

3 Mile Trail Extension

Community Open House Feedback

Report Created: November 4, 2020

Introduction

TART Trails in partnership with East Bay Township, Norte, and the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, are facilitating a community engagement process to inform the development of a nonmotorized trail connection along 3 Mile Road, called the “3 Mile Trail Extension”.

To gather high-level community feedback regarding desired trail experience, use, connectivity, and amenities, the project partners hosted an outdoor open house event on October 22, 2020 at the Grand Traverse Academy in East Bay Township and simultaneously distributed an online survey with the same questions posted at the open house event.

This report provides a summary of the community feedback recorded at the open house event. 45 people attended the event, most of whom provided input via the poster stations provided. 13 of those individuals opted to submit a paper survey. Event attendees included representation from the cycling community, area residents, area businesses, the Grand Traverse County Road Commission, Cherry Capital Airport, East Bay Township, Norte, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and one representative of the canine species.

Below is a summary of the community feedback gathered related to:

1. Trail Experience, Use, and Access
2. Trail Connectivity, Design, and Amenities
3. Attendee Demographics.

A full report of feedback received is attached to this document on pages 8-11 (Attachment A).

Section 1. Trail Experience, Use, and Access

What three things are you most excited about related to the proposed 3 Mile Trail?

Event attendees are most excited about the improved **connectivity, safety, and community experience** that will result from the proposed 3 Mile Trail.

Specifically, connections to the existing TART trail network, schools, residential neighborhoods, local amenities, and natural resources, and increased safety along 3 Mile Road for parking, walking, and biking.

Verbatim responses from the event are grouped below according to three themes: connectivity, safety, and community experience.

Connectivity

- Connect safely to TART system
- Connection to school, area
- Connect to Mitchell Creek Preserve
- Connect TART & schools
- Access south
- School connections
- Connection to other parts of TART
- Is accessible to Alta Vista residents
- Expands out the trail closer to Hobbs Hwy where I live. My vision is to connect it to Hobbs then on to Garfield.
- Connected to Hammond
- Connection in addition to current trail from 3-4 mile
- Connectors to Nat. Preserve
- Connectors to Hammond
- Opens up so many experiences to the outdoors.
- Bike to school
- Bike to town
- Potential Mtb. Trails in Mitchell Creek
- Pocket Mtb trails accessed off 3 mile trail
- Closer access to Chimney Ridge
- Connecting East Bay Corner (Hammond & 3 Mile) to the TART system
- Connecting all the schools, stores, and homes together in the East Bay corner area
- I'm an avid user of the current Three Mile (word?) and I look forward to riding up to Oleson's
- Possibility/opportunity to bike to work.
- Family bike rides into town.
- Kids using trail to get to school.
- Me using trail to get my kid to school.
- School access for kids
- Possibility/opportunity for my students to bike to school.
- Possibility/opportunity to bike to work at GTA
- Biking, running
- Natural areas

Safety

- Safe access to all schools in the 3 Mile/Hammond area
- Safe biking/walking route to schools.
- Safe bike route to town from East Bay Township
- Safe parking along 3 Mile
- Safe path along 3 Mile to walk/bike
- Bike safely on 3 Mile
- Easier commute to work, safer route into town

Community Experience

- Regional trail destination
- Everyone using the trail.
- Great for community
- More active community

How do you intend to use the 3 Mile Trail?

Event attendees are most likely to use the trail for **recreation** (35 votes), **exercise** (34 votes), and **transportation** (33 votes). Other uses are **outdoor education** (5 votes) and a write-in comment, “*Meet community members*”.

What mode of transportation do you plan to use on the 3 Mile Trail?

Event attendees plan to primarily **bike** (44 votes) on the 3 Mile Trail, followed by **walking/jogging** (25 votes).

Other responses include using a **stroller** (4 votes), **skiing*** (2 votes), and using a **wheelchair** (2 votes).

**Very Northern Michigan of them.*

How will you get to the 3 Mile Trail from your place of origin (house, school, job, etc.)?

