirements will be delayed. This is a normal occurrence in the area and results in a slower start on trail maintenance.**
- **The UPTHA members are discussing the possibility of adding a couple of short trail links that would connect between parts of the Headquarters Lake Equestrian Trails and parts of the Pine Ridge ATV trail. This would facilitate better access points for watering horses along the trail systems. There are parts of the two trail systems that are combined and the links would enhance overall use of both trails.**
- **The Cedar River North Trail group has expressed some concern over the upcoming timber harvest along their trails. They have been encouraged to stay in contact with their local field office. This will help them to ensure proper treatment by the contractors on the trails along with expressing their concern for the esthetics of those trails.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Sam Norman**

Due to the amount of snow from this past winter season, trail inspection has yet to begin. I have concerns that there will be plenty to be done. The mayhem swamp area will be an area of priority, to see what needs to be done to bring the easement up to usable status. I have discussed this area of concern with Scott Slavin, and once we can, we will check the area.

I have a few questions relating to DNR assistance

Could I get an updated list of park supervisors, trail personnel, and other DNR Staff so I can distribute it among MTRA Board members so they can reach out to the DNR staff within their trail area for the personal contact?

Status of Cheboygan ?

Trail markers?

Manure Bunkers?

Dug Jordan  
NLP ETS Representative

**2025 Q1 ETS Tourism Report**  
**March 10, 2025**

**Anna Lee, ETS Statewide Tourism Representative**

MSU Trail Building Law and Policy Coursebook

I am happy to report that the effort to develop a course book for the Michigan Trails – Trail Building Law and Policy course at MSU is complete! The book was officially published in February 2025 and is available to read for free online at [openbooks.lib.msu.edu/michigantrails](https://openbooks.lib.msu.edu/michigantrails). If anyone would like a printed copy, please let me know.



Photo credit: [Marc Schollett, UpNorthLive Newsroom](#)

The course book will be used to teach students who are studying topics like outdoor recreation, tourism, natural resource management, environmental policy, and environmental science about trails policy, management, and development, while continually highlighting ways in which trails can contribute to healthier, more prosperous communities. Thank you again to all who have contributed their time and efforts to make this project a success.

Outreach to Convention and Visitor Bureaus (CVBs)

Now that some time has freed up, I will be continuing my outreach to CVBs around the state to ask them to highlight and market more of Michigan's equestrian trails, campgrounds, and events. I am hoping this outreach will result in some media mentions that I will be able to share in my Q2 ETS report.

## Centofanti, Annalisa (DNR)

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**From:** Stephanie Swanberg <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 23, 2025 4:57 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Nonmotorized Signage Subcommittee - Follow-up from 2/20 Meeting  
**Attachments:** DNR Motorized Equestrian Etiquette 2 (Whoa Nelly).jpg; DNR\_EtiquetteSign5\_Proof1MotorizedEquestrian.pdf; DNR\_bike\_Etiquette\_Rack\_card.pdf; Tread Lightly - Share the Trail Signage.pdf

**CAUTION: This is an External email. Please send suspicious emails to [abuse@michigan.gov](mailto:abuse@michigan.gov)**

Hello Signage Subcommittee!

At our meeting on Thursday we discussed the status and next steps for our subcommittee. While Maia is finalizing a statement of work to open bids and secure funding for a sign designer, we decided to focus our subcommittee efforts on two items: 1) sharing stories of 'trail encounters' for future messaging (share trail encounter stories you've experienced or heard of with Heather) and 2) reviewing signage and brainstorming the actual language and content we'd like to see in future DNR signage and messaging.

Amy shared with me a variety of sign and etiquette examples both from the DNR and external sources to share out with the group. I've started a resource list below that includes what Amy sent along and additional links I collected to example signage, guidance documents, and other items that may inspire the conversation at our next meeting!

