

Applicant Information

Application Number: 2014063
Section: 01
Applicant Agency: City/Village
Grant Applicant: City of Ann Arbor

Project Description

Project Name: Border to Border Trail Reconstruction - Gallup Park Segment
Type of Work: Shared Use Trail Reconstruction and Improvements
Length (miles): 1.4

Project Location

County: Washtenaw
Region: University
City/Village or Township: Ann Arbor
Zip Code: 48105
Route/Street Name/Facility Name: Gallup Park Border to Border Trail Segment
Project Limits (use nearest cross streets): Dixboro Road to Huron Parkway
Physical Reference: 4604129
MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization): Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
TMA (Transportation Management Area): Ann Arbor

Legislative Information

State Senator: Rebekah Warren (18)
State Representative: Adam Zemke (55)
U.S. Representative: John Dingell (12)

Project Category

Facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, including traffic calming and other safety improvements

Application Details - TA 2014063.01, City of Ann Arbor, Border to Border Trail Reconstruction - Gallup Park Segment, In Review

Contacts

Prefix Contact Type	Name Title	Phone Organization	Cell	Email
Ms Application Preparer	Amy Kuras Park Planner	(734) 794-6230 City of Ann Arbor	(734) 845-0643	akuras@a2gov.org
Mr Chief Administrative Official	Steven Powers City Adminsitrator	(734) 794-6110 City of Ann Arbor		spowers@a2gov.org
Mr Chief Elected Official	John Hieftje Mayor	(734) 794-6000 City of Ann Arbor		jhieftje@a2gov.org
Ms Contact Person	Amy Kuras Park Planner	(734) 794-6230 City of Ann Arbor	(734) 794-6230	akuras@a2gov.org

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Documents

Document	Document Type	Description	User	Date
1	Letter of Support	Letters of Support (3)	kurasa6529	04/21/2014
2	Photograph	Photos and Maps	kurasa6529	04/21/2014
3	Other	Trail User Survey	kurasa6529	04/21/2014
4	Resolution	City Council Resolution	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
5	Other	Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
6	Other	WATS Long Range Plan	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
7	Other	Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission Goals	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
8	Other	Washtenaw County Public Input 1	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
9	Other	Washtenaw County Public Input 2	kurasa6529	04/22/2014
10	Other	Non Motorized Plan	kurasa6529	04/22/2014

Application Details - TA 2014063.01, City of Ann Arbor, Border to Border Trail Reconstruction - Gallup Park Segment, Open

Schedule

Project Type: Construction

<u>Milestones</u>	<u>Date</u>
1. Plans and Estimate Complete:	04/01/2015
2. Grade Inspection Package submitted to MDOT:	05/01/2015
3. Right of Way Certified:	
4. Matching Funds Certified:	06/02/2015
5. Project Listed on Approved TIP/STIP:	12/02/2014
6. Advertisement Start Date:	01/05/2015
7. Construction Letting Date:	03/02/2015
8. Construction Start Date:	05/04/2015
9. Construction End Date:	08/17/2015

Will this project be paired with any future construction projects? Yes

2. Project with Local Management? Yes

If yes, provide the project description (type of work, dates of the proposed construction, job number, etc.)

In conjunction with this project, the City has applied for a grant through the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to construct a universal access playground, barrier free picnic area, kayak landing and fishing dock along with a collector walk and pathway from the parking lot to connect these elements (see concept drawing included with the photos of the site). The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor has pledged \$250,000 towards this project, which together with City funds of \$100,000 and \$300,000 in grant funding will make this a significant group of amenities. This project has received enthusiastic community support because of its inclusive nature, its location in a natural setting, and the popularity of Gallup Park. The pathway improvements provided through this TAP grant would tie these amenities to the Border to Border Trail to provide non motorized access from Dixboro Road in the east to Fuller Road, where the trail continues west to connect to the Ann Arbor's downtown, and east to Ann Arbor Township and the City of Ypsilanti. As this will be a unique grouping of facilities, it is anticipated that the improvements will create a regional draw and improved access to the site will make the features that much more accessible.

Due to the timeframe for the Trust Fund Grant, the project would be constructed in the spring of 2016. However, the construction of the trail will allow the other amenities to be incorporated seamlessly with the new path as there will be only a winter season between the two construction projects.

The project will be done concurrently with the other project.

The project will be done subsequent to the other project.

Additional comments about the project schedule:

Due to the year round heavy use of the B2B trail, there is no ideal construction time, however, it will be optimal to construct early in the season to cause the minimal amount of disturbance.

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Environment/Community

1. Check all that apply:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ROW/Construction Access Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreational Lands | <input type="checkbox"/> State Historic Preservation Office Clearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inland Lakes or Streams Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree Removal | <input type="checkbox"/> Contaminated Sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wetlands Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Endangered Species | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Floodplains Permit | <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Zone | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

Please describe:

For work within floodplain of Huron River/Geddes Pond. The permitting agency for the Floodplain permit is the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ). The permit will be applied for prior to the construction phase. The City of Ann Arbor also requires a soil erosion and grading permit that would be applied for after engineering design is complete.

2a. Describe the anticipated impact of the project on adjacent property owners, your efforts to inform them of the project, and responses to these efforts:

This segment of the trail has no private owners along its length as it is completely within the boundaries of Gallup Park, with Geddes Pond on one side, and the Railroad ROW on the other. However, the trail is well used, and the City has received many comments about the condition of the trail and requests to upgrade the asphalt for safety and usability as well as to widen the trail to accommodate the number and variety of users. The City met with MDOT's Office of Rail personnel to discuss the relationship between the trail and the railroad ROW, and found no issues of concern.

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission has been involved in the development of the B2B trail, and the director provided a letter of support of this project. The County's support was also evident with their funding a new section of the B2B trail along the Argo Cascades through Ann Arbor. The County also funded and installed B2B trail signs through the City.

The Washtenaw Biking and Walking Coalition (WBWC), the primary citizen group for improvements to the trail, has been advocating for improvements to the trail and also strongly supports this project. In 2014, the Ann Arbor Park Advisory Commission and City Council voted unanimously in support of submitting this grant application.

2b. Is property acquisition necessary? No

(Select all that apply and describe below.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Willing Seller | <input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal Completed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Option | <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase Agreement | |

Please describe:

3a. How did you facilitate stakeholder engagement in the development of this project concept and what stakeholders were involved?

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Narrative

1. In a brief narrative, describe the proposed work and how the project will benefit the affected community(ies):

The goals for this project are to increase accessibility and reduce existing conflict points at one of the busiest sections of the Border to Border (B2B) trail as it travels through Ann Arbor's Gallup Park. The B2B Trail is a multiagency, collaborative project whose goal is to provide a non-motorized trail across Washtenaw County from Livingston to Wayne County. The trail is nearly complete as it traverses the City of Ann Arbor, connecting the community to urban centers and parks along the Huron River.

The project proposal is to reconstruct and enhance a 1.4 mile segment of the B2B trail within Gallup Park to Geddes Dam, at the eastern edge of Ann Arbor. Gallup Park is one of the most popular destinations in Washtenaw County, where the trails are often so heavily used that safety is an issue due to the many user groups that compete for space. This important stretch of the B2B trail is a gateway to the Ann Arbor park system from destinations east, including Ann Arbor Township, Washtenaw Community College, St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, and the City of Ypsilanti including Eastern Michigan University, and provides an important bicycle commuter route to and from the University of Michigan (U of M), the U of M hospital system and downtown Ann Arbor. Gallup Park is a primary entry point for the B2B trail. Trail users can park their vehicles at the trailhead parking lot off of Dixboro Road and travel to destinations west.

