



# Michigan News



Ribbon Cutting for Phase One of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail.

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2009

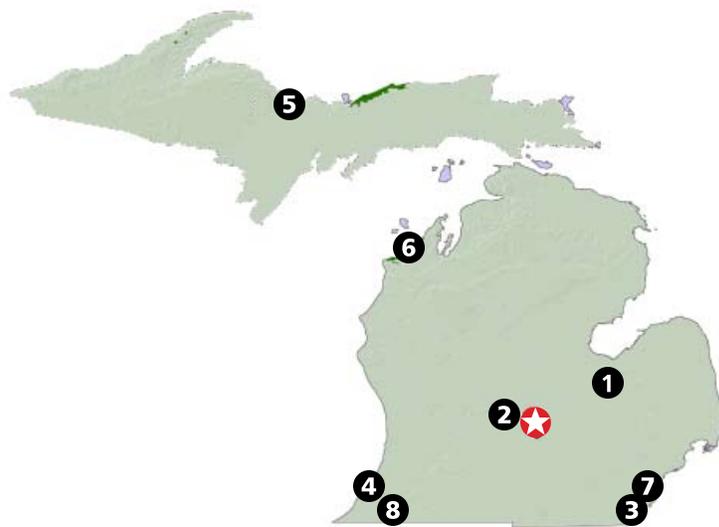
### CURRENT PROJECTS

- 1. Cass River Greenway**  
Cass River Greenway Committee
- 2. Clinton- Ionia- Shiawassee Rail-Trail**  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)
- 3. Fort Wayne/Allen County Trails and Greenways**  
City of Fort Wayne Greenways
- 4. Growing Greener Phase 2**  
Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
- 5. Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Phase 2**  
Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority
- 6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Phase 2**  
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Northwest Michigan Council of Government
- 7. Monroe Area Greenway Project**  
County of Monroe
- 8. Northwest Indiana Bikeways**  
NW IN Regional Planning Comm.

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

*“Without the NPS RTCA program, we would not have come this far. We absolutely believe the RTCA program can move us much farther in 2009.”*

Carol Fulsher, Lake Superior Community Partnership,  
Director of Recreation Development



## Recent Successes

### Iron Ore Heritage Trail Connects Historic Sites and Human Stories

The Iron Ore Heritage Trail, a year-round 48-mile multi-use trail, will connect Marquette County communities and residents to the region’s historic sites and human stories. The trail is being developed, managed, and maintained by the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority, which was created with RTCA assistance and represents the largest Recreation Authority in the State of Michigan. The trail will run on abandoned railroad corridors that connected iron mines with Lake Superior’s ore docks. The surfaced trailway will have trailheads and facilities, directional and interpretive signage, and artwork that highlights the region’s iron mining heritage.

continued on page 4

# Current Projects

## 1. Cass River Greenway

Location: Frankenmuth  
Congressional District: 5  
Project Partner: Cass River Greenway  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

To restore water quality, conserve wild-life habitat, and develop recreation opportunities on 60 miles of the Cass River.

## 2. Clinton- Ionia- Shiawassee Rail-Trail

Location: Clinton, Ionia, Shiawassee Counties  
Congressional District: 8  
Project Partner: Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

The creation of a unified three county CIS Trail Council which will help achieve consensus on trail development standards and management, as well as identify an action plan and funding strategy for development and sustainability of a 42 mile rail trail.

## 3. Fort Wayne/Allen County Trails and Greenways

Location: City of Fort Wayne and Allen County  
Congressional Districts: IN - 3, MI - 15, OH - 5  
Project Partner: City of Fort Wayne,



Lake Michigan shoreline

Greenways  
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

### Project Goal:

A network of over 100 miles of trails and greenways, and an 11-county trails and greenways vision map that identifies possible future connections throughout northeast Indiana and the surrounding states.

