

METROPARK TO STATE PARK PATHWAY CONNECTOR BRIGHTON STATE RECREATION AREA - H AND STATE RECREATION AREA - KENSINGTON METROPARK

ROUTE SCORING



BRIGHTON STATE RECREATION AREA

HURON MEADOWS METROPARI

ISLAND LAKE STATE PARK

DECEMBER 1, 2021



KENSINGTON METROPARK

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The Huron-Clinton Metroparks was awarded grant funding from the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Legacy Fund through the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan to complete this feasibility study and determine a final route recommendation.

Community Foundation



FOR SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

CREATED BY: PEA GROUP

IN COLLABORATION WITH:





PROJECT INTENT

This feasibility study will determine a safe and efficient non-motorized connection between four large regional parks: Brighton Recreation Area, Huron Meadows Metropark, Island Lake Recreation Area, and Kensington Metropark.

These four parks sit in relatively close proximity from west to east, yet there is no non-motorized route linking them. Brighton Recreation Area and Huron Meadows Metropark have no connection despite being less than two miles apart. Island Lake Recreation Area and Kensington Metropark have an existing pathway connection, however they are separated from Huron Meadows Metropark and Brighton State Recreation Area by US-23. This project will identify the most effective and safe route to establish a non-motorized transportation network between all four parks.

An additional state park (Mike Levine Lakelands Trail) lies to the south, outside of the study area. Connections to Lakelands Trail were not a focus of this study, however this report does explore the potential for a connection from the four subject parks to the Lakelands Trail in an effort to see if any specific routes could provide the additional benefit of Lakelands Trail access.

The western terminus of the study area is the end of the existing paved pathway along Bauer Road that is a hike/ bike trail within Brighton Recreation Area. This pathway is an established connection to downtown Brighton. The eastern end point of the study area is the existing trailhead at the southeast edge of the retail parking lot within the Green Oak Village Place shopping center. This trailhead provides access to an existing non-motorized pathway route through Island Lake Recreation and connecting to Kensington Park.



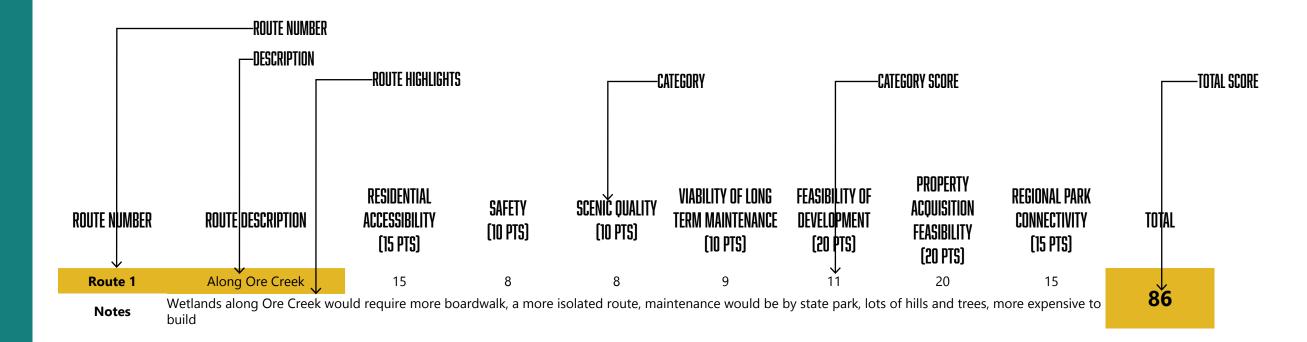


Each preliminary route was evaluated according to how well it satisfies a set of planning criteria that is important to establishing connections between Brighton Recreation Area, Island Lake Recreation Area and the Metropark system. A 100-point scoring rubric was formulated, based on the categories listed, each category was weighted to account for a maximum of 10, 15 or 20 points. The "Residential Accessibility", "Property Acquisition" and "Feasibility of Development" categories were weighted more heavily due to their critical importance to the feasibility of the project.

The scores for each category were tabulated to develop a composite score for each route. The scoring system provides an empirical data rating for each segment of trail based on the results of site analysis, stakeholder input and professional judgement.

CATEGORIES

- 1. Residential Accessibility (15 points)
- 2. Safety (10 points)
- 3. Scenic Quality (10 points)
- 4. Viability of Long Term Maintenance (10 points)
- 5. Feasibility of Development (20 points)
- 6. Property Acquisition Feasibility (20 points)
- 7. Regional Park Connectivity (15 points)



(10 points) ts) points) ts) 1. Residential Accessibility

A measure of both population density and demographic diversity.

1 = low residential density near the trail

15 = easy access to high residential density areas

2. Safety

A comparative measure of route safety in terms of interaction with vehicular traffic as well as public visibility of the trail section.

1 = significant safety concerns – potentially unsafe

10 = limited safety concerns – very safe

3. Scenic Quality

A comparative measure of visual quality along the route as well as diversity of landscape character. Both attractive scenery and landscape diversity are desirable.

1 = poor scenic quality

10 = attractive scenery with diversity

4. Viability of Long-Term Maintenance

A measure of potential long-term maintenance cost liabilities. Facilities such as boardwalks have a higher long-term maintenance cost than a paved pathway. Additional amenities such as fences, railings, retaining walls, bollards, etc. pose a potential for increasing long-term maintenance costs. 1 = significant maintenance costs

10 = minimal maintenance costs

5. Feasibility of Development

A measure of the ease of development in terms of technical challenges of the land. Obstacles to development may include steep slopes, natural features such as wetlands, floodplains, streams or rivers, railroads or high traffic roads.

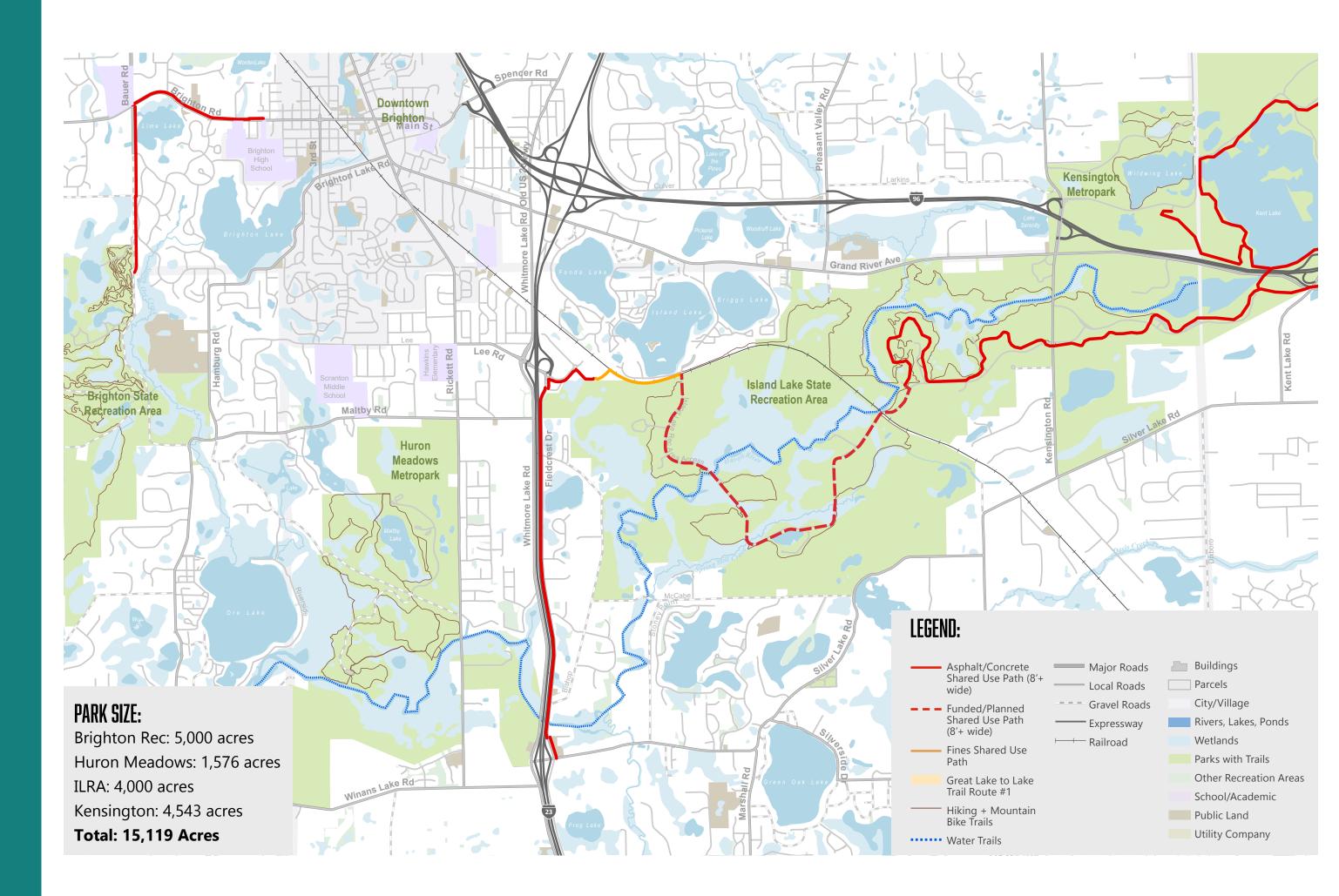
1 = abundant obstacles

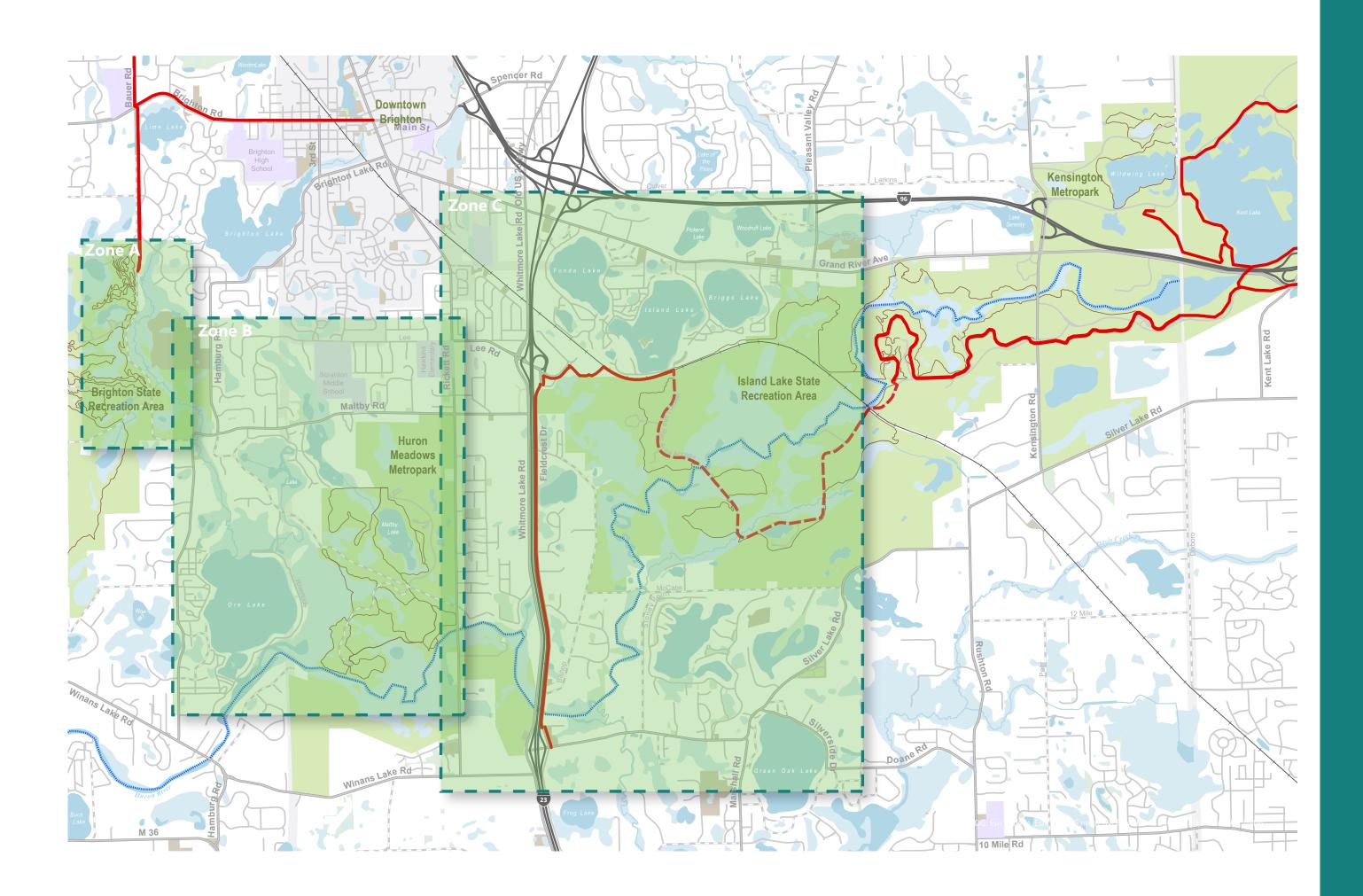
- 20 = minimal obstacles
- 6. Property Acquisition Feasibility A measure of the quantity of easements or land acquisition that may be required for development of the trail. The most significant obstacle to implementation is property ownership. Easement acquisition for trails on private property is often difficult and can be an insurmountable obstacle to development.