This section of trail has not been improved since 1995 and is in poor shape, with deteriorated asphalt, flooding issues, and narrow width. The improved asphalt surfacing and shoulders will be greatly appreciated by its users, who have let the City know that all maintenance, including snow removal, and improvement of this trail is important for safety, improved user experience and to minimize conflicts.

Proposed improvements to the trail include barrier free access from the parking lot, widening the trail from 8' to 10' to improve safety, constructing 12'-14' width at the most crowded and popular sections, providing buffers along the edges of the trail, adding bicycle parking, and eliminating redundant and confusing sections of the trail to streamline wayfinding and reduce impermeable pavement.

Strengthening the B2B trail is included as a priority project in four local plans, including the Ann Arbor Parks Recreation Open Space Plan (PROS) 2011-2015 and Non-motorized Transportation Plan 2013, both of which are components of the City's Master Plan; the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) 2040 Long Range Plan; and the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation (WCPR) 2010-2014 Master Plan. All of the plans incorporated extensive public engagement processes, including traditional public meeting forums and online surveys, as well as new strategies such as the MiCommunity Remarks public feedback tool used during the WATS 2040 Long Range Plan planning process. Additionally, in 2009 during the planning process for the WCPR Master Plan, a survey of B2B trail users was coordinated by Michigan State University that allowed planners to gain a better understanding of how the trail is used and how its users would like the trail to be improved. The desire to improve/widen trail surface was one of the top four responses when asked how the trail could be improved.

2. Describe how this project is competitive for funding:

The competitiveness criteria for the TAP program align well with the goals of this project. The project's constructability, public desire for this upgrade, pairing with other Gallup Park improvement projects, use of Placemaking Principles, connections to a community trail network, the City's successful track record with previous projects, and ability to fund and maintain infrastructure are all important elements of this project.

The constructability of this project is secure as the trail is entirely on City land. No significant vegetation needs to be removed, and barrier free access is readily achievable. The strong public and political support for this project increases the success of this endeavor.

Upcoming complementary infrastructure projects in Gallup Park make this project more desirable and urgent. The proposed segment of the trail to be improved provides non-motorized access to popular picnic shelters, restrooms, and viewing/fishing decks. A proposed universal access playground, barrier free fishing dock, picnic area and kayak/canoe landing is proposed to be funded by a grant for \$300,000 through the State

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of Michigan Trust Fund with matching funding donated by the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor of \$250,000 and \$100,000 in City of Ann Arbor park millage dollars. The proposed TAP trail project integrates seamlessly by providing alternative transportation access to unique and heavily used recreational amenities.

Placemaking concepts and universal design were central to the improvements at the Gallup Park Livery in 2013. As part of the project, the trail connection to the Livery was realigned and upgraded to increase safety and improve wayfinding. This Livery, combined with the Argo Livery (also located along the B2B trail and both owned and operated by City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation), are the largest in the State of Michigan and serve to enhance tourism and spur economic development in southeast Michigan. The regional draw of these facilities brings tens of thousands of visitors to and through the park with the B2B trail being a popular access route.

A complementary application is being submitted by the Washtenaw County Road Commission to construct a path that will connect to the B2B trail from Matthaei Botanical Gardens on Dixboro Road. When these two projects are funded, an important non-motorized connection from the Botanical Gardens to the Nichols Arboretum via Gallup Park, will be established. Connecting these two publically accessible University of Michigan properties adds value as a transportation corridor and strengthens the relationship between the University, City and surrounding community.

Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funding for the B2B trail was awarded for construction of a ½ mile segment through Bandemer Park in 2003. A TE grant was awarded in 1994 to construct a path along Huron Parkway connecting to the B2B trail at Gallup Park. The City has a track record of constructing grant funded projects in a timely manner and in accordance with grant guidelines.

Maintenance of the B2B trail, including snow plowing, vegetation control, and patching, is performed by City of Ann Arbor maintenance crews. Funding comes from two sources; the City's general funds for plowing, and the Park Maintenance & Capital Improvements Millage for vegetation control, surface repair and trash collection. This millage was renewed in 2012 for 6 years with 70% voter approval. The estimated annual cost for maintenance of this segment of trail is approximately \$15,800.

The City is providing a 31% match for this project, which is secured and allocated to fund the improvements. The \$700,000 in grant and City dollars for trail reconstruction complements a companion project to build a universal access playground, picnic area and kayak landing on the B2B trail for \$650,000 in grant, City and private dollars. The investment of over \$1,300,000 will improve this transportation corridor and enhance non-motorized access to recreational amenities.

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Local stakeholders have been engaged in the development of this project through the City of Ann Arbor Parks and Recreation Open Space (PROS) Plan 2011-2015 and the City of Ann Arbor's Non-Motorized Plan Update 2013 planning processes. Recommendations for improvements to the B2B Trail are an integral part of these City of Ann Arbor plans. The planning processes included surveys, public meetings, focus groups, and social networking sites such as Facebook, Twitter and GoogleBuzz, as well as task forces and staff groups resulting in valuable input on non-motorized transportation issues, including the desire for additional trail connections and improvements to existing trails.

In the creation of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study (WATS) 2040 Long Range Plan, WATS hosted public meetings and facilitated online comments. WATS also implemented MiCommunityRemarks, a new online public feedback tool, which allowed the public to view and comment directly on proposed improvements in the plan.

During the planning process for the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation 2010-2014 Master Plan, planners met with a multitude of stakeholders through a B2B trail user survey (2009), meetings with County recreation staff and officials, meeting with the Greenway Collaborative, a consulting group specializing in trail and greenway design, public presentations and online publication of the Plan for public review and feedback through an online survey. The B2B trail user survey (2009) was coordinated by Michigan State University. Survey participants were approached while using the trail and asked questions relating to how they used the trail, how they arrived to the trail, where they were going, and finally, how the trail could be improved.

3b. Describe the stakeholder input you received. How did this input help shape this project concept?

The survey reported that the trail sees almost equal use on the weekdays and weekends. This is due to the value of the B2B trail as both a corridor for commuters during the weekdays and a primary way to access recreational facilities on the weekends. Furthermore, 67% of survey respondents said that normal exercise was the primary purpose of their trip, while 15% of respondents said that transportation to work, school or other destinations, such as going downtown or visiting shopping areas, was the primary purpose. Two thirds of the users did not use a vehicle to access the trail, but arrived primarily by foot.

The trail survey also found that trail users are not limited to those who live directly beside the trail: 56% of users surveyed lived more than a mile from the trail, and 91% of the users were residents of Washtenaw County.

The B2B trail serves a variety of non-motorized transportation modes with walking (40%), running/jogging (24%), and bicycling (24%) being the most observed primary activity of trail users.

Some of the improvements desired included wayfinding signage, access to comfort facilities such as benches, bathrooms and picnic areas, and improving and widening the trail surface. Using actual counts, the estimated use for a 6 month period was over 114,000; or the same as the population of the City of Ann Arbor.

Stakeholders shared that they are interested in reducing conflict areas along the B2B trail through Gallup Park by improving trail conditions and increasing barrier free accessibility. Several Ann Arbor City Council members relayed comments from their constituents requesting improvements to the trail to help minimize user conflicts. The Friends of the Border to Border Trail, a citizen trail advocacy group, have also communicated with Parks staff about issues concerning the condition of the trail surface. The Parks and Recreation Open Space Plan input was clear in the desire to maintain and improve existing infrastructure, including trails and recreational amenities.

The reconstruction and widening of this path was a goal in large part because of the public and stakeholder input, which confirmed that this trail is heavily used and that there is strong demand for its improvement. The project concept includes widening the trail to allow for a greater variety and number of users to safely navigate the trail, and realigning and simplifying the trail layout to improve wayfinding and barrier free access.

