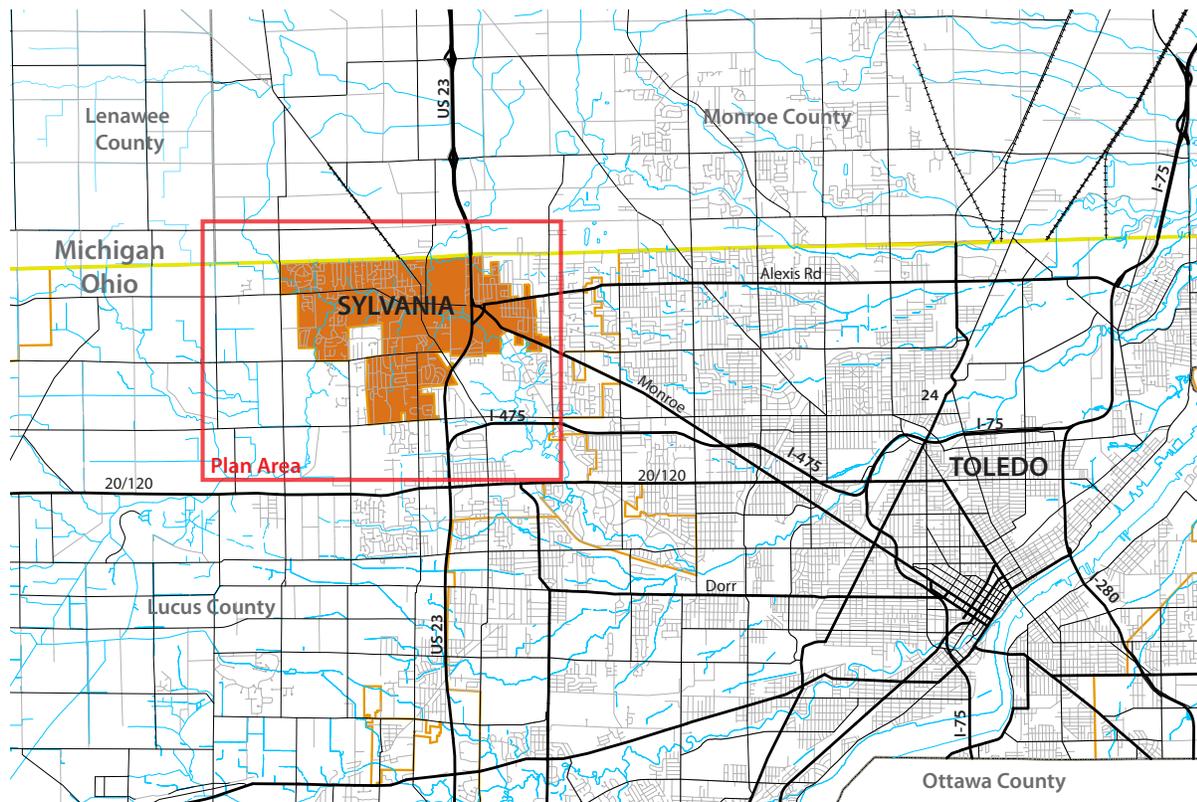


2009

BIKE NETWORK PLAN







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## Acknowledgements

Sylvania River Trail Steering Committee

Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments  
(TMACOG)

Sylvania City Council





# Introduction

## Goals

The City of Sylvania, Ohio, recognizes the value and opportunities for enhancing the city-wide bicycle network and improving connections to the regional bike system. This plan summarizes existing and proposed bicycle facilities in the Sylvania area and their connections to surrounding recreation, attractions, municipalities, and the larger Toledo/Southeast Michigan area bicycle network. Expanding the Sylvania bike network will:

