



Paint Creek Trail 2020-2024 Recreation Master Plan



January 21, 2020



Paint Creek Trail Map

A Rails-to-Trails Project, owned and managed by Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Rochester • Rochester Hills • Oakland Township • Orion Township • Village of Lake Orion

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Parking | Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve |
| Restroom | Municipal Office |
| Cider Mill | Orion Township Safety Path |
| Historic Site | Paint Creek Trailways Office |
| Prairie Restoration | Shopping |
| Rochester River Walk | Restaurant |
| Rochester Hills Public Library | Scenic Overlook |
| Drinking Fountain | Bike Repair Station |



Parking is located at:

- South of Atwater St.
- Kern & Clarkston Roads
- Gallagher Road
- Paint Creek Trail Office
- Oakland Twp. Offices
- Silverbell Road
- Dutton Road
- Tienken Road
- Rochester Municipal Park

Restrooms are available at:

- Trail Restroom Facility at Kern & Clarkston Roads
- Paint Creek Trail Office
- Oakland Twp. Offices
- Tienken Road Trailhead (May–October)
- Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve
- Rochester Municipal Park
- Rochester Hills Public Library

Road-to-Road Mileage (8.9 miles total):

- Atwater to Kern/Clarkston: 1.5
- Kern/Clarkston to Adams: 1.5
- Adams to Gunn: 1.4
- Gunn to Gallagher: 0.8
- Gallagher to Silverbell: 0.6
- Silverbell to Dutton: 1.0
- Dutton to Tienken: 1.2
- Tienken to Roch. Municipal Park: 0.9

Paint Creek Trailways Commission Office

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Mailing Address: 4393 Collins Rd.
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Acknowledgements

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission would like to thank the following groups and individuals, which without their assistance this document would not be possible:

City of Rochester
City of Rochester Hills
Charter Township of Oakland
Charter Township of Orion
Village of Lake Orion

Sandy Brondstetter, Public Works Director, City of Rochester
Ken Elwert, Director, Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry
Mindy Milos-Dale, Director, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Aaron Whatley, Director, Orion Township Parks & Recreation
Molly LaLone, Executive Director, Village of Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority
Melissa Ford, Trail Manager, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Chris Gray, Assistant Trail Manager, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Brian Marzolf, Interim Trail Manager, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Jill Bahm, Giffels Webster
Eric Fazzini, Giffels Webster
Matt Wojciechowski, Giffels Webster

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail

A special thanks to Kristen Wiltfang, Senior Planner, Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs, for her assistance in the creation of all maps for this document!

Photo Credits

Cover:

Cover: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Site – Wildflowers and Walkers, by PCT staff

Chapter One: Master Plan Adoption

Chapter cover: Snow covered bridge in Rochester Hills, by PCT staff

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Chapter cover: Paint Creek Trail Crawl, by PCT staff

All other chapter photos by PCT Staff

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Page 16: Adopt A Trail Spring Cleanup, 2019, courtesy Mike Jahn

All other chapter photos by PCT staff

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Chapter cover: Dog Walkers south of Silverbell, Oakland Township, by PCT staff

Page 54: Trail at Kern Road spur, Orion Township, 2015, courtesy of Chris Hughes

Page 68: Deer in Snow, Oakland Township, 2018, courtesy of Louis Carrio

All other chapter photos by PCT staff

Chapter Five: Planning and Public Input Process

Chapter cover: 2016 Labor Day Bridge Walk, by Frank Ferriolo

All other chapter photos by PCT staff

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Page 98: Fall morning south of Silverbell, courtesy of Colleen Barkham

All other chapter photos by PCT staff

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Appendices cover: Autumn day on the Trail, by PCT staff

Executive Summary

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission is proud to present its 2020-2024 Recreation Master Plan. This replaces the 2014-2018 Plan, and was developed under the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans*.

The purpose of this plan is to provide a framework for direction of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission in the future, while utilizing the following Mission Statement as a guideline:

"The Paint Creek Trailways Commission provides trail users a natural, scenic, and educational recreation experience while preserving the natural integrity of the Paint Creek Trail for the enjoyment of present and future generations."

Master Plan Adoption

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission adopted this Recreation Master Plan on January 21, 2020. Copies of the approved plan were sent to each Trail community, as well as the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development.

Community Description

The Paint Creek Trail was the first non-motorized rail-to-trail in the State of Michigan and traverses five different municipalities in Oakland County, Michigan: the City of Rochester, the City of Rochester Hills, the Charter Township of Oakland, the Charter Township of Orion, and the Village of Lake Orion. It consists of 8.9 miles of the former Penn Central Railroad right-of-way connecting the City of Rochester at the trail's southern terminus to the Village of Lake Orion at the north. Open to the public since 1983, the Paint Creek Trail serves pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, anglers, nature enthusiasts, and users of all ages and abilities. The Paint Creek Trail is a trail of regional importance and receives over 100,000 visitors annually.

The primary focus of the 2020-2024 Paint Creek Trailways Recreation Master Plan is to identify improvements and enhancements that can be completed over the next five years to further develop the Paint Creek Trail as well as ensure that the needs of the community, trail users, and visitors will be met. The Trailways Commission has identified specific projects, as well as estimated costs, funding sources, coordinating and/or partner agencies, and the basis action for action for each project.

Administrative Structure

The Trailways Commission was established through an intergovernmental agreement among the four communities of Rochester, Rochester Hills (formerly Avon Township), Oakland Township, and Orion Township. Each community contributes to our annual Operating and Patrol budgets, and is responsible for maintenance of the Trail within their own jurisdiction. Rental payments from utility companies and other businesses that use the corridor help to offset operating expenses. Current year budgets are available by contacting the Trailways Commission office, or by visiting our website www.paintcreektrail.org. The Village of Lake Orion was added as a non-voting member of the Trailways Commission in 2004, with a trail extension into their community.

The Trailways Commission has employed a part-time Trail Manager since 1991, and a part-time seasonal Bike Patroller since 1998.

Recreation Inventory

The Paint Creek Trail is a vital part of the recreation available in northeastern Oakland County, not only linking parkland and facilities, but also for use as a recreation resource itself. In the last fifteen years, the popularity of and demand for multi-use trails has resulted in the development of the Clinton River, Macomb Orchard and Polly Ann Trails. The construction of these projects is a testament to the public demand for alternative routes for non-motorized transportation. Additionally, the Paint Creek Trail is party of the bicycle route portion of the Iron Belle Trail network, which when completed, will connect southeast Michigan to the far western portions of the Upper Peninsula.

The Paint Creek Trail is a multi-use trail, designed for use by hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, joggers, cross-country skiers, nature observers and photographers. The limestone surface provides a solid, but natural surface for these non-motorized uses. Existing Trail facilities, including signage, are detailed in Table 4.3. While the Trailways Commission does not have any formalized activity program, a number on non-profit groups have held events on the Trail, including walkathons and cleanup days.

Planning and Public Input Process

The development of this Recreation Master Plan was similar to earlier plans. The Trailways Commission reviewed draft plan chapters throughout 2019, focusing on the Goals & Objectives & Action Program. Public input was invited through a variety of methods, including

a Survey Questionnaire, an open invitation to attend Commission meetings, a Stakeholder Open House, and a public hearing to receive comments on the first Draft plan. The events leading to the adoption of the Recreation Master Plan on January 21, 2020 are listed in Table 5.1.

Action Program

The Action Program chapter is comprised of four main focus areas:

- Access and Use
- Stewardship
- Connectivity
- Programming

Each of these focus areas is discussed, with specific courses of actions listed. From these objectives, future projects and Trail improvements are listed in a Capital Improvement Schedule, and are divided into recurring and non-recurring projects. Funding for these projects is expected to come from a variety of sources, including Federal, State and Local funds, grants, and donations.



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Chapter One: Master Plan Adoption



Chapter Two: Community Description

A. Plan Jurisdiction

The Paint Creek Trail was the first non-motorized rail-to-trail in the State of Michigan and traverses five different municipalities in Oakland County, Michigan: the City of Rochester, the City of Rochester Hills, the Charter Township of Oakland, the Charter Township of Orion, and the Village of Lake Orion. It consists of 8.9 miles of the former Penn Central Railroad right-of-way connecting the City of Rochester at the trail's southern terminus to the Village of Lake Orion at the north. Open to the public since 1983, the Paint Creek Trail serves pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, anglers, nature enthusiasts, and users of all ages and abilities. The Paint Creek Trail is a trail of regional importance and receives over 100,000 visitors annually.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission is responsible for the ownership and maintenance of the Paint Creek Trail and was formed in 1981 under the Urban Cooperation Act, Act 7 of 1967 (MCL 124.501 et seq.) for the purpose of purchasing the abandoned Penn Central Railroad to construct the trail. The Commission oversees the trail with the objective of providing the citizens of Southeast Michigan with a safe and beautiful trail for their enjoyment and education. It maintains the trail as a "natural beauty trail," with minimum signage, a non-paved trail, low-impact development only, and a focus on having native Michigan flora along the trail itself.

An important link in the statewide Iron Belle trail system, the Paint Creek Trail connects the business districts of downtown Rochester, Goodison and Lake Orion. The Downtown Rochester River Walk, a connection of approximately 0.7-miles, through the City of Rochester, provides a city bikeway and pedestrian route between the Paint Creek Trail and the Clinton River Trail. In 2018, a 0.33-mile trail extension connecting the Paint Creek Trail to the Village of Lake Orion opened. The extension routes trail users north from the current trail terminus at Atwater Street into downtown Lake Orion and provides a safe, accessible and user-friendly route for residents and visitors through the village. Additionally, the Paint Creek Trail also provides the public with easy access to the countryside and outlying recreational areas, including a direct connection to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. The route also meets suburban and intra-city bicycle needs.

Recognizing the fact that abandoned railroad rights-of-way have excellent potential for recreation use, the Paint Creek Trail has been identified in a number of state, federal, regional and local plans as an excellent example of providing trail facilities in the most populated region

of Michigan. As such, the Paint Creek Trail was named as Michigan's Millennium Legacy Trail in 1999 and most recently, the U.S. Department of the Interior recognized the trail as a National Recreation Trail in 2006.

B. Plan Focus

The Trailways Commission has a strong and consistent history of planning. The purpose of 2020-2024 Trailways Recreation Master Plan is to build upon what has been previously completed, ensuring that the goals identified align with our community's preferences, as well as with the county and the region's larger scale initiatives.

The 2020-2024 Trailways Recreation Master Plan is the result of community engagement, site visits, research, and spatial analysis. Its primary focus is to identify improvements and enhancements that can be completed over the next five years to further develop the Paint Creek Trail as well as ensure that the needs of the community, trail users, and visitors will be met. The Trailways Commission has identified specific projects, as well as estimated costs, funding sources, coordinating and/or partner agencies, and the basis action for action for each project.

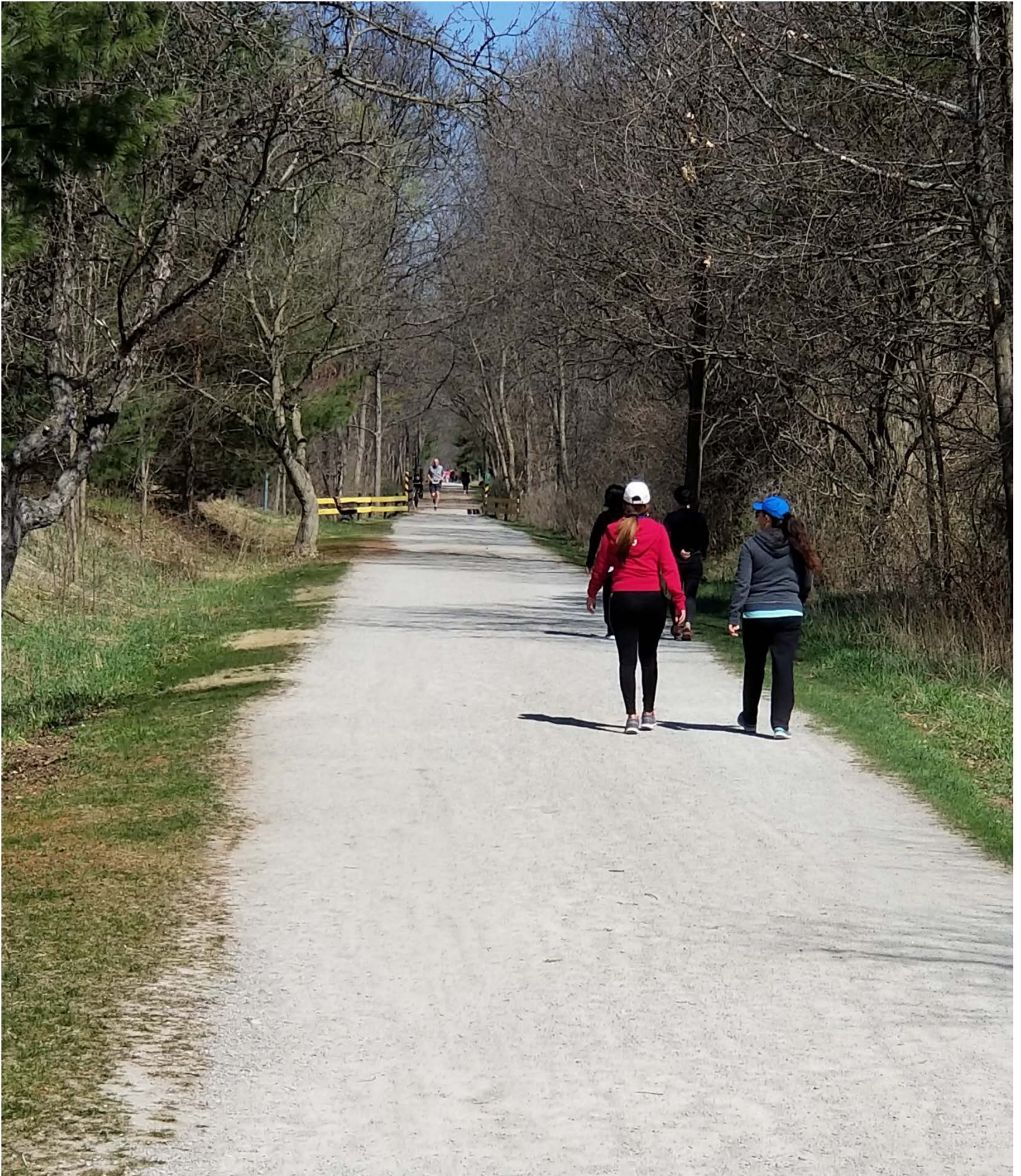
Generalized community descriptions for the five trail communities, as well as more specific information regarding the Paint Creek Trail itself is included in the 2020-2024 Trailways Recreation Master Plan. Details regarding specific parks and recreational facilities of each community can be found in Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory. The social and physical characteristics of the community which the Paint Creek Trail serves are discussed in Chapter Six of the plan, as they relate to the goals and objectives identified during the planning process.



Bike Tourists on the Trail, 2015



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Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

A. Trailways Commission - Structure and Powers

The Paint Creek Trail is owned by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, formed under the Michigan Urban Cooperation Act, Act 7 of 1967 (MCL 124.501 et seq.). The Commission was established through an Intergovernmental Agreement (see Appendix) between the four communities of Avon Township (now the City of Rochester Hills), Oakland Township, Orion Township, and the City of Rochester. Each of the communities has two Commissioners and two Alternates on the Trailways Commission. A non-voting seat on the Commission for the Village of Lake Orion was approved in 2004. In addition to owning the Paint Creek Trail, the Trailways Commission may:

- Build, maintain and operate public trails, access sites, and appropriate structures;
- Hire a manager and necessary personnel;
- Establish policies or rules governing use of Trail or facilities;
- Recommend local ordinance provisions to member communities;
- Apply for State or Federal aid to carry out Commission functions.

An organizational chart and complete listing of the 2020 Trailways Commission Members is provided in Figures 3.1 and 3.2. A listing of Trailways staff is included in Figure 3.3.



Adopt a Trail Spring Cleanup, 2019

Figure 3.1: Paint Creek Trailways Commission Organizational Chart

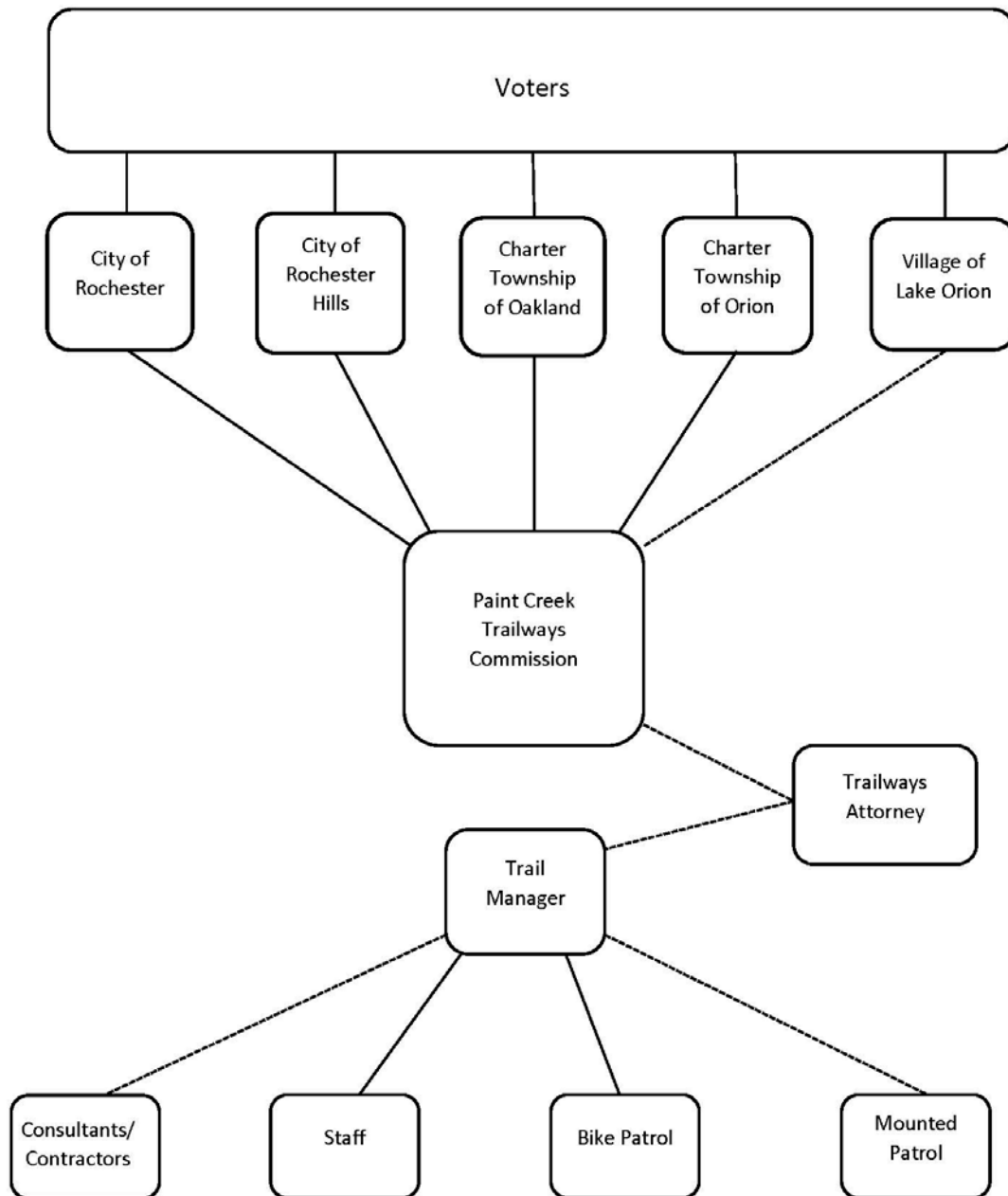


Figure 3.2: Paint Creek Trailways Commission Members – 2020

Name	Community Represented	2019 Office Held
David Becker (Alternate)	Rochester	(Chair)
Linda Gamage	Rochester	
TBD	Rochester	
TBD	Rochester	
Rock Blanchard	Rochester Hills	(Vice Chair)
Theresa Mungoli (Alternate)	Rochester Hills	
Clara Pinkham (Alternate)	Rochester Hills	
David Walker	Rochester Hills	
Robin Buxar (Alternate)	Oakland Township	(Secretary)
Frank Ferriolo	Oakland Township	
Martha Olijnyk (Alternate)	Oakland Township	
Hank Van Agen	Oakland Township	
Chris Barnett (Alternate)	Orion Township	(Treasurer)
Chris Hagan (Alternate)	Orion Township	
Donni Steele	Orion Township	
Jeff Stout	Orion Township	
Brad Mathisen, Non-Voting Member	Village of Lake Orion	

B. Paint Creek Trailways Staff

Figure 3.3: Paint Creek Trailways Staff

Name	Role
Melissa Ford	Trail Manager
Chris Gray	Assistant Trail Manager
Dan Butterworth	Bike Patroller
Nick Schroeck	Pro-Bono Attorney
Sandi DiSipio	Recording Secretary

1. Trail Manager

The Trailways Commission established an administrative position in the fall of 1991 in response to the increased activity, demand and duties of the Trail that came with increased use. Currently, the Trail Manager works 24 hours per week. Work is assigned to the Trail Manager by the Commission at monthly meetings or under the direction of the Chairperson. The Trail Manager reports to the Trail Chairperson. It is a part-time position, with responsibilities including:

- Attend, prepare notices and packets, and review Minutes for monthly Commission meetings.
- Correspondence and file keeping.
- Maintaining an operations budget which covers wages, office supplies and equipment to operate the Administrative positions and the Patrol Program.
- Financial accounts and monthly reporting.
- Creation of yearly budget and budget amendments.
- Attendance as representative of the Trailways Commission at the Oakland County Trails, Water & Land Alliance meetings and other related meetings.
- Assistance to other trails and trail groups when needed.
- Inspection of Trail for needed maintenance by member communities.
- Public communications such as phone calls, mail, email, brochures, and media.
- Trail website and social media administration.
- Commission liaison to Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group.

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

- Public presentations to local organizations and member communities.
- Manage and coordinate events.
- Administer licenses and use permits.
- Manage Trail development projects.
- Grant applications and administration; work with community planners.
- Master Plan revision.
- Working with Community Park & Recreation Directors regarding maintenance of the trail.
- Supervision of Trailways Bike Patrol and Administrative Assistant personnel (when appropriate).

2. Assistant Trail Manager

In 2016, the Trailways Commission changed the title of the existing Administrative Assistant position to Assistant Trail Manager to better reflect the job duties being performed. Currently, the Assistant Trail Manager works 12 hours per week. Work is assigned to the Assistant Trail Manager by the Trail Manager. The Assistant Trail Manager reports to the Trail Manager and/or the Trailways Commission Chairperson. In the Trail Manager's absence, the Assistant Trail Manager will perform the duties of the Trail Manager. It is a part-time position, with responsibilities including:

- Maintain accurate filing system
- Maintain Trailways photo and news archive
- Issue temporary permits
- Scheduling
- Answering phone calls and emails
- Distribute press releases and related media information
- Update and maintenance of Trailways Commission website and social media
- Recordkeeping
- Compile statistical data and prepare associated reports
- Create and update financial records
- Raise awareness of the Trail in the community
- Plan and execute Trailways community events
- Assist Trail Manager with other duties as assigned

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

3. Bike Patrol

The Bike Patrol position was created in 1998 to help educate and enforce Trailways Ordinances and to give Trail users a point of contact for the Trailways Commission. The Bike Patrol program runs from May 1 through October 31 of each year. The Bike Patroller has no legal authority to issue tickets, but may summon the proper law enforcement agency if necessary. The position is more public relations oriented as users are reminded of proper Trail etiquette and Ordinances, to help limit the number of user conflicts along the Trail. The Bike Patrol budget is part of the broader Patrol Program, which includes Mounted Patrol services. In 2019, the Patrol Program budget was \$14,871, with funding from the Trailways Commission and the four member communities based on the Trail mileage in their community:

- PCTC \$1,378
- Rochester: \$ 1,061
- Rochester Hills: \$2,274
- Oakland Township: \$8,190
- Orion Township: \$1,968

The complete 2019 Approved Trailways Budget, including Patrol Program, is available on our website and by contacting the Trailways Commission office.

4. Management of the Paint Creek Trail

Authority to commit funds for trail projects, accept grants, and purchase land lies with the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. The Trailways Commission's approach to management has been one of promoting positive use of the Paint Creek Trail, and protection of the land and water resources around it. Of course, safety of the Paint Creek Trail enthusiasts and near-by landowners must also be addressed. A listing of Trailways Management Practices includes the following components:

1. Diligent addressing of all safety concerns.
2. Preservation of the trail as a natural beauty trail.
3. Regular trail monitoring and inspection by Manager and Community Staff.
4. Motorized vehicle ban with stringent enforcement.
5. Screening and fencing where necessary.
6. Fire control and emergency access.
7. Soil erosion and sedimentation control measures.
8. Water quality protection program.
9. Litter prevention and recycling program.

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

10. Education and interpretive program.
11. Effective maintenance program by communities and volunteers.
12. Maintenance of “Prairie Site” located south of Silver Bell and east of Trail.
13. Appropriate signage that educates users on trail policies, and provides information about the Paint Creek Trail and adjacent facilities.
14. Attention to multi-use trail issues, i.e., compatibility of users.
15. Addressing needs of adjacent landowners.
16. Protecting Trailways property from encroachments and misuse.
17. Provide assistance to other communities and their trails.

Appropriate management of the Paint Creek Trail is a large part of the Trailways Commission’s Action Program. We constantly strive to define, understand and implement best management practices. Strategies for implementing management practices are listed in the goals and objectives of the Action Program.

C. Budget

The total annual operating budget has marginally increased over the last three years. Table 3.1 details the 2019 Approved Budget and shows how it compares to 2017 and 2018:



Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol on Trail

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

Table 3.1: 2019 Approved Budget with comparison

2019 Approved Trailways Commission Operations Budget				
REVENUE		2017 Final	2018 Final	2019 Approved
Member Unit Contribution for Commission and Office Operations and Staff		\$69,544	\$71,544	\$72,000
	Rochester			
	Rochester Hills			
	Oakland			
	Township			
	Orion Township			
Member Unit Contribution for Patrol Program, based on community mileage		\$12,852	\$13,493	\$13,493
	Rochester			
	Rochester Hills			
	Oakland			
	Township			
	Orion Township			
Interest		\$350	\$347	\$300
Trailways Saleable Items		\$0	\$0	\$0
Miscellaneous/Donations		\$464	\$200	\$200
National Trails Day Sponsorship			\$750	\$500
Labor Day Bridge Walk Donations		\$1,441	\$1,574	n/a
Labor Day Bridge Walk Sponsorships		\$900	\$1,250	\$1,000
Transfer from Legal Services		\$7,818	\$7,999	\$10,755
Trail Brochure Sponsorship		\$0	\$0	\$3,000
Bench Donations		\$5,153	\$0	\$1,700
Temporary Permit Fees		\$195	\$180	\$70
Transfer from Fund Balance		\$0	\$0	\$0
Program/Project Grants		\$0	\$0	\$0
MMRMA Asset Distribution		\$1,740	\$2,196	\$2,000
Total Revenue		\$100,457	\$99,533	\$105,018
EXPENSES				
Office		\$15,400	\$8,369	\$11,454
Staff Travel/Training/Development		\$6,403	\$5,609	\$5,650
Insurance/Professional Services (other than legal)		\$9,896	\$10,264	\$10,490
Publicity/Raising awareness/Educational Projects		\$4,484	\$5,316	\$6,100
Administrative Personnel		\$48,432	\$51,604	\$45,436
Trail Projects		\$300	\$0	\$10,000
Patrol Program		\$10,031	\$10,715	\$14,871
Printing/Logo Expenses		\$430	\$0	\$750
Miscellaneous/Contingency/Transfer to fund balance		\$5,081	\$7,656	\$267
Total Expenses		\$100,457	\$99,533	\$105,018

The complete and detailed 2020 Approved Trailways Budget is available in the Appendix, on our website and by contacting the Trailways Commission office.

Table 3.2 details the 2019 Approved Special Projects Budget and how it compares with 2018:

Table 3.2: 2019 Approved Special Projects Budget

2019 Approved Special Projects Budget

2019 Special Project Budget - Bridge Renovation Project

Source of Funds

Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance

Member Unit Contributions

Total Revenue

2018	2019
\$0	\$20,000
\$35,766	\$0
\$35,766	\$20,000

EXPENSES

Bridge 33.7 Renovation -

Legal Services

Tree Removal

Design Engineering

Total Expenses

\$0	\$20,000
\$0	\$0
\$3,825	
\$31,941	
\$35,766	\$20,000

Revenue minus Expenses - Bridge Renovation Project

\$0	\$0
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2019 Special Project Budget -Trail Resurfacing

Source of Funds

Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance

Member Unit Contributions

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail

Total Revenue

2018	2019
\$18,924	\$20,000
\$0	\$0
\$1,550	\$0
\$20,474	\$20,000

EXPENSES

Trail Surface Design Engineering

Rochester Hills Educational Path Engineering

Legal Services

Total Expenses

\$18,649	\$20,000
\$1,329	\$0
\$275	\$0
\$20,253	\$20,000

Revenue minus Expenses - Trail Resurfacing

\$221	\$0
--------------	------------

2019 Special Project Budget - Observation Deck

Source of Funds

Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance

Member Unit Contributions

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail

Total Revenue

2018	2019
\$3,671	\$25,000
\$0	\$0
\$1,400	\$0
\$5,071	\$25,000

Expenses

Observation Deck Construction

SE Rochester Sidepath Engineering

Total Expenses

\$3,671	\$25,000
\$1,262	\$0
\$4,933	\$25,000

Revenue minus Expenses - Observation Deck

\$138	\$0
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The complete and detailed 2020 Approved Special Projects Budget is available in the Appendix, on our website and by contacting the Trailways Commission office.

D. Sources of Funding

1. Operational Budgeting

As provided by the Urban Cooperation Act, the Trailways Commission has no power to levy any tax or issue any bonds. The Intergovernmental Agreement requires each member community to pay an equal share of the annual operating budget, which covers costs for meetings, administration, office supplies, and auditing. In addition, each member community must also pay an equal share of the staff budget, which includes manager wages, equipment and operating expenses. The Village of Lake Orion does not contribute funds directly to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, but its residents do contribute through taxes paid to Orion Township. The Village of Lake Orion is extremely supportive of the Trail, contributing in-kind services whenever possible, including law enforcement and DPW services. The Operations Budget for 2019 was \$105,018. Eighty-one percent of the budget (\$85,493) is funded equally by the four voting member communities with the remaining nineteen percent (\$19,525) of the budget funded by license fees, donations, sponsorships, interest, and miscellaneous revenue.

Member communities are also responsible for funding the Trail Patrol Program, which consists of a part-time bike patroller and contracted Mounted Patrol services. The Patrol Program budget is prorated based on trail mileage in each member community. In 2019, the Patrol Program Budget was \$14,871, with funding from the four member communities.

Funds for other purposes, including development projects, may be obtained through submitting a Project Budget request to the member communities. In-kind contribution of assistance by municipal staff is arranged as part of the annual budget; services by municipal engineers and attorneys have been provided in the past this way. In addition, each member community is responsible for maintenance within their section of the Paint Creek Trail, including mowing, trail surface maintenance, pruning, bridge maintenance and repair, and correcting problems associated with vandalism.

The Paint Creek Trail was resurfaced in 2019 at a cost of \$571,621 with each Member Community contributing their pro rata share and with the assistance of a substantial grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation. Resurfacing the trail is an ongoing event of a cyclical nature, and the Commission requests that each member community prepare financially for future resurfacing projects. It is the Trailways Commission's hope that the current surface will require no extensive overhaul until 2034.

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

2. License Agreements

As part of the purchase of the right-of-way in 1983, Penn Central also transferred ownership of license agreements with various utilities that were crossing or using the right-of-way. Since 1992, the Trailways Commission has formalized many of these license agreements and arranged a fee structure for regular rental payment. Additional licenses have been made through the years relating to crossing or using the Commission owned property. This income is used for annual operating expenses, thereby reducing the amount requested from each community. In 1995, the Trailways Commission adopted a standard license agreement for any entity that uses or crosses the right of way.

A detailed listing of licenses is shown in Table 3.3.

Table 3.3: Paint Creek Trailways Commission License Agreements – 2019

<i>LICENSEE</i>	<i>NUMBER</i>	<i>DUE DATE</i>	<i>ANNUAL AMOUNT</i>
AT &T	X571711	January	\$92.65
	X571502	January	\$65.40
	X9388141	July	\$65.40
	X571548	July	\$327.00
	X571491	July	\$163.50
Consumers Energy	X571786	January	\$98.10
	LO197494	January	\$654.00
DTE Energy	15 agreements	July	\$3,042.00
ITC	RX4197	January	\$325.00
	RX3342B	January	\$325.00
Dillman & Upton	Per Agreement	July	\$4,000.00
Mich. Consolidated Gas	X571942	July	\$654.00
	X71995	July	\$63.25
Michigan Gas Storage	X508450	January	\$136.25
JHP Pharmaceuticals	X510280	July	\$65.40
Solaronics	Per Agreement	January	1,350.00
Sunoco Pipeline LP	X5124102-2	January	\$100.00
TOTAL			\$11,936.00

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

3. Grants and Donations

Since its inception, the Trailways Commission has relied upon funding from both state and federal agencies as well as donations from private individuals and foundations to support major projects on the Trail. Grant funding enables the Commission to pursue projects that it might otherwise not be able to pursue. Most recently, the Trailways Commission received a \$300,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and a \$408,000 grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation to support its Bridge 33.7 and resurfacing projects. For a more detailed listing of grants received by the Trailways Commission, please see Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory.

Additionally, monetary donations and in-kind services from individuals and local businesses help support smaller trail enhancement projects and events held on Trail.

E. Volunteers and Service to the Trail

In the last twenty years, the Paint Creek Trail has seen a number of community organizations, including school volunteer groups, church organizations and Scouting groups, initiate and carry out many service projects and trail clean-up days (See Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: A Sampling of Trail Volunteer Activities and Donations, 2014-2019

DATE	ORGANIZATION or INDIVIDUAL	DESCRIPTION
2014	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, Back to the Beach Runners, and cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills	Drinking Fountain Donation – Tienken trailhead
2014	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, Paint Creek Crawl and Labor Day Bridge Walk
2015	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Bike Fix-it Station Donation – Tienken trailhead
2015	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, Paint Creek Crawl and Labor Day Bridge Walk
2016	50 Community Volunteers	Garlic Mustard Pull along the entirety of the Trail
2016	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Dog Waste Bag Dispenser Donation –Atwater trailhead

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

2016	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, National Trails Day and Labor Day Bridge Walk
2016	Girl Scouts Taylor Brooks, Chrissie Stephens & Bella Thomas from Troop #43155	Establish Adopt-a-Trail program
2017	Trout Unlimited	Angler Access stair project – near Gallagher Road trailhead
2017	Adopt-a-Trail volunteer groups	Two Adopt-a-Trail program workdays held
2017	Rochester Hills Public Library	Little Free Library installed near Paint Creek Trail picnic site south of Gallagher Road
2017	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, Tails for Trails and Labor Day Bridge Walk
2017	Corey Brittingham	Bench Donation – .25 miles south of Silverbell Road
2017	Jagosz Family	Bench Donation – Dinosaur Hill, Rochester Hills
2017	Jim Karner	Bench Donation – Mile Marker 38
2017	Jill Prudden	Bench Donation – Foley Pond, Lake Orion
2017	Laura Peters	Bench Donation – Foley Pond, Lake Orion
2017	Ed Nelson	Bench Donation – Mile Marker 36.5
2017	Thundering Gazelles	Bench Donation – Wet Prairie site, Oakland Township
2017	Orion Township, DNR, MDEQ, Clinton River Watershed Council & local contractors	Rudd's Mill Dam Remnants removal project
2018	Adopt-a-Trail volunteer groups	Two Adopt-a-Trail program workdays held
2018	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Bike Fix-it Station Donation – Village of Lake Orion trail extension
2018	Oakland Township	Garlic Mustard Pull
2018	Six Rivers Land Conservancy & FCA Motor Citizen Volunteer group	Garlic Mustard and Dame's Rocket Pull
2018	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, National Trails Day and Labor Day Bridge Walk
2019	Six Rivers Land Conservancy	Garlic Mustard and Dame's Rocket Pull
2019	Adopt-a-Trail volunteer groups	Two Adopt-a-trail program workdays held
2019	Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, National Trails Day

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group was formed in 2010 and provides 501(c)(3) non-profit support to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. Their volunteers organize events on behalf of the Commission, and hold various fundraisers and fundraising events throughout

the year. Visit their website at www.paintcreektrailfriends.org for more information about the group and its various projects to support the Trail.

In 2016, three area Girl Scouts raised funds to establish an Adopt-a-Trail program on the Paint Creek Trail in order to earn their Girl Scout Silver Award. The program allows community and civic organizations as well as private businesses and individuals to contribute towards the effort of maintaining a cleaner and more beautiful Trail. Volunteers commit to adopting their section of the Trail for two years. Two Adopt-a-Trail workdays are held annually, one in the spring and other in the fall, where volunteers pick up litter and recyclables along their designated section of the Trail. There are eight segments of the Trail available for adoption by volunteer groups. Presently, there is a waiting list of groups interested in participating in the program.

The Trailways Commission and Member Communities appreciate these community-inspired efforts, and continue to encourage groups to work with the Trail Manager in the development of such projects. In particular, several communities have turned to local Scouts and others volunteers for small development and maintenance projects. Not only do these projects serve to enhance the Paint Creek Trail's beauty and usefulness, but they empower community volunteers to take pride and a sense of ownership in the Paint Creek Trail.

The Trailways Commission is able to communicate with citizens and trail users through the Commission website, social media, mailings, Member Community newsletters, and an email list that is used to recruit volunteers and promote trail events. All of these modes of communication continue to be effective ways to provide information to the communities served by the Trail and to receive input and suggestions regarding trail management and events from our users and stakeholders.

F. Relationship between the Trailways Commission and Recreation Departments in each community

When the Trailways Commission was established in 1981, the Member Communities agreed to maintain their portion of the Trail on behalf of the Commission, to keep costs low and utilize resources already in place. Each community mows, repairs surface, removes downed trees, trims trees and brush, maintains parking lots, and inspects the trail bridges within its boundaries. Maintenance is the responsibility of either the parks and recreation department or department of public works in each community. The Trailways Commission staff conducts

Chapter Three: Administrative Structure

monthly inspections and provides reports to each parks or public works department, and contacts each when there are emergency maintenance situations. In addition, the Trailways Commission coordinates with each parks and recreation department for all trail improvement projects within their jurisdiction.

The grant agreement with the State of Michigan for the purchase of the Paint Creek Trail requires that the Paint Creek Trail use be regulated and that the Paint Creek Trail be adequately maintained and regulations enforced by the owner, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. In addition, it requires the adoption of ordinances to effectuate these terms. A “Uniform Trailways Ordinance” was developed by the Commission and was adopted by each of the member communities in 1983. In 2012, the Trailways Commission revised their ordinances, and began the process of gaining approval from the member communities for requested revisions. Many of these regulations are posted on directional signs along the Paint Creek Trail and in full on the Trailways Commission’s website. In recognition of the liabilities of ownership, the Trailways Commission has continued to maintain its own insurance coverage beyond that already included in the insurance policies of the four voting member communities.

Initially, the motorized vehicle ban was the focus of ordinance enforcement on the Paint Creek Trail, with local police being called to remove snowmobiles, motorcycles and other violators, particularly in the evening hours. As the Paint Creek Trail became more developed and continuously used, there has been a significant decrease in motorized vehicles and other violations of the Trailways Ordinance. The Commission maintains that legitimate trail use is still the best way to preserve trail safety. The Commission also relies on the adjacent landowners to report any suspicious activities or ordinance violations.

From 1990-2002, Oakland County Sheriff's Mounted Division provided voluntary horseback patrol of the Trail from May through October of each year to help enforce the Uniform Trailways Ordinances. Since 2004, the Trailways Commission, through financial contributions from our Member Communities, has contracted with the Sheriff's office for Mounted Patrol Services. In 1998, the Trailways Commission explored and created the use of a part-time bicycle patrol, in part, as an effective means of enforcing the uniform ordinances. The Bike patroller is responsible for reminding Trail users of the Uniform Trailways Ordinances, as well as maintenance inspections, public relations, and offering limited mechanical assistance to bicycle users.



Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

A. Paint Creek Trail

1. Development of Paint Creek Trail

Development of the Paint Creek Trail has occurred on a phased basis, with priorities established by the Trailways Commission after obtaining public input. A complete list of Trailways parcels property identification numbers and acreage is found in Table 4.1. It should be noted that the Paint Creek Trail parcels are classified as public (nontaxable) property, and therefore are not assessed values by Oakland County Equalization.

Table 4.1: Trailways Commission Parcel Information

COMMUNITY	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION	ACRES	Percentage of Total Acreage
VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION	09-12-151-045	0.903	0.82%
	09-11-278-075	1.077	0.98%
Subtotal		1.98	1.8%
ORION TOWNSHIP	09-12-304-009	11.43	10.39%
	09-13-201-003	2.909	2.64%
Subtotal		14.34	13.03%
OAKLAND TOWNSHIP	10-18-503-007	14.82	13.47%
	10-19-503-001	2.89	2.63%
	10-20-503-009	13.95	12.68%
	10-21-503-001	1.13	1.03%
	10-28-503-013	19.94	18.12%
	10-33-503-005	14.75	13.40%
Subtotal		67.48	61.33%
ROCHESTER HILLS	15-03-503-005	7.86	7.14%
	15-04-503-001	6.20	5.63%
	15-10-503-006	3.10	2.82%
Subtotal		17.16	15.59%
ROCHESTER	15-10-452-016	7.14	6.49%
	15-14-276-074	1.43	1.30%
	15-14-276-076	0.51	0.46%
Subtotal		9.08	8.25%
Total Acreage		110.04	100%

Source: Oakland County Property Gateway, April 2019.

2. General Purpose

The Trail was designed to be a multi-use trail, used by hikers, horseback riders, bicyclists, joggers, cross-country skiers, fishermen, nature observers and photographers. The limestone surface provides a hard but natural surface for these non-motorized uses, including wheelchairs. Due to the nature of the surface, skateboards and inline skates are seldom used on

the Trail. The Trail is a day-use facility only, open from a ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, with no overnight use permitted under the local Uniform Trailways ordinances.

3. Primary Service Area

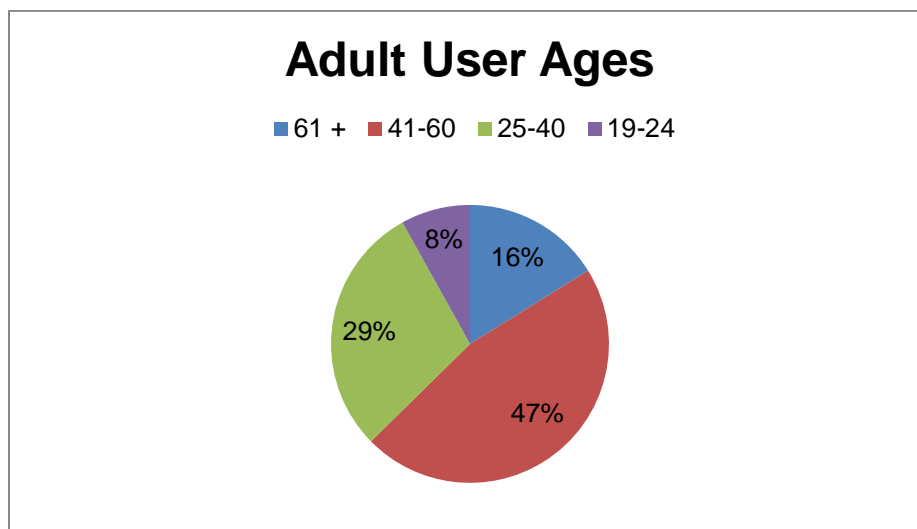
The Paint Creek crosses Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, and the Village of Lake Orion connecting to the business districts of Downtown Rochester, Goodison and Lake Orion and connects directly to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. According to SEMCOG's July 2017 estimates, the combined population of our five trail communities is 144,899. Currently, the Paint Creek Trail serves pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, anglers, nature enthusiasts, and users of all ages and abilities. The Paint Creek Trail serves approximately 100,000 users annually in all four seasons.

In 2004, Michigan State University conducted a user survey of the Paint Creek Trail, to ascertain number of users, demographic of users, and satisfaction of users. The Downtown Rochester River Walk, at that time called the Paint Creek Walkway, was included in the survey.

The survey found that the Trail had a conservative 66,420 uses from May 1 – September 30, 2004, with 56% on weekdays and 44% on weekends. Adults (19 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses, and children for 14%. Of adult uses, 56% were bicycling and 44% were walking/running. For children, 65% were bicycling and 35% were walking/running.

The survey found that 90% of Trail use was by Oakland County residents or workers. For adults, males accounted for 53% and females accounted for 47% of uses. The following chart breaks down adult uses by age:

Figure 4.1: Adult User Ages

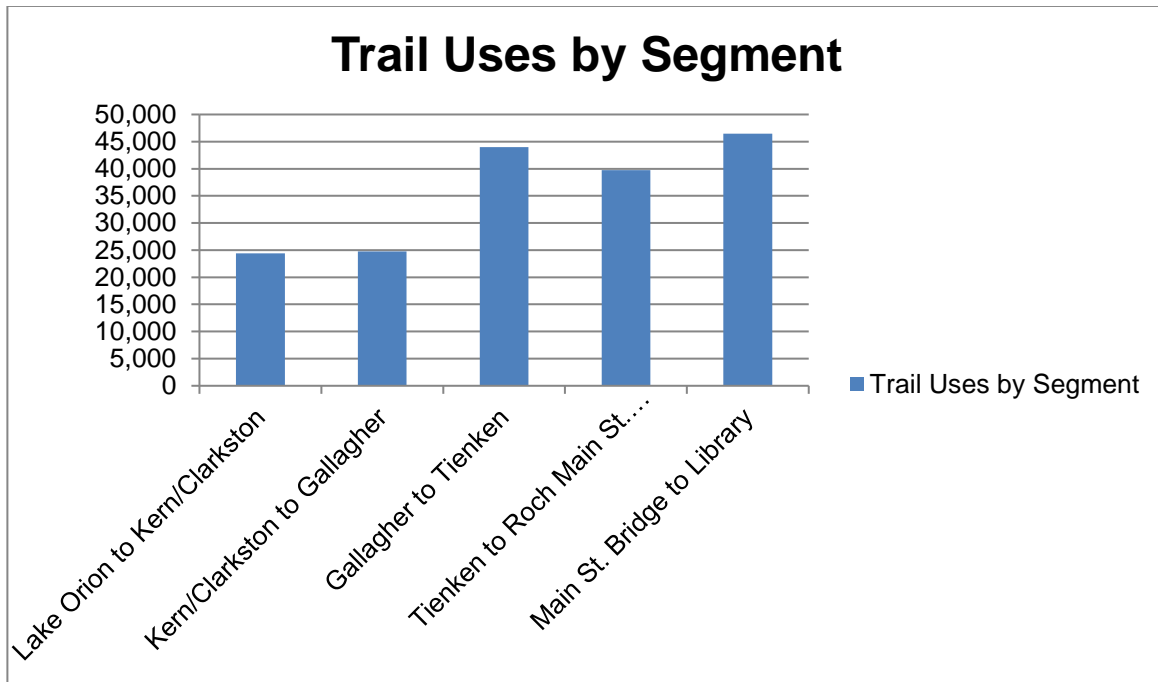


Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

Most users were on the Trail for two hours or less. Forty-one percent of Trail use was done without driving a vehicle to the Trail, and 51% of the uses were by people living two miles or less from the trail. On average, each visitor used the Trail eleven times per year, with almost half their uses during June through August. Three percent of uses were by people with disabilities that seriously limited their participation in work or recreation.

The survey was conducted at five different locations along the Trail. Table 4.2 shows the Trail uses by segment.

Table 4.2: Trails Uses by Segments of the Trail



The survey found that on average, there were 434 uses per day from May through September 2004. Of those uses, six percent were by tourists that made a specific trip to the area to use the Trail. Most Trail users, including tourists, are highly satisfied. This is evidenced by the highest proportion of survey respondents that had no suggestions for trail improvements (39%). Of those that had suggestions for improvements, 12% wanted more bathrooms, 7% wanted surface improvements, 7% wanted crossing improvements at Tienken Road, 5% wanted drinking fountains, and 3% wanted the trail extended.

Since that time, the Paint Creek Trail has made connections with other regional trails increasing our number of users who are now able to traverse between trails with ease. As part of its Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation 2015-2019 Master Plan, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation mailed questionnaires to all households with registered voters (5,490 households) in Oakland Township. Of the 880 households that responded, seventy-five

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

percent of reported that they had used the Paint Creek Trail in 2014. In 2013, Orion Township completed a survey of residents for its 2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Of the 419 surveys tabulated, 75.9% of respondents had visited the Paint Creek Trail one or more times in the past year. The city of Rochester Hills completed a public opinion survey of its residents as part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan update process in 2016. Of the 550 respondents, 82.44% had visited the Paint Creek Trail in the past year. No recent usage statistics are currently available from the city of Rochester regarding Paint Creek Trail usage by its residents.

The Trailways Commission plans to conduct another user survey working in conjunction with Michigan State University again in 2020.

4. Trailways Facilities and Programs

For ease of description of features, the Paint Creek Trail is divided into nine Management sections (Table 4.3). Each management section is one to two miles long, and has major intersecting roads that mark its beginning and end. In addition, each section has designated emergency access points.



