



500 West Big Beaver  
Troy, MI 48084  
troymi.gov

## CITY COUNCIL REPORT

Date: April 20, 2021

To: Mark F. Miller, City Manager

From: Robert J. Bruner, Assistant City Manager  
Kurt Bovensiepe, Public Works Director  
Dennis Trantham, Facilities & Grounds Operations Manager  
Ashely Levin, Project Manager

Subject: Troy Trails – Phase 3, Jaycee Park Community Engagement Update

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In December 2020, City Council approved a resolution to expend budgeted funds to allow engineering consultant, AEW, to begin the design process of the third phase of the Troy Trail initiative in Jaycee Park. The plan presented to Council proposed widening and re-paving an existing asphalt pathway within the park and the construction of about a half mile of new asphalt pathway that would highlight the natural features of the northern portion of the park. The newly constructed trail includes a pedestrian bridge across the Renshaw and Fetterly drains to provide connection and access to the adjacent subdivisions.

After receiving community feedback and meeting with AEW it was determined the pathway route could be adjusted to provide a greater barrier between the trail and properties that directly abut Jaycee Park. Upon adjusting the route, abutting homeowners were notified and City Staff began promoting an online community engagement opportunity to solicit feedback. Feedback was collected through an online storyboard portal for two weeks from March 29<sup>th</sup> – April 12<sup>th</sup> and 76 responses were received.

The responses were overall positive and in support of the third phase as well as trail systems and this type of recreational activity in general. There were various themes identified throughout the results:

- Overall support for the project/positive comments
- Suggestion to add a loop throughout the park in addition to the proposed plan or in place of the portion extending to the adjacent subdivisions
- Comments/suggestions related to connectivity, specifically in regards to the creation of a master trail plan to connect all segments of the Troy Trail, add more routes, and ultimately connect to a regional trail such as the Clinton River Trail
- Concern over the preservation of nature and trees
- General disapproval of the project
- Suggestions unrelated to this specific project

