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(TMACOG)

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USERS' GUIDE TO BICYCLE FACILITIES IN NORTHWEST OHIO AND SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN

2003



Bicycling is a great form of transportation – fun, inexpensive, nonpolluting, and good exercise. Using public streets, you can go just about anywhere on a bike, especially if you are an experienced cyclist. Bicycles are vehicles too! Just follow all traffic laws and “ride safely.” And don’t forget to wear a helmet!

Our region also offers some special bikeways – paths, bike lanes, and marked bike routes. This pamphlet tells where to find them and who to contact for more information.



Another plus for bicycle transportation is courtesy of the Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA). When you ride a TARTA bus, you can bring along your bike at no extra charge, as all TARTA buses have bike racks. Call 419/243-RIDE or go to www.TARTA.com for route and schedule information.

If you have questions or would like to get involved in planning more bikeways for our region, contact TMACOG at 419/241-9155. **Happy cycling!**

WHAT IS A “BIKE FACILITY”?

Bike Path or Trail: Usually 10-12 feet wide, paved or unpaved. It is separate from the road and usually designed for two-way travel. All in our region are multi-purpose trails for non-motorized uses (biking, running, walking, roller blading, etc.). The more rural trails usually permit horseback riding.

Bike Lanes: One-way specially-marked lanes, usually 5 feet wide, adjoining each side of the road.

Signed Bike Route: A numbered or named route that cyclists can follow. It often connects to major destinations. A route may include streets, bike lanes, and paths.



9. BOWLING GREEN SIGNED ROUTES

As northwestern Ohio’s first “Bike Friendly Community”, the City of Bowling Green has signs on a number of streets to identify bicycle routes through the city. They provide for more than 20 miles of east-west and north-south travel, including connection to the Slippery Elm Trail.

Contact: City of Bowling Green Parks & Recreation Department, 419/354-6223; bgparks@dacor.net

10. SLIPPERY ELM TRAIL

13 miles. 12-foot wide, paved trail. Wood County’s “premier trail,” maintained by the Wood County Park District, this former B&O Railroad right-of-way links the communities of Bowling Green, Portage, Rudolph, and North Baltimore, Ohio. Parking is available at the Montessori School (during non-school hours) on Sand Ridge Road in Bowling Green, at the Portage Road crossing, at the rest area in the Village of Rudolph, and at the southern terminus in North Baltimore. Restrooms in North Baltimore.

Contact: Wood County Park District, 419/353-1897; 800/321-1897; email@woodcountyparkdistrict.org. www.woodcountyparkdistrict.org

11. MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Just north of Toledo, the three southernmost townships of Monroe County are part of the Toledo metropolitan transportation planning area. Although not shown on the map, **bike lanes** have been built on:

- Douglas Road from Sterns Road to Summerfield Road, .5 miles;
- Lewis Avenue from Erie Road to Dean Road in Temperence, 2 miles.

For more information about these and other Michigan bicycle facilities, contact Monroe County Road Commission at 734/240-5100, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) at 313/324-3305; or Michigan Department of Transportation’s web site at www.mdot.state.mi.us/planning/mibike.

12. REGIONAL BIKE NETWORK

As part of the regional 25-year transportation plan, roads that provide good travel routes for cyclists in the Toledo metropolitan area have been identified and placed on the *TMACOG 2025 Bicycle Network Plan*. (The plan includes all of Lucas and Wood counties and southern Monroe County in Michigan.) Most of the facilities described in this brochure are part of that Network. As the Network roads are repaired or modified, bike and pedestrian friendly improvements can be considered for inclusion in those projects.

To help cyclists reach their destinations, a project is underway to sign and map the major regional routes. The first route, Bike Route 20, was signed in the fall of 2001. Signs are white rectangles with a green oval. The green oval has a bike symbol and the route number on it.

12-1. Bike Route 20: 38 miles long, signed east-west route, beginning on Bancroft Street at the Lucas-Fulton County line and leading to Maumee Bay State Park and Lake Erie (Reno area) in eastern Lucas County. Route follows Bancroft, Cherry, MLK Bridge, Main, Front, Morrison, Ravine Parkway/Seaman, Whittlesey, Starr Avenue Bikeway, Stadium, Corduroy. Bike Route 20A continues north on Stadium to the Bayshore Road Bikeway. For more information on the Regional Bike Network, contact TMACOG at 419/241-9155.

