



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,
& Kate Kitchell open the new
Pileated Woodpecker Trail!

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.

Most gratifying of all, is encountering people of all ages out on the trails...smiling and sharing time with others in the beauty of our wonderful north woods. It warms my heart to hear your positive feedback and enthusiasm about how the BATs' efforts have enhanced our lives and community. These **trails connect us with nature and give us physical, mental, and spiritual health**. I hope you find this as inspiring as I do. Thanks to everyone who has blessed us with these enriching gifts!

Happy Trails in 2024! See you at the Trails Forum on June 1st at the Les Voigt State Fish Hatchery.

Kate Kitchell

Town of Bayfield Representative & Bayfield Area Trails Committee Chair

OUR MISSION AND VISION

Our Vision: A well-managed multiple-use trails network connecting Bayfield Area communities, including the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Our Mission: To develop and sustain the Bayfield Area Trails network with active public involvement and support.

BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

1. Ashwabay Alliance - Chuck Finn
2. Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - Ashley Huinker
3. Bayfield County - Lindley Mattson
4. City of Bayfield - Fred Clark
5. Landmark Conservancy - Erika Lang
6. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore – vacant
7. Town of Bayfield - Kate Kitchell (Committee Chair)
8. Town of Bell - Peter Rothe

RECREATION AND FITNESS RESOURCES – Fiscal Sponsor

QUOTES FROM OUR MEMBERS

“I can’t thank BATs volunteer enough! It has been great to have this group of volunteers to help keep an eye on the trails, help with trail projects. and give valuable insights for our properties.” Lindley Mattson, Bayfield County Forestry and Parks.

“Bayfield Area Trails leverages people, talent, and funding to help the City of Bayfield thrive, and is a critical partner in our efforts to promote recreational opportunities and quality of life amenities in the community.” Fred Clark, City of Bayfield Parks and Recreation Committee.

“For our small group from the village of Cornucopia and the Town of Bell, wishing to promote trails locally, coming across and joining forces with the Bayfield Area Trails (BATs) organization was a godsend. BATs is a vibrant, well-organized collaborative organization that welcomed our group and its ideas, helping us leap-frog our local trails progress.” Peter Rothe, Town of Bell and the Cornucopia Trails Club



THE BASE MAP & CURRENT PROJECTS

Bayfield Peninsula Trails

Master Map

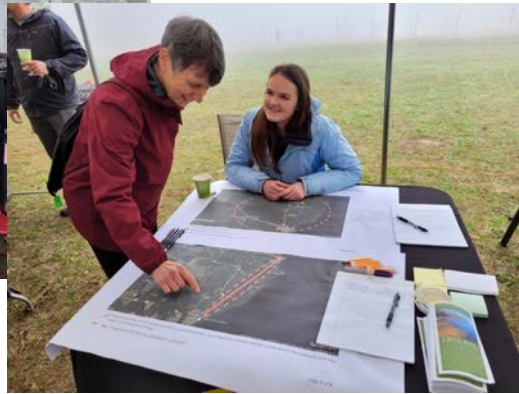


We kicked off the year with the annual trails forum at the Bayfield Winery & Blue Ox Cidery

60 trails enthusiasts braved the cold fog on May 6th to discuss trail projects, share ideas about new trails, and learn about building trails in Costa Rica.



[Read more here.](#)



June was a busy month in the Big Ravine

Starting with World Trails Day on June 3rd, we added new creek crossings, built steps and stairway railings, refurbished posts along the boardwalks, and added rock armoring to trail tread to protect against erosion. Special shout-out to Mike Kinnee for his incredible work & leadership!

[Read more here.](#)

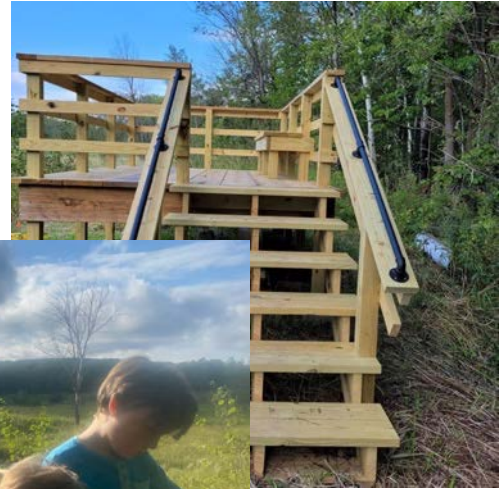


Welcome to the Big Ravine Headwaters!

