



August 16, 2019

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**VIA EMAIL**

**RE: Letter Describing Outline of Grant Proposal; Extension of McCoy's Creek Trail**

Dear Mr. Adams and Egelhaaf:

The City of Buchanan's Friends of the McCoy's Creek Trail Committee ("McCoy's Creek Trail Committee") respectfully seek to apply for the Southwest Michigan Prosperity Committee's Microgrant in the amount of \$10,000.00. The McCoy's Creek Trail is an approximately four mile improved shared use path that runs along McCoy's Creek, through prairie, downtown Buchanan, and E.B. Clark Woods. It includes historical markers and natural elements that tell the history of Buchanan.

We -- in partnership with Wightman & Associates and the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission -- seek this amount to expand the McCoy's Creek Trail and do so in a way that will allow us to one day directly connect Buchanan's beautiful biking and walking trail to the larger IN-MI River Valley Trail and the communities it passes through. The McCoy's Creek Trail Committee's project would be in furtherance of the Community Development and Infrastructure goals of Region 8's Prosperity Plan.

Details of our proposal follow:

***Project Description***

The extension of the McCoy's Creek Trail would be from its current eastern end at E.B. Clark Woods in the City of Buchanan to the bridge over the Saint Joseph River and the beginning of

Walton Road in Buchanan Township. (See *attached map*.) The McCoy's Creek Trail will be extended through the exit of E.B. Clark Woods, where parking exists, north along Schirmer Parkway and then northeast down River Street to the bridge over the river. The approximately half-mile extension trail will consist of a combination of roadside 6'-8' shoulder trails and non-motorized portions.

Although not part of this immediate project, this extension would lay the necessary groundwork for a McCoy's Creek Trail's connection down Walton Road to the planned extension of the IN-MI River Valley Trail to Berrien Springs from Niles.

Most importantly, the City of Buchanan has already received a state grant to repave Schirmer Parkway starting Spring 2020. Schirmer Parkway is the proposed location of the majority of the trail extension. Because of this existing work and the mobilization costs it covers, the extension, if this grant is received, can be added relatively inexpensively. This is incredible timing and adds a sense of urgency to this project. Wightman & Associates, who is working with Buchanan on the repaving, has agreed to partner with McCoy's Creek Trail Committee to see the trail extension added to the repaving projection where they overlap. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission is providing strategic assistance.

**Organizational Details.** The City of Buchanan's McCoy's Creek Trail Committee, co-chaired by Lloyd Miller and Jerry Flenar, will oversee this trail construction project. The Trail Committee will also form a subcommittee to oversee the project. The McCoy's Creek Trail Committee will maintain the extension.

**Prosperity Plan.** The proposed McCoy's Creek Trail extension furthers the (1) Community Development and (2) Infrastructure goals of the Prosperity Plan.

Community Development. The extension project improves the livability of the community and works toward the goal of a larger interconnected trail system. The extension would provide alternative means of transportation and recreation, in particular, walking, running, and biking. It directly connects people and businesses in Buchanan Township with those in the City of Buchanan and would advance the area's tourism industry. It also allows bikers, who regularly use Range Line road, to more easily access the City of Buchanan's business area, E.B. Clark Woods, and McCoy's Creek itself. It would also encourage better access to the Saint Joseph River from the City of Buchanan and the river's public access on Mead Road, which is on the north side of the river and east of the dam (where the river's south side public access is west of the dam).

Infrastructure. The grant would also directly expand regional infrastructure, another primary goal of the Prosperity Plan. By adding non-motorized options of movement, it relieves burdens on existing roads and helps foster a culture of walking and biking as alternatives to motorized options.

