



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.)

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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.

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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.

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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

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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.

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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

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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.