



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

### Winter 2020 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 Border To Border (B2B) Trail**

### **Possible Merger of Friends of the Border To Border Trail with Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative**

Over the past few months the Friends of the Border To Border Trail and the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative ([HWPI](#)) have been holding exploratory talks about the Friends becoming a Committee of the HWPI. The Friends would no longer be an independent non-profit, but a merger into the HWPI would allow greater funding for projects the Friends has been either active or interested in, paid staff to assist Friends activities, and a larger volunteer base.

The Friends of the B2B Board of Directors will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at the Ypsilanti District Library, 229 Michigan Avenue in downtown Ypsilanti, in the lower level meeting room (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/jyXQMQUks4vcP5b79>). The main business will be the potential merger to have the Friends of the Border To Border Trail become a committee of the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative. For the meeting agenda visit <https://tinyurl.com/B2B-February-2020>. We encourage all Friends of the B2B members to attend the February 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to give their opinion about a merger, including what they would like to ensure is included in a merged organization. For members unable to attend the February Board meeting, an email survey will be sent out soon.

### **Adopt A Trail Program**

With the potential merger, the Friends of the B2B Trail “Adopt A Trail” program is on a temporary hold. In the past the Adopt A Trail program had volunteers keep watch over an off-road section of the Trail, report problems if they see any, and also do light maintenance such as picking up trash, making sure bike repair stands are in working order, and clipping vegetation growing over the Trail. The Adopt A Trail program is expected to continue in the future so watch for communications on how to volunteer.

### **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, minutes, and financial reports are posted on the Friends web page at [www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) in the “About Us” link at the top of the page. Board meetings are held bi-monthly in rotating meeting locations along the B2B route.

### **A Sincere Thank You To Merchants That Support The B2B Trail**

A big benefit of your Friends of the Border To Border Trail membership is the ability to show your Friends membership card and receive a discount at select area outdoor activity shops. A huge thank you goes out to the following merchants who support the Friends of the B2B Trail by offering discounts to members: [Fourth Avenue Birkenstock](#), [SIC Transit Cycles](#), [Tortoise and Hare Sports](#), [Tree Fort Bikes](#), [Wheels In Motion Cycle and Fitness](#), and the [Ypsilanti Running Company](#).

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

The summer and fall of 2019 saw a record number of B2B construction projects taking place and 2020 will bring even more trail building.

### **County border to Chelsea**

#### **Washtenaw/Jackson County Border to North Territorial Road**

Construction of this segment is expected to begin in 2020 with the overall goal to continue extending the pathway to Stockbridge to meet up with the Lakeland/Great Lake-To-Lake Trail (<https://tinyurl.com/GreatLtoL>). For a map of this segment, [click here](#).

#### **North Territorial Road to Green Lake Campground**

Groundbreaking took place in August 2019 for this 2.1-mile trail project with completion expected in the summer of 2020. Highlights of this segment will include a connection with the entrance to the DTE off-road bicycle trail trailhead, a tunnel under M-52, use of an abandoned road that was the predecessor to the current M-52, and the establishment of a trailhead with parking, bicycle repair stand, and restrooms at the Lyndon Township Hall. [Click here](#) for a PDF project map of this segment.

#### **Werkner Road To Freer Road**

The City of Chelsea and the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission are exploring options on how to take the B2B Trail off road from Freer Road east of Chelsea to connect with the recently completed B2B segment that currently ends at the Werkner Road just north of Chelsea.

### **Chelsea to Dexter**

#### **Freer Road to Lima Center Road**

This 2.1-mile Trail segment opened for use in August 2019 and takes the B2B off-road from Freer Road in Chelsea east to Lima Center Road. The actual trail is located on the south side of the railroad tracks with a project map available by [clicking here](#).

#### **Lima Center Road to Mill Creek Park in Dexter**

Staff from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and a team of consultants continue to explore route options for the trail between Lima Center Road and Mill Creek Park in Dexter. Public input opportunities are also planned for this segment. Stay tuned for announcements.

### **Dexter to Ann Arbor**

#### **Dexter Huron Metropark to Zeeb Road**



In January 2020, the second of two new non-motorized bridges crossing the Huron River between Dexter-Huron Metropark and Zeeb Road were put in place. A fair amount of work is still needed before the Trail is complete, so it remains closed to all users. Please do not trespass in the construction zone. Construction of the entire 1.2-mile segment is expected to be complete by late spring of 2020. Project funding for this segment is through a federal Transportation Alternatives Program grant, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant (MDNR), the Washtenaw County Road and Trails Millage passed by County voters in 2016, and private donations through the Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative. The Washtenaw County Road Commission is involved with this project to help administer federal funds from the Transportation Alternatives Program Grant.

Additional information about construction of this segment includes:

- [Official project page](#) with the ability to subscribe to project updates.
- [Construction FAQs](#)
- [Map of the project \(PDF\)](#).
- [Statement regarding construction impacts and trees](#)

#### **Zeeb Road To Dehli Metrpark**

Final engineering and routing work is taking place on this 1.8-mile off-road segment of the B2B, with construction expected to begin in the fall of 2020. A map of this proposed segment is available by [clicking here](#).

