



Record-Eagle file photo

The Perception Pathway at Grass River Natural Area features a guide-wire and information written in Braille.

NATURE GUIDE

Grass River holding auction, fundraiser

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Antrim County's Grass River Natural Area, one of Michigan's oldest and largest nature preserves, has fought to maintain a safe haven for animal and plant species for 34 years. In that time, it has grown to 1,143 acres.

The county-owned preserve has been able to survive and expand mainly because of the large number of generous private donations they receive, said Mark Randolph, executive director of Grass River.

The non-profit organization also receives grant money. Randolph said that type of funding can be dangerous to rely on because of unpredictable availability, however, so donations continue to be the driving force

of Grass River's growth.

To boost their donations and to inform people in the area about the preserve, Grass River will hold its fourth annual fund-raiser June 28 at Summit Village Beach Club in Bellaire.

The main events of the night are silent and live auctions. During the silent auction, smaller items such as gift certificates donated by area businesses and restaurants will be up for bid. After dinner (a buffalo/turkey roast), the live auction begins.

Nancy Ludwa, vice-president of Grass River's board of directors, said that most of the items at the live auction will have an outdoor theme, including a kayak and rounds at local golf courses.

Last year's auction

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