

# Section A: Applicant Site and Project Information

## Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

## Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund

### 2023 Grant Application

*This information is requested by authority of Part 19 of Act 451 of 1994, to be considered for a recreation grant.*

Is the application for site development or land acquisition?

Development

Acquisition

#### \*Name of Applicant (Government Unit)

*Paint Creek Trailways Commission*

#### \*SIGMA Vendor Number

██████████

#### \*SIGMA Address ID

██████████

#### \*Name of Authorized Representative

*Melissa Ford*

#### \*Title

*Trail Manager*

#### Address

*4393 Collins Road*

#### City

*Rochester*

#### State

*MI*

#### \*ZIP

*48306*

#### \*County

*Oakland County*

#### Telephone

*(248) 651-9260*

#### \*E-mail

*manager@paintcreektrail.org*

#### \*State House District

*District 55*

#### \*State Senate District

*District 9*

#### \*U.S. Congress District

*District 10*

The following link contains District Maps - <https://www.michigan.gov/micro/mapping-process/final-maps>

#### \*Proposal Title (Not to exceed 60 characters)

*Paint Creek Trail Bridge 31.7 Renovation*

**\*Proposal Description**

*Development of a single-span prefabricated seventy-foot long steel truss bridge on the Paint Creek Trail, a regional trail included in the Iron Belle Trail. A structural inspection of the existing nearly 100-year old timber railroad bridge documented extensive decay of its structural components which compromises the safety of the bridge. The bridge traverses the Paint Creek, southeast Michigan's premier cold-water trout stream. Existing recreation opportunities which will continue with this bridge's renovation include fishing, bicycling, walking and running, cross-country skiing, and nature observation. The renovation will greatly improve accessibility for both trail users as well as emergency and maintenance vehicles, increasing clear width from less 8' to 14' and ensuring the ability to support a 10-ton emergency vehicle.*

<b>*Address of Site</b>	<b>*City, Village or Township of Site</b>	<b>*Zip</b>
Sidwell 15-10-452-016	Rochester	48307

<b>*Park Name</b>	<b>*County in which Site is located</b>
Paint Creek Trail	Oakland

**\*Town, Range and Section Numbers of Site Location**

*Letters must be upper-case:  
(examples: T02N, R13E, 22)*

**\*Latitude/Longitude at park entrance**

<b>(Town)</b>	<b>(Range)</b>	<b>(Section)</b>	<b>(Latitude)</b>	<b>(Longitude)</b>
T03N	R11E	10	42.688710	-83.142521
\$		\$		\$

# Section B: Project Funding and Explanation of Match Sources

**Instructions:**

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**SOURCES OF MATCHING FUNDS**
**PROJECT COST AMOUNTS**

<b>*Grant amount requested (round to the nearest hundred dollars)</b>	\$300,000
<b>Total Match (Must be at least 25% of total project cost)</b>	\$658,800
<b>Total Project Cost (Must equal the total estimated cost on Section C: Project Details page)</b>	\$958,800
Percentage of match commitment ( <b>Must be at least 25% of total project cost</b> )	68 %
a) General Funds or Local Restricted Funds (Applicant's own cash)	\$191,800
b) Force Account Labor/Materials (Applicant's own paid labor or materials)	\$
c) Federal or State Funds	\$467,000

You have entered a value for item c). **Please provide the information below for each federal or state program from which matching funds will be provided.**

<b>*(1) Program Name</b>	<b>*Administering Agency</b>	
Transportation Alternatives Program	Michigan Department of Transportation	
<b>*Contact Name for Administering Agency</b>	<b>*Telephone</b>	<b>*Amount</b>
Caitlin Yost	(517) 241-2152	\$467,000

**\*Type of Funds**

Grant funds awarded

*Date grant funds approved*
 Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

7/19/2023

*Estimated approval date*

Appropriated funds

*Date appropriated*
**Other, explain**

\*Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes

No

\*Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes

No

Check to add program information for additional State or Federal funds that will be used as Match.

<b>*(2) Program Name</b>		<b>*Administering Agency</b>
<b>*Contact Name for Administering Agency</b>	<b>*Telephone</b>	<b>*Amount</b> \$

\*Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

*Date grant funds approved*

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

*Estimated approval date*

Appropriated funds

*Date appropriated*

**Other, explain**

\*Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes

No

\*Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes

No

Check to add program information for additional State or Federal funds that will be used as Match.

