



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 GE8610826_2x3.5

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.

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- 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

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