- Boulder Mountain Bike Alliance - [Share the Trail \(Hiker, Equestrian, Mountain Bikers\) Tri-fold](#)
- Trails Foundation of Northern Utah - [Trail Manners Infographic](#)
- Tread Lightly - [Sharing our Trails Tri-fold](#)
- [Wisconsin Trail Etiquette and Safety Guidelines](#) (9 pgs)

Equestrian:

- DNR - Motorized/Equestrian Etiquette Signs (Slow Down... and Whoa Nelly) - 2 attached (also include Be Good Natured leaf)
- Tread Lightly - Share the Trail Sign - attached

Biking:

- League of Michigan Bicyclists - [What Every Michigan Bicyclist Must Know](#) (36 pgs)
- DNR - eBike Class & Etiquette - attached

Hiking:

- American Hiking Society - [Hiking Etiquette](#)
- Backpacker.com - [Trail Etiquette for Hikers \(2 min video\)](#) includes muddy conditions, passing, leave no trace

#### Paddling:

- American Canoe Association - [Rules of the Road Trifold](#)
- US Coast Guard - [Beginner's Guide to Safer Paddling](#)
- Recreate Responsibly - [Water Responsibly](#)

#### Seasonal:

- The Dragon [Winter Trail Etiquette](#)
- Recreate Responsibly - [Winter Edition & Communications Toolkit](#)
- PA DNR - [Be Seen This Fall Infographic](#)
- US Forest Service - [See & Be Seen Infographic](#)

This is just a starting place so let's keep sharing our ideas!

Thanks!

