



Urban & Community Forestry Council



Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: April 12, 2022

Roll call

Present for the Council (council):

- Rachel Tarpey, *Chair*
- Doug Schultz
- Kerry Gray
- Tyler Klifman
- Fai Foen
- Emily Hanson
- Heather Griffin
- Geoff Kempter
- Paul Hickman
- Annie Kruse

Present for the DNR Staff (department)

- Kevin Sayers, UCF Program Manager
- Ada Takacs, Volunteer Programs Coordinator
- Sue Tangora, Section Manager – Cooperative Programs

Others Present

- Lisa Perez, Urban Connections Program Manager – USDA Forest Service

Call to Order: 10:06 AM

Approval of Agenda:

Motion: Kempter

Support: Gray

Approved unanimously

Approval of Minutes of October 26, 2021 meeting:

Motion: Schultz

Support: Klifman

Approved unanimously

Committee Reports:

Grants (Gray)

Committee Members: K. Gray (chair), Mueller, Dowtin, Tarpey Sayers, Hanson

- Committee completed review and updating of the Community Forestry Grant program last year to make it more responsive to current issues and needs.
- Minor revisions may still be needed to fine tune the application in the near term.
- Waiting for multiple cycles (years) of the grant program to pass before more extensive review and revision process to see trends and ensure it's meeting the intent of program.

Action item(s):

- *Reconvene committee to assess grant applicant feedback and revise application as needed.*

Tree City USA Banquet

Committee members: Mueller (chair), Sayers, Kruise,

- No report

Action item(s):

- *Reconvene committee before end of year to discuss plans for 2023 event.*

Forest Health – Oak Wilt Coalition (Kruise)

Committee member(s): Kruise

- No report

Action item(s):

- *Recruit additional members Need more members*

Advocacy (Kempter)

Committee members: Kempter (chair), Sayers, (new Hickman, Griffin, Foen)

- No report
- Group discussed opportunities and needs for showcasing UCF program and Michigan Tree City USA programs using statistics and information in an infographic format like the annual Tree City USA example.
- Several members expressed interest and offered to join in helping out with this committee (Hickman, Griffin, Foen)
- Request for more examples of information that could be shared with the group that would inform advocacy needs of program and process for actively advocating.

Action item(s):

- *Kempter to convene meeting of committee to discuss goals and activities.*
- *Sayers to share examples of UCF program advocacy and information*

Data (Dowtin)

Committee members: Dowtin (chair), Sayers, Mueller, Gray, Klifman

- No report

Action item(s):

- *Reconvene committee to continue review of DNR UCF data and advise on development of DNR data dashboard.*

Items for Discussion:

Membership (Tarpey/Sayers)

- Past Chair, Dean Hay resigned for a new position in Florida in January
- Tarpey rotates in to assume role as Chair
- Ada Takacs announced retirement effective May 13th
- Hannah Reynolds resigned for new position with Great Lakes Commission
- Dan Coy resigned for new position with City of Baltimore
- Nominations previously solicited to fill vacant Vice Chair position
 - Heather Griffin offered to fill vacancy. No other nominations
- Vice-chair confirmation:
 - Motion: Schultz
 - Support: Kempt
 - Approved unanimously
- Expiring Terms at Fall meeting: **Kruise, Klifman**
- Need new members (nominations) to fill vacancies on council.

Action item(s):

- *Members – Recruit new candidates to fill vacant positions on council*

Forest Action Plan (FAP) Stakeholder meeting (Sayers)

- As part of the DNR FAP process, an annual stakeholder meeting (objective 1.1.1) was held virtually on February 16.
- Held during ISA-Michigan conference (conflict) resulting in minimal UCF participation.
- Communication gap between DNR and MUCFC (during Chairperson transition) resulted in no MUCFC representation during meeting. Sayers apologized for this miscommunication.
- 39 people representing 23 stakeholder groups and DNR program staff in attendance.
- DNR was only stakeholder for Urban and Community Forestry
 - UCF program report focused on primary accomplishments during 2021
 - Staffing, DNR/MSU PERM partnership, Grants program revision, Communications
- Areas of Focus for 2022
 - Onboarding new UCF staff, Renewing PERM, MADA transition
 - Opportunity for additional input from MUCFC on this – contact Sayers
- Stakeholders encouraged to contact DNR program staff if they need DNR assistance in helping them implement FAP activities.

