

The logo features a stylized black 'S' shape on the left, resembling a winding path or a stream. To its right, the word 'Sterling' is written in a large, black, sans-serif font. Below 'Sterling', the words 'Relief Drain' are written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a solid green rectangular background with a thin black border.

Sterling Relief Drain





Sterling Relief Drain



CONCEPT

This project will develop an urban trail along the restored natural habitat corridor of the Sterling Relief Drain. Traversing the City of Sterling Heights, the paved shared use trail will be anchored at either end by James C. Nelson and Freedom Hill parks, provide distinctive pocket parks at all access points, and fill priority gap in the statewide Iron Belle Trail Network.



OVERVIEW



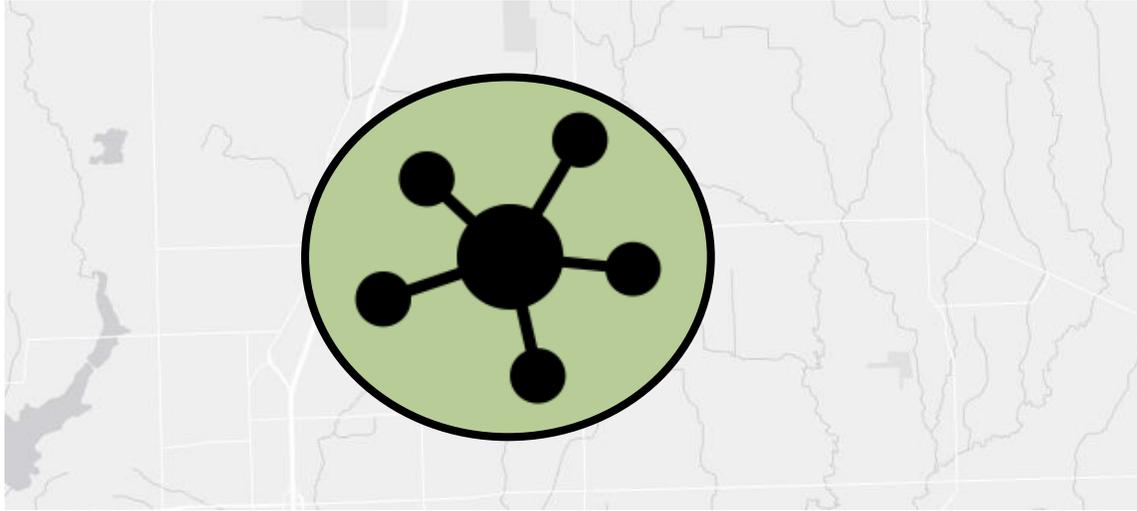
Since construction began in the 1960's, recreational use along the Sterling Relief Drain corridor has been a community aspiration, especially as the City continued to develop. Renewed interest in recreational and green infrastructure opportunities along the Sterling Relief Drain was recently spurred by the Macomb County Public Works Office's decision to promote economic prosperity and quality of life through new and innovative solutions along county drains.

The Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development is supporting the Sterling Relief Drain Trail project's design and implementation through the non-motorized and environmental planning efforts of the Mobilize Macomb, Green Macomb, and GIS programs. This project achieves many objectives in the City of Sterling Heights current Master Plan, including creation of new open space corridors and amenities along waterways, new bike paths and trails, and better transportation options.

Ecological restoration along the drain will create a natural habitat corridor to further enhance the environmental, quality of life, and economic benefits from the non-motorized trail. Restoration will include riparian reforestation along the top of banks, bio-retention swales to capture local peripheral drainage, and a variety of native prairie pollinator plantings across the channel profile.

The Sterling Relief Drain trail design principles and best practices are established through the four guiding objectives of connectivity, community, accessibility, and sustainability.



