Paint Creek Trailways Commission Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI 48306

MEETING AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Public Comment
5. Consent Agenda:
   a. Minutes: Regular Meeting, April 16, 2019
   b. Treasurer’s Report – April 2019
6. Approval of Invoices
7. Temporary Permit, Donni Steele on behalf of Orion Township – Orion Veterans Memorial 5k – May 27, 2019
8. Presentation: Monarch Butterfly & Native Pollinators - Marilyn Trent, Rochester Pollinators
9. Approval: 2018 Audit
10. Discussion and Approval: Master Plan Update:
    a. Recreation Inventory
    b. Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee to Review Planning and Public Input Process
11. Discussion/Approval: Interim Trail Manager Job Description and Posting
12. Discussion/Approval: June 18, 2019 Meeting Location & Field Trip
13. Manager’s Report
14. Commissioner Reports
15. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Next Regular Meeting:
June 18, 2019 – Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI 48306

Enclosures:
Agenda Summary
April 16, 2019 Draft Minutes
April 2019 Treasurer’s Report
Temporary Permit Application: Orion Veterans Memorial 5k – May 27, 2019
Memo & 2018 Audit Report (hard copies provided to Commissioners at April meeting; posted online for Alternates)
2020-2024 Master Plan – Draft Recreation Inventory
Memo: June 19, 2019 Meeting Location & Field Trip
May Manager’s Report
1. **Call to Order**

2. **Pledge of Allegiance**

3. **Approval of Agenda**

4. **Public Comment**

5. **Consent Agenda:**
   a. Minutes: Regular Meeting April 16, 2019
   b. Treasurer’s Report – April 2019

6. **Approval of Invoices**

7. **Discussion:** Temporary Permit, Donni Steele on behalf of Orion Township – Orion Veterans Memorial 5k – May 27, 2019
   **Summary:** Donni Steele, on behalf of Orion Township, will discuss Orion Township’s request to hold the 5k on the Paint Creek Trail.
   **Desired Action:** Approval contingent upon receiving proof of event insurance naming the PCTC as additional insured.
   **Budget Impact:** None

8. **Presentation:** Monarch Butterfly & Native Pollinators
   **Summary:** Marilyn Trent from the Rochester Pollinators organization will give a presentation on how the Commission can assist with the effort to save the monarch butterflies & native pollinators in our region
   **Desired Action:** None
   **Budget Impact:** None at this time

9. **Approval:** 2018 Audit
   **Summary:** Ramie E. Phillips, CPA, has completed our 2018 Audit. Commissioners received hard copies at last month’s meeting; alternates can access it on our Agendas page on the website. See memo in your packet for more information.
   **Desired Action:** Approval to accept, file, and transmit to the State Treasury’s Local Government Audit Division
   **Budget Impact:** None

10. **Discussion and Approval:** Master Plan Update
    a. Recreation Inventory
    **Summary:** The subcommittee has reviewed the updates for the Recreation Inventory section and will provide a recommendation at the meeting. An updated copy of the section with revisions noted will be provided to Commissioners at the meeting for their review.
    **Desired Action:** Approval by Consensus
    **Budget Impact:** None
    c. Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee to Review Planning and Public Input Process
    **Summary:** Volunteers are needed to review the next section of the Master Plan – Planning and Public Input Process. Section will be discussed at July meeting.
    **Desired Action:** Volunteers for Committee
    **Budget Impact:** None

11. **Discussion/Approval:** June 18, 2019 Meeting Location & Field Trip
    **Summary:** The Commission tries to take a “field trip” every year after the June meeting. See memo in your packet.
    **Desired Action:** Approval
Budget Impact:  None


13. Commissioner Reports

14. Adjournment of Regular Meeting

Next Regular Meeting:
June 18, 2019 – Rochester Municipal Offices, 400 Sixth Street, Rochester, MI  48306
CALL TO ORDER: The Tuesday, April 16, 2019 meeting was called to order by Chairperson Becker at 7:00 p.m.

Voting Members Present: Rock Blanchard, Susan Bowyer, Frank Ferriolo, Linda Gamage, Kim Russell, Donni Steele, Jeff Stout, Hank Van Agen
Voting Alternates Present: None
Non-Voting Alternates Present: David Becker, Lynn Loebs, Martha Olijnyk
Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Present: Brad Mathisen (enter 7:15 p.m.)
Voting Members Absent: None
Alternates Absent: Chris Barnett, Robin Buxar, Ben Giovanelli, Chris Hagen, David Walker
Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Member Absent: None
Village of Lake Orion Non-Voting Alternate Absent: Vacant
Others Present: Melissa Ford, Trail Manager, Chris Gray, Assistant Trail Manager, Sandi DiSipio, Recording Secretary

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: All rose and recited the Pledge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Chairman Becker suggested removing item #20 – Request to Enter into Closed Session. This was for discussion of the Lake Orion License Agreement that was item #21 – the attorney has informed that this is not privileged communication and could be discussed in open session; therefore a Closed Session is not required.
MOTION by Gamage, seconded by Bowyer, Moved, to approve the April 16, 2019 agenda as amended.
Ayes: All Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA:
  a. Minutes – March 19, 2019, Regular Meeting, approve and file
  b. Treasurers Report – March 2019, receive and file
MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Bowyer, Moved, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
Ayes: All Nays: None
MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF INVOICES: Ms. Ford presented the list of invoices totaling $598.72. In addition to the recorder’s fee, this amount includes payment to Oakland Township for staff’s 1st qtr. shared copier costs. Estimated unrestricted fund balance is $90,923.
MOTION by Steele, seconded by Stout, _Moved_, that the invoices presented for payment are approved in the amount of $598.72 and orders be drawn for payment.  

Ayes: All  
Nays: None  

MOTION CARRIED.

**APPROVAL: 2018 Audit:** Ms. Ford stated Mr. Phillips completed the 2018 financial audit. The assets of the Commission exceeded the liabilities at the end of the year by $657,091; of this, $86,187 is unrestricted and $2,824 is restricted. Information is included in the packet. Commissioners commented they have not had a chance to review the audit, and asked if this can be put on next month’s agenda for approval. The audit must be submitted by the end of June.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL: Master Plan Update**  
**Giffels Webster Agreement for Professional Services:** Ms. Ford indicated Mr. Eric Fazzini from Griffels Webster is present to give an overview of the services. Mr. Fazzini summarized the scope of work included in the agreement. They will assist in the accessibility evaluation and public input including an on-line survey. There was a question about reimbursable expenses – to which Mr. Fazzini indicated any additional expenses would be provided to the Commission prior to completion. A question was asked about a “not to exceed” clause. Mr. Fazzini indicated the contract is for a $7,000 flat fee, so the cost will not go beyond this amount. Ms. Ford added there is money in the budget to cover printing of the master plan. She also commented our attorney reviewed the agreement and suggested three changes – under reimbursable expenses, delete the reference to the use of subconsultants, invoices will be paid within 45 days instead of 30 days, and approval rights for the use of photographs. Griffels Webster is aware of the suggested changes and approved them.

MOTION by Steele, seconded by Blanchard, to approve the Giffels Webster agreement for professional services including the attorney’s review comments, and to have the PCTC Chair execute the agreement.  

Ayes: All  
Nays: None  

MOTION CARRIED.

**Administrative Structure:** Ms. Ford indicated the committee has reviewed the work done by staff and provided a recommendation for approval. Ms. Olijnyk stated the committee members were Ms. Bowyer, Mr. Blanchard and herself, and they provided some changes to the section. Ms. Ford and Ms. Olijnyk summarized the minor changes to the document that were not included in the packet. There is no need for a motion to approve at this time as the Master Plan will be approved in its entirety, and the committee was thanked for their work.

**Master Plan Ad Hoc Committee to review Recreation Inventory:** Mr. Blanchard, Mr. Stout and Mr. Van Agen volunteered to serve on the committee. Mr. Becker will also review the chapter.

**UPDATE: 2019 Trail Resurfacing:** Ms. Ford indicated there is a memo in the packet regarding the resurfacing project. Originally, it was intended to advertise the bid for the project in January. Quite a few delays and communication issues with Mannik Smith Group resulted in staff discussing their concerns about plans they received, resulting in a new contact person with MSG. Since then, better responsiveness has been received, their new engineer has been out twice and staff received the documents they’ve been requesting. Chris Zangara, the new engineer, rode and walked the entire trail with Ms. Ford and Ms. Milos-Dale and has submitted a new cost estimate based on what he viewed on the trail. The cost estimate for resurfacing has increased significantly – up $118,000, from what was originally received. Ms. Ford handed out the new estimate and explained the list of line items has gone from one page to two, and is much more detailed. That was one of staff’s concerns about the original specs received – that it was not detailed enough and there were no drawings showing different segments of the work that had to
be done showing erosion issues and how that was going to be fixed. The new engineer noted all
of these issues in the new estimate, and that’s where the cost increase is. Mr. Ferriolo explained
this issue was brought up at the Oakland Township’s Parks meeting as well, and commented Ms.
Milos-Dale was a little heavier on complaining about this surprise. He thanked Ms. Ford and Ms.
Milos-Dale for taking care of business as this is a shock. We’re seeing more problems with this
company and it’s upsetting. Mr. Becker said if this goes out to bid, it will delete any excess the
Commission has from the grant, plus leave us about $12,000 short. Ms. Ford added in the new
plan, only two of the parking lots are being resurfaced, so she has added on alternate bid items to
get the Dutton and Gallagher parking lots done if the Commission chooses. This was not
included in the original cost estimate. The cost for the observation deck and side path increased
only slightly. The Commission has enough money to cover this project as long as there is no
overrun on the bridge project. Hopefully this bid will come in under estimate. Upon a question
about where the extra cost comes from as the Commission only received this information tonight,
Ms. Ford explained there are more costs associated with drainage, the stairs at Dinosaur Hill are
getting replaced and bridge railings are being replaced. The increase is basically due to noticing
details that were overlooked in the cost estimate. Ms. Ford was asked to forward the original cost
estimate to the members. Mr. Becker thinks the stairs are the responsibility of Dinosaur Hill and
asked Ms. Ford to check with them to determine that. Ms. Ford indicated the next step is that
there is a meeting on Thursday with MSG and members of the four communities to go over the
revised plans, so any community that has concerns can address them with MSG at this meeting.
Once that is done, any changes can be added to the bid documents, and then submitted to
Rochester Hills to advertise. Ms. Russell indicated the scope has changed because it was just
resurfacing last time and the project is now being looked at as a whole. She referred to line items
#10, #32 and #54, and wants to understand the difference between the shared use path grade and
compact versus the aggregate. The compaction has a hefty price. She also wants to know what
the aggregate is, as this is also a significant amount. She wants to know what the cost for
modified slope restoration is, and if it’s necessary. Ms. Russell feels an expert should explain
these issues, and what is necessary and what is a “nicety”. Ms. Olijnyk commented the original
cost estimate had 18 line items, and the revised estimate has 54, which is a big difference. The
biggest thing is the slope restoration as the original cost was $1,500, and now it’s $76,500.
That’s $75,000 out of the $118,000 increase – we need to know what this is and why it was so off
in the first estimate. There are also a lot of items on the new estimate referring to signs, and she’s
not sure what signs they are. Ms. Ford thinks they are temporary signs having to do with the trail
closure. Mr. Blanchard commented when the trail was resurfaced the last time, we did spec out a
particular limestone to use, and wants to make sure MSG is using the same specs. Ms. Ford
indicated they are using the specs from the last resurfacing project. Upon a question about the
difference between a proposed 4” and 8” base, which would change the trail, Ms. Ford circulated
a copy of the plans showing maps of the proposed changes where an aggregate base is planned.
Mr. Blanchard asked since the bid has not gone out yet, is this a good time to bid – since we don’t
know all the details. He feels we may have missed the window to bid this year and may want to
wait until January or next spring. Mr. Ferriolo doesn’t feel the scope has changed, only the
engineering execution. If we delay, construction costs will increase. If we get answers to
questions quickly, he wants to move forward. Mr. Stout agreed. It is the consensus of the
Commission to move forward, but also receive answers to the questions raised tonight. Ms. Ford
indicated the plan is for the work to begin within two weeks of the notice of award, and the trail
would open to traffic no later than September 30th. Mr. Van Agen suggested that resurfacing
should be looked at sooner, as 15 years was too long and we’re paying for damage that wasn’t
addressed in a timely fashion. Ms. Gamage indicated there was discussion in the past about
sharing equipment between the communities to a regular grading of the trail, and suggested this
be added to the Master Plan. Mr. Becker suggested that after Thursday’s meeting, any answers to
questions raised tonight be forwarded to the members.
MOTION by Steele, seconded by Ferriolo, **Moved**, to approve the additional expense on the engineer’s opinion of cost and move forward with the project as presented.
Ayes: All Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL:** **Resurfacing Project Cost Participation Agreement with the Oakland Township Parks & Recreation Commission:** Ms. Ford indicated Oakland Township’s attorney drafted the cost participation agreement for the Bear Creek project that was added on our resurfacing project. The Commission attorney has reviewed and approved the agreement. Ms. Olijnyk suggested one change – in the second paragraph, Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission should be changed to Oakland Township.

