

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Winter 2011 Newsletter

www.bordertoborder.org

Dexter Border To Border Trail Construction

Work was continuing through the fall into the winter on a Border To Border Trail segment from Dexter's Warrior Park (just west of downtown) across Mill Creek (and under the railroad bridge there) north towards the West Ridge subdivision. In the spring, the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority is expected to begin work on the Border To Border Trail on the west side of the Huron River from the West Ridge subdivision north into Hudson Mills Metropark, a 2.5 mile long segment.

On the east side of Dexter design work is continuing to build the Border To Border Trail east from Central Street along the south shore of the Huron River for 1.4 miles. The Trail would then cross the River at a new non-motorized bridge that would take it into Dexter-Huron Metropark.

Ypsilanti B To B Bridge Given State Grant

In early December 2011 it was announced that the City of Ypsilanti was awarded a State of Michigan Land Trust Fund grant to build a Border To Border Trail bridge connecting Riverside Park with a future permanent Trail segment in the Water Street development area. For more on the grant award, [click on this link](#).

Ypsilanti Recreation Center Could Mean B To B Gap Construction

In early January 2011, the City Council of Ypsilanti signed a [formal letter of intent](#) with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to offer land in the Water Street development area to build a new County Recreation Center there. The Water Street area is an area of cleared land just east of downtown Ypsilanti.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has clearly stated in the past that completion of the Border To Border Trail in the vicinity of the proposed recreation center is to be an integral part of the project. At the present time there is a "temporary" trail in the Water Street area but this would be reconstructed into a permanent paved path that would traverse from Michigan Avenue along the north shore of the Huron River to Grove Road in Ypsilanti Township.

Argo Dam B to B Segment Update

The City of Ann Arbor's [Argo Dam webpage](#) listed the following update in late 2011...
"Construction is wrapping up for the winter on the Argo project. The pathway will be open for pedestrian and bicycle use during the winter months, and will be paved in the spring of 2012. The majority of landscaping and limestone placement is complete. Final modifications to the headrace features will occur in the spring, along with the enhancements to the current culvert entrance. Look for more updates in the early spring".

The new routing for the Border To Border Trail along the Argo Dam mill race is a vast improvement the old path there, which was unpaved and very narrow. For a map of the mill race improvement area, [click here](#).

B to B Trail Studies

Recently posted to the Friends of the Border To Border Trail webpage (www.bordertoborder.org) is a report on bicycling commuting on the Border To Border Trail between Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. That report can be accessed by clicking here. Also on the webpage is an older report on Border To Border Trail users which was done by volunteer interviews. That report can be reviewed by clicking here.

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.

Trails And Economic Development

Quite often in tough economic times, people will look at non-motorized trail building as “a waste of money” saying that funds could be used for “more urgent needs”. Often overlooked, however, is the fact that trails are often built through specific tax funds overwhelmingly approved by voters. In Washtenaw County, voters in 1998 and again in 2008 strongly supported a tax to be used by the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to build non-motorized trails in the County.

Another aspect of the non-motorized trail building is that such trails can be a real economic driver for a community. Trail users almost always will visit local businesses such as restaurants and other merchants. At the same time, non-motorized trails tend to increase property values, revitalized neighborhoods and even create new businesses (such as bicycle shops).

The Rails to Trails Conservancy has two short excellent publications on non-motorized trails benefiting communities. They are “[Trails And Economic Development](#)” and “[Economic Benefits Of Trails And Greenways](#)”.

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](#).

B To B On Wikipedia

The Border To Border Trail has been placed on Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia. The B to B entry there mentions the Friends of the Border To Border Trail and also has loads of links to items about the Trail. To view the Wikipedia B to B page, visit http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Border-to-Border_Trail#Friends_Of_The_Border_To_Border_Trail

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>.

Bob Krzewinski
Coordinator
Friends of the Border To Border Trail
www.bordertoborder.org
wolverbob@gmail.com
734-487-9058