1 = abundant obstacles

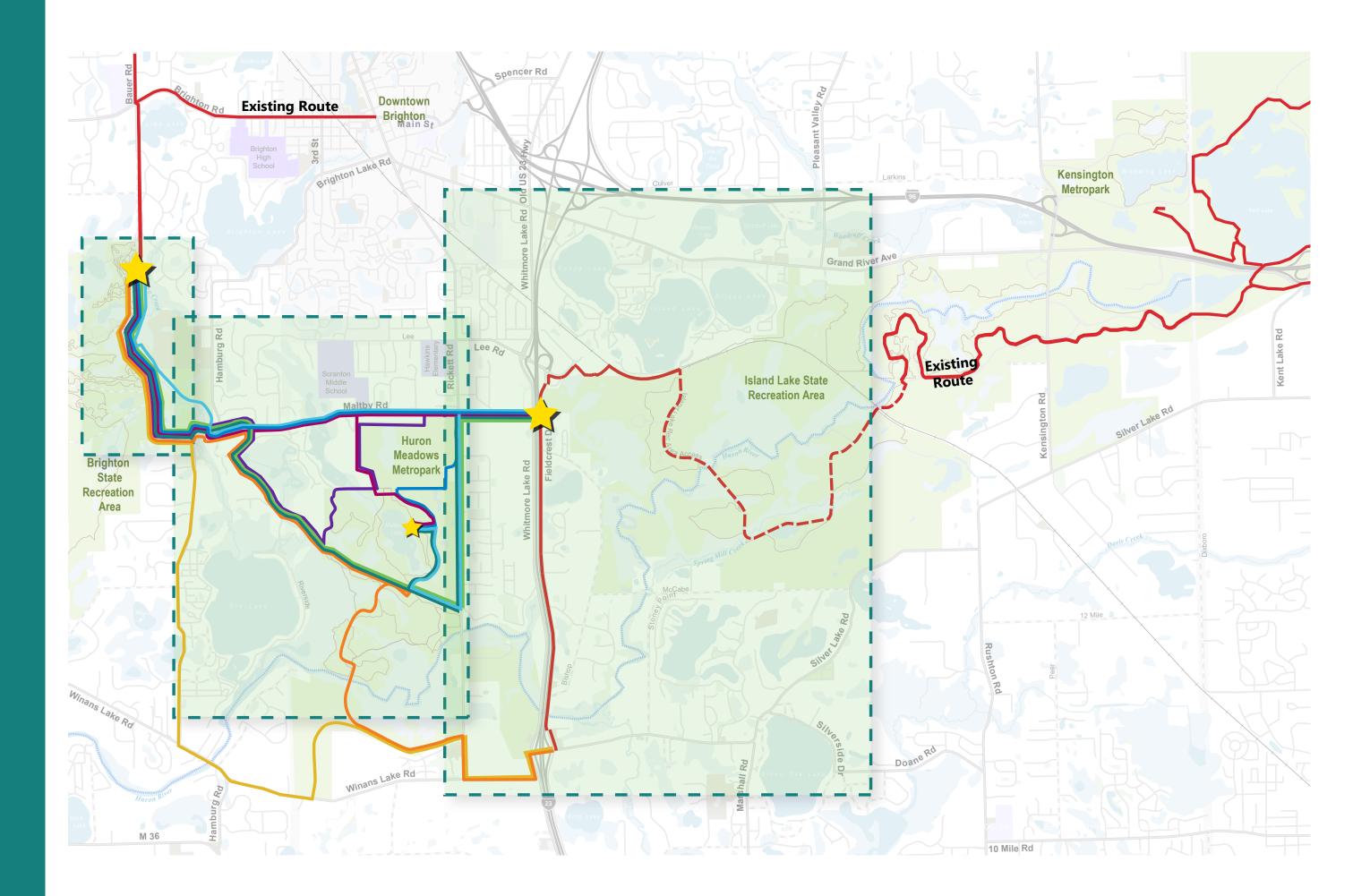
- 20 = minimal obstacles
- 7. Regional Park Connectivity A measure of the amount of time and effort it would take to travel from one regional park to the next, as well as a measure of the number of connections to existing amenities within the parks.
 - 1 = long distance traveled between parks
 - 15 = shortest distance between parks

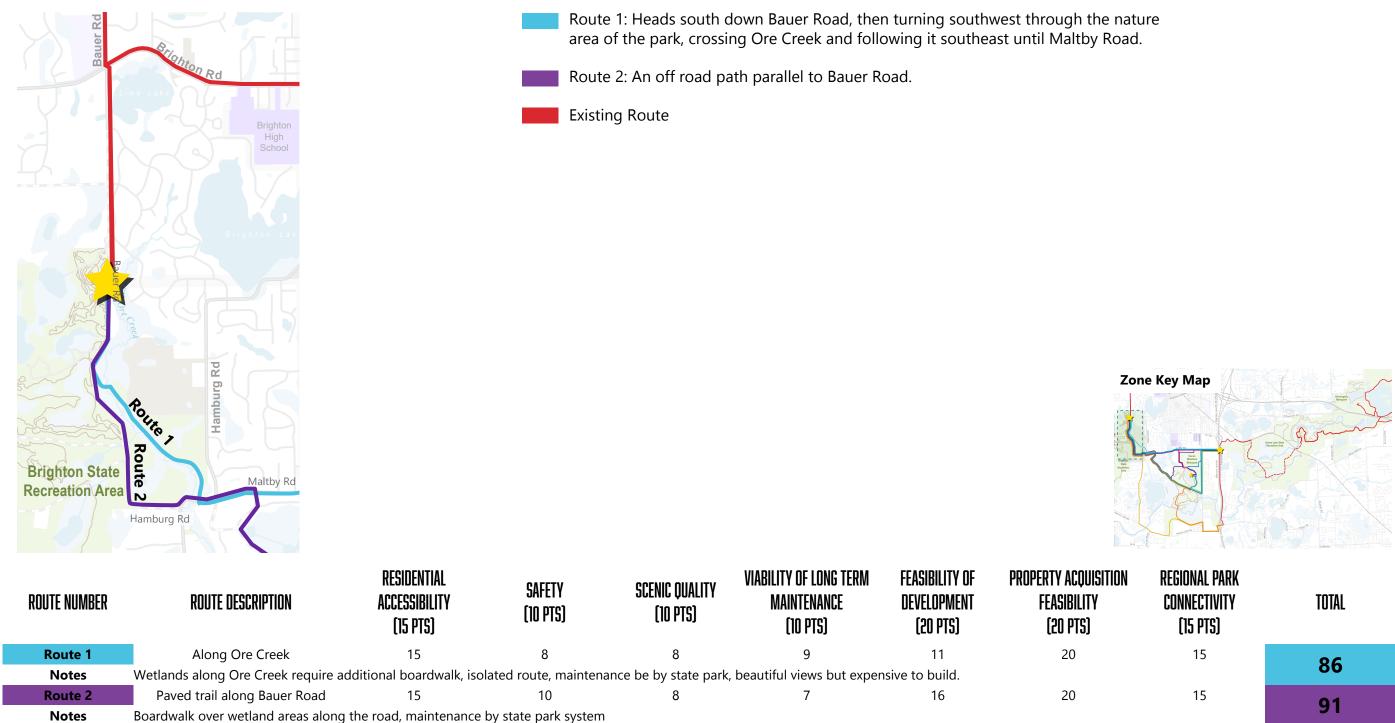
ROUTE SCORING CATEGORY DESCRIPTIONS





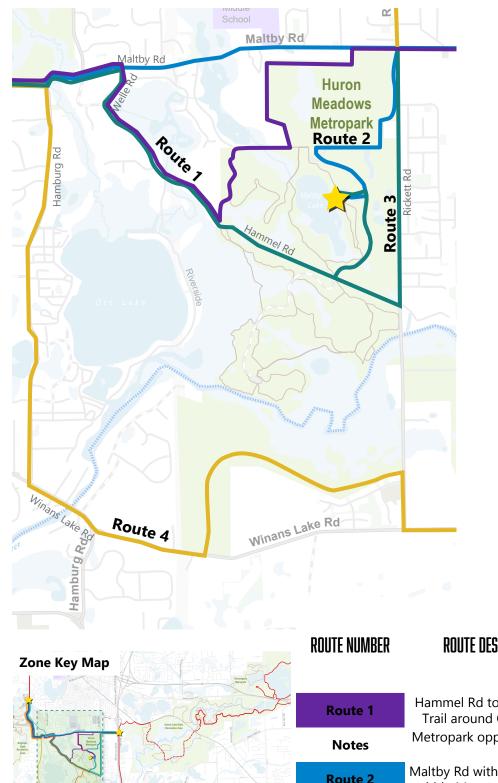








IN	REGIONAL PARK Connectivity (15 pts)	TOTAL
	15	86
	15	91



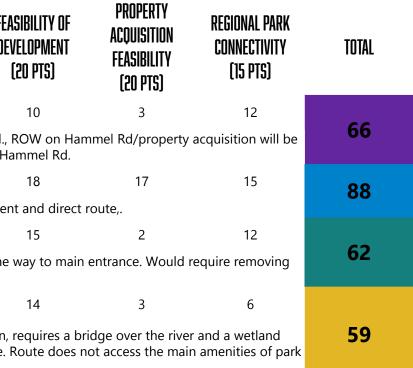
- Route 1: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road, then turning south onto Welle Road until it ends, turning southwest onto Hammel Road. The path would enter Huron Meadows Metropark off of Hammel Road heading north and meeting up with the Cedar Trace Trail. The path continues north around the golf course and exits Huron Meadows Metropark on Maltby Road south of the Scranton Middle School entrance. The pathway continues down Maltby Road until the bridge crossing at US-23.
- Route 2: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road until the crossing at US-23, with a pathway connection heading south into Huron Meadows Metropark. The pathway will follow the northern property line, heading south along the east property line, then turning west into the park behind the exisitng maintenance building, continuing parallel to the existing maintenance drive. The connection would then follow the existing road south until the terminis at the Sunset Ridge Trailhead.

