

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	Bald Mountain	4,692
Resources	Recreation Area	
Oakland County Parks	Addison Oaks County	1,141
	Park	
	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

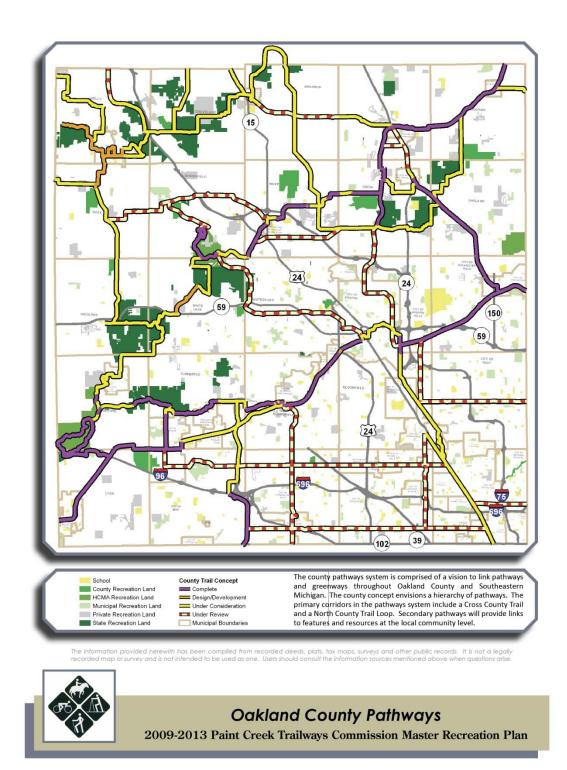
For years, the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division had studied the possibilities of a Linked Recreation Trail System, promoting the use of abandoned railroad rights-of-way, proposed highway rights-of-way, utility easements and waterways as potential recreational corridors. The proposed 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

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. <u>Table 4.2</u> lists the major Oakland County Trails:

Name Location		Length	Surface	
Paint Creek Trail	Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, Village of Lake Orion	8.9 miles	Crushed limestone, asphalt	
Clinton River Trail	Sylvan Lake, Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Rochester, Rochester Hills	16 miles	Crushed limestone, asphalt, recycled asphalt	
Headwaters Trail	<i>Twp, Rose Twp,</i> <i>Springfield Twp,</i> <i>Village of Holly</i>		Water; asphalt	
Huron Valley Trail	South Lyon, Lyon Twp, Milford Twp	10.5 miles	Asphalt	
Lakes Community Trail	Commerce, Wolverine Lake, Walled Lake, Wixom	3.5 miles	Asphalt	
Polly Ann Trail	Polly Ann Trail Twp, Village of Oxford, Leonard, Addison Twp		Crushed limestone, asphalt	
West Bloomfield Trail	West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake	4.25 miles	Crushed limestone	

Table 4.2: Oakland County Trails

Map 4.3: Oakland County Pathways



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 <u>Macomb Orchard Trail</u> 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 <u>Clinton River Trail</u> 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.

With the connection to the <u>Polly Ann Trail</u> to the north and west, and the <u>Macomb</u> <u>Orchard Trail</u> 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

<u>Rochester Hills</u>: 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.

<u>Orion Township</u>: 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.

<u>Oakland Township</u>: 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 vestpocket 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 ISTEA grant.

B. Local Recreation Facilities

- 1. <u>City of Rochester</u>
- 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

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.

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
Downtown Rochester	Rochester	0.7 Mile	Connects Paint Creek
River Walk	Municipal Park to		Trail with Clinton River
	Second Street		Trail
Municipal Park	Pine Street/Ludlow	36	City Hall Site/ Adjacent to
Municipal Faik			Trail
Halbach Field	Woodward Street	3.3	Adjacent to Trail
Memorial Grove	Woodward Street	2.3	Adjacent to Trail
Scott Street Park	Woodward/Scott	7.89	Across the street from
Scoll Sheet Faik	Street		Halbach Field
Older Persons Center	Letica Drive	1.0	Adjacent to Clinton River
Older Ferson's Center			Trail
Samuel Howlett Park	Inglewood Street	13.1	Undeveloped; Open
Samuel Howell Fark			Space
Clinton River Trail	Clinton River	67	Developed; Crushed
Clinton River Hall			limestone surface
Elizabeth Street Park	Elizabeth Street	1.7	
Dinosaur Hill Nature	North Hill Circle	17.5	Adjacent to Trail
Preserve			

Table 4.4: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester

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

- 2. <u>City of Rochester Hills</u>
 - 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 (<u>Table 4.5</u>). 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.