Stephanie



# MHTA Michigan Equestrian Trail Incident Report

## 2024

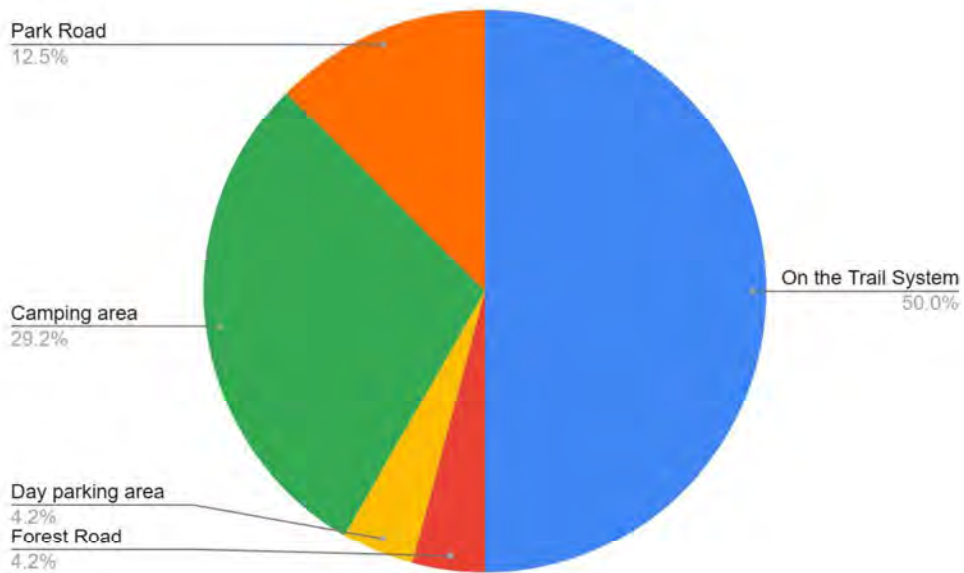
# Incident Reports

24 Reports Total

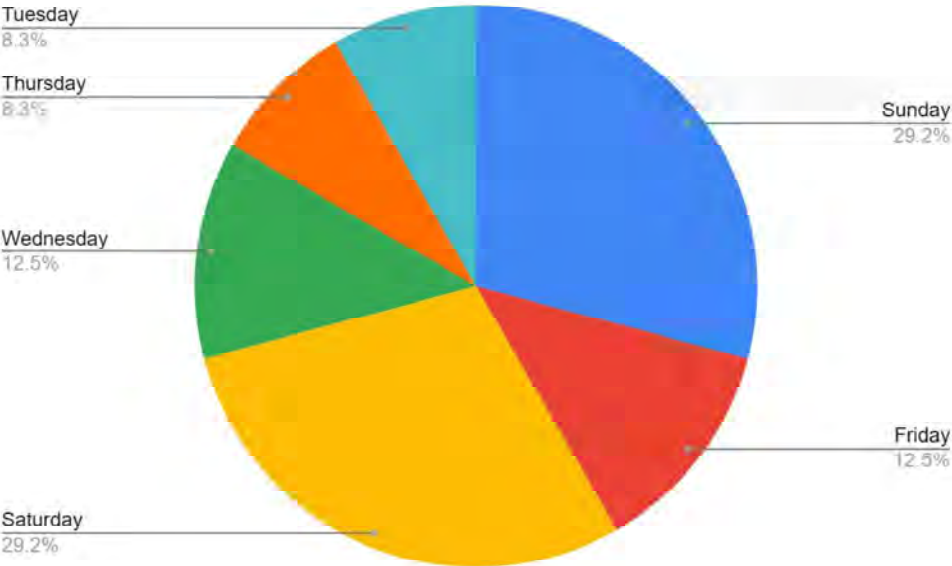
4 Injured Riders Reported



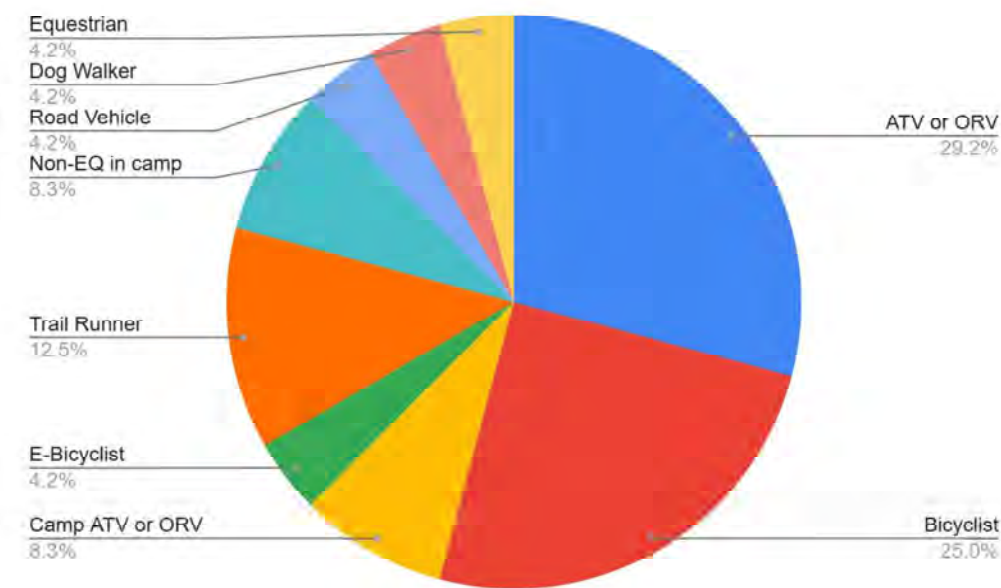
## Where did the incident occur?



