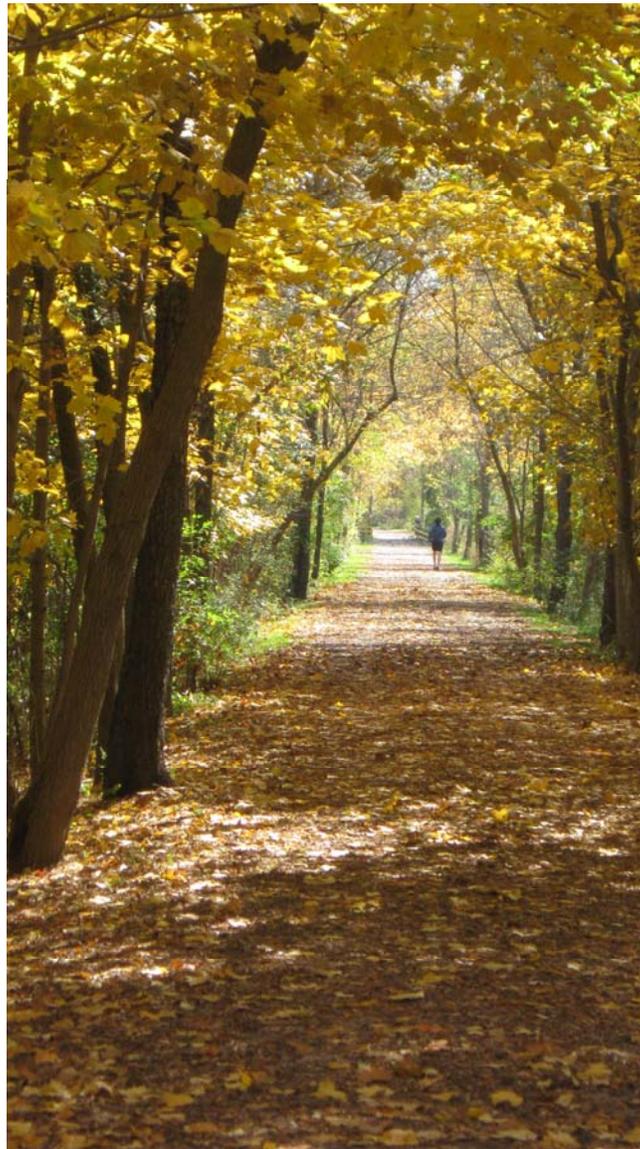




Paint Creek Trail



2009-2013 Recreation Master Plan

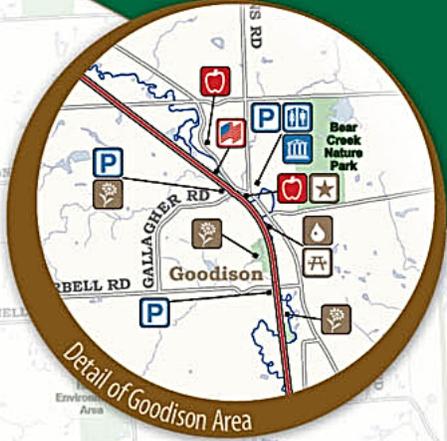
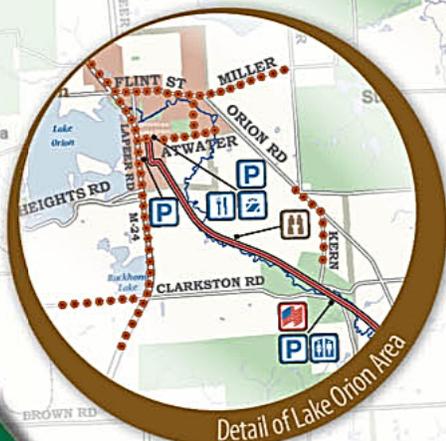
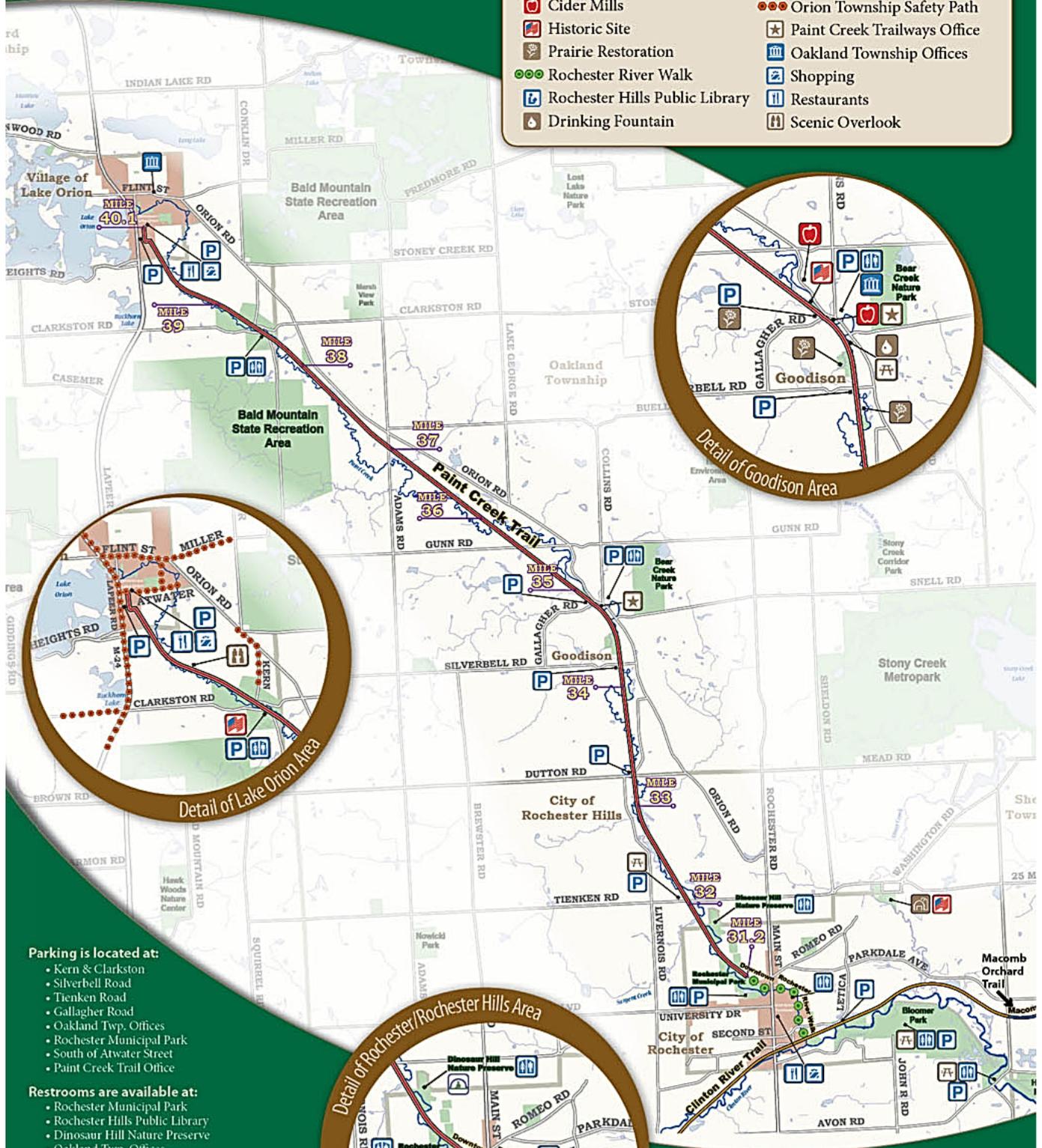
Adopted January 20, 2009



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

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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
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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



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Rochester, Michigan 48306
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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



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Rochester, Michigan 48306
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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
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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



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Rochester, Michigan 48306
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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 black ink that reads "Rock Blanchard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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
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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
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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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