

NAW Policy/Programmatic Ideas as of March 15, 2019

Legislative

1. Establish a Water Trails Funding and mini-grant program
2. Monitor assorted specific trail-related appropriations items.
3. Advocate for passage of Recreation Passport Opt-out.
4. Develop a briefing document and social media content/campaigns that can be used to raise awareness of Senate Joint Resolution O, Recreation Passport, etc.
5. Establish a maintenance endowment fund that might be tied to the Pure Michigan campaign. Provide opportunities for the public/businesses to donate or purchase trail related merchandise and proceeds to go toward endowment fund.
6. Extend advocacy work to include outreach to Congress to emphasize the importance of TAP (Transportation Alternatives Program), RTP (Recreational Trails Program), LWCF (Land and Water Conservation Fund), and SRTS (Safe Routes to School) too.

Procedure

7. Consider how we can do more to pull together our non-motorized communities to make sure we are representing their needs. Develop and implement efforts like a statewide Trails Rally and develop a common agenda to move all nonmotorized trails forward.

Internal Agency (DNR) Policy

8. Ensure that all nonmotorized groups have a definite role in the drafting of the state trails plan and then a role in its implementation should be a high priority.
9. Monitor rule or legislation that is impacting our trail systems.
10. Ensure that the funding and promotion of natural surface, single track trails such as hiking and backpacking trails are a high priority for the department.

Education and Promotion

11. Create and implement a plan to educate voters on Senate Joint Resolution O.
12. Either create a new economic impact study and user counts for various trail types/water trails (used in grant applications and fundraising) or work with existing and ongoing studies to help demonstrate the economic impact of land and water trails.
13. Assist the DNR Parks and Recreation Division to increase the awareness and funding of state forest pathways. Encourage a private-public partnership to develop a series of geo-reference maps for the system.
14. Emphasize the importance of trails as active transportation corridors that allow us to reduce our use of motorized transportation reducing the wear and tear on our roads.
15. Work with bicycle outfitters, local communities, trail groups, and park agencies to develop consistent signage and materials that help to raise the awareness of e-bikes and the appropriate locations to ride them.