

**Item 1**

**Regional trail connection between Sports Center Park and Maybury State Park-  
review of meeting with DNR and neighboring communities**

## MEMORANDUM



**TO:** CLAY PEARSON, CITY MANAGER  
**FROM:** MARK SPENCER, AICP, PLANNER *Mark Spencer*  
**THROUGH:** BARBARA <sup>Pearl</sup> MCBETH, AICP, DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
**SUBJECT:** POTENTIAL REGIONAL TRAIL CONNECTION TO MAYBURY  
STATE PARK MEETING  
**DATE:** FEBRUARY 23, 2012

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Last Thursday, staff from Community Development; Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services; and Public Services met with representatives from the State's Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to discuss possible non-motorized connections to Maybury State Park. The meeting started as a follow-up on concepts being explored for City pathway and trail connections with Maybury State Park, and to allow staff to reach out and make initial contacts to review ideas and possibilities. This was described in the attached January 13<sup>th</sup> memo.

The scope of the meeting grew after staff from Northville Parks contacted Novi staff and Walkable Novi Committee members with a request to meet and discuss possible additional connections with Maybury State Park. We also learned that in meetings with Northville Parks, DNR staff had mentioned to Northville staff that Novi had also had a recent meeting regarding trail connections to Maybury Park. DNR staff, Novi staff and a Walkable Novi Committee member agreed it would be valuable to collaborate on these issues, and staff asked Northville Parks to attend the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. On their own, Northville Parks invited people from Northville Township's Community Development and Public Services staff, the City of Northville's Public Services Board and also invited one resident and one member of the Northville Township Board to the meeting.

As expected, Thursday's meeting followed-up on the discussion between the City and the DNR that occurred at the January 12<sup>th</sup> Walkable Novi Committee meeting. At that meeting, the participants concluded that further study by the City and the DNR was needed to identify issues and opportunities with the various road crossing locations and potential trail connections. The follow-up meeting also offered an opportunity to discuss in greater detail the issues and opportunities to build a non-motorized trail connection between the City's ITC Sports Center Park, located on the north side of Eight Mile Road just east of Napier Road and Maybury State Park, which is located on the south side of Eight Mile Road. As stated above, the scope of the meeting expanded at the request of Joanna Vaghy, Director of Northville Parks and Recreation (a shared Northville Township and City of Northville department) to include a discussion of non-motorized access to Maybury State Park from Northville Township along the Park's frontage on Beck and Seven Mile Roads.

Two DNR representatives were present at Thursday's meeting: Kristen Bennett, Regional Field Planner for southeast Michigan; and Nikki Van Bloem, Maybury State Park Supervisor. The DNR representatives stated that the leadership at the DNR is very interested in assisting with regional trail connections throughout the State and connecting State Parks with regional trails. Higher level DNR staff was not available to attend Thursday's meeting, as had been previously expected, but DNR staff members present said that information from the meeting would be shared.

Ms. Bennett stated that Maybury State Park is a fenced park and that the DNR wanted to keep fence openings to a minimum. DNR staff provided a map (attached) that depicted several Eight Mile Road crossing and trail options. DNR staff's preference was a trail crossing Eight Mile Road somewhere between the entrance to ITC Sports Center Park and the entrance to the leased farm area near the northwest corner of Maybury State Park. A trail extension that followed the existing tree line along the edge of the farm fields and connected to the existing trails near the farm activity area was discussed as a possible location. DNR staff reiterated that placing a trail through the State Park's leased farm area may be problematic; DNR staff intended to contact the farm lease-holders after the discussion at the meeting. Ms. Bennett and Ms. Van Bloem stated that the DNR plans to repave Maybury Park's paved pathway system in 2013. An engineer would be hired to design improvements this spring and it may be possible to expand the scope of the improvements to include additional trail segments and crossings.

Novi Planning staff provided two maps (attached) that show several potential Eight Mile Road crossings and trail extensions, as well as the overall park. Staff stated that the City prefers a crossing location that would minimize the need to acquire road right-of-way. Planning staff's top three recommended routes generally coincide with the DNR's preferred routes.