- **Enhance the recreation system.** New bicycle routes will increase opportunities for recreational bicycling and better connect Sylvania to regional recreation destinations, such as the metroparks, river trails, and cultural amenities. In addition, a comprehensive bicycle network will connect residents and neighborhoods to downtown Sylvania, parks, and other city amenities. The Sylvania bicycle network will serve different ages and levels of skill. Some routes will be more suitable for experienced riders, while other routes will better serve less experienced or younger riders.
- **Attract economic investment.** The bicycle network will help attract people to Sylvania, encourage downtown visits, and attract investment. Bicycle facility improvements yield an increase in property value and encourage new residents to move to the city.
- **Build public and agency support.** The Sylvania Bike Network Plan provides a common ground for building community support and working with government agencies to implement bicycle facility improvements.
- **Improve the environment.** Enhancing non-motorized connections can reduce automobile commutes, providing an alternative to driving a car. In addition, facility construction can present opportunities for improving environmental conditions along the route, such as stream banks, native plant restoration, or invasive species management.



Norfolk Southern Rail Bridge - Photo Source: JJR

## Trail Types

The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) *Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding* lists a number of different types of bicycle facilities from paths and trails to lanes and signed bike routes. The same trail types listed in the TMACOG guide are used by this plan.

### Bike Path or Trail

Bike paths or trails separate from the roadway are typically designed for two-way travel and are usually 10 or 12 feet wide, paved or unpaved. All paths in the TMACOG region are multi-purpose trails for non-motorized uses (bicycling, running, walking, roller blading, etc.). The rural trails usually permit horseback riding. These trails can be used for commuting or recreation, and are appropriate for skilled as well as young or novice bicyclers.

### Bike Lanes

Bike lanes are one-way specially marked lanes, *usually 5 feet wide*, adjoining each side of the road. Due to their location within the roadway and proximity to moving vehicles, bike lanes are more often utilized by experienced bicyclers rather than novice or young riders who may be less confident of their abilities.



## Network Streets

Network streets are those that do not have a dedicated bike lane but are suitable for bicycle use. These routes are typically used by experienced bicyclers that are comfortable sharing lanes with vehicle traffic. Network streets are typically larger arterial streets that connect across the region. Please note bicycles are permitted on any public roadway that is not a limited access divided highway.

## Signed Bike Routes

A signed bike route is a numbered or named route that bicyclists can follow. They often connect to major destinations. A route may include a combination of network streets, bike lanes, and paths.

# Existing Bicycling Facilities

Consult the Sylvania Bike Network Plan on page 7 for the number keys to locate the following facilities:

## Sylvania Bike Network

The City of Sylvania and the Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District have developed the following bikeways to link neighborhoods with parks and other community facilities. (Source: *TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*)



*Centennial Quarry* - Photo Source: Sylvania Recreation

### 1.1 Pacesetter Park Bike Path

This path is a 0.75-mile, 12-foot-wide paved bike path from Centennial Quarry to Pacesetter Park. Parking is available at both locations.

#### Route Destinations

*Centennial Quarry and Terrace* is a deep-water, spring-fed swimming facility with diving platforms, water toys, several swim rafts, a sandy beach, three sand volleyball courts, and a basketball court. It has become a great place for teens and young adults to spend sultry summer days. Season passes as well as daily admissions are available. Centennial Quarry has become a great place for folks of all ages to enjoy themselves every summer. (Source: *Sylvania Recreation*)



*Pacesetter Park* - Photo Source: Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce

*Pacesetter Park* is a 69-acre sports turf facility located just west of downtown Sylvania. Since its inception, Pacesetter Park has evolved into one of the top sports turf facilities in the United States, and includes eight fenced/lighted ball diamonds and three game only areas that are utilized for twenty-nine soccer fields, three lacrosse fields, and two flag football fields. Pacesetter Park now offers one of the nicest playgrounds in Northwest Ohio. The playground is ADA accessible and features two play areas for different aged children. The playground is open for use, unless the weather is under 60 degrees. (Source: *Sylvania Recreation*)