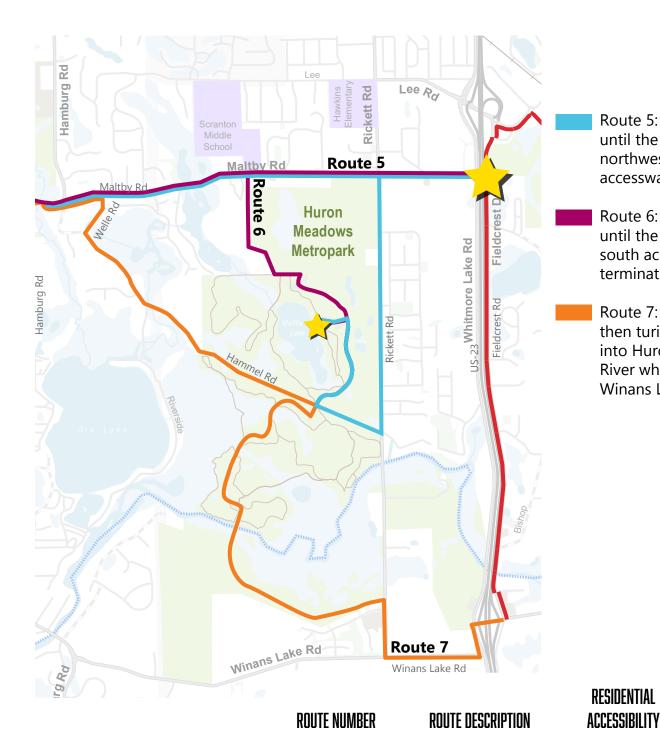
Route 3: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road, then turning south onto Welle Road until it ends, turning southwest onto Hammel Road. The path would enter Huron Meadows Metropark off of Hammel Road and following the existing entrance road to the Sunset Ridge trailhead. There would also be a connection from Hammel Road turning north onto Rickett Road and east on Maltby to the US-23 bridge crossing.

Route 4: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area, turning south onto Hamburg Road and following Hamburg Road until Winans Lake Road. The pathway will continue southeast on Winans Lake Road, then turn north into Huron Meadows Metropark. The route exits onto Rickett Road, turning south until Winans Lake Road, then heading east until turning north on Whitmore Lake Road.

Note: Additional Routes on page 13.

ROUTE NUMBER	ROUTE DESCRIPTION	RESIDENTIAL Accessibility (15 pts)	SAFETY (10 PTS)	SCENIC QUALITY (10 PTS)	VIABILITY OF LONG Term Maintenance (10 pts)	FEA Dev (
Route 1	Hammel Rd to Cedar Trace Trail around Golf Course	15	8	9	9	
Notes	Metropark opposed to imped	55			tland along Hammel arge beautiful trees c	
Route 2	Maltby Rd with out and back within Metropark property	15	9	5	9	
Notes		Least attractive rou	ute along Maltby	, but picks up the n	nost houses, most ef	icien
Route 3	Rickett Rd to Hammel Rd	8	9	8	8	
Notes	Property acquisition on Ham	mel Rd will be extr		dds additional dista e beautiful trees on	5 5	the
Route 4	Hamburg Rd to Winans Lake Rd	13	8	8	7	
Notes	Part of the trail is isolated, crossing, ROW on Hamburg ar		not wide enough		n road biking is not s	





Route 5: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road until the crossing at US-23, with an additional out and back connection going south on Rickett Road and turning northwest onto Hammel Rd. The pathway enters the park on the northside of the road and follows the existing park accessway, terminating at the Sunset Ridge Trailhead.

Route 6: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road until the crossing at US-23, with an additional out and back connection into Huron Meadows. The path would head south across from Scranton Middle School, staying along the west property line, then following the existing road and terminating at the Sunset Ridge Trailhead.

Route 7: The route leaves Brighton State Recreation Area heading east onto Bauer and continuing onto Maltby Road, then turing south onto Welle Road until it ends, turning southwest onto Hammel Road. The pathway will turn south into Huron Meadows Metropark, following the existing Moraine Fen rustic trail, with a bridge crossing over the Huron River where a new trail would be developed within the park. The route exits onto Rickett Road, turning south until Winans Lake Road, then heading east until turning north on Whitmore Lake Road.

FEASIBILITY OF

DEVELOPMENT

VIABILITY OF LONG

TERM MAINTENANCE

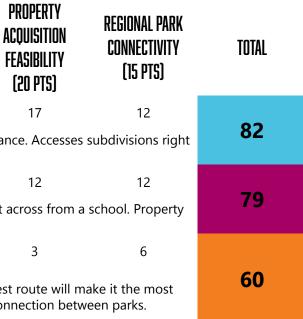
KUUTE NUMBER	RUUTE DESCRIPTION	ACCESSIBILITY (15 PTS)	(10 PTS)	(10 PTS)	IERM MAINTENANCE (10 PTS)	DEVELUPMENT (20 PTS)	FEASIBILITY (20 PTS)	CUNNECTI (15 PTS
Route 5	Rickett Rd to Hammel Rd out and back	15	9	3	9	17	17	12
Notes	Property acquisition on Hamm	nel Rd will be extre			tance to trail going all [.] no pedestrian access.	the way to main e	ntrance. Accesses	subdivisions
Route 6	Maltby Rd with out and back across from Scranton	15	9	5	9	17	12	12
Notes	Least attractive route along N				and direct route, provi be necessary and diffic		ight across from a	school. Prop
Route 7	Hammel Rd through Huron Meadows to Winans Lake Rd	12	8	10	7	14	3	6
Notes	Accesses scenic/rustic side expensive to build and	•					5	

SAFETY

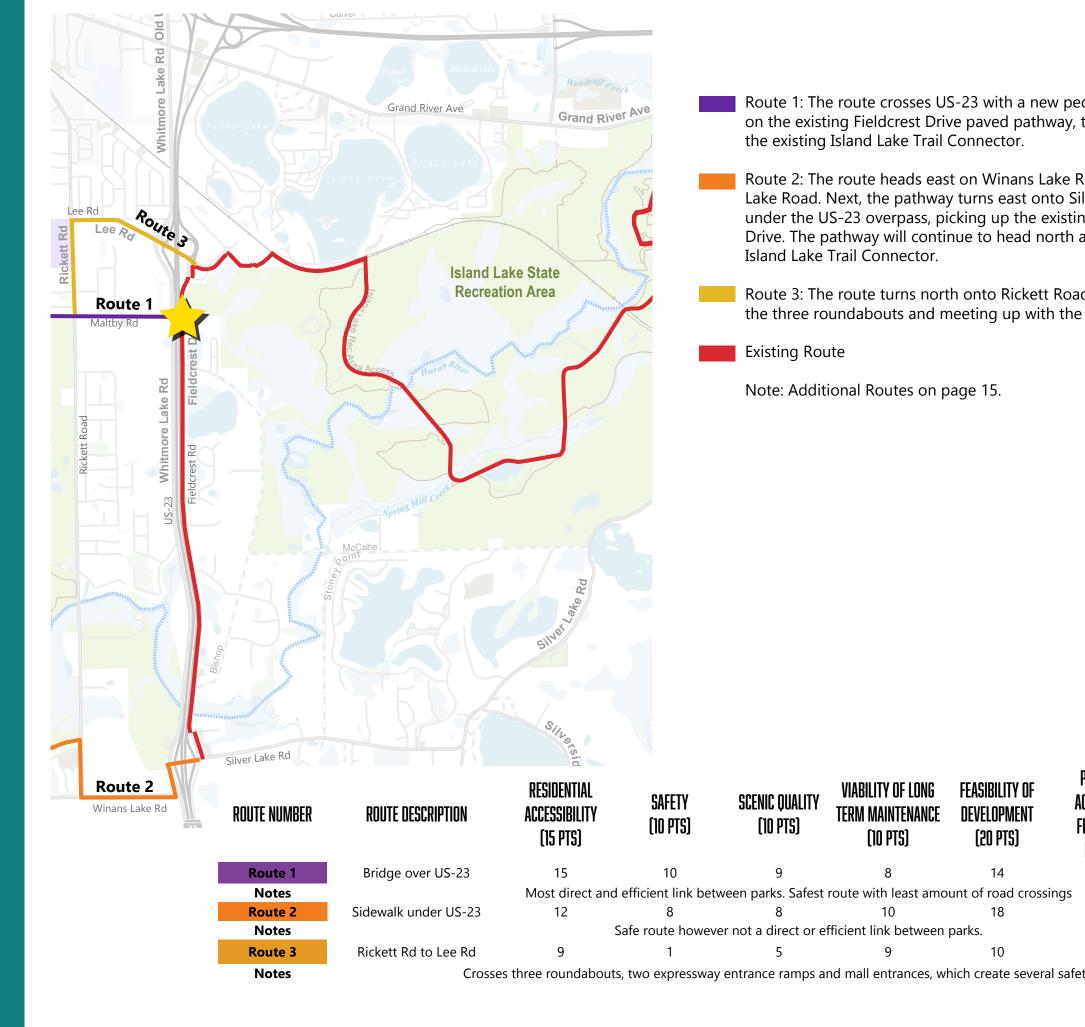
SCENIC QUALITY







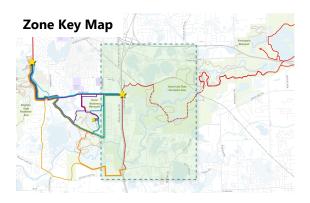
ZONE C



Route 1: The route crosses US-23 with a new pedestrian bridge. The new bridge will end on the existing Fieldcrest Drive paved pathway, then head north and east to meet with

Route 2: The route heads east on Winans Lake Road, turning north onto Whitmore Lake Road. Next, the pathway turns east onto Silver Lake Road with a sidewalk crossing under the US-23 overpass, picking up the existing trail heading north on Fieldcrest Drive. The pathway will continue to head north and east to meet up with the existing

Route 3: The route turns north onto Rickett Road, turning east onto Lee Road, through the three roundabouts and meeting up with the existing route at Green Oak Mall.



PROPERTY Couisition Easibility (20 Pts)	REGIONAL PARK Connectivity (15 pts)	TOTAL
20	15	91
20	4	80
16 ety issues.	11	61

FEASIBILITY OF

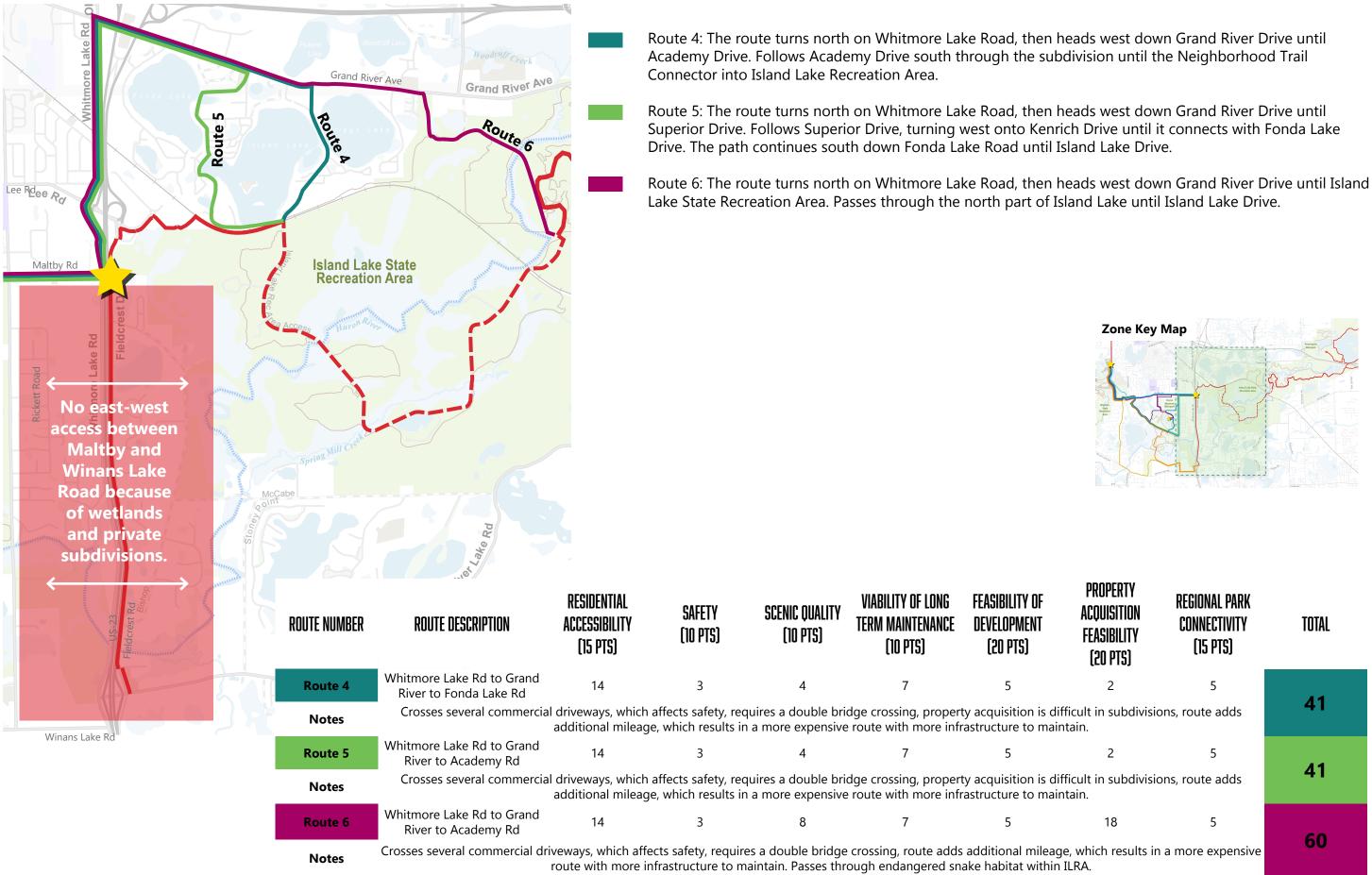
DEVELOPMENT

(20 PTS)