The 2009 Michigan State University study garnered much useful data and was helpful in justifying the need to improve this trail, to allocate funds towards its replacement, and to widen and improve the trail instead of just replacing the asphalt.

4. If this project is identified in an adopted community, county, and/or region-wide plan, please describe

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(such as master plan, comprehensive plan, trail plan, downtown development plan, etc.):

The need for improved non-motorized facilities along the B2B trail is included in several adopted City, county, and region-wide plans. This inclusion demonstrates collaborative planning efforts by both the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation at the City of Ann Arbor's Parks and Recreation.

Strengthening the B2B trail is a priority project in four local plans including the City of Ann Arbor PROS Plan 2011-2015, Non-motorized Transportation Plan Update 2013, which are components of the City's Master Plan; Washtenaw Area transportation Study's (WATS) 2040 Long Range Plan; and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation's 2010-2014 Master Plan.

The PROS Plan highlights the B2B trail as key to achieving a primary goal to celebrate and protect the Huron River as a natural amenity and resource. Furthermore, the PROS plan considers the B2B as an important non-motorized transportation corridor for Washtenaw County as it links together the park system along the Huron River. Within the PROS Plan under "Major Park and Recreation System Infrastructure Needs", maintenance of the B2B trail was listed as a high priority for safety and usability. During the planning process for the PROS plan, community members shared a significant interest in investing in the B2B trail and gave the trail a high level priority status.

The City of Ann Arbor Non-motorized Transportation Plan 2013 provides recommendations for long-term planning of the B2B trail. The WATS 2040 Long Range Plan includes expansions to the western side of the B2B trail in 2015 to be completed by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. In the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation 2010-2040 Master Plan, non-motorized trails were targeted as a priority. One of the plan's primary goals is to develop recreational facilities that promote a healthy, active lifestyle for Washtenaw County residents of all abilities regardless of socioeconomic status, such as the B2B trail. Specifically, the Plan highlights the value of linear trails to the Huron River, as they provide users access to natural features and connections to and between existing parks.

All of these community and regional plans highlight the importance of the B2B trail for non-motorized connections and access to recreation across Washtenaw country.

5. Has your community adopted a Complete Streets policy?

Yes

a. What type of document is your policy? (Select all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Improvement Program |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Resolution | <input type="checkbox"/> Master Plan | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

b. How does this project support this policy?

By working to improve the trail's levels of service along this 1.4 mile stretch, the City of Ann Arbor supports the Complete Streets policy. The City's policy states that there should be a place for all users within the transportation network. The B2B trail provides an essential commuting route and encourages non-motorized transportation both within the City of Ann Arbor and across Washtenaw County. This project strengthens one of the most popular sections of the B2B through widening of the trail, reducing conflict points, improving trail conditions, and assuring barrier free access.

The B2B, as shown in the above-mentioned 2009 Michigan State Study, is used for transportation by both bicyclists and pedestrians. Two-thirds of B2B users reported that they did not use a vehicle to access the trail. Of those surveyed who own a bicycle, 50% said that they were just as likely to cycle on the B2B trail as they were on a side street or a main street, demonstrating that this trail serves an important role as a transportation alternative.

Accommodating pedestrians and cyclists and strengthening important cross-county non-motorized transportation embraces the goals of complete street design.

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c. Describe what investment your community has made and/or activities you conducted to support your complete Streets policy.

Ann Arbor has been implementing transportation projects using complete street philosophies since the 1970s. The City maintains a well planned roadway and complete sidewalk network, is building a growing bicycling network, and maintains a comprehensive public transit system.

Recent investments in the on-road bike network has increased by 50.6 lane miles from 2007 to 2013, including 39.3 new bike lane miles and 11.2 lane miles of marked shared-use roadway. A 1.1 mile shared-use path was completed in summer of 2011 along Washtenaw Ave. The City has also added 12 pedestrian refuge islands, constructed 33 mid-block crossings and filled 2.91 miles of sidewalk gaps during the same period. Additional improvements include the High-intensity Activated crossWalk (HAWK) signal installed in 2010 and eight Rapid Rectangular Flashing Beacons (RRFB) in 2012 that have greatly increased pedestrian safety. The HAWK signal was the first of its kind on a state trunk line in Ann Arbor.

Ann Arbor has strengthened local pedestrian and bike laws by adopting ordinances establishing rights and behavior in the roadway for auto and non-auto traffic. The most recent amendment prioritizes pedestrian safety at non-signalized crosswalks.

Census and crash data demonstrate the success of the system to date. The Plan cited the 2000 Census on commuter mode choice: 15.8% walked; 2.3% bicycled; 6.6% used public transportation; 62.6% drove alone. Updated data shows that bicycling has increased by 39%; public transit use is up 51%; driving alone is down 8%. Despite an increase in non-auto trips, crashes between bikes or pedestrians and vehicles have dropped.

Although this segment of the trail is not located on street frontage, the trail connects both ends of the park to trails within street right of ways and serves both as a destination and a throughway to serve the surrounding communities and all of the important amenities along the Border to Border route.

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Maintenance

1. What agency is responsible for operation and maintenance of the completed project and what source of funds will be used?

The City of Ann Arbor will be responsible for operation and maintenance of this completed project as well as all of the non-motorized pathways within the City. A combination of funds from the City's General Fund and Parks Maintenance and Capital Improvement Millage has been dedicated for the operation and maintenance of the completed project.

Trail maintenance, including plowing, will be performed by the City of Ann Arbor Field Operations Service Unit. As the B2B Trail is an essential piece of the City's non-motorized transportation system and of regional importance to commuters, the City prioritizes the plowing of the trail during snow events. The City will supplement this work with volunteers through the well established Adopt-a-Park program. This program has a robust volunteer group that assists with maintenance efforts such as vegetation control.

2. Describe anticipated maintenance needs by task. (Indicate frequency of maintenance and estimated annual cost.)

The City of Ann Arbor will conduct snow removal, vegetation overgrowth removal as needed, path repair, bi-annual sweeping of the trail, and respond to citizen reported requests for debris removal. Requests for debris removal from citizens are facilitated through the City's Citizen Request System.

Figuring in snowfall and return visits for ice, splashing and drifting, the City of Ann Arbor estimates approximately 50 visits per year for snow removal on the shared-use path.

Total estimated annual cost of maintenance for the trail is \$15,799.



Application Summary

Date: 4/22/14
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Grant Number: 2014063

Grant Type: TA

Description

Section	Applicant	Project Name	MPO	Let Date
01	City of Ann Arbor	Border to Border Trail Reconstruction - Gallup Park Segment	Southeast Michigan Council of Governments	03/02/2015

Budget

Section	Grant Funds	Match Amount	Match Percentage	Total	Match Source
01	\$447,500.00	\$200,000.00	30.88%	\$647,500.00	City of Ann Arbor - \$200,000.00
Total:	\$447,500.00	\$200,000.00	30.89%	\$647,500.00	



MATTHAEI BOTANICAL GARDENS
AND NICHOLS ARBORETUM
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

1800 N. DIXBORO RD. ANN ARBOR, MI 48105

April 1, 2014

Amy Kuras
City of Ann Arbor Parks & Recreation
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ms. Kuras:

Matthaei Botanical Gardens & Nichols Arboretum enthusiastically supports the City of Ann Arbor's application for a grant to renovate and widen the Border-to-Border Trail segment from Dixboro Road west to the middle of Gallup Park. The Gallup Park Trail is an important segment of the entire Border-to-Border network, linking areas to the east with parks, cultural attractions, and other features in and around downtown Ann Arbor. With the amount and variety of use the current trail receives, it clearly makes sense to make it wider to meet current MDOT standards. Your proposed enhancement would feed directly into the proposed trail connecting Matthaei Botanical Gardens with the Border-to-Border Trail at Dixboro Road and Geddes.

