

Heather Grace

From: Mike Garey <mike.garey@drivegreatness.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 3:48 PM
To: Susan Cooper
Subject: Berrien County Bike, Hike, and Paddle Trails Master Plan Update
Attachments: BerrienCountyTrailsPlanOverview_June2021.pdf; Berrien CountyPlan_Presentation.pdf

Dear Colleagues,

In partnership with Friends of Berrien County Trails, I am delighted to report that 13 or 1/3 of our County municipalities have provided \$26K of funds for the partial costs for Friends of Berrien County Trails to contract with Abonmarche for Professional Services to create a "Berrien County Bike, Hike and Paddle Trails Master Plan" plus the costs of distributing a printed copy in addition to a digital copy of the Master Plan to all the local governments in Berrien County and major stakeholders, communicating the results of the Master Plan using the local media channels and social media, and finally working with a web hosting vendor to provide proposed trails and interactive maps of existing trails.

As Chair of the Best Practices Group of the Leadership Council, I want to acknowledge and say thank you to those municipalities that have provided funds for the Trails Master Plan. They are:

Chikaming Township, the City of Bridgman, City of Coloma, City of New Buffalo, City of St. Joseph, Hagar Township, Lake Charter Township, Lincoln Township, New Buffalo Township, Niles Township, Royalton Township, Village of Berrien Springs, & Village of Three Oaks

To those municipalities that are not aware or have not yet decided on providing funds toward the costs of doing a county-wide trails master plan, I am asking you to join with me and fellow municipalities to support this important project for our County and communities. Although the average amount provided by our municipalities has been \$2K, our goal is to get 100% participation. No matter how small the amount, it will make a difference. I have attached two pdfs for your review. If you would like to know more or have questions, you can reach out to Gary Wood at Friends of Berrien County Trails (gwood811@yahoo.com) or Marcy Hamilton at the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (hamiltonm@swmpc.org). Our deadline for raising funds is October 31st.

Again, thank you to all of you that have already funded the project and to those of you for your consideration.

Mike Garey