Planning Staff further stated that the Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) briefly looked at the potential crossings of Eight Mile Road; the RCOC prefers that regional trails cross a busy road at a signal, if one is available. If a signal is not available, RCOC would consider a refuge island crossing or a striped crossing at a narrow pavement location. Opportunities to cross Eight Mile that meet these requirements exist along the ITC Sports Center Park frontage. Staff mentioned that RCOC plans to repave Eight Mile Road in 2013. Staff hopes that there will be an opportunity to incorporate trail crossing improvements. Brian Coburn, City Engineering Manager noted the City could only spend money on building and maintaining facilities within the City limits, but it is possible that agreements could be reached with neighboring entities for construction and maintenance.

Novi Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Director, Jason Magnum, indicated that there were several grant programs available to build the project. DNR staff indicated that it may be easier to get a Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant if the application did not name the DNR as the grantee because State parks have to compete for a different

pool of funds. Director Magnum indicated that the City of Novi would like to apply for a grant to build a regional trail through ITC Sports Center Park this year. Novi staff hopes to get an answer on the preferred crossing point before the grant application is submitted (due by April 1<sup>st</sup>).

Northville Township Trustee Mindy Herrmann and Township resident Kevin Flurry stated that they would like to see a non-motorized connection to Maybury Park's east entrance on Beck Road because it creates a potential entrance to the Park that could serve all area residents. DNR staff reviewed a potential trail connection and associated crossing on Seven Mile Road near Ridge Road (about half way between Beck Road and Napier Road in Northville Township). A Seven Mile/Ridge Road proposed trail segment and crossing could connect the Park's paved trails to a developed pathway system along Ridge Road, and also serve the equestrian community. Northville Township staff indicated that a good portion of the route along Ridge and Six Mile Roads that would connect to the Hines Park Trail is already in place. Representatives from Northville Township and the City of Northville agreed that further study of the potential trail connection options is needed in order to relay their desires to the DNR.

The meeting participants briefly discussed partnership and funding opportunities. As for the next steps, the DNR representatives stated they would review the discussed options internally, discuss the route options with the farm area lease holders, propose a crossing location and trail connection plan, and schedule a time for further discussion with the City of Novi.

Planning staff is very encouraged by the interest and support offered by the DNR, as well as with representatives from Northville Township and the City of Northville, to provide a regional trail connection between Maybury State Park and Novi, as well as possible further regional trail connections with the neighboring communities. We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

#### Attachments

- C. Nikki Van Bloem, DNR
- Kristen Bennett, DNR
- Walkable Novi Committee
- Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
- Charles Boulard, Community Development Director
- Jason Mangum, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Director
- Rob Hayes, PE, Public Services Director / City Engineer
- Brian Coburn, PE, Engineering Manager
- Jennifer Frey, Northville Township Community Development Director
- Tom Casari, Northville Township Director Public Services
- Mindy Herrmann, Northville Township Trustee
- Joanna Vaghy, Northville Parks and Recreation Director
- Jim Gallogly, Northville Public Works Director

# Potential ITC Community Sports Park Maybury State Park Trail Connections

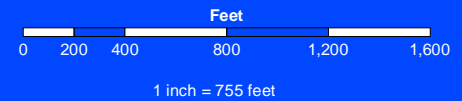


## Legend

- City Parks
- Existing Sidewalks
- Preferred Route
- Second Choice
- Third Choice
- Fourth Choice
- Alternative Routes



Based on discussions between Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services