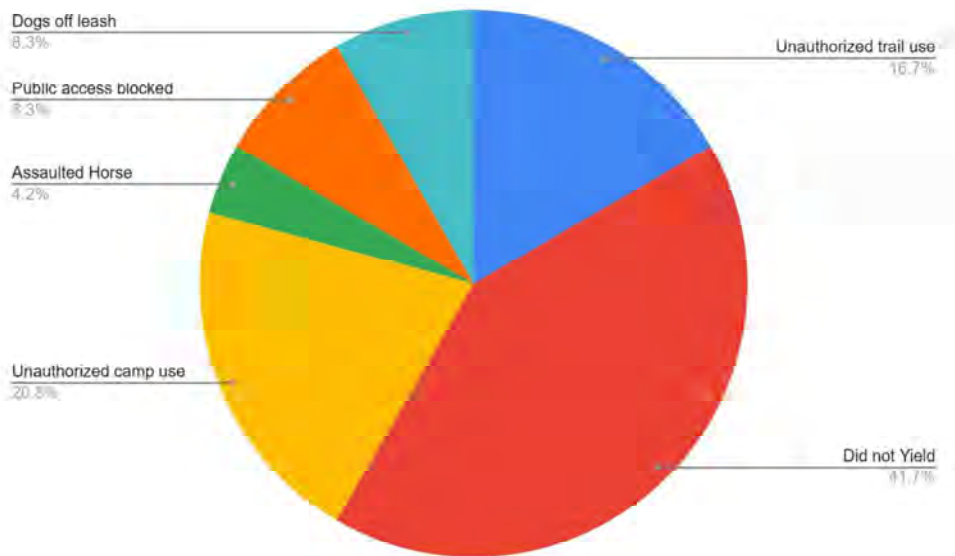
# Day of Week of Incident



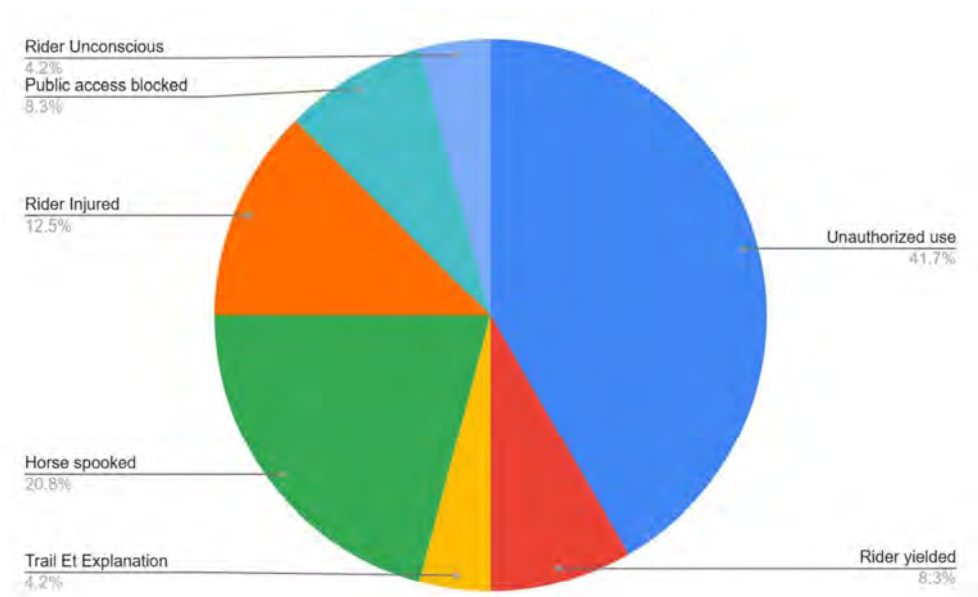
# Incident involved which of the following?



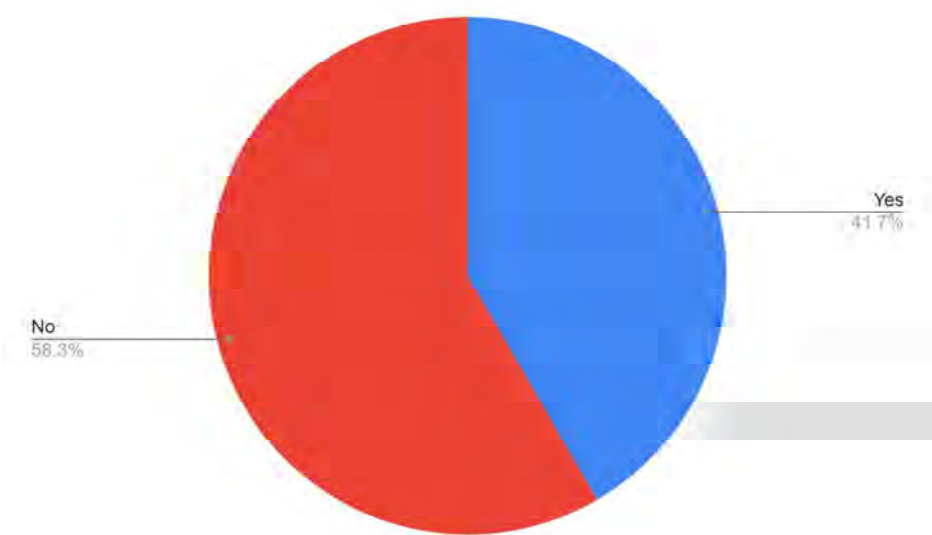
## What was the incident?



