



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

### Fall 2017 Newsletter

[www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) - Also on [Facebook](#)

*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.*

## News About The Friends of the B2B Trail

### Friends Of The B to B Annual Membership Meeting - November 7th

The Friends of the B2B Trail will hold its annual general membership meeting on Tuesday, November 7th, 7pm at the Ann Arbor REI store community room, [970 W Eisenhower Parkway](#). The meeting will start off with updates and speakers on the B2B Trail and end with a short business session for Friends members to elect new Board members. You do not have to be Friends of the B2B member to attend this event.

The featured speaker at the annual meeting will be Peter Sanderson from the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission (the main agency behind the Trail) giving news updates such as steps being taken to take the Trail off road from Dexter to Ann Arbor and northwest of Chelsea towards Stockbridge. Also, there will be a briefing on the Michigan [Iron Belle Trail](#) (which uses the B2B Trail in Washtenaw County) by Doug Donnelly with the Trails Section of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Iron Belle Trail itself has two routes (one hiking, one for cycling) and goes from Ironwood, Michigan (**Iron**) to Belle Isle (**Belle**) in Detroit. The B2B Trail is part of the hiking route.

### New B2B Trail Bicycle Repair Stand



Recently installed in Ann Arbor's Gallup Park was a theft-proof Dero bike repair stand with tools, work stand and tire pump with gauge. This stand was jointly funded by the Friends Of The Border To Border Trail and the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition ([www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)), and installed with the assistance of the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Department. This bike repair stand is located right on the B2B Trail near the mid-park "wooden bridge" across the Huron River. Look for more of these bike repair stations along the B2B in the future!

### Brewery-To-Brewery B2B Trail Bicycle Rides Continue

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, nearly 100 cyclists participated in another Border To Border – Brewery-To-Brewery bicycle ride, co-sponsored by the [Arbor Brewing Company](#) and the [Wheels In Motion](#) bicycle shop, both of which made donations to the Friends of the Border To Border Trail totaling nearly \$300. A special thanks go to all the volunteers who made this ride possible and to Wheels In Motion for not only supplying a pre-ride bike check-up service, but also for donating bicycle accessories that were raffled off to benefit the Friends. The route on the September ride started at Arbor Brewing in Ann Arbor, traveled to Arbor Brewing-Ypsilanti for lunch (using the B2B Trail), and then returned back to Ann Arbor. Look for another B2B-B2B in the late spring of 2018, starting from Ypsilanti, with a tentative date of National Trails Day, the first Saturday of June.



### **Friends of the B2B Board Minutes & Agendas**

To find out even more about what is going on with the Friends of the B2B, Board of Directors meeting agendas, meeting minutes and financial reports are posted on the Friends web page at [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) under the “Board of Directors” link at the top of the page. Board meetings are held bi-monthly in rotating meeting locations along the B2B route and are open to the public.

### **Support The Friends Of The B2B By Becoming A Member**

Memberships begin at \$10/year for individual memberships (\$25 for a family membership). Also new for 2017 are two-year memberships at \$15 for individuals and \$45 for families. In addition to merchant discounts (such as Wheels in Motion Cycle and Fitness, Ypsilanti Running Company and Tree Fort Bikes), the Friends are a federal 501c3 group so all memberships/donations are tax-deductible. Members can also nominate and vote for the Friends of the B2B Trail Board of Directors every November. For more membership information, including a list of merchants offering discounts to Friends members, visit [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) and click on the “Join” link at the top of the page.

### **Volunteers Needed – Friends Of The Border To Border Trail Membership Committee**

A few volunteers are needed for the Friends Of The B2B Trail Membership Committee to help with a) mailing out new/renewing membership cards and b) once a month emailing out membership renewal requests. This is “at-home” volunteer work with no need to attend meetings! If you can help out please contact Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) or call 734-487-9058. Thanks for considering this!