Event attendees are most likely to **bike** (35 votes) to the 3 Mile Trail, followed by **drive** (18 votes) or **walk** (11 votes). “*Jogging*” was provided as a write-in comment.

Where are you likely to access the 3 Mile Trail?

Event attendees are most likely to access the 3 Mile Trail at either the **southern end near Hammond Road and 3 Mile Road** (19 votes) or via the **existing TART system west of 3 Mile Road, along Parsons Avenue** (16 votes).

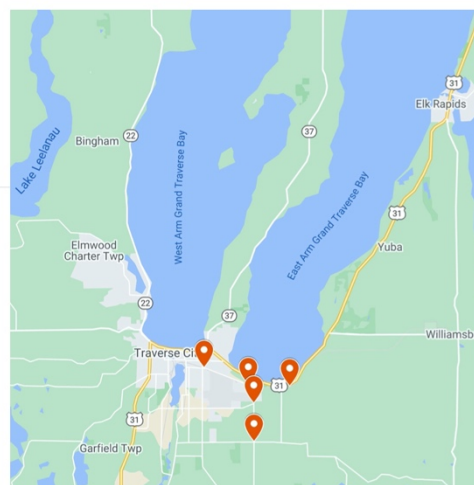
See map to the right.

Other options include the **Parsons Avenue and 3 Mile trailhead** (8 votes), **3 Mile and South Airport intersection** (4 votes), and via the **existing TART system east of 3 Mile Road from Holiday Hills** (3 votes). One write-in response were recorded for this question: “*From my front or back-yard!*”.

Where are you likely to access the 3 Mile Trail?

Locations listed from most to least popular below.

- 3 Mile/Hammond
- Existing TART West
- 3 Mile/Parsons Trailhead
- 3 Mile/South Airport
- Existing TART East



Section 2. Trail Connectivity, Design, and Amenities

Where should the 3 Mile Trail connect you?

While **grocery shopping** (20 votes) received the highest number of votes, event attendees' responses were fairly mixed on this question, with relatively close vote tallies for multiple options. See below:

- Grocery shopping (20 votes)
- Beach (16 votes)
- Neighborhoods (15 votes)
- School (14 votes)
- Other: Land Conservancy Properties (13 votes)
- Office/Work (11 votes)
- Restaurants/Dining (11 votes)

The least popular responses were **businesses** (7 votes) and **playgrounds** (3 votes).

What amenities do you wish to experience along the 3 Mile Trail?

Event attendees most wish for **signage** (20 votes), **restrooms** (18 votes), **trash cans at trailheads** (17 votes), **coffee shops/bike rentals/other commercial destinations** (17 votes), and **historical or natural interpretive signage** (16 votes) along the 3 Mile Trail.

Next, attendees selected the following amenities:

- Arts (10 votes)
- Drinking Water (7 votes)
- Other: Lighting, solar powered LED (6 votes)
- Seating (6 votes)
- Gardens (6 votes)
- Picnic amenities (6 votes)
- Dog waste bag stations (5 votes)

The least popular responses were **playgrounds** (3 votes), **bike racks** (2 votes), and **bike fixit stations** (1 vote).

What other non-motorized connections (trail, sidewalk, etc.) would you like to see in the surrounding area shown?

Participants highlighted the following locations for additional non-motorized connections:

- Proposed 3 Mile Extension Trail
- Hammond Road from 3 Mile Road to 6 Mile Road

- 3 Mile Road from Hammond Road to Potter Road
- 4 Mile Road from Hammond Road to Potter Road
- Potter Road from 3 Mile Road to Arbutus Lake #4
- Saffron Circle
- High Lake Road from Hammond Road to Grace MacDonald Park
- Supply Road from High Lake Road to Rasho Road
- Rasho Road from Supply Road to Spider Lake

These connections are highlighted in the poster image below.



What design features will make you feel safe while accessing and on the 3 Mile Trail? Event attendees will feel most safe with **timed traffic signals for major road crossings** (34 votes) and **trail lighting** (31 votes) in place.