<b>*(3) Program Name</b>		<b>*Administering Agency</b>
<b>*Contact Name for Administering Agency</b>	<b>*Telephone</b>	<b>*Amount</b> \$

\*Type of Funds

Grant funds awarded

*Date grant funds approved*

Grant funds applied for, not yet approved

*Estimated approval date*

Appropriated funds

*Date appropriated*

**Other, explain**

\*Is documentation containing the scope of work and budget for the other grant funds included with application?

Yes

No

\*Is documentation (such as grant approval letter) that verifies the availability of funds included in the application?

Yes

No

d) Cash Donations

\$

e) Donated Labor and/or Materials

\$

f) Donated Land Value (acquisition applications only)

\$

## Section C2: Project Details

### Instructions:

1. All required fields are marked with an \*.
2. Use the Save button to save text and calculate data on each page.
3. Save at least every 30 minutes to avoid losing data.
4. See the 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.
5. You may upload a cost breakdown in the required uploads page as supporting documentation.

### Development Applications ONLY

\* Applicant's current control of the site:

Fee Simple

Lease

Easement

Other (describe)

\*Age of Park 40  
Years

\* Acres 109.44

### Project Cost Estimate Table

**YOU MUST CHOOSE SCOPE ITEM(S) FROM THE LIST IN THE DROP DOWN BOX.**

<u>SCOPE ITEM</u>	<u>DNR ONLY Accessibility Guidelines</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST</u>
Pedestrian Bridge		1	\$887,800

Select the plus sign button to create new rows.

Other:			\$
--------	--	--	----

**Do not list the aspects of project execution, such as labor, construction equipment, contingency, site work, grading or raw materials.**

Select the plus sign button to create new rows.

Permit Fees	\$
MNRTF Sign	\$
Subtotal	\$887,800
<b>Engineering (These fees may not exceed 20% of subtotal)</b>	<b>\$71,000</b>

**Total Estimated Cost** *(Must equal Total Project Cost amount on Section B page.)*

**\$958,800**

## Section D: Justification of Need

### Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**\*1) If you are submitting multiple acquisition or development applications, what is the priority for this application? (1 = highest)**

1

**\*2) What page(s) of your recreation plan is the need for the proposed project discussed?**

*If proposed project is on only one page, please enter the page number in both boxes*

**From:**

**To:**

94

94

**\*3) What was the date(s) of public meeting to discuss submission of the grant application?**

3/21/2023

**Additional dates:**

**\*4) Did you gather public input from individuals with disabilities, their families, or advocates?**

No

Yes

**\*5) Are you the primary provider of recreation services to any surrounding communities, as documented in your recreation plan?**

No

Yes

**List Communities:**

**\*6) Explain how you plan to address safety considerations and crime prevention in the project area?**

*Hours of the trail are clearly posted. Since 1991, the Oakland County Sheriff's Office (OSCO) Mounted Division has patrolled the trail, seasonally. May - October. An OSCO bike patroller compliments the Mounted Patrol. The city of Rochester's Police Department also patrols their section of the trail via bicycle. The Trailways Commission employs a part-time bike patroller from May - October, whose presence on the trail reduces user conflict and reminds users of municipal ordinances.*

**\*7) Explain how you will make the public aware of the project, as well as the efforts you will use to publicize and promote your project. Include marketing methods that will effectively communicate with persons with disabilities.**

*The project will be marketed through newsletters, press releases to local media, website and social media promotion, a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony, and installation of MNRTF marker on the site. Any images related to the project on the trail's website will include alt text and any project videos on the trail's website will include descriptive audio for the blind and closed captioning for people who are hard of hearing.*



**\*8) Does the applicant have a formal recreation department or committee? Please explain below. For park committees, describe how members are appointed, their roles and responsibilities. List of members and meeting schedule.**

*The Paint Creek Trail is owned and operated by the Paint Creek Trailways Commission, formed under the Michigan Urban Cooperation Act 7 of 1967. The Commission was established through an Intergovernmental Agreement between the four communities of Avon Twp (now Rochester Hills), Oakland Twp, Orion Twp, and the city of Rochester. Each community has two Commissioners and two Alternates on the Commission. The Commission meets on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m.*

## Section E: Application History and Stewardship

### Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**NO**    **YES**

*\*1) Questions 1 is for acquisition applications only - for development projects, leave blank and move to question 2.*

Will the applicant have adequate funds on hand to complete the acquisition transaction without any third party assistance (i.e. loans, lines of credit, etc.) **until partial reimbursement and final audit is completed** (approximately 180 days after closing)?

