



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Fall 2014

[www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)

“Timeline” Disclaimer – Please note that dates of construction are often mentioned in the news items below. It should be taken in account that these dates often change due to design changes, construction delays and other situations.

### County Parks Millage Renewal

A big “thank you” to the voters in Washtenaw County who voted to renew (by a 67% margin!) a tax millage to keep the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission operating in good financial health for another 10 years. While the Commission operates parks and natural areas throughout the County, they are also the driving force behind creating and completing the Border To Border Trail, the Connecting Communities non-motorized path funding system and also help fund bike lanes throughout the County. The annual cost to a homeowner in the County is \$25. For more information on the tax millage renewal and what it pays for, [click here](#).

### Ypsilanti Trail Segment

Construction bids went out in October for the B to B Ypsilanti segment for a bridge from Riverside Park south to the eastern end of the Michigan Avenue bridge across the Huron River, as well as constructing a permanent (hard surface) trail along the north shore of the Huron River from Michigan Avenue south/southeast to Grove Road. Unfortunately these bids turned out to higher than project funds available. After reviewing the designs for cost saving possibilities, it was decided to send the bids out again for this project. Actual construction of these segments will now not take place any earlier than spring 2015. For a map of the planned Ypsilanti segment, [click here](#). At Michigan Avenue, there will be a HAWK signal is basically a stoplight for motorists to give non-motorized a way to cross a road. For a short video on how a HAWK light works go to <http://youtu.be/ReNk2T5ay1c>.

### Quick Updates

#### Dexter To Dexter-Huron Metropark Trail “Gap”

This short uncompleted segment (from Center Street east to completed path in Dexter-Huron Metropark) will go out for bid in January for spring 2015 construction.

#### Grove Road B to B Reconstruction

This rebuild in Ypsilanti Township is now almost complete although there will probably be some spring sign installation. This project also included filling in a gap on the Trail on the east side of Bridge Road from Grove Road south to North Hydro Park.

#### Northwest Trail Activity

On the northwest segment, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has submitted a grant application with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to further move along a route would extend the B to B Trail north to Livingston County and then even further north to meet up with the east-west Lakeland Trail ([www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands\\_trail\\_state\\_park](http://www.hamburg.mi.us/lakelands_trail_state_park)). The Lakeland Trail is intended to be at some time to become a part of the east-west cross-Michigan Great Lake to Lake Trail (<http://bicycletouringroutes.com/section.php?sectionid=1>).

#### Wayne County B to B “Connector” Getting More Attention

When completed, the eastern terminus of the B to B Trail will be at the approximate corner of Rawsonville Road and Textile Road. From that point, there is roughly a six mile gap of good non-motorized facilities going east in Wayne County along it’s Huron River Drive to the north end of Lower Huron Metropark. However, once you reach Lower Huron Metropark, it is now possible to use off-road non-motorized paths (except for a very short segment in Flat Rock) to pedal (or walk) all the way to Lake Erie. At the present time the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance ([www.michigantrails.org](http://www.michigantrails.org)) is working with many partners, including the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, to see this spur of the Lake to Lake Trail be completed.

## Trail Winter Use Survey Results



(Unplowed B to B Dixboro Bridge segment showing footprints and bicycle tire tracks)

Earlier this fall, a survey was sent out by the Friends of the Border To Border Trail asking for user's to rate their wintertime experiences on the Trail. The results showed....

- 53% used the B to B 5-10 times a month in the winter
- 76% used Ann Arbor B to B trail segments in the winter while 57% used the Ypsilanti segment (lap over is due to users using both Ypsi and Ann Arbor segments over the course of the winter)
- 30% biked the Trail between Ann Arbor and Ypsi in the winter. 30% also walked this segment over the winter
- 53% of total users over the winter bicycled some part of the Trail

The complete results are at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-L6WYH7WV>. These results will be used by the Friends of the Border To Border Trail in meetings with local Trail "owners" (i.e. cities, colleges, Road Commission, hospitals, etc whose property the Trail traverses) in an attempt to try and keep the Trail open and plowed from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti as well as Dexter north into Hudson Mills Metropark.

### Volunteers Needed To "Adopt" Trail Segments

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail is looking at starting to set up a list of volunteers who would be willing to "adopt" a section of the Border To Border Trail. Volunteers, who routinely use a specific B to B segment on a regular (2-4 times a month) basis would be asked to perform the following...

- Pick up trash (although for the most part, the B to B stays remarkably trash-free).
- Report serious problems (potholes, major downed branches, missing direction signs, etc.).
- During the "green" months, trim back (with hand-tools) vegetation tending to obstruct the trail.

Currently, B to B segments needing "adoption" would include (links are to maps of each segment)...

- Grove Road (Ypsilanti Township) - [Bridge Road west to Harris Road/Loonfeather Park](#)
- Grove Road (Ypsilanti Township) - [Harris Road/Loonfeather Park west to Grove Road I-94 bridge](#)
- [St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Washtenaw Community College area](#)
- Ann Arbor - [Corner of Fuller Road/Maiden Lane west to Whitmore Lake Road \(just beyond M14 bridge\)](#)
- Dexter - [Dexter-Huron Metropark](#)

If you would like to volunteer, please send an email to Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) indicating what segment you would like to adopt. Thanks in advance for any help on this.

### Friends Of The Border To Border Board Of Directors Formation

On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014, a Friends of the Border To Border Trail Board of Directors formation meeting was held in Ypsilanti with initial steps of the group being creating a set of by-laws to govern and structure the group. Membership and fundraising were discussed as well as improving the Friends web page. The next meeting of the Board formation group is Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 7pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 West Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti. If you are interested in becoming a Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Board member, please attend the meeting or contact Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) or call 734-487-9058.

### Please "Like" Us On Facebook

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail has a page on Facebook and it would be appreciated if individuals could not only "Like" us, but also encourage others to do the same. To visit the Facebook Friends page, [click here](#).

**Join The Friends of the Border To Border Trail Discussion Group**

If you want to sign up for the Friends of the Border To Border Trail email discussion group, visit <http://groups.google.com/group/border-to-border>. Please note that to keep out spammers, we ask one question before you can be on the list, that being what Michigan County the Trail is in.

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Coordinator

Friends of the Border To Border Trail

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