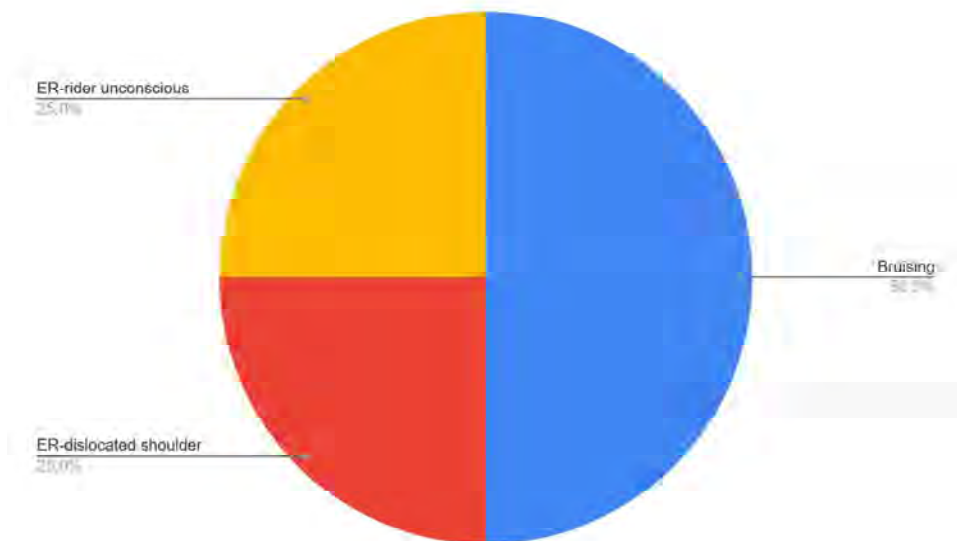
# What was the outcome?



Did you report to the authority?

