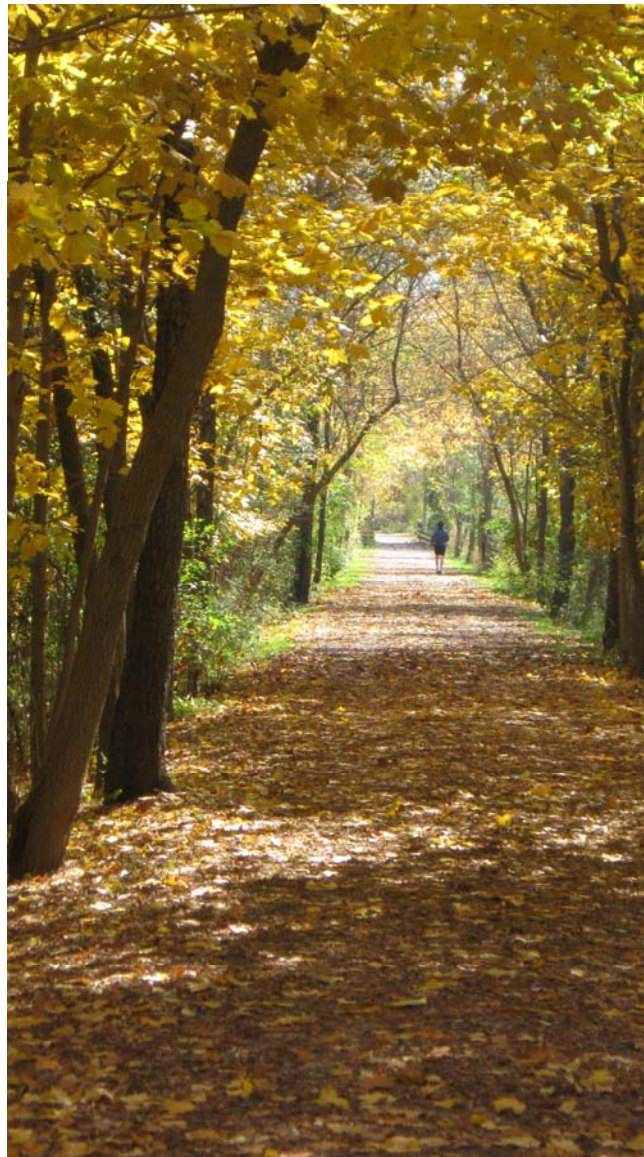




Paint Creek Trail



2009-2013 Recreation Master Plan

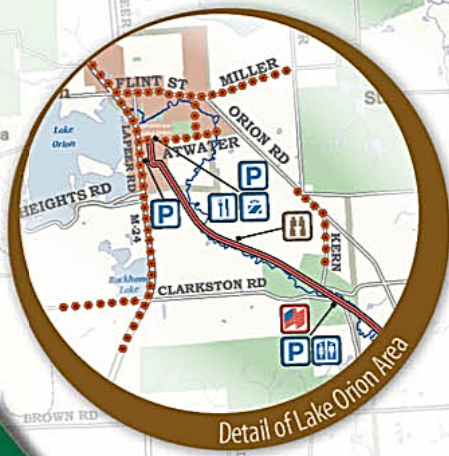
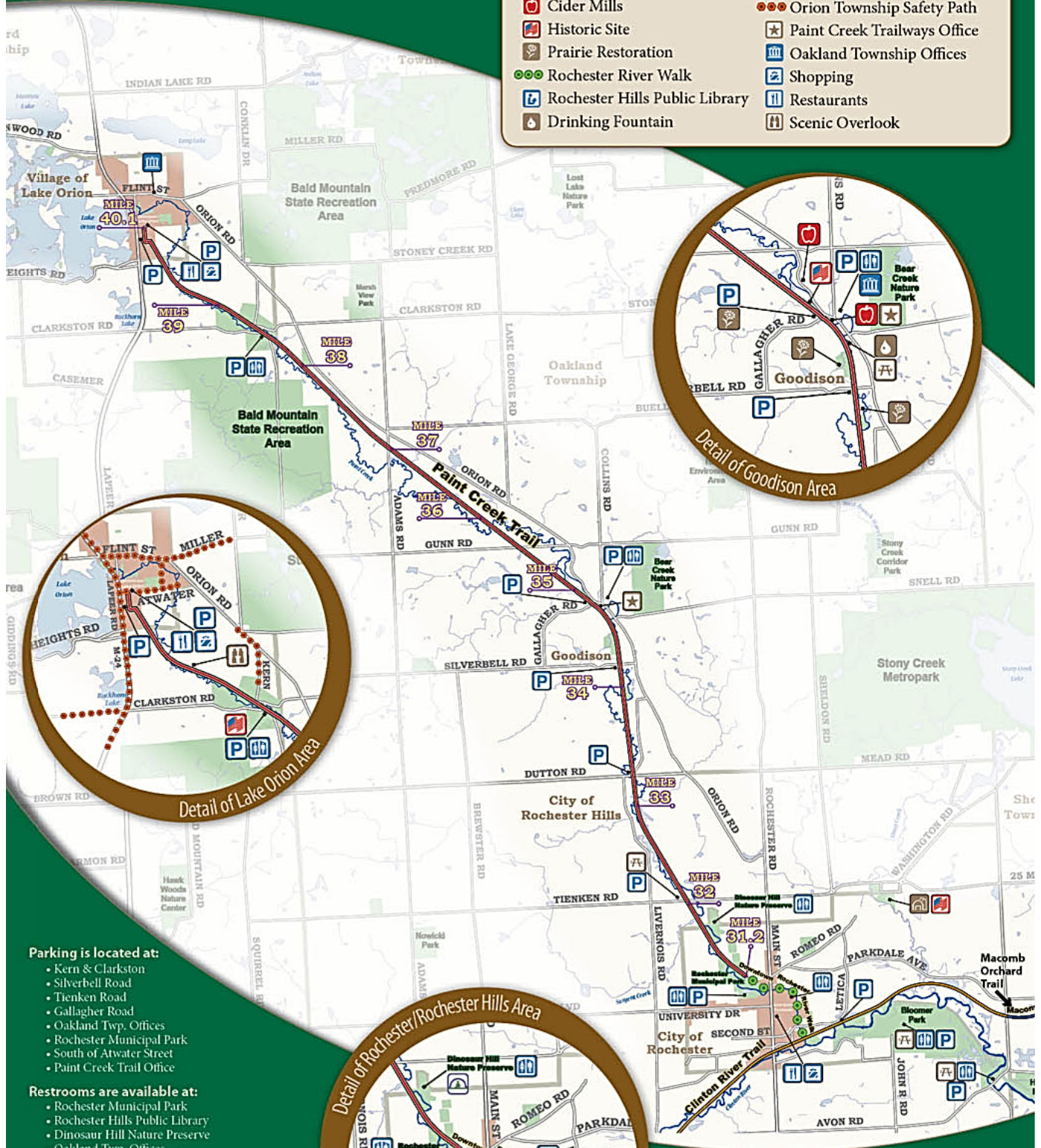
Adopted January 20, 2009



Paint Creek Trail Map

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

- Parking
- Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve
- Restrooms
- City of Rochester Offices
- Cider Mills
- Orion Township Safety Path
- Historic Site
- Paint Creek Trailways Office
- Prairie Restoration
- Oakland Township Offices
- Rochester River Walk
- Shopping
- Rochester Hills Public Library
- Restaurants
- Drinking Fountain
- Scenic Overlook



Parking is located at:

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

Restrooms are available at:

- Rochester Municipal Park
- Rochester Hills Public Library
- Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve
- Oakland Twp. Offices
- Paint Creek Trail Office
- Trail Restroom Facility at Kern & Clarkston

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

4480 Orion Rd. Rochester, MI 48306
 Mailing Address: 4393 Collins Rd.
 Rochester, MI 48306
 (248) 651-9260
 paintcreektrail@aol.com
 www.paintcreektrail.org
 Please Recycle Brochure



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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

Bruce Austin, Parks Superintendent, City of Rochester
Michael Hartner, Director, Rochester Hills Parks & Forestry
Becky McLogan, Director, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission
Rock Blanchard, Director, Orion Township Parks & Recreation
Lois Golden, Executive Director, Downtown Lake Orion
John Makris, Attorney, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Kristen Myers, Trail Manager, Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Maryann Whitman, Commissioner, Paint Creek Trailways Commission

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG)
Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance (MTGA)
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Oakland County Trails Advisory Council (OTAC)

A special thanks to Kristen Wiltfang, GIS Technician, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development, for her assistance in the creation of all maps for this document!

Photo Credits

Cover:

Winter photo, courtesy of Louis Carrio
Prairie Photo, showing Wild Blue Lupine, courtesy of Louis Carrio
All other photos by Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

Chapter One: Master Plan Adoption

Chapter cover, Bicyclists near Foley Pond in Lake Orion, courtesy of Louis Carrio

Chapter Two: Administrative Structure

Chapter cover: Jogger south of Dutton in Rochester Hills, by Kristen Myers
All other chapter photos by Kristen Myers

Chapter Three: Community Description

Chapter cover: Labor Day Bridge Walk participants, north of Ludlow, by Kristen Myers
Page 44, Carpenter-Rudd's Mill, Orion Township, courtesy of the Puuri Family

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

Chapter cover: Trail near Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve, Rochester, by Kristen Myers
All other chapter photos by Kristen Myers

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

Chapter cover: Observation Deck at Foley Pond, Orion Township, by Kristen Myers

Chapter Six: Planning & Public Input Process

Chapter cover: Bridge south of Dutton in Rochester Hills, by Kristen Myers

Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives

Chapter cover: Labor Day Bridge Walk participants, in Rochester, by Kristen Myers

Appendices cover: Walkers south of Ludlow, in Rochester, by Kristen Myers

Executive Summary

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission is proud to present its 2009-2013 Recreation Master Plan. This replaces the 2004-2008 Plan, and was developed under the Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Guidelines for the Development of Community Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway 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 ecological 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 20, 2009. 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.

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 logging on to 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. A part-time Administrative Assistant position is currently open.

Community Description

The current total population of the five Trail communities is 132,669. This number has been steadily increasing with the 35-64 year age group as the majority of the residents (See [Table 3.3](#)). It is expected that the population of senior citizens will increase, reflecting a national trend.

The Paint Creek Trail is located on the northern edge of the greater Detroit Metropolitan Area. Being located within communities that are fully or rapidly developing heightens the contrast of the Trail's natural character. The Trailways Commission is aware that acquisitions of adjacent vacant parcels are vital to the Trail's preservation as the area around it becomes increasingly developed.

Recreational 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 ten years, the popularity of and demand for multi-use trails has resulted in the development of the Macomb Orchard and Polly Ann Trails, two trails with excellent potential for linkage to the Paint Creek Trail. The construction of these projects is a testament to the public demand for alternative routes for non-motorized transportation.

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 4.9. While the Trailways Commission does not have any formalized activity program, a number of non-profit groups have held events on the Trail, including walkathons and cleanup days.

Accomplishments

A review of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission accomplishments as they relate to the Capital Improvement Schedules from the 1992-2008 Trailways Master Recreation Plans are shown in [Table 5.1](#). The Commission has addressed a majority of the Capital Improvement items listed, and effectively completed eighteen of the twenty-nine, and three projects not previously listed.

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 2008, focusing on the Goals & Objectives. Public input was invited through a variety of methods, including a Survey Questionnaire, an open invitation to attend plan revision meetings, 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 20, 2009 are listed in [Table 6.1](#).

Goals & Objectives

The Goals and Objectives chapter is comprised of seven main Trail issues:

- Adjacent Land Uses
- Access and Acceptable Uses
- Safety
- Identity and Continuity
- Character
- Trail Network Connections
- Undeveloped Trail Segments

Each of these issues 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.



Chapter One: Master Plan Adoption



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

Recreation Master Plan Resolution of Adoption

Moved by: Whitman, supported by: Gamage

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has undertaken a Five Year Recreation Master Plan which describes the physical features, existing recreation facilities and the desired actions to be taken to improve and maintain Paint Creek Trail recreation facilities during the period between 2009 and 2013, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing comment session was held on October 21, 2008 at the Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, Michigan to provide an opportunity for citizens to express opinions, ask questions, and discuss all aspects of the Recreation Master Plan, and

WHEREAS, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has developed the plan for the benefit of the entire community and prepared the plan as a document to assist in meeting the Paint Creek Trail recreation needs of the community, and

WHEREAS, after the public hearing, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission voted to adopt said Recreation Master Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Paint Creek Trailways Commission hereby adopts the 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan as a guideline for improving Paint Creek Trail recreation for the residents of Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, the Village of Lake Orion and Southeast Michigan.

Ayes: Blanchard, Gamage, Peters, Thomas, Webber, Whitman

Nays: None

Absent: Becker, Edwards, Schultz, Yalamanchi, Young

MOTION CARRIED

I, Rock Blanchard, Chairman of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and original copy of a resolution adopted by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission at a Regular Meeting thereof held on the 20th day of January, 2009.

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Mr. Paul E. Tait, Executive Director
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
535 Griswold Street, Suite 300
Detroit, Michigan 48226-3602

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Tait:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to your regional planning agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rock Blanchard".

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601- 0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Oakland County Service Center
Planning & Economic Development Services
Mr. Daniel P. Hunter, Manager
1200 N. Telegraph Road, Building 34 East
Pontiac, Michigan 48341-0412

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Hunter:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to your agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rock Blanchard".

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Mr. James Creech, Manager
Charter Township of Oakland
4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Creech:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to the Charter Township of Oakland, a member community of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rock Blanchard'. The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Matthew Gibb, Supervisor
Charter Township of Orion
2525 Joslyn Road
Lake Orion, MI 48360

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Gibb:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to the Charter Township of Orion, a member community of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rock Blanchard".

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Mr. Jaymes Vettraino, Manager
City of Rochester
400 Sixth Street
Rochester, MI 48307

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Vettraino:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to the City of Rochester, a member community of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rock Blanchard".

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601-0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Mr. Bryan Barnett, Mayor
City of Rochester Hills
1000 Rochester Hills Drive
Rochester Hills, MI 48309

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Barnett:

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to the City of Rochester Hills, a member community of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rock Blanchard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan



4393 Collins Road
Rochester, Michigan 48306
(248) 651-9260
Fax (248) 601- 0106
www.paintcreektrail.org

February 24, 2009

Mr. Paul Zelenak, Manager
Village of Lake Orion
37 E. Flint Street
Lake Orion, MI 48362

RE: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

Dear Mr. Zelenak

In accordance with the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space, and Greenway Plans published by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Grants Management Division, the officially adopted 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan is hereby transmitted to the Village of Lake Orion, a community of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rock Blanchard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name of the signatory.

Rock Blanchard, Chairman
Paint Creek Trailways Commission

RB/km

Enclosure: 2009-2013 Paint Creek Trail Recreation Master Plan

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Chapter Two: 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. With the addition of a trail segment in the Village of Lake Orion, a “non-voting” seat on the Commission for the Village of Lake Orion was approved in 2004. Financial decisions require the approval of all voting member communities. 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 2008 Trailways Commission Members is provided in [Figures 2.1](#) and [2.2](#).

Figure 2.1: Paint Creek Trailways Commission Organizational Chart

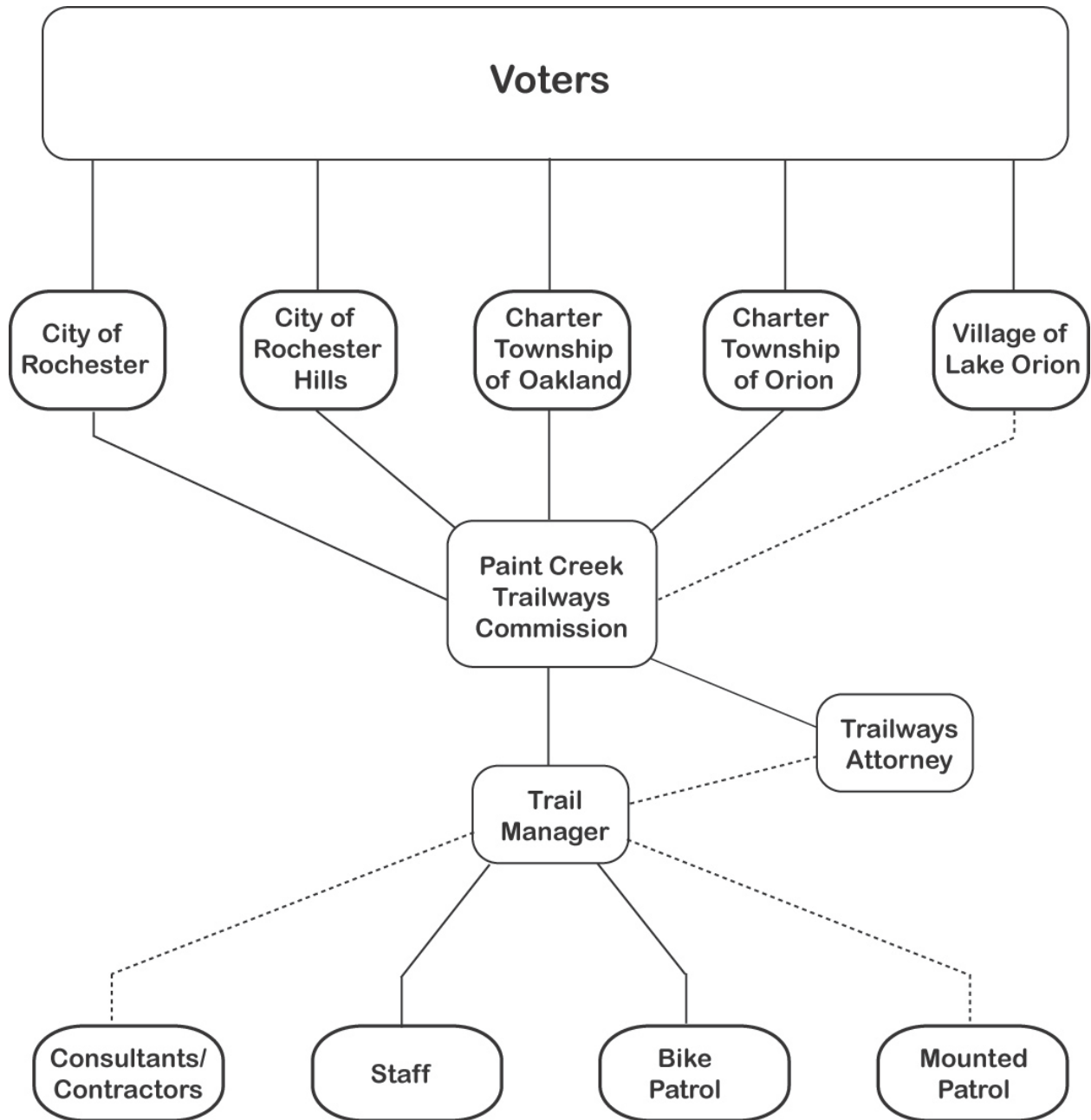


Figure 2.2: Paint Creek Trailways Commission Members – 2008

Name	Community Represented	2008 Office Held
Richard Schultz	Rochester	
David Becker	Rochester	(Vice-Chair)
Jeff Matis (Alternate)	Rochester	
Linda Gamage (Alternate)	Rochester	
Ravi Yalamanchi	Rochester Hills	
Michael Webber (Alternate)	Rochester Hills	
B. Paul Miller	Rochester Hills	(Secretary)
Ronald Stewart (Alternate)	Rochester Hills	
Maryann Whitman	Oakland Township	(Treasurer)
Martha Olijnyk (Alternate)	Oakland Township	
Marc Edwards	Oakland Township	
Kathy Thomas (Alternate)	Oakland Township	
Alice Young	Orion Township	
Rock Blanchard	Orion Township	(Chair)
Edward Peters (Alternate)	Orion Township	
John Garlicki (Alternate)	Orion Township	
Lois Golden, Non-Voting Member	Village of Lake Orion	
<u>Support Staff:</u>		
Kristen Myers, Manager		
David Moutrie, Bike Patroller		
John Makris, Attorney		
Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary		

B. Trailways Commission – 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 Trailways 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 member communities include the City of Rochester, the City of Rochester Hills, Oakland Township and Orion Township, as they contribute funding to the Trailways Commission. The Village of Lake Orion is considered a “non-voting member community” because they currently do not contribute financially to the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. However, it should be noted that the Village of Lake Orion is extremely supportive of the Trail, and contributes in-kind services whenever possible, including law enforcement and DPW services. The Operations Budget for 2009 was \$95,693. In 2009, 72% of the budget (\$68,928) was funded equally by the four voting member communities (\$17,232) with the remaining 28% 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 2009, the Patrol Program Budget was \$13,120, with funding from the four member communities as follows, based on Trail mileage in each community:

- Orion Township: \$1,915
- Oakland Township: \$7,962
- Rochester Hills: \$2,211
- Rochester: \$1,032

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

Funds for other purposes, including development projects, may be obtained through submitting a Project Budget request to the member communities. Attorney services on retainer are paid for through the General Budget. In-kind contribution of assistance by municipal staff is arranged as part of the annual budget; services by

Chapter Two: Administrative Structure
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 mending, and correcting problems associated with vandalism.

The Paint Creek Trail was resurfaced in 2004 at a cost of \$250,000. 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 2019.

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. 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 and rental payments is shown in [Table 2.3](#).

Jogger on Trail south of
Dutton Road
Summer 2007
Rochester Hills



Table 2.3: Paint Creek Trailways Commission License Agreements – 2008

LICENSEE	NUMBER	DUE DATE	ANNUAL AMOUNT
Ameritech	X571711	January	\$85
	X571502	January	\$60
	X9388141	July	\$60
	X571548	July	\$300
	X571491	July	\$150
Consumers Energy	X571786	January	\$90
	LO197494	January	\$600
Detroit Edison	15 agreements	July	\$2340
ITC	2 agreements	Pending	Pending
Dillman & Upton	Per Agreement	July	\$4000
Mich. Consolidated Gas	X571942	July	\$600
	X71995	July	\$425
Michigan Gas Storage	X508450	January	\$125
Parkedale Pharmaceuticals	X510280	July	\$60
Sunoco Pipeline LP	X5124102-2	January	\$100
TOTAL			\$8,655

3. Development of Paint Creek Trail and Land Value

Development has occurred on a phased basis, with priorities established by the Trailways Commission after obtaining public input. In 1986, cost for completion of the Paint Creek Trail (not including land) was estimated at \$500,000, based on figures from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Twenty-two years later, the Paint Creek Trail, including the value of the surfacing, erosion controls, bridgework, and land is easily valued in excess of that figure. A complete list of Trailways parcels property identification numbers and acreage is found in [Table 2.4](#). 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 2.4: Trailways Commission Parcel Information

COMMUNITY	PARCEL IDENTIFICATION	ACRES	Percentage of Total Acreage
VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION	09-12-151-045	1.21	1.1%
	09-11-278-075	1.01	0.9%
Subtotal		2.22	2.0%
ORION TOWNSHIP	09-12-304-009	10.39	9.5%
	09-13-201-003	3.04	2.8%
Subtotal		13.43	12.3%
OAKLAND TOWNSHIP	10-18-503-007	14.82	13.6%
	10-19-503-001	2.89	2.6%
	10-20-503-009	13.95	12.8%
	10-21-503-001	1.13	1%
	10-28-503-013	19.94	18.2%
	10-33-503-005	14.75	13.5%
Subtotal		67.48	61.7%
ROCHESTER HILLS	15-03-503-005	7.86	7.2%
	15-04-503-001	6.20	5.7%
	15-10-503-006	3.10	2.8%
Subtotal		17.16	15.7%
ROCHESTER	15-10-452-016	7.14	6.5%
	15-14-276-074	1.43	1.3%
	15-14-276-076	.51	0.5%
Subtotal		9.08	8.3%
Total Acreage		109.37	100%

Source: Confirmation by Access Oakland, January 2008.

4. Paint Creek Trailways Commission Property Survey

In 2007 and 2008, the Trailways Commission, with financial support from the four voting member communities, contracted with a local surveying company for a complete Trail boundary survey project. Due to the extensive development of the area since the Trailways Commission took ownership of the right-of-way, it became increasingly critical to protect the Trail and adjacent right-of-way from encroachments. An Act 132 survey was completed, and over 85 monuments were installed in various points along the property. As part of the survey, legal descriptions were also updated. Additionally, this project will assist the Trailways Commission in obtaining future State and Federal grants, as confirming ownership and project locations are an integral part in the grant approval process.

C. Personnel

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. Work is assigned to the Trail Manager by the Commission at monthly meetings or under the direction of the 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 a staff budget, which covers wages, office supplies and equipment to operate the Manager and Administrative Assistant positions, as well as 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 Trail Advisory Council 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 contacts.
- Administer licenses and use permits.
- 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.

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2. Administrative Assistant

The Administrative Assistant position was created in 2000 to alleviate the increasing demand for service from the Trailways Commission Office. Work is assigned to the Administrative Assistant by the Manager or under the direction of the Chairperson. It is a part-time position, with responsibilities including:

- Assisting the Manager in gathering data and information pertinent to preparation of monthly meetings, grant applications and the draft budget.
- Compiling, computing, and recording data.
- Updating records related to the activities of the Trailways Commission.
- Typing letters, reports, records, and other forms.
- Making appointments and arranging meetings.
- Maintaining a working inventory of office supplies and merchandise items.
- Raising awareness of Trail in the Community.
- Public communications such as phone calls, mail, email, brochures, and media contacts.
- Performing the duties as necessary in the absence of the Trail Manager.

As of late 2008, this position was unfilled.

