**Expansion Capital Campaign 2024**

In 2021, Forbush Corner Nordic ran its first capital campaign to raise funds for the purchase of an 80-acre parcel of land and to help buy a new Pistenbully 100 groomer. Our patrons were very generous, raising $120,000 which allowed us to successfully purchase both the land and fund a loan for the groomer. We still need to secure the final payment of $33,500 for the land and $65,000 to pay off the new groomer, but because of this campaign people are already enjoying the beautiful grooming of the new groomer and the additional trails that have been added on the new property.

It is now time to start a new capital campaign to expand Forbush Corner Nordic into an even better Nordic center, as well as a four-season center. We would like to expand our snowmaking system by at least 3km, add a biathlon range, roller ski loop and mountain bike/hiking trails. To do this expansion, we will need to secure grant monies. It’s a very ambitious plan and cannot be funded without grants. The entire project will be in 2 phases with a cost estimate of 3-5 million to complete. Phase I of the campaign will be to raise $50,000-$100,000 in matching funds for grants to build trails or install the biathlon range, snowmaking extension and rollerski loop. Phase II will raise additional funds to complete projects we can’t cover with grants. Any extra funds will be put into a legacy fund to help keep Forbush Corner Nordic solvent in the years to come.

We have already established support from the United States Biathlon Association, John Morton trail building, Senator Michelle Hoteinga, Representative Ken Borton, Businesses in the area, Top of Michigan Mountain Bike Association (TOMMBA), and the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments. There is a lot of interest in bringing a venue like this to the area.

The money that will be raised during this campaign will be used as matching funds for grants. People can choose to donate to the general fund, snowmaking expansion, biathlon/roller-ski loop, or mountain bike trail building. More information will be forthcoming as we meet with different grantors on the progress of each phase. Initially, we will be looking at the Great Lakes Sports Commission for grants to help with the biathlon range, roller-ski loop, and snowmaking expansion. The mountain bike trail building will be accomplished through different grant options and some trail building by Forbush Corner Nordic.

**A logo for a cross country ski center

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**Vision:**

We see an opportunity to build upon Forbush’s reputation of Nordic skiing excellence through:

* Installing a 20-30 position biathlon range.
* Adding an additional 3+km of snowmaking using SnowMakers Inc. technology
* Building a 2-3 km roller-skiing loop
* Create 6-12 miles of mountain biking/hiking trails.
* A bike skills park

**Reasons Forbush Corner Nordic can make this vision a reality:**

We have already invested in a lot of the needed infrastructure to make this vision happen. We will own over 200 acres of land by January 1, 2025. Being situated next to state land and to Hartwick Pines State Park allows for many joint expansion projects and partnerships that will benefit the people of Michigan as well as tourism. This amount of acreage will accommodate miles of mountain bike trails with the option to increase these trails onto state and park land. Our snowmaking system can easily accommodate more snow making at a reasonable cost. Our pumping station was built with three main pipes to feed the system. We are currently only using a little over a 1/3 of its capacity. Having 5 km of trails will create a nice system with varied terrain and options for people of all abilities to enjoy. Having 5 km of trails to ski will make the drive more inviting than just a 2 km loop.

Forbush Corner Nordic is in a very rural area that is lacking in healthy recreational opportunities for its residents. Bringing this opportunity to the area will bring a boost to the economy and the overall health of its residents. It is dangerous to walk or bike on the roads in this area. Having trails to hike and bike is more enjoyable than walking on the side of a busy rural road. Having a paved trail that goes through the woods increases access for even more people and especially for those with disabilities. Spending time in the woods is a natural stress reliever and making this activity more accessible benefits the health of the entire area.

This four-season center will appeal to the younger generation with the mountain bike trails, paved roller ski loop and the biathlon range. Anything that gets kids outside being active and creating lifelong healthy habits is a powerful investment in the future. There is the potential to create clubs for biking, shooting, and skiing. We are located between two larger cities in the area and can draw from both areas to reach a maximum number of kids with the potential for the local school districts to incorporate the Forbush Corner Nordic activities into their athletic curriculum.

**Capital Investments/Commitment of Forbush Corner Nordic to make this vision a reality**

2015- purchased a used PistenBulley for $150,000

2016 to present- Structural maintenance- Repainting the shop, replacing the flooring in the bathrooms and toilets, painting the warming hut, fixing the rotten deck boards- $10,000

2019- installation of the snowmaking system via a $1.2 million donation

2020- purchased and installed a warming yurt- $23,000.

2021- purchased a new PistenBully for $265,000 (still owe $65,000)

2021- purchased a used Massey Ferguson tractor and implements for $15,000.

2022-purchased a used excavator for $50,000.

2022- signed a land contract for land purchase- $100,500 (33,500 still needed for final payment)

2023- purchased a Snomax system to help make snow at higher temperatures $10,000 (donation).

2023- purchased metal tracks with studs for PistenBully for $25,000 (donation).

2023- purchased the mini truck for $22,000.

2024- completed a pole barn extension for $85,000

**Forbush Corner Nordic team members:**

**President** Howard Hansen- mechanical engineering career, project management and statistical skills

**Vice President** Todd Hubbard- engineering career with GM, skilled groomer, snowmaking, trails maintenance and building

**Treasurer** Ann Wagar- teaching career, management, and accounting skills, trail building and maintenance

**Director** Larry Damic- certified PistenBully mechanic, heavy equipment operator, skilled groomer, snowmaking, trail building and maintenance

**Director** Mario Kennedy- engineering career with GM, shop help and trail maintenance

**Volunteers:**

Ginnis-shop volunteer

Michael Bourassa- trail building and maintenance, groomer, shop volunteer and general repairs

Amy Kennedy- shop volunteer, trail maintenance

Alan Hough- ski school instructor, computer tech, and race timing

Carlton Ketchum – ski school instructor and grant writing

Carole Mueller-Braumbaugh- ski school instructor

Tina Coughley- snowshoe trail maintenance and shop volunteer

**Sponsor level:** It is only through the donations of the skiing community that we can continue to improve Forbush Corner Nordic trail system.

**$5,000 + -** **Gold Level**

**$2,500 - $4,999 - Silver Level**

**$1,000 -$2,499 -** **Bronze Level**

**$500-$999 -** **Sponsor Level**

**< $500 - Friend Level**

Contributions can be made through our website, through an individual’s charitable mutual fund, or by check.

* We are a registered 501(3)(c) charity, all donations are tax deductible
* We are registered with GuideStar, Benivity, NPO and with the state of Michigan.
* Checks should be made out to Forbush Corner Nordic and mailed to the following address.

Forbush Corner Nordic

PO Box 118

Gaylord, MI 49734

989-889-2843

Donation Form

Name- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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email address- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

donation amount-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would like my donation to be used for:

General \_\_\_\_

Snowmaking expansion\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Biathlon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Mountain bike trails \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*Please make checks out to Forbush Corner Nordic and mail to PO Box 118, Gaylord, MI 49734