Action item(s):

- *Sayers will share link to meeting report and recording (if available)*
- *Sayers will communicate next meeting date to chair in advance*

UCF Staffing Update (Sayers)

- New UCF Partnership Coordinator position approved and solicited.
- New position will assist UCF Coordinator in delivery of all aspects of program.
- 33 applications received.
- 6 interviews – top 2 candidates considered for offer.
- Offer of position to top candidate made and negotiations in progress. Action item(s):
 - *Sayers will keep members informed on hiring and introduction.*
 - *Ada's position*
 - *New fiduciary for PLT (MAEOE)*

Tree City USA 2021 Update (Sayers)

- Sayers reviewed the draft 2021 MI Tree City USA programs infographic with members
- Kempter suggested opportunity and need to promote Tree Line USA with municipal utilities in Michigan, in addition to larger ones.
- Griffin provided recent positive experience and partnership with Consumers Energy for tree planting in City of Flint.
 - Need to work with utilities and communities to be partners (city/utility) to provide good information about trees, benefits, issues etc.
- Question asked if Tree Line USA trend (decreasing participation) in Michigan is also being seen nationally?
 - Not known but will ask.
- Question asked if Tree City community maintenance information (\$ and metrics) is collected and analyzed for trends that could be useful for outreach and communications?
 - Yes, it's collected but it's not analyzed or used at this time. Data quality (self reported) may be an issue.

Action item(s):

- *Council (advocacy comm.) should discuss ways to use Tree USA programs to help provide and promote info. and messages to partners and citizens.*
- *Sayers will investigate Tree Line USA trends with Arbor Day Foundation and report back*

Michigan Arbor Day Alliance Transition (MADA) (Sayers)

- Hannah Reynolds resigned as MADA coordinator for new position with Great Lakes Commission in January.
- With Ada Takacs retirement, opportunity to revise the position description and incorporate MADA duties into DNR Forest Resource Division (permanent, statewide, higher visibility)
- Discussed opportunity, pros, cons with MADA committee
 - MADA committee voted to move position to DNR
- Eaton Conservation District will complete the FY22 contract and then work with DNR to transition program and materials to DNR by September.

Action item(s):

- *Sayers will keep council updated on status of MADA transition to DNR and the new position hire*

Public Comment:

- None

Staff Communications:

- Takacs
 - Provided Project Learning Tree educational backpacks/info. to state parks
 - Various trainings and workshops are starting back up with great interest.
 - Adopt a forest getting a short-term worker. Will help with expanding engagement and addressing new clean-up sites (e.g. Good Neighbor work with USFS in West Michigan)

Member Communications:

- Schultz
 - Discussed presentation at Michigan Recreation and Park Association and his role in recent project with City of Lapeer for unique planning and repurposing of underused wooded property (Oakdale) for trails, pathways and timbering resulting in new revenue for parks and improved access
 - Shared presenter slides (attachment)
- Hickman
 - Urban Ashes is actively working to get carbon credits valued as part of wood utilization accounting for Carbon Credits programs.
 - Paul offered to convene group of interested members for discuss urban forests (broadly) and carbon credit issues. Depending on interest and need, a formal committee may be formed. Members expressing interest – (Hickman, Kempter, Gray, Tarpey)
- Foen (*provided via email*)
 - Gravel bed tree nursery program underway (partnership with Asia Dowtin -MSU)
 - [Spring planting season has started](#) (Upcoming Tree Giveaway flyer attached)
 - First tree harvest at Meyers Nursery! (Will send you a follow-up email)

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 25, 2022 (location and time TBA)