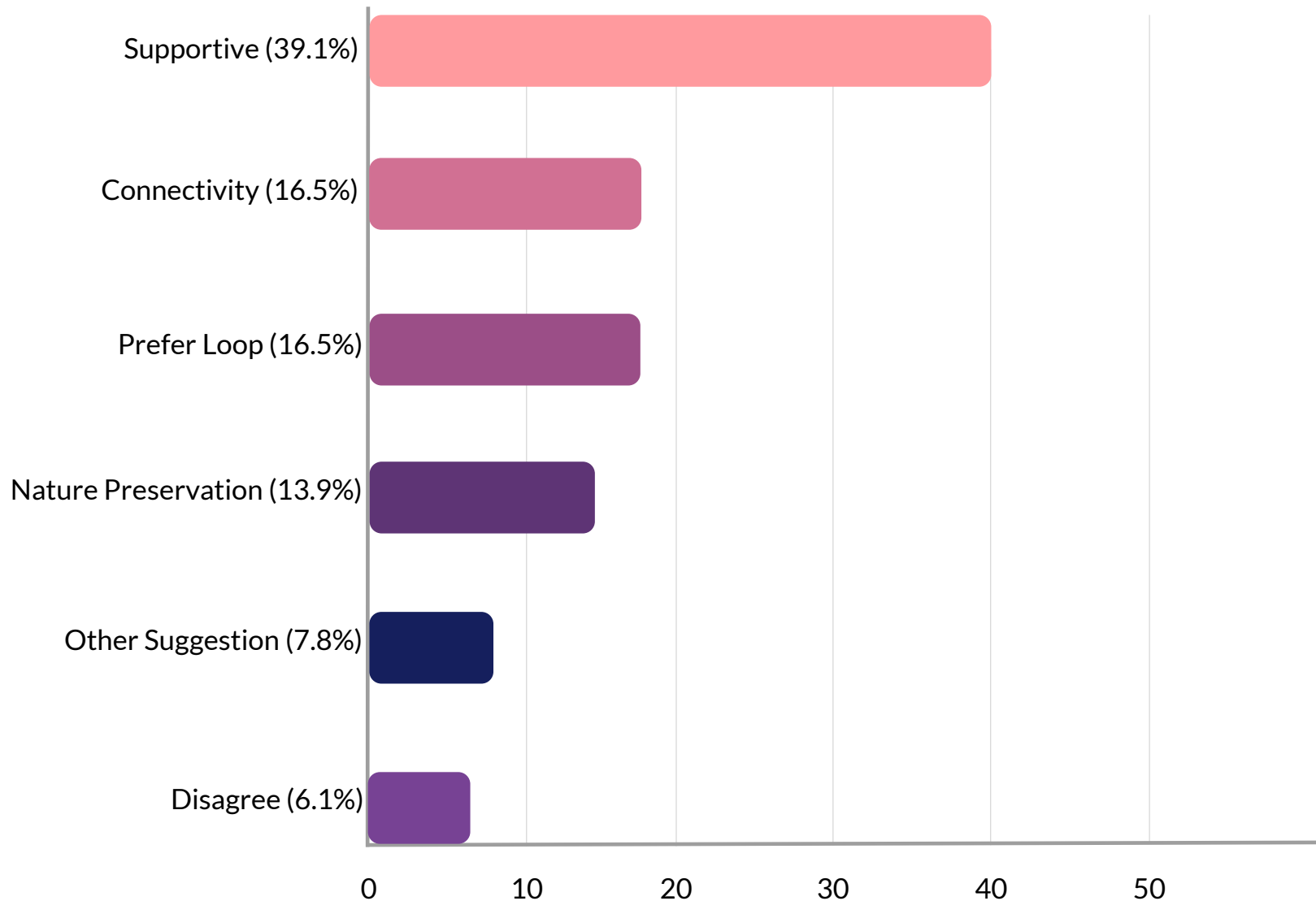


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While the community engagement portion of the project has concluded, AEW continues to complete their field work. The initial timeline may need to be extended to allow ample time for submission of permits required for installation of the pedestrian bridge over the Fetterly Drain and the Renshaw Drain.

# TROY TRAILS, JAYCEE PARK FEEDBACK



# Troy Trails, Phase 3—Community Feedback

Comments have not been edited for grammar, punctuation or spelling.

1	A crosswalk at the entrance of Jaycee park - going from the south side of long lake to the north side. This would make the park accessible to long lake village.
2	Like the idea of opening access to more of the nature area in the back of the park. Was hoping there was a way to connect it to the phase 2 path. Or even a loop around the park.
3	I am very supportive. Our family frequently visits Jaycee Park and would love the opportunity to use this path in the future. Making our parks more accessible.
4	I walk the park daily and love the idea of the bridges as my kids would use them to meet up with friends easier. I just wish the trail would be made longer like raintree or loop around the park. Seems just like sylvan glens trail to nowhere.
5	The revised pathway is ok for connecting those neighborhoods north of the park, but what people in the abutting neighborhoods would MUCH rather see, or see in addition, is a new pathway LOOPING the park. It would make the park so much more user friendly.
6	I am happy to see our city continue to expand the trails in Troy. I frequently use both of the trails featured in phase one and two and I look forward to phase 3.
7	I would like to see the trail circle around the entire park (along the edge of Allison) to create a complete circular path.
8	A path to connect the neighborhood to the west would be a great addition to the plan. Current path from Allison Dr ends at park grass. A path going through the middle of Jaycee connecting this path to restroom, area crossing over to the new connection.
9	Trail progress should continue

10	We would love to see a loop that goes around the park . Thank you
11	We surely hope that the lovely large evergreen trees that line the path and driveway and abut the path WILL NOT be cut down. They are aesthetically pleasing, offer a buffer for sound and wind for our homes on the east side of the park.
12	I love it! Great idea!
13	Is there a plan that would connect all 3 phases so that you are able to ride consistently and safely as a family?
14	Sound like a great idea. Shame that there no plans for a loop as it would be great for running. Would be nice if the the path could be split in to separate lanes for cyclists and pedestrians to reduce accidents.
15	I love the idea of a path through Jaycee!
16	It would be great to have a Jaycee loop trail around the park like all other parks in Troy. Also I am unsure why the existing path needs widening. A change would bring pedestrians closer to people's homes with children and pets.
17	Would prefer a circle path around the park and leave the natural path along the river.
18	The current sidewalk runs at my backyard, and I do not want it widened. I assume the pine trees there now be lost, impacting the privacy and value of my property. We moved to Troy for the green spaces, and the city is ruining the nature here. Bad idea