3. Bike Patrol

The Bike Patrol position was created in 1998 to help 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 via cellular phone 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 2009, the Patrol Program budget was \$13,120, with funding from the four member communities as follows, based on Trail mileage in each community:

- Rochester: \$1,032
- Rochester Hills: \$2,211
- Oakland Township: \$7,962
- Orion Township: \$1,915

The complete 2009 Approved Trailways Budget, including Patrol Program, is available on our website and by contacting the Trailways Commission office.

D. Community and Citizen Input

In the last ten years, the Paint Creek Trail has seen a number of Community Organizations, including school volunteer groups, church organizations and Boy Scout troops, initialize and carry out many service projects and Trail clean-up days (See [Table 2.5](#)). The Trailways Commission and Member Communities are appreciative for these community-inspired efforts, and continue to encourage groups to work with the Trail Manager in the development of such projects. Recognizing the value of volunteers, it is most often the Member Communities that provide the necessary financial support to volunteers. 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 their "sweat equity" allows the volunteers to take pride and a sense of ownership in the Paint Creek Trail. In addition, the Trailways Commission is able to communicate with citizens and trail users through the Commission website, www.paintcreektrail.org, as well as through an e-mail "Friends" list that is used to recruit volunteers and promote Trail events. The website and e-mail access for Trail users has been an effective way to receive input and suggestions regarding trail management and events.

Table 2.5: A Sampling of Trail Volunteer Activities and Donations, 2004-2008

DATE	ORGANIZATION or INDIVIDUAL	DESCRIPTION
2004	Dominic Kuss	Trail Cleanup Project
2004	Long Meadow Elementary 5 th Graders, Rochester Hills	Trail Cleanup Project
2004	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	Trail Cleanup and Bridge Painting Project
2004	Home Depot, Rochester Hills	Trail Cleanup, Bench and Brochure Box Repair and Replacement Project
2004	Lynn Button	Trail News Archive Scrapbooking Project
2004	Michigan State University, Christine Vogt, PhD	Trail User Survey Project
2004	The Ball Family, Rochester Hills	Bench Donation – south of Dutton
2004	The McDivitt Family, Rochester Hills	Bench Donation – south of Gallagher
2005	Christina DiSipio	Volunteer Office Assistance
2005	Long Meadow Elementary 5 th Graders, Rochester Hills	Trail Cleanup Project
2005	Thrivent Financial for Lutherans	Trail Cleanup and Bridge Painting Project
2005	WAM Crew, Pontiac, MI	Trail Cleanup Project
2005	“Friends” of the Paint Creek Trail	Volunteer Assistance, Heritage Festival, Rochester
2005	The Jones Family, Orion	Bench Donation, north of Clarkston/Kern
2005	Eagle Scout Candidate, Jon Barr, Rochester Hills	Brochure Box Project
2006	Long Meadow Elementary School 5 th Graders, Rochester Hills	Trail Cleanup Project
2006	Abe Amir, Engineer	Replaceable Bollard Design Project
2006	WAM Crew, Pontiac, MI	Trail Cleanup Project
2006	Bordine Better Blooms, Rochester Hills	Free Perennial Donation Project
2006	Tim Wicznerza, Lake Orion	Trail Bridge Painting Project
2007	Long Meadow Elementary 5 th Graders, Rochester Hills	Trail Cleanup Project
2007	The Walker Family, Oakland Twp	Bench Donation – south of Silver Bell
2007	The Lussier Family, Rochester Hills	Bench Donation – south of Silver Bell
2008	Woman’s National Farm & Garden – Rochester Branch	Bench Donations – south of Dutton, south of Flagstar Bank

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2008	The Peck/Gillies Families, Rochester Hills	Bench Donation – north of Tienken
2008	The Blazeovski Family, Shelby Township	Bench Donation – south of Gallagher
2008	The Pia Family, Rochester Hills	Bench Donation – south of Tienken
2008	The Schreiber Family, Oakland Township	Bench Donation – east of Adams



Volunteers from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, painting Bridge 38.6, north of Clarkston/Kern in 2005

E. Management of the Paint Creek Trail

A sound management program is vital to the success of any recreational facility. 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. Regular Trail monitoring and inspection by Manager and Community Staff.
2. Motorized vehicle ban with stringent enforcement.
3. Screening and fencing where necessary.
4. Fire Control and emergency access.
5. Soil erosion and sedimentation control measures.
6. Water quality protection program.
7. Litter prevention program.
8. Education and interpretive program.

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9. Effective maintenance program by communities and volunteers.
10. Maintenance of “Prairie Site” located south of Silver Bell and east of Trail.
11. Appropriate signage that educates users on trail policies, and provides information about the Paint Creek Trail and adjacent facilities.
12. Diligent addressing of safety coverage.
13. Attention to multi-use trail issues, i.e., compatibility of users.
14. Addressing needs of adjacent landowners.
15. 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, and continues to make up to four of the eight major issues explored. 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.

F. Maintenance and Enforcement of Ordinances

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 (See [Figure 2.6](#)). Many of these regulations are posted on directional signs along the Paint Creek Trail. In recognition of the liabilities of ownership, the Trailways Commission has continued to maintain additional 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 act as their “eyes and ears,” by reporting any suspicious activities or ordinance violations.

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A Trail user stops to talk to Mounted Patrol deputies near Tienken Road September 2007

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 voting 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 patrol program runs from May 1 until October 31 each year. 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.

Figure 2.6: Uniform Trailways Ordinances

1. **Hours:** All areas are deemed to be CLOSED between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. year round
2. **Closed Area:** No person shall enter or occupy any portion of the Paint Creek Trail that has been designated closed to public use or entry.
3. **Motor Vehicles:** No person shall drive, propel or park a motor vehicle or motorized sports equipment of any nature, EXCEPT motor vehicles used by authorized law enforcement or maintenance personnel.
4. **Horses:** No person shall ride or lead a horse within the boundaries of the Trailways land EXCEPT in designated areas.
5. **Dogs:** No person shall allow a dog or other animal to run at large on Trailways land.
6. **Disposal of trash:** No person shall deposit or abandon on any land or water areas within the Trailways land any garbage, glass, trash, waste, sewage or other obnoxious material EXCEPT in receptacles provided for that purpose.
7. **Sales:** No person shall sell or offer for sale anything without written permission from the Trailways Commission.
8. **Groups:** No person shall promote, arrange for or participate in any function occurring within the Trailways land and involving more than thirty-five persons without written permit from the Trailways Commission.
9. **Disorderly Conduct:** No person shall engage in any drunken, loud, boisterous or disorderly or indecent conduct.
10. **Natural Features:** No person shall dig for, remove, injure or destroy any tree, flower, shrub, plant or growing thing or any wild bird or animal or any earth, rock or other material within the boundaries of the Trailways land without written permission from the Trailways Commission.

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11. **Advertising**: No person shall display, distribute or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice, or statement or display any banner within the Trailways land without a written permit from the Trailways Commission.
12. **Littering**: No person shall drop, throw, or otherwise scatter any material, object, or substance on the Trailways land and not retrieve or pick up such material, object or substance.
13. **Trespass to Adjacent Land**: No person shall go onto land adjacent to Trailways land which is in private ownership, without the expressed permission of the owner of the land. The person going onto any such land shall be the owner or a member of the family of the owner or shall carry in his possession written permission allowing entry onto the private land, signed by the owner.
14. **Damage to Property**: No person shall injure, deface, disturb, befoul, change or remove any portion of any marker, structure, equipment, fence or any other property within the Trailways land.
15. **Obstruction of Persons**: No person shall locate or deposit any bicycle, equipment or material upon the Trailways land or loiter, sit or lie upon the Trailways land so as to obstruct persons in their use of the Trail.
16. **Noise**: No person shall operate or play any musical instrument, radio, mechanical record player or tape player or sound amplifying equipment of any kind within the boundaries of the Trailways land in such a manner as to create excessive noise that disturbs or annoys others.
17. **Camping**: No person shall camp or establish temporary lodging places within the boundaries of the Trailways land.
18. **Fires**: No person shall start or maintain a fire within the boundaries of the Trailways land.

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19. **Hunting and Weapons**: No person shall hunt or discharge any firearm or weapon, including but not limited to a bow or BB gun, within the Trailways land.

20. **Alcohol**: It shall be unlawful for any person to bring in, have in possession, or use alcoholic liquors within the Trailways land.

Source: "Uniform Trailways Ordinances", 1983.



Chapter Three: Community Description

A. Relationship to Region

The Paint Creek Trail is located in 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, and. The 2009-2013 Trailways Recreation Master Plan includes generalized community descriptions for the five Trail communities, as well as more specific information regarding the Paint Creek Trail itself. Details regarding specific parks and recreational facilities of each community can be found in Chapter V: Recreation Inventory.

The Paint Creek Trail consists of 8.9 miles of former Penn-Central Railroad right-of-way connecting the City of Rochester at its southern terminus to the Village of Lake Orion at the north, passing through the City of Rochester Hills, and Oakland and Orion Townships. The Downtown Rochester River Walk, a connection of approximately 0.7-miles, through the City of Rochester, provides a city bikeway route between the Paint Creek Trail and the Clinton River Trail. Recognizing the fact that abandoned railroad rights-of-way have excellent potential for recreation use, this Trail project 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. Most recently, the Paint Creek Trail was recognized in 2006 as a National Recreation Trail by the US Department of the Interior.

While connecting populated urban areas, the Paint Creek Trail provides the public with easy access to the countryside and outlying recreational areas. The route also meets suburban and intra-city bicycle needs.

B. Social Characteristics

1. Population

According to estimated figures provided by the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), the total population of the member and associate member communities of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission in January 2008 was 132,669. The population of each unit in 2000, the 2008 estimate and their percentage of growth are shown in [Table 3.1](#). It should be noted that all four voting member communities have experienced population growth in the last three years, but the 2000 United States Census holds the most accurate figures available at this time.

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The population of the Paint Creek Trail area has been steadily increasing for 35 years. While there are many areas within the city limits of Rochester and Rochester Hills that are fully developed, areas of undeveloped land still exists in all five Trail communities. In particular, Oakland Township and the City of Rochester have seen dramatic rises in residential development in the years since the last Trailways Master Plan in 2003.



Labor Day Bridge Walk participants, south of Gallagher Road
September 2006

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Increase of 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 and quality standard of living; excellent schools, and strength of the economy, which offers diverse range of career opportunities. Increases in population have also brought about improvements in public services, such as public utilities, schools and improved access to regional road systems.

Table 3.1: Distribution of Population in the Paint Creek Trail Area

Community	2000 Population	Percent of 2000 Total	2008 Population	Percent of 2008 Total	2000-2008 Change
Oakland Township	13,071	10.4%	16,345	12.3%	25.0%
Orion Township	30,748	24.4%	32,352	24.4%	5.2%
Rochester Hills	68,825	54.7%	69,188	52.2%	0.5%
Rochester	10,467	8.3%	12,138	9.1%	16%
Village of Lake Orion	2,715	2.2%	2,646	2.0%	-2.5%
TOTALS	125,826	100%	132,669	100%	

Source: Selected Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 United States Census; and January 2008 Estimated figures provided by SEMCOG.

2. Geographic Distribution

Geographic distribution of the total population of an area often aids in determining location of recreation facilities and services. With the location of the Paint Creek Trail based upon the location of the railroad, the geographic distribution of the population refers more to the pattern along the Paint Creek Trail rather than to that over the entire five Trail community area. [Table 3.2](#) lists the geographic distribution of population over the length of the Paint Creek Trail. It is interesting to note that the more densely populated communities don't necessarily have a corresponding high density along the Trail. For example, Rochester has the highest number of people per square mile, but adjacent properties to the Trail in that area include three separate city parks and several commercial properties along its length of the Trail. On the other hand,

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Oakland Township, with the lowest number of people per square mile, has the highest total of residential properties along its 5.3 miles of the Trail.

The City of Rochester Hills, Oakland and Orion Townships all have similar amounts of area, but wide variations in their population totals. Incorporating much smaller amounts of land, the Village of Lake Orion represents the smallest percentage of population.

Table 3.2: Geographic Distribution of Population

Community	Square Miles	Total People/ Sq. Mile (2000)	Miles of Trail in Community	Number of Residential lots abutting the Trail
Oakland Township	36.0	363	5.3	144
Orion Township	34.7	886	1.1	33
Rochester Hills	32.6	2,111	1.2	60
Rochester	3.8	2,754	0.9	13
Village of Lake Orion	1.3	2,088	0.4	10
TOTALS	106.7	-----	8.5	260

Source: SEMCOG, January 2008; Access Oakland July 2008

3. Age Composition

The age composition of the five communities of the Paint Creek Trail is displayed in Table 3.3. The categories were divided to represent the various stages of life in a community; young children, children of school age, young adults, adults in various stages of raising families and of prime working age, persons near retirement or just retired, and senior citizens.

The age group with the largest total is the 35-64 years, due in part to the greater number of years included in this group. The percentage of the population 17 years and younger is about 26.9%; while the percentage of the population that is 65 and over is

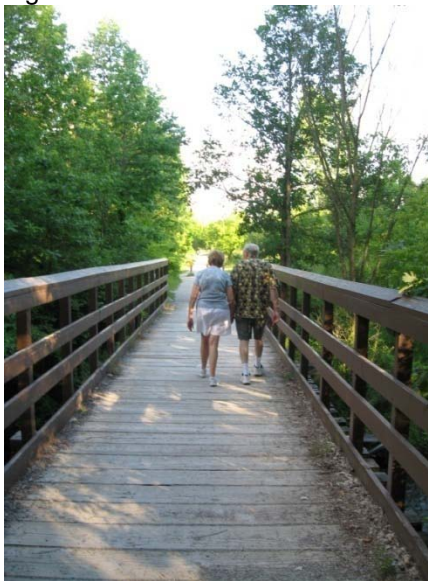
Chapter Three: Community Description

about 9%. The number of seniors is expected to grow in the coming years as the 35-64 year old group ease into their retirement years. This general aging pattern of the area has also occurred nationwide, reflecting the trend toward families with fewer children and persons over 65 that are living longer.

Table 3.3: Population Age Distribution, Paint Creek Trail Communities, 2000

AGE	POPULATION AMOUNT	% OF TOTAL POPULATION
Under 5	9,091	7.2%
5 -17 years	24,792	19.7%
18 - 34 years	25,139	20.0%
35 – 64 years	55,418	44.1%
65 and above	11,386	9.0%
TOTALS	125,826	100.0 %

Source: Selected Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 United States Census, SEMCOG.



Retired couple walking the Trail north of Tienken June 2008

4. Household Income

The median annual household income for the five Trail communities ranged from \$48,144--\$85,607, as shown in [Table 3.4](#). The higher income areas correspond to the residential neighborhoods with larger lot sizes and homes. The household poverty level ranged from three percent (3%) to six percent (6%).

Table 3.4: Median Household Income (1999 Dollars)

Community	Median Household Income	Households in Poverty
Oakland Township	\$85,607	76 (3%)
Orion Township	62,853	297 (4%)
Rochester Hills	73,700	740 (3%)
Rochester	48,144	195 (6%)
Village of Lake Orion	51,311	146 (5.4%)

Source: Selected Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 U.S. Census, SEMCOG.

5. Racial, Education and Employment Characteristics

The five communities of the Paint Creek Trail represent a fairly homogeneous population. According to 2000 U.S. Census figures, total non-white persons number 5,399, accounting for 5% of the total population. Persons of Asian or Pacific Island origin represent 41% of non-white persons living in the five community areas. Minorities make up 6.4% of the total population of Rochester Hills, making it the most diverse of the five communities. The City of Rochester has the next largest percentage of minorities (4.5%), followed by Orion Township (3.8%), and Oakland Township (2.2%). Figures for racial and ethnic make-up of the area are displayed in [Table 3.5](#).

Census statistics indicate that residents of the five communities are well educated. Over seventy-five percent (75%) of the residents have at least four years of college education. As could be expected, based on the education statistics, most residents of the five communities have professional or technical occupations.

Table 3.5: Distribution of Minority Populations by Governmental Unit

Minority Type:					
COMMUNITY	AFRICAN-AMERICAN	HISPANIC	ASIAN	OTHER	TOTAL
Oakland Township	262	155	342	37	796
Orion Township	416	793	388	287	1,884
Rochester	234	176	386	52	848
Rochester Hills	1,667	1,576	4,652	481	8,376
Village of Lake Orion	7	65	9	36	117
TOTALS	2,579	2,700	5,768	857	12,021

Source: Selected Population and Housing Characteristics: 2000 United States Census, SEMCOG.

6. Implications for Recreation

These population figures suggest many implications for the future of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission in providing a recreational resource to the area, including:

- a.) The entire area is experiencing a population increase. These projected increases in population will put increase demand on public recreation areas, including trails. Trails provide active and passive recreation for persons of all ages and backgrounds, including the senior citizen population. By general observation, a seemingly high percentage of Trail users are seniors who find the Trail a comfortable yet practical location for recreation.
- b.) Additional development that follows increases in population will put a demand on public natural areas. Protection of existing Trailways' property, as well as acquisition of appropriate side parcels, will insure the preservation of natural areas.
- c.) With increased national and regional demand for non-motorized transportation, the Paint Creek Trail will continue to take on more responsibility as a commuter pathway. This use will be especially noticeable as the Paint Creek Trail is extended or directly connected to other trail systems, such as the Clinton River Trail and Polly Ann Trail.

C. Physical Characteristics

1. Regional Location

The Paint Creek Trail is located in the southeast region of Michigan, within the Greater Detroit Metropolitan area. The average width of the Trailways Commission right-of-way is 100 feet. Generally, there is 50 feet of right-of-way on each side of the Trail. The governmental communities that compose the Paint Creek Trailways Commission are located in the northeast section of Oakland County, Michigan, adjacent

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to Macomb County ([Maps 3.6](#), [3.7](#)). In this setting, the Paint Creek Trail is accessible to one of the most populated metropolitan areas in the nation.

2. Land Use

There is a wide range of land use among the five communities of the Trail, as shown in [Table 3.8](#). The cities of Rochester, Rochester Hills, Orion Township, and the Village of Lake Orion share a high percentage of residential use. Some areas of all three communities are completely developed. However, land devoted to Industrial use is low and limited to specific areas. The largest land use is residential. In contrast, Oakland Township, in which a majority of the Paint Creek Trail is located, is sparsely developed.

3. Zoning

Many types of land use abut the Paint Creek Trail property. Winding through the City of Rochester, land use is a mix of Industrial, Commercial, Residential and Parkland. North of Rochester, scenery along the Paint Creek Trail becomes more residential, and finally rural. A small number of properties with uses other than residential are found along the Oakland Township segment of the Paint Creek Trail, such as the Paint Creek Cider Mill, Flagstar Bank and Royal Oak Archery Club. In Orion Township, Bald Mountain State Recreational Area and residential property dominate through the Paint Creek Trail's northern terminus in the Village of Lake Orion.

Chapter Three: Community Description
Map 3.6: Paint Creek Trail Location Map – State of Michigan



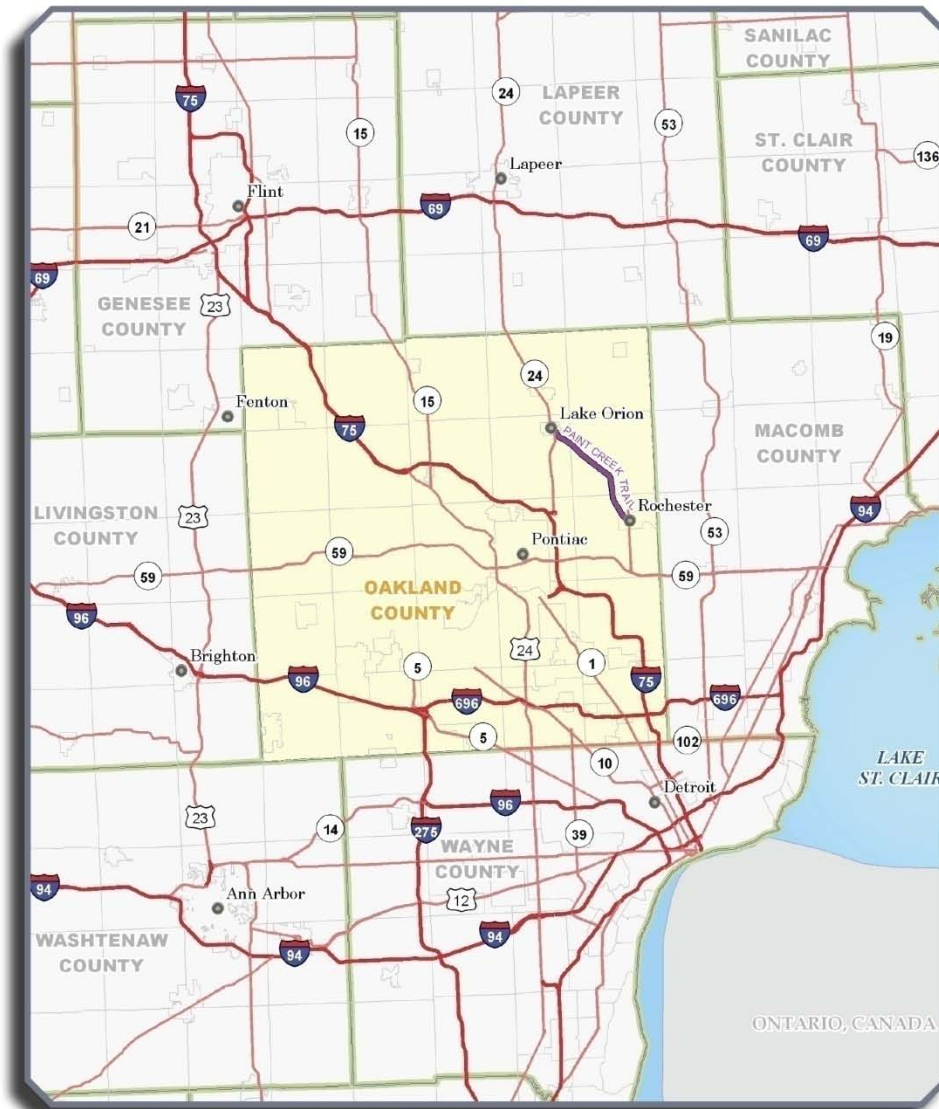
The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.



State of Michigan

2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

Chapter Three: Community Description
Map 3.7: Paint Creek Trail Location Map – Northwest Detroit Area



The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.



Northwest Detroit Area

2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

Table 3.8: Land Use Types in the Paint Creek Region: Acres of Major Land Use Types by Governmental Unit

LAND USE TYPES	CITY OF ROCHESTER	CITY OF ROCHESTER HILLS	OAKLAND TOWNSHIP	ORION TOWNSHIP	VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION
Single/Multiple Family Residential	760	11,725	5,591	6,269	697
Commercial/Office	106	696	5	212	67
Institutional	78	719	69	275	26
Industrial	239	803	12	571	0
Transportation, Communication & Utility	8	330	33	298	2
Cultural, Recreation, Cemetery	116	958	602	719	9
Cultivated, Grassland & Shrub	876	3,469	10,946	6,614	26
Woodland & Wetland	282	1,995	5,650	5,567	13
Extractive/Lumbering	0	280	224	246	0
Water	3	123	352	1,367	356
Total Acres	2,468	21,098	23,484	22,138	1,196

Sources: SEMCOG Community Profiles, 2000 Census

4. Transportation Systems

A system of expressways, major and secondary roads is the backbone of area transportation, as shown in [Map 3.9](#). Interstate 75, running north and south, and M-59, running east and west, allow quick access to other expressways and communities in the Detroit Metro area. Rochester and Lapeer Roads are primary north-south state highways in the area, while University Drive is the major link between the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills.

In the rural areas, the Paint Creek Trail crosses the grid system of primary and secondary roads. Some of these are paved, but many are still gravel roads. Orion Road, a secondary road that connects the City of Rochester to the Village of Lake Orion, parallels the Paint Creek Trail for over seven miles. Orion Road provides direct and easy travel from one access point to another on the northern section of the Trail.

Map 3.9: Paint Creek Trail Transportation Corridors: Expressways, Major and Secondary Roads



The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.



Transportation Corridors: Expressways, Major and Secondary Roads
2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

5. Topography

The glaciers that covered Michigan long ago are largely responsible for the wide variety of topography in the Paint Creek Trail region. A combination of glacial features gives the area beauty and variety in its landscape, rolling hills and stream valleys. The southern portion of the Paint Creek Trail is generally flat, with the rise and fall of elevation more pronounced in the Oakland and Orion Township segments, as shown in [Map 3.10](#).

Heading north towards Lake Orion, one can admire the hills and valleys from the Paint Creek Trail. Being set on a railway bed along the Paint Creek, the Trail itself experiences only gradual adjustments in elevation from its high point of 980 feet above sea level in Lake Orion to the low of 750 feet above sea level at its south end in the City of Rochester.

Map 3.10: Elevation Along the Paint Creek Trail



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Elevation Along the Paint Creek Trail
2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

6. Soil

The advance and retreat of the glaciers resulted in the many types of soil that are found throughout the area today ([Figures 3.11](#)). The developed areas in Rochester and Rochester Hills are mixtures of urban soils, ranging from well-drained sandy loam to poorly draining, silty soils. The predominance of well-draining sandy soils in Oakland Township lends themselves to agriculture. To the north, the area becomes a mix of loam, sand and muck. Areas of organic muck in both Oakland and Orion Townships represent the streambeds and wetland areas.

Figure 3.11: Michigan SSTATSGO Soil Classifications in the Paint Creek Area



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Soil

2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

Snow covered Trail, north of Clarkston/Kern near Carpenter-Rudd's Mill Historic Marker in Orion Township
January 2005



7. Climate

Michigan has a moist climate with cold winters and warm summers in the south and cool to warm summers in the north. Winds from the Great Lakes bring much cloudiness. About 6 of every 10 days are partly cloudy in summer and about 7 of every 10 days in winter. Fall and winter are especially cloudy in the western Lower Peninsula and the eastern Upper Peninsula. The Lower Peninsula is generally warmer than the Upper Peninsula. Average January temperatures range from 15 F. in the western Upper Peninsula to 26 F. in the southern Lower Peninsula. July temperatures average 65 F. in the eastern Upper Peninsula and 73 F. in the southern Lower Peninsula.