13. BIKE PATHS IN AREA PARKS

• **Maumee Bay State Park** offers bike trails bike lanes and park roads suitable for cycling. Contact the Park Administration at 419/836-7758.

• **Toledo Area Metroparks.** In addition to the Metropark facilities described in sections 2. and 6. of this brochure, the following metroparks have bike trails within their grounds:

Oak Openings (5 miles), **Pearson** (3 miles), **Wildwood** (2 miles), **Secor** (3 miles), **Swan Creek** (3 miles), and the 8-mile Towpath Trail from **Farnsworth to Providence Metroparks**. Some are paved, some not. For more information, contact Toledo Area Metroparks at 419/535-3050 or mparks@glasscity.net. Their web site is www.metroparkstoledo.com.

• **Wood County Park District.** In addition to the Slippery Elm Trail, the following Wood County Parks have facilities of interest to cyclists:

W.W. Knight Nature Preserve—restrooms, bike trail; **William Henry Harrison Park**—restrooms; **Otsego Park**—restrooms. For more information, contact Wood County Park District, 419/353-1897; 800/321-1897; email@woodcountyparkdistrict.org. www.woodcountyparkdistrict.org.

• **Community Parks.** Toledo (419/936-2875), Bowling Green (419/354-6223) and several other area cities, villages, and townships have parks with bicycle paths, usually 10 feet wide paved. Contact your local government for information, or for assistance call TMACOG at 419/241-9155.

MORE OHIO BICYCLE FACILITY INFORMATION

To find out more about area and statewide bikeways, contact Ohio Department of Transportation’s office of bicycle planning at 614/752-4685, or check out the bikeway map and information on their web site at www.dot.state.oh.us/bike.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Many exciting future bike projects are in the planning stages for our region. From new trails and bridges, to more bike lanes and signed bike routes, to completing many of the facilities and networks described in this brochure, our northwest Ohio/southeast Michigan region will help carry out the slogan, “Bikes Belong.”

For more information on new and upcoming projects, or to find out how you can be involved in planning the region’s future, contact TMACOG and the TMACOG Pedestrian & Bikeways Committee at 419/241-9155, Ext. 117, or e-mail public.info@tmacog.org. You can also visit the TMACOG web site at www.tmacog.org.



Slippery Elm Trail

• **Stadium Road Bikeway Phase 1:** A paved .6-mile long path. Starts at corner of Stadium & Bayshore Roads. (at South Shore Veterans Park), and runs to Eagle's Landing Golf Course and Subdivision. Construction completed in late 2002.

• **Bayshore Road Bike Path:** 1.2 miles, paved bike path along Bayshore Road. Begins Stadium Road at South Shore Veterans Park and the James A. Haley Boardwalk. The path continues east to Maumee Bay State Park, connecting to park roads and trails. (See 13.) Parking available at South Shore Park. *Contact:* City of Oregon Dept. of Public Service, 419/698-7047.

6. WABASH CANNONBALL TRAIL

One of the region's largest trail systems, using two former Wabash Railroad rights-of-way plus a connector between them. Both forks have their eastern trailheads on Jerome Road in Maumee, at the site of the future Fallen Timbers Battlefield Park. Paving completed or planned in Lucas County and in the City of Wauseon (Fulton County). The rest is crushed stone with mountain bikes recommended.

6-1. North Fork: A 46 mile corridor from Jerome Road to Montpelier, Ohio. Partly open. It passes through Lucas, Fulton, Williams counties and several towns and villages including South Delta and Wauseon. About 21 miles open as of spring 2003, including 10 miles paved in Lucas County (Jerome Road through Oak Openings Metropark); 6.5 miles stone from Oak Openings to SR 109 in Fulton County; 1 mile paved plus 2 miles unpaved in Wauseon; and 2 miles unpaved in the West Unity area in Williams County.