If yes, please provide documentation that supports this on the Required Attachments page.

*\*2) Has applicant received DNR recreation grant(s) in the past?*

*If yes, does applicant currently have an open, active grant?*

*\*3) Has applicant closed, sold, or transferred any parkland or recreation facilities in the past 5 years?*

*(If yes, provide comments below)*

*\* 4) Does applicant have a known unresolved conversion of grant-assisted parkland?*

(Note: a conversion is a change from public outdoor recreation use to some other use.)

*(If yes, provide comments below)*

*\*5) Does applicant have a "residents only" policy for this park or other parks or recreation facilities?*

*(If yes, provide comments below)*

*\*6) Do you now or do you intend in the future to charge an entrance fee to the project site?*

**\*7) What is the applicant's current year budget for parks and recreation?**

\$124,679.00

**\*8) What are the estimated operation and maintenance costs associated with the project?**

\$4,000.00

Comments:

*Regarding question 7, the city of Rochester's Parks and Recreation 2022-2023 budget will total x and is paid from the city's x. The Paint Creek Trailways Commission's annual operating budget is \$124,679 for fiscal year 2023.*

*Regarding question 8, the city of Rochester funds the improvements, operation, and maintenance of their 0.6 miles of the Paint Creek Trail. Rochester's 2022-2023 budget for these services will total \$26,128 and is paid from the city's Facilities and Grounds Maintenance Fund.*

*The attached maintenance plan includes details regarding the renovated bridge's \$4,000 annual maintenance cost.*



## Section F: Site Conditions

### Instructions:

1. Complete the following property checklist on the environmental Conditions at the project site and adjacent areas, using information from the past ten years or longer, as appropriate.
2. If you answer **YES** or **UNKNOWN** to questions 1-15, you are required to prepare an environmental report. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.
3. Click **Save** to save changes.

**NO**    **YES**    **UNKNOWN**

- \*1) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is or has been used for industrial purposes, including manufacturing and/or minerals' processing or extraction (sand, gravel, oil, or gas) at this time or in the past? [X]
- \*2) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any portion of the property is currently being used or has been used in the past for a gas station, motor vehicle service or repair facility, commercial printing facility, dry cleaners, photo developing lab, junkyard, landfill, waste treatment, storage, processing or recycling or disposal facility? [X]
- \*3) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the following are or have in the past been stored, discarded, or used on the property – automotive or industrial batteries, pesticides or other chemicals used in agricultural practices, paints, industrial waste, or other chemicals in drums or other containers? [X]
- \*4) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that fill dirt or other fill material of unknown origin is on this property or has in the past been placed on the property? [X]
- \*5) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge of any evidence of leaks, spills, or stains from a substance other than water at this time or in the past? [X]
- \*6) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are or have in the past been waste disposal pits, lagoons, or ponds on the property? [X]
- \*7) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that there are at this time or have in the past been registered or unregistered storage tanks on the property? [X]
- \*8) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminated groundwater lies below the property? [X]
- \*9) If there is a water well on the property, does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that contaminants have been identified in the well that exceeded legal standards or has the well been identified as contaminated by a government agency? [X]
- \*10) Has the landowner been notified about any current violations of environmental laws pertaining to activities on the property or does applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge about past violations? [X]
- \*11) Has the landowner been notified of any environmental assessments of the property that identified a) the presence of hazardous substances, petroleum products, or contamination; or b) the need for further assessment? [X]
- \*12) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any hazardous substances, unidentified waste materials, tires, or automotive or industrial batteries have been dumped above ground, buried, or burned on the property? [X]
- \*13) Is the property listed on any federal or state list of contaminated sites, including the site of a leaking underground storage tank? [X]
- \*14) Does the applicant, landowner, or others have knowledge that any of the adjoining properties are currently being used or have been used in the past for the purposes listed in the previous questions 1-13? [X]

\*15) Has an environmental assessment been completed for the site?

