

Public Forums

Overall Summary

Overall, attendance at the four public forums was impressive. In addition to the County Trailways Master Plan being presented at the forums, other grass roots trail groups and non-profit organizations set up their displays within or near the meeting room. Groups such as the Clinton River Watershed Council, Spillway Trail, Friends of the Clinton River Pathway, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Macomb Land Conservancy, and Macomb Orchard Trail Commission were among a few that displayed.

Forum Location	Approx. Attendance
Warren	90
Ray Twp	75
Clinton Twp	70
Chesterfield Twp	45

In general, the majority of those that attended seemed to be in support of the development of a connected trail system within the County. Attendees were encouraged that the County and communities were working together to establish a foundation and beginning for a non-motorized system. Concerns that were heard and documented included “typical” issues of almost any trail planning, design, or construction project. These included concerns about property values, crime increases, disruption of nature and wildlife, private property rights, continued maintenance, design standards, safety, liability, etc. Although these concerns are “typical” for any trail project, they are nonetheless very real issues that will need to continue to be addressed as trail planning and design progresses into greater detail.

Within the entire County, the two trail segments that garnered the greatest amount of comments and concerns were the:

Red Run Drain (Warren and Sterling Heights)

Clinton River Pathway (Sterling Heights, Clinton Township and Mt. Clemens)

Before design and construction would begin on any proposed trail segment within the county, much greater planning work, analysis, public involvement and coordination will need to take place. However, the issues and concerns, both for the public and the political entities that remain outstanding on the Red Run Drain and Clinton River Pathway, warrants a much greater detailed analysis, beyond that of which will be permitted during this process. In order to determine feasibility, it is likely that separate planning studies for each of these corridors would need to take place before a conclusive feasibility determination could be made.

While nearly every trail segment proposed on the county-wide map received at least a couple of “priority votes”, several segments received a vast majority of “priority votes”. These include:

Regional Corridor

Macomb Orchard Trail
 Stoney to Metro Beach
 Red Run Drain
 Clinton River Pathway

County Connector

26 Mile Road
 North-South Ray Twp Corridor
 Clinton River Pathway
 Gratiot (New Haven to Richmond)
 16 Mile Road

Local Connector

Garfield Road
 Clinton River Pathway
 East-West Ray to Washington Twp