6-2. South Fork: 17 miles. All open, from Jerome Road to Liberty Center, Ohio; passes through Lucas and Henry counties, and Villages of Whitehouse, Neapolis, and Colton. There is a covered bridge on the trail just east of Neapolis. As of spring 2003, mostly stone, with pavement in Village of Whitehouse. Sections to be paved in Lucas County are Black to Yawberg Road, 7.2 miles, summer 2003; and Yawberg to Fulton-Lucas Road, 2.3 miles, expected to be paved summer 2004.

6-3. North-South Connector: 2 miles. Paved in Oak Openings Metropark, from North Fork to SR 64. In future will extend via a path and a signed route to South Fork; at present, follow local roads. *Contact:* Toledo Area Metroparks, 419/535-3050, mparks@glasscity.net. City of Wauseon, 419/335-5041. Northwestern Rails-to-Trails Assoc., Inc. (NORTA Inc.), 800/951-4788, norta@hotsheet.com (volunteer organization that owns and operates most of trail outside Lucas County).

7. PERRYSBURG AREA BIKEWAYS

The following will help create the North Coast/Wabash Connector (connection between these two major trails). (See 8 and 8-3.)

• **Maumee-Perrysburg Bridge Bikeway:** Ohio Department of Transportation recently opened this new bridge. It has sidewalks plus a 10-foot wide bike path.

• **City of Perrysburg Bikeways:** To be completed 2003. City of Perrysburg has been funded to build a 10-foot wide paved bike path from the Maumee-Perrysburg Bridge to W. Boundary Street (SR 25), ending at the Indiana Ave. (SR 65) intersection. It will be .6 miles long. *Contact:* City of Perrysburg, 419/872-8010.

8. NORTH COAST INLAND TRAIL and CONNECTORS
The North Coast Inland Trail (NCIT) is a rails-to-trails conversion. When complete, it will run about 75 miles from Elyria, Ohio, going west to Millbury, Ohio. At present, just a few sections are open to the public. Efforts are underway to link this trail with the Wabash Cannonball system. Below are the current open Northwest Ohio sections of this trail. (Not shown on the map:)

• Eastern end of the NCIT, Elyria to Kipton in Lorain County, 14 miles, 10-foot wide paved trail. *Contact:* Lorain Co. Metroparks, 440/458-5121.

• Huron River Greenway. When completed, will run approx. 12 miles from Huron, Ohio, to Norwalk connecting with the NCIT. The northern portion is currently open.

Contact: Erie Metroparks, 419/625-7783, email@discoverit@eriemetroparks.org www.eriemetroparks.org

8-1. Fremont-Clyde section: 6.5 miles, 10-foot wide paved path. Parking is available at Biggs-Ketner/Eastside Park in Fremont and in downtown Clyde.

Update: An additional 1.5 mile section in Fremont, including a 450-foot Sandusky River bridge, will be paved starting mid-summer 2003. Funding is from a federal grant, the City of Fremont, and the Fremont Rotary Club. Expected opening is spring 2004. *Contact:* Sandusky County Park District, 419/334-4495, SCPD@intelliworks.com.

8-2. Village of Elmore: Approx. 2.5-mile section, which runs the width of the town. Crushed stone surface. *Contact:* Village of Elmore, 419/862-3362.

8-3. North Coast/Wabash Connector: Phase One, approx. 6.5 miles total, begins in Millbury. Signed bike route from Main Street (Millbury Road) north to Ayers Road, west to Drouillard Road., north to Village of Walbridge parks. Bike lanes on Drouillard from Ayers south to Friendship Park, which has restrooms and a .25 mile paved path loop. *Contact:* Lake Township, 419/838-6536.

City of Perrysburg is working on a second phase of the Connector. (See 7. above.)



Wabash Cannonball Trail

1. SYLVANIA BIKE NETWORK

The City of Sylvania and the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District have developed the following bikeways to link neighborhoods with parks and other community facilities. (Also see section 2.)

• **Pacesetter Park Bike Path:** .75 miles long, 12-foot wide paved bike path from Centennial Quarry to Pacesetter Park. Parking is available at both locations.

