



The Dragon Trail

Even more miles of The Dragon Trail were built last year and ready for your enjoyment. When completed, the trail will make a 47-mile loop around Hardy Dam Pond, a reservoir on the Muskegon River created when Consumers Energy built the Hardy Hydroelectric Dam in 1931 on a site once known as “The Oxbow.” The trail gets its name from the shape of the reservoir which somewhat resembles a Chinese dragon.

Officially known as “Michigan’s Dragon at Hardy Dam,” this professionally designed and built trail was specifically engineered as a rolling grade “flow” trail optimized for mountain biking, but also well suited for hiking, and fat biking during the winter season. You will appreciate the attention to detail as the trail follows the natural contours of the hillsides and along the edges of Hardy Dam Pond with several bridges and scenic overlooks.

This is a two-way trail system. Riders yield to hikers. Downhill riders yield to uphill riders. Most of the trail is intermediate level, while some sections require more endurance and technical skill. Stay alert and always practice good trail etiquette.

The 11.5-mile section from Hardy Dam County Marina to Big Bend Park meanders along the edge of Hardy Dam Pond beneath majestic white pines through rolling hills and mature forest. This

out-and-back trail is open year round. It passes through Sandy Beach County Park, a good place to camp with access to the trail.

Approximately 11 miles of new trail was completed in fall 2022 connecting Newaygo State Park to “the loop” at Brower County Park. Six miles of trail from Brower County Park to highway M-20 was completed in 2021. We now have 17 continuous miles of trail to enjoy along the east side of the pond. The 1.5-mile trail loop at Brower County Park was completed in 2020 and is also open year round. There’s a new trailhead and parking area for Dragon Trail users at Brower County Park, on your right after you pass the campground. The Newaygo State Park boat ramp offers ample parking and easy access to the trail. From the parking area, the trail wraps around the lagoon and follows the edge of the reservoir.

Please note, you must purchase a parking permit or park pass to access the Dragon Trail. For more information, visit: TheDragon.us

Hardy Dam Pond Water Trail

With nearly 4,000 acres of surface area and more than 50 miles of scenic shoreline, Hardy Dam Pond is a great place for paddling, fishing and pleasure boating. You’ll find camping and easy access all around the Pond, including 3 county parks, 3 township parks, Newaygo State Park and several private resorts and boat launches.