



## F.A.Q.

**Won't this trail raise my taxes? NO!**

Construction of the trail is done with grants and donations.

**Who maintains the trail?**

Separated pathways will be maintained by local governments. Paved shoulders are maintained by the road commission.

**Why isn't it all a separated trail?**

Public opinion, easement requirements, topography, and environmental restrictions are all factors considered in this decision.

**Who can use the Burt Lake Trail?**

This non-motorized trail is open to the public and designed for Universal Access, snowmobiles and ATV's are not permitted. No fees will be charged for use of the trail. Trail users include walkers and runners, bikers, equestrians, cross country skiers and snowshoers. Parking is not allowed on the trail. Trail Head is located at the South end of Mundt Rd.



Burt, Mullett, Munro, and Maple River Townships  
Topinabee, Pellston, and Mackinaw City  
Emmet and Cheboygan Counties  
University of Michigan Biological Station  
Little Traverse Conservancy  
Michigan Department of Natural Resources  
Michigan Department of Transportation  
Cheboygan County Road Commission  
Emmet County Road Commission  
National Park Service, Rivers, Trails, and  
Conservation Assistance Program  
Burt Lake Preservation Association  
Tri-County Bicycle Association, DALMAC fund  
Harbor-Petoskey Community Foundation  
Hospitalists of Northern Michigan  
Citizens National Bank  
Straits Area Community Foundation  
Harbor-Petoskey Community Foundation  
Xcel Physical Therapy  
Indian River Kayak/Bike Biathlon  
Topinabee Development Association

And the 300+ Trail Enthusiasts who have donated time, talent, and treasure to build Phase 1 and 2 of the Burt Lake Trail.



MAPLE BAY CAMPGROUND AND BOAT ACCESS  
AARON J. & ADRIENNE N. PIENIOZEK NATURE PRESERVE  
CHABOIGANING NATURE PRESERVE AND TRAILHEAD  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN BIOLOGICAL STATION  
THE UMBS GORGE  
THE COLONIAL POINT MEMORIAL FOREST

BRUTUS CAMP DELI  
MUNDT ROAD BURT LAKE ACCESS  
BEAR SAW PRESERVE  
HOPPIES TAVERN  
MULLETT-BURT ROAD LAKE ACCESS  
TOPINABEE



## HOW CAN I HELP?

**Donate to the Burt Lake Trail Fund**

Local match is needed for construction of the next segment of separated trail. All donations are tax deductible through the Top of Michigan Trails Council.

**Make checks payable to:**

Top of Michigan Trails Council - Burt Lake Trail\*  
1687 M-119, Petoskey, MI 49770

**\*You must designate "BURT LAKE TRAIL" on your check. To make your donation online, go to [trails council.org/donate](https://trails council.org/donate), select Burt Lake Trail.**

## LEARN MORE

For more information visit [www.burttownship.org](http://www.burttownship.org) for Burt Lake Trail updates and meetings.

# BURT LAKE TRAIL HANDBOOK

CONNECTING TRAILS & COMMUNITIES IN CHEBOYGAN & EMMET COUNTIES

## TRAIL ADVANTAGES!

**Trails have many benefits & advantages:**

- The improved safety of people walking, riding, running on narrow country roads
- Support of healthy outdoor recreation activities
- Provide a closer connection with the natural beauty of the area
- Economic improvement and positive property value impact
- Current availability of significant tax-free financing opportunities
- Minimal impact on local tax rates

Interestingly enough, there are really no disadvantages. Plans for the expansion of the Burt Lake Trail are underway. Whether you're an occasional walker, daily strider, or avid bike rider the Burt Lake Trail will provide you with a safer way to recreate and transport. So please review the facts, figures and experiences in this handbook and consider a contribution to help the Burt Lake Trail completion a reality for our community!



Gentle hills and views of shimmering water provide the background for the Burt Lake Trail. This trail provides a safer recreation and transportation route to bike, walk, and enjoy the gorgeous scenery around the north end of Burt Lake. Learn about the trail

advantages, points of interest, frequently asked questions, what our trail enthusiasts have to say, view the completed and proposed trails on the map and their descriptions, and learn how you can help!