Adjournment: 11:54 AM

Motion: Hickman

Support: Griffin

Approved unanimously

Respectfully submitted: Kevin Sayers

ATTACHMENTS



TREE CITY USA®
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

Tree City USA Summary

MICHIGAN

2021

BY THE NUMBERS

125
TREE CITY USA
COMMUNITIES
4 NEW

35%
OF STATE
LIVES IN A TREE CITY
USA COMMUNITY

98% RECERTIFICATION RATE



REPORTED NUMBER OF
TREES PLANTED

15,626

LARGEST

Detroit
POPULATION 631,601

SMALLEST

Mackinaw City
POPULATION 795

Growth Award

11

Growth Award
Recipients

LONGEST ACTIVE GROWTH AWARD

Oak Park
19 YEARS

1

NEW Growth
Award Recipients

\$46,622,569

SPENT ON
URBAN FORESTRY
MANAGEMENT



\$12.97

average per capita

BEYOND TREE CITY USA



HIGHER EDUCATION
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

8

Recognized
Michigan Schools

NEWEST

Oakland University



Utilities
An Arbor Day Foundation Program

0

Tree Line USA
Utilities



An Arbor Day Foundation Program

2

Recognized
Healthcare Facilities:

Spectrum Health Care:

Blodgett Hospital - 2 YEARS

Butterworth Hospital - NEW



Arbor Day Foundation®
arborday.org

EARTH DAY TREE GIVEAWAY!

FRIDAY, APRIL 22ND 11AM-1PM
THE GREENING OF DETROIT OFFICE
13000 W. MCNICHOLS
DETROIT, MI 48235



The following species will be available at the giveaway for pickup on a first come, first served basis, with one tree available per household:



BLACKGUM



**IVORY SILK TREE
LILAC**



REDBUD



SERVICEBERRY



**SWAMP
WHITE OAK**



**YOSHINO
CHERRY**

PHOTO SOURCES: ARBOR DAY, MONROVIA,

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:



**TD READY
COMMITMENT**





BEAVERS, TREE`S AND MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS

PETER MCCREEDY | RODNEY CHURCH | JOSH MCCREEDY | DOUG SCHULTZ

MARCH 8, 2022



**The Big Idea**

Peter McCreedy, Ecology Director at Chatfield School, Peter initiated the Oakdale Trails project in 2015 and leads the all- volunteer trail group Friend of Oakdale Trails in his position as trail coordinator.

**The Parks Guy**

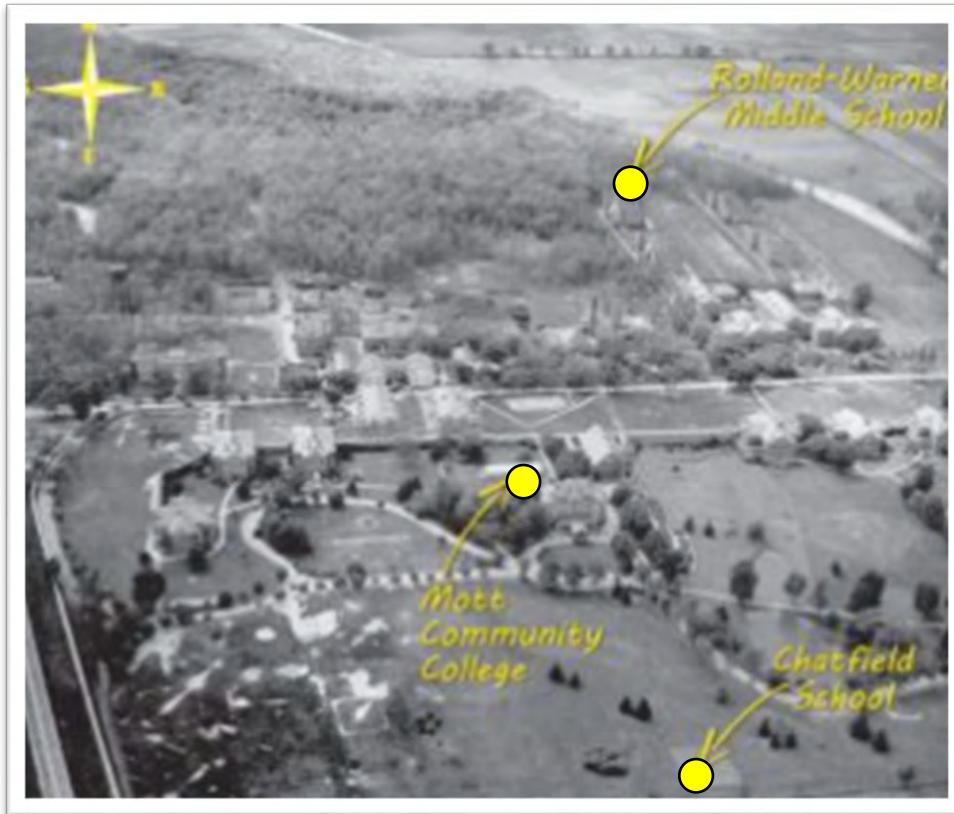
Rodney Church, Director of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery for the City of Lapeer. Recreation Master Planning and management of 37 acres of park property, North Loop phase of the trail system