Foley Pond in Autumn, Orion Township

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

TABLE 4.3: MANAGEMENT SECTIONS AND FACILITIES OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL

Mgt Section¹	Location	Parking Location	Mileage	Bridges	Restroom Facilities²	Signage	Emergency Access Points³
1	Children's Park to Atwater	Children's Park: 69 Art Center: 19 On Street: 26	0.33 miles	1	Fire Station 1; Lake Orion businesses	Mile Markers: 0 Info sign: 10	Children's Park, Atwater
2	Atwater to Clarkston/Kern Crossing	Atwater: 12 spaces, North Clarkston/Kern: 8 spaces	1.4 miles	2	Lake Orion businesses; vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern	Mile Markers: 4 Info sign: 2	Atwater, Newton, Clarkston/Kern
3	Clarkston/Kern Crossing to Adams Road	South Clarkston/Kern: 8 spaces	1.5 miles	2	Vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern	Mile Markers: 9 Info sign: 0	Clarkston/Kern, Archery, 2500 Orion, Adams Road
4	Adams Road to Gunn Road	None	1.4 miles	1	None	Mile Markers: 4 Info sign: 1	Adams Road
5	Gunn Road to Gallagher Road	Gallagher Road: 8 spaces	0.8 miles	0	Paint Creek Trail Office	Mile Markers: 1 Info sign: 1	Gallagher Road
6	Gallagher Road to Silver Bell Road	Gallagher Road: 8 spaces Paint Creek Trail Office: 40	0.6 miles	0	Paint Creek Trail Office Drinking Fountain on trail at Flagstar Bank	Mile markers: 3 Info sign: 1	Gallagher Road, Flagstar Bank, Silver Bell Road
7	Silver Bell Road to Dutton Road	Silver Bell Road: 5 spaces Dutton Road: 5 spaces	1.0 miles	3	None	Mile markers: 5 Info sign: 0	Silver Bell Road, Dutton Road
8	Dutton Road to Tienken Road	Dutton Road: 5 spaces Tienken Road: 12 spaces	1.2 miles	3	None	Mile Markers: 7 Info sign: 2	Dutton Road, Tienken Road
9	Tienken Road to Mile Marker 31.5	Tienken Road: 12 spaces Rochester Municipal Park: 120 spaces	1.0 miles	1	Rochester Municipal Park, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve	Mile Markers: 5 Info sign: 2	Tienken Road, Ludlow Street, Albertson Street
Undeveloped Property	Elizabeth Street/Letica to Bloomer Park	Letica Drive	.53	0	None	Mile Markers: 0 Info sign: 0	Letica Drive

¹ This section is managed by the Village of Lake Orion.

² It should be noted that the title "rest rooms" also refer to areas on and off the trail right-of-way with public restrooms available.

³ Locked gates are installed at some intersections to deter motorized vehicles, and yet provide Trail emergency access.

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Although facilities along the Trail are intentionally limited, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission still has many plans for cultural and educational improvements along the Trail. In conjunction with the Michigan Millennium Legacy Trail designation, the Trailways Commission completed three environmental and cultural enhancement projects in 2002 and 2003. A one-acre Prairie site adjacent to the Trail in Oakland Township was restored, and a Gazebo style art project was constructed along the Trail to commemorate the Prairie restoration project. Additionally, the Trailways Commission chose to document the Prairie restoration project on video. This video can be used as an educational tool for anyone with an interest in Prairie ecology, and is available on DVD and on YouTube.

In 2005, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission completed the *Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project* with funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. This project involved developing picnic areas complete with benches, picnic tables, and trash receptacles at several points along the Trail, including the Tienken trailhead. It also involved installing a water fountain in Oakland Township near the midpoint of the developed portion of the trail and a restroom facility in Orion Township, near the intersection of Clarkston/Kern Roads. Lastly, an erosion control/observation deck enhancement was constructed for a popular observation area adjacent to the Trail in Orion Township at Foley Pond.

In 2008, the second phase of Millennium Legacy Trail projects was completed. The *Rochester Historical Art Project* was a collaborative effort among the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Rochester-Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historic Commission, Rochester Downtown Development Authority, the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, and the Preede Foundation. This cultural enhancement consists of six glass panel art displays installed at various points along the Downtown Rochester River Walk which showcase the area's railroad and industrial history.

In 2008, Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker constructed and installed five information kiosks at various points along the trail, near parking areas and road crossings. The kiosks are used to post event information, trail maps and amenity information. In 2012, Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Kutcek began work on five Recycle Bins to be placed along the trail. With this enhancement, aluminum cans and plastic bottles will no longer end up in local landfills. In addition, Eagle Scout candidate Mike Alspach began the Paint Creek Trail Brochure Box project, by redesigning and building wooden boxes for brochures and maps. Both projects were completed in 2013 and improved the trail experience for all visitors.

Since its formation in 2010, funding from the non-profit Friends of the Paint Creek Trail has been instrumental in adding needed amenities to the Trail for the benefit of trail users. In

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

2012, the Friends and local resident Ryan Katulic purchased and donated Bike Fix-it Stations to the Trail which were installed at the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Rochester Municipal Park. The Friends group also donated the funds to install Bike Fix-It Stations at the Tienken trailhead in 2015 and the Village of Lake trail extension in 2018. The stations receive heavy use from cyclists using the Trail. With funding from the Friends, Back to the Beach Runner and the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills, a drinking fountain was installed at the Tienken trailhead in 2014. Additionally, the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail donated the funds for a dog waste bag dispenser at the Atwater trailhead in the Village of Lake Orion in 2016.

Local community organizations have also contributed enhancements to the Trail. In 2017, Trout Unlimited funded the Angler Access stair project near the Gallagher Road trailhead, providing anglers with direct access to the Paint Creek, the only cold water trout stream in Southeast Michigan. In 2017, the Rochester Hills Public Library installed a Little Free Library near the Paint Creek Trail picnic site south of Gallagher Road and second library near the Trail's entrance to Rochester Municipal Park. This program aims to inspire a love of reading and build community by fostering public book exchanges. In 2017, Orion Township removed remnants of the old Rudd Mill Dam from the Paint Creek. The removal of these concrete slabs, located adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail, restored the natural flows through that section of stream, removed a potential barrier to fish passage, and helped restore the natural condition of the stream and its ecology.

In 2007, in response to requests to provide the public with opportunities to honor family and friends as well as meet the needs for certain capital improvements/enhancements to the trail, the Trailways Commission initiated a bench donation program. Since that time, thirty-three benches have been added to the Trail, including seven in 2017.

Signage on the Trail consists of information, directional and mile-distance signs and is designed so that it remains compatible with the Trail's natural environment. At each intersection, two-way signs announce the name of the road crossing. Historic mileage markers are found every half-mile and on bridges along the Trail. At major trail access points, large informational map displays provide information about the Trail and the area around it. The original system of Trail signage was completed in 1995, using grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (37.5%), Recreation Improvement Fund (37.5%), and local matching funds (25%). In 2002 and 2003, two Eagle Scout signage projects were also completed. Emergency Mile Marker Signs were installed at various entrances, bridges, and intervals to help Trail users better pinpoint their location on the Trail in case of emergency. In 2003, signs were developed to explain the Mile

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

Marker System and placed at trail entrance points. These signs also explain the history of the Mile Marker System as it pertains to the former Penn Central Railroad.

In 2008, the graphics department from the HMS Manufacturing Company in Troy, Michigan, approached the Trailways Commission about a community service project. The department offered to re-design the Paint Creek Trail Brochure and Directional and Informational Signs that are placed along the Trail, as part of their commitment to the community and to the Paint Creek Trail. With a \$5,000 grant from the Meijer Corporation, the signs were manufactured and installed in 2008-2009. In 2019, using funds from a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Iron Belle Trail mini grant and local cash match, the Trailways Commission replaced gateway signage, information stations, road crossing/safety signs, map signs and wayfinding signs for the entire Trail. The Iron Belle Trail network logo was also added to the signage to indicate the Paint Creek Trail's designation as part of the Iron Belle Trail route.

The Trailways Commission owns twelve existing bridges across the Paint Creek that were built circa 1926. In 2004, a bridge inventory was conducted in Oakland and Orion Townships during the Trail resurfacing project by our contracted engineers. A complete report was given to both communities, and minor improvements were made. In 2010, the City of Rochester inspected the bridge north of Ludlow at mile marker 31.7, and found a few structural issues that need to be addressed. The City of Rochester plans to submit a grant application to leverage local funds to complete the project repairs which are projected to cost more than \$300,000. The Trailways Commission is supportive of the project. In 2012, the City of Rochester Hills, through their Capital Improvement Plan, funded bridge, railing, and erosion projects on all three bridges within its jurisdiction. The bridges were found to have some structural damage that limited capacity for maintenance and emergency vehicles. The repairs were completed at a cost of \$250,000 and are expected to last for decades. In 2013, a structural inspection of Bridge 33.7 in Oakland Township by engineers with Spalding DeDecker documented the bridge's deterioration and recommended replacement due to the undermining of structural components, which compromises the safety of the bridge. With funding from a Transportation Alternatives Program grant, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and local cash matches from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Bridge 33.7 was replaced in 2019. The new bridge is expected to have a lifespan of at least seventy-five years. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission appreciates the support of its trail communities in maintaining the safety of the bridges for current and future trail users.

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

Although the Paint Creek Trailways Commission does not have a formal activity program, non-profit organizations wishing to use the Trail are encouraged to work with the Trail Manager in producing Trail activities for large groups. While the Trailways Commission will not close the Trail to the public during a group event, it does require that all special event activities on the Trail have a Commission approved permit. Groups with potential Trail activities are asked to apply for the permit three months in advance, allowing time for the Commission to consider the request at its monthly meetings. In addition to the completed permit application, a small non-refundable permit fee and proof of event liability insurance are required of permit applicants. The Commission also requires organizations to have the approval of the Rochester City Council, if using their Municipal Parking facilities.

Some of the group events held on the Paint Creek Trail in the last five years include: The Brooksie Way, the Rochester Community Schools Foundation Hometown Hustle, Michigan Nature Association Rattlesnake Run, Dragon on the Lake 5k, KUKA Cares Family Bike Ride, Orion Township Firefighters Run with Fire 5k, and Cruisin' for the Trails Charity Bike Ride. In addition, the Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve has sponsored popular and well-attended historical walks on the Trail. The Trailways Commission has hosted its own annual events over the last 15 years. A National Trails Day Event, held in May or June, provides the opportunity to promote the Paint Creek Trail, and encourage users to get active. National Trails Day events have included historical bike tours, bicycle tune-ups, bird walks, fun rides, Trail Clean Up details, prairie restoration talks, an Art Project Dedication, community lunches, recognition ceremonies, Geocaching demonstrations, and prize giveaways. These were promoted with various themes.

In 2006, in cooperation with the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, the Trailways Commission started hosting a "Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk & Run" event. This event encourages Michigan residents to become more active and incorporate exercise into everyday routines. Each year, the Trailways Commission and the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail promote the event along the trail, and the route crosses some of our railroad bridges. As part of the fun, fudge is offered to our participants for a "Virtual Mackinac Island" experience. The Virtual Bridge Walks are held across the State in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day run and walk with the Governor of Michigan.

5. Accessibility Evaluation

In 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) was passed by congress. Parks and Recreation facilities became subject to barrier-free requirements. The Paint Creek Trail was inventoried by consultants from Giffels Webster in May 2019, following the *Guidelines for the*

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

Development of Community Park and Recreation Plans produced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2018. The following rankings (1-5) were used:

- 1: None of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 2: Some of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 3: Most of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 4: All of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
- 5: The facility meets the Principles of Universal Design



Accessible Vault Toilet at Clarkston/Kern, Orion Township

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The complete accessibility evaluation completed by Giffels Webster can be found in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: BARRIER FREE ASSESSMENT

	Parking Lot				Play Areas				Park Amenities				Trails and Sidewalks							Other				Ranking									
	Marked trail access	Near entrance	Signs 60" high	Spaces marked	Accessible route	Turning space	Stable play surface	Accessible swing	Accessible connection	Accessible panic table	36" Drinking fountain	Street lighting	Non-slip ramps	Accessible restroom	Door sill < 1/2 inch	No stairs	Bike/Ped separation	Unobstructed sidewalk	Stairways w/ railings	Ramps w/ handrails	Accessible circulation	Even sidewalk transitions	Gates/barriers 36" wide	Adequate passing space	Tread obstacles < 2"	Boardwalks <1/2" high	Benches	Accessible scenic overlook	Free library				
Rochester Municipal Park to Tienken	Y	N ₁	N	Y	Y ₁	Y	Y	Y	Y								N/A					Y					Y	N	Y				2
Tienken to Dutton	Y	Y			N ₂						Y			N ₂			N/A					Y											2
Dutton to Gallagher	N ₃	Y	Y	Y						Y	Y	Y			Y	Y	N/A					Y ₃					Y	N ₃					2
Gallagher to Adams	N ₄	N ₄	Y	Y													N/A	N									Y ₄						2
Adams to Clarkston/Kent																	N/A						N	N	N ₅								1
Clarkston/Kent to Atwater Street	N ₆	N	N	N											Y		N/A								N	N	N ₆	N					2
Entire Trail																	N/A																2

Empty = not present

Y = Present + accessible

N = Present / Not accessible

Observations

Road crossings - priority

Accessibility - priority

Middle section of trail needs the most work - Adams Rd.

Rochester/Orion in good shape

Potential to add road wayfinding signage

Rating System

1 None of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

2 Some of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

3 Most of the facilities meet accessibility guidelines

4 Entire park meets accessibility guidelines

5 Park was designed using principals of universal design

N/A - The trail is not designed to be paved or to have seperated bike/pedestrian traffic. This section does not apply

Footnotes refer to the images on the following pages

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Trail section details

The chart above summarizes the ADA accessibility of the trail as a whole, broken down into road sections. The pictures below are in reference to the footnote numbers in the chart.

(1) Rochester
Municipal Park to
Tienken



Example of missing barrier-free parking signage



Example of good trail-to-playground transition

(2) Tienken to Dutton



Example of obstructed restroom access



Example of inaccessible route

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(3) Dutton to
Gallagher



Example of inaccessible scenic overlook and missing parking signage



Example of good bridge-trail transition

(4) Gallagher to
Adams



Example of uneven paving surface



Example of accessible bench

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(5) Adams to
Clarkston/Kern



Example of tread obstacles / loose gravel



Example of no passing space

Clarkston/Kern to
Atwater Street



Example of uneven parking surface and inaccessible route from parking to trail



Example of inaccessible bench

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6. DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

The following projects were partially or completely funded with DNR Recreation Grant funds:

a. **Type of Grant:** Acquisition

Source: Michigan Land Trust

Grant # TF493 - \$200,000

Year: 1981

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Acquisition

Scope of Project: Acquisition of 10.5 miles of abandoned Penn Central Railroad

Current Condition: 8.9 miles are developed with crushed limestone surface.

b. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: Land & Water Conservation Fund

Grant # 26-01401 – \$61,500

Year: 1985

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail

Scope of Project: Safety railings on 9 bridges, decking on 4 bridges

Current Condition: Railings and decking maintained, in fair to good condition.

c. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: Inland Fisheries Grant

Grant # 26-01479 - \$121,980

Year: 1988

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail-Phase II

Scope of Project: Development of 7.5 miles of trail, pre-grading, site preparation and limestone.

Current Condition: Well maintained; good condition

d. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: Land & Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Improvement Fund

Grant # 26-01515 – \$18,750

Year: 1992

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Name of Project: Trailways Signage Plan

Scope of Project: Directory Signage, Road crossing signage, mile markers.

Current Condition: Directory Signage replaced in 2008 and 2009 due to condition of signs, new map & contact information. Road crossing signage and mile markers well maintained and in good condition.

e. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: MNRTF

Grant # TF02-125 - \$58,900

Year: 2002

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project

Scope of Project: Picnic Area at Tienken, Picnic Area and drinking fountain south of Gallagher, Foley Pond Observation Deck, Vault Toilet at Clarkston/Kern.

Current Condition: Excellent.

f. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: MNRTF

Grant #: TF16-0008

Year: 2016

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Bridge Renovation

Scope of Project: Replacement of Bridge 33.7 on the Paint Creek Trail

Current Condition: Excellent

Source: MDNR – IBT Mini Grant

Grant #: IBTMG 18-02

Year: 2018

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Signage Project

Scope of Project: Design and installation of PTC and IBT signage

Current Condition: In progress

Total Value of DNR Grants Received:

\$786,130

7. Additional Grant Inventory

The following projects were partially or completely funded with Grant funds:

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a. Type of Grant: Planning

Source: Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs (MCACA) Discretionary Program

Year: 2001

Amount: \$3,500

Name of Project: Strategic Plan for Millennium Legacy Trail Project

Scope of Project: The Trailways Commission contracted with Get Real!

Communications from Ann Arbor, Michigan, to develop the Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project. The plan serves as a guide for the Commission to install 4 art projects along the Paint Creek Trail.

Current Condition: Plan is still being followed.

b. Type of Grant: Miscellaneous Donation/Grant

Source: The Home Depot

Year: 2001

Amount: \$2,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration Art Project

Scope of Project: As part of the Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project, this grant funding was used for the fabrication and installation of a gazebo-style Art Project, depicting a copper sculpture of a Bur Oak Leaf.

Current Condition: Excellent.

c. Type of Grant: Art Services

Source: Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs (MCACA)

Year: 2001-2003

Amount: \$15,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration Art & Video Project

Scope of Project: As part of the Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project, this grant funding was used for the restoration of a prairie site, the fabrication and installation of a gazebo-style Art Project, depicting a copper sculpture of a Bur Oak Leaf and for partial funding of an educational Prairie Restoration Video.

Current Condition: Excellent

d. Type of Grant: Art Projects on Millennium Trails Initiative

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Source: National Assembly of State Arts Agencies/National Endowment for the Arts (NASAA/NEA)

Year: 2001-2003

Amount: \$11,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration
Celebration/Millennium Legacy Project

Scope of Project: As part of the Millennium Legacy Trail Art Project, this grant funding was used for the restoration of a prairie site, the fabrication and installation of a gazebo-style Art Project, depicting a copper sculpture of a Bur Oak Leaf and for partial funding of an educational Prairie Restoration Video.

Current Condition: Excellent

e. **Type of Grant:** Art Project Grant

Source: Bordine Family Horticultural Beautification Fund (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)

Year: 2004

Amount: \$2,500

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration Video

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the professional filming and distribution of 2 versions of the Prairie Restoration process. One version documented the entire process. A second version was created as an educational teaching tool for middle school children in the Rochester and Lake Orion school districts.

Current Condition: Excellent

f. **Type of Grant:** Art Project Grant

Source: Frank J. Shellenbarger Memorial Fund (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)

Year: 2004

Amount: \$2,500

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration Video

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the professional filming and distribution of 2 versions of the Prairie Restoration process. One version documented the entire process. A second version was created as an educational

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teaching tool for middle school children in the Rochester and Lake Orion school districts.

Current Condition: Excellent

g. Type of Grant: Art Project Grant

Source: The Preede Foundation (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)

Year: 2007

Amount: \$3,000

Name of Project: Rochester Historical Art Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the fabrication and installation of six (6) historic art glass displays that were installed along the Downtown Rochester River Walk. The displays depicted railroad and industrial history in Rochester.

Current Condition: Excellent

h. Type of Grant: Matching Funds Grant

Source: Rochester Downtown Development Authority

Year: 2007

Amount: \$3,763

Name of Project: Rochester Historical Art Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the fabrication and installation of six (6) historic art glass displays that were installed along the Downtown Rochester River Walk. The displays depicted railroad and industrial history in Rochester.

Current Condition: Excellent

i. Type of Grant: General Project Grant

Source: Rochester Avon Historical Society

Year: 2007

Amount: \$3,000

Name of Project: Rochester Historical Art Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the fabrication and installation of six (6) historic art glass displays that were installed along the

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Downtown Rochester River Walk. The displays depicted railroad and industrial history in Rochester.

Current Condition: Excellent

j. **Type of Grant:** General Project Grant

Source: Rochester Historical Commission

Year: 2007

Amount: \$2,000

Name of Project: Rochester Historical Art Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the fabrication and installation of six (6) historic art glass displays that were installed along the Downtown Rochester River Walk. The displays depicted railroad and industrial history in Rochester.

Current Condition: Excellent

k. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: DALMAC Fund

Year: 2007

Amount: \$10,000

Name of Project: Atwater Extension Resurfacing Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used to surface ¼ mile of trail in the Village of Lake Orion. Orion Township and the Lake Orion DDA also contributed to this project.

l. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: Meijer Corporation

Year: 2008-2009

Amount: \$5,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Sign Replacement Project

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used for the design, fabrication and installation of ten (10) Paint Creek Trail Information Map displays, placed at various access points along the trail. The signs replaced outdated and worn signs that were installed in 1992.

Current Condition: Excellent

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m. Type of Grant: Development

Source: Hostelling International

Year: 2011

Amount: \$1,500

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Girl Scout Program

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used to develop a trail education program geared for the Girls Scouts of America

Current Condition: N/A

n. Type of Grant: Development

Source: Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)

Year: 2018

Amount: \$300,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used to fund the replacement of Bridge 33.7

Current Condition: Excellent

o. Type of Grant: Development

Source: Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)

Year: 2019

Amount: \$408,000

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 and Trail Surface Renovation

Scope of Project: This grant funding was used to fund the replacement of Bridge 33.7 and resurface the entire Paint Creek Trail

Current Condition: Excellent

Total Number of non-DNR Grants Received:	15
Total Value of non-DNR Grants Received:	\$772,763

B. Regional Recreation Facilities

1. State, County and Regional Parks

Table 4.5 identifies the State, County and Regional Parks within the vicinity of the Paint Creek Trail. The closest park to the Trail in this listing is Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, located in Oakland Township and abutting the trail in Orion Township. In general, regional parks are of 200 acres or larger and are intended for use by residents of several communities. The development that occurs in these parks usually preserves the natural environment with facilities including picnic areas, boating, camping, nature areas, and a variety of winter sports activities.

Table 4.5: Regional Recreation Facilities within the Vicinity of the Trail

AGENCY	FACILITY	ACRES
Huron-Clinton Metroparks	Indian Springs Metropark	2,509
	Lake St. Clair Metropark	938
	Stoney Creek Metropark	4,435
	Wolcott Mill Metropark	2,625
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Bald Mountain Recreation Area	4,637
Oakland County Parks	Addison Oaks County Park	1,140
	Independence Oaks Park	1,286
	Orion Oaks Park	916
	Waterford Oaks	199

Source: Websites for Individual Agencies, May 2019

2. Collaborative Trail Planning Efforts in Southeast Michigan

a. History of Greenways in Southeast Michigan

Trail planning efforts in Southeast Michigan gained momentum in the early 1990's. The Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative was founded in 1990 to build public support for a connected trail system. In 1994, the City of Detroit included the development of Greenways in its land use plan to enhance the city's redevelopment efforts. In 1999, the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative was formed to plan a connected greenways system among twenty-one downriver communities.

As public support began to build for projects, funding for trails and greenway projects grew. In 2001, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan established the GreenWays Initiative to help build a connected network of trails. Through \$33 million in foundation and private contributions, and another \$125 million of matching investments from government and other sources, the GreenWays Initiative has helped more than 80 municipalities plan, design,

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finance, and build more than 100 miles of connected greenways across southeast Michigan. In 2003, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy was formed to develop the Detroit River Walk. Over \$100 million was raised and when completed, the River Walk will be 5.5 miles long, and will connect the Belle Isle Bridge with the Ambassador Bridge. In 2007, the Detroit Greenway Coalition was formed by sixteen stakeholders to develop 70 miles of trails and 400 miles of bike lanes in Detroit. The demand for connected trails and greenways continues to grow in Southeast Michigan.

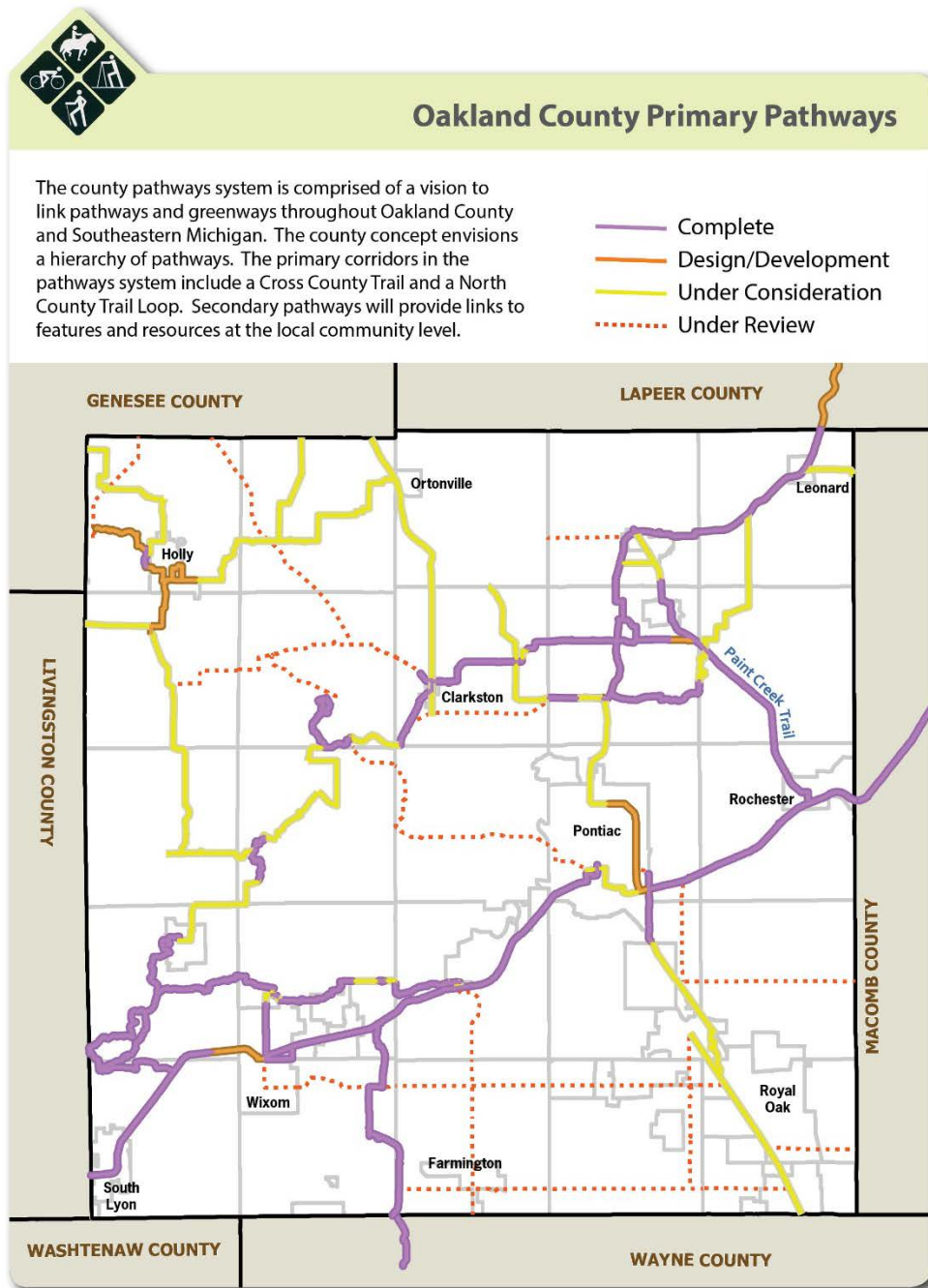
b. Oakland County Trail Network

For years, the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division studied the possibilities of a Linked Recreation Trail System, promoting the use of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, proposed highway rights-of-way, utility easements and waterways as potential recreational corridors. The proposed linkages in Oakland County (shown in Map 4.1) form a network linking community, residential areas and town centers with outlying recreational lands.



*Trail at Kern Road spur, Orion Township,
2015*

Map 4.1: Oakland County Primary Pathways



In 2002, Oakland County Parks and Recreation created the Oakland Trails Advisory Council (OTAC) to help expand and coordinate the Trail Network. In April 2012, OTAC merged with the Oakland County Natural Areas Advisory Group to become the Oakland County Trails, Water, & Lands Alliance (TWLA). Comprised of various stakeholders and agencies, TWLA supports the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Network's trail and natural areas initiatives.

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The Paint Creek Trailways Commission has been an active participant in the OTAC and TWLA organizations, and has been an excellent resource for newer trail systems. Table 4.6 lists the major Oakland County Trails:

Table 4.6: Oakland County Trails

Name	Location	Length	Surface
<i>Paint Creek Trail</i>	<i>Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, Village of Lake Orion</i>	<i>8.9 miles</i>	<i>Crushed limestone, asphalt</i>
<i>Clinton River Trail</i>	<i>Sylvan Lake, Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Rochester, Rochester Hills</i>	<i>16 miles</i>	<i>Crushed limestone, asphalt, recycled asphalt</i>
<i>Headwaters Trail</i>	<i>Groveland Twp, Holly Twp, Rose Twp, Springfield Twp, Village of Holly</i>	<i>16 miles</i>	<i>Water, asphalt, crushed limestone</i>
<i>Huron Valley Trail</i>	<i>South Lyon, Lyon Twp, Milford Twp</i>	<i>10.5 miles</i>	<i>Asphalt</i>
<i>Lakes Community Trail</i>	<i>Commerce, Wolverine Lake, Walled Lake, Wixom</i>	<i>3.5 miles</i>	<i>Asphalt</i>
<i>Polly Ann Trail</i>	<i>Orion Twp, Oxford Twp, Village of Oxford, Leonard, Addison Twp</i>	<i>14.5 miles</i>	<i>Crushed limestone, asphalt</i>
<i>West Bloomfield Trail</i>	<i>West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake</i>	<i>6.8 miles</i>	<i>Crushed limestone</i>
<i>I-275 Metro Trail</i>	<i>Novi, Wayne County</i>	<i>33.2 miles</i>	<i>Asphalt</i>
<i>M-5 Metro Trail</i>	<i>Novi, Commerce Township</i>	<i>2.2 miles</i>	<i>Asphalt</i>
<i>Michigan Air Line Trail</i>	<i>Commerce Township, Walled Lake, Wixom</i>	<i>6 miles</i>	<i>Currently undeveloped</i>
<i>Milford Trail</i>	<i>Milford</i>	<i>8.6 miles</i>	<i>Asphalt</i>

c. Trails with Potential for Linkage to the Paint Creek Trail

In the last twenty-five years, the popularity of and public demand for multi-use trails has resulted in two trails that are linked to the Paint Creek Trail. To the southeast, the Macomb Orchard Trail extends from Dequindre Road in Shelby Township northeast 22 miles into Richmond. The Paint Creek Trail is linked with the Macomb Orchard Trail via a short segment of the Clinton River Trail in the City of Rochester.

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In 1997, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources secured the purchase of 14.2 miles of abandoned railroad in Orion and Oxford Townships, just to the northwest of the northern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail. This abandoned rail bed became the very popular Polly Ann Trail. The Polly Ann Trail extends 20 miles into Lapeer County, to approximately 35 miles long. The segment in Oakland County was surfaced in 2007 with crushed limestone and asphalt, and a bridge over M-24 north of Burdick in the Village of Oxford was erected. Trail enthusiasts are excited by the possibilities of linking the Polly Ann Trail to the Paint Creek Trail and other greenways. In 2008, four route options were identified in the Paint Creek & Polly Ann Trails Gap Analysis as part of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan. The routes ranged from a 3.65 mile connection to a 6.81 mile connection. Some of them utilize residential streets and safety paths, while others utilize main roads. Each route has its advantages and challenges. However, through proper planning and collaboration among stakeholders, one or more connections can be implemented. One of the suggested routes utilizes Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, which has an extensive trail system of its own, and is a logical choice for a link to the Paint Creek Trail. In 2011, Orion Township developed and surfaced a Connector Trail from the safety path along Kern Road through Bald Mountain State Recreation Area to the Paint Creek Trail. A loop using local bikeways to connect to the northern unit of Bald Mountain, Addison Oaks County Park, Bear Creek Nature Park in Oakland Township, and Stoney Creek Metro Park could add another 15 miles and access to the trails developed within these parks. In 2018, Orion Township completed the first phase of linking the Paint Creek Trail to the Polly Ann Trail with the construction of a safety path and boardwalk along the north side of Clarkston Road. The next phase will continue the trail west to the Paint Creek Trail where it crosses Clarkston Road and is expected to be completed in 2020. The construction of these projects, and others like them, is a testament to their popularity and public demand for alternative routes for non-motorized transportation.

With the connection to the Polly Ann Trail to the north and west, and the Macomb Orchard Trail to the southeast, it is conceivable one day that enthusiasts of these three trails alone could enjoy a system of over 65 miles.

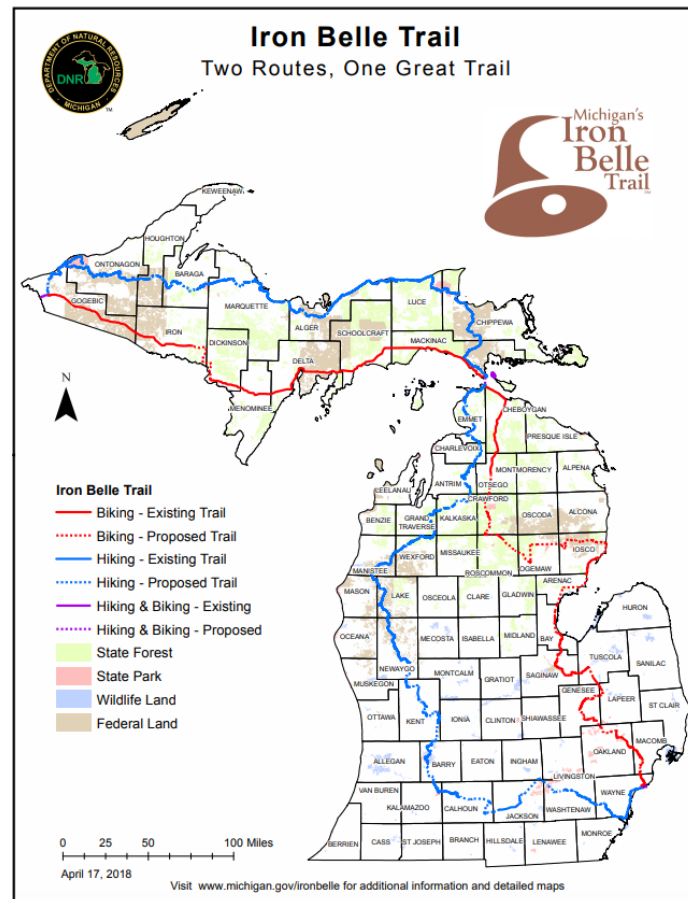
d. Iron Belle Trail

In 2012, the Governor of Michigan announced a trail network initiative that would connect Belle Isle, in Detroit, to Wisconsin, utilizing existing and proposed trail and pathway connections. Two routes make up the Iron Belle Trail; one for hikers and one for bicyclists. Currently, the hiking route is 1,259 long and the bicycle route is 774 miles long. When complete, the trail will extend more than 2,000 miles. As of 2019, more than sixty percent of both routes (bicycling and hiking) are already completed, and partners are working to establish temporary connectors that will be

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made permanent as resources become available. The new construction would utilize abandoned railroads, and path systems through State and local parks. Federal, state and local units of government are working to complete the trail by acquiring trail easements from willing sellers. Both routes stretch from Detroit to Ironwood, each taking a separate route to complete the journey. Most of the hiking route will follow the North Country National Scenic Trail between Calhoun and Gogebic Counties. The trail traverses the west side of the Lower Peninsula, and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The Paint Creek Trail is part of the bicycle route portion of the Iron Belle Trail network. When complete, the trail will connect southeast Michigan north to Bay City, west to Midland, north through the North Central State Trail between Gaylord and Mackinaw City to U.S. Bicycle Route 10 and routes along U.S. Highway 2 across the Upper Peninsula. The proposed route is detailed in Map 4.2:

Map 4.2: Iron Belle Trail



e. Oakland County Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and waterways. This network supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to health and quality of life. It also focuses on

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conservation values and the services provided by natural systems in concert with, instead of in opposition to, land development.

Green infrastructure provides a mechanism to identify and blend environmental and economic factors creating a multitude of social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits. The benefits include:

- Providing a sense of place and a unique identity
- Decreasing cost of public infrastructure (i.e. storm water management & water treatment systems)
- Increasing both active and passive recreational opportunities
- Increasing property values
- Helping preserve the unique quality of life
- Maintaining the naturally functioning ecosystems
- Helping to attract new businesses and well qualified workers

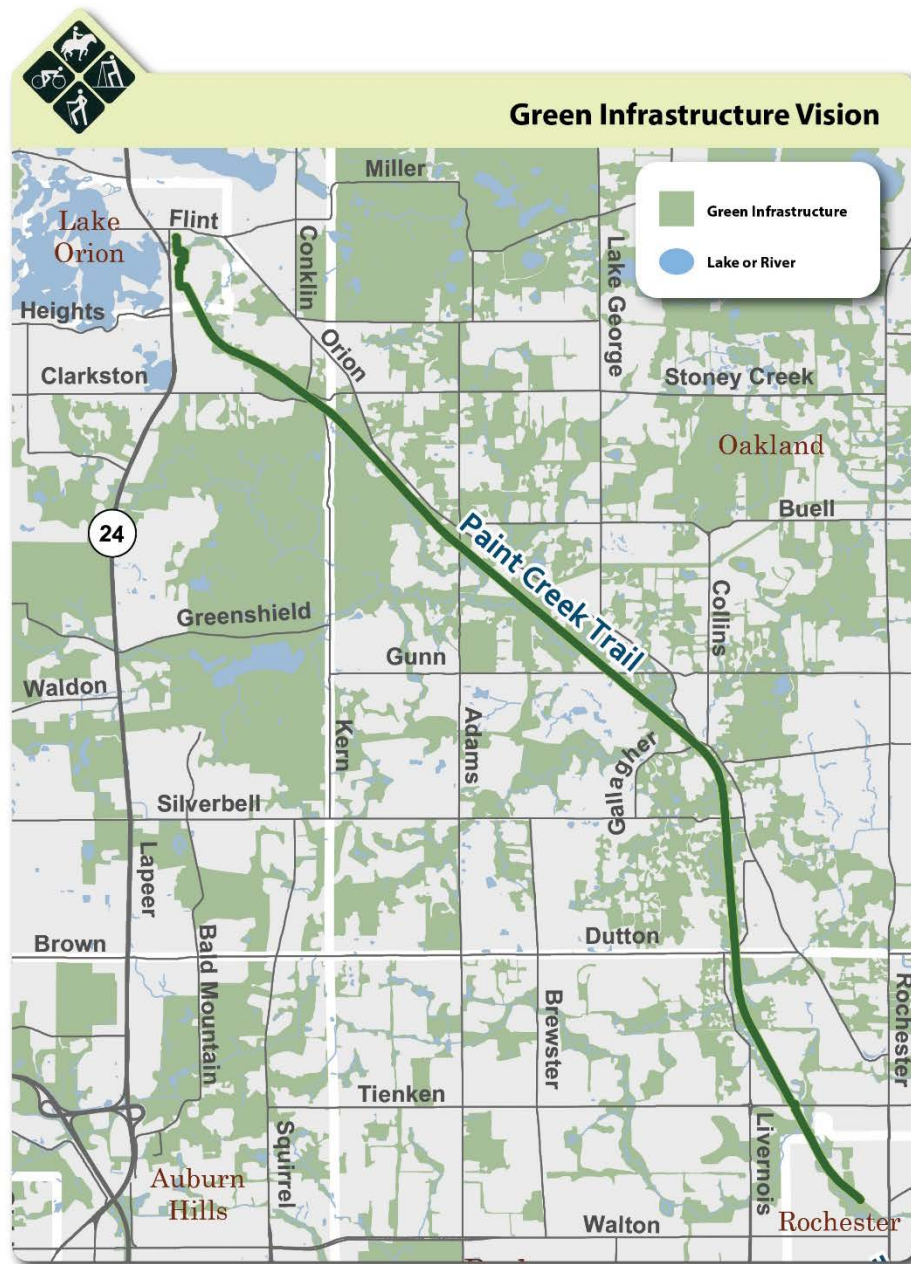
There are three components of a Green Infrastructure Network. They include hubs, sites and links. Hubs anchor the network and provide an origin or destination for wildlife and range in size from large conservation areas to smaller parks and preserves. They provide habitat for native wildlife and help maintain natural ecological processes. Sites are smaller ecological landscape features that can serve as a point of origin or destination or incorporate less extensive ecological important areas. Links are the connections that hold the network together and enable it to function. Links facilitate movement from one hub to another.

In 2009, a Green Infrastructure Vision was developed for Oakland County in order to identify areas in the landscape that are in need of local protection and link the remaining valuable ecological lands. These lands include large natural areas, important wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian corridors, and areas that reflect key elements of Oakland County's biological diversity.

This locally driven initiative gathered input from a wide variety of stakeholders. Key stakeholders from the trail communities participated in one of many work sessions for the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision. The area surrounding the Paint Creek Trail has been identified as a key recreation link in the Green Infrastructure Vision and the riparian area surrounding the Paint Creek has been identified as an urban hub, and is shown in Map 4.3.

More information about the Green Infrastructure Vision can be found in the Appendix of this document.

Map 4.3: Paint Creek Trail Green Infrastructure



f. Potential Natural Areas

Abundant natural resources once surrounded population centers in Oakland County. Now, much reduced in size, an increasing number of natural areas are becoming isolated islands surrounded by human development. These remaining sites are the foundation of Oakland County's natural heritage; they represent the last remaining remnants of Oakland County's native ecosystems, natural plant communities, and scenic qualities.

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Striking a balance between development and natural resource conservation and preservation is critical if Oakland County is to maintain its unique natural heritage and competitive edge in an increasingly competitive world. Maintaining and enhancing local natural areas provides one of the best opportunities to maintain high property values and continued market demand. Part of what makes Oakland County such a unique and desirable place to work, live, and play is the combination, quality, and accessibility of its natural landscapes, lakes, rivers, and streams.

Successful land use planning requires more than simply protecting small preserves and trusting that they will remain in their current condition indefinitely. Many human activities such as road construction, chemical and fertilizer application, fire suppression, and residential development can have a detrimental impact on populations of plants, animals, fish, and insects and the natural communities in which they live. In order to maintain the integrity of the most fragile natural areas, a more holistic approach to resource conservation must be taken, an approach that looks beyond the borders of the site itself and takes into account integrity, buffers, and connectivity. What happens on adjacent farmland, in a nearby town, or upstream should be considered equally as important as what happens within a preserve. By looking to the past, understanding the present, and considering the future, it becomes apparent that a balance must be struck between human development and natural resource preservation.

The primary purpose of the 2017 Michigan National Features Inventory was to improve natural resource-based decision-making throughout Oakland County by building upon and updating the previous 2000, 2002, and 2004 Potential Natural Area assessments in Oakland County. For the purposes of the project, Potential Natural Areas (PNAs) are defined as places on the landscape dominated by native vegetation that have various levels of potential for harboring high quality natural areas and unique natural features. In addition, these areas may provide critical ecological services such as maintaining water quality and quantity, soil development and stabilization, pollination, wildlife corridors, migratory bird stopover sites, sources of genetic diversity, and floodwater retention.

To further assist local communities and conservation organizations in identifying and conserving the best remaining natural areas, MNFI identified potential high quality natural communities within priority PNAs. The purpose for identifying potential high

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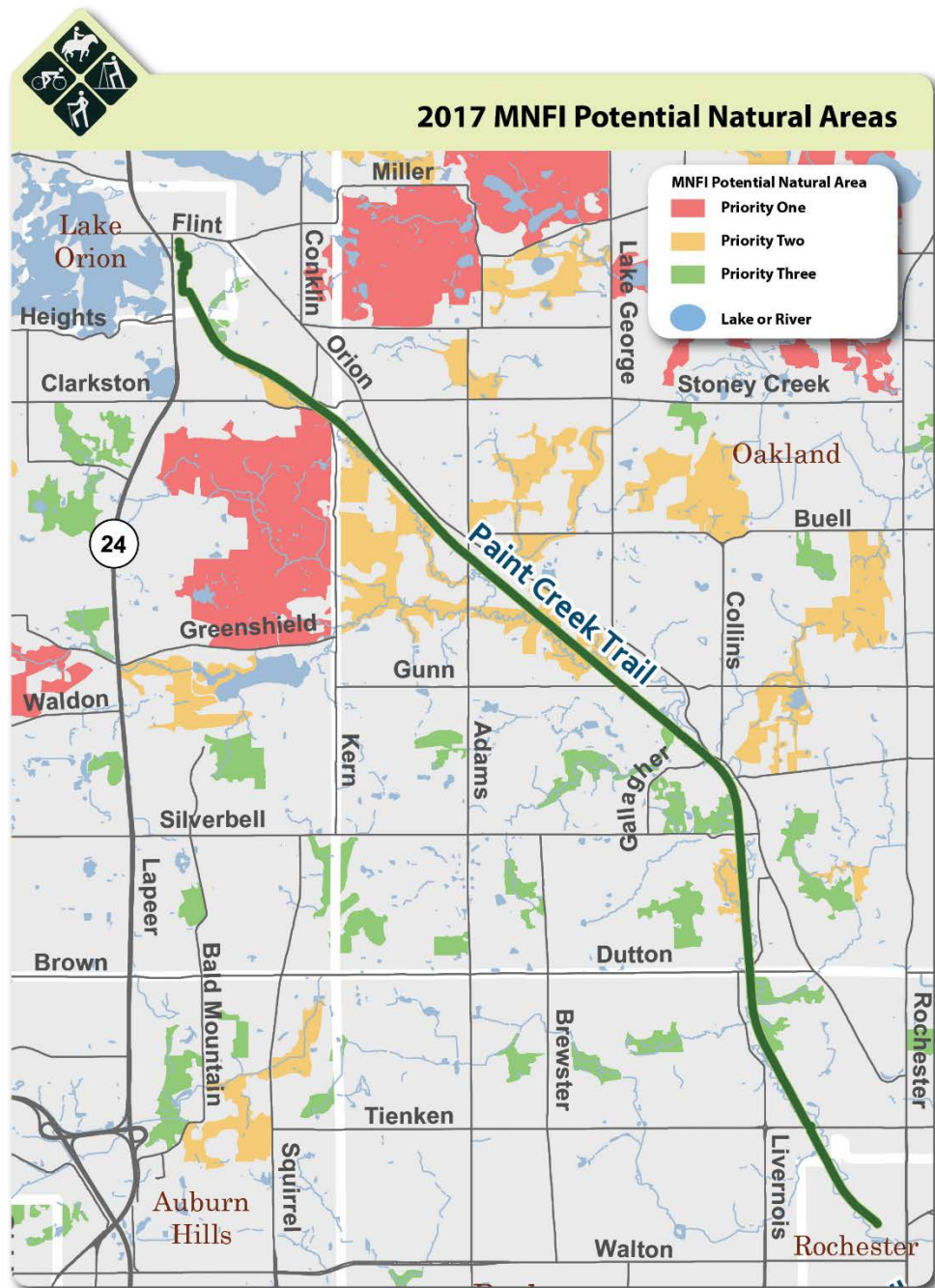
quality natural communities is two-fold. First, natural communities are units of land that have recognizable ecological and biological attributes and boundaries. While PNAs identify intact landscapes, they typically consist of several natural community types. Natural communities help determine how to manage a given area, how to assess ecological health, and which species are likely to occur there. Some of these natural communities are high quality, while others may be impacted by invasive species or previous human activities such as logging or agriculture. Second, since these natural communities have the highest probability of having high ecological health and value, they also serve to further prioritize conservation actions in a world with limited financial and human resources.

The area surrounding the Paint Creek Trail includes several high priority potential natural areas, as shown in Map 4.4.



Lupine on Trail, 2017

Map 4.4: 2017 MNFI Potential Natural Areas



g. Community Bike Path Systems

Rochester Hills: The excellent 82-mile system of pedestrian pathways throughout Rochester Hills is a testament to the City's commitment to linking parks and schools. Typically, the pathways are along major and minor arterial roads, such as the bike path along Tienken Road that crosses the Paint Creek Trail. These pathways offer a non-motorized alternative for access to

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the Paint Creek Trail and other recreational facilities throughout the City. A 0.1858 mill pathway millage was enacted by a vote of the people in 2006 and continues through 2026. The Citizens Pathway Review Committee was established by City Council in 2007 for the purpose of suggesting, reviewing, ranking and recommending future pathway projects.

Orion Township: There are over fifty miles of pathways in the Township, resulting from a millage originally approved in 1988. The quarter mill safety path tax was re-approved by voters in 1998, 2008, and now again in 2018 to last until December 2027. The funds will go to the Safety Paths Fund and a General Capital Improvement Fund. Initially, the pathways started as a way to connect the Village of Lake Orion to the Gingellville area in the southern part of the Township. Today, safety path issues are addressed by the Safety Path Advisory Committee, which is assisted by the Township Parks and Recreation Department, and Township Engineering consultants. In 2012, Orion Township constructed a Kern Road spur connecting an existing pathway to the Paint Creek Trail. The first phase of pathway development along Clarkston Road in 2018 began the processing of linking the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails.

Oakland Township: Township Ordinances require developers to install bike paths as part of their development infrastructure along roads designated for bike paths. In 2006, residents approved a Trails and Safety Path millage to fund pathway projects that will connect parks, schools and neighborhoods across the Township. The .25 mill, 10 year millage, while small, was leveraged against federal and state grants. Oakland Township plans 32.6 miles of pathways. According to the Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan (2015-2019), “the continued development of a comprehensive pathway and trail system throughout the Township (will) link all areas of the community with non-motorized travel”. With the passing of the millage, the Township places priority on connecting new developments to parks, schools, neighborhoods, and the Paint Creek Trail.

Rochester: Bicyclists and pedestrians in Rochester rely on the city’s grid-like street system and accompanying sidewalks to get around town. In addition, the City of Rochester has completed the "Downtown Rochester River Walk", a 0.67 mile paved path that connects the southern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail with the Clinton River Trail.

Most of the River Walk is in an urban natural setting rather than being part of the sidewalk system. The River Walk has a variety of amenities for Paint Creek Trail and Clinton River Trail users. The Rochester Hills Public Library and Royal Park Hotel are sited along it, and the Rochester Post Office is nearby. The crossing over Paint Creek is a historic railroad bridge, which was restored by the City of Rochester with the help of a fifty-percent (50%) matching grant of \$152,500 from the Michigan Department of Transportation. A 1/4-acre vest pocket park (Lions

Park), gazebo and small amphitheater is adjacent to the bridge; a similar sized vest-pocket park (the Rotary Gateway Park) already exists just west of the library. The River Walk is also adjacent to three pub-type restaurants and dining facilities and provides easy access to downtown Rochester. The River Walk was funded, in part, with an ISTE grant. In 2012, the Rochester DDA completed enhancements to the River Walk, including planters, stairs, lighting, and stonework along the creek, at a project cost near \$760,000.

C. Local Recreation Facilities

1. City of Rochester
 - a. Administrative: City of Rochester Parks Department
Established in 1974, the Rochester Parks Department is responsible for City Park maintenance, supervision of park development and coordination of area recreational programs related to city park facilities. This Department reports to the City Manager, and provides technical support to the City Council, making recommendations to the City Council concerning operating and capital expenditures for recreation purposes.
 - b. Existing Parks and Facilities: 10 parks and trails are presently operated within the City, consisting of approximately 150 acres of parkland. (Table 4.7). The largest park is the 36 acre Municipal Park, which has tennis courts; fishing and ice skating pond; playgrounds; sand volleyball; Community House; and picnic shelter area. This park borders the Paint Creek Trail and serves as the southern terminus for the maintained portion of the Trail. There is ample parking and restrooms available in the park or at the city hall during normal operating hours.