Skillful volunteers, Bob Feyen, Jim Steffenson, and Mike Eldred, built a lovely viewing platform overlooking the pond and wetlands. Interpretive specialist extraordinaire, Neil Howk, designed interpretive signs at the trailhead and platform. New trails were built, connecting to the pond overlook, Bayfield Winery, and Gracie's Trail link to Fire Hill Road.



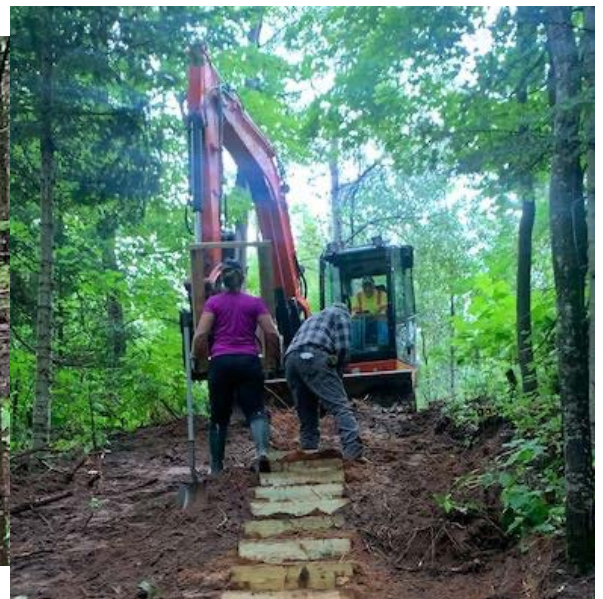
[Read more here.](#)



Siskiwit River Preserve trails are longer, safer, and ready for year-round fun!

Throughout the year, Cornucopia Trails Club and Bayfield Area Trails volunteers assisted Bayfield County with clearing trails, building box steps, and enhancing access to the river. As soon as we get some snow, cross-country skiers will be able to enjoy a spin around the orchards!

[Read more here.](#)



The Brownstone Trail keeps getting better!

Landmark Conservancy led efforts to restore the trail and build new box steps and bike access at the south end of Fifth St. in Bayfield. [Read more here.](#) And BATs volunteers squeezed in a few days in early November to replenish gravel by the steps south of Blue Wing Bay Rd. and fix drainage issues below Wild Rice Retreat. [Read more here.](#)