Other responses include **signage** (17 votes), having **many trail users** (7 votes), and **lowering the 3 Mile Road speed limit** (6 votes).

Only 1 vote was cast for **emergency call boxes** and two write-in comments were provided: *“sidewalks, slower traffic speeds”* and *“offset from road, plan for 4-lane roadway in future”*.

Section 3. Participant Demographics

Are you a full-time resident, seasonal resident, or regular visitor of this area?

Event attendees are overwhelmingly full-time residents.

- Full-time resident (40 votes)
- Regular visitor (1 vote)

What is your age?

No attendee was less than 25 years old and most were 40 years or older.

- 60+ years old (18 votes)
- 40-60 years old (17 votes)
- 25 to 39 years old (9 votes)

How many children under 18 years old are in your household?

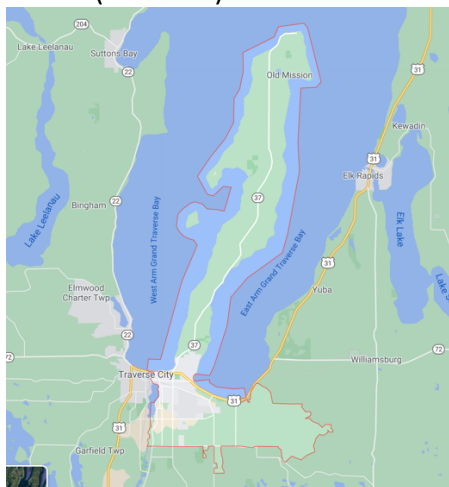
Most attendees have **zero children under the age of 18** in their household.

- 0 (28 votes)
- 1 (3 votes)
- 2 (7 votes)
- 3+ (1 vote)

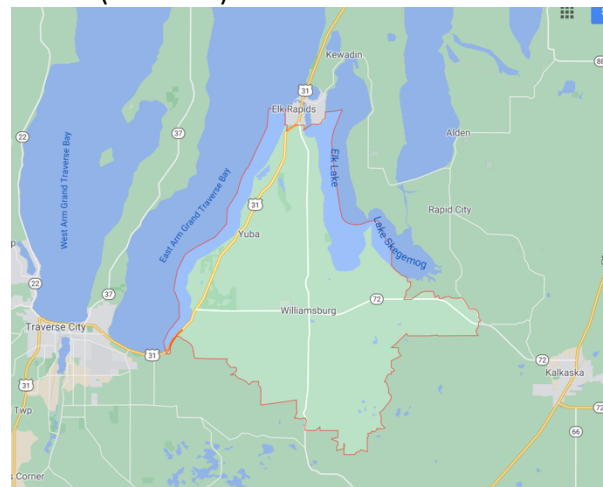
What is your zip code?

Most attendees live in/around Traverse City, immediately east and west of the proposed 3 Mile Trail route. See maps below.

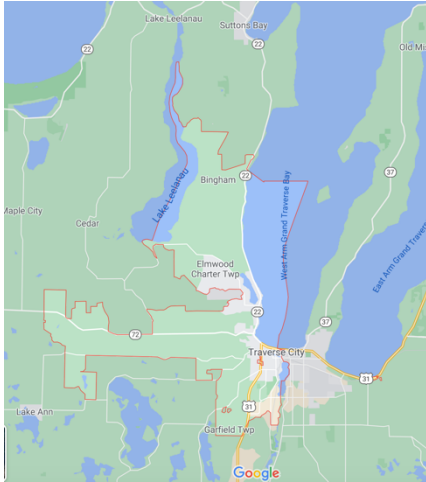
49686 (18 votes)



