



Resolution of Endorsement for the Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan

Resolved by The Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks at their meeting held on September 19, 2007, in the State of Michigan.

WHEREAS there is general recognition statewide of the many benefits of multi-use trailways, not the least of which is improving health, economic benefits, alternative transportation, access to the environment and natural areas, recreational opportunities, tourism and multi-jurisdictional cooperation; and

WHEREAS, the “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan” released on May 15, 2007 is a comprehensive set of recommendations for completing a an interconnected statewide system of trailways in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, the plan is the result of the year-long work of over 100 task force members, working on the following 10 topics: Funding for acquisition, construction, maintenance and operation; Developing a statewide GIS railway database and website; Property issues: easements and titles; Trailways usage: programming and promotions; On-road connections: linking the trailways; Building trailways support: education and advocacy; Overcoming boundaries: gaining cooperation; Coordinating Resources: technical assistance for funding, planning, design; Multi-Use Trails & Design: guidelines and information; and Envisioning a Statewide Trailways Network: opportunities and priorities; and

WHEREAS, the task force members included official participation from the National Park Service, Michigan Departments of Natural Resources, Transportation, Community Health, the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, Health, and Sports, and Travel Michigan, Michigan Recreation and Park Association, various regional representatives from health, transportation, economic development agencies and regional trail groups and local representatives from county, municipal, and township jurisdictions, as well as individual trail advocates and statewide and local nonprofit groups; and

WHEREAS, the “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan” contains 39 goals on the previously identified topics and 109 action steps that will be acted upon over the next several years by a number of involved partners who have agreed to continue to collaborate; and

WHEREAS, the “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision and Action Plan” works in conjunction with Governor Granholm’s recently released state trails initiative, “Michigan Trails at the Crossroads: A Vision for Connecting Michigan”;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we the undersigned, attest to our endorsement of the Connecting Michigan Vision to complete an interconnected statewide trail system, and commit to participating with each other and our many partners in a collaborative effort to carry out the action steps necessary to achieve the Vision.

MOTIONED BY: Chuck Nelson

SUPPORTED BY: Betsy Clark

YEAS: 13

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 4

Endorsement of this Resolution was approved and adopted by the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks on September 19, 2007.