14

18

10





SELECTED ROUTE

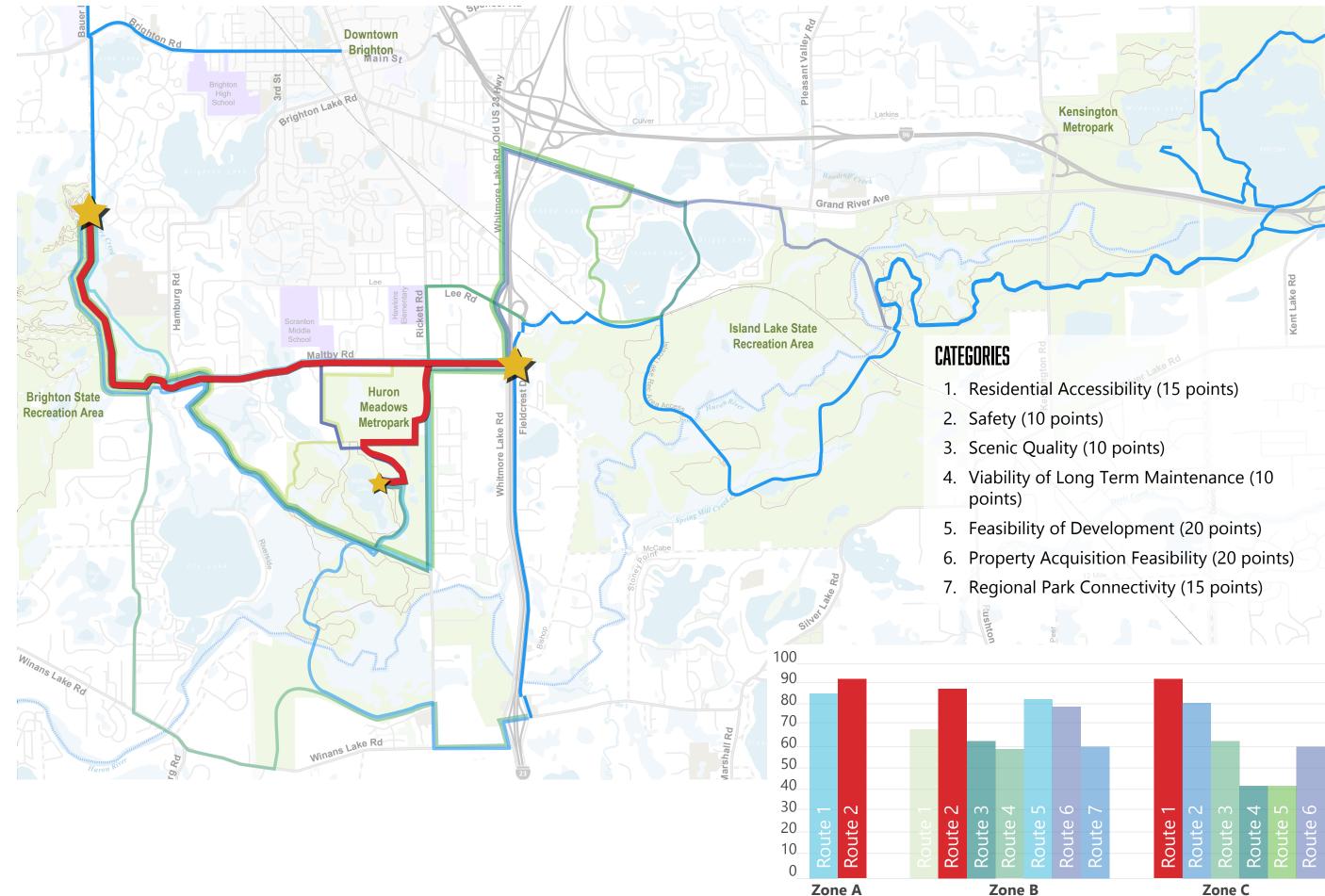
Based on the scoring rubric, Zone A Route 2, Zone B Route 2, and Zone C Route 1 achieved the highest rating. This combination of routes offers an off-road pathway that runs north/south along Bauer Road and east/ west along Maltby Road where a proposed pedestrian bridge over US-23 will provide a connection to the existing pathway along Fieldcrest Drive. It includes a spur down the east side of Huron Meadows Metropark, entering the park behind the maintenance buildings and terminating near the Sunset Ridge trailhead.

This intuitive route includes only one change in direction and achieves the goal of providing a safe and efficient non-motorized connection between Brighton Recreation Area (BRA), Huron Meadows Metropark, Island Lake Recreation Area (ILRA), and Kensington Metropark.

All 54 possible segment combinations evaluated had strong merit in multiple scoring categories. The distinguishing factors of the selected route, however, are the feasibility of development, property acquisition feasibility, and efficiency of connecting all four parks. It also provides the most efficient and cost effective access to Lakelands Trail via future pathways (as seen in Appendix IV). Route options that access the undeveloped south end of Huron Meadows Metropark added up to 7.7 miles of pathway, making these routes less efficient overall. While distance was not the singular determining factor, it negatively impacted the other scoring metrics by increasing impact on natural features and reducing property acquisition feasibility.

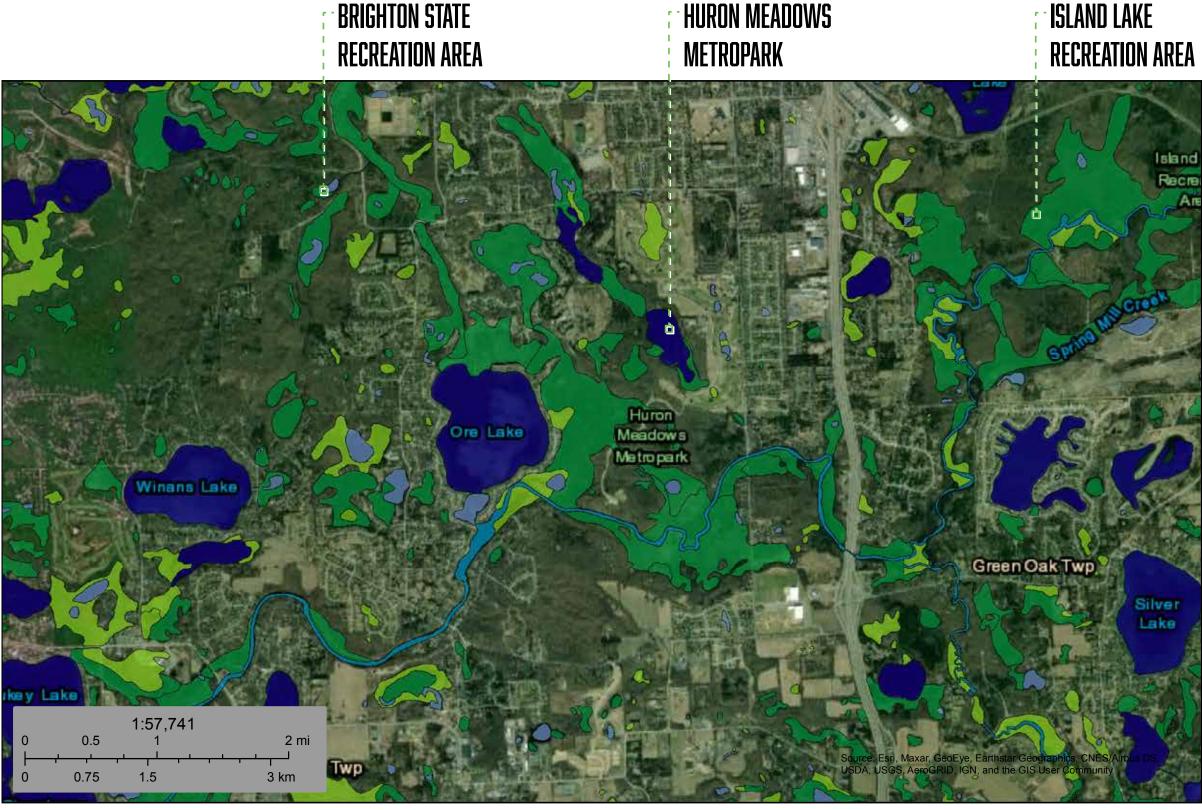
Highlights of the selected route include:

- Two scenic crossings of South Ore Creek
- A connection to Scranton Middle School
- Views of Dibrova Lake
- Direct access from five neighborhoods
- A connection into the north end of Huron Meadows Metropark
- Pedestrian access to Huron Meadows from the City of Brighton