## WHAT OUR TRAIL ENTHUSIASTS SAY!

We love the Burt Lake walking/biking trails and use them every time we head to grandma's! It wouldn't be an Up North visit without loading up the bikes and hitting the trails with the cousins. — **Michael and Sarah Gano**



Each time I drive north on East Burt Lake Road I feel my hands and heart tighten as I slow and swerve to avoid all the walkers, walkers with dogs, bikers, grandparents and kids. The Burt Lake Trail and widened shoulders would encourage more of this healthy activity and provide a much safer environment for everyone. — **Karen Jалlos, Topinabee**



Our Kayak /Bike Biathlon participants, friends and family, come from all over Michigan and out-of-state. Our event also attracts hundreds of spectators, many of whom are also from out of town. The net effect is that building more quality bike trails brings quality tourists to our area who appreciate the natural beauty of our trails. This is why the Kayak Bike Biathlon has proudly donated our proceeds each year to the Burt Lake Trail.

— **Jess Miller / Margie Reh, Coordinators: Indian River Kayak Bike Biathlon**



# LOVING THE LOOP

The new Burt Lake Trail, once complete, will create our first looped, non-motorized, long distance bike trail in Northern Michigan, connecting the Northwest State Trail and the North Central State Trail. Touring cyclists will be able to park their car and pedal their way through some of the most beautiful terrain in our region, all the time riding on these safe trail systems! Bike riding tourists spend money and cycle tourism will continue to have an increasingly positive impact on our local economy with this new trail. In addition to people coming to this region to ride their bikes, experience tells us that many of our cycling clients have chosen to purchase second homes in our area primarily because of these great trail systems that we are developing like the new Burt Lake Trail. As owner of a local bike shop in Petoskey, I directly benefit economically from these new trails and so do my friends who own restaurants, hotels, shops and construction companies in Northern Michigan. These trails truly create a vibrant community for us all!