**The Contractor**

Josh McCreedy, Owner/Designer/Builder/ Operator of TrailSense LLC. Yes, they're brothers.

**The Designer**

Doug Schultz, Landscape Architect, ROWE Professional Services Company. Master plan, timbering coordination and bridge design for North Loop phase of the trail system

**Oakdale**

The Oakdale Regional Center for Developmental Disabilities was closed in 1991, formerly occupying 2,000 acres in the City of Lapeer as show in the 1930's

Mott Community College

Open since 1993 and serves 5,000 students annually.

Rolland Warner Middle School

Grades 6-7, Lapeer Public Schools

Chatfield School

Charter school established in 2007 includes the Willows Ecology Education Center, helping students explore and learn history, social studies, cultural connections, STEM, and alternatives through hands-on experience

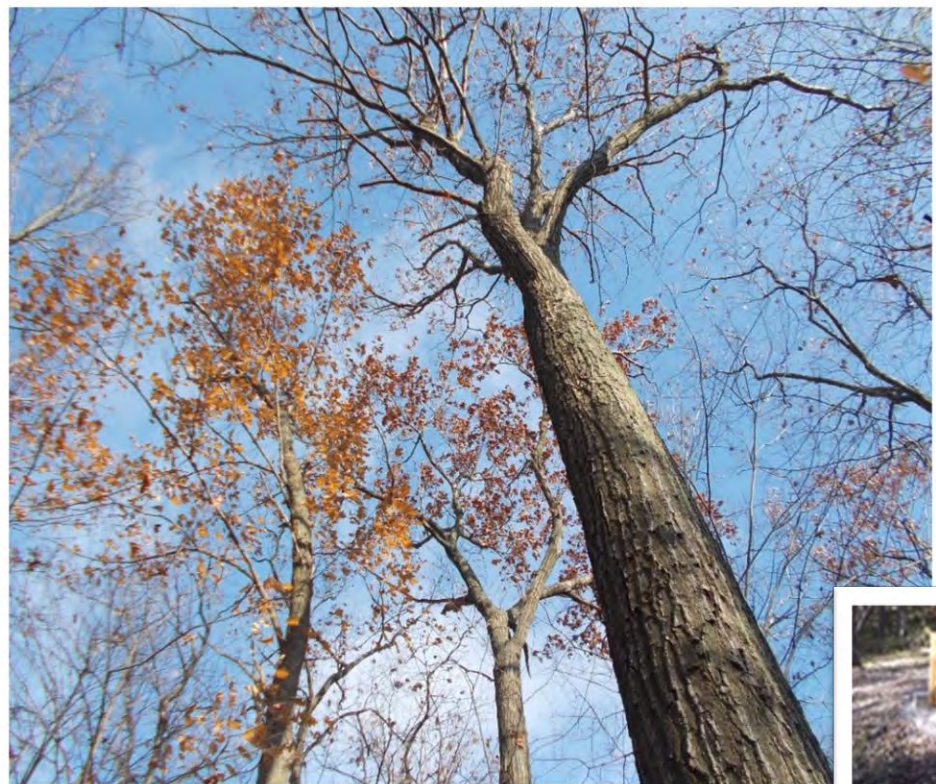


Prairies and Ponds at Oakdale

A natural habit restoration and preservation. It offers trails and a covered pavilion for meetings and nature lectures.