FINAL ROUTE





August 12, 2021

Wetlands



Estuarine and Marine Deepwater

Estuarine and Marine Wetland

Freshwater Emergent Wetland

Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland

Freshwater Pond

Lake

Riverine

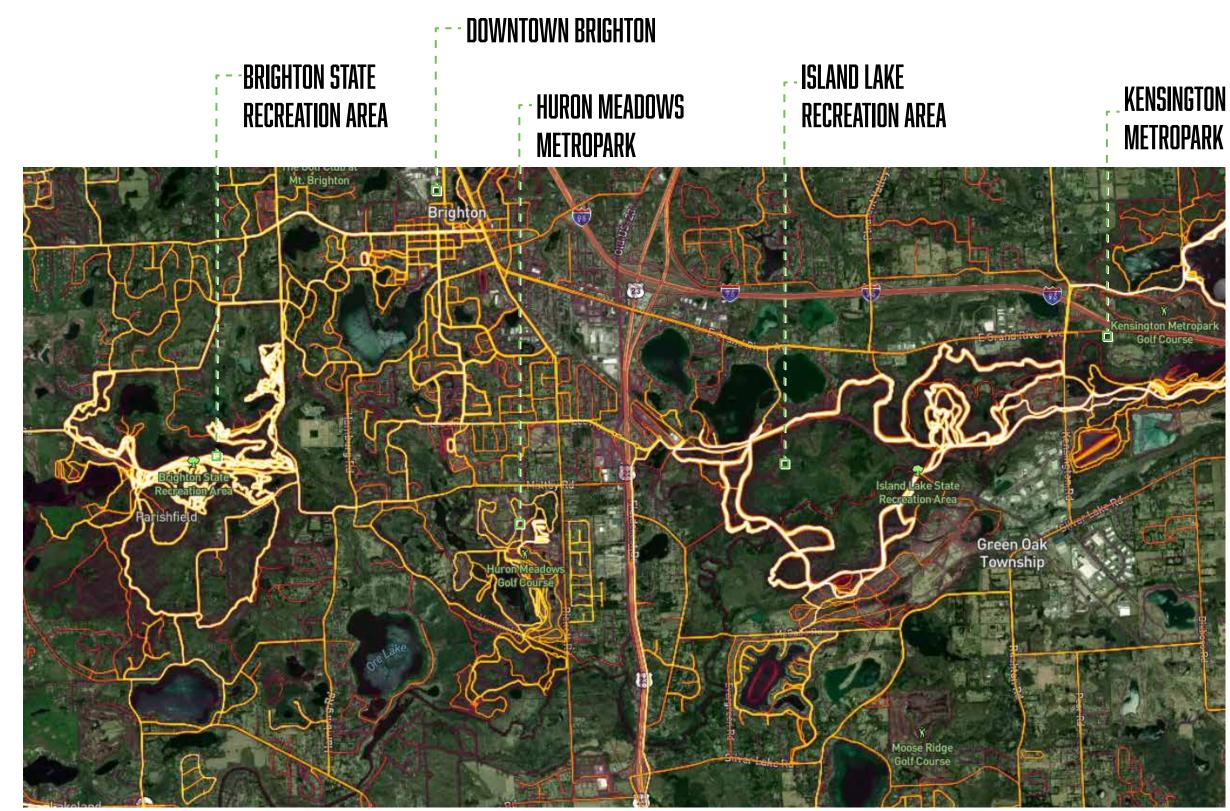
Other

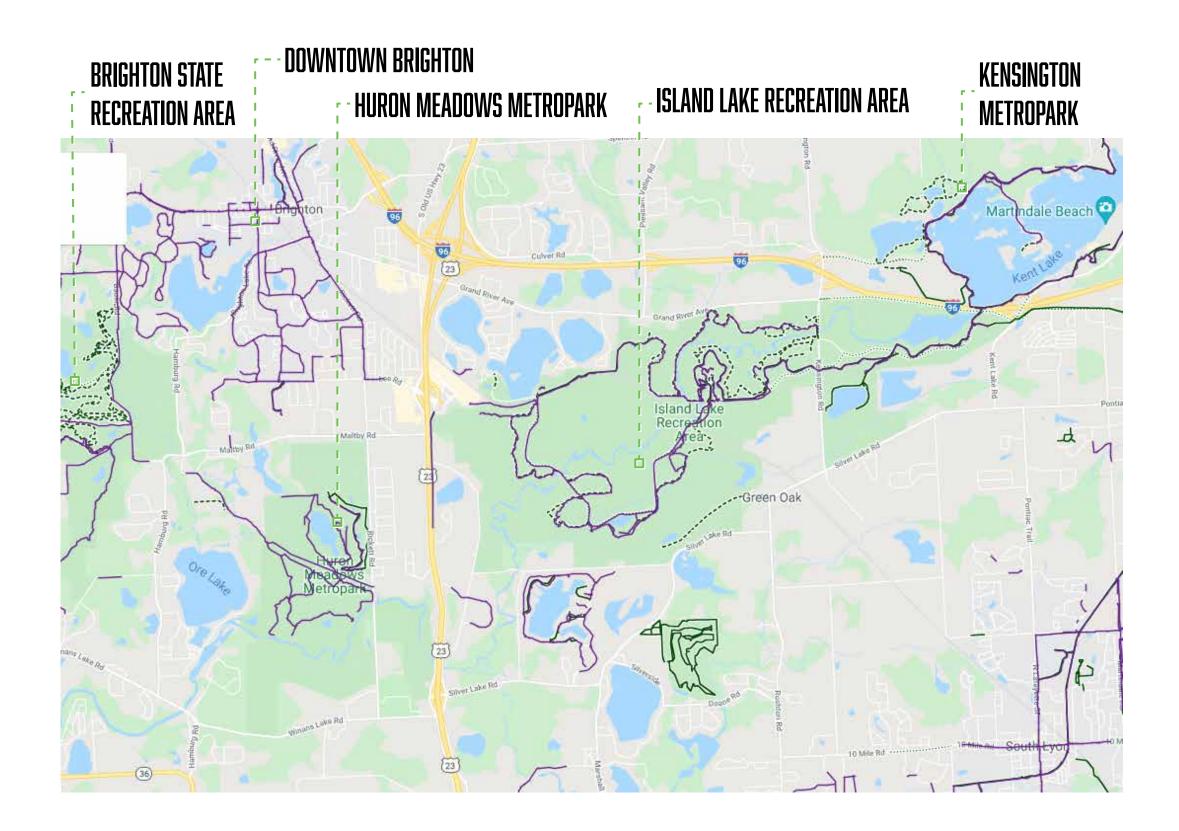
This map is for general reference only. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is not responsible for the accuracy or currentness of the base data shown on this map. All wetlands related data should be used in accordance with the layer metadata found on the Wetlands Mapper web site.

ISLAND LAKE

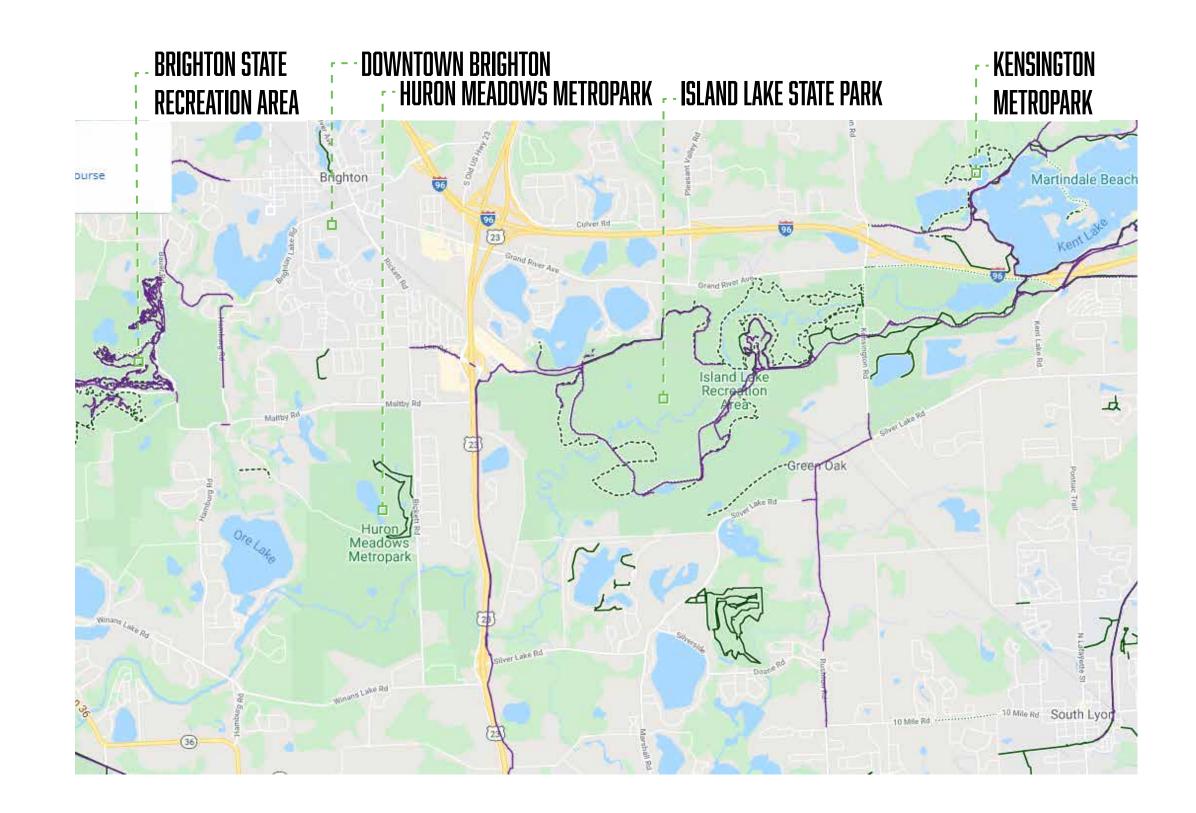
National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) This page was produced by the NWI mapper

