



The Treeline
Allen Creek Urban Trail



The Treeline Conservancy
2020 Annual Report

PHOTO: MATT GUDINEAU



The Treeline Conservancy

From the Executive Director

Dear friend of the Treeline,

Like you, we started 2020 with big plans. By the end of April, we understood that we would have to adjust to a new reality. We experienced frustration as the year went on. But despite the pandemic and because of you, we finished 2020 with unanticipated success and a surplus of gratitude.

Our commitment to our mission—to foster the creation and sustainable maintenance of an urban trail that becomes an integral connector of people and places in Ann Arbor—did not waiver. We kept our vision clearly in view: that within the decade, this 2.5 mile nonmotorized trail will be so useful and beloved that it will be impossible to imagine Ann Arbor without it.

Frankly, there were excruciating periods. Taking to the outdoors, especially on trails, proved to be the most popular way to relieve stress, stay healthy, and safely meet friends and family. But our ability to create the Treeline actually slowed. Poring over detailed drawings, collaborating with our partners, and making our case for support became critical. But we were forced to encounter each other as tiny pictures on a computer screen. Yet you responded to the idea of the Treeline with positivity, patience, and generosity. Even as immediate human needs rightly diverted attention and philanthropy, you also invested in a nonmotorized trail to unite Ann Arbor. You knew that just because we needed the Treeline more than ever now, we would need it even more in the future.

These pages outline what we were able to accomplish with your help. Thank you for contributing time, money, attention, and expertise. Most of all, thank you for the gift of hope in a year turned upside down—for staying with us on the trail.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Nan Plummer
Executive Director

The Treeline Conservancy



Liberty and First Street Treeline Rendering

ILLUSTRATION: SMITHGROUP

The Treeline is moving from dream to reality

Alignment Study

An alignment study for the most complex portion of the trail is expected to be complete in early 2021. This is the northernmost segment of the Treeline, linking the Border-to-Border Trail near Argo Dam with the City property at 721 North Main Street via a safe crossing of that thoroughfare. All three route options present challenges and advantages that SmithGroup has been examining with staff support and funding from the City, along with a Connecting Communities grant from the Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.



The Treeline Trail rendering

ILLUSTRATION: SMITHGROUP

Partner Developments

We have been thrilled to see the Allen Creek Berm Tunnel and the First Street Bikeway open—both are envisioned as parts of the eventual Treeline route. We are working with our partners at the City of Ann Arbor and the Downtown Development Authority to maximize use of these segments and connect them to emerging parts of the trail in downtown.

Also in partnership with the City and the DDA, a demonstration project through 415 W. Washington has been approved to open in June 2021. This project will enhance walkability and connectivity to this lot, the neighborhood, the YMCA, the First Street Bikeway, and other nearby downtown locations. In addition to a cleanup of litter and invasive vegetation, we will install educational signage about neighborhood history, floodway management, native plants, and pollinator and wildlife habitat. We are collaborating with other community organizations on landscaping, public art, and other potential enhancements to this property, as well as potential community engagement events appropriate to the project and site.



PHOTO: FRANCESCA CASSARA

Allen Creek Berm Tunnel installation



PHOTO: MATT GUDINEAU

First Street Bikeway

We are grateful to our generous donors

\$2,500,000 Challenge Match

In the fall of 2020, an anonymous donor pledged \$2.5 million in the form of a challenge gift to the Treeline Conservancy for the building of the Treeline – Allen Creek Urban Trail.

The donor will provide a dollar-for-dollar match for all gifts made to the Treeline between November 1, 2020, and December 31, 2023, up to \$2.5 million. This pledge represents the largest commitment made to the Treeline so far.

This challenge match propels the Treeline forward as no other gift has. With this degree of support—and encouragement to others to begin or increase their support—we are able to plan construction for the first key segments of the Treeline Trail.

The donor provided this explanation of the matching challenge pledge: “The Treeline is a project that can transform Ann Arbor in an integral way. We want to see it succeed—and that will take more than a handful of contributors. A project that benefits so many people needs and deserves a broad base of support. We intend this challenge to encourage many others to step up and make the Treeline a reality.”

The challenge had an immediate impact. Offered without fanfare to our 2020 GivingTuesday and year-end appeals, the match resulted in a 35% increase in the number of gifts made compared to the same period in 2019.

