



Friends Of The Border To Border Trail

Winter 2018-19 Newsletter

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

REI B2B Bike Repair Stand Grant Update

Using a \$10,000 grant from the REI Co-Op (www.rei.com) for B2B trail enhancements, the Friends of the Border To Border Trail has purchased seven bicycle repair stations that are being placed along the B2B Trail. The bicycle repair stands include bicycle tools, a tire pump, air gauge, and a work rack for users to perform basic maintenance or repairs such as a replacing a flat tire. The bike repair stands, made by Dero in the USA, each cost around \$1,500.



Also being added to each bike repair station in 2019 will be a device known as a “Pump Stop”. This is a metal stand, also made by Dero, that allows you to slide a bike tire into a groove to hold the bike while you do repairs or pump up tires.

Planned locations for new stands include the DTE Trail parking lot along M-52 northwest of Chelsea, Mill Creek Park in Dexter, Argo Cascades in Ann Arbor (already installed), near the Eastern Michigan University Convocation Center, just south of the new B2B bridge across the Huron River just east of downtown Ypsilanti (already installed), and Loonfeather Point Park in Ypsilanti Township. Also, another bike repair station will be placed at a new B2B Trailhead parking area in Lyndon Township north of Chelsea, funded with a matching grant from the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (<http://huron-waterloo-pathways.org>). The Friends of the Border To Border Trail sincerely thanks REI for their support for the B2B Trail!

Adopt A Trail Program

The Friends of the B2B Trail has an “Adopt A Trail” program in place where 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, or clipping vegetation growing over the Trail. In early 2019 the volunteer list is being updated to see if past volunteers want to continue to adopt “their” Trail segment. Watch for possible Adopt A Trail volunteer openings for 2019 on the Friends Facebook page, web page, and Google email discussion group (links listed at the end of this newsletter). As always, a big *Thank You!* to all those who agreed to adopt a Trail section for 2018. For more information on the Adopt A Trail program, visit <http://www.bordertoborder.org/services>.

Support The Friends Of The B2B By Becoming A Member



Memberships begin at \$5/year for student or \$25 for a family membership, or two-year memberships at \$15 for individuals and \$45 for families. In addition to merchant discounts from select area bicycle, running and outdoor shops, the Friends are a federal 501c3 group so all memberships and additional 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 members, visit www.bordertoborder.org and click on the “Join” link at the top of the page.

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](#), [Great Lakes Cycling and Fitness](#), [SIC Transit Cycles](#), [Tortoise and Hare Running & Fitness Center](#), [The Local Bike Shop A2](#), [Tree Fort Bikes](#), [Wheels in Motion Cycle and Fitness](#), and the [Ypsilanti Running Company](#).

Friends of the B2B Board Minutes & Agendas

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 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.

Upcoming Friends Of The B2B Trail Events & Outreach

- St. Patrick's Day "Green" Walk – Sunday, March 17, 2 pm. Meet at the Parker Mill County Park Information Pavilion, [4650 Geddes Road](#) for a 45-minute walk, looking for green sprouts, on a section of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens (and B2B feeder path) Trail. Walk canceled if raining, or winter storm advisory/warning at walk start time.
- [National Trails Day](#) – 2nd Saturday of April – Events to be announced.
- Earth Day – Monday, April 22. Friends of the B2B table at Washtenaw Community College & Ann Arbor events.
- Huron River Day – May 17 at Ann Arbor's Gallup Park – Friends of the B2B information table.

For more information on events and outreach, watch for announcements on our Facebook page and email discussion group (details on these two sources at the end of this newsletter).

Border to Border and Other Trail Updates

Border To Border Trail Construction Updates

With winter here, actual trail construction on the Border To Border Trail has slowed down- but has not stopped- and planning, engineering and funding work is expected to continue at a busy pace. For an area map of existing and proposed B2B Trail projects, [click here](#).

Northwest B2B Segment



On December 8th, a grand opening celebration was held north of Chelsea for the newest section of the B2B Trail, a 2.6 mile segment parallel to M-52 from Werkner Road to the Greek Lake Campground. The event, hosted by The Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, drew over 100 local, regional and state officials and area residents. Additional landscaping and trail signage along this new route is planned for the spring.