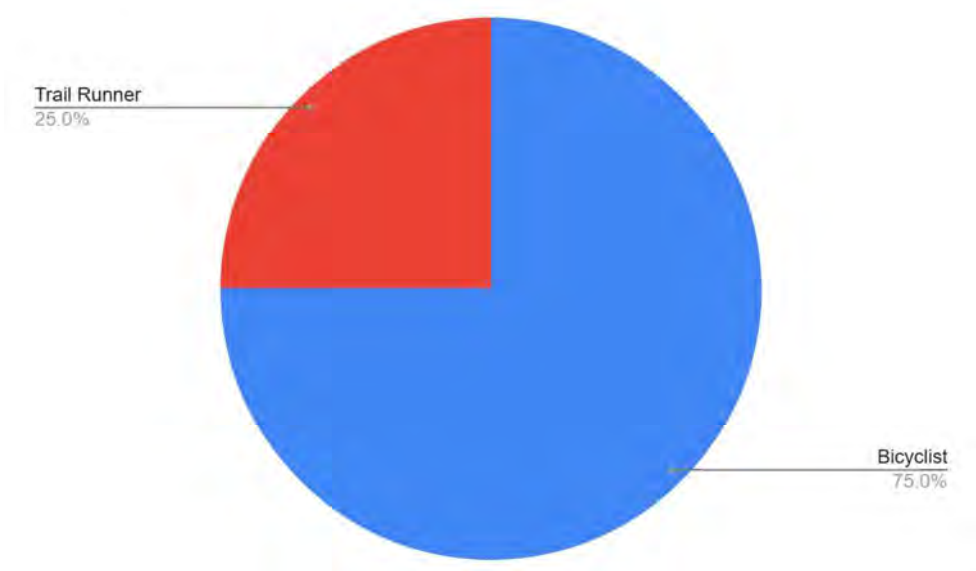


## Injury Incidents - What was the Injury to Rider?

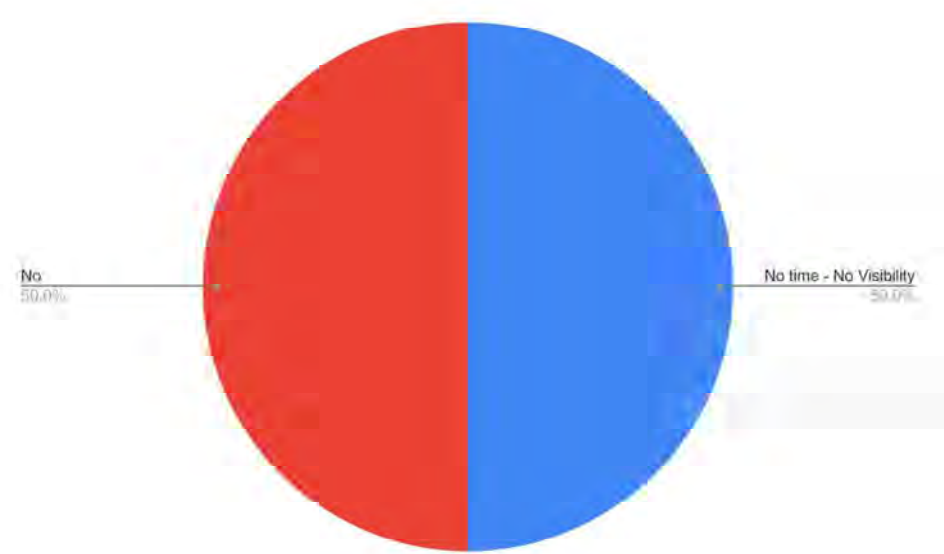


- 24 reported incidents total
- 4 riders injured reported
- 2 riders injured during the same incident
- All injuries involved not yielding
- 3 Injuries in SE MI
- 1 Injury in SW MI

# Injury Incidents - Which other trail user was involved?



# Injury Incidents - Did other trail user yield when asked?



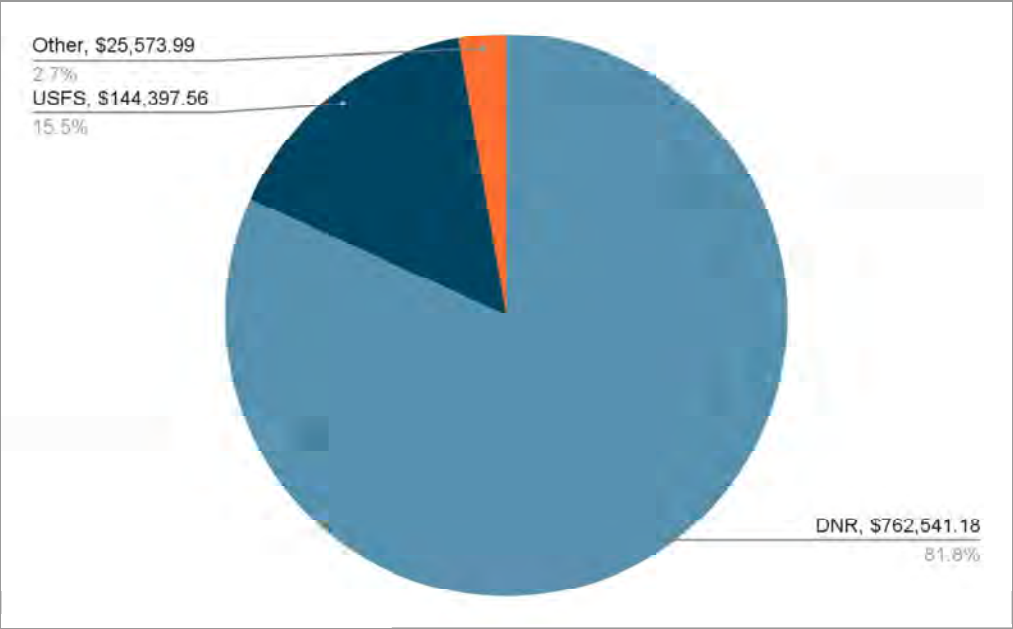
# Injury Incidents - Did other trail user stop to help?