Michigan's yearly precipitation (rain, melted snow, and other forms or moisture) ranges from approximately 26 to 36 inches. Annual snowfall in Michigan varies from less than 40 inches in the southeastern Lower Peninsula to more than 160 inches in the western Upper Peninsula. The state's record snowfall, 276 ½ inches, occurred at Houghton during the winter of 1949-1950. (Source: Harold A. Winters and Justin L. Kestenbaum, "Michigan", World Book Online Reference Centre).

Climate greatly affects recreation opportunities in southeastern Michigan. The Paint Creek Trail is open all year and offers a large variety of seasonal recreation opportunities.

8. Vegetation

The soils, topography and weather patterns in the Paint Creek Trail area combine to offer an array of indigenous and naturalized Michigan plant species. Along the Paint Creek Trail, ecosystems such as beech maple forests, oak-hickory forests, open prairie and wetlands flourish. Plants observed most often are representative of these four ecosystems. An abundance of wetlands assure that even as development proceeds, open areas will continue to lie along the Paint Creek Trail, and naturalized vegetation will remain intact for enjoyment by Paint Creek Trail users and protection for area wildlife. As the surrounding communities become increasingly developed, the Paint Creek Trail can play an important role in the conservation and preservation of significant natural features within these areas.

One vegetative site in particular is worth noting. The Nicholson Prairie (Ecological Restoration) Site is a 1.2-acre remnant of a natural community within a 3.1-acre parcel that is circumscribed by Paint Creek, the Paint Creek Trail and 100 feet of mowed private property. The site bears the characteristics of a remnant prairie or oak savanna that has started to become oak woodland. There is a high proportion of native plant species, relative to non-native or invasive species, and the site appears to have avoided substantial degradation. It does not appear to ever have been ploughed. In 2001, 61 native species were counted and a Floristic Quality Index of 29.32 calculated. The floristic quality of the site is consistent with slightly degraded remnant natural communities.

It has been surmised that fire played a significant role in the history of this site, in pre-settlement times set by Native Americans, to clear vegetation along Paint Creek, a navigable stream, and after 1872 by sparks from train wheels. Suppression of fire after approximately 1950 is evident. A multi-year, multi-phase management plan was written in 2001. The goal of the management plan is to restore a healthy ecosystem, with a dynamic balance among the savanna, woodland and prairie species on the site and to permit the expression of any remnant seed bank. The plan calls for removal of as many non-native species as feasible, and a few native ones in the form of some of the trees that became established after the 1950's. The reintroduction of fire in form of controlled burns is also recommended. Several controlled burns were accomplished in the falls of

Chapter Three: Community Description

2002, 2005 and 2007. A marked increase in the Wild Blue Lupine population was noted the following springs.



Wild Blue Lupine growing at
the Nicholson Prairie Site,
June 2005

Two 10' x 30' Deer Enclosures were installed on the site in 2001 to permit measurement of the impact of grazing on the native plant community by the resident deer population.

The Ecological Restoration Site is an important biological component in the ecological context of the Paint Creek Trail, which is a linear park of significant acreage with a variety of linked natural areas.

In 1994 and 1995, a series of Trailways ecological and management studies were conducted by students at the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. The first study investigated the ecology of undeveloped parcels found adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail, as well as possible linkages to other trails. The second study involved developing a database of multi-factor geographic information using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies. Because GIS uses computers to store and analyze geographic information, GIS has become increasingly available as an affordable tool for land management in all five Trail communities. The ecological information collected in the first study was included in the GIS database, and is intended for use by our communities in the management of the natural areas found along Paint Creek Trail.

In 1999, Oakland Township Parks began updating the Township-wide ecological survey originally compiled by Dr. Paul Thompson in 1974. Of the twenty-seven areas listed as having significant natural features throughout the Township, seven are directly adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail. [Table 3.12](#) provides information about these areas,

Chapter Three: Community Description
including a rating of the preservation status of each parcel.

Table 3.12: Oakland Township Critical Areas Directly Adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail

Section	Area General Description	Community Type	Date Viewed	Comments/Rating
33	South of Silver Bell; East of the Trail	Floodplain	Nov. '95	Unchanged/Reasoned-tail; GOOD
33	South of Silver Bell; East of Trail	Developed Prairie	Nov. '95	Residential; POOR TO FULLY DEVELOPED
33	South of Silver Bell; West of the Trail	Mostly Developed	Nov. '95	Woodbridge Devp.; POOR TO GOOD/ EXCELLENT
28	North of Silver Bell; West of Orion	Floodplain	Nov. '95	Residential; FAIR
20	Between Orion Road & Trail	Mixed Oak Forest	Nov. '95	Unchanged, 1 Owner; GOOD
20	East of Adams Road; South of Trail	Mixed Forest	Nov. '95	Paint Creek Estates; GOOD/ EXCELLENT
28	Between Gallagher & Gunn Road; West of Trail	Marsh	Nov. '95	Wyndgate Golf Course; STABLE

Source: An Update of Critical Natural Areas in Oakland Township, Oakland Township Park Commission, 1999. Copies are available at the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission offices.

9. Natural Resources – Environmental Issues

Foley Pond is located adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail in Orion Township. This pond is fed by ground water seeping from a hillside. It lies between the hillside and the Paint Creek Trail and is a trapped fen. Immediately across the Trail is an active, flowing fen. During the 2002 fall season, which followed a summer of serious drought conditions, the pond remained at its average depth; the water was cold and crystal clear. Fish may be seen in all areas of the pond. Turtles bask on fallen logs at the edges and frogs abound. At quiet times, like dawn, when there are no bicycles or runners on the Trail, Great Blue Herons come to feed and smaller birds come to find water that is always there. The fruit of the native shrubs growing in abundance around the pond are a valuable food source for birds.

Chapter Three: Community Description

The predominant submerged vegetation is *Chara sp.*, a plant that prefers cold, clean, calcium-rich waters. Around the edges is a small population of *Myriophyllum verticillatum* a native milfoil. Because the water carries no eutriphying nutrients, only a dozen or so stems of cattails (*Typha latifolia*) grow at one end of the pond. Only at this southern end of the pond, away from the seep that is the water source, is the bottom of the pond covered with typical black muck.

The vegetation surrounding the pond is predominantly native. 47 native species were identified and listed along with a coefficient of conservatism; the average coefficient is 4.8. This would suggest an intact ecosystem. These 47 species are only a partial count but are representative of the total native plant population around the pond. They are immediately identifiable growth along a stretch of about 20 feet at one end of the pond. Insect life around the pond includes dragonflies, butterflies and native bees.

Scattered around the edges are a small number of non-native plants, including some purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). The numbers of alien plants are proportionately insignificant.

The land surrounding the pond will remain stable and free of development for the foreseeable future. The steep, vegetated slopes immediately adjacent to the pond to the east are protected by a 500-foot natural conservation easement held by Orion Township. In 2004, the Trailways Commission built two observation decks on the west side of the pond, as part of an erosion control and Trail enhancement program. The land on the other side of the Paint Creek Trail belongs to the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. The corridor of land along the Paint Creek Valley (Paint Creek is an angler's stream with a population of Brown Trout) has been identified as a significant natural area by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI).

On the whole, this pond represents a very fine example of a functioning wetland/natural area. Its educational value as such cannot be overstated. It is a popular public spot for fishing, and viewing of wildlife in an area that is becoming increasingly heavily populated.



Foley Pond: Bicyclists stopped at the Observation Deck to look at turtles, September 2007

10. Fish and Wildlife

As a naturalized corridor, the Trailways property affords wildlife the ability to travel and access a variety of habitats suitable for life cycles. Fox, squirrel, rabbit, raccoon, quail, pheasant and forest birds are among those species spotted along the Trail; White tail deer are frequently observed in early morning or at dusk. The Paint Creek is the major remaining cold water designated trout stream in the Detroit Metropolitan Area, around which many game and non-game birds, frogs, snakes and toads make their home. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources stocks brown trout in a portion of the Paint Creek between Lake Orion and Rochester Hills. Fishing is encouraged through public access to the creek, but for safety reasons, hunting is prohibited on all Trailways property. The Trailways Commission encourages the use of barbless hooks, and “catch and release” fishing.

11. Water Resources

The Paint Creek Trail closely follows Paint Creek, which is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Paint Creek Trail provides a great deal of public water-access for fishing, canoeing, and other water-related recreational opportunities.

With the vast public expenditures for clean water in the nation’s lakes and streams, there is high priority in capturing water-related recreational opportunities for

public use. The Paint Creek Interceptor was installed in the early 1970's in part to protect the quality of water of Paint Creek. The region has also taken an interest in preserving the Creek and its water quality, with a number of organizations staging "Paint Creek Clean-Up" events. The Friends of Paint Creek is an active group of concerned citizens that work to protect and restore Paint Creek and its tributaries.

12. Implications for Recreation, Cultural and Educational Enhancements

- a.) The location of the Paint Creek Trail makes it accessible to populated areas in Southeastern Michigan. As with other recreational facilities, increases in population will be followed by increased use. Heightened levels of use will continue on the Paint Creek Trail.
- b.) Natural landscapes provide relief from surrounding urban development. As development continues to occur in each of the four Member Communities, preservation of the remaining rural area for enjoyment becomes more important. Protection of animal and plant habitats maintains the fragile balance of ecosystems in the region.
- c.) The linkage of communities by Paint Creek Trail offers the opportunity for alternative travel other than by motor vehicle. This opportunity is enhanced with the expansion of trails in the area, including the Clinton River Trail, the Macomb Orchard Trail, and the Polly Ann Trail.
- d.) The strong support of the five Trail communities is evidence of a strong commitment to, and the need for this form of recreation.

The Paint Creek Trail is a vital part of the recreation available in northeastern Oakland County, not only linking parkland and facilities, but also used as a recreation resource itself. The following inventory details existing parks and other properties on which recreational opportunities are provided in the Paint Creek Trail area. This information was gathered from review of the five Trail community recreation plans, which are on file in the Recreation Grants Section, Budget & Program Support Division of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, as well as in the offices of the individual communities.



Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

A. Regional Recreation Facilities

1. State, County and Regional Parks

[Table 4.1](#) 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 Orion and Oakland Townships. 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 4.1: Regional Recreation Facilities within the Vicinity of the Paint Creek Trail

AGENCY	FACILITY	ACRES
Huron-Clinton Metro Parks	Indian Spring Metropark	2,215
	Metro Beach Metropark	770
	Stoney Creek Metropark	4,461
	Wolcott Mill Metropark	2,625
Michigan Department of Natural Resources	Bald Mountain Recreation Area	4,692
Oakland County Parks	Addison Oaks County Park	1,141
	Independence Oaks Park	1088
	Orion Oaks Park	927
	Waterford Oaks	145

Source: Websites for Individual Agencies March, 2008

2. Linear Parks

a.) Collaborative Planning Efforts to Link Trails in Michigan

1. Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative

The Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative is a collaborative effort among citizens, public officials, public institutions, non-profit organizations and the private sector. The project provides the leadership to address the issues of regional coordination, funding and building public support for creating an interconnected regional greenway network. The group effort has already produced a resource inventory and assessment of greenway opportunities along rivers, abandoned railroad lines, parks, utility corridors, and other routes within the seven county area of metropolitan Detroit. Many communities are using this information to develop their own plans and to work toward identifying and preserving regional greenway opportunities before they disappear.



2. Oakland County Trail Network

For years, the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division had 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 4.3](#)) form a network linking community, residential areas and town centers with outlying recreational lands. In 2002, Oakland County Parks and Recreation created the Oakland Trails Advisory Council (OTAC) to help expand and

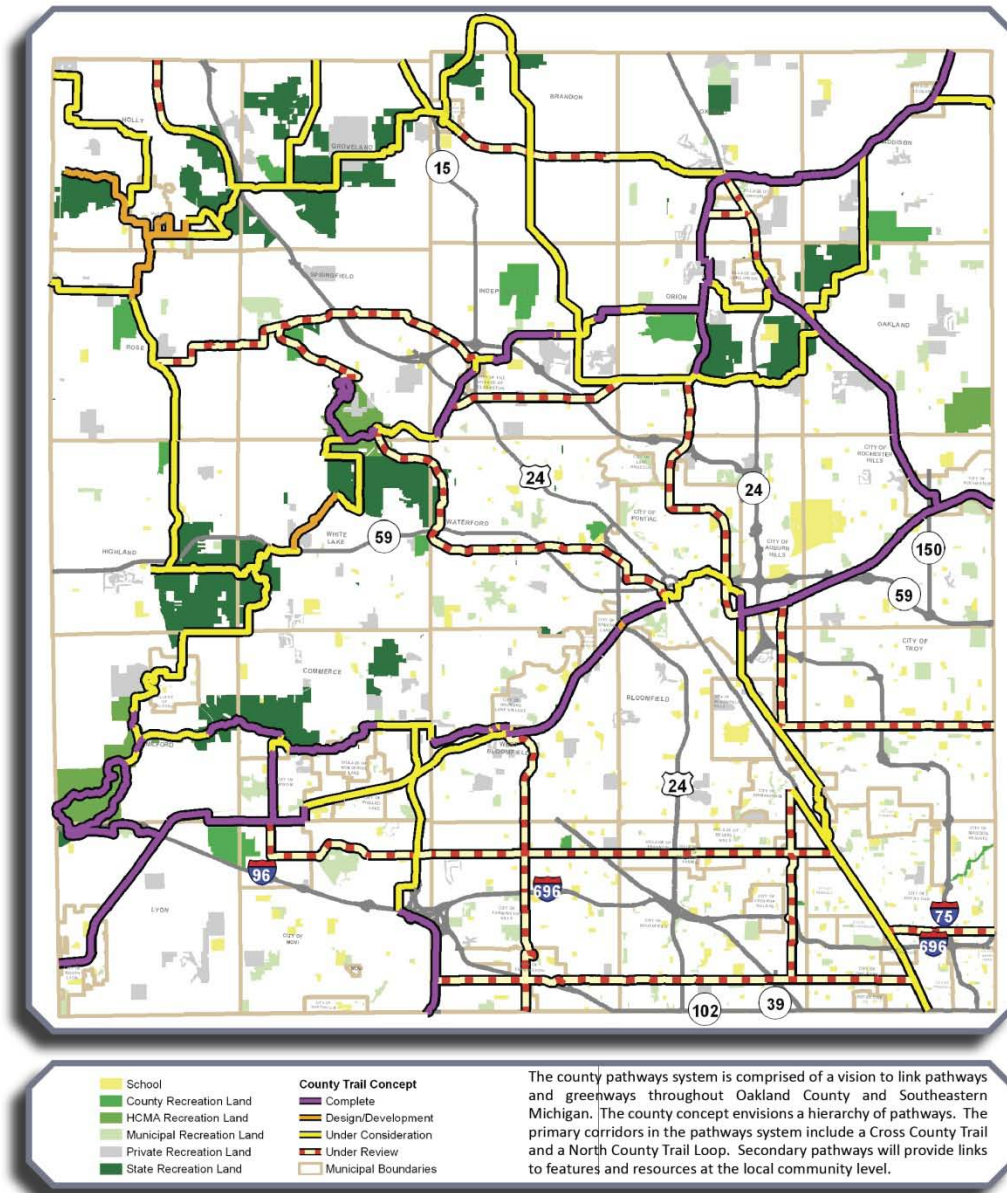
Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

coordinate the Trail Network. Since its inception, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has been an active participant on the council, and has been an excellent resource for newer trail systems. Currently, there are 72 miles of completed trails, 27 miles in the planning, design and development stage, and 142 miles under consideration. The Oakland County Trail Network could also become part of the “Discover Michigan Trail” - a proposed, statewide trail network throughout Michigan’s Lower and Upper Peninsulas. For a copy of the Oakland County Trail Network map, contact the Trailways Commission office. [Table 4.2](#) lists the major Oakland County Trails:

Table 4.2: 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>Shiawassee River Water Heritage Trail: 7 miles; Trail Connectors: 5.8 miles</i>	<i>Water; asphalt</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>4.25 miles</i>	<i>Crushed limestone</i>

Map 4.3: Oakland County Pathways



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Oakland County Pathways

2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

b.) Trails with Potential for Linkage to the Paint Creek Trail

In the last fifteen 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](#) near Bloomer Park in the City of Rochester Hills.

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 railbed became known as the [Polly Ann Trail](#) and has generated tremendous local support in the last eight years. The Polly Ann Trail extends 20 miles into Lapeer County, bringing the total trail mileage to approximately 35 miles. The Polly Ann Trail 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. As of 2008, route options were being discussed and analyzed within Oakland County, with the hopes that two or three options will be taken under consideration. Bald Mountain State Recreation Area has an extensive trail system of its own, and is a logical choice for a link to the Trail. In 2000, volunteers from Eastern Mountain Sports and Friends of Bald Mountain completed a Connection 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. The proposal and construction of these projects, and others like them, is a testament to their popularity and public demand for alternative routes for non-motorized transportation.

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

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.

c. Community Bike Path Systems

Rochester Hills: The excellent system of pedestrian pathways throughout Rochester Hills is a testament to the City's commitment to linking parks and schools. Their Master Recreation Plan (2001-2005) states "The City (formerly Avon Township) program to build 8' wide pathways along every major road in the Community supports linked non-motorized transportation". Typically, the pathways are along major and minor arterial roads, such as the bike path along Tienken Road that crosses the Paint Creek Trail. Currently, 82 of 118 miles of pathway have been completed. These pathways allow a non-motorized alternative to access the Trail or other recreational facilities throughout the City.

Orion Township: There are approximately 38.47 miles of pathway in the Township, resulting from an approved millage vote in 1988. 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. Pathways planned for Clarkston Road could prove to be an important link between 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. The Parks & Recreation Commission also includes the creation of a "passive transportation network connecting recreational use areas and other community destinations" as one of their long-term objectives in their 2005-2009 Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The need remains for the individual development's paths to be linked together to create a system. 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, will be leveraged against federal and state grants.

With the passing of the millage, the Township now places priority on connecting new developments to 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 paved path that connects the southern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail with the Clinton River Trail. The River Walk, which is 0.7 mile in length, proceeds from the Paint Creek Trail (at the Rochester Municipal Park) under Rochester Road, along the southern/western bank of Paint Creek, across Paint Creek midway between University Drive and Second Street, then along the eastern bank of Paint Creek and to the Rochester Twin Rivers Park (an undeveloped natural park) at 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, gazebo and small amphitheater is adjacent to the bridge; a similar sized vest-pocket park (the Rotary 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 ISTEAA grant.

B. Local Recreation Facilities

1. [City of Rochester](#)

a.) Administrative: City of Rochester Parks & Recreation Department

Established in 1974, the Parks & Recreation 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

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

the City Council, making recommendations to the City Council concerning operating and capital expenditures for recreation purposes.

- b.) Existing Parks and Facilities: Ten parks and trails are presently operated within the City, consisting of approximately 150 acres. ([Table 4.4](#)). 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 surfaced portion of the Trail.

There is ample parking and restrooms available in the park or at the city hall during normal operating hours.

Table 4.4: 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>0.7 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>7.89</i>	<i>Across the street from Halbach Field</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>
<i>Elizabeth Street Park</i>	<i>Elizabeth Street</i>	<i>1.7</i>	
<i>Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve</i>	<i>North Hill Circle</i>	<i>17.5</i>	<i>Adjacent to Trail</i>

Source: City of Rochester Recreation Plan; Recreation Inventory of the City of Rochester, compiled by Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc., April 2006.

2. [City of Rochester Hills](#)

- a.) Administrative: The Department of Parks & Forestry 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 operates fifteen parks consisting of approximately 900 acres ([Table 4.5](#)). The parks are of various sizes, and have a wide range of recreational opportunities.
- c.) Green Space and Natural Features: In 2005, voters passed the 10 year Open Space Millage in Rochester Hills. The funds will be used to preserve natural green spaces, wildlife habitats and scenic views, as well as provide protection of wetlands, woodlands, streams and rivers. The Green Space Advisory Board (GSAB) was established to assist the City of Rochester Hills by making recommendations and developing strategies regarding the use of millage funds. In the first three years since the millage passed, land protection and acquisition projects totaled approximately 40 acres.

Table 4.5: 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, play-ground, beach, other activities</i>
<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>River Bend Park</i>	<i>Hamlin Road</i>	<i>70</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Eugene S. Nowicki Park</i>	<i>Adams Road</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Avondale Park</i>	<i>Bathurst Road</i>	<i>18.5</i>	<i>Soccer field, ball diamond, sand volleyball, basketball courts, picnic areas</i>
<i>Clinton River Trail</i>	<i>Adams Road to City of Rochester border</i>	<i>4.5 miles</i>	<i>Linear park</i>
<i>Bloomer Park</i>	<i>John R. Road</i>	<i>206.9</i>	<i>Velodrome, picnic shelters, nature paths, turf volleyball</i>
Neighborhood Parks			
<i>Helen V. Allen Park</i>	<i>School Road</i>	<i>9.9</i>	<i>Ball Diamonds, playlot</i>
<i>Wabash Park</i>	<i>Wabash Road</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>Play ground, disc golf, picnic area</i>
<i>Unnamed Property</i>	<i>Tienken Road</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
Special Use			
<i>Avon Nature Area</i>	<i>Avon Road/City Hall Site</i>	<i>97.4</i>	<i>Environmental Education Center, nature paths, Clinton River frontage</i>
<i>Pine Trace Park</i>	<i>South Blvd.</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>Pine Trace Public 18 hole Golf Course</i>
<i>Veterans Memorial Pointe</i>	<i>Livernois Road</i>	<i>5.14</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>
Open Space			
<i>Unnamed</i>	<i>East Childress</i>	<i>1.90</i>	<i>Steep slope; access to Clinton River</i>
<i>Unnamed</i>	<i>West Childress</i>	<i>3.412</i>	<i>Steep slope; access to Clinton River</i>

Source: Master Parks & Recreation Plan, City of Rochester Hills, 2006-2010, and http://www.rochesterhills.org/reference_desk/uploads/2007_fall_winter_Hills_Herald_or_web_1.pdf, March 2008

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. In addition, a 10 year Land Preservation Millage was approved in 2001 and again in 2007. The main goal of the Commission is to acquire, maintain and operate a system of parks and recreation facilities. A Parks and Recreation Director oversees maintenance and operation of the parkland, and reports to the Commission for assignments. The 2007 Parks Millage rate was approved at .7167, and included a self-imposed rollback. The 2007 Land Preservation Millage rate was approved at .6916
 - b.) Existing Parks and Facilities: The Township presently owns eleven park properties, totaling nearly 600 acres (See [Table 4.6](#)). While all of the properties are open to the public, limited or no facilities are available at the parks. The Township offers limited programmed activities, and is looking to implement more programs in the future to meet the demands of its growing population.

Table 4.6: Local Recreation Inventory – Oakland Township

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Bear Creek Nature Park</i>	<i>740 Snell</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>388 Rochester Road, between Gunn & Buell</i>	<i>139</i>	<i>Undeveloped, Blue heron Rookery</i>
<i>Cranberry Lake Park</i>	<i>Between Predmore Road & Romeo, West of Rochester</i>	<i>213</i>	<i>Nationally Registered Historic Farm & Park-mowed trails</i>
<i>Mill Race Trail</i>	<i>Gallagher Road</i>	<i>0.3 miles</i>	<i>Woodchip trail</i>
<i>Gallagher Creek Park</i>	<i>Silver Bell Road</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>
<i>Marsh View Park</i>	<i>Adams & Clarkston Road</i>	<i>91</i>	<i>Undeveloped – future parking & hunting</i>
<i>Draper Twin Lake Park</i>	<i>Inwood/Dequindre</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>Passive recreation; fishing</i>
<i>Lost Lake Nature Park</i>	<i>846 Lost Lake Trail</i>	<i>52</i>	<i>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 – Wet Prairie</i>	<i>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail, north of Silver Bell</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>Undeveloped; maintained as natural prairie</i>
<i>Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park</i>	<i>North of Snell Road, East of Sheldon Road</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>Undeveloped</i>

Source: Oakland Township Park Commission Master Parks & Recreation Plan, 2005-2009, Oakland Township Parks Website, October 2008

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, facilities, and programs. A seven Member Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee works with the Department Director to plan, promote and conduct recreation programs. The Department also makes recommendations concerning operating and capital expenditures for

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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 four parks consisting of approximately 262 acres (See [Table 4.7](#)). Civic Center and Friendship Parks allow for a variety of passive and programmed activities.

Table 4.7: Local Recreation Inventory – Orion Township

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
<i>Civic Center Park</i>	<i>Joslyn & Greenshield</i>	<i>78.86</i>	<i>Ballfields, Soccer, Play - grounds, Walking path, basketball</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</i>
<i>McConnell Field</i>	<i>McConnell, between Chalice & Peters</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>In an established residential neighborhood</i>
<i>Orion Senior Center</i>	<i>21 East Church Street</i>	<i>.52</i>	<i>Senior Center</i>
<i>Gingell Nature Area</i>	<i>Maybee & Baldwin</i>	<i>38.90</i>	<i>Nature preserve, unimproved trails, undeveloped</i>
<i>Stonegate Park</i>	<i>Squirrel & Silver Bell</i>	<i>16.49</i>	<i>Multi-purpose sports fields, playgrounds, tennis courts</i>

Source: [Charter Township of Orion Recreation Master Plan, 2007-2011](#)

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 they largely depend on Orion Township for a majority of its recreation programming, the Village of Lake Orion has six parks totaling approximately 10 acres, as shown in [Table 4.8](#).