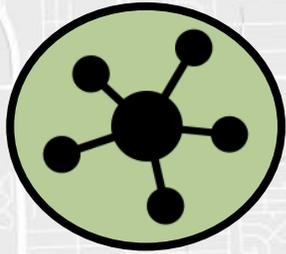


FOUR MAIN

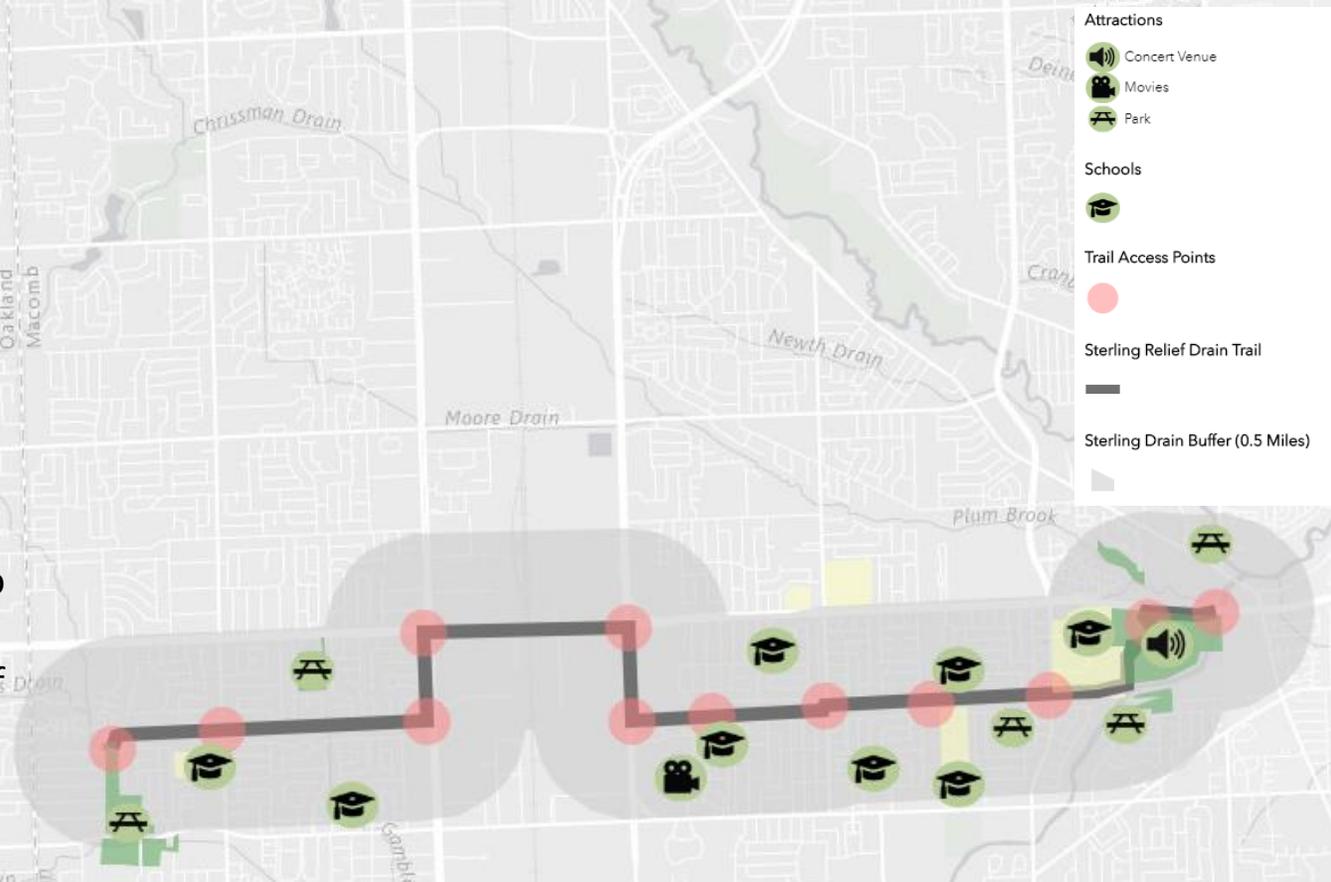
OBJECTIVES



1. CONNECTIVITY



Expand and enhance connections to parks, schools, neighborhoods, attractions, businesses, community services and other destinations through frequent access points and linkages to the existing pedestrian transportation network. Ensure regional connections to countywide non-motorized trail routes and City of Troy's proposed trail network. Additionally, this route would fill a gap in the Iron Belle Trail network by connecting the City of Warren to the City of Sterling Heights and Shelby Township.



7

Attractions / Parks

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

12

Access Points

**Potential along the Drain Trail*

11

Schools

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

123 (Miles)

Trail Network

**Macomb County*

2. COMMUNITY



Strengthen community identity, provide recreational opportunities and infrastructure, encourage healthy lifestyles and wellness, and promote economic development by re-imagining the single purpose county drain corridor as a trans-formative community asset.

25,452

Population

**Within 2014–2016 & 0.5 miles of the Drain*

\$60,444

Avg. Household Income

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

13,526

Employees

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

798

Businesses

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

- Local Shops
- Trail Access Points
- Sterling Relief Drain Trail
- Sterling Drain Buffer (0.5 Miles)

3. ACCESSIBILITY



Ensure safe and equitable access for people of all abilities, income, and age. Develop a shared use path using universal design standards to meet multiple mobility needs for pedestrians, bicyclists and other non-motorized users.