**MOTION** by Blanchard, seconded by Van Agen, **Moved**, to approve the Agreement as amended.
Ayes: All Nays: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**APPROVAL:** **Temporary Permit, Aaron Palaian – Onurmark Race Productions, Lake Orion Challenge – October 5, 2019:** Mr. Palaian, 3735 Rolling Hills, Lake Orion, came forward and explained his event. In talking to the Lake Orion DDA, they mentioned they always wanted a triathlon. The issue is the streets are not in good enough shape to ride a bike on, and there are not enough 4-lane roads to close one down for bikes and there are no shoulders. He came up with an event that starts with a kayak paddle and riding a bike on the trail for safety and then a run. He is hoping the trail projects are done in September as the event is planned for October 5th. If this date is not safe and the event has to be moved a week, that’s not a problem. He realizes the Commission is concerned about the amount of traffic on the trail – this event will be limited to 250 people. In future years, if the Commission agrees, the participant number could be increased. They will go a mile on Lake Orion in the boats, before they get on bikes, so they should be spread apart before they get on the trail. There would be temporary signs and tape on the trees two days before and removed the day of the event. Police would assist with road crossings. At Gallagher, he proposes temporary restrooms if approved, and medical personnel. Registration is $80, and the cost will go up as the event gets closer, but he feels it will sell out quickly. He is comfortable with donating $500 to charity, and about $1,500 is budgeted to volunteer groups that help out. Mr. Van Agen stated this is a good addition to the trail given the challenge of construction projects on the north end of the trail. Ms. Ford feels the October 5th date is cutting it close as it’s only five days out from when the trail is anticipated to open. There is also concern with the Brooksie Way event on 9/22, so resurfacing may start on the south end first. Mr. Palaian is aware of the construction issues. Ms. Olijnyk feels this will be a fun event, but feels the date is cutting it too close to construction dates, and feels October is very iffy. Mr. Blanchard agrees the date is cutting it too close, and if planned and for some reason it wasn’t done, the good promotion may go bad for the trail. He doesn’t feel it should be planned for that date because of the timing. Mr. Becker also believes this is cutting it close, but that is Mr. Palaian’s issue. Mr. Palaian said he would notify participants from the beginning of the potential issues that resurfacing may not be done in time, and if the event needs to be rescheduled or cancelled, he will offer a full refund. This notification will be part of the registration form, and participants would have to indicate they agree. He is OK with this. Mr. Ferriolo commented the Commission will know within a month or two which sections of the trail will be done and when, so if this is helpful to the applicant in terms of promoting the event - if he can wait a month, he will have a better idea as to whether it’s a go or no go. Ms. Steele is in favor of approving the request, with the understanding the applicant can pull the event if necessary. The applicant’s request was approved by Orion Township yesterday.

**MOTION** by Van Agen, seconded by Stout, **Moved**, to approve the temporary permit for Onurmark Productions for their October 5th event, with the option to move the date out a week if necessary due to trail resurfacing.
Ayes: Bowyer, Ferriolo, Gamage, Russell, Steele, Stout, Van Agen
UPDATE: Louis Carrio, Present – Friends of the Paint Creek Trail: Mr. Carrio, representing the Friends Group, 1257 Candlestick Lane, Rochester Hills, came forward and indicated he lives 50 feet from the trail. The members received an outline of what he’s going to talk about. There are 12 active participants who meet quarterly to discuss projects and organizational matters; trail management attend the meetings and provide updates and input. They provide branded merchandise, maintain the website and Facebook, coordinate the bicycle ride with Motor City Brew Tours, which will not occur every year and is unfortunate because it generates income, volunteer and support trail related and community events and accept and disburse funds donated and money raised. Restricted funded projects include the Moutrie, Audubon, Paint Creek Junction and Educational Pathway. Part of the Junction fund includes $2,500 specifically for a drinking water source. The Junior Women’s Club gave $5,000 for the educational display. Then there was discussion about a project at Flagstar Bank, which is now on hold. As a consequence, none of this money has found a project. Discussions with the Friends Board membership is, if they found a project that recognized Mr. Moutrie that had an element of bird education and an element of education, the funds could be coupled to come up with a project. This is still on hold because there is not a home for the project, which is further complicated by the fact that a commitment was made to the Moutrie family that they would be made aware of what the project was and sign off on it. It’s now been six years, and it was previous members that were in communication with the family. He feels what would be attractive to the Friends Group is to have a member from the Commission to work with to come up with a project, the location, and then present this to the Moutrie family. He doesn’t want to go to the family until we have a plan. Mr. Becker added the Commission recognized this deficiency, and formed a committee last month to work on this, and it’s hoped to have a firm plan to start the project this year. Mr. Carrio indicated he’s had conversations with Mr. Blanchard. The Commission is committed to moving forward on this project. Mr. Ferriolo said Mr. Carrio’s presentation of this effort and concern is spot on in terms of potential opportunity and encourages him to sit down with the committee and come up with a plan. If they can come up with something that everyone is comfortable with, and then approach the Moutrie family with something the Commission and Friends Group agrees on, that’s the best way to proceed. Mr. Blanchard agreed to meet with Mr. Carrio as soon as possible, and as Mr. Moutrie was an educator, the money from the education pathway and the Audubon Program could all be grouped into a great project that honors Mr. Moutrie and education. The Commission committee consists of Messrs. Becker, Blanchard and Ferriolo, and a meeting will be set up soon to discuss. Ms. Russell commented there will be a presentation about monarch butterflies at a future meeting, and suggested this could be an educational component incorporated into the project. Mr. Blanchard indicated there is a group called Bees in the D, which is working with pollination and would like to be involved. Mr. Carrio then talked about income and expenses of the Friends Group. Minimal income is expected due to the lack of the annual bike tour. There is a Moosejaw sponsored event at the Rochester Mills Tap Room in Auburn Hills on May 17th, and they asked if the Friends Group would mind being the recipient of these funds. He accepted their offer. They receive sporadic donations, but expenses are expected to be $2,400, well in excess of income. The Commission thanked Mr. Carrio for his presentation, and indicated full support of the Group. Mr. Carrio looks forward to working on the Moutrie project. Ms. Ford will send out information to Commissioners on the Rochester Mills Tap Room event.

APPROVAL: TAP Agreement: Ms. Ford indicated the Commission needs to formally approve the Transportation Alternatives Program Agreement with the Road Commission, which was already signed off due to time constraints.
MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Gamage, Moved, to approve the TAP Agreement as presented.
Ayes: All Nays: None MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL: 2019-2021 Mounted Police Contract: Ms. Ford circulated a memo relative to the contract regarding the Mounted Patrol. A three year contract is proposed and it would fund 507 patrol hours this year, which would allow for the use of bike patrol deputies if necessary. They were used in the past when there were vandalism issues, but unless that occurs again, it’s unlikely we would use a bike patroller. Hours to be funded for 2020 and 2021 are yet to be determined, but if the same amount was budgeted in the next two years, in 2020 in would fund 497 hours and in 2021 it would fund 488 hours. There is one revision to the contract included in the packet – which is the amount of two mounted deputies per shift, and then specifies the hours per deputy per day – that’s the only change. Upon a question if we can opt out of the contract, Ms. Olijnyk indicated there is a clause in the contract that either party can cancel the contract with notification. Mr. Ferriolo asked about the hourly rates and asked if these are appropriate. Mr. Becker indicated there was previous discussion about the rates. Upon a question about the schedule, Ms. Ford indicated we can request them for certain times if necessary, but they usually set their own schedule to vary the times. Ms. Gamage questioned the hourly rate for mounted versus bike patrol. Ms. Ford indicated the bike patrol is more per hour; the mounted patrol pays their own horse fees. Ms. Olijnyk also indicated the mounted patrol is paid for their trailoring times, not only the time on the trail. Ms. Russell asked if the mounted patrol is needed for that many hours if there is a bridge closure, and how that’s going to work this year. Ms. Ford indicated the mounted patrol only goes north of Dutton, and the bridge will be closed from Dutton to Silverbell for the project. Ms. Gray commented the Mounted Patrol does patrol the entire trail. Ms. Ford anticipates the patrol being out there to prevent people from going into the closed area, so we may need them more if there’s problems with people crossing barricades going where they are not supposed to be when the construction is occurring. Ms. Russell commented the bike patrol rate is very high and she doesn’t want them in the Rochester Community as they have their own bike patrol. She would like to limit the bike patrol. Ms. Ford indicated the Commission did not use any bike patrol last year, it’s only used when needed. Ms. Steele agrees with the safety of the trail and Oakland County and feels the Mounted patrol is a little bit of a luxury item, but feels there is a big draw from the horses. This issue will be looked at in the future. Mr. Blanchard agrees safety is important, but we need to keep an eye on the patrol hours.