Table 4.8: Local Recreation Inventory – Village of Lake Orion

Name	Location	Acres	Notes
<i>Atwater Park</i>	<i>Atwater east of M-24</i>	<i>3.38</i>	<i>Playground. Near Trail terminus</i>
<i>Green’s Park</i>	<i>East side M-24 north of Flint Street</i>	<i>2.0</i>	<i>Beach, basketball, playground, concessions</i>
<i>Meeks Park</i>	<i>South of Orion Art Center</i>	<i>1.56</i>	<i>Trail/pathway</i>
<i>Children’s Park</i>	<i>South of Flint between Broadway and Anderson</i>	<i>1.54</i>	<i>Gazebo, playground, water 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>

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 program. 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

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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 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
- Knights of Columbus
- Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Elks Club
- Rochester Rotary Club
- Rochester-Youth Soccer League
- LOBOS Soccer Club
- Lake Orion Youth Basketball league
- Lake Orion Horseshoe Club
- Stoney Creek Running Club
- Boys & Girls Club of Orion/Oxford

C. Paint Creek Trailways Recreation Inventory

1. Management Sections

For ease of description of features, the Paint Creek Trail is divided into nine Management sections ([Table 4.9](#)). 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.

2. Trailways Facilities

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, closed between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m., with no overnight use permitted under the intergovernmental ordinances. Would-be campers are directed to the State Recreation Areas and county and regional parks where camping is permitted. Facilities along the Trail are intentionally limited. It should be noted that in the listing, the title “rest rooms” refer to areas on and off the Trail right-of-way with public restrooms available. Locked gates are installed at some intersections to deter motorized vehicles, and yet provide Trail emergency access. (See [Table 4.9](#))

Signage along the Trail consists of informational, directional and mileage-distance signs. At each intersection, two-way signs announce the name of the road crossing. Mileage markers are found every half-mile on the Trail. At major Trail access points, large informational map signs provide information about the Trail and the area around it. This 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 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, a graphics department from a manufacturing company in Troy, Michigan, approached the Trailways Commission about a community service project. The graphics department offered to re-design the Paint Creek Trail Directional and Informational Signs that are placed along the Trail, as part of their commitment to the community and to the Paint Creek Trail. The signs were redesigned in 2008 and scheduled for installation in 2009.

The Trailways Commission owns twelve existing bridges across the Paint Creek. In 2004, a bridge inventory was conducted in Oakland and Orion Townships during the

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Trail resurfacing project by our contracted engineers. A complete report was given to both communities. Overall, the bridges were found to be in great condition. Minor improvements were made to the bridges in Oakland Township as a result of the bridge inspections.

TABLE 4.9: MANAGEMENT SECTIONS AND FACILITIES OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL

Mgt Section	Location	Parking Location	Mileage	Bridges	Restroom Facilities	Signage	Emergency Access Points
1	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
2	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
3	Adams Road to Gunn Road	None	1.4 miles	1	None	Mile Markers: 4 Info sign: 1	Adams Road
4	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
5	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
6	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
7	Dutton Road to Tienken Road	Dutton Road: 5 spaces Tienken Road: 12 spaces	1.2 miles	3	None	Mile Markers: 7 Info sign: 1	Dutton Road, Tienken Road
8	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
Non Active Segment	Elizabeth Street/Letica to Bloomer Park	Letica Drive	.53	0	None	Mile Markers: 0 Info sign: 0	Letica Drive

3. Community Attitudes about the Paint Creek Trail

In 1997, a door-to-door survey of 64 households within a half-mile of the Paint Creek Trail was conducted to obtain citizen opinions on the impact of the Trail on their quality of life. The survey was conducted as part of a graduate thesis for the Urban and Regional Planning program at Michigan State University, and sponsored by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission. In summarizing the survey results, author Balmes noted:

The trail was regarded by most of the respondents as being a very important feature to the area. Despite the fact that most of the respondents claimed the Trail did not directly impact their choice to move to the area, almost every person interviewed uses the Trail for more than one type of activity at least once or twice per month. The survey results also indicate that most of the respondents feel that the Trail improves recreational and other social opportunities for the area, and has a positive impact on the property value of their homes. (p. 24) Source: Balmes, Robert D., Greenways: Improving the Quality of Life in Oakland County, Michigan, Urban and Regional Planning Program, Michigan State University, 1997.

The report also provides recommendations to the Trailways Commission on areas of further research that would enable the Commission to serve users and area residents living near the Paint Creek Trail, including a user survey, safety study, and a quantification of adjacent and near-by property values. More detailed information can be found in the final report, which is on file at each of the four voting member community offices, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission Office, and the MSU Urban and Regional Planning Library in East Lansing, Michigan.

A full analysis of the survey responses are available at the Commission Office, but in general, the survey indicated that Paint Creek Trail users view linkage to other trails and improved facilities on the Paint Creek Trail as priorities.

4. User Survey

In 2004, Michigan State University conducted a user survey of the Paint Creek Trail, to ascertain number of users, demographics of users, and satisfaction of users.

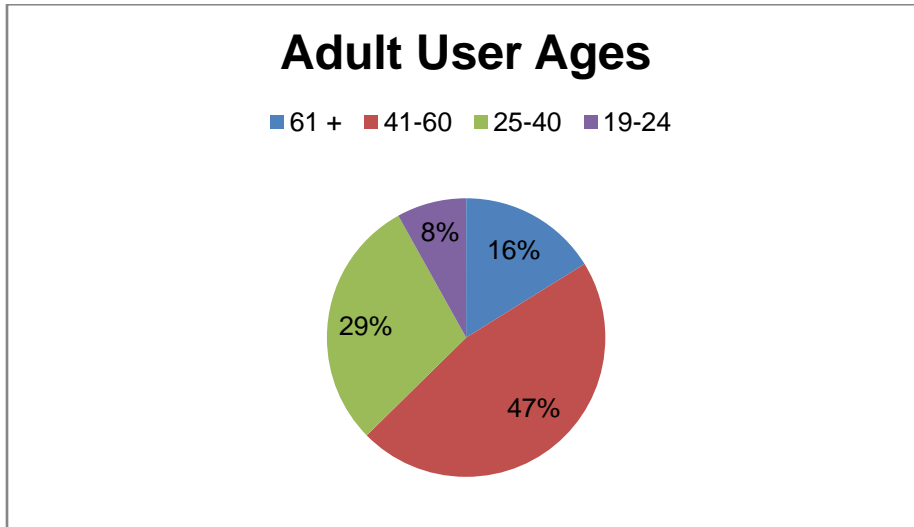
a.) Observation Highlights

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 the adult uses, 56% were bicycling and 44% were walking/running. For children, 65% were bicycling and 35% were walking/running.

b.) Use Highlights

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 4.10: Adult User Ages

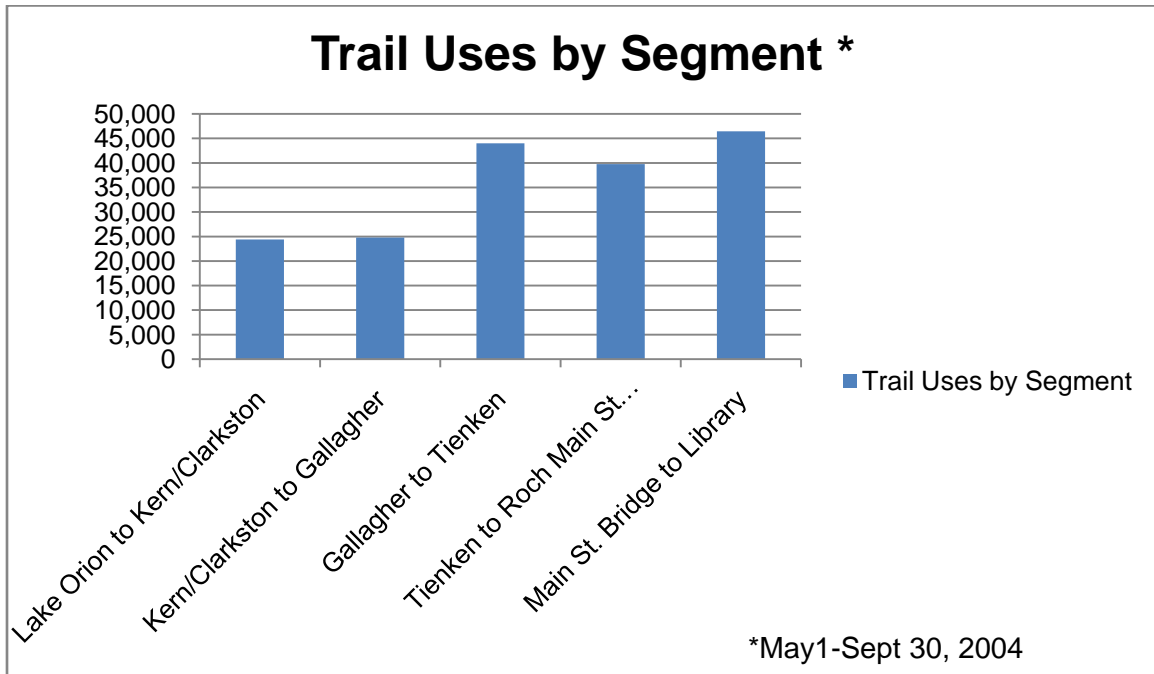


Most users were on the Trail for two hours or less. 41% of Trail use was done without driving a vehicle to the Trail, and 51% of the uses were by people living two miles or less from the Trail. On average, each visitor used the Trail eleven times per year, with almost half their uses during June through August. 3% of uses were by people with disabilities that seriously limited their participation in work or recreation.

c). Trail segment uses

The survey was conducted at five different locations along the Trail. The following [Table 4.11](#) shows the Trail uses by segment.

Table 4.11: Trails Uses by Segments of the Trail



d.) Management Implications of User Survey Results

The survey found that on average, there were 434 uses per day from May through September of 2004. Of those uses, 6% 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. Full survey results are available in the appendix of this document.

It's worth noting that while the survey was being conducted, several projects were already in the planning and development stages that addressed the noted suggestions for improvement. Since 2004, the Trail was completely resurfaced with smaller, crushed limestone, a ¼ mile of Trail was built and extended into the Village of Lake Orion, a vault toilet was installed at Kern/Clarkston, a drinking fountain was installed south of Gallagher, and the Trail was rerouted at Tienken Road, providing much needed crossing improvements.

5. Paint Creek Trail Programs

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission does not have a formalized activity program, although non-profit organizations wishing to use the Trail are encouraged to work with the 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 group activities on the Trail numbering over 35 persons have a Commission approved permit. Groups with potential Trail activities should 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 \$25 non-refundable permit fee and proof of event liability insurance are required of permit applicants. The Commission also requires events to have the approval of the City of Rochester, if using their Municipal Parking facilities.

Some of the group events held on the Paint Creek Trail in the last five years include The Rainbow Connection, Oakland Steiner School, On My Own of Michigan, and Right to Life Lifespan walkathons, and Goodison Good Tyme's Curamus Terram running race. In addition, the Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve has sponsored popular and well-attended historical walks on the Trail. In 1992 and 1993, the Trail was designated as the end point for the "Michigander", a five-day, cross-state bicycle tour sponsored by the Rails to Trails Conservancy. In 1993, over 1,500 people participated, making it the most heavily attended event in the history of the Trail.

The Trailways Commission has hosted their own annual events over the last ten years. A National Trails Day Event, held each year in June, provides the opportunity to promote the Paint Creek Trail, and encourage users to get active. Several 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 events were held on the first Saturday in June for the past ten years and were promoted with various themes.

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National Trails Day
June 7, 2008
Children's Park,
Lake Orion



In 2006, in cooperation with the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, the Trailways Commission started hosting a "Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk" event. This event encourages Michigan residents to become more active and incorporate exercise in everyday routines. Each year, the Trailways Commission promotes the event along the Trail, and the route always crosses one of our railroad bridges. As part of the fun, "Mackinac Fudge" stations are strategically placed along the route, offering our participants a "Virtual Mackinac Island" experience. The Virtual Bridge Walks are held across the State and are in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day run and walk with the Governor of Michigan.



Walkers gathering to start the
2007 Labor Day Virtual Bridge
Walk near Tienken
September 3, 2007

6. Brochures and Media Contact

The Trailways Commission's brochure includes a map of the entire length of the Trail, enlargements of entrance locations, rules and regulations. The brochure is available from the Trailways Commission Office, the five Trail Communities Municipal Offices, and many businesses including the Royal Park Hotel, Hanson's Running Shop and Paint Creek Bicycles. Brochures are also placed at a number of other public places around the Lake Orion and Greater Rochester area. The brochure is also available by calling the Trailways Office or by visiting the website at www.paintcreektrail.org. The Commission budgets for the cost of 15,000 copies of the brochure to be printed annually. In 2003, the Commission redesigned the brochure to include color photographs submitted by Trail users and a more detailed map. The Trailways Commission also has a Wildflower Identification Brochure available for distribution. Developed as part of the University Of Michigan School Of Natural Resources Master's Thesis project on the Trail in 1994, the idea for this brochure arose from the team of students being continually asked by other Trail users about the names of plants they were recording along the Trail. Addressing the need for education about the plants of the Trail and natural features, this brochure was designed as an introduction to many of the typical plants and wildflowers found along the Trail right-of-way.

To reach the local population, the Trailways Commission relies on a number of different media sources, including the Trailways Commission website (www.paintcreektrail.org), local newspapers, local cable access television, community website pages and mass mailings. The local papers, including the Rochester Eccentric (Greater Rochester Area), The Oakland Press, Suburban Lifestyles, the Rochester Post (Oakland County), the Oxford Leader and the Lake Orion Review (Orion and Oakland Townships) regularly print news items and feature stories about the Paint Creek Trail. The Commission includes reporters from each of these newspapers on their mailing list for agendas of the monthly meetings, to ensure communication is kept open between the Commission, the press and public.

7. Trail Enhancements

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission 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

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory 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.

The Paint Creek Trail also received enhancements to the signage along the Trail. In 2002, Eagle Scout candidate Josh Griffiths constructed and installed mile marker signs along the Trail, to assist Trail users interested in tracking distance, as well as to help pinpoint location in case of emergency. These signs are rectangular shaped and have been located at each gate, bridge, and road crossing. In 2003, Eagle Scout candidate John Putnam constructed and installed signs explaining the mile-marker system and the history behind them.

In December of 2002, The Paint Creek Trailways Commission received word that the “Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project” had been recommended for 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 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. The Project was completed in 2005.

Vault Toilet Facility
Clarkston/Kern Roads
and the Paint Creek Trail
Orion Township
2006



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In 2003, the Oakland Township Historic District Commission nominated a section of the Paint Creek Trail as part of a Goodison Historic District to the national Register of Historic Places. This segment is approximately a half-mile long and has been recognized for its history as a transportation corridor that was used by Native Americans, settlers, and the railroad industry.

In 2006, plans began for a Rochester Historical Art Project, a collaborative effort among the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Rochester-Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historic Commission, Rochester Downtown Development Authority, the Van Hoosen Museum, and the Preede Foundation. This cultural enhancement involves 6 glass panel art displays which showcase the area's railroad and industrial history. The panels were completed in 2008 and scheduled for installation at various points along the Downtown Rochester River Walk in 2009. The next two art projects are listed in our Capital Improvement Section, and will be installed in the City of Rochester Hills and in Orion Township.

In 2008, Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker began construction of 5 information kiosks at various points along the Trail, near parking areas and road crossings. The kiosks will be used to post event information as well as mapping and amenity information.

D. Barrier-Free Status of the Paint Creek Trail

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 staff in April 2008, following the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans produced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2006. The following definitions were used:

1. None of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
2. Some of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
3. Most of the facilities/park areas meet guidelines
4. Entire park meets guidelines
5. Entire park was developed/renovated using principals of universal design

Universal design is defined as the planning of products, buildings and environments to be usable by all people, not just people with disabilities. It is a broader concept than just “accessible design.” It is design that appeals to many different user groups to the greatest extent possible, while incorporating the needs of people with disabilities. Some Universal Design principles are physical (i.e. wheelchair ramps), while others are not (i.e. bright lighting).

1. Paint Creek Trail – Surface

Ranking: 5

The Paint Creek Trail was resurfaced in 2004, and Barrier-free access is provided.

2. Picnic Site – Tienken Road

Ranking: 5

The Picnic Site, built in 2006 and located just north of Tienken Road, at Mile-Marker 32.1 was developed using the principals of universal design.

3. Picnic Site – Flagstar Bank

Ranking: 5

The Picnic Site, built in 2006 and includes tables, benches, and a drinking fountain at approximate Mile 34.8, was developed using the principals of universal design.

4. Vault Toilet Facility

Ranking: 5

The Vault Toilet Facility, located at Mile Marker 38.5, is ADA-compliant and the site was developed using the principals of universal design.

5. Foley Pond Observation Deck

Ranking: 5

The Foley Pond Observation Deck, at approximate Mile-Marker 39, was built in 2006 using the principals of universal design.

6. Benches along the Trail

Ranking: 3

Most of the benches located along the 8.9 mile stretch of Trail meet accessibility guidelines. However, due to topography restraints, a few are not accessible. The Commission is dedicated to providing Barrier-Free access to amenities along the Trail, and will strive to install future benches that are located in ADA compliant areas.

E. DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

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

1. **Type of Grant:** Acquisition

Source: Michigan Land Trust

Grant # TF493

Year:1981

Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Acquisition

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

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

2. **Type of Grant:** Development
Source: Land & Water Conservation Fund
Grant # 26-01401
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 well-maintained, in good condition.

3. **Type of Grant:** Development
Source: Inland Fisheries Grant
Grant # 26-01479
Year: 1988
Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail-Phase II
Scope of Project: Erosion control project along Trail and Paint Creek in Oakland Township.
Current Condition: Well maintained; good condition

4. **Type of Grant:** Development
Source: Land & Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Improvement Fund
Grant # 26-01515
Year: 1992
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. Road crossing signage and mile markers well maintained and in good condition.

5. **Type of Grant:** Development
Source: MNRTF
Grant # TF02-125
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. Additional Grant Inventory

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

1. **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.

2. **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.

3. **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

4. **Type of Grant:** Art Projects on Millennium Trails Initiative

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

5. **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

6. **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 teaching tool for middle school children in the Rochester and Lake Orion school districts.
Current Condition: Excellent

7. **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

8. **Type of Grant:** Matching Funds Grant
Source: Rochester Downtown Development Authority
Year: 2007
Amount: \$3,763
Name of Project: Rochester Historical Art Project

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

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

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

Current Condition: Excellent

10. **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

11. **Type of Grant:** Development

Source: Meijer Corporation

Year: 2008-2009

Amount: \$5,000

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory

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 signs, 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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Chapter Five: Accomplishments

A. Accomplishments

A review of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission accomplishments as they relate to the Capital Improvement Schedules from the 1992-2008 Trailways Master Recreation Plans are shown in Table 5.1. The Commission has addressed a majority of the Capital Improvement items listed, and effectively completed eighteen of the twenty-nine, and three projects not previously listed.

TABLE 5.1: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEDULE FOR PAINT CREEK TRAIL – 1992 – 2008: ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Improvement: Plan and implement Signage along Trail - Phase I (1992) Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$50,000: \$25,000 Local Funds/\$25,000 LWCF

Accomplishment: In late 1992, a grant in the amount of \$50,000 was awarded to the Trailways Commission for signage enhancement. In 1995, with the Engineering Department of the City of Rochester Hills acting as project manager, a comprehensive system of mileage markers, directional and information signage was completed.

Total Cost:

Land & Water Conservation Fund	(37.5%)	\$ 8,271
Recreation Improvement Fund	(37.5%)	\$ 8,271
Local Match	(25.0%)	<u>\$ 5,514</u>
Total Cost	(100.0%)	\$22,056

2. Improvement: Study and Inventory of Sensitive Ecosystems along Trail (1993) Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$5,000 Local Funds

Accomplishment: In early 1994, the Trailways Commission contracted with the University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources to conduct a study of the sensitive ecosystems along the Trail. A group of six Masters students worked over the summer to inventory and catalogue plants that grew within the Trail right of way. “Enhancements of the Paint Creek Trailways,” as the project is referred to, also studied potential linkages to other trails, and produced a wildflower identification brochure for public distribution.

Total Cost: \$4,885 (Funded by the Trailways Commission general reserve fund)

Another University of Michigan’s School of Natural Resources Masters student presented a study involving the development of a database using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in 1995. The information from the 1994 study is included in the GIS database, and is intended for use by the Commission and communities for natural areas along the Trail.

Total Cost: \$3,000 (Funded by the Trailways general reserve fund.)

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

3. Improvement: Separate Bridle path where possible in Oakland and Orion Townships (1994)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$10,000 Local Funds

Note: Not pursued due to lack of need (decline in equestrian population)

4. Improvement: Side Parcel Acquisition - Phase I (1994)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$75,000: \$37,500 Local Funds; \$37,500 MNRTF or LWCF

Accomplishment: In 1996, the owner of the Paint Creek Cider Mill in Oakland Township approached the Trailways Commission with an offer to donate a two acre parcel as part of a property trade involving property adjacent to the Trail. The property exchange was completed in 2002. A 1.3 acre site that we acquired is now our "Nicholson Prairie" that is being restored by Oakland Twp Parks & Recreation.
Total Cost: Even exchange of property (Closing costs paid by donor)

5. Improvement: Parking Improvements at Kern-Clarkston, Orion Township (1995)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$ 30,000 Local Funds

Accomplishment: In 1996, as part of a state grant administered through the Clinton River Watershed Council, a two-part enhancement of the Kern-Clarkston Road parking lot (Orion Township) began with additional fencing, boardwalk, and river access. In 1997, the Road Commission for Oakland County improved drainage and grading of the lot at that site.
Total Cost: \$11,000 (Funding provided by State Superfund clean-up grant)

6. Improvement: Interpretive Signage - Phase II (1995)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$ 10,000: \$5,000 Local Funds, \$5,000 LWCF

Note: Not pursued – included in the Capital Improvement Projects for 1999 – 2003. Idea has been expanded to develop Interpretive side trails on Trail property, an on-going goal.

7. Improvement: Landscaping screening/buffer in selected areas (several projects) (1996)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$20,000: Small Cities Grant

Accomplishment: Three phases of Boy Scout-Eagle Award projects have contributed to the beautification of the Gunn Road crossing on the Trail in Oakland Township. In 1994, a stairway retaining wall and bicycle ramp was completed, with two phases of a retaining wall installed on the opposite bank, closer to the bridge, in 1995 and 1996. In November 1996, and again in June of 1997, the Friends of the Trail landscaped the area with native plantings.

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

Total Cost: \$5,000 (Funding provided by local community and private donations).

8. Improvement: Trailways Administrative office improvements: Storage, Furniture, and Display areas. (1999)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$3,000: Trailways Reserve Fund.

Accomplishment: The Trailways Administrative office was updated in 1999 and 2000 with new File cabinets, chairs, and equipment. Total cost: under \$3,000.

9. Improvement: Complete transfer of Paint Creek Cider Mill Property Exchange. (1999)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: Land even exchange; \$7,500 closing costs paid by Cider Mill owner.

Accomplishment: Property Exchange completed in February 2002. Total cost: \$0

10. Improvement: Complete connection to Bald Mountain Recreation Area (2000).
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$1,500 Local Matching Funds

Accomplishment: Trail connection complete in 2000. Total cost: \$0 (project completed by Eastern Mountain Sports)

11. Improvement: Surface maintenance of Trail from Rochester to Lake Orion. (2000)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$250,000 Local Funds

Accomplishment: Project completed in 2004; additional Trail developed north of Newton Street. Total Cost: \$256,000 Local Funds.

12. Improvement: Develop picnic/rest areas (as appropriate) along Trail. (2001)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$20,000 (\$15,000 MNRTF Grant, \$5,000 local matching funds)

Accomplishment: As part of the Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission was recommended for funding in 2002 to complete a small picnic site at Tienken Road, and a larger picnic site with water and a restroom facility near Gallagher Road. Project was completed in 2005, with the modification of the restroom facility being installed at Clarkston/Kern Roads.

Total Cost: \$94,866 (\$58,900 MNRTF, \$35,966 Local Matching Funds)

13. Improvement: Trail Crossing improvements at Tienken Road in Rochester Hills (2001)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$375,000 County Road Commission Funds; \$125,000 Local Matching Funds.

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

Accomplishment: The City of Rochester Hills and the Oakland County Road Commission completed improvements at the Trail crossing in 2007. The Trail was slightly rerouted north and south of Tienken to a pedestrian crossing signal at Kings Cove Drive; This greatly enhanced safety at a particularly dangerous crossing.

Total Cost to the Trailways Commission: \$0

14. Improvement: Comprehensive Trail User Survey/Analysis (2001)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$2,500 Trailways Fund Balance

Accomplishment: Michigan State University completed a statistical Trail user survey in 2004. Total Cost: \$0

15. Improvement: Side Parcel Acquisition for Parking (2001 and 2002)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$80,000 (\$60,000 MNRTF, \$20,000 Local Matching Funds)

Accomplishment: Through an agreement with the Road Commission of Oakland County, the Trailways Commission was given permission in 2007 to develop a small parking lot on the north side of Dutton, west of the Paint Creek Trail in RCOC Right of Way. Total Cost: \$0

16. Improvement: Pedestrian Stairs & Bike Ramp at Goldengate Road (2002)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$20,000 Local Funds

Accomplishment: Goldengate stairway and railings were installed in August 2002.