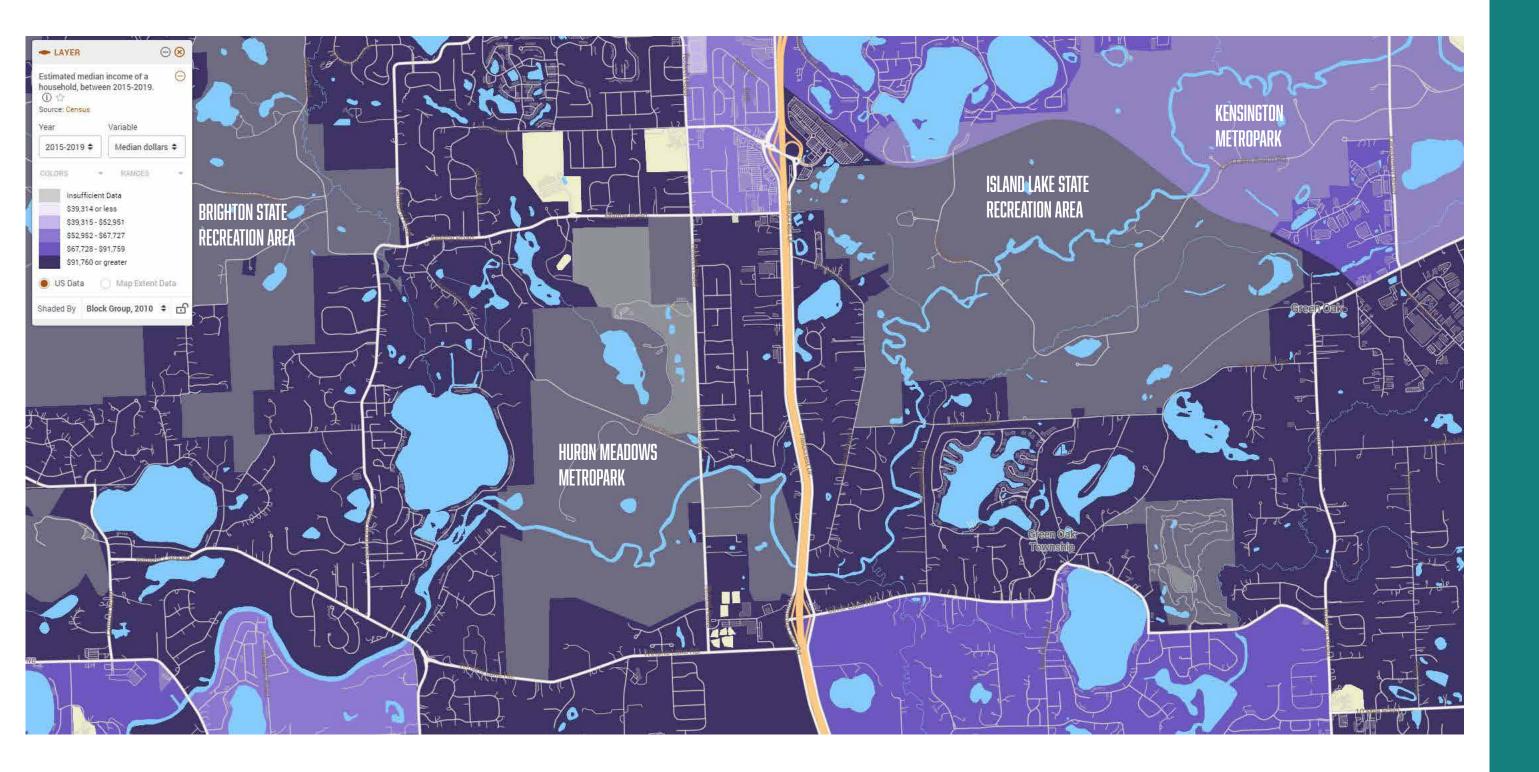


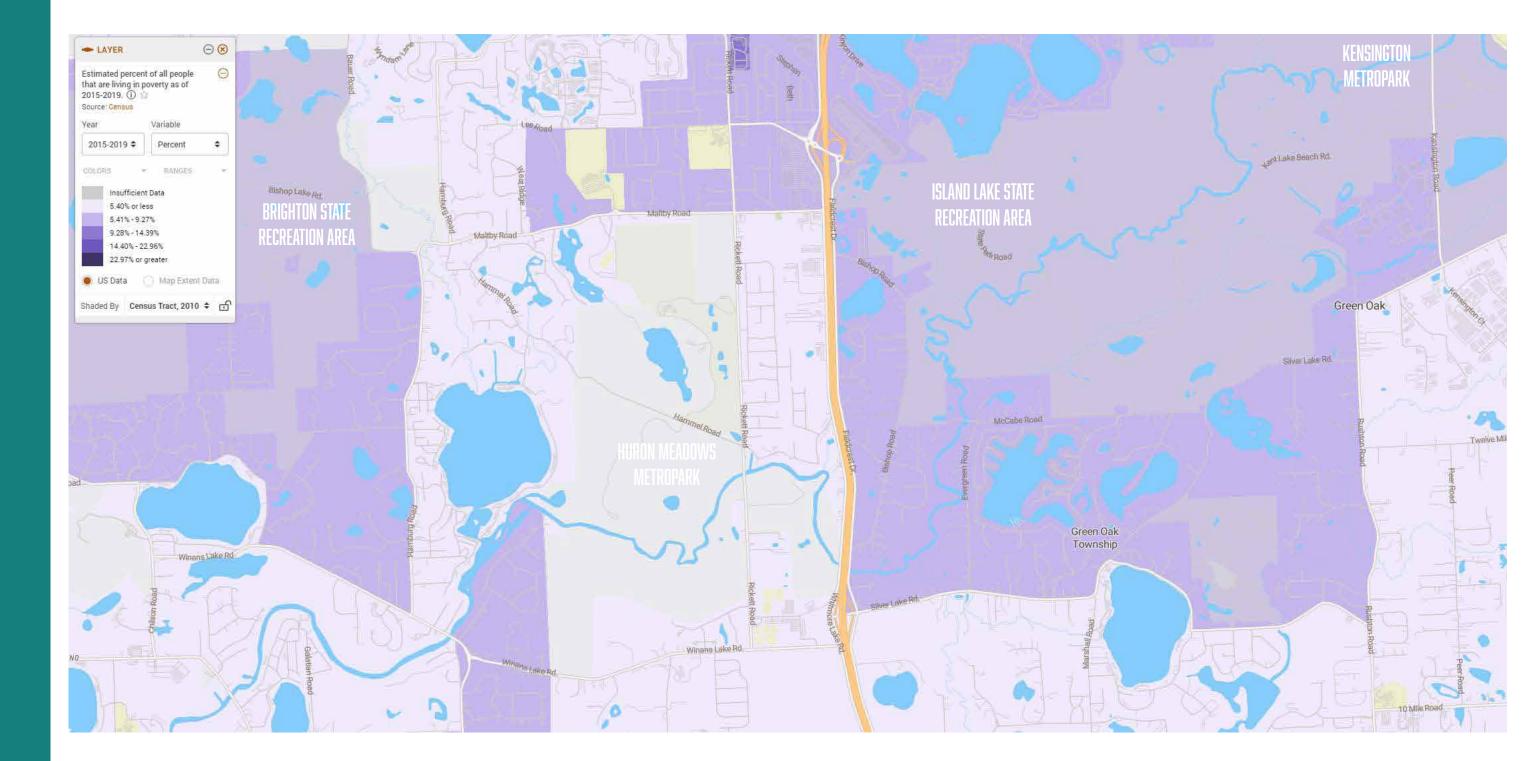


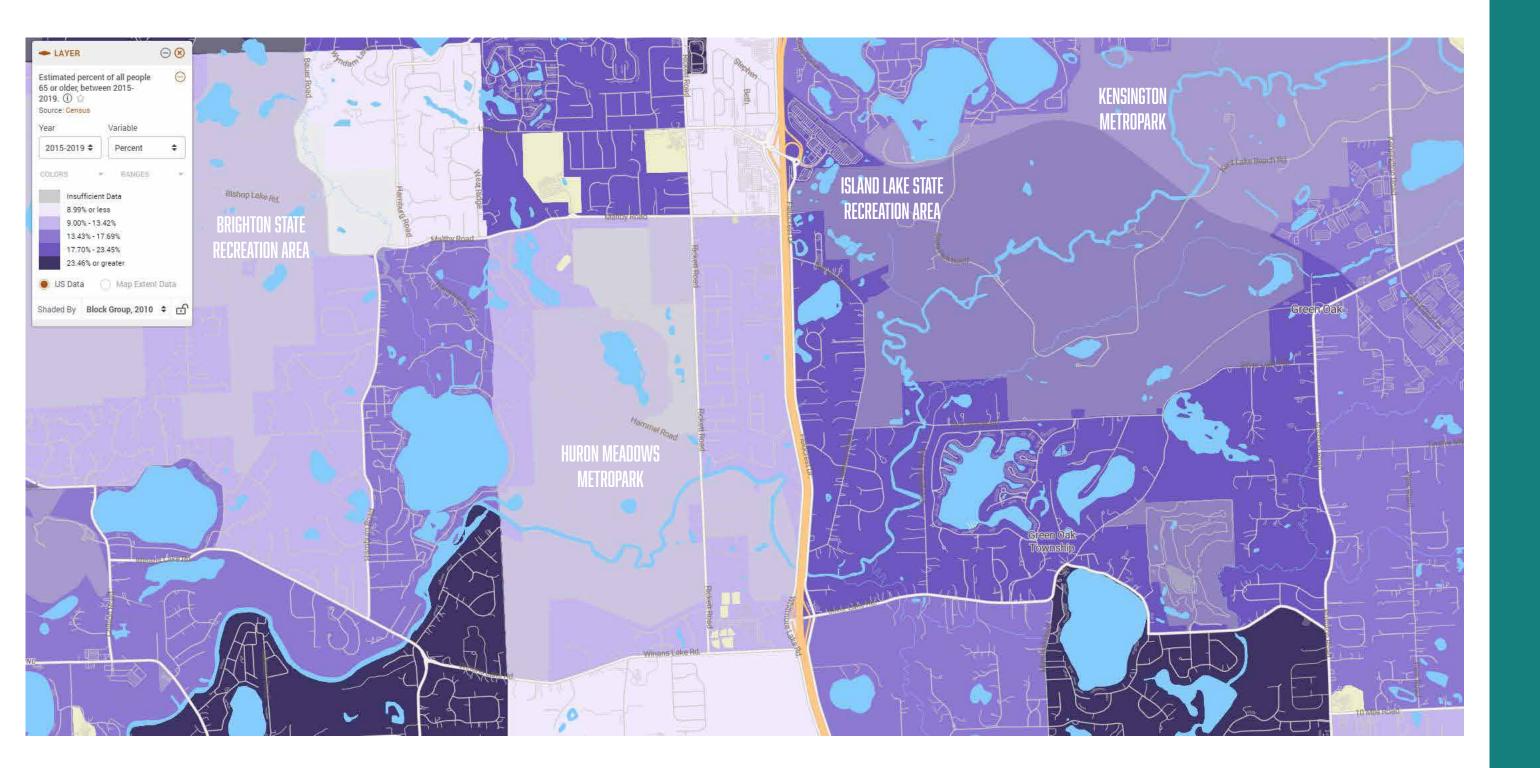


GARMIN RUNNING POPULARITY MAP

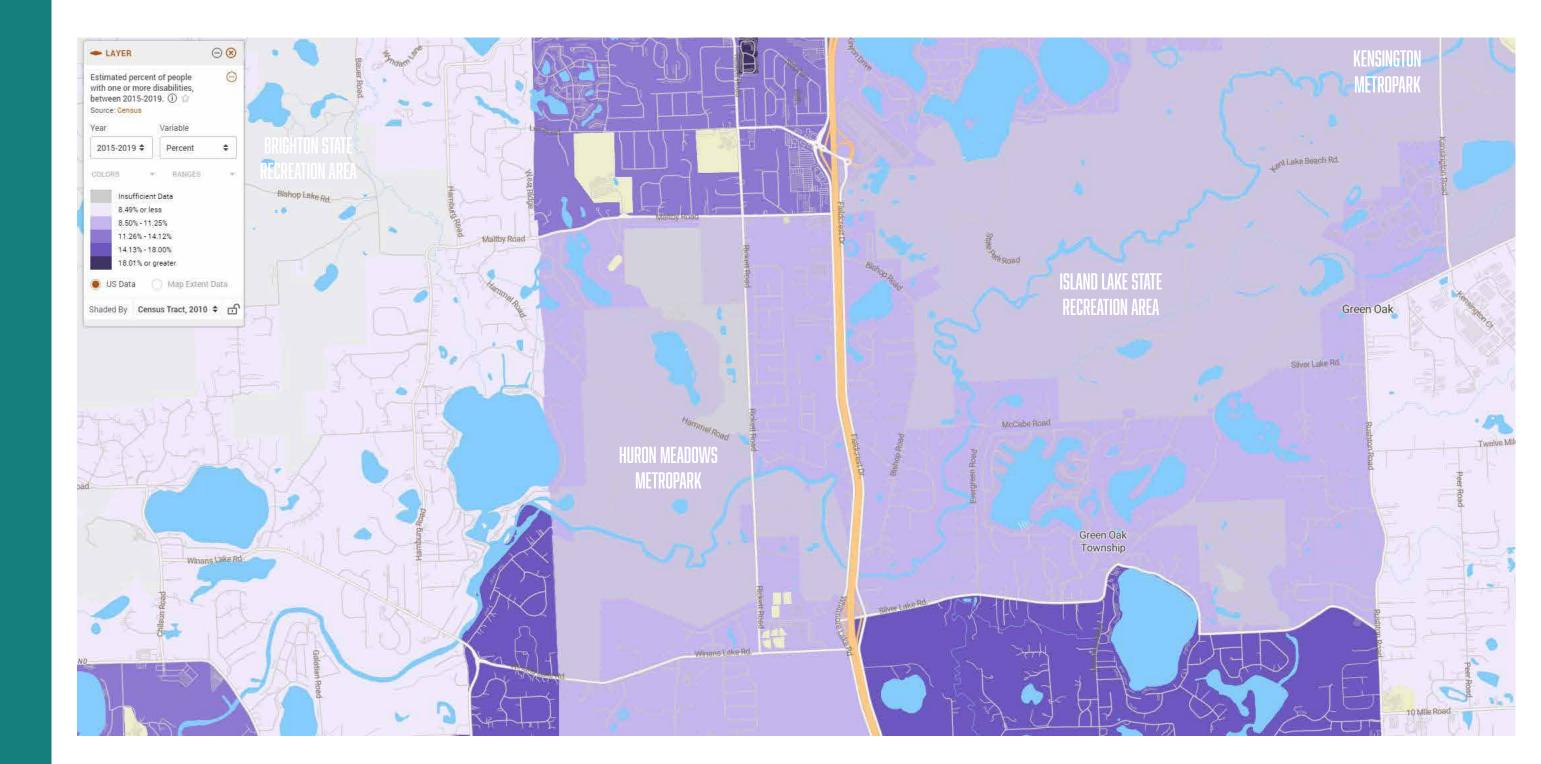


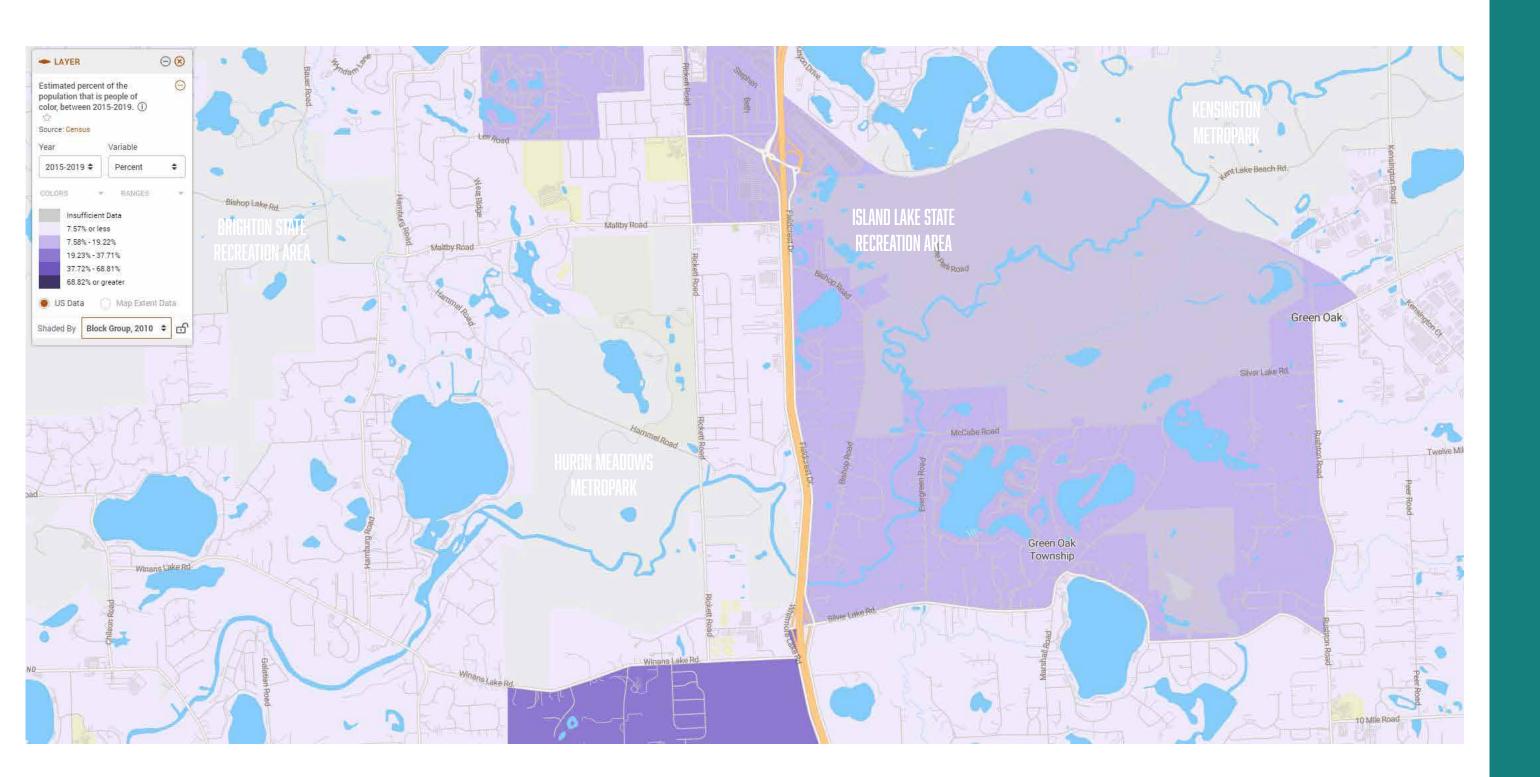




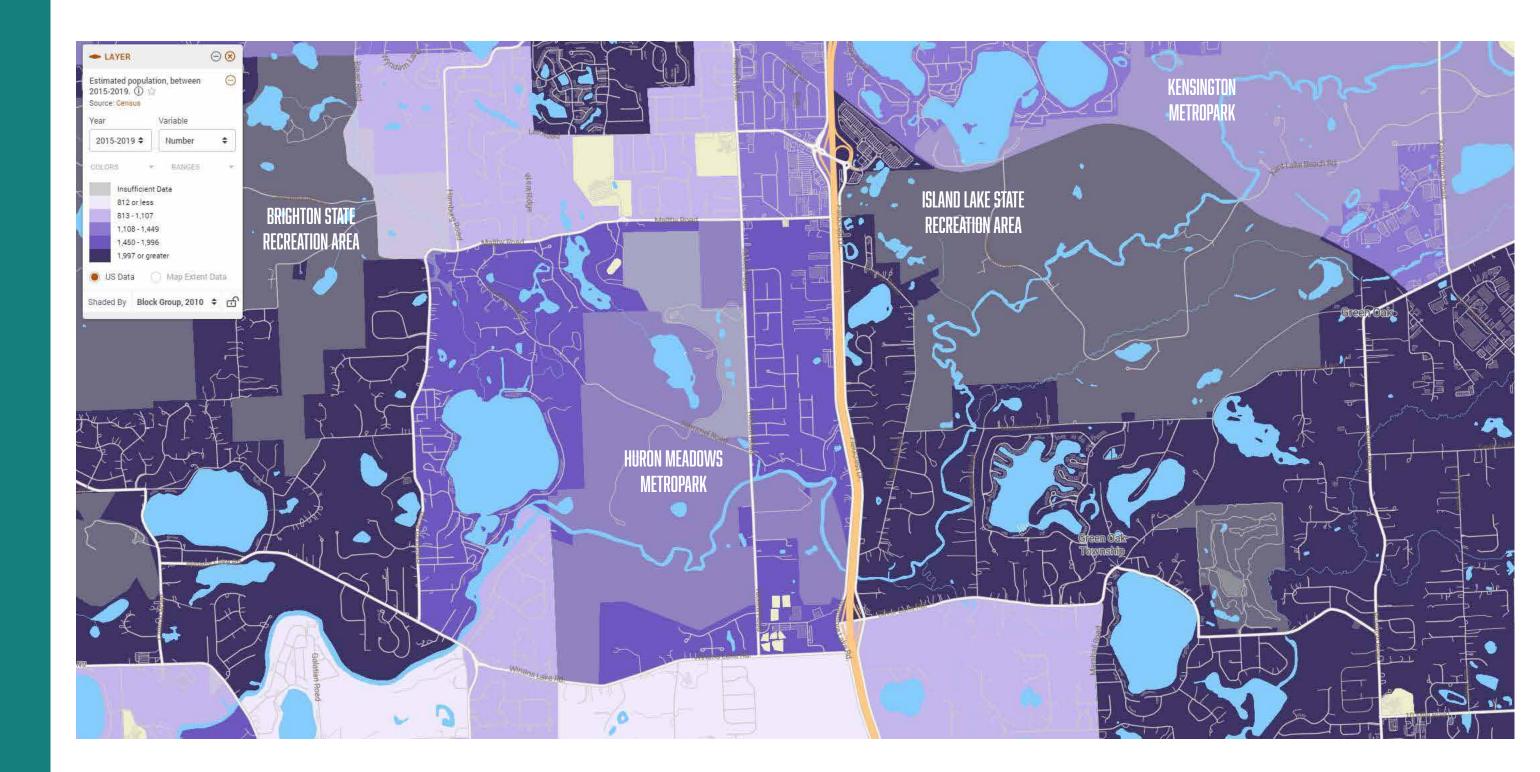


















Huron Meadows Metropark Golf Course



Huron Meadows Metropark Maintenance Drive





Wide existing shoulder over Ore Creek on Hamburg Rd



Existing Bridge abutment over Ore Creek



Beginning of route in Brighton State Recreation Area



Ore Creek crossing in BRA



Existing trails in Huron Meadows Metropark

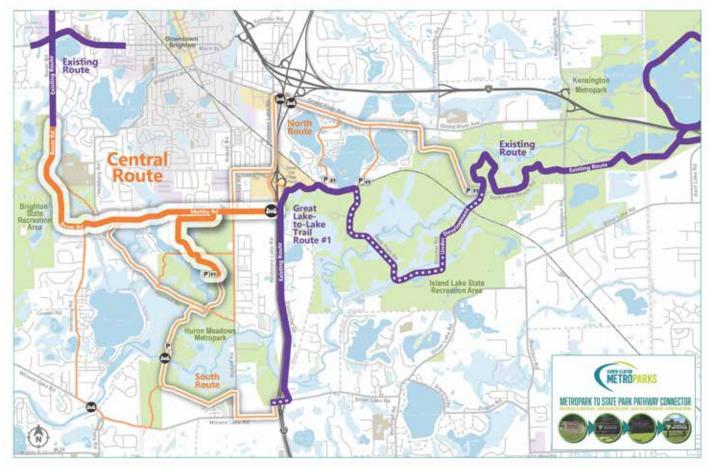






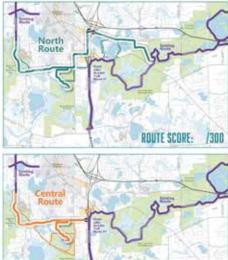
Steep elevation along Maltby Rd





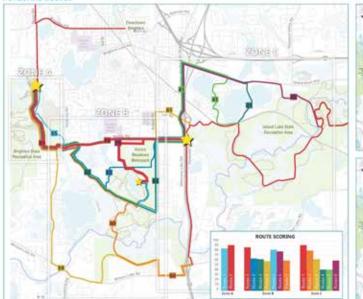






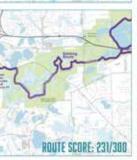
South Route

POTENTIAL ROUTES



APPENDIX II - PUBLIC INPUT MAPS





ROUTE SCORING CATEGORIES

Residential Accessibility (15 pts)

L - nany access to high density inc

Safety (10 pts) A comparative measure of route well terms of interaction with vehicular to well as public visibility of the trail sec To significant safety concerns - potentially or 10 - Smithed safety concerns - very safe