Matthaei-Nichols and Ann Arbor Township, in collaboration with Radrick Farms Golf Course and the Rec Sports Challenge Program, are taking the lead role in the design, construction and maintenance of this shared use trail connecting our combined properties to the shared use trailhead at Parker Mill on the corner of Dixboro and Geddes Road. We are delighted to endorse the improvements for the Gallup Park Trail proposed by the City of Ann Arbor and look forward to having them connect to our own facilities at Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

We are in full support of the funding you seek for this important project.

Best regards,

Robert E. Grese, Director

Professor, Landscape Architecture—School of Natural Resources and Environment
Theodore Roosevelt Chair of Ecosystem Management

bgrese@umich.edu

734-763-0645



Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission

April 7, 2014

Amy Kuras
City of Ann Arbor, Parks and Recreation
301 East Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Border to Border trail: Gallup Park, Ann Arbor TAP Grant Application: Dixboro Road to the center of Gallup Park

Dear Ms. Kuras:

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) fully supports the TAP grant application by the City of Ann Arbor to replace, widen, and make barrier free enhancements to approximately one mile of the Border to Border trail in Gallup Park, from Dixboro Road to the center of Gallup Park. The Parks Commission has worked closely with the City of Ann Arbor to construct new segments of the trail and to design and install way-finding signage. This collaboration helps both governmental units accomplish non-motorized transportation goals. The segment of the B2B trail that runs through Gallup Park is one of the busiest in Washtenaw County. It is not only a commuter and recreation route, but the park is a destination for boaters, walkers and bicyclists, who enjoy the three miles of trail adjacent to the Huron River.

Unfortunately, due to tight budgets, no significant renovations have been made to this trail for almost 20 years. Currently it is in poor condition, presents potential hazards for bicyclists and pedestrians, and its deterioration has effectively narrowed the width of the trail. This project will replace, widen, and re-grade the trail to eliminate areas where water floods it, and provide a smooth surface for safety, user comfort and better access.

These trail improvements are endorsed by the Washtenaw County Greenways Advisory Committee. The Committee and WCPARC urge you to support this worthy project which will improve the level of service of a well-used, and greatly appreciated amenity in the City of Ann Arbor, and benefit users throughout Washtenaw County.

Please contact me at (734) 971-6337 ext. 319 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Richard Kent, ASLA, Park Planner
Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission



April 17, 2014

Amy Kuras, Park Planner
City of Ann Arbor
301 East Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104

Dear Ms. Kuras:

The Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC) strongly supports the repair of the Border-to-Border (B2B) Trail segment in the eastern part of Gallup Park.

We have been strong advocates of building the 35-mile B2B Trail across Washtenaw County. The trail is part of an exceptional greenway along and near the Huron River. Over half of this trail is now in place, and additional segments are funded and scheduled for construction.

The portion of the B2B Trail through Gallup Park is one of the oldest and probably the most heavily used portion of the entire trail. It needs repair. It also is desirable, where possible, to bring this segment up to current width standards to improve safety and better accommodate the mix of bicyclists, walkers, runners, in-line skaters, and wheelchairs users who share the trail.

The trail through Gallup Park serves not only recreational users, but also workers and students in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti bicycling to and from workplaces, the University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, and St. Joseph Hospital.

WBWC, with its coalition partners, represents the interests of thousands of bicyclists and walkers throughout Washtenaw County.

Sincerely,

Larry Deck, WBWC board member
On behalf of the WBWC board

Huron River Greenway Border-to-Border Trail

Ypsilanti Area Trail Map:
East Ann Arbor to
Washtenaw County Line



Border to Border Trail connection east from Gallup Park

What is the Border-to-Border Trail?

The Huron River winds through approximately 35 miles of Washtenaw County. The Border-to-Border Trail (B2B) represents an ongoing collaboration of communities and organizations to construct a shared-use path that will link the open spaces of the Huron River greenway.

With its County Greenways Initiative, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has made a serious commitment to expand hike and bike trails throughout the county, and the Border-to-Border Trail is

WGPARC's major development project to achieve this goal. 10+ miles of paved shared-use paths exist today, with more to come.

Enjoy your ride!



Key Project Elements:

- ~ completion of 35+/- mile paved shared-use path across Washtenaw County
- ~ conservation of the Huron River corridor
- ~ provide opportunities for transportation, recreation, river access, and links to neighboring counties
- ~ distinctive signage system creates a unique identity for the B2B while helping users navigate the trail

Legend

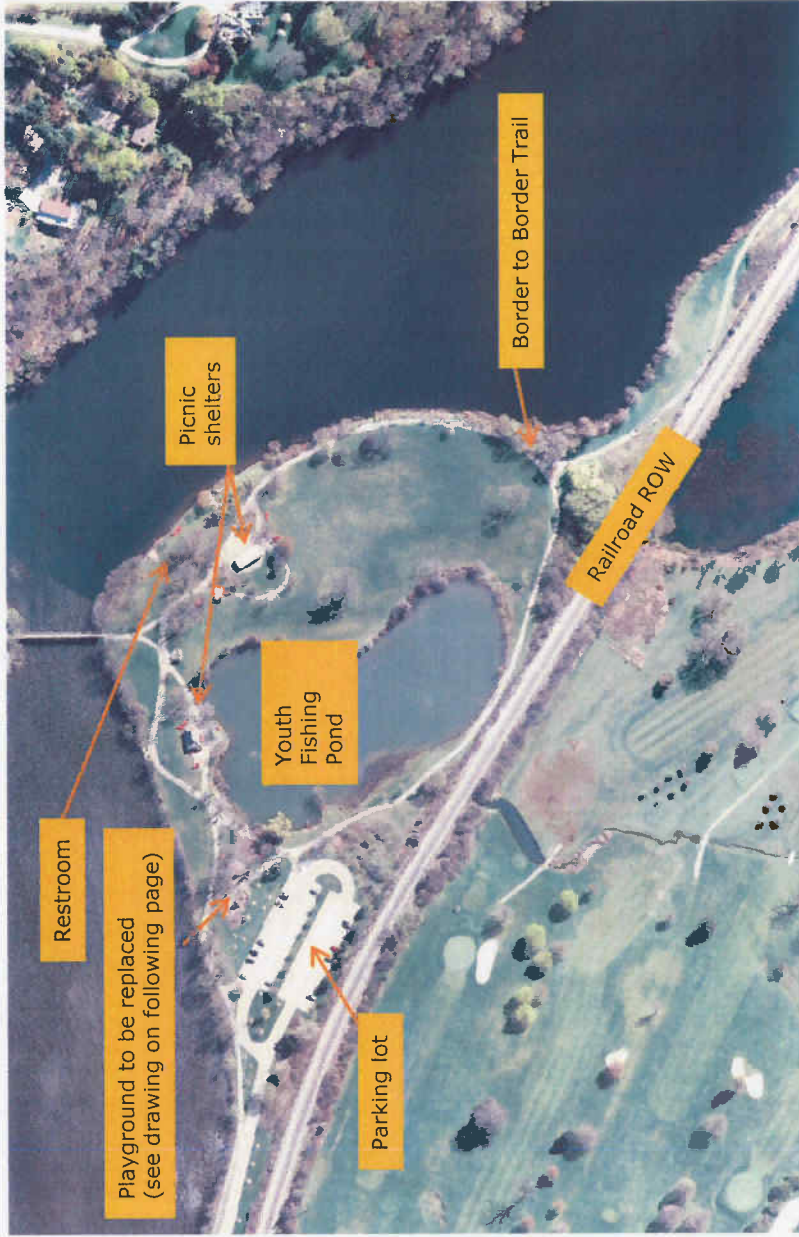
- Existing B2B Routes
- paved shared-use path, unpaved path, bike lanes, road, trail signs
- Planned Trail
- planning and/or design documents have been developed
- Conceptual