Table 4.7: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Downtown Rochester River Walk</i>	<i>Rochester Municipal Park to Second Street</i>	<i>0.67 Mile</i>	<i>Connects Paint Creek Trail with Clinton River Trail</i>
<i>Municipal Park</i>	<i>Pine Street/Ludlow</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>City Hall Site/ Adjacent to Trail</i>
<i>Halbach Field</i>	<i>Woodward Street</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>Adjacent to Trail</i>
<i>Memorial Grove</i>	<i>Woodward Street</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>Adjacent to Trail</i>
<i>Scott Street Park</i>	<i>Woodward/Scott Street</i>	<i>7.35</i>	<i>Across the street from Halbach Field, Rochester Community Garden location</i>
<i>Older Persons Center</i>	<i>Letica Drive</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>Adjacent to Clinton River Trail</i>
<i>Samuel Howlett Park</i>	<i>Inglewood Street</i>	<i>13.1</i>	<i>Undeveloped; Open Space</i>
<i>Clinton River Trail</i>	<i>Clinton River</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>Developed; Crushed limestone surface</i>

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

<i>Elizabeth Street Park</i>	<i>Elizabeth Street</i>	<i>1.7</i>	<i>Neighborhood park</i>
<i>Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve</i>	<i>North Hill Circle</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>Adjacent to Trail</i>

Source: Rochester, Michigan Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016

2. City of Rochester Hills
 - a. Administrative: The Parks and Forestry Department is responsible for the administration, operation, and maintenance of city-owned parks and recreation facilities. It provides technical support to the City Council, aids in developing policies and plans for recreational opportunities, and makes recommendations to the Council concerning operating and capital expenditures for recreation purposes.
 - b. Existing Parks and Recreation Facilities: The City presently owns and maintains over 1,000 acres in fourteen parks in addition to two undeveloped parks and a number of green space properties (Table 4.8). The parks are of various sizes, and have a wide range of recreational opportunities.
 - c. Green Space and Natural Features: In 2005, voters approved a 10-year, 0.3-mill ballot question to permanently preserve green spaces, wildlife habitat, and scenic views; protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers, and streams; and expand the Clinton River greenway and other trail corridors by funding the purchase of land and interests in land for 2005-2014. This millage collection period concluded in 2015. In 2013 the voters in Rochester Hills approved a ballot proposal that allowed for the use of funds from the 2005 Open Space Millage to not only be used to purchase land but for stewardship of the existing City owned Green Space properties and natural features owned or controlled by the City of Rochester Hills. In September 2014, the Rochester Hills City Council also established the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund to provide for the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancements to its Green Space properties as well as educational opportunities for its residents.

Table 4.8: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester Hills

Major Parks			
NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Thelma G. Spencer Park</i>	<i>John R. & M-59</i>	<i>113.0</i>	<i>38 acre lake, swimming, fishing, playground, beach, other activities</i>

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Major Parks			
NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Earl E. Borden Park</i>	<i>Hamlin/ John R. Road.</i>	<i>143</i>	<i>Ball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball & tennis courts, batting cage, in-line skating</i>
<i>Yates Roadside Park</i>	<i>Avon Road</i>	<i>4.3</i>	<i>On Clinton River, fishing, picnic area</i>
<i>Riverbend Park</i>	<i>Hamlin Road</i>	<i>118.4</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Eugene S. Nowicki Park</i>	<i>Adams Road</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Pathway system</i>
<i>Avondale Park</i>	<i>Bathurst Avenue</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>Ball diamond, sand volleyball, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas</i>
<i>Clinton River Trail</i>	<i>Adams Road to City of Rochester border</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>Linear park</i>
<i>Bloomer Park</i>	<i>John R. Road</i>	<i>206.9</i>	<i>Velodrome, picnic shelters, nature paths, volleyball courts</i>
Neighborhood Parks			
<i>Helen V. Allen Park</i>	<i>School Road</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>Ball diamonds</i>
<i>Wabash Park</i>	<i>Wabash Road</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>Playground, community garden</i>
<i>Tienken Road Park Property</i>	<i>Tienken Road</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
Special Use			
<i>Avon Nature Area</i>	<i>Avon Road/Livernois</i>	<i>97.4</i>	<i>Nature paths, Clinton River frontage</i>
<i>Pine Trace Golf Park</i>	<i>South Blvd.</i>	<i>1993.8</i>	<i>Pine Trace Public 18 hole golf course</i>
<i>Veterans Memorial Pointe</i>	<i>Livernois Road</i>	<i>5.10</i>	<i>Gazebo, memorial pathway, granite monument</i>
<i>Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm</i>	<i>Van Hoosen Road</i>	<i>16.1</i>	<i>Historic farm & museum</i>
<i>Oakland Land Conservancy Heron Rookery</i>	<i>Adams/Hamlin</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>On Clinton River</i>
Natural Resource Areas/Open Space			
<i>Green Space Properties</i>	<i>Six parcels located throughout the city</i>	<i>64.9</i>	<i>All have Clinton River frontage and woodlands</i>

Source: City of Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020

3. Charter Township of Oakland
 - a. Administrative: The Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission (OTPRC) was established in 1974 by a vote of the electorate with a dedicated millage for parkland acquisition. The majority of funding to support the Township's parks and recreation system comes from two millages, the park millage (Park Fund) and the land preservation millage (Land Preservation Fund). The park millage was approved in 2006 for a 10-year period. The land preservation millage, initiated in 2001 for a 10-year period as well, was extended

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10 more years through an early renewal in 2006 and again in 2018. The latest renewal allows the Township to continue to proactively finance the protection of green spaces through 2030. Both millages began as 0.75 mills each, but have been annually rolled back as required by state law. Each fund has different obligations and two separate budgets.

- b. Existing Parks and Facilities: The Township presently owns eighteen park properties and natural resource areas (See Table 4.9). While all of the properties are open to the public, limited or no facilities are available at the parks. The Township offer programmed activities, and is looking to implement even more programs in the future to meet the demands of its growing population.



Deer in snow, Oakland Township, 2018

Table 4.9: Local Recreation Inventory – Oakland Township

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Bear Creek Nature Park</i>	<i>Snell Road</i>	<i>107</i>	<i>Trails, boardwalks, decks, playground, picnic area</i>
<i>Charles F. Ilsley Park</i>	<i>East Predmore Road</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>Undeveloped/mowed trails</i>
<i>Blue Heron Environmental Area</i>	<i>Rochester Road, between Gunn & Buell</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>Undeveloped, Blue heron rookery</i>
<i>Cranberry Lake Park</i>	<i>West Predmore Road</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>Nationally Registered historic farm & woodchip/mowed trail system</i>
<i>Mill Race Trail</i>	<i>Gallagher Road</i>	<i>2.5</i>	<i>Woodchip trail</i>
<i>Gallagher Creek Park</i>	<i>Silvebell Road</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Playground</i>
<i>Marsh View Park</i>	<i>Adams & Clarkston Roads</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>Sport fields, archery range</i>
<i>Draper Twin Lake Park</i>	<i>Inwood/Parks Roads</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>Fishing, woodchip/mowed trail system</i>
<i>Lost Lake Nature Park</i>	<i>Lost Lake Trail</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>Boating, fishing, sledding hill</i>
<i>Marsh View Connector</i>	<i>Adams & Clarkston Road</i>	<i>2.97</i>	<i>Future connector trail to Bald Mtn & Paint Creek Trail</i>
<i>Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen</i>	<i>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>Undeveloped; maintained as prairie fen wetland</i>
<i>Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie</i>	<i>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail, northwest of Silverbell & Orion Roads</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Undeveloped; maintained as natural prairie</i>
<i>Paint Creek Junction Park</i>	<i>Orion Road, adjacent to Paint Creek Trail</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Stoney Creek Ravine Nature Park</i>	<i>Snell Road/Knob Creek Drive</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Watershed Ridge Park</i>	<i>Buell & Lake George Roads</i>	<i>170</i>	<i>Woodlands, wetlands</i>
<i>O'Connor Nature Park</i>	<i>Rochester & Mead Roads</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Mature oak woodlands, marshes</i>
<i>Hirt Easement</i>	<i>Near Paint Creek Trail at Silver Bell</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Wet meadow & creek</i>
<i>Kamin Easement</i>	<i>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail south of Silver Bell</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>Upland oak forest, floodplain forest</i>

Source: Oakland Charter Township Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan 2015-2019

4. Charter Township of Orion
 - a. Administrative: The Orion Township Parks & Recreation Department is responsible for the administration and operation of the Township-owned parks,

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facilities, and programs. A nine member Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee works with the Department to plan, promote and conduct recreation programs. The Department also makes recommendations concerning operating and capital expenditures for recreation purposes to the Orion Township Board of Trustees, which is the final authority for such requests.

- b. Existing Parks and Facilities: The Township presently operates nine parks consisting of approximately 527 acres (See Table 4.10). Civic Center and Friendship Parks allow for a variety of passive and programmed activities.

Table 4.10: Local Recreation Inventory – Orion Township

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Camp Agawam</i>	<i>Clarkston Road</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>Outdoor auditorium, camping, playground, swimming, trails</i>
<i>Civic Center Park</i>	<i>Joslyn & Greenshield</i>	<i>78.86</i>	<i>Ballfields, Soccer, Play - grounds, Walking path, basketball, amphitheater, trails</i>
<i>Civic Center Park – North</i>	<i>Joslyn between Greenshield & Scripps</i>	<i>76</i>	<i>Natural resource area</i>
<i>Friendship Park</i>	<i>Clarkston & Baldwin</i>	<i>134.97</i>	<i>Ballfields, Soccer, Play- grounds, Walking path, pavilion, gazebo, historic Porritt Barn, historic Howarth School</i>
<i>Heron Springs</i>	<i>Silverbell & Bald Mountain</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>Natural resource area</i>
<i>Jesse Decker Park</i>	<i>Squirrel & Silver Bell</i>	<i>16.49</i>	<i>Multi-purpose sports fields, playgrounds, tennis courts</i>
<i>McConnell Field</i>	<i>McConnell, between Chalice & Peters</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>In an established residential neighborhood</i>
<i>Orion Center</i>	<i>Joslyn Road</i>	<i>11.06</i>	<i>Senior and recreational programming; adjacent to Polly Ann Trail</i>
<i>Gingell Nature Area</i>	<i>Maybee & Baldwin</i>	<i>38.90</i>	<i>Nature preserve, unimproved trails, undeveloped</i>

Source: Orion Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan 2019-2023

5. The Village of Lake Orion

The Village of Lake Orion is a non-voting member of the Trailways Commission, and as the Trail's northern terminus is in the Village, it carries an interest in the activities of the Trailways Commission. Although it largely depends on Orion Township for a majority of its

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recreation programming, the Village of Lake Orion has six parks totaling approximately 10 acres, as shown in Table 4.11.

Table 4.11: Local Recreation Inventory – Village of Lake Orion

Name	Location	Acres	Notes
<i>Atwater Park</i>	<i>Perry & Atwater</i>	<i>3.14</i>	<i>Playground, ballfields</i>
<i>Green's Park</i>	<i>East side M-24 south of Flint Street</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>Beach, basketball, playground</i>
<i>Meeks Park</i>	<i>South of Orion Art Center along Paint Creek</i>	<i>1.62</i>	<i>Paved walking trail, picnic tables</i>
<i>Children's Park</i>	<i>South of Front Street between Broadway and Anderson</i>	<i>1.54</i>	<i>Gazebo, playground, Paint Creek access</i>
<i>Unger Park</i>	<i>Bellevue Street</i>	<i>0.91</i>	<i>Playground, bike rack, picnic area</i>
<i>Swiss Village Park</i>	<i>Central Drive</i>	<i>0.57</i>	<i>Open Space, playground, basketball, picnic area.</i>

Source: Village of Lake Orion website, accessed May 2019

6. Privately-owned Recreation Opportunities

There are a number of privately owned recreation facilities in the Paint Creek Trail region. These commercial enterprises generally provide recreation opportunities not provided by public agencies. They may or may not allow or offer alcohol on the premises. Many charge a membership fee and/or a separate fee. Listings of privately owned recreational opportunities are available from the Rochester Area Chamber of Commerce, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission and the Orion Township Parks and Recreation Department.

7. Intergovernmental Programs

There are four major intergovernmental agencies in the Paint Creek Trail area that direct recreational programs. Both the Rochester Community Schools and Lake Orion Community Schools sponsor varsity, junior varsity and intra-mural sports for high school athletes, as well as a variety of recreational and non-competitive activities in their Community Education programs. The Rochester-Avon Recreation Authority (RARA) provides recreation services for residents in Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township, including team-sports, music lessons, aerobics, dance lessons and children's summer day-camp. Once part of RARA, the Older Persons' Commission (OPC) is a separate agency, specializing in the recreation needs of senior citizens in Rochester, Rochester Hills and Oakland Township. The OPC provides meals-on-wheels, swimming and exercise facilities and adult day-care for the senior citizens in the area. It also

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provides transportation to those wishing to take part in activities at the OPC such as crafts, health-fitness courses, day-trips, bowling, tax and legal aids and more.

8. Other Programs

In addition to schools and public and private recreational programs, many other clubs and groups offer social, competitive and child-oriented recreation. Many of these groups are non-profit organizations, requiring a payment of annual or monthly dues by members to support activities. These groups include:

- Oakland County Youth 4-H
- Paint Creek Center for the Arts
- Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts of America
- YMCA of North Oakland County
- Lake Orion Rotary Club
- Lions Club
- M.S.U. Extension Service Master Gardener Volunteer Program
- Lake Orion Soccer Club
- Boys & Girls Club of Orion/Oxford
- Knights of Columbus
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Stoney Creek Running Club
- Rochester Rotary Club
- Rochester-Youth Soccer League
- Lake Orion Horseshoe Club
- LOBOS Soccer Club
- Lake Orion Youth Basketball league



Girl Scouts Adopt-a-Trail Kickoff event, 2017



Chapter Five: Planning and Public Input Process

Planning and Public Input Process

A. Planning

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission utilized a systems approach to planning in the creation of this document. Information was gathered from previous master plans, recreation inventories from our five Trail communities, and a citizen questionnaire/survey. The information obtained was used to determine the needs of the trail in each community, as well as the improvements required to meet those needs. The identified needs were grouped into four main focus areas in Chapter Six that included access and use, connectivity, and programming. Stewardship was also an important element of the Goals and Objectives of this plan. During the planning process, the following Mission Statement was used as a guideline to plan for the future needs of the Paint Creek Trail:

“The Paint Creek Trailways Commission provides trail users a natural, scenic, and educational recreation experience while preserving the natural integrity of the Paint Creek Trail for the enjoyment of present and future generations.”

A synopsis of events leading to the Final Adoption of this Recreation Master Plan can be found in Table 5.1.

B. Data Collection Sources

Data for the revised Master Plan were collected from a number of sources. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources *Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks and Recreation Plans* was particularly helpful in outlining and organizing plan requirements. Statistical Data was obtained online from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as it pertained to population, and the demographics of our communities. The Oakland County Planning and Economic Development department’s GIS division provided the Trailways Commission with updated maps and graphics. For our recreation inventory, master recreation plans from our five trail communities were obtained that provided updated and valuable community resource information.

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**TABLE 5.1: EVENTS LEADING TO THE FINAL ADOPTION OF THE PAINT CREEK
TRAILWAYS RECREATION MASTER PLAN**

March 19, 2019	Regular Meeting – Discussion and Review of Community Description
April 16, 2019	Regular Meeting – Discussion and Review of Administrative Structure
May 21, 2019	Regular Meeting – Discussion and Review of Recreation Inventory
May 30, 2019	Online survey published – Survey Monkey. Large posters will be installed in kiosks, with QR codes to access survey while on the trail.
June 1, 2019	Master Plan survey distributed at National Trails Day in Lake Orion, Michigan
June 26, 2019	“Paint Creek Trailways Commission seeks public input for upcoming master plan” article published in <i>The Oakland Press</i>
June 27, 2019	Large posters with QR codes advertising Master Plan Survey installed in five Trail kiosks along 8.9 miles of trail.
June 28, 2019	“Paint Creek Trail Seeks Input for Master Plan” article published in <i>The Community Edge</i> e-newsletter
July 10, 2019	“Paint Creek Trailways Commission invites community to help with master plan” article published in <i>Lake Orion Review</i> newspaper
July 17, 2019	Open House with stakeholders to receive public input on plan, facilitated by Giffels Webster
July 18, 2019	“Public input wanted on Paint Creek Trail recreation master plan” article published in <i>Rochester Post</i> newspaper.
June 17 - July 22, 2019	Public Promotion of Master Plan Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paint Creek Trail Website • Paint Creek Trail Facebook Page • Paint Creek Trail Instagram Page • Paint Creek Trail Twitter Page • Member community social media pages
July 22, 2019	Online survey closed
October 15, 2019	Regular Meeting - Discussion and Review of Planning and Public Input Process/Report on Master Plan Stakeholder Open House and User Survey Results

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November 19, 2019	Regular Meeting – Discussion and Review of Goals & Objectives, Action Plan, & Capital Improvement Schedule
December 3, 2019	Draft of Master Plan available for Public Review. Plan posted on website. Hard copy available at Paint Creek Trailways Commission office.
December 17, 2019	Discussion and Review of Draft Master Plan
January 7, 2020	Public Hearing on the Draft Master Plan
January 21, 2020	2020-2024 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan adopted by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission

C. Methods of Obtaining Public Input

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission encourages and welcomes input from citizens trail users, and stakeholders who utilize and maintain the Trail. For this document, public input was invited through several methods, including:

- Accessible information on the Paint Creek Trailways Commission website, www.paintcreektrail.org. Information included meeting agendas and minutes, draft Master Plan chapters, and links to the Master Plan survey.
- A Master Plan survey that was distributed at trail events and promoted on the Trail website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts. Invitations to a Stakeholder Open House were also sent to an email distribution list of sixty people. The Master Plan survey was completed by 958 people, a 33% increase from the Master Plan survey completion rate in 2013.
- Weekly or bi-weekly postings on Paint Creek Trail Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter pages promoting the survey.
- Promotion on member community websites social media pages.
- A Stakeholder Open House with park and trail maintenance staff, park directors, local DDA groups, Friends of the Paint Creek Trail members, and area cycling/running/fitness organizations.
- Large posters promoting the survey posted in Trail kiosks. Posters included QR codes for smartphones to access survey on-site.
- Press releases and newspaper articles posted at various times, promoting Master Plan input.
- The First Draft was posted on our website 30 days in advance of our Public Hearing, with hard copies available at the Paint Creek Trail office

- A formal public hearing on the First Draft of the Plan was held on January 7, 2020.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission feels that by incorporating as much public input as possible into the Recreation Master Plan, our stakeholders will feel a sense of ownership and empowerment. This, in turn, encourages support for the Trail and is an effective way to maintain that support for future projects. In addition, the public often supplies creative and thoughtful ideas that improve the quality of the Trail.

D. Summary of Input from Stakeholder Open House on July 17, 2019

The purpose of the stakeholder meeting was to gather and document public input related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for the Paint Creek Trail. The input was shared with the Commission and was used to inform the goals, objectives and action plan for the next 5 years (Chapter Six).

Approximately twenty people signed in and attended the Stakeholder Open House. The room was set up with a sign-in area and two different feedback activities, one utilizing maps of the trail and the other focusing on goals and objectives of the Master Plan. As people came into the room, they were given a brief overview of the purpose of the Open House, and how the room was set up. Attendees were encouraged to stay as long as they'd like and depending on their interests, visit all or one of the stations to ensure their comments were documented. Refreshments were provided to encourage participants to stay at the workshop and converse with others. The Open House invitation and sign-in sheet can be found in the Appendix of this document.

The first activity consisted of four stations, each comprised of a large sized map of a segment of the Trail, dot stickers and markers for writing comments on the map. Participants were encouraged to use the dot stickers to mark areas of concern, sites for improvement projects and new amenities, and priorities for the Trail. Attendees also had the opportunity to write on the maps and provide comments to further explain the rationale for the placement of their dot stickers. Much conversation ensued as stakeholders from different local entities identified and discussed problem areas and ways to improve the Trail. Multiple suggestions were offered on ways to make new connections with other recreational facilities located in the vicinity of the Trail.

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Participants identified ten issues, priorities, and ideas at various sites along the Trail during the exercise (See Map 5.1):

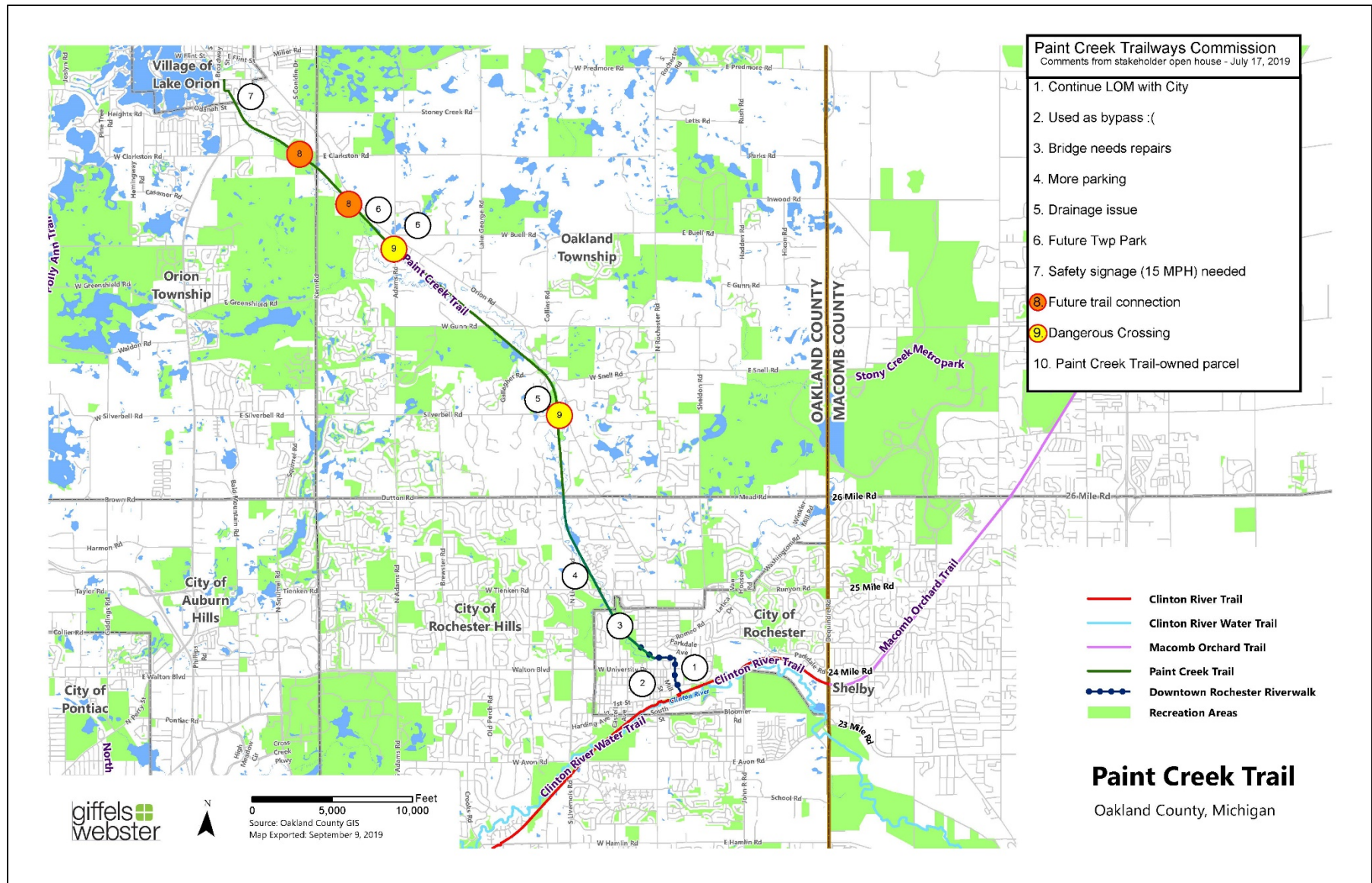
1. Continue Letter of Maintenance with the City of Rochester for the short section of trail owned by the city at the southern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail.
2. High congestion area. Cyclists often forced to take their bikes “off road” and onto grass to bypass pedestrian foot traffic.
3. Bridge at Ludlow St. in Rochester needs repairs
4. More parking is needed at the Tienken Road trailhead
5. Drainage issues at the Silverbell Road parking lot/trailhead
6. Future site of Paint Creek Junction Park, an Oakland Township park, which will connect to the Paint Creek Trail
7. Safety signage (15 mph) needed at curve near Atwater Street trailhead in the Village of Lake Orion
8. Future trail connections to:
 - Bald Mountain State Recreation Area
 - Polly Ann Trail via Clarkston Road Safety Path
9. Dangerous crossings at:
 - Adams Road
 - Silverbell Road
10. Paint Creek Trail-owned parcel near Clinton River Trail



*Master Plan Stakeholder Open
House, July 17, 2019*

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Map 5.1: Stakeholder Open House Comment Map



For the second activity, five stations were placed around the room which consisted of poster boards listing the goals and objectives from the Action Plan in the Trail Commission’s 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan. Prior to the Open House, Trail staff provided updates on the progress for each action item which was also included on the posters. Participants were given dot stickers and asked to evaluate the priority of each goal and objective by placing a sticker in one of four columns: 1-3 years, 3-5 years, 5+ years, or not relevant. These categories stated the timeline that the stakeholder believed each item should be completed by during the next Master Plan, i.e. “1-3 years” indicates that the goal/objective should be completed within the first one to three years of the plan, etc. If participants marked items as “not relevant,” this indicated that they believed these goals/objectives were no longer important. The importance of each item to the stakeholders was measured by the number of dots placed in a column. The more dots in a column, the greater the number of stakeholders who indicated the goal/objective should be a priority. If participants wished to elaborate on their choices, they could provide comments by adding post-it notes to the boards. This feedback allowed the Commission to easily identify the priorities of its key stakeholders, those individuals with an active interest in the Trail, and was used by the Commission to craft the goals, objectives and action plan for the next five years. A copy of the Action Plan with progress updates and public input priorities can be found in the appendix of this document. High priorities identified by stakeholders include:

- Issue 1: Adjacent Land Uses
 - Goal 3: Assure Minimum Impact by Adjacent Developments
 - Objective 1: Identify areas where adjacent developments are causing storm water run-off or soil erosion onto the trail
- Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Uses
 - Goal 3: Provide parking where needed & as property becomes available
 - Objective 3: Develop additional parking at Tienken intersection
- Issue 3: Safety
 - Goal 1: At road crossings, continue to provide for the safety of Trail users & warnings to motorists
 - Objective 1: Continue to address the safety of the Trail street crossings
 - Goal 3: Maintain trail’s limestone & asphalt surface for the safety of all trail users
 - Objective 1: Maintain the surface of 8.9 miles of existing trail
 - Goal 4: Continue to promote safety at road crossings
 - Objective 1: Monitor the Adams Road crossing for safety improvements

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- Goal 5: Continue to promote safety among trail users
 - Objective 1: Encourage the use of “Trail Etiquette” by all trail users, with signs, brochures, & other materials
- Goal 7: Continue to assure availability of emergency access at designated entrances
 - Objective 2: Develop & update, as needed, emergency trail access maps & distribute to police, fire & other emergency response officials in all communities
- Issue 6: Character
 - Goal 1: Maintain a natural appearance consistent with a natural beauty trail
 - Objective 1: Use structural elements only where necessary & so as to blend in with the natural environment
 - Goal 3: Encourage the application & preservation of the ecosystem
 - Objective 4: Encourage native planting, and encourage the removal of invasive species along the Trail right-of-way
- Issue 9: Undeveloped Trail Property
 - Goal 1: Determine use for Trail property in southeast Rochester
 - Objective 4: Maintain Natural Beauty and rural ambience of the Trail in this area
- Issue 10: Protection of Trail Property from Encroachments
 - Goal 2: Prevent future encroachments
 - Objective 2: Inspect Trail regularly for new encroachments

The Trailways Commission feels the feedback received during the Open House is representative of the views of the five member communities, as delegates from all five trail communities attended the event. Additionally, several members of both the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail and Friends of the Clinton River Trail attended the event, representing the interests of the trail users and supporters. Both the running and cycling community were represented at the Open House as several race organizers, a training program director, and a member of the local mountain bike association attended the event. Since no one representing the trail horseback riding community was able to attend the Open House, the Commission provided members of the local riding organization with the link for the Master Plan survey so that they could provide input on the trail.

E. Summary of Public Input from Master Plan Survey

A copy of the Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Survey and a complete Summary of results is included in the appendix of this document. Additionally, two word clouds were generated using data from the two open-ended questions in the online survey (See Figures 5.1 and 5.2). The survey was available from May 30, 2019 – July 22, 2019. We received 958 responses from citizens. Highlights include:

- 26.7% of respondents were between the ages of 41-50, while 25.2% were between the ages of 51-60.
- 39.6% of respondents use a car to get to the Trail.
- 67.2% of respondents use the Trail for health and exercise.
- When asked what their primary activity on the Trail is, 41.4% stated “Bicycling”, while 28.3% stated “Running/Jogging” and 22.85% stated “Walking/Hiking”.
- On average, 46.9% of respondents spend between one and two hours on the Trail for each visit.
- When asked what the top priority was for maintaining safety on the Trail, 43.9% chose “More bicycle patrols”.
- 23.5% of respondents would like native plant identification information along the Trail.
- The top five problems in need of improvement that received the most votes were:
 - Lack of restrooms (38.2%)
 - Lack of drinking fountains (29.4%)
 - Trail courtesy (24.8%)
 - Speeding bicycles (22.7%)
 - Trail surface maintenance (22.6%)
- Most weekday visits are in the evenings (37.3%)
- Most weekend visits are in the mornings (57.4%)
- 36.2% of respondents use the entire Trail on each visit, while 27.4% mostly use the section between Rochester Municipal Park and Tienken.
- The top five potential improvements that received the most votes were:
 - Maintain the natural beauty of the Trail (48.1%)
 - Extension to connect to Polly Ann Trail (45.6%)
 - Drinking fountains (31.7%)
 - Maintain limestone surface (31.4%)
 - Restroom at Tienken (21.2%)
- When asked “What prevents you from using the Trail more”, 41.4% cited “time”.

Figure 5.1: Word Cloud generated from responses to Master Plan Survey Question #19 “If a section chosen above needs improvement, what types of improvements do you suggest?”



Figure 5.2: Word Cloud generated from responses to Master Plan Survey Question #21 “What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?”



The Trailways Commission feels the 958 responses to the Master Plan online survey are representative of all five trail communities, because 77% of respondents were from those locations. The survey was promoted to the general public and all user groups, and most of the remaining 23% came from other communities in Oakland County and the Metro-Detroit area. The survey was available in both digital and hard copy, so those without computer access could still participate in the planning process and provide valuable input. In addition, a QR code was placed on all Trail kiosk signs, so visitors with smartphones could access the survey while on the Trail. Options were also given in the survey for comments and suggestions. Answers provided were utilized in the planning process as well.

F. Summary of Public Comment on Draft Master Plan

TBD

G. Summary of Public Input from Public Hearing

In compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (P.A. 261 of 1968), the Public Notice for the Public Hearing was posted in each of the Trail communities Civic Centers, as well as the Paint Creek Trailways Commission website and Facebook page.

The Public Hearing was held on January 7, 2020 to receive public input on the draft of the Master Plan (See Figures 5.3 and 5.4). The minutes of that meeting are included in the Appendix of this document. Additional written and spoken comments from citizens regarding the draft plan were received and incorporated into the public input record of the draft plan. It was only after this public involvement that the Trailways Commission gave final approval to this document for submission to state, county, and regional authorities. Below is a summary of the input obtained from the Public Hearing:

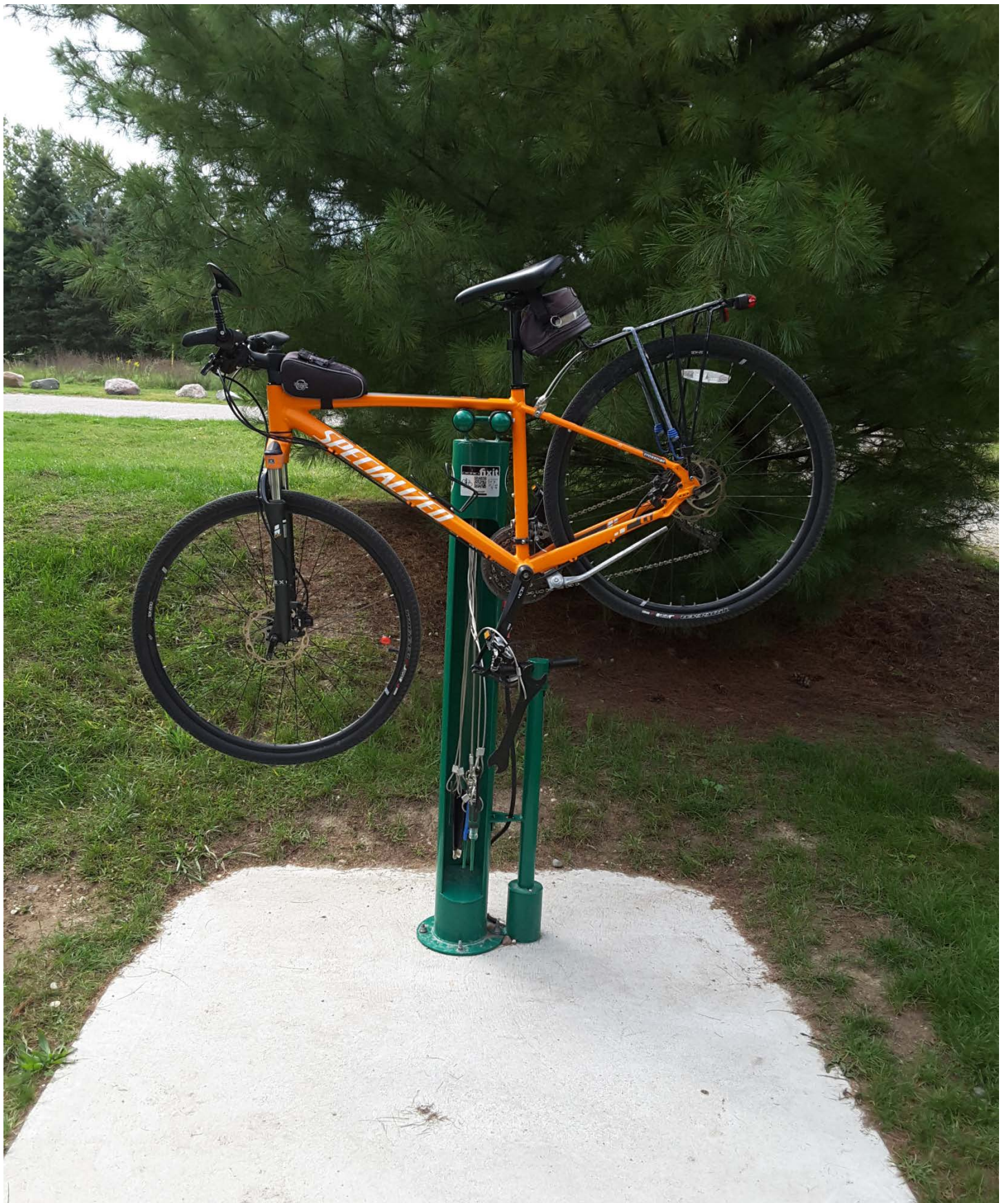
PUBLIC HEARING – 2020-2024 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan:

Chairperson TBD opened the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Chapter Five – Planning and Public Input Process

Figure 5.3: Public Notice Regarding the Master Plan Public Hearing as Published in *The Oakland Press* on x

Figure 5.4: Public Notice Regarding the Master Plan Public Hearing as Published in the *Lake Orion Review* on x



Chapter Six: Action Program

A. Goals and Objectives

In order to solicit public input in developing goals and objectives, the Commission conducted an online survey which was distributed at trail events and promoted on its website and social media accounts. Additionally, the Commission held an open house for trail stakeholders in order to solicit feedback related to issues, ideas, concerns and priorities for the Paint Creek Trail (Chapter Five). The input received was incorporated into our goals and objectives, and the results of the survey are included in the appendix of this document.

The following action program lays out broad goals and specific objectives which align with each goal's intent. Specific action items are then listed which will then help the Commission accomplish each of the objectives. The structure of the action program is based on four main focus areas identified by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission through the master planning process:

- Access and Use
- Stewardship
- Connectivity
- Programming

B. Justification

1. Access and Use

The surfacing of the Paint Creek Trail in 1989-90 was a major step in the development of the Paint Creek Trail. A smooth, hard limestone surface allows hikers to share the Paint Creek Trail with bicyclists and horse riders. Although the multi-purpose nature of the Paint Creek Trail has increased the numbers of users, it has also raised the issue of compatibility of uses.

According to the latest Master Plan survey, the most common uses of the Paint Creek Trail are bicycling, walking, and running, with 92.5% of survey respondents choosing one of these three options as their primary activity while on the trail. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission continues to accommodate and encourage these active and appropriate uses of the Trail, as well as support other trail activities such as horseback riding, fishing, and cross-country skiing.

To ensure that everyone is able to enjoy the Trail, the Commission is committed to improving the accessibility of the trail for people of all ages and abilities. The results of the accessibility evaluation completed by Giffels Webster in May 2019, indicate the Commission needs to make improvements on the Trail in order to fully meet accessibility guidelines as set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Federal Access Board Guidelines

(updated 2010). These guidelines provide clear, enforceable standards for improving the accessibility of public recreational trails. To improve trail accessibility, the Commission will work to incorporate, when possible, principles of universal design in all future Trailways renovation and development projects.

Maintaining safety also continues to remain a top priority for users on the trail. Over 43% of survey respondents indicated they wished the Commission would increase the number of bike patrols in order to maintain safety on the trail. This is a 15% increase from when the question was last asked during the 2013 Master Plan survey. Additionally, survey respondents felt that trail etiquette/courtesy needed to be improved on the Trail, with 22.75% and 24.9% of respondents respectively selecting these issues. Our trail stakeholders also felt that safety on the trail, especially at road crossings, is a top priority. A number of stakeholders identified dangerous crossings on the large maps provided at the Master Plan Open House. These stakeholders also expressed the need to continue providing access for emergency vehicles on the Trail.

As the rural tracts of land in Oakland and Orion Township continue to give way to large residential developments, trail access has become an issue. Many adjacent landowners have developed their own informal access points to the trail directly from their back yards. While the Commission welcomes adjacent landowners' use of the Paint Creek Trail, individual access points can increase erosion, lower safety standards, and be unsightly. In 2007, Commission conducted a comprehensive boundary map/survey of all Paint Creek Trail property to determine proper property lines. As part of the project, the contractor was asked to identify property encroachments along the Trail right-of-way. The Commission continues to enforce current encroachment policies as well as raise awareness of the issue in order to prevent future encroachments. It is committed to protecting the Trail right-of-way for its current users and for future generations.

As part of the same 2007 survey project, the boundary lines for the undeveloped portion of the Trail property in southeast Rochester were determined. The Commission hopes to develop this property in the near future for the use and enjoyment of all trail users from 2020-2024.

2. Stewardship

Increases in the local population and therefore trail usage have further strengthened the Paint Creek Trailways Commission's commitment to preserving the trail's natural character despite surrounding development, and uphold high maintenance standards. The population of the Paint Creek Trail area has been steadily increasing for over forty years. According to figures provided by the U.S. Census, the total population of the trail communities of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission in 2010 was 135,879. Population estimates for 2019 obtained from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) for the five trail communities indicate

that the population is now estimated to be 149,283, an increase of 9.86%. The increase in population in the Paint Creek Trail region can be attributed to several reasons: a suburban to rural setting; access to major road systems in the northern Detroit region; opportunities for recreation; a high-quality standard of living; excellent schools, and strong economy, which offers a diverse range of career opportunities.

Continued maintenance of the Paint Creek Trail and parking areas is vital to uphold the utility and beauty of the Paint Creek Trail. When the Trailways Commission was established in 1981, the member communities agreed to maintain their portion of the Trail on behalf of the Commission. Over the years, with increased use of the Trail, maintenance responsibilities have increased. Each community mows, repairs surface, removes downed trees, trims trees and brush, and inspects its bridges. Each community is also responsible for maintaining any Trail parking lots that are within their community. Some communities have staff that handles the duties, while others contract for services.

In 1996, the Commission implemented a comprehensive signage master plan, including informational, directional and mileages signage. Signage remains an important safety requirement not only at road intersections, but also along the Trail. Signs are also used as an important tool to provide information about distance and amenities along the trail. Mileage markers also have the added benefit of identifying trail users' location in the event of an emergency.

Eleven bridges across the Paint Creek are owned by the Trailways Commission. The bridges have been modified to provide safe passage of all Trail users, as well as access for emergency vehicles. Bridge safety and maintenance continues to be a top priority of the Commission, and bridges should be inspected annually or biannually by each community (with said reports submitted to the commission for review.)

The Paint Creek Trail was last resurfaced in 2019. Resurfacing the trail is an ongoing event of a cyclical nature and typically occurs every 10 to 15 years. In order to ensure the life span of the trail surface, routine inspections and regular maintenance and repairs are required.

According to the Master Plan survey, respondents indicated that the need for additional trail amenities such as restroom facilities and drinking fountains were the top improvements desired on the Trail. Thirty-eight percent of respondents indicated that the lack of restrooms was the Trail's biggest issue and 29% responded that the dearth of drinking fountains was the largest problem. The Commission recognizes the need for a limited number of trailside rest areas and continues to research suitable locations. These sites would be judiciously chosen for compatibility with nearby land uses, and will include selected trail entrances.

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In conjunction with the need for additional trail amenities, increased use of the Trail has also put a demand on nearby parking and access. Trail parking areas are located at major road crossings. While it is not the intent of the Commission to provide parking at every road crossing, additional parking areas are recognized as necessary to accommodate the increased amount of users. The expansion of parking and access at appropriate locations would help alleviate some of the parking congestion.

Master plan survey respondents and trail stakeholders also indicated that maintaining the natural beauty of the Trail was one of their top facility improvement priorities. The Trailways Commission concurs with this opinion, and it is an overriding goal of the Commission to emphasize the natural beauty of the Trail, including landscape, wildlife, and flora. The Paint Creek Valley has long been regarded as an area of prime scenic interest in southeast Michigan. For the most part, vistas along the Paint Creek Trail are of farmland and woodland. The Trail closely follows Paint Creek, which is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a major remaining designated cold-water trout stream, in the metropolitan area. Thus, the Paint Creek Trail provides a great deal of public access for fishing and other water-related recreational opportunities. Because of its proximity to Paint Creek and the Clinton River, special attention continues to be given to storm water runoff, soil erosion management, and streambank protection. New construction and allowed uses of the trail must be designed so as not to adversely affect these water resources. Additionally, native plants should be utilized to act as visual buffers to adjacent properties to preserve the very special natural character of the trail - a rare find in the heavily developed Southeast region of Michigan.

3. Connectivity

The Paint Creek Trail was the first non-motorized rail-to-trail in the State of Michigan. As a former railroad corridor, the transition to a linear park was logistically easy. Since many railroad lines were connected to each other, subsequent abandonments helped other trails make the transition from rail to linear park. In eastern Oakland County, the most recent abandonment was from the Grand Trunk Railroad in the late 1990's. Today, it has become two trails: the Clinton River Trail in Oakland County, and the Macomb Orchard Trail in Macomb County. Through the development of the Downtown Rochester River Walk, through downtown Rochester, the Paint Creek Trail connects with the Clinton River Trail and Macomb Orchard Trail. Trail enthusiasts from all over the region are thrilled with this connection, and continue to utilize all trails. The momentum from the building of new trails helped to create the Oakland Trail Network Group, with the ultimate goal of connecting the entire county through trails, parks, safety paths, and sidewalks.

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In terms of the Paint Creek Trail corridor, trail enthusiasts have been inquiring about a future northern connection to the Polly Ann Trail. A connection is now being developed east of where Clarkson Road and Kern Road connect. The new connector portion of the path will travel east along Clarkson Road to the connection of the Polly Ann Trail head at the corner of Rhodes Road and Clarkston. In previous Master Plans, the Paint Creek Trail had identified connections with other trails, especially the Polly Ann Trail, as an important goal. While planning for the 2020-2024 Master Plan, the Trailways Commission distributed a user survey to obtain public input regarding Trail improvements. Over forty-five percent of respondents chose an “extension to connect Polly Ann Trail” as one of the most important improvements.

Most recently, the Paint Creek Trail has been incorporated into the State’s Iron Belle Trail, and will soon enjoy an expanded partnership with the Polly Ann Trail following the construction of a connector pathway between the two trails in 2020. Planning is in the early stages for a major trail center at the Clarkston-Kern Road trailhead, which is a focal point not only for the Paint Creek Trail, but also for trail linkages to the adjacent Bald Mountain State Recreational Area, and any additional trails connecting to them.

4. Programming

According to the 2019 Master Plan user survey, 67% of respondents use the Trail for health and exercise. As bicycling is the primary activity on the Trail (41.4%), the Trailways Commission has an opportunity to establish programming for cyclists. The purpose of the programming would be two-fold. Initially, it would offer an opportunity to increase group cycling activity and use of the Trail. Secondly, programming would be instrumental in educating cyclists on bike maintenance, safety, and etiquette. Nearly 25% percent of respondents to our survey indicated that Trail courtesy/etiquette was the biggest area in need of improvement. Walkers and hikers account for 22.8% of Trail users. By offering organized programs, trail users have the opportunity to walk together safely, and also educate them about proper Trail etiquette.

When asked about their favorite thing about the Trail, many respondents mentioned either nature or the scenery along the Trail (See Figure 5.3 in the previous chapter). Over the past few years, there has been an increase in requests for nature programming. Specifically, people would like native plant and wildlife identification information. Over 23% of survey respondents indicated that they would like more native plant identification information on the Trail. As the Trailways Commission prides itself on the natural beauty of the Trail, programming directed at nature enthusiasts would be appropriate. As part of that programming, developing

nature and conservation stewardship programs would be instrumental in ensuring the natural beauty of the Trail for years to come.

Opportunities also exist to develop and implement K-12 programs on the Trail in conjunction with area Scout organizations and the local school districts. According to figures provided by the U.S. Census, nearly 33% of the total population of the trail communities of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission in 2010 was under the age of 25. The percentage of the population that is 70 and over is about 8%. The number of seniors is expected to grow in the coming years as the 55-69 year old group ages. This general aging pattern of our area reflects nationwide trends and the Commission should investigate ways to partner with senior organizations to create programming targeted to this growing demographic.

The Paint Creek Trail's history has contributed greatly to the character of the region. Historians believe that indigenous peoples were active in the area and followed the Paint Creek to create a transportation corridor in the Paint Creek Valley. Many historic resources are located along this former rail route and the Commission should explore ways to interpret these resources for the education and enjoyment of the public.

Events are also important on the Paint Creek Trail. For many years, it's been a favorite of local non-profit organizations to utilize the Trail for fundraising walking or riding activities, such as the Brooksie Way. In addition, the Trailways Commission has offered two annual Trail events – National Trails Day and a Labor Day Bridge Walk and Run. In May or June each year, a National Trails Day event has been the kick-off to an active Trail season. Some events have including walking tours, cycling events, and invasive species removal workdays. In late summer, the Commission holds a Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk and Run.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group was organized as a 501(c) (3) in 2010. Their mission is to “promote the use, maintenance, and improvement of the Paint Creek Trail”. Although it has a small active membership, the group has provided volunteer assistance to organize and facilitate events on behalf of the Commission. It has also made significant financial contributions to a variety of Trailways Commission projects and frequently suggests concepts and ideas for trail maintenance and improvements, safety, and programming. Some of the wonderful improvements which were added to the trail include two bike-repair-stations, a water fountain and the newly scheduled Moutrie Garden. With continued growth, the group may be able to assume more programming and event duties on behalf of the Commission.

C. Action Program

GOAL 1: ACCOMMODATE AND ENCOURAGE ACTIVE AND APPROPRIATE USES OF THE TRAIL WHILE MAINTAINING SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL TRAIL USERS	
OBJECTIVES	ACTION ITEMS
1. Accommodate year-round acceptable trail use by identifying trail users' needs, adding trail amenities, and developing use policies.	1. Identify the level of use and the needs of trail users by conducting a trail user study in conjunction with Michigan State University, or some other professional surveying group.
	2. Work with member communities to develop entrances to the trail for horses and install hitching posts where appropriate.
	3. Promote appropriate fishing access points and catch-and-release practices through the dissemination of educational materials.
	4. Investigate the feasibility of cross-country skiing on the trail and consider developing a grooming policy to accommodate use.
	5. Develop and promote ordinance education materials for pet owners who use the trail.
	6. Continue to provide pet waste disposal bags for pet owners.
2. Develop and promote trail etiquette program to encourage positive interactions and minimize conflicts between user groups.	1. Develop bike safety and bicycle bell program in conjunction with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail.
	2. Create new signs, brochures, and other trail etiquette education materials for distribution.
	3. Continue to promote trail etiquette on the Trail website, social media accounts, and in existing print materials.
	4. Continue to utilize bike patrollers to encourage trial etiquette.
3. Improve accessibility of the trail for people of all ages and abilities by incorporating principles of universal design in all trail development projects.	1. Develop designs for improvements necessary for accessibility, including improved parking spaces, access between parking lots and the trail, and at road crossings.
	2. Identify suitable ADA accessible areas and include specific improvements in development projects for those areas.
4. Allow access for maintenance and emergency vehicles at designated locations on the trail while barring	1. Continue to maintain visual/physical barriers to motor vehicles at cross roads and high-use side access trails. Replace or upgrade barriers as needed following AASHTO design standards.
	2. Develop and update, as needed, an emergency trail access map which can be distributed to emergency responders in all member communities.