Scenic Quality (10 pts) A comparative measure of visual po-along the most as well as diversity o landscape character. Both attractive enity are de-I - poor aroute quality 16 - attractive acousty with diversity

Viability of Long-Term Maintenance (10 pts) A measure of potential long term To significant maintenance costs 10 - minimal maintenance costs

Feasibility of Development

(20 pts) A measure of the same of a terms of technical challeng Obstacles to development igh triffic mach almoster abstrache

minimal statutes

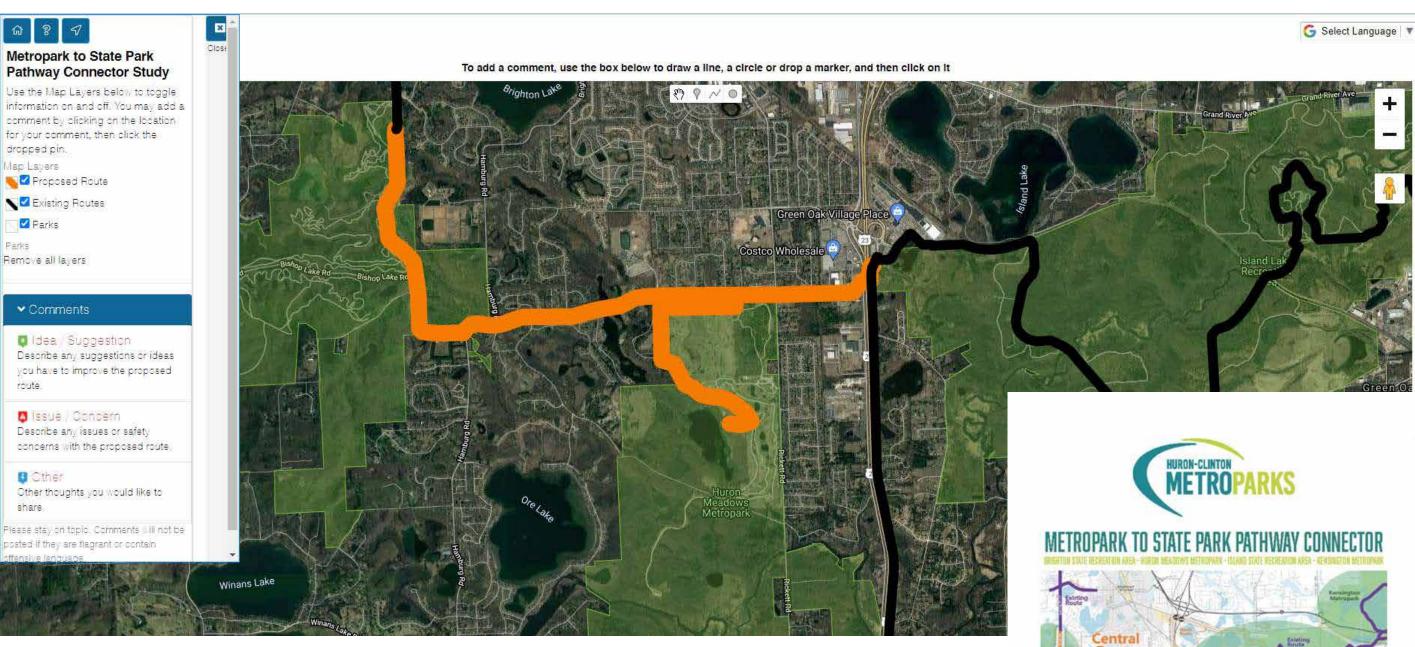
Property Acquisition Feasibility (20 pts) A measure of the quantity of sid and acquisition the may be rep evaluation of the trail. The rep very property is often diff 1 - aliunilari ukolacita 20 v minimal chataches

Regional Park Connectivity (15 pts) A resource of the ansature of time and effort It secold take to travel from one regional parts to the next, as well as a measure of

Tolong distance 1 - shartest distance between park Parks

route.

