

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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EAGLE SCOUT CANDIDATE COMPLETES EAGLE PROJECT ON THE PERE MARQUETTE RAIL-TRAIL

Benjamin Hunt, 15 of Weidman and his family frequently ride the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail through Clare County and that is when he noticed a need for some additional benching and seating for trail users. Hunt is currently registered with Virtual Troop 780 and was looking for a project to complete for his Eagle Scout Service Project. Hunt contacted Joy Simmer, the Clare Parks and Recreation Director who is also the Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation board secretary. From there they held a meeting to go over the project proposal. Simmer invited Hunt to attend a Friends of Clare County Parks and Recreation board meeting where he presented the proposed project to the board. The Friends board was in agreement that the trail could use some additional seating and agreed to assist with the project.

Hunt was able to secure donations for trail benching from the Friends board and from independent bench sponsors. He also worked closely on potential site locations with the Unit Supervisor of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Clare Field Office, Mr. Andrew Saxton and Justin Radke of Mt. Pleasant Home Depot for their donation of 36 bags of cement, steel flanges, and caution tape for the project. Hunt completed the project in May of 2022 with the assistance of friends, family, and a fellow scout from Sterling Heights.

Hunt says, "I really appreciate all the people who have supported me and the project by sponsoring benches, helping build cement pads, helping to install the benches and donating materials and funds to the project. I hope the people using the Pere Marquette Rail-Trail will enjoy having a place to rest along their journey on the rail trail."

Clare Parks and Recreation, "Creating community through people, parks and programs."