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unauthorized motor vehicles.	
5. Promote safety on the trail, especially at road crossings, and explore opportunities to implement safety improvements on the trail.	<p>1. Work with Oakland Township and the Road Commission of Oakland County to install pedestrian crossing signals at the Adams Road crossing.</p> <p>2. Identify road crossings which could be enhanced by the addition of devices such as refuge islands and markings.</p> <p>3. Maintain a working relationship with local public safety departments by meeting with them annually to provide trail safety updates.</p> <p>4. Purchase defibrillator for bike patroller</p> <p>5. Install Rapid Flashing Beacon pedestrian signals at Adams Road Crossing</p>
6. Maintain, and expand when necessary, the system of bike patrols, contracted police services, and staff to ensure the safety of the trail.	<p>1. Continue and expand, if necessary, the use of the trail bike patroller program.</p> <p>2. Continue contracting with the Oakland County Sheriff department during the peak-use season.</p> <p>3. Encourage local police departments to expand bike patrols on the Trail.</p> <p>4. Develop a volunteer bike patrol program.</p>
7. Enforce current encroachment policies and develop materials for adjacent property owners to raise awareness of these policies to prevent future encroachments.	<p>1. Continue to inspect the Trail regularly for new encroachments.</p> <p>2. Work with municipalities to develop a plan of action for enforcement of encroachment policies.</p> <p>3. Develop and distribute encroachment educational materials for adjacent property owners.</p> <p>4. Work with adjacent property owners to ensure safe access to the Trail and to resolve encroachments amicably.</p>
8. Develop the southeast Rochester property in a manner that promotes appropriate use but still maintains the natural beauty of the trail in this area.	<p>1. Raise funds to develop the parcel.</p> <p>2. Explore the feasibility of a river access trail and kayak launch site at the parcel.</p> <p>3. Work with the city of Rochester to build an observation deck, resurface the trail, and if feasible, create a kayak launch site and river access trail.</p> <p>4. Research the historical significance of the Clinton-Kalamazoo Canal and include information in interpretative signage at the site.</p> <p>5. Install crowd sourced river level gauge for kayak and canoe users.</p>

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GOAL 2: ACT AS GOOD STEWARDS OF THE TRAIL BY MAINTAINING ITS INFRASTRUCTURE AND PRESERVING ITS NATURAL CHARACTER, WHILE CONTINUING TO FACILITATE TRAIL USERS' ACCESS.	
OBJECTIVES	ACTION ITEMS
1. Improve and continue to maintain high maintenance standards for the trail.	1. Coordinate regular inspections among all member communities, plus the Village of Lake Orion
	2. Work with member communities to develop standard maintenance programs for mowing, pruning, erosion control, etc.
	3. Investigate a shared use policy for trail maintenance equipment.
	4. Contract with private contractors for maintenance services where appropriate.
	5. Work with member communities to develop a surface maintenance program.
	6. Develop an annual trail grading program to extend the life of the current trail surface.
	7. Investigate environmentally compatible binders and other dust control measures to reduce the amount of dust on the Trail.
	8. Continue with program to improve major trail entrances and maintain parking areas.
	9. Minimize maintenance vehicles on trail by coordination maintenance efforts.
2. Ensure the safety of all bridges and all bridge approaches on the Trail.	1. Establish a timetable for member communities to conduct regular bridge inspections, and submit reports to Commission.
	2. Work with member communities and the Road Commission for Oakland County to maintain/repair bridges as needed.
	3. Work with member communities to improve and maintain bridge-to-trail transitions.
3. Develop a stewardship program that optimizes enjoyment of the Trail but protects adjacent natural areas and water resources.	1. Develop safe angler access to the Paint Creek in areas that do not lead to streambank erosion.
	2. Work with other groups and stake-holders to maintain the integrity of Paint Creek and

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	adjacent water resources via streambank stabilization projects.
	3. Develop and coordinate a plan for Foley Pond improvements with Orion Township.
	4. Identify and acquire side parcels by purchase or donation which enhance trail users' access to water, protect floodplains and wetlands, and/or facilitate users' enjoyment of natural and historic resources.
	5. Develop interpretative materials which highlight ecological aspects of the Trail.
	6. Utilize native pollinator-friendly plants in trail development projects.
	7. Create Monarch Butterfly habitats on trail property.
4. Ensure minimal impact of adjacent developments by utilizing natural buffers and property owner outreach.	1. Monitor new development on adjoining properties to ensure minimal impact on the Trail.
	2. Work with municipalities to ensure site plan review adequately addresses the impact of adjacent developments on the Trail.
	3. Develop guidelines for native plant screening along the trail which maintain the natural character of the Trail.
	4. Install natural buffers where necessary to discourage trespass onto abutting properties.
	5. Work with member communities to implement screening proposals at designated sites and new at developments along the Trail.
	6. Host educational forums and distribute/post information to educate developers, municipalities, and homeowners on development impact on the trail and the use of native species for buffers.
	7. Identify areas where adjacent developments are causing storm water runoff or soil erosion and work with property owners to correct the issues.
5. Maintain an effective program of signage and information along the Trail.	1. Standardize sign design along the Trail.
	2. Install appropriate trail identification signage at road crossings.
	3. Develop interpretative signage where appropriate.
	4. Develop appropriate wayfinding signage.

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	5. Update and replace signage as needed.
	6. Guard against unnecessary signage.
6. Identify and provide user facilities, rest areas, and trail access/parking where needed along or adjacent to the Trail.	1. Develop rest areas where appropriate, including information about points of interest.
	2. Develop viewing areas so users can enjoy nature. Such areas should have minimal impact on the natural beauty of the trail.
	3. Develop restroom facilities in each community.
	4. Develop drinking fountains or access to drinking water at various points along the Trail.
	5. Develop interpretive side trails to serve as enhancements to the Trail experience.
	6. Develop trail access and parking at appropriate locations along the Trail.
	7. Acquire adjacent properties by purchase or donation for use as access, parking areas, and interpretive trails.
7. Deter vandalism along the Trail.	1. Utilize trail surveillance cameras when necessary.
	2. Use “vandalism proof” materials and stains to combat graffiti.
	3. Raise awareness of the Trail Vandalism Reward Program.
	4. Encourage the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to patrol adjacent property in Bald mountain Recreation Area.



Fall morning south of Silverbell

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GOAL 3: ESTABLISH EFFICIENT CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER TRAILS, TRAIL NETWORKS, PARKS, AND ADJACENT COMMUNITIES.	
OBJECTIVES	ACTION ITEMS
1. Connect with the Polly Ann Trail.	1. Work with Orion Township and OHM to coordinate East Clarkston Road Pathway Project, bridge installation, and PCT connection.
	2. Update trail maps, way finding signage, and brochures to indicate new connection.
	3. Promote new connection on web, print, and other media once completed and foster collaborative ideas, events and services between both trail commissions.
2. Develop additional connections to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.	1. Work with MDNR, Bald Mountain State Park, Oakland Township, and Orion Township on the design of a Bridge conversing the Paint Creek River to connect Bald Mtn South to Bald Mtn North, utilizing PCT and capitalize on Bald Mtn. Parks extensive trail system.
3. Integrate the Village of Lake Orion and its new trail segment more fully into the trail system.	1. Update PCT map to include New trail head in Village of Lake Orion (Iron Belle Parking, at Children’s Park and Fire Station #1) also indicate spur connecting trail to Orion Road safety path system which leads to Village.
	2. Work with Village of Lake Orion and the Downtown Development Authority to host joint trail-related events; and capitalize on major Village events such as Dragon on the Lake & Lions Jubilee.
	3. Work with Orion Township and the Village of Lake Orion to encourage active participation from the Village of Lake Orion.
	4. Support Village of Lake Orion application for Trail Town designation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.
4. Continue to encourage use and preservation of the connection of the trail through the City of Rochester.	1. Continue Letter of Maintenance with the City of Rochester for the short section of trail owned by the city at the southern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail.
5. Develop connections through Orion Township.	1. Work with Orion Township on the design of connections utilizing the township safety path system.
6. Promote use of the Paint Creek Trail as part of the Iron Belle Trail.	1. Update brochures, website, and other print materials with Iron Belle logo.
	2. Add Iron Belle logo to trail signage.

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	3. Host joint trail events with the Polly Ann Trail.
	4. Obtain Pure Michigan Trail designation from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.



*2018 National Trails Day
Celebrating the extension of the Paint Creek Trail and
dedicating a new Iron Belle Trailhead*

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GOAL 4: DEVELOP PROGRAMS WHICH REFLECT TRAIL USERS' NEEDS AND DESIRES AND ALSO ENCOURAGE USE AND SUPPORT OF THE TRAIL.	
OBJECTIVES	ACTION ITEMS
1. Establish walking and cycling programs.	1. Organize group walks and bicycle rides.
	2. Organize fitness walks.
	3. Organize historical walking tours.
	4. Offer bicycle maintenance clinics.
2. Develop nature and conservation stewardship programs.	1. Develop bird identification programs and materials.
	2. Develop native plant identification programs.
	3. Develop invasive species education and removal programs.
	4. Partner with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, and Six Rivers Land Conservancy to develop programs.
3. Continue organizing and participating in annual events.	1. Host National Trails Day annually.
	2. Host Labor Day Bridge Walk annually.
	3. Hold two Adopt-a-Trail events annually.
	4. Develop new events.
4. Develop and implement K-12 programs.	1. Organize K-12 trail hikes.
	2. Offer Scout badge programs.
	3. Implement Hostelling International grant funded Girl Scouts of America trail education program.
	4. Develop K-12 trail safety/etiquette programs.
	5. Partner with local school districts to develop K-12 school programs which meet grade level content expectations as set forth by the State of Michigan.
5. Develop and implement senior programs.	1. Partner with local senior organizations and senior communities to develop senior programming.
	2. Organize senior trail and nature walks.

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6. Maintain good working relationship with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail.	1. Continue coordinating program and event activities with FPCT.
	2. Trail staff continue attending FPCT meetings.
	3. Maintain open communication between FPCT and PCTC.
	4. Complete Moutrie Pollinator Garden project.
6. Provide trails users with opportunities to honor family and friends on the Trail.	1. Resume bench donation program when new bench locations become available.
	2. Establish memorial tree donation program.
7. Provide the public with better access to the history, culture, and general information of the Trail and the area around it.	1. Identify selected natural areas and historic resources along the Trail suitable for interpretation.
	2. Develop interpretative materials and signage for historic and natural points of interest on the trail.
	3. Host Detroit Institute of Arts Inside Out program on the Trail.
	4. Continue to expand and improve the Paint Creek Trail website and social media presence.
	5. Research ways to implement new technologies along the trail to provide trail users' with information on events, trail conditions, and other updates.



Labor Day Bridge Walk, 2018

D. Capital Improvement Schedule

The Action Program of the Recreation Master Plan was developed after much planning and analysis of current Trail facilities, as well as the local recreation inventory of our five communities. The purpose of the program was to identify improvements and enhancements that can be made over the next five years to ensure that the needs of the community, trail users, and visitors can be met. These needs were analyzed and reviewed by the Trailways Commission with extensive input from the public.

The Trailways Commission has identified specific projects, as well as estimated anticipated costs, funding sources, coordinating and/or partner agencies, and the basis for action for each project. The Trailways Commission recognizes that the scheduling of these improvements may need to be occasionally modified to accommodate shifting needs, or the availability of appropriate funding. Cost estimates may also need to be revised to accommodate changing material, engineering, or acquisition costs.

Table 6.1 details the Paint Creek Trail Capital Improvement Schedule for identified improvements.



Bridge 33.7 in Oakland Township

Table 6.1: Capital Improvement Schedule for the Paint Creek Trail, 2020-2024

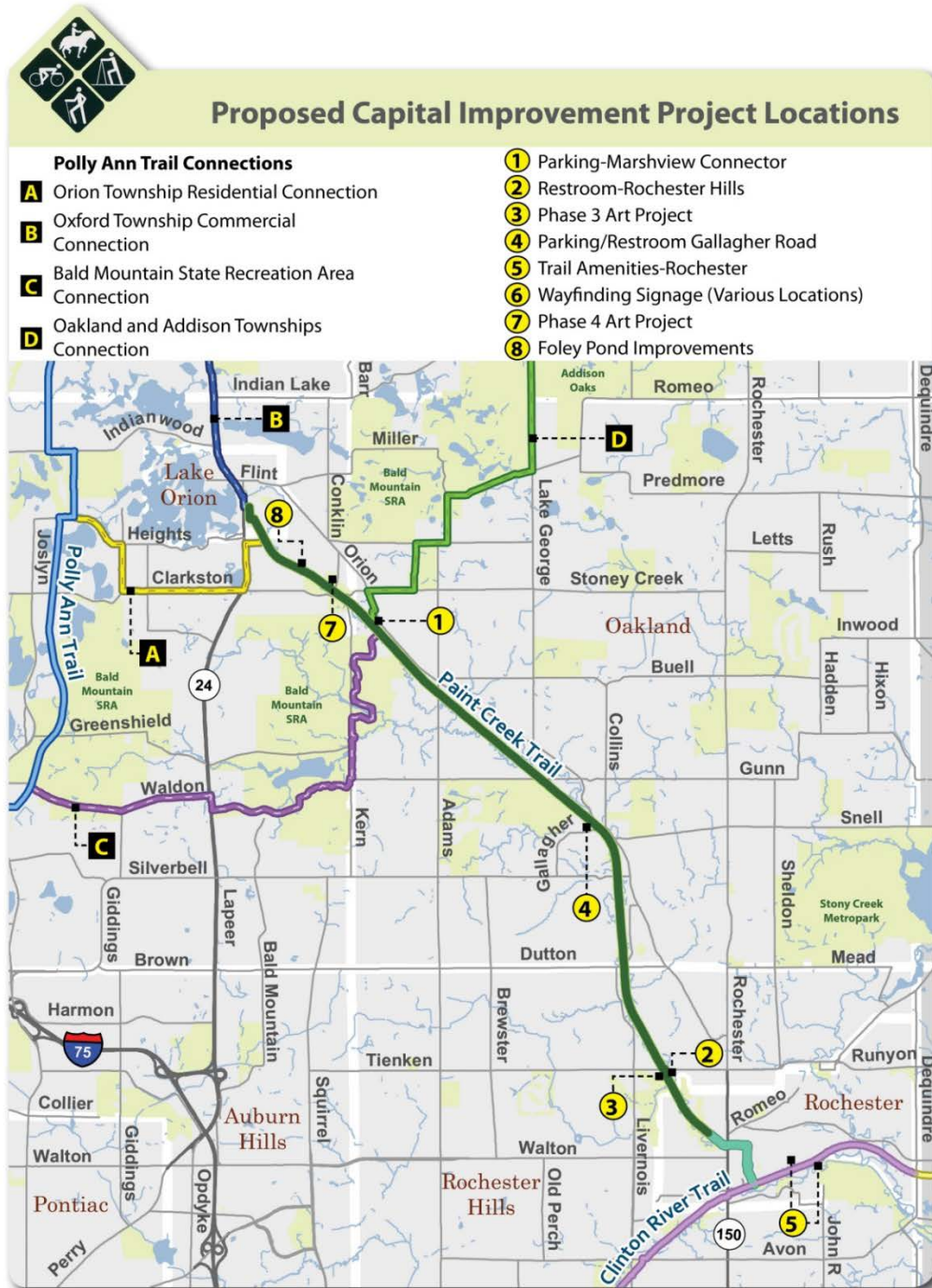
2020-2024 Recurring Projects			
Project		Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
Side Parcel Acquisition for Parking and Trail Access		\$125-150,000	MNRTF grant & local matching funds
Side Parcel Acquisition for Interpretive Side Trails and sites		\$125-150,000	MNRTF grant & local matching funds
Development of interpretive side trails, sites and materials		\$15-20,000	MNRTF grant, private donors & local matching funds
Acquisition of historic resources related to the transportation theme of the Trail		\$100-125,000	Historic preservation grants, local matching funds
Installation of Drinking Fountain along the Trail, where appropriate, in each community		\$10-15,000	Local funds, private donations, or private or public grants
Non-Recurring Projects			
Year	Project	Estimated Cost	Potential Funding Source
2020	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail via completion of the East Clarkston Road Pathway Project	\$2,200,000	TAP, MNRTF, SEMCOG Path grants, and local funds
	Develop parking facilities and amenities at Paint Creek Junction	\$350-400,000	Oakland Township park millage, MNRTF, local funds
	Phase 1 – Iron Belle Trail Signage Project	\$30,000	Iron Belle Trail mini-grant, PCTC funds
	Moutrie Pollinator Garden	\$18,000	Friends of the PCT, private donations, private foundation grants
	Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Connector, by designing and building a bridge traversing Paint Creek river and connecting the Bald Mountain South to Bald Mountain North via bridge and PCT.	\$350-400,00	MNRTF, state and/or federal grants, private donations
2021	Bridge 33.7 Stairs	\$15-20,000	Trout Unlimited, PCTC funds, local funds, private foundation grants
	Phase 2 – Iron Belle Trail Signage Project	\$30,000	Iron Belle Trail mini-grant, PCTC funds
	Development of Trailways Commission Property/User amenities in Southeast Rochester. Including a river overlook and side trail at Bloomer Park.	\$50-65,000	MNRTF, local funds, private donations
2022	Resurface Dutton, Silverbell & Gallagher parking lots.	\$50-80,000	MNRTF, local funds, private donations
	Phase 3 – Iron Belle Trail Signage Project	\$30,000	Iron Belle Trail mini-grant, PCTC funds

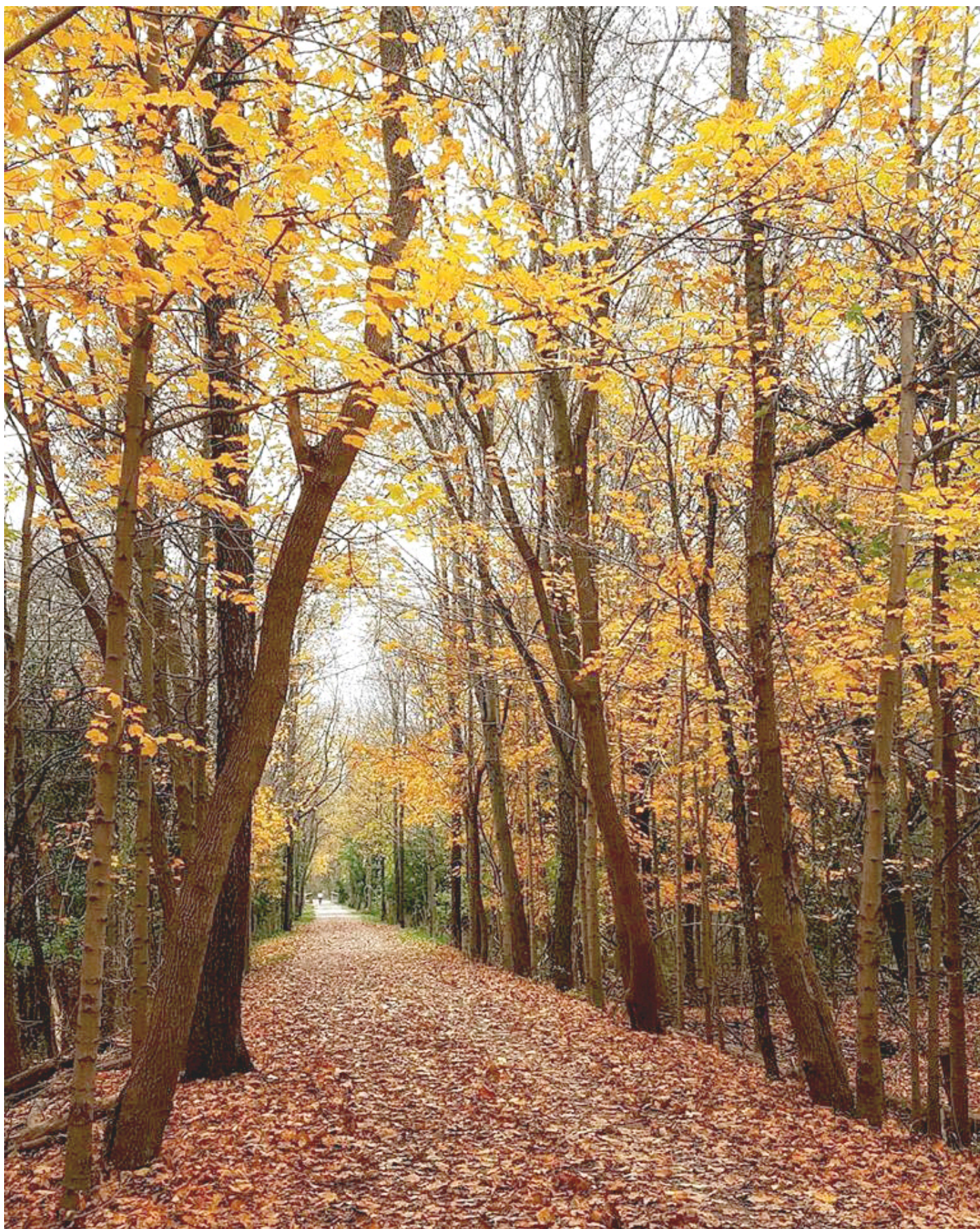
Chapter Six – Action Program

2023	Foley Pond improvements in Orion Township	\$30-40,000	Local funds, state and/or federal grants, private donations
	Phase 3 – Art Project in Orion Township	\$15-20,000	Local funds, MCACA, private donations
No later than 2024	*Bridge 31.7 Replacement project	\$800-900,000	TAP, MNRTF, local funds, private foundation grants

*Bridge 31.7 is of particular concern. Structural problems were first noted in 2014 and frequent inspections have been regularly done by the City of Rochester to assure its safety. Repair or reconstruction or replacement of the bridge should be accomplished as soon as possible."

To Be Updated





Appendices

Summary of Events and Accomplishments in the History of Paint Creek Trail and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, 1973 – 2019

1973

Survey of Oakland Township residents shows strong support for maintaining elements of the rural atmosphere including hiking, bridle trails & bicycle paths. Trail plans are incorporated in adapted Oakland Township Master Land Use Plan.

Rochester Area Bikeway Committee formed.

1974

Avon Township voters approve millage for bike path construction.

Meeting of representatives from six local communities plus county and state agencies review potential for bike paths and trails in the Rochester area.

1976

Clinton River Watershed Council's Hike-In/Canoe-In stimulates interest in Penn Central Right of Way acquisition.

1977

Second major meeting of representatives of local communities, county and state agencies.

Oakland County applies for Department of Interior grant for acquisition of Penn Central Right of Way. Penn Central is in bankruptcy proceedings, and not in a position to sell the property.

1978

Oakland Township Public Services survey. Responses show strong support for bike paths and non-motorized trails.

City of Rochester proceeds with construction of bike path in Municipal Park and signing of bikeways on city streets.

1979

Discussions with Oakland County Road Commission concludes that installation of a bike path along Orion Road is not feasible.

1980

Avon Township voters approve bond issue to finance further construction of bike paths.

Penn Central informs local communities that they are now ready, indeed anxious to sell right of way.

Third major meeting of local, county and state representatives. Strategies for seeking acquisition funds are discussed, including:

- MDOT Act 295 (delinquent taxes from railroad funds) or Act 51 non-motorized transportation funds.
 - Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant and matching local funds.
 - Michigan Land Trust Fund grant and matching local funds.
-

1981

Public meetings provide input while purchase negotiations are conducted with Penn Central.

Oakland Township adopts Park Plan which include acquisition of the Penn Central Right of Way as a near-term objective.

Four municipalities establish the Paint Creek Trailways Commission with an intergovernmental agreement under the provisions of the Michigan Urban Cooperative Act (P.A. 7, 1967): Avon Township (now Rochester Hills), Rochester, Oakland Township and Orion Township.

1982

“Responses to Questions Regarding Proposed Yates Cider Mill to Lake Orion Non-motorized Trail” report produced, based on concerns and issues voiced at the meetings and interviews with managers of established trails throughout the nation.

1983

10.5 miles purchased out of the 12 miles from Macomb County line to Lake Orion by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. Portion omitted in downtown Rochester because of high price and possibility of alternate routes. Cost: \$450,000 (50% prorated local share and 50% Michigan Land Trust Funds).

Uniform Trailways Ordinance developed.

Bridgework – decks, railings, trestle removal (50% state funds).

1984

Planning Assistance from landscape architecture students at Lawrence Technological University, Southfield, Michigan.

1986

Trailways Plan receives the annual Honor Award of the Michigan Society of Planning Officials (M.S.P.O.).

1987

Oakland County Planning Division prepares countywide Trails System Analysis of Potential.

1988

Erosion control and Stream access (50% Inland Fisheries Grant): Four individual projects one in each each member community along Paint Creek.

1989

Paint Creek Trailways guide map and brochure developed for public distribution.

William Johnson and Associates selected by Trailways Commission for design of bike path surfacing. Public hearing held to receive input on path design. Gerlach Landscaping selected as surfacing contractor.

The Trailways Commission and the City of Rochester Hills approved resolution to convey a “portion of the Paint Creek Trailways immediately adjacent or contained within Bloomer Unit of the Rochester-Utica Recreation Area” to the State of Michigan, Department of Natural Resources.

1990

Trailways Commission receives Certificate of Merit in the United States Department of the Interior’s “Take Pride America” awards program.

Access controls installed – gates, bollards, and boulders.

Construction of Trail surfacing begins. The Paint Creek Trail is now in operation and open for the public and receives heavy use.

1991

Paint Creek Trailways Surfacing complete.

Commission hires part-time Trailways Coordinator to handle daily administrative duties.

Trailways Commission office located at the Oakland Township Hall.

Oakland County Division of Planning assists Trail Commission in the development of preliminary signage plan.

Oakland County Sheriff’s Department Mounted Division begins a twenty-week Trail patrol, June through October.

Inland Fisheries Grant awarded to Paint Creek Trailways Commission for Phase II of erosion control project in Oakland Township.

1992

Trailways Merchandising program initiated to raise funds for Trailways development programs, including T-shirts, sweatshirts and patches.

Trailways selected as the finish area for the initial Michigander bike tour, a cross-state bicycle ride sponsored by the Detroit Free Press and the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy to promote Michigan rail-trails.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission receives “Enjoy Outdoors America” Award from the United States Department of the Interior, Washington D.C., and is presented with the award on National Trails Day in October. (Only six trails were recognized nationwide).

Five year Master Plan revised and approved, allowing the Commission to make a grant application to the State of Michigan for their signage project.

1993

Trailways Commission awarded \$50,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Improvement Fund grant for Trailways signage project.

Initiated Trailways Safety Program – bicycle bells are sold at cost to Trailways users to promote safety for all Trail users.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trailways launched by the Trailways Commission – a non-profit volunteer organization that supports events and activities on the Trail.

Formal License agreement with the Paint Creek Cider Mill: allows for parking privileges for Trailways users and cider mill buildings to remain on Trailways property.

1994

License Agreement with the City of Rochester for sewer interceptor near Bloomer Park.

Land donated by developer to the City of Rochester Hills to provide parking lot at Tienken Road Crossing.

Completed Phase II of Inland Fisheries Grant to control erosion along Paint Creek between Gallagher and Silver Bell Road.

Boy Scout project at Gunn Road crossing (Oakland Township) constructs retaining wall and bicycle ramp to pedestrian access.

Oakland County Sheriff’s Department’s Mounted Division increases Trail patrol program to a twenty-eight week program, from May through October.

Commission Sponsors University of Michigan, School of Natural Resources master thesis project, Enhancements of the Paint Creek Trail, including a partial natural feature inventory and linkage study.

1995

Blue bird boxes installed along Trail in Rochester Hills and Oakland Township, as part of Eagle Scout project for Troop 193.

Commission approves License Agreement between Commission and Michigan Consolidated Gas allowing a crossing of the Trail right-of-way in Section 20 of Oakland Township.

Commission approves License Agreement between Commission and Consumers Power, allowing crossing of the Trail right-of-way in Section 20 of Oakland Township.

1996

Commission approves contract with Oakland County Sheriff Mounted Division for patrol of the Trail for sixth consecutive year.

Commission meets with Mayor Ken Snell; among discussion topics included replacement of bridge across Bloomer Park.

Received final edition of document by Ned Morse, A GIS Development Project for Paint Creek Trail: a multi-layer GIS Database and Determination of Computer Analysis Tools for Managing a Rail-to-Trails and Recreation Corridor.

Trail Commission approves License Agreement with the City of Rochester for crossing of the Sheldon Road extension.

Nearly 600 participants in the fifth annual Michigander cross-state bicycle tour ride the Trail from Clarkston/Kern Road to Rochester on their way to the finish line at Metro Beach.

Special Commission meeting arranged to review the right-of-way involved in the sanitary sewer project proposed by Rochester Hills.

Commission requests bids for the resurfacing of the Trailways. Two bids are received, but the Commission rejects both, because totals are far in excess of anticipated amounts.

Trail Coordinator holds discussions with Lake Orion Village Manager on extending the Paint Creek Trail into Lake Orion.

Commission addresses citizen concerns about Tienken Road crossing.

Commission approves license agreement between Commission and Paint Creek Cider Mill for Cider Mill use of Trailways Commission property.

Erosion control projects at Rochester Municipal Park and Kern Clarkston Road completed with grant administered by Clinton River Watershed Council.

Commission approved License Agreement between Commission and Rochester Hills for installation of the sanitary sewer within the right-of-way between Dutton and Tienken Roads.

1997

Commission approves Resolution to Support the Acquisition of the Polly Ann Rail Corridor for Use as a Recreational Trail.

Commissioner Peggy Johnson is awarded the Michigan Recreation & Parks Association's Voluntary Service Award at the Annual State Conference. She is later awarded the National Recreation & Parks Association's National Voluntary Service Award in Salt Lake City, Idaho.

Special Commission meeting held to review the three parcels involved in the land swap with Mr. Nicholson, owner of the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Restaurant.

William T. Stark assumes duties as part-time Trailways Coordinator, replacing Linda Gorecki, who resigns to become full-time Park Manager in Oakland Township.

National Trails Day (June 7) Friends of Paint Creek Trail organize planting project at the Gunn Road crossing.

Commission approves temporary License Agreement with Dillman & Upton Lumber Company for their use of the Trailways Commission property in Rochester. The agreement will last only until the final agreement is completed, expected 3-20-01. The temporary agreement includes annual rental payment to the Commission of \$3,600.

Commission approves motion to support concept of linking the Trail to Bald Mountain State Recreational Area.

Commission holds Public Hearing to receive comments on the land swap between the Trail Commission and Mr. Nicholson.

Commission approves motion recognizing the City of Rochester for completion of the Paint Creek Walkway.

Michigan State University School of Urban Planning Masters student Robert Balmes presents Greenways: Improving the Quality of life in Oakland County, Michigan to Commission.

1998

Bike Patrol program implemented. Program runs from May 1 – October 31.

Revision of Recreation Master Plan results in 1999-2003 version. Master Plan revised by Linda Gorecki, former Trailways Coordinator.

Paint Creek Trail brochure revised.

Grand Trunk Railroad abandonment affecting Rochester and Rochester Hills is announced. Peggy Johnson, founding member of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, retires.

Trailways Commission executes license agreement with Village Green Apartments for installation of Sanitary Sewer.

Resolution: The Paint Creek Trailways Commission supports the conversion of the Grand Trunk Railroad through Rochester Hills to a recreation trail.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission website first introduced through the Orion Township Public Library (www.orion.lib.mi.us/pctc).

1999

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for a 90-acre park.

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the development of trails in Bald Mountain Recreation Area that would provide links to Paint Creek Trail, Orion Township safety paths, and Oakland Township bike paths.

Commission contracts with Applied Science & Technology, Inc. to develop a Prairie Management Plan.

Commission sends letter to Governor John Engler proclaiming interest in the Millennium Legacy Trail program.

National Trails Day, June 5- Erosion projects in Oakland Township and a resurfacing project in Orion Township highlight the day's events.

Home Depot, Rochester Hills, offers to partner with the Trailways Commission for "Team Depot" community projects.

Trailways Commission invited to send a representative to the National Millennium Legacy Trail Awards in Washington, D.C. on behalf of the Trailways Commission and the Southeast Michigan Greenways.

Certificate of appreciation given to retired Commissioner Ann Marie Boyce, for her many years of outstanding service to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

2000

Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited given permission to place "Catch and Release" signs on the Trail, to help improve natural Brown Trout fishery.

Commission agrees to License Fee increases.

Phase Two of Prairie Management plan introduced.

Temporary Permit issued to United Way for walkathon.

Team Depot completes bridge re-railing project in Rochester Hills at Tienken Road.

National Trails Day in June – Paint Creek Trail officially accepts the Michigan Millennium Legacy Trail designation on behalf of Southeast Michigan Greenways.

Team Depot builds housing for Millennium Legacy Trail marker sign to be placed in Orion Township.

Temporary Permit issued to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association for the "Back Road Boogie".

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission's grant application for improvements at Bear Creek Park.

Trailways Commission announces new e-mail address: paintcreektrail@aol.com.

Two new stairways constructed on Trail in Oakland Township.

Grand Truck Railroad abandonment creates trail affectionately known as the "Clinton River Trail".

Trailways Commission receives grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for \$3,500 to fund an Art Project Strategic Plan.

Trailways Commission agrees to partially fund the Rudd's Mill Historic Marker at Clarkton/Kern Roads.

Trailways Commission passes Resolution in support of Orion Township's grant application for bike path.

Temporary Permit issued to the Furniture Resource Center for a walkathon.

Trailways Commission announces new website address: www.paintcreektrail.bizland.com.

2001

Trailways Commission hires Get Real! Communications to facilitate strategic planning session regarding Millennium Legacy Trail art project.

January 10 – The Paint Creek Trailways Commission receives a Community Service Award from the Michigan Recreation & Park Association for "Outstanding Commitment and Service to their Community".

Trail brochure revised.

Trailways Commission approves license agreement with Flagstar Bank in Goodison for a sewer line. Agrees to waive license fee in return for access to a water line for a future Trail improvement project.

Contract with Word Pictures, Inc is approved for the production of a Prairie Restoration/Art Project video.

June 2 – National Trails Day events: historic bike tour, historic site marker dedication at Rudd's Mill, resurfacing project in Oakland Township between Silver Bell and Gallagher.

Temporary Permit granted to United Way for walkathon.

Rochester Hills paves Tienken Road parking lot, which allows parking for 12 vehicles.

Trailways Commission amends Section 6, Finances (B) of the Intergovernmental Operating Agreement, in order to streamline budget process.

Temporary Permit granted to the Michigan Mountain Biking Association for the "Back Road Boogie".

Temporary Permit granted for "Meet us on the Trail," sponsored by Rep. Michael Bishop.

Site for Prairie Restoration Art Project is chosen in Oakland Township at Gallagher Road.

Temporary Permit granted to the Furniture Resource Center for a walkathon.

Temporary Permit granted to Burning Daylight Productions for use of the Trail in a television commercial.

2002

Trailways Commission amends Recreation Master Plan in anticipation for a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application.

Development at the corner of Atwater and M-24 in the Village of Lake Orion is announced, with the potential connection to the Paint Creek Trail.

Grant Application for the "Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project" submitted to the MNRTF for two picnic sites, water, a restroom, and an erosion control project.

Resolution passed by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission "Supporting safe pedestrian crossing of Tienken Road at Paint Creek Trail"

Orion Township completes Goldengate access project that provided a stairway and railings.

Commission passes Resolution in opposition to Senate Bill 1016, which would have allowed the "Segway" human transporter on public pathways, including the Paint Creek Trail.

Trailways Commission announces new official website, www.paintcreektrail.org.

Senator Michael Bishop sponsors another "Meet Us on the Trail" event for National Trails Day, June 1, 2002.

Paint Creek Mill Race historical marker was dedicated, June 2002.

Eagle Scout candidate John Putnam completes Trail mile-marker project.

Trailways Commission experiments with "paperless packets" by utilizing email to send packet information.

Eagle Scout candidate Jeff Deans proposes and gets approved for a "Bat house project" along the Paint Creek Trail.

Trailways Commission and Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission implement Prairie Management plan with prescribed burn at Prairie site along Trail in Oakland Township.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission is recommended for funding by the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund for the Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project.

2003

Trailways Commission starts process for Trail Resurfacing.

Trailways Commission creates new color brochure, utilizing photos submitted by Trail users.

Trailways Commission begins development of the 2004-2008 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan.

Trailways Coordinator Bill Stark retires from the Paint Creek Trailways Commission and is replaced by Kristen Myers.

Trailways Commission approves purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to be used by the Bike Patrol.

Art Project and Prairie Restoration video dedicated on National Trails Day, June 7, at the "Meet Us on the Trail" event sponsored by Senator Michael Bishop.

2004

Gift of 1/3 mile of Trail, and 1.8 acres of property from the David Goldberg and the Aspen Group, valued at \$750,000, for new Trail through "Atwater Commons" in Lake Orion; the appointment of a non-voting Commissioner, Rick Mazzenga, for the Village of Lake Orion.

8.5 miles of Trail resurfaced; Additional 400 feet of Trail developed north of Newton Street.

Approval of Credit Card Policy.

Preliminary planning of Rochester Art Project; Vice-Chairman Becker's requests for funding by PCTC, Rochester-Avon Historical Society, and DDA approved.

Resignation of Commissioners Arthur Phillips and Dan Keifer; Appointments of Maryann Whitman, Martha Olijnyk, and Paul Miller.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Service project: Painting of all bridges, bollards, and graffiti covered areas; miscellaneous "fix up" projects.

2005 Budget Approval.

Re-hiring of William Stark as Project Manager for MNRTF Development project.

Successful National Trails Day event, sponsored by Senator Mike Bishop, on June 12, 2004.

Hiring of Peter Ferency, as Trailways Commission Bike Patroller.

Successful completion of Trail User Survey by MSU.

Grants from the Bordine Family Beautification Horticultural Fund and the Frank J. Shellenbarger Memorial Fund of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester totaling \$5,000 to underwrite the Prairie Video update.

Approval of the Vandalism/Reward Program.

Eagle Scout Project: New brochure boxes along the Trail.

Preliminary planning of Directional Sign project, in conjunction with the City of Rochester.

Preliminary work on MNRTF Development project; new picnic sites at Tienken and Gallagher; observation deck at Foley Pond; vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern. Gift of in-kind services from Oakland County Parks Planning Staff to be "Prime Professional" for project.

Encroachment /trespassing dispute with Goodison Hills Homeowners Association.

New license agreement with ITC; revised agreement with Detroit Edison.

2 donated recycled plastic benches; one south of Dutton, one south of Gallagher.

Heavy rains in May of 2004 forced the temporary closure of the Trail; fish became new “users”.

Preliminary planning to move Commission office to the former Paint Creek Cider Mill Restaurant; owner Ray Nicholson donates establishment to the Charter Township of Oakland.

2005

MSU Survey completed and results shared with the Commission in a presentation by Dr. Christine Vogt and Mr. Josh Pedersen from MSU. The objectives of the study were to understand motivations, demographics and activity patterns of Trail users and to obtain an estimation of total Trail use.

Atwater Warranty Deed transferred and recorded on 12/30/04 from the Aspen Group. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on National Trails Day, June 4, 2005.

A Recognition Policy was adopted by the Commission– Tiered System instituted to recognize both monetary and volunteer hours.

Prairie Video Grant was received from the Bordine Family Horticultural Beautification Fund and the Frank J. Shellenbarger Memorial Fund for enhancements to the video. A teaching version was produced and forwarded for review and acceptance by the local public and private schools with teaching guide.

PCTC passed a resolution in support of Oakland Township Parks and Recreation’s application for acquisition of the 60-acre Stony Creek Corridor Park. The acquisition and development of this parcel will contribute to a hiking/biking route that will connect the Paint Creek Trail with the Macomb Orchard Trail. Oakland Twp Parks’ application and grant for \$900,000 was approved in December, 2005.

PCTC contracted with the Sheriff’s Parks Mounted Division to patrol the Trail on weekends.

Seasonal part-time bike patroller, Dave Moutrie, was hired to monitor the Trail during the peak summer season at approximately 20 hours a week for 15 weeks.

Part-time seasonal Administrative Assistant Debbie Fox was hired in late July to work 20 hours a week for 15 weeks.

Heritage Festival once again was a huge success with many new volunteers assisting with the Trail Display and merchandise sales.

PCTC partnered with Hiking Michigan for a successful National Trails Day / Meet Us in the Middle event and lunch at the Paint Creek Cider Mill. Senator Bishop’s office and Lipuma’s of Rochester sponsored lunch, and a Trail Founder and Financial Contributor recognition ceremony was held.

Work began on a *Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group*. It is still in development but should come together in 2006, since the database is completed. PCTC is still looking for a leader of this volunteer group.

The Goodison Hills subdivision landscaping issues behind the Flagstar bank were resolved after much discussion.

MNRTF grant project completed. We developed and/or installed new picnic sites, vault toilet, drinking fountain and an observation deck on the Trail. PCTC expressed their gratitude to Mr. Stark for his work on these projects that enhanced the Trail for all users.

2006 PCTC Budget proposed and approved.

Approved the OCDC Goodison Water Main Extension project crossing the Trail near Gallagher and Orion Roads.

Completed and submitted a *National Recreation Trail* designation application. Many letters of support from the community and government offices included with the application. Possible benefits included technical assistance and funding opportunities.

PCT brochure redesigned for reprint and sponsorships received from several local businesses.

PCTC approved a geocaching policy.

PCTC gave an easement to the Road Commission of Oakland County for Tienken Road crossing improvements.

Paint Creek Trail received national attention in the Wall Street Journal on September 24, 2005.

One donated recycled plastic bench from the Jones Family installed north of Clarkston/Kern Roads.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Service project: Painting of all bridges, bollards, and graffiti covered areas; miscellaneous “fix-up” projects.

Long Meadow Elementary 5th Graders participated in their annual “Adopt a Trail” cleanup project in May 2005.

Temporary Licenses were given to the following organizations for fundraising events: On My Own of Michigan; Rochester Community Schools Foundation; Oakland Steiner School; Romeo Schools – Stoney Creek Relay, and Oakland Township’s Curamus Terram.

2006

New and revised brochure was introduced, with 5 new sponsors and an updated map. 15,000 brochures were received for distribution.

Administrative Policy #06-001, “Trailways Commission Purchasing Policy” was adopted by the Commission, which set purchasing parameters for the Coordinator and Chairman.

The Boundary Map/Survey Project began with requests for proposals. Fine tuning of the project continued throughout the year.

Planning began for the 2nd Trail art project in the City of Rochester. Work continued throughout the year.

Approved temporary permit request for the Hometown Hustle, a Rochester Community Schools Foundation event for May 13. There were 250 participants.

Approved temporary permit request for the Rainbow Connection's 4th Annual Walk for Kids on May 20.

Appointed a Bollard Redesign subcommittee to create a collapsible or replaceable bollard that could be used instead of emergency gates. Work continued throughout the year.

Negotiations continued with ITC for a License agreement covering 2 transmission lines.

Approved a temporary permit request for On my Own of Michigan, for their 3rd Annual fundraiser walkathon for September 16, 2006.

The Goodison Hills/Flagstar Bank landscaping issue was finally resolved after the planting of two white swamp oak trees in May 2006.

Long Meadow Elementary 5th graders participated in their annual "Adopt a Trail" cleanup project in May 2006.

Paint Creek Trail received national attention again with a paragraph in the May 2006 *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine.

Heritage Festival was a great success Memorial Day weekend, with high merchandise sales and brochure distribution.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie returned for another successful season.

Oakland County Sheriff Office Mounted Patrol units also returned for a successful patrol season.

PCTC partnered with Hiking Michigan and Senator Mike Bishop for a successful National Trails Day/Experience Your Outdoors event. The PCTC received a National Recreation Trail award from the US Department of the Interior; Honorees for this year's recognition ceremony were Jo Ann Van Tassel, Lois Golden, Word Pictures, Inc, Oakland County Parks, and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development. Over 650 people attended our event.

Commission approved the 2007 Budget.

Rudd's Mill Historic Marker was reinstalled in Orion Township on June 27.

Negotiations began with the Road Commission of Oakland County for use of an easement on Dutton Road for Trail parking.

Approved a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol for 500 hours of patrol services between Memorial Day and October 31, 2006.

Commission took a field trip on the Trail between Gallagher and Bridge 34 (south of Silverbell).

Approved a temporary permit for Curamus Terram on September 23, 2006.

Approved the hiring of CPA Ramie E. Phillips, Jr. to conduct our 2005 Financial Audit, (GASB 34 compliant).

Approved a temporary permit request for the Rochester Cycling Festival for September 2, 2006.

Commission approved the purchase of a bicycle for the Coordinator.

Held the first annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” on Labor Day (Sept 4) with approximately 50 participants and volunteers. Route: Gallagher south to Bridge 34 and back. Participants were greeted on the “other” side of the bridge with Mackinac Fudge.

Approved a temporary permit request for an Oakland Steiner School fundraiser for October 7, 2006.

Trail repairs were completed with the help from the Village of Lake Orion for 150’ of Trail near Converse Ct, south of Atwater.

Discussions began regarding the quality of the surfacing materials in the Atwater section of Trail.

New signs were made and installed for the Atwater parking lot and the Atwater trailhead.

Commission received excellent press coverage throughout the year.

Commission agreed to hold National Trails Day in Lake Orion in 2007, focusing on potential connections with the Polly Ann Trail and Lake Orion business district.

Community Service Project: Bridge(s) and approaches were sanded and painted, boards were replaced.

Discussions began with adjacent subdivision Arthur’s Way in Rochester Hills for a connector trail from their subdivision to the Trail south of Dutton.

Discussions began regarding revisions in 2007 to the Paint Creek Trail brochure.

Commission began setting project and operational goals for 2007.

Discussions began regarding a possible “Commissioner’s Fund” that would be established for Trail beautification projects.

Commission awarded contract for Trail Boundary survey project to Nowak & Fraus of Royal Oak, Michigan. Work to begin in January 2007.

Paint Creek Trail featured in the MSU documentary DVD “Making the Connection: Rail Trails in Michigan Today” that was distributed statewide.

Trail crossing improvements at Tienken in Rochester Hills were finished with the Trail being rerouted to Kings Cove Drive. A pedestrian crossing signal is scheduled for installation.

2007

Discussions continued regarding a possible “Commissioner’s Fund” that would be established for Trail beautification projects.

Work continued on the Rochester Art Project. This was a collaborative effort between the PCTC, Rochester DDA, Rochester Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historical Commission, and the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester (Preede Foundation).

CPA Ramie E. Phillips, Jr. conducted our 2006 Financial Audit.

Trail crossing improvements at Tienken in Rochester Hills were finished, with a new pedestrian crossing signal and landscape improvements.

Nowak & Fraus conducted the Paint Creek Trail Boundary and Survey Project, and was near completion by the end of the fiscal year.

Commission approved the purchase of a GPS Unit.

Commission began discussions on encroachment policy.

Approved temporary permit request for the Hometown Hustle, a Rochester Community Schools Foundation event for May 12. There were 250 participants.

Approved a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol for 500 hours of patrol services between Memorial Day and October 31, 2007.

Long Meadow Elementary 5th graders participated in their annual "Adopt a Trail" cleanup project in May 2007. Approximately 35 children and parents participated.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie returned for another successful season.

Commission received excellent press coverage throughout the year.

Heritage Festival was a mild success on a rainy Memorial Day weekend.

PCTC partnered with Orion Township Parks, the Lake Orion DDA for a successful National Trails Day/Trails and Health: A Natural Connection event. Honorees for the 2007 recognition ceremony were Arthur Phillips, Sharon Creps, Jim Marleau, Senator Mike Bishop, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Over 750 people attended our event.

Approved a temporary permit request for the Rainbow Connection's 4th Annual Walk for Kids on June 9.

Brochure was updated and 15,000 were printed for distribution. Sponsors include Hanson's Running Shop, Paint Creek Bicycles, and the Westwynd Golf Course.

Commission approved the 2008 Budget.

Approved a Temporary Permit Follow-Up form and program, to gain feedback from our applicants regarding their experience with the Paint Creek Trail.

Commission began discussions regarding future "webcasting" of PCTC meetings.

Trail Commission received a \$10,000 grant from the DALMAC fund toward the paving of the Atwater section of Trail.

Commission began discussions on a Bench Donation Policy to regulate model, location, and other terms of donation.

Bollard Redesign Committee reviewed previous recommendations and discussed amendments to policy.

Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker received preliminary approval for a kiosk design and installation project along the Trail.

Commission Resolution #07-001 in support of “Connecting Michigan Statewide Trailways Vision Plan” facilitated by the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance.

Commission took a field trip on the Trail between Ludlow and Dutton.

Commission again agreed to hold National Trails Day in Lake Orion in 2008, focusing on potential connections with the Polly Ann Trail and Lake Orion business district.

Approved a temporary permit request for the Polly Ann Trail’s Rural Pearl of a Ride for July 28, 2007. Over 150 riders participated.

Approved a temporary permit request for the AdvoKate Run/Walk for August 4. Over 300 people participated.

Held the second annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” on Labor Day (Sept 3) with approximately 200 participants and volunteers. Route: Tienken north to Dutton and back, and Tienken north to Gallagher and back. Participants were greeted on the “other” side of the bridge with Mackinac Fudge. A 600% increase in attendance from 2006.

Negotiations continued with ITC for a License agreement covering 2 transmission lines.

Approved a temporary permit request for On my Own of Michigan, for their 4rd Annual fundraiser walkathon for September 15, 2007. Over 200 people attended the event.

The Road Commission for Oakland County approved our permit request to utilize the Dutton Road Right of Way for Trail parking. This was a collaborative effort between the PCTC, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, Road Commission, and City of Rochester Hills.

Discussions began regarding adding directional signage on the Trail.

Approved a temporary permit for Curamus Terram on September 22, 2007.

Oakland County Trail Summit was held at the Royal Park Hotel on October 4, and the Paint Creek Trail was featured prominently.

Approved a temporary permit for the CIDER Walk, a Right-to-Life Lifespan fundraising event for October 14, 2007. Over 150 people participated.

Paved the Atwater section of Trail (1,115 feet) at a cost of \$30,863. The Lake Orion DDA and the Charter Township of Orion contributed over \$20,000 for the project.

Trail received improvements at the Clarkston/Kern crossing and parking lot, courtesy of the Road Commission for Oakland County.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation resurfaced the Gallagher Road parking lot.

Commission began reviewing the Recreational Master Plan in preparation for an update in 2008.

Approved a temporary permit request for “The Brooksie Way,” a half-marathon scheduled for October 5, 2008.

Three new benches were donated to the Trail and installed at various points.

The Commission continued good fiscal management, with revenue higher than expenses.

2008

The Commission discussed the Paint Creek Trail/Polly Ann Trail Gap Analysis that was commissioned by Oakland County Parks and Recreation.

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Hometown Hustle – RCS Foundation – May 10
- Walk for Kids – Rainbow Connection – June 7
- Rural Pearl of a Ride – Polly Ann Trail – July 26
- AdvoKate Run/Walk – August 2
- CRY America Walk – August 23
- Curamus Terram – Oakland Township – September 20
- On my Own of Michigan Walkathon – September 27
- Special Olympics Walkathon – October 4, 2008
- Brooksie Way Half Marathon – October 5, 2008 (originally approved 2007)
- CIDER Walk – Right to Life Lifespan – October 18

Bollard redesign improvements were completed in Rochester, Oakland Township and Rochester Hills.

The Commission approved a request from the Oakland County Sheriff's Office – Oakland Township Substation to help purchase a law-enforcement equipped bicycle for the new OCSO Bike Patrol Program.

The Paint Creek Trail Directional Map and Brochure/Map were redesigned with the in-kind assistance from HMS Manufacturing in Troy, Michigan.

The Commission approved the 2009 Operations and Patrol Budget, with no increase in the contributions from our voting member communities.

The Commission partnered with the Rainbow Connection, Senator Mike Bishop, and the Lake Orion DDA for a successful “Join Us on the Trail” National Trails Day event, with financial sponsorship from Meijer Corp and McLaren Health Center. Honorees for the 2008 recognition ceremony were Linda Raschke, Karen Lewis, Jeffrey Phillips, the DALMAC Fund, and Meijer Corporation. Over 700 people attended or participated in one of our events.

The Rochester Historical Art Project was completed, with the installation of 6 Historical glass panels installed in downtown Rochester, along the Downtown Rochester River Walk.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Commission approved a request from Oakland County Parks and Recreation to sponsor the 2008 Oak Routes Trail Network Map.

