



# AKLAND COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN



Approved by the Oakland County Trails  
Advisory Council on July 30, 2008

Adopted by the Oakland County Parks and  
Recreation Commission on September 3, 2008

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Assistance Provided by:



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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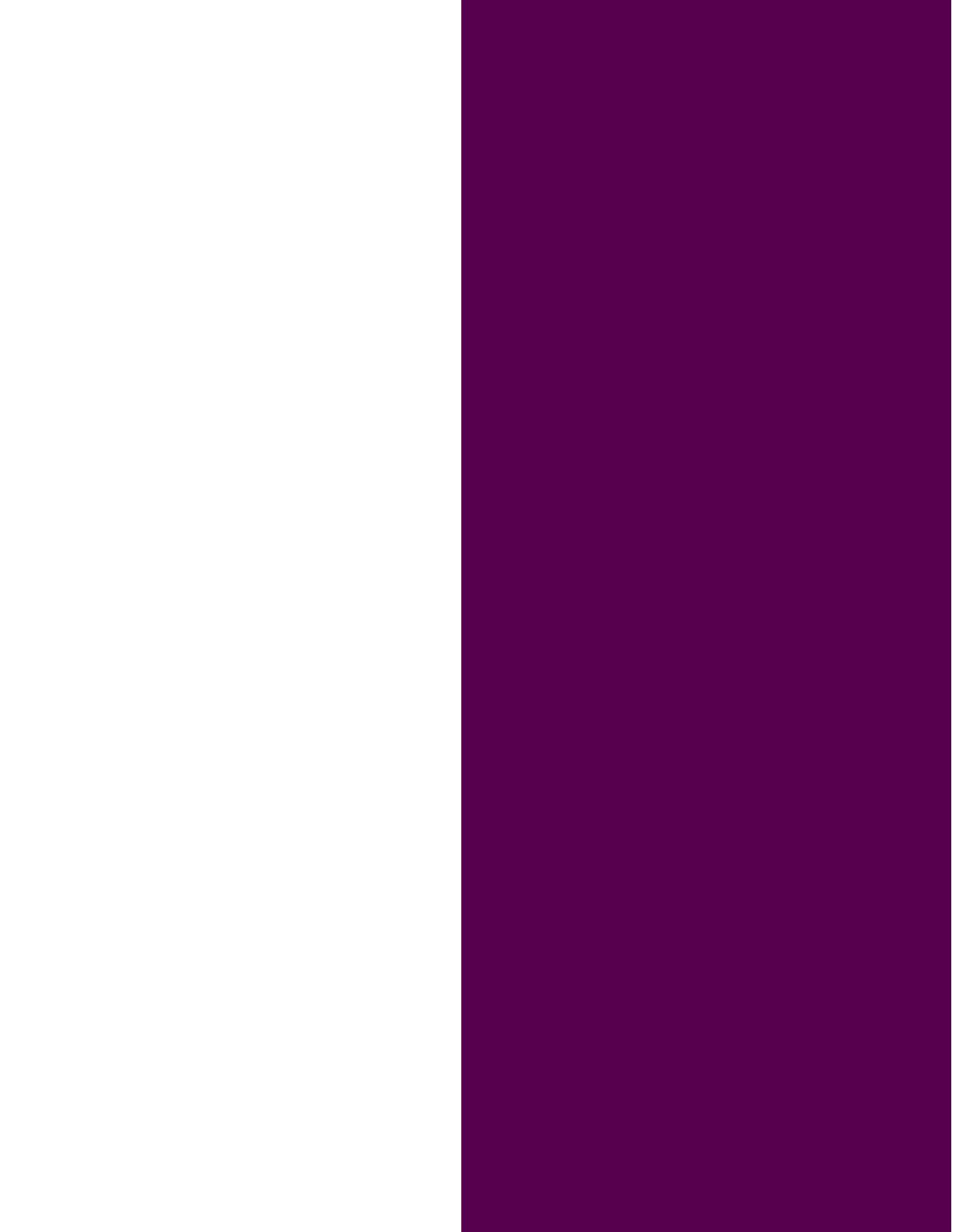
Todd Scott, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance



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# E XECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE OAKLAND COUNTY TRAILS MASTER PLAN HAS BEEN DEVELOPED TO PROVIDE A FRAMEWORK FOR CREATING A CONNECTED SYSTEM OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS THROUGHOUT OAKLAND COUNTY. THIS NON-MOTORIZED SYSTEM IS ENVISIONED TO SERVE A DIVERSE RANGE OF USERS, PROVIDING SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED LINKAGES TO IMPORTANT NATURAL, CULTURAL AND CIVIC DESTINATIONS AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST WITHIN AND OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.

The development of the Trails Master Plan was overseen by the Oakland Trails Advisory Council, Oakland County Parks and Recreation Department and Oakland County Planning & Economic Development Services. These agencies serve in a leadership role in the development of a connected non-motorized system, but rely on the determined efforts of numerous local agencies, trail commissions, friends groups and property owners for trail implementation. To date, 95 miles of completed trails stretch across Oakland County, with 13 miles in the planning, design and development stage and another 146 miles of trails under consideration.



