

Trail Safety Tips

Hikers:

- Make a Gear List: must-haves include water, rain gear, compass, map, extra food etc.
- Bring Map
- Hike During the Day
- Know the Area
- Check the Forecast
- Tell Someone Before you Go
- Stick together if hiking with a group

Bicyclists:

- Always ride with traffic and follow the rules of the road.
- Do not ride on the sidewalk.
- Ride on the trail, paved shoulder, bike lane, or bike route.
- Make it easy for drivers to see you by dressing in bright colors and wearing reflective material both in front and back.
- Watch for debris that might make you fall or swerve.
- Watch for turning traffic.
- Wear appropriate high visibility safety gear, including helmet.

Snowmobilers:

- Always wear a helmet & safety gear
- Have snowmobile registered
- Ride at a safe speed. Reduce speed at night or in reduced visibility.
- Never ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

Mecosta County Trails Guide



TRAILS IN MECOSTA COUNTY

Whether you are looking for a place to hike, bike, snowmobile or snowshoe Mecosta County has the trail for you. From a leisurely stroll while taking in a scenic view or for more of a challenging adventure, we can point you in the right direction for the trail that is right for you.

The **Fred Meijer White Pine Trail** is just under 100 miles long and is perfect for any time of year. During the winter months enjoy an invigorating snowmobile ride, snowshoeing or even cross country skiing. During the summer months this trail is great for mountain biking, hiking and taking in the beautiful sights and sounds of the great outdoors.

The **Dragon Trail** will be a national attraction that Mecosta and Newaygo counties will have and be proud to feature as a destination. This 47 mile trail is a circular loop that goes around water and will provide opportunities for biking, running and water events which is rare in itself. The 2-foot-wide trail will be a one-of-a-kind regional, national and even international attraction.

For those in search of a more relaxing stroll, enjoy the **Big Rapids Riverwalk** which is accessible to all. Riverwalk is just under 3.5 miles long and follows alongside the beautiful Muskegon River. This award winning trail features fishing platforms, benches, bike racks and picnic areas on either side of the 250 foot wooden bridge that spans the Muskegon River. Perfect for walking, biking or rollerblading.

The **Hungerford Recreation Area** in Big Rapids has separate trails for people to enjoy horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, snowshoeing or cross country skiing. For horseback riders there are 35 miles of trails in the recreation area and for hikers and bikers, two loop to create a 10 mile trail. Trails accommodate either less experienced riders up to those looking for more of a challenge from hilly to very hilly.

Explore 200 acres at the **White Pine Valley Recreation Area** located in Paris, Michigan. This is a great place for mountain bike groups, hikers, cross country skiers and snow-shoers to explore and enjoy. To access this trail that is located just east of Paris from Northland Drive, turn east on Hoover Drive, north on 205th Ave, east on 22 Mile, and the parking lot is on the north side of the road.

For those looking to experience a different kind of ride, the **Muskegon River** runs through Mecosta County. Canoe, kayak, pontoon or tube down this scenic waterway. Enjoy a few hours or an entire afternoon. Rentals are available in the area for canoes, kayaks, and tubes or for pontoon boats.

If you are searching for a variety of shorter trails in the Big Rapids area check out our **Let's Walk Big Rapids** Trail Guide. Here you will find a color coded map with numerous trails, parking, public restrooms and city parks.

To explore nature while walking, and keeping the kids engaged as well, follow along with the Kids Guide to **Clay Cliffs Nature Park**. Clay Cliffs is a great, family recreation area with endless outdoor activities for everyone. Be sure to pack a picnic and enjoy the day!

Michigan Artwalk on the campus of Ferris State University in Big Rapids is a dynamic collection of original artwork created entirely by award-winning Michigan artists. The featured pieces of sculptures and paintings comprise a diverse art collection that includes one of the largest free-standing canvases in the United States. This is great way to not only get out for a relaxing walk but take in a great, cultural dynamic as well.

No matter what type of trail adventure you are seeking, we have it here in Mecosta County!

Use this QR code with your cell phone for a direct link to our trails page on our website.