The Commission approved a request for a letter of support from Jake Isley, Oakland University student, to support the Oakland University Trail Network Concept.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation, with the assistance of an Eagle Scout, installed a new deer enclosure on Trail ROW north of Silverbell.

The 2007 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA.

The Commission took a “field trip” to Trail property in southeast Rochester, near Letica Drive, and began discussions on potential improvements to both parcels.

Oakland Township Parks and Recreation commissioned a moth survey/count along the Trail, for an ecological study.

Six new recycled plastic benches were installed at the following locations:

- South Tienken – Bench in Memory of Susan Rutledge Walker
- North Tienken – Bench in Memory of Bob Peck
- South Dutton – Bench from the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Assoc.
- Overlook south of Flagstar – Bench from the Woman’s National Farm and Garden Assoc.
- South Gallagher – Bench in Memory of Anthony Blazeovski
- East Adams – Bench in Memory of Terrance Szymkiw

The third annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 1) with approximately 310 participants and volunteers. Route: Rochester Municipal Park north to Tienken, and Rochester Municipal Park north to Silver Bell and back. Participants were greeted with Mackinac Fudge, insulated water bottle holders and pedometers at the Kiwanis Pavilion. A 25% increase in attendance from 2007.

Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker continued work on the Paint Creek Trail Kiosk Project.

The Commission moved their offices from 4393 Collins Road to 4480 Orion Road in Oakland Township.

The Commission approved a license agreement with Detroit Water and Sewerage regarding a 96” water main that was being installed on Adams Road south of Orion Road in Oakland Township.

The Commission continued good fiscal management, with revenue higher than expenses.

2009

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - June 13, 2009
- Rural Pearl of a Ride - Oxford Area Youth Assistance - July 25, 2009
- AdvoKate Run/Walk - August 1, 2009
- Curamus Terram - Oakland Township - September 19, 2009
- Brooksie Way Half Marathon - October 4, 2009
- CIDER Walk - Right to Life Lifespan - October 10, 2009

The Commission approved the 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan.

The Commission approved a Resolution of Support for the Village of Lake Orion's grant application for improvements at Children's Park.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission, in an effort to protect the Trail from adverse possession or acquiescence, filed legal action against 56 adjacent property owners who were encroaching on the Trail or who potentially could dispute the boundary line.

An article and map of the Trail was highlighted in the spring 2009 In-Town Rochester Magazine.

The Commission reviewed a conceptual map of a potential route extension into the Village of Lake Orion. A potential route was through the Lake Orion Lumber property, bringing the extension closer into the Village and Broadway Street.

The Paint Creek Trail Brochure and Directional Map was redesigned and approved. 30,000 brochures were ordered, and eleven new directional sign maps were installed.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Rochester Art Project was officially unveiled on National Trails Day, June 6, 2009.

The Commission began discussions on Trail Accessibility as it pertains to Allowable Mobility Devices.

The Commission sent a letter of opposition to Representatives McMillin and Marleau regarding HB 4411, which if passed, would allow ATV's on the Trail.

The 2008 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA.

One new recycled plastic bench was installed at the following location:

- South of Gunn- In Loving Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Kreuzkamp

The Commission approved a license agreement with ITC Transmission regarding transmission lines in Oakland Township and Rochester Hills.

The fourth annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" was held on Labor Day (Sept 7) with approximately 240 participants and volunteers. Route: Rochester Municipal Park north to Tienken, and Rochester Municipal Park north to Silver Bell and back. Participants were greeted with Fudge, Paint Creek Trail drawstring backpacks and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Sponsored by Innovative Chiropractic and Beaumont Hospital - Troy.

The Commission approved and purchased newly designed PCT ball caps.

The Commission switched to an Electronic Packet Distribution system, to reduce postage and copying costs.

A long-time trail user donating funds for the purchase of six Pet Waste Bag Dispensers for the Trail.

Eagle Scout Candidate Bryan Walker completed his Trail Kiosk Project. Five Kiosks were installed at Trailheads (one in each community).

The Commission began a review and revision of the Commercial Use Policy, in response to the increased presence of the film industry in Michigan.

In an effort to maintain open communication and transparency, the Commission began discussions regarding the benefits of Webcasting and Computer Streaming of Trailways Commission meetings.

2010

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Greyheart Greyhound Rescue - May 23, 2010
- Lake Orion Rotary Duathlon - July 17, 2010
- Rural Pearl of a Ride - July 24, 2010
- AdvoKate Run/Walk - August 7, 2010
- Curamus Terram - September 18, 2010
- Brooksie Way - October 3, 2010
- TREK Breast Cancer Awareness Ride - October 9, 2010
- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - October 9, 2010
- CIDER Walk - Right to Life Lifespan - October 16, 2010
- Great Michigan Race - October 17, 2010

The Commission began discussions on the 2010 Goals and Objectives

The Commission Approved the Commercial Advertising Use Policy, in response to the increased presence of the Film and Television Industry in Michigan.

The Commission discussed the possibility of cablecasting and/or cable streaming monthly meetings; ultimately, the Commission decided it was not financially feasible.

The City of Rochester began plans to replace bridge 31.6 (Dinosaur Hill) as a joint grant project with the Trailways Commission.

The Commission purchased a bike rack to be used at the Paint Creek Cider Mill for Trail users.

The Commission approved the launch of an official "Friends of the Paint Creek Trail" group, with an in-kind offer to help set up the 501 (c) (3) status.

The Commission had a presence at the Michigan Earthfest in Rochester on April 23-25, and was well received. Merchandise was sold, and many brochures were handed out.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Commission approved a "Mounted Patrol Water Access Project" at the Bjornstad property, near Adams Road, to allow equestrians access to drinking water.

The 2009 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA.

The Commission held its 13 annual National Trails Day event, in conjunction with the Oakland Township Native Plant Festival. Volunteers pulled 55 bags of invasive Garlic Mustard in Orion Township and Oakland Township.

The Commission began discussions with Oakland Township on a Pedestrian Bridge Grant Project, connecting the Trail to the Paint Creek Cider Mill south of Gallagher.

Orion Township started plans to re-surface the Bald Mountain connector, which will connect Paint Creek Ridge Subdivision with Bald Mountain and the Paint Creek Trail.

2011 Operations and Patrol Budget was approved, with a 2% decrease from 2010, and a 4% decrease from 2009.

One new recycled plastic bench was installed at the following location:

- Southwest of Adams Road, in memory of Jeffrey Brian Fortier

The Commission revised its Temporary Permit Fee structure, which gives non-profit organizations a discounted rate, in response to the many requests to waive fees.

The Commission discussed the implications of Woodman v Kera, a Michigan Supreme Court decision involving volunteer liability for Minors.

The Commission agreed to sponsor the Oak Routes Trail Network Map, a county-wide map showing trail, safety path, and road connections to parks and trails.

The fifth annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 6) with approximately 220 participants and volunteers. Route: Rochester Municipal Park north to Tienken, and Rochester Municipal Park north to Silver Bell and back. Participants were greeted with fudge.

Paint Creek Trail compass keychains and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Sponsored by Innovative Chiropractic.

After much discussion, the Commission agreed to move half of its meetings to the Paint Creek Cider Mill, to help north Oakland County Commissioners with a winter commute, and to secure meeting space for the months of January - March.

Trail Manager Myers developed a Trail outreach program to help educate local Scouting troops about the Trail.

Lake Orion DDA approached the Commission about extending the Trail into the Village of Lake Orion, near Lake Orion Lumber and the downtown business district. The Commission expressed full support of the conceptual plan, and offered any assistance necessary.

Due to spring damage potential, the Commission discussed the possibility of limiting equestrian access in the spring on the Trail. Ultimately, the Commission decided to watch the potential more closely for a season before limiting access.

The Commission approved the 2011 implementation of the Phase 3 Art Project.

An Encroachment Policy and Encroachment Removal Policy were adopted by the Commission.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission v. 1001 Services Inc. et al lawsuit was 95% completed, without a trial, protecting the Trail from adverse possession or acquiescence, and confirming the property boundaries so the Trail can remain completely open for public use.

2011

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - May 7, 2011
- Paint Creek Crawl - May 21, 2011
- Greyheart Greyhound Rescue - May 22, 2011

- Oakland Twp Parks - June 4, 2011
- Lake Orion Rotary Duathlon - July 16, 2011
- AdvoKate Run/Walk - August 6, 2011
- Camp Mak-A-Dream Cycling Event - August 21, 2011
- Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk - September 5, 2011
- Nat'l Alopecia Areata Foundation Walkathon - September 10, 2011
- Curamus Terram - September 17, 2011
- Rural Pearl of a Ride - September 24, 2011
- Brooksie Way - October 2, 2011
- Rochester Area Neighborhood House Walkathon - October 23, 2011

The Commission revised the Temporary Permit Policy for group activities and events.

The Commission approved an erosion control project for the Kollin Woods subdivision in Rochester Hills.

Trail Manager Myers gave community presentations to the Oakland Township Board of Trustees and the Rochester Hills City Council, showcasing accomplishments, goals, organizational information, and upcoming projects.

The Commission approved a contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol.

The Commission discussed developing a partnership with Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve for outreach and education projects.

The Commission began discussions on a new ADA Rule regarding Other Power Driven Mobility Devices.

Trail Manager Myers gave community presentations to the Orion Township Board of Trustees, the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Rochester City Council, showcasing accomplishments, goals, organizational information, and upcoming projects.

The Commission had a presence at the Growing Green Earthday Festival in Lake Orion on April 9, and was well received.

The Commission discussed improvement options to the snowplowing of Gunn Road over the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission approved funding half of Orion Township's archeological study of Bald Mountain Rec Area as part of the improvements to the Bald Mountain connector.

Due to damage to the trail surface, the Commission discussed limiting equestrian access in early spring. More study is needed.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Commission had a presence at the Green Living Festival in Rochester on May 13 - 15, and was well received. Merchandise was sold, and many brochures were distributed.

The Commission received a grant for \$1,500 from the Michigan chapter of Hostelling International for a Girl Scout program.

The First Annual Paint Creek Crawl Cycling event was held on May 21, 2011. A collaboration with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, over 100 riders participated in a "scavenger hunt" style event between Rochester and Lake Orion. Sponsored by Flagstar Bank, Dr. Ron Fried, Rochester Mills, Rochester Bike Shop, and Times Square Deli & Restaurant.

The Commission approved increases in License fees for utility companies that have a license agreement to cross trail property.

The personnel subcommittee's recommendations to the Commission regarding all regular and contract positions was approved.

2012 Operations and Patrol Budget was approved, with a no changes from the 2011 budget.

The 2010 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA.

The Commission approved a policy regarding Other Power Driven Mobility Devices.

Thanks to the City of Rochester Hills sign shop, new wayfinding signs were produced and installed at the corner of Gallagher Road and the Trail, directing visitors to the Cider Mill building and the Goodison Business District.

The Commission passed Resolution 11-001, in opposition to SB 499 which would limit the Commission's ability to enter into license agreements for right-of-way crossings.

The Commission discussed organizational and managerial goals for 2011 and 2012.

The Commission worked with adjacent landowners to work out an agreement for trail access utilizing a foot bridge.

The sixth annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" was held on Labor Day (Sept 5) with approximately 300 participants and volunteers, a 30% increase in participation from 2010. Route: Rochester Municipal Park north to Tienken, and Rochester Municipal Park north to Silverbell and back. Participants were greeted with fudge, Paint Creek Trail Media Holders and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Sponsored by Dr. Ron Fried and Dished Up Online pet dishes.

The Commission passed Resolution 11-002 regarding the plowing of the Gunn Road overpass and presented it to the Road Commission of Oakland County.

The Commission received a Bike Patrol Update and Report from David Moutrie.

After receiving a request from a trail user, the Commission approved a conceptual Tree Memorial Donation program, to be fine-tuned after more research.

The Trail Ordinance Subcommittee was formed to discuss updating our current ordinances.

The first official Girl Scout hike was conducted by Trail Manager Myers.

The Commission approved a new winter festival and sleigh ride for mid-winter 2012.

The Commission approval the submission of a Brooksie Way Mini-grant for the 2nd Annual Paint Creek Crawl.

Friends group board member Richard Kreuzkamp offered to assist the Commission in a trial cross-country skiing grooming program.

The Commission voted in opposition of Michigan SB499, a bill to amend 1994 PA 451, entitled "Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act," which would give telecommunications providers free access to install telecommunications facilities on state land.

The Commission approved a grant application submitted by the Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited that would repair three angler access points along the trail.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$92,041.

2012

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - May 12, 2012
- Paint Creek Crawl - May 12, 2012
- Greyheart Greyhound Rescue - May 20, 2012
- Ticker Trot for Cardiomyopathy – June 2, 2012
- AdvoKate Run/Walk - August 4, 2012
- Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk - September 3, 2012
- Brooksie Way – September 30, 2012
- Trek Breast Cancer Awareness Ride – October 14, 2012

The Commission established 2012 Goals & Objectives, and formed project specific subcommittees.

The Commission approved Resolution 12-002 in Opposition to SB 499, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, which would allow a utility company to cross or occupy state trail property without compensation.

The Commission approved the Oakland Township Pedestrian Bridge Concept at the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

A Conservation Stewardship Subcommittee was formed to prioritize goals for the trail.

The Commission approved a three year contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol Division for seasonal patrols of the trail.

The Commission approved Resolution 12-003 in support of Oakland Township's MNRTF Grant Application for a pedestrian bridge and restroom facility project, and granted an easement for the installation, construction, maintenance, and repair of the bridge.

Bike Patroller David Moutrie retired, after 6 years of service.

The Commission accepted a memorial tree donation in memory of Abe Amir, avid trail user. The tree was installed at the Tienken trailhead in Rochester Hills.

Lake Orion DDA moved forward with plans to connect the Paint Creek Trail further into downtown Lake Orion via Lake Orion Lumber property.

The Commission worked with Oakland Township to coordinate the Paint Creek/Polly Ann Connection on Adams Road.

The OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

Dennis VanStee was hired to replace David Moutrie as Bike Patroller.

The 2011 Audit was completed by Ramie Phillips, CPA.

The Second Annual Paint Creek Crawl Cycling event was held on May 12, 2012. A collaboration with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, 151 riders participated in a "scavenger hunt" style event between Rochester and Lake Orion. Over \$4,500 was raised for trail improvements.

The Commission worked successfully with an adjacent neighbor in Oakland Township to resolve a tree and brush dumping on trail property issue.

West Bay Exploration was granted approval for seismology testing along the Paint Creek Trail.

The Trail Surface Subcommittee was established to review and provide recommendations regarding the current state of the trail surface.

The Commission approved changes to the Uniform Trailways Ordinances to be sent to the member communities for consideration.

The Commission formalized an annual review of Trail Manager goals

2013 Operations and Patrol Budget was approved, with no changes from the 2011 or 2012 budgets.

The Commission approved an agreement with Oakland Township for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the Adams Road pathway as part of the Paint Creek/Polly Ann connection.

30,000 updated Trail brochures & maps were printed for distribution.

The Commission granted an easement to Oakland Township for the construction of the Paint Creek/Polly Ann Connector on Adams Road.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail donated a Bike Fixit Station to the trail. It is located at the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

Three Eagle Scout candidates presented proposals for trail projects. They include a Recycle Bin project, Brochure Box project, and Atwater Trailhead Development.

The seventh annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" was held on Labor Day (Sept 3) with approximately 220 participants and volunteers. Route: Rochester Municipal Park south to two locations on the Clinton River Trail. Participants were greeted with Fudge and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Sponsored by Dr. Ron Fried and Flagstar Bank.

The Commission began discussions with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation for parking lot development at the Marsh View connector on Orion Road.

The City of Rochester Hills repaired the three bridges between Tienken and Dutton, shutting down the trail temporarily. Structural issues were repaired, and rip rap was built in several locations.

The Clinton River Chapter of Trout Unlimited completed and Angler Access project at bridge 33.1 in Rochester Hills. Observation and eroded areas were repaired.

The Southeast Rochester subcommittee researched Commission property near Bloomer Park for development ideas. Part of a historic canal was discovered on Commission property.

Plans began on the 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan, with consultant services from livingLAB Detroit secured.

The Paint Creek Trail Bench Donation program was halted, due to reaching bench capacity.

The Commission began discussions on the David R. Moutrie Memorial Project, in memory of former bike patroller David Moutrie, who passed away unexpectedly in September.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held their first Wine Tasting event, raising over \$1,600 for trail improvements.

The Commission began discussing ideas on a new Memorial Program. Ideas included “Buy a Brick,” trees, and bridge naming.

The Commission approved a request from Flagstar Bank to install a “Sponsored by Flagstar Bank” plaque on the drinking fountain south of Gallagher.

The Recognition Subcommittee presented ideas for a Paint Creek Trail 30th Anniversary recognition program for 2013.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$90,606.

The Commission said good-bye to Attorney John G. Makris, who retired from the Commission as legal counsel after 31 years of service.

2013

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Cruisin’ for Trails – Motor City Brew Tours – April 27, 2013
- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - May 11, 2013
- Paint Creek Crawl - May 18, 2013
- Ticker Trot for Cardiomyopathy – June 1, 2013
- AdvoKate Run/Walk - August 3, 2013
- Tri Rails-to-Trails Ride – RAYA – August 10, 2013
- Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk - September 2, 2013
- Brooksie Way – September 29, 2013
- Trek Breast Cancer Awareness Ride – Rochester Bike Shop - October 13, 2013

The Commission received a presentation from the Clinton River Trail Look & Feel Project committee, and discussed plans to coordinate improvements on PCTC property in southeast Rochester.

Attorney Dan Kelly agreed to provide pro bono legal services to the Commission.

The Commission elected officers for 2013: David Becker, Chairman; Rock Blanchard, Vice-Chairman; Andy Zale, Secretary; Alice Young, Treasurer.

The Commission discussed goals and objectives for 2013, including a 30th Anniversary Celebration and the Recreation Master Plan update

The Commission began plans for the 30th Anniversary Celebration for October 2013

The Commission approved a contract with Ramie E. Phillips, Jr. CPA for the 2012 Financial Audit.

The Southeast Rochester Subcommittee continued research on the Commission parcels and the history of the Clinton Kalamazoo Canal that has remnants on Commission property.

Trail Manager Myers began updates to the Recreation Master Plan.

The Commission researched and discussed financial audit requirements and agreed to create a Request for Proposals for Audit Services for the 2013 fiscal year.

The Commission held focus group meetings with local parks and recreation staff, maintenance departments, and Downtown Development Authorities regarding improvement plans for the Trail and ideas for the 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan.

A Paint Creek Trail User Survey was promoted and distributed to gain ideas and input regarding current thoughts and future trail improvements for the 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan.

The Commission added the Pledge of Allegiance to the beginning of each Commission meeting.

Dennis VanStee and the OCSO Mounted Patrol returned for another successful patrol season.

The Third Annual Paint Creek Crawl Cycling event was held on May 18, 2013. A collaboration with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, riders participated in a "scavenger hunt" style event between Rochester and Lake Orion. Over \$2,500 was raised for trail improvements.

The City of Rochester Hills agreed to produce a trail history video as an in-kind service to the Commission. The video includes interviews with trail founders and will be shown at the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

The Commission approved Eagle Scout Candidate Kyle Kutchek's plans for five Recycle bins that will be placed along the trail.

An open, public workshop was held on May 9 to gather input from trail users and our communities for the 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan. The workshop was facilitated by LivingLAB planners.

The 2012 Audit was completed by Ramie E. Phillips, Jr, CPA.

A Trail Restrooms Subcommittee was established to review and provide recommendations regarding potential restroom facilities and locations.

The Commission approved a Limited Use Permit for a private pedestrian bridge on trail property in Rochester Hills.

2014 Operations and Patrol Budgets were approved, with no revenue changes from our member communities (fourth year in a row).

The Commission approved a request from NonFiction Unlimited for a Commercial Advertising Use Permit to film a commercial on the trail between Tienken and Dutton.

The Commission began discussions with Oakland Township regarding potential trail parking development at the Marshview Connector property along Orion Road.

In response to an increase in vandalism, the Commission approved the purchase of surveillance “cameras” for the trail.

The Clinton Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited completed an Angler Access improvement project along the trail near the Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve (north of Ludlow) in Rochester. Observation and eroded areas were repaired.

The Atwater Trailhead Development project was completed with a bench donation and landscaping improvements.

The Commission worked with the DNR regarding Oil & Gas Lease Rights on trail property in Rochester. Concerned about damage to the trail, the Commission successfully lobbied the DNR to classify trail property as “Leasable, Non-Development” to protect the integrity of the trail.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held a 2014 Calendar Photo Contest to produce a commemorative calendar for the 30th Anniversary of the Paint Creek Trail.

The eighth annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 2) with approximately 150 participants and volunteers. Participants were greeted with Fudge and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Sponsored by Dr. Ron Fried Chiropractic & Wellness Center.

The Commission began discussions regarding the potential expansion of parking at Dutton and Livernois.

Attorney Nick Schroeck, from the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, agreed to provide pro bono legal services to the Commission, after Attorney Dan Kelly had to resign due to a conflict of interest.

The Commission approved a RFP – Audit Services for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

The Commission approved the first draft of the 2014-2018 Recreation Master Plan.

In honor of the 30th Anniversary of the trail, the Commission provided the Rochester Hills Public Library with artifacts, photos, and information about the trail for a month-long exhibit in one of the display cases.

On October 12, the Commission held a 30th Anniversary Celebration titled “Paint Creek Trail – Connecting our Communities Since 1983”. The Celebration was open to the public and included Trail Chats along the trail at points of interest, the premiere of the trail history video, a recognition ceremony, live entertainment, free cider & donuts, and the sale of commemorative trail tech shirts and 2014 calendars. Approximately 250 people attended.

The Commission began discussions with Oakland Township Parks & Recreation regarding improvements to Bridge 33.7.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held their second Wine Tasting event, raising over \$1,100 for trail improvements.

The Commission held a Public Hearing on the 2014-2018 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan.

The Resurfacing Subcommittee continued inspection of the trail surface for areas in need of improvement.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$100,170

The Commission maintained a positive presence on Facebook in 2013, with 2,786 followers

2014

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Cruisin' for Trails – Motor City Brew Tours – April 26, 2014
- Hometown Hustle - RCS Foundation - May 10, 2014
- Ticker Trot for Cardiomyopathy – May 31, 2014
- Paint Creek Crawl – June 7, 2014
- Crittenton Foundation 5K – June 14, 2014
- Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk - September 1, 2014
- Crossroads Pregnancy Center Bike-a-thon – September 13, 2014
- Brooksie Way – September 28, 2014
- Michigan Nature Association – 5K Run/Walk – October 5, 2014
-

The Commission discusses goals and objectives for 2014.

The Commission began an evaluation of the Trail Surface.

The Commission approved the 2014-2018 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan.

Trail Manager Myers re-designed and launched the Commission's website,
<http://www.paintcreektrail.org>.

The Commission began discussions on implementing a Summer Internship Program.

The Paint Creek Trail expanded their social media presence by joining Twitter.

The Commission discussed the pros and cons of grooming the Trail for cross country skiing.

The Commission researched a land acquisition opportunity along the trail.

The Commission finalized their Summer Internship Program and advertised the position.

The Commission received a presentation from Spalding DeDecker and Oakland Township Parks & Recreation regarding the rehabilitation or replacement of Bridge 33.7 south of Silver Bell.

The Southeast Rochester Development subcommittee continued researching the Clinton/Kalamazoo Canal with the help of former Commissioner Bruce Austin.

Dennis VanStee returned for another successful bike patrol season.

The 2013 Financial audit was completed by Ramie E. Phillips, Jr, CPA.

The Commission hired livingLAB to create a Pathway Concept Design along the Trail north of Tienken and west of Kings Cove Condominiums.

The Commission approved a policy on voting alternates.

The Fourth Annual Paint Creek Crawl Cycling event was held on June 7, 2014 at Children's Park in Lake Orion. A collaboration with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, riders participated in a "Poker-Ride" style event between Rochester and Lake Orion. Over \$4,000 was raised for trail improvements.

The Girl Scout Trail Ambassador program was launched to teach local girl scouts about the trail and trail etiquette.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Office Mounted Patrol returned for another successful season.

2015 Operations and Patrol Budgets were approved, with a 3% revenue increase from our member communities (first increase in five years).

Eagle Scout Candidate Mike Alspach was recognized for his contribution to the trail with his Trail Brochure Box project.

The Commission began discussions with the DNR, Oakland Township, and Orion Township regarding a Kern Road connector with the Paint Creek Trail and Polly Ann Trail.

The Commission reviewed and approved the Pathway Concept Design plan produced by livingLAB that will assist in developing a ¼ mile educational/interpretive pathway north of Tienken.

The ninth annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" was held on Labor Day (Sept 1) with approximately 200 participants and volunteers. Participants were greeted with Fudge and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion.

The Commission began discussions regarding a future Trail User Survey to update the survey conducted by MSU in 2004.

The Commission partnered with Orion Township to increase maintenance of the vault restroom at Clarkston/Kern Road by contracting with Turner Sanitation in Lake Orion.

The Commission approved an easement with three property owners in Oakland Township, to facilitate a property purchase by Orion Township. The easement ensures their property access across trail right-of-way.

The Commission approved a Management Contract with the City of Rochester. The contract allows for Commission management of a section of trail owned by the City of Rochester, and ensures any and all future capital improvements to the trail will include the section.

The Commission discussed and gave preliminary approval for a 2015 Trail Etiquette Program.

The Commission received comment and began discussions with Oakland Township regarding the use of herbicides on the trail.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held their third Wine Tasting event, raising over \$700 for trail improvements.

The Commission considered an RFP for Legal Services, for issues that are beyond the scope of their current pro-bono attorney.

The Commission updated and revised their Temporary Use Permit Guidelines and Application policy, allowing for administrative approval of some applications to streamline the process.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail donated and installed a drinking fountain at the Tienken trailhead in Rochester Hills, with help from the City of Rochester, City of Rochester Hills, and the Back to the Beach Runners.

The Commission approved their 2015 Meeting Schedule.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$92,915.

The Commission approved holding the June, July, and August 2015 Meetings at Orion Township Hall on a trial basis to televise meetings through ONTV.

The Commission elected officers for 2015.

The Commission approved a Streambank Stabilization Project Agreement with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation to repair three areas along the trail and creek in Oakland Township that has significant erosion caused by logjams.

The Commission maintained a positive social media presence with 3,224 Facebook followers (a 15% increase from 2013) and 177 Twitter followers.

2015

The Commission approved 12 Temporary Use Permits for the following events, an increase of 25% from 2014:

- Rochester College SNA- Run SNA- March 23, 2015
- Frank Race Management- Run Michigan Cheap- April 25, 2015
- RARA- Earth Day 5k Fun Run- April 26, 2015 (Admin Approval)
- Cruisin' for the Trails- Motor City Brew Tours (3rd year)- May 2, 2015 (Admin Approval)
- Hometown Hustle- Rochester Community Schools Foundation- May 9, 2015 (Admin Approval)
- A Beautiful Mind 5K Run/Walk- American Liberty Financial- June 20, 2015
- Frank Race Management- Run Michigan Cheap- June 27, 2015
- Women's Health Run 10 Feed 10- Sept 19, 2015
- Crossroads Pregnancy Center- Bike for Life 2015- Sept 26, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Brooksie Way – September 27, 2015 (Admin Approval)
- Michigan Nature Association- Rattle Snake Run- October 11, 2015 (Admin Approval)
- CCC 5K Run/Walk- November 7, 2015

The Commission discussed goals and objectives for 2015.

Trail Manager Myers crafted a Request for Proposal for Attorney Services.

Trail Manager Myers presented a Cost Estimate and Concept Design Map for the Tienken Educational Side Path.

The Commission set 2015 goals for the Trail.

The Commission began discussions on a Trail User Survey.

The Commission completed 2015 Subcommittee Assignments.

The Commission approved job descriptions and funding for positions of Bike Patroller and Administrative Assistant.

The Commission approved the Oakland County Sheriff Office Mounted Patrol Contract.

The Commission discussed and approved a Trail etiquette program which included distributing 300 free bicycle bells.

Trail Manager Myers met with Trail maintenance staff from each member community to discuss maintenance issues and coordinate for the year.

The Commission discussed maintenance and vandalism issues at the Clarkston/Kern Restroom.

Trail Manager Myers presented seven proposals in response to an RFP for As-Needed Attorney services.

The Commission approved hiring of Dave Boboltz as Bike Patroller and Chris Gray as Administrative Assistant.

The Commission approved hiring of Foster, Swift, Collins & Smith PC, with Ms. Lisa Hamameh as lead attorney, for As-Needed Legal Services.

The Commission approved a Vandalism Action Program for the Clarkston/Kern restroom.

The Commission discussed For-Profit use of the Trail.

The Commission approved the concept of the Cider Mill pathway connector improvements.

The 3rd Annual "Cruisin' for the Trails" fundraiser by Motor City Brew Tours raised \$3,500 for Paint Creek Trail improvements.

The Fourth Annual Paint Creek Crawl Cycling event was held on June 6, 2014 at Children's Park in Lake Orion to celebrate National Trails Day. A collaboration with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, riders participated in a "Poker-Ride" style event between Rochester and Lake Orion. Over \$6,500 was raised for trail improvements.

The Commission honored Ravi Yalamanchi, Alice Young and Dennis Van Stee for their years of service to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

The Commission received an update from Lt. Dan Toth of the Orion Substation of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office on the vandalism enforcement action in the Clarkston/Kern area.

The 2014 Financial Audit Report was approved by the Commission.

The Commission began a 3 month trial period of meeting at Orion Township Hall to televise Commission meetings via ONTV.

The Commission approved the extension of the Administrative Assistant position thru the end of 2015.

The Commission discussed the treatment of Invasive Phragmites present on the Trail.

The Oakland County Sheriff Office Mounted Patrol returned for a successful season.

The Commission approved the 2016 Budget of \$98,854.

The Commission approved the Paint Creek Cider Mill Connector, which will connect the Paint Creek Trail to Orion Road and the Paint Creek Cider Mill near Flagstar Bank.

The Commission approved Orion Township's treatment of phragmites.

The tenth annual "Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk" was held on Labor Day (Sept 7) with approximately 400 participants and volunteers. Participants were greeted with Fudge and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. The Friends group provided nylon backpacks, LED flashlights and water bottle lanyards to commemorate the event.

The Commission began discussions regarding Commission Trail events for 2016.

The Commission discussed a Naming Policy for the Trail.

Trail staff and Chairman Becker met with residents of King's Cove Condominiums in Rochester Hills to review and receive input on the Tienken pathway project. Residents strongly support the project and look forward to working with us.

The Commission received an update on the development of the Southeast Rochester Property.

The Commission approved purchase of a computer tablet for the Trail Office.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail installed a Bike Fix-it Station at the Tienken Trailhead.

The Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held their fourth Wine Tasting event, raising over \$1,000 for trail improvements.

The Commission discussed the 2015 Meeting Schedule.

The Commission approved 2016 events, including a Garlic Mustard Pull stewardship workday on National Trails Day (June 4) and the annual Labor Day Bridge Walk/Run.

The Trail Manager received her biannual performance review.

The Commission began discussions on 2016 Phragmites removal program.

The Commission improved their social media presence by adding Instagram, with the username PaintCreekTrail.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$96,962.

The Commission maintained a positive social media presence with 4,049 Facebook followers (a 25% increase from 2014) and 298 Twitter followers.

The Commission discussed reducing the number of Commission meetings per year.

2016

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Frank Race Management- Run Michigan Cheap- April 23, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- RARA- Earth Day 5k Fun Run- April 24, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Cruisin' for the Trails- Motor City Brew Tours (4rd year)- May 7, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Hometown Hustle- Rochester Community Schools Foundation- May 7, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Frank Race Management- Run Michigan Cheap- July 16, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Ride to End Suicide Bike Event- August 27, 2016
- Gears and Beers Bike Ride and Pub Crawl- September 10, 2016
- Crossroads Pregnancy Center Bike for Life 2016- September 16, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Brooksie Way – September 25, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Michigan Nature Association- Rattle Snake Run- October 1, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- Women's Health Run 10 Feed 10- October 2, 2016 (Admin Approval)
- PLEA Foundation Family Walk and Fun Run- October 8, 2016
- CCC Angels of Hope Walk/Fun Run- October 15, 2016 (Admin Approval)

The Commission discussed goals and objectives for 2016.

The Commission approved submission of the MNRTF grant application for Bridge 33.7 renovation.

The Commission approved the Temporary Construction Easement for Trail Extension into Lake Orion.

The Commission discussed reducing the number of monthly PCTC meetings.

The Commission adopted Resolution #2016-01 to Provide Assistance to the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission approved National Trails Day 2016- Garlic Mustard Pull budget.

The Commission discussed job descriptions for the Trail Manager and Administrative Assistant.

A Public Hearing for the MNRTF Grant Application, Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation was held.

The Commission approved Resolution #2016-02 authorizing submission of MNRTF Grant Application, Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation.

The Commission approved the Reaffirmation of Understanding: Maintenance & In-Kind Services for member communities.

2016 Commission Advisory Committee Assignments were established.

The Commission approved Resolution #2016-03 in support of the Oakland County Road Commission TAP Grant Application- Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation.

The Commission discussed televising Commission Meetings.

The Commission approved amended job descriptions for the Trail Manager and Administrative Assistant.

The Commission continued discussing televising Commission Meetings.

Chairperson Becker presented a preliminary Southeast Rochester Property Report. The Commission and staff made a site visit to the Southeast Rochester Property parcel.

The 4th Annual “Cruisin’ for the Trails” fundraiser by Motor City Brew Tours raised \$6,600 for Paint Creek Trail improvements.

Ms. Myers updated the Commission on the upcoming National Trails Day Garlic Mustard Pull.

The Commission approved Ms. Myers issuing an RFP for concept design of the Southeast Rochester Property.

Ms. Myers presented to 2015 Financial Audit to the Commission. The Commission approved the Audit as presented.

Ms. Myers reported a very successful National Trails Day Garlic Mustard pull: 50 volunteers pulled 114 large trash bags totaling 3,420lbs of invasive plants.

Commission approved changing the Administrative Assistant job title to Assistant Trail Manager.

The Commission approved the Assistant Trail Manager’s salary recommendation as presented by the Trail Manager.

The Commission discussed a draft RFP for the 2016 Audit.

The Oakland County Sheriff Office Mounted Patrol returned for a successful season.

The Commission discussed three Concept Design Plan Proposals submitted for the Southeast Rochester Property.

The Commission discussed and approved 50 % of the cost share of the MNRTF Grant Application Disability Workshop.

The Commission approved issuance of the 2016 Audit Request for Proposal as presented.

The Commission approved the 2017 Draft Budget.

The eleventh annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 5) with approximately 400 participants and volunteers. Participants were greeted with Fudge and water at the Kiwanis Pavilion. Waterproof cell phone caddies were distributed to participants to commemorate the event. Over \$1,100.00 was raised by ‘suggestion donation’ for Trail improvements.

The Commission approved the contract for the Southeast Rochester Concept Design Plan Services with Design Team +.

The Commission approved contracting with Gabridge & Company for one year for the 2016 Financial Audit.

The Commission received and approved several improvement recommendations from the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group.

The Commission discussed improvements to the Paint Creek Trail map/brochure for the next printing.

The Commission received and approved a request to renegotiate the license agreement terms with AT & T for five crossings along the trail.

The Cider Mill Connector was officially opened by the Oakland Township Safety Paths and Trails Committee, connecting the trail to the Cider Mill via a new pathway next to Flagstar Bank.

The Commission approved Resolution #2016-04 establishing the 2017 Meeting Schedule.

The Girl Scouts presented a proposal to establish an “Adopt-a-Trail” program. The Commission approved the plan for a two year trial run.

Design Team+ presented their draft Concept Design Plan for the Southeast Rochester Property. Comments and suggestions were received to be incorporated into the final plan.

The Commission approved four official events for 2017: 5th Annual Cruisin’ for the Trails cycling event in May, “Tails for Trails” dog/pet event for National Trails Day in June, 12th Annual Labor Day Bridge Walk in September, and the 6th annual Paint Creek Crawl in late September or early October.

The Commission improved their social media presence by adding Instagram, with the username PaintCreekTrail.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$97,087.

The Commission maintained a positive social media presence with 4,726 Facebook followers (a 16.7% increase from 2015), 246 Instagram followers, and 446 Twitter followers (an increase of 49.8% from 2015).

The Commission approved the Southeast Rochester Concept Design Plan created by Design Team + from Birmingham, Michigan.

The Commission approved Resolution #2016-05 To Encourage finalization of the Land Exchange Case (No. 2012-0191) between Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Charter Township of Orion.

2017

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Run Michigan Cheap – April 23, 2017 – (Admin Approval)
- Cruisin’ for the Trails – Motor City Brew Tours – May 6, 2017 (Admin Approval)

- Hometown Hustle – RCS Foundation – May 13, 2017 (Admin Approval)
- Run Michigan Cheap – July 16, 2017 – (Admin Approval)
- Crossroads Care Center Cycling Event – September 16, 2017 (Admin approval)
- Michigan Nature Association 5K Run – September 17, 2017 (Admin Approval)
- MI Adventure Club – Fall Challenge Race – September 23, 2017 (Approval)
- Lole Women’s Health Run 10 Feed 10 – September 24, 2017 (Admin Approval)
- Brooksie Way – September 24, 2017 (Approval)
- P.L.E.A Foundation – 5K Run – September 30, 2017 (Admin Approval)
- KUKA Cares Family Bike Ride – October 1, 2017 (Approval)
- Orion Fire Fighter’s Association – 5K – October 7, 2017 (Approval)
- CCC – 5K Run – October 14, 2017 (Admin approval)

The Commission started the year excited about the \$756,200 Bridge 33.7 Renovation Project, being funded with a \$300,000 MNRTF grant, a \$300,000 TAP Grant, and a \$156,200 match from Oakland Township Parks and Recreation.

The Commission discussed goals and objectives for 2017, including the impact of the Bridge 33.7 project.

The Commission approved recommended improvements to the SE Rochester property, including the addition of an observation deck, installation of water gauge, pathway, and benches.

The Commission approved the nominations and elected the Paint Creek Trailways Commission Officer positions.

The Commission discussed & approved several recommendations from the Trail Improvements Ad-Hoc Committee, including new bench locations along the trail.

The Commission discussed a memorial for former PCTC attorney and Commissioner John G. Makris.

The Commission approved a two-year contract with the Oakland County Sheriff’s Mounted & Bicycle Patrol.

The Commission approved a new Trout Unlimited Angler Access stair project near the Gallagher Road trailhead.

The Commission discussed & approved project recommendations from the Trail Branding Ad-Hoc Committee, including a logo contest, and the purchase of additional trail brochures.

The Commission prioritized 2017 Commission goals, and recommended timelines. This included a “Tails for Trails” National Trails Day event.

The Commission discussed development of a Paint Creek Trail Smart Phone App to reach trail users and provide map, parking, event, and mileage information.

The Commission approved contracting with attorney Hamameh to develop a joint agreement between Oakland Twp Parks and Rec and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission for the Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation project.

The Commission discussed ideas for a future Memorial Policy for the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission approved an application for Google Trekker for use on the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission discussed Orion Township maintenance concerns with regards to vandalism and restroom maintenance, and developed a plan to address them.

With recent legal changes to the practice, the Commission approved contracting with attorney Hamameh for the development of an updated and official Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) policy.

The Commission approved the Joint Agreement with Oakland Twp Parks and Rec Commission for the Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation.

The Commission approved the formation of an ad-hoc committee to explore options of adding the Village of Lake Orion as a full voting member, with the upcoming trail extension project.

The Commission approved Resolution #2017-001: FOIA Procedures and Guidelines.

The Commission approved the Paint Creek Trail Logo Design Contest Guidelines, prize levels, and promotion ideas.

The first Paint Creek Trail Adopt-A-Trail Program workday was held on Earth day, April 22. Four volunteer groups picked up trash and recyclable materials in four major sections of trail.

The Commission approved an RFP Design Build Services for the Paint Creek Trail Observation Deck in the SE Rochester property for distribution.

Ms. Myers presented the draft 2016 Audit report, prepared by Gabridge & Company.

The first Little Free Library (LFL) was installed near the Paint Creek Trail picnic site south of Gallagher Road. The LFL will be maintained by the Rochester Hills Public Library.

The Commission discussed the Oakland County Local Government Investment Pool.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held the 5th Annual “Cruisin’ for the Trails” fundraiser by Motor City Brew Tours. The event was a success and raised \$5,300 for Paint Creek Trail improvements.

Ms. Gray and the Commission finalized plans for the first “Tails for Trails” event in June.

Bike Patroller Boboltz and the Oakland County Mounted Patrol returned to start another successful patrol season.

The first “Tails for Trails” event was held on National Trails Day. Approximate 100 trail users and their dogs attended and participated in several events, including a costume contest and dog parade on the trail. Trail etiquette information was also distributed and training demonstrations were provided.

The Commission discussed a 2nd draft of the 2016 Audit.

The Village of Lake Orion ad-hoc committee continued making progress on recommendations to for the Village’s potential voting membership on the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Commission approved the Engineering Design Services RFP for the Bridge 33.7 Renovation.

Ms. Myers provided an update on the RFP Design Build for the Observation Deck in the SE Rochester property.

The Commission and staff made a site visit to Trail Bridge 33.7, to receive an overview of the structural deficiencies and current concerns with the bridge. An engineer provided visual explanations.

The Commission discussed a footbridge encroachment and the consideration of a limited use permit for adjacent homeowner access.

The Commission approved the Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk and Run, with Commissioners providing event support, sponsor development, and volunteer recruitment services.

The Commission approved the 2016 Audit.

Based on feedback from the first distribution, the Commission approved a Revised Design Build Observation Deck RFP for distribution.

Ms. Myers gave an update on the RFP Engineering Design Services – Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation. Nine firms attended a mandatory pre-proposal meeting and site visit to gain a clearer understanding of the project scope.

The Commission met jointly with Oakland Twp Parks and Recreation Commission on Bridge 33.7 Renovation. The Commission approved selection of Mannik & Smith Group in Monroe, Michigan, for Engineering Design Services for Bridge 33.7 Renovation.

The Commission approved the Paint Creek Trail Logo Design Contest winners.

The Commission authorized the purchase of a new office computer, to replace an obsolete 9 year old desktop for the Assistant Trail Manager.

The Commission discussed the 2018 Draft Budget.

The Commission approved Resolution #2017-002, a Resolution Regarding the Development of Property, and accepting the terms of the Bridge 33.7 Renovation Grant Project Agreement through the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund.

The 12th annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 4) with approximately 400 participants and volunteers. \$1,441 was raised through the suggested donation program, and was given to the Rochester Community Schools PTA “Bike Lids for Kids” program.

The Commission received a gift of framed photographs of a Penn Central train that used the current trail property in the 1970’s. Thomas Wolf, of Orion Township, presented the gift. In addition, he and two more musicians played a mini-concert of trail related songs for the Commission and public to celebrate the presentation of the gift.

The Commission approved an RFP for the 2017 Audit.

Seven new benches were installed along the Paint Creek Trail. Locations included: one at the north end of the Dinosaur Hill entrance in Rochester, four in Oakland Township (one near bridge 34, one

near the Wet Prairie north of Silver Bell, one south of Adams, and one north of Adams), and two benches in Orion Township at the Foley Pond Observation deck.

Ms. Myers provided a progress report on the Bridge 33.7 Bridge Renovation design engineering.

Orion Township, the Department of Natural Resources, MDEQ, Clinton River Watershed Council, and the Commission worked together on the Rudd's Mill Dam Remnants removal project on Bald Mountain property near Clarkston and Kern Roads. With the generous donation of equipment and personnel by local contractors, the large graffiti covered concrete dam remnants were removed from the Paint Creek, helping to protect the ecological integrity of the water, and removing an "attraction" that encouraged vandalism.

Ms. Myers provided an update to the Commission on Orion Township and the Village of Lake Orion's Trail projects and Village of Lake Orion membership.

The Commission and the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission considered five options for the Bridge 33.7 renovation. Subsequently, both groups agreed on the prefabricated truss option.

The Commission approved Mannik Smith Group's resurfacing engineering estimate for the Trail. Engineering will include the new observation deck in southeast Rochester, new trail and side path in southeast Rochester, and the Tienken educational pathway surface.

The Commission approved a five-year auditing contract with Mr. Ramie Philips, CPA.

The Commission approved closing the Clarkston/Kern vault restroom for the winter season December 2017 through April 1, 2018.

The Commission approved the 2018 budget.

A second "Adopt-A-Trail" workday weekend was held, with 8 groups cleaning up various sections of the trail.

The Commission approved a Limited Use Permit for the Franklin Footbridge near Orion and Adams Roads.

The Commission approved Resolution #2017-003, establishing the 2018 Meeting Schedule.

The Commission approved Resolution #2017-004, establishing the 2018 Adopt A Trail clean up dates.

The Commission and the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission approved the Keystone Vehicular (Open Truss) style of bridge, with IPE (Brazilian hardwood) decking for Bridge 33.7. Discussions continued regarding a weathering steel versus galvanized finish.

Ms. Myers provided a progress report on the Bridge 33.7 Bridge Renovation design engineering, including finish and design options.

Chairman Becker provided a progress report regarding the Village of Lake Orion's membership on the Commission.

The Commission approved the event concept for National Trails Day in the Lake Orion area in 2018. A ribbon cutting, family walk on the trail, free craft, a recognition ceremony, and potential free lunch for participants are tentatively planned.

The Commission and the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission approved the design of Bridge 33.7, which will include the Keystone Vehicular style, with IPE decking, and a weathered steel finish with additional steel and corrosion allowance.

The Commission discussed new Electric Bicycle Legislation that was recently signed into law.

The Commission mourned the death of former Trailways Commissioner, and founding member, Richard “Dick” Schultz, who passed away at the age of 80.

The Commission approved a final amended budget of \$100,457

The Commission approved the “Paint Creek Trail Signage” grant application to the Michigan Iron Belle Trail Grant Program for \$25,000.

The Commission maintained a positive social media presence with 5,367 Facebook followers (a 13.5% increase from 2016), 521 Instagram followers (a 17.8% increase from 2016), and 286 Twitter followers (an increase of 18% from 2016).

2018

The Commission approved Temporary Use Permits for the following events:

- Run Michigan Cheap – April 23, April 29, May 19, 2018 – (Admin Approval)
- Cruisin’ for the Trails – Motor City Brew Tours – May 5, 2018 (Admin Approval)
- Hometown Hustle – RCS Foundation – May 12, 2018 (Admin Approval)
- Michigan Nature Association 5K Run – June 30, 2018 (Admin Approval)
- Orion Arts Center Dragon on the Lake 5k – August 25, 2018 (Approval)
- Gears and Beers Benefit for Jenna Kast Foundation – Sept 8, 2018 (Admin Approval)
- CCC – A Mother’s Wish 5K Run – September 15, 2018 (Admin approval)
- Crossroads Walkathon – September 22, 2018 (Admin approval)
- MI Adventure Club – Fall Challenge Race – September 23, 2017 (Approval)
- Brooksie Way – September 24, 2018 (Approval)
- Orion Fire Fighter’s Association – 5K – September 29, 2018 (Approval)

The Commission discussed goals and objectives for 2017, including the impact of the Bridge 33.7 project.

The Commission approved the nominations and elected the Paint Creek Trailways Commission Officer positions.

The Commission discussed & approved Ad-Hoc Committee appointments.

The Commission discussed Class 1 Electric bicycle use on the Trail.

The Commission approved the 2017 Financial Audit.

The Commission discussed the Cider Mill GatewayProject/Moutrie Project.

The Commission received an update from the Limited Use Permit Ad-Hoc Committee.

The Commission approved Resolution #2018-001 in support of Oakland Township's application to Michigan Natural Trust Fund for the Paint Creek Junction along the trail.

The Commission held a public hearing for Class 1, Class 2, Class 3 Electric Bikes on the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission received a recommendation from the Ad Hoc Committee and discussed the Village of Lake Orion Extension.

The Commission approved the Application for Limited Use Permit for Private Access to the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission approved the use of Class 1 and Class 2 Electric Bicycles on the Paint Creek Trail.

The Commission approved Resolution #2018-002 to recognize the Village of Lake Orion as a Paint Creek Trail Community.

The Commission approved the communication plan and the 2018 Paint Creek Trail newsletter to be sent to neighbors along the trail.

The Commission approved plans for the 2018 National Trails Day Recognition Ceremony held on June 2, 2018.

The Commission received an update on the Bridge 33.7 Renovation Bid Letting. The bids received were higher than anticipated, the Commission voted to reject the lowest bid.

The Commission approved the Limited Use Permit Application and Procedures.

The Commission approved the Iron Belle Trail Grant project agreement and agreed to the Department of Natural Resources Memorandum of Understanding.

Friends of the Paint Creek Trail held the 6th Annual "Cruisin' for the Trails" fundraiser by Motor City Brew Tours. The event was a success and raised \$5,000.00 for Paint Creek Trail improvements.

The Commission approved the Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk and Run, with Commissioners providing event support, sponsor development, and volunteer recruitment services.

Ms. Meyers provided an update of the National Trails Day Recognition Ceremony to be held on June 2, 2018.

The Commission approved the hiring of Dan Butterworth as part time seasonal Bike Patroller.

The Commission approved the establishment of a speed limit of 15mph on the Paint Creek Trail.

The Village of Lake Orion ad-hoc committee continued making progress on recommendations for the Village's potential voting membership on the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

The Commission and staff made a site visit to the Cider Mill Gateway Project site, to receive an overview of proposed plans for development of the site.

The Commission had a joint special meeting with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss the Bridge 33.7 project bids.

Ms. Meyers gave an update on the development of property on Letica Drive in Rochester and proposed trailhead improvements on the Clinton River Trail near the Paint Creek Trail SE Rochester property.

Ms. Myers announced her resignation as Trail Manager. The Commission discussed filling the Trail Manager and Recording Secretary positions.

The Commission received an update from the Personnel Ad Hoc Committee.

The Commission discussed an area of the trail near Bridge 33.7, which has been experiencing a void below the surface.

The Commission approved a Limited Use Access Permit request.

The 13th annual “Paint Creek Trail Virtual Bridge Walk” was held on Labor Day (Sept 3) with approximately 400 participants and volunteers. \$1,500 was raised through the suggested donation program towards bridge replacement project expenses.

The Commission received an update on Resurfacing from Mannik Smith Group.

The Commission received an update from the Personnel Ad Hoc Committee.

The Commission had a joint special meeting with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission approved a revision option and design engineering costs for rebidding Bridge 33.7.

The Commission introduced and welcomed Melissa Ford as the new Paint Creek Trail Manager.

The Commission discussed the 2019 draft budget.

A third “Adopt-A-Trail” workday weekend was held, with 8 groups cleaning up various sections of the trail.

The Commission approved the 2019 Trailways budget.

The Commission discussed the Oakland County Sheriff’s Mounted Patrol Contract.

