

## Connecting Communities Update

The Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission (WCPARC) is committed to the development of non-motorized trails throughout the County. Continuing that commitment the Commission authorized a new program in 2009, **Connecting Communities**, to facilitate the funding of local projects that further the WCPARC vision of a county wide non-motorized trail system. Through this new initiative, WCPARC pledged to make available \$3 million during the 2010 – 2014 period (or \$600,000 each year) toward the cost of construction for eligible projects.

The first round of funding is now allocated through this exciting new program! At the March 9, 2010, WCPARC meeting, the following four projects were approved:

**Pittsfield Township** – WCPARC committed \$300,000 towards the construction of a 2.38 mile trail along Lohr and Textile Roads linking Ann Arbor to Saline. The proposed trail will connect adjacent residential neighborhoods to Teft Park and the Saline Community Recreation Center. Future phases will connect eastward on Textile to the Pittsfield Preserve natural area and to the recently completed Platt Road Greenway.

**Northfield Township** – WCPARC committed \$120,000 towards the construction of the first phase of a three phase project that will connect Whitmore Lake Elementary School to surrounding residential neighborhoods along Barker Road. Due to existing wetlands, Phase I will consist of the construction of approximately 260-feet of boardwalk. Future phases will extend the trail to the Whitmore Lake downtown, the Northfield Township Hall, and the Library.

**Ypsilanti Township** – WCPARC committed \$100,000 towards the construction of the first phase of a ½-mile trail along Textile Road that will connect to the Border-to-Border trail (future segment) at Bridge Road and extend west to Lakeside Park. Phase II of the proposed trail will cross to the south side of Textile near Bunton Road where it continues west to connect with the existing trail at Huron River Drive.

**Chelsea** – WCPARC committed \$80,000 towards the construction of a 950-foot trail segment along Old US-12 that will connect the trail/boardwalk system at Pierce Lake Golf Course with adjacent residential neighborhoods, schools, and a commercial district. Due to the proximity to Pierce Lake and the associated elevation change, the majority of the trail will be boardwalk.