



## FOUR SEASONS AT FORBUSH:

Expanding Opportunities,  
Advancing the Legacy





## ABOUT US

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Forbush Corner Nordic is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that's located in the heart of northern Michigan's snowbelt. Here, outdoor enthusiasts enjoy miles of rolling, wooded trails that are designed for all ability levels. Our natural beauty stretches across hundreds of acres of lush hills and forests, featuring groomed trails for both classic and skate skiing that link with Hartwick Pines State Park, as well as snowshoeing trails. Guided by the vision of our late founder, Dave Forbush, Forbush Corner is a place where outdoor adventures abound and memories are for the making.

**200** acres

**30** km groomed trails

**8** km snowshoe trails

**5,500** + visitors per year

**50%** of visitors traveling 3 hours or more

**1** PSIA certified ski school

## OUR HERITAGE

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Established on a multi-generational family farm more than 40 years ago, founder Dave Forbush aspired to create a place where like-minded strangers arrive, connect, and leave as friends.



The original Forbush Corner was an intersection at Roberts Road and County Road 612 that marked the Forbush Homestead. It was a landmark used in the area to help navigate local travel. In the early 1980s, this same “Corner” evolved into cross country ski trails by Dave Forbush to train on and enjoy. As Dave’s friends found out about his trails, his family homestead was then converted into a ski center, opening in 1985 for the public to enjoy.

Sadly, Dave passed away a decade ago. His boundless innovation, leadership, and hospitality remain, creating the outdoor sanctuary and legacy that adventurers know and love today.

## OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

### EXPANDING DAVE’S LEGACY

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For Dave, turning his family’s land into a place for fun and friendship was a triumph beyond measure. But more than that, it became a legacy that we all believe in—and are determined to steward with care. Under Dave’s direction, Forbush Nordic became so much more than a place to ski. It became a place to marvel at nature’s wonders, find solitude, or share a laugh in the company of loved ones.

Forbush Nordic was Dave’s passion project. Today, we take up the mantle of his dream. In recent years, we’ve furthered our founder’s legacy by expanding trails and modernizing our facilities, all the while preserving the warmth and character of the Forbush family’s land.

Dave successfully turned farmland into a winter wonderland that created local jobs and joy for residents and visitors to Crawford County. At this time in our history, remaining relevant as a recreational facility is vital to job creation, community health, and our competitiveness as a tourism destination in the heart of northern Michigan. With your help, we can honor the legacy of a man who shaped the rural land of his childhood into a recreational retreat that elevated his community.

**This is our moment to further Dave’s dream and create a sustainable Forbush for all ages in all seasons.**





Trail Towns are revitalizing rural communities across Michigan and in the greater United States by leaning in on the heritage of towns and cities that offer character and charm.



## SHAPING A FOUR SEASON DESTINATION

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As Dave Forbush knew, innovation and competition go hand in hand. Transforming Forbush Corner and the surrounding area from a winter refuge into a four season destination has the potential to propel us forward as a community and will work to sustain Forbush for generations. **Every dollar spent at Forbush generates \$2.61 of revenue in our rural region, so our impact is proven-and powerful.** Within Crawford County, 75% of the land is state owned, open to the public, and is prime terrain for mountain biking, a pastime that has shifted into high gear since 2020.

In recent years, mountain biking has experienced a meteoric rise in popularity. Access to fresh air, wellness, and camaraderie among riders has led to trail development across the country—and across northern Michigan—at record speed. As a result, trail-based tourism and economic development efforts centered on Trail Towns have followed suit. Trail Towns are revitalizing rural communities across Michigan and in the greater United States by leaning in on the heritage of towns and cities that offer character and charm. Trail Towns are safe places where trail users can ride and children can exercise safely. The push to become a trail town has started in Crawford County, and now is our time to propel this dream forward for the children and families of our community.

By capitalizing on our ideal terrain and bucolic setting, this is Grayling and Gaylord's shared moment to put themselves on the map as Trail Towns Up North. Local bike retailers have experienced high volume sales since 2020, with customers often seeking beginner-friendly mountain biking trails that are suitable for entry into the sport. **Unfortunately, the nearest trail systems are located more than a 45 minute drive away in Bellaire, Boyne School Forest, or the VASA in Traverse City.** Developing miles of superb terrain into an all-season mountain biking destination isn't a pipe dream; it's a practical plan.