19	<p>1) The pathway doesn't need to be widened to 10ft. I use a walker &amp; I have never had an issue.</p> <p>2) The path should loop around the park.</p> <p>3) Stop cutting the trees down! Plant more trees &amp; shrubs &amp; flowers.</p> <p>4) Please add benches along the path.</p> <p>5) Beautify!</p>
20	<p>Would rather see dirt trail cleared better and left more natural. Bridge is a good idea. No need to widen existing paved path along Westmoreland, how about a path around perimeter of park around soccer fields. PLEASE DON'T ADD PAVED TRAIL IN WOODS!!!!</p>
21	<p>I am excited about all the trails. I look forward to using them for my physical and mental fitness. I do wish there were bike lanes on some of the major streets to make riding from one trail to the next a little more safe.</p>
22	<p>I love it and hope to see more trails in the future! I hope Troy keeps as much green space as possible because it seems to be disappearing.</p>
23	<p>Please add more tennis courts to parks in Troy. At firefighters park would be amazing. The city already took away the tennis courts at the middle schools that so many members of the community used.</p>
24	<p>I am opposed to any changes if there are any pine trees removed.</p>
25	<p>I much rather see the path LOOP the park so we can go for walks and bike rides in the park - it's not usable the way it currently is.</p>
26	<p>I love the first two phases of the Troy Trails and am very excited to hear of a third. I walk the first phase of the Troy Trails every week and I really like it. I have been the the Sylvan Glenn trail and I enjoy that also but it's shorter than I like to walk.</p>

27	<p>love that you are considering extending the trail to loop the neighborhood</p> <p>VERY VERY UNHAPPY that you all feel it needs to be widened in Jaycee Park.</p> <p>The present path is in great shape and I would hate to loose any standing trees!</p> <p>Does the city plan on replacing with younger trees?</p> <p>thank you for you consideration in this matter. - please, ENHANCE don't destroy or waste!~</p>
28	<p>I am in favor of having new walking trails but do not think they should be paved. A natural dirt or wood chip path would be so much nicer in a city that's become over-built. We have plenty of sidewalks for those who need that type of surface to traverse.</p>
29	<p>The proposed Troy Trail 3 is even better than expected. The access from both ends of Garret provides a nice walking circuit (from Jaycee) and an even better bicycle route. I walk and bike on the existing Phase 1 and 2. Both paths have proven a welcome break from our socially distant present. Biking between my house, to Sylvan Glen then south to Raintree and west to Troy Trail 1 and back to my neighborhood is a nice workout. The ability to stay away from the main roads and enjoy the peaceful sections of the Troy Trails make for a pleasant interlude. Thanks to all members of the various committees, councils, contractors and departments for these outstanding trails. They're a worthy enhancement to an already great place to live.</p>
30	<p>My wife and I love the Troy Trails. We walk or run on them several times per week. There are always many others doing the same. We fully support phase 3 and think it will be a great addition to the 2 phases already completed. Please continue to expand the trail system throughout our great city. Thanks.</p>
31	<p>We love and use the first two trails and can't wait to walk on the new Jaycee Park trail.</p>