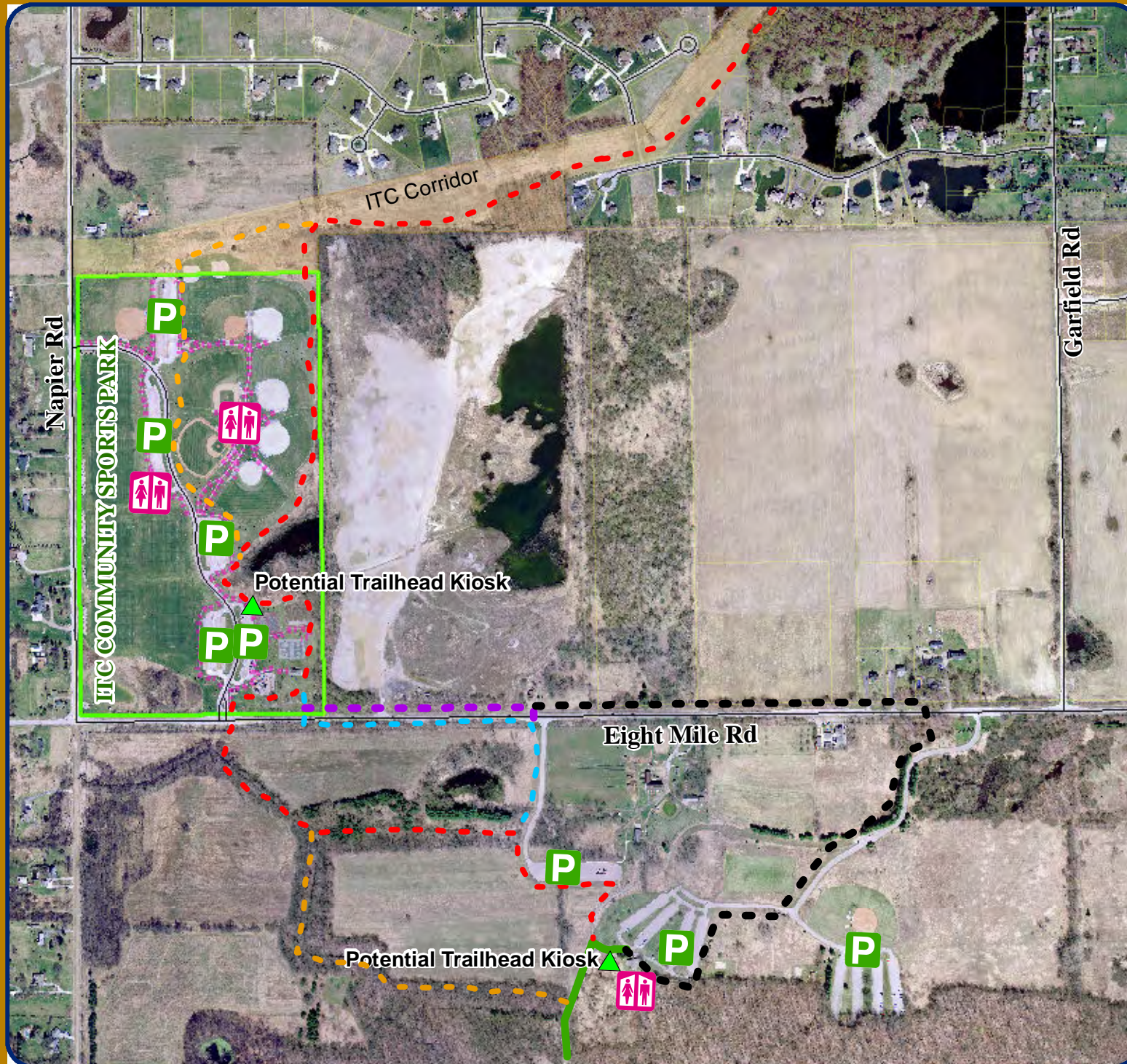
City of Novi

Dept. of Community Development  
City Hall / Civic Center  
45175 W Ten Mile Rd  
Novi, MI 48375  
cityofnovi.org

Map Author: Mark Spencer  
Date: 1/18/12  
Project: Sports Center Connections  
Version #: 1.2

### MAP INTERPRETATION NOTICE

Map information depicted is not intended to replace or substitute for any official or primary source. This map was intended to meet National Map Accuracy Standards and use the most recent, accurate sources available to the people of the City of Novi. Boundary measurements and area calculations are approximate and should not be construed as survey measurements performed by a licensed Michigan Surveyor as defined in Michigan Public Act 132 of 1970 as amended. Please contact the City GIS Manager to confirm source and accuracy information related to this map.



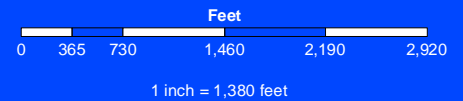
# Potential Maybury State Park Trail Connections



## Legend

-  Existing Novi Park Sidewalks
-  Novi City Parks
-  State Park
-  Preferred Route
-  Second Choice
-  Third Choice
-  Fourth Choice
-  Alternative Routes
-  Restrooms
-  Parking Lots
-  Potential Trailhead Kiosk
-  Paved Bike Path 

Based on discussions between Planning and Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