• **Monroe St./Erie Street Bicycle Lanes:** 2.1 miles long, paved bike lanes, from Monroe Street at Silica Drive to Erie Street at Centennial Road.

Contact: Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District, 419/882-1500, sajrd.adm@sylvania.sev.org.

2. UNIVERSITY/PARKS TRAIL and CONNECTORS

2-1. University/Parks Trail

6.3 miles. Lucas County's first rails-to-trails conversion, 12-foot wide paved path from the University of Toledo to King Road in Sylvania. Parking is at the UT lot at Secor & Dorr Streets, the Ottawa Hills Municipal Building (2125 Richards Rd. at Bancroft), Wildwood Preserve Metropark (follow connecting path to the Trail), and at the McCord Road crossing in Sylvania.

Contact: Toledo Area Metroparks, 419/535-3050; mparks@glasscity.net.

2-2. King Road/Sylvania Ave. Bikeway loop

• **King Road bike lanes:** .5 miles, from University/Parks Trail to Sylvania Avenue.

• **Sylvania Avenue Bikeway:** 4 miles. Bike lanes from King to Holland-Sylvania Road; 8-foot wide path from there to Talmadge Road.

Contact: Lucas County Engineer, 419/213-4540.

• **Talmadge Rd./Springbrook Dr:** 1.2 miles signed route: from Sylvania Ave, follow Talmadge south to Springbrook, then west to Corey Road. This is the route to Wildwood Metropark.

• **Wildwood Metropark Ottawa River Trail:** 1.8 miles paved path and boardwalk from Corey Rd. (at Springbrook Dr.) across Ottawa River flood plain to the University/Parks Trail. This trail crosses the Ottawa River with a covered bridge and connects with all other Wildwood park trails.

2-3. Connector to Ottawa Park: at the east end of the University/Parks Trail (on the UT campus), there are bike route signs on Oakwood Avenue and Westwood Avenue directing cyclists to the Ottawa Park bike path (see below).

3. OTTAWA & BEATTY/JERMAIN PARK PATH AND CONNECTORS

Paved paths, 8-feet wide. Connects three City of Toledo parks and the Scott Park Campus of UT.

• **Beatty/Jermain Parks Path:** 1 mile. Begins at Ayers Avenue, parallels South Cove Boulvd; crosses Monroe St. to Upton Avenue, where it enters Ottawa Park.

• **Ottawa Park Path:** 3 - mile loop around the edge of the park, basically parallels Bancroft, Douglas, Kenwood, North Cove, Upton. Connects to the Jermain Path at South Cove and the Parkside path at Bancroft.

• **Parkside Avenue Bike Path:** 1.8 miles. Located in the center median, it provides a connection from Ottawa Park to the Scott Park Campus of The University of Toledo. Ends at Hill Ave.

Contact: City of Toledo Parks Department, 419/936-2875.

4. GREENBELT PARKWAY BIKE PATH

1.5 miles. Parallels the Buckeye Basin Greenbelt Parkway (SR 25) from Cherry Street to I-280. 12-foot wide paved path.

5. OREGON BIKE NETWORK

The City of Oregon is working on a network that when completed will help create a route from the Maumee River to Maumee Bay State Park, with connections to many Oregon locations such as schools, Pearson Metropark, and Oregon's Municipal Complex. Below are the currently constructed or funded parts:

• **Starr Avenue Bike Lanes:** 1.9 miles. Paved bike lanes, from Wheeling Street to Pearson Park at the intersection of Lallendorf Road. (There are paths in Pearson Park -- see 13.)

