

Buffalo Ridge Trail Phase II Stakeholder Meeting Notes

Monday, March 23rd

Host by: Garfield Township, TART Trails & Wade Trim

Introduction: Attendees introduced themselves. Julie gave brief background on the project and status update.

Overview: Scot walked the group through the proposed trail design

Will Buffalo Ridge Trail remain the name?

- Historical reference, will keep the name
- Great opportunity for interpretation

Trail design:

- Trail will be designed to AASHTO standards
- Went Creekside to W. Middle School
 - o Creekside Drive design done
 - o DEQ permit for Kid's Creek – box culvert. Able to extend the trail surface over the culvert. Railing on both sides. Allows the habitat and natural to be maintained. Culvert will have a natural creek bottom
 - o What is the culvert sized to? The culvert is sized to a 25 year storm event which is more than the standard requirement of 10 years
 - o 10' wide. Designed as asphalt with alternate as concrete.
 - o Spur to wetland overlook – 8' wide trail, barrier free. Benches? Maybe
 - o Wetland crossing – trail runs through it. Equalization culvert will be put in place. Project Impact total is 1/10th of an acre. Mitigation starts at 1/3rd
 - o Traverse Hill expressed concerns about "Pond 3" – breeches and floods. Concern is that the breach of the pond would damage nearby facilities. Concerned that the construction will be wiped out if the pond is breached.
 - Land bridge – an 18" pipe will replace an existing 15" pipe. Will be put in at the same elevation of the existing pipe. Will allow for more flow.
 - o Soil borings estimated – some fill will be required. 177.3 cubic yards for the project
 - o Traverse Hills concerned about the construction dust/debris. Scot said there will be controls in the contract.
 - o Trail elevation – nearly at the existing grade behind Traverse Hills

Trail landscaping

- o Big tree at corner of bus drive and Traverse Hills – trail access. Traverse Hill residents concerned the tree presents a safety issue. Can/Should the tree be removed? The tree serves as a good windbreak. If tree is removed it needs to be replaced. Needs to be determined whose property the tree is on.
- o Traverse Hill Landscaping – it will be on the east side of the fence. Distance between the fence and trail (10-12 feet). Scot recommends something 5 feet wide at maturity. Native, low-maintenance.
- o Traverse Hills residents discussed using landscaping to fill in the gaps with natives shrubs, 3-4 high
- o Julie follow up with Bayridge to ask about landscaping needs and connection from trail to Bay Ridge (will the connection to the YMCA be improved? Will this serve as the connection to the trail?)

Construction Timeline

- o Bids will be let in mid-May. Construction scheduled to begin mid-July. MDEQ permit approval generally takes 3 months from the day of submittal. DEQ permit will be submitted on 3/25
- o Construction estimated to take approximately 2 months from start to finish – though the contract specifies exact end date (October)
- o Construction access will be identified in plan set.