*If yes, please provide documentation that supports this on the Required Attachments page.*

\*16) Are permits required for the development of the site?

If yes, please complete the following table:

TYPE OF PERMIT	PERMITTING AGENCY	EFFORTS TAKEN TO OBTAIN PERMIT OR DETERMINING PERMIT REQUIREMENTS
<i>ROW/Construction Access Permit</i>	<i>City of Rochester</i>	x
<i>Inland Lakes or Streams Permit</i>	<i>EGLE</i>	x
<i>Floodplains Permit</i>	<i>EGLE</i>	x
<i>Soil Erosion Permit</i>		x

If **'Yes'** or **'Unknown'** was selected for any of the questions on this page, please explain here:

*Adjacent to the site is a manufacturing facility that is currently vacant. The facility was most recently occupied by Solaronics, a manufacturer of infrared heating products. The facility was built in 1963.*

# Section G: Natural Features of The Project Site

## Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. Great Lakes connecting waters are defined in the *2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines*.
3. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**To the best of your knowledge, does the project site include:**

**\*Great Lakes shoreline or Great Lakes connecting water frontage?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*Inland lake frontage?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*River and/or tributary frontage?**

**No**  **Yes**

**If yes, name of water body:**

*Paint Creek*

**How many linear feet of frontage?**

*100*

Is the river or tributary a state natural river or a federally dedicated wild and scenic river?

**No** **Yes**

**\*Wetland acreage or frontage?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*Other water acreage or frontage?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*Sand dunes?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*Dedicated state or federal listed wilderness or dedicated natural area or Pigeon River County State Forest land or inholding?**

**No** **Yes**

**\*Rare species or any other significant feature as defined by the Michigan Natural Features Inventory?**

**No** **Yes**

## Section H: Wildlife Values of The Project Site

### Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**Will the proposed park or park development:**

\* **Protect wildlife habitat** (for example, breeding grounds, winter deeryards, den sites)? **No**  **Yes**

If yes, list species:

*Brown trout*

How many acres of habitat does the site provide?

*.10*

\* **Act as a wildlife corridor between existing protected areas or buffer an existing protected area?**  **No** **Yes**

# Section I: Natural Resource Recreation Opportunities

## Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**Will the proposed park or park development provide new or additional:**

\*Water recreation opportunities?  No  Yes

\*Motorized recreation opportunities (ORV and/or Snowmobile)?  No  Yes

\*Hunting Opportunities?  No  Yes

\*Fishing opportunities? No  Yes

If yes, what type of fishing opportunities will be provided?  
(species/methods)

*Brown Trout/Fly fishing and spin casting*

\*Bird watching or other nature viewing opportunities? No  Yes

If yes, what species can be viewed?

*TBD*

\*Nature interpretation or education opportunities? No  Yes

If yes, how are the interpretation or education opportunities provided? (check all that apply)

Interpretive signage  Part time or volunteer naturalist

Interpretive brochures  Full time naturalist

Nature center

Have you formed a partnership with another organization to provide interpretive/educational services? No  Yes

If yes, name of organization:

*Friends of the Paint Creek Trail*



**Provided examples of interpretive materials, descriptions of classes, and other documentation on the interpretive/educational services provided with application:**

*In partnership with the Friends of the Paint Creek Trail, the Trailways Commission maintains a pollinator garden along the trail in Rochester Hills. The garden features low-maintenance, native plants in support of pollinators. The goal of the garden is to provide an inspirational space that invites and supports pollinators and stewardship by an informed and motivated public. Interpretative signage can be found throughout the garden to help educate the public about the importance of pollinators in our environment and the role native plants can play in helping to save them. An informational brochure is also available at the garden site and is attached.*

*Additionally, the Trailways Commission works in conjunction with Oakland Township Parks and Recreation and Six Rivers Nature Conservancy to host annual invasive species removal workdays along the Paint Creek Trail.*

*Two interpretative solar powered audio signs can also be found along the trail, one focused on the Paint Creek and the brown trout fishery and the other focused on the wet prairie located along the trail in Oakland Township. Additionally, kiosks located at each of the trailheads include interpretative content about the trail's history, natural features, or other relevant topics.*

*In addition, we have attached a brochure entitled "Wildflowers along the Paint Creek Trail" which details the many native plants found along the trail. We have also attached our popular Paint Creek Trail brochure.*

# Section J: Public Access Opportunities

**Instructions:**

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

**\* Will the site be open to the general public?**

**No**

**Yes**

List the hours open to the public:

	From	To	Closed
Sunday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Monday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Tuesday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Wednesday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Thursday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Friday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Saturday	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	
Holidays	6:00 a.m.	10:00 p.m.	