The 35-acre project site adjoins a 40-acre wooded site and a 100-acre riverbed are adjacent to the preserve creating almost 200 acres of nature beauty within the city limits.

Pathways provide non-motorized connections to school facilities and adjacent neighborhoods and retail areas.

**2018-19**

A timber study evaluated a sustainable method to selective-cut within the property to revitalize the forest as well as provide a revenue source for improvements.

30 acres thinned by 20%, haul routes cleared route for paths, net \$65k. (135 trees)

Bridges

Funding helped pay for 2 bridges needed to cross the drain through the site.



Economic Benefits

- Glacial Hills in Bellaire: estimated \$1.5 million per year
- Total annual spending for biking events and vacations- \$38 million (MDOT)
- Barriers to cycling: 50% say safety and lack of infrastructure
- Trails close to home = more money staying home
- Mountain biking and hiking are growth activities
 - Youth favorite outdoor activities: 1) running, jogging, trail running 2) bicycling*
 - Adult favorite activities: 1)running, jogging, trail running 2)bicycling 3) hiking*

*Outdoor Foundation Outdoor Recreation Report, 2017



2017 Eco-tourism event held at Chatfield; attendance by City Manager generated support for TIFA funding and support of National Water Trail designation.

Trail Plan Created by TrailSense outlined:

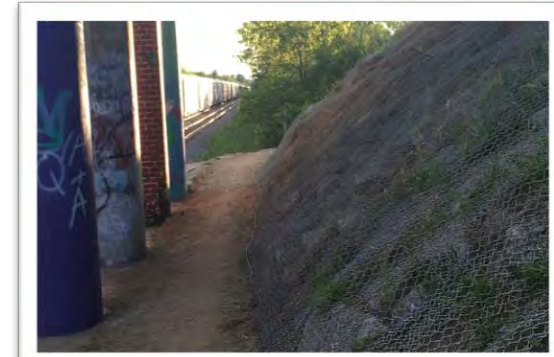
- Alignment with the Parks and Rec Master plan
- Economic analysis of bicycle and hiking trends(including case studies)
- Definition of what natural surface, mountain bike enhanced, singletrack is and why multi-use is so essential

