

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Michigan Trails and Paws With A Cause Partner to Launch Trail Meetup Season on Celebrate Trails Day.

Grand Rapids, Michigan – West Michigan Trails invites trail enthusiasts and community members of all ages and abilities to attend a fun and welcoming Celebrate Trails Day event on Saturday, April 25 at Millennium Park Trails in partnership with Paws With A Cause. You'll experience how connecting on the trails strengthen communities with every step, pedal, and roll.

The event begins at 2:00 PM near the Grant Pavilion and will kick off West Michigan Trails' 2026 Trail Meetup series, part of the nationwide Celebrate Trails Day initiative led by Rails-to-Trails Conservancy.

Attendees are invited to enjoy a relaxed, go-at-your-own-pace experience, walking, rolling, or simply enjoying time outdoors, while connecting with others and exploring the benefits of the region's trail network. Whether you're a regular trail user or it's your first time out, this event is for you.

"Trails are more than just places to walk or ride, they are spaces where community happens," said Jennifer Antel, Program Manager at West Michigan Trails. "Celebrate Trails Day brings people together while showcasing how trails connect our communities. It's the perfect opportunity to highlight West Michigan's incredible trail systems, kick off another season of Trail Meetups and invite the community to get outside, connect, and enjoy a unique experience with the dogs and handlers from Paws With A Cause."

This year's event, in partnership with Paws With A Cause, adds a special focus on the role trails play in supporting accessibility and inclusion. Paws With A Cause trains

assistance dogs to support people with disabilities, and the organization will be on-site with dogs and handlers to engage with attendees.

“Paws With A Cause is honored to partner with West Michigan Trails for Celebrate Trails Day,” said Michele Suchovsky, CEO of Paws With A Cause. “At PAWS, we see every day how greater access creates greater inclusion and stronger communities—and that includes access to the outdoors. We’re excited to bring our clients and custom-trained dogs out to walk, roll, and connect on West Michigan’s trails.”

Celebrate Trails Day is a national movement that highlights the importance of trails in supporting public health, connection, and quality of life. Locally, West Michigan Trails’ Trail Meetup series builds on that mission by creating regular opportunities for residents and visitors to explore and engage with the region’s growing network of trails.

Everyone is welcome. Community members, trail users, and anyone interested in getting outside are encouraged to attend.

To learn more about West Michigan Trails, Trail Meetups, or additional ways to connect, visit wmtrails.org.

About West Michigan Trails

West Michigan Trails, established in 2005, is a community-driven nonprofit organization serving an 18-county region across West Michigan and is passionate about connecting people, trails, and communities through local partnerships and shared outdoor experiences. The organization coordinates across jurisdictions and municipalities, collaborates with a wide range of partners, and helps lead regional efforts that foster connection, engagement, awareness, and inclusivity of non-motorized trail systems. For more information, visit wmtrails.org.

About Paws With A Cause (PAWS)

Since 1979, Paws With A Cause (PAWS) has been transforming lives and strengthening communities through partnerships with custom-trained working dogs. PAWS assistance and facility dogs have helped thousands of people thrive, providing opportunities to live with independence, confidence, and companionship. Serving over 20 states across the U.S., PAWS is accredited by Assistance Dogs International and Animal Assisted Services International. To learn how you can get involved, please visit: pawswithacause.org.

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