



Macomb Orchard Trail News

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Published By: Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail

The Covered Bridge Project

Well, things are moving along. The architect, Robert Lipka has added siding and a cupola to the structure (See drawing) and we have presented it to both the Macomb Orchard Trail Commissioners and the Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail Group. Both groups have approved the design. The engineer, Fred Schreiber of Anderson Eckstein & Westrick Inc. will have to do some structural redesign as several supports needed to be moved to accommodate the siding design and then the design needs

to be checked for wind loading and a detailed set of blueprints produced for the city and county building offices. Yes, there's lots left to do, but we're making great progress. Watch the web site for up to the minute progress updates.
<http://www.orchardtrail.org>

See drawings on page 3 of this newsletter

A Trail Map Is Now Available On-Line

We've created a printable trail map for Phase I of the trail (Dequindre to 29 Mile Rd.). It shows the trail, major streets, mileages and locations of some of the amenities along the trail. Go to www.orchardtrail.org to print your copy.

Special Events

The Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail will be at the **Romeo Peach Festival** on Labor Day weekend September 2 to 4 2006 and at the Richmond **"Good Old Days"** on September 9-10 weekend after Labor Day.

Volunteers are needed to "man the booth" and pass out literature and answer questions about the trail. With luck by September 2006 the trail will be under construction or ready in Romeo and Richmond.

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Friends of Macomb Orchard Trail meeting dates are on 4th Tuesday of month.

Next meetings: April 25 2006, May 23 2006, June 27 2006

7:00 PM at Camp Rotary building on 29 Mile Rd east of Wolcott Rd.

The Macomb Orchard Trail commission meets there at 10:30 AM on same days.

<http://www.macomborchardtrail.com>

Macomb County Parks & Recreation: 586- 979-7010 ext 2 to ask or report about the trail.

Trail update

By Ted Gondert

Spring has arrived and the trail is busy with walkers, roller skaters and bicyclists. Families are using the trail with their children.

The trees are starting to bud their leaves and plants have popped up, birds are singing, butterflies, etc.

CVS Pharmacy wants to sponsor a run in June along the trail. The first running event was April 8 2006 the "Apple Blossom Run". See story below.

This is an opportunity for volunteers to do "Spring cleaning" along the trail. There are old dead branches and brush, etc. next to trail.

The engineering firm: Wade-Trim, hopes to have final engineering plans for phase II & III sections of the trail from 29 Mile Rd to 32 Mile Rd in Romeo and to Armada and Richmond, submitted to Michigan Department Of Transportation for final approval by June 2006.

So construction could possibly start in August. Plans are to pave trail from 29 Mile Rd north to Romeo at 32 Mile Rd, if price of asphalt is reasonable, with crushed gravel for rest of trail into Armada and Richmond.

MDOT is planning to install a footbridge across M-53 highway in Romeo MI by 2007. When that is done the trail sections from 32 Mile Rd to M-53 and Powell Rd to M-53 highway will be finished.

See: www.macomborchardtrail.com for updates.

The city of Richmond wants to put park downtown near trailhead with playground, restrooms etc. They want to pave a few miles of trail to 33 Mile Rd and Armada Ridge.

The plans for trail development include equestrian use from Richmond to NB Clinton River east of Powell Rd in Armada Twp. (near Romeo MI) There will separate horse trail along some sections and shared on other sections.

The section of undeveloped trail north of 29 Mile Rd and Van Dyke Rd, goes through some apple orchards and fields. It goes past shopping center at 30 Mile Rd and to bowling alley between 30 Mile Rd and 31 Mile Rd with McDonald's on one side and Wendy's

on other side. It continues to 32 Mile Rd in Romeo with several restaurants, party stores, etc.

The section of undeveloped trail east of M-53 highway in Romeo, behind (north) of the Ford Engine Factory is zoned industrial. But there are woods on the north side of the trail and ½ mile east of M-53 highway is East Pond Creek. Then there is pavement from old railroad siding that goes to Powell Rd. The south side of the trail has high voltage power line corridor, but south of that are woods and fields I've seen a fox along the trail.

East of Powell Rd ¼ mile is North Branch of the Clinton River with 150 foot open tie trestle across it. There is farmland on north side and open river valley on the south side. So that section of trail will be very scenic when it's open. The trestle will be decked with safety side rails.