Comment:

# Section K: Trails

## Instructions:

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

### \* Is the proposed site a trail?

No

Yes

Who is the primary intended user? (Check one)

Hikers/Pedestrians

Road Bicyclists

Equestrians

Mountain Bicyclists

Cross-Country Skiers

Snowmobilers

Other motorized vehicle users

Other, explain:

Who are the secondary users?

Hikers/Pedestrians

Road Bicyclists

Equestrians

Mountain Bicyclists

Cross-Country Skiers

Snowmobilers

Other motorized vehicle users

Other, explain:

*Anglers*

Is the trail connected to another trail(s) or part of a larger trail network?

No

Yes

If yes, what is the name of the network?

*Iron Belle & Oakland County Oak Routes*

How long is the trail?

*46,992*

Total linear feet

*1,320*

Linear feet bituminous (paved)

Linear feet boardwalk (if applicable)

Linear feet sidewalk

*45,672*

Linear feet other hard surface

What is the width of the trail?

*8*

Linear feet

\* Is this proposed project part of the Iron Belle Trail (Governor's Showcase Trail)? View the interactive IBT map [here](#).

(Applicable for Development or Acquisition)

No

Yes

# Application Narrative

## Instructions:

1. The application narrative is an important source of information used to evaluate and score your application. It will provide Grants Management with an overall picture of your proposed project. It is strongly recommended that you review the MNRTF Application Guidelines for additional clarification of what items should be included in the application narrative.
2. Click **Save** to save changes.
3. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

### *\*I. Project Justification and Support:*

*Need – A structural inspection of Bridge 31.7 over the Paint Creek by engineers from AEW documented extensive decay of the bridge’s structural components which compromise the safety of the bridge, necessitating its replacement. This project is listed on page 56 in the city of Rochester’s 2019-2023 Parks and Recreation Master Plan and on page 94 of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission’s 2020-2204 Recreation Master Plan.*

*Alignment with SCORP & MNRTF Priorities – The Paint Creek Trail, a popular regional trail, is a key link in Oakland County’s Oak Routes Network as well as the Iron Belle Trail. Bridge 31.7 provides access across Paint Creek for pedestrians, bicyclists, and skiers.*

*Public Input – Input was received on this grant application at a Paint Creek Trailways Commission meeting held on March 21, 2023 after it was made available for review on three websites, social media, and at the Paint Creek Trailways Commission office and Rochester City Hall. In addition to the public hearing notice printed in local newspapers, the meeting was advertised at five municipal locations, two public libraries, and at the Paint Creek Trailways Commission office. Adjacent property owners were notified about the project and the public hearing via certified mail.*

*Public Support – Public support will be demonstrated via letters of support from our organizational stakeholders, residents, and government, non-profit, business, and user group organizations. Please see Attachments section to review these letters.*

*Accessibility and Universal Design – As part of the Paint Creek Trailways Commission’s unsuccessful application to the Michigan DNR Spark grant program for this project, it solicited feedback from several area physical therapists and individuals who work directly with the disability community. Based on feedback currently received, trail staff plans to discuss with our engineers the feasibility of adding a hand rail at an accessible height along the bridge to allow people in wheelchairs with the ability to stand to use it for support in order to observe the Paint Creek. We will also work with our engineering firm to ensure that the transition from the trail surface to the bridge surface is as seamless as possible and look into potential non-slip surfaces and/or surfaces that don’t promote moss/algae/mold growth.*

*Further features may be incorporated into the project’s design following an in-person meeting with additional accessibility advocates scheduled for March 9, 2023. Thirty-five invitations to the workshop were sent to disability/accessibility advocates and organizations based on resources provided by the Michigan DNR and through our own research. A press release was sent to several local and regional news offices and information about the workshop was posted on the trail’s website, social media, and sent via email to the trail’s 400 e-newsletter subscribers.*