## 4. Growing Greener Phase 2

Location: Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties and Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indian lands.  
Congressional District: 6  
Project Partner: Southwest Michigan Planning Commission  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

A long-term green infrastructure plan for Berrien, Cass, and Van Buren Counties that will create at least 40 miles of trails and protect over 500 acres of open space.

## 5. Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Phase 2

Location: Marquette County  
Congressional District: 1  
Project Partner: Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

A 48-mile year-round multi-use trail system that connects several cities and townships to iron ore heritage resources and sites as well as the natural resources and geologic formations of the Lake Superior region.

## 6. Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route Trailway Phase 2

Location: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Leelanau County  
Congressional Districts: 2,4  
Project Partners: Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, Northwest Michigan Council of Governments  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

A 25 mile non-motorized multi-use trailway along the Leelanau Scenic Heritage Route through Sleeping Bear Dunes NL, connecting park facilities



Kayak event on the Detroit Heritage River Water Trail

# Current Projects

and communities to the park. It will be the premier multi-use trail in the state when completed.

## 7. Monroe Area Greenway

Location: Monroe County  
Congressional District: 15  
Project Partner: County of Monroe  
NPS Contact: Barb Nelson-Jameson

### Project Goal:

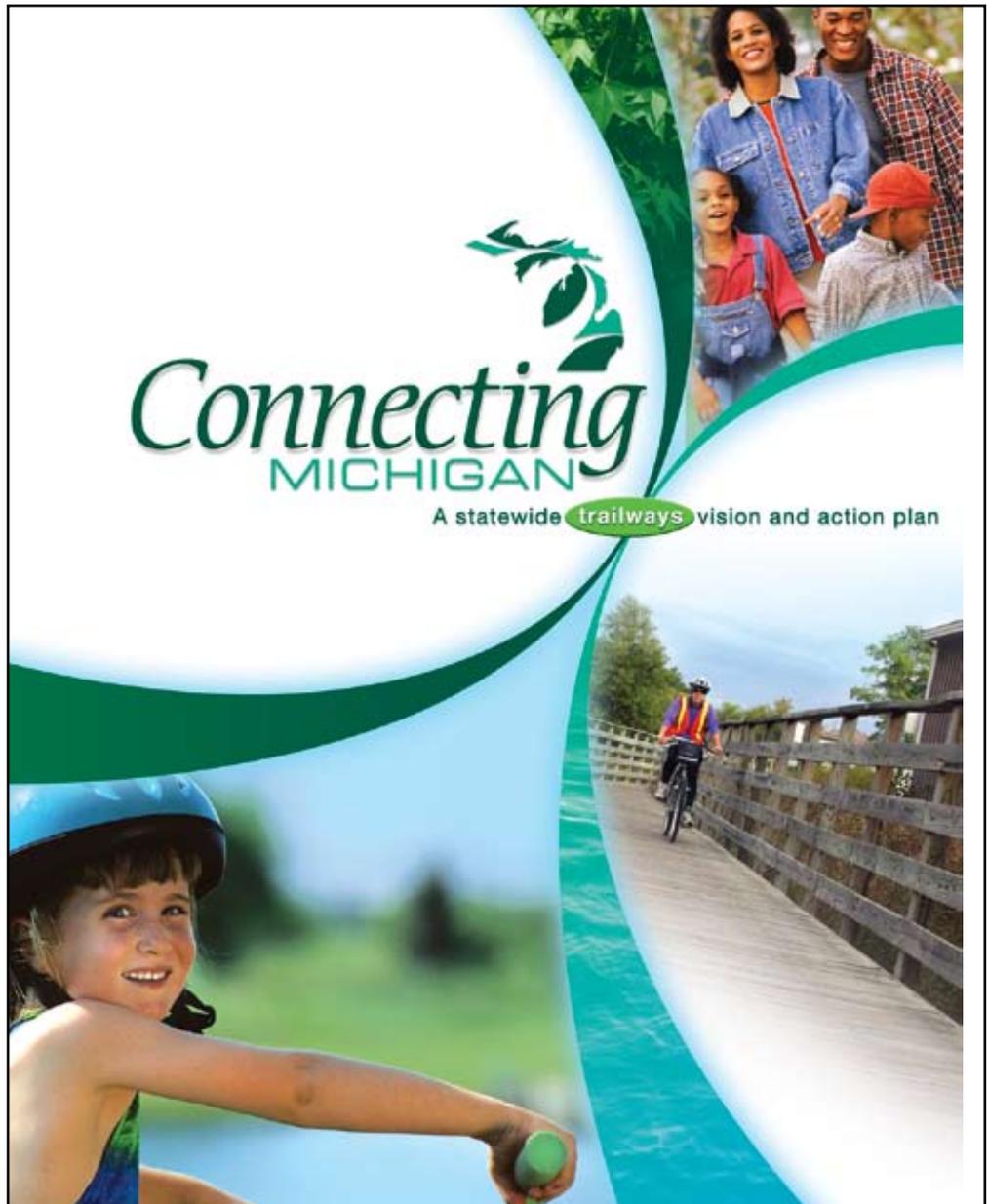
The construction of approximately 10 miles of paved pathways connecting the City of Monroe's pathway system into the townships in order to connect population centers with such features as historic sites (including a potential national park, the River Raisin Battlefield), a state park on Lake Erie (Sterling), and river access sites (River Raisin)). Also explore the development of a River Raisin water trail that will connect to the regional Detroit River Heritage Water Trail system.

