



BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS

**Creating a high-quality
network of diverse trails
within the Bayfield
Peninsula.**

bayfieldareatrails.com



So Many People to Thank!

- DNR Hatchery Hosts: Darren Miller & Crew ★
 - Tour guides – Friends of R.D. Pike Building
- Event Subcommittee: led by Kris Wegerson ★
 - Ted May, Jeff Garrett, Sue Aiken, Peter Rothe, Kate Kitchell, Mark Peterson
 - Food & bevs: Jeff & Diane Garrett, Sue Aiken & volunteer bakers
 - Many volunteers – logistics, set up, clean up, communications
- Tents, tables, & chairs – oh my!
 - Blue Ox Cider & Bayfield Winery – Phil Bratsch
 - Brickyard Creek – Jeff Garrett & Crew
 - Mt. Ashwabay – Doug Olson
 - Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau (AV & PA equipment)
- Bird walk guides: Neil Howk & Ted May (Saturday & Sunday mornings)
- BAT Comm. members: Clark, Finn, Huinker, Kitchell, Lang, Mattson, Rothe
- New interpretive signs at hatchery & Salmo trailhead: Neil Howk & Hatchery crew



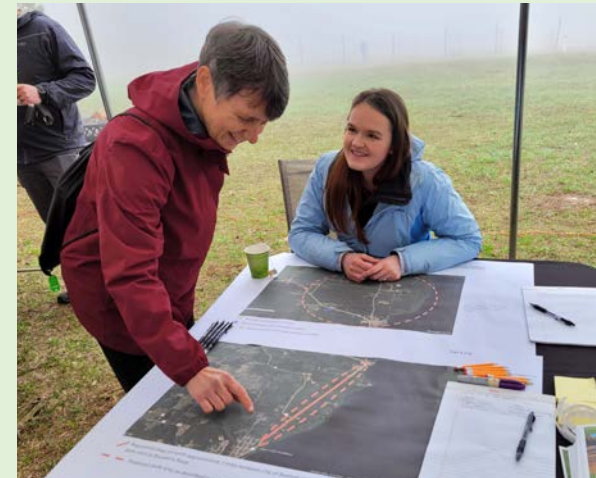


Agenda Overview

Guest Speaker: Ryan Magana, Regional Ecologist, WI DNR
*You are here - the natural history and ecological attributes
of the Pikes Creek watershed*