### *\*II. Project Description:*

*During the project, the existing bridge will be replaced with a keystone style prefabricated truss bridge in weathered steel with corrosion allowance & IPE timber decking. The new bridge will be 70 ft in length & a GRS (Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil) abutment wall construction will be used to provide support for the bridge. Based on these specifications, the expected lifespan of the bridge is 75 years & requires almost no maintenance during its lifespan. Aesthetically, this bridge will look similar to Paint Creek Trail Bridge 33.7, which is also a steel truss bridge & was constructed in 2019.*

*The bridge's universal design adheres to ADA & AASHTO guidelines for bicycle & pedestrian facilities & provides minimum clear bike/multi-use path width of 14 ft. & supports a 20-mph bicycle speed. The 14-ft path width is to provide adequate shy distance between a walking individual & a bicyclist meeting at the same location on the pathway. The bridge slope is less than 2% allowing easy access for those using wheelchairs or other power-driven mobility devices. The 54" tall railings will provide a safe vantage point for nature observation.*

*Trail Projects – The non-motorized Paint Creek Trail is part of the Oakland County Oak Routes Trail Network as well as the Iron Belle Trail. The trail connects the business districts of Rochester, Goodison & Lake Orion & connects directly to Bald Mountain State Recreation Area. With the Paint Creek Trail's connection to the Polly Ann Trail to the north & west, & the Clinton River Trail & Macomb Orchard Trail to the southeast, users of these three trails are able to enjoy a system of over 65 miles.*

*The trail is 8' ft. wide & surfaced with crushed limestone. It is 8.9 mi long with 0.6 mi in the city of Rochester. The trail receives over 100,000 users annually & they are comprised of cyclists, pedestrians, equestrians, nature enthusiasts, & anglers. Amenities include picnic areas, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains, nature observation decks, interpretative signage, free little libraries, & bicycle repair stations.*

*Renovation – A structural inspection of this nearly 100-year-old timber railroad bridge that is 46' ft. long documented the extensive decay of its structural components which compromises the safety of the bridge, necessitating its removal & replacement.*

*Sustainable Design Systems or Features – Streambank disturbance will be remedied with native plants by either live staking or joint planting techniques. Both revegetation techniques establish permanent vegetation, stabilize streambank slopes & reduce potential streambank erosion.*

*Park Visibility & Ease of Access – Wayfinding signage is found throughout the trail & this location is easily identifiable as a trail due to the gateway sign & road crossing signs located at the intersection just south of the project site. Bridge 31.7 is located just north of downtown Rochester & is accessible via public sidewalk from the nearby residential & business districts.*

*\*III. Natural Resource Access and Protection:*

*Natural Features Description – The bridge traverses the Paint Creek, southeast Michigan’s premier cold-water trout stream & the dominant vegetation located within the upland adjacent to Paint Creek include basswood, Norway maple, amur honeysuckle, border privet, common woodland sedge, & Pennsylvania sedge.*

*The city of Rochester manages the sections of the Paint Creek which lie within the trail right-of-way with assistance from local chapters of Trout Unlimited. Most creek maintenance includes supporting the trout fishery, addressing creek shoreline erosion including removal of log jams, & maintaining fish access routes. In addition to providing excellent fishing opportunities, this stretch of the Paint Creek provides opportunities to view wildlife including deer, mink, muskrat, beaver, & birds.*

*Type of Natural Resources on Property – The bridge crosses the Paint Creek, one of the few designated brown trout streams. The trail & bridge provide anglers with multiple access points to the wade-able trout stream. The DNR stocks the stream with 5,600 brown trout annually to maintain the brown trout fishery that has limited natural reproduction. Paint Creek has high banks & stairs down to the water next to the bridge provide a safe path to & from the water’s edge.*

*Quality & Quantity of the Natural Resources – The Paint Creek is a high-quality natural resource. Southeast Michigan is dominated by warm-water streams & most of what is available as a cold-water stream is typically a small headwater stream with little access or ability to maintain a fishery. Paint Creek is one of the few cold-water streams in southeast Michigan. It has high water quality with temperatures rarely exceeding 70°F. This high-quality stream also has a fair amount of good habitat with most of the river bed being made of sand, gravel, cobble, & in-stream woody habitat. The stream averages 26.3 ft. & much of it is wade-able water allowing anglers the ability to move throughout the stream. The combination of high gradient, good groundwater inflow, & abundant public access makes this one of the best river stretches in the Clinton River watershed for fisheries management activities.*