The Commission discussed the Engineer’s Opinion of Costs for the Trail Resurfacing project to be completed in 2019.

The Commission passed a motion to reduce the number of Paint Creek Trailways Commission meetings per year to ten.

The Commission maintained a positive social media presence with 5,828 Facebook followers, (an increase of 143 since September 2018), 409 Instagram followers, (an increase of 68 since September 2018) and 653 Twitter followers, (an increase of 20 since September 2018).

2019

Summary of Events compiled by Alice Tomboulion, Trail Coordinator 1981 – 1990, Linda Gorecki, Trailways Coordinator 1991 – 1997, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager 2003-2018, Chris Gray, Assistant Trail Manager, 2015-Present.

City of Rochester
Charter Township of Avon
Townships of Oakland and Orion
Agreement to Establish Trailways Commission

THIS AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the City of Rochester, the Charter Township of Avon, the Township of Oakland and the Township of Orion, for the purpose of establishing and providing for the powers and duties of the Trailways Commission, hereinafter COMMISSION, pursuant M.C.L.A. 124.501 et.seq.

SECTION 1: PURPOSE

The COMMISSION is hereby created as a separate public corporation, with the powers, functions and duties provided in this agreement, for the purpose of owning, exercising right of dominion over, developing, providing, maintaining and operating certain non-motorized public trails for recreational use within the jurisdiction of MEMBER UNITS.

SECTION 2: MEMBERSHIP

MEMBER UNITS to the COMMISSION shall be those local governments who are signatories to this agreement. The COMMISSION shall be considered an established public corporation when two local governments of the local governments named above have entered into this agreement. Subsequent to the effective date of the COMMISSION, other local governments, whether or not named above, may become MEMBER UNITS by entering into this agreement. The COMMISSION may require, as a condition of membership, a fair share contribution agreement between the COMMISSION and any proposed MEMBER UNIT, if the COMMISSION determines that such agreement is necessary to provide fair allocation of costs among present and proposed MEMBER UNITS. All local governments who are signatories to this agreement shall have full MEMBER UNIT status in accordance with this agreement. This agreement and any agreement entered into or obligation incurred by any MEMBER UNIT in accordance with this agreement, shall be binding upon that MEMBER UNIT'S successor in interest, if any.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

SECTION 3: GOVERNANCE

COMMISSION

1. The COMMISSION shall be composed of two (2) commissioners from each MEMBER UNIT. The governing board of each MEMBER UNIT shall, by resolution, appoint its two commissioners, one of which shall be a member of the appointing governing board.
2. At least once every four years, each MEMBER UNIT shall certify to the COMMISSION the persons appointed pursuant to paragraph 1.
3. Commissioners shall serve at the pleasure of their MEMBER UNIT and may be removed by resolution of their MEMBER UNIT governing board at any time with or without cause. Commissioners who are members of a MEMBER UNIT governing board shall not serve beyond their term on the governing board, unless the other commissioner from that MEMBER UNIT is then a member of that MEMBER UNIT'S governing board.
4. Any vacancy on the COMMISSION arising for any reason shall be filled by appointment of the MEMBER UNIT governing board that made the original appointment, within forty-five (45) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
5. Each MEMBER UNIT governing board may also appoint alternate commissioners who shall serve with full privileges and duties in the absence of the regular commissioners.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

Officers

1. The COMMISSION shall elect from its membership a Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers as it may deem appropriate, who shall serve terms of one (1) year commencing January 1st, except for the officers first elected who shall serve that fraction of the calendar year between COMMISSION election and November 30th.
2. Officers shall serve at the pleasure of the COMMISSION and may be removed by resolution at any time.
3. Vacancies in any office shall be filled by COMMISSION election within thirty (30) days of the vacancy, for the remainder of the unexpired term.
4. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the COMMISSION and shall have all privileges and duties of a commissioner. The Vice Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the COMMISSION at which the Chairperson is absent. The Secretary shall keep or cause to be made all non-financial reports, records and minutes required by this agreement or applicable law and shall be charged with assuring compliance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act and the Michigan Freedom of Information Act. The Treasurer shall have custody of all COMMISSION funds that shall be deposited, invested, and/or disbursed by the Treasurer as directed by the COMMISSION. The Treasurer shall be charged with assuring complete financial records and reports as required by this agreement or applicable law or contract provisions.

12-23-81
Amended 03-25-86
Amended 11-04-98

SECTION 4: MEETINGS

A. SCHEDULE/CALL OF MEETINGS

1. The COMMISSION shall meet at least quarterly and shall annually establish a regular meeting schedule which shall be posted at the offices of the MEMBER UNIT governing boards in similar form and within similar times as required by law for governmental meeting schedules.
2. Special meetings of the COMMISSION may be called by the Chairperson, or in the absence of the Chairperson, by the Vice Chairperson.

B. NOTICE

Each Commissioner shall receive five (5) days written notice of all regular meetings and two (2) days written notice of all special meetings. All notices of all meetings shall also be posted as required by the Michigan Open Meetings Act.

C. VOTING

A majority vote of the Commission shall be necessary to take any official action at a regular or special meeting, provided that only those items on the agenda may be acted upon, and provided that only bills which represent budgeted expenses may be approved. A majority of the COMMISSION, i.e., five members, shall constitute a quorum in such cases.

Bills which represent expenses not previously included in the budget may only be approved by a quorum including at least one member of each governmental unit.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

D. MINUTES

Complete written minutes of all COMMISSION meetings shall be kept in compliance with applicable provisions of the Michigan Open Meetings Act. Copies of minutes shall be sent to all commissioners and chairpersons of MEMBER UNIT governing boards as soon as reasonably possible following a COMMISSION meeting.

E. RULES

Roberts Rules of Order, when not in conflict with this agreement or written standing rules the COMMISSION may adopt, shall govern all meetings.

SECTION 5: POWERS

GENERAL POWERS

The COMMISSION shall have the following powers, authority and obligations:

1. Purchase, lease, receive, acquire, hold title in, trade, sell, lease or rent to others, dispose of, divide, distribute, own or exercise right of dominion over, all or part of any land, and any improvements thereon, within the railroad right of way described in Appendix A which is hereby incorporated and made part of this agreement. The COMMISSION may exercise the aforesaid powers over other land only upon consent of the governing board of the MEMBER UNIT in whose jurisdiction such land lies. The disposition of land acquired with aid from state or federal funds shall have the approval of the state or federal agency involved, if required by the agency. All property of the COMMISSION shall be used solely for the purposes stated in this agreement.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

2. Improve, build, maintain and operate public trails, access sites and appropriate structures on COMMISSION land.
3. Contract or cooperate with other governmental units, public agencies, or private parties, as appropriate to carry out COMMISSION functions or fulfill COMMISSION obligations.
4. Hire a Director and such other personnel as it may determine necessary who shall serve at the pleasure of the COMMISSION subject to applicable law.
5. Accept funds, voluntary work, or other assistance to carry out COMMISSION functions or obligations, from any source, public or private, including, but not limited to, local governmental funding of specific projects, state or federal grants, and private donations. A complete record of all funds received from any source shall be maintained and made part of the annual financial report.
6. Establish policies or rules governing use of COMMISSION land or facilities not inconsistent with state or local law.
7. Recommend local ordinance provisions to MEMBER UNITS, as necessary to provide for the safety of the public utilizing COMMISSION land or facilities.
8. Make claims for federal or state aid payable to the individual or several MEMBER UNITS or the COMMISSION as may be available and appropriate to carry out the COMMISSION functions.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

LIABILITY COVERAGE

Either each MEMBER UNIT or the COMMISSION shall purchase public liability insurance covering any cause of action, claim, damage, accident, injury or liability that may arise as a result of the ownership, construction, maintenance or operation of the land, public trails, access sites or other facilities of the COMMISSION. Each party purchasing such insurance shall name the COMMISSION and the other MEMBER UNITS as well as itself as the named insured. Each MEMBER UNIT shall hold harmless and indemnify the other MEMBER UNITS from any and all causes of action, including reasonable attorney's fees, arising within that MEMBER UNIT'S jurisdiction and for which that MEMBER UNIT would be responsible.

REPORTS

The COMMISSION shall, at least annually, make a full and complete report of all of its activities to the governing boards of all MEMBER UNITS.

LIMITATIONS

The COMMISSION shall have no power or authority to:

1. Levy any tax or issue any bonds in its own name.
2. Indebt any MEMBER UNIT in any way except as provided in this agreement.
3. Condemn any land for any purpose.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

SECTION 6: FINANCES

A. FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of this COMMISSION shall be from January 1st to December 31st.

B. OPERATIONAL BUDGET

- (i) The COMMISSION shall each year develop an operational budget which shall be limited to meeting, postage, document or accounting costs, and similar basic costs. This budget shall not include engineering, legal, land purchase or lease, or any development or maintenance costs incurred or to be incurred by the COMMISSION.
- (ii) The Bike Patrol Program expenses shall be included in the operational budget.
- (iii) Each MEMBER UNIT shall pay an equal share of the operational budget except that portion of the operational budget that supports the Bike Patrol Program. The cost of the Bike Patrol Program is apportioned to each community according to the percentage of the entire trail that is located in that community.

C. PROJECT BUDGETS

The COMMISSION shall develop separate project budgets, as it deems appropriate, for all other costs and may recommend and contract with member units or other parties as necessary to pay such costs. For the purpose of initial acquisition, the allocation of costs shall be as set forth in Appendix B.

D. COMMISSIONER REIMBURSEMENT

Each Commissioner may be paid a flat fee of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00) for Commission meetings actually attended.

E. FINANCIAL AUDITS/REPORTS

The treasurer shall make or cause to be made a full and complete financial report to MEMBER UNITS of all the COMMISSIONS financial transactions and affairs at the end of each financial year. Said report shall include a complete audit by a certified public accountant. State and federal audit requirements shall be fully met as applicable.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82
Amended 06-14-83
Amended 05-24-95
Amended 11-13-01

SECTION 7: TERMINATION/DISSOLUTION

A. MEMBER UNIT TERMINATION

A MEMBER UNIT may terminate its membership only upon ninety (90) days written notice to the COMMISSION and termination shall be effective only upon the elapse of the ninety (90) days. If a MEMBER UNIT terminates its membership, all COMMISSION land and improvements thereon within that jurisdiction shall remain property of the COMMISSION. A MEMBER UNIT terminating its membership shall remain liable for all obligation incurred by it pursuant to this agreement and prior to actual termination.

B. COMMISSION DISSOLUTION

If all or all but one of the MEMBER UNITS terminates their membership, the COMMISSION shall be considered dissolved.

1. Upon dissolution, the trailways property and any improvements thereon located within the boundaries of each former MEMBER UNIT shall revert to ownership by that unit of government, upon such terms and conditions as are to be agreed upon by the MEMBER UNITS. Each unit of government shall be responsible to uphold the following provisions:

- (a) The trailways property and the improvements thereon shall remain open for public recreational use in perpetuity;
- (b) No prohibitions, impediments or blockages shall be made to the free passage of the trailways of legitimate trail users;
- (c) The use of the trailways and improvements thereon shall remain subject to all applicable deed restrictions and all applicable state provision by law or contract.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

2. After dissolution, if any former MEMBER UNIT fails to uphold any of the provisions named in Section 7 (B) (1) above, any of the other former MEMBER UNITS shall have cause to enforce compliance with said provision(s), provided however that failure to seek enforcement of any provision shall not constitute a waiver.

SECTION 8: AMENDMENTS

This agreement may be amended in whole or in any part by written agreement of the governing boards of all MEMBER UNITS.

SECTION 9: STATE APPROVAL

As soon as reasonably practicable after the effective date of this agreement, this agreement shall be officially submitted to the Office of the Governor for approval pursuant to the Urban Cooperation Act of 1967.

SECTION 10: APPLICABLE LAWS

The COMMISSION shall fully comply in all activities with applicable local, state and federal laws and regulation and with applicable grant conditions or contract provisions.

12-23-81
Amended 12-14-82

SECTION 11: EFFECTIVE DATE

This agreement shall be in full force and effect and the COMMISSION shall be considered in effect as an operating public corporation as of the second date in time, indicated below.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of the MEMBER UNITS have signed this agreement of the date indicated below.

Date: January 6, 1982

By: Thomas L Werth
Mayor, City of Rochester

By: Maxine Ross
Clerk, City of Rochester

Effective

Date: December 23, 1981

By: Earl E. Borden
Supervisor, Avon Charter Township

By: Betty Adamo
Clerk, Avon Charter Township

Date: January 7, 1982

By: Stuart Braid
Supervisor, Township of Oakland

By: Carolyn L. Phelps
Clerk, Township of Oakland

Date: December 21, 1981

By: JoAnn Van Tassel
Orion Township Supervisor

By: Katherine E. Jacobs
Orion Township Clerk

ALL THAT PROPERTY situated in the Township of Shelby, in the County of Macomb; in the Village of Rochester, the Township of Avon, Oakland and Orion in the County of Oakland, all in the State of Michigan, being parts of Section 18 in Township 3 North, Range 12 East; Sections 13, 14, 11, 10, 3 and 4 in Township 3 North, Range 11 East, Sections 33, 28, 21, 20, 19, and 18 in Township 4 North, Range 11 East; and Sections 13 and 12 in Township 4 North, Range 10 East, and being all the right, title and interest of The Michigan Central Railroad Company of, in and to all those certain pieces or parcels of land and premises, easements, rights-of-way and any other right of any kind whatsoever appurtenant thereto or used in conjunction therewith on and along that portion of the railroad of said Railroad Company known as the Mackinaw Branch, said portion being described as follows:

BEGINNING in said Township of Shelby and County of Macomb at the Northwesterly line of the land and right-of-way which was conveyed to Consolidated Rail Corporation by deed dated March 29, 1976 and recorded in the Office of the Register of said Macomb County in Liber 3005 at page 318, said line being at right angles to the centerline of said railroad at valuation survey station 1372+80 therein; and extending thence in a general Northwesterly direction, following along the right-of-way of Mackinaw Branch, approximately 11.52 miles to the Southerly line of the Village of Lake Orion, the place of ending, said line passing through a point in said centerline of railroad at valuation survey station 1981+30 therein.

TOGETHER with all bridges, culverts, tiles, drainage facilities and all other railroad appurtenances located on the premises hereinabove described.

12-23-81

APPENDIX B

Purchase Offer Budget

Acquisition of Penn Central Right-of-Way

Michigan Land Trust Fund	\$225,000.00
Orion Township	18,500.00
Avon Charter Township	84,110.00
Oakland Township	98,640.00
City of Rochester	23,750.00

12-12-82

Amended 06-14-83

Use and Users of the Paint Creek Trail

Introduction

The Paint Creek Trail (PCT) is a multiple use, non-motorized rail-trail of eight and a half miles, running from Rochester to Lake Orion, Michigan. It parallels meandering Paint Creek, one of the very few cold water streams in southeastern Michigan. The trail is primarily surfaced with crushed limestone except for a short paved stretch in Rochester. It ranges in dressed width from six to ten feet. It also passes through a corner of the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, linking to additional non-motorized trails and public lands. The trail was selected by researchers from the Department of Community, Agriculture, Recreation and Resource Studies at MSU as one of a number of study sites to examine the tourism, transportation, recreation and exercise benefits of Michigan multiple use trails. The project is funded by the Michigan Department of Transportation's Non-Motorized Enhancement Program and the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. On-site trail use observation, coupled with a self-administered survey of selected trail users, was conducted from June 15 through October 8, 2004 to provide assessment data. The authors thank Kristen Myers (PCT Commission), Marge Gatliff and Larry Filardeau (Oakland County), Pete Ferency (PCT Ranger and survey administrator), Brad Edelson and Christina Egeler (survey administrators) and Nancy Krupiarz (Michigan Rails-to-Trails Conservancy) for their assistance.

Methods

Trail use was observed at five different points on the PCT on systematically selected days and times during the study. Each sample day/time, a trained survey administrator was positioned adjacent to the trail. He/she counted all individuals going in one direction, classifying them as adults or children and noting their mode of travel (bicycle, foot, etc.). The authors then extrapolated these observations to estimate use for May-September 2004. At ten-minute intervals during three-hour observation periods, the survey administrator would select the next passing adult and ask him/her to respond to a self-administered, one-page questionnaire. The minimum number of surveys distributed per observation period was zero (severe weather day) and the maximum was 18. During the study, there were 61 observations periods in which 3,630 trail uses were observed. A total of 890 surveys were distributed, with 604 (68%) completed and returned. Non-respondents were most likely to cite a lack of time, training and couldn't stop, or already doing a survey and declining to do a second.

Survey data provides two important measures. When considering respondents this information provides accurate information about uses, but it is not representative of distinct individual users, as those who visit more frequently are more likely to be sampled and to be asked to complete a survey. However, when the data are weighted to account for this frequent use bias, the characteristics of distinct users/visitors can be appropriately assessed. This report is organized by first describing levels of use based on observations, then characteristics of uses based on unweighted survey data and finally, characteristics of distinct users based on weighted survey data.

Observation Highlights

- The PCT had 66,420 estimated uses May 1- Sept. 30, 2004, with 56% on weekdays and 44% on weekends.
- Adults (19 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses and children for 14%. Of the adult uses, 56% were bicycling and 44% were walking/running. For child uses, 65% were bicycling and 35% walking/running.

Use Highlights from Surveys

- Ninety percent of PCT uses were by Oakland county residents or workers.
- For adults, males accounted for 53% of PCT uses and females 47%. Of these uses, 16% were by those 61 and over, 46% by those 41 through 60, 29% by those 25 through 40 and 8% by those 19 through 24.
- Forty-one percent of PCT use was done without driving a vehicle to it. Half (51%) of the uses were by people living two miles or less from the trail.

- Eighty-four percent of uses were for two hours or less and 93% were rated as satisfactory experiences.

Distinct User Highlights from Surveys

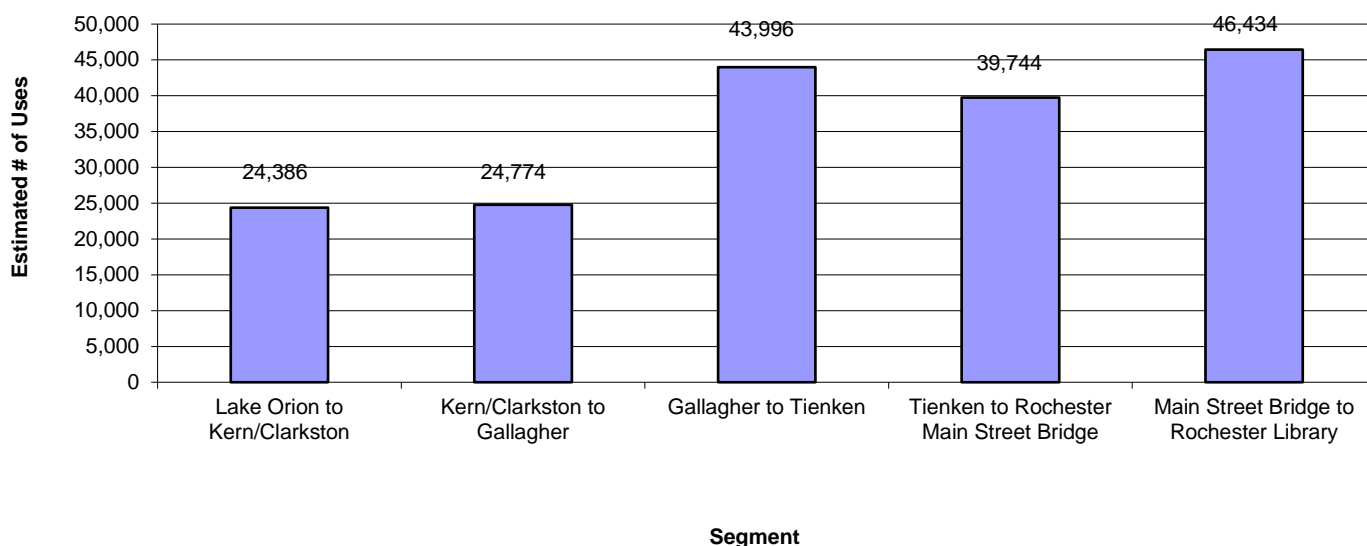
- On average, distinct visitors used the PCT 11 times per year, with almost half their uses during June – August.
- Three percent were disabled (had an impairment that seriously limits their participation in work or recreation).
- Seventy-three percent of distinct users were residents and/or workers in Oakland County.
- When asked an open-ended question about the one most important PCT improvement needed, the top four suggestions were: no suggestion/doing fine (39%), provide bathrooms (12%), improve trail surface without paving by leveling, smaller crushed stone, etc. (7%) and improve road crossings especially at Tienken (7%).

Trail Use Estimate and Characteristics

PCT Use Estimate

The segments (observation points) were: Lake Orion to Kern/Clarkston Rd. (at Newton St looking south.); Kern/Clarkston Rd. to Gallagher (Southeast of Clarkston/Kern Crossing at Conservation marker/bench looking north); Gallagher to Tienken (NW of Gallagher parking lot at Oak Leaf monument looking north); Tienken to Paint Creek Bridge in Rochester (parking lot at Tienken looking north); and a final southern intercept (just north of Main Street Bridge in Rochester looking north). Adding the use estimated for each segment based on observations provides a total estimate of 179,334 uses from May 1st through September 30th, 2004. Use by segment is shown in Figure 1. However, based on survey data, the typical use involved 2.7 segments of the five segments. Hence, this use of multiple segments (2.7) is divided into the total estimate (179,334) providing a more conservative and realistic estimate of 66,420 total PCT uses May – September 2004. Of those 37,014 were weekday uses and 29,405 were weekend uses. Adults (18 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses and children for 14%. Unlike many other multiple use trails, due to a lack of paved surface, there was no appreciable in-line skating.

Figure One. PCT Estimated Uses by Segment May-Sept. 04



Purpose of PCT Use and Trail Access

Survey data suggest the primary purpose of most PCT uses was either for normal exercise (48%) or recreation (37%). Training level exercise accounted for 11% of uses and 4% had a primary purpose of transportation to

work, school, or other locations. The vast majority (98%) of PCT uses were rated satisfactory by the participants (6-9 on a scale of 1-9 with "9" being highly satisfied and "1" being highly dissatisfied), with 76% being rated "9" and 14% "8." Less than one percent of uses were rated as neutral ("5") and 1% as being unsatisfactory ("1-4"). Slightly more than half (59%) of PCT uses were by those who drove a vehicle to reach the trail. While more than half (62%) lived three miles or less from the trail, the challenge of linking to the trail by crossing busy state and county roadways limits safe access for many. The two ends of the PCT (Rochester and Lake Orion) are each the starting point for approximately 20% of the trail uses. The remaining 60% entered the trail along its length with the cross roads of Tienken, Dutton, Gallagher and Clarkston as the most common entry points. Almost half (43%) of the PCT uses were for one hour or less and over four-fifths (82%) were for two hours or less.

Most (55%) PCT uses were by solo trail participants, with those in parties of two or more accounting for 45% of the uses. For all uses (solo and group), the average party size was 1.7. Few parties (11%) contained children. Of the children uses, 51% were by males and 49% were by females. Parties that included children typically had one or two children. For adult uses, males accounted for 53% and females for 47%. Sixteen percent of adult uses were by those who were 61 and over, 46% were by those 41 through 60, 29% by those 25 through 40 and 8% by those 19 through 24. Those defined as disabled under the Americans with Disabilities Act accounted for 3% of the uses.

Tourist Data

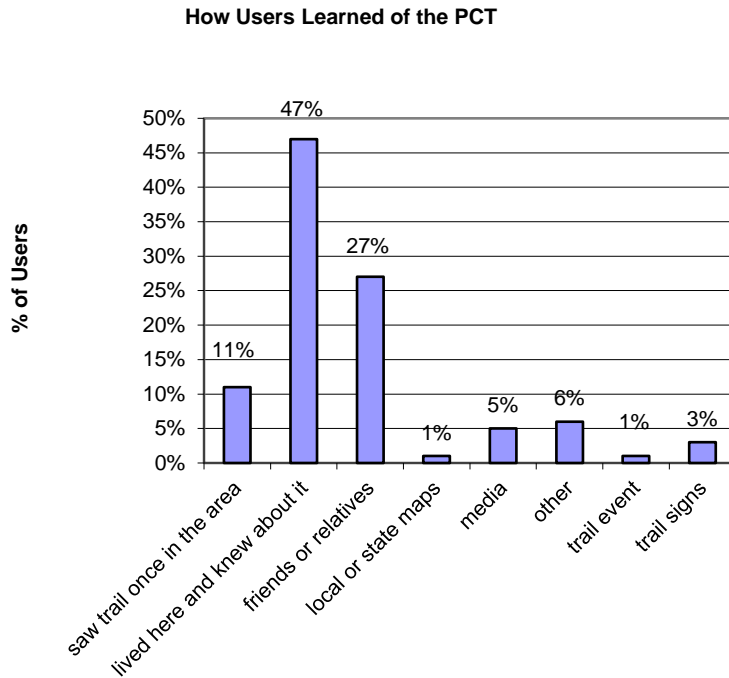
Tourist uses, use by those who do not live or work in Oakland County, accounted for 10% of the PCT uses. Tourist uses were more likely to be for recreation (47% vs. 37%), somewhat less likely to be for normal exercise (44% vs. 48%), training level exercise (7% vs. 11%) or transportation (2% vs. 4%) than all uses. Sixty-six percent of tourist uses involved a vehicle driven to the trail. One hundred percent of tourist uses were rated as satisfactory, with 83% receiving the highest rating ("9") and 11% receiving the next highest rating ("8"). Tourist uses tended to last longer than non-tourist uses with 27% lasting longer than two hours and an average of over three segments traversed per tourist use. The largest proportion of tourist uses (46%) was by those 41 through 60 years. Only 9% of tourist parties had children (18 and under). Thirteen percent of tourist uses involved eating in a restaurant during their trail use. The majority of those citing a primary reason for their PCT visit noted bicycling (46%), walking (33%) and running/jogging (18%).

An additional postage paid postcard questionnaire was distributed to all those who completed a survey and were identified as tourists. Of the 56 provided a postcard, 20 (36%) completed the additional questionnaire and returned it by mail. Of these tourist respondents, 70% were from Michigan and 30% resided elsewhere. When asked if the main purpose of their visit was to use the PCT, 58% responded yes. This suggests that approximately 6% of all PCT uses are by tourists who primarily visit Oakland County to use the PCT. Of the tourists surveyed who visited Oakland County primarily to use the PCT, 9% stayed overnight in Oakland County and 91% were on day visits. During their trip to Oakland County primarily to use the PCT, 9% spent money on lodging, 54% on restaurant food/drink, 18% on groceries, 18% on their vehicle and 9% on all other items.

Distinct Trail User Characteristics

Source of Discovery of the PCT

The largest proportion (47%) of distinct trail users first learned of the PCT by living here and knowing about it. Another 27% learned of the trail by word of mouth from friends or relatives lived here and knew about it. Eleven percent of the users saw the trail once they lived in the area. The remainder of users surveyed learned of the trail from the media (5%), from trail signs (3%), from local or state maps (1%), from a trail event (1%) or by a variety of other means (6%) including the Internet, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited, Trails Atlas of Michigan and bicycle salespersons. Seventy-three percent of distinct trail users lived and/or worked in Oakland County.



Distinct PCT Users' Trail Activities during the Past Twelve Months

Of those who had previously used the trail, the average use the previous 12 months was 11.1 times with 43% occurring during June – August. Recreation was the most common motivation for PCT use by distinct trail users (51%), followed by normal exercise (38%), training level exercise (7%) and transportation (5%).

Distinct User Suggestions for PCT Improvement

Users were asked in an open-ended format to suggest one, most important improvement to the PCT. Suggestions noted by 3% or more of distinct users were: no suggestion/doing fine (39%), bathrooms for trail users (12%), improve trail surface other than paving through filling puddles, better crushed limestone fines, etc. (7%), improve road crossings especially at Tienken (7%), keep the trail environment natural/rustic (6%), widen the trail (5%), drinking fountains (5%), pave the trail (4%), extend the trail (3%), improved signage/mileage markers (3%) and all others (9%).

Distinct User Suggestions for PCT Extension

When asked if they had specific suggestions on where they would prefer the PCT be extended, 34% provided a suggestion. Of those providing a suggestion, ideas mentioned by 5% or more include: 15% in any direction just provide more, 13% supported extension to the Polly Ann Trail, 11% in a general northerly direction, 9% in a general southerly direction, 8% to the Macomb-Orchard Trail, 8% to the Clinton River Trail and 5% into Lake Orion.

Distinct Tourist Users

Tourists first learned of the PCT primarily through friends or relatives (57%), living in the general area and knowing about it (17%) and seeing the trail once in the area (13%). Other sources of first knowledge of the PCT were the Internet, bicycle shops, Michigan Trail Atlas and Clinton Valley Trout Unlimited.

Management Implications of the Study

The PCT serves residents, workers and visitors to the Rochester/Lake Orion community. Considered as a single trail, not segments, on average it receives 434 uses per day from May – September. Of those uses, 6% are by tourists that make a specific trip to the area to use the PCT, with most spending money in the area at one or more of the following: restaurants, filling stations, convenience stores, sporting goods outlets, etc.

Most PCT trail users are highly satisfied. This is especially true for tourists. Across all users, this is evidenced by the highest proportion of respondents having no suggestion for trail improvement or requesting it to stay as it is (39%). However, some key sources of dissatisfaction have been identified and many valuable suggestions for improvements made by respondents. The greatest source of dissatisfaction is the PCT's lack of comfort facilities. Twelve percent suggested the need for bathrooms and another 5% supported drinking fountains as the single most important improvement for the PCT. This is all the more important in the middle sections of the trail as there are very few businesses that trail users can patronize to gain access to bathrooms while enjoying a drink, snack or shopping. Besides influencing enjoyment, lack of access to drinking water on a hot day is a safety issue, especially for the elderly and young children.

The surface of the PCT is another source of concern. While a relatively small proportion suggested paving (4%), more (7%) suggested leveling (grading), adding additional, well crushed limestone fines, removing large stones and improving bridges/boardwalks and their approaches. A smaller proportion (2%) specifically stated their opposition to paving the trail, many citing concerns about maintaining naturalness and a desire to exclude in-line skating. Another 5% suggested widening the trail. As one rides toward the middle sections of the trail, the visibly dressed width narrows as turf has encroached on what was once a dressed limestone fines surface. Resurfacing of the PCT with crushed limestone began October 18, 2004 and was completed in early November, 2004. It is important to note that respondents were not asked to state their preference in the survey for paving or limestone fines. Comments related to paving, limestone fines, etc. were only made in the context of the survey question “what is the single most important improvement you would suggest for the PCT?”

Surface maintenance, regardless of the surface, is also necessary. This may include regular grading and restriction of turf encroachment from the margins of the trail. Another trail surface challenge is the emerald ash borer. As it becomes more prevalent in Oakland County, the many green and white ash trees along the PCT are all likely to succumb (as many already have) and are likely to present a hazard to the surface through fallen limbs or entire trees across the trail. Removal of ash trees prior to their demise in a single step rather than as on-going ash removal may be more financially practical and enhance public safety. Winter is an excellent time to accomplish this task when trail use is minimal and the ground is frozen limiting the impacts of necessary wheeled equipment. However, education of trail users on the rationale of such a move (public safety, control of emerald ash borer, cost containment) will be critical, as many highly value the perceived naturalness of the PCT corridor and 6% specifically mentioned maintaining or enhancing naturalness as their one most important suggestion for improvement.

Three percent of trail users advocated extension as the most important trail improvement. In addition, when all survey respondents were asked in an open-ended question about what they felt was the most important extension of the PCT, a third (34%) provided specific suggestions. Support appeared strongest for expanding northward, with a link to Lake Orion (currently in progress in cooperation with residential development in Lake Orion), the Polly Ann Trail and north as a general direction most commonly mentioned. Unlike more rural locations where potential links may not exist, there are many potential links to the PCT if one includes sidewalk systems in towns and road shoulders. However, the serenity, naturalness and quiet of the current PCT are difficult to find in the area outside of public lands such as Bald Mountain, especially as one travels south from Rochester.

One linkage to stress is better connection to nearby residential areas. This may be accomplished by sidewalks, bicycle lanes on municipal, county or state roadways or through additional trails. This has the potential to boost trail use for transportation and economic purposes as businesses (both as places of employment and consumer spending) are better connected to workers and shoppers. It can also be valuable in efforts to promote safe routes to schools that enhance the physical fitness of youth. Perhaps the most challenging direction for trail extension is west, where M24 creates a significant safety barrier to trail users unless a bridge or tunnel provides a safe way to cross this busy thoroughfare. As with other trails across Michigan, linking with other jurisdictions including cities, townships and counties will enhance the prospects for trail extension as will working with interested citizens and organizations.

Improved signage and mileage markers, while noted by fewer people (3%) than the above concerns, also merit consideration. While signs or maps for regular resident users showing directions, distance and “you are here” may be unneeded, such visible information is important to help a first visit by a tourist,

new resident or new worker be an enjoyable one. Also, providing signs directing people to the PCT will provide a welcome to visitors and direct them to appropriate trail access locations, including parking areas.

Conclusion

The PCT is a prominent and valued asset of the region. Its already high standing in the community can be enhanced and strengthened by listening to this representative cross-section of trail users and prudently acting on their suggestions.

November 2004 by Christine A Vogt Ph.D., Charles Nelson Ph. D. and Joshua Pedersen.

For more information contact Christine Vogt (vogtc@msu.edu) or Charles Nelson (nelsonc@msu.edu) at Michigan State University

2019 Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Update Survey

1. In what community do you live?

☐ Rochester

☐ Village of Lake Orion

☐ Rochester Hills

☐ Other Community in Oakland County

☐ Oakland Township

☐ Other Community outside of Oakland County

☐ Orion Township

Other (please specify) _____

2. How old are you?

☐ 0-15

☐ 51-60

☐ 16-20

☐ 61-70

☐ 21-30

☐ 71 or older

☐ 31-40

☐ Prefer not to answer

☐ 41-50

3. How do you most often get to the trail?

☐ Walk

☐ Bike

☐ Car

Other (please specify) _____

4. What is the main reason you visit the trail?

☐ Health and exercise

☐ Transportation

☐ Recreation

☐ Nature Observation

☐ Training

Other (please specify) _____

5. What is your primary activity on the trail?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Walking/Hiking | <input type="radio"/> Cross Country Skiing/Snowboarding |
| <input type="radio"/> Bicycling | <input type="radio"/> Geocaching |
| <input type="radio"/> Running/Jogging | <input type="radio"/> Dog Walking |
| <input type="radio"/> Fishing Access | <input type="radio"/> Cider Mill/Shopping Access |
| <input type="radio"/> Horseback Riding | <input type="radio"/> Nature Observation |

Other (please specify) _____

6. On average, how much time do you spend on the trail on each visit?

- ☐ Less than 30 minutes
- ☐ 30 minutes to 1 hour
- ☐ 1 to 2 hours
- ☐ More than 2 hours

7. If funding is available, please check your top priority for maintaining safety in the trail.
Choose only one:

- ☐ None
- ☐ More police patrols
- ☐ More bicycle patrols

Other (please specify) _____

8. If funding is available, please check your top priority for technology/information improvements for your trail experience. Choose only one:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> None | <input type="radio"/> Wayfinding signage to local business districts |
| <input type="radio"/> Website/Social media improvements | <input type="radio"/> Wayfinding signage to the trail from main roads |
| <input type="radio"/> Smartphone applications | <input type="radio"/> Native plant identification information |
| <input type="radio"/> Additional mileage signs | |
| <input type="radio"/> Additional trail etiquette signs | |

Other (please specify) _____

9. What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail?
Choose up to three only?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="radio"/> No suggestion | <input type="radio"/> Too crowded |
| <input type="radio"/> Dog waste | <input type="radio"/> Trail crossings |
| <input type="radio"/> Horse manure | <input type="radio"/> Trail surface maintenance |
| <input type="radio"/> Loose dogs | <input type="radio"/> Lack of restrooms |
| <input type="radio"/> Speeding bicycles | <input type="radio"/> Lack of drinking fountains |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail Courtesy | <input type="radio"/> Safety/Security |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of parking | <input type="radio"/> Barriers to universal access/disabled access issues |
| <input type="radio"/> Lack of directional signage | |

Other (please specify) _____

10. Where do you get your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Check all that apply.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Local print or online newspapers | <input type="radio"/> Flyers/Posters in trail kiosks |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail website | <input type="radio"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail brochure/map | <input type="radio"/> Calling trail office |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail Facebook page | <input type="radio"/> Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail Instagram page | <input type="radio"/> Trail staff |
| <input type="radio"/> Trail Twitter page | <input type="radio"/> Local city or township newsletter |

Other (please specify) _____

11. In your opinion, the maintenance of the trail is:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Other (optional) _____

12. In your opinion, the safety and security along the trail is:

- ☐ Excellent
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Fair
- ☐ Poor

Other (optional) _____

13. Are you aware of the *Friends of the Paint Creek Trail* non-profit group?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

14. What time of day do you visit the trail most often on weekdays?

- ☐ Mornings
- ☐ Afternoons
- ☐ Evenings
- ☐ I do not visit on weekdays

15. What time of day do you most visit the trail on weekends?

- ☐ Mornings
- ☐ Afternoons
- ☐ Evenings
- ☐ I do not visit the trail on weekends

16. On average, how often do you visit the trail during the following seasons?

	Daily	Once a week	3-5 times a week	2-3 times a month	Once a month	Less than once a month	Never
Spring	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Summer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fall	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Winter	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

17. What portion of the trail do you use most often?

- ☐ Rochester Municipal Park to Tienken
- ☐ Tienken to Dutton
- ☐ Dutton to Gallagher
- ☐ Gallagher to Adams
- ☐ Adams to Clarkston/Kern
- ☐ Clarkston/Kern to Atwater Street
- ☐ Atwater Street to Children's Park
- ☐ Entire trail

18. Do you feel there is a specific section of the trail in need of improvement? Check all that apply.

- ☐ No section of the trail needs improvement
- ☐ Rochester Municipal Park to Tienken
- ☐ Tienken to Dutton
- ☐ Dutton to Gallagher
- ☐ Gallagher to Adams
- ☐ Adams to Clarkston/Kern
- ☐ Clarkston/Kern to Atwater Street
- ☐ Atwater Street to Children's Park
- ☐ Entire trail

19. If a section chosen above needs improvement, what types of improvements do you suggest?

20. If funding is available, please check your top three trail facility improvement priorities.

Choose up to three only.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="radio"/> None | <input type="radio"/> Cultural Enhancements (art projects, interpretive displays, etc.) |
| <input type="radio"/> Maintain natural beauty of the trail | <input type="radio"/> Interpretive side trails |
| <input type="radio"/> Parking | <input type="radio"/> Bike racks |
| <input type="radio"/> Drinking fountains | <input type="radio"/> Bike fix-it stations |
| <input type="radio"/> Restroom at Tienken | <input type="radio"/> Recycling bins |
| <input type="radio"/> Restroom at Gallagher | <input type="radio"/> Maintain limestone surface |
| <input type="radio"/> Extension to connect Polly Ann Trail | <input type="radio"/> Pave with asphalt |
| <input type="radio"/> Shelters | <input type="radio"/> More trail events |
| <input type="radio"/> Picnic Tables | |

Other (please specify) _____

21. What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?

22. What prevents you from using the trail more?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Time | <input type="radio"/> Lack of trails and safety paths connected to the trail |
| <input type="radio"/> Parking | <input type="radio"/> Lack of restrooms |
| <input type="radio"/> Too crowded? | <input type="radio"/> Nothing prevents me from the using the trail more |

Other (please specify) _____

23. Do you attend trail sponsored events or non-trail sponsored events (i.e. walkathons)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

24. I'd like more information on the following. Check all that apply: (optional)

☐ Recreation Master Plan

☐ Volunteer Opportunities

☐ Public Hearing Schedule for Master Plan

☐ Trail brochure/map

☐ Event schedule

☐ Trail merchandise

☐ I'd like to be added to the Paint Creek Trail e-newsletter list to receive news and information

Other (please specify) _____

25. If you requested information above, please provide your contact information. It is for Paint Creek Trail purposes only, and will not be sold or given to any third party.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Town: _____

State/Province: _____

ZIP/Postal Code: _____

Email Address: _____



Master Plan Survey Summary of Results

Survey 1	2013 Master Plan Survey - Largest	2019 Master Plan Survey - Largest	Comment
In what community do you live?	Rochester/Rochester Hills (48%)	Rochester Rochester Hills (47.7%)	Same
How old are you?	41-50 (24.3%) / 51-60 (24.8%)	51-60 (25.4%) / 41-50 (26.7%)	Same - flipped but ~50% between 41-60
How do you most often get to the trail?	Car (41%)	Car (39.6%)	Same - flipped but ~41% between Car
What is the main reason you visit the trail?	Health and Exercise (65%)	Health and Exercise (67%)	same
What is your primary activity on the trail?	Bicycling (50.9%) / Walking or Hiking (23.4%) / Running or Jogging (17.2%)	Bicycling (41.4%) / Walking or Hiking (22.8%) / Running or Jogging (28.3%)	Reduction in biketraffic (105) and increase in joggers (10%)
On average, how much time do you spend on the trail each visit?	1 to 2 hours (48.7%)	1 to 2 hours (46.95%)	same
If funding is available, please check your top priority for maintaining safety on the trail.	More bicycle patrols (28.5%)	More bicycle patrols (43.91%)	same answer Up 15%
If funding is available, please check your top priority for technology/Information improvements for your trail experience.	Native Plan Identification Info (20.1%) / None (19.9%)	Native Plant Identification info (23.6%) / Additional trail Etiquette (22.75%)	
If funding is available, please check your top three trail facility improvement priorities.	Maintain Natural Beauty of Trail (51.2%) / Extension to connect to Polly Ann Trail (48.7%) / Maintain limestone surface (30.5%)	Maintain natural beauty of the trail (48.12%) / Extension to connect Polly Ann Trail (45.62%) / Drinking Fountain (31.73%)	same
What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek trail	Lack of Restrooms (34.5%) / Trail Courtesy (24.3%)	Lack of Restrooms (38.2%) / Lack of Drinking Fountains (29.4%) / Trail Courtesy (24.9%)	same with addition of lack of drinking fountains

Master Plan Survey Summary of Results

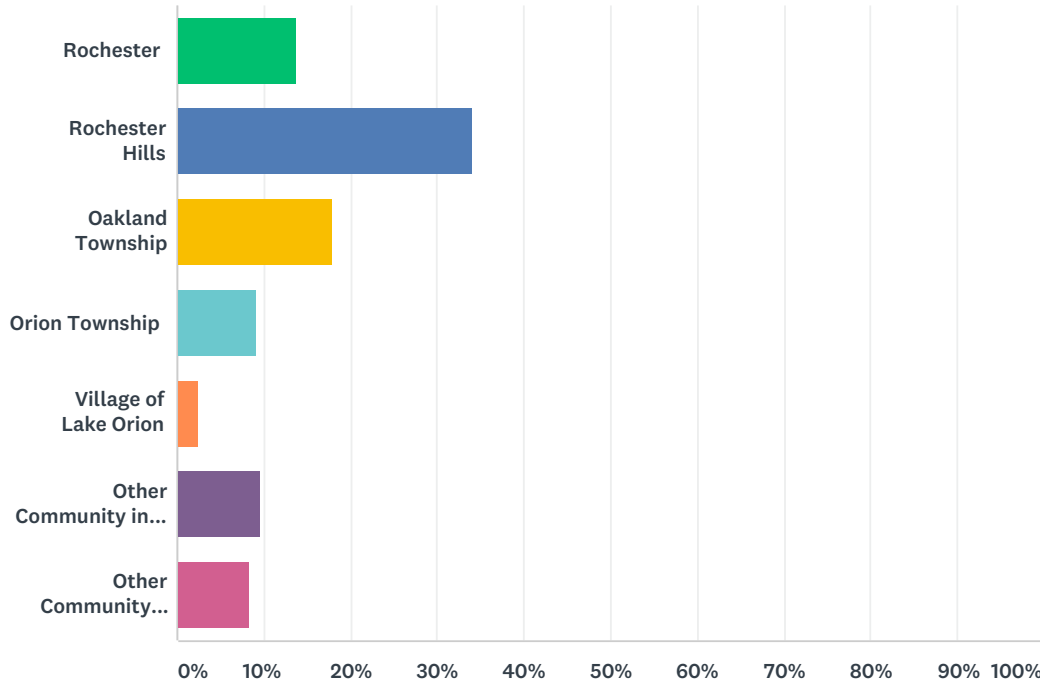
Where do you get your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events	Local print or online newspapers (38.3%) / Word of mouth (36.4%) / Trail website (26.7%)	Local print or online newspapers (36.56%) / Trail Facebook Page (36.14%) / Word of Mouth (32.03%)	word of mouth replaced trail website as 3rd most (check website traffic?)
In your opinion, the maintenance of the trail is	Good (63.6%)	Good (60.42%)	3% less
In your opinion, the safety and security along the trail is	Good (58.6%)	Good (56.03%)	2% less
Are you aware of the Friend of the Pain Creek Trail non-profit group?	yes (59.4%)	No (55.7%)	Flipped- more info on this if still pertinent
What time of day do you visit the trail most often on weekdays	Evenings (36.1%) / Mornings (29.4%)	Evenings (37.36%) / Mornings (32.84%)	4% increase in morning traffic
What time of day do you most visit the trail on weekends	Mornings (51.6%)	Mornings (57.49%)	increase in mornings 6%
On average, how often do you visit the trail during the following seasons?	Spring (3-5 Times a week - 27.4%) / Summer (3-5 Times a week - 41%) / Fall (3-5 Times a week - 32.3%) / Winter (Never - 41.1%)	Spring (Once a week - 27.52%) / Summer (3-5 Times a week - 39.81%) / Fall (3-5 Times a week - 34.74%) / Winter (Never - 31.03%)	10% increase in winter traffic
What portion of the trail do you use most often	Entire trail (41.3%)	Entire Trail (36.25%)	less -due to construction?
Do you feel there is a specific section of the trail in need of improvement	No section needs improvement (57.6%)	No section needs improvement (50.23%)	

Master Plan Survey Summary of Results

<p>If a section chosen above needs improvement, what types of improvements do you suggest</p>			
<p>What is your favorite thing about Paint Creek trail</p>			
<p>What prevents you from using the trail more</p>	<p>Time (44.8%) / Nothing (28.8%)</p>	<p>Time (41.47%) / Nothing (31.79%)</p>	<p>slight shift</p>
<p>Do you attend trail sponsored events or non-trail sponsored events</p>	<p>No (77.2%)</p>	<p>No (79.9%)</p>	<p>same</p>
<p>I'd like more information on the following</p>	<p>Added to the 'FPCT' list (56.6%) / Event Schedule (46.7%) / Recreation Master Plan (42.4%)</p>	<p>Added to the 'FPCT' list (51.58%) / Recreation Master Plan (51.24%) / Event Schedule (44.94%)</p>	<p>infor on master plan increase</p>

Q1 In what community do you live?

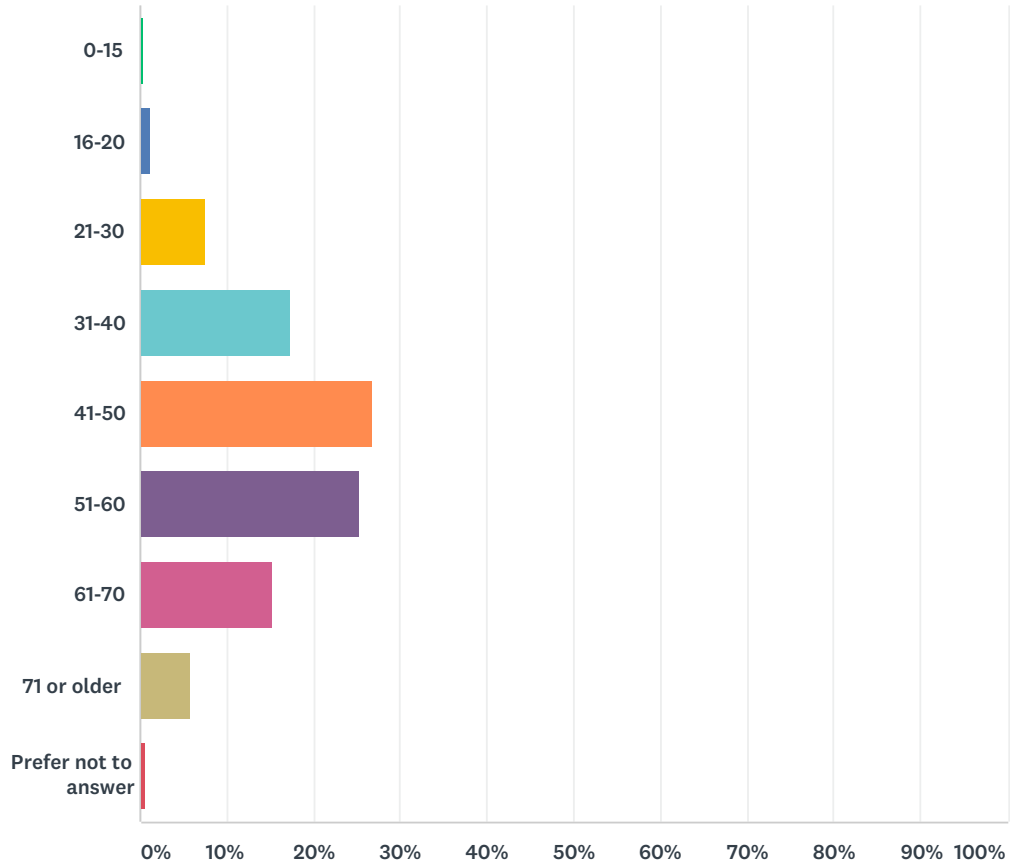
Answered: 957 Skipped: 1



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rochester	13.79%	132
Rochester Hills	34.06%	326
Oakland Township	17.97%	172
Orion Township	9.30%	89
Village of Lake Orion	2.61%	25
Other Community in Oakland County	9.72%	93
Other Community outside of Oakland County	8.46%	81
TOTAL		957

Q2 How old are you?