*Christian Janssens, Owner, Latitude 45 Bicycles & Fitness*

MAP LEGEND

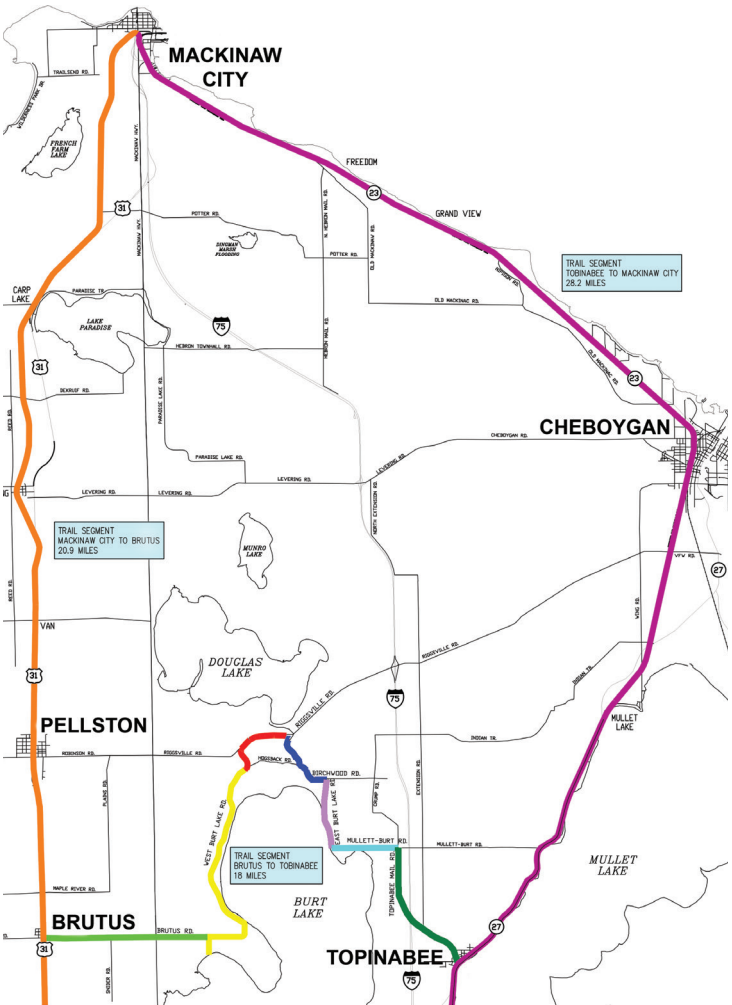
COMPLETED PATHWAY, PHASE 1, 2013

COMPLETED PATHWAY, PHASE 2, 2020

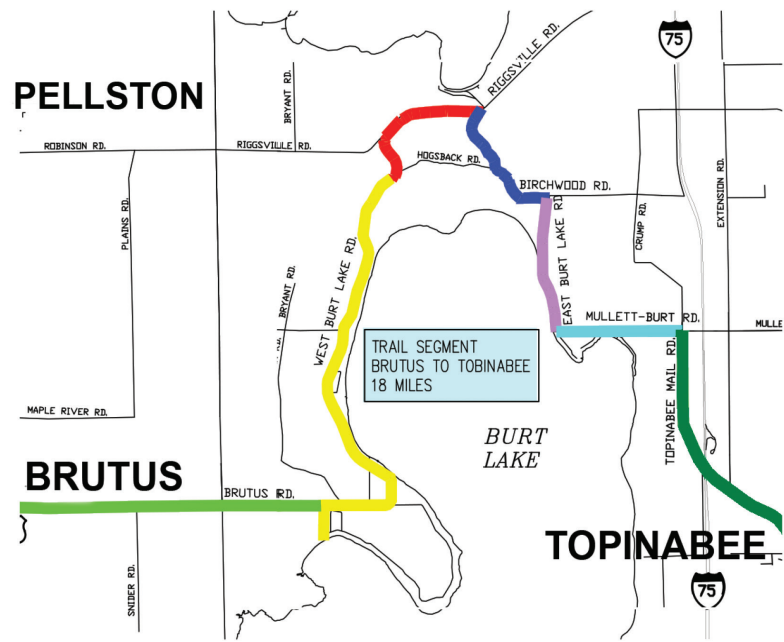
FUTURE DEVELOPMENT, PHASE 3, 2021

COMPLETED ROAD SHOULDERS, PHASE 4, 2020COMPLETED ROAD SHOULDERS, PHASE 5, 2017FUTURE PLANNED CONNECTIONNORTH CENTRAL STATE TRAILNORTH WESTERN STATE TRAIL

\*NOTE: THESE SECTIONS WILL BE SIGNED AS A BIKE ROUTE WITH NEXT PROJECT(S).



# BUILDING THE BURT LAKE TRAIL



- PHASE 1, CRUSHED LIMESTONE PATHWAY, COMPLETED 2014
- PHASE 2, PAVED PATHWAY, COMPLETED 2020
- PHASE 3, UNDER DEVELOPMENT, EXPECTED 2021
- PHASE 4, COMPLETED ROAD SHOULDER, 2020
- PHASE 5, COMPLETED ROAD SHOULDER 2017
- FUTURE PLANNED CONNECTION TO NC STATE TRAIL
- FUTURE PLANNED CONNECTION TO NW STATE TRAIL

## PLANNING AND FUNDING

The idea for a trail to enable township residents and visitors to safely walk and bike started with a Burt Township survey and property owner comments. This was followed by a Trail Feasibility Study to explore options for a non-motorized recreational trail and soon developed into plans for an 18 mile trail connecting communities in two counties and four townships while connecting two major rail trails, the North Central State Trail and the North Western State Trail.

Funding for trail development is dependent on grants from State and Federal programs including grants from the Transportation Alternatives Program managed by MDOT (TAP) and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF). Both of these grant sources require a local match of 25% or more. These grants helped fund the first two segments of the Burt Lake Trail.

The Burt Lake Trail is planned to connect the North Central State Trail in Topinabee and will continue along the north shore of Burt Lake to connect with the North Western State Trail in Brutus creating a 67 mile looped trail. Cyclists will be able to bike this route in 1-3 days while enjoying the beauty of northern Michigan and sights found in Mackinaw City, Cheboygan, Topinabee Indian River, Alanson, and Pellston.

# ROUTE OVERVIEW & DESCRIPTION

## TOTAL TRAIL LENGTH 18 MILES

**DEVELOPED 5.1 MILES BRUTUS RD. AT MAPLE BAY RD. TO HOGSBACK RD. AT W. BURT LAKE RD.**

**Facility type:** Non-motorized, shared-use path, 1/4 mile of paved shoulders

**Trail surface:** Crushed limestone

This is a multi-use, non-motorized trail with portions within road right-of-way. Some trail areas have greater road separation thanks to easements from private landowners and the Little Traverse Conservancy. A section of trail (<1 mile) of paved shoulders on W. Burt Lake Rd. Three sloped areas of trail were paved to reduce washouts and maintenance costs.