## OAKLAND COUNTY TRAILS

*Non-motorized trail systems are developed or are being planned throughout the County for use by a wide variety of trail users.*

The major existing trail routes in Oakland County include:

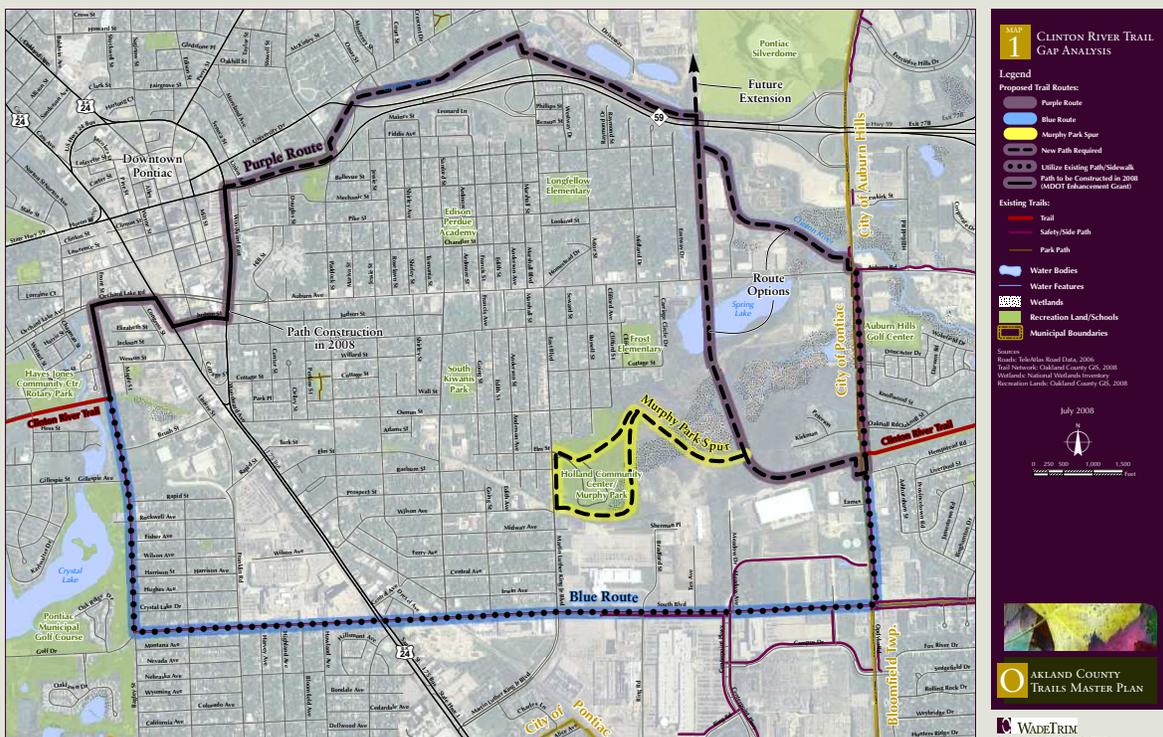
- I-275 Bike Path
- Polly Ann Trail
- Paint Creek Trail
- Clinton River Trail
- West Bloomfield Trail
- Lakes Community Trail
- Huron Valley Trail
- Headwaters Trails

These major trails are complimented by a substantial network of secondary pathways and greenways that extend throughout the County. Each with a specific purpose and design, Oak-

land County's current and planned non-motorized network employs a hierarchical system of pathways, as noted below:

1. Trail
2. Safety/Side Path
3. Sidewalk
4. Bike Lane
5. Bike Route
6. Park Path
7. Water Trail

An important focus of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan is the bridging of several primary "gaps," or critical missing links that exist in the major trail system, including:



## GAP ANALYSIS

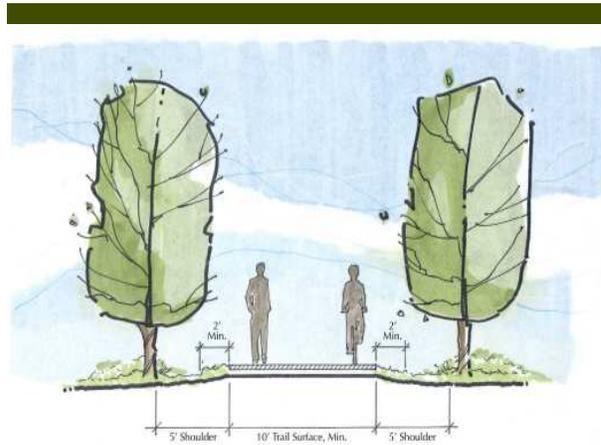
Alternative routes are identified and assessed for four of the critical missing links within Oakland County. This map shows the alternative routes to bridge the Clinton River Trail gap within Pontiac.

- Clinton River Trail (through Pontiac)
- Paint Creek and Polly Ann Trails
- West Bloomfield, Lakes Community, and Huron Valley Trails

These gaps were evaluated and discussed in great detail during the development of the Master Plan. For each gap, several prospective connector routes were identified and assessed based on their opportunities and constraints. In the end, it was determined there may not be a “preferred” route to bridge each gap; rather, it was found that multiple connector routes should be developed. The implementation of several connector routes for each gap will provide users with different trail experiences and provide an overall benefit to the system users, owners and communities.

Additionally, the lack of an urban trail network within the heavily urbanized southeastern portion of Oakland County was identified as a significant gap in the system. Therefore, the Trails Master Plan addresses the ongoing efforts to implement a greenway along the Woodward Corridor.

The Trails Master Plan includes a design element to serve as a resource and reference guide for county agencies, local communities, trail agencies, and stakeholder groups with regard to planning, design and construction of the non-motorized network.



### DESIGN GUIDELINES

*Design guidelines for various non-motorized facility types, such as this shared use trail, serve as a reference guide for planning, design and construction.*

The Action Plan section of the Oakland County Trails Master Plan provides focus for the County and local agencies and identifies short- and long-term action items to continue progress and implementation. A funding component of the Action Plan serves as a foundation for future grant applications and funding requests.