## ***Border to Border and Other Trail Updates***

### **Dexter To Ann Arbor B2B Segment**

Work should begin over the winter on a new off-road B2B Trail segment from Dexter-Huron Metropark and Zeeb Road, a distance of approximately 1.2 miles. As with many northern trail projects, initial trail clearing needs to take place well before spring arrives so that nesting/shelter sites of arriving flying species (birds and bats) are not disturbed. This pathway route will incorporate two new non-motorized bridges over the Huron River with major funding for this section coming from the Karen’s Trail ([www.karenstrail.org](http://www.karenstrail.org)) project of the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (<http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>). For a map of the entire planned off-road Dexter to Ann Arbor B2B Trail, visit [http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks\\_recreation/greenways/maps/detailed-overview-maps](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/greenways/maps/detailed-overview-maps) and reference the “Border-to-Border Trail: Dexter To Ann Arbor” map.

### **Eastern Washtenaw County B2B Master Plan**

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has started work on a master plan to complete off-road gaps, enhance user experiences and also hook the B2B Trail up with planned non-motorized trails in Wayne County. Master plans for trails such as the B2B are essential steps in not only setting routes, but also necessary for financial grants. The Master Plan working group (which includes representatives of the City of Ypsilanti, Ypsilanti Township, Eastern Michigan University, the Washtenaw Area Traffic Study and the Friends of the Border To Border Trail), is meeting every three weeks and public input sessions are planned for later in the year. These sessions will be announced on the Friends web and Facebook pages.

### **Northwest B2B Segment**

Construction is expected to begin over the late fall/winter on a new B2B western segment of the Huron-Waterloo loop route, [a 44-mile off-road loop](#) using the B2B and Lakeland Trails. The first phase of work will be from Werkner Road to the Green Lake campground northwest of Chelsea followed by the second phase from the campground to Territorial Road. A huge Thank You goes out to the Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative for all their work to make this project a reality. For maps of the northwest segment, visit the Pathways Initiative web site at <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org/trail-projects>.

## Dexter Updates

- B2B Directional Signs – Dexter will soon have B2B directional signs with maps to help B2B users navigate between Central St. at the end of the trail from Dexter Huron Metropark and the trail continuing north from Mill Creek Park North into Hudson Mills Metropark. The signs have been ordered and are expected to be installed over the winter.
- Mill Creek Trail Expansion – The City of Dexter is working to extend the Mill Creek non-motorized pathway from the southernmost point of Mill Creek Park south to the Dexter Community Schools property near Baker and Shield Roads. This proposed new path segment may eventually become part of the planned B2B extension from Dexter To Chelsea. The Friends of the B2B recently wrote a letter to support the Dexter's efforts including grant requests. For a map of the proposed extension visit <http://tinyurl.com/MillCreekExtension>.

## Ypsilanti B2B Update

- Water Street Area – As of late October, removal and replacement of contaminated soil on the Water Street development area segment of the B2B Trail in Ypsilanti has been completed. The City of Ypsilanti is waiting on a final signoff by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality before this segment can be officially reopened for public use.
- Signage – Additional signs should be installed by the end of the year on the campus of EMU to help B2B users navigate through this confusing area.

## B2B Trail – A SHARED Use Path

Paved non-motorized paths in the United States are almost all considered “shared use”, where bicyclists, pedestrians/hikers, the disabled, and other authorized users can enjoy the trail all at the same time. Courtesy and common sense are necessary for the sharing to work, and mostly it does work on our own Border To Border Trail.

The Friends of the B2B had been receiving reports of reckless cyclists on sections of the B2B in Dexter, Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti. On October 13 on the B2B in Bandemer Park, a road bike cyclist, operating at an irresponsibly fast speed, struck a rider going at a slower speed, knocking him off his bike. The fast cyclist never called out his approach (a bell, whistle or even calling out he was coming up... fast) and left the scene giving no assistance to the person he just injured. The injured cyclist was helped by a passerby and when he sought medical help, learned he had a broken hip and needed a hip replacement.

Please always keep these guidelines in mind...