- SMART Stops
- SMART Routes
- Trail Access Points
- Sterling Relief Drain Trail
- Sterling Drain Buffer (0.5 Miles)

55
Bus Stops
**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

5.5%
Without Vehicle
**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

3,552
K-12 Population
**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

11.2%
Below Poverty Level
**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*

4. SUSTAINABILITY



Capitalize on storm-water infrastructure and recreational opportunities to enhance community, the economy, and environmental vitality. Improve water quality and storage, as well as support native pollinators and ecosystems through restoration of a natural habitat corridor. Provide an alternative transportation network option with linkages to local and regional non-motorized trail networks.

140_(AC)

Habitat Restoration

**Width length of potential trail along Drain*

19%

Tree Canopy

**Tree canopy cover for Sterling Heights*

6.5_(Miles)

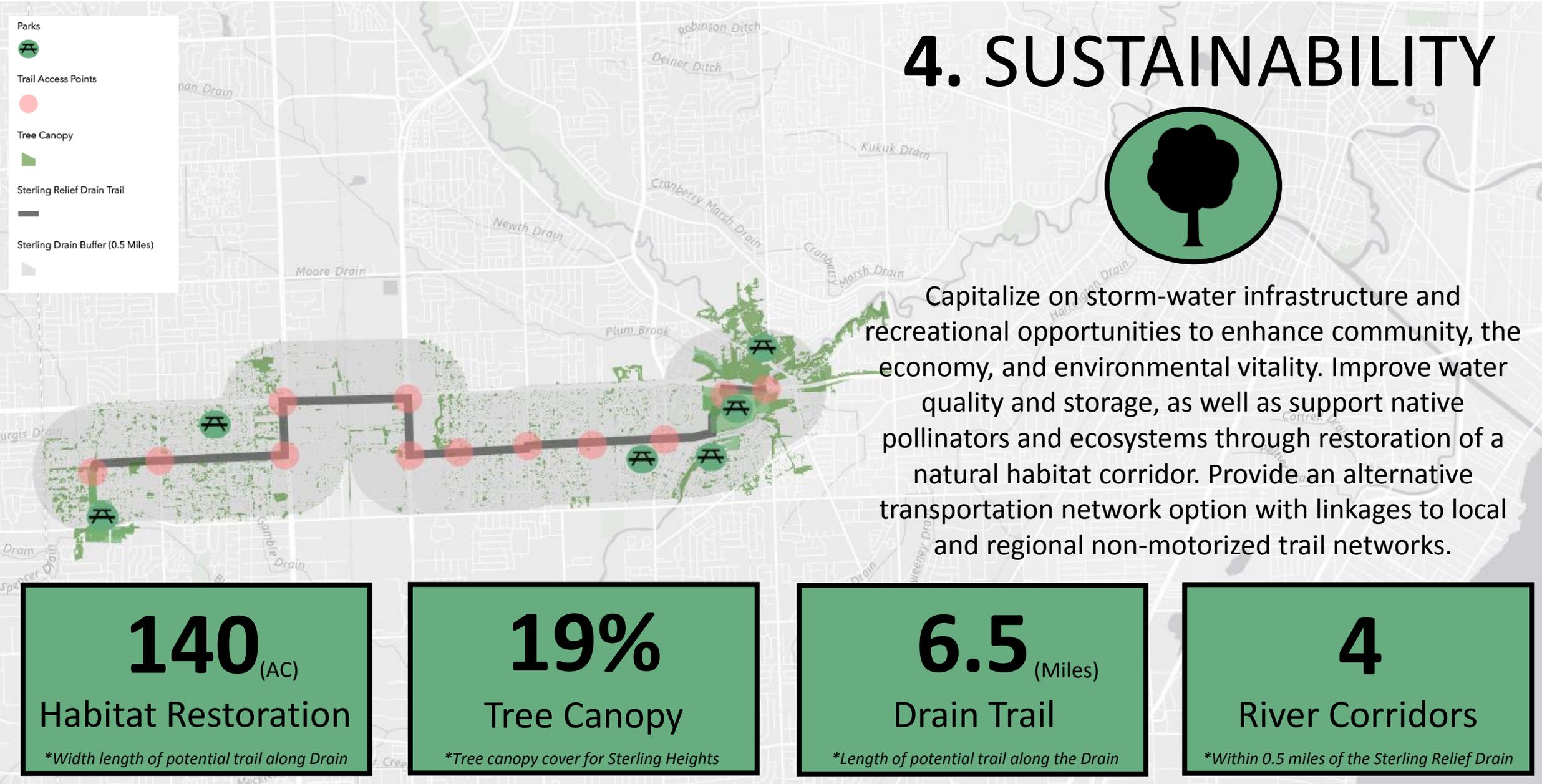
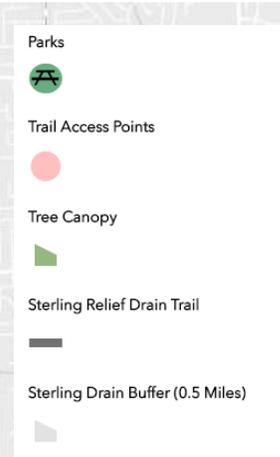
Drain Trail