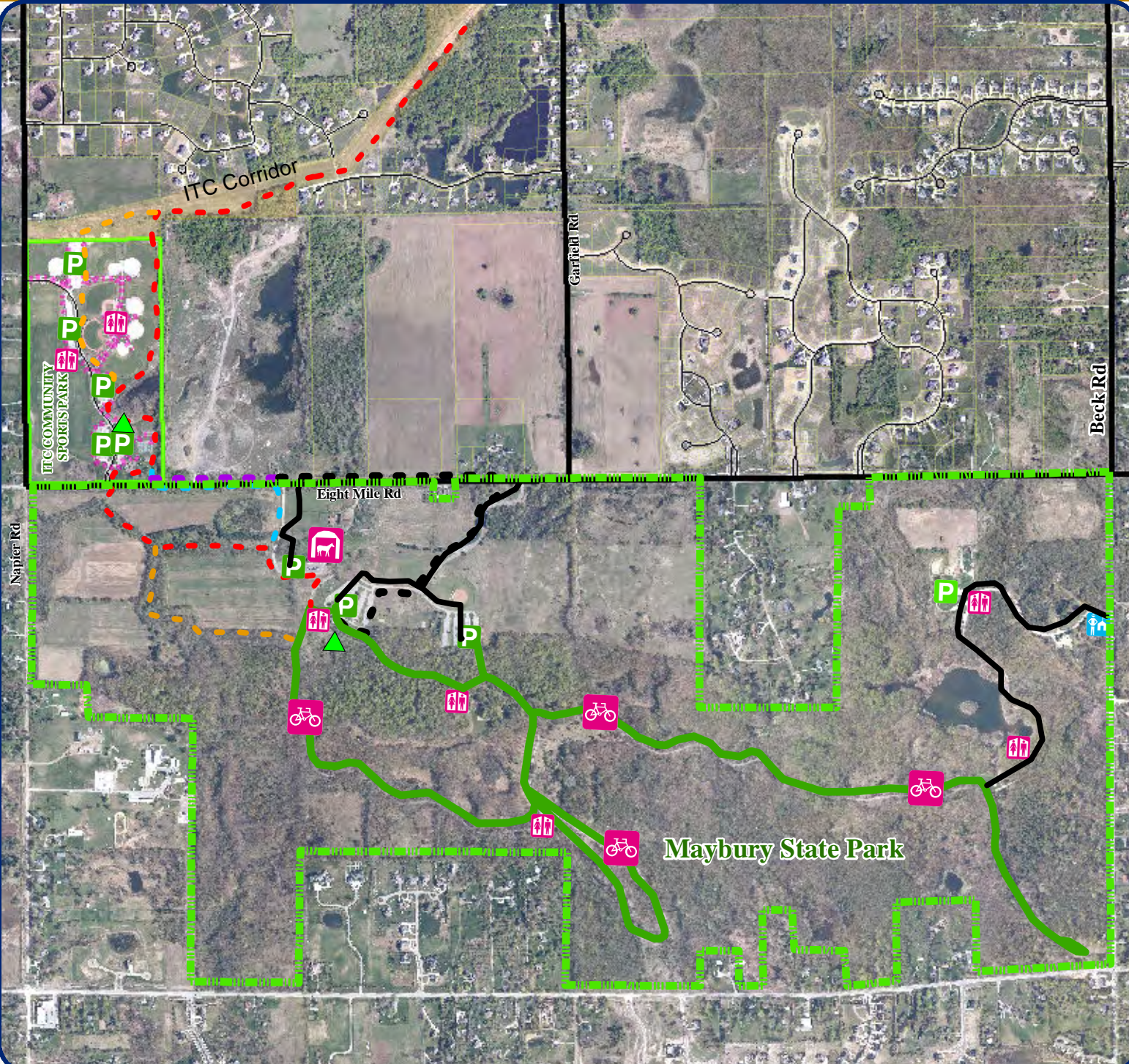


**City of Novi**  
 Dept. of Community Development  
 City Hall / Civic Center  
 45175 W Ten Mile Rd  
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[cityofnovi.org](http://cityofnovi.org)