Border to Border Trail Brochure



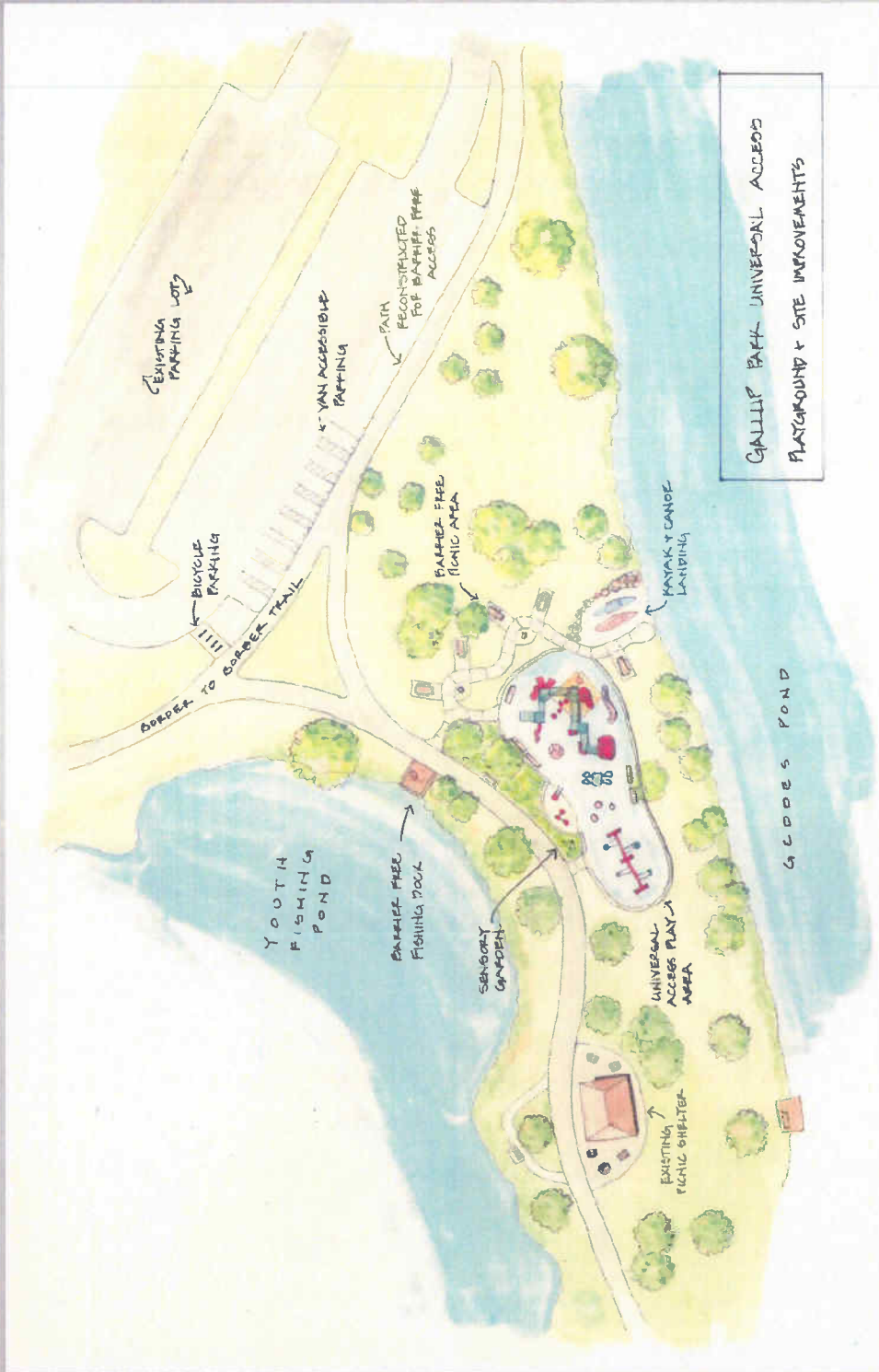
Border to Border Trail through Ann Arbor

Gallup Park Loop Trail with access to picnic shelters, parking, playground, restrooms, fishing pond, fishing decks. Trail to be reconfigured to eliminate excess trails.



B2B Trail Segment 1





Project paired with this application to be funded by other sources, including universal access playground, barrier free picnic area, fishing dock, kayak landing, collector walk from parking lot.

Path next to playground in poor shape with drainage issues. This playground is to be replaced as part of companion project.



Path going east around pond, with flooding at pond and asphalt deterioration. This path would be relocated to avoid flooding.

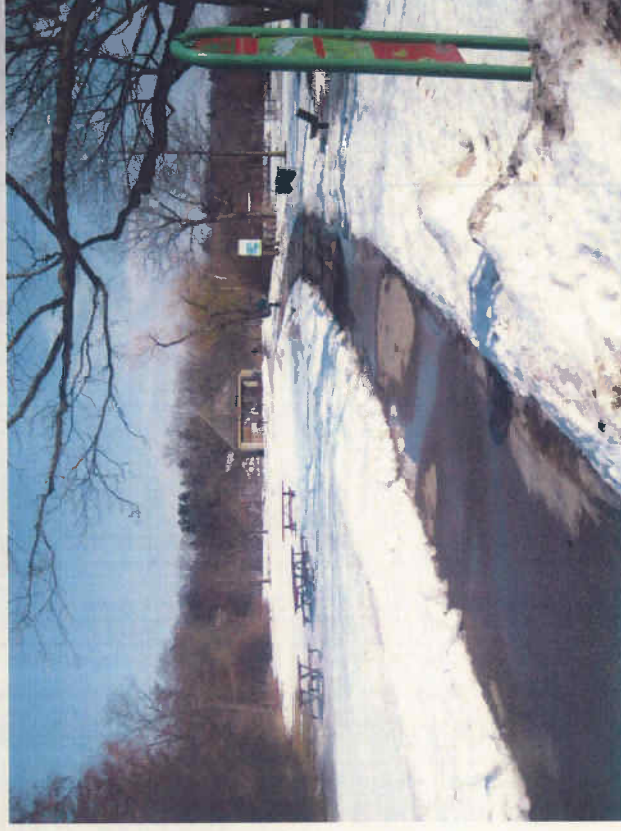


Gallup B2B Trail

**B2B map in loop area
to be reconstructed**



**Looking toward picnic shelter.
This path to be realigned per
the concept drawing.**



Gallup B2B Trail

Gallup Park B2B trail segment between South Pond and Geddes Pond with rail road ROW to the south of the path.



B2B Trail Segment 2



**Path heading east
towards split in trail**



**Path continues east on
south side of split in trail**



Gallup B2B Trail



Concordia University to north of trail with rowing facilities. Path segment west of Huron Parkway overpass.



B2B Trail Segment 3



**Trail condition
between Geddes
Pond and RR ROW**

Gallup B2B Trail

Segment between US 23 and Huron Parkway. Pathway continues east to Ann Arbor Township, including St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Washtenaw Community College, and Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti.