The absence of a modern trail system in the county has negative consequences for children and families seeking safe, fun spaces to ride. Biking trails located within our county will prioritize community health, as they will promote physical activity, personal connections, environmental stewardship, and overall well-being for people at every age. **As a recent American Heart Association study attests, for every dollar invested in building trails, nearly three dollars in medical cost savings may be realized.** The presence of a modern trail system will create a healthier, happier, and more connected community and a better quality of life in our region.



# PART I:

## CREATE FOUR SEASON BIKING TRAILS - \$400,000

Creating dirt mountain biking trails that are safe, designed with interesting trail features, and appropriate for people of all abilities will boost the appeal of our region and broader enjoyment of the outdoors. Our existing acreage and proximity to state land and Hartwick Pines State Park will accommodate miles of mountain bike trails, with the option to expand them over time.

**Eight miles of trails are currently proposed for the Forbush Corner Nordic property.** In the winter, some of the trails may be groomed for fat tire biking and snowshoeing. These trails will remain separate from the ski trails, allowing bikers and skiers to enjoy our winter offerings at the same time and without compromise. Each mile of trail will cost approximately \$50,000, totalling \$400,000 for eight miles, and will feature adrenaline-pumping berms, jumps, and obstacles that will make the trails more interesting as you ride. Trail surface, width, location, signage, and drainage needs factor into overall construction costs. Once completed, the Forbush Corner mountain biking trails will:



### SUSTAIN OUR FUTURE FOR GENERATIONS TO COME

Taking advantage of four seasons of adventure terrain will push Dave Forbush's vision forward in a way he'd never thought possible.



### IMPROVE COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Our rural community urgently needs a range of recreational resources for people to enjoy. The presence of an accessible trail system will encourage community members to use the trails for exercise, engaging people of all ages in the sport. Looking ahead, the development of a year-round facility will allow Forbush Corner to design children's programs for skiing and mountain biking, promoting emotional and physical wellness into adulthood.



### BOOST TOURISM AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tourism, economic development, and trail development go hand in hand. Positioning Forbush Corner as an all-season destination is expected to have a positive impact on tourism, retail, and hospitality in our region, similar to the revenues generated by Boyne School Forest, Glacial Hills, Big M, and Arcadia.



# PART 2:

## EXPAND WINTER SNOWMAKING CAPABILITIES - \$600,000

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**Adding 1.5 km of snowmaking coverage on existing trails** would provide additional recreational space for skiers to enjoy. By nearly doubling the amount of snow covered trails and the number of snow sticks (used to make the snow) we have, this investment will:



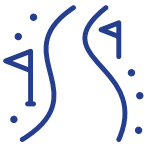
### IMPROVE THE SKIER EXPERIENCE

Our state-of-the-art snowmaking loop has provided world-class skiing for people all season long, but now it's time to make it even better. Adding in new, varied terrain will allow for more variety when the man-made loop is the only place available for skiing. 3.3 km of trails will keep the visitor experience exciting at every turn.



### OFFER CONTINUOUS ACCESS

This expansion will create two separate snowmaking loops that will allow us to simultaneously make snow on one loop and remain open for skiing on the other, minimizing disruptions.



### CREATE BEGINNER-FRIENDLY TERRAIN

To become a ski destination that welcomes skiers at all levels, we want to create a beginner-friendly trail without a hill. This would create a safe, comfortable place for newcomers to enjoy the sport.