Major Parks							
NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES				
Thelma G. Spencer Park	John R. & M-59	113.0	38 acre lake, swimming, fishing, play-ground, beacl other activities				
Earl E. Borden Park	Hamlin/ John R. Road.	143	Ball diamonds, soccer field basketball & tennis courts, batting cage, in-line skating				
Yates Roadside Park	Avon Road	4.3	On Clinton River, fishing, picnic area				
River Bend Park	Hamlin Road	70	Undeveloped				
Eugene S. Nowicki Park	Adams Road	35	Undeveloped				
Avondale Park	Bathurst Road	18.5	Soccer field, ball diamond sand volleyball, basketball courts, picnic areas				
Clinton River Trail	Adams Road to City of Rochester border	4.5 miles	Linear park				
Bloomer Park	John R. Road	206.9	Velodrome, picnic shelters nature paths, turf volleybal				
	Neighborhood F	Parks					
Helen V. Allen Park	School Road	9.9	Ball Diamonds, playlot				
Wabash Park	Wabash Road	3 .7	Play ground, disc golf, picr area				
Unnamed Property	Tienken Road	10	Undeveloped				
Special Use							
Avon Nature Area	Avon Road/City Hall Site	97.4	Environmental Education Center, nature paths, Clinton River frontag				
Pine Trace Park	South Blvd.	190	Pine Trace Public 18 hole Golf Course				
Veterans Memorial Pointe	Livernois Road	5.14	Gazebo, memorial pathwa granite monument				
Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm	Van Hoosen Road	16.1	Historic Farm & Museun				
Dakland Land Conservancy Heron Rookery	Adams/Hamlin	24	On Clinton River				
	Open Spac	е					
Unnamed	East Childress	1.90	Steep slope; access to Clinton River				
	West Childress	3.412	Steep slope; access to				

Table 4.5: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester Hills

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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 <u>Table 4.6</u>). 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.

NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES		
Bear Creek Nature Park	740 Snell	107	Trails, boardwalks, decks, playground, picnic area		
Charles F. Ilsley Park	East Predmore Road	120	Undeveloped-mowed trails		
Blue Heron Environmental Area	388 Rochester Road, between Gunn & Buell	139	Undeveloped, Blue heron Rookery		
Cranberry Lake Park	Between Predmore Road & Romeo, West of Rochester	213	Nationally Registered Historic Farm & Park- mowed trails		
Mill Race Trail	Gallagher Road	0.3 miles	Woodchip trail		
Gallagher Creek Park	Silver Bell Road	15	Undeveloped		
Marsh View Park	Adams & Clarkston Road	91	Undeveloped – future parking & hunting		
Draper Twin Lake Park	Inwood/Dequindre	90	Passive recreation; fishing		
Lost Lake Nature Park	846 Lost Lake Trail		Fishing, sledding hill		
Marsh View Connector	Adams & Clarkston Road	2.97	Future connector trail to Bald Mtn & Paint Creek Trail		
Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie	Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail, north of Silver Bell	10	Undeveloped; maintained as natural prairie		
Stony Creek Ravine Nature Park	North of Snell Road, East of Sheldon Road	60	Undeveloped		

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 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 <u>Table 4.7</u>). Civic Center and Friendship Parks allow for a variety of passive and programmed activities.