Total Cost: \$17,000 (Local funds)

17. Improvement: Erosion Control/Observation Deck at Conservation Easement (2002)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$60,000 (\$45,000 MNRTF Grant, \$15,000 Local Matching Funds)

Accomplishment: As part of the Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project, the erosion control/observation deck at Foley Pond in Orion Township was recommended for funding by the MNRTF in 2002 and completed in 2005. Total Cost: \$75,584

18. Improvement: Provide for additional public entrances in Orion Twp, Oakland Twp and Rochester Hills (2004)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$5,000 Local Funds

Note: Not pursued due to lack of opportunities

19. Improvement: Landscaping screening/buffer in selected areas (one in each community) (2004)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$9,000 Local Funds and Private Donations

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

Accomplishment: Orion Twp provided landscaping screening at the Vault Toilet facility near Clarkston/Kern Roads in 2006. Total Cost: \$0

20. Improvement: Side Parcel Acquisition for Interpretive side trails and sites (2004-2008)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$60,000 MNRTF Grant, \$20,000 Local Matching Funds

Accomplishment: Unsuccessfully pursued in 2006.

21. Improvement: Phase 2 – Art Project in City of Rochester (2004)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$15,000 Private Donations or foundation grants.

Accomplishment: The Rochester Historical Art Project was completed in 2008. The project consisted of 6 historical art displays that were installed along the Downtown Rochester River Walk and other sites in Rochester. Total Cost: \$15,260. Source: Trail Commission Funds, donations from the Rochester-Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historical Commission, Preede Foundation, Rochester DDA, and the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm.

22. Improvement: Restroom Facility Installation along the Trail where appropriate (2004-2007)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$15,000 MNRTF Grant; \$5,000 Local Matching Funds.

Accomplishment: As part of the Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project, a vault toilet facility was installed at Clarkston/Kern Roads in 2005. Total Cost: \$15,000.

23. Improvement: Acquisition of historic resources related to the transportation theme of the Trail (2004-2008)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$75,000 TEA-21 Historic Preservation Grant; \$25,000 Local Matching Funds.

Note: Not pursued due to lack of opportunities.

24. Improvement: Phase III Development of Trail East of Elizabeth Road to Rochester-Rochester Hills City Limits: Signage. (2005)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$1,000 Local Funds (City of Rochester).

Note: Not pursued due to development of the Clinton River Trail adjacent to our property.

25. Improvement: Phase 3 – Art Project in City of Rochester Hills (2005)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$15,000 Private donations or foundation grants.

Chapter Five: Accomplishments

Note: Not pursued due to late completion of Rochester Art Project.

26. Improvement: Property Acquisition for Paint Creek Trailways Commission Offices (2005)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$300,000 MNRTF Grant; \$75,000 Local Matching Funds.

Note: Not pursued due to Oakland Township's acquisition of the Paint Creek Cider Mill Restaurant. As part of their in-kind donation to the Trail, Commission offices were moved to the new location in 2008.

27. Improvement: Emergency Access Gates (2005)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$30,000 TEA-21 Grant; \$10,000 Local Matching Funds

Note: Not pursued due to policy change by the Trailways Commission. Majority of gates were removed in 2005-2008.

28. Improvement: Phase 4 – Art Project in Orion Township (2006)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$15,000 Private donations or foundation grants.

Note: Not pursued due to late completion of Rochester Art Project.

29. Improvement: Information Sign Replacement (2006)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$8,500 Private donations or foundation grants.

Accomplishment: This project was completed in Fall of 2008 by a Community Service team at HMS Manufacturing, Troy, Michigan. Total Cost: \$0

In addition to the projects that were identified in the Capital Improvement Schedule, the Trailways Commission accomplished the following projects:

1. Improvement: Atwater Paving Project (2007)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$30,000 Local Matching Funds.

Accomplishment: The Trailways Commission, in partnership with the Village of Lake Orion and Orion Township, paved a ¼ mile section of Trail just south of Atwater Street. The former surface was rough, large aggregate that was difficult to navigate. Total Cost: \$26,000. (\$10,000 DALMAC grant, and Local Matching Funds).

2. Improvement: Bollard replacement and redesign (2005-2008)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$4,000 Local Matching Funds

Accomplishment: The Trailways Commission researched bollard design

Chapter Five: Accomplishments
standards, and approved a new AASHTO recommended policy. Over sixty bollards were removed, and the remaining bollard formations were re-designed. Total Cost: \$3,000 Local Funds.

3. Improvement: Trail Boundary Survey Project (2007-2008)
Cost and Anticipated Funding Source: \$45,000 Local Matching Funds

Accomplishment: The Trailways Commission had all Trail property surveyed. Monuments were installed, and legal descriptions were updated. Iron and Monuments were also marked utilizing GPS coordinates to assist with location determination. Total Cost: \$72,000 Commission and Local Funds.



Chapter Six: Planning and Public Input Process

Planning and Public Input Process

A. Planning

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission utilized the 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 community, as well as the improvements required to meet those needs. The identified needs were grouped into eight issue categories that included acceptable land use, safety, identity, and character. Protection of the Trail for future public use was also an important element of the Goals and Objectives of this plan. During the planning process, our 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 ecological integrity of the Paint Creek Trail for the enjoyment of present and future generations.”

A synopsis of events leading to the Final Adoption of the Recreation Master Plan can be found in [Table 6.1](#).

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, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans was particularly helpful in outlining and organizing plan requirements. Statistical Data were obtained online from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) as it pertained to population, and 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.

TABLE 6.1: EVENTS LEADING TO THE FINAL ADOPTION OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAILWAYS RECREATION MASTER PLAN

DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
12-18-07	(Regular Trailways Meeting) A proposal and timetable for Master Plan revision was reviewed.
01-15-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Discussion and Review of Administrative Structure and methods of obtaining public input.
02-19-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Discussion and Review of Community Description and methods of obtaining public input.
03-18-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Discussion and Review Recreation Inventory
04-15-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Public Input Discussion
05-20-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Discussion and Review of Goals & Objectives (Issues 1-3)
06-03-08	Master Plan Questionnaire/Survey available on www.paintcreektrail.org . Email promotion sent to Friends of the Paint Creek Trail list. Also made available at Paint Creek Trail office.
06-07-08	Master Plan Questionnaire/Survey distributed at National Trails Day Event in Lake Orion.
07-09-08	Public Notice listing schedule and inviting Public to planning meetings and public hearing published in Lake Orion Review.
07-10-08	Public Notice listing schedule and inviting Public to planning meetings and public hearing published in Rochester Eccentric.
07-15-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Review of preliminary survey summary and draft chapters 3-5 (Administrative Structure, Community Description and Recreation Inventory)
08-19-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Discussion and Review of Goals & Objectives (Issues 4-8)
09-16-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Review of Action Program and Capital Improvement Program.
09-19-08	First Draft of Master Plan available for Public Review. Plan posted on website, with notice sent to Friends of the Paint Creek Trail group. Hard copy of plan available at Paint Creek Trail Office
09-30-08	(Special Trailways Meeting) Review of First Draft of 2009-2013 Master Plan.
10-08-08 and 10-09-08	Public Notice advertising Public Hearing to receive comment on Draft Master Plan published in Lake Orion Review and Rochester Eccentric.
10-21-08	(Regular Trailways Meeting) Public Hearing on the First Draft of Master Plan
01-20-09	(Regular Trailways Meeting)-2009-2013 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 and Trail users who utilize the Trail. For this document, public input was invited through several methods, including:

- An open invitation to attend plan revision meetings that was published in the Lake Orion Review on July 9, 2008 and the Rochester Eccentric on July 10, 2008 (See [Figure 6.2](#))
- Accessible information on the Paint Creek Trailways Commission website, www.paintcreektrail.org
- Newsletter information inviting participation that was mailed to all residents in Rochester Hills and Oakland Township
- A master plan questionnaire/survey that was distributed at two major Trail events and promoted on the Trail website. Questionnaire was also sent to members of the “Friends of the Paint Creek Trail”
- 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 October 20, 2008.

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.

Figure 6.2: PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE MASTER PLAN AS PUBLISHED IN THE LAKE ORION REVIEW ON JULY 9, 2008 AND THE ROCHESTER ECCENTRIC ON JULY 10, 2008.

Public Notice
**Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion
Township, Village of Lake Orion
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Master Recreation Plan Revision**

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission is planning several open meetings to discuss goals and objectives and potential revisions for the 2009-2013 Recreation Master Plan. All citizens are encouraged to attend and participate. All meetings are held at the Rochester Municipal Hall, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, and begin at 7:00pm, unless otherwise noted. Information can be accessed at www.paintcreektrail.org, or by calling Trail Manager Kristen Myers at (248) 651-9260.

Tentative Meeting Schedule:

Tuesday, July 15	Review Administrative Structure, Community Description and Recreation Inventory
Tuesday, August 19	Discussion and Review of Goals & Objectives
Tuesday, September 16	Review of Action Program & Capital Improvement Plan
Tuesday, September 30	Review First Draft of new Master Plan
Tuesday, October 21	Public Hearing on First Draft of Master Plan
Tuesday, November 18	Trail Commission Review of Final Master Plan

If you would like to participate, but cannot attend the meetings scheduled, you can share your thoughts and comments by contacting the Trailways Commission at:

**Trailways Master Plan
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306
(248) 651-9260
(248) 601-0106 (fax)
Email: PaintCreekTrail@aol.com**

Publish: July 10, 2008

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D. Summary of Public Input from Questionnaire

A copy of the Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Survey and a complete Summary of results is included in the appendix of this document. We received 180 responses from citizens. Highlights include:

- 30% of those responding were between the ages of 41-50
- 90.6% of respondents chose "Summer" as one of the times they use the Trail, while weekends and mornings were the most popular days and times to visit.

Chapter Six: Planning and Public Input Process

- 61.1% of respondents use the Trail for exercise
- 96.1% reported that their last visit was either enjoyable or very enjoyable
- The top five potential improvements that received the most votes were:
 - Extension to the Polly Ann Trail (57.2%)
 - Drinking Fountains (46.7%)
 - Restrooms (45.6%)
 - Mileage Signs (26.1%)
 - Additional Parking (22.2%)
- When asked “What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Trail,” 33.3% of respondents chose “No suggestion/Everything fine” while 10 % felt that speeding bicyclists were an issue.
- When asked “How do you get to the Paint Creek Trail?” our respondents answered with the following:

Car	38%
Bike	15%
Run/Walk	13%
Combination of Walk/Run/Bike	13%
Combination of Bike/Car	13%
Other	8%
Total:	100%

The Trailways Commission feels this response is representative of all of our communities because it was sent to our stakeholders (i.e. all user groups) and promoted to the general public. The questionnaire was available in both digital and hard copy, so those without computer access could still participate in the planning process and provide valuable input. The responses we received ranged from residents of our communities to residents outside of Oakland County who visit the Trail. Some were first time Trail users, while others indicated they use the Trail daily. Options were also given in the questionnaire for comments and suggestions. Answers provided were utilized in the planning process as well.

E. 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.

The Public Hearing was held to receive public input on the first draft of the Master Plan on October 21, 2008 (See [Figures 6.2](#) and [6.3](#)). The minutes of that meeting are included in the Appendix of this document. 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 – 2009-2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan: Vice-Chairman Becker opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Hearing no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m.

FIGURE 6.3: PUBLIC NOTICE REGARDING THE MASTER PLAN PUBLIC HEARING, AS PUBLISHED IN THE OAKLAND PRESS ON OCTOBER 12, 2008

Public Hearing Notice
Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township,
Orion Township, Village of Lake Orion
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
2009 - 2013 DRAFT Master Recreation Plan

Notice is hereby given that the Paint Creek Trailways Commission will hold a Public Hearing on their 2009 - 2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan, as submitted by the Commission.

The Public Hearing on the 2009 - 2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan will be held at the Paint Creek Trailways Regular Meeting on **Tuesday, October 21, 2008** commencing at 7:00 p.m. Michigan Time, at the Rochester Municipal Hall, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI 48307.

All citizens are encouraged to attend and participate.

A copy of the 2009 - 2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan is on file and available to the Public for inspection during regular business hours (8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday) at the Paint Creek Trailways Commission Offices, 4393 Collins Road, Rochester, Oakland County, Michigan. It is also available online at www.paintcreektrail.org.

If you would like to participate, but cannot attend the meeting, you can share your thoughts and comments by contacting the Trailways Commission at:

Trailways Master Plan
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306
(248) 651-9200
(248) 601-0106 (FAX)
E-Mail: PaintCreekTrail@aol.com

Published October 12, 2008



Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives

A. Goals and Objectives

Community Input

In order to solicit additional public input in developing goals and objectives, the Commission posted a link on its website to a survey and distributed paper copies at events. 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 Goals and Objectives address eight main issues identified by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission:

- Issue 1: Adjacent Land Uses
- Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Use
- Issue 3: Safety
- Issue 4: Identity and Continuity
- Issue 5: Character
- Issue 6: Trail Network Connections
- Issue 7: Undeveloped Trail Property
- Issue 8: Protection of Trail Property from encroachments

ISSUE 1: ADJACENT LAND USES

Experience on other Trails in the nation suggests that many anticipated problems related to adjacent land use either do not materialize or can be satisfactorily addressed. This has been the experience of the Paint Creek Trail. Originally viewed as a critical management issue, adjacent land use has not been incompatible with the Paint Creek Trail, and any problems worked themselves out early on. In the years that the Paint Creek Trail has been open, there has been a favorable response from near-by residents. Landscaping with native plants, when placed properly, can act as a visual buffer to adjacent properties. It can also act as a deterrent to motorized vehicles accessing the Paint Creek Trail. Additional screening or barriers may be installed along the Trail where necessary to minimize trespass problems to and from adjacent landowners. Screening will not be necessary where terrain and vegetation form a natural barrier, or where there is no conflict with adjacent use.

Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives

Residents with abutting property have taken interest in the Trail, many connecting their property through the use of paths, bridges, and removal of brush. While the Commission encourages the support of the Paint Creek Trail by surrounding residents, guidelines must be established to govern such practices. These guidelines will be established for the benefit of the Trail and property owners.

Because of the proximity of the Trail to Paint Creek and the Clinton River, special attention continues to be given to stormwater runoff, soil erosion management, and streambank protection. New construction and allowed uses of the Trail have been designed so as not to adversely affect the water resources.

Issue 1: Adjacent Land Issues

Goal 1: Create Visual Buffer

Objectives

1. Identify areas where no native plant screening exists between Trail and neighbors.
2. Develop guidelines and provide screening along the Trail in keeping with the natural character of the Paint Creek Trail.
 - Encourage new developments abutting the Paint Creek Trail to provide natural screening with native plants where needed.
 - Develop guidelines and encourage appropriate screening by adjacent property owners, including preservation of existing vegetation.
 - Work with the appropriate municipalities in implementation of screening proposals at designated sites.
 - Host educational forums and post information on website to educate users, especially with regard to using native species for buffers.

Issue 1: Adjacent Land Issues

Goal 2: Create Natural Access Barriers

Objectives

1. Identify areas where trespass onto abutting properties is occurring or likely to occur.

Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives

- Develop a plan to install plantings and/or natural barriers to discourage trespass.
- Provide plantings and/or barriers where needed.

Issue 1: Adjacent Land Issues

Goal 3: Assure Minimum Impact By Adjacent Developments

Objectives

1. Identify areas where adjacent developments are causing stormwater run-off or soil erosion onto the Trail.
 - Work with the adjacent property owners to correct situations that adversely impact the Trail.
2. Monitor new development on adjoining properties to ensure minimum impact on the Trail.
 - Work with local municipalities to ensure that site plan reviews adequately address the impact of adjacent developments on the Trail, especially the inevitable desire for Paint Creek Trail access.
 - Request the opportunity for Paint Creek Trailways Commission formal or informal review of adjacent development plans.
3. Educate developers, municipal staff and homeowners about development impact on the Trail.
 - Prepare and present information at community and homeowner association meetings.
 - Develop information for dissemination over local access television and on the Trail website.

ISSUE 2: ACCESS AND ACCEPTABLE USES

1. Types of Paint Creek Trail Access

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-

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purpose nature of the Paint Creek Trail has increased the numbers of users, it has also raised the issue of compatibility of uses.

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. Several residential developments adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail in Orion and Oakland Townships are planned for the near future. It will be important to provide enough well-placed access points in those areas to accommodate these new Trail users.

2. Types of Paint Creek Trail Use

The most common uses of the Paint Creek Trail are bicycling, walking, jogging, and horseback riding. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission continues to accommodate these uses. In recent years, there has been an increase in the amount of use on the Trail in the winter months of December through March. Snow is not a constant in this part of Michigan during the winter months, and ski conditions are not reliable. In exploring the possible expansion of winter uses, the issues of budgeting, equipment, staffing, liability and maintenance must be examined.

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Federal Access Board Guidelines (updated 2004) provide clear, enforceable standards for improving the accessibility of public recreational trails. The Commission recognizes these standards must be taken into consideration in all Trailways development projects. Recommended guidelines regarding design, parking, restroom facilities, drinking fountains and trash receptacles are found in the Appendix of this document.

3. Parking Facilities and Rest Areas

Increased use of the Trail has put a demand on nearby parking and access. 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 at Tienken Road in Rochester Hills would help alleviate some of the parking congestion. Another area appropriate for formalized parking is the Adams

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Road crossing. Development would include defining the parking area and laying out a logical and recognizable system of parking for the drivers, as well as uniform parking signage. Parking lots not adjacent to the Trail but which can be connected by feeder trails or existing local bike paths continue to be identified.

In conjunction with development of parking areas, the Commission has also considered, where possible, a limited number of trailside rest areas. These sites would be judiciously chosen for compatibility with nearby land uses, at selected Trail entrances. These sites may provide for sanitation needs, drinking water for Trail users and horses (as appropriate), seating, and picnic areas. Bicycle racks and horse-hitching area could be provided at appropriate locations. In response to the increasing demand for rest areas, and the Commission's desire for uniformity along the Trail, the Commission developed a "Trail Bench Donation Policy" in 2007. This policy provides guidelines for bench material, maintenance, and placement for future bench donations and purchases. To lessen the impact on the environment and the maintenance responsibilities of our voting member communities, all benches must be made of recycled plastic. The Trail has several trailhead locations that have appropriate rest areas. A major trail center is at the Clarkston-Kern Road entrance, 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. The Clarkston-Kern intersection has ample parking, and provides Trail users with an ADA accessible vault toilet restroom facility. Tienken Road, however, provides Trail users with parking and picnic locations. The City of Rochester Hills had originally planned for the installation of a restroom facility at the Tienken Road parking area for 2005, but setback issues forced the cancellation of the project. The Trailways Commission still feels this is an appropriate location for a restroom facility, and will encourage the City of Rochester Hills to work with the Trailways Commission on a solution. In Oakland Township, the Gallagher Road corridor provides Trail users with a trailhead that encompasses parking, picnic areas, and a water fountain. Through the generosity of the Charter Township of Oakland, a vault toilet restroom facility will be installed next to the new Trail office at the former Paint Creek Cider Mill Restaurant in 2010. As the midpoint of the Trail, the Gallagher corridor is fast becoming one of the most popular rest areas along the Trail. In addition, it is the goal of the Trailways Commission to

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establish rest areas and trailheads in the Village of Lake Orion and in the City of Rochester where appropriate.

4. Control of Motorized Uses

The Trailways Commission has successfully controlled unauthorized motorized uses by means of signs, enforcement, and physical entrance barriers. Experience in other trails and parks have shown that the best deterrent of offending uses of land is to facilitate steady use in acceptable ways. An informed citizenry, actively enjoying intended uses of this Trail has, and will, continue to afford the best social and environmental protection. In keeping with this experience, the Trailways Commission's efforts are directed toward continuing encouragement of active and appropriate use of the Trail.

Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Uses

Goal 1: Provide a Safe and Enjoyable Environment which encourages Acceptable Use.

Objectives

1. Accommodate major Trail uses by pedestrians and bicyclists.
 - Minimize conflicts between user groups by promoting trail etiquette.
 - Encourage positive interaction among user groups.
 - Utilize bike patrollers to encourage trail etiquette.
 - Continue to monitor progress.
 - Develop and distribute trail etiquette educational materials.
 - Consider a speed limit policy for bicyclists.
 - Work with the Charter Township of Oakland to construct a pedestrian foot bridge over the Paint Creek to connect the Trail to the Trail Office rest area.
2. Accommodate limited winter uses, such as cross-country skiing.
 - Identify needs of Trail users in the winter.
 - Maintain adequate access to trails at parking areas.
 - Consider a cross-country skiing grooming policy to accommodate use.
3. Accommodate equestrians on selected portions of the Trail.
 - Develop entrances to Trail for horses where needed.
 - Install hitching posts where appropriate.
4. Accommodate anglers.
 - Accommodate angler access to stream at desirable locations, while minimizing erosion.
 - Prevent erosion with installation of stairs
 - Promote appropriate fishing access points.
 - Encourage Catch and Release practices through dissemination of educational materials.
5. Improve accessibility of Trail for all persons.

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- Develop designs for improvements necessary for Accessibility, including improved parking spaces, access between lot and Trail, and at road crossings.
- Identify suitable ADA accessible areas and include specific improvements in plans for those areas.
- Conduct comprehensive use survey.

6. Accommodate pet owners

- Provide ordinance education to pet owners who use the Trail.
- Enforce public leash laws on the Trail.
- Provide pet waste disposal bags for pet owners.

Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Uses

Goal 2: Continue to bar unauthorized motorized vehicles, but allow access for maintenance and emergencies.

Objectives

1. Maintain visual/physical barriers to motor vehicles at cross roads.
 - Replace or upgrade barriers as needed following AASHTO design standards.
2. Provide for physical barriers for motor vehicles at high-use side access trails, on an as-needed basis.
3. Maintain communication with emergency agencies in all four communities.
 - Annually present Trailways Commission information update to each community public safety agency.

Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Use

Goal 3: Provide Parking where needed and as property becomes available.

Objectives

1. Designate parking in all communities.
 - Research available area.
 - Prepare and present proposals to appropriate owners for acquisition.

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2. Arrange for parking and horse staging at additional off-site properties.
 - Determine existence of additional public parking areas.
 - Work with businesses, adjacent developments and communities for acquisition of nearby Trail parking.
 - Develop and implement plan.
3. Develop additional parking at Tienken intersection.
 - Determine what improvements are necessary and develop plan to increase parking capacity utilizing Trailways Commission property.

Issue 2: Access and Acceptable Use

Goal 4: Identify the need for or the desirability of user facilities and rest areas along or adjacent to the Trail.

Objectives

1. Develop picnic/rest areas where appropriate, as well as near points of interest.
 - Develop rest area near Atwater, while working with the Village of Lake Orion on placement and ordinance compliance.
 - Develop additional rest areas in the City of Rochester.
2. Develop viewing areas, enhanced near scenic areas, so users may enjoy nature.
3. Develop restroom facilities in each community, as needed, for Trail users to utilize while on the Trail.
 - Determine appropriate placement and develop restroom facility at the Tienken Road intersection while working with the City of Rochester Hills on setback and ordinance compliance issues.
 - Determine appropriate location for on or off-site restroom facility in the Village of Lake Orion.
4. Develop drinking fountains or access to drinking water at various points along the Trail for Trail users, dogs, or horses.

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5. Develop interpretive side trails to serve as educational and cultural enhancements to the Paint Creek Trail experience.

6. Develop a Trail recycling program.
 - Determine appropriate locations and install recycle bins along the trail.
 - Develop a Trail improvement policy regarding the use of recycled plastic for amenities.

ISSUE 3: SAFETY

1. Signage

In 1996, the Commission implemented a comprehensive signage plan, including informational, directional and mileage signs. The Commission agrees signage is an important safety requirement not only at road intersections, but also along the Trail. The road crossings are signed from both Trail directions and road directions, ensuring that both Trail users and motor vehicle operators are aware of each other.

Signage can also be used as an important tool to provide information about distance and amenities along the Trail. Under the signage plan, distance markers are placed every half-mile along the Trail, noting distances to and from starting points. Mile marker signs have also been placed at bridges, gates, and road crossings to help users determine distance and location. At road intersections, additional informational signs contain information maps and locations of near-by amenities.

In 2003, local Eagle Scout candidate John Putnam developed and implemented signage to explain the Trails Mile Marker System. The signs were placed in seven different access points along the Trail and read as follows:

As recently as 1974, the Paint Creek Trail was a railroad corridor. The Detroit and Bay City Railroad Company built the rail line in 1872, connecting Detroit to Bay City. Michigan Central Railroad later acquired the line and developed the mile-marking system in the late 1890s. Each mile-marker contained the letter "D," signifying "Detroit," and a number that represented the distance in miles from the center of Detroit to that Point. These markers are metal, diamond-shaped signs and are found at ½ Mile intervals along the Trail. Additional rectangular mile-markers have been located at each gate, bridge and road crossing. In an emergency, identify the nearest mile marker you saw so that the location can be pinpointed, and dial 911.

The Mile-Marker System is an added benefit to Trail users in the event of an emergency.

2. Trailways Bridges

Eleven existing bridges across the Paint Creek are owned by the Trailways Commission. The bridges have been modified to provide for safe passage of all Trail users, through the installation of bridge decking, and side railings. Bridge safety

continues to be a top priority of the Commission, and bridges are inspected annually or bi-annually.

In 1993, Rochester Hills inspected the Trailways bridges in their area and in Rochester, with no problems noted. As part of the Trail resurfacing project in 2004, all bridges in Oakland and Orion Townships were inspected by engineers and found to be in good condition, with some substandard openings on several bridge railings and minor vegetation issues. Both communities followed the engineer's recommendations and have improved their bridges.