MOTION by Bowyer, seconded by Van Agen, Moved, to approve the Mounted Police Contract as presented.
Ayes: Blanchard, Bowyer, Ferriolo, Gamage, Russell, Stout, Van Agen Nays: Steele MOTION CARRIED.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL: National Trails Day Plans: Ms. Ford stated she has been working with the Lake Orion DDA on the plans. National Days is June 1st and is the same day the Lake Orion United Methodist Church and the Police Department will be holding their annual Clergy, Cops & Kids event. She has decided to join forces to increase attendance for both events. Their event is in the afternoon, so the Trail Day event has been moved to 1:00-4:00 pm to coincide with their event. A memo is included in the packet outlining the schedule of events. The theme of the events is bikes. Also in the packet are suggested promotional items to be given away at the event – a cooling towel, bike bells or a reusable straw. The members liked the event and the idea of teaming up with other event. Ms. Steele is more in favor with gifts that are biodegradable and brought some samples. Ms. Gamage agreed and suggested a biodegradable pot with plant seeds. Mr. Ferriolo likes the bike bells for kids, and a cooling towel for the adults. He feels kids would rather have a bike bell than plant seeds. Mr. Van Agen stated we can’t go wrong with a bike bell as we want to promote trail etiquette. Also, some plant seeds are not
Michigan native. Ms. Olijnyk is on the Recognition Committee and asked if the presentation is planned for Trails Day or the Labor Day Bridge Walk. She suggested three honorees. Ms. Gray commented due to the resurfacing project, the recognition should take place at the National Trails Day event. Ms. Ford indicated there is $500 budgeted for this event and sponsors are being sought.

**MOTION** by Blanchard, seconded by Ferriolo, *Moved*, to approve the National Trails Day Event as presented.
Ayes: All  Nays: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MOTION** by Ferriolo, seconded by Van Agen, *Moved*, to approve the bike bell as the promotional item for this event.
Ayes:  Bowyer, Ferriolo, Russell, Stout, Van Agen  Nays:  Blanchard, Gamage, Steele  
MOTION CARRIED.

**DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL**: Oakland Township Historic District Commission

**Bicentennial Sign**: Ms. Ford explained that Oakland Township HDC has been looking for locations for signage to educate people about the bicentennial, so they are asking if the Commission would consider putting a sign at or near the location of Dutton and Livernois Roads, which would commemorate the first land purchase in 1819. They have given a mock-up of an idea of what they would be doing. They are very willing to work with the Commission if we are going to do a signage project this year to accommodate our brandage. They are open to the sign being a temporary sign just for this year, and understand that the historical aspect is something the Commission could enhance on the trail. A memo regarding the concept is included in the packet. Mr. Blanchard indicated the Commission has been meaning to brand their signage, and if we could get ours branded, and if they could match their sign to match the ours, then go ahead and do a permanent sign, otherwise, just do a temporary sign now. It’s a great sign and historic sites are important to recognize on the trail. Mr. Ferriolo agrees with a temporary sign. Ms. Ford also agrees with a temporary sign this year, and then work with them as part of the signage grant to put in permanent signage.

**MOTION** by Blanchard, seconded by Bowyer, *Moved*, to approve a temporary sign this year and then work on a permanent sign.
Ayes:  All  Nays: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

**APPROVAL**: 2019 Goals: Included in the packet is an updated goals list which was prioritized by the Commission. Ms. Ford thanked the members for submitting information.

**MOTION** by Steele, seconded by Stout, *Moved*, to approve the 2019 goals as presented.
Ayes:  All  Nays: None  
MOTION CARRIED.

**MANAGER’S REPORT**: In addition to the written report, Ms. Ford indicated staff has received some complaints on social media, website and phone calls regarding the surface of the trail after the tree trimming work about ruts. She has talked to both Orion and Oakland Townships. Oakland Township has graded the trail, and Orion assured staff this will be taken care of. Since these communications, no complaints have been received. Once the complainants heard the trail was going to be resurfaced this year, they were happy. The date for the commencement of the bridge project is still unknown – anywhere from mid May to early June. Mr. Ferriolo commented he didn’t know anything about a Mr. Hogan coming in to replace Ms. Hamameh, and would have appreciated an email about this. Ms. Ford indicated other attorneys are filling in for Ms. Hamameh during her leave.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**: Ms. Russell indicated Arts & Apples is the second week in September and the resurfacing money is in this year’s budget. If this doesn’t happen, the money
goes back to general fund. Hopefully this can be taken care of in this year’s Rochester budget. The ROTC uses the trail for security for this event, so this is a consideration if the trail is closed. She reported Second Street is closed off of Rochester due to a broken main. Earth Day will be celebrated at the park next weekend. Hopefully there will be a presentation about Monarch Butterflies to the Commission soon. The Farmer’s Market opens May 4th for their 20th anniversary. She asked how the trail closure will be advertised – Ms. Ford indicated it will be on social media, the website, in the kiosks, press releases and each community will be asked to put it on their websites. Ms. Loebs feels there will be an issue with keeping people off the trail when it’s closed. Mr. Van Agen indicated May 4th is Oakland Township’s Clean Scene event – their 50th anniversary. Ms. Steele reported Orion Township has a clean-up on April 27th in conjunction with their expo. Mr. Becker suggested the Commission conduct a site visit next month after the meeting.

DISCUSSION: Next Steps for the Village of Lake Orion Trail Extension: Ms. Ford indicated all the members received the latest copy of the agreement. The committee met last Thursday with representatives from the Village. The Commission’s attorney has reviewed and approved the agreement. Lake Orion has reviewed and approved it. The committee is recommending approval.

MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Steele, Moved, to approve the agreement as presented.

Discussion: Ms. Olijnyk went through the contract and the attorney’s recommendations, and out of the 10 recommendations, 8 of them were met. Mr. Becker indicated the committee thought all 10 recommendations were met in some way, but could have missed something. Ms. Olijnyk said the only thing she thinks is an issue is in the acknowledgements where it says – paragraph 2 – that the additional .3 miles of trail is the property of the licensor, when she still thinks that Lake Orion Lumber owns part of this property. She was asked what language could be suggested that would remedy this issue. Ms. Olijnyk is not sure we need the statement that says who owns the property, just that everyone has the authority to enter into this agreement. If the contract acknowledges that we have the authority to make the license agreement, that would remedy it. The paragraph should read “the licensee acknowledges and the licensor acknowledges where the land is located and that all parties have authority to enter into this license agreement”. Mr. Ferriolo agrees that this has a gone a long way to address the motion made last December, and that the questions our attorney put to Lake Orion have been addressed to a large extent. The only question is that the DDA and Lake Orion both have the idea they both own the property – wouldn’t the document itself show that the DDA has responsibility over the easement or Lake Orion – why would there be a question? Although it appears that a lot of the attorney’s issues were addressed, Mr. Ferriolo doesn’t see any correspondence going back from the Commission attorney relative to this issue. After the last draft of the agreement, we pushed the point to get the attorney involved, and then found out she had addressed the issue in three or four emails that the Commission did not have. It was in our pursuit of that, that we made the motion in December to go through the appropriate course to get the issues addressed. Mr. Ferriolo said the Commission should at least have an email from the attorney stating he is approving the agreement, and asked if there are any other emails the Commission has not seen that relate to this issue. Ms. Ford indicated the attorney, Mr. Hogan, did approve the agreement via email. After the meeting last Thursday, the committee wanted some changes made, which is the draft the Commission has tonight. The revised agreement was sent to the attorney. He did not have any issues with the agreement, and circulated his approval email. Ms. Ford indicated as far as she knows, there has been no communication between Mr. Hogan and Lake Orion’s attorney. Ms. Gamage feels we got mired in the legalities of this issue, and her question of what the Commission is gaining from this transaction hasn’t been answered; she doesn’t understand why we are doing this. She feels the Commission is taking on the responsibility of an additional .3
miles of additional trail that requires attention and is an added cost to our management of the trail system. This is a great addition to the community, but she’s not convinced on why we are taking on additional responsibility. Ms. Steele mentioned that the park has been designated by the DNR as an Iron Belle Regional Trail Lot, which is a great attribute to the trail. We have to look at what the whole trail system entails. Mr. Becker said the trail is for the benefit of users and communities. This helps the Village of Lake Orion and part of our responsibility is to be an aide to our surrounding communities. Mr. Blanchard added that we have been looking for years at ways to connect the Village to the trail. Ms. Russell appreciates all the work that has gone into this issue. She suggested the maker of the motion premise the change on licensee, as the property is owned by Lake Orion Lumber. Ms. Olijnyk suggested striking the words “is the property of the licensor which includes the DDA”. Ms. Ford read the changes to paragraph 2 – “Licensee acknowledges the additional .3 miles of trail within the Village limits and physical jurisdictional limits of Orion Township extending to Children’s Park. The parties acknowledge that this license will be maintained in perpetuity with the conditions as set forth in this agreement. The licensor has authority to enter into this agreement.” Ms. Russell asked if the additional .3 miles of trail is being added on to the patrol program that every community pays – will this be added to Orion’s bill? Mr. Becker said no as they are not formally becoming part of the PCT; it’s not owned by the Commission. They are getting a license for the use of the name PCT. Ms. Russell asked the difference between the portion of Rochester’s trail, that Rochester owns, and this extension. Mr. Becker said the Commission does not own this new extension, only giving permission to Lake Orion to call it part of the PCT, and they are giving a lot of maintenance on this extension to the standards of the PCT. Ms. Russell said if Orion is not paying patrol for this segment, she’s not in support of the motion. Mr. Becker corrected his previous statement and said this portion of the trail will be added to Orion Township’s bike patrol.

Amended Motion
MOTION by Blanchard, seconded by Steele, Moved, to approve the agreement as amended.
Ayes: Blanchard, Bowyer, Ferriolo, Russell, Steele, Stout, Van Agen
Nays: Gamage

MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURNMENT OF REGULAR MEETING:
MOTION by Bowyer seconded by Stout, Moved, to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:50 p.m.
Ayes: All Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED.