The trail continues to Armada, crossing Romeo Plank Rd, Coon Creek and Coon Creek Rd, Armada Ridge and another trestle across East Coon Creek in Armada where there are more stores. It's about 6 miles from Romeo to Armada. The trail continues about 6 more miles to Richmond, crossing Omo Rd, Pitt Rd, 33 Mile Rd, Armada Ridge, Welding Rd, Lowe Plank, Armada Ridge and Grove Street in Richmond. The trail terminus is downtown Richmond at Division Rd and Main Street. (32 Mile Rd and M-19 Rd)

So when the rest of the trail is completed there will be 23 miles of Macomb Orchard Trail from Richmond to Armada, Romeo, Washington Twp, Shelby Township to Dequindre Rd. When trail crosses Dequindre it becomes the Clinton River Trail and is crushed gravel to Rochester with link to Bloomer Park and to Paint Creek trail. It continues into Auburn Hills, and to Pontiac.

There will be a "Perma-john" pit toilet installed at West Road "Ross Memorial Park" this year. Portable field toilets have been installed at Campground Rd, West Rd and 24 Mile Rd.

The new Macomb Orchard Trail brochures & map have been printed and are being distributed. Get your copy at local bicycle shops, and Parks & Recreation department, etc. A MOTrail brochure is included in this newsletter to members.

Apple Blossom Run

By: John Tarrantino

On April 8, 2006 was the first 4-mile run on the Macomb Orchard Trail. The runners met on West Rd. by the new Ross Pavilion. SMART/SEMTA buses took us to the start line at the beginning of the trail at 24 Mile and Dequindre.

With the help of Macomb County sheriffs and Shelby police, we had safe crossings at Shelby, 25-Mile, 26-Mile and Mound Roads.

Sheriff Mark Hackel and Gary Kirsh of Washington Twp. ran the race. Anthony Cassasanta, John Crumm of Macomb County and representatives

from the Hanson's Running Store were part of a large group of people who helped organize this event.

Along with the 4-mile run was a one-mile walk/run. This started at the Glacier Club and finished at the pavilion. Many children participated with their parents, and there were a few people who did both runs including Gary Kirsch.

Refreshments and prizes were waiting for us at the finish line. All in all a well organized event for everyone.

Macomb Land Conservancy

The Macomb Land Conservancy is preserving natural areas and open spaces in Macomb County.

There are many natural areas along the MOTrail, especially the next phases or sections from Romeo to Armada and Richmond. When trail is completed maybe this Fall 2006 or Spring 2007, people will be able to enjoy natural areas along 23 miles of rail-trail.

The MLC has website: www.savingplaces.org
info@savingplaces.org
Office: 38875 Harper, Clinton Twp MI 48036
(586)783-2395
PO BOX 332, Romeo MI 48065

Membership is \$25 for Individual or \$15 for Senior, \$15 for Student or \$35 for Family with \$50 for Supporter, \$100 Patron and \$250 for Sponsor.

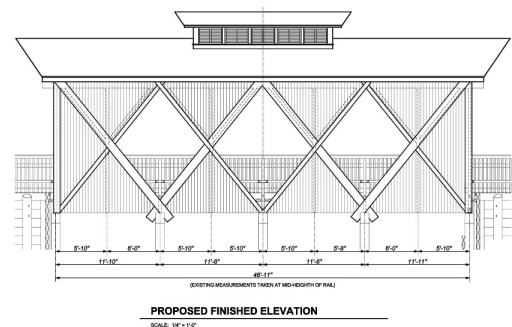
The Macomb Land Conservancy buys open spaces and natural areas or the development rights, to preserve them for the future. Their mission and goal: "is to enhance the quality of life in Macomb County for the benefit of future generations by:

- Identifying and preserving significant natural areas and habitat
- Supporting preservation of farmland and the agricultural economy
- Assisting local communities to plan for growth

- Conducting public education programs that encourage residents to become stewards of public and private lands.

The Macomb Land Conservancy has supported the Macomb Orchard Trail and is a 501©3 tax deductible nonprofit organization.

You can donate money or land to them to help preserve natural areas in Macomb County. You can volunteer to help them find and identify natural areas, do clerical work, etc.



Architect's drawing of proposed covered bridge north of Campground Rd

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PO BOX 385
Richmond, MI 48062-0385



www.orchardtrail.org
orchardtrail@yahoo.com

Membership Form

Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail membership expires in January.
Please renew now if you have not done so since October of 2005.

One year membership \$10, families included

- New Member
- Renewal

Telephone: _____

Name: _____

E-mail _____

Address: _____

Additional family members names and e-mail

City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____

Make check payable to and mail to: **Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail, PO BOX 385, Richmond, MI 48062-0385.** Or bring to membership meeting.