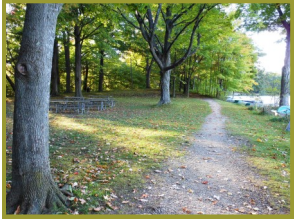


July 2019 News



Livingston County Trail Network Plan

We are happy to report that Livingston County Planning Department has received \$30,000 in funding to conduct a Livingston County Trail Network Plan in partnership with LivON: Livingston County Outdoor Network. Livingston County Planning Department staff are co-facilitators of LivON, along with LivON Chair Dennis Brennan of Putnam Township, Nina Kelly of Huron-Clinton Metroparks, Andrew Haapala and Nikki Van Bloem of the Department of Natural Resources.

SEMCOG's Regional Review Committee awarded Livingston County's funding request through the Planning Assistance Program for Multi-Community Planning. Planning assistance funds empower communities to address local and regional priorities. Applicants were required to demonstrate how their local community project would assist the implementation of SEMCOG regional plans such as the Parks and Recreation Plan for Southeast Michigan.

This project funding will enable County Planning to contract a consultant to create a multi-community trail network plan that will achieve the following: 1.) identify and map existing trails in Livingston County, 2.) analyze conditions of existing trails and capacity for multi-modal, non-motorized use, 3.) identify gaps in trail network and 4.) create a prioritized strategy for future trail linkages including cost estimates. The plan will focus on how secondary local trails link with primary, regional and state trails that traverse through Livingston County; most notably the Mike Levine Lakelands Trail State Park which is Route #1 of the Michigan Great Lake to Lake trails.

The Livingston County Planning team will perform some of the work items of the project and LivON will function as a steering committee for the project. LivON participants include park providers, recreation clubs, conservationists, and representatives of each of the twenty local units of government in Livingston County. This group is uniquely qualified to assist the consultant and Livingston County Planning Department with information regarding existing local trails. LivON has recognized that Livingston County does not have a complete trails map for identifying these resources and how they might connect. This lack of information has hampered planning at a multi-community, county level.

A Trail Network Plan Will Benefit Livingston County Communities By:

- Providing a big-picture, county-wide planning tool for trail provision
- Aiding collaborative efforts to improve the region's recreation system with a supporting local network of trails
- Leveraging grant money for local trail development and/or wayfinding that will link communities to the primary/regional/state trails in our area
- Connecting residents and visitors to the Livingston County communities that are not immediately on the primary/regional/state trails, thereby impacting the local economy

The importance of mapping, promoting and linking parks and recreation is also recognized in the Recreation and Implementation chapters of the recently adopted Livingston County Master Plan. Accomplishing a Livingston County Trail Network Plan will achieve many of the implementation goals of the plan.

In Other News...

Run. Walk. Roll the Trails

- An event planned by Livingston County Health Department -

Plan to attend or participate as a resource provider in "Run. Walk. Roll the Trails" on **August 6, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM**. This is an event promoting accessible trails and resources in Livingston County for individuals with disabilities. For more information contact Erica Grochowski at egrochowski@livgov.com

Next LivON: Livingston County Outdoor Network Meeting

Learn more about the Livingston County Trail Network Plan, Hartland Township's success stories and frustrations in the creation of their new parks, and other great outdoor subjects! Mark your calendar for the next LivON meeting on **Tuesday, September 17 from 10:00 AM to Noon** under the pavilion at Settlers Park on Clark Rd. in Hartland (weather permitting).

Planning Commission Vacancy - Recreation Rep.

The Livingston County Planning Commission currently has a vacancy for a member who will represent recreation. If you are interested in serving in this capacity and have recreation expertise, please see the Livingston County posting at: <https://www.livgov.com/Documents/Planning-Commission-Vacancy-Notice-6-25-2019.pdf>