NEXT MEETING: May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. – Rochester Municipal Offices
Respectfully submitted,

__________________________________ ___________________________________
MELISSA FORD, Assistant Trail Manager HANK VAN AGEN, Secretary
# Paint Creek Trailways Commission
## Treasurer's Report - Flagstar Bank
### April 2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Balance: 1-Apr-19</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Checking Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Checks (3318,3324,3328,3330)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Revenues:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Rochester Hills - 2019 Annual Operations and Patrol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Race Management - Temporary Permit Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RARA - Temporary Permit Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merchandise sale - Wrist strap key ring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Community Schools - Temporary Permit Fee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Income - April 2019 interest income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenditures:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3333 - Oakland Twp Parks &amp; Rec - 2019 1st Qtr Shared copier costs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3334 - Sandi DiSipio - April 2019 Recorders Fee</td>
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<td><strong>Total Expenditures</strong></td>
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<table>
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<th>Balance: 30-Apr-19</th>
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<tr>
<td>Checking Balance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Checks (3328,3330,3334)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## TRAILWAYS COMMISSION BALANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signed By:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trailways Commission Treasurer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Application for Temporary Use Permit

Name of Applicant/Organization: Orion Veterans Memorial / Orion Township
Address: 2525 Joslyn Rd.
City/State/Zip: Lake Orion, MI 48360
Phone: (248) 391-0304 Fax: ( )
Type of Organization: Local Municipal Government (non-profit)
For-Profit ☐ Non-Profit with 501(c)(3) status ☐ Unofficial Non-Profit or Informal Fundraising Group
Contact Person Name: Jenny Bhatti
Address: 2525 Joslyn Rd.
City/State/Zip Code: Lake Orion, MI 48360
Phone: (248) 494-6709 Fax: ( )
Email Address: jbhatti@oriontownship.org

1. Name of Event or Project: Orion Veterans Memorial Day 5K

2. Is this the first time your event will be held on the Trail? ☑ Yes ☐ No
   If not, when was the last time your event was held on the Trail?

3. Describe intended use: A portion of our 5K will be on the trail

4. Date of Event: 5/27/2019

5. Rain Date (if any): N/A
   Start Time: 9:00am End Time: 10:00am

6. Onsite Contact, Day of the Event: Jenny Bhatti, (248) 494-6709

7. Is entire Trail (from Rochester to Lake Orion) to be used for event or project? If not, specify nearest cross streets to start and end points.
   No. Newton & Paint Creek to Kern to Paint Creek then back

Specific Detail on Route or Locations: If attaching map or drawing, check this box: ☑

8. How many participants are expected? 200

9. Signs/Banners/Advertising on the Trail? ☐ Yes ☑ No
   (All trail signage and locations must be approved by the Trailways Commission)
10. Applicant is required to complete and return the "Paint Creek Trail Temporary Use Permit Report Form" to the Commission within 30 days after the approved event.

11. The Paint Creek Trail is a non-motorized trail. If motorized access is absolutely required, please contact the Trail Manager.

**TERMS of the PERMIT**

1. The permit is issued for the dates and times listed above and for the purposes authorized and for no others. THE PERMIT CAN BE TERMINATED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TRAILWAYS COMMISSION AT ANY TIME, WITHOUT NOTICE AND WITHOUT CAUSE. The permit holder agrees that in the event his/her permit is terminated, he/she will leave the Trail property and will have no claim against the Commission or any of its representatives.

2. The permit holder agrees and understands that this permit is not and shall not create a lease, easement, or other rights not specifically identified in this document. No changes are allowed unless submitted and approved in writing. THE PERMIT HOLDER CANNOT ASSIGN THIS PERMIT TO ANY ONE ELSE.

3. The Commission shall not be liable to the permit holder or anyone authorized under the permit for any loss, injury, or damage to persons or property while they are on or around trail property. All motor vehicles approved for use must be insured. The permit holder agrees to hold the Commission, governments, and representatives harmless and shall indemnify and defend them from all losses, injury, damage, or claims by anyone for any reason caused by or growing out of the use of this permit or activities authorized by this permit.

4. The permit holder must conform to all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, rules and regulations. The permit holder may be required to obtain other governmental permits, or authorization of neighboring property owners, and if so, must do so at his/her own expense.

5. Notices, if any are needed, shall be sufficient if mailed by ordinary mail to the permit holder at the address above.

6. Permit holder or organization representative shall show identification and copy of the permit if requested to do so by a law enforcement officer, community representative, or commission representative.

**THE UNDERSIGNED AGREES TO THE ABOVE TERMS:**

Signature of Applicant/Contact: [Signature]
Print or Type Name: [Name] Date: [Date]

Return Completed Application and supporting documents to:
Paint Creek Trailways Commission
Attn: Temporary Permit Processing
4393 Collins Road
Rochester, MI 48306

For Internal Use Only
Date Application Received: [Date] Amount Received: [Amount] or Administrative Approval Date: [Date]
Date Insurance Received: [Date]
Commission Approval Date: [Date] or Administrative Approval Date: [Date]
Orion Veterans Memorial Day 5k
Start Time 9 am on Anderson Street near just passed 1st entrance to Childrens Parking lot.
This will also be the finish.

Course will go over bridge in front of the art center then continue along the path in Meeks park taking you to Glen Ct and then to Perry St to Atwater. The 5k will turn right onto Atwater and cross the street to Newton. This section of Atwater will require a street closure from 9 am to 9:10 am

Officer will be needed for intermittent road closure while participants cross Atwater to take the new section of trail to the finish.
9:10 am until 10 am

Measure distance
Click on the map to add to your path
Total area: 1,805,123.81 ft² (167,701.49 m²)
Total distance: 3.13 mi (5.04 km)
MEMO

To: Commissioners, Alternates & Staff
From: Melissa Ford, Trail Manager
Subject: 2018 Audit
Date: May 21, 2019

Ramie E. Phillips Jr., CPA, completed our 2018 Financial Audit.

The assets of the Commission exceeded its liabilities at the end of 2018 by a net position of $657,091. Of this, $86,187 was unrestricted, and $2,824 was restricted. The remaining $568,080 reflects our investment in capital assets (land and improvements, office and operating equipment, etc.) The Commission decreased its fund balance by $14,520 from 2017. Mr. Phillips found there were no expenditures over budget.

There is a Budgetary Comparison Schedule in the required supplemental information section (pages 18-21). Mr. Phillips found that the Commission is clearly in compliance with managing their budget.

In preparation for our Bridge Renovation Project, Mr. Phillips has noted the project on pages 5 and 17 of the report. Our system of handling the project as a “Special Project Budget” and not part of operations should be continued.

If there are no questions, concerns, or objections, I recommend that the Commission consider a motion to receive and file the 2018 Audit Report and request that Mr. Phillips transmit it to the Local Audit & Finance Division of the Michigan Department of Treasury.
A. Paint Creek Trail

1. Development of Paint Creek Trail

Development of the Paint Creek Trail has occurred on a phased basis, with priorities established by the Trailways Commission after obtaining public input. A complete list of Trailways parcels property identification numbers and acreage is found in Table 4.1. It should be noted that the Paint Creek Trail parcels are classified as public (nontaxable) property, and therefore are not assessed values by Oakland County Equalization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COMMUNITY</th>
<th>PARCEL IDENTIFICATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>Percentage of Total Acreage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>VILLAGE OF LAKE ORION</td>
<td>09-12-151-045</td>
<td>0.903</td>
<td>0.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09-11-278-075</td>
<td>1.077</td>
<td>0.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>1.98</strong></td>
<td><strong>1.8%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ORION TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>09-12-304-009</td>
<td>11.43</td>
<td>10.39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>09-13-201-003</td>
<td>2.909</td>
<td>2.64%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>14.34</strong></td>
<td><strong>13.03%</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>OAKLAND TOWNSHIP</td>
<td>10-18-503-007</td>
<td>14.82</td>
<td>13.47%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-19-503-001</td>
<td>2.89</td>
<td>2.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-20-503-009</td>
<td>13.95</td>
<td>12.68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-21-503-001</td>
<td>1.13</td>
<td>1.03%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-28-503-013</td>
<td>19.94</td>
<td>18.12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10-33-503-005</td>
<td>14.75</td>
<td>13.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>67.48</strong></td>
<td><strong>61.33%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCHESTER HILLS</td>
<td>15-03-503-005</td>
<td>7.86</td>
<td>7.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-04-503-001</td>
<td>6.20</td>
<td>5.63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-10-503-006</td>
<td>3.10</td>
<td>2.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>17.16</strong></td>
<td><strong>15.59%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROCHESTER</td>
<td>15-10-452-016</td>
<td>7.14</td>
<td>6.49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-14-276-074</td>
<td>1.43</td>
<td>1.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15-14-276-076</td>
<td>0.51</td>
<td>0.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>9.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>8.25%</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Acreage</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>110.04</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Oakland County Property Gateway, April 2019.*

2. General Purpose

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, open from a ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset, with no overnight use permitted under the local Uniform Trailways ordinances.

3. Primary Service Area

The Paint Creek crosses Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, and the Village of Lake Orion connecting to the business districts of Downtown Rochester, Goodison and Lake Orion and connects directly to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. According to SEMCOG’s July 2017 estimates, the combined population of our five trail communities is 144,899. Currently, the Paint Creek Trail serves pedestrians, cyclists, equestrians, anglers, nature enthusiasts, and users of all ages and abilities. The Paint Creek Trail serves approximately 100,000 users annually in all four seasons.

In 2004, Michigan State University conducted a user survey of the Paint Creek Trail, to ascertain number of users, demographic of users, and satisfaction of users. The Downtown Rochester River Walk, at that time called the Paint Creek Walkway, was included in the survey.

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

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 4.1: Adult User Ages**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Adult User Ages</th>
<th>61+</th>
<th>41-60</th>
<th>25-40</th>
<th>19-24</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Most users were on the Trail for two hours or less. Forty-one percent 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. Three percent of uses were by people with disabilities that seriously limited their participation in work or recreation.

The survey was conducted at five different locations along the Trail. Table 4.2 shows the Trail uses by segment.

### Table 4.2: Trails Uses by Segments of the Trail

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trail Segment</th>
<th>Uses per Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Orion to Kerr/Clarkston</td>
<td>5,000-10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerr/Clarkston to Gallagher</td>
<td>10,000-15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallagher to Tienken</td>
<td>15,000-20,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tienken to Roch Main St.</td>
<td>20,000-25,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Main St. Bridge to Library</td>
<td>25,000-30,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The survey found that on average, there were 434 uses per day from May through September 2004. Of those uses, six percent 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.

Since that time, the Paint Creek Trail has made connections with other regional trails increasing our number of users who are now able to traverse between trails with ease.

As part of its Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation 2015-2019 Master Plan, Oakland Township Parks & Recreation mailed questionnaires to all households with registered voters (5,490 households) in Oakland Township. Of the 880 households that responded, seventy-five...
percent of reported that they had used the Paint Creek Trail in 2014. In 2013, Orion Township completed a survey of residents for its 2014 Parks & Recreation Master Plan. Of the 419 surveys tabulated, 75.9% of respondents had visited the Paint Creek Trail one or more times in the past year. The city of Rochester Hills completed a public opinion survey of its residents as part of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan update process in 2016. Of the 550 respondents, 82.44% had visited the Paint Creek Trail in the past year. No recent usage statistics are currently available from the city of Rochester regarding Paint Creek Trail usage by its residents.

The Trailways Commission plans to conduct another user survey working in conjunction with Michigan State University again in 2020.