The next phase of this project is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2019 to build two new B2B Trail segments: Green Lake Campground north to North Territorial Road, and North Territorial Road north to Leeks Road in Jackson County, for a total distance of 5.5 miles. The work includes earthwork, vegetation removal, and construction of the asphalt trail, boardwalk, and other related improvements. The project will begin this winter with tree and brush removals. Path construction will occur later this summer, with an expected completion in the fall. The eventual goal is to extend 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](#).

Chelsea To Dexter

Preliminary construction (brush clearing and minor grading) began in November on the first off-road B2B Trail segment between Chelsea and Dexter. This new segment will be from Freer Road on the northeast side of Chelsea, to Lima Center Road, a distance of 2.1 miles on the south side of the railroad tracks parallel to Dexter-Chelsea Road. For a map of this segment, [click here](#).

For the remainder of the Chelsea to Dexter B2B Trail from Lima Center Road east to Parker Road, Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission staff and a consultant team are exploring various route options and will be having public input opportunities sometime in the future. For the trail from Parker Road east to the City of Dexter, a consultant team will be exploring various route options to connect from Mill Creek Park in Dexter to the planned connection point near the intersection of Wylie Road and Dexter-Chelsea Road. Public input opportunities are also planned for this segment.

Dexter

B2B directional signs have been installed in Dexter from Central Street (where the B2B from Dexter Huron Metropark stops) to Mill Creek Park (where the B2B heads north into Hudson Mills Metropark). Also, this spring look for a bicycle repair stand and air pump to be installed in Mill Creek Park close to the B2B Trail, courtesy of the grant from the REI Co-Op to the Friends of the Border To Border Trail described above.



Hudson Mills Metropark To The Lakeland Trail



The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is continuing to work with the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA), Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI), Livingston County officials, and other agencies to determine a potential trail route that would continue the B2B from Hudson Mills Metropark, north to the Lakelands Trail. Such a connection from Hudson Mills to the Lakeland Trail would create a 44-mile loop trail that would use the B2B and Lakeland Trails. Please note that on the map to the left, the routing shown from Hudson Mills Metropark north to the Lakeland Trail is one potential routing and may not be the final route.

Dexter Huron Metropark East to Zeeb Road

This project will begin construction in early 2019 with a groundbreaking the morning of February 9th (details will be posted on the event in the [Friends web](#) and Facebook pages). The winter start of construction on this and other trail projects allows for trail right-of-way clearing before migrating and hibernating species become active in warmer weather. This B2B segment begins in Dexter-Huron Metropark and ends at the intersection of Zeeb Road and Huron River Drive (1.2 miles). The trail is mostly within the Metropark but also includes portions in the railroad and road rights of way. The work includes two new pedestrian bridges over the Huron River, earthwork, vegetation removal, paving, boardwalk, and other related improvements. The river may be temporarily closed for safety reasons while placing the bridges. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall of 2019. For a map of this area, [click here](#).

Zeeb Road East To Delhi Metropark

This B2B project is currently in a very active final engineering and design phase as preliminary designs, environmental and archeological research has been completed. Also, feedback on the route was given on January 9th at a Public Information meeting at the Dexter Library. This 1.8 mile trail section begins at the intersection of Zeeb Road and Huron River Drive and is proposed to roughly parallel the railroad on the south side of Huron River Drive to Delhi Metropark. Construction may occur as soon as 2020. For a map of the proposed project, [click here](#). Also, please note that trees in this B2B segment area have been tagged as part of the survey process. These tree tags are for inventory purposes only and do not necessarily indicate tree removal.

Bandemer Park Area



The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission and the City of Ann Arbor have hired an engineering firm to perform a feasibility study to construct a pedestrian and non-motorized tunnel underneath the Michigan Department of Transportation railroad tracks at the north end of Bandemer Park. Additionally, the team will explore options for routing the trail through Barton Nature Area to connect to the parking lot south of Barton Dam, approximately 0.6 miles. Public information meetings will be held in the future for public input opportunities.

