



MICHIGAN'S IRON BELLE TRAIL

TWO ROUTES
ONE GREAT TRAIL



BEGINNINGS 'SHOWCASE TRAIL'



Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder first proposed a statewide trail in 2012: “We will need a **showcase trail** that celebrates these efforts and pulls together private and public **trails** into a signature Pure Michigan experience.”

Gallup Park, Ann Arbor, April 17, 2018

TWO TRAILS 2,031 MILES



Biking Route: 827.7 miles

Hiking Route: 1203.1 miles

The Iron Belle Trail crosses **48** Michigan counties, **83** cities-towns-villages and **240** townships., making it one of the premier trails in the Midwest.

TODAY WHERE ARE WE



IRON BELLE TRAIL UPDATE				
Trail type	Existing	Gap	Total Miles	% Completed
Biking	523.39	304.31	827.7	63.2%
Hiking	888.02	315.09	1203.11	73.8%
IRON BELLE TRAIL	1411.41	619.4	2030.81	69.5%

10.31.18



TRAIL VISION



- Michigan is nationally recognized as ‘The Trails State’ due to its 12,500 miles of state-designated trails and its four seasons of trails.
- The vision for the Iron Belle Trail is to create and maintain a seamless recreational pathway from Belle Isle to Ironwood to showcase the State of Michigan, promote communities, health and wellness and Michigan’s natural resources.



FRONT PAGE CAPTURING THE IMAGINATION



MACOMB DAILY NEWS

DNR award allows for bike and hike trail expansion in Shelby Township



IBT Coordinator Kristen Bennett (left) appeared on First at Four (ABC-12/Flint) to discuss the progress of the Iron Belle Trail.

Oxford High School student designs Polly Ann Trail signs

OAKLAND PRESS NEWS



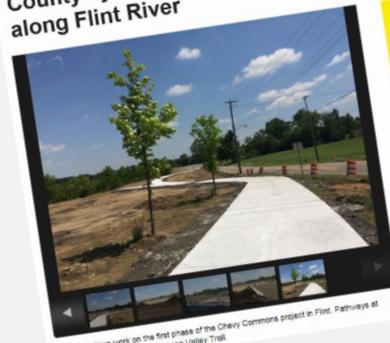
Gaylord Herald Times

One More Cast: Iron Belle Trail rings end to rough ride

By CHRIS ENGLE
Outdoors columnist

There is more to celebrate. By the end of 2018 or spring of 2019, Otsego County will be home to a vital and scenic stretch of the Iron Belle Trail, a mammoth statewide system linking Detroit's Belle Isle

County eyes connecting Genesee County trails along Flint River



Crews continue work on the first phase of the Chevy Commons project in Flint. Pathways at the site will connect to the Genesee Valley Trail.

If completed, the project would connect the Genesee Valley Trail, which connects Flint Township to the Chevy Commons, to the Flint River Trail, which is part of the Iron Belle Trail.

Volume 8, Issue 2 • 2016



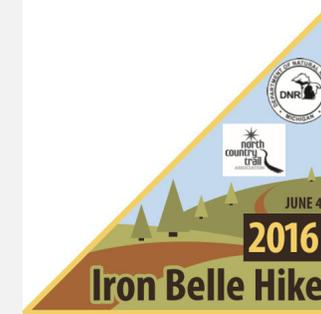
UpNorthLive.COM

Gaylord could come closer to connecting Iron Belle Trail

OTSEGO COUNTY, MI (WPBN/WGTU) -- An addition to a trail in Gaylord could be the next step in connecting a line from Detroit, all the way up to Ironwood in the Upper Peninsula. There is already a snowmobile trail that stretches north from Gaylord to Ironwood, but this project would extend it 11 miles south to U.S.

From its inception, the **Iron Belle Trail** has captured the imagination and interest of Michigan's residents. Media outlets from across the state continue to report on the progress and expansion of the trail.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Since 2015, thousands of Michigan Scouts have celebrated National Trails Day in June by walking more than 30,000 miles on Michigan's Iron Belle Trail as part of the annual **Iron Belle Challenge**.

GREAT PARTNERS



Your Adventure Starts Nearby.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES



Using existing trails, networks and some new connections, the trail extends more than 2,000 miles from the far western tip of the Upper Peninsula to Belle Isle in Detroit on a biking trail and hiking trail. The biking route utilizes many of the state's existing bike paths, bike lanes, and signed, designated biking routes as it travels up the east side of the state, while the hiking route utilizes sidewalks, trails, and the 1,000-mile plus North Country National Scenic Trail traveling up the west side of the lower peninsula.

2018 CONSTRUCTION



Public and private dollars have led to construction projects in several counties and on several trails – from Washtenaw County to Trenton to Gaylord. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Michigan Department of Transportation have been key contributors.

