The Dickinson Trail Network (DTN), established in 2019 as a dba of the Dickinson County Bike Path, focuses on building, maintaining, and promoting off-road multi-use trails throughout Dickinson County, complementing the work done by the Bike Path group along paved roads.

As of Spring 2023, this group of dedicated volunteers has constructed over 30 miles of new multi-use singletrack trails on Norway’s North and South Ogee Trailheads as well as Iron Mountain’s Millie Hill and Pine Mountain. DTN also has ambitious plans for 6 miles of professionally built trails on Iron Mountain’s Pewabic Hill.

The Ogee Trail Network on the north and south side of Norway, MI offer over 24 miles of easy, moderate, and advanced difficulties from Marion Park to Pier’s Gorge and from Strawberry Lake to Pine Creek. In 2020, DTN built a 1-mile trail along the beautiful Menominee River to Piers Gorge where it connects to a 2.6-mile loop in one of the county’s most beautiful natural areas. These trails, known as the Paper Route and Travelling Riverside Blues in combination with the Allwine outlook are a must for any mountain bikers visiting the area. In 2021, a 2-mile loop along the Pine Creek boasts over 700 feet of gorgeous boardwalk constructed from locally sourced hybrid large lumber. New in 2022, “Squatch Rocket” is a wide and smooth machine-built downhill flow trail with plenty of jumps and wooden features to satisfy thrill seeking mountain bikers.

The Millie Hill Trails offer nine trails overlooking downtown Iron Mountain that range in difficulty from easy to advanced difficulty with downhill flow, downhill technical, wooden skill features, and even a jump line! This system’s newest trail “Millie-on-Aire” lives up to its name with a Million Dollar birds-eye view of the city and plenty of BIG AIR opportunities. Most of this system’s trails are the original hand-built singletrack that put DTN on the map in 2019. In 2022, Knotty-by-Nature got a serious upgrade with hundreds of feet of boardwalk and unique wooden skills features that are fun for riders of all ages and abilities.

DTN’s Pine Mountain Trail system is located on Dickinson County land to the west of the world-famous Pine Mountain Ski Jump. This trail system is currently under construction with plans for three unique trails totaling over 2.5 miles. The first trail is bi-directional with a gentle grade suitable for all trail users. The next two trails will be downhill direction only, with features that will appeal to advanced and expert mountain bikers. DTN continues to work with the Pine Mountain Resort to promote plans for a multi-mile trail system on the ski resort property with possible lift service in the future.

DTN has also teamed up with the Fumee Lake Natural Area through an agreement to maintain all the trails. The duties conducted by DTN volunteers include spring clean-up, clearing reported down trees on trails, and winter grooming duties for cross country skiing and fatbiking.

DTN is in the final planning and fundraising stages for a professionally built trail system on Pewabic Hill in Iron Mountain. The new trail will showcase 6-miles of world-class professionally built trails which will include berms, bridges, and jumps you see at the best bike parks in the Midwest. DTN worked with the city of Iron Mountain to secure a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant in the amount of $183,000. The grant requires $64,000 in matching funds which DTN agreed to independently fundraise. So far, DTN has successfully raised over $30,000 from donations from local businesses and generous individuals. DTN is also looking into additional grants, trust funds, and fundraising avenues to fund this trail system. This ambitious professionally built project is expected to break ground in spring of 2024.

All DTN trails are designated as multi-use for non-motorized uses and prioritize sustainable design and thoughtful construction to minimize environmental impact. This is the same approach as trails in Copper Harbor, Marquette, and Munising.

During the winter months, DTN switches from trail building to trail grooming to provide year-round enjoyment. Their snowmobile grooming machines create classic cross-country glide tracks and multi-use corduroy snow surfaces, while the snowdog and Rokon machines create a 24” wide singletrack trails ideal for fatbiking.

Dickinson County is quickly becoming a destination for eco-tourists looking to bike, hike, and snowshoe and serves as a hub for biking and outdoor enthusiasts heading to points north of Iron Mountain. The community can already see the economic impacts of DTN activities in Dickinson County. The trail system is adjacent to many downtown districts, where small businesses benefit from increased traffic from tourists and residents alike. Local businesses and industries use the DTN network to promote healthy lifestyles with their employees and as a recruitment tool to attract and recruit young professionals to the community.

Staying true to their roots, DTN maintains four bike paths, including the Iron Belle trail connection with plans for a fifth along Little Badwater adjacent to the Menominee River in Breitung Township.

The Dickinson Trail Network has gained community and local government support through the accomplishments over the past four years, and the momentum is just beginning. Looking forward, DTN plans to roll out a restructured marketing campaign, develop a robust Trail Partnership Program for local businesses and corporations, and continue to connect the community through trails and partnerships. These collaborations allow businesses and individuals to provide support both financially and through in-kind donations in exchange for the indirect benefits from a thriving trail user community, and directly through the promotion of their place of business.

From building and maintaining trails to signage - all of this work is done by volunteers.

To learn more about Dickinson Trail Network or to make a donation, visit www.dtntrails.org. Also check them out on Facebook and Instragram.