

## CLINTON RIVER TRAIL UPDATE

Since the initial purchase of the Clinton River Trail parcel from the Canadian National Railroad much progress has been made. Working with a grant from the GreenWays Initiative of the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, a master plan for the nearly 16 miles of trail running through five cities in the eastern half of Oakland County has been adopted. The Clinton River Trail is now a part of a much larger trail system that in the near future will provide over 100 miles of an interconnected trail system that is within two miles of over half a million people.

Improvements underway to the trail portion running through Rochester Hills include replacing a bridge behind Rochester College, updating the wooden trestle bridge behind City Hall with new handrails and decking, and improving all the trail-road intersections within Rochester Hills. A \$400,000 grant from MDOT was awarded to the City of Rochester Hills for these improvements, and we expect to see much of the work on these projects completed before the end of this year.

The city is now focusing on the most profound impact on the ultimate use of the trail – the type of trail surfacing. Once funding becomes available, we want to be ready to go with the type of surfacing that will best accommodate those who will be using the trail, and we are seeking your input.

We have narrowed down the surfacing options from the Clinton River Trail Master Plan to three basic surfaces: crushed fines, asphalt, and stabilized crushed stone. For comparison, you can find limestone fines surfacing on the Paint Creek Trail; asphalt can be found on the bike paths running through our city; and a test sample of the third alternative, stabilized crushed stone, can be found on the Clinton River Trail east of Crooks & Hamlin. All three have their various advantages and disadvantages as listed below. Additional trail surface information can be found in the Clinton River Trail Master Plan [[www.greenwayscollab.com/CRTMP.htm](http://www.greenwayscollab.com/CRTMP.htm)] in Section 2, pages 12-14. We are asking you to review this information, decide on your top two preferences, and take the time to fill in and return the survey below.

### **CRUSHED FINES**

**Supported Uses:** Hiking, running, biking, wheelchairs, cross-country skiing

**Advantages:** Lower initial cost; slower speeds for bikes; approaching bicycles would be more audible to walkers.

**Disadvantages:** Requires frequent maintenance to control erosion and vegetation encroachment; relatively dusty; dust from fines can be a maintenance problem for bicycles; surface is not smooth enough for in-line skating.

**Local Example:** Paint Creek Trail.

## ASPHALT

**Supported Uses:** Hiking, running, biking, wheelchairs, in-line skating

**Advantages:** Moderate initial cost; moderate long life; excellent surface for bicyclists and in-line skaters; works well with pavement markings; can be plowed in the winter.

**Disadvantages:** Initial pollution runoff; faster speeds for bikers can be problematic for other users; less suitable for cross-country skiing due to reduced snow retention.

**Local Example:** Bike paths

## STABILIZED CRUSHED STONE

**Supported Uses:** Hiking, running, biking, wheelchairs, cross-country skiing

**Advantages:** Uses non-toxic organic, plant-based binder to reduce dust and minimize erosion; considered a "green" building material; very easy to repair without specialized equipment; long-term maintenance benefits may outweigh the higher initial cost over crushed fines.

**Disadvantages:** Initial cost similar to asphalt; prolonged saturation could result in a pliable surface prone to rutting; not smooth enough for in-line skating.

**Local Example:** Test surface on Clinton River Trail east of Crooks & Hamlin.

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### **CLINTON RIVER TRAIL SURFACE SURVEY**

**1<sup>st</sup> Choice:**    \_\_\_ Crushed Fines       \_\_\_ Asphalt       \_\_\_ Stabilized Stone

**2<sup>nd</sup> Choice:**    \_\_\_ Crushed Fines       \_\_\_ Asphalt       \_\_\_ Stabilized Stone

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or drop off your completed survey within two weeks to: Parks & Forestry Department, City of Rochester Hills, 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, Rochester Hills, MI 48309.