

Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail Phase 2

Presentation to the City of Ann Arbor Park Advisory Commission, June 16, 2020

What?

Ann Arbor Township is requesting a temporary construction easement and a permanent public easement from the City of Ann Arbor to complete the Matthaei Botanical Gardens Trail, a critical north-south connector to the B2B Trail. Phase 1 of this trail, completed in October 2018, connects Matthaei to Parker Mill. It won the SEMCOG Regional Showcase award.

The trail is designed to provide safe non-motorized crossings: mid-block near the Botanical Gardens and the Fleming Creek subdivisions, and signalized at the corner of Plymouth and Dixboro Roads. It is designed to minimize environmental impacts and provides universal access. The trail is funded in part by Transportation Alternative Program funds, so it must meet MDOT standards. That means it will be an ADA compliant 10' wide paved trail with 2' shoulders. The Phase 1 portion of the trail is widely used. The wider trail makes it safer for multiple users.

The portion of the trail within the proposed City of Ann Arbor easement will also be 10' wide with 2' shoulders. The original design called for the trail to fall entirely within the road ROW, but the future new right turn lane on southbound Dixboro at Plymouth adjusts the trail route to encroach on City of Ann Arbor land. The design team is making every effort to minimize the environmental impact and use of Marshall Nature Area land. The design will address drainage of the trail at the connection to the Marshall Nature Area driveway.

Where?

The trail will connect Marshall Nature Area and Matthaei Botanical Gardens to Parker Mill and the B2B Trail, providing a critical north-south connector to the B2B. The City of Ann Arbor easement will continue from the corner of Dixboro and Plymouth Roads to the Marshall Nature Area driveway.

When?

The trail will be complete in fall of 2021, with construction beginning in spring 2021.

Who?

The lead on this Phase 2 project is Ann Arbor Township. The project is managed by the WC Road Commission. It has received funding from WCPARC, SEMCOG, Superior Township, corporate neighbors, the Ralph Wilson Legacy Fund, and Ann Arbor Township. Routine maintenance will be provided by the Fleming Creek neighborhood, University of Michigan, and Ann Arbor Parks.

Why?

This trail fills an important gap in the SE Michigan trail system. By ending the trail at Marshall Nature Area, we are creating non-motorized links between important public greenspaces in NE Ann Arbor.

MBG Trail Phase 2 Sources of Funds

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS	\$ 1,474,124
SOURCES OF FUNDS	
Ann Arbor Township	150,000
Contiguous Township Grant	2,500
Corporate Neighbor #1 (NSF)	50,000
County Parks Grant - construction	348,000
SEMCOG LAP TAP Grant	813,310
Ralph Wilson Legacy Fund Foundation Grant	50,000
TOTAL SOURCES	\$ 1,413,810