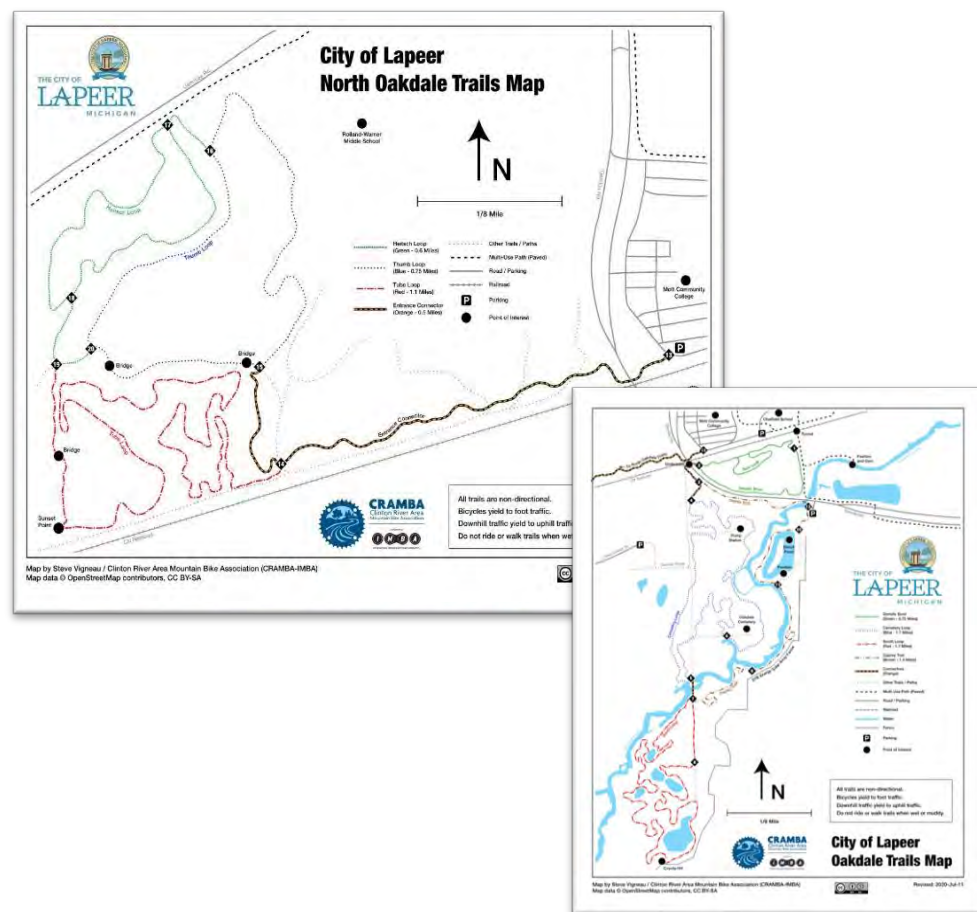


Crossing the railroad tracks

27 acres of open parkland was available to the south of the North Loop to expand trails.

Peter led a group of volunteers to hand cut a path through an overpass abutment (both sides), providing a link to an existing pedestrian tunnel under the tracks and to the South Loops.





Oakdale Trails

Consists of 9.5 miles of natural surface singletrack owned by the City of Lapeer. This multi-use trail caters to Hikers, Runners, and Cyclists for most of the year and Snowshoers, Skiers, and Fatbikers in the Winter.

North Loops in Woods at Oakdale property

- Heitsch Loop - 0.6 Miles
- Thumb Loop - 0.75 Miles
- Tube Loop - 1.1 Miles
- Entrance Connector - 0.5 Miles

South Loops in Farmers Creek at Oakdale property

- DeMille Bowl w/ Tech Loop - .75 Miles
- Osprey Trail - 1 Miles
- Cemetery Loop - 1.7 Miles
- South Loop - 1.7 Miles



TrailSense, LLC., is a Michigan company offering full-service trail planning, design, and construction.

Oakdale Trails are Mountain Bike enhanced, meaning there are numerous trail features such as berms, rollers, rockpiles, and skinnies to build excitement and skills.

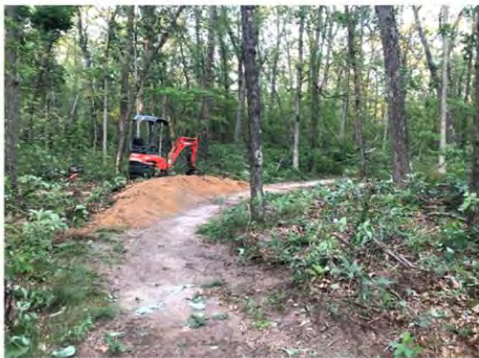
All trail features include an alternate line so the user can choose the level of difficulty. Another way the trail offers choice to the user is with stacked loops. Oakdale has seven distinct loops. A stacked loop is where successive trail loops are "stacked" upon each other, connecting in such a way as to give users options for extended distance or varied routes.