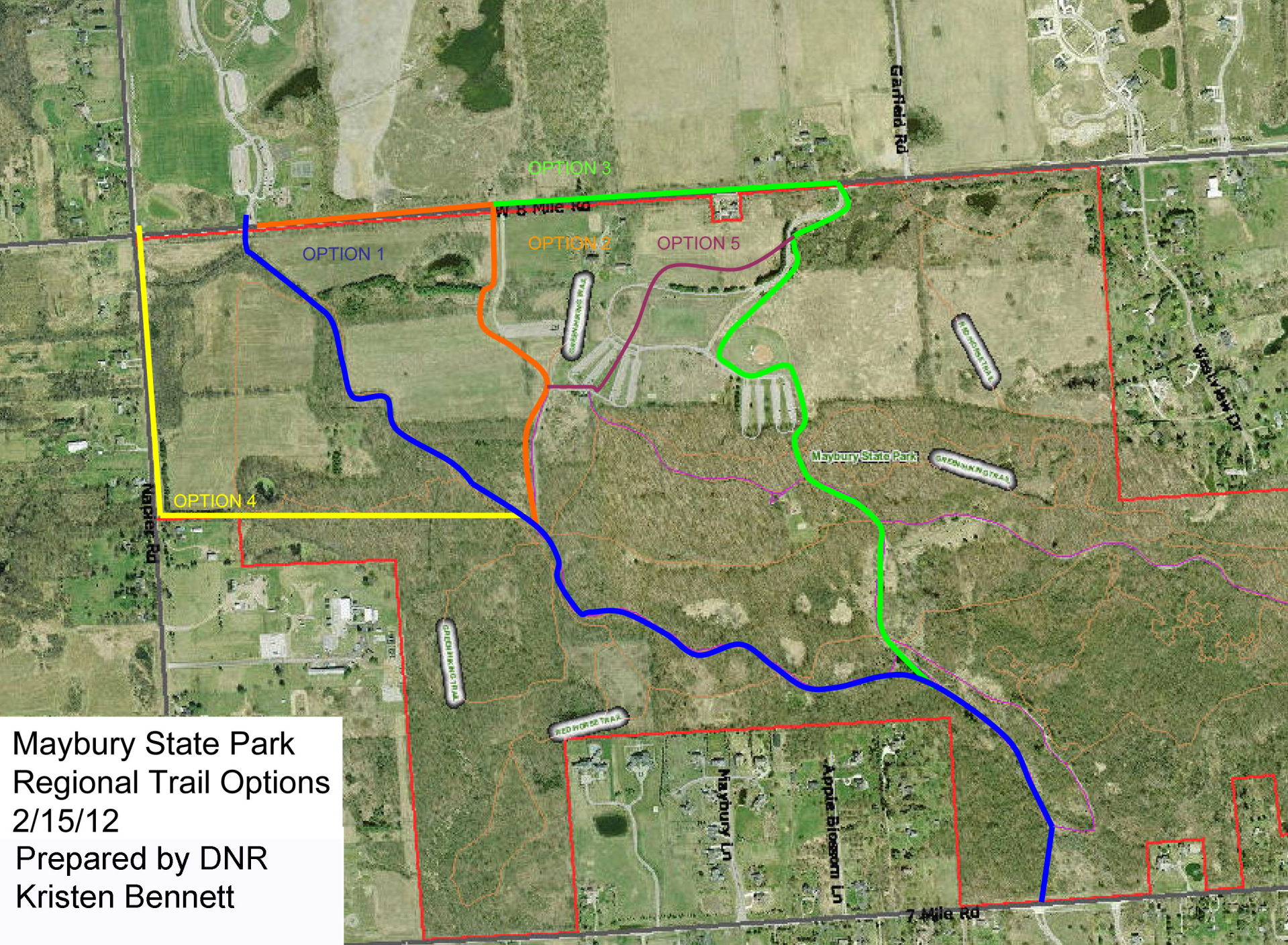
Map Author: Mark Spencer  
 Date: 2/8/12  
 Project: Maybury Connections  
 Version #: 1.0

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Maybury State Park  
Regional Trail Options  
2/15/12  
Prepared by DNR  
Kristen Bennett



## MEMORANDUM



TO: Clay J. Pearson, City Manager  
FROM: Barbara McBeth, AICP, Community Development  
SUBJECT: Potential Regional Trail Connection to Maybury Park  
DATE: January 13, 2012

1/17/12  
To: Mayor & City Council Members  
Making Connections  
[Signature]

Last evening, the City's Walkable Novi Committee had a productive discussion with representatives of the State's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding linking potential regional trails in the southwest part of Novi to existing and planned trail systems in Maybury State Park, which is located south of Eight Mile Road, between Napier and Beck Roads (see attached map). One of the main purposes of the meeting was to share information about planned regional trail connections through Novi, including the anticipation that a planned regional trail could eventually connect the ITC Community Sports Park to regional trails outside of Novi's City limits, including a regional trail connection to Maybury Park. Two DNR representatives were present at the meeting: Kristen Bennett, Regional Field Planner for southeast Michigan, and Nikki Van Bloem, Maybury Park Supervisor.