10:10 – 10:35: 2024 Highlights of Activities & Volunteer Opportunities

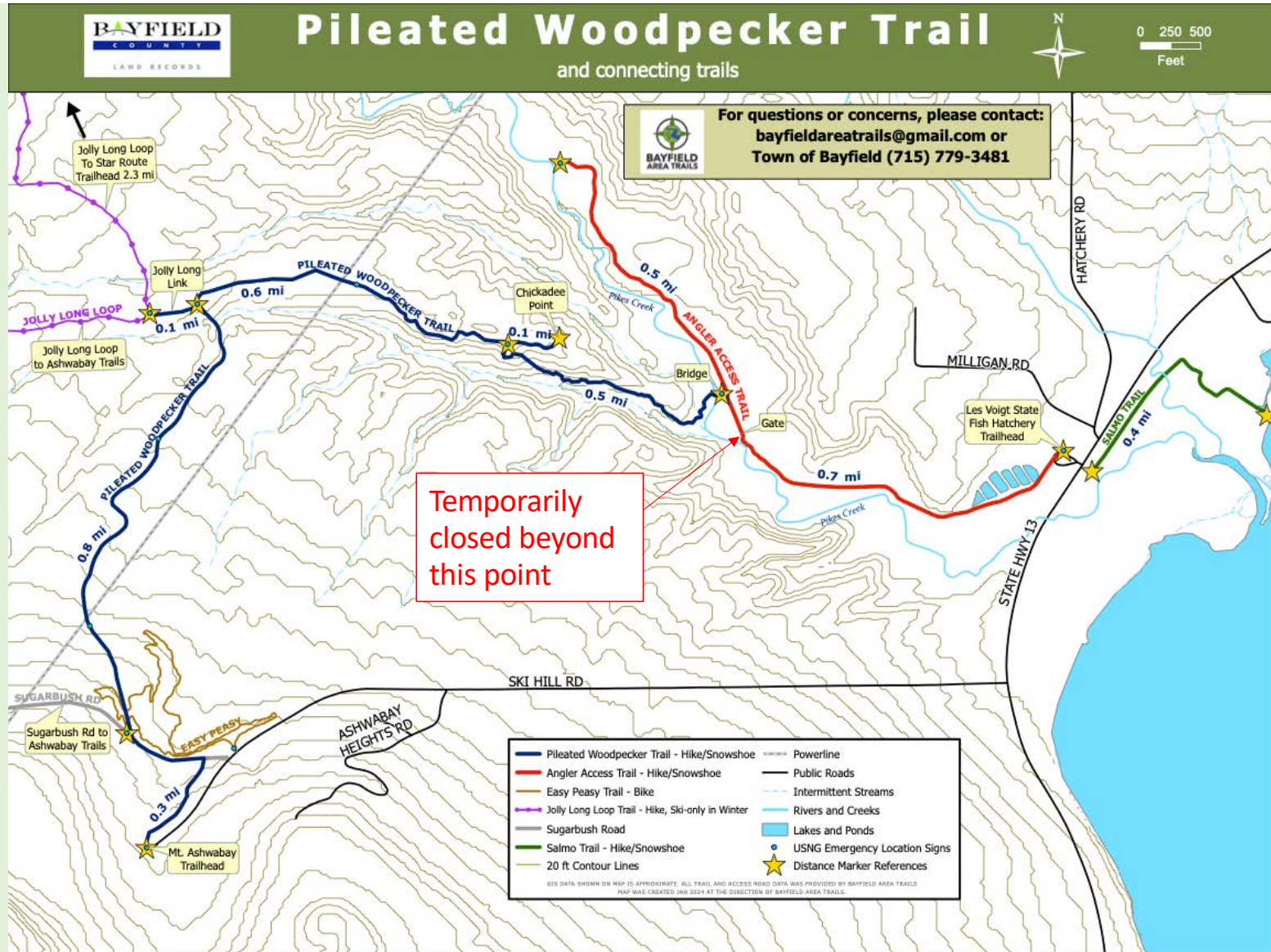
- Bayfield Area Trails Committee Round Robin
- Adopt-a-Trail
- Economic & Social Impact Study
- Project calendar – proposed schedule
- 10:35 – 10:50 Charting the Future of Bayfield Area Trails
 - Launching the 5-year Comprehensive Plan
 - Asking for your input – mingle around the tables
- 10:50 – 11:00: Q&A
- 11:00 – Noon: visit tables & provide input
- Noon: Tours of hatchery & R.D. Pike building
- Sunday June 2nd - 3 pm – Big Ravine Headwaters Dedication





Change of Plans

Pileated Woodpecker Trail Dedication & Recognition Postponed





Guest Speaker

*You are here - the natural history and
ecological attributes of the Pikes Creek
Watershed*

Ryan Magana, Regional Ecologist
WI DNR



Bayfield Area Trails Committee

Round Robin: 2024 Highlights

1. City of Bayfield
2. Town of Bayfield
3. Landmark Conservancy
4. Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
5. Bayfield County
6. Town of Bell & CTC
7. Ashwabay Alliance
8. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore



The Bayfield Area Trails (BAT) Committee Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

- I. **Background:** The Bayfield Area of northwestern Wisconsin is valued by residents and visitors for its natural beauty, cultural history, and outdoor recreational opportunities on land and water. We respectfully acknowledge that this region is the traditional homeland of the Anishinaabe people, also known as the Chippewa or Ojibwe, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. Among the land-based recreational opportunities is enjoying trails of all kinds including non-motorized (hiking, Nordic skiing, snowshoeing), mechanized (year-round biking), and motorized (snowmobiling, ATV/UTV). Area residents also use these trails for transportation and health benefits. Trails help build appreciation of the natural world, indigenous traditions, and cultural history. While there are many existing trails for these activities, they are not well connected, nor is there adequate capacity to maintain and manage them. In the spring of 2019, recognizing the needs and benefits of enhancing multiple-use trails, a core group of representatives from local governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in and around Bayfield convened to explore collaboration toward common goals.

This non-binding MOU is intended to serve as a guide to the understandings of the cooperative roles of participating entities in promoting the mission, vision, goals, and objectives expressed in this memorandum. This MOU is not intended to alter the existing authority, rights or claims of any participating entity or representative. This MOU may not be construed as an enforceable agreement nor an exchange of consideration by the participants. This MOU may not be construed as a delegation of any authority to the representatives by their respective agencies who voluntarily participate in this MOU.