32	<p>I like the idea of the accessibility this path offers to other neighborhoods. I DO NOT like that in order to build these paths the city plows through some of the last remaining green corridors in Troy. The Sylvan Lake path was a natural grass/dirt foot trail and now it is a 10' wide asphalt sidewalk that has replaced the trees that were once there. Please do not do that to JC Park. If you must make a path keep it natural similar to the trails at the Stage Nature Center. I really think the people making plans for the city want to develop any green space they can find. "If we can't build a house on it lets lets pour miles of asphalt paths and get rid of the trees and grass that way." My neighborhood adjoins JC Park and we walk back through the area you are proposing to pave. I love this area. Please keep it natural.</p>
33	<p>Even though I have lived in Troy since 1971, I had no idea about the existence of these trails, except for the one from Wattles Rd. to the Dog Park. I am very glad that Troy is undertaking this project at Jaycee Park! I think it is a great idea that should be expanded to all of the city parks in Troy. My husband and I frequently make use of the trail at Raintree Park. Trails through wooded areas are especially helpful to our mental and physical well-being since the pandemic lockdowns.</p>
34	<p>First I enjoy the trails. I look forward to walking them. It's a personal preference, but like loop trails best. That is, I like to park my car and walk the trail and end back where I parked. These way I'm seeing something different the whole time I'm walking. I find point to point trails to be 50% repetitive. Take care - Stay safe.</p>
35	<p>How come your going to knock down more woods in Troy. I love that our street dead ends to woods. My kids love playing in the woods and fishing in the creek. It also a habitat for many animals since all the woods are being cut down in Troy. I Don't see any reason for a pathway. Keep it the way it is.</p>
36	<p>I reviewed the existing plan for Phase Three - Jaycee Park and am looking forward to the completion of this project as my wife and I like to bike ride through the neighborhoods and parks. We are also eager to visit the Phase Two - Sylven Glen Lake Park as soon as the weather breaks to enjoy an area which we do not get to experience today.</p>

37	<p>This is a very piecemeal project with no connectors among the three phases.</p> <p>We need more and longer trails that can connect.</p> <p>Why don't we have a trail along the Clinton creek connecting Larson Middle School with the Jaycee trail?</p> <p>We should have at least a port-a-potty on these trails (Sylvan Glen does not have any).</p> <p>We should have info on the length of the trail at each entrance.</p>
38	<p>I truly LOVE both the P. Terry and Barbara Knight Trail and the Sylvan Glen Lake Trail. They are designed very well which allows one to enjoy the natural beauty and sounds of wildlife.</p> <p>Here are a few recommendations for an even better trail experience: 1) List below the "Troy Trails" sign, the one-way distance of the trail. 2) All trails should have restrooms or at least port-a-potties available. Although these are not long trails, I and others walk distances to get to the trails. In the event you need these facilities, they would be readily available. 3) Continue to make both asphalt and wide trails. So far the current two trails are GREAT, however . . . 4) I would love to see longer trails and ones that connect along natural resources (e.g. Clinton River Watershed Creek). 5) Stop approving residential development that takes from our green space or natural fields/woods that could be utilized for the public to enjoy with trails, parks or just to enjoy while passing them.</p>
39	<p>First, I am thrilled with the Phase 2 pathway! We have felt disconnected from the rest of Troy here on the East side, and this development is much appreciated!! We sometimes walk through Jaycee Park, and this proposed Phase 3 pathway would draw us there more often and give us a better means of crossing it rather than hiking across the sometime-muddy soccer fields.</p>
40	<p>We enjoy the Sylvan Glen path that connects with our neighborhood and walk there most days. Would like longer connecting trails for biking.</p>
41	<p>Looking forward to the trail and being more connected</p>

42

I like the proposed Phase 3 trail. But I have one suggested modification to the proposal = for many years people have used an "unofficial path" along the south bank of the Renshaw Drain that stretches from the pedestrian bridge on Littler Drive to Jaycee Park. Can the City can get an easement or permission from the subdivisions (Whispering Park, East Long Lake Estates 1, ELLE 2) to use their common property and make this unofficial path a spur of the proposed Phase 3 trail? FYI there is a new sidewalk adjacent to the retention pond in the Whispering Park sub that connects to the unofficial path.

43

Greetings, I would like to address bikers crossing Big Beaver to access the bike path through the neighborhoods both south and north of Big Beaver continuing onto Beach Rd. It's fantastic with high volume of adults as well as children bikers and it continues along Wattles to the Troy Trails.