At the meeting, staff reviewed Novi's recent planning efforts regarding regional trail connections as proposed in the 2011 Non-Motorized Master Plan and the 2009 Community Recreation Plan. Both plans recommend a potential connection from Maybury State Park to the trail systems in Wixom and Commerce Township by a new regional trail system planned through the west side of Novi. In 2006, the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan held public workshops and developed the *Southeast Michigan Greenway Vision* which included the concept of a regional trail going through the west part of Novi and connecting Maybury State Park and the Huron Valley Trail in Lyon Township. Staff shared copies of the various plans at last night's meeting and reiterated Novi's interest in participating in regional trail planning efforts.

The DNR representatives indicated that the leadership at the DNR is very interested in assisting with regional trail connections throughout the State, and hopes that Michigan will soon be considered to have the premier trail system in the country. Additionally, early discussions have indicated that the DNR is very interested in participating in regional trail connections to Maybury State Park, in particular. The timing of last night's discussion is also fortunate, given that the DNR anticipates developing engineering plans in the near future to refurbish the 30-year old trail system through Maybury Park. The DNR representatives anticipate that any agreements to make regional trail system connections to Maybury Park that can be reached relatively quickly, may be able to be included in the trail improvement plans for the park.

The DNR representatives provided a copy of the Maybury State Park map (attached), and the group identified the farm property that is leased to an independent group just south of Eight Mile Road, and extending about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile east from Napier Road. Some discussion revolved around the lease on that property that extends until 2017 and the possibility of making trail connections either to or around that leased property, and



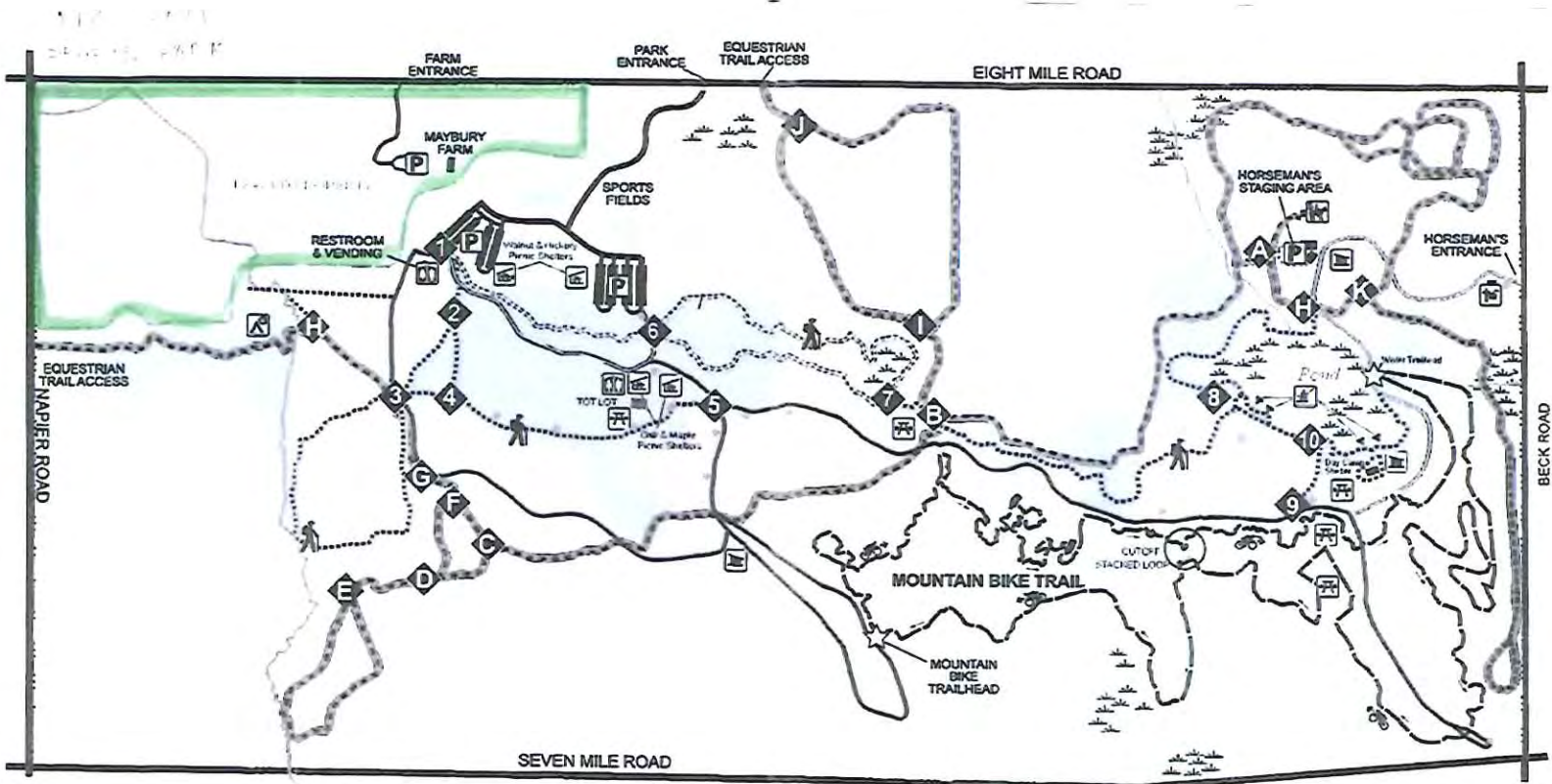
the characteristics of that part of the trail. Various other points of connection from Novi's potential regional trail through the ITC Community Sports Park to convenient locations within Maybury State Park were identified by Committee members, including possible locations to cross Eight Mile Road to make this connection. The Road Commission of Oakland County (RCOC) will also need to review any potential crossing locations, as this part of Eight Mile Road is under the RCOC jurisdiction.