**COMPLETED 1.8 MILES W. BURT LAKE RD. AT HOGSBACK TO RIGGSVILLE RD. ENDING AT E. BURT LAKE RD.**

**Facility Type:** Separated, non-motorized, shared-use path

**Trail Surface:** Paved Asphalt

This trail segment continues the existing trail along W. Burt Lake Road east along Riggsville Rd. ending at E. Burt Lake Rd. The University of Michigan Biological Station (UMBS) gave a valuable easement to Burt Township allowing continuation of the trail as a separated non-motorized shared use path through Burt and Munro Townships and the UMBS. This easement ends near Birchwood Rd. Financed by grants awarded by MNRTF and MDOT TAP and a local match raised by the Burt Lake Trail Committee.

**PROPOSED 1.5 MILES E. BURT LAKE RD. AT RIGGSVILLE RD. TO BIRCHWOOD RD.**

**Facility Type:** Separated, non-motorized, shared-use path

**Trail Surface:** Paved Asphalt

**Proposed Project Completion:** 2021

This 1.5 mile separated trail segment of E. Burt Lake Rd. at Riggsville Rd. continuing through UM Biological Center property to Birchwood Rd. Approved for grants in 2019. Construction anticipated in 2021. Additional funds to meet match will be needed.

**COMPLETED 1.5 MILES E. BURT LAKE RD. AT BIRCHWOOD RD. TO MULLETT-BURT RD.**

**Facility Type:** Shared Roadway

**Trail Surface:** 5 foot paved shoulders

This shared roadway on E. Burt Lake Rd. at Birchwood Rd. to Mullett-Burt Lake Rd. has 5-foot paved shoulders giving residents and trail users a safer way to walk and bike while prolonging the life of the road. Completed summer of 2020 in conjunction with re-paving of East Burt Lake Road by the Cheboygan County Road Commission and Burt Township's Complete Streets Policy.

**COMPLETED 1.4 MILES MULLETT-BURT TO TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE**

**Facility Type:** Shared Roadway

**Trail Surface:** 5 ft. paved shoulder

Five foot paved shoulders were added to Mullett Burt Rd. (at Hoppies) to Topinabee Mail Route in 2017 as part of the Cheboygan County Road Commission road resurfacing project and Burt Township's Complete Streets Policy.

**COMPLETED THE NORTH CENTRAL STATE TRAIL**

Officially opened in 2008 and consists of 62 miles of separated crushed limestone from Mackinaw City to Gaylord. It is the longest improved trail in Michigan and is part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail Bicycle Route. (To learn more about the Iron Belle Trail visit [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).)

**COMPLETED THE NORTH WESTERN STATE TRAIL**

Completed in 2015 with 7.5 miles of paved asphalt from Petoskey to Alanson and 24.5 miles of compacted crushed limestone from Alanson to Mackinaw City.

**PROPOSED FUTURE PLANNED CONNECTION 3.2 MILES TOPINABEE MAIL ROUTE TO STRAITS HIGHWAY, TOPINABEE**

**Facility Type:** Shared Road

**Trail Surface:** 4-6 ft. Paved Shoulders

Paved shoulders (4-6 feet) along Topinabee Mail Route to Straits Highway is the preferred route at this time connecting the Burt Lake Trail to the North Central State Trail in Topinabee. Additional routes to connect residents on Service, Numbers and Eagles Nest Roads to the Burt Lake Trail will be considered when roads are resurfaced as part of Burt Townships Complete Streets Policy. This section will be in cooperation with Mullett Township.

**PROPOSED FUTURE PLANNED CONNECTION 3.6 MILES BRUTUS RD. AT US-31 TO MAPLE BAY RD.**

**Proposed Facility Type:** Shared Roadway

**Trail surface:** 4 ft. Paved Shoulders

**Proposed Completion of project:** 2021-2023

Currently this is a rural road with no shoulders. Increased traffic volume seasonally. Emmet and Cheboygan County Road Commissions plan to add four foot paved shoulders on Brutus Rd. when reconstruction of the road takes place. This segment would connect the trail to the North Western State Trail in Brutus. Culvert removal and construction of a new bridge, with five foot shoulders, over the Maple River on Brutus Rd. was completed in 2016.