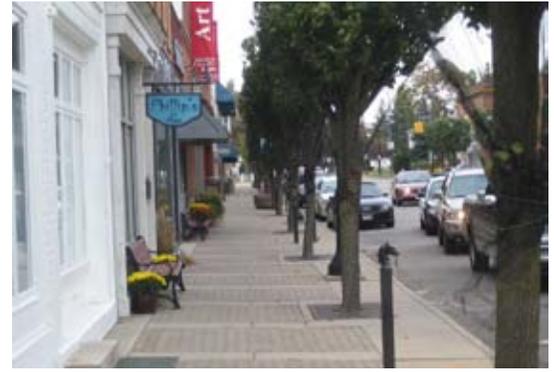


## 1.2 Monroe Street/Erie Street Bike Lanes

These bike lanes are 2.1-mile, paved bike lanes, from Monroe Street at Silica Drive to Erie Street at Centennial Road. (Source: *TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*)

### Route Destinations

*Downtown Sylvania*



*Downtown Sylvania - Photo Source: JJR*

## The Olander Park System

The Olander Park System (TOPS) in Sylvania operates a series of parks and trails, including Olander Park, Whetstone Park, Sylvan Prairie Park, the Quarry Ridge Bike Trail, and Fossil Park.

### 2.1 Olander Park Bike Trail

This trail is a 1.1-mile, paved bicycle and walking path around Olander Park. (Source: *TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*)

### Route Destinations

*Olander Park* is a 60-acre recreational facility in Sylvania and Sylvania Township. Its spring-fed 28-acre lake is a popular destination for fishing, boating, and swimming. Additional features include four playgrounds, two sand volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, restroom facilities, concession machines, boat rentals, and a bait shop. (Source: *Olander Park System*)



*Olander Park - Photo Source: Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce*

### 2.2 Quarry Ridge Bike Trail

This is a 5-mile bike trail connecting Sylvan Prairie Park to Fossil Park, Centennial Quarry and Terrace and Pacesetter Park. The entrance is at 8601 Brint Road.

### Route Destinations

*Fossil Park*, 5705 Centennial Road, Sylvania, Ohio: Visitors come from around the world to hunt for fossils in a real rock quarry. There are more than 200 prehistoric species, including 375-million-year-old Devonian fossils. Three dig sites include an ADA-friendly site and a handicap-accessible ramp to the quarry bottom with concrete walkways. (Source: *Olander Park System*)

*Sylvan Prairie Park*: TOPS is rehabilitating Sylvan Prairie into meadow, forest, and wetlands. TOPS plans to implement an open space habitat restoration project on this site that will focus on protecting riparian, wetland, and prairie habitats; preserving and restoring wetlands, specifically wet meadow; and preserving and restoring functioning floodplains by restoring native vegetation to the floodplains and restoring natural stream function. (Source: *Olander Park System*)

## University/Parks Trail and Connectors

### 3.1 University/Parks Trail

This trail is 6.3 miles and the first rails-to-trails conversion in Lucas County—a 12-foot-wide paved path from the University of Toledo (UT) to King Road in Sylvania. Parking is at the UT lot at Secor Road and Dorr Street, the Ottawa Hills Municipal Building (2125 Richards Road at Bancroft Street), Wildwood Preserve Metropark, and at the McCord Road crossing in Sylvania. Access is also available by street from Westfield Shoppingtown at Franklin Park, Tam-O-Shanter, and Ottawa Park. (Source: *TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*)



*University/Parks Trail - Photo Source: OhioBikeways.net*



## Route Destinations

*Wildwood Preserve Metropark:* The prairie community at Wildwood Preserve is home to many diverse and fascinating plants and animals, providing them with critical habitat throughout the year. In spring, it is an essential breeding site for ground-nesting birds such as rufous-sided towhees, field sparrows, and American woodcock. Summer brings a spectacular display of prairie wildflowers and grasses, some reaching 10 feet high. Wildwood is the former family estate of Robert A. Stranahan, Sr., co-founder of the Champion Spark Plug Company. (Source: *Toledo Metroparks*)

*University of Toledo:* The University/Parks Trail ends southeast of Sylvania at the UT campus.

