

FACT SHEET: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROPOSED PEPPER PIKE TRAIL

What is this proposed trail all about?

It's a project that will add a winding trail for recreational walkers to enjoy a leisurely stroll in the protected median of Gates Mills Boulevard. At the same time, it will enhance the current natural features of the boulevard by adding many more trees and shrubs.

What's its purpose?

The trail will provide a safe, beautiful walkway for pedestrians, (including young children, moms with strollers, older residents) to connect with other areas, both in Pepper Pike and surrounding communities. The trail would be designed in a manner that maintains existing trees, while providing additional landscaping, shade, definition and enhanced beautification to transform the Gates Mills median into a more inviting environment for all residents to enjoy.

Where would it go?

By placing a trail in this spacious, City-owned median, we will connect the corridor to the Shaker/Brainard Circle Park to the west, while maintaining ample greenspace. This would provide a safe, pedestrian-friendly link for residents to easily enjoy City assets such as the Pepper Pike Park, places of worship and educational institutions. There will be no parking lots, structures or lights. There will likely be occasional park benches, waste receptacles and a beautiful park-like space. The path will promote the city tree canopy and enhance stormwater controls, while having an anticipated positive impact on nearby home values.

Who would pay for it?

The City plans to fund more than 40 percent of the project (\$500,000.00) through a Clean Ohio Trails Fund Grant if it is awarded to Pepper Pike by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The total cost of the path is estimated to be no more than \$1.2 million. The City and the City Engineer anticipate the project will come in well under the projected amount.

How would that affect that area's safety?

Suburban trails statistically have less crime than the overall community in which they are located, and our Police Chief and staff agree that this will be a safe, secure pathway that will not create associated security concerns. The Pepper Pike Police regularly patrol around this median and would continue to have an active presence once the trail is constructed. Safety is actually one of the motivations for the project.

How would it affect residents who live in the area?

The 130-foot wide boulevard median is a unique city asset which exists for all to enjoy, not only the residents who live on the street. Houses on Gates Mills are set back about 100 feet from the roadway. That setback, added to the depth of the roadway and median, will further distance pathway users from homes, an additional 90-100 feet further away! The plantings will provide additional screening for residents.

What will it do for Pepper Pike?

Improving the walkability of the city is a challenge we confront and are trying to resolve. The conceptual picture you see online is just that: a concept; the path has not been engineered or finalized. This city project is not a referendum issue, just as improvements to the City Hall park, Shaker Brainard Circle, Morgan Park or Service and Police Department renovations are not voted upon by residents. We do value your perspective and that's why we're asking for your views. The decision to proceed with the path is for Council to make.

For a full presentation to learn about the proposed trail, we ask that you please visit <http://www.pepperpike.org/DocumentCenter/View/3232/GATES-MILLS-BLVD-MULTIPURPOSE-TRAIL>