4. Trailways Facilities and Programs

For ease of description of features, the Paint Creek Trail is divided into nine Management sections (Table 4.3). 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.
# TABLE 4.3: MANAGEMENT SECTIONS AND FACILITIES OF THE PAINT CREEK TRAIL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mgt Section</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Parking Location</th>
<th>Mileage</th>
<th>Bridges</th>
<th>Restroom Facilities(^1)</th>
<th>Signage</th>
<th>Emergency Access Points(^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Atwater to Clarkston/Kern Crossing</td>
<td>Atwater: 12 spaces, North Clarkston/Kern: 8 spaces</td>
<td>1.4 miles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lake Orion businesses; vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 4</td>
<td>Atwater, Newton, Clarkston/Kern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Clarkston/Kern Crossing to Adams Road</td>
<td>South Clarkston/Kern: 8 spaces</td>
<td>1.5 miles</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Vault toilet at Clarkston/Kern</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 9</td>
<td>Clarkston/Kern, Archery, 2500 Orion, Adams Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Adams Road to Gunn Road</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>1.4 miles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 4</td>
<td>Adams Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Gunn Road to Gallagher Road</td>
<td>Gallagher Road: 8 spaces</td>
<td>0.8 miles</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Paint Creek Trail Office</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 1</td>
<td>Gallagher Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Gallagher Road to Silver Bell Road</td>
<td>Gallagher Road: 8 spaces Paint Creek Trail Office: 40</td>
<td>0.6 miles</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Paint Creek Trail Office Drinking Fountain on trail at Flagstar Bank</td>
<td>Mile markers: 3</td>
<td>Gallagher Road, Flagstar Bank, Silver Bell Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Silver Bell Road to Dutton Road</td>
<td>Silver Bell Road: 5 spaces Dutton Road: 5 spaces</td>
<td>1.0 miles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mile markers: 5</td>
<td>Silver Bell Road, Dutton Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Dutton Road to Tienken Road</td>
<td>Dutton Road: 5 spaces Tienken Road: 12 spaces</td>
<td>1.2 miles</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 7</td>
<td>Dutton Road, Tienken Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tienken Road to Mile Marker 31.5</td>
<td>Tienken Road: 12 spaces Rochester Municipal Park: 120 spaces</td>
<td>1.0 miles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Rochester Municipal Park, Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 5</td>
<td>Tienken Road, Ludlow Street, Albertson Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Undeveloped Property</td>
<td>Elizabeth Street/Letica to Bloomer Park</td>
<td>.53</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Mile Markers: 0</td>
<td>Letica Drive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\) It should be noted that the title “rest rooms” also refer to areas on and off the trail right-of-way with public restrooms available.

\(^2\) Locked gates are installed at some intersections to deter motorized vehicles, and yet provide Trail emergency access.
Although facilities along the Trail are intentionally limited, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission still 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, and is available on DVD and on YouTube.

In 2005, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission completed the **Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project** with 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 a 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.

In 2008, the second phase of Millennium Legacy Trail projects was completed. The **Rochester Historical Art Project** was a collaborative effort among the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Rochester-Avon Historical Society, Rochester Historic Commission, Rochester Downtown Development Authority, the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, and the Preede Foundation. This cultural enhancement consists of six glass panel art displays installed at various points along the Downtown Rochester River Walk which showcase the area’s railroad and industrial history.

In 2008, Eagle Scout candidate Bryan Walker constructed and installed five information kiosks at various points along the trail, near parking areas and road crossings. The kiosks are used to post event information, trail maps and amenity information. In 2012, Eagle Scout candidate Kyle Kutchek began work on five Recycle Bins to be placed along the trail. With this enhancement, aluminum cans and plastic bottles will no longer end up in local landfills. In addition, Eagle Scout candidate Mike Alspach began the Paint Creek Trail Brochure Box project, by redesigning and building wooden boxes for brochures and maps. Both projects were completed in 2013 and improved the trail experience for all visitors.

Since its formation in 2010, funding from the non-profit Friends of the Paint Creek Trail has been instrumental in adding needed amenities to the Trail for the benefit of trail users. In
2012, the Friends and local resident Ryan Katulic purchased and donated Bike Fix-it Stations to the Trail which were installed at the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Rochester Municipal Park. The Friends group also donated the funds to install Bike Fix-It Stations at the Tienken trailhead in 2015 and the Village of Lake trail extension in 2018. The stations receive heavy use from cyclists using the Trail. With funding from the Friends, Back to the Beach Runner and the cities of Rochester and Rochester Hills, a drinking fountain was installed at the Tienken trailhead in 2014. Additionally, the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail donated the funds for a dog waste bag dispenser at the Atwater trailhead in the Village of Lake Orion in 2016.

Local community organizations have also contributed enhancements to the Trail. In 2017, Trout Unlimited funded the Angler Access stair project near the Gallagher Road trailhead, providing anglers with direct access to the Paint Creek, the only cold water trout stream in Southeast Michigan. In 2017, the Rochester Hills Public Library installed a Little Free Library near the Paint Creek Trail picnic site south of Gallagher Road and second library near the Trail’s entrance to Rochester Municipal Park. This program aims to inspire a love of reading and build community by fostering public book exchanges.

In 2007, in response to requests to provide the public with opportunities to honor family and friends as well as meet the needs for certain capital improvements/enhancements to the trail, the Trailways Commission initiated a bench donation program. Since that time, thirty-three benches have been added to the Trail, including seven in 2017.

Signage on the Trail consists of information, directional and mile-distance signs and is designed so that it remains compatible with the Trail’s natural environment. At each intersection, two-way signs announce the name of the road crossing. Historic mileage markers are found every half-mile and on bridges along the Trail. At major trail access points, large informational map displays provide information about the Trail and the area around it. The original 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, the graphics department from the HMS Manufacturing Company in Troy, Michigan, approached the Trailways Commission about a community service project. The department offered to re-design the Paint Creek Trail Brochure and Directional and Informational
Signs that are placed along the Trail, as part of their commitment to the community and to the Paint Creek Trail. With a $5,000 grant from the Meijer Corporation, the signs were manufactured and installed in 2008-2009. In 2019, using funds from a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Iron Belle Trail mini grant and local cash match, the Trailways Commission replaced gateway signage, information stations, road crossing/safety signs, map signs and wayfinding signs for the entire Trail. The Iron Belle Trail network logo was also added to the signage to indicate the Paint Creek Trail’s designation as part of the Iron Belle Trail route.

The Trailways Commission owns twelve existing bridges across the Paint Creek that were built circa 1926. 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, and minor improvements were made. In 2010, the City of Rochester inspected the bridge north of Ludlow at mile marker 31.7, and found a few structural issues that need to be addressed. The City of Rochester plans to submit a grant application to leverage local funds to complete the project repairs which are projected to cost more than $300,000. The Trailways Commission is supportive of the project. In 2012, the City of Rochester Hills, through their Capital Improvement Plan, funded bridge, railing, and erosion projects on all three bridges within its jurisdiction. The bridges were found to have some structural damage that limited capacity for maintenance and emergency vehicles. The repairs were completed at a cost of $250,000 and are expected to last for decades. In 2013, a structural inspection of Bridge 33.7 in Oakland Township by engineers with Spalding DeDecker documented the bridge’s deterioration and recommended replacement due to the undermining of structural components, which compromises the safety of the bridge. With funding from a Transportation Alternatives Program grant, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, and local cash matches from the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission and the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, Bridge 33.7 was replaced in 2019. The new bridge is expected to have a lifespan of at least seventy-five years. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission appreciates the support of its trail communities in maintaining the safety of the bridges for current and future trail users.

Although the Paint Creek Trailways Commission does not have a formal activity program, non-profit organizations wishing to use the Trail are encouraged to work with the Trail 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 special event activities on the Trail have a Commission approved permit. Groups with potential Trail activities are asked to 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 small non-refundable permit fee and proof of event liability insurance are required of permit applicants. The Commission also requires organizations to have the approval of the Rochester City Council, if using their Municipal Parking facilities.

Some of the group events held on the Paint Creek Trail in the last five years include: The Brooksie Way, the Rochester Community Schools Foundation Hometown Hustle, Michigan Nature Association Rattlesnake Run, Dragon on the Lake 5k, KUKA Cares Family Bike Ride, Orion Township Firefighters Run with Fire 5k, and Cruisin’ for the Trails Charity Bike Ride. In addition, the Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve has sponsored popular and well-attended historical walks on the Trail. The Trailways Commission has hosted its own annual events over the last 15 years. A National Trails Day Event, held in May or June, provides the opportunity to promote the Paint Creek Trail, and encourage users to get active. 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 were promoted with various themes.

In 2006, in cooperation with the Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness, the Trailways Commission started hosting a “Labor Day Virtual Bridge Walk & Run” event. This event encourages Michigan residents to become more active and incorporate exercise into everyday routines. Each year, the Trailways Commission and the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail promote the event along the trail, and the route crosses some of our railroad bridges. As part of the fun, fudge is offered to our participants for a “Virtual Mackinac Island” experience. The Virtual Bridge Walks are held across the State in conjunction with the Mackinac Bridge Labor Day run and walk with the Governor of Michigan.

5. Accessibility Evaluation

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 consultants from Giffels Webster in 2019, following the Guidelines for the Development of Community Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Plans produced by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in 2006. The following rankings (1-5) were used:

1: None of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
2: Some of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
3: Most of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
4: All of the site elements met 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design
5: The facility meets the Principals of Universal Design
Rankings TBD. This section will be updated once Giffels Webster completes the Accessibility Evaluation later this spring.

