



**Press Release – Fred Thwaites River Trail Improvement Project
Construction & Temporary Trail Closure**

Ionia - The City of Ionia was awarded a grant in the amount of \$300,000 from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund to undertake significant improvements to the Fred Thwaites River Trail. Total project construction cost is \$532,316. The Fred Thwaites River Trail is named after former City of Ionia Mayor Fred Thwaites, and runs along the Grand River from the Ionia Free Fair at its west end, to Quarry Road at its east end. It is just over three miles in length.

Major project improvement components will include:

- Repaving the entire length of the pathway
- Adding benches, bike racks and picnic tables
- Improving and adding signage
- Paving the trailhead parking lot at Cleveland Street

Construction on the Fred Thwaites River Trail project will begin June 2, 2023 and is expected to extend through July 24. During this time, the trail will be closed and public access/usage is prohibited.

Barricades will be placed at all connectors and access points to the trail. This includes the west trail head at the Ionia Fairgrounds, access points at Steele Street, Mill Street, Harper Park, and Cleveland Street (including the parking lot), as well as Quarry Road.