Table 4.7: Local Recreation Inventory – Orion Township
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NAME	LOCATION	ACRES	NOTES
Civic Center Park	Joslyn & Greenshield	78.86	Ballfields, Soccer, Play - grounds, Walking path,basketball
Friendship Park	Clarkston & Baldwin	134.97	Ballfields, Soccer, Play- grounds, Walking path, pavilion, gazebo, historic Porritt Barn
McConnell Field	McConnell, between Chalice & Peters	1.3	In an established residential neighborhood
Orion Senior Center	21 East Church Street	.52	Senior Center
Gingell Nature Area	Maybee & Baldwin	38.90	Nature preserve, unimproved trails, undeveloped
Stonegate Park	Squirrel & Silver Bell	16.49	Multi-purpose sports fields, playgrounds, tennis courts

Source: Charter Township of Orion Recreation Master Plan, 2007-2011

5. <u>The Village of Lake Orion</u>

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 <u>Table 4.8</u>.

Name	Location	Acres	Notes		
Atwater Park	Atwater east of M-24	3.38	Playground. Near Trail terminus		
Green's Park	East side M-24 north of Flint Street				
Meeks Park	South of Orion Art Center	1.56	Trail/pathway		
Children's Park	South of Flint between Broadway and Anderson	1.54	Gazebo, playground, water access		
Unger Park	Bellevue Street	0.91	Playground, bike rack, picnic area		
Swiss Village Park	Central Drive	0.57	Open Space, playground, basketball, picnic area.		

Table 4.8: Local Recreation Inventory – Village of Lake Orion

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

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
- Boys & Girls Club of Orion/Oxford

- 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

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 (<u>Table 4.9</u>). 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 mileagedistance 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

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 PAIL							
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

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

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., <u>Greenways: Improving the Quality of Life in Oakland County, Michigan</u>, 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

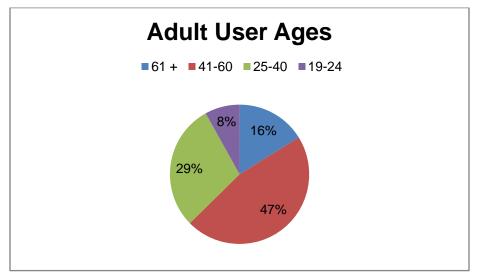
The survey found that the Trail had a conservative 66,420 uses from May 1-September 30, 2004, with 56% on weekdays and 44% on weekends. Adults (19 and over) accounted for 86% of the uses, and children for 14%. Of the adult uses, 56% were bicycling and 44% were walking/running. For children, 65% were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

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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

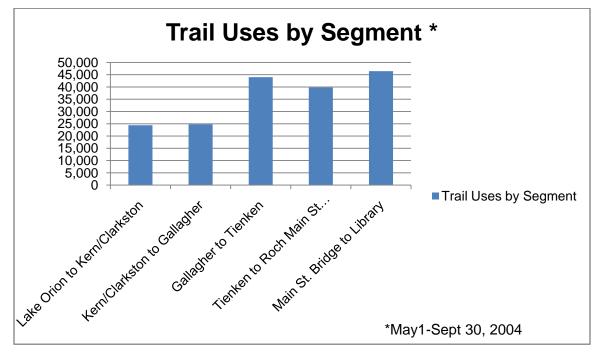


Most users were on the Trail for two hours or less. 41% of Trail use was done without driving a vehicle to the Trail, and 51% of the uses were by people living two miles or less from the Trail. On average, each visitor used the Trail eleven times per year, with almost half their uses during June through 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 <u>Table 4.11</u> shows the Trail uses by segment.

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory <u>Table 4.11: Trails Uses by Segments of the Trail</u>



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.



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 Trailways sources, including the 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 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



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 <u>Guidelines for the</u> <u>Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans</u> 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:

Type of Grant: Acquistion
 Source: Michigan Land Trust
 Grant # TF493
 Year:1981
 Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Acquistion
 Scope of Project: Acquisition of 10.5 miles of abandoned Penn Central Railroad

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory **Current Condition**: 8.9 miles are developed with crushed limestone surface.

- 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

- 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.
- Type of Grant: Development
 Source: MNRTF
 Grant # TF02-125
 Year:2002

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory 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.

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

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.

Chapter Four: Recreation Inventory 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
- 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
- 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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