



Press Release

For Immediate Release
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Clinton River Trail to See Major Improvements

In partnership with the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester, Friends of the Clinton River Trail (FCRT) is excited to announce that it has been awarded a grant from the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan's Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Trails Maintenance Fund. This grant will be combined with matching funds from the City of Pontiac, City of Sylvan Lake, FCRT, Pontiac Funders Collaborative, and other private sources for a total project budget of \$600,000. The funding will be used to design, engineer and construct significant enhancements to the Clinton River Trail in Pontiac and Sylvan Lake between Pontiac Drive and Bagley Street (approximately 1.75 miles).

The goal of the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Trails Maintenance Fund is to provide maintenance support to previously developed trails and greenways. The Clinton River Trail project will include critically needed upgrades where the trail crosses both Pontiac Drive and Orchard Lake Road. Additionally, funds will be used to resurface the crushed limestone trail, replace railings on two bridges over the Clinton River, install regulatory signs, and make other safety and mobility feature enhancements. Construction is anticipated to take place in 2021.

"FCRT served as a catalyst to bring together the various stakeholders and funding sources for this collaborative effort. This type of project would have never happened without the cooperation of Pontiac, Sylvan Lake and other private groups," said Melinda Hill, FCRT president. FCRT provided the initial funding for design/engineering services allowing the project to get started. Hill also acknowledged the critical role the Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs Department played in finding the right partners and assisting in grant preparation. Further assistance is being provided by the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester which will serve as fiduciary for the project.

John Martin, city manager of Sylvan Lake, explained "Sylvan Lake is thrilled to be able to work with the Friends group and the granting agencies to address the city's trail crossing at Pontiac Drive. This diagonal crossing has needed attention for some time, but the expected cost was beyond what the city was able to budget. With the grant support, residents of our community can now look forward to a safer crossing of this busy road."

Pontiac Mayor, Deirdre Waterman, was equally enthusiastic. "With the COVID situation, Pontiac residents are using the trail more and more. Being able to make these improvements, especially the trail crossing at Orchard Lake Road near Beaudette Park, will not only make the trail more attractive, but will enhance safety for all trail users in the city" Mayor Waterman said. "We are excited and anxious to see these changes implemented. Thank you to the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation for creating the Trails Maintenance Fund and all the other partners for making this possible."

For project details, please visit: <http://www.clintonrivertrail.org/grants.html>

About the Clinton River Trail (CRT)

CRT is a 16 mile long, multi-use, recreational trail extending through the communities of Sylvan Lake, Pontiac, Auburn Hills, Rochester Hills and Rochester. The CRT provides connections to several other trails in the area and is a critical part of two cross-state trails: the Iron Belle Trail Biking Route running from Belle Isle to Ironwood and the Great Lake to Lake Trail Route 1 from South Haven to Port Huron. The CRT has contributed to the health, vitality and quality of life in the region for 16 years.

About Friends of the Clinton River Trail

An all-volunteer group, Friends of the Clinton River Trail is dedicated to improving the safety and enjoyment of the trail for all users. Representing approximately 450 members, the group's Steering Committee works with each of the five cities through which the trail passes to achieve consistent branding for the trail and a common standard for trail appearance and maintenance. The Friends group concluded a year-long celebration of the CRT's 15th Anniversary in 2019. In 2020 the group is actively pursuing the improvements highlighted above. For information, or to join Friends of the Clinton River Trail, visit: clintonrivertrail.org.

About Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan is a full-service philanthropic organization leading the way to positive change in our region. As a permanent community endowment built by gifts from thousands of individuals and organizations, the Foundation supports a wide variety of activities benefiting education, arts and culture, health, human services, community development, and civic affairs. Since its inception, the Foundation has distributed more than \$1.1 billion through more than 74,000 grants to nonprofit organizations throughout Wayne, Oakland, Macomb, Monroe, Washtenaw, St. Clair, and Livingston counties. For more information, please visit www.cfsem.org.

About Community Foundation of Greater Rochester

The Community Foundation of Greater Rochester accepts, processes and manages donations and makes grants from those donations in support of programs that serve the public. By pooling contributions, the Foundation makes more impactful grants ensuring that donors of all means – individuals, families and businesses – can make a long-lasting difference in their community. In addition, the Community Foundation manages funds for non-profit organizations so the non-profits can focus on their core missions without getting overwhelmed by paperwork and reporting requirements. For more information, please visit www.cfound.org.

Available Photos

FHP31902(1).jpg – Fall foliage welcomes a rider to the Clinton River Trail in Pontiac just west of Bagley Street. The current project will serve to restore the trail surface to its previous full ten-foot width and remove any low hanging branches.

FHP32332.jpg – The Clinton River Trail is family friendly as it is generally flat and smooth with only gentle slopes. A father and daughter enjoy a warm, late summer ride on the trail near Beaudette Park in Pontiac.

FHP32375.jpg – Improving the safety and enjoyment of trail users is a primary goal for the Friends of the Clinton River Trail. The crossing at Orchard Lake Road on the trail near Beaudette Park will be redesigned as part of the Clinton River Trail Improvement Project. The new improvements will allow for a shorter crossing distance and install appropriate traffic control devices. These changes will improve both the safety and enjoyment for trail users when it comes to crossing this major road.

[Higher resolution files available on request.]