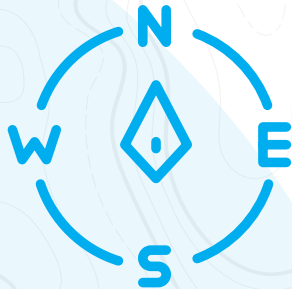


COUNTY RD 612

PARKING

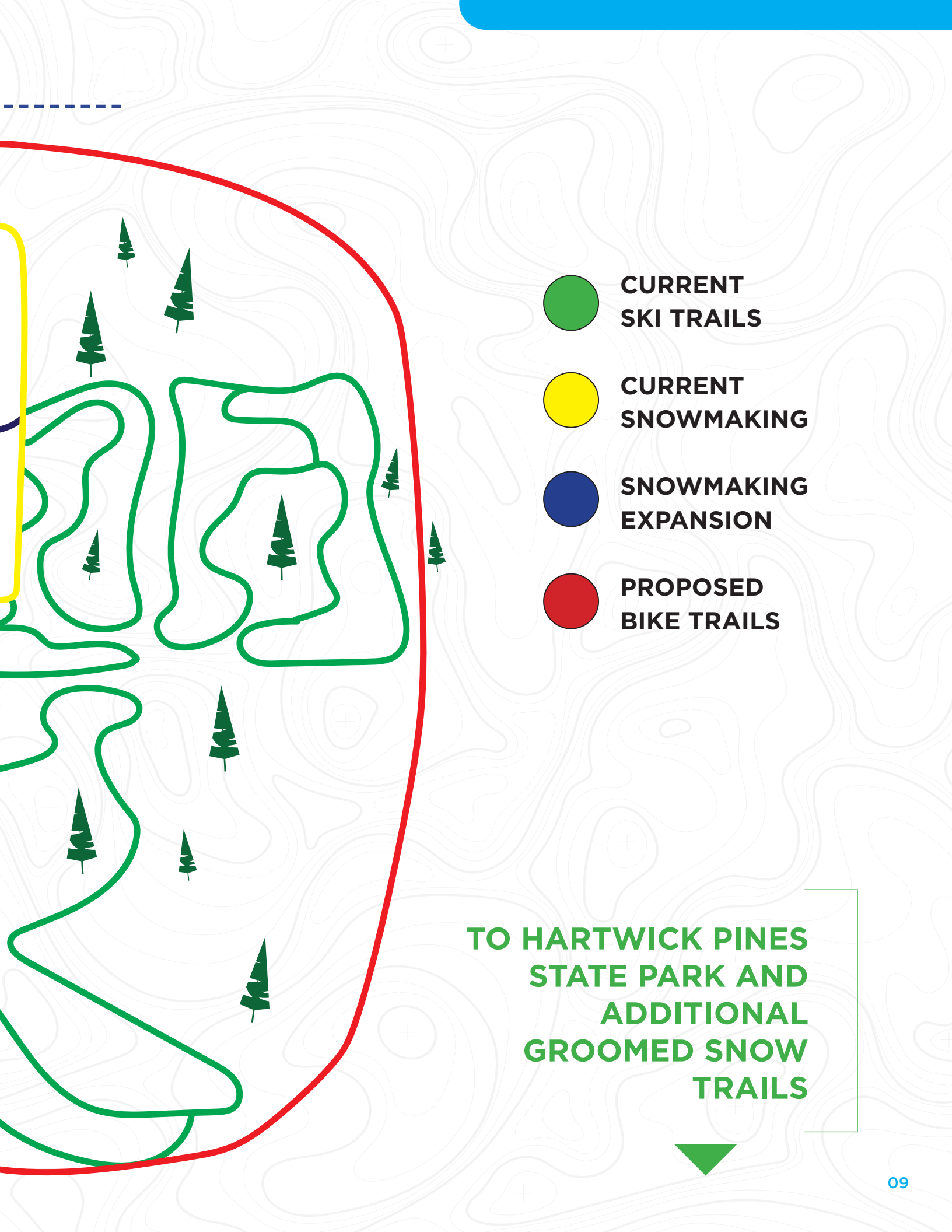


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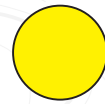


STATE LAND  
FOR FUTURE  
TRAIL EXPANSION





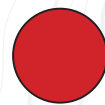
**CURRENT  
SKI TRAILS**



**CURRENT  
SNOWMAKING**



**SNOWMAKING  
EXPANSION**



**PROPOSED  
BIKE TRAILS**

**TO HARTWICK PINES  
STATE PARK AND  
ADDITIONAL  
GROOMED SNOW  
TRAILS**









## WAYS TO GIVE

### MAKE A ONE-TIME DONATION OR A MULTI-YEAR PLEDGE

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#### CASH

Make a gift or pledge your support. Donations may be eligible for tax deductions. Monthly gifts are easy to set up and manage.

#### GIFTS OF STOCK

Stock and other appreciated assets can be donated and may qualify for a charitable tax deduction. If stock has appreciated in value, you may avoid paying capital gains upon transferring it to Forbush Corner Nordic.

#### PLANNED GIFTS

You can create a meaningful legacy by making a planned gift to our capital campaign. As a donor, you can arrange for your estate to make your gift to Forbush Corner Nordic through the planned giving instrument of your preference. Planned giving options include bequests, charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, retirement plans, and other arrangements.

#### QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION

People aged 70<sup>1/2</sup> years and older can donate \$100,000 maximum annually directly from a taxable IRA, rather than taking required minimum distributions.







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