The Border-to-Border/Iron Belle Trail near M-52 in Chelsea

FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

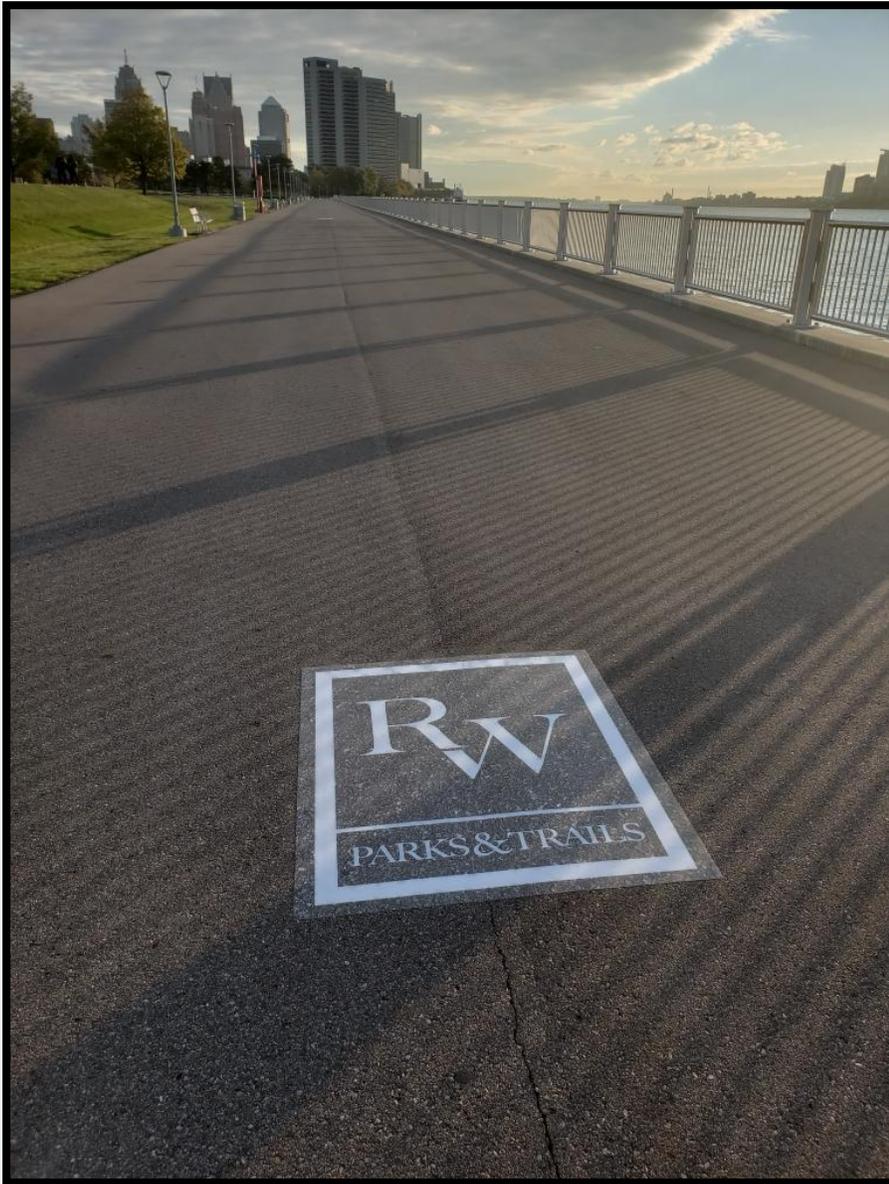


IRON BELLE TRAIL FUND CAMPAIGN

The Iron Belle Trail Fund Campaign is a major effort to raise \$155 million in private funds to support the work necessary to finish connecting the trail, which is roughly 68 percent completed.

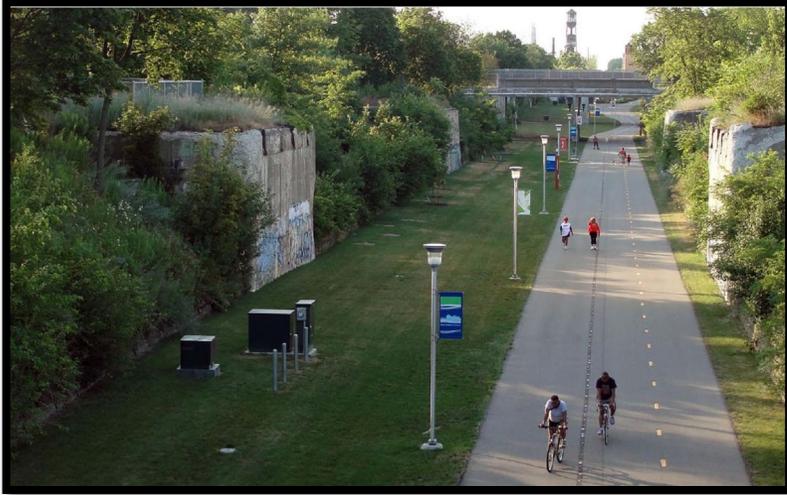
IBT FUND CAMPAIGN TEAM

STATEWIDE PARTNERSHIPS



The Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation on October 27 announced a \$100 million investment of parks and trails in Southeast Michigan. Of that gift, \$40 million will be allocated toward projects that close physical gaps in the region's trail systems and \$10 million will be designated toward helping operate and maintain the trails for decades to come.

EXPANDING THE TRAIL



Not only is the Iron Belle Trail more than 2,000 miles of hiking and biking trails, it is also a key connector of neighborhoods, communities, cities and counties. In the days ahead, look for the Iron Belle Trail to extend beyond the current structure of the trail and include loops near **Traverse City, Saginaw** and the **Joe Louis Greenway in Detroit**.



INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS



Conceptual drawing of the Gordie Howe International Bridge

Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority (WDBA) announced the **Gordie Howe International Bridge project** will include a dedicated multi-use path that will accommodate pedestrians and cyclists. The integration of the multi-use path will benefit the communities, as it will support active transportation, a healthy lifestyle as well as enhance cycle tourism across the border.

Q&A



Paul Yauk
State Trails
Coordinator
Michigan DNR
yaukp@Michigan.gov