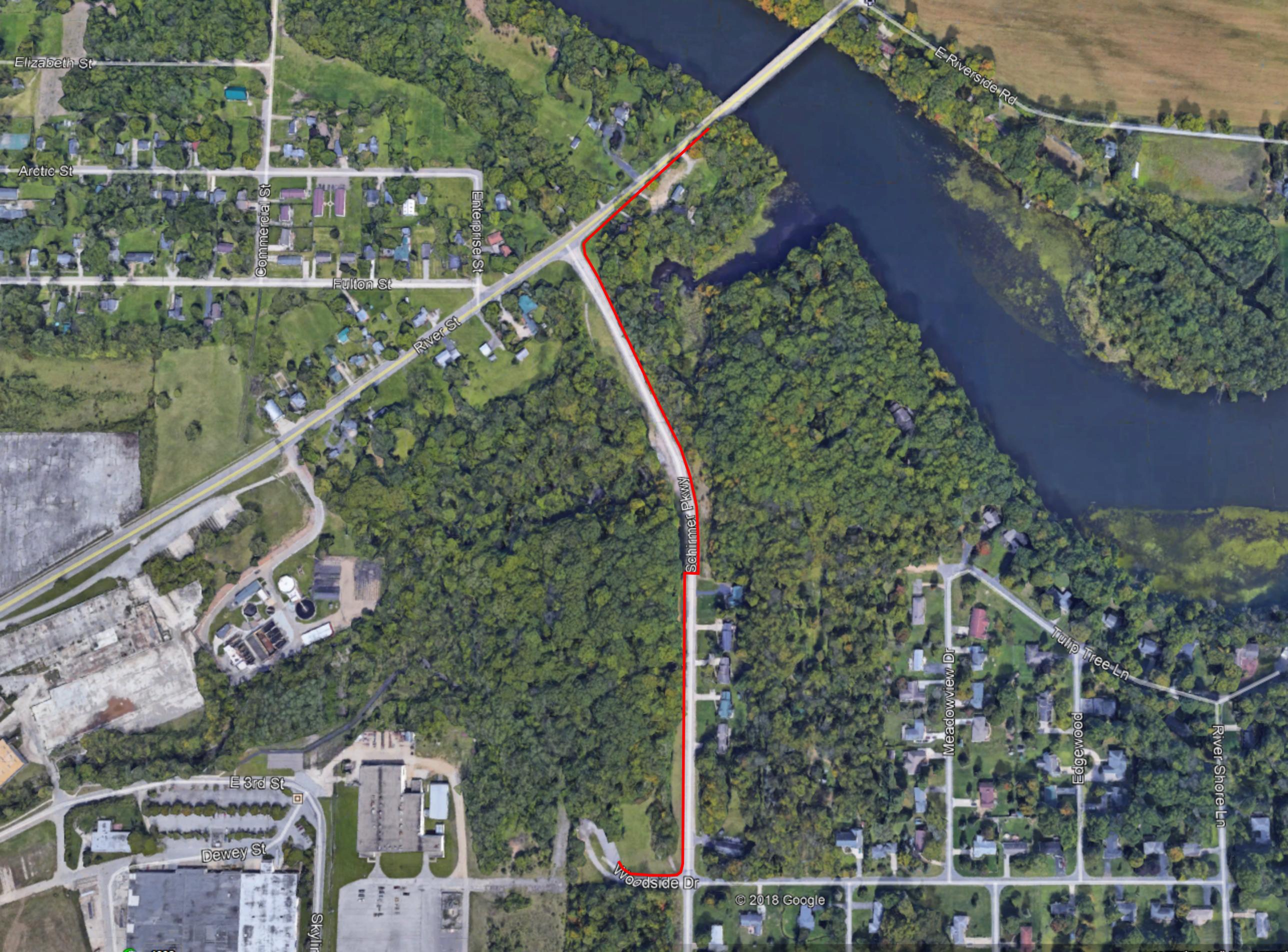
**Partners.** The City of Buchanan's McCoy's Creek Trail Committee would partner with Mack Green of Wightman & Associates and Kris Martin of the Southwest Michigan Planning Commission. The Trail Committee will contribute funds, fundraise for the extension, and maintain it. Wightman & Associates, as it has already done, would generously contribute its services to design and oversee the construction of the extension. The Southwest Michigan Planning Commission will continue to provide strategic advice to help assure the trail is designed well and integrates with larger trails and the McCoy's Creek Trail.

**Budget.** The McCoy's Creek Trail Committee is requesting \$10,000.00. We have attached a draft estimate (*see attached*) of the proposed cost of the project, which depends on this project occurring when the City of Buchanan repaves Schirmer Parkway by the state grant in Spring 2020. The remainder of the funds, among other sources, would come from a combination of McCoy's Creek Trail Committee's existing funds, additional grass-roots fundraising efforts, and secured business contributions.

We believe this grant and the extension it would allow would be a fantastic contribution to the Buchanan area community and lay the groundwork for a walking and biking trail that connects well beyond Buchanan.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

*The McCoy's Creek Trail Committee*



Elizabeth St

Arctic St

Commercial St

Fulton St

Enterprise St

River St

E Riverside Rd

Schirmer Pkwy

Woodside Dr

Meadowview Dr

Tulip Tree Ln

Edgewood

River Shore Ln

E 3rd St

Dewey St

Skyline

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# ENGINEER'S ESTIMATE

PROJECT: **Schirmer Parkway Trail Extension**  
CLIENT: **City of Buchanan Trail Board**  
DATE: July 2, 2019

The project would extend the City of Buchanan Trail System from the E.B. Clark Woods to the River Street Bridge over the Saint Joseph River. The 6' wide pavement section would consist of 6" of aggregate base and 3" of HMA 36A. Also included in this estimate are pay items for an ADA compliant crossing of Schirmer Parkway, trenching to create space for a widened sholder, pavement markings, and miscellaneous signage. This estimate assumes construction in conjunction with Schirmer Parkway Improvements.

50 CYD Subgrade Undercutting	@	12.00	600.00
1,800 SYD Aggregate Base 6"	@	7.00	12,600.00
300 TON HMA, 36A	@	65.00	19,500.00
50 LFT Pavt Mrkg, Ovly Cold Plastic, 6", Crosswalk	@	3.00	150.00
75 Sft Sidewalk Ramp, Conc, 6 inch	@	10.00	750.00
10 Ft Detectable Warning Surface	@	40.00	400.00
27 Sta. Trenching, Modified	@	730.00	19,710.00
1 L.S. Misc. Signage	@	800.00	800.00
2,000 SYD Restoration	@	2.00	4,000.00
<b>SUBTOTAL ESTIMATED CONSTRUCTION COST</b>			<b>\$ 58,510.00</b>
<i>Construction Contingency</i>			10% 7,000.00
<b>TOTAL ESTIMATED PROJECT COST</b>			<b>\$ 65,000.00</b>