



Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Summer 2014

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.

Dexter To Huron-Dexter Metropark Grand Opening Report



From the Summer Washtenaw Bicycling & Walking Coalition Newsletter...

Dexter Trail Opening is Celebrated with 10k Run (By Larry Deck) - The grand opening of the newest segment of the Border-to-Border Trail was celebrated on June 7th with a 10k run along the trail. Starting near North Territorial Road, runners followed this scenic trail segment near the Huron River through Hudson Mills Metropark to Dexter. Entertainment and refreshments awaited the runners at Mill Creek Park in Dexter. This multi-use trail, completed last fall, has a 10-foot asphalt surface except for 14-foot boardwalk sections through wetlands.

The Huron-Clinton Metroparks, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Village of Dexter organized the event. Those agencies partnered with the Washtenaw County Road Commission, the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund over a period of several years to construct this trail. WBWC has participated in the discussions that led to the development of the trail.

Ypsilanti Trail Segment

Construction is still expected to begin by the late summer or early fall on a B to B 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 (for a map of the planned trail, [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>.

Relating to the Ypsilanti Trail, it was recently announced that the City of Ypsilanti did receive a Federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding request to replace the sidewalk along Grove Road with a wider non-motorized path that would continue the B to B trail south closer to the I-94/Grove Road bridge. Also included in the TAP application was further funding for the B to B crossing of Michigan Avenue. To view the application (which contain maps) visit <http://tinyurl.com/pru77hy>.

Quick Updates

Dexter To Dexter-Huron Metropark Trail “Gap”

There currently is a very short “gap” of the Border To Border Trail from the completed off-road Trail in the Dexter-Huron Metropark to Central Street in Dexter that unfortunately is still waiting on construction due to negotiations with a landowner. The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, however, is diligently

working on the completion of this segment, but like other things in life, little problems sometimes take a longer time to work out.

Grove Road B to B Reconstruction

A rebuild of the B to B in Ypsilanti Township is still set to begin later this summer. Some sections of the formal off road Trail will be moved to the north side of Grove Road due to narrow easement sections on the south side of the road.

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). 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>).

Quick Trail Winter Use Survey – Your Help Needed!



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

Again this year, the Friends of the Border To Border Trail will work to try and keep the Trail open and plowed from Ann Arbor to Ypsilanti as well as Dexter north into Hudson Mills Metropark. Sometimes, however, when meeting with entities that have B to B segments going across their property, the notion comes up that “nobody uses” the Trail in the winter (despite loads of footprints and bike tire tracks in the snow).

Winter outside recreational (and non-motorized transportation) opportunities are so very important too. Not only does getting outside and walking/biking help us keep fit, but also does loads of good mentally to break what is known as “cabin fever”.

With this in mind, a very simple survey is posted on the Friends webpage that winter users of the Trail are urged to fill out. All data is anonymous and will be used in “making the case” for agencies to keep the Trail open and plowed in the winter. To take the survey (takes 1-2 minutes) visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/23BBG3D>. Thanks in advance for your help on this!

Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti Local Elections Survey

Before the recent August local Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti primary elections, the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (www.wbwc.org) sent out a candidate survey that did contain questions relating to the Border To Border Trail. Specifically Ann Arbor candidates were asked how they would fill in trail gaps (Bandemer Park and Huron River Drive, Maiden Lane & Fuller Road areas) and Ypsilanti candidates were asked how they would develop a plan for continuing the Border to Border Trail northwest from Frog Island Park. To view the survey (which will pertain now to the winning candidates in the November election) visit <https://gallery.mailchimp.com/35cf6456eb62f910be690ca8f/files/3bcf53ca-ac5d-4378-9542-887a270f9940.pdf>.

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...

- Grove Road (Ypsilanti Township).
- Eastern Michigan University
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Washtenaw Community College area.
- Dixboro Bridge area
- Gallup Park (Ann Arbor)
- Central Ann Arbor (Riverside Park, Bandemer Park)
- Dexter (Dexter-Huron Metropark, Mill Creek Park to Hudson Mills Metropark)

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

Interested In Becoming A Board Member?

One goal of the Friends of the Border To Border Trail is to become on Federal 501(c)3 non-profit group. To do so, one requirement is for a group to have a Board of Directors as well as by-laws. If in the future you might be interested in becoming a Friends of The Border To Border Trail Board member, please contact Bob Krzewinski at wolverbob@gmail.com. Duties would be to attend quarterly Board meetings and a general desire to see the Border To Border Trail completed and enhanced.

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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