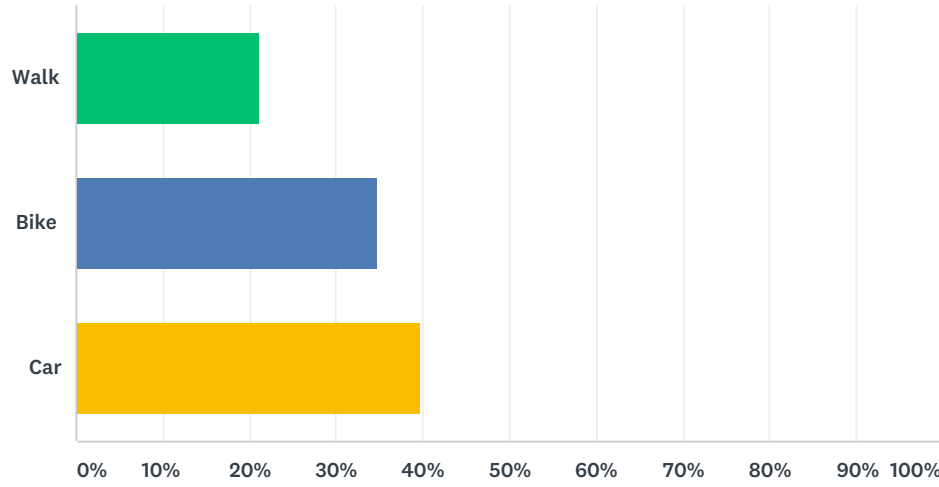
Answered: 951 Skipped: 7



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
0-15	0.32%	3
16-20	1.26%	12
21-30	7.57%	72
31-40	17.35%	165
41-50	26.71%	254
51-60	25.24%	240
61-70	15.25%	145
71 or older	5.78%	55
Prefer not to answer	0.53%	5
TOTAL		951

Q3 How do you most often get to the trail?

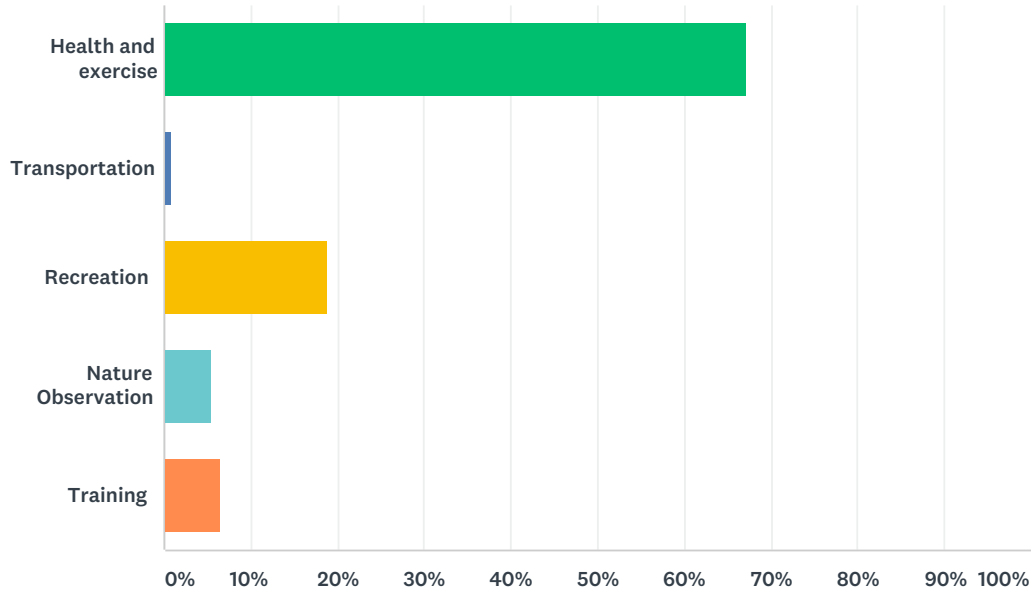
Answered: 953 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walk	21.20%	202
Bike	34.63%	330
Car	39.66%	378
TOTAL		953

Q4 What is the main reason you visit the trail?

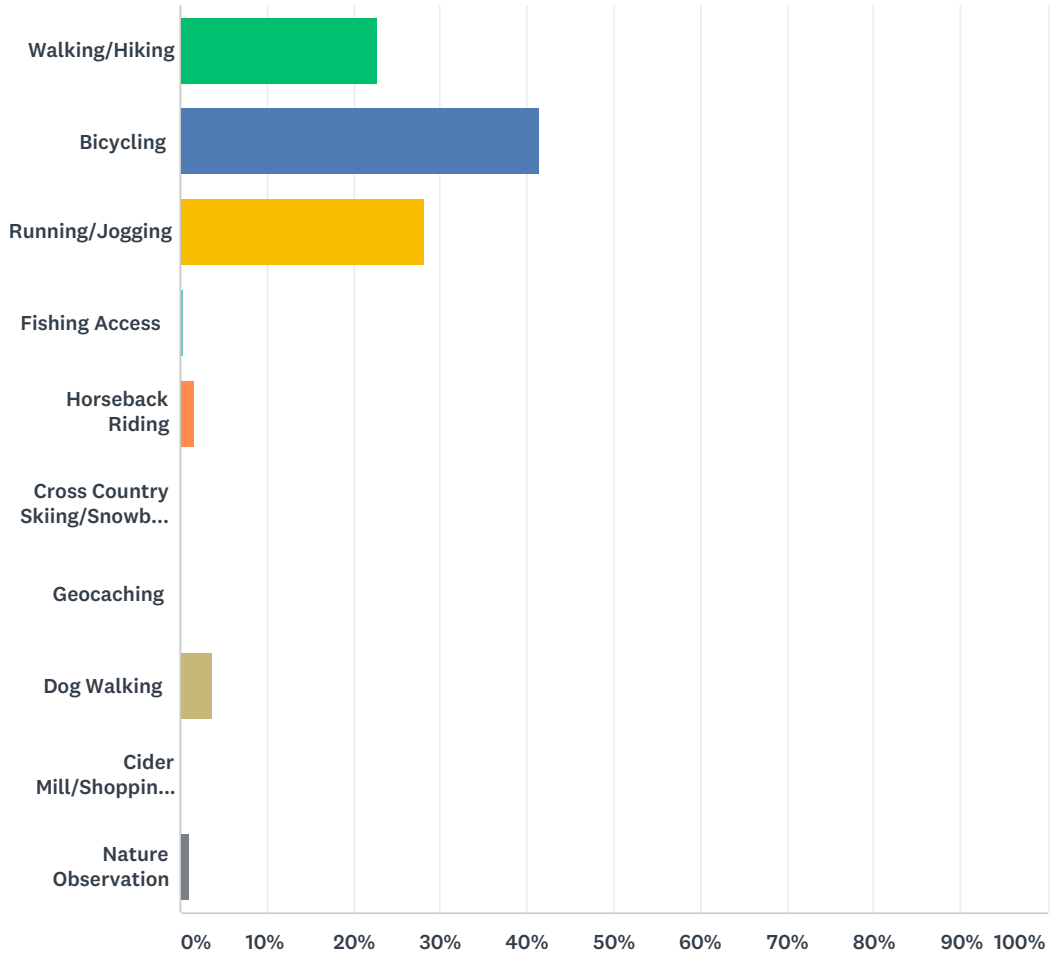
Answered: 952 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Health and exercise	67.23%	640
Transportation	0.84%	8
Recreation	18.91%	180
Nature Observation	5.46%	52
Training	6.41%	61
TOTAL		952

Q5 What is your primary activity on the trail?

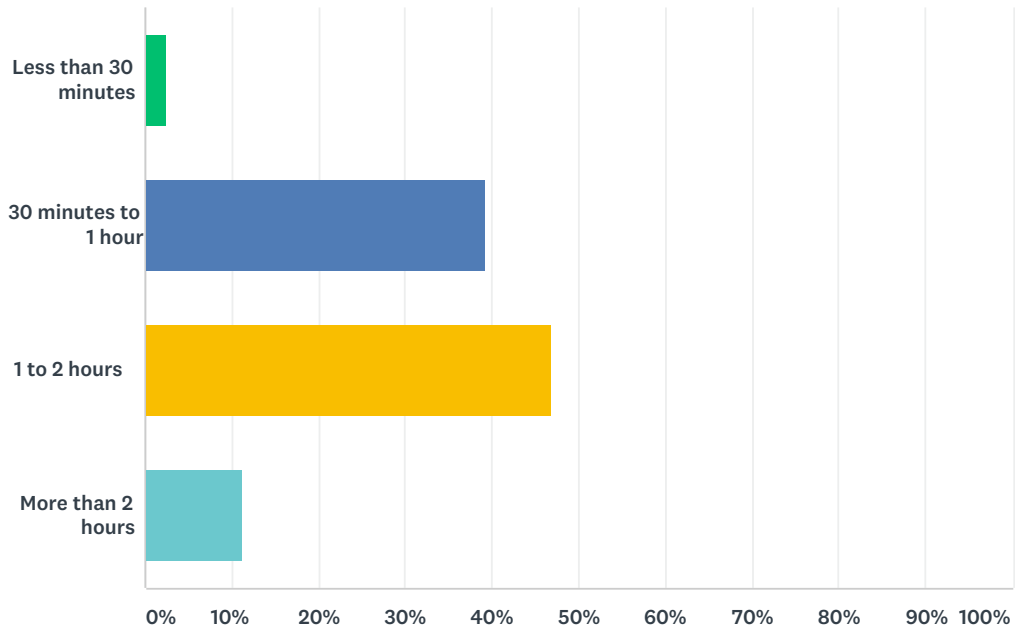
Answered: 954 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Walking/Hiking	22.85%	218
Bicycling	41.40%	395
Running/Jogging	28.30%	270
Fishing Access	0.42%	4
Horseback Riding	1.57%	15
Cross Country Skiing/Snowboarding	0.00%	0
Geocaching	0.10%	1
Dog Walking	3.77%	36
Cider Mill/Shopping Access	0.21%	2
Nature Observation	0.94%	9
TOTAL		954

Q6 On average, how much time do you spend on the trail on each visit?

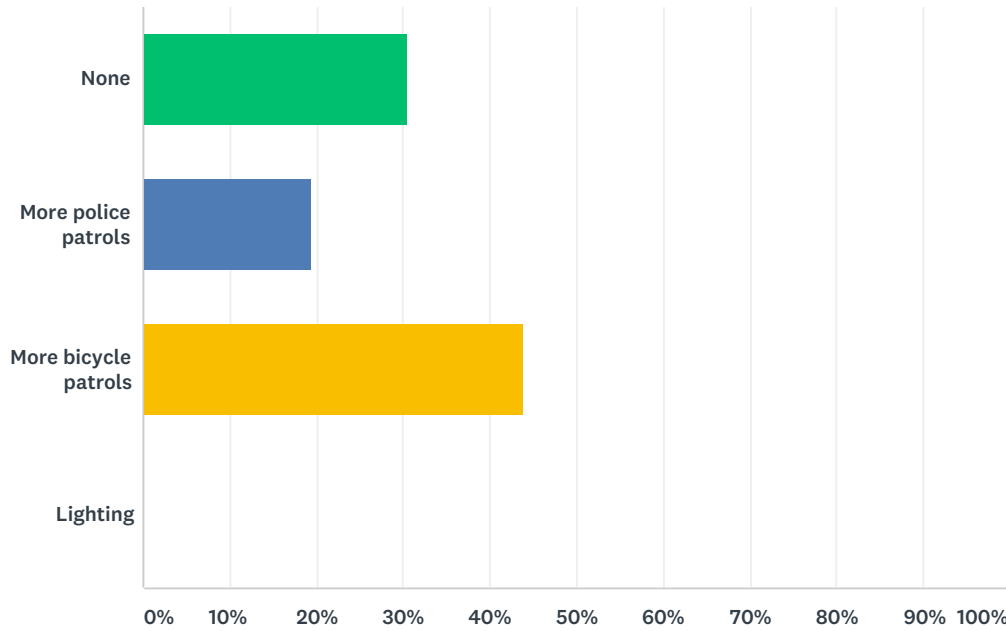
Answered: 952 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES		RESPONSES	
Less than 30 minutes		2.52%	24
30 minutes to 1 hour		39.29%	374
1 to 2 hours		46.95%	447
More than 2 hours		11.24%	107
TOTAL			952

Q7 If funding is available, please check your top priority for maintaining safety in the trail. Choose only one:

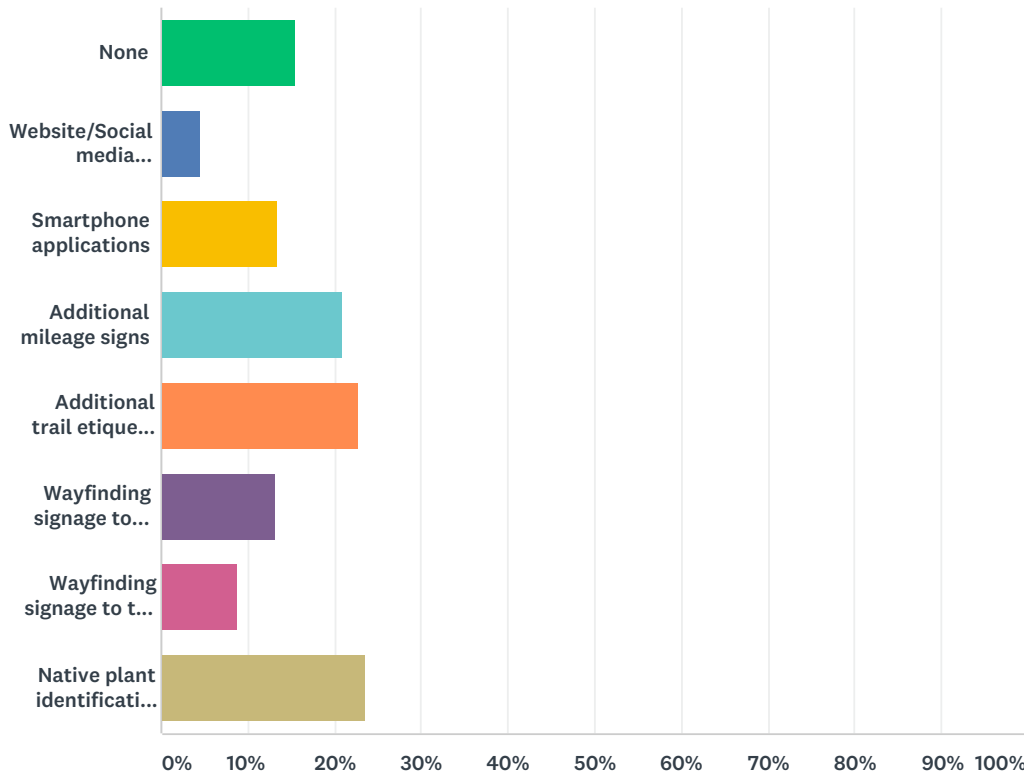
Answered: 952 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	30.57%	291
More police patrols	19.43%	185
More bicycle patrols	43.91%	418
Lighting	0.00%	0
Total Respondents: 952		

Q8 If funding is available, please check your top priority for technology/information improvements for your trail experience. Choose only one:

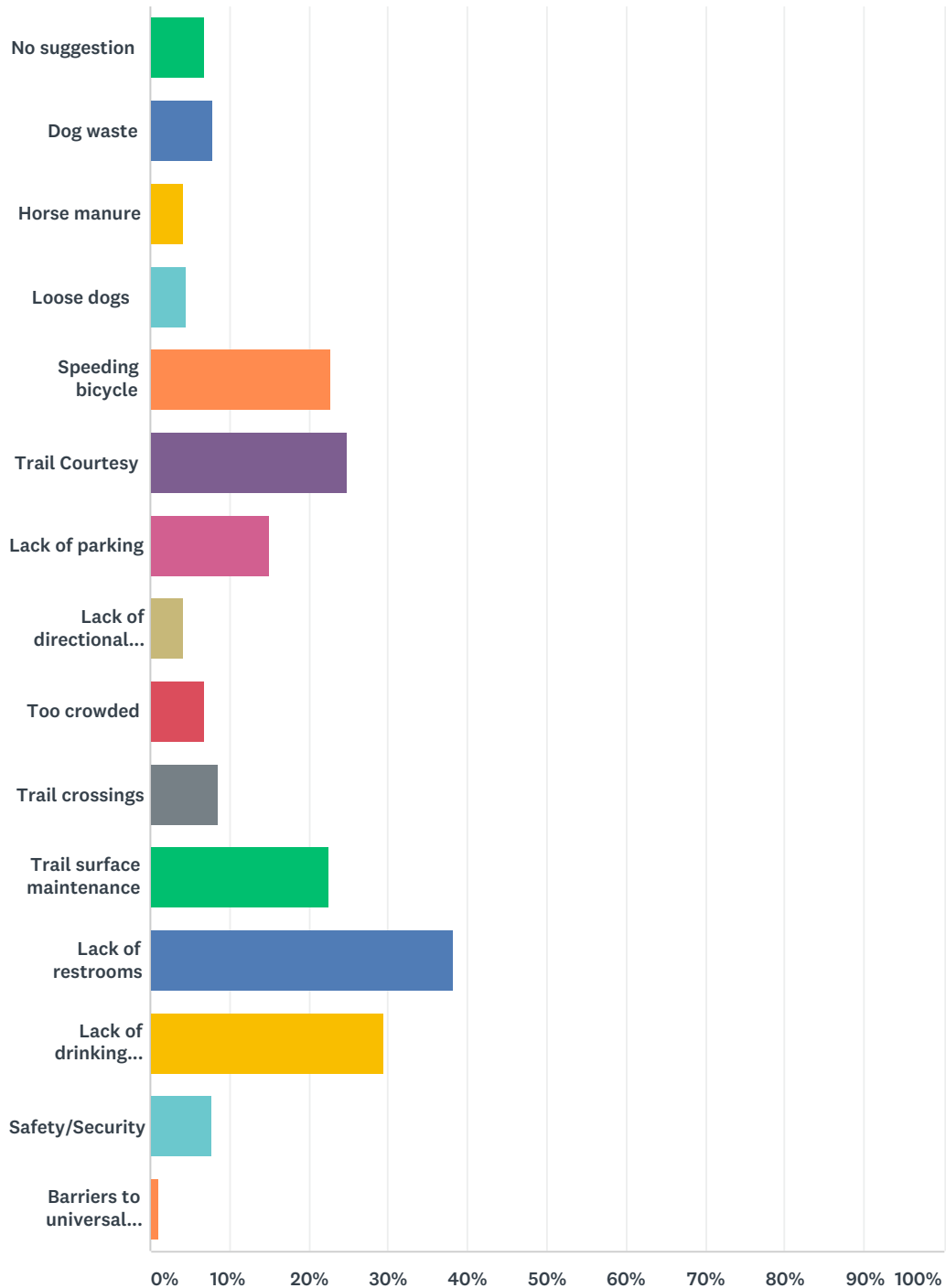
Answered: 954 Skipped: 4



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	15.51%	148
Website/Social media improvements	4.51%	43
Smartphone applications	13.31%	127
Additional mileage signs	20.86%	199
Additional trail etiquette signs	22.75%	217
Wayfinding signage to local business districts	13.10%	125
Wayfinding signage to the trail from main roads	8.70%	83
Native plant identification information	23.58%	225
Total Respondents: 954		

Q9 What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Choose up to three only.

Answered: 952 Skipped: 6



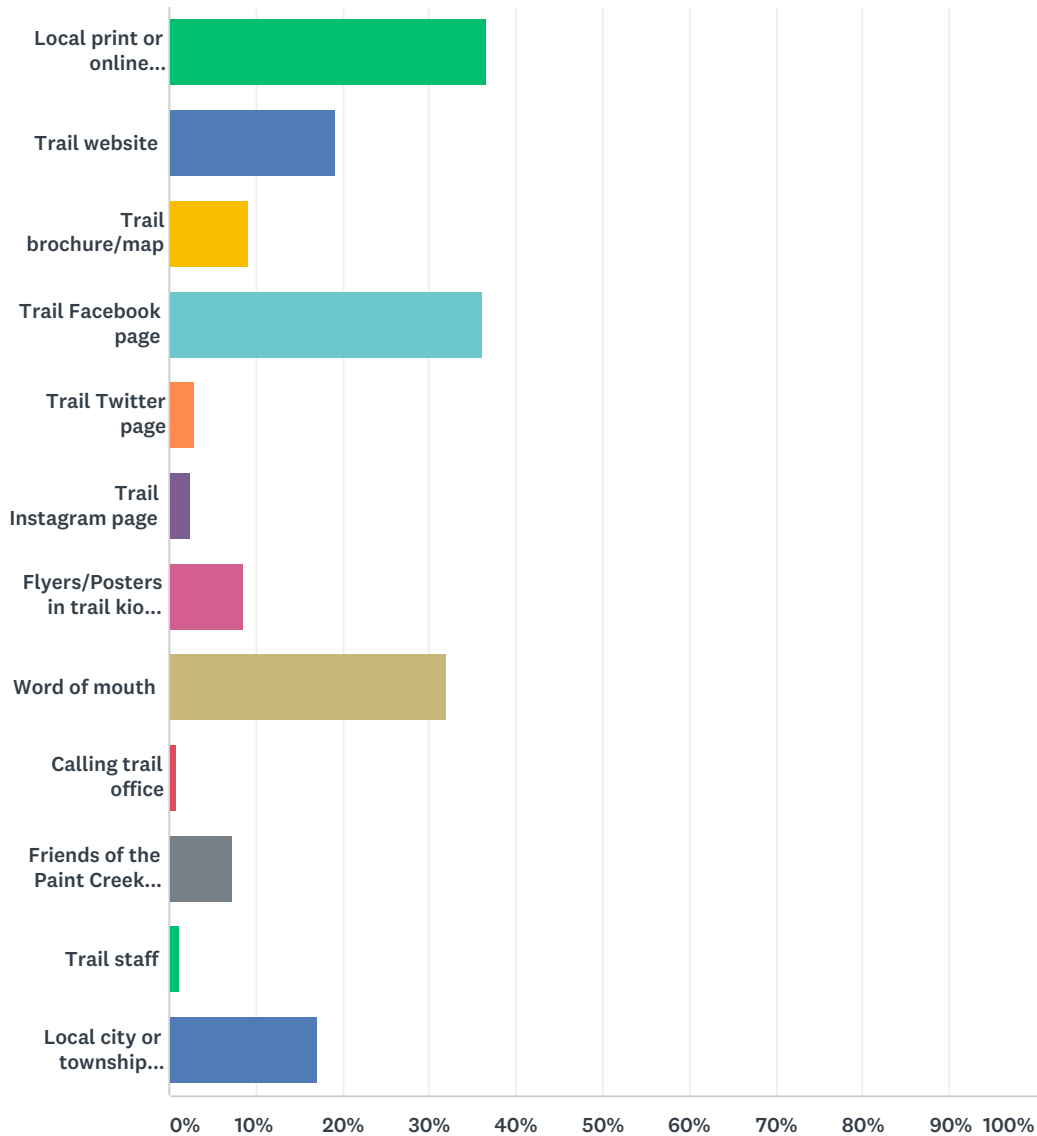
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No suggestion	6.83%	65
Dog waste	7.98%	76

2019 Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Update

Horse manure	4.20%	40
Loose dogs	4.62%	44
Speeding bicycle	22.79%	217
Trail Courtesy	24.89%	237
Lack of parking	15.02%	143
Lack of directional signage	4.10%	39
Too crowded	6.83%	65
Trail crossings	8.61%	82
Trail surface maintenance	22.69%	216
Lack of restrooms	38.24%	364
Lack of drinking fountains	29.41%	280
Safety/Security	7.67%	73
Barriers to universal access/disabled access issues	1.05%	10
Total Respondents: 952		

Q10 Where do you get your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Check all that apply.

Answered: 949 Skipped: 9



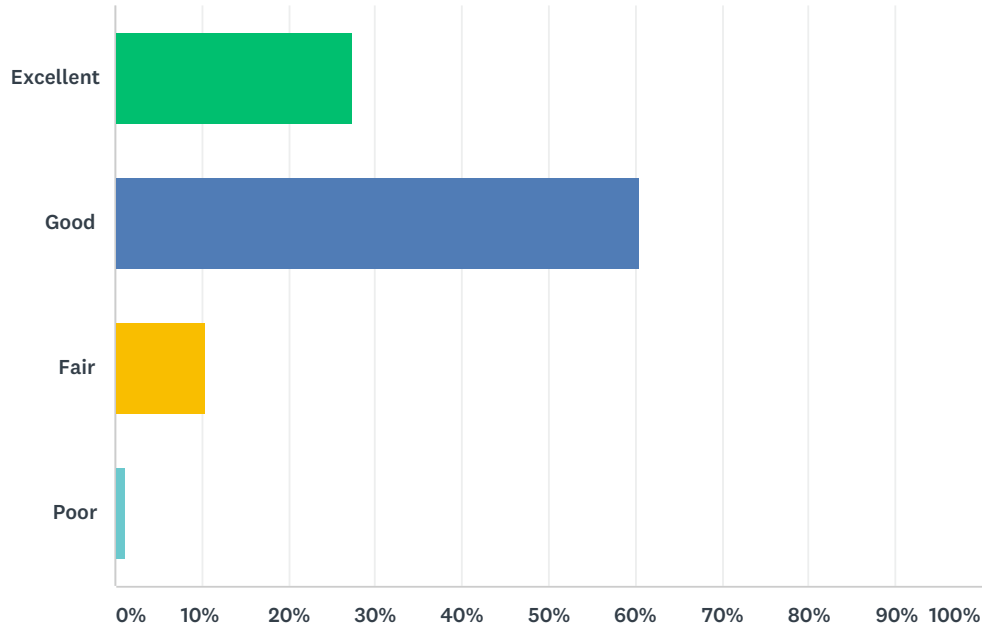
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Local print or online newspapers	36.56%	347
Trail website	19.18%	182
Trail brochure/map	9.17%	87
Trail Facebook page	36.14%	343
Trail Twitter page	2.95%	28
Trail Instagram page	2.53%	24
Flyers/Posters in trail kiosks	8.64%	82

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Word of mouth	32.03%	304
Calling trail office	0.84%	8
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group	7.27%	69
Trail staff	1.16%	11
Local city or township newsletter	17.07%	162
Total Respondents: 949		

Q11 In your opinion, the maintenance of the trail is:

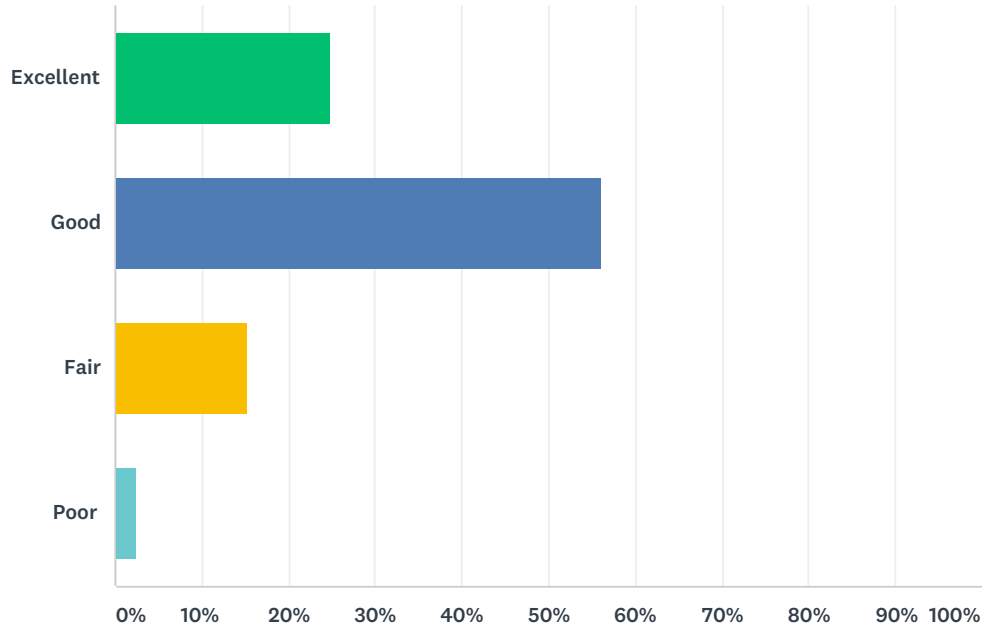
Answered: 955 Skipped: 3



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	27.33%	261
Good	60.42%	577
Fair	10.37%	99
Poor	1.26%	12
TOTAL		955

Q12 In your opinion, the safety and security along the trail is:

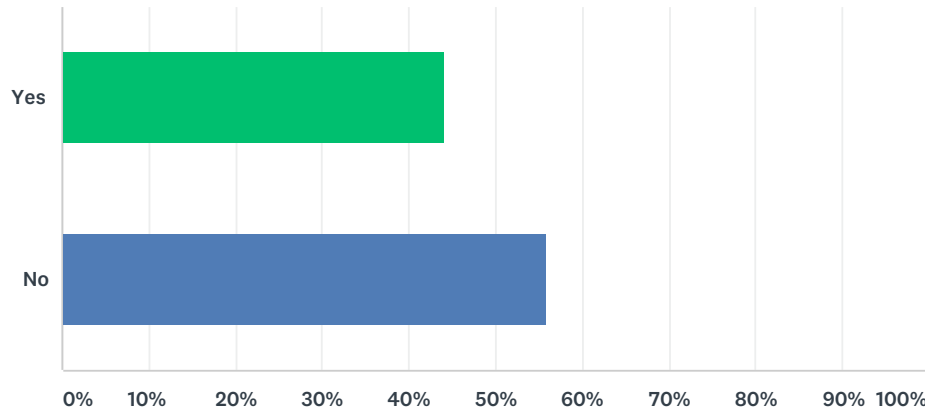
Answered: 953 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Excellent	24.87%	237
Good	56.03%	534
Fair	15.32%	146
Poor	2.41%	23
TOTAL		953

Q13 Are you aware of the Friend of the Paint Creek Trail non-profit group?

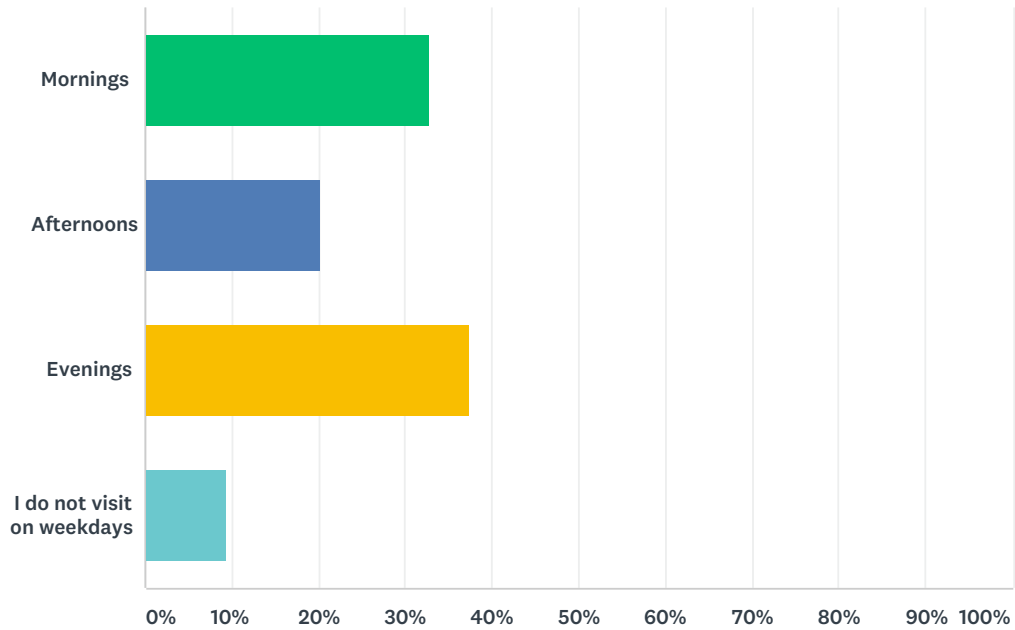
Answered: 952 Skipped: 6



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	44.22%	421
No	55.78%	531
TOTAL		952

Q14 What time of day do you visit the trail most often on weekdays?

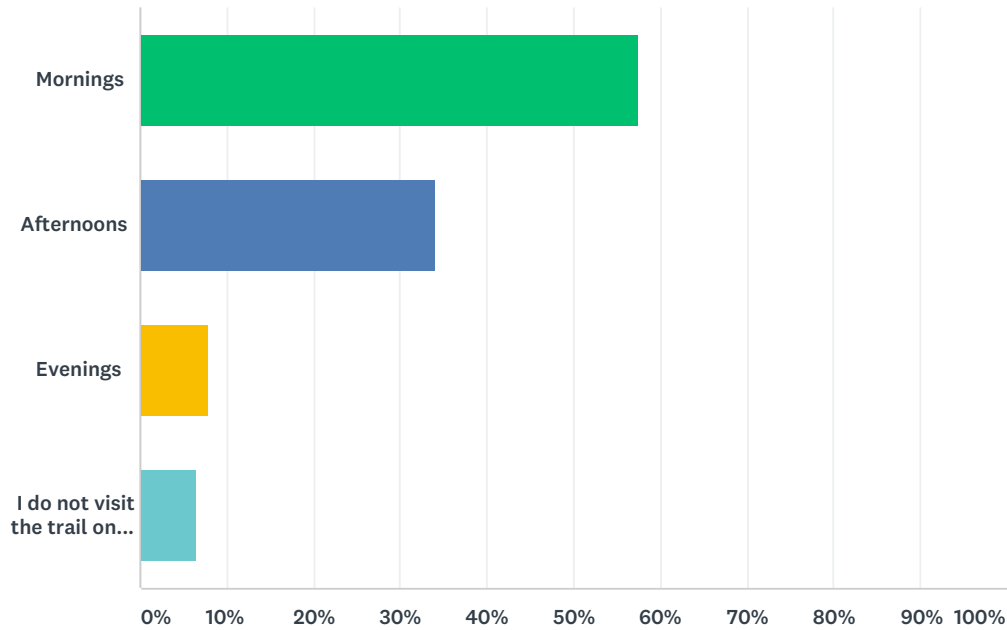
Answered: 953 Skipped: 5



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mornings	32.84%	313
Afternoons	20.36%	194
Evenings	37.36%	356
I do not visit on weekdays	9.44%	90
TOTAL		953

Q15 What time of day do you most visit the trail on weekends?

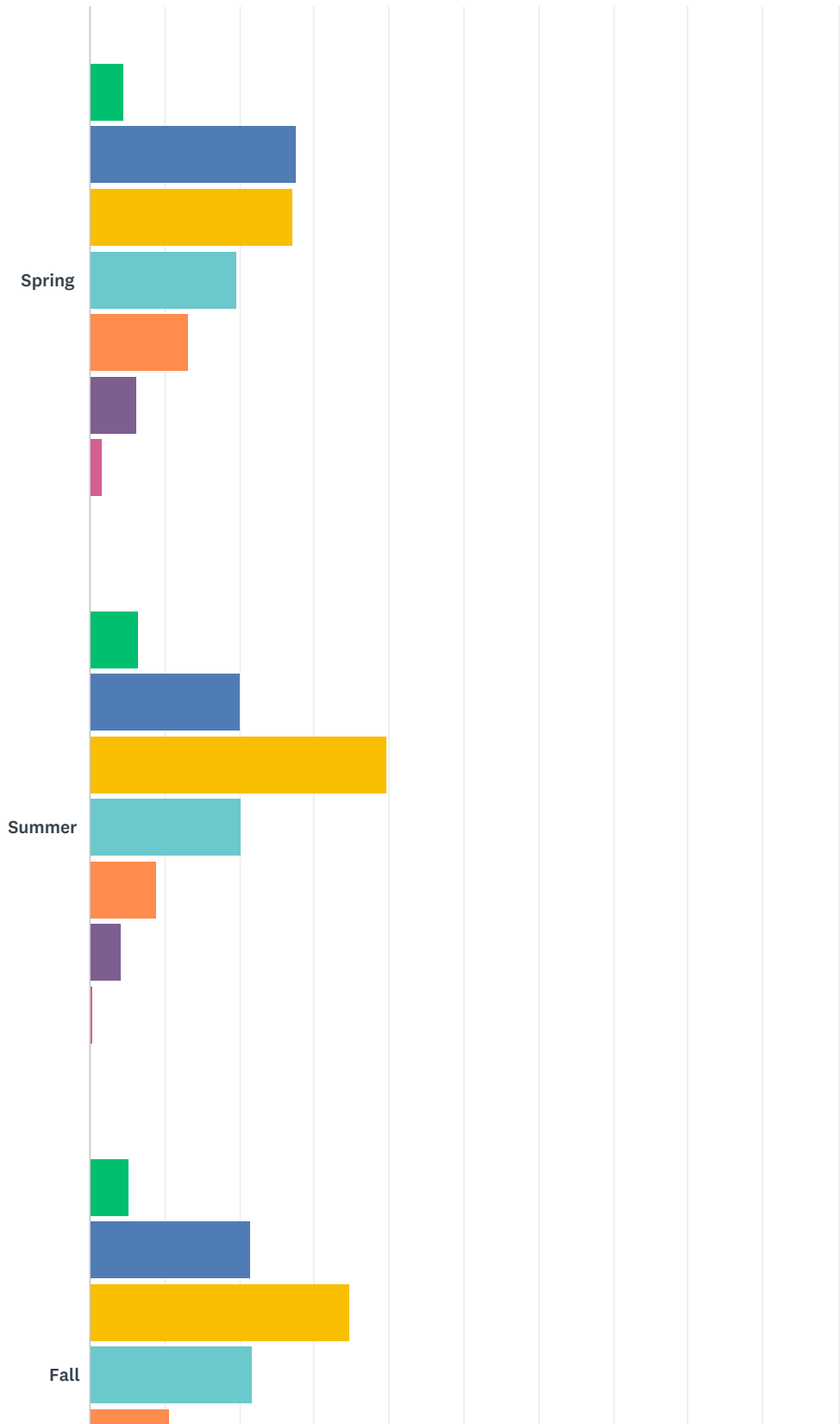
Answered: 955 Skipped: 3



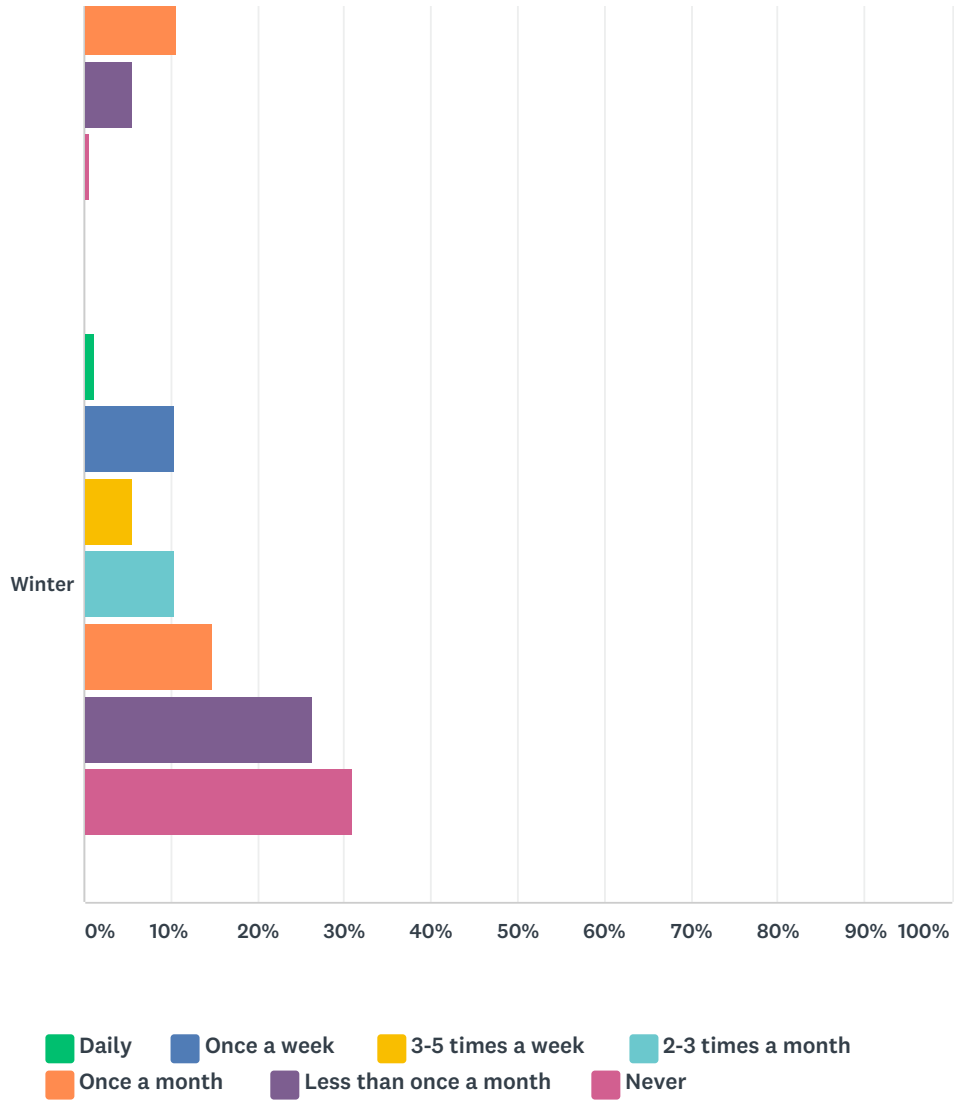
ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Mornings	57.49%	549
Afternoons	34.03%	325
Evenings	7.96%	76
I do not visit the trail on weekends	6.39%	61
Total Respondents: 955		

Q16 On average, how often do you visit the trail during the following seasons?

Answered: 954 Skipped: 4



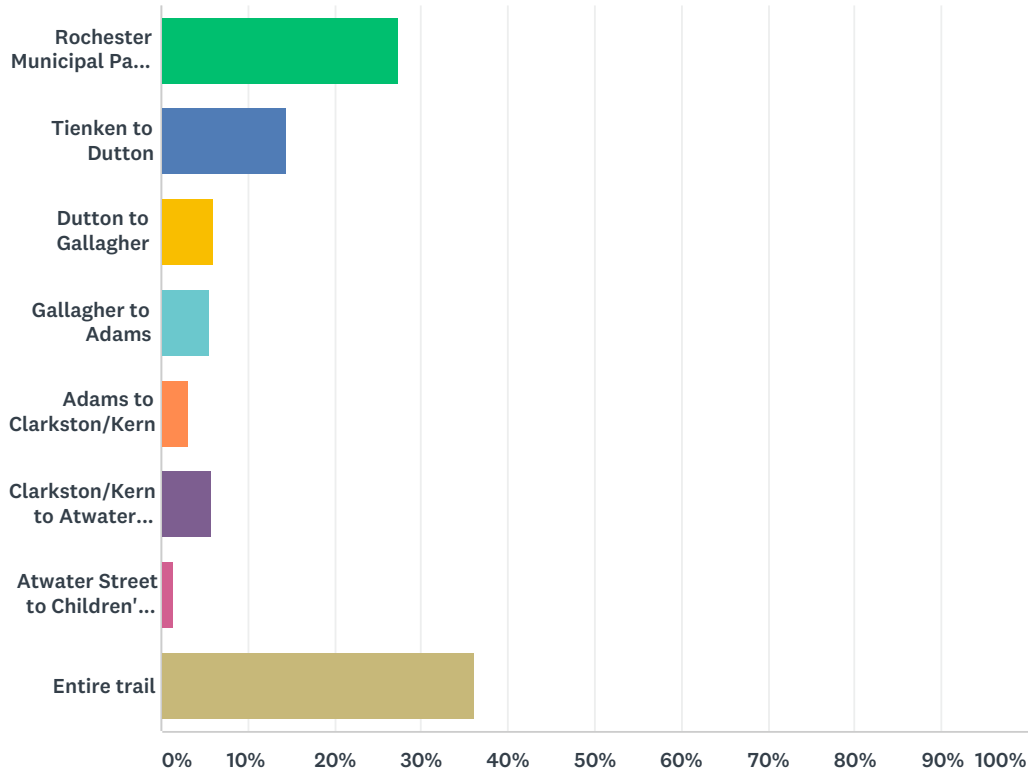
2019 Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Update



	DAILY	ONCE A WEEK	3-5 TIMES A WEEK	2-3 TIMES A MONTH	ONCE A MONTH	LESS THAN ONCE A MONTH	NEVER	TOTAL
Spring	4.52% 43	27.52% 262	27.21% 259	19.75% 188	13.13% 125	6.20% 59	1.68% 16	952
Summer	6.51% 62	20.06% 191	39.81% 379	20.27% 193	8.93% 85	4.10% 39	0.32% 3	952
Fall	5.16% 49	21.47% 204	34.74% 330	21.79% 207	10.63% 101	5.58% 53	0.63% 6	950
Winter	1.19% 11	10.56% 98	5.71% 53	10.45% 97	14.76% 137	26.29% 244	31.03% 288	928

Q17 What portion of the trail do you use most often?

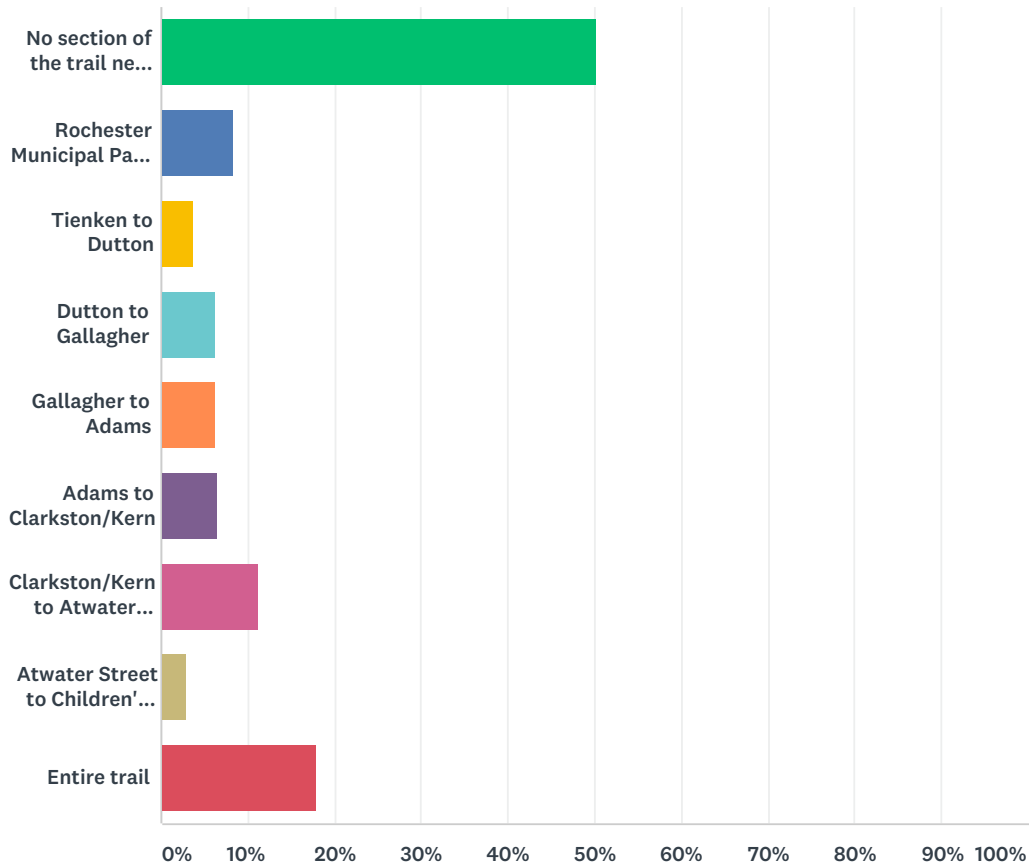
Answered: 949 Skipped: 9



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Rochester Municipal Park to Tienken	27.40%	260
Tienken to Dutton	14.33%	136
Dutton to Gallagher	6.01%	57
Gallagher to Adams	5.69%	54
Adams to Clarkston/Kern	3.06%	29
Clarkston/Kern to Atwater Street	5.90%	56
Atwater Street to Children's Park	1.37%	13
Entire trail	36.25%	344
TOTAL		949

Q18 Do you feel there is a specific section of the trail in need of improvement? Check all that apply

Answered: 880 Skipped: 78



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
No section of the trail needs improvement	50.23%	442
Rochester Municipal Park to Tienken	8.30%	73
Tienken to Dutton	3.86%	34
Dutton to Gallagher	6.36%	56
Gallagher to Adams	6.36%	56
Adams to Clarkston/Kern	6.48%	57
Clarkston/Kern to Atwater Street	11.36%	100
Atwater Street to Children's Park	2.84%	25
Entire trail	17.95%	158
Total Respondents: 880		

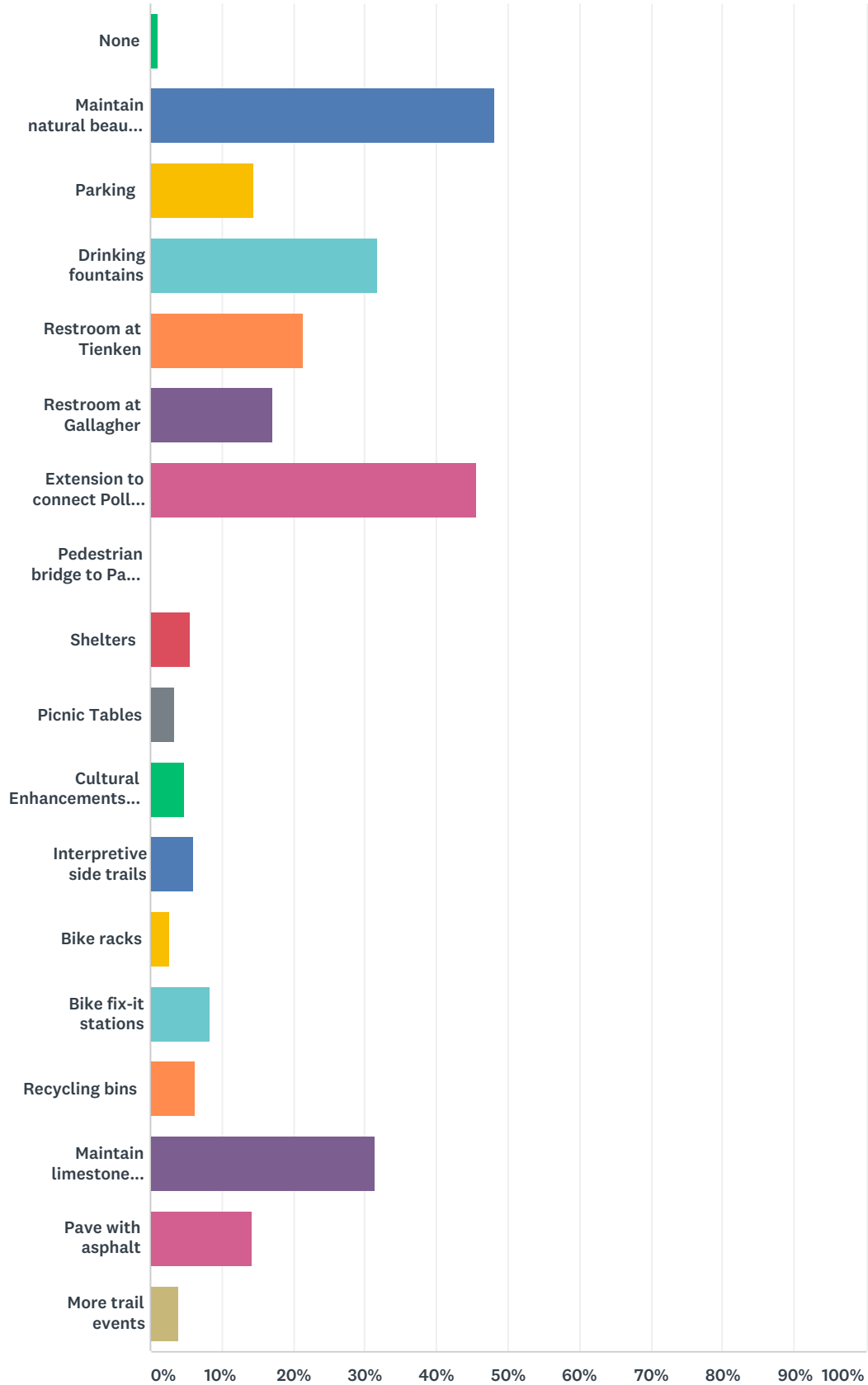
Q19 If a section chosen above needs improvement, what types of improvements do you suggest?

