



## Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

### Summer 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

### Karen's Trail

The Karen's Trail B2B Trail outreach and fundraising efforts continue to make progress, with many events already held or planned for the late summer and fall. Named after the late Karen McKeachie, a beloved area athlete and supporter of women's athletics who was killed by a motorist in August 2016, Karen's Trail seeks to raise funds to complete construction of the Border To Border Trail and serve as a living memorial to Karen.



Karen's Trail events that have already taken place include information tables at the One Helluva Ride bike ride, Ann Arbor Art Fair, participation in the Oberun running event (see below) and other various community and running events. The Friends of the Border To Border Trail, along with the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (<http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>), are members of the Karen's Trail Committee. For more information about Karen, the Karen's Trail project, and to make a tax-deductible donation to Karen's Trail, visit [www.karenstrail.org](http://www.karenstrail.org). To volunteer for Karen's Trail events, visit <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044dacab23abff2-summer>.

### Oberun Run Benefits The B2B Trail

On Friday, July 14<sup>th</sup> the inaugural Oberun 5 kilometer run and festival was held at Wiard's Orchard and in the end netted nearly \$10,000 for B2B construction. The Friends of the Border To Border Trail ran the beer garden, and all profits and donations went to the Karen's Trail fund.

A huge thank you goes out to the Oberun participants, many of whom donated extra beyond the run entry fee. A super huge thank you to all the Friends of the B2B volunteers who helped out. Thanks also to the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative, Bells Brewery, Rave Associates (the beer distributor) and RF Events who not only organized and ran the event, but was solidly behind boosting the Karen's Trail fund.

### Bicycle Repair Stands Along The B2B Trail



In an effort to aide cyclists using the Border To Border Trail, the Friends of the B2B is starting to install a number of theft-proof bicycle repair stands along the Trail. Each stand has a bike hanger, bicycle tools, and an air pump. The Friends are looking to partner with other groups for each stand to split the cost (total cost is approximately \$1300 for each stand with installation). The first stand along the Trail will be in Gallup Park near the wooden bridge over the Huron River, cosponsored by the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition ([www.wbwc.org](http://www.wbwc.org)).

## **Brewery-To-Brewery Bicycle Ride To Benefit The Friends Of The B2B**

Another Border To Border – Brewery-To-Brewery bicycle ride will take place on Sunday, September 17, sponsored by the Arbor Brewing Company, which will make a donation to the Friends of the B2B after the event. The ride is co-sponsored by Wheels In Motion bicycle shop. The ride will start from Arbor Brewing Company in Ann Arbor at 11am, travel on the B2B Trail to Ypsilanti where a lunch break will take place at the Ypsilanti Arbor Brewing Microbrewery (Corner Brewery) and then return to Ann Arbor. While the ride itself is free, pre-registration is required and the number of riders is limited to 100. More details will be listed soon on the Friends of the B2B web and Facebook pages. Volunteers are also needed to serve as a ride group leaders and sweeps (each group will have around 30 participants). If you can help, please contact Bob at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com).

## **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) 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.

## **Friends of the B2B Annual Membership Meeting**

The annual Friends of the B2B membership meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 7th, 7pm at the Ann Arbor REI store Community Room, 970 W Eisenhower Parkway. At the event (which you don't have to be a Friends member to attend), a general B2B update will be given by Peter Sanderson of the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission, as well as a presentation 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.

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

To find out even more 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 <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.

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

### **Pavement B2B Directional Arrows**



To help navigating some of the confusing trail junctions on the Border To Border Trail, volunteers with the Friends of the B2B Trail are painting pavement at the junctions with the letters “B2B” along with an arrow showing that a Trail user should turn left or right or proceed straight ahead. We will renew the arrows every spring. Some pavement markings are up on Eastern Michigan University property, and approval for painting these on pavement is going through channels in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti.

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

The next segment of the B2B between Dexter and Ann Arbor will start at Dexter-Huron Metropark and go east to Zeeb Road, all off-road. This project is fully funded and ready to go except for two permits, which are expected to be approved soon. Once the permits are approved, the project will go out for bidding. Actual construction is currently expected to begin in the first quarter of 2018. Efforts will then continue to move downstream toward the larger goal of having the B2B completely off-road from Dexter to Ann Arbor's Bandemer Park.

### **Eastern Washtenaw B2B Completion Planning**

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, the main government agency behind the B2B Trail, is stepping up efforts to improve the Trail in the eastern portion of the County by starting work on a long-term plan for this area that would maximize Trail separation from auto traffic, coordinate the B2B connection to the Iron Belle Trail in Wayne County and enhance user safety, connectivity and ease of navigation. The Commission plans to initially set up working groups (which the Friends of the B2B Trail will participate in), larger stakeholder meetings and public input sessions on this master plan.

The Friends of the B2B commends the Commission for starting work on this master plan as there are not only some critical off-road gaps of the B2B that need improvement in the eastern area of the County (i.e. Ypsilanti's Riverside Park north to Eastern Michigan University) but potential new developments in the area will increase use of the Trail. Watch for more news as it develops on this Eastern Washtenaw County B2B master plan on the Friends web and Facebook pages.