# Michigan Equestrian Trail Volunteer Investment Report

## 2024

# 2024 Volunteer Hours - Total



## Top 6 Organizations by Total

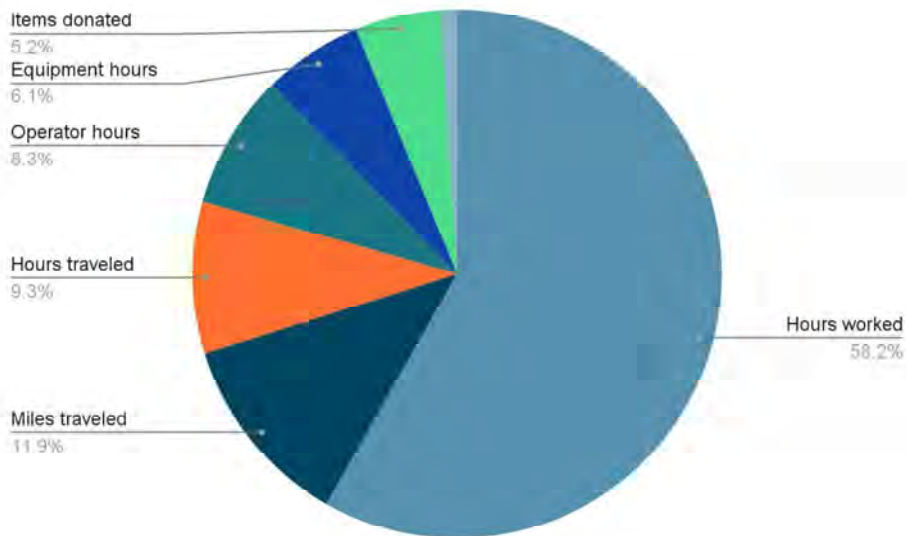
- 1. Ortonville - \$219,731
- 2. Hungerford - \$95,540
- 3. MHTA - \$89,741
- 4. MTRA - \$80,877
- 5. Fort Custer - \$77,709
- 6. BCH-PR - \$71,140

Total Investment:

**\$932,512.72**

Average/mile: **\$1,058**

## Volunteer Hours - DNR



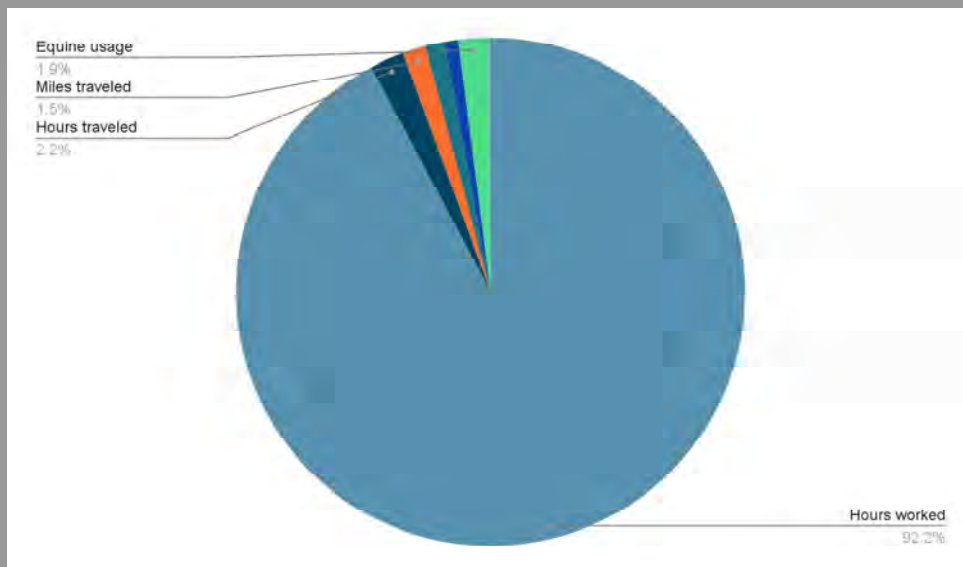
Hours worked: \$443,898  
Equipment hours donation: \$90,813  
Miles traveled: \$46,304  
Equine usage: \$40,000  
Items donated: \$7,678

Mileage of Trail: 749

Total: **\$762,541.18**

\*4 groups not reporting

## Volunteer Hours - USFS



Hours worked: \$133,171  
Miles traveled: \$2,115  
Equipment hours donation: \$1,231  
Equine usage: \$2,700  
Items donated: \$252

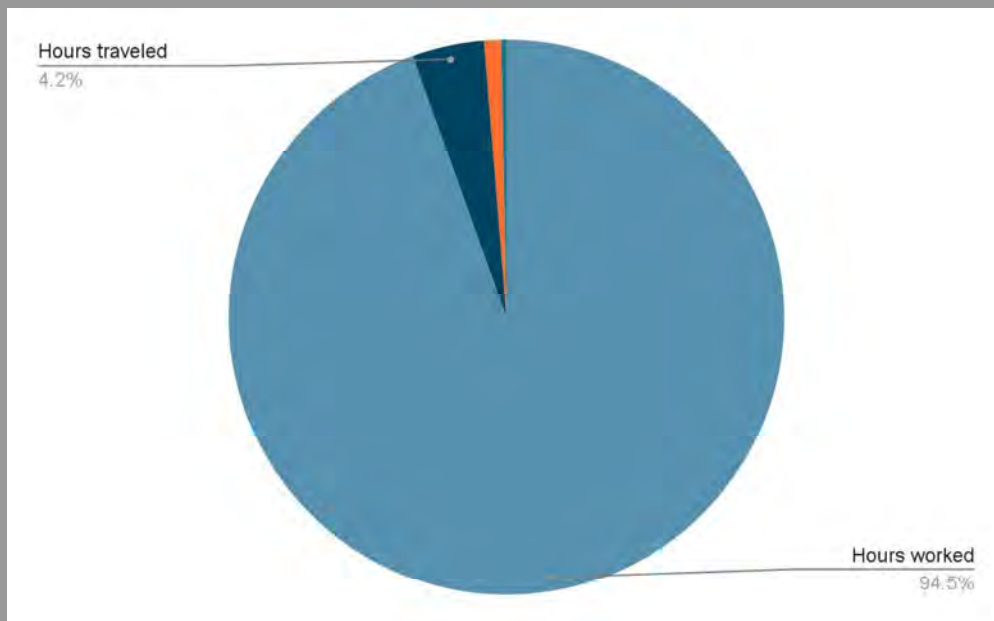
Mileage of Trail: 186

Total: **\$144,397.56**

\*all groups reported - Thank you!

N = 6

## Volunteer Hours - Other



N = 2

Hours worked: \$24,171

Miles traveled: \$80

Mileage of Trail: 70

Total: **\$25,573.99**

\*3 groups not reporting

## Summary 2024

Volunteer Hours - 17952.83

Miles Traveled - 72387

Equipment Hours - \$92,043.37

Items Donated - 7929.66

Equine Usage Days - 427

Mileage of Trail -1005