The Committee agreed that further study by the City and the DNR is needed to identify issues and opportunities with the various crossing locations and new trail connection opportunities. A meeting will be arranged in the second week of February for City staff members from Planning, Engineering and Parks Recreation and Cultural Services to meet with representatives from the DNR to further identify possible routes, connection points, funding opportunities and timeframes.

Funding opportunities for trail connections were discussed briefly, including the donation from ITC to the Novi Parks Foundation, funding opportunities through the DNR, various grant funding and other opportunities. The DNR representatives indicated that they will go back and talk with DNR leadership to see what additional information can be shared at the meeting in February.

Planning staff is very encouraged by the interest and cooperation by the DNR that is apparent from the discussion about partnering with the City of Novi in making regional trail connections. We look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available.

- C Nikki Van Bloem, DNR
- Kristen Bennett, DNR
- Walkable Novi Committee
- Victor Cardenas, Assistant City Manager
- Charles Boulard, Community Development Director
- Jason Mangum, Parks Recreation and Cultural Services Director
- Rob Hayes, PE, Public Services Director / City Engineer
- Brian Coburn, PE, Engineering Manager
- Mark Spencer, AICP, Planner



**LEGEND**

- |  |                              |  |                   |
|--|------------------------------|--|-------------------|
|  | PAVED ROAD                   |  | PARK HEADQUARTERS |
|  | GRAVEL ROAD                  |  | PARKING           |
|  | HIKING TRAIL                 |  | MODERN RESTROOM   |
|  | PAVED BIKE TRAIL             |  | VAULT TOILET      |
|  | MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL          |  | PICNIC AREA       |
|  | EQUESTRIAN TRAIL             |  | PICNIC SHELTER    |
|  | STATE PARK LAND              |  | RIDING STABLE     |
|  | LEASED FARM LAND             |  | GROUP USE AREA    |
|  | SANATORIUM HISTORICAL MARKER |  | FISHING PIER      |
|  | INTERPRETIVE NATURE TRAIL    |  |                   |

- |  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
|  | OPEN FIELD / PASTURE   |
|  | SECOND-GROWTH FOREST   |
|  | MATURE HARDWOOD FOREST |
|  | WATER / WETLANDS       |

Protect Our Historic Resources

Many of our state parks contain archaeological and historic sites. Please leave any related artifacts in place to tell their story to future visitors.

Removal of natural, cultural, and historic items is unlawful.

Metal detecting is **PROHIBITED** in all areas of this park.