- II. **Unincorporated Nonprofit Association:** The Bayfield Area Trails Committee is recognized as a Wisconsin unincorporated nonprofit association under [Wisconsin Statute section 184.01\(2\) of the Uniform Unincorporated Nonprofit Association Act](#): "a Nonprofit association means an unincorporated organization consisting of 3 or more members joined by mutual consent for a common, nonprofit purpose. However, joint tenancy, tenancy in common, or tenancy by the entirety does not, by itself, establish a nonprofit association, even if the co-owners share use of the property for a nonprofit purpose."
- III. **Vision:** Bayfield Peninsula trails enhance individual and community wellbeing by connecting people with nature and each other. With a focus on silent sports and inspired by a strong land stewardship ethic, we collaborate with all trail users to advance social, environmental, and economic sustainability.
- IV. **Mission:** To sustain and create a high-quality network of diverse trails within the Bayfield Peninsula with active community engagement and support.
- V. **Goals: The goals of the Bayfield Area Trails Committee are to:**
- A. Develop and implement a proactive long-term strategy and priorities for trails maintenance and development of Bayfield Area trails;



MANY WAYS TO VOLUNTEER!



- ✓ Trail Projects
- ✓ Adopt-a-Trail
- ✓ GPS Trails
- ✓ GIS & Map Making
- ✓ Photography
- ✓ Graphics
- ✓ Web & Social Media Content
- ✓ Veg. Management & Restoration
- ✓ Trail User Study (2024 – 2025)
- ✓ Finance & Fundraising
- ✓ Admin. Support
- ✓ Any Way You Want

bayfieldareatrails.com



SIGN UP TO
PARTICIPATE
& STAY INFORMED





Adopt-a-Trail Roles

It's fun, good exercise and an excuse to get outside!

Purpose:

- Stewards for assigned trail sections within the BAT system
- Help to maintain a safe, high-quality experience for trail users
- Inform land managers and land owners about trail condition and usage

Primary Adopter Responsibilities:

- Visit and maintain trail sections 3x during the snow-free season: by May 15; by August 1; by October 15.
- Perform minor maintenance work such as: 1) picking up litter and 2) removing encroaching vegetation, brush, small saplings and tree branches.



Adopt-a-Trail: Trail Reports

Trail Reporting Process:

- Submit an online Trail Report Form for each of their trail section(s) by May 15, August 1, October 15.
- Reports identify general conditions, maintenance completed and maintenance needed. Reports also identify issues that need skilled volunteers and/or land manager assistance.
- If an adopter identifies issues that require immediate action, beyond their capacity, they will timely notify the Trail Manager and Bayfield Area Trails via email.