3. Trail Surfacing

The limestone fine surface was originally chosen for its durability, value, and to maintain the natural integrity of the Trail. This surface first applied in 1990, has received routine inspection and maintenance. During this time, many sections of Trail were noted as needing repair, reconditioning or resurfacing. In 2001, a pilot program, also known as a "trial mile", was implemented on a short section of Trail between Gallagher and Silver Bell Roads. Volunteers from a local Boy Scout troop and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Boot Camp provided labor necessary to resurface this portion of the Trail. Although the specified material was not laid, through use, weathering and the additional limestone fines, the section was satisfactorily repaired. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission would like the surface of the Trail to receive regular maintenance, as well as resurfacing every 10 years. After discussion and recommendations from contracted engineers, the entire Trail was resurfaced with crushed limestone in 2004. The Commission investigated different surfacing options, but ultimately approved crushed limestone that was slightly smaller than the original surface. Many eroded areas were repaired, and approximately 400 feet of Trail was developed and surfaced in Orion Township, just north of Newton Street. The project was met with approval by Trail users, who enjoy the natural feel and user-friendly aspect of the surface. The aggregate specifications have been included in the appendix of this document.

4. Road Crossings

The Trail crosses 10 streets in its journey from the Village of Lake Orion to the Downtown Rochester River Walk in the City of Rochester. Many of the crossings are over little-traveled gravel roads or local streets, and one can cross from one side to the other safely with little or no effort. Two crossings, however, are on major arterial roads, and the traffic is continual and at high speeds. Trail users, unaccustomed at waiting for traffic to clear at other street crossings, often do not have the patience required and take risks to get across the street. The Commission will continue to monitor trail safety, and work with the individual communities to increase the safety of all road/rail crossings. In 2006, after much discussion and encouragement from the Trailways Commission, the City of Rochester Hills and the Road Commission of Oakland County made major improvements to one of our high priority areas – Tienken Road. The Trail was rerouted to the east approximately 100 feet north and south of the intersection, so Trail users can cross safely, utilizing a pedestrian crossing signal at Kings Cove Drive and Tienken. The former crossing points were closed by utilizing a landscape buffer, to encourage users to cross at the light. The remaining high priority area is Adams Road in Oakland Township. As development continues to the north, users are finding it increasingly difficult to cross. The Trailways Commission will continue to monitor the crossing, and encourage the Charter Township of Oakland and the Road Commission to make needed improvements as necessary.

5. Compatibility Among Trail Users

The overwhelming success of the Trail has been indicated by a large increase in use. This increase is in part responsible for keeping a significant amount of inappropriate uses off of the Trail. However, safety concerns must be monitored even closer with increased use. The special desires of every user group cannot always be met on the Trail. Those walking their pets have different interests than those watching nature or those out for a quick-paced bicycle ride. The Trailways Commission has consulted other trail administrators and reviewed literature for ideas on how to address user conflicts. A listing of useful practices is found in the Appendix of this document.

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The most common incompatible use continues to be pets on the Trail. The behavior of a pet toward other Trail users, or to other pets is the single largest source of Trail complaints. The Commission does not want to prohibit pets from the Trail, but would rather encourage owners to take more responsibility for their pets. The Commission promotes, with signs and brochures, notifying pet owners that all pets must be on a 6' leash and under control of the owner. This signage provides users with notice of the State of Michigan "Public Leash Laws." Police have been instructed to enforce this law with warnings and citations, if necessary.

Another incompatibility issue is between users on bikes and those on foot. With the biker approaching at a rapid pace, it is important to give adequate warning to a walker who is admiring nature. The Commission recognizes the need for education of all users in "trail etiquette." Bikers are being encouraged to pass on the left and sound a warning when approaching and passing pedestrians. Walkers are being encouraged to stay to the right on the Trail, and not block the Trail for other users. Beginning in 1992, the Commission distributed, and now sells, bicycle bells to Paint Creek Trail users to promote safety and etiquette. To this day, many recreational cyclists have the brightly colored bells attached to their handlebars, and use them when passing other users on the Trail.

6. Trailways Patrols

Since 1991, the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Mounted Division has patrolled the Trailways during the summer and autumn months. Starting from the Oakland Township Hall, the deputies ride the length of the Trail between Rochester Municipal Park and the Village of Lake Orion. There are many benefits to a mounted patrol program, including well-trained officers and horses with the power to enforce the Uniform Trailway Regulations, and the ability to ride in difficult terrain off the Trail in the event of the emergency. The officers also enjoy a height advantage on horseback to other Trailways users, allowing them greater sight distance. The program has been successful in promoting the Trail and its proper use. In late 1997, the Trailways Commission investigated additional patrol options, including by bicycle. The part-time Bike Patrol position was created in 1998 to help enforce Trailways Regulations and to give Trail users a point of contact with the Trailways Commission. The Bike Patrol

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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 via cellular phone or other means if necessary. The position is more “public relations” oriented, as users are reminded of proper Trail etiquette and municipal ordinances, thus limiting the number of “user conflicts” along the Trail. The City of Rochester Police Department bicycle officers often patrol the segment of the Trail in Rochester during the time of the year their bicycle patrol program is active.

7. Trail Access by Emergency Vehicles

Continued attention will be paid to barriers assuring that emergency or maintenance vehicles have appropriate access to the Trail. The current bollards placed at public roadway crossings are of strong construction as well as visually attractive, blending with the natural environment. The gates at most access zones have been removed so emergency and maintenance vehicles can easily enter the Trail. The Trail Manager coordinates closely with local police and fire agencies (Rochester Police Department, Oakland County Sheriff’s Office, Rochester Hills Fire Department, Oakland Township Fire Department) to assure emergency vehicle access points are acceptable, and that enough access points are present. In addition the Mile Marker System is an added benefit to emergency responders and Trail users in the event of an emergency.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 1: At road crossings, continue to provide for the safety of Trail users and warnings to motorists.

Objectives

1. Continue to address the safety of the Trail street crossings.
 - Communicate concerns at local, regional, and state levels.
 - Encourage participation in exploring concepts for crossing improvements.
 - Develop viable responses to safety issues, by taking a proactive approach to improvements, and by maintaining a working relationship with local police and fire agencies.
 - Enhance road crossings with devices such as refuge islands and markings.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 2: Preserve the safety of bridges along the Paint Creek Trail.

Objectives

1. Establish a timetable to conduct regular bridge inspections.
2. Work with communities to maintain/repair bridges as needed.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 3: Maintain Trail's limestone and asphalt surface for the safety of all Trail users.

Objectives

1. Maintain the surface of 8.9 miles of existing Trail
 - Develop biennial surface maintenance program.
 - Work with communities to develop local funding sources and estimate resurfacing timeframes for budgets.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 4: Continue to promote safety at road crossings

Objectives

1. Monitor the Adams Road crossing for safety improvements.

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- Encourage the Road Commission of Oakland County and Oakland Township to make needed improvements at the Adams Road crossing.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 5: Continue to promote safety among Trail users

Objectives

1. Encourage the use of “Trail Etiquette” by all Trail users.
 - Continue education efforts with signs, brochures, and other materials.
2. Encourage users with pets to assume greater responsibility for their pets.
3. Encourage users to be alert for oncoming Trail traffic.
4. Maintain comprehensive signage along the Trail.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 6: Maintain system of official and unofficial Trail patrols, contracted police services, and staff.

Objectives

1. Continue and expand the use of Trail bike patroller on the Trail.
2. Continue contracting with Mounted Patrol for peak season.
3. Encourage local police agencies to expand bike patrols on Trail.

Issue 3: Safety

Goal 7: Continue to assure availability of emergency access at designated entrances.

Objectives

1. Meet annually with municipal public safety departments to provide updates about Trail safety.

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2. Develop and update, as needed, emergency Trail access map and distribute to police, fire and other emergency response officials in all communities.

ISSUE 4: IDENTITY AND CONTINUITY

It is an overriding goal of the Commission to emphasize the natural beauty of the Trail, including landscape, wildlife and flora. When motorized vehicles and other sights and sounds associated with an urban development are minimized, the Trail preserves a very special natural character, rare to find in the heavily developed Southeast region of Michigan. Many people associate the Trail with the preservation of its natural resources.

In order to achieve this goal, Trail access was designated at only certain points from roadways. An emphasis of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission is to get away from motorized vehicles, and the original Commission felt that this could not be achieved if there was a parking lot at every intersection. The increased use of the Paint Creek Trail since the last Master Plan has tested this reasoning, with more and more people traveling to the Paint Creek Trail by vehicle. Many summer evenings find the existing parking lots at or near capacity, and on busy weekend days it is not uncommon to find parked cars lining the roads near Trail crossings. While the abundance of cars points to increased use of the Paint Creek Trail, it also presents an additional element of concern in protecting sight lines at crossings for Trail users and vehicles.

Continued maintenance of the Paint Creek Trail and parking areas is vital to uphold the utility and beauty of the Paint Creek Trail. Each member unit is responsible for maintaining the Paint Creek Trail, parking lots, and entrances within its jurisdiction. A program of mowing and pruning alongside the Trail prevents encroachment of vegetation.

Issue 4: Identity and Continuity

Goal 1: Continue to maintain major Trail entrances near parking areas.

Objectives

1. Continue with program for the improvement of major Trail entrances near each of the identified parking areas.
 - Use materials and designs consistent with other Trail entrances that are compatible with the natural environment as determined by the Commission.

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Issue 4: Identity and Continuity

Goal 2: Increase Trail access opportunities in Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township and the Village of Lake Orion.

Objectives

1. Work with local communities, local planners and developers to develop Trail access and parking at appropriate locations along the Trail.
2. Acquire adjacent properties by purchase or donation for use as access and parking areas.

Issue 4: Identity and Continuity

Goal 3: Maintain a uniform program of signage along the Paint Creek Trail.

Objectives

1. Work with local communities to continue standardized sign design.
 - Replace signs, as needed, using standard design.
2. Continue the system of signage on the new portions of Trail, when developed.
3. Develop interpretive signage.
 - Historical signage.
 - Plant identification signage.
 - Cultural signage.
4. Guard against unnecessary signage.

Issue 4: Identity and Continuity

Goal 4: Establish continuity of maintenance and repair.

Objectives

1. Coordinate a regular inspection among units.
2. Maintain the Trail.
 - Work with local communities to establish standard maintenance programs, such as mowing, dust control, grading, vegetative pruning, erosion control and parking area maintenance.
 - Maintain parking areas.
 - Develop a surfacing maintenance and improvement program.

ISSUE 5: CHARACTER

The Paint Creek Trail's history has contributed greatly to the character of the region. Historians believe that Native Americans were active in the area and followed the Paint Creek to create a transportation corridor in the Paint Creek Valley.

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. To a large extent, floodplain development restrictions will ensure continued open spaces along the Paint Creek Trail. Local Open Space Easement Agreements, subdivision open spaces, and parkland acquisition are also being employed to protect key open spaces along the Paint Creek Trail.

In terms of railroad history, the Detroit and Bay City Railroad Company was organized on May 16, 1871. The first passenger train arrived in October 1872. The Village of Rochester utilized the railroad to ship farm products and Avon Township utilized all five miles of the railroad for various product shipments as well. A flag-station of the railroad was located in the Goodison area of Oakland Township at Goodison's mills. Orion Township's principal shipping point for the rail line was located in Orion Village. The Detroit and Bay City Railroad Company later became known as the Michigan Central Railroad Company. Subsequently, prior to becoming the Paint Creek Trail, the rail line was known as the Penn Central Railroad.

The Paint Creek Trail closely follows Paint Creek, which is managed by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources as a major remaining designated 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.

Many historic resources are located along this former rail route. The Rochester Municipal Park and Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve abut the Paint Creek Trail in the City of Rochester. Within a short walk from the Trail, the Paint Creek and Goodison Cider Mills, as well as the Paint Creek Mill Race Historic Marker are located in the unincorporated Village of Goodison.

In Orion Township, the Carpenter-Rudd Mill Site is located near the intersection of Clarkston and Kern Roads, where the Trail abuts Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. Many historic resources, local historic districts, and designated historic resources are located along the Paint Creek Trail.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 1: Maintain a natural appearance consistent with a suburban/rural setting.

Objectives

1. Use structural elements only where necessary and so as to blend in with the natural environment.
2. Develop each improvement in keeping with this goal, balancing other needs where necessary.
 - Encourage the planting of hedgerows for screening, in preference to the use of fencing.
 - Limit the number of signs to those which are essential, and design them to be unobtrusive yet visible.
 - Assure that entrances are designed to appear inviting to a rural experience, not an urban one.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 2: Continue to optimize the enjoyment and protection of adjacent water resources.

Objectives

1. Provide for access to Paint Creek at areas which will be safe for the users and not destructive to the stream banks.
2. Coordinate with other groups to maintain the integrity of Paint Creek and adjacent water resources.
3. Support and encourage fishing and recreational uses of water resources.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 3: Encourage the appreciation and preservation of the ecosystem.

Objectives

1. Development of interpretive side trails, brochures, or other media to explain the botanical and wildlife aspects of the Trail, as well as the proper etiquette required to respect both aspects.

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2. Development of written materials explaining the Prairie Restoration Art Project and how it relates to the ecosystem.
3. Encourage Oakland Township's adherence to the Prairie Management plan to ensure proper appreciation, stewardship and preservation of the Nicholson Prairie Site.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 4: Relate the Trail to adjacent areas and historic resources.

Objectives

1. Identify selected natural areas and historic resources along the Trail suitable for preservation and/or acquisition.
 - Determine whether acquisition, easement, or another form of protection is appropriate for each area.
 - Design access that will allow for user enjoyment without abuse or overuse of the natural or historic resources.
 - Construct Historic signage where appropriate.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 5: Plan for the acquisition of appropriate side parcels to enhance character.

Objectives

1. Review adjoining lands to determine whether there are side parcels where acquisition could enhance the goals of access to water, protection of floodplains and wetlands, and enjoyment of natural and historic resources, and development of interpretive natural sites.
 - Develop plans for acquisition of desirable side parcels meeting these goals.
 - Identify possible side parcel acquisition sites.

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2. Review adjoining lands to determine whether there are side parcels which might be desirable for the installation of rest areas or side trails.
 - Develop plans for the acquisition of desirable side parcels meeting these purposes.

Issue 5: Character

Goal 6: Provide the public with a better access to the history, culture and general information of the Trail and the area around it.

Objectives

1. Partner with local groups and organizations for the creation of enhancement materials.
2. Develop informational materials that describe and interpret the historic resources and districts along the Paint Creek Trail, such as booklets, pamphlets, and videos.
3. Develop informational materials that describe and interpret flora, fauna, and birds along the Paint Creek Trail, such as booklets, pamphlets, and videos, and add such information to the Trail website.
4. Develop historical, cultural, informative displays and interpretive brochures.
5. Develop Paint Creek Trail merchandise for sale.
6. Continue to expand and improve the Paint Creek Trail website.

ISSUE 6: TRAIL NETWORK CONNECTIONS

The Paint Creek Trail was the first 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 southeast Michigan, 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, the Paint Creek Trail connects with the Clinton River Trail and Macomb Orchard Trail. Trail enthusiasts from all over the region were 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, with the ultimate goal of connecting the entire county through Trails, parks, safety paths, and sidewalks. This excitement helped create the Oakland County Trail Network map. It outlines current trails, trails under development, and connections under review and consideration. Free copies of the map are available at the Paint Creek Trailways Commission office.

In terms of the Paint Creek Trail corridor, trail enthusiasts have been inquiring about a future northern connection to the Polly Ann Trail. On paper, a connection seems simple. Unfortunately, due to the selling of several small segments of the former Penn Central railroad, a connection through the Village of Lake Orion, Orion Township, and subsequently Oxford Township has been difficult. Topography issues have been the biggest logistical problem.

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 2009-2013 Master Plan, the Trailways Commission distributed a user survey to obtain public input regarding Trail improvements. By an overwhelming margin, 64.5% of respondents chose "a connection to the Polly Ann Trail" as the most important improvement. In terms of additional connections, 19% of respondents want more connections to local businesses. A copy of the questionnaire and results are included in the appendix of this document.

The Oakland Trails Advisory Council commissioned a study of the gap between the Paint Creek Trail and Polly Ann Trail as part of the Oakland Trail Network Master Plan. The result was the identification of 4 possible routes to connect them, along with the design considerations and challenges. Details of the routes are located in Appendix 6 of this document.

Issue 6: Trail Network Connections

Goal 1: Connect with the Polly Ann Trail, following the recommendations outlined in the Oakland Trail Network Master Plan.

Objectives

1. Implement Route 1: Orion Township Residential Connection – 4.33 miles
 - Develop and install wayfinding measures in Orion Township, including signage and maps, to direct users to the Polly Ann Trail.
 - Encourage Orion Township to install a short segment of safety path on Glanworth Street to complement directional signage.

2. Explore feasibility of Route 2: Oxford Township Commercial Connection – 3.65 miles
 - Coordinate with the Village of Lake Orion, Orion Township, and Oxford Township to research this potential connection.
 - Encourage Oxford Township to resolve easement issues on Draher Road.
 - Encourage Oxford Township to review engineering issues and develop potential solutions near the Oxford Hills Country Club.

3. Explore feasibility of Route 3: Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Connection – 6.0 miles.
 - Communicate with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources regarding the status of their planned trail extension along the Consumers Energy corridor in Bald Mountain, and coordinate efforts regarding safety concerns as they pertain to lands open to hunting.
 - Coordinate with the MDNR, Oakland Township, DEQ and Orion Township regarding the potential need to cross the Paint Creek near Kern Roads.

4. Explore feasibility of Route 4: Oakland and Addison Townships Connection – 6.81 miles.

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- Coordinate with Oakland Township Parks regarding a trail connection through Marshview Park.
- Coordinate with the MDNR regarding a trail connection along Predmore Road.
- Coordinate with Addison Township and Oakland County regarding the use, engineering, and design considerations of Lake George Road as a connection to the Polly Ann Trail.

Issue 6: Trail Network Connections

Goal 2: Establish efficient connections to other trails and trail networks.

Objectives

1. Develop additional connections to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.
 - Work with Orion Township and the MDNR on the design of connections.
2. Develop additional connections and/or trail extensions through the Village of Lake Orion.
 - Work with the Village of Lake Orion and the Downtown Development Authority to design trail connections through the downtown business district and points of interest.
3. Develop connections through Oakland Township Park properties.
 - Work with Oakland Township Parks on the design of connections.
4. Continue to encourage the connection of Trail through the City of Rochester, using the Downtown Rochester River Walk.

ISSUE 7: UNDEVELOPED TRAIL SEGMENTS

In 2007, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission conducted a comprehensive boundary map/survey of all Paint Creek Trail property to determine proper property lines. As part of the project, the boundary lines for the undeveloped portion of Trail property in southeast Rochester were determined. The property includes several acres adjacent to the developed portion of the Clinton River Trail in Rochester, and to Bloomer Park in Rochester Hills. In 2008, the Commission began discussions on how to best utilize the undeveloped property to enhance the Trail experience for users.

Issue 7: Undeveloped Trail Segments

Goal 1: Determine use for Trail property in southeast Rochester.

Objectives

1. Determine the monetary value of the parcels.
2. Determine the best possible use for the parcels.
3. Develop the parcels for the enjoyment of Trail users.
4. Maintain Natural Beauty and rural ambience of the Trail in this area.

ISSUE 8: PROTECTION OF TRAIL PROPERTY FROM ENCROACHMENTS

As previously mentioned, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission conducted a comprehensive boundary survey of Paint Creek Trail property in 2007. As part of the project, the contractor was asked to identify property encroachments along the Trail right-of-way. Many encroachments were identified, and they ranged from structures that had been built on Trail property to vegetation issues. In order to protect the Trail right-of-way for future generations, the Commission began discussions on how best to address encroachments while protecting the integrity of the Trail and our relationship to adjacent property owners.

Issue 8: Protection of Trail Property from encroachments

Goal 1: Determination of Encroachments.

Objective

1. Develop encroachment guidelines to classify the various types of encroachments.
2. Prioritize encroachments for enforcement.
 - Work with municipalities to develop plan of action for enforcement.

Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives

- Communicate with property owners that are encroaching and attempt to resolve encroachments amicably.
- Implement plan of action to resolve encroachment.

Issue 8: Protection of Trail Property from encroachments

Goal 2: Prevent future encroachments.

Objectives

1. Develop educational materials for adjacent property owners to inform them of encroachment issues.
2. Inspect Trail regularly for new encroachments.

Action Program

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 plan 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 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 7.1](#) details the Paint Creek Trail Capital Improvement Schedule for identified improvements.

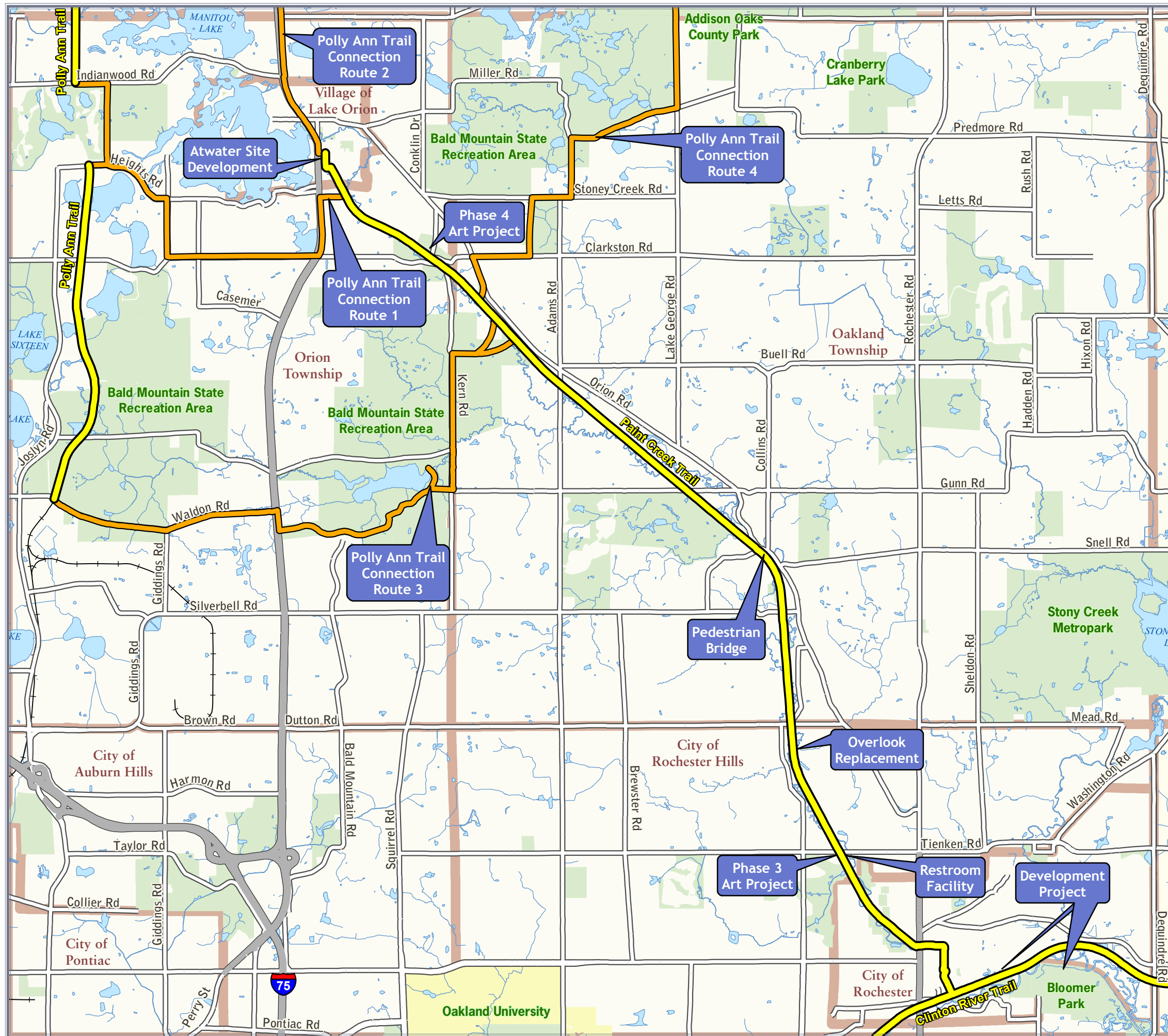
Table 7.1: Capital Improvement Schedule for the Paint Creek Trail, 2009-2013

2009 – 2013 Recurring Projects			
Improvement	Cost & Anticipated Funding Source (per annum)	Potential Project Partner and/or Agency	Basis – Goals & Objectives
Side Parcel Acquisition for Parking and Trail Access	\$80,000 MNRTF Grant; \$45,000 Local Matching Funds	Municipalities, State of Michigan	Issue 2, Goal 3
Side Parcel Acquisition for Interpretive Side Trails and sites	\$80,000 MNRTF Grant; \$45,000 Local Matching Funds	Municipalities, State of Michigan	Issue 5, Goal 3 Issue 5, Goal 5 Issue 5, Goal 6
Development of Interpretive side trails, sites and materials	\$10,000 MNRTF Grant or Private Donations \$3,000 Local Matching Funds	Municipalities, Local Business, State of Michigan	Issue 5, Goal 3 Issue 5, Goal 4 Issue 5, Goal 6
Acquisition of historic resources related to the transportation theme of the Trail	\$75,000 Historic Preservation Grants \$25,000 Local Matching Funds	Historic Preservation agencies and organizations; Local Business	Issue 4, Goal 3 Issue 5, Goal 4 Issue 5, Goal 5 Issue 5, Goal 6
Installation of Drinking Fountain along the Trail, where appropriate, in each community	\$10,000 Local Funds, Private Donations, or Grants	Municipalities, Local Business	Issue 2, Goal 4

