



Franklin County Recreational Trails Association

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Engineering: The design of the trail and facilities that makes it sustainable, meets riders' needs, and protects resources. Trails will be planned to minimize adverse affect to the environment, avoid wetlands, significant habitats, streams, ponds, lakes, endangered species, highly erodible soils, and other environmental significant landuses. State preserve land will be completely avoided.

- * Trail width: 50-inches or less. Many bends and turns for reduction of excessive speeds and trail degradation. Trail alignment will be designated to slow riders down and reduce visual impacts.
- * All trails will be 2-way
- * At locations where roads may be crossed, the crossings will be done at a 90-degree angle or as close to one as possible, and will provide maximum sight distances.
- * Surfaces of trails will be resistant to soil erosion. Any stream sedimentation will be avoided.
- * Trails will be designated following guidelines established by the United States Forest Service, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council, the International Mountain Biking Association, and the American Motorcycle Association.
- * Connections will be emphasized for gas, food, lodging, scenic areas, destinations, camp grounds and facilities.
- * No full sized vehicles will be allowed on off road trail segments.
- * All users including pedestrians will be required to stay on designated trails.
- * Some site specific seasonal closings of certain areas may be required for preservation of trails, safety, and the environment, protect resources and soils, and for other management needs.
- * Annual maintenance needs will be assessed by monitoring and prioritization.
- * Maps, guides, signs, brochures, press releases, newsletters, outreach, public meetings and educational events will be provided.

Education: The tools that help set rider expectations and inform visitors of rules and regulations, including quality mapping, signs, kiosks, public contact, interpretive signing, guides, printed materials, and public service announcements. Recreational safety training will be provided, and the Franklin County Traffic and Safety Board has been involved with this process since its inception.

- * Maps, guides, signs, brochures, press releases, newsletters, and educational events will be provided.
- * Patrols of clubs will be provided including but not limited to site checks, educational events, club events and more.
- * Educational events on resource protection, conservation, sensitive resources, multiple uses on public land and treading lightly will be provided along with educational materials available for the public.

- * A Pro-active volunteer program will be established to educate and enforce rules along the trails. These volunteers will be utilized to help implement, maintain and monitor the trail system under the guidance of the Franklin County Recreational Trail Association.
- * Education will also focus on rules and regulations. Behavior will also be addressed at educational opportunities, public meetings, club meetings and any other media opportunity (facebook, websites, newsletters).

Environmental Conservation: The Franklin County Recreational Trails Association is committed to the development of a monitoring and maintenance plan that will mitigate environmental impacts. This plan includes an annual monitoring program that will identify any social, physical and biological impacts that may occur along trail segments, evaluate these impacts and carry out necessary work to mitigate these impacts. Photo points will also be used to monitor change and usage over time.

- * A complete environmental review of the proposed trail system will be conducted including the development of a state Environmental Quality Review. The NYSDEC, APA and local environmental groups have been involved since the beginning and will continue to be involved and coordinated with.
- * New trail construction will be designed to avoid sensitive areas whenever possible. If this is not achievable mitigation measures will be employed and practices that avoid as much disruption will be employed.
- * Vegetation removal will be minimal.
- * Trails will be monitored for maintenance. Trails will be maintained as needed to protect resources, maintain design standards and insure public safety.
- * If education, enforcement and maintenance is not protecting and preserving sensitive areas, and other mitigation measures will not be effective, trails may be rerouted or closed.
- * If a trail needs to be moved specific environmental evaluations of this trail corridor would be undertaken, in compliance with the checklist of necessary reviews and evaluations included in the DGEIS, prior to any new trail construction.
- * The Franklin County Recreational Trails Association will conduct a yearly conservation program including but not limited to tree plantings, soil reclamation and replacement, invasive species identification, remediation and/or removal.
- * The Recreational Trails Association will continue to work with and along side of Franklin County Soil and Water to ensure compliance with all environmental rules and regulations.

Enforcement: Essential to recreational trail management programs, increase agency visibility, deter misbehavior, increase compliance, reduce vandalism, and increase riders' feeling of security. The more effective the engineering and education, the less enforcement will need to focus on citations.

- * Any user trails that are not part of the designated trail system will be closed and rehabilitated immediately.
- * Trail closings will be conducted using one or some of the following: signing, gating, blocking, obliteration, and/or camouflaging.
- * A volunteer trail patrol program will be set-up utilizing clubs and their members. They will focus on educating the public and peer enforcement of rules and regulations.

Evaluation -- Also called monitoring. It's essential to regularly evaluate overall program effectiveness, visitor satisfaction, compliance, resource protection, and prevention of renegade trails. Trails will be maintained to ensure safe, functional, pleasurable and the conservation of the environment within the recreational areas.

- * This will be done using photo-points along the trails that will be visited frequently and evaluated for any issues.
- * The Franklin County Soil and Water Conservation District will also monitor the trails yearly for potential issues.
- * Surveys will be conducted of members of clubs to determine issues with trails for future planning and maintenance.
- * This is one of the most important parts once the trail is established. All maintenance will be completed by the Franklin County Recreational Trails Association and this local clubs. This is very important and will be an ongoing and important step in the success of the trail system.

Insurance:

Garceau*Wenick-Kutz*Magowan Insurance Agency is a full service independent insurance agency with offices located in Escanaba and Powers, Michigan. Established since 1979.

- * The policies written will cover associations, clubs, and private lands.
- * See attached information.