

Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association

DTE Energy Foundation Trail: Sugar Loop

DTE Energy Foundation Trail is a planned, five-loop 20-mile flow trail system for bike, foot and xc ski use conceived by the Potawatomi Mountain Biking Association (Poto MBA). As a result of a progressive approach, Poto MBA was able to sell the naming rights to this trail system for \$255,000. That, along with seed money provided by individual and corporate partners, has provided an epic start to the trail project. Two of the planned five loops have been built. The 5.2-mile Green Lake Loop was built with novice users and families in mind. The Big Kame Loop is a 4.8-mile loop that climbs and descends a large glacial kame mound in roller-coaster fashion. Big Kame opened in June 2017 and is so popular that it has necessitated construction of a new, 100-car parking lot. The fully-funded, 6.8-mile Winn Loop is currently under construction and will open June 2018. It will feature rolling terrain through northern oak, hickory and maple hardwood forests, and traverse a ridgeline that drops a couple hundred feet to a lake. Poto MBA is currently seeking funding to support loop four, the 3-mile Sugar Loop at the southernmost point of the system, which will be professionally built and hand-finished by Poto MBA volunteers with construction slated to begin during October 2018. The Sugar Loop will provide an important connection for day users to the Mill Lake Camp, which the Michigan Department of Natural Resources is currently in the process of renovating.

The budget for the build-out of the Sugar Loop is attached. The budget has a range of targeted build-out options which are largely dependent on the number and type of features we add to the build of the loop. For each loop, we identify a build-out cost range of High (Maximized Build-Out Options), Mid-Point (Average) and Low (Minimum Build-Out Cost). So far, with our first two loops, we have come in within budget and close to Mid-Point (Average) on projected build-out costs. For Sugar Loop, our projected Average Total Cost to Complete is \$69,000. We anticipate that residual funds leftover from our Winn Loop build-out, combined with some residual proceeds from an MDNR Partnership Match Grant, along with proceeds currently being raised in a national crowdfunding campaign with our International Mountain Biking Association parent organization will be sufficient to cover \$25,000 to \$30,000 of the cost-to-complete the Sugar Loop. This leaves us with a gap of \$39,000 to \$44,000 left to complete the loop build-out. In our grant funding request with 5 Healthy Towns, we are seeking \$40,000 to complete funding and fill this gap.