

TREELINE ACTIVITIES SUMMARY: 2019

The Treeline Team continues to strengthen our public/private partnership and advance the Treeline towards realization.

SETTING THE FOUNDATION

Following the Collaborative Agreement that the City and the Treeline Conservancy entered into in April, the Treeline Team took some key steps to set the foundation for the Treeline's success.

Taking a thoughtful and intentional approach, this year the Team focused on:

- Building awareness and support
- Securing "building block" funding
- Expanding capacity

BUILDING AWARENESS & SUPPORT

In addition to meetings with small groups and individuals, members of the Treeline Team have been giving formal presentations to update the community and generate excitement about our momentum. These presentations include:

Community Gathering, May 14

The Treeline Conservancy hosted

a community meeting at the Library to premier the newly developed video (visit treelinea2.org to view) and update residents on the Treeline's progress.

Mayor's Green Fair, June 14

At this annual event that celebrates our community's environmental leadership, the Treeline Team showcased the Treeline video and talked over the Treeline with fair-goers as they made Treeline bookmarks on an antique press donated for the event by Hollander's.

Business Group Meetings: Kerrytown District Membership Meeting, June 18, & Mainstreet Area Association, September 5

Members of the Treeline Team presented the Treeline video, answered questions, and gave out brochures.

Michigan Theater, September 23

Prior to a screening of *Motherload*, a movie about biking and human connection, members of the Treeline Team provided an overview and an update of the project.



Joe O'Neal presenting at the Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club, October 7

Members of the Treeline Team presented at the noon meeting of the Kiwanis Club to share background about the project and recent successes.

SECURING "BUILDING BLOCK" FUNDING

This year the Treeline Team sought and received two grants that help build the base of a strong project:

Connecting Communities

Connecting Communities is Washtenaw County Parks



A Treeline bookmark from the Mayor’s Green Fair made on an antique letter press.

and Recreation Commission grant program that provides supplemental funding for the development of non-motorized trails. The funds provided to the Treeline are for the completion of an Alignment Study, which is a preliminary engineering study for the N. Main crossing, a significant trail link and the most difficult crossing.

The Alignment Study 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.

National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA)

Through the RTCA program, a representative from the National Park Service (NPS) will be providing a grant of technical assistance that will help us:

- Create an operations and maintenance (O&M) framework to be used by the City of Ann Arbor and the

Treeline Conservancy for the trail.

- Work together to create a funding strategy, which will address property acquisitions, construction and maintenance.
- Collaborate on the next phase of development with external design consultants to ensure consistency with the O&M framework.

EXPANDING CAPACITY

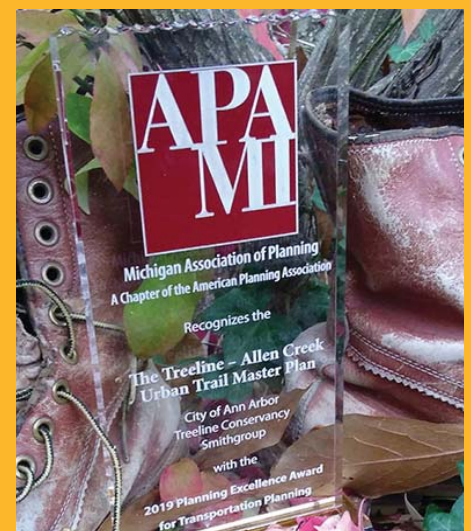
In addition to adding new board members and rolling out a giving and sponsorship program, the Treeline Conservancy is in the process of hiring an Executive Director. The Executive Director will help the Conservancy fundraise, market, engage the community, collaborate with the City, and oversee the organization’s strategic plan. You will be hearing from this new leader soon!

ANOTHER NOTABLE HIGHLIGHT

This past fall, the Treeline Master Plan was a recipient of the Michigan Chapter of

American Planning Association Transportation Planning Excellence Award. As one letter of support for the award stated:

The planning process for the Treeline Master Plan skillfully brought forward previous planning efforts and engaged multiple perspectives to create a plan that is highly supported and actionable. With the Treeline Master Plan the region will soon benefit from a safe, non-motorized transportation facility that serves as a resource for both commuting and recreating.



Planning Excellence Award for Transportation Plan