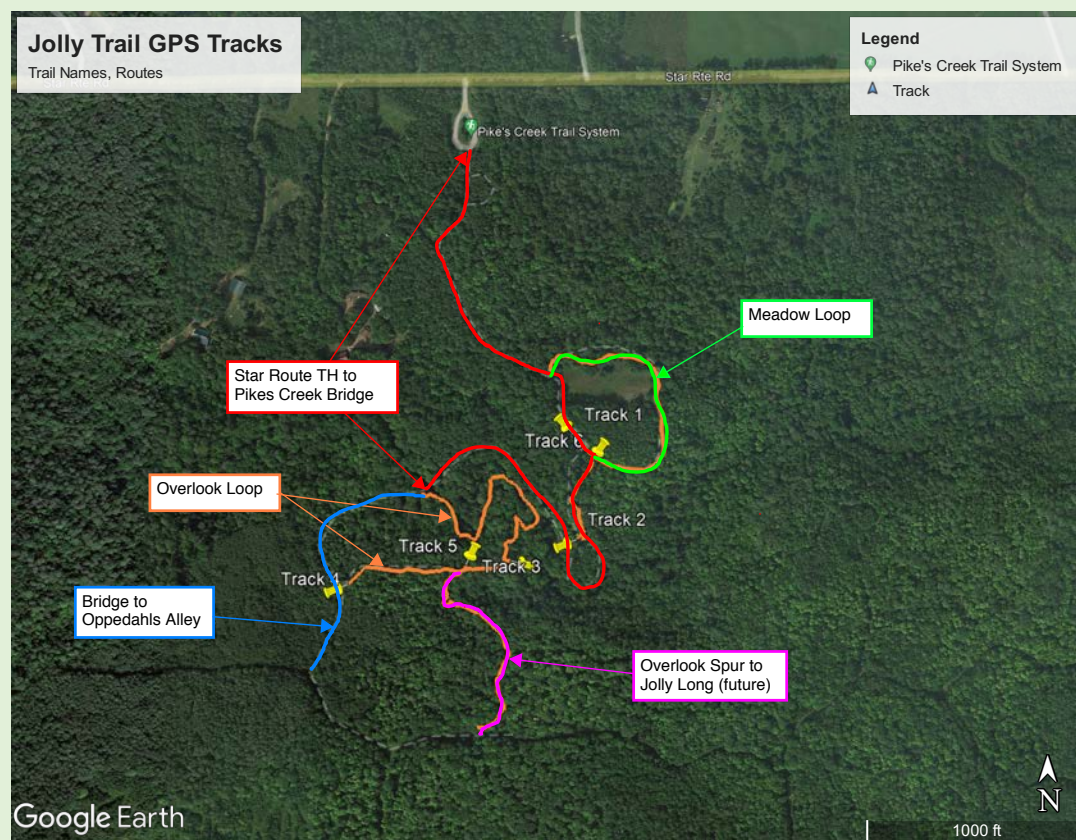


Current Adopt-a-Trail Locations

Sign up now – online or hard copy form

Example of trail segments at the Jerry Jolly Trails

- Big Ravine
- Big Ravine Headwaters
- Brownstone
- Jerry Jolly
- Lost Creek Falls
- Salmo
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Siskiwit River Preserve





Economic & Social Impact Study 2024 - 2025

OBJECTIVES

- Quantify economic impact of trail users throughout the year
- Understand community perspectives about trails
- Learn about trail user preferences to inform trails planning

IMPLEMENTATION

- Trail user surveys: July 2024 – July 2025
- Online community survey: July 2025
- Online survey of trail users: July 2025
- Final report: September 2025

* Pending Wisconsin Coastal Management Program grant

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE NEEDED

- Conduct trail user surveys throughout the year (largest # July – Sept. 2024)
- 10 trailheads to be surveyed: Ashwabay, Brownstone, Big Ravine, Salmo, Jerry Jolly, Lost Creek Falls, Siskiwit Preserve, and Frog Bay



Volunteer Surveyor Roles

- A total of 300 shifts over a 12- month period
- 10 trail heads
- 2-hour shifts
- Average of 2.5 shifts/trail/month and mostly in warmer months.
- Fewer surveys in the colder/lower-use months
- Each interview takes 5-10 minutes
- Enter responses on site via an electronic notepad (provided) or personal phone
- Training provided
- Supplies: a sandwich board, hat and shirt to identify volunteer role
- Incentives for hikers to be supplied by local businesses, etc.

Achievable if enough people volunteer!



Opportunity for a broad spectrum of people

Help at your favorite trail

- Persons who have a trail in their neighborhood
- Persons who already hike a particular trail frequently
- People looking for a volunteer opportunity that is more social and requires less brawn
- Flexible scheduling: mornings or afternoons on weekdays or weekends
- People who work during the week but would like a weekend volunteer opportunity (or vice versa)
- Persons may wish to adopt a trailhead for certain time periods
- Persons who wish to get outside.



2024 Project Schedule

(subject to change)

PROJECT	TARGET DATES
JUNE	
Flying Squirrel: reroute/steps & boardwalk repair; West Rim: install stone steps at steep muddy section	6/7 - 6/10
Big Ravine Headwaters: additional work to address drainage in low areas; plan mowing.	6/20 - 6/24
Additional small projects identified by trail adopters	TBD
JULY	
Pileated Woodpecker Trail: project recon; and initiate process to address drainage & finish work on the upper section; implement routine mowing on connecting hiking trails	7/13 - 7/16
Construct Big Ravine Sweeny Loop: connect Martin Rd. to south end of Chipmunk Trail via the Sweeny Ave. R/W (pending City approval)	7/19 - 7/24
Siskiwit Preserve: Focus on signage/mapping, fencing, clean up, etc.	TBD
AUGUST	
Pileated Woodpecker Trail: continue to address drainage & finish work on the upper section; implement routine mowing on connecting hiking trails	8/4 - 8/10
SEPTEMBER	
Jerry Jolly Trails: Rebuild connection from the "Overlook" to the Jolly Long (recon in August)	9/12 - 9/17
Brownstone Trail: replenish gravel from below WRR to bottom of steps; maintain ditches	9/20 - 9/23
Ashwabay: assist with trail clearing: focus on Jolly Long Loop overhanging trees	TBD
OCTOBER	
East Rim Trail: Replenish gravel and/or add boardwalks on upper East Rim Trail	10/3 - 10/5
Ashwabay: continue to assist with trail clearing: focus on Jolly Long Loop overhanging trees	TBD
Houghton Falls: fencing & boardwalk (if time permits)	TBD
NOVEMBER	