6. DNR Recreation Grant Inventory

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

a. **Type of Grant:** Acquisition  
   **Source:** Michigan Land Trust  
   **Grant #** TF493 - $200,000  
   **Year:** 1981  
   **Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail Acquisition  
   **Scope of Project:** Acquisition of 10.5 miles of abandoned Penn Central Railroad  
   **Current Condition:** 8.9 miles are developed with crushed limestone surface.

b. **Type of Grant:** Development  
   **Source:** Land & Water Conservation Fund  
   **Grant #** 26-01401 – $61,500  
   **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 maintained, in fair to good condition.

c. **Type of Grant:** Development  
   **Source:** Inland Fisheries Grant  
   **Grant #** 26-01479 - $121,980  
   **Year:** 1988  
   **Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail-Phase II  
   **Scope of Project:** Development of 7.5 miles of trail, pre-grading, site preparation and limestone.  
   **Current Condition:** Well maintained; good condition

d. **Type of Grant:** Development
Source: Land & Water Conservation Fund/Recreation Improvement Fund
Grant # 26-01515 – $18,750
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 due to condition of signs, new map & contact information. Road crossing signage and mile markers well maintained and in good condition.

e. Type of Grant: Development
Source: MNRTF
Grant #: TF02-125 - $58,900
Year: 2002
Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Enhancement Project
Scope of Project: Picnic Area at Tienken, Picnic Area and drinking fountain south of Gallagher, Foley Pond Observation Deck, Vault Toilet at Clarkston/Kern.
Current Condition: Excellent.

f. Type of Grant: Development
Source: MNRTF
Grant #: TF16-0008
Year: 2016
Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Bridge Renovation
Scope of Project: Replacement of Bridge 33.7 on the Paint Creek Trail
Current Condition: TBD

Source: MDNR – IBT Mini Grant
Grant #: IBTMG 18-02
Year: 2018
Name of Project: Paint Creek Trail Signage Project
Scope of Project: Design and installation of PTC and IBT signage
Current Condition: TBD

Total Value of DNR Grants Received: $786,130
7. Additional Grant Inventory

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

a. **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.

b. **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.

c. **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

d. **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

e. **Type of Grant:** Art Project Grant
   **Source:** Bordine Family Horticultural Beautification Fund (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)
   **Year:** 2004
   **Amount:** $2,500
   **Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail Prairie Restoration Video
   **Scope of Project:** This grant funding was used for the professional filming and distribution of 2 versions of the Prairie Restoration process. One version documented the entire process. A second version was created as an educational teaching tool for middle school children in the Rochester and Lake Orion school districts.
   **Current Condition:** Excellent

f. **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

g. **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

h. **Type of Grant:** Matching Funds Grant  
**Source:** Rochester Downtown Development Authority  
**Year:** 2007  
**Amount:** $3,763  
**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

i. **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

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**j. 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

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**k. Type of Grant:** Development

**Source:** DALMAC Fund

**Year:** 2007

**Amount:** $10,000

**Name of Project:** Atwater Extension Resurfacing Project

**Scope of Project:** This grant funding was used to surface ¼ mile of trail in the Village of Lake Orion. Orion Township and the Lake Orion DDA also contributed to this project.

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**l. Type of Grant:** Development

**Source:** Meijer Corporation

**Year:** 2008-2009

**Amount:** $5,000

**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 displays, placed at
various access points along the trail. The signs replaced outdated and worn signs that were installed in 1992.

**Current Condition:** Excellent

m. **Type of Grant:** Development  
**Source:** Hostelling International  
**Year:** 2011  
**Amount:** $1,500  
**Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail Girl Scout Program  
**Scope of Project:** This grant funding was used to develop a trail education program geared for the Girls Scouts of America  
**Current Condition:** N/A

n. **Type of Grant:** Development  
**Source:** Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)  
**Year:** 2018  
**Amount:** $300,000  
**Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 Renovation  
**Scope of Project:** This grant funding was used to fund the replacement of Bridge 33.7  
**Current Condition:** TBD

o. **Type of Grant:** Development  
**Source:** Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation (as administered by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester)  
**Year:** 2019  
**Amount:** $408,000  
**Name of Project:** Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7 and Trail Surface Renovation  
**Scope of Project:** This grant funding was used to fund the replacement of Bridge 33.7 and resurface the entire Paint Creek Trail  
**Current Condition:** TBD

Total Number of non-DNR Grants Received: 15  
Total Value of non-DNR Grants Received: $772,763
B. Regional Recreation Facilities

1. State, County and Regional Parks

Table 4.4 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 Oakland Township and abutting the trail in Orion Township. 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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>FACILITY</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Huron-Clinton Metroparks</td>
<td>Indian Springs Metropark</td>
<td>2,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lake St. Clair Metropark</td>
<td>938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stoney Creek Metropark</td>
<td>4,435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wolcott Mill Metropark</td>
<td>2,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michigan Department of Natural Resources</td>
<td>Bald Mountain Recreation Area</td>
<td>4,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland County Parks</td>
<td>Addison Oaks County Park</td>
<td>1,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Independence Oaks Park</td>
<td>1,286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orion Oaks Park</td>
<td>916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waterford Oaks</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Websites for Individual Agencies, May 2019

2. Collaborative Trail Planning Efforts in Southeast Michigan
   a. History of Greenways in Southeast Michigan

Trail planning efforts in Southeast Michigan gained momentum in the early 1990’s. The Southeast Michigan Greenways Initiative was founded in 1990 to build public support for a connected trail system. In 1994, the City of Detroit included the development of Greenways in its land use plan to enhance the city’s redevelopment efforts. In 1999, the Downriver Linked Greenways Initiative was formed to plan a connected greenways system among twenty-one downriver communities.

As public support began to build for projects, funding for trails and greenway projects grew. In 2001, the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan established the GreenWays Initiative to help build a connected network of trails. Through $33 million in foundation and private contributions, and another $125 million of matching investments from government and other sources, the GreenWays Initiative has helped more than 80 municipalities plan, design,
finance, and build more than 100 miles of connected greenways across southeast Michigan. In 2003, the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy was formed to develop the Detroit River Walk. Over $100 million was raised and when completed, the River Walk will be 5.5 miles long, and will connect the Belle Isle Bridge with the Ambassador Bridge. In 2007, the Detroit Greenway Coalition was formed by sixteen stakeholders to develop 70 miles of trails and 400 miles of bike lanes in Detroit. The demand for connected trails and greenways continues to grow in Southeast Michigan.

b. Oakland County Trail Network

For years, the Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Division 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 4.1) 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. In April 2012, OTAC merged with the Oakland County Natural Areas Advisory Group to become the Oakland County Trails, Water, & Lands Alliance (TWLA). Comprised of various stakeholders and agencies, TWLA supports the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Network’s trail and natural areas initiatives. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission has been an active participant in the OTAC and TWLA organizations, and has been an excellent resource for newer trail systems. Table 4.5 lists the major Oakland County Trails:
### Table 4.5: Oakland County Trails

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Surface</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Paint Creek Trail</strong></td>
<td>Rochester, Rochester Hills, Oakland Township, Orion Township, Village of Lake Orion</td>
<td>8.9 miles</td>
<td>Crushed limestone, asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Clinton River Trail</strong></td>
<td>Sylvan Lake, Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Rochester, Rochester Hills</td>
<td>16 miles</td>
<td>Crushed limestone, asphalt, recycled asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Headwaters Trail</strong></td>
<td>Groveland Twp, Holly Twp, Rose Twp, Springfield Twp, Village of Holly</td>
<td>16 miles</td>
<td>Water, asphalt, crushed limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Huron Valley Trail</strong></td>
<td>South Lyon, Lyon Twp, Milford Twp</td>
<td>10.5 miles</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Lakes Community Trail</strong></td>
<td>Commerce, Wolverine Lake, Walled Lake, Wixom</td>
<td>3.5 miles</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>West Bloomfield Trail</strong></td>
<td>West Bloomfield, Orchard Lake, Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake</td>
<td>6.8 miles</td>
<td>Crushed limestone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>I-275 Metro Trail</strong></td>
<td>Novi, Wayne County</td>
<td>33.2 miles</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>M-5 Metro Trail</strong></td>
<td>Novi, Commerce Township</td>
<td>2.2 miles</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Michigan Air Line Trail</strong></td>
<td>Commerce Township, Walled Lake, Wixom</td>
<td>6 miles</td>
<td>Currently undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Milford Trail</strong></td>
<td>Milford</td>
<td>8.6 miles</td>
<td>Asphalt</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**c. Trails with Potential for Linkage to the Paint Creek Trail**

In the last twenty-five years, the popularity of and public demand for multi-use trails has resulted in two trails that are linked to the Paint Creek Trail. To the southeast, the Macomb Orchard Trail extends from Dequindre Road in Shelby Township northeast 22 miles into Richmond. The Paint Creek Trail is linked with the Macomb Orchard Trail via a short segment of the Clinton River Trail in the City of Rochester.

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 rail bed became the very popular Polly Ann Trail. The Polly Ann Trail extends 20 miles into Lapeer County, to approximately 35 miles long.
The segment 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. In 2008, four route options were identified in the Paint Creek & Polly Ann Trails Gap Analysis as part of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan. The routes ranged from a 3.65 mile connection to a 6.81 mile connection. Some of them utilize residential streets and safety paths, while others utilize main roads. Each route has its advantages and challenges. However, through proper planning and collaboration among stakeholders, one or more connections can be implemented. One of the suggested routes utilizes Bald Mountain State Recreation Area, which has an extensive trail system of its own, and is a logical choice for a link to the Paint Creek Trail. In 2011, Orion Township developed and surfaced a Connector 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. In 2018, Orion Township completed the first phase of linking the Paint Creek Trail to the Polly Ann Trail with the construction of a safety path and boardwalk along the north side of Clarkston Road. The next phase will continue the trail west to the Paint Creek Trail where it crosses Clarkston Road and is expected to be completed in 2020. The 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 Polly Ann Trail to the north and west, and the Macomb Orchard Trail to the southeast, it is conceivable one day that enthusiasts of these three trails alone could enjoy a system of over 65 miles.

d. Iron Belle Trail

In 2012, the Governor of Michigan announced a trail network initiative that would connect Belle Isle, in Detroit, to Wisconsin, utilizing existing and proposed trail and pathway connections. Two routes make up the Iron Belle Trail; one for hikers and one for bicyclists. Currently, the hiking route is 1,259 long and the bicycle route is 774 miles long. When complete, the trail will extend more than 2,000 miles. As of 2019, more than sixty percent of both routes (bicycling and hiking) are already completed, and partners are working to establish temporary connectors that will be made permanent as resources become available. The new construction would utilize abandoned railroads, and path systems through State and local parks. Federal, state and local units of government are working to complete the trail by acquiring trail easements from willing sellers. Both routes stretch from Detroit to Ironwood, each taking a separate route to complete the
journey. Most of the hiking route will follow the North Country National Scenic Trail between Calhoun and Gogebic Counties. The trail traverses the west side of the Lower Peninsula, and borders Lake Superior in the Upper Peninsula. The Paint Creek Trail is part of the bicycle route portion of the Iron Belle Trail network. When complete, the trail will connect southeast Michigan north to Bay City, west to Midland, north through the North Central State Trail between Gaylord and Mackinaw City to U.S. Bicycle Route 10 and routes along U.S. Highway 2 across the Upper Peninsula. The proposed route is detailed in Map 4.2:

Map 4.2: Proposed Belle Isle to Wisconsin Trail (Needs to be updated)

e. Oakland County Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure is the interconnected network of open spaces, natural areas, and waterways. This network supports native species, maintains natural ecological processes, sustains air and water resources, and contributes to health and quality of life. It also focuses on conservation values and the services provided by natural systems in concert with, instead of in opposition to, land development.
Green infrastructure provides a mechanism to identify and blend environmental and economic factors creating a multitude of social, economic, cultural, and environmental benefits. The benefits include:

- Providing a sense of place and a unique identity
- Decreasing cost of public infrastructure (i.e. storm water management & water treatment systems)
- Increasing both active and passive recreational opportunities
- Increasing property values
- Helping preserve the unique quality of life
- Maintaining the naturally functioning ecosystems
- Helping to attract new businesses and well qualified workers

There are three components of a Green Infrastructure Network. They include hubs, sites and links. Hubs anchor the network and provide an origin or destination for wildlife and range in size from large conservation areas to smaller parks and preserves. They provide habitat for native wildlife and help maintain natural ecological processes. Sites are smaller ecological landscape features that can serve as a point of origin or destination or incorporate less extensive ecological important areas. Links are the connections that hold the network together and enable it to function. Links facilitate movement from one hub to another.