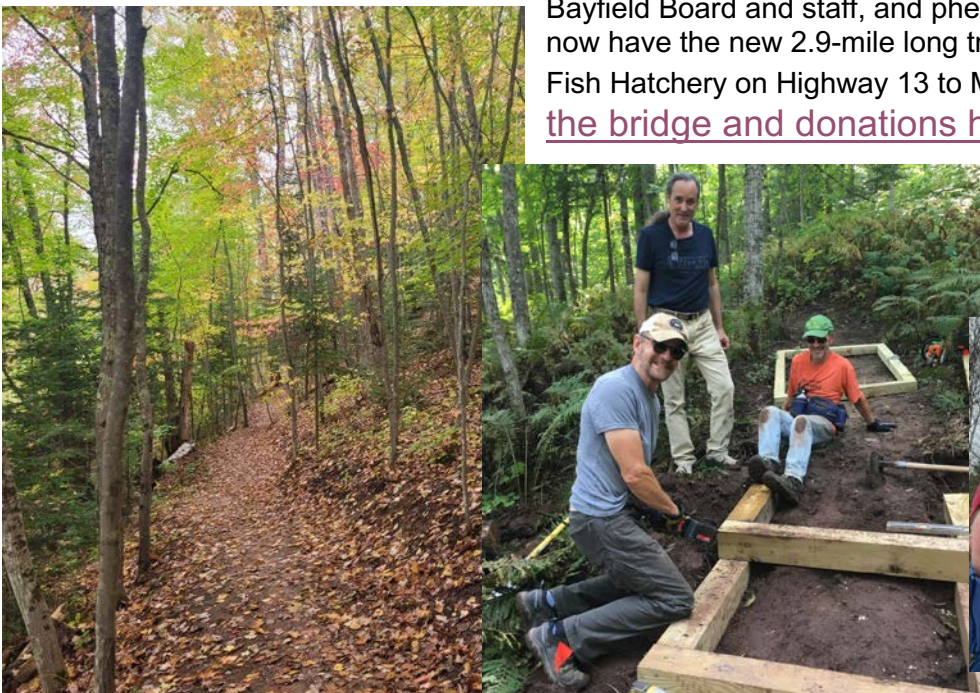


Most exciting of all!

The Pileated Woodpecker Trail & Bridge

Thanks to incredible donations from community members, tremendous support from the Town of Bayfield Board and staff, and phenomenal volunteer work, we now have the new 2.9-mile long trail connecting from the State Fish Hatchery on Highway 13 to Mt. Ashwabay! [Read about the bridge and donations here.](#) See the awesome

[volunteer work and trail here.](#) Hooray to Ted May for leading the field project!



FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FROM BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Each member administers funds associated with projects and lands within their individual jurisdiction)

MEMBER	FUNDING SOURCES	2023 BUDGET (personnel not included)	PROJECTS
Ashwabay Alliance	Grants & Donations	no data	
Bayfield County	Grants & Donations	\$22,165.00	Siskiwit River Preserve Rock Work, Bridge, New Trails; Lost Creek Falls Maintenance; Jerry Jolly Clearing, Mowing, Maint.
City of Bayfield	Grants & Donations	\$5,398.66	Gil Larsen Repairs, Stairways, Footbridge; School Trail Hillside Stabilization; U.S. National Grid Emergency Signs
Landmark Conservancy	Grants & Donations	\$13,900.00	Brownstone Trail S. 7th St. Restoration & Box Steps (\$13,900 materials/contracts; \$1,100 staff time = \$15,000
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	TAP Grant (80%); In kind match (20%)	\$62,500.00	Trails Feasibility Study, including trail between Red Cliff and Bayfield: to be implemented in 2024
Town of Bayfield	Grants, Donations, Town ARPA funds	\$60,130.07	Pileated Woodpecker Trail (w/bridge); Big Ravine Headwaters; Brownstone Trail Gravel & Drainage; Interpretive Sign on Salmo; U.S. National Grid Emergency Signs
Recreation and Fitness Resources (Fiscal Sponsor)	Donations	\$13,837.40	Available for Pileated Woodpecker Trail Completion and Other Priority Projects
TOTAL		\$177,931.13	

THANK YOU, DONORS & GRANTS!

- Duluth Superior Area Foundation
- Apostle Islands Historic Preservation Conservancy
- Bayfield County Health Grant
- Wisconsin Department of Transportation TAP Program
- Wisconsin Coastal Management Program
- Wisconsin Department of Tourism: Joint Effort Marketing Grant Program
- Silverwaves Jewelry
- 25 Individual Private Donations
- Bayfield Lumber for awesome support!



DULUTH SUPERIOR AREA
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY – FROM BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(Each member administers funds associated with projects and lands within their individual jurisdiction)