2024 Priorities posted on website

Maintain & Enhance Existing Trails

- **Brownstone Trail:** Finalize restoration designs; continue fundraising; conduct invasive species control and native plantings.
- **Frog Bay Trails:** Organize volunteers to assist Red Cliff TNR with spring maintenance.
- **Siskiwit Preserve:** Focus on signage/mapping, and site cleanup
- **Salmo Trail:** Install interpretive and orientation signs/map at trailhead kiosk.
- **Big Ravine Headwaters Trails:** address drainage; add boardwalks; continue mowing.
- **Big Ravine:** Assess the potential need for bridges on the Gil Larsen Trail; West Rim Trail maintenance; replenish gravel on upper East Rim Trail.
- **Ongoing maintenance** identified by BAT Comm. members and Trail Adopters.
- **Easements** for existing Big Ravine trails.

Develop New Trails

- **Pileated Woodpecker Trail:** Complete the trail.
- **Jerry Jolly Trails:** Coordinate with Bayfield County to re-establish trail from the "Overlook" to the Jolly Long.
- **Big Ravine:** Construct Big Ravine Sweeny Loop (if approved); link Martin Rd. to end of Chipmunk via Sweeny Ave. R/W.
- **Fire Hill:** Assist Bayfield County with trails planning and implementation.

Plan New Trails & Secure Access

- **Feasibility Study:** Support Red Cliff on the TAP-funded feasibility study of trails, including Red Cliff to Bayfield link.
- **Chequamegon Rd. to Salmo Trail:** Pursue possible easements for a public connection to complete the Brownstone Trail.
- **Big Ravine:** Explore possible new trails in the Big Ravine to create loop(s).
- **Potential Connections:** Continue to explore potential trail connections on Bayfield Hill, Orchards, etc.
- **Trails Master Plan:** Work on new Bayfield Area Trails "master plan" based upon input from Trails Forum & Trail User Survey.
- **Big Ravine Coordinated Plan:** consider a coordinated integrated management plan with City & Town.
- **Fire Hill:** Initiate follow-up on interest expressed at 2023 Trails Forum about mountain biking around Fire Hill and mushing trails.

Communication & Outreach

- **Outreach:** Conduct Trail User Survey and Socioeconomic Study.
- **Maps:** Improve availability of online map information, including QR codes, master map, and links to other trails.
- **Standardization:** Develop and implement standardized coordinated maps and trail directional and interpretive signage.
- **Team:** Recruit additional members and strengthen the CsC to be self-sustaining. Develop capacity for graphics, signage, photography, and content for website.

Build Capacity for Trail Projects

- Place an emphasis on **recruiting** and **developing** younger volunteers for long-term continuity.
- Develop and implement standard volunteer and trail adopter **training**.
- Develop maintenance and management **standards & guidelines**.

Establish a Sustainable Organization

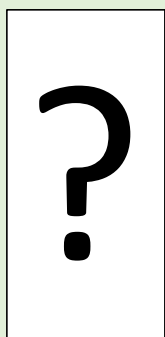
- Maintain **fiscal sponsorship** with Recreation & Fitness Resources. Consider other long-term strategies.
- Work on a **strategic multi-year plan** with priorities.
- Develop **funding needs** and **fundraising strategies** & procedures based on priorities.
- Conduct annual **Trails Forums** to share information and build support
- Document roles, responsibilities of Chair & BAT Comm. procedures in the **operations manual**.
- Establish **policies & procedures** for standard project scheduling & planning: guidance, checklists, annual cycle.



Questions or Suggestions?