In 2009, a Green Infrastructure Vision was developed for Oakland County in order to identify areas in the landscape that are in need of local protection and link the remaining valuable ecological lands. These lands include large natural areas, important wildlife habitats, wetlands, riparian corridors, and areas that reflect key elements of Oakland County’s biological diversity.

This locally driven initiative gathered input from a wide variety of stakeholders. Key stakeholders from the trail communities participated in one of many work sessions for the Oakland County Green Infrastructure Vision. The area surrounding the Paint Creek Trail has been identified as a key recreation link in the Green Infrastructure Vision and the riparian area surrounding the Paint Creek has been identified as an urban hub, and is shown in Map 4.3.

More information about the Green Infrastructure Vision can be found in the Appendix of this document.
f. Community Bike Path Systems

**Rochester Hills:** The excellent 82-mile system of pedestrian pathways throughout Rochester Hills is a testament to the City’s commitment to linking parks and schools. Typically, the pathways are along major and minor arterial roads, such as the bike path along Tienken Road that crosses the Paint Creek Trail. These pathways offer a non-motorized alternative for access to the Paint Creek Trail and other recreational facilities throughout the City. A 0.1858 mill pathway millage was enacted by a vote of the people in 2006 and continues through 2026. The Citizens Pathway Review Committee was established by City Council in 2007 for the purpose of suggesting, reviewing, ranking and recommending future pathway projects.

**Orion Township:** There are over fifty miles of pathways 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. In 2012, Orion Township constructed a Kern Road spur connecting an existing pathway to the Paint Creek Trail. The first phase of pathway development along Clarkston Road in 2018 began the processing of linking the Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails.

**Oakland Township:** Township Ordinances require developers to install bike paths as part of their development infrastructure along roads designated for bike paths. 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, was leveraged against federal and state grants. Oakland Township plans 32.6 miles of pathways. According to the Parks, Recreation, and Land Preservation Master Plan (2015-2019), “the continued development of a comprehensive pathway and trail system throughout the Township (will) link all areas of the community with non-motorized travel”. With the passing of the millage, the Township places priority on connecting new developments to parks, schools, neighborhoods, and 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 0.67 mile paved path that connects the southern terminus of the Paint Creek Trail with 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 (Lions Park), gazebo and small amphitheater is adjacent to the bridge; a similar sized vest-pocket park (the Rotary Gateway 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. In 2012, the Rochester DDA completed enhancements to the River Walk, including planters, stairs, lighting, and stonework along the creek, at a project cost near $760,000.

**C. Local Recreation Facilities**

1. City of Rochester
   a. Administrative: City of Rochester Parks Department
Established in 1974, the Rochester Parks 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: 10 parks and trails are presently operated within the City, consisting of approximately 150 acres of parkland. (Table 4.6). 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 maintained portion of the Trail. There is ample parking and restrooms available in the park or at the city hall during normal operating hours.

Table 4.6: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Rochester River Walk</td>
<td>Rochester Municipal Park to Second Street</td>
<td>0.67 Mile</td>
<td>Connects Paint Creek Trail with Clinton River Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Municipal Park</td>
<td>Pine Street/Ludlow</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>City Hall Site/ Adjacent to Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Halbach Field</td>
<td>Woodward Street</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td>Adjacent to Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Grove</td>
<td>Woodward Street</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>Adjacent to Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Street Park</td>
<td>Woodward/Scott Street</td>
<td>7.35</td>
<td>Across the street from Halbach Field, Rochester Community Garden location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Older Persons Center</td>
<td>Letica Drive</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>Adjacent to Clinton River Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samuel Howlett Park</td>
<td>Inglewood Street</td>
<td>13.1</td>
<td>Undeveloped; Open Space</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton River Trail</td>
<td>Clinton River</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>Developed; Crushed limestone surface</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Street Park</td>
<td>Elizabeth Street</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>Neighborhood park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve</td>
<td>North Hill Circle</td>
<td>17.5</td>
<td>Adjacent to Trail</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Rochester, Michigan Parks & Recreation Master Plan 2012-2016

2. City of Rochester Hills
   a. Administrative: The Parks and Forestry Department 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 owns and maintains over 1,000 acres in fourteen parks in addition to two undeveloped parks and a number of green space properties (Table 4.7). The parks are of various sizes, and have a wide range of recreational opportunities.

c. Green Space and Natural Features: In 2005, voters approved a 10-year, 0.3-mill ballot question to permanently preserve green spaces, wildlife habitat, and scenic views; protect woodlands, wetlands, rivers, and streams; and expand the Clinton River greenway and other trail corridors by funding the purchase of land and interests in land for 2005-2014. This millage collection period concluded in 2015. In 2013 the voters in Rochester Hills approved a ballot proposal that allowed for the use of funds from the 2005 Open Space Millage to not only be used to purchase land but for stewardship of the existing City owned Green Space properties and natural features owned or controlled by the City of Rochester Hills. In September 2014, the Rochester Hills City Council also established the Green Space Perpetual Care Trust Fund to provide for the preservation, protection, restoration and enhancements to its Green Space properties as well as educational opportunities for its residents.

Table 4.7: Local Recreation Inventory – City of Rochester Hills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major Parks</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thelma G. Spencer Park</td>
<td>John R. &amp; M-59</td>
<td>113.0</td>
<td>38 acre lake, swimming, fishing, playground, beach, other activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl E. Borden Park</td>
<td>Hamlin/John R. Road.</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>Ball diamonds, soccer fields, basketball &amp; tennis courts, batting cage, in-line skating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yates Roadside Park</td>
<td>Avon Road</td>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>On Clinton River, fishing, picnic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Riverbend Park</td>
<td>Hamlin Road</td>
<td>118.4</td>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eugene S. Nowicki Park</td>
<td>Adams Road</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>Pathway system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avondale Park</td>
<td>Bathurst Avenue</td>
<td>18.5</td>
<td>Ball diamond, sand volleyball, basketball courts, tennis courts, picnic areas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinton River Trail</td>
<td>Adams Road to City of Rochester border</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>Linear park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomer Park</td>
<td>John R. Road</td>
<td>206.9</td>
<td>Velodrome, picnic shelters, nature paths, volleyball courts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Major Parks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood Parks</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen V. Allen Park</td>
<td>School Road</td>
<td>9.9</td>
<td>Ball diamonds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wabash Park</td>
<td>Wabash Road</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Playground, community garden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tienken Road Park Property</td>
<td>Tienken Road</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Use</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon Nature Area</td>
<td>Avon Road/Livernois</td>
<td>97.4</td>
<td>Nature paths, Clinton River frontage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pine Trace Golf Park</td>
<td>South Blvd.</td>
<td>1993.8</td>
<td>Pine Trace Public 18 hole golf course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veterans Memorial Pointe</td>
<td>Livernois Road</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>Gazebo, memorial pathway, granite monument</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm</td>
<td>Van Hoosen Road</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>Historic farm &amp; museum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oakland Land Conservancy Heron Rookery</td>
<td>Adams/Hamlin</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>On Clinton River</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Resource Areas/Open Space</td>
<td>Six parcels located throughout the city</td>
<td>64.9</td>
<td>All have Clinton River frontage and woodlands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: City of Rochester Hills Parks and Recreation Master Plan 2016-2020

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. The majority of funding to support the Township’s parks and recreation system comes from two millages, the park millage (Park Fund) and the land preservation millage (Land Preservation Fund). The park millage was approved in 2006 for a 10-year period. The land preservation millage, initiated in 2001 for a 10-year period as well, was extended 10 more years through an early renewal in 2006. Both millages began as 0.75 mills each, but have been annually rolled back as required by state law. Each fund has different obligations and two separate budgets.

   b. Existing Parks and Facilities: The Township presently owns eighteen park properties and natural resource areas (See Table 4.8). While all of the properties are open to the public, limited or no facilities are available at the parks. The Township offer programmed activities, and is looking to implement even more programs in the future to meet the demands of its growing population.
Table 4.8: Local Recreation Inventory – Oakland Township

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bear Creek Nature Park</td>
<td>Snell Road</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>Trails, boardwalks, decks, playground, picnic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles F. Ilsley Park</td>
<td>East Predmore Road</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>Undeveloped/mowed trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blue Heron Environmental Area</td>
<td>Rochester Road, between Gunn &amp; Buell</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>Undeveloped, Blue heron rookery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cranberry Lake Park</td>
<td>West Predmore Road</td>
<td>213</td>
<td>Nationally Registered historic farm &amp; woodchip/mowed trail system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mill Race Trail</td>
<td>Gallagher Road</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>Woodchip trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gallagher Creek Park</td>
<td>Silvebell Road</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh View Park</td>
<td>Adams &amp; Clarkston Roads</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>Sport fields, archery range</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draper Twin Lake Park</td>
<td>Inwood/Parks Roads</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Fishing, woodchip/mowed trail system</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lost Lake Nature Park</td>
<td>Lost Lake Trail</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>Boating, fishing, sledding hill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsh View Connector</td>
<td>Adams &amp; Clarkston Road</td>
<td>2.97</td>
<td>Future connector trail to Bald Mtn &amp; Paint Creek Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint Creek Heritage Area – Fen</td>
<td>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>Undeveloped; maintained as prairie fen wetland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint Creek Heritage Area – Wet Prairie</td>
<td>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail, northwest of Silverbell &amp; Orion Roads</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Undeveloped; maintained as natural prairie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paint Creek Junction Park</td>
<td>Orion Road, adjacent to Paint Creek Trail</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stoney Creek Ravine Nature Park</td>
<td>Snell Road/Knob Creek Drive</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Undeveloped</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Watershed Ridge Park</td>
<td>Buell &amp; Lake George Roads</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>Woodlands, wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O’Connor Nature Park</td>
<td>Rochester &amp; Mead Roads</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mature oak woodlands, marshes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hirt Easement</td>
<td>Near Paint Creek Trail at Silver Bell</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wet meadow &amp; creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kamin Easement</td>
<td>Adjacent to Paint Creek Trail south of Silver Bell</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Upland oak forest, floodplain forest</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Oakland Charter Township Parks, Recreation, & Land Preservation Master Plan 2015-2019

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 nine member Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee works with the Department 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 nine parks consisting of approximately 527 acres (See Table 4.9). Civic Center and Friendship Parks allow for a variety of passive and programmed activities.

