



## Connecting Communities Application

Complete and submit the following form along with support materials. Project applications must be received by **5:00 PM on September 15** for funding consideration in 2019. Please answer the following questions. (Limit each response to 250 words. Additional pages may be submitted). *Only applicants with an approved pre-proposal form on file will be considered.*

*Project Title:* Treeline Urban Trail Alignment Study

*Funding Type (check all that apply):*

X Feasibility/engineering study

\_\_\_ Engineering

\_\_\_ Construction

\$ 50,000

*Amount Being Requested*

\$ 70,000

*Estimated Total Project Costs*

*Project Description:* The Treeline is a proposed urban trail that will provide safe, non-motorized travel through the core of the city and that will connect with the countywide Border-to-Border(B2B) trail. The Connecting Communities grant funds would be used to engage a consultant in a preliminary engineering study to determine the best crossing from Argo Pond to city-owned property, 721 N. Main. This segment is a key connector to the B2B trail and the the Treeline's most complicated crossing.

0.5 Miles

*Approximate Project Length*

Argo Pond to 721 N. Main

*Proposed Starting & End Points*

City of Ann Arbor , 301 E. Huron St., Ann Arbor, MI 48107

*Community Name and Address*

Heather Seyfarth, AICP

*Project Manager Name*

Planner/Community Engagement Specialist

*Title*

(734)794-6430 ex. 42590

*Telephone*

hseyfarth@a2gov.org

*Email*

*Authorized Signature*

*Print Name & Title*

*Date*

**WCPARC use only**

Received by:

Date:

1. What are the benefits of this project?

The Treeline Master Plan proposes an urban trail, lined by green space and infrastructure, which will provide safe, non-motorized travel through the core of the city while addressing flooding issues associated with Allen Creek, a buried stream named after one of Ann Arbor's founders. More specifically, the Treeline trail will offer the city and region:

- △ Protected walking and biking facilities that allow all residents, including the most vulnerable, to safely move from one end of the city to the other.
- △ Increased access to the Huron River, natural areas and green spaces so community members have ample opportunity to experience nature.
- △ More mobility options while providing a network of recreational trails that are connected citywide, countywide, and statewide.
- △ Improved stormwater management that will address neighborhood flooding issues.
- △ Quality public spaces for the enjoyment of residents and to help attract and retain investment by employers and workers in the new economy.
- △ Improved property values, as trails are known to increase the worth of adjacent properties, and this trail additionally reduces the threat of flooding to properties along Allen Creek.

2. What community facilities are proposed to be connected by this project?

This fall/spring the city is creating a new pedestrian tunnel under the railroad, which will serve as the Treeline trail's first link to the county's Border-to-Border Trail. The city's Downtown Development Authority is also in the process of developing designs to restore a one-way street to a two-way street. As part of this project, a protected bike lane will be installed, which will connect to the Treeline trail's main spine and serve as a major contribution to Ann Arbor's growing network of safe, non-motorized mobility options.

3. If constructed, how will the trail be maintained?

The City and the Treeline Conservancy intend to engage in an operational agreement for the trail with both partners contributing to the financial and physical maintenance of the trail. Additionally, we intend to model a maintenance effort after the TART Trails volunteer program in Traverse City.

4. What planning documents show the location of this trail? Provide page reference.

The Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail Master Plan can be found at: <https://www.a2gov.org/departments/systems-planning/programs/Pages/Allen-Creek-Greenway-Master-Plan-Project.aspx>. Pages 36-48 show the anticipated segments and location of the trail.

5. What natural and cultural features can be seen from the trail?

The Treeline will connect residents and visitors to our parks, the Huron River, museums, businesses, the University of Michigan, and more. Among the noted sites, the Treeline will connect people to Argo Canoe Livery and Cascades, Bluffs Natural Area, the Ann Arbor YMCA, downtown businesses, and University of Michigan's Stadium and Crisler Arena.

6. What are likely objections to this project? How will these be addressed?

The Treeline's planning process included an extensive engagement effort that included a project management and technical advisory team, along with stakeholders from many environmental organizations, property owners and notably, the Watco Companies, the potential partner that owns the railroad and adjacent corridor. In the end, the Treeline Master Plan had broad community support and City Council adopted the Plan unanimously. We do not anticipated major objections about the project, except for concerns about the initial capital cost estimate. Preliminary engineering studies will help address concerns and questions about cost by providing more detailed cost estimates.

7. What efforts will be made to reduce the environmental impact of this project?

The Treeline design will meet the City's adopted Green Street Policy, which requires managing stormwater generated from new impervious areas (e.g., trail surface). A combination of bioswales along the trail and underground storage/ infiltration beds are anticipated to be used to meet these objectives.

8. How will this project be funded?

In addition to Connecting Communities, this project will be funded through private donations and grants.

Community: City of Ann Arbor  
Project Title: Treeline Urban Trail Alignment Study

9. List confirmed and proposed funders.

Ralph C. Wilson Foundation  
MDNR Trust Fund  
Federal/State Transportation Funding

10. What background work has already been completed for the project?

The Treeline originated as the Allen Creek Greenway, an initiative that began nearly 20 years ago, which focused on flood mitigation and creating recreational space along the creek's corridor. In 2011, the Ann Arbor City Council passed a resolution in support of advancing the Allen Creek Greenway initiative. In 2015, the city dedicated resources to take the next step of the Allen Creek Greenway initiative and to develop a Master Plan. This was an extensive, multi-year process that involved a high level of public engagement. In 2017 Ann Arbor's City Council unanimously adopted the Treeline Master Plan into the city's overall Master Plan.

11. What permits are needed for this project (not applicable to feasibility studies)?

N/A

12. What background work needs to be completed for the project?

Preliminary engineering is needed. This is a necessary step to determine exactly how the project will be built (aka, making it "shovel ready.") Once the project is "shovel ready" other funding opportunities become available for capital and maintenance costs. The funding that we are requesting from the Connecting Communities would move us in this direction by supporting a preliminary engineering study for the N. Main crossing, a significant trail link.

All Funding Applications (*please check-off*):

- Application
- Resolution of Support from executive body where the proposed trail will be located
- Attach an 8.5"x11" map of the proposed/planned trail location
- Up to 10 (ten) images of proposed/planned trail location
- One (1) paper and one (1) digital copy

**Submit application to:**

**Kira Macyda, Park Planner, P.O. Box 8645, Ann Arbor, MI 48107-8645 and  
macydak@washtenaw.org.**