## 8. Northwest Indiana Bike-ways

Location: Counties of Lake, Porter, LaPorte,  
Congressional Districts: IL - 2, IN - 1,2, MI - 6  
Project Partner: Northwest Indiana Regional Planning Commission  
NPS Contact: Rory Robinson

### Project Goal:

A 150-mile trail network that accommodates bicycles and pedestrians and connects Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore with communities and attractions throughout northwest Indiana.



Connecting Michigan - Statewide Trailway Vision and Action Plan (project of the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, Michigan NPS RTCA)

NPS RTCA staff are also supporting the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance on the Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference Committee

*“Now the public will be able to hike, bike, ski, paddle, and view wildlife right here in [the community of] Republic. . .”*

Chuck Hurst, Republic's representative on the Iron Ore Heritage Recreation Authority.

## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit from RTCA Staff Assistance? Contact us to find out.

### Barbara Nelson-Jameson

231.334.3130

barbara\_nelson-jameson@nps.gov

### Mark Weekley

402.661.1570

mark\_weekley@nps.gov

## THE RTCA PROGRAM

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. RTCA staff provides technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

Find more information online at

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

*“The [Iron Ore Heritage Trail] project, when completed, not only will promote Marquette County’s standing as one of the top ten biking communities in the country, it will provide a significant boost to tourism in the area. This model develops the way for similar efforts in other historic mining communities in the Upper Peninsula.”*

Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm



Cleveland Cliffs Mine before(left) and after (right) being transformed into “The Wetlands Preserve”

## Recent Successes cont.

In autumn 2008, the Iron Ore Heritage Recreational Authority celebrated the opening of Phase I of the trail, which connected the communities of Ishpeming and Negaunee as well as several historic mines and settlements. During this phase, iron-ore producer Cleveland Cliffs, Inc. also opened a 2,300 acre wildlife preserve for public recreation. The Recreation Authority, community of Republic, and RTCA were integral to the opening of this new recreation area, which will allow the people of Republic to hike, bike, ski, paddle, and view wildlife close to home. The preserve was developed from the tailing basins of the former Republic mine and is home to a diverse group of wildlife including eagles, beavers, wolves, coyotes, bears, deer, moose, and numerous waterfowl.

Development of the Iron Ore Heritage Trail will continue throughout 2009. The community of Republic has received funding from the State to restore and redevelop a vacant bank building in town for the trailhead and interpretive center. The City of Ishpeming has also received State funding to construct Phase II of the Trail.