

Musketawa Trail

The 26-mile Musketawa Trail is a slice of pure Americana. Originally the Central Michigan Railroad, the rail bed was acquired in 1992 and turned into a rail trail through the efforts of the Friends of the Musketawa Trail. It's a peaceful, comfortable ride or run past quintessential farms with plenty of birds, butterflies and natural beauty to keep you entertained along the way.

Set against the backdrop of rural America, your journey takes you through small country towns and wide expanses of cornfields, marshes and shady wood-

lands. The trail features 13 wooden trestles plus a large observation deck overlooking Crockery Creek near Ravenna. The entire length of the trail is paved with asphalt.

Trail access points include the southern trailhead north of Garfield Road near 8th Avenue in Marne, the staging area in downtown Conklin, the Ravenna

staging area on Crockery Creek Drive, and the western trailhead on Broadway Street near Muskegon off US-31 and Sherman Boulevard. When you reach the end of the trail in Muskegon, look for the directional signs that guide you along a connecting route to the Laketon Trail and Muskegon Lakeshore Trail.

The entire trail, from the Marne trailhead to Muskegon, is open to snowmobiling

and skiing during the winter season. **Grand Rapids**

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Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail

The dream of one continuous trail connecting Grand Rapids to Muskegon is coming closer to reality. In the summer of 2012, the first 6 miles of the new Fred Meijer Pioneer Trail was completed from Marne to Walker Avenue in Grand Rapids. The new trail begins where the Musketawa Trail ends, at the Marne trailhead, and will eventually continue on to the Comstock Park trailhead where it will connect with the Fred Meijer White Pine Trail. From there, you'll have the option to venture south to Grand Rapids or head north to Cadillac. The trail is paved with asphalt, passing through a scenic landscape of farmland, woodlands and urban neighborhoods, including a tunnel under Fruitridge Avenue. The trail will be extended along 3 Mile Road this summer from Walker Avenue to Alpine Avenue. Kent County Parks is in the process of acquiring right-of-ways to complete the trail in the next couple of years.