**Table 4.9: Local Recreation Inventory – Orion Township**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>NOTES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Camp Agawam</td>
<td>Clarkston Road</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>Outdoor auditorium, camping, playground, swimming, trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center Park</td>
<td>Joslyn &amp; Greenshield</td>
<td>78.86</td>
<td>Ballfields, Soccer, Playgrounds, Walking path, basketball, amphitheater, trails</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Civic Center Park – North</td>
<td>Joslyn between Greenshield &amp; Scripps</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>Natural resource area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friendship Park</td>
<td>Clarkston &amp; Baldwin</td>
<td>134.97</td>
<td>Ballfields, Soccer, Playgrounds, Walking path, pavilion, gazebo, historic Porritt Barn, historic Howarth School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heron Springs</td>
<td>Silverbell &amp; Bald Mountain</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Natural resource area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesse Decker Park</td>
<td>Squirrel &amp; Silver Bell</td>
<td>16.49</td>
<td>Multi-purpose sports fields, playgrounds, tennis courts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McConnell Field</td>
<td>McConnell, between Chalice &amp; Peters</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>In an established residential neighborhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orion Center</td>
<td>Joslyn Road</td>
<td>11.06</td>
<td>Senior and recreational programming; adjacent to Polly Ann Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gingell Nature Area</td>
<td>Maybee &amp; Baldwin</td>
<td>38.90</td>
<td>Nature preserve, unimproved trails, undeveloped</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Orion Township Parks & Recreation 5-Year Master Plan 2019-2023

5. The Village of Lake Orion

The Village of Lake Orion is a non-voting member of the Trailways Commission, and as the Trail’s northern terminus is in the Village, it carries an interest in the activities of the Trailways Commission. Although it largely depends on Orion Township for a majority of its
recreation programming, the Village of Lake Orion has six parks totaling approximately 10 acres, as shown in Table 4.10.

Table 4.10: Local Recreation Inventory – Village of Lake Orion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atwater Park</td>
<td>Perry &amp; Atwater</td>
<td>3.14</td>
<td>Playground, ballfields</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green’s Park</td>
<td>East side M-24 south of Flint Street</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>Beach, basketball, playground</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meeks Park</td>
<td>South of Orion Art Center along Paint Creek</td>
<td>1.62</td>
<td>Paved walking trail, picnic tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Park</td>
<td>South of Front Street between Broadway and Anderson</td>
<td>1.54</td>
<td>Gazebo, playground, Paint Creek access</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unger Park</td>
<td>Bellevue Street</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>Playground, bike rack, picnic area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swiss Village Park</td>
<td>Central Drive</td>
<td>0.57</td>
<td>Open Space, playground, basketball, picnic area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Village of Lake Orion website, accessed May 2019

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 programs. 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
- Stoney Creek Running Club
- Rochester Rotary Club
- Rochester-Youth Soccer League
- Lake Orion Horseshoe Club
- LOBOS Soccer Club
- Lake Orion Youth Basketball league
MEMO

To: Commissioners, Alternates & Staff
From: Melissa Ford
Subject: June 18, 2019 Meeting Location & Field Trip
Date: May 21, 2019

The Commission has annually held a regular meeting, then adjourned for a “field trip” on the trail for the last several years. Usually this occurs in June, when the days are longest.

This year, I am recommending that we have our “field trip” in the Village of Lake Orion, to view the new Paint Creek Trail extension.

If the Commission decides this is where they would like to visit this year, I recommend moving the June 18 meeting to the Cider Mill instead of Rochester Municipal Offices.

If you have other ideas for a “field trip” on the trail, please bring them with you to the meeting. Last year, the Commission visited the site of the Cider Mill Gateway Project, the year before that, the Commission visited the Bridge 33.7 project site.
MEMO

To: Commissioners, Alternates and Staff
From: Melissa Ford, Trail Manager
Subject: May Manager’s Report
Date: May 21, 2019

Advisory Committee Reports
The Branding Committee is still working on finalizing the Iron Bell Trail Grant RFP for Signage Design Services. The Master Plan Committee reviewing the Recreation Inventory section will provide an update at the meeting.

Complaints/Vandalism
We have had complaints about some maintenance issues on the trail this month. We have followed up with the municipalities to fix the issues. We have also received a large number of calls, emails and social media messages about the upcoming construction work. Staff has answered the questions and directed inquirers to follow our social media channels and website for current updates.

Medical Emergencies/Police/Fire Calls on the Trail
I am unaware of any Medical Emergencies/Police/ or Fire calls on the Trail.

Finances
• Approval of the audit is on the agenda.
• All Member Community invoices for 2019 Operations and Patrol have been received.
• All January license fee invoices to various utilities have been received.

Follow Up
• Bridge 33.7 Renovation: The contractor is indicating that construction on the bridge will not begin until early July. An update will be provided at the Special Joint Meeting.
• Resurfacing: We received two bids for the resurfacing project. Review and approval of the bid results and contract award is on the agenda for the Special Joint Meeting.
• National Trails Day: We have secured three sponsors for the event: Cookies and Cream by Sprout Bake is our presenting sponsor; Oat Soda and the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail are our contributing sponsors. The event will be held Saturday, June 1st from 1-4pm in downtown Lake Orion. We hope to see you there! Visit http://paintcreektrail.org/wordpress/2019-national-trails-day/ for the schedule of events.
• Private Foundation grant: We have publicly announced the grant from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and have received some press as a result. The funds have been received by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester.

Future Agenda Items
♦ Vandalism Ordinance in Orion Township
Iron Belle Trail Grant RFP for Signage Design Services

**Promotion of the Trail**

- Our Facebook page has 6,012 followers, an increase of 144 since last month.
- Our Twitter account has 674 followers, an increase of 5 since last month.
- Our Instagram Account has 545 followers, an increase of 21 since last month.
- Our E-Newsletter has 130 subscribers.
- I’ve posted information and photos on social media.
- I’ve spent 2 hours on the trail this past month.

**Paint Creek Trail Website Analytics**

In the last 30 days, we had 8,712 visitors, with 138,616 visits. The top 10 visited pages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Pages</th>
<th>Last 30 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Page</td>
<td>10,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Maps</td>
<td>1,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>1,061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>1,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>448</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Conditions</td>
<td>407</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019 Construction Updates</td>
<td>399</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In April, we had 9,629 visitors, with 62,443 visits. The top 10 visited pages:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top Pages</th>
<th>March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Home Page</td>
<td>7,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>1,370</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parking</td>
<td>1,174</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Maps</td>
<td>866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Conditions</td>
<td>461</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RFP’s</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mileage</td>
<td>242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail History</td>
<td>227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-Newsletter</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Commission Ad-Hoc Committee Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee Assignment</th>
<th>Members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Recognition Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Gamage, Olijnyk, Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personnel Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Steele, Van Agen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rochester Hills Art/Pathway Project committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Bowyer, Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SE Rochester Property Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Gamage, Russell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Labor Day Bridge Walk (Sept 2) Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Bowyer, Ferriolo, Olijnyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Orion Membership Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Steele, Van Agen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Branding Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Gamage, Ford, Loebs, Olijnyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Improvements Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Bowyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resurfacing Ad Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Gamage, Steele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Memorial Ad-Hoc committee</td>
<td>Becker, Blanchard, Ferriolo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan Ad Hoc committee for Planning Consultants</td>
<td>Becker, Bowyer, Steele</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan Ad Hoc committee to Review Community Description Section</td>
<td>Blanchard, Gamage, Van Agen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan Ad Hoc committee to Review Administrative Structure Section</td>
<td>Blanchard, Bowyer, Olijnyk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan Ad Hoc committee to Review Recreation Inventory</td>
<td>Blanchard, Stout, Van Agen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master Plan Ad Hoc committee to Review Planning and Public Input Process</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2019 Goals**

### Administrative Priority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Continue coordinating assistance with Friends of the Paint Creek Trail (ongoing)</th>
<th>Cruisin’ For the Trails 2019: Steve Johnson of Motor City Brew Tours has informed us that he will be alternating the Cruisin’ for the Trails event between Friends of Paint Creek Trail and Friends of Clinton River Trail. The 2019 event will benefit the Friends of the Clinton River Trail.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Continue Trail etiquette education (ongoing)</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Brochure/Map Update</td>
<td>Branding Committee requested guidance.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue coordination and participation with Oakland County Trail, Water &amp; Land Alliance (TWLA)</td>
<td>Trail manager Ford attended the April TWLA meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trail Closure education/public relations/Communications Plan campaign in 2019 (Ongoing)</td>
<td>Ongoing. Continue to utilize social media, website and other resources to provide information to trail users.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adopt –A-Trail program</td>
<td>The first cleanup was held in early May. A second cleanup will occur in October.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure a smooth transition when Melissa is on Maternity Leave.</td>
<td>Personnel Committee will meet to develop leave plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Master Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Complete 2020-2024 Master Plan Update</th>
<th>The three chapters are completed and have been reviewed by Ad Hoc committees. Plan update will be completed in accordance with Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) guidance documents and include all requisite components for certification by the MDNR.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Southeast Rochester Property Development</td>
<td>Melissa presented the project to the Rochester City Council at their May 13 meeting. City Council appeared to be favorable to the project and asked that PCTC submit budget information for review.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning &amp; Development Goals</td>
<td>Progress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wayfinding signage in Rochester and Lake Orion</td>
<td>Received Iron Belle Trail Grant. Draft RFP created by Branding committee.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge 33.7 Renovation Project – work with OTPRC, MDOT, and DNR to replace bridge</td>
<td>C.A. Hull Company, Inc. returned the lowest bid: $670,327.89. <em>Construction is tentatively set to begin at the beginning of July and should be completed by Labor Day weekend.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Rochester – Bridge Replacement</td>
<td>City of Rochester has received bridge inspection report. Will send to PCTC once they have reviewed it.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policies</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Native Plant Approval Policy</td>
<td>No progress yet. Need expert assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation Stewardship Policy</td>
<td>No progress yet. Need expert assistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance Policy</td>
<td>Auditor made recommendation in 2018 to keep $25,000 (3 months) worth of expenses in fund balance.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maintenance</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assure Restrooms are maintained (ongoing)</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue vandalism prevention education (ongoing)</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continue surface maintenance inspections and coordination of repairs (ongoing)</td>
<td>Ongoing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road Crossing improvements – work with RCOC</td>
<td>Ongoing. Continue working with RCOC for improvements at our crossings.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Term Goals</th>
<th>Progress</th>
<th>Progress</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Polly Ann Connection</td>
<td>Ongoing. The first phase of the Clarkston Road Paint Creek Trail-Polly Ann Trail connector completed.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Side parcel acquisition for parking and trail access</td>
<td>Will continue looking for opportunities</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition of historic resources</td>
<td>Will continue looking for opportunities</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Installation of drinking fountain, where appropriate, in each community</td>
<td>Back to the Beach Runners have donated $2,500 to the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail for a water fountain at Paint Creek Junction.</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village of Lake Orion Membership on PCTC</td>
<td>The Commission approved the agreement with the Village of Lake Orion at their April 2019 meeting. The Village of Lake Orion approved the agreement at their May 13, 2019 meeting.</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ensure focus on keeping the trail a “Natural Beauty Trail”.</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>