

**Proposed Project:** Baker Wood Preserve Storybook Trail

**Fiscal Agent:** Chelsea District Library

**Implementation Date:** Spring 2019

**5H Impact:** Move More, Connect with Others in Healthy Ways

**Total Amount requested:** \$6000

**Implementation Contacts:**

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Chelsea District Library (CDL) is seeking the support of the Chelsea Wellness Coalition in installing a permanent storybook trail. A storybook trail features posts/holders with book pages that allow users to read an entire book by the time they have completed the trail. While enjoying a storybook trail, families engage together while moving and exploring local outdoor spaces. These hand-picked stories shared between adults and children also come with the opportunities to support the 5 pillars of early childhood education: talk, sing, read, write, play.

This trail will include 18 permanent aluminum post-mount frames that will feature approx. 2 pages of a story each. The design of the frames allows books to be swapped out regularly to keep the content fresh and encourage families to make visiting the storybook trail a regular activity. These frames also protect the pages from the elements so that each user gets the full benefit of the experience.

CDL approached Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation to discuss hosting a storybook trail in a Park or Preserve within the CDL service area in late spring 2018. After some exploration, Baker Woods Preserve, located on Trinkle Road in Lima Township, was identified as the ideal site for this first collaborative effort. The current trail and loop in Baker Wood Preserve is approx. 1.5 miles long, but WCPR are considering the possibility of cutting a new trail to provide a more seamless walk for users. In addition to providing the space and potentially cutting a new trail, WCPR staff and administration would like to provide in-kind support by installing the posts and mounting the frames. From quotes received from area contractors, this work would cost approximately \$3000.

Ongoing responsibility for the storybook trail would fall to CDL. This includes arranging and finding funds for repairs and replacement, book costs, and swapping out stories 7 to 8 times a year. However, WCPR would assist in promoting the storybook trail through their own channels and partners. This includes efforts through social media to gather feedback from the community about the use of the trail.

Ideas for promoting the storybook trail will include CDL's regular marketing channels, such as CDL Newsletter, eNews, Facebook, and website. Additional ideas include providing programming, such as a group walk of the trail as part of our regular Homeschool Meetup program and handing out branded bug repellent wipe packs to advertise the trail and encourage trail safety.

## Budget

\$5480.00	18 Post Mount Frames and mounting materials, includes delivery of frames from Barking Dog Exhibits
\$520.00	Printing of 2 years worth of backing pages to affix book pages that include partner logos, 200 branded bug repellent wipe packs
<b>\$6000</b>	<b>Total</b>

## Additional Information

Some communities that have enjoyed permanent or temporary storybook trails.

- Beverly Hills
- Rochester Hills
- Plymouth
- Canton
- Sterling Heights