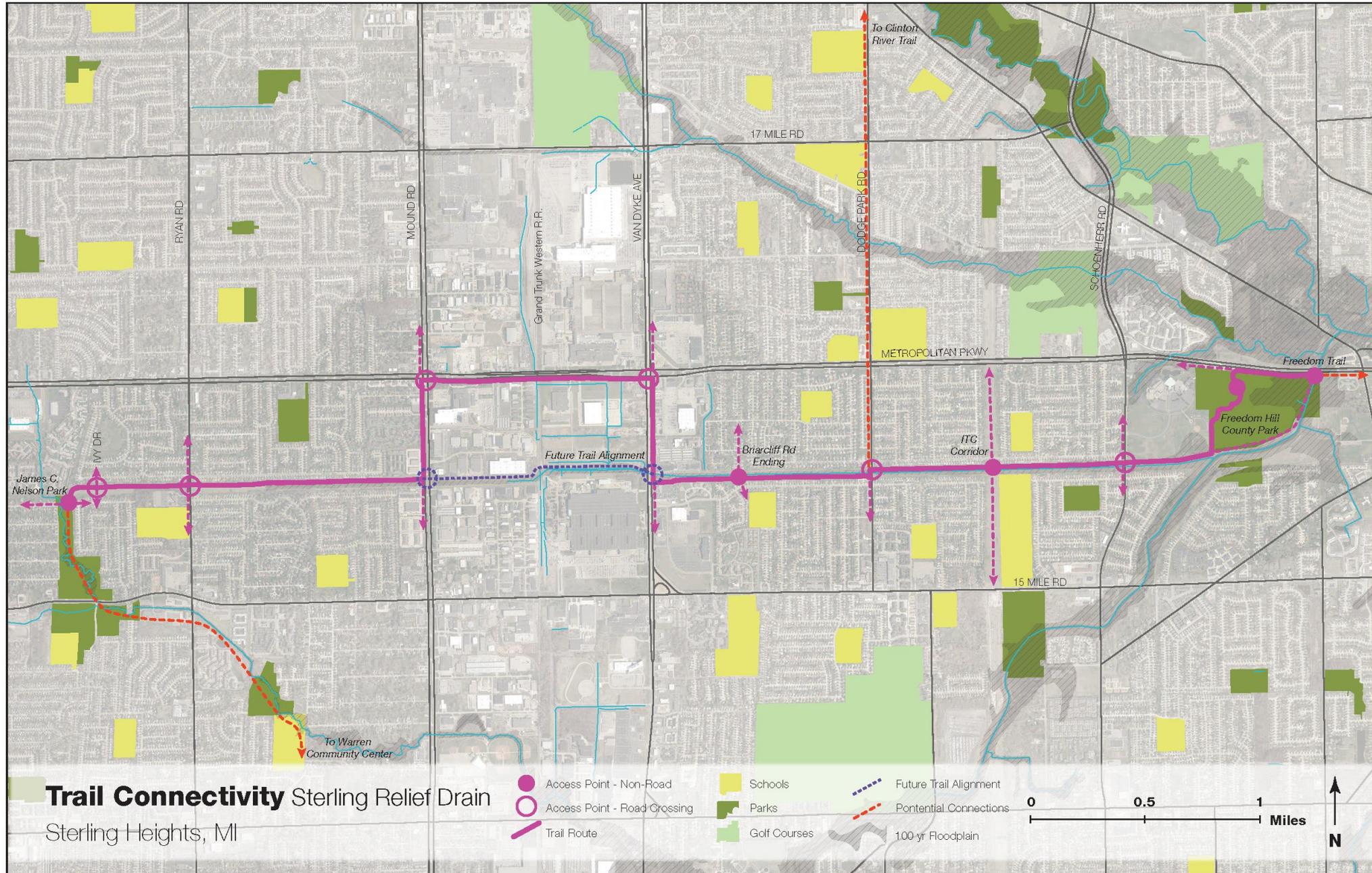
**Length of potential trail along the Drain*