### **3.2 King Road/Sylvania Avenue Bike loop**

Starting from the University/Parks Trail at King Road, this bike loop route heads north for 0.5 mile and turns east on Sylvania Avenue. Sylvania Avenue is a 4-mile stretch with bike lanes from King Road to Holland-Sylvania Road, and an 8-foot bike path from Holland Sylvania Road to Talmadge Road. From here, the loop follows Talmadge Road south to Springbrook Drive, then west to Corey Road and into Wildwood Preserve Metropark. The park trails re-connect with the University/Parks Trail. (Source: *TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding*)

## Route Destinations

*University/Parks Trail, Wildwood Preserve Metropark*

### **Signed Bike Route 5 - Regional Bike Network**

As part of the regional 25-year transportation plan (the TMACOG 2035 Bicycle Network Plan), roads that provide good travel routes for bicyclists in the Toledo metropolitan area have been identified and placed on the plan. (The plan includes all of Lucas and Wood Counties and southern Monroe County in Michigan.) As the network roads are repaired or modified, bike- and pedestrian-friendly improvements can be considered for inclusion in those projects. To help bicyclists reach their destinations, a project is underway to sign and map the major regional routes. Signed Bike Route 5 is shown on the plan on page 7 of this report. Signs are white rectangles with a green oval. The green oval has a bike symbol and the route number on it.

## **Proposed Bicycling Facilities**

The Sylvania Bike Network Plan describes a number of proposed bicycle facility improvements for the Sylvania area. From new trails and bridges to improvements to existing facilities, these additions will complete critical connections within the city and to the regional network. These connections will help to ensure that bikes remain an integral component of our transportation system.

### **Monroe Street Corridor**



*Monroe Street at Ten Mile Creek North Branch - Photo Source: JJR*

#### **P-1 Monroe Street Bicycle Facility**

The Monroe Street Bicycle Facility will be 0.9 mile, from Downtown Sylvania, over US-23, to the Monroe Street/Erie Street split, then will continue 1.1 miles further to the southeast to the Sylvania city limits, where it will connect to the regional network. To the west, the Monroe Street Bicycle Facility will connect to the existing bike lane starting at Monroe Street and Silica Drive, as well as the Sylvania River Trail. The specific type of facility along Monroe Street is yet to be determined. Implementation constraints exist along the proposed route, including higher traffic volumes (over 35,000 average daily trips), limited road right-of-way, and limited pavement area.



## Route Destinations

*Downtown Sylvania* is a thriving destination and important to the vibrancy of Sylvania. Retail shops, restaurants, services, and entertainment venues provide a range of attractions for residents and visitors.

### **P-2 Erie Street Bicycle Facility**

This connector will be 0.85 mile, from the Monroe Street/Erie Street split to the Sylvania city limits. This route will connect to the Monroe Street Bicycle Facility (P-1) and will help improve access to downtown Sylvania from the northeast parts of the city. Similar to the Monroe Street Bicycle Facility, implementation challenges exist and a specific facility type remains to be determined.

## Route Destinations

*Downtown*

## Sylvania River Trail

### **P-3 Main Branch**

The Main Branch will be 1.43 miles of wide, multi-use bike trail along Ten Mile Creek in the heart of Sylvania. This segment will extend from Monroe Street/Silica Drive east to Monroe Street and US-23 following along Ten Mile Creek. Two bridges are proposed along the trail, one over Ten Mile Creek into Harroun Community Park, and a second across the creek near Flower Hospital and US-23. The two ends of the trail will contain trailhead amenities, such as restrooms, bicycle racks, and drinking fountains.



*Ten Mile Creek - Photo Source: JJR*

### **P-4 North-Side Extension**

One-quarter mile of additional bike trail will connect along the north side of Ten Mile Creek from the bridge into Harroun Community Park, east over the North Branch of Ten Mile Creek, and end at Harroun Road. An additional extension of the network will run north to Monroe Street and south to the main section of the Sylvania River Trail near Flower Hospital.

### **P-5 North Branch**

The North Branch will be a 0.2-mile extension from the Main Branch of the Sylvania River Trail from the Harroun Community Park bridge north to Monroe Street. The trail will cross Monroe Street and follow the Ten Mile Creek North Branch up to a municipal parking lot where there will be bicycle racks and convenient access into downtown. This end point will also connect with Signed Bike Route 5.

## Route Destinations

*Sylvania