- Talk to the presenters:

- Genevieve Johnson
- Peter Rothe
- Kris Wegerson



- Submit via the online form QR code at tables
- Hard copy at registration
- Bring them up during the Q&A at the end of the program



2024 SUGGESTIONS & VOLUNTEER SIGN UP FORM

MISSION: To sustain and create a high-quality network of diverse trails within the Bayfield Peninsula with active community engagement and support.

VISION: Bayfield Peninsula trails enhance individual and community wellbeing by connecting people with nature and each other. With a focus on silent sports and inspired by a strong land stewardship ethic, we collaborate with all trail users to advance social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

PLEASE PROVIDE SUGGESTIONS FOR THE BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

- 1) Which trails need maintenance & improvement? Please describe what you think is needed.
- 2) Where do you think there are opportunities for potential new trails?

Reference the maps posted at tables. (Continue suggestions on the back)

DO YOU WANT TO VOLUNTEER? (Check your areas of interest & provide contact info. below)

Trail User Surveys – check preferred locations

- Big Ravine
- Brownstone
- Jerry Jay Jolly
- Lost Creek Falls
- Mt. Ashwabay
- Pileated Woodpecker
- Siskiwit River Preserve

Adopt-a-Trail - check preferred locations

- Big Ravine
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Field projects: we will include you in our field project emails: create & maintain trails

Join the Trails Subcommittee: plan and implement trail projects & engage volunteers.

Communications: writing, graphics, mapping, photography, & administrative support (circle all that apply)

Other areas of interest? Questions & Suggestions? (continue on back, if needed)

Name: _____ Email: _____



Charting our Course for the Future



BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



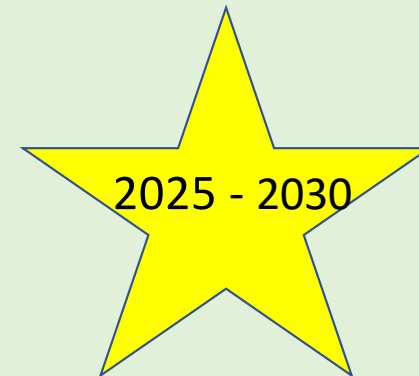
GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

As 2023 comes to an end, I reflect on how far Bayfield Area Trails (BATs) has come since we signed the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) in 2020. I am inspired and grateful to see the community of volunteers and trail supporters who love and care for the trails. The **generosity of our community and granting agencies has been overwhelming**; especially in support of the bridge across Pikes Creek for the Pileated Woodpecker Trail! In 2023, a total of over \$175,000 in donations and grants came through our BATs partners to enhance and expand the trails that we all cherish and enjoy. Some of these funds will be carried over into 2024.



Rich Metcalfe, Gene Lemmenes,

As an all-volunteer organization, our success depends on people who are willing to give their time and talents. As such, the **capabilities and knowledge of our volunteers continue to grow so that we are able to take on more challenging projects** in a more sustainable manner. We do this by following a model of 1) Planning New Trails and Securing Access; 2) Maintaining and Building Trails; 3) Building and Sustaining Organizational Capacity; and 4) Communicating with all who are interested. Amazingly, during 2023, **45 folks volunteered on 10 projects** and donated **1340 hours on field projects** and **1250 hours on committees**, public information/communications, and project planning and coordination. With nearly **25 adopters**, our **Adopt-a-Trail program** is up and running smoothly to keep trails safe and clear.





Cornerstones for Charting Our Course

- **MISSION:** *To sustain and create a high-quality network of diverse trails within the Bayfield Peninsula with active community engagement and support.*
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Mission/Vision Team: Peter Rothe (chair), Sue Aiken, Fred Clark, Ted May, Kate Kitchell



Launching the 5-year Comprehensive Plan

- **Purpose:** Develop a cohesive plan to guide the collective program of work; identify resources needed; and define a roadmap for 2025 – 2030.
- **Desired Outcomes:** A planning document with maps that includes
 - Trails inventory
 - Trail maintenance & improvement priorities
 - Potential new trail opportunities – corridors, planning considerations
 - Resources needed (funding, staffing, organization)
 - Implementation Plan to establish a sustainable organization



Launching the 5-year Comprehensive Plan

• Trail Planning Considerations (examples):

- Environmental factors: e.g. slope, soil, water resources, sensitive species
- Private property: respecting private property – working with willing landowners
- Trail sustainability & maintenance
- Community input and preferences
- Capacity
- Accessibility