The main issue and concern is that the sidewalk crosswalk is rarely used. Often times adults as well as children (which is quite frightening) cross Big Beaver when they see a perceived gap in traffic. This is dangerous for both death and serious injury.

This could be avoided if we make just a small portion of the sidewalk paved over in the same smooth black asphalt from the crosswalk along Big Beaver from Wrenwood (South of Big Beaver) to Kingsley (North of Big Beaver). This would allow a non-interrupted black asphalt path both south and north of Big Beaver for bikers to utilize the bike path that crosses through these neighborhoods extends to Beach and connects to Troy Trails.

44

This would be even better if there were descriptions of the other improvements at the park. We have heard that there could be replacement trees, maybe a pavilion, and maybe a new play structure at the front of the park. There has been talk for years, and neighbors are wondering if there could be a loop path around Jaycee, such as at other parks. Updating the trail announcement with more details about park updates would be great. I trust that widening the existing path at Jaycee would not result in more trees being removed.

45	<p>Please don't do this. There has been so much homebuilding north of the creek in Jaycee Park that there is hardly any greenspace left. Maintaining greenspace and balancing that greenspace with new community growth used to be a priority in Troy, but now the priority appears to be new construction and asphalt bike paths. Perhaps a bike path around the perimeter of Jaycee Park (like Raintree Park) would serve everyone better rather than chopping down the few trees that are left along the creek in Jaycee. Feel free to contact me for further comment.</p>
46	<p>Love it. I use the phase 1 trail all the time. I haven't tried phase 2 yet but can't wait to get there and check it out. I'm all for adding new trails in our city. I think phase 3 will be a great addition to Troy's trail and pathway system. I appreciate that Mr. Bovensiep collected adjacent neighbor feedback and adjusted the pathway so that it was placed further from people's backyards. Good job! I'm all for phase 3 and hope that it continues to the build phase.</p>
47	<p>While I commend the City for making progress on trails, it feels like there is no over-arching design goal. It was my hope and understanding that the city was trying to create a series of trails/paths that 1) tied different parts of the city together, 2) connected to other trails in the area, and 3) connected to commuter routes. What seems to have been accomplished in the first three phases is just putting trails in existing parks, none of which tie to anything else. I'd love to see a "master plan" that shows how these first three phases tie into a larger plan, if there is one, and if there isn't one then I'd like to see if the city can create one that addresses the three goals stated above.</p>
48	<p>I am 50/50 on it. I like the fact that we would have closer trails to park but I really don't want the traffic coming through the sub. I think one access point coming out to Willow Grove is plenty. Don't need to have the other coming out to Garrett by Hopedale. This will increase foot and bike traffic and we don't want people cutting through that don't need to be in sub.</p>
49	<p>While we have not yet had the opportunity to use the paths, we certainly plan to do so (weather permitting). Our son uses a wheelchair so these paths are perfect for us. It's also very helpful that they are located in existing parks where there is plenty of accessible parking. We support the City's use of tax dollars for recreation and outdoor spaces for everyone.</p>

50	<p>I live close to Troy Trails Phase I and am a regular user.</p> <p>The positives about the trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Since its opening, the trail has been well maintained. Cleared of any debris/ overgrowth in a prompt manner. The mini pond in the center is also a good place to see some birds and beavers.</li> <li>- The parking lot at the end, next to the dog park is useful. Though I have not used the rest rooms near there, I see that they are regularly maintained.</li> </ul> <p>Possible improvements going forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- It would be really beneficial to the community if we start connecting these phases together. An interconnected trail will allow more more bikes, will let everyone go for longer distances and general allow for more socializing within the community.</li> <li>- If interconnection is not receiving support, then I would propose to extend each phase within its own area. E.g. Trail one could have additional loops extending its length.</li> </ul>
51	<p>We are pleased to learn about the City's plan to put a trail through Jaycee Park. We are also pleased that the Troy Trail planning Staff were flexible and able to shift the Trail to the west to move it further away from homes. Thank you</p>
52	<p>The trail is a good idea but I would like to ask that as few trees as possible get cut down to make room for the trail. We have lost a lot of trees in our neighborhood due to the construction of the Oak Forest subdivision, the expansion of John R road, and the upcoming development on Hopedale.</p>
53	<p>Hello- comments about Phase 3 of Troy Trails. In widening the existing sidewalk along the road/parking area, avoid removing any of the beautiful evergreen trees to the east of the sidewalk. Regarding the new northern section-I walk the path along the drain often. It is important to have some natural trail in our parks, but I understand the limited area there is to develop the trail system. I hope that this natural pathway will remain and that as little disturbance to this natural area will be a goal. I suggest planting of native species (wildflowers, bushes, trees, etc) in the woods and on the banks of the drain. Also, Wattles Road has the most potential for an east-west bike corridor through Troy. There is substantial easement property that can be used to widen some of the narrow sidewalk into a multi-use pathway. A continuous pathway on the north or south side of Wattles would be safer. A bike lane on Northfield Pkwy extending to Coolidge Rd. To South Blvd has potential.</p>