- Pedestrians and slower users always have the right of way on shared use paths.
- Be especially cautious approaching children and dogs, who can suddenly change their direction of travel.
- ALWAYS give a warning when you are coming up from behind on a slower trail user. Use a bell or calling out loudly (“Bike coming up”, “On your left”, etc.).
- Be aware of your surroundings. Be sure you can hear what is going on around you even if you are wearing headphones. If a cyclist calls out that they are passing, say “thanks” or give a wave letting them know you received the message and appreciate the warning.
- If you feel you the need to go fast on your bike, take the roads and not places like the B2B. While there is no official speed limit on the B2B, many shared use trails limit speeds to 10 or 15 miles per hour.
- If stopping, pull off the trail out of the way of all users.
- If using the trail at night, ALL TRAIL USERS should have some type of lighting. The most important reason to have lights is so other users can see you. Cyclists: Make sure you have working front and rear lights. If you don't have lights, stay off the B2B at night as there are some dark sections of the path where without lighting, you are invisible to other users. Walkers/Runners: On the B2B at night have some kind of light that is visible in front and behind you, or at a minimum wear reflective clothing.

For a Bike / Walking / Jogging / Blading / Skating Safety Guide To Bike & Multi-Use, Non-Motorized Trail Etiquette visit <http://www.ibike.org/education/trail-sharing-guidelines.htm>.

## Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Now Open



In mid-October, a new trail that allows users to travel north off the Border To Border Trail to the University Of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens (located on Dixboro Road), officially opened. While not connecting to the B2B directly, the Dixboro Trail is only a short distance from the B2B through Parker Mill County Park. More information about the new 2-mile long off-road pathway, including a map and additional photos, is contained in this Ann Arbor News - Mlive story - <http://tinyurl.com/DixboroTrail>

## *Outreach and Advocacy News*

### **E-Bikes On The B2B? Not Quite Yet!**

With the sale of electronic assist bicycles (e-bikes) exploding, the Friends of the B2B in the past has been asked if e-bikes are legal on the B2B Trail. Under current law, e-bikes are considered to have a motor and NOT allowed on non-motorized paths as the B2B. However, on October 19<sup>th</sup>, the League Of Michigan Bicyclists ([www.lmb.org](http://www.lmb.org)) reported that all three of the LMB sponsored e-bike bills that would allow e-bike use on most Michigan hard-surface trails, HB 4781, 4782, and 4783, had been voted out of the State Senate unanimously. The Michigan House passed them earlier in the year, and it is expected that the Governor will sign the bills into law soon. For more on what this legislation contains, visit <http://tinyurl.com/MI-E-Bike>. P.S. - The new laws will not apply to Segways, which will still be banned from Michigan non-motorized trails.

### **B2B Maps**

The best map of the Border To Border Trail is the Washtenaw County bicycle map, which includes separate Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti panels. Printed copies are available at Friends Of The B2B Trail outreach events (see below) and at the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission offices at 2230 Platt Road, Ann Arbor, MI 48104, during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm). The maps also are available at several area bike and running shops. The map can also be viewed online at

[http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks\\_recreation/greenways/maps/2015-washtenaw-county-ann-arbor-ypsi-bike-map.pdf](http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/parks_recreation/greenways/maps/2015-washtenaw-county-ann-arbor-ypsi-bike-map.pdf). Additional maps related to the B2B Trail are available on the Friends of the B2B web page “map” link at [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org).

### **Friends Of The B2B Outreach**

The Friends of the Border To Border Trail held a series of Trail outreach efforts during the warmer months of 2017 where information about the Trail was available. Look for more outreach efforts in 2018 all along the Trail and publicized on the Friends web ([www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/B2Btrail](http://www.facebook.com/B2Btrail)) pages.

### **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](#). The Friends B2B Facebook page is updated weekly with news about the Trail. As of October 2017 there are currently around 1800 Friends of the B2B page likes.

### **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: what Michigan County the Trail is in.