MEMEBER	FUNDING SOURCES	2024 FORTHCOMING GRANTS & CARRYOVER	PROJECTS
Bayfield Chamber & Visitor Bureau	Wisconsin Joint Enterprise Marketing (JEM) Program	\$12,045.00	Socioeconomic Impact of Trails Study
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	TAP Grant (80%); In kind match (20%)	\$62,500.00	Trails Feasibility Study, including trail between Red Cliff and Bayfield: to be implemented in 2024
Town of Bayfield	Wisconsin Coastal Management Program (WCMP)	\$13,798.00	Socioeconomic Impact of Trails Study
Town of Bayfield	Estimated Carryover Funds from 2023 (out of the \$60,130.07)	\$18,197.99	Complete Big Ravine Headwaters & Pileated Woodpecker Trails; Replenish gravel on the Big Ravine’s upper East Rim Trail.
Recreation and Fitness Resources (Fiscal Sponsor)	Estimated Carryover Funds from 2023 (out of \$13,837.40)	\$12,831.17	Available for Pileated Woodpecker Trail Completion and 2024 Priority Projects Identified by BAT Comm.
TOTAL		\$119,372.16	



WISCONSIN COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM



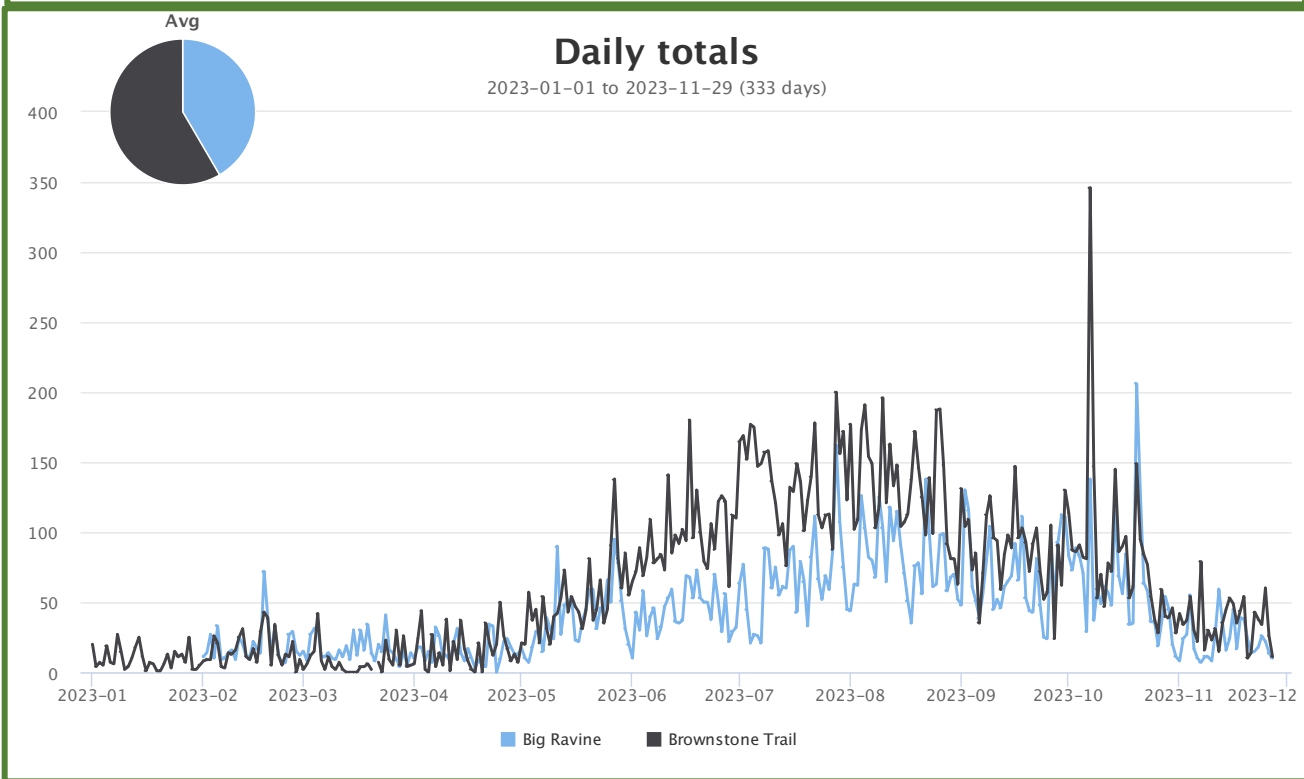
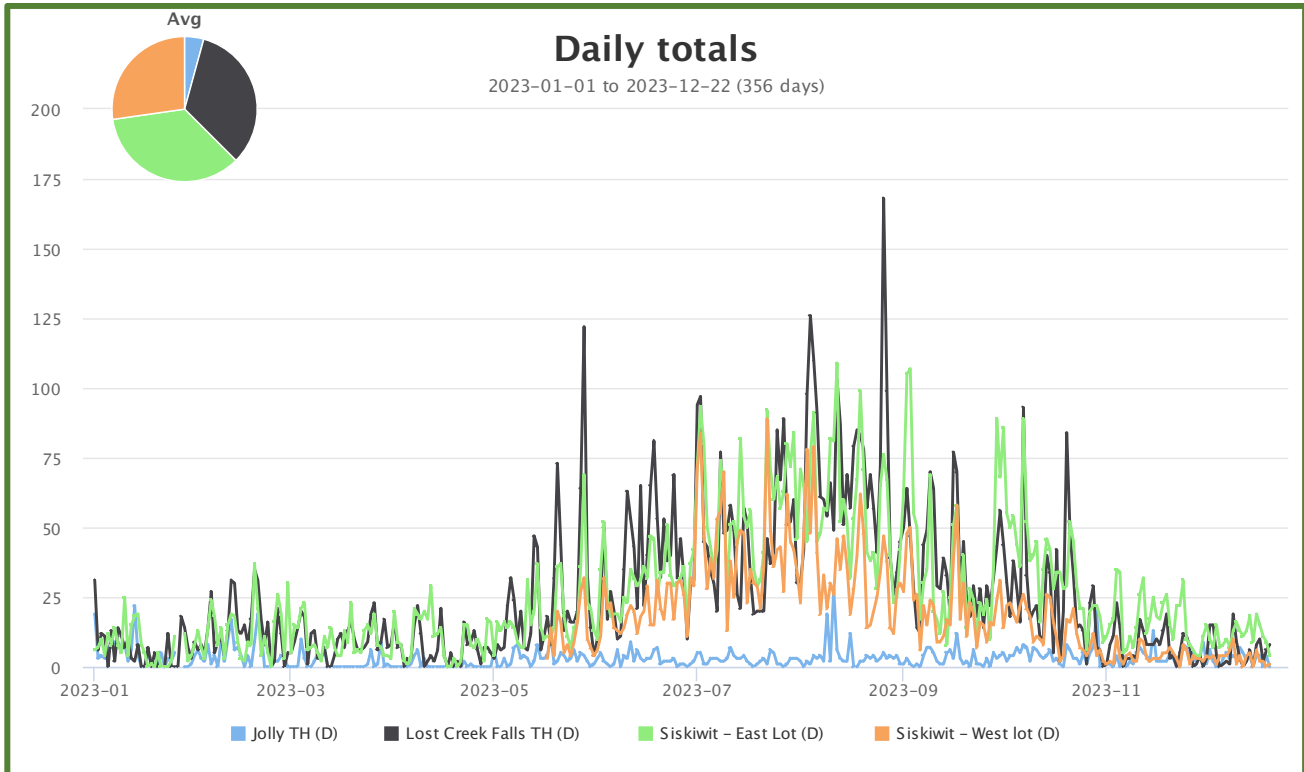
RECREATION AND FITNESS RESOURCES