54	I love that the City of Troy is creating paths that residents can use to help connect us with nature. They are much more pleasant than walking on the main roads, and improve our city's image.
55	The Knight Park portion is beautiful and we feel lucky to have it in our neighborhood. I would love to see a system that allows us to bike greater distances, or eventually connect to a rail to trail system nearby.
56	Seems like a good addition to the existing pathway. However, it should not be dead ended. The trail should connect to points of easy pedestrian access.
57	Can you be more specific on the phase2 access on Sylvanwood. Is it the point directly north of Somerton street? There is no indication on your map to demonstrate your description of the 'Sylvanwood' access point.
58	I would fully support the expansion at Jaycee. I was disappointed when I realized that we would not be able to access the park from our area and I would love the opportunity to use a bridge to access only instead of driving around the block to the long lake entrance!
59	Is the location of the future bridge over the Renshaw Drain shown in these drawings?
60	<p>When do you plan to connect Phase 1, 2 and 3 trail together? We want a trail system more than a mile each. These three trails are too short.</p> <p>Please keep expanding the trails to connect the city of Troy together with other trail systems, like the Clinton River Trail. Have you thought about taking the Firefighters trail, expanding it to the Troy Nature Center (Troy owned property)? and then maybe connect to Auburn Hills trail.....</p> <p>Please study some other cities, to see how they have done it... like Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Hills. Also, take a look at Dublin, OH- Lots of trails done without a pre-existing rail road.</p> <p>Let me know if you want me to show you around some good ideas. Bring your bike.</p>

61	I love Jaycee Park, but I feel it's underutilized due to a lack of walking trails. Adding more pathways as phase 3 proposes would be excellent.
62	Great work on phase one and two. we use them frequently and look forward to the new development at Jacyee park. Keep it up! Would love to see more interconnected trails and parks like clinton river trail/ paint creek trail / Macomb orchard trail.
63	Looks good. Anyway to make the blue line into a loop? It would make for a much more cohesive walk. I am enjoying the other two trails! Having a third closer to my house would offer another walking experience! As a senior citizen, I appreciate these trails
64	<p>I support the plans for the Jaycee Park Trail. The more, the healthier! Given its relative proximity to the recently expanded Delia Park on the Sterling Heights side of Dequindre, it might be helpful to promote both. (Can't remember if there are side-walks on south side of Square Lake west of John...but that would complete the link...I think!) I've walked both #1 and #2... thanks!</p> <p>I also am a volunteer with the Clinton River Trail and encourage any link from the northwest corner of Troy to connect, too!</p>
65	I think these projects are a great ideeaa! My family and I enjoy walking on Daisy Knight Dog Park trail almost every day because it is pretty close to our home! It would be great if, at some point, all these 3 trails will get interconnected!!!
66	100% for adding trails and connecting to existing trail networks of adjacent cities. I frequent trails running or biking several times a week
67	<p>We love the trail at Sylvan Glen. Especially the natural fencing and the wide paved path. Benches are nice for those who need to sit and for watching wildlife.</p> <p>Biggest problem is people not picking up after their dogs. We walk our dog there at least once/day and use the garbage can if needed. I Suggest you be sure to place convenient garbage cans along the route and perhaps a sign reminding to pick up after your dog. Thank you</p>