B2B Trail Segment 4

Entrance to Gallup Park segment of B2B. Trailhead parking lot at Dixboro Road in background



Trail condition from eastern segment near Dixboro Road



Gallup B2B Trail

Sign posted at pathway for consideration of trail users on the crowded sections of trail

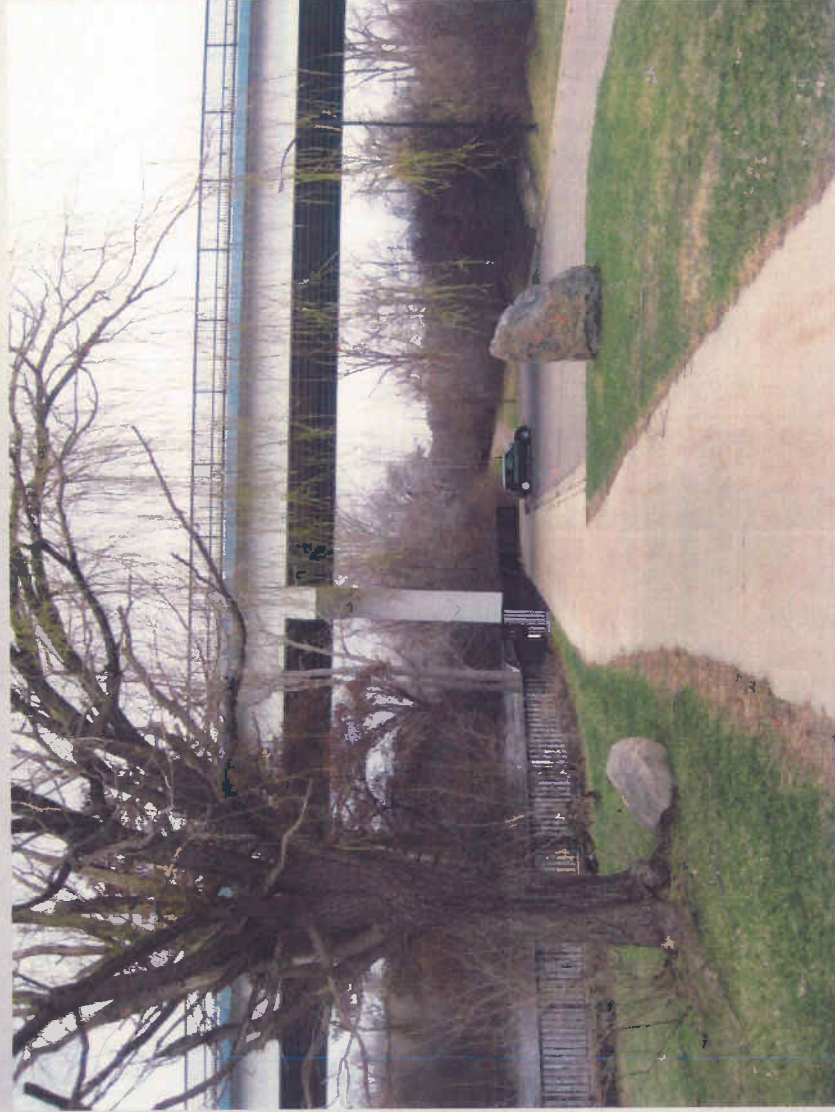


B2B Sign looking towards the Dixboro Dam at the Dixboro Road Trailhead.

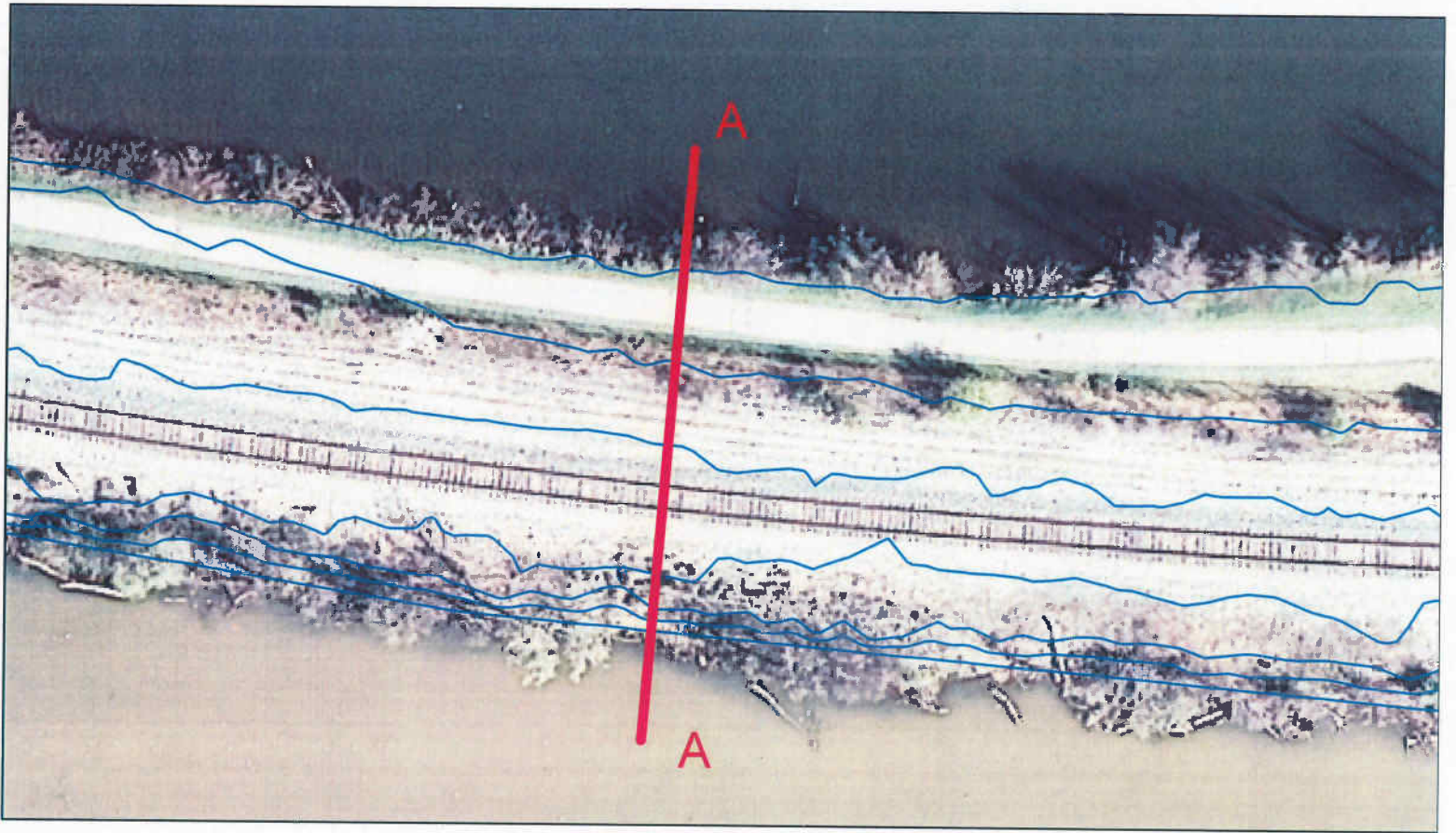


Gallup B2B Trail

US 23 as it passes over the B2B trail towards Ann Arbor Township (immediately outside of eastern project limit)

