



## Press Release

For Immediate Release

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### **RIBBON CUTTING FOR CLINTON RIVER TRAIL EXTENSION**

The City of Pontiac will host a recognition ceremony to inaugurate the latest addition to the Clinton River Trail at 10 am, Thursday, November 16, 2017. The ceremony will take place trail-side at Galloway Lake Park just off N. Perry Street in Pontiac. The City, with grant funding from the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and a generous donation from CN -- Canadian National Railway Company, has acquired 4.5 miles of former rail line – locally referred to as the ‘North Spur.’ This old rail line will ultimately be developed into a new trail connection bringing the Clinton River Trail into the downtown Pontiac area. Beyond the Clinton River Trail connection, the converted rail line will eventually allow an off-road connection between multiple city parks and schools. Media outlets as well as the general public are invited to attend. More specifics follow:

- **WHEN:** 10:00 a.m. THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2017 – RIBBON CUTTING and PHOTO-OP ~ 10:45 am
- **WHERE:** CEREMONY WILL BE OUTSIDE AT GALLOWAY LAKE PARK, CORNER OF GIDDINGS RD. AND N. PERRY ST. APPROXIMATE ADDRESS: 1470 N. PERRY ST. FOLLOW THE ‘RIBBON CUTTING’ SIGNS. THERE IS A DIRT DRIVE JUST SOUTH OF THE OLD TENNIS COURTS THAT LEADS TO THE TRAILHEAD AREA. PARKING IS AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE TRAIL. LOOK FOR THE POP-UP CANOPY. BE ADVISED THAT THIS AREA HAS NOT BEEN DEVELOPED YET, APPROPRIATE WALKING SHOES ARE SUGGESTED.
- **WHAT:** THE RIBBON CUTTING SERVES AS OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD IN CONVERTING THIS ABANDONED RAIL LINE INTO AN EXTENSION OF THE CLINTON RIVER TRAIL. INVITED SPEAKERS INCLUDE: PONTIAC MAYOR, DNR REPRESENTATIVE, CITY & COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS, CN REPRESENTATIVE AND FRIENDS OF THE TRAIL.
- **WHY:** THIS IS THE CULMINATION OF A MULTI-YEAR EFFORT BY SEVERAL PARTNERS TO OBTAIN FUNDING AND ACQUIRE THE ‘NORTH SPUR’ FROM CN. ONCE DEVELOPED, THIS ABANDONED RAIL LINE WILL PROVIDE A MORE SCENIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT CRT SIDEWALK CONNECTION THROUGH PONTIAC. IT WILL ALSO CONNECT MULTIPLE NEIGHBORHOODS, PARKS, AND SCHOOLS.
- **FUNDING:** FUNDS FOR ACQUISITION OF THE ‘NORTH SPUR’ WERE PROVIDED BY A MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND GRANT ALONG WITH A MATCHING DONATION FROM CN. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF PONTIAC AND OAKLAND COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS.

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The Clinton River Trail is a 16 mile recreational path that roughly follows and periodically crosses the Clinton River as it traverses the communities of Rochester, Rochester Hills, Auburn Hills, Pontiac and Sylvan Lake. Friends of the Clinton River Trail is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that is committed to promote the Clinton River Trail as a safe and enjoyable recreational destination.