Answered: 472 Skipped: 486

Q20 If funding is available, please check your top three trail facility improvement priorities. Choose up to three only.

Answered: 958 Skipped: 0

2019 Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Update



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
None	1.15%	11

2019 Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Update

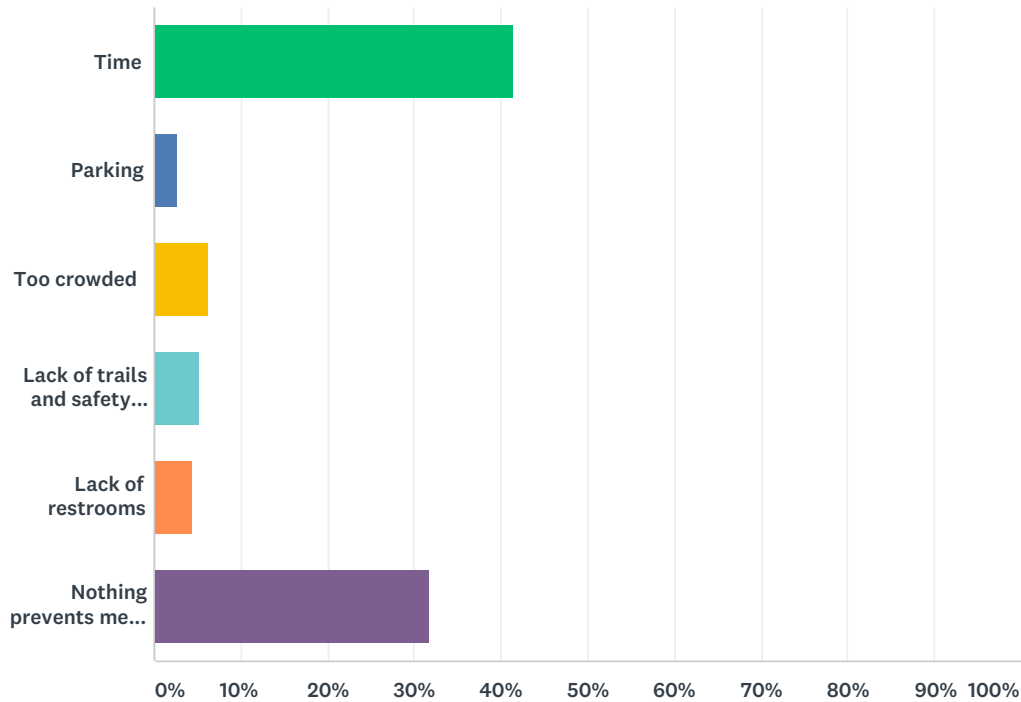
Maintain natural beauty of the trail	48.12%	461
Parking	14.51%	139
Drinking fountains	31.73%	304
Restroom at Tienken	21.29%	204
Restroom at Gallagher	17.12%	164
Extension to connect Polly Ann Trail	45.62%	437
Pedestrian bridge to Paint Creek Cider Mill	0.00%	0
Shelters	5.64%	54
Picnic Tables	3.44%	33
Cultural Enhancements (art projects, interpretive displays, etc.)	4.91%	47
Interpretive side trails	6.16%	59
Bike racks	2.71%	26
Bike fix-it stations	8.35%	80
Recycling bins	6.37%	61
Maintain limestone surface	31.42%	301
Pave with asphalt	14.30%	137
More trail events	4.07%	39
Total Respondents: 958		

Q21 What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?

Answered: 812 Skipped: 146

Q22 What prevents you from using the trail more?

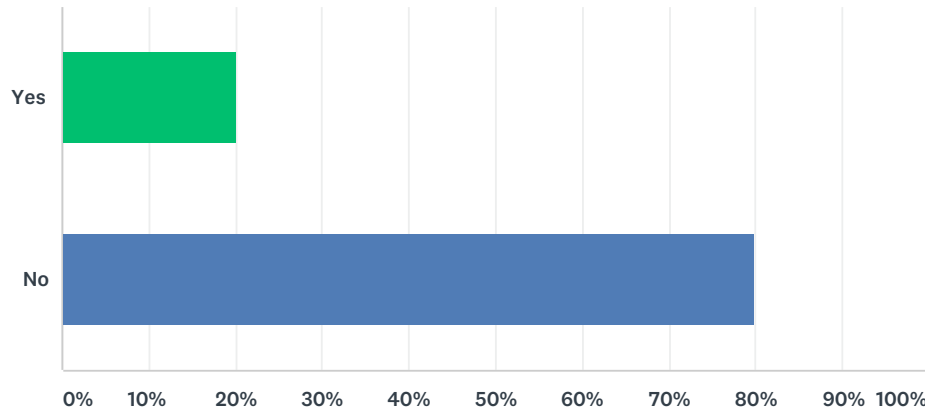
Answered: 950 Skipped: 8



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Time	41.47%	394
Parking	2.74%	26
Too crowded	6.32%	60
Lack of trails and safety paths connected to the trail	5.16%	49
Lack of restrooms	4.32%	41
Nothing prevents me from using the trail more	31.79%	302
TOTAL		950

Q23 Do you attend trail sponsored events or non-trail sponsored events (i.e. walkathons)

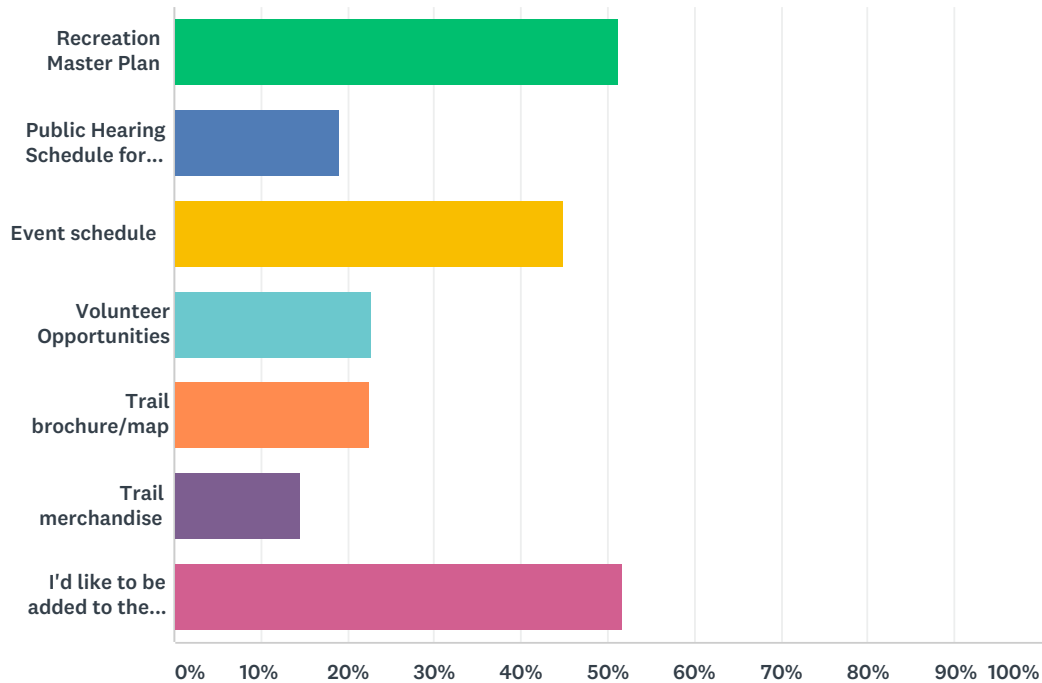
Answered: 946 Skipped: 12



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Yes	20.08%	190
No	79.92%	756
TOTAL		946

Q24 I'd like more information on the following. Check all that apply: (optional)

Answered: 603 Skipped: 355



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Recreation Master Plan	51.24%	309
Public Hearing Schedule for Master Plan	19.07%	115
Event schedule	44.94%	271
Volunteer Opportunities	22.89%	138
Trail brochure/map	22.55%	136
Trail merchandise	14.59%	88
I'd like to be added to the Paint Creek Trail e-newsletter list to receive trail news and information	51.58%	311
Total Respondents: 603		

Q25 If you requested information above, please provide your contact information. It is for Paint Creek Trail purposes only, and will not be sold or given to any third party.

Answered: 464 Skipped: 494

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
Name	96.77%	449
Company	0.00%	0
Address	91.16%	423
Address 2	0.00%	0
City/Town	93.97%	436
State/Province	93.32%	433
ZIP/Postal Code	93.97%	436
Country	0.00%	0
Email Address	96.34%	447
Phone Number	0.00%	0

THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL 5-YEAR MASTER PLAN

**STAKEHOLDER OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 17: 4:00–6:00 P.M.
PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS OFFICE**

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission (PCTC) is updating its 5-Year Recreation Master Plan. The plan will include updated goals and objectives for long-term trail management as well as action strategies aimed at enhancing the visitor experience, while protecting natural, cultural and historic resources for the future.

You and/or your group have been identified as a stakeholder with an active interest in the Paint Creek Trail. Together with our planning consultants at Giffels Webster, the PCTC welcomes your input at this open house.

We request that each stakeholder group limit itself to not more than 3 representatives, so that we may accommodate everyone based on meeting space and time constraints.

**Paint Creek Trailways Commission Office
4480 Orion Road
Rochester, MI 48306**



**giffels
webster**

More Information: www.PaintCreekTrail.org



ONLINE SURVEY: WWW.SURVEYMONKEY/R/PAINTCREEK2019

Master Plan Stakeholder Open House Invite List and RSVPs

Organization	Contact	Email	YES	NO	TBD
Addison Oaks Trail Riders	n/a	n/a			
Back to the Beach Runners	Joe Burns	jlc3@comcast.net	x		
Brooksie Way Training Program	Deb Kiertzner-Flynn	kierztnerd@thebrooksieway.com			
Brooksie Way Training Program	Liz Magulick	magulickliz@thebrooksieway.com			
Brooksie Way Training Program	Stan Torres	torress@oakgov.com			
Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association	n/a	board@cramba.org			
Clinton River Trail	Melinda Hill	hillm18@gmail.com	x		
Clinton River Trail	Fred Phillips	fredphillips@wowway.com	x		
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Louis Carrio	louiscarrio@hotmail.com	x		
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Anne Jahn	jahnmf@gmail.com	x		
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail	Mike Jahn	anne.e.jahn@gmail.com	x		
Hanson-Brooks Distance Project	Keith Hanson	hansonsodp@yahoo.com			
Hanson-Brooks Distance Project	Kevin Hanson	hansonsrun@aol.com			
Hike It Baby Metro Detroit	Molly Bonds	mollymm@mac.com			
Hope Water International	Bill Clark	info@hopewaterinternational.org			
Lake Orion Cycling Team	Nicholas Shaskos	Nicholas.Shaskos@lok12.org			
Move-it Fitness	Geneva Stephens	moveitfitnessllc@gmail.com			
Polly Ann Trail	Linda Moran	manager@pollyanntrailway.org		x	
Rochester Bike Shop Cycling Team	n/a	rbs@rochesterbikeshop.com			
Rochester High School Mountain Bike Team	Karen Eckel	rhsbiketeam@gmail.com			
Run Guru	Clint Verran	Clint@rungguru.com			
Socially Motivated Wellness	Sue Barnes	sue@somowellness.com	x		
Stony Creek Gravel Grinders	George Ingram	ingram81@comcast.net			
Thundering Gazelles	Tim Cripsey	n/a			
Your Pace or Mine Running Club	n/a	info@yourpaceormine.com			
Bald Mountain Recreation Area	Adam Lepp	leppa@michigan.gov	x		
City of Rochester	Blaine Wing	bwing@rochestermi.org	x		
City of Rochester Department of Public Works	Sandy Brondstetter	sbrondstetter@rochestermi.org	x		
Lake Orion Downtown Development Authority	Molly LaLone	director@downtownlakeorion.org	x		
Oakland County CISMA	Erica Clites	eclites@sixriversrlc.org			
Oakland County Planning & Economic Development	Kristen Wiltfang	wiltfangk@oakgov.com	x		
Oakland Township Parks & Recreation	Doug Caruso	dcaruso@oaklandtownship.org	x		
Oakland Township Parks & Recreation	Mindy Milos-Dale	mmdale@oaklandtownship.org	x		
Orion Area Chamber of Commerce	Kim Urbanowski	director@orionareachamber.com			

Master Plan Stakeholder Open House Invite List and RSVPS

Orion Township Parks & Recreation	Dave Rafter	draftery@oriontownship.org			
Orion Township Parks & Recreation	Aaron Whatley	awhatley@oriontownship.org		x	
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Dakota Hewlett	HewlettD@michigan.gov			
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Nikki Van Bloem	VanBloemN@michigan.gov			
Michigan Trails & Greenway Alliance	Bob Wilson	bob@michigantrails.org			
Rochester Downtown Development Authority	Kristi Trevarrow	Kristi@DowntownRochesterMI.com			
Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce	Alaina Campbell	alainac@rrc-mi.com	x		
Rochester Hills Department of Public Services	Allan Schneck	schnecka@rochesterhills.org			
Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry	Alan Buckenmeyer	buckenmeyera@rochesterhills.org			
Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry	Ken Elwert	elwertk@rochesterhills.org	x		
Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry	Bert Hallewas	hallewasb@rochesterhills.org			
SEMCOG	Tyler Klifman	Klifman@semcog.org			
TWLA	Kristen Myers	Kristen Myers kmyers@sixriversrlc.org			
TWLA	Bret Rasegan	raseganb@oakgov.com			
Village of Lake Orion Public Works	Jeremy Richert	richertj@lakeorion.org			
PCTC	Kim Russell				x
PCTC	Susan Bowyer		x		
PCTC	David Becker		x		

Please Sign In!

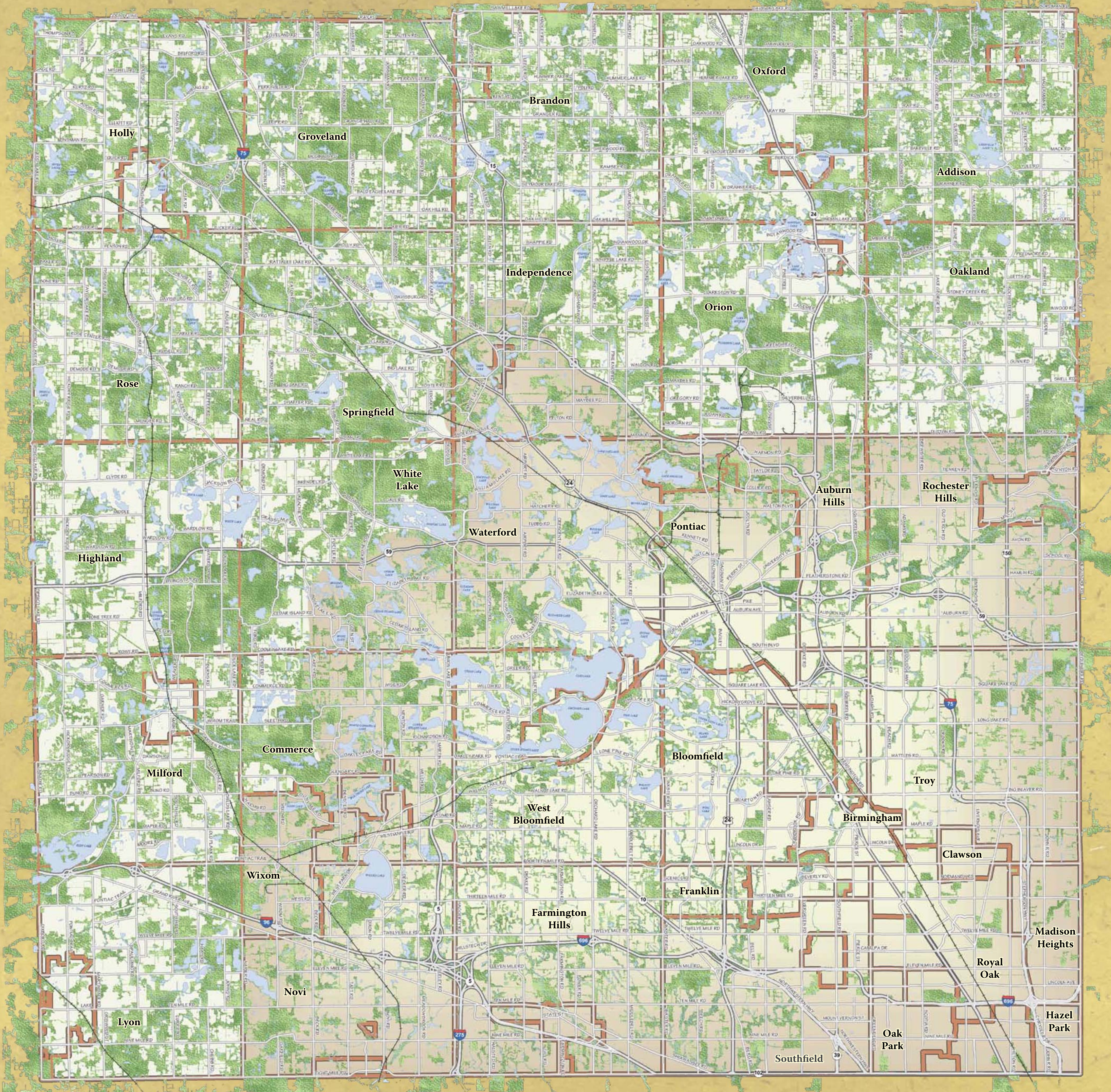
Name Organization Email

Phyllis Caruso	Oakland Twp. Parks	lcaruso@oaklandtownship.org
Louis Carrio	Friends of PCT	louiscarrio@hotmail.com
Molly Lalone	Friends of Lake Ontario Friends of Lake Ontario	direct@laketownship.org
Ken Elwert	Rochester Hills	elwertk@rochesterhills.org
Sue Barnes	Socially Motivated Wellness	sue@somowell.com
Alice Lalone	Boy Scouts of America/visitor	alice.lalone@scouting.org
Fred Phillips	FRIENDS OF CATTARAUGUS RIVER TRAIL	Fredphillips@worldway.org
Donni Steele	PCTC	to
ADAM LEPP	DNR/BALD MT.	
SWAN Bouye	Rochester Hills, CC	S.Bouye@Rochesterhills.org
Kim Russell	Rochester	Krussell@rochesterhills.org
Sandy Bondster	Rochester	
Mindy Milos Dale	Oakland Twp Parks	alainacamp@gmail.com
Alaina Campbell	Rochester Regional Chamber	
Anne & Mike Jahn	Cookies & Cream	
Joe Burns	Friends of PCT	anne.e.jahn@gmail.com
Wade Robbins	BRK TO THE BEACH	JLCB3@COMCAST.NET
Dan Simon	CRAMBA CRAMBA	wrobbins17@gmail.com
Kristen Wiltfang	OTPC	
David Becker	Oakland County Planning	
Melinda Hill	PCTC	
	Friends of CRT	

Green Infrastructure Vision

Oakland County, Michigan

Mark A. Benedict and Edward T. McMahon, of the Conservation Fund, defined the term green infrastructure as:
“an interconnected network of green space that conserves natural ecosystem values and functions and provides associated benefits to human populations.”



Lakes & Rivers:
Oakland County
has over 1,400
natural lakes.



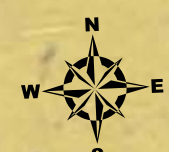
Green Infrastructure Vision:
Hubs, sites, and links make up
this network of connected open
space.



Urban Boundary: Green Infrastructure in the urban
landscape takes on a different look and feel. By
integrating techniques like rain gardens, green roofs,
street trees, and pervious pavement, a community can
help to reduce stormwater runoff and improve air quality.



Municipal Boundary:
There are 61 local
units of government
in Oakland County.



green infrastructure spans across urban, suburban, and rural landscapes



Natural Areas
Rose Township



Lakes, Rivers, & Streams
Oxford Township



Recreational Opportunities
Independence Township



Trail Connections
City of Rochester Hills



Native Landscaping
City of Farmington Hills



Green Roofs
Addison Township



Conservation Development
Springfield Township



Schoolyard Habitats
Village of Milford



Street Trees
City of Ferndale



**Linking and Integrating
the natural environment
with the human
environment**

experience green infrastructure first hand



Nature Walk
Oakland Township



Fishing the Clinton River
City of Rochester Hills



Nature Exploration
Rose Township



Kayaking the Rouge River
City of Southfield



Native Plant Garden
City of Pontiac



Scenic Overlook
Addison Township



Rain Garden
City of Rochester Hills



Ellis Barn
Springfield Township

What is Green Infrastructure?

The building blocks for Green Infrastructure are hubs, sites, and links. The following definitions were used throughout the Oakland County Green Infrastructure community work sessions and visioning process:

Hub These large, contiguous areas are the foundation of the network and contain a large amount of core habitat for plants and animals. Hubs act as origins and destinations for a wide variety of living things, are typically greater than 250 acres in size, and include at least one Priority One Potential Natural Area.*

*Due to a community's individual level of development, some hubs may be smaller in size and may not include Potential Natural Areas.

Site These areas are smaller than hubs in size and contain less core habitat; however, they are an essential component to the natural network. These areas include smaller wetland complexes, small woodlots, and other open space.

Link The linear connections between hubs and sites are a vital component to the functionality of the entire network. Without linkages, the hubs and sites, in essence, become fragmented islands within the landscape.

Not all Green Infrastructure projects have the same goals and each project may include a variety of land types containing a mixture of ecological values. Using the Vision will place these projects in context and encourage environmental thinking that crosses political boundaries.

The County's Role

Understanding the value of Oakland County's natural heritage and developing a shared long term preservation vision is a critical first step in preserving our natural assets. Oakland County's Green Infrastructure Vision is this long term, interconnected

vision created at the local level by engaged communities. At a series of work sessions, facilitated by Oakland County between 2005 and 2009, community participants inventoried existing natural features, established collaboration opportunities, and considered how to set and achieve future conservation goals. Programs and strategies, which both support the environment and recognize the demands of the economy, provide a balanced and sustainable approach to land use planning. The County provides Green Infrastructure capacity building assistance to local governments, businesses, work groups, and individual citizens in both urban and rural areas.

Your Role

Within this Green Infrastructure planning effort, all stakeholders should have the opportunity to create and implement their unique piece of the shared vision. No one is more familiar with your community than you. As a resident, business, non-profit organization or elected official, you are in a unique position to lead in raising awareness about the need for locally based Green Infrastructure. You have the ability to influence and promote proactive conservation that fosters sustainable environmental, social, and economic health within your community. Use the County's Green Infrastructure Vision to help start the discussion, form partnerships, and place your projects within a larger planning context.

What are the benefits?



Taking a comprehensive, integrated approach to Green Infrastructure creates a multitude of environmental, social, and economic benefits that foster healthy and sustainable communities. When considering associated Green Infrastructure benefits, it's important to keep in mind that even seemingly small projects, when taken together, have a meaningful impact. By highlighting the connection between the environmental, social, and economic benefits associated with Green Infrastructure, we support a strong sense of place and create the basis for innovative solutions that support all stakeholders.

Natural Assets = Higher Property Values

In 2007, Michigan State University's Land Policy Institute conducted a study that focused on the valuation of Green Infrastructure in Michigan. Results of the study indicate that, specific to Oakland County, Green Infrastructure amenities contribute significantly to residential property values.

These findings highlight the property value implications of Green Infrastructure assets and the increased tax benefits that local governments accrue due to those assets.

Water Resources
Property within 50 feet of a body of water has a 21.5% property value increase.

Trail/Path Network
Property within a half-mile to a mile of trails has a 6.3% property value increase.

Natural Areas/Open Space
Property within 50 feet of recreational lands has a 3.1% property value increase.

The Land Policy Institute (www.landpolicy.msu.edu) provides science-based information to inform policy-making at the state and local level.



Environmental Benefits

- Provides habitat and biodiversity
- Reduces air, noise, and water pollution
- Safeguards natural and historic assets
- Manages stormwater
- Helps mitigate the effects of climate change



Social Benefits

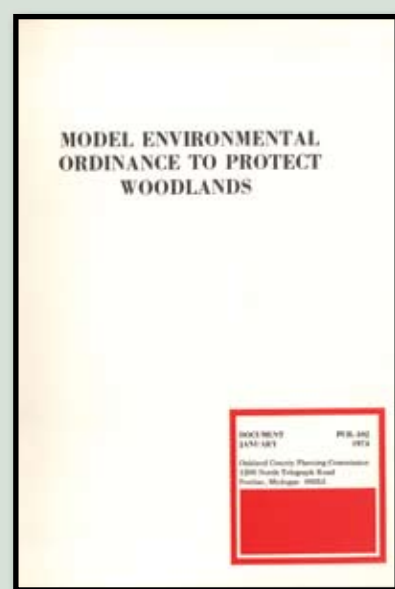
- Helps to build a sense of place
- Provides outdoor learning environments
- Creates recreational opportunities
- Improves health and wellness



Economic Benefits

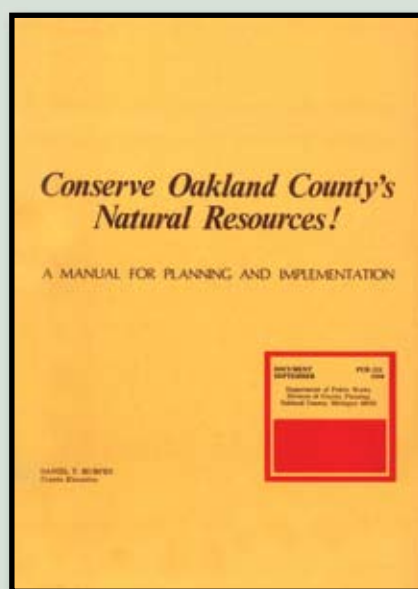
- Supports business attraction
- Helps to increase and maintain property values
- Provides free services (water filtration, groundwater recharging, stormwater control)
- Improves local and regional tourism

Over Thirty Years of Natural Resource Identification & Preservation



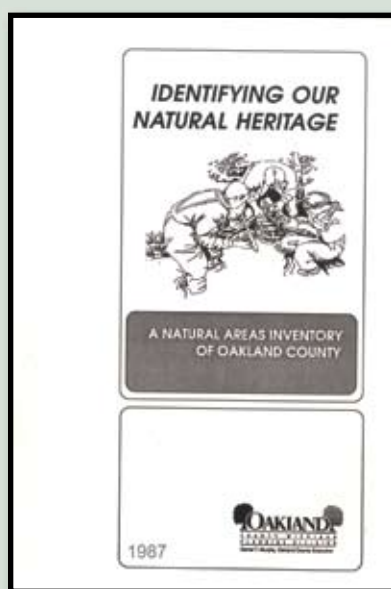
1974

The Model Environmental Ordinance to Protect Woodlands provides language for local community planning and zoning documents.



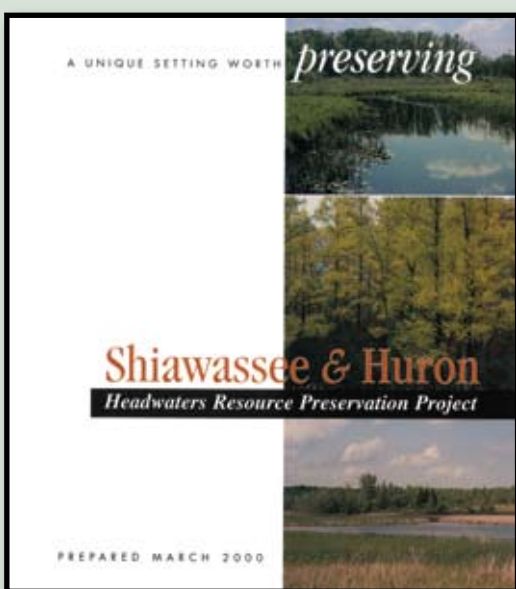
1980

Conserve Oakland County's Natural Resources looks at ways to conserve natural resources through community land use planning.



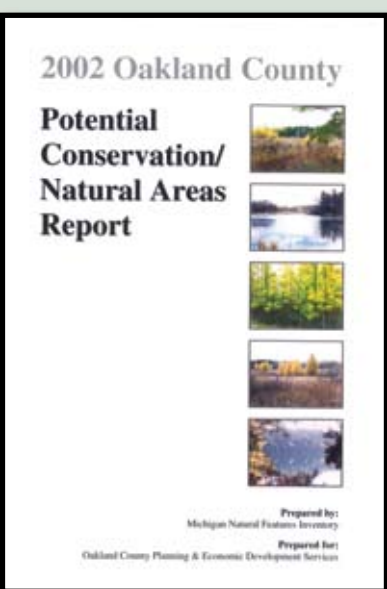
1987

Identifying Our Natural Heritage explores and identifies Oakland County's existing, intact natural areas that contain high quality, relatively undisturbed natural communities.



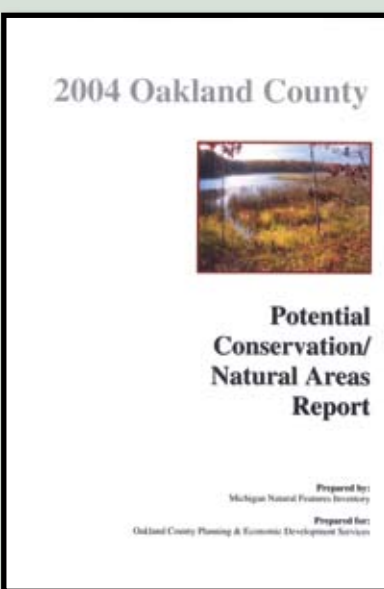
2000

The Shiawassee & Huron Headwaters Resource Preservation Project delineates significant natural resource systems and focuses on planning related strategies to protect the identified resource systems.



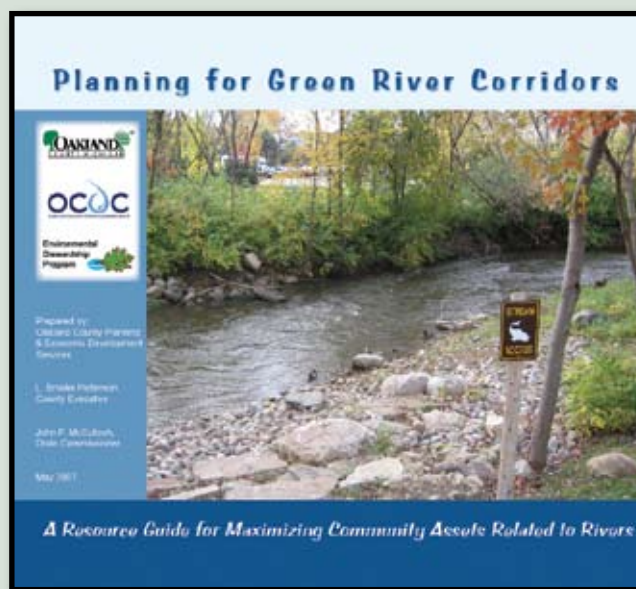
2002

The 2002 Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report identifies and ranks potential natural areas in Oakland County.



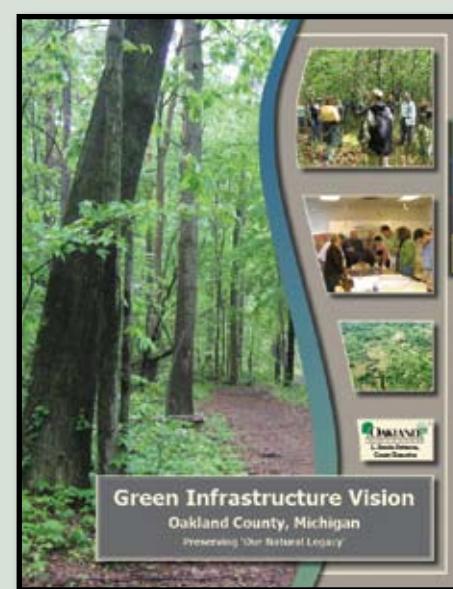
2004

The 2004 Oakland County Potential Conservation/Natural Areas Report is an update to the 2002 document, and it also identifies and ranks potential natural areas in Oakland County.



2007

Planning for Green River Corridors is designed as a guide for community leaders and stakeholders to identify the resources associated with riparian areas and maximize those resources as community assets.



2009

The Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision highlights the network of connected open space and the associated benefits in Oakland County.

connecting communities

natural networks

Multi-Scale Approach



Using a multi-scale approach to Green Infrastructure planning helps to create a meaningful context from which to plan and implement a variety of conservation related projects. Scale allows for the consideration of green infrastructure to encompass natural assets of different sizes, ranging from backyard rain gardens to intact forests. By linking local plans to the overall County Vision, we help support the integrity of the larger resource network and create opportunities for coordination between conservation efforts.

The County's Vision is intended to not only provide a basis for the overall interconnected system of open spaces and natural areas, but to encourage and support the integration of best land management practices into the local project design.

Examples of various levels of detail and scale can be described as:

- Project Scale** (highly specific) Examples include: green buildings, rain gardens, and natural landscaping
- Community Scale** (specific) Examples include: conservation developments, parks, and local zoning ordinances
- Landscape Scale** (general) Examples include: an interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and waterways

Green Infrastructure actions should span multiple scales, but it's at the local level where most of the on-the-ground implementation takes place.



Commerce Work Session

The key to a successful, comprehensive Green Infrastructure approach is looking for multi-scale opportunities. From protecting large blocks of high quality natural areas to tending an urban garden, all contribute to the overall Vision and will ultimately help make it a reality.



Natural Area Meeting

Conservation approaches that focus on individual pieces of land without considering surrounding landscapes are limiting their potential success. Conservation efforts can be maximized by being proactive in the planning process and taking advantage of potential partnerships. The Natural Area Advisory Group meetings provide an excellent opportunity to highlight a multitude of potential land and partnership opportunities that reach far beyond the actual project site. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to anyone interested in sharing, learning, and collaborating on various conservation topics related to multi-level Green Infrastructure efforts.

Natural Area Advisory Group

Formed in 2004, the Oakland County Natural Area Advisory Group brings together a variety of organizations and individuals interested in advancing Green Infrastructure efforts throughout Oakland County.

The Natural Area Advisory Group also played a major role in developing the Green Infrastructure process and guiding the countywide visioning effort.

Vision

To become an informed, coordinated, collaborative body that adds value to preservation efforts that contribute to Oakland County's Green Infrastructure.

Mission

To collaborate, coordinate, and support initiatives that preserve natural lands and resources in order to enhance the quality of life for the residents of Oakland County.

Goals

1. Pursue establishing partnerships in both the public and private sector
2. Facilitate the development of a joint county conservation (Green Infrastructure) vision
3. Explore funding mechanisms



«regional focus»

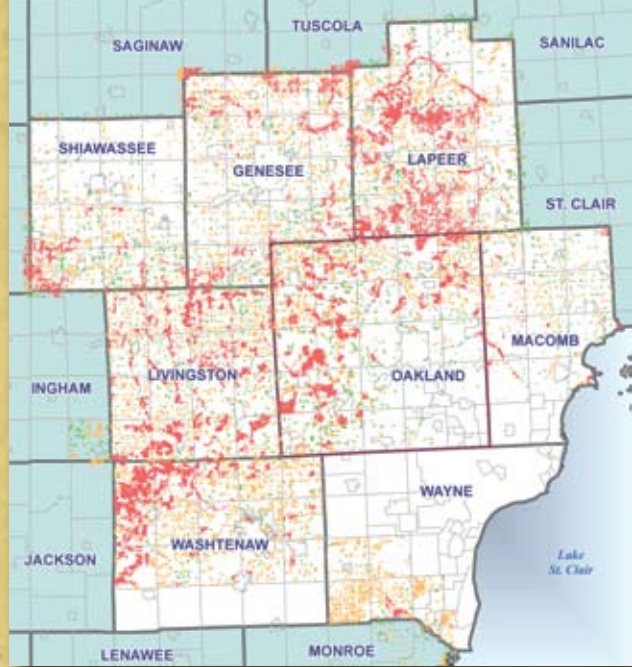
Green Infrastructure efforts around the State of Michigan:

- Wild Link Conservation Resource Alliance
- West Michigan Strategic Alliance
- Growing Greener in Southwest Michigan
- Saginaw Bay Greenways Collaborative
- Greening Mid-Michigan
- Genesee, Lapeer, & Shiawassee Green Links
- Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision
- Macomb County



Statewide Efforts

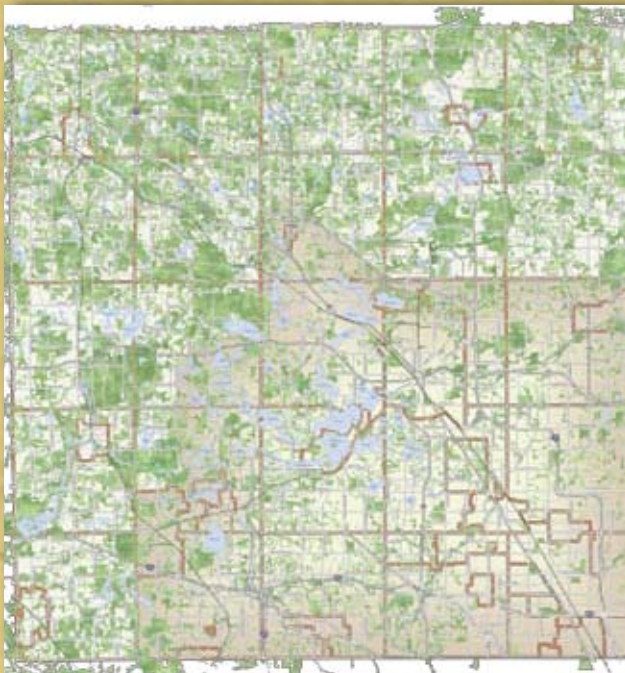
Regional Connections



Many organizations within southeastern Michigan have identified potential natural areas based on the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) model. The MNFI is an organization that maintains a continuously updated database of Michigan's endangered, threatened, or special concern plant and animal species, natural communities, and other natural features.

Oakland County's collaborative community-based Green Infrastructure Vision:

- acts as the foundation for an integrated conservation network
- builds on individual community efforts
- promotes collaboration
- helps to sustain our cities, townships, and villages



County Vision

Local Opportunities



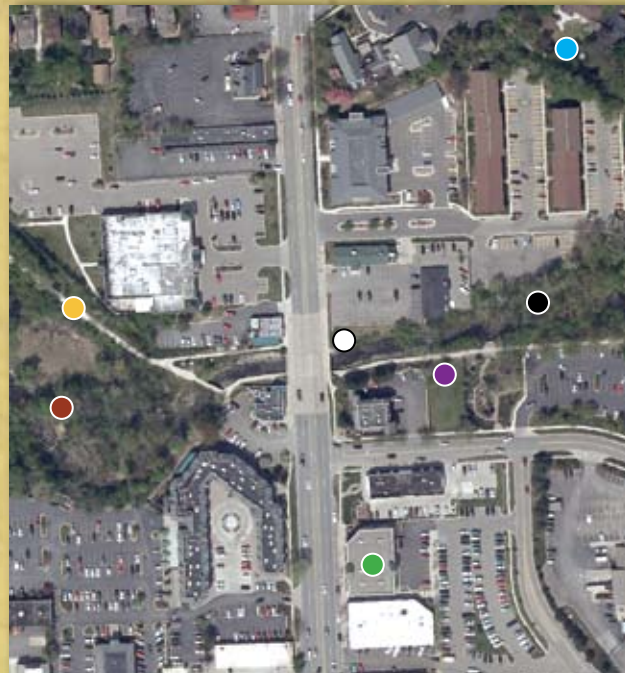
Detailed local scale Green Infrastructure maps:

- show location of hubs, sites, links, restoration areas, and special places
- build on existing local efforts
- highlight connected open space extending beyond community boundaries
- place local efforts into a larger context

Urban Example

Green Infrastructure components in the urban landscape can include:

- Trail Connections
- Green Infrastructure Links
- Rain Garden
- Green Building
- Stream Buffer
- Native Landscaping
- Restoration Opportunities



site focus»

Parcel Example



A community can create buffer requirements in the local zoning ordinance to help stabilize and protect river banks and lake shores.

- Homes built in the 1960s did not include a vegetated buffer at the water's edge
- Homes built in the 2000s incorporated a vegetated buffer

built from the bottom up

based on science



Independence Work Session



Waterford Oaks County Park



Kresge Foundation, Troy

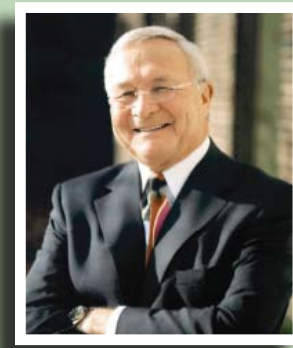


Clinton River, Waterford

Green Infrastructure Vision Oakland County, Michigan Preserving Our Natural Legacy

Green Infrastructure is an interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and waterways. The main focuses are on conservation values, the services provided by natural ecosystems, and integrating them into the built environment. Not all Green Infrastructure projects have the same goals and each project may include a variety of land types containing a mixture of ecological values. If you live, work, or play within Oakland County, you are a stakeholder when it comes to Green Infrastructure. From saving money, adding recreational opportunities, attracting businesses, and providing wildlife habitat, Green Infrastructure creates a framework for sustaining a wide-ranging quality of life.

Oakland County is blessed with an abundance of healthy and unique natural resources. This natural advantage contributes to the environmental and economic quality of life for our residents and businesses. Our Green Infrastructure Vision was created to recognize and maintain this natural advantage. This vision provides a road map into the future and creates opportunities for people to connect to the land through trails, parks, and waterways. Through planning, we can help decrease the costs of public infrastructure and public services such as stormwater management and water treatment systems. Our collective foresight and ability to work together on these complex planning issues help secure Oakland County's livability, prosperity, and continued status as a world-class business leader.



L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive



Conservation Stewards Class

Prepared by:



Sponsored by:



Printed on recycled paper on October 9, 2009.

2020 Approved Trailways Commission Operations Budget - 11/19/19											p3
								2018	2019	2020	
REVENUE								Final	Approved	Approved	
Member Unit Contribution for Commission and Office Operations and Staff								\$71,544	\$72,000	\$72,000	
	Rochester			18,000							
	Rochester Hills			18,000							
	Oakland Township			18,000							
	Orion Township			18,000							
Member Unit Contribution for Patrol Program, based on community mileage								\$13,493	\$13,493	\$14,392	
	Rochester			1,131							
	Rochester Hills			2,425							
	Oakland Township			8,736							
	Orion Township			2,100							
Interest								\$347	\$300	\$300	
Trailways Saleable Items								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Miscellaneous/Donations								\$200	\$200	\$200	
Transfer from Legal Services								\$7,999	\$8,755	\$10,255	
Trail Brochure Sponsorship								\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	
National Trails Day Sponsorship								\$750	\$500	\$500	
Labor Day Bridge Walk Donations								\$1,574	\$0	\$0	
Labor Day Bridge Walk Sponsorship								\$1,250	\$1,000	\$1,000	
Bench Donations								\$0	\$1,700	\$2,550	
Temporary Permit Fees								\$180	\$70	\$70	
Transfer from Fund Balance								\$0	\$2,000	\$0	
Program/Project Grants								\$0	\$0	\$0	
MMRMA Asset Distribution								\$2,196	\$2,000	\$2,000	
				Total Revenue				\$99,533	\$105,018	\$106,267	
EXPENSES											
Office											
Telephone and Computer Network Services								\$504	\$504	\$504	
Office Furnishings								\$0	\$250	\$100	
Office Materials & Supplies								\$449	\$700	\$1000	
Office Operating Expenses								\$1,179	\$2,000	\$2,000	
Rent								\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	
Postage								\$347	\$500	\$500	
Office & Trail Equipment								\$890	\$800	\$650	
Bench donations								\$0	\$1,700	\$2,550	
Restroom Maintenance								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal								\$8,369	\$11,454	\$12,304	

Staff Travel/Training/Development						2018	2019	2020	p4
Travel/Mileage						\$538	\$500	\$500	
Education/Memberships						\$416	\$250	\$250	
Per Diems						\$4,655	\$4,900	\$4,900	
Subtotal						\$5,609	\$5,650	\$5,650	
Insurance/Professional Services (other than legal)									
Auditing Fee for FY 2019						\$3,400	\$3,600	\$3,600	
Insurance (MMRMA)						\$3,644	\$3,900	\$3,900	
Recorders Fee						\$3,220	\$2,990	\$3,055	
Subtotal						\$10,264	\$10,490	\$10,555	
Publicity/Raising awareness/Educational Projects									
Trailways Student Project						\$0	\$500	\$500	
Brochures						\$3,181	\$3,000	\$3,000	
Trail Promotional Items						\$1,075	\$1,100	\$1,100	
Labor Day Bridge Walk						\$810	\$1,000	\$1,000	
National Trails Day						\$250	\$500	\$500	
Trail Etiquette Program						\$0	\$0	\$0	
Subtotal						\$5,316	\$6,100	\$6,100	
Administrative Personnel									
Wages - Manager						\$37,402	\$32,323	\$32,970	
FICA/MESC - Manager						\$2,861	\$2,473	\$2,522	
Wages - Part-time Assistant Trail Manager						\$10,535	\$9,884	\$10,082	
2020 Bonus - Asst. Trail Manager						\$0	\$0	\$297	
FICA/MESC - Asst. Trail Manager						\$806	\$756	\$794	
Subtotal						\$51,604	\$45,436	\$46,664	
Trail Projects									
Tienken Pathway/Art Project						\$0	\$0	0	
Signage Project						\$0	\$3,000	\$3,355	
Trail Improvement Project - South Rochester						\$0	\$0	\$0	
Property Acquisition Projects						\$0	\$0	\$0	
2020-2024 Master Plan Revision						\$0	\$7000	\$2,000	
Bridge 33.7/Resurfacing Ribbon Cutting Ceremony						\$0	\$0	\$1,000	
Moutrie Pollinator Garden Ribbon Cutting Ceremony						\$0	\$0	\$500	
Subtotal						\$0	\$10,000	\$6,855	
Patrol Program									
Wages - PCTC Bike Patrol						\$4,070	\$4,757	\$4,852	
FICA/MESC-Bike Patrol						\$311	\$364	\$371	
Contracted Mounted Patrol Services						\$6,052	\$9,500	\$9,550	
Commission Contribution to Bike Patrol Services						\$0	\$0	\$0	
Bike Patrol Equipment & Misc						\$282	\$250	\$250	
Subtotal						\$10,715	\$14,871	\$15,023	

											p5
Printing/Logo Expenses											
Trail Saleable Items								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Master Plan Printing								\$0	\$750	\$300	
Subtotal								\$0	\$750	\$300	
Miscellaneous/Contingency								\$223	\$267	\$271	
Transfer to fund balance								\$7,433	\$0	\$2,545	
Subtotal								\$7,656	\$267	\$2,816	
				Total Expenses				\$99,533	\$105,018	\$106,267	
				Revenue minus Expenses				\$0	\$0	\$0	
2019 Legal Services Project Budget											
								2018	2019	2020	
REVENUES											
Member Unit Contribution								\$0	\$0	\$0	
License Fees								\$11,324	\$12,255	\$12,255	
License Fees Paid in Advance								\$0	\$0	\$0	
New License Preparation Fees								\$0	\$0	\$0	
				Total Revenue				\$11,324	\$12,255	\$12,255	
EXPENSES											
Legal Retainer								\$0	\$0	\$0	
License Preparation Fees								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Transfer to Operating Budget								\$7,999	\$8,755	\$10,255	
Advance License Fees Carried Forward								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Legal Services								\$3,325	\$3,000	\$1,500	
Unallocated								\$0	\$500	\$500	
				Total Expenses				\$11,324	\$12,255	\$12,255	
				Revenue Minus Expenses - Legal				\$0	\$0	\$0	
Special Project Budget - Bridge Renovation Project								2018	2019	2020	
Source of Funds											
Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance								\$0	\$20,000	\$0	
Member Unit Contributions								\$35,766	\$0	\$0	
				Total Revenue				\$35,766	\$20,000	\$0	
EXPENSES											
Bridge 33.7 Renovation								\$0	\$20,000	\$0	
Legal Services								\$0	\$0	\$0	
Tree Removal								\$3,825	\$0	\$0	
Design Engineering								\$31,941	\$0	\$0	
				Total Expenses				\$35,766	\$20,000	\$0	

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Special Project Budget -Trail Resurfacing												
								2018	2019	2020		
Source of Funds												
Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance								\$18,924	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Member Unit Contributions								\$0	\$0	\$0		
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail								\$1,550	\$0	\$0		
								\$20,474	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Total Revenue												
EXPENSES												
Trail Surface Design Engineering								\$18,649	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Rochester Hills Educational Path Engineering								\$1,329	\$0	\$0		
Legal Services								\$275	\$0	\$0		
								\$20,253	\$20,000	\$20,000		
Total Expenses												
2019 Special Project Budget - Observation Deck								2018	2019	2020		
Source of Funds												
Paint Creek Trailways Commission Fund Balance								\$3,671	\$25,000	\$0		
Member Unit Contributions								\$0	\$0	\$0		
Friends of the Paint Creek Trail								\$1,400				
								\$5,071	\$25,000	\$0		
Total Revenue												
Expenses												
Observation Deck Construction								\$3,671	\$25,000	\$0		
SE Rochester Sidepath Engineering								\$1,262	\$0	\$0		
								\$4,933	\$25,000	\$0		
Total Expenses												
2019 Unrestricted Fund Balance								\$ 80,000.00				
2020 Unrestricted Additions								\$ 2,545.00				
2020 Unrestricted Subtractions (Special Projects)								\$ 20,000.00				
						Balance		\$ 62,545.00				
2020 Total Restricted Funds for future expenditures								\$ 2,465.00				
	Directional Sign Project (Meijer)						\$ 1,645.00					
	Rochester Art Project - Maintenance fund						\$ 720.00					
	Art Project Brochure (Greenbaum)						\$ 100.00					
						Subtotal	\$ 2,465.00					
2020 Unrestricted Fund Balance								\$ 62,545.00				
2020 Restricted Fund Balance								\$ 2,465.00				
2020 Total Fund Balance (as of 10/15/19)								\$ 65,010.00				