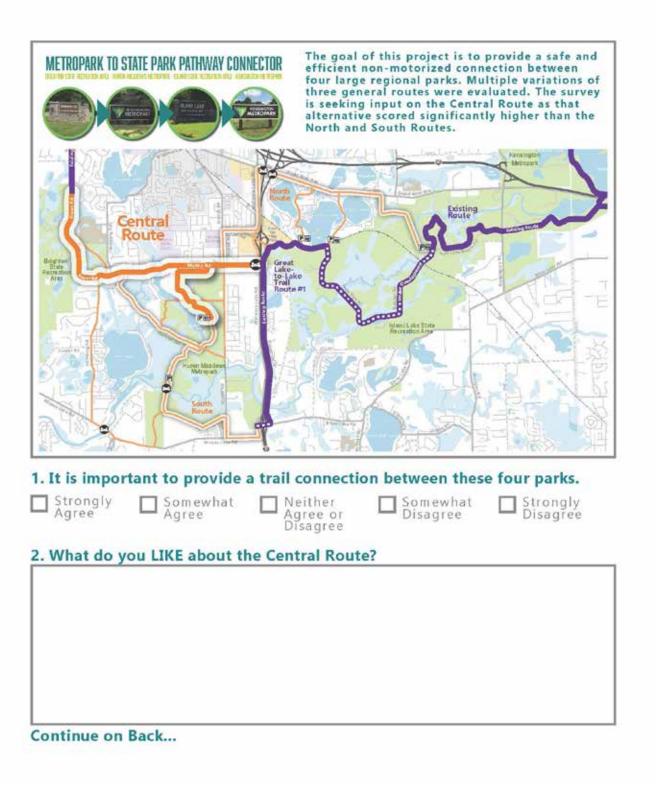
share





ONLINE INPUT AVAILABLE THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH

WWW.WALKBIKE.INFO/PARKCONNECTOR



d you CHANGE	about the Con	
d you CHANGE	about the Con	
	about the cen	tral Route
use the Centra	al Route? Select	all that a
Yes, for Riding a bicycle	Yes, for Running	🔲 Yes, f
thing else you	feel is importa	nt:
	Yes, for Riding a bicycle	- Riding a - Running



pply.

or... (please specify below)

of project updates:

APPENDIX II - PUBLIC INPUT ONLINE SURVEY



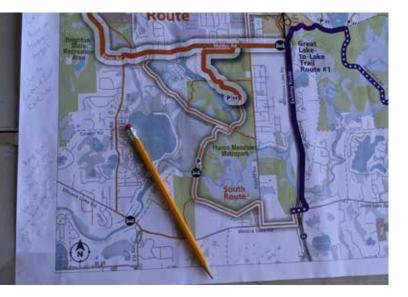


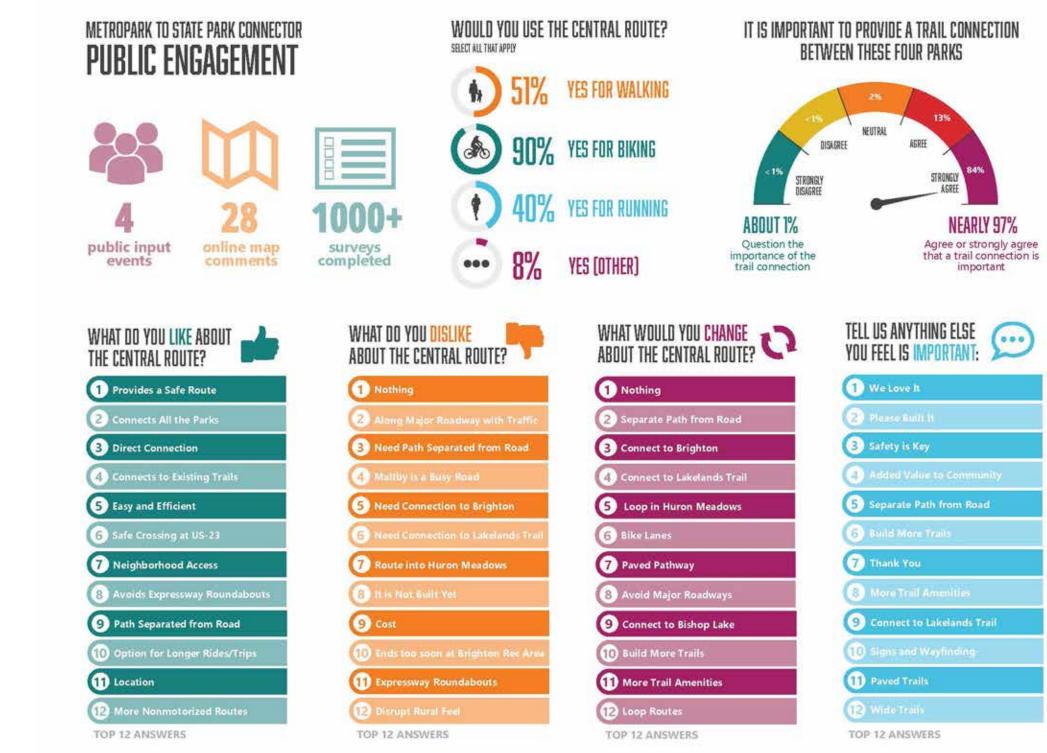




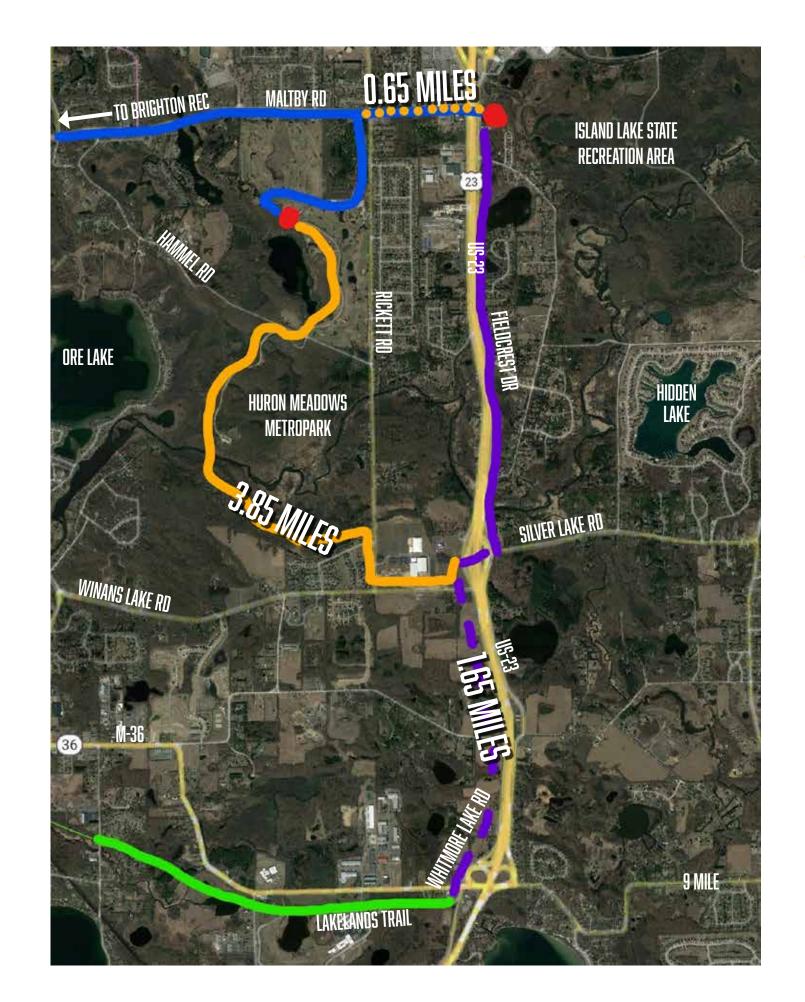




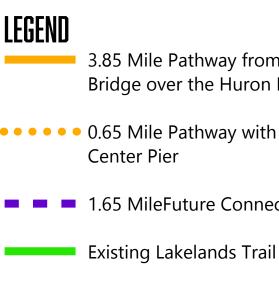




APPENDIX III - PUBLIC INPUT ONLINE SURVEY RESPONSES



To provide an additional regional connection, we analyzed a route to Lakelands Trail shown as the orange line on the map.



to Lakelands Trail:

- Fieldcrest = **6.1 miles**
- 6.3 miles

SUMMARY

The connection to Lakelands Trail via the US-23 Bridge Route to Fieldcrest to Whitmore Lake Road route is **slightly shorter** than the route through Huron Meadows Metropark.

3.85 Mile Pathway from Sunset Ridge with 300-350' Span Bridge over the Huron River & Wetlands

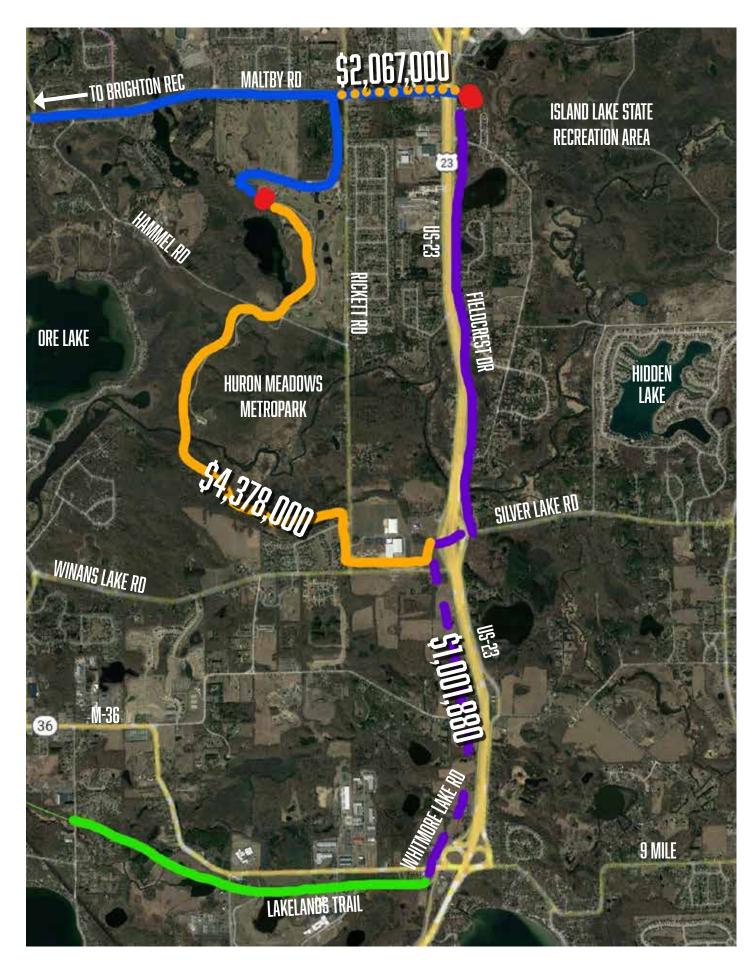
0.65 Mile Pathway with 315' Span Bridge over US-23 with

1.65 MileFuture Connection to Lakelands Trail

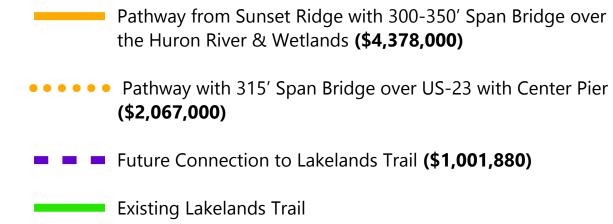
Distance from Huron Meadows Metropark (Sunset Ridge activity area)

• Starting at Sunset Ridge heading north through Huron Meadows Metropark to Maltby Road, crossing the US-23 bridge to

• From Sunset Ridge heading south through Huron Meadows Metropark to the Silver Lake Road/Whitmore Lake Road intersection then heading south along Whitmre Lake Road =



LEGEND



SUMMARY

The connection to Lakelands Trail via the US-23 Bridge Route to Fieldcrest to Whitmore Lake Road route is less than half the cost of the route through Huron Meadows Metropark.

*Estimated costs were derived by using average cost per lineal foot for similar pathway projects in southeast Michigan.

APPENDIX IV - LAKELANDS TRAIL CONNECTION COST ANALYSIS