*Sustainability – Any maintenance or improvements performed on the Paint Creek will adhere to EGLE requirements, including closure during the trout spawning season. The Trailways Commission maintains shoreline vegetation which, when partially submerged, deflects & slows the current, reducing erosion energy, as well as overhanging vegetation which provides shade, cover, & substrate for fish habitat, their food, & to reduce (marginally at this scale) water temperature.*

*The bridge’s design eliminates piers within the waterway, thus eliminating log jams that currently occur. Replacing Bridge 31.7 with a bridge that has a clear span will benefit fish passage, natural sediment regime, & the natural flow regime. Fish passage is crucial in the Paint Creek to serve the highly functional cold-water fishery.*

#### IV. Other Information:

*See attached Intergovernmental Agreement for the Paint Creek Trail which describes how the four member communities, including the city of Rochester, collaborate to improve, manage and operate the Paint Creek Trail. See attached Reaffirmation of Understanding of Maintenance Responsibilities and In-Kind Services which shows the collaboration among the five trail communities to provide maintenance and operational support of the Paint Creek Trail.*

# Required Attachments for Development Projects

## Instructions:

1. All required fields are marked with an **\***.
2. Attachments may be in **Word, PDF, JPG, XLS** or **GIF** format.
3. Save at least every 30 minutes to avoid losing data.
4. See the 2023 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.
5. You may upload a cost breakdown in the required uploads page as supporting documentation.

## Upload Attachments:

- Click the **Select** button and navigate to the file in your computer or network.
- Once selected, the file name will appear under the **Select** button.
- Click the **+** button to add a new upload area.
- Click the **-** button to remove an upload area or file.
- Click the **Save** button to apply the changes.
- **NOTE:** When the file is named to be uploaded, **DO NOT** leave any spaces, place a period between the words OR use any special characters, e.g. "/", in the document name. Attachments may be in **Word, PDF, JPG, XLS** or **GIF** format.

All location maps, site development plans, boundary maps, and other graphic information must be clear, legible, detailed, and appropriately labeled. Grants Management staff use these materials to help evaluate your application and to find and evaluate many of the sites. We must also photocopy many of the graphic materials in black-and-white; be sure that what you submit will photocopy legibly.

## REQUIRED CONTENT FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS

\* **Maintenance Plan:**

\* **Project Location Map(s):**

\* **Site Development Plan:**

\* **Boundary Map(s)** delineating the legal boundaries of the park site(s) outlined in **red**; show easements in **green**:

\* **Photographs of the site** - digital images, combine into one file:

\* **Certified Resolution:** from the highest governing body:

\* **Advance Notice of the public meeting** for public comment and to pass the resolution for the application:

\* **Minutes of the Public Meeting** held for public comment and to pass the resolution for the application:

\* **Copy Site Control Form and Deed** (commitment letter to transfer property, *for development projects*)

\* **Notice of Intent Form and copy of letter transmitting form** to regional clearinghouse to the regional clearinghouse:

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS:

**Letter(s) of support:**

**Documentation of match commitment(s)**, (if required on the Section B form):

**Universal Design Documentation:**

**Preliminary floor plans and elevation drawings for the proposed structures**, if applicable

**Correspondence regarding regulatory permitting issues**, if applicable:



**Expert documentation, to support the project:**

**Environmental Report**, if applicable based on Property Checklist of application form:

# Additional Information

**Instructions:**

1. Click **Save** to save changes.
2. See the 2023 Natural Resources Trust Fund Application Guidelines [here](#) for guidance.

Provide the information listed below, as applicable, and any other information you believe will give us a more complete understanding of your proposed project and assist us in evaluating your application.

- 1) Explain the circumstances under which you closed, sold, or transferred control of any parkland or recreation facilities within your park system.
  - 2) List any parks within your system for which you have a "residents only" policy.
  - 3) Discuss any health advisories for the water bodies accessed by your project. Describe how these advisories will affect the use of the site and your proposed facilities.
1. *The Paint Creek Trailways Commission has not closed, sold, or transferred control of any parkland or recreation facilities.*
  2. *The Paint Creek Trail does not have a "residents only" policy. It is completely free and open to the public.*
  3. *There are no known health advisories for the Paint Creek.*