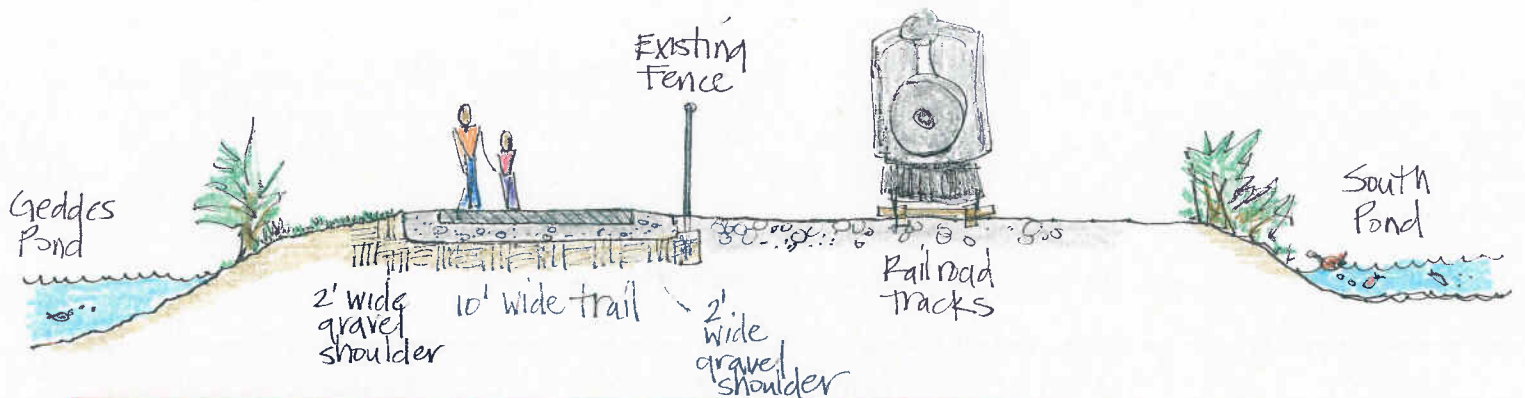
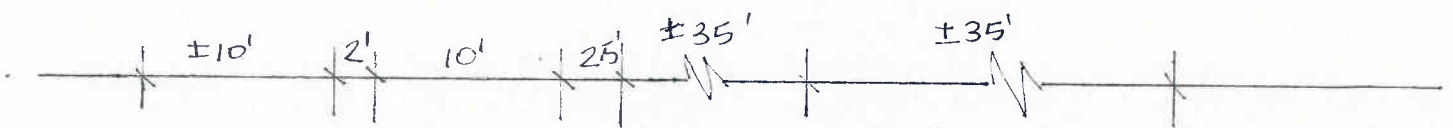


B2B Trail



Narrowest segment of trail between South Pond and Geddes Pond

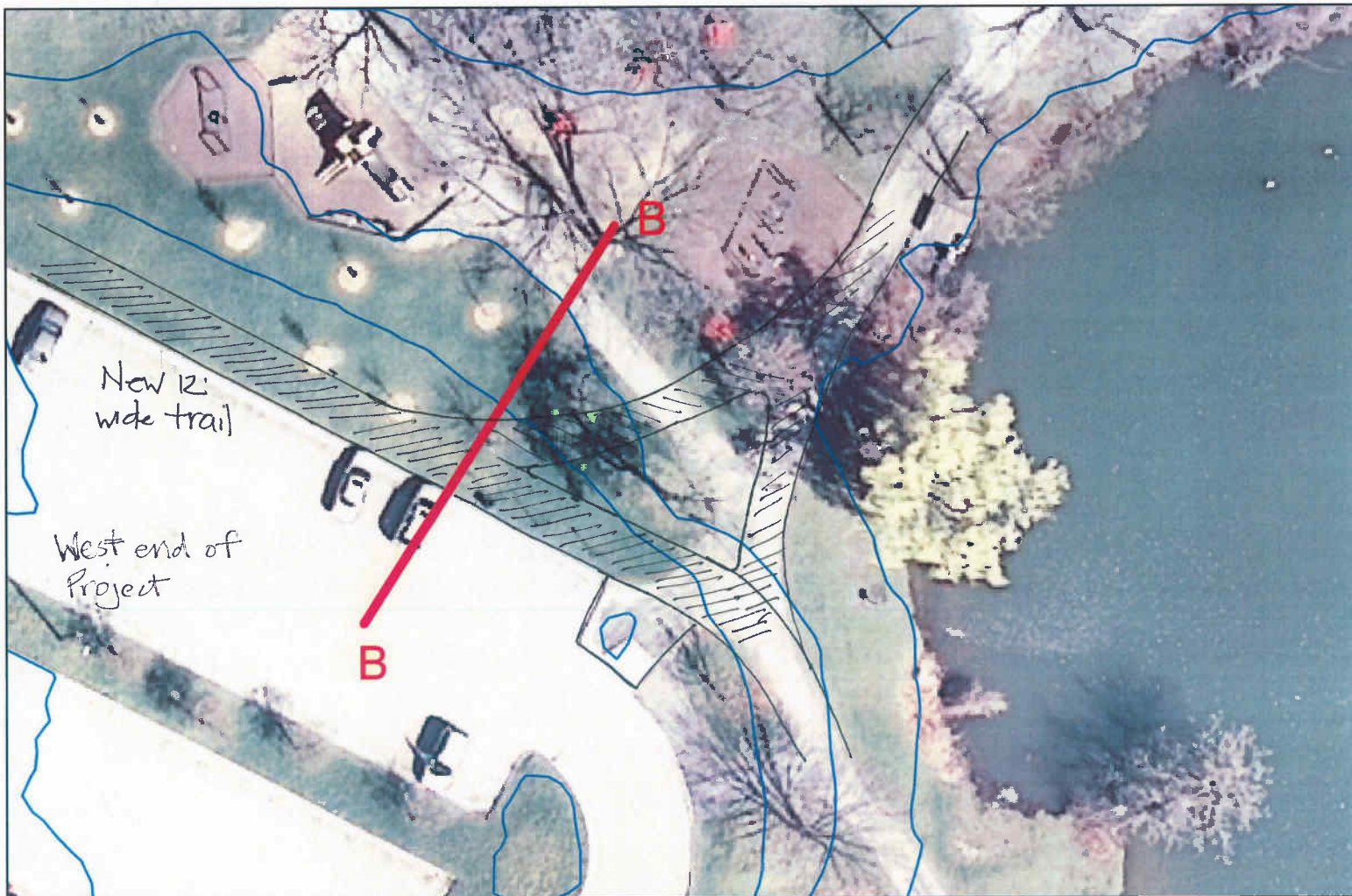
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A

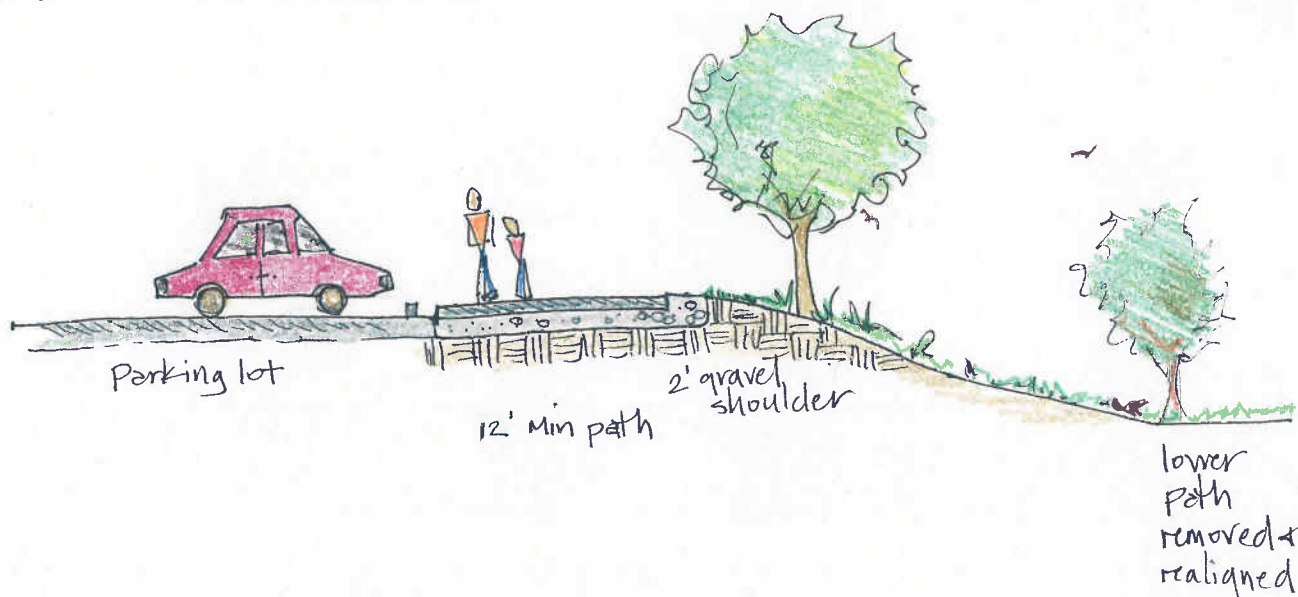
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Parking lot and trail reconfiguration