68	<p>As a runner I am loving the first two phases of the trail system. Although our trails are short, they offer an opportunity to dash into the woods for an escape from the roads during my runs.</p> <p>My suggestion would be to consider improving how these trails are accessed. Getting to phase 1 involves crossing busy roads as there isn't continuous sidewalk on the south side of wattles or the east side of livernois. Also, we have walk signals in place but why don't they automatically function without a pedestrian having to hit a button and then wait through a full cycle to activate? Also, while the pedestrian island on wattles is great, it needs to have the curbs painted yellow or something as I've seen people tumble over the curbs as they are hard to visualize while crossing. Finally, it would be nice to have water fountains available on our trails/in our parks- specifically the kind where a water bottle can be filled.</p> <p>Keep up the good work. Looking forward to more trails in the future!</p>
69	<p>I live near phase one of the Troy Trails and it is great. Phase 2 is also very nice and easy to walk. The pandemic has brought out many more people to walk the trails and shows us how much Troy needs a good trail system. Phase 3 will be a good addition to the Troy Trail system.</p>
70	<p>Love the trails. They are beautifully done, well-maintained, and neighborhood accessible. Lucky enough to have the first one within walking distance of my home. We had no idea that beautiful pond was even back there. Need a trail in every section of Troy.</p>
71	<p>I am a neighbor in the sub that has access to Jaycee through an easement, and my family uses the park daily. I am opposed to this Phase 3. There is no need to widen the already existing 8-ft wide path. A much better use of resources would be to extend the current path so that it loops throughout the park. This would make the entirety of the park more useable. Extending the current path would prevent cutting down additional trees. Clearing the way for a new path to a new subdivision requires cutting down more trees. There is already limited space for wildlife, and it would be a huge harm to these animals to have more of their home destroyed. We would much rather have a walking path throughout the park. Park-goers would get much more use out of a walking path, and the park would attract more visitors. We are not in support of widening the existing path, or creating a new path to a new subdivision; we much prefer that the City extend the current path throughout the entirety of the park.</p>

72	<p>I like the idea of dedicated trails, but there needs to be better connectivity and improvement to roadway sidewalks, specifically Long Lake for this phase. I run and ride the current two phases, and they are disjointed with the surrounding areas. PLEASE intentionally plan the new trails in the woods with minimizing loss of large trees and impacts to the remaining biodiversity.</p> <p>Also, can the team consider designated signalized pedestrian crossings at the start/finish of the trails to increase safe use. This is done at all major crossings for the CRT and MOT trails in Rochester Hills and Shelby. This could be specifically done on Long Lake to allow for safe access for the neighborhoods and Bike Route south of Long Lake. Not to mention many residents north of Long Lake send their children to Costello, and this safe crossing would be a better option.</p> <p>Finally, maybe it is part of a separate Park initiative, but Jaycee Park really needs a complete loop trail to make it more useful.</p>
73	<p>There has been so much development in the woods to the north of Jaycee that there is nowhere for wildlife to live. Adding a wider path to the current one in JC and then adding a paved trail thru the woods will just make this worse. It would be much preferred to add a paved walking trail around the perimeter of the park with no pavement in the woods. Walking through the woods by the creek has been one of the few natural areas near us. This will be ruined by adding a 10' wide paved path. A bridge crossing the creek to allow for the new sub to the north access to the park is a good idea, but don't add a paved trail in the woods! Clearing the fallen trees to make the dirt paths more accessible would be helpful.</p>
74	<p>More connected trails or sidewalks on major roads similar to Rochester Hills.</p>
75	<p>A looping path would be great so we could walk around the park. Also I do not see why the path needs to be 10' wide. I walk in the park daily and rarely pass anyone. The park is not busy so why such a wide path. I would think 8 feet would be plenty and 20% cheaper.</p>
76	<p>Park updates are welcome but please stop cutting down trees. The existing path does not need to be wider. Add on to the trail but leave path through JC as is.</p>