



## PRESS ADVISORY

### Join Friends of the Flint River Trail to Experience the Chippewa Trail & Nature Center in Midland July 11<sup>th</sup>

Flint, MI. June 29, 2015 –The [Friends of the Flint River Trail](#) (FFRT) will lead a trail-ride on a gem of mid-Michigan on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>: The Chippewa Trail in Midland, Michigan. Everyone is welcome! Bicyclists will meet in the parking lot of [Davenport College - Midland Campus](#) at 10:00AM. The group will ride to the [Chippewa Nature Center](#) before returning to Davenport College.

Chippewa Nature Center is open to the public year-round. Its mission is to help people enjoy and learn about the environment, as well as to inspire and teach them how to be responsible stewards of the land, water and air. The Chippewa Nature Center got its start in 1965 with a 198 acre donation of land from the Dow Chemical Company. Today, the Chippewa Nature Center is one of the largest private/non-profit nature centers in the United States. Through the years, the Chippewa Nature Center has grown from its original 198 acre parcel and an all-volunteer staff to include over 1,200 acres, 40 staff members and hundreds of volunteers. Over 60,000 people visit CNC every year, including 20,000 school children and 700 Nature Day Campers. FFRT hopes you'll be one of them.

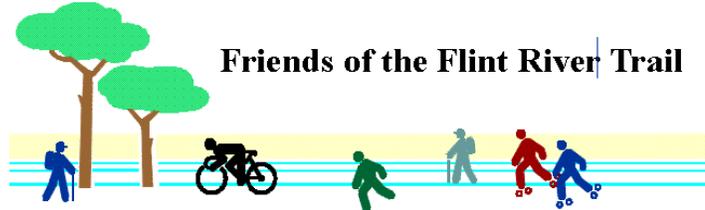
The FFRT leads a trail ride on another mid-Michigan trail on the second Saturday of each month. The Saturday rides are generally 20 to 35 miles in length. FFRT also leads a weekly bike ride, continuing every Sunday through the last Sunday in October. The rides start promptly at 2:00 PM from the OLD Flint Farmers' Market in Flint, Michigan. The Sunday trail rides are slow paced, family friendly rides of 10-12 miles in length with a short break at the half way point.

There is no charge for these trail rides, and cookies and a drink are provided at the end of the rides. Helmets, while not required, are STRONGLY ENCOURAGED. Children should be accompanied by parents, and there are 'sweeps' who may be able to help with minor bike problems and to assure that no one is left behind (i.e. these are "no drop" rides).

The Friends of the Flint River Trail is a chapter of the Flint River Watershed Coalition and further information may be found at the web site [www.flintriver.org](http://www.flintriver.org) -under the chapters section. OR, you may contact leaders Bruce Nieuwenhuis at [bnbaton@gmail.com](mailto:bnbaton@gmail.com) or Jack Minore at [jacksonmin@aol.com](mailto:jacksonmin@aol.com) .

#### *About the Friends of the Flint River Trail:*

*The Friends of the Flint River Trail (FFRT) started as an informal bike riding group in 1997 by founders Stephany Diana, Bruce Nieuwenhuis, Jack Minore, and others to promote the safe use of the Flint River Trail for fitness, exercise, and family fun. The group has expanded and grown over the years to include many members and volunteers.*



*The main purpose of the group is to promote the use of the trail for cycling, walking, and running by hosting bicycle rides every Sunday throughout the spring, summer, and fall. The rides have grown to approximately 800 riders during the season including 150 new or first time riders from across Genesee County and other areas.*

*We work to promote and publicize the safe use of the trail and to maintain the trail. We advocate for trail expansion and improvements with other groups and organizations. We have joined with others in our community to provide safe and inviting public spaces where people of all ages and abilities can easily integrate fun physical activity into their daily routine.*

*We invite you to join The Friends of the Flint River Trail! For more information, see our [Facebook page](#) or contact us at the information below or simply show up at the Sunday rides!*

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**Flint River Watershed Coalition: Partnering to Protect, Preserve, and Improve the Flint River Watershed**

*The Flint River Watershed Coalition is an organization representing individuals, businesses, community organizations, and local units of government sharing a vision of a healthier Flint River Watershed. We envision a day when the future of our drinking water is secure and the integrity of the Flint River is protected. We believe that all people should have access to the river for recreation, swimming, and fishing as well as the economic value it provides to our communities.*

Visit us at [www.FlintRiver.org](http://www.FlintRiver.org)

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