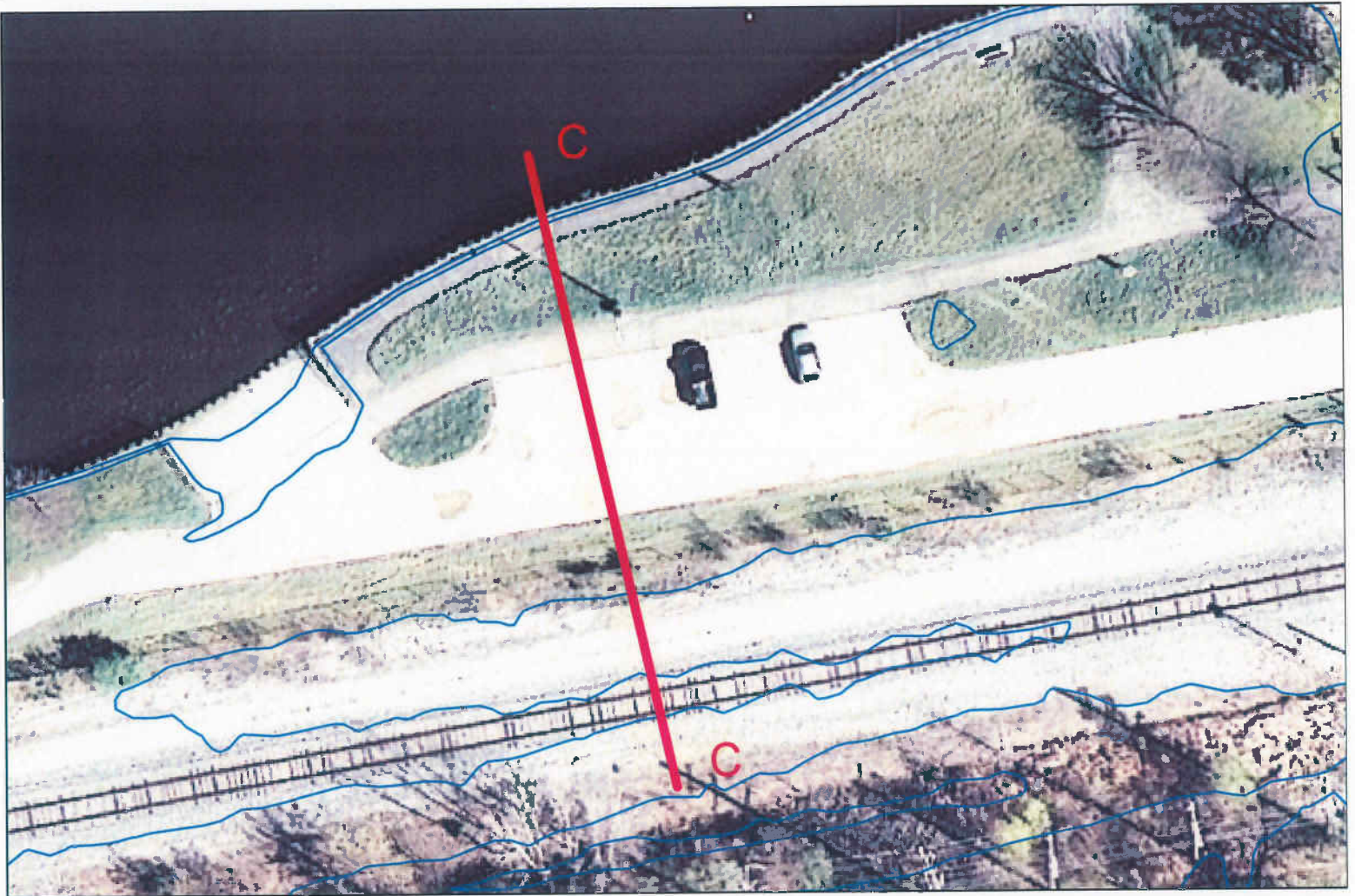
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B

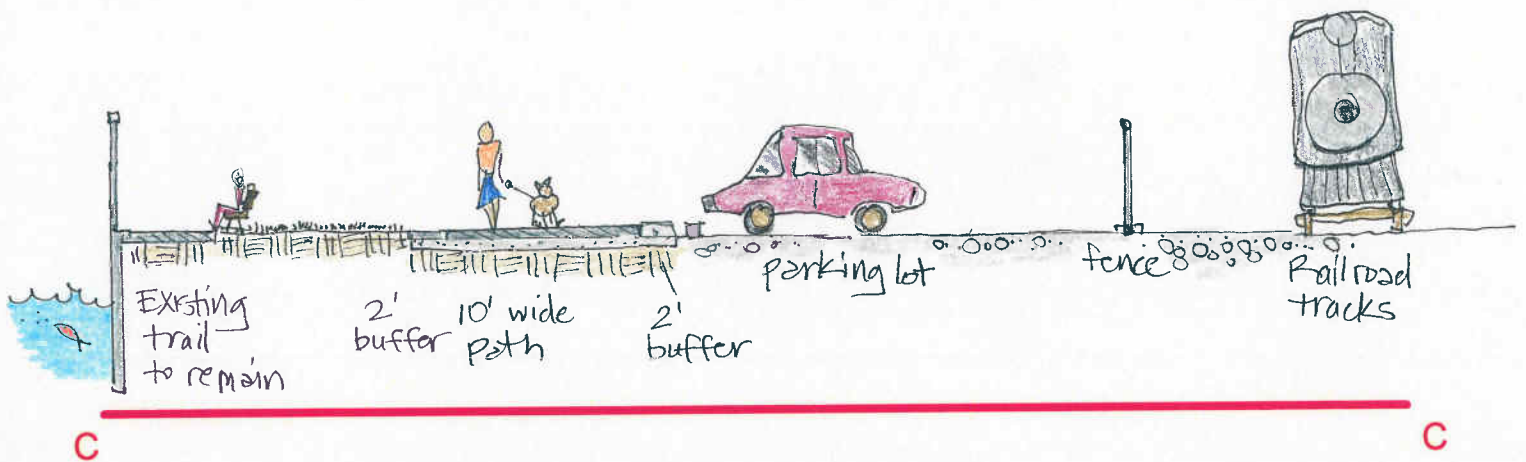
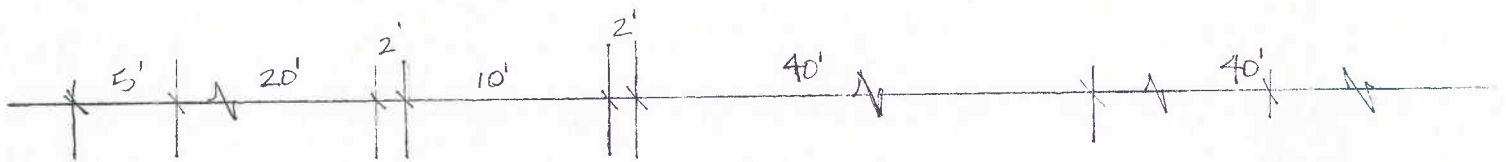
B

Scale 1"=10'



Parking lot and trail reconfiguration - east end near Geddes Dam

Scale 1"=40'



Scale 1"=10'