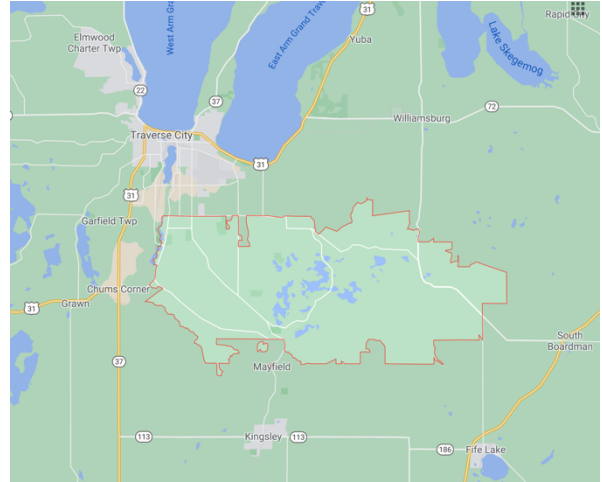
49696 (18 votes)



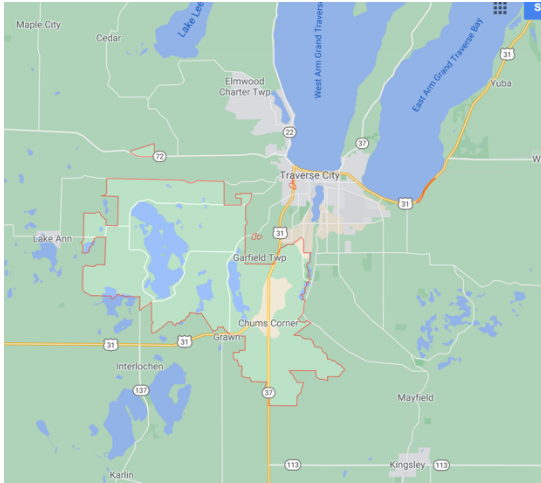
49684 (2 votes)



49690 (1 vote)



49685 (2 votes)



3 Mile Trail Extension Community Open House Responses October 22, 2020

What three things are you most excited about related to the proposed 3 Mile Trail? *List up to three ideas below.*

- Connect safely to TART system (4 votes)
- Possibility/opportunity to bike to work at GTA (2 votes)
- Easier commute to work, safer route into town (2 votes)
- Connection to school, area (2 votes)
- Connect to Mitchell Creek Preserve (1 vote)
- Connect TART & schools (1 vote)
- Safe access to all schools in the 3 Mile/Hammond area (1 vote)
- Regional trail destination (1 vote)
- Safe biking/walking route to schools.
- Safe bike route to town from East Bay Township.
- Family bike rides into town.
- Kids using trail to get to school.
- Me using trail to get my kid to school.
- Everyone using the trail.
- Access south
- School connections
- Connection to other parts of TART
- Is accessible to Alta Vista residents
- Great for community
- Safe parking along 3 Mile
- Safe path along 3 Mile to walk/bike
- School access for kids
- Bike safely on 3 Mile
- Expands out the trail closer to Hobbs Hwy where I live. My vision is to connect it to Hobbs then on to Garfield.
- Opens up so many experiences to the outdoors.
- Bike to school
- Bike to town
- More active community
- Connected to Hammond
- Potential Mtb. Trails in Mitchell Creek
- Connection in addition to current trail from 3-4 mile
- Connectors to Nat. Preserve
- Connectors to Hammond
- Pocket Mtb trails accessed off 3 mile trail

Attachment A: Open House Feedback

- Closer access to Chimney Ridge
- Biking, running
- Natural areas
- Connecting East Bay Corner (Hammond & 3 Mile) to the TART system
- Connecting all the schools, stores, and homes together in the East Bay corner area
- I'm an avid user of the current Three Mile (word?) and I look forward to riding up to Olesons.
- Possibility/opportunity to bike to work.
- Possibility/opportunity for my students to bike to school.

