

Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

www.bordertoborder.org

Summer 2011 Newsletter

More B To B Directional Signs Up

Over the past few months, the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, working the City of Ann Arbor and St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, placed additional small Border To Border (B to B) directional signs on the Trail in Ann Arbor's Gallup Park and also on St. Joseph Mercy's Trail segment. These signs will help immensely with new Trail users finding their way.

Gallup Park Path Repaving

Word is that the City of Ann Arbor will start taking steps in 2012 to repave the Gallup Park section of the B to B Trail from the VA Hospital area east to the Dixboro Bridge area. As it stands now, this B to B section has some pretty bumpy areas.

The Gallup Sinkhole

A continuing problem on the B to B Trail is the recurring sinkhole along the Gallup Park trail section just west of the US 23 bridge over the Huron River. Apparently there is a collapsed drain under that small section of Trail and the City of Ann Arbor is looking into a more permanent rebuild of this problem. Until such repairs can be made, the City has installed an orange traffic barrel in the hole to prevent injuries.

Ypsilanti Border To Border Trail Developments

Word should be received by the end of October, at the latest, from the State of Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund on the City of Ypsilanti grant application to build a Border To Border Trail bridge from Riverside Park south to the Water Street development area. The proposed bridge would go under the existing Michigan Avenue bridge over the Huron River and has matching funds pledges from the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and Ypsilanti Downtown Development Association. On the State grant, first there would be scoring of the application, followed by a recommendation of funding by the Trust Fund Board in early December.

In another Ypsilanti Border To Border Trail development story, a study has been recently completed on a Border To Border segment along the Huron River that would take the Trail under the I-94 crossing of the Huron River. The firm completing the study did not give high marks for such a crossing indicating possible construction problems, environmental concerns and also a very low clearance (7 feet) from the non-motorized bridge deck to the bottom of the existing I-94 bridge. The firm completing the study provided other options for non-motorized crossings of I-94 in Ypsilanti, including improvements to the Grove Road and Huron Street crossings. To view the report, visit pages 71-88 of this link - http://cityofypsilanti.com/bd_city-council/Council%20Information%20Letters/2011/08-31-11.

Temporary Ypsilanti Water Street Trail

The "temporary" off-road Border To Border Trail through the City of Ypsilanti Water Street development area continues to attract users and work is being planned to further improve the trail. This trail segment, which starts just southeast of the Michigan Avenue bridge across the Huron River, takes users along the north shore of the Huron River through a very scenic, quiet area just east of downtown Ypsilanti.

This fall, plans are being made to spread woodchips on the Water Street trail segment from the pedestrian bridge across the Huron (to Waterworks Park) east to Park Street. For more on this project, or to help out, visit the Facebook "Water Street Trail" page or email Andy Clock at waterstreetparkypsi@gmail.com. Additional information, including maps of the Water Street Trail, are at www.bordertoborder.org by clicking on the "Water Street" link.

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.

Argo Dam B to B Segment

Work started over the summer to dramatically improve the B to B segment from Argo Dam east to the Broadway Bridge in Ann Arbor. As it was, most of this section was just a very narrow dirt path so bad that in some areas you had to walk your bike due to the poor surface.

The new Argo B to B segment will have a paved surface and be right next to a new canoe passage on the Huron River. For more on the redevelopment plan, visit <http://www.concentratemedia.com/devnews/argodam0162.aspx>. The bad news, however, is that the B to B segment here will not be paved until 2012. In the meantime, the City of Ann Arbor has placed B to B detour signs which take you around the north side of the construction area.

Fuller Road Transit Station And The B To B Trail

With the Ann Arbor Fuller Road Transit Station gathering more momentum for actual construction, the non-motorized portion of this project is also being pushed. Larry Deck, of the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (www.wbwc.org) has been following the Fuller issue very closely, giving input at meetings as well as pushing for enhancement of the B to B Trail in the Transit Center area. Specifically, a goal would be to re-route the present B to B Trail so that it goes under the Medical Center Drive and Fuller Road (using the railroad underpasses) and then cross the Huron River at a new non-motorized bridge just west of Maiden Lane. For more news on this issue, visit <http://annarborchronicle.com/2011/08/16/pac-integrate-trails-into-fuller-road-station/>.

Border To Border Trail In Concentrate Online Magazine

While this was printed in one of their earlier editions this year, it gives some good publicity to the Border To Border Trail – <http://www.concentratemedia.com/devnews/bordertobordertrail0142.aspx>

EMU Trailside Outdoor Exercise Area

Eastern Michigan University, over the summer, has created an outside exercise area right next to the Border To Border Trail on the corner of Cornell and Ainsley Streets in Ypsilanti. The area is open to everyone and for more information visit http://www.emich.edu/focus_emu/051011/fitnesspaths.html.

New Maps

There are new Border To Border Trail maps on the Friends of the Border To Border Trail webpage, specifically a new B to B Trail map of the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital/Washtenaw Community College Fitness area as well as two maps of the walking trails adjacent to the B to B Trail around St. Joseph Mercy Hospital. To view these maps, go to the “Maps” link of www.bordertoborder.org.

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>.

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