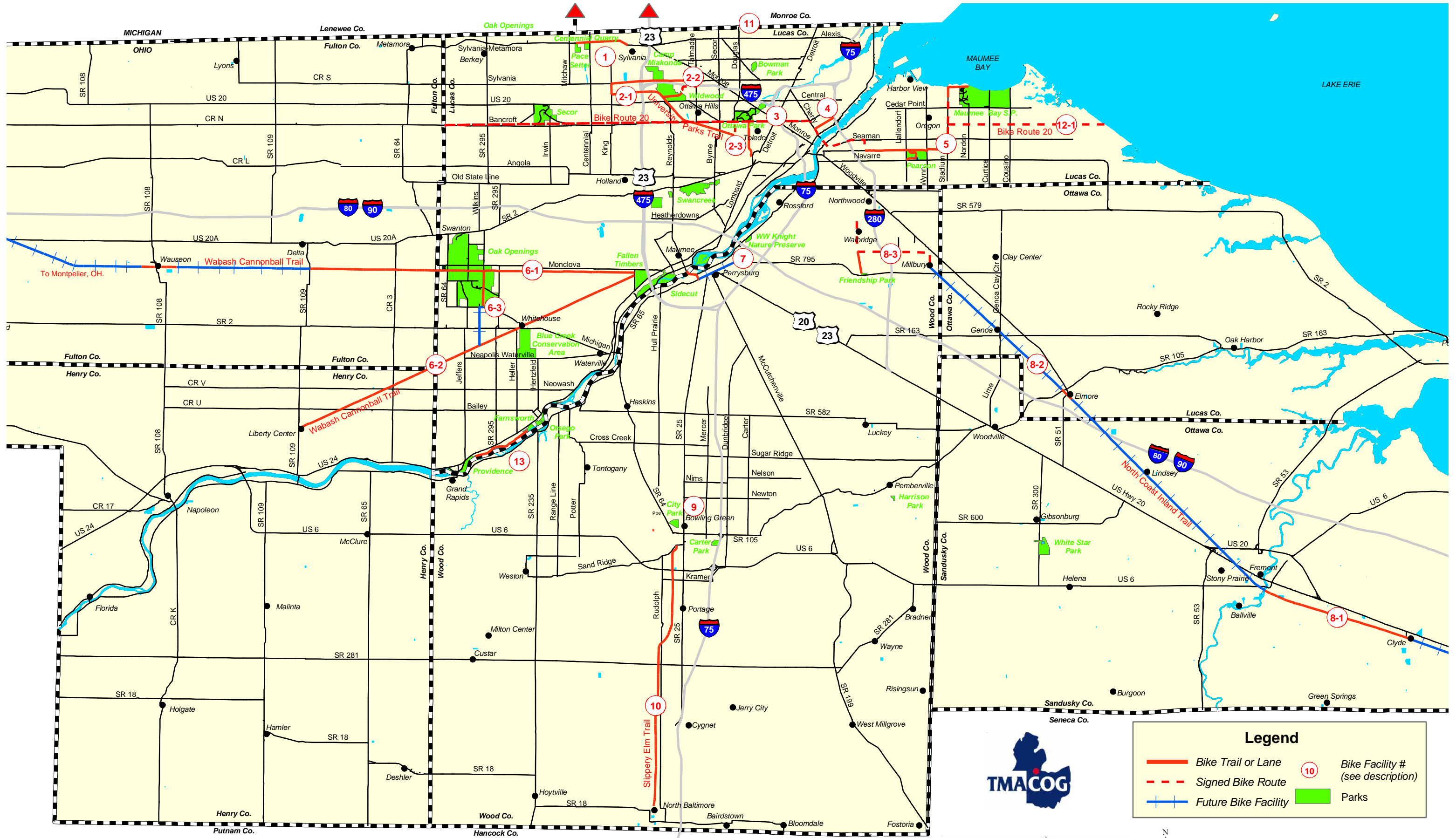
• **Pearson Park Connector:** funded, construction expected in 2004 or sooner. To be a one mile 10 - foot wide paved path connecting from Starr Avenue Bikeway to the Municipal Complex Connector, running on the north side of Starr Avenue from Lallendorf Road to Wynn Road.

• **Municipal Complex Connector Phase 1:** funded, construction expected in 2003. To be a .8 mile long, 10-foot wide, paved path from Wynn Road to City of Oregon Municipal & Recreational Complex along Starr Avenue and Wolf Creek. Parking to be available at Oregon Municipal Complex off Seaman Road.



University/Parks Trail

Bicycle Facilities in Northwest Ohio & Southeast Michigan



Mannik & Smith Group

Legend

- Bike Trail or Lane
- - - Signed Bike Route
- Future Bike Facility
- 10 Bike Facility # (see description)
- Parks

