



Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Spring 2014 Newsletter

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/Hudson Mills Border To Border Trail Grand Opening June 7

Join the Dexter community on Saturday, June 7th, National Trails Day, as area residents celebrate the grand opening of the newest segment of the Border-to-Border trail (B2B), the West River trail at Hudson Mills Metropark.

The event will include a 10k race and fun run/walk that will be enjoyable for all ability levels – bring the whole family! The race will start at 9:00 AM at Hudson Mills, North Territorial Road entrance. The 6.2-mile scenic route will take you along the Huron River to the finish line in the Village of Dexter at Mill Creek Park where you can enjoy entertainment and refreshments after the run.

The cost is \$10 per adult/teen and includes a commemorative event t-shirt! Children 12 and under are free. Free shuttle buses will provide transportation back to the starting point. See this [flyer](#) for additional details. You can register online at <https://parksonline.ewashtenaw.org>.

Dexter To Huron-Dexter Metropark Link

Property easement work is still being completed on a very short (1/8 mile) segment of the B to B Trail from Central Street, east along the north side of the Huron River, to Dexter-Huron Metropark. Once completed it would allow access between the Metropark and Dexter without having to use Huron River Drive. A start of construction on this segment is hoped for before the snowflakes fall.

Dexter To Ann Arbor B to B Segment

As reported in the last edition of this newsletter...

“At the present time, from Ann Arbor to Dexter-Huron Metropark, the B to B routing is presently on-road using Huron River Drive. The long term goal is to move the Trail off-road, but this goal is filled with challenges that involve Trail easements and terrain. Still, the lead agency of the Border To Border Trail, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, is continuing to actively explore placing the Trail off-road in this central part of the County.

And again, while the B to B is mainly on Huron River Drive from Ann Arbor to Dexter, there is one horrible segment for cyclists filled with potholes between Foster Road and Barton Dam. With this in mind, the largest bike club in the County, the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society (AABTS), has started a campaign to raise funds to help repave this segment, which will be backed by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. You may be thinking that this is fantasy, but in 2010 the AABTS started a campaign to repave another section of Huron River Drive and had a goal of raising \$30,000. In the end, they raised \$45,000 in donations which did result in another poor section of the road being repaved, including road shoulders for cyclists.

As an update on this story, on May 6th, the Washtenaw County Road Commission approved the allocation of \$100,000 to supplement the \$41,000 raised by the Ann Arbor Bicycle Touring Society and other donors. This will enable the grinding and repaving of the entire section of Huron River Drive from the Foster Bridge east to the Ann Arbor city limits. Requests for bids will be sent out in June with a projected project date in August.

Ypsilanti Trail Segment

Construction is still expected to begin by the late summer 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>.

Also concerning Ypsilanti and the B to B Trail, this spring the City Of Ypsilanti turned in 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

Eastern B to B Completion – Ypsilanti Township and the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission are still reviewing options to complete the B to B from Bridge Street to the eastern County line at Rawsonville Road. Easements along Textile Road still are a problem (the railroad company that owns the land along the north side of Textile Road has shown a reluctance to vacate land for the trail). One option being explored is to have the Trail go south from Grove Road along Bridge Street, then follow the north shore of the Huron River to Rawsonville Road.

Grove Road B to B Reconstruction – A rebuild of the B to B in Ypsilanti Township will start 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 is still actively exploring route options that could 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>).

Eastern Michigan University B to B Improvements – Signs are being installed this summer on the B to B “spur” or “bypass” trail that takes you from the southeast corner of Hewitt Road and Huron River Drive around the east side of the EMU stadium and has you rejoin the Trail on the Cornell to Hewitt Road segment. This bypass is handy to use during events at EMU and is partially lighted at night too.

Volunteers Needed To “Adopt” Trail Segments

Starting in the spring of 2014, 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).
- St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Washtenaw Community College 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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