Non-Recurring Projects				
Year	Improvement	Cost & Anticipated Funding Source	Potential Project Partner	Basis – Goals & Objectives
2009	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail - Route 1 (Orion Township Residential Connection)	\$10,000 Local Funds and Private Donations	Orion Township, Village of Lake Orion, Polly Ann Trail Management Council	Issue 6, Goal 1
	Atwater Site Development	\$16,000 MNRTF Grant \$ 9,000 Local Matching Funds	Downtown Lake Orion, Village of Lake Orion, Local Business, State of Michigan	Issue 2, Goal 4
	Pedestrian bridge over Paint Creek, south of Gallagher, connecting the Trail to Trail office and rest areas	\$64,000 MNRTF Grant \$36,000 Local Matching Funds	Oakland Township, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)	Issue 2, Goal 1 Issue 2, Goal 4
2010	Development of Trailways Commission Property/User amenities in Southeast Rochester	\$16,000 MNRTF Grant; \$ 9,000 Local Matching Funds	City of Rochester; Clinton River Trail, State of Michigan	Issue 2, Goal 2 Issue 2, Goal 4
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail – Route 2 (Oxford Township Commercial Connection)	\$100,000 Local Funds, Private Donations, Matching Funds, In-Kind Services	Village of Lake Orion, Orion Township, Oxford Township, Polly Ann Trail Mgt Council	Issue 6, Goal 1
	Phase 3 – Art Project in City of Rochester Hills	\$15,000 Local Funds, Private Donations, Matching Grants	City of Rochester Hills, Art agencies	Issue 5, Goal 6
2011	Replacement of Overlook in Rochester Hills, north of Bridge 33.1	\$16,000 MNRTF Grant \$ 9,000 Local Funds	City of Rochester Hills, State of Michigan	Issue 5, Goal 2
	Trail Recycle Bin Program	\$ 500 Local Funds	Municipalities, Boy Scouts	Issue 2, Goal 4
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail – Route 3 (Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Connection)	\$64,000 MNRTF Grant \$36,000 Local Matching Funds	State of Michigan, Oakland Township, Orion Township, Polly Ann Trail Council	Issue 6, Goal 1
2012	Phase 4 - Art Project in Orion Township	\$15,000 Local Funds, Private Donations, Matching Grants	Orion Township; art agencies	Issue 5, Goal 6
	Restroom Facility in City of Rochester Hills	\$12,800 MNRTF Grant \$ 7,200 Local Matching Funds	City of Rochester Hills Planning, Parks & Forestry, State of Michigan	Issue 2, Goal 4
	Expand the Tienken Road Parking Lot utilizing Trailways Commission property	\$51,200 MNRT Grant \$28,800 Local Matching Funds	City of Rochester Hills Planning, Parks & Forestry	Issue 2, Goal 3
2013	Native landscaping screening/buffer in selected areas (one in each community)	\$10,000 Local Funds and Private Donations	Each municipality, Local Business	Issue 1, Goal 1 Issue 1, Goal 2
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail – Route 4 (Oakland and Addison Townships Connection)	\$160,000 MNRTF Grant \$ 90,000 Local Matching Funds	State of Michigan, Oakland Twp, County Road Commission Addison Twp, Polly Ann Trail	Issue 6, Goal 1

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Capital Improvement Projects



2009-2013 Paint Creek Trailways Commission Master Recreation Plan

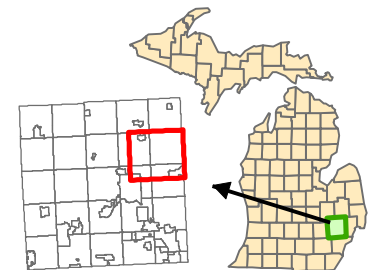
Year	Improvement
2009	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail - Route 1 (Orion Township Residential Connection)
	Atwater Site Development
	Pedestrian bridge over Paint Creek, south of Gallagher, connecting the Trail to Trail office and rest areas
2010	Development of Trailways Commission Property/User amenities in Southeast Rochester
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail - Route 2 (Oxford Township Commercial Connection)
	Phase 3 - Art Project in City of Rochester Hills
2011	Replacement of Overlook in Rochester Hills, north of Bridge 33.1
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail - Route 3 (Bald Mountain State Recreation Area Connection)
2012	Phase 4 - Art Project in Orion Township
	Restroom Facility in City of Rochester Hills
2013	Native landscaping screening/buffer in selected areas (one in each community)
	Connect with the Polly Ann Trail - Route 4 (Oakland and Addison Townships Connection)

- Highway
- Major Road
- Railroads
- Rivers & Streams
- Lakes & Ponds
- Existing Trail
- Potential Trail Connectors



Map Created on September 29, 2008

0 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



Environmental Stewardship Program
Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services

The information provided herewith has been compiled from recorded deeds, plats, tax maps, surveys and other public records. It is not a legally recorded map or survey and is not intended to be used as one. Users should consult the information sources mentioned above when questions arise.

B Sources of Funding

1. Introduction

A well developed strategy for funding trail development and land acquisition projects is essential. Fortunately, there are several grant programs and other funding sources available.

As an intergovernmental agency, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission has unique qualities that should be kept in mind when searching for project funding. The Agreement to Establish the Paint Creek Trailways Commission states that the Commission is not empowered to levy a millage or request bonds. Additionally, because the Trail was partially purchased with Land Trust funds, it must remain open to the public; therefore, entrance fees are not an option. As an intergovernmental agency, the Commission has the ability to access the funding sources made available to all four voting member communities it serves.

The Paint Creek Trailways Commission would like to be proactive in acquiring grant funds. It is the goal of the Commission that at least one grant application be submitted annually to assist in the funding of our Capital Improvement Projects.

2. Federal Funding Sources

Most of the federal funds for trails are passed to trail agencies through the State of Michigan. The funding available through federal programs may vary from year to year, and should be confirmed before application is made.

a. Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)

The Land and Water Conservation Fund is appropriated through the National Park Service who passes the funds through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The focus of this fund is the development of outdoor recreation facilities. For trails in particular, money can be used for community recreation, universal design, green technology, and coordination and communication projects. This is a 50/50 matching grant program, with a minimum grant request of \$30,000, and a maximum request of \$75,000.

b. SAFETEA-LU

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users is appropriated by the US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration and passed on to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for distribution. Trail agencies are eligible to apply to the Recreational Trails Program. The Recreational Trails Program provides funds to the States to develop and maintain recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. Funds are available to develop, construct, maintain, and rehabilitate trails and trail facilities. In 2009, \$85 million dollars has been set aside nationally for this program.

3. State Funding Sources

a. Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF)

The MNRTF provides funding for acquisition and development projects, as well as for the protection of Michigan's natural resources. This is a matching grant program, with a minimum local match of 25%. There are two annual deadlines for grant application submission. For development and acquisition projects, applications must be received by April 1. For acquisition projects only, an additional grant cycle deadline is August 1 of each year. The minimum grant request for development projects is \$15,000 and the maximum is \$500,000. There are thirteen evaluation criteria used for each grant application. The criteria includes: project and financial needs, protection of natural resources, wild-life related opportunities, to population served by the project.

b. Michigan Department of Transportation Act 51

Michigan's Act 51 program is funded primarily through gasoline tax. It sets aside 1% of the total revenue for the construction or improvement of non-motorized transportation services and facilities. Some eligible projects include the development of bicycle facilities, signage projects, planning and education, and the construction of sidewalks and shared-use paths. In 2007, over \$1 million dollars was used for non-motorized transportation facilities.

4. Additional Funding Sources

There is a variety of private and organizational funding opportunities available to trail agencies. Some of these include:

a. Bikes Belong Coalition

This grant program is administered through a coalition of bicycle retailers and suppliers throughout the United States. It is a nationwide program with a \$2 million dollar budget. The goal of the Bikes Belong Coalition is to fund projects that increase the amount of bicycle facilities, and to “put more people on bikes more often”. Grant applications are accepted four times a year, with a maximum request of \$10,000. An average of twenty projects is funded annually. Grant information and applications are available at www.bikesbelong.org

b. DALMAC Fund

The DALMAC Fund is administered by the Tri-County Bicycle Association. Founded by Dick Allen in 1975, DALMAC provides funding for a variety of bicycle activities, including Bicycle Safety programs, education, and trail development. Grant requests are limited to \$10,000, and applications are accepted from January 1 to March 15 each year. The Trailways Commission received a grant from the DALMAC Fund in 2007 for the paving of the Atwater section of the Paint Creek Trail.

c. Access to Recreation

Funded with \$15 million dollars by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in 2006, and administered through the Midwest Community Foundations’ Ventures, the Access to Recreation program funds projects in four Midwestern states, including Michigan. Their mission is “to be a catalyst for change, enabling communities to create greater access and inclusiveness in recreation facilities, programs, and services for people of all ages and all abilities.” More information can be obtained at www.accesstorecreation.org.

d. Volunteer Labor, In-Kind and Private Donations

Businesses, corporations, private clubs and community organizations may contribute to the Trailways Commission as a means of benefiting the community where they live and work. Private sector contributions may be in the form of monetary contributions, donation of land, provision of volunteer services, or contribution of equipment or facilities. The Trailways Commission has received monetary donations

Chapter Seven: Goals & Objectives
from the Meijer Corporation, McLaren Health Care, Crittenton Hospital, and local businesses that have sponsored our brochure. More recently, the Trailways Commission received in-kind graphic design services from HMS Manufacturing in Troy, Michigan, for the redesign of the Paint Creek Trail brochure and Paint Creek Trail Directional Maps. Additionally, the Commission has received project funding from the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester in recent years.

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Appendices

**Summary of Events and Accomplishments in the History of Paint Creek Trail
and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission,
1973 - 2008**

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 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

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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

Oakland County Sheriffs 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.

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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 approvals 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"

Appendix - 1

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."

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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” clean up 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.

Appendix - 1

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 Silver Bell).

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

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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.

Appendix - 1

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 Silver Bell.

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.

Appendix - 1

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.

Summary of Events compiled by Alice Tombouliau, Trail Coordinator 1981 – 1990, Linda Gorecki, Trailways Coordinator 1991 – 1997, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager 2003-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

Appendix - 2

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

Appendix - 2

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

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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.

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- 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

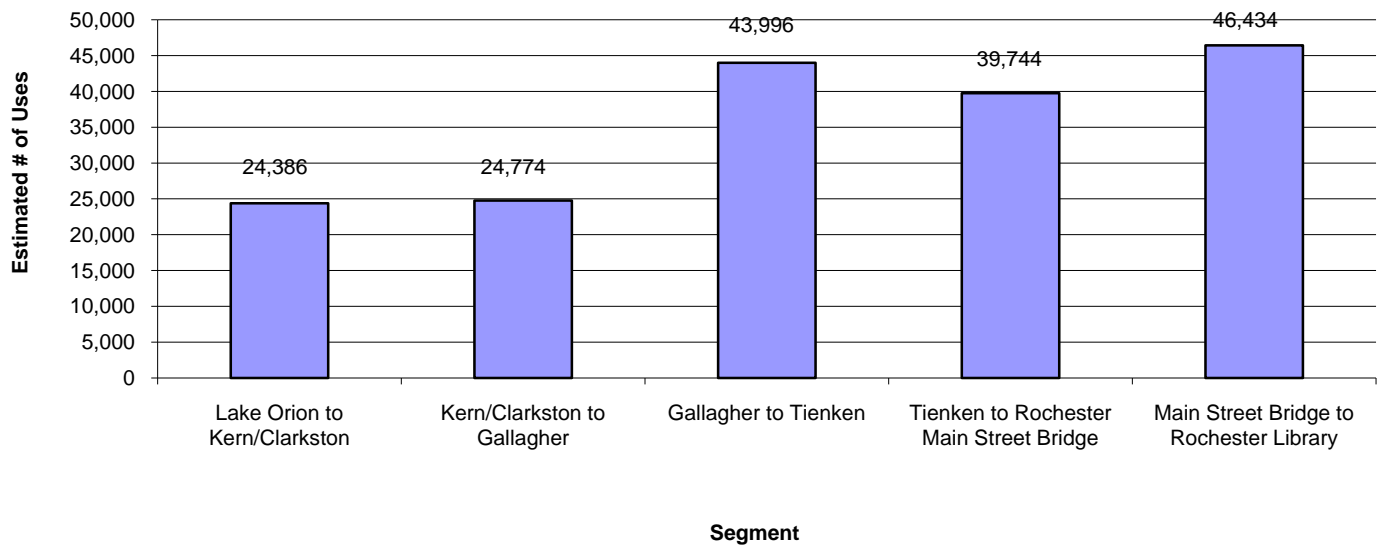
- On average, distinct visitors used the PCT 11 times per year, with almost half their uses during June – August.
- Three percent were disabled (had an impairment that seriously limits their participation in work or recreation).
- Seventy-three percent of distinct users were residents and/or workers 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

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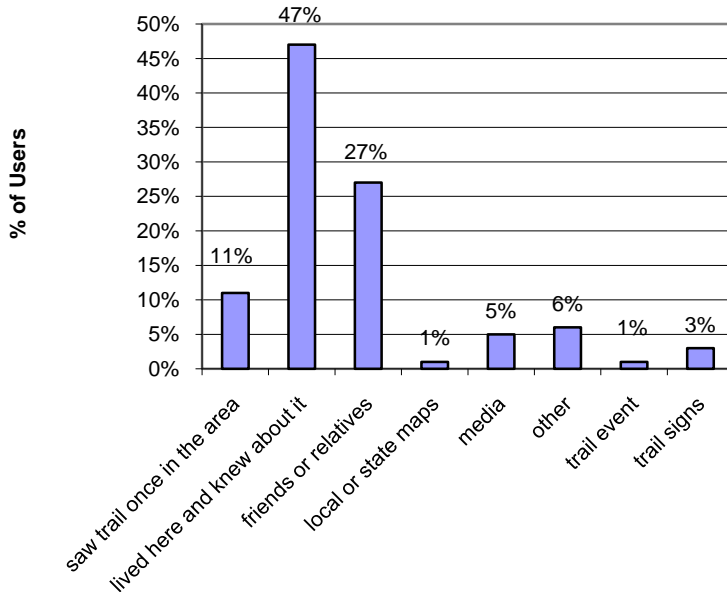
use. The majority of those citing a primary reason for their PCT visit noted bicycling (46%), walking (33%) and running/jogging (18%).

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

How Users Learned 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

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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

**Paint Creek Trail
2009 – 2013 Recreation Master Plan Survey**

(Please return to Paint Creek Trail tent or staff when completed)

1. What City, Village or Township and State do you live in? _____

2. What is your age? (circle) 0-10 11-15 16-20 21-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61+

3. How do you get to the Paint Creek Trail? (walk, bike, car, etc) _____

4. When do you visit the Trail? Please choose all that apply.

- Mornings Afternoons Evenings Weekends
 Winter Spring Summer Fall

5. On average, how often do you visit the Trail during the following seasons? (X)

	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Daily				
Once a week				
3-5 times a week				
2-3 times a month				
Once a month				
Less than once a month				
Never				

6. What is the main reason you use the Trail? Please check only one.

- Exercise Transportation Recreation Nature Observation Other _____

7. Excluding the weather, how do you rate your last visit to the Trail? (check one)

- My visit was very enjoyable My visit was enjoyable My visit was average
 My visit was somewhat enjoyable My visit was not enjoyable.

8. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Horse hitching posts | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail widening |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drinking fountains | <input type="checkbox"/> Mileage signs | <input type="checkbox"/> Extension to Polly Ann |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landscaping | <input type="checkbox"/> Information signs | <input type="checkbox"/> More police patrols |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bike racks | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpretive side trails | <input type="checkbox"/> Connections to local businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic Tables | <input type="checkbox"/> Plant identification info | <input type="checkbox"/> More cultural enhancements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benches | <input type="checkbox"/> Air compressor | <input type="checkbox"/> More Trail events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trash Cans | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet Waste bags | <input type="checkbox"/> Website improvements |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail lighting | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelters | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Restrooms | <input type="checkbox"/> Paving with asphalt | |

Comments: _____

9. What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No suggestion/Everything fine | <input type="checkbox"/> Too crowded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Surface maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Speeding bicycles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail crossings | <input type="checkbox"/> Pet waste |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of parking | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Loose dogs | |

10. What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?

11. The Paint Creek Trail currently offers two events each year, National Trails Day and the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Are there other programs or events you would like to see organized? If yes, please describe. If no, skip to question # 12:

12. Where do you get most of your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Please check only one.

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local newspapers | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail website | <input type="checkbox"/> Calling Trail office | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of mouth |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Trail e-mail Friends list | <input type="checkbox"/> Flyers/Posters on the Trail | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

13. How would you rate your safety on the Trail? Please circle only one, and provide any additional thoughts about safety:

- I feel very safe on the Trail
- I feel safe on the Trail
- I feel mostly safe on the Trail
- I feel somewhat safe on the Trail
- I do not feel very safe on the Trail

Additional thoughts about safety (optional): _____

Thank you for your participation! If you would like more Paint Creek Trail information, please provide your contact information and indicate your interest below (optional):

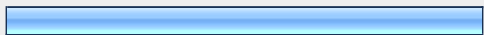


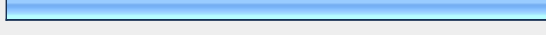
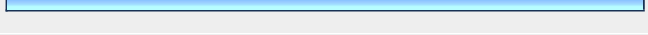

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Name: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like more info on the Master Plan |
| Address: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like a copy of the Public Hearing schedule |
| City/State/Zip: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> I'd like to be added to the "Friends" List to receive trail news and information regarding events. |
| E-Mail Address _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Paint Creek Trail Master Plan Survey

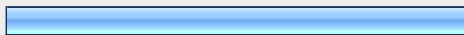




1. Where do you live?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Village/City/Township:		100.0%	180
State:		100.0%	180
<i>answered question</i>			180
<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. What is your age?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
0-10		0.0%	0
11-15		1.7%	3
16-20		1.1%	2
21-30		11.1%	20
31-40		21.1%	38
41-50		30.0%	54
51-60		25.6%	46
61 +		9.4%	17
<i>answered question</i>			180
<i>skipped question</i>			0

3. How do you get to the Paint Creek Trail? (walk, bike, car, etc)		
		Response Count
		180
<i>answered question</i>		180
<i>skipped question</i>		0

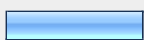
4. When do you visit the Trail? Please choose all that apply.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Mornings		63.3%	114
Afternoons		53.3%	96
Evenings		58.3%	105
Weekends		72.2%	130
Winter		33.9%	61
Spring		85.0%	153
Summer		90.6%	163
Fall		85.6%	154
		<i>answered question</i>	180
		<i>skipped question</i>	0

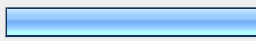







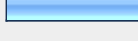
5. On average, how often do you visit the Trail during the following seasons?					
	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Response Count
Daily	66.7% (10)	93.3% (14)	73.3% (11)	33.3% (5)	15
Once a week	66.7% (44)	56.1% (37)	71.2% (47)	25.8% (17)	66
3-5 times a week	71.6% (48)	91.0% (61)	71.6% (48)	20.9% (14)	67
2-3 times a month	55.0% (33)	55.0% (33)	55.0% (33)	25.0% (15)	60
Once a month	46.3% (19)	53.7% (22)	46.3% (19)	29.3% (12)	41
Less than once a month	37.1% (13)	31.4% (11)	28.6% (10)	45.7% (16)	35
Never	14.5% (8)	1.8% (1)	16.4% (9)	100.0% (55)	55
				<i>answered question</i>	180
				<i>skipped question</i>	0

6. What is the main reason you use the Trail? Please check only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Exercise		61.1%	110
Transportation		2.2%	4
Recreation		26.1%	47
Nature Observation		6.1%	11
Other (please specify)		4.4%	8
		answered question	180
		skipped question	0

7. Excluding the weather, how do you rate your last visit to the Trail?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
My Visit was very enjoyable		75.0%	135
My Visit was enjoyable		21.1%	38
My Visit was average		3.9%	7
My Visit was somewhat enjoyable		0.0%	0
My Visit was not enjoyable		0.0%	0
		answered question	180
		skipped question	0


8. Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Parking		22.2%	40
Drinking Fountains		46.7%	84
Landscaping		2.8%	5
Bike Racks		12.8%	23
Picnic Tables		12.8%	23
Benches		17.8%	32
Trash Cans		22.2%	40
Trail lighting		15.0%	27
Restrooms		45.6%	82
Horse Hitching Posts		2.2%	4
Mileage Signs		26.1%	47
Information Signs		17.8%	32
Interpretive side trails		15.6%	28
Plant Identification Info		20.6%	37
Air compressor		8.3%	15
Pet waste bags		19.4%	35
Shelters		9.4%	17
Paving with asphalt		15.0%	27
Trail widening		12.8%	23
Extension to Polly Ann Trail		57.2%	103
More police patrols		13.3%	24
Connections to local businesses		20.0%	36
More cultural enhancements		5.6%	10
More Trail events		12.2%	22
Website improvements		4.4%	8


Other (please specify)		17.8%	32
		answered question	180
		skipped question	0

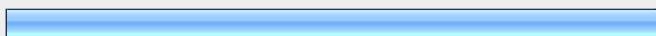
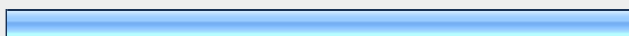
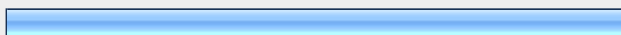
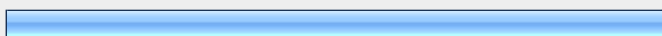
9. What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
No suggestion/Everything fine		33.3%	60
Trail surface maintenance		6.7%	12
Trail crossings		8.9%	16
Lack of parking		8.3%	15
Loose dogs		5.0%	9
Speeding bicycles		10.0%	18
Pet waste		3.9%	7
Too crowded		6.7%	12
Other (please specify)		17.2%	31
		answered question	180
		skipped question	0

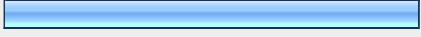

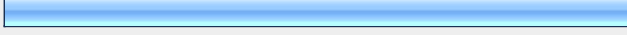

10. What is your favorite thing about the Paint Creek Trail?		
		Response Count
		180
		answered question
		180
		skipped question
		0

11. The Paint Creek Trail currently offers two events each year, National Trails Day and the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Are there other programs or events you would like to see organized? If yes, please describe. If no, skip to question #12.		
		Response Count
		27
<i>answered question</i>		27
<i>skipped question</i>		153

12. Where do you get most of your information regarding the Paint Creek Trail and events? Please choose only one.			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Local Newspapers		22.8%	41
Trail Website		21.1%	38
Calling Trail office		0.0%	0
Word of Mouth		17.2%	31
Trail e-mail Friends list		8.3%	15
Flyers/Posters on the Trail		16.7%	30
Trail Staff		2.8%	5
Other (please specify)		11.1%	20
<i>answered question</i>			180
<i>skipped question</i>			0

13. How would you rate your safety on the Trail? Please choose only one, and provide any additional thoughts about safety:			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I feel very safe on the Trail		50.0%	90
I feel safe on the Trail		33.9%	61
I feel mostly safe on the Trail		11.7%	21
I feel somewhat safe on the Trail		3.3%	6
I do not feel safe on the Trail		1.1%	2
Additional Thoughts about Safety (optional):			24
answered question			180
skipped question			0

14. Thank you for your participation! If you would like more Paint Creek Trail information, please provide your contact information below (optional):			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Name		86.5%	77
Address		83.1%	74
City/State/Zip		82.0%	73
E-Mail Address		87.6%	78
answered question			89
skipped question			91

15. I'd like more information on the following (optional):			
		Response Percent	Response Count
I'd like more information on the Master Plan		55.1%	43
I'd like a copy of the Public Hearing Schedule		26.9%	21
I'd like to be added to the "Friends" List to receive trail news and information regarding events		83.3%	65
Other (please specify)		9.0%	7
<i>answered question</i>			78
<i>skipped question</i>			102

Survey Summary – Additional Responses

Question #8:

Listed below are potential improvements that could be made to the Paint Creek Trail. Please check all the improvements you would like to have made to the Trail. (Responses to “other”):

- “Dust control in the summer”
- “Do not pave it!”
- “Water trough for horses & pets. Room for horse trailer parking”
- “I definitely do NOT want the trail paved with asphalt!!!”
- “MAJOR IMPROVEMENT – CONNECT TO POLLY ANN!”
- “Slow Down signs or speed bumps for vehicles on cross streets”
- “Tunnels under roads like Rochester Road”
- “Thanks for the great job that is done in maintaining and expanding”
- “We like to ride and then stop for lunch or dinner in town”
- “Need a bridge over Tienken Road (safety reasons)”
- “I feel great to be here. A basketball court would be great in the park”
- “Wonderful! More gardens – cooperative with schools for vegetable garden”
- “It’s a great trail”
- “Snow shovel in winter”
- “Restrooms would be an AWESOME improvement”
- “signage of various wildlife around the trail”
- “Do not change a thing! It is a wilderness adventure!”
- “speed bumps at streets crossing the trail”
- “GROOMED XC SKIING TRAIL IN WINTER”
- “Need to put safety first and patrol more”
- “Do not pave the trail”
- “speed bumps or stop signs for all vehicles on Dutton, Silver Bell,crossings”
- “This trail is one of the last areas that offer a habitat to wild animals and tranquility to humans. Please leave it alone for our children to enjoy”
- “signs with trail rules ie: bike etiquette”
- “put a roof on the wooden structure that is near the parking lot at Gallagher Road”
- “signs to inform bike riders to let you know when they are behind you, many use bells or say on the left, but sometimes they almost run into you. If a sign could be placed every couple miles it might make it more pleasant for both bike riders and walkers”
- “recycling containers (not just trash)”
- “too dusty in the summer”
- “let’s keep those hand sanitizers in place!”