“*The Treeline is a project that can transform Ann Arbor in an integral way. We want to see it succeed—and that will take more than a handful of contributors. A project that benefits so many people needs and deserves a broad base of support. We intend this challenge to encourage many others to step up and make the Treeline a reality.*”

- Anonymous Donor

Foundation Grants

Buhr Foundation	\$30,000 operating support
Harry A. and Margaret D. Towsley Foundation	\$15,000 operating support

Corporate Sponsors

Trailblazer \$10,000 - \$99,999

Robertson Morrison
Wickfield Capital



Pathfinder \$5,000 - \$9,999

Old National Bank



Adventurer \$1,000 - \$4,999

Retirement Income Solutions
Bank of Ann Arbor
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Traveler up to \$999

Kennedy Care Management
LevelOne Bank
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In-kind Contributors

AMH Technology Consulting
Hooper Hathaway
O'Neal Construction
Phire Group

Individual Donors

Explorer \$100,000 and up

Anonymous

Trailblazer \$10,000 - \$99,999

Clan Crawford

Adventurer \$1,000 - \$4,999

Steve and Judy Dobson
Paul and Judy Freedman
Patricia Garcia and Dennis Dahlmann
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Norman and Deborah Herbert
William and Wendy Holmes
Lisa and Frank Johnson
Mary McGeachy
Melinda Morris
Joe and Karen O'Neal
Nan Plummer and Jim Spencer
Reina Family

Traveler up to \$999

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Stuart Baggaley and Amy Seetoo
James and Lisa Baker
Carol Barbour and Sid Gilman
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John and June Bassett
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Janine and Stephen Easter
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Individual Donors Continued

Traveler Continued - up to \$999

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Jennifer Hall
Geoff, Stephanie, Drew, Jack, Owen and
Ella Harrigan
Esther Heitler
Greg and Alison Holcombe
Maurita Peterson Holland and Roger
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Douglas and Susan Weber
Frank and Judy Wilhelme
Chris Wolfe and Linda Kidder
Charlotte A. Wolfe
Shirley L. Wood
Frances and Henry Wright

We benefit from strong volunteer leadership

Sarah Bishara was elected to the Board of Directors in 2020



Sarah Bishara

A partner in the real estate section at Honigman LLP, Sarah previously worked at Latham & Watkins in New York City and earned a Masters of Public Policy and a J.D. at the University of Michigan. As an undergraduate at Hope College she served as an intern in the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and while at UM interned with the U.S. Department of State in Costa Rica. Sarah also serves on the Board of Directors of the

Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra and on the Cultural Economic Development Committee of the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation.

We have strong partners in Ann Arbor

In the spirit of our Collaborative Agreement, the City of Ann Arbor supported the Treeline Conservancy throughout 2020 with staff time and expertise. We are especially grateful to our liaison, Heather Seyfarth, Systems Planning Analyst and Community Engagement Specialist, for her tireless work to make the Treeline a reality; and to other City members of the Treeline Build Team who joined our efforts in 2020: Tom Crawford, City Administrator; Craig Hupy, Public Services Administrator; Derek Delacourt, Community Services Area Administrator; and Raymond Hess, Transportation Manager. We also thank Jerry Hancock, Stormwater and Floodplain Programs Coordinator and Scott Spooner, Parks and Recreation Deputy Manager, for their assistance. We are particularly fortunate that Mayor Christopher Taylor and the City Council continue to be strong advocates for the Treeline and nonmotorized transit in Ann Arbor.

The Downtown Development Authority has also collaborated with us, making sure that its award-winning First Street Bikeway is recognized as a branch of the Treeline. Capital Projects Manager Amber Miller, also a member of the Treeline Build Team, and Parking Services Manager Jada Hahlbrock were also indispensable as we planned a demonstration project across 415 West Washington Street for 2021.

We are also grateful to the Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative, the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition, Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, and the Washtenaw County Office of Community and Economic Development for their collaboration and support in 2020.

We ended 2020 in a strong financial position

(Condensed Presentation from Reviewed Financial Statements)		2020	2019
ASSETS			
Current Assets: cash, cash equivalents, current pledges receivable, prepaids		\$ 204,484	\$ 149,715
Land		\$ 217,769	\$ 217,769
Other assets: pledges receivable net of current portion		\$ 10,000	-
Total Assets		<u>\$ 432,253</u>	<u>\$ 367,484</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
Current Liabilities: accounts payable, accrued payroll expenses		\$ 8,942	\$ 2,122
Net Assets:	Without donor restrictions	\$ 393,311	\$ 365,362
	With donor restrictions	\$ 30,000	-
Total net assets		<u>\$ 423,311</u>	<u>\$ 365,362</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>\$ 432,253</u>	<u>\$ 367,484</u>
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES			
Operating Support: contributions and in-kind		\$ 214,716	\$ 178,377
Operating Expenses: program and supporting services		\$ 156,837	\$ 40,619
Total operating support in excess of operating expenses		<u>\$ 57,879</u>	<u>\$ 137,758</u>
Interest Income		\$ 70	\$ 94
Net Assets, Beginning of Year		<u>\$ 365,362</u>	<u>\$ 227,510</u>
Net Assets, End of Year		<u>\$ 423,311</u>	<u>\$ 365,362</u>

Leadership and staff

Board of Directors

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Staff

Nan Plummer, *Executive Director*

Francesca Cassara, *Administrative Associate*



Allen Creek Berm Tunnel and Ramp

The Treeline Conservancy

535 W. William Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48103-4978
734-224-4166
info@thetreeline.org

 @treelinea2
www.thetreeline.org

LAYOUT DESIGN: ADAM EMMERICH



The Treeline
Allen Creek Urban Trail

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH
THE CITY OF ANN ARBOR