How do you intend to use the 3 Mile Trail? *Select all that apply.*

- Recreation (35 votes)
- Exercise (34 votes)
- Transportation (33 votes)
- Outdoor Education (5 votes)
- Other: Meet community members (1 vote)

How will you get to the 3 Mile Trail from your place of origin (house, school, job, etc.)? *Select all that apply.*

- Bike (35 votes)
- Drive (18 votes)
- Walk (10 votes)
- Other: "Walk out my door!" (1 vote)
- Other: Jogging

Where are you likely to access the 3 Mile Trail? *Select all that apply.*

- South End near Hammond and Three Mile (19 votes)
- Existing **west** TART system, west of 3 Mile along Parson's Road (16 votes)
- Trailhead at Parsons Avenue/3 Mile Road (8 votes)
- Other: 3 Mile and South Airport (4 votes)
- Existing **east** TART system, east of 3 Mile from Holiday Hills area (3 votes)
- Other: From my front or back yard!

What mode of transportation do you plan to use on the 3 Mile Trail? *Select all that apply.*

- Biking (44 votes)
- Walking/Jogging (25 votes)
- Stroller (4 votes)
- Other: Skiing (2 votes)
- Wheelchair (2 votes)

Attachment A: Open House Feedback

Where should the 3 Mile Trail connect you? *Select up to three responses.*

- Grocery shopping (20 votes)
- Beach (16 votes)
- Neighborhoods (15 votes)
- School (14 votes)
- Other: Land Conservancy Properties (13 votes)
- Office/Work (11 votes)
- Restaurants/Dining (11 votes)
- Other: Businesses on Airport (7 votes)
- Playground (3 votes)

What amenities do you wish to experience along the 3 Mile Trail? *Select up to three responses.*

- Signage (20 votes)
- Restrooms (18 votes)
- Trash cans at trailheads (17 votes)
- Coffee shops, bike rentals, or other similar commercial destinations (17 votes)
- Historical or Natural interpretive signage (16 votes)
- Arts (10 votes)
- Drinking Water (7 votes)
- Other: Lighting, solar powered LED (6 votes)
- Seating (6 votes)
- Gardens (6 votes)
- Picnic amenities (6 votes)
- Dog waste bag stations (5 votes)
- Playground (3 votes)
- Bike racks (2 votes)
- Bike fixit stations (1 vote)

What other non-motorized connections (trail, sidewalk, etc.) would you like to see in the surrounding area shown? *Use a highlighter to draw these connections on the map.*

- Proposed 3 Mile Extension Trail
- Hammond Road from 3 Mile Road to 6 Mile Road
- 3 Mile Road from Hammond Road to Potter Road
- 4 Mile Road from Hammond Road to Potter Road
- Potter Road from 3 Mile Road to Arbutus Lake #4
- Saffron Circle
- High Lake Road from Hammond Road to Grace MacDonald Park
- Supply Road from High Lake Road to Rasho Road
- Rasho Road from Supply Road to Spider Lake

Attachment A: Open House Feedback

Are you a full-time resident, seasonal resident, or regular visitor of this area?

*Select **one** option.*

- Full-time resident (40 votes)
- Regular visitor (1 vote)
- Seasonal resident (0 votes)

What design features will make you feel safe while accessing and on the 3 Mile Trail?

*Select **up to three** responses.*

- Trail lighting (31 votes)
- Timed traffic signals for major road crossings (34 votes)
- Signage (17 votes)
- Other: Lower 3 Mile Road speed limit (6 votes)
- Many trail users (7 votes)
- Emergency call boxes (1 vote)
- Other: Sidewalks, slower traffic speeds
- Other: Offset from Road; plan for 4-lane roadway in future

What is your age? *Select **one** option.*

- 60+ years old (18 votes)
- 40-60 years old (17 votes)
- 25 to 39 years old (9 votes)
- 18 to 24 years old (0 votes)
- 13 to 17 years old (0 votes)
- 6 to 12 years old (0 votes)
- 0 to 6 years old (0 votes)

How many children under 18 years old are in your household? *Select **one** option.*

- 0 (28 votes)
- 2 (7 votes)
- 1 (3 votes)
- 3+ (1 vote)

What is your zip code? Write your zip code below.

- 49686 (18 votes)
- 49696 (18 votes)
- 49684 (2 votes)
- 49685 (2 votes)
- 49690 (1 vote)

Comments:

- Thank you for getting this going!