Question #9:

What is the biggest problem or area in need of improvement on the Paint Creek Trail? Please check only one. (Responses to “other”):

- “Adams Rd. Parking”
- “restrooms – there are only 3 spots (Clarkston road, Paint creek cider mill, and Rochester Park) 1 or 2 more setups like Clarkston road would be nice!!!!”
- “NEED CONNECTION TO POLLY ANN TRAIL”
- “People seem to monitor their dogs, but horse droppings on the trail are an issue. Don’t know if it’s the police patrol, or other riders, but they should be responsible for cleaning their animal’s messes. Trail has recently been crowded, but that just means people are enjoying it”
- “Lighting for early morning commuters”
- “Improved parking with trash cans available for litter. Restrooms”
- “Information signs for walkers and riders on rules of the trail”
- “Lack of restrooms”
- “trail surface from park to Tienken”
- “Lack of restroom facilities”
- “It’s not clear enough to run on in the winter once it snows”
- “More entrance/exits to and from the trail”
- “uncontrolled children”
- “Fishermen are always wandering around in the bogs/wetland areas where they don’t seem they should be”
- “Graffiti, litter, too many redundant signs”
- “Safety – no patrolling”
- “Stroller ladies taking up the entire trail, not moving for others”
- “People not aware of trail etiquette, single file, not blocking the trail”
- “safety – need lot of police or other patrol”
- “more rest stops(benches, water, bathroom)”
- “more areas for restrooms and drinking fountains”
- “Undeducated/discourteous trail people that believe they have the right of way when crossing roadways”
- “bikes riding two or three abreast...who do not move”
- “more of a buffer between development and the trail”
- “Not enough people actually saying “hello”!!!!”
- “Remind slower traffic to stay to the right; groups seem to take up to whole trail width”
- “Connection to Polly Ann trail would enhance the Paint Creek Trail experience”
- “Adams Road crossing”
- “Bugs”
- “Dust! It clings to everything. If something could be done about the dust it would help”

Question # 13:

Additional Thoughts about Safety:

- "It would be wise in trail literature & signs to advise people about basic safety around horses. Mostly just the courtesy of calling out when they approach, especially from behind"
- "Again, lights every so often along the trail for early morning commuters. Or a few very well lit areas with perhaps a way to reach emergency response if needed (like on a college campus)"
- "The Trail gets very dark at night. Some lighting would be helpful. Maybe just for the evening hours"
- "Could use a few more reference markers, just in case something goes wrong..use cell phone to call and provide a fairly close ref point. Come to think of it, I have never even seen any kind of patrol our their or on the Clinton River Trail....."
- "needs lights for at night. At some of the crossings it's hard to see other people coming"
- "a signboard with emergency contact information"
- "I feel very safe during the day"
- "Secluded areas will always pose a potential danger. Best to use the trail with more than one person"
- "I love the equestrian and bicycle police patrols. I would hope we could have a few more. I've noticed a couple of strange walkers on a regular basis"
- "I generally feel safe on the trail and love seeing the patrols. I fear more for the security of my vehicle"
- "there is a high frequency of cars running the red light at Tienken"
- "OCCASSIONALLY WILL COME ACROSS SOMEONE WHO SEEMS TO BE VAGRANT OR THEY SEEM OUT OF PLACE ON THE TRAIL"
- "I had a really bad experience on the trail when I was 6 months pregnant where I was followed by a homeless man. It was VERY frightening. I had to run for help"
- "Only two things affect my feeling of safety on the trail...speeding bikers who don't have the courtesy to let you know they are there; people used to announce/ring their approach and indicate they were passing on the left (someone is going to be hurt!) and the occasional bag person...that is everywhere and I don't know what you specifically do about that"
- "I've never seen any police or other patrol on any of my bike rides. The one time I did ride by myself, I got stuck in a rain storm and had no shelter. I fear riding by myself and have joined a local bike bike club to have others to ride with. Also, the one crossing near Woodward is unsafe due to the curve in the road. Cars go too fast there so flashing lights would be nice to alert them to bikers"
- "Oh boy! Pray for God's children using the trail"
- "my only real concern is that some dog owners have very long leashes, and don't pay attention when people on bikes are passing, even when they announce/ring that they are passing"
- "There are far too many people walking dogs off leash that are not under control. Also sight lines at many road crossings are blocked by vegetation, making it difficult to see cars coming. The Silverbell crossing needs to be leveled and cleared of sand and gravel so that more controlled stops can be made on bikes. Also just lately we are again having problems with kids blocking the trail with tree limbs, which is annoying and potentially hazardous"
- "Police patrol 6am-10pm daily – too many trail incidents w/women. Not safe enough to go out alone day or night and hard to get a friend to join at same schedules. If we bike at night can we coordinate a patrol officer to go with us or be posted near highest incident rates orion/gallagher rds to Tienken?"
- "Speeding bikes are an issue as are "weirdo's"
- "Trail Staff is fantastic!"
- "I won't walk the trail alone, I wish I felt more safe on it alone, but I don't. I will only walk it with my dog"
- "Maybe emergency phones"
- "Near Kern/Clarkston crossing gas partying kids"



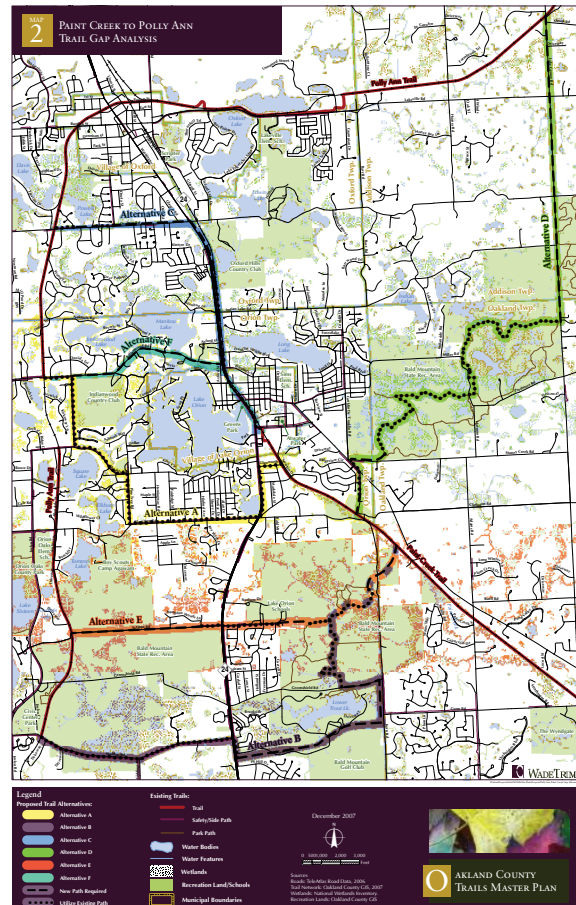
PAINT CREEK & POLLY ANN TRAILS GAP

INITIAL EVALUATION

Six routes were initially evaluated and discussed with the local stakeholder group (see adjacent graphic). These included:

- A route (depicted in yellow) that utilizes existing safety path from the Paint Creek Trail to Glanworth, M-24, along Clarkston Road, Pine Tree Road, Heights, and Joslyn Roads.
- A route (depicted in purple) that would traverse along existing unpaved trails in Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, to Greenshield Road, within the utility corridor, and along Waldon Road.
- A route (depicted in blue) that would traverse from the Paint Creek Trail, north along M-24 to Drahner Road and connect into the Polly Ann Trail.
- A route (depicted in green) traversing to the north from the Paint Creek Trail, Conklin Road, along existing unpaved trails within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, to Lake George Road.
- A route (depicted in orange) that would lead from the Paint Creek Trail, utilize existing unpaved trails within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, along the Lake Orion Schools property, and along Scripps Road.
- A route (depicted in teal) traversing to the north along M-24 and west along Indianwood Road.

Based on discussions with the local stakeholder group, several of the potential connector routes were modified and/or eliminated for designation as “primary” connectors due to feasibility and/or need.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results of the initial evaluation and stakeholder input, four routes are proposed as primary connector routes between the existing Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails. Each of these routes (identified as either the Purple Route, Blue Route, Yellow Route, or Green Route on the following fold out map) has various opportunities and constraints associated with implementation as is further described below. See Chapter 5, Action Plan, for suggested next steps and timeline associated with this gap.

Purple Route –

Approximate Length: 6.00 mi

This route would traverse to the south, within and/or near Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, along Kern Road, Clear Creek Drive and utilize the existing safety path along Waldon Road.

Yellow Route –

Approximate Length: 4.33 mi

This route utilizes existing safety path from the Paint Creek Trail to Glanworth, M-24, along Clarkston Road, Pine Tree Road, Heights, and Joslyn Roads.

Blue Route –

Approximate Length: 3.65 mi

This route would traverse from the Paint Creek Trail, north along M-24 to Drahner Road and connect into the Polly Ann Trail.

Green Route –

Approximate Length: 6.81

This route would traverse to the north from the Paint Creek Trail, along Orion Road and Clarkston Road, within Marshview Park, along

Bald Mountain State Recreation Area utilizing Stoney Creek, Harmon and Predmore Roads, to Lake George Road.

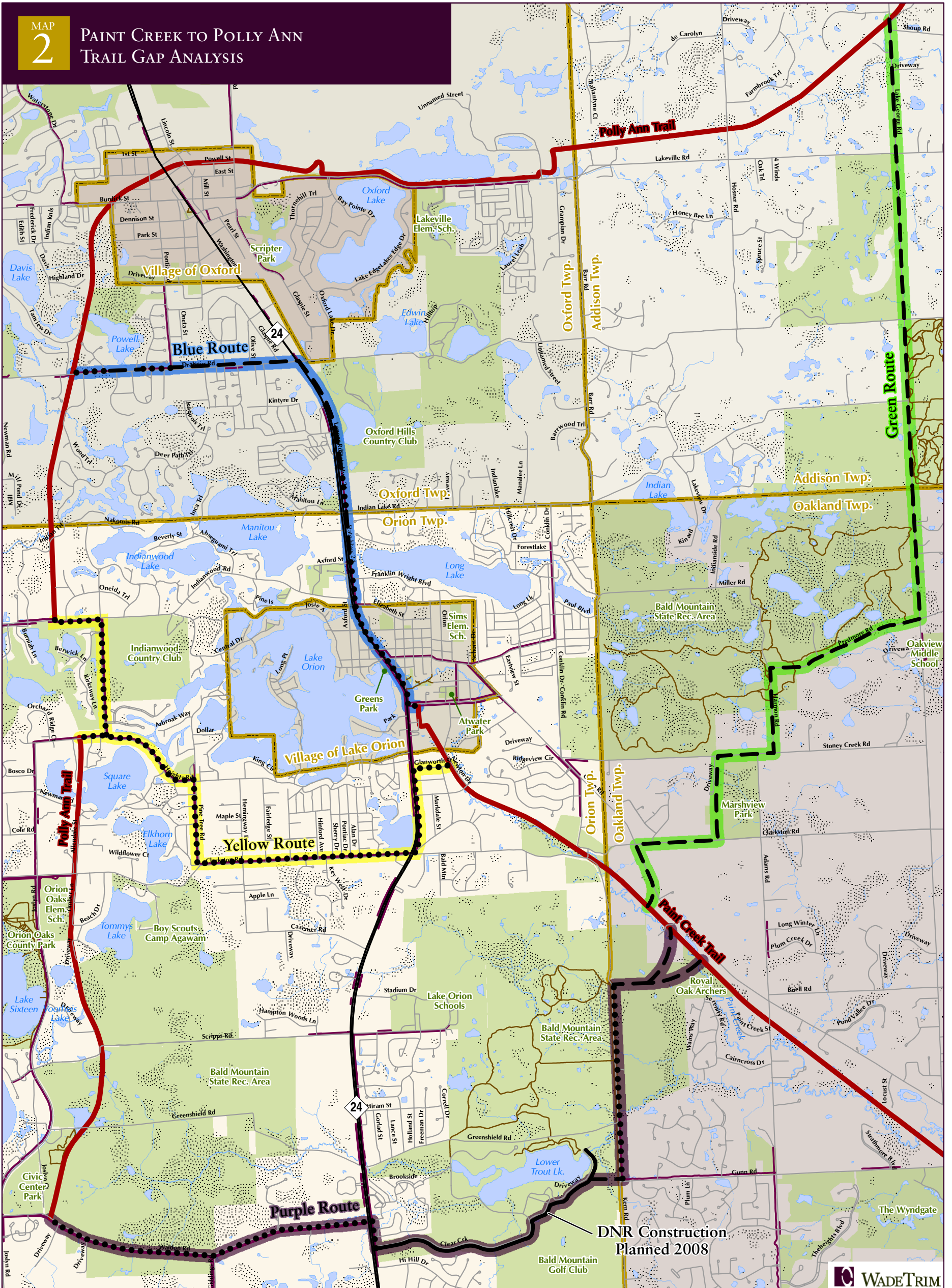
Opportunities and constraints associated with implementation of each Route have been documented as a tool for stakeholder agencies to consider, address and/or resolve as movement toward implementation continues. It is highly likely that progress on each of the routes will be worked on simultaneously as the various agencies proceed with implementation efforts.

Purple Route Opportunities and Constraints

- This route would take users along and through a portion of Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, providing a natural setting and experience.
- The MDNR is planning to construct a significant section of this route in 2008 between M-24 and Kern Road along the primary entrance to the Recreation Area providing the trail user with a route with few vehicular conflicts.
- Safety path is already constructed along the length of Waldon Road between M-24 and the Paint Creek Trail.
- This route would take trail users to the Orion Township offices and Civic Center Park complex, as well as Orion Oaks Elementary and Orion Oaks County Park.
- Continued discussions and/or negotiations are needed with the Royal Oak Archers and other private land owners to provide a connection to the Paint Creek Trail from Kern Road. This segment may include the need to cross the Paint Creek, adding potential design and construction challenges and costs.

MAP 2

PAINT CREEK TO POLLY ANN TRAIL GAP ANALYSIS



Legend

Proposed Trail Routes:

- Yellow Route
- Purple Route
- Blue Route
- Green Route
- New Path Required
- Utilize Existing Path
- Path to be Constructed in 2008 (MDNR)

Existing Trails:

- Trail
- Safety/Side Path
- Park Path

Other Features:

- Water Bodies
- Water Features
- Wetlands
- Recreation Land/Schools
- Municipal Boundaries

September 2008

0 5001,000 2,000 3,000 Feet

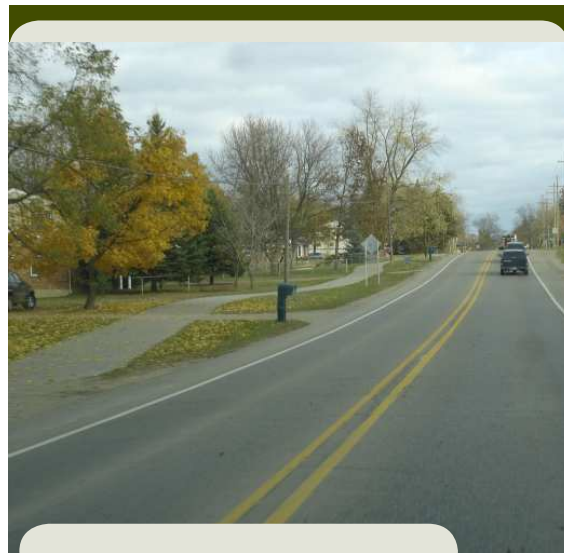
Sources:
 Roads: TeleAtlas Road Data, 2006
 Trail Network: Oakland County GIS, 2008
 Wetlands: National Wetlands Inventory
 Recreation Lands: Oakland County GIS, 2008

AKLAND COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN

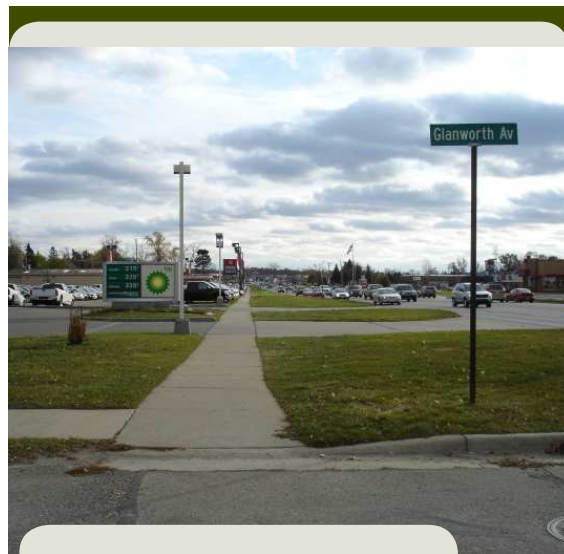
- The proposed route is lengthy and may seem/feel “out of the way” to trail users.
- Coordination and cooperation with the MDNR will be necessary. Issues may also arise regarding the various number of different user groups and needs within Bald Mountain State Recreation Area.
- The former railroad corridor south of Heights Road in Orion Township (Polly Ann Trail Extension) is owned by the Township, however, much of it remains an unimproved surface. Improvements to this corridor would need to be made in order to make this route a viable connection.
- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.
- The remote segments of the trail may provide access challenges for police and emergency services.

Yellow Route Opportunities and Constraints

- The route follows sidewalk and safety path that is already constructed. With the exception of narrow sidewalks along Glanworth, the remainder of the route would utilize 8’ wide safety path.
- This route is already useable. With signage, mapping, a short trail segment between Glanworth and the Paint Creek Trail, and minor road crossing treatment improvements, this route could be a desirable and heavily used connection.



YELLOW ROUTE
An 8’ wide Safety Path system is already constructed along the proposed route.



YELLOW ROUTE
M-24 between Glanworth and Clarkston Road would be utilized.

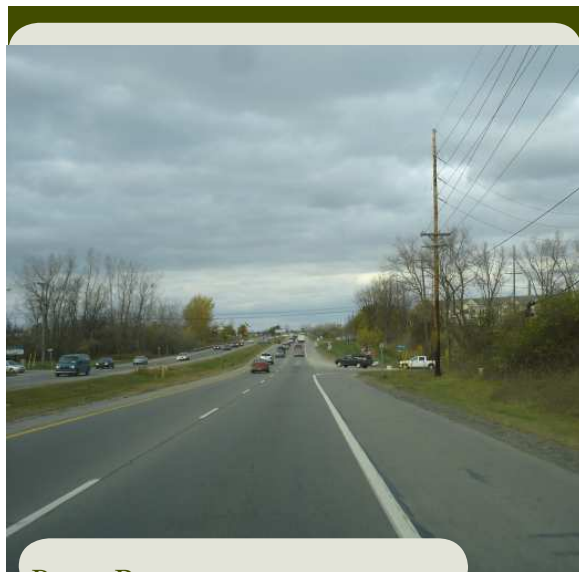
- The route length is relatively short and direct in comparison to the other alternatives.
- The road crossings are relatively safe and minor in terms of traffic volumes, speeds,

and crossing distance. The M-24 crossing at Clarkston Road is signalized with pedestrian push buttons and a median for refuge.

- The route passes through primarily residential areas and affords residents direct access to existing trails.
- Signage is necessary to indicate to users the direction, short distance, and opportunities available in nearby downtown Lake Orion.
- The route includes the need to cross multiple residential driveways, requiring the user to remain aware of vehicular traffic movements.
- A short connector segment is required between the existing Paint Creek Trail and the walkway along Glanworth Street.
- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.
- Some horizontal and vertical alignment changes would be desirable to enhance bicycle travel.

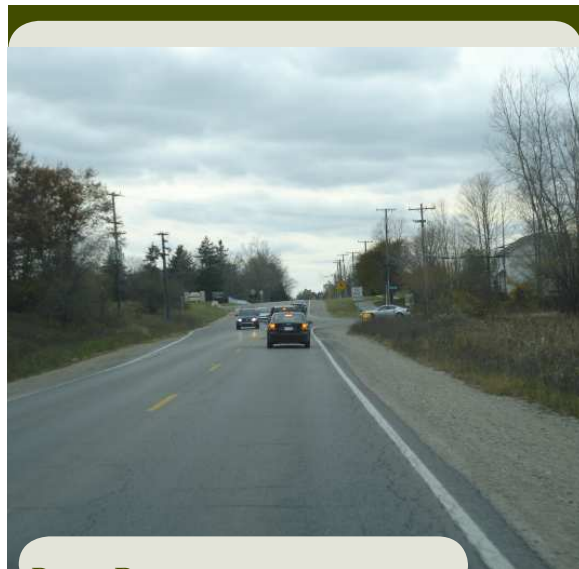
Blue Route Opportunities and Constraints

- This route would bring the trail users adjacent to downtown Lake Orion and along M-24, supporting economic activity in the area and providing access to amenities for trail users.
- This route would continue to generally follow the historic rail alignment where it remains intact.



BLUE ROUTE

M-24 right-of-way heading north toward Drahner Road.



BLUE ROUTE

Drahner Road right-of-way near Pontiac Road.

- Sections of sidewalk and safety path are in place along M-24 and Drahner Road.

- Major road crossings are limited to the intersection of M-24 and Drahner (if the route remains on the east side of M-24).
- Once the route reaches Drahner Road, the opportunity may exist for users to also utilize Oxford Lake Drive and Lake Edge Drive to access the Polly Ann Trail.
- This route follows M-24 for several miles. In the majority of areas, M-24 is commercial in nature with multiple curb cuts requiring the trail user to remain alert to heavy vehicular turning movements, and likely “starting and stopping” due to vehicular activity.
- In some areas along M-24, the right-of-way width does not provide for significant space for a trail/safety path and therefore the users are placed in close proximity to the road.
- M-24 is a 4-lane divided highway with additional turning lanes throughout. M-24 carries high volumes of high speed traffic adding to noise, safety, and “user experience” concerns.
- The water body at the Oxford Hills Country Club is in close proximity to M-24 with the edge of the right-of-way sloping down toward the water. This area may require the design and construction of a structure such as a bridge or boardwalk, adding to the overall cost of implementation.
- The intersection of M-24 and Drahner, where the connector route would potentially cross, is signalized and includes pedestrian push buttons and crosswalk markings. However, this intersection is a particularly dangerous crossing due to the skewed angle

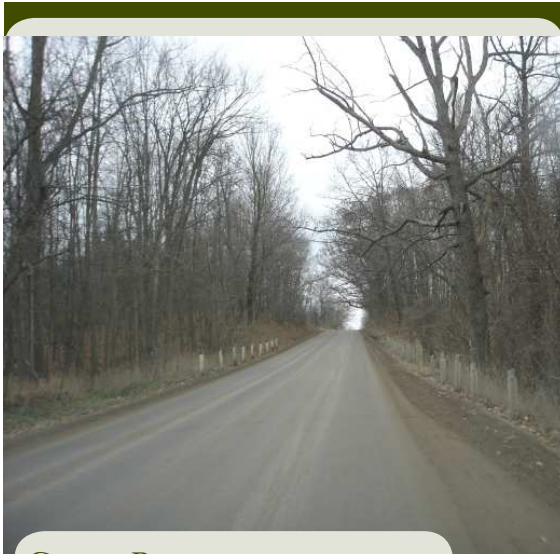
of the intersecting roads. This increases the distance trail users must cross, adding to their exposure to high-speed, high-volume traffic.

- Drahner Road is a two-lane paved road with gravel shoulders. Open swales provide drainage along sections of the roadway. To construct a trail connection within the right-of-way, swales may need to be replaced with enclosed storm sewers, adding to the design and construction costs.
- Oxford Township has put considerable effort into constructing safety path along Drahner Road, however, property ownership/easement issues must be resolved in order to complete this section of the Blue Route.

Green Route Opportunities and Constraints

- This route would take users through Oakland Township parkland, along the Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, and Addison Oaks County Park, providing a natural setting and experience as well as access to multiple destinations.
- The proposed route would not include many road crossings. Those roads that would be crossed are relatively low traffic, low speed, and rural in nature.
- The proposed route is lengthy and may feel like going “out of the way” to trail users.
- Coordination and cooperation with the MDNR will be necessary. Issues may also arise regarding the various user groups and needs.

- Lake George Road is a two-lane (paved and gravel) road with extensive, mature vegetation along the roadway edge in the majority of areas. Steep slopes at the road edge also exist in areas. This would likely add to the design and construction costs associated with implementation. The Road Commission for Oakland County has designated Lake George Road to have a 120' planned right-of-way.



GREEN ROUTE

Lake George Road right-of-way.

- Several “turns” would be required by the user, making the need for extensive wayfinding and directional signs to ensure users can find their way between the Polly Ann and Paint Creek Trails.

Paint Creek Trailways Commission Minutes of Recreation Master Plan Public Hearing

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

The Public Hearing on the 2009-2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan was called to order by ViceChairman David Becker at 7:35p.m. The following Commission members were present:

Voting Members Present: Dave Becker, Paul Miller, Richard Schultz, Maryann Whitman, Ravi Yalamanchi, Alice Young

Voting Alternates Present: Edward Peters, Ron Stewart, Kathy Thomas, Michael Webber

Non-Voting Alternates Present: None

Non-Voting Members Present: Lois Golden

Others Present: John Makris, Attorney, Kristen Myers, Trail Manager

The Public Hearing was scheduled and publicly advertised in The Oakland Press on October 12, 2008. Draft copies of the Master Plan were available for printing and review on the Paint Creek Trail website on September 20, 2008. Additionally, a Master Plan Revision Meeting schedule, which included the date of the Public Hearing, was published in the Rochester Eccentric on July 10, 2008 and the Lake Orion Review on July 9, 2008.

PUBLIC HEARING – 2009-2013 Draft Recreation Master Plan: Vice-Chairman Becker opened the public hearing at 7:35 p.m. Hearing no public comment, the public hearing was closed at 7:36 p.m. Ms. Myers was acknowledged by the Commission for the great job on the new Master Plan. The document will be approved at the November meeting, and a copy will be forwarded to the members in two weeks for final review prior to the next meeting. Draft copies should be available for review at each community and the libraries, and is available on the website. Commissioners should let Ms. Myers know what format they would like their copies in.