On June 17, 1983, the Paint Creek Trailways Commission (PCTC) purchased a 10.21-mile stretch of abandoned rail right of way from the Grand Trunk Western Railroad to the City of Rochester. The land was purchased as part of the development of the Paint Creek Trail, which was designed to provide a recreational trail for the residents of Oakland County, Michigan.

The purchase of the rail right of way was a significant milestone in the development of the Paint Creek Trail. The PCTC had been founded in 1979 as a non-profit organization to preserve and develop the abandoned rail line as a recreational trail. The purchase of the rail right of way was a major accomplishment for the PCTC and set the stage for the development of the Paint Creek Trail.

The Paint Creek Trail has been in existence for over 40 years and has become a popular destination for hikers, joggers, and cyclists. The trail is located in a beautiful natural setting and provides access to a variety of outdoor recreational opportunities. The PCTC continues to work to improve and maintain the trail, and it is a testament to the vision and dedication of the PCTC and its supporters.
It was a chilly November day when representatives from the City of Pontiac, Michigan DNR, The Greenway Collaborative, Oakland County, Clinton River Trail Alliance and the Friends of the Clinton River Trail all gathered to cut the ribbon officially adding a new trail segment in Pontiac. The ceremony was held on November 16, 2017 at the Galloway Lake Park trailhead.

FCRT will be working with the City of Pontiac and Oakland County to apply for funding in order to improve the surface of the North Spur. The new route for the CRT will turn west near the former Silverdome site and head into downtown Pontiac along land that is already under various forms of public ownership. It will likely take several years to complete the route and, considering the bridge repairs needed, it will likely cost millions of dollars, so please be patient.

As opportunities arise for citizen involvement – like showing support at Council meetings – FCRT will do our best to keep trail users apprised of action dates.

Participants in the second annual “Fall Cruisin’ for the Trails” ride had a great time while helping to raise $2500 to benefit the Friends of the Clinton River Trail. This year’s route took riders about 9 miles along the trail from Clubhouse BFD in Rochester Hills to the Fillmore 13 Brewery in downtown Pontiac and then back. Over 100 riders pedaled through near 90 degree temperatures on Saturday, September 23, 2017 housing that ride host Motor City Brew Tours, along with ride sponsor New Belgium Brewing Company who provided plenty of refreshments at the turn-around point as well as at the ride’s end.

As part of the event festivities, New Belgium Brewing had also donated a custom-designed cruiser style bicycle for Friends of the Clinton River Trail (FCRT) to raffle at the end of the ride. Each year New Belgium contracts to have several custom designed bicycles built exclusively for them. In this case the bike was hand-built by Detroit Bikes in their west-side Detroit factory. The lucky winner was Karen Kohler of Rochester Hills.

The 2018 “Fall Cruisin’” ride will be on Saturday, September 22, 2018 with Motor City Brew Tours again serving as organizer and host. Popular local craft brewer Griffin Claw Brewing Company has agreed to be a main sponsor. Continuing in the tradition of past rides, Griffin Claw will be providing a custom designed cruiser bike for the Friends group to raffle off. Make sure to reserve the date now for this fall ride. More information and registration can be accessed via the Motor City Brew Tours website: motorcitybrewtours.com.

The second annual “Cruisin’ for the Trails” fall ride on Saturday, September 23, 2017 brought well over 100 riders to Filmore 13 in downtown Pontiac. Karen Kohler (center) was the happy winner of the 2017 custom New Belgium cruiser bike.

The first Saturday of June is designated as American Hiking Society’s National Trails Day®. FCRT will celebrate NTD with a tent at the Leach Rd. Trailhead in Rochester Hills. Like last year, our friends at Hi-Tech Mold and Engineering will be grilling and serving free hot dogs. We’ll have water, maps, newsletters and more. 10am-2pm Saturday, June 2.

A big thanks to all of our sponsors — pictured on the banner at left. Sponsorship slots are available for 2018; email info@clintonrivertrail.org for more details.