## Ann Arbor

### Bandemer Park

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission and the City of Ann Arbor are reviewing the final draft of a feasibility study to construct a pedestrian and non-motorized tunnel underneath the railroad tracks at the north end of Bandemer Park. Additionally, the team is exploring options for routing the trail from the tunnel through Barton Nature Area to connect to the parking lot south of Barton Dam, approximately 0.6 miles. For more information on this segment, click on the following links: [Map of the proposed project](#) and [project description](#)

### Riverside Park

A project to rebuild the Trail in Riverside Park was completed in 2019. The first phase of the project, completed in June, was to replace the wooden boardwalk that carries the B2B Trail in Riverside Park near the Broadway Street bridge. The second phase, completed in the fall, included repaving of the B2B surface in Riverside Park and widening the path to 10 feet. The entire project was funded by the City of Ann Arbor with the help of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission.

## Ypsilanti



News from Bonnie Wessler, Parking and Projects Manager for the City of Ypsilanti: Border to Border trail improvements will be starting soon! This summer, the City is working with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission to repave the portion of the Border to Border trail along the Huron River in Frog Island, and to pave a new asphalt shared-use trail along Grove from the River's Edge Trail (also known as the Water Street Trail) to the old Ford plant, north of I-94, replacing the existing sidewalk. As part of this work, nine trees will be removed before the end of March. These trees have been marked with an orange dot. Trail work is planned to begin in earnest this summer.

Funding will come from in part from a \$20,000 grant the City of Ypsilanti received with the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, primarily from the four-year County road and trails millage approved by 71% of the voters in 2016.

Then this work is completed, the B2B Trail will be rerouted through Riverside Park and the Water Street area. Until then, the Border To Border Trail is officially [routed on-road](#) through the central portion of Ypsilanti. However, trail users can sample the future route right now with this map link as a guide - [www.plotaroute.com/route/814870](http://www.plotaroute.com/route/814870). For eastbound cyclists going south on Rice Street, turn right on Cross Street to cross the bridge over the Huron River, then turn left (south) into Riverside Park and take the pathway through the Park and across the new non-motorized bridge over the River at the south end of the Park to continue on the paved path through the Water Street area. For westbound cyclists going north on Grove Road, look for the curb cut where the Water Street trail intersects Grove Road north of Spring Street. Follow the Water Street Trail to Michigan Avenue, cross the Huron River on the new non-motorized bridge and travel through Riverside Park. At the parking area, continue straight up the hill to reach Cross Street. Turn right (east) on Cross Street then left (north) on Rice Street to get back on the official B2B Trail route.

Some things to keep in mind when using the unofficial Ypsilanti route:

- If on a bike, GIVE WAY TO PEDESTRIANS IN THE PARK!!! Give pedestrians plenty of room and warn them you are approaching. This warning can be a bell or calling out "Bicycle passing on your left (or right)". Also, be aware that young children and dogs being walked should be given a wider berth as their movements can be unpredictable at times.
- Be aware that Riverside Park can be closed for events. These include - May: Show and Shine Car Show, VW Car Show. June: Color Run. July: Camaro Car Show, Elvis Fest, Michigan Beer Festival. August: Heritage Festival. During these events groups essentially rent the Park and charge admission, so unless you want to pay, you will need to use the official B2B on-street route
- When crossing Michigan Avenue, use the crossing signal buttons, but *be alert*. The stop signal for cars happens pretty fast, but in this day of distracted driving, be very careful as it is far too common for motorists to run through the stop signal.

## **Ypsilanti to County border**

In September, construction was completed on a half-mile segment of the Border To Border Trail in Ypsilanti Township along the south side of [Grove Road from Bridge Road, east to Snow Road](#). This B2B segment, which passes in front of Rawsonville Elementary School, allows children to safely walk or bike to school. In the future, this segment is planned to extend further east to Rawsonville Road to connect the B2B Trail with a new 6-mile Wayne County pathway that will go north of Ford Lake into Belleville and then east to join up with path through Lower Huron Metropark. From there, existing off-road trails continue to Lake Erie Metropark.

## ***Outreach and Advocacy News***

### **Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission B2B Page**

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has two web pages dedicated to B2B information.

- A B2B Projects page (construction updates) - <https://www.washtenaw.org/952/Border-to-Border-Trail-Projects>
- A B2B Information page (basic overview, with maps) - <https://www.washtenaw.org/334/Border-to-Border-Trail>

### **Michigan Trails & Greenway Alliance**

Please consider membership in the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance, <https://michigantrails.org>, an organization that works tirelessly for trails throughout the state.

### **B2B Maps**

The official Bike Map of the City of Ann Arbor & Washtenaw County shows the B2B Trail routing clearly. The map is available online at the City of Ann Arbor website by [clicking here](#). Printed copies of the map will be available at Friends of the B2B Trail "Outreach Events" in 2020. Also, a series of different trail maps are available on the Friends of the B2B web page "Trail Info" page link at [www.bordertoborder.org/trail-info](http://www.bordertoborder.org/trail-info).

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

In the warmer months, the Friends of the Border To Border Trail sets up an information table at area events and periodically at locations along the trail. Stop by the table to pick up a County bicycle map, get Trail information, and have questions answered. Look for a few more "On The Trail" outreach events this year with times, location and dates listed on the Friends of the B2B web site and Facebook page.

### **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.

### **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.

### **Friends of the Border To Border Trail**

[www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org) - [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) - 734-487-9058