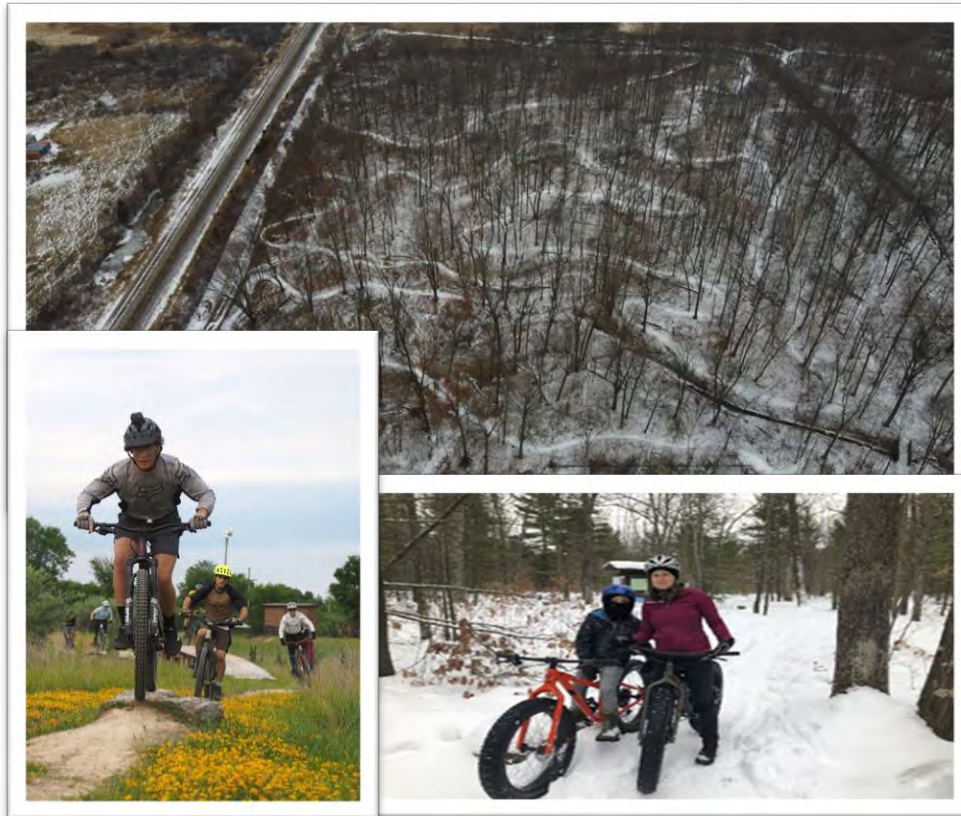
Design

- Single trac
- Multi use/shared use, preferred use, seasonal use
- Natural surface vs. hardened
- Bike Optimized
- Adaptive design
- System Variety
- Sustainability (x3)

Construction

- Hand or machine?
- Minimize Impacts to water, plants, and animals
- Contour or sidehill construction
- Bench cut
- Soil remediation
- Compaction
- Camouflage/Duffing
- Reforestation





The trail system is managed by the City of Lapeer Parks & Recreation Department in partnership with the Friends of Oakdale Trails, an all-volunteer group of local outdoor recreation advocates and trail stewards. The Friends of Oakdale Trails provide access, maintenance, and improvements.

Oakdale Trails are an affiliate of The Clinton River Area Mountain Bike Association (CRAMBA), our regional chapter of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA). CRAMBA exists to maintain and develop mountain biking trail access, support relationships with land managers, and promote responsible mountain biking in Southeast Michigan.

Economic Value

- Case Studies
- Impact Studies
- Businesses and economies build around trails



- Glacial Hills, Bellaire, MI
- Bentonville, Arkansas; Copper Harbor, MI
- Lapeer, MI
- Outdoor Industry Association, Office Of Outdoor Recreation Industry (DNR)

Health Outcomes

- Mental Health
- Cognitive growth
- Aerobic Exercise



- Cortisol levels
- Cognitive and artistic tasks
- Doctors prescribing time in nature
- Combat serious challenges

Recreation Trends

- Pre-Covid: high growth in hiking, trail running, MTB
- Covid: Parks are overrun!
- Youth cycling
- Access is a serious issue



- New user etiquette
- New user communities
- Rush to create new trail opportunities
- Welcoming diverse trails users



"Bringing awareness to community needs through the strength of bicyclists."

A community of bikers supports the trail through weekly and annual events supported by local business.

2021 Beaver Dash event raised over \$8,000 to support maintenance efforts of the trail system.



If in the future you have questions, please contact us. We want to help you succeed!

- **Peter McCreedy**, Chatfield and Friend of Oakdale Trails,
810-614-7594, pmccreedy@chatfieldschool.org
- **Rodney Church**, City of Lapeer,
810-358-9431, rchurch@ci.lapeer.mi.us
- **Josh McCreedy**, TrailSense LLC,
810-656-1556, trailsensemi@gmail.com
- **Doug Schultz, PLA**, Director of Landscape Architecture, ROWE,
810-341-7500, dschultz@rowepsc.com