

Press Release... Press Release... Press Release...

Manistique, Michigan – 50th Anniversary Haywire Project and Celebration.

Haywire Grade- Michigan’s first Rail Trail – established in the Central Upper Peninsula in 1970

Then – Public and private partners saw the potential of converting an old abandoned Rail Corridor to a Recreational Corridor.

Now – A Group of Federal, State, County and Municipal Agencies, along with several Organizations, Non-profits, Businesses and Individuals have been quietly planning and preparing for the 50th Anniversary Project and Celebration.

Announcing - The 50th Anniversary Haywire “Media Rollout” – October 10th, 2019, at the Manistique High School Auditorium – 5:00-8:00 p.m., 100 N. Cedar St., Manistique, Michigan, 49854.

Natural and Cultural History surround us in the “Trail State”, and now, it is being rolled out for the media, the public and recreational trail users in all 4 of Michigan’s distinct seasons. Michigan’s Rail Trails are the backbone of Michigan’s ever expanding trail network. The Haywire will be “front and center” in 2020.

Infrastructure Projects:

1. Innovative Mile Markers have been installed along the 34 Miles of Haywire Trail using the historic Manistique & Lake Superior Railroad Logo with mile marker insets, combining functional and historical applications. (completed in 2017). Reflective signage was installed by the Schoolcraft County Motorized Trails Association.
2. Custom Information Kiosks and Safety Pullouts are being installed at 11 locations along the Haywire Trail and they will be completed before the ground freezes in 2019. The Kiosks are named after the Railroad Stations that existed along the Railroad Grade during the Logging era. The Interpretative Panels tell the story of the railroad and the logging camps in the Central Upper Peninsula from 1896 to 1970. A metal Art Sculpture has been incorporated into the Kiosk Structures to accentuate the “Railroad and Logging” Symbiosis in “Metal and Wood”. The Kiosk Project will allow trail enthusiasts to safely pull off the trail and take in the history of the Central Upper Peninsula.
3. Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction projects over the last 6 years have provided a total reconstruction of the trail surface over 34 miles.

The Celebration - Four distinct Celebration Events are being planned for 2020 including: Snowmobile- 2-29-2020, Equine- 6-6- 2020, Bicycle-8-22- 2020, and ORV-10-3-2020. Event Participant will be able to register online at www.visitmanistique.com. Details will be forthcoming.

The 50th Anniversary Haywire Stakeholder Group would like to solicit your help to spread the word about the upcoming Haywire Celebration. Great Partnerships make for successful projects.

Thanks from: USDA Hiawatha National Forest/ Michigan DNR/ City of Manistique/ Pure Michigan/Tread Lightly/ Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative/ Manistique Tourist Council/ Schoolcraft

County Motorized Trails Association/ Schoolcraft County Sheriff's Dept./ and many businesses and individuals.

Program Agenda (tentative)

1. **Introductions:** Moderator (Paul Walker/City of Manistique)
2. **Welcome to Manistique** (Michael R. Perilloux/Mayor)
3. **Overview of the 50th Anniversary/Haywire Trail** (Ronald Yesney/DNR Upper Peninsula Trail Coordinator)
4. **Pure Michigan** (Dave Lorenz/Vice-President Pure Michigan)
5. **Historical Interpretation on Haywire Trail** (Daniel Spegel/DNR Michigan History Center)
6. **Intermission/Light Refreshments** compliments of ?
7. **Rails to Trails Video** (Dennis Serra and Tom O'Boyle/Great Get-a-Ways)
8. **Recreation in Michigan/Federal and State Partnerships** (?/USDA Hiawatha National Forest)
9. **Tread Lightly- Responsible Recreation on Public Lands** (?Program Agenda (tentative))
10. **Closing Remarks**
11. **Interviews**
12. **Media Q & A**
13. **Closing Remarks**
14. **Interviews**

Notes: 1) Onsite visits of Haywire Trail, Intake Park Trailhead, Information Kiosk sites and Mile Markers can be planned for photography or filming by contacting: Dennis Jankowski (Tourist Council)

906 450-0238

2) Visit and have Lunch at Jack Pine Lodge and Resort on M-94, 17 Miles North of Manistique.

3) For lodging consider Gray Wolf Lodge in Manistique