4

River Corridors

**Within 0.5 miles of the Sterling Relief Drain*



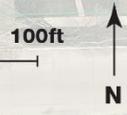


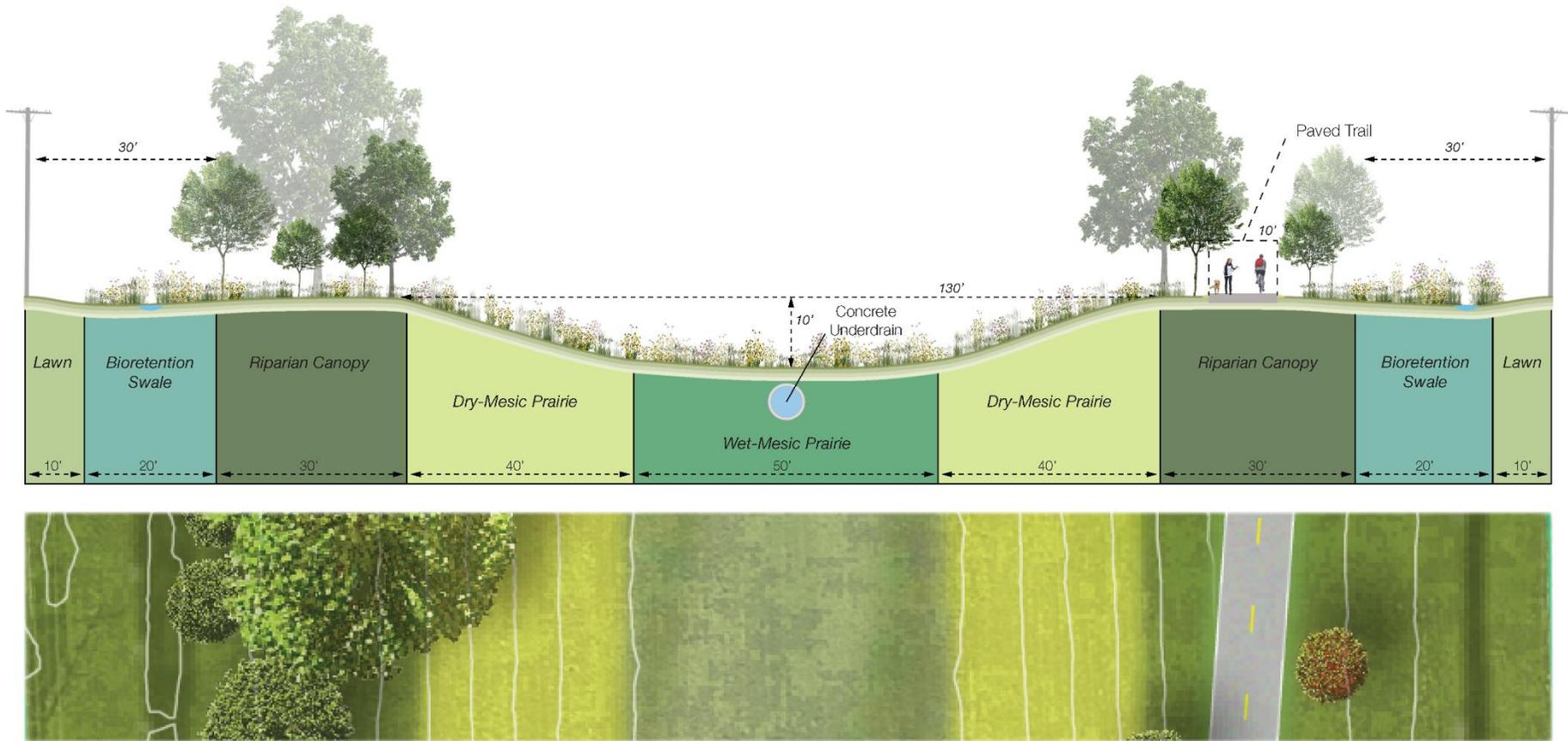


Trail Configuration on the Sterling Relief Drain

Dodge Park Road Crossing - Sterling Heights

Conceptual Site Plan





Trail Configuration on the Sterling Relief Drain
 Dodge Park Road Crossing - Sterling Heights

Conceptual Drain Section

N →
 Drawing not to scale



Trailhead Park Freedom Trail + Sterling Relief Drain Trail
Freedom Hill County Park - Sterling Heights

Conceptual Site Plan

50ft 100ft



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit the Sterling Relief Drain interactive tool!

[GIS.MACOMBGOV.ORG/GO/STERLING_RELIEF](https://gis.macombgov.org/go/sterling_relief)



Questions, comments, or concerns?

Email: PLANNING@MACOMBGOV.ORG