Ypsilanti

On December 18th, the Ypsilanti City Council voted unanimously in favor of a written partnership with the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission to build two new off-road sections of the B2B Trail in the City: in Frog Island Park to move the Trail off road and next to the Huron River, and along Grove Road to move the Trail off road in a separated-from-traffic pathway on the west side of the street. The City agreed to pay \$20,000 from a State grant for Trail planning that has already been awarded to the City and in return the WCP&RC will pledge \$850,000 to \$900,000. Construction is expected in 2019 or 2020. Construction funds come primarily from a four-year County road and trails millage approved by 71% of the voters in 2016.



Far Eastern B2B Trail

The B2B Trail in eastern Washtenaw County currently ends at an existing paved pathway on the east side of Bridge Road at [North Hydro Park](#) in Ypsilanti Township. The completed B2B Trail to the eastern border of Washtenaw County at Rawsonville Road will connect the B2B Trail to the Iron Belle Trail in Wayne County. The [Iron Belle Trail](#) is a project of the State of Michigan to establish both a hiking/walking trail and a separate bicycling path from Belle Isle in Detroit to Ironwood in the western Upper Peninsula. The name “Iron Belle” comes from the Trail going from Ironwood (the “Iron”) to Detroit’s Belle Isle Park in the Detroit River (the “Belle”). Washtenaw County’s B2B Trail is on the Iron Belle hiking/walking trail segment.



The projected routing of the Iron Belle Trail in southeast Michigan has the hiking/walking segment starting at Belle Isle and roughly following the Detroit River southbound to Lake Erie Metropark, where the Trail makes a sharp turn northwest along existing paved pathways until it meets up with the very southern part of Oakwoods Metropark. There the Iron Belle uses the interconnected Oakwoods, Willow and Lower Huron Metropark paved paths to the north end of Lower Huron Park. Six miles west of this point is the Washtenaw County line, where the Border To Border Trail eastern terminus will be.

So, before any final plan on how to route the last few eastern miles of B2B Trail is made in Washtenaw County, Wayne County, and more specifically Van Buren Township and the City of Belleville, will need to finalize the routing for the 6-mile “trail gap” between Rawsonville Road and the northern tip of Lower Huron Metropark. Along those lines, the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission is working with Van Buren Township and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Iron Belle Trail office. In addition, the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative is offering support, including financial assistance from private donations, to help close this 6-mile gap.

While progress can be slow, once the Wayne County 6-mile gap is closed, and B2B construction is complete in Washtenaw County, it will be possible for someone in Chelsea, for example, to ride a bicycle off road on non-motorized trails all the way to Lake Erie, and when the Iron Belle Trail is complete, from Lake Erie all the way to the western end of the Upper Peninsula on the bike route and then hike back to Chelsea on the hike route!

Outreach and Advocacy News

New & Improved Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission B2B Page

The Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission has completely redesigned their web page, including their B2B information. For the B2B, there are two important pages:

- B2B Projects with construction updates- <https://www.washtenaw.org/952/Border-to-Border-Trail-Projects>
- B2B Information page with maps- <https://www.washtenaw.org/334/Border-to-Border-Trail>

Michigan Trails & Greenway Alliance

If you are a fan of trails (including the B2B Trail) in Michigan, please consider membership in the Michigan Trails & Greenways Alliance - <https://michigantrails.org>. This organization works unceasingly for trails throughout the state as indicated in their "Year In Review" document at <https://tinyurl.com/MTGA-2018>. For membership in the organization, visit <https://michigantrails.org/getinvolved/join-us/>

B2B Maps

The official Bike Map of the City of Ann Arbor & Washtenaw County shows the B2B Trail routing clearly noted. 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 2019 (see list above). Also, a series of different trail maps are available on the Friends of the B2B web page Map link at www.bordertoborder.org.

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 January 2019 there were close to 2100 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.

Friends of the Border To Border Trail

www.bordertoborder.org

wolverbob@gmail.com

734-487-9058

The next Friends of the B2B Newsletter will be the Spring 2019 edition out in late March/early April.