

November 2020 Update
From Kate Kitchell, Bayfield Area Trails Committee Chair

Greetings from Bayfield Area Trails:

It is with gratitude and excitement that I reach out to share lots of good news! Here's the news in a nutshell; for more details on these and other activities, check the BAT website:

<https://www.bayfieldareatrails.com/>

We're very pleased to share that **Bob and Maria Fierek have generously granted public access** across their property for non-motorized travel along the Big Ravine's East Rim Trail, previously known as "The Old Snowmobile Trail." We say a huge THANK YOU for this contribution to the community.

The new **Pine Bluff Trail** has been completed under the skilled leadership of Will Krift from Trails Anonymous. The views into the Ravine and out to the Lake are something to behold. See photos and map on the BAT website, and check out the trail for yourself. Please let us know what you think at bayfieldareatrails@gmail.com

We recently learned that we have been approved for a **DNR Recreational Trails Grant** to construct additional trail connections in the Big Ravine, including the Hemlock Heights Trail across from Pine Bluff. This gives us much to look forward to in 2021!

The Big Ravine is not the only place where a lot has been going on. Bob Feyen tirelessly led efforts to restore the **Salmo Trail** where boardwalks and bridges had been severely damaged by high water and weather. Pretty much every Saturday for two months, Bob and volunteers Jim Steffenson, Keith Ray, Jim Miller and others worked to get this sweet trail to the lake's edge back into shape.

Mount Ashwabay has been abuzz with heavy equipment and volunteer crews creating new **nordic trails** and improving the existing ones. Steve Vizanko and Bayfield Nordic have led the charge so that we can enjoy more terrain and variety. Now...bring on the snow!

This has been such a rewarding and productive year out on the trails, it is hard to let it go. Volunteers have been absolutely incredible! Over 40 individuals have contributed hundreds of hours, special skills, and equipment to get all of this done. In this unbelievable time of COVID, this gave us a sense of purpose, created opportunities to soak up the solace of nature, kept us fit, and forged a community of friends dedicated to trails and our public resources. What a blessing.

In a normal year we would have a big bash to celebrate all that has been accomplished and to give thanks. But, we'll have to wait until next year to gather together and cheer for jobs well done.

Stay well and stay in touch. Keep your eyes peeled for a survey to gather your ideas for 2021 trails projects and expanding community engagement in Bayfield Area Trails governance and operations.

THANK YOU!