### **Gallup Park B2B Segment Reopens**

After dealing with an extended closure of the B2B Trail in Gallup Park in 2016 for the trail to be completely rebuilt, early this summer it was announced by the City of Ann Arbor that the paving asphalt used was below standard, and this same section had to be re-rebuilt. This time, however, the contractor (who had to pay for the rebuilding) wasted little time (even working weekends) with the Trail closing on July 5<sup>th</sup> and reopening for use on July 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **Northwest B2B Segment**

This segment of the B2B will be an off-road paved path parallel to M-52 north of Chelsea, from Werkner Road going north to North Territorial Road. Construction on this segment is expected to begin in the late fall or early winter of 2017, with the eventual goal of having this segment go north to Stockbridge where it will connect to the Lakelands Trail. A huge Thank You goes out to the Huron-Waterloo Pathways Initiative - <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org> - for all their work to make this project a reality.

### **Dexter To Chelsea B2B Off-Road Segment**

After a number of Lima Township residents objected to a new off-road segment of the B2B Trail between Dexter and Chelsea roughly parallel with Dexter-Chelsea Road, County officials are meeting with residents to reach a mutual agreement on a Trail routing. The new path was originally intended to use a very old interurban railroad right-of-way easement that is owned by Washtenaw County. For more on this matter, visit the Mlive article at [http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/06/residents\\_county\\_at\\_odds\\_over.html](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/06/residents_county_at_odds_over.html).

It should be noted that the Rails To Trails Conservancy has found it not that uncommon for trail proposals to face local opposition due to fears of “crime”, “littering” and a “decrease in property values” when in fact a trail can create the exact opposite effects. For news updates on this segment, visit the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative web page (and sign up for their newsletter when you do) at <http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org> with updates also on the organizations Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/hwpathways>.

### **Dexter B2B Signage**

B2B directional signs, along with “map” signs will be installed this summer to help B2B users navigate from where the Trail leaves Dexter Huron Metropark at Center St. in Dexter west to Mill Creek Park North where the Trail continues north through Hudson Mills Metropark. Also being explored are “wayfinding” signs for B2B Trail users, which would be larger and also point out area attractions.

### **City of Ypsilanti B2B Update**

Work to remove contaminated soil near the B2B Trail in the Water Street development area southeast of downtown started much later than expected but should be completed by the end of August. At that time, the Trail in this segment will be officially reopened with a grand opening ceremony to celebrate the trail improvements in the Michigan Ave. area.

Also in Ypsilanti, new B2B directional signs have been installed on the on-road segment of the B2B Trail from Depot Town to Eastern Michigan University, making it easier to navigate this section. Additional signs should also be installed soon on the campus of EMU where the B2B is routed.

### **B2B St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Drive Crossings Repaved**



In July, B2B road crossings around St. Joseph hospital in Ypsilanti were repaved, making these crossings much more smooth and safe. The previous pavement had deteriorated to the point where cracks and crevices could catch a bicycle tire. The photos show the trail before and after the repaving.

### **Ann Arbor Allen Creek Greenway**

The Allen Creek Greenway, now called the “Tree Line”, continues to move slowly through planning processes by the City of Ann Arbor. When completed, the pathway will run generally north-south through central Ann Arbor and connect to the B2B Trail at its northern terminus near Argo Dam. Obstacles to the construction, however, include the total cost (estimated to be \$55 million) and opposition by the University of Michigan. For more information, visit the Mlive story on this project at [http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/07/allen\\_creek\\_trail.html#incart\\_2box\\_news\\_ann-arbor](http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/07/allen_creek_trail.html#incart_2box_news_ann-arbor)

## Dixboro Trail Construction



As of early August, construction of this new trail from the northeast corner of Geddes and Dixboro Roads north to the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens was making solid progress, with a stone base constructed in preparation for paving with asphalt. Expectations are that the trail will be ready for use in the early fall. The Dixboro Trail connects to the B2B via existing trail through Parker Mill County Park.

## Outreach and Advocacy News

### 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 (map at <https://goo.gl/maps/RVV8V8HbToy>) during normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30am to 5pm). Maps will also start becoming available at 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). A series of different trail maps 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 are continuing to hold a series of Trail outreach efforts where information about the Trail is available, suggestions can be offered and questions can be answered. So far this summer, the Friends have had information tables at the June Ann Arbor Green Fair, at St. Joseph Mercy Hospital (the B2B travels through its property) and Huron River Day. The Friends are also planning to have B2B Trail information tables at Dexter’s Mill Creek Park, Argo Cascades in Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti’s Water Street area. Look for more details on these information and outreach efforts on the Friends web ([www.bordertoborder.org](http://www.bordertoborder.org)) and Facebook ([www.facebook.com/B2Btrail](http://www.facebook.com/B2Btrail)) pages, and contact Bob Krzewinski at [wolverbob@gmail.com](mailto:wolverbob@gmail.com) or call 734-487-9058 if you would like to volunteer.

### 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.

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