TRAIL USE STATISTICS

The following statistics are gathered from trail counters at several trailheads managed by BATs partners. This keeps us informed about use levels and distribution on a daily basis.

- County: Jerry Jolly, Lost Creek Falls, Siskiwit East and West Trails
- City of Bayfield: Big Ravine – Gil Larsen Trail
- Landmark: Brownstone Trail



BUILDING & SUSTAINING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

COMMUNICATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE (CsC)

The CsC Mission: We “Share” the BATs “Story” using specific “Channels”.

We “Share”:	The “Story”:	Using specific “Channels”:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate/Inform• Educate• Promote• Inspire• Encourage - Involvement• Celebrate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stewardship• Sustainability• Community• Play• Work• Volunteerism• Land Conservation• Appreciation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Website• Social Media• Surveys• Emails• Chamber Blast• Media Releases• Newsletters• Signs• Graphics• Maps• QR Codes

In 2023, the CsC focused on communicating project plans and accomplishments through the BATs website [blog and Facebook](#) and public information in the field.

Upcoming activities: In 2024, we would like to expand our capacity in graphics, mapping, volunteer recruiting, and communicating stewardship practices.

More members needed: With our goals to expand in 2024, we are seeking two or three new members. If you are interested in participating, please contact bayfieldareatrails@gmail.com. To learn more about the CsC, read the [full charter](#) and visit the [bayfieldareatrails.com website](http://bayfieldareatrails.com).



CsC Members & Technical Support

1. Liz Fentress: photos, and blog and Facebook content
2. Neil Howk: interpretive signage
3. Mark Peterson: photos, and blog, & Facebook content
4. Tony Jeannette: technical support; webmaster & social media



TRAILS SUBCOMMITTEE (TsC)

The TsC Mission: To assist with maintaining and enhancing existing trails and developing new trails with the support of our wonderful donors and trail volunteers. To accomplish this, the TsC leads the following activities:

1. Coordinate the Adopt-a-Trail program to monitor trail conditions and conduct basic trail maintenance.
2. Plan and implement volunteer training.
3. Administer volunteer release forms, and maintain a current list of volunteers.
4. Identify project leaders and develop field project plans for projects.
5. Assist with planning and hosting the annual trails forums.
6. Seek volunteer feedback to help improve the volunteer experience and improve trail work

TsC Members

1. Kris Wegerson (Co-chair)
2. John Ipsen (Co-chair)
3. Sue Aiken
4. Jeff Garrett
5. Genevieve Johnson - Secretary
6. Paul Kaese
7. Ted May
8. Jeff Olsen
9. Sean Reagan
10. Peter Rothe

Upcoming activities: There is an ad hoc subcommittee developing *best practices for trail maintenance, management, and signage*.

Another ad hoc subcommittee is working with the Bayfield County

Lands Records Office to *develop accurate and accessible trail maps* to be used via mobile apps.



More members welcome: The subcommittee has openings for two members. Please contact them by email if you are interested in joining us: bats.tsc@gmail.com. . [Click here for the charter](#).

THE ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM (AAT)

The Trails Subcommittee coordinates an active Adopt-A-Trail program with 23 trail adopters who monitor and do basic trail maintenance on 35 trail sections. During 2023 the AAT program became more automated, streamlined, and organized.

Trail adopters visit and maintain their trail sections at least three times during the snow-free season. As time permits, adopters are encouraged to visit trails through the season to maintain good conditions and report issues in a timely manner. Using hand tools, they perform basic trail maintenance. Land managers of trail sections and the TsC are alerted if there is a trail condition that needs urgent attention. We have openings for new adopters! Please contact bats.tsc@gmail.com if you would like to adopt one or more of [these sections](#).

THANK YOU, ADOPTERS!

Sue Aiken
Lois Albrecht
Kris & Gordo Anderson
Bill & Nancy Bussey
Fred Clark
Jon Crump
Dave Doering
Mark Filonowich

Chuck & Mary Finn
Jeff Garrett
Diane & John Hall
John Ipsen & Kris Wegerson
Brenda & Paul Kaese
Mike Kinnee & G. Johnson
Kate Kitchell
Landmark Conservancy

Ted May
Jen Maytum
Phil & Sheree Peterson
Sean Reagan
Peter Rothe
Cami & Steve Smalley
Steve Vircsik & Doreen Conrad

	ADOPT-A-TRAIL - TRAIL NAME (Trail Manager Contact*)	LEAD ADOPTER	LEAD ADOPTER EMAIL ADDRESS	CO-ADOPTER EMAIL ADDRESS
C01 - C16	BIG RAVINE TRAILS (Contact: City of Bayfield) (6 segments)			
T01 - T05	N END BIG RAVINE (Contact: Town of Bayfield) (5 segments)			
T06 - T08	BIG RAVINE HEADWATERS (Contact: Town of Bayfield) (3 segments)			
T09	GRACIE'S TRAIL (Contact: Town of Bayfield)			
T10 - T14	PILEATED WOODPECKER TRAIL (Contact: Town of Bayfield) (4 segments)			
T15	SALMO TRAIL (Contact: Town of Bayfield)			
L01 - L05	BROWNSTONE TRAIL SEGMENTS (Contact: Landmark) (5 segments)			
B01- B05	JERRY JAY JOLLY (Contact: Bayfield County) (5 segments)			
B06 - B07	LOST CREEK FALLS (Contact: Bayfield County) (2 segments)			
B08 - B10	SISKIWIT PRESERVE (Contact: Bayfield County) (3 segments)			
	ASHWABAY NORDIC TRAILS (Contact: AOEf)			
	ASHWABAY MT BIKING TRAILS (Contact: AOEf)			

Excerpt from the AAT adopter spreadsheet
 Full list of segments can be found [here](#)
 Email addresses not included to protect personal privacy.

JOIN US AS A NEW VOLUNTEER IN 2024

[Click here](#) if you want to join. People who have previously volunteered need not respond.



WHAT LIES AHEAD – LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024



SAVE THE DATE: TRAILS CELEBRATIONS & FORUM JUNE 1 & 2 ON WORLD TRAILS DAY

- June 1st at the Les Voigt State Fish Hatchery and Pileated Woodpecker Trail
 - 7:00 a.m.: Guided birding walks with Neil Howk and Ted May
 - Food, partner tables, and mingling
 - 10:00 – 11:30: Trails Forum with featured speakers and participant Q&A
 - Noon: Ribbon cutting and trail dedication at the Pileated Woodpecker Bridge
- June 2nd at the Big Ravine Headwaters
 - 8:00: Guided birding walk
 - 3:00 p.m.: Ribbon cutting and trail dedication at the pond overlook
 - Casual gathering at the Bayfield Winery & Blue Ox Cidery

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE BAYFIELD AREA TRAILS VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP WITH YEAR-LONG STUDY

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

STUDY OBJECTIVES	STUDY IMPLEMENTATION
Quantify economic impact of trail users throughout the year	Trail user surveys: June 2024 – July 2025
Understand community perspectives about trails	Online community survey: June 2025
Learn about trail user preferences to inform trails planning	Online survey of trail users: June 2025
Gather comprehensive trail use data via more trail counters	Final report: September 2025
	Trail user surveys: June 2024 – July 2025

[DONATE HERE](#)

As a partner in community wellness, Bayfield’s Recreation and Fitness Resources (RFR) receives and administers donations and grants on behalf of Bayfield Area Trails under a fiscal sponsorship agreement.

Online donations can be made at the above link at RFR or you may send a check to Recreation and Fitness Resources, P.O. Box 1146 in Bayfield, WI 54814, Attn. Bayfield Area Trails.

Your donation will help us expand our tool cache and implement priority projects identified by the Bayfield Area Trails Committee.

2024 PRIORITIES

MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE EXISTING TRAILS: emphasize trail maintenance in 2024

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 (with TsC support)

Complete the Pileated Woodpecker Trail

Jerry Jolly Trails: Coordinate with Bayfield County to re-establish trail from the "Overlook" to the Jolly Long.

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 (working with willing landowners)

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.

Explore possible **new trails in the Big Ravine** to create loop(s)

Continue to explore potential **trail connections on Bayfield Hill, Orchards, etc.**

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.

Initiate follow-up on interest expressed at 2023 Trails Forum about **mountain biking around Fire Hill and mushing trails**

COMMUNICATION AND OUTREACH: Communications Subcommittee (CsC) lead

Conduct Trail User Survey and Socioeconomic Study

Improve availability of **online map information**, including QR codes, **master map**, and links to other trails

Develop and implement standardized coordinated **maps and trail directional and interpretive signage**

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: Trails Subcommittee (TsC) lead

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



SEE YOU ON THE TRAIL!