Launching the 5-year Comprehensive Plan Support & Funding

- **National Park Service Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance (RTCA)**
 - Team: Holly Larson, Chris Morgan, Daniel Ochoa
 - Planning process & products
 - Public involvement
 - Trail mapping and design
 - GIS
- **Apostle Islands Area Community Fund Grant**
 - Local facilitator/coordinator – looking for candidates
- **BAT Comm. Subcommittee – let us know if you're interested**

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

Application Guidelines & Form





Help us Achieve the Vision

• Existing Trails: Maintenance & Improvements:

- Which trails need maintenance and improvement?
- Describe what you think is needed

• New Trails:

- Where do you think there are opportunities for new trails?



Share your ideas!

Access online comment form
 Follow-up will be sent after this event
 Write comments today



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- Communications:** writing, graphics, mapping, photography, & administrative support (circle all that apply)
- Other areas of interest? Questions & Suggestions?** (continue on back, if needed)

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Achieving the Vision

Overview Map

Base reference
for brainstorming
& comprehensive
planning

Bayfield Peninsula Trails Overview Map

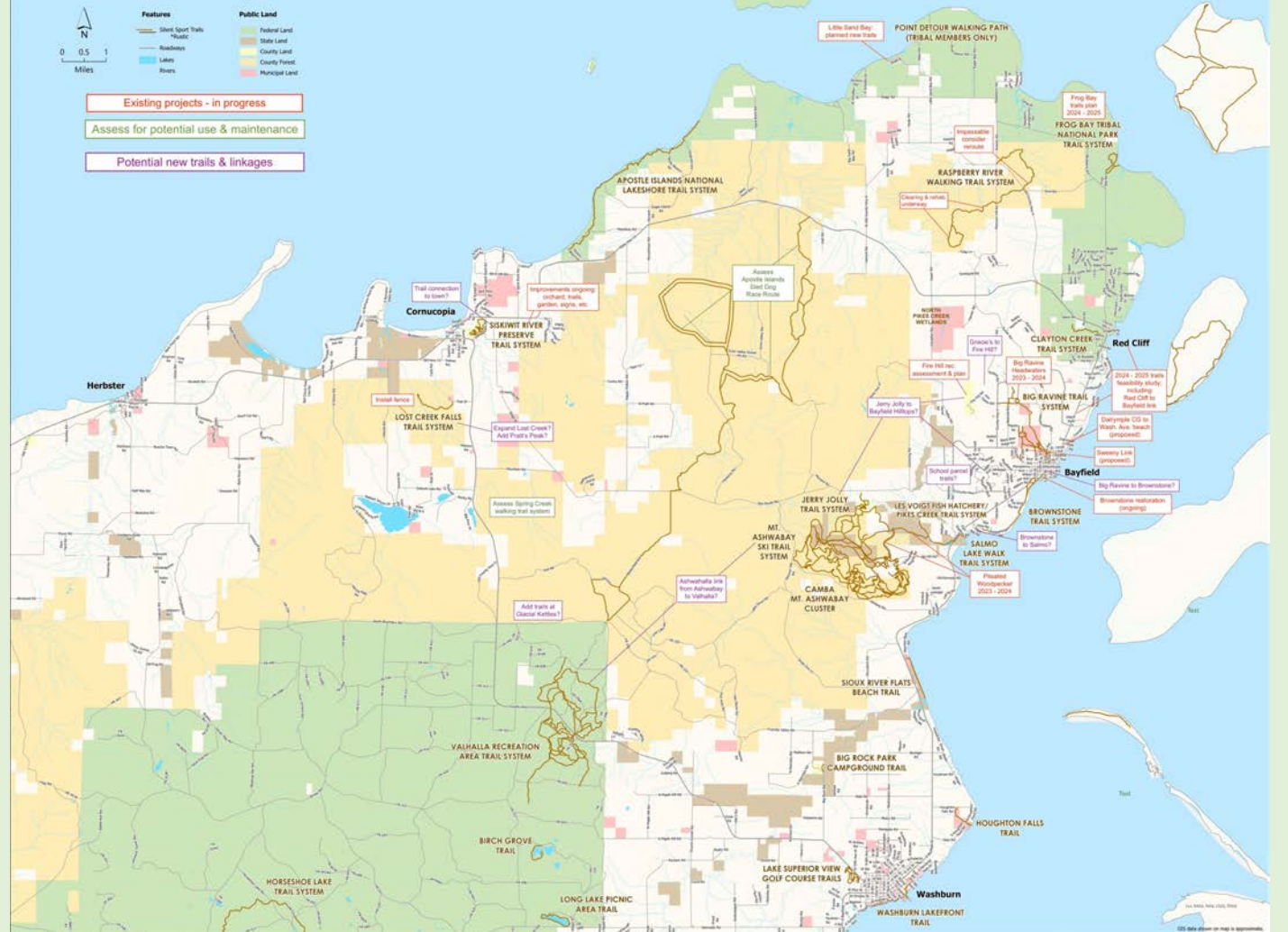




Table Topics & Maps

Existing and Potential New Trails

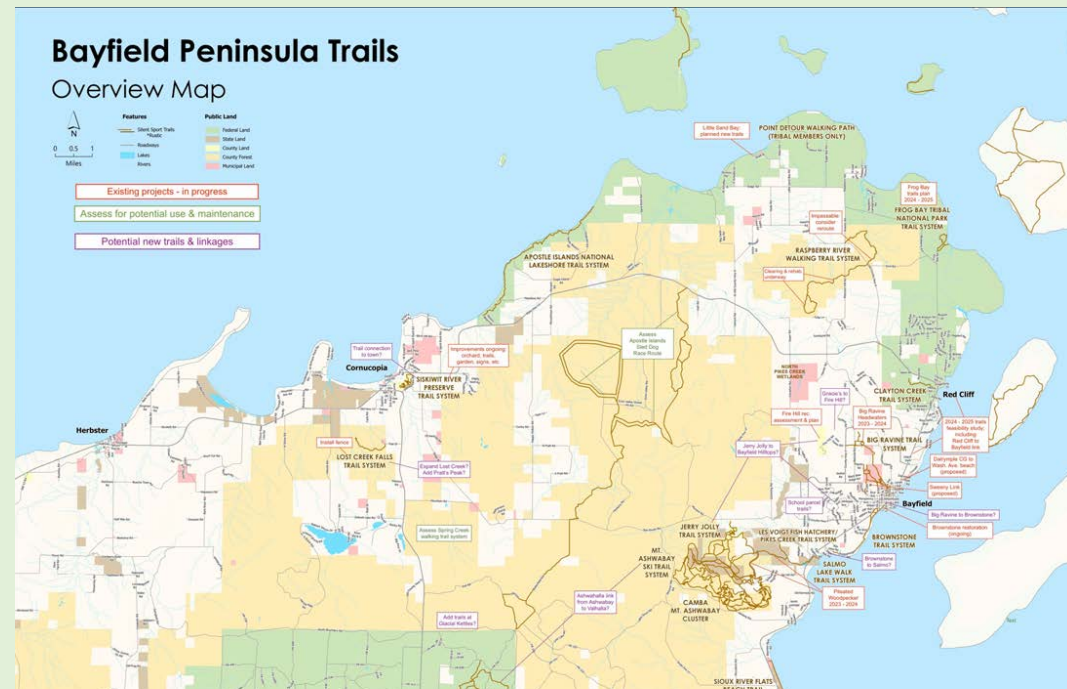
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3. Town of Bayfield: *Big Ravine Headwaters: Pileated Woodpecker; Bayfield Hill links*
4. Landmark Conservancy: *Brownstone Trail; Brownstone to Salmo*
5. Bayfield County: *Siskiwit Preserve; Fire Hill; Ashwahalla; Kettles; Jerry Jolly to Cornucopia*
6. Town of Bell & CTC: *Siskiwit Preserve; west side of Peninsula*
7. Ashwabay Alliance: *Ashwabay trails; Ashwahalla*
8. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore: *Mainland Trail; Little Sand Bay Trails*
9. Trail Information Resources
10. U.S. Forest Service: *Trails program; potential links and collaborations with BAT*
11. Chequamegon Audubon: *partner in education and stewardship*



Before we adjourn to the tables... Q & A & Discussion

Questions, suggestions, discussion about...

- 2024 activities
- Volunteer opportunities
- 5-year Comprehensive Plan
- Whatever is on your mind...
- Follow-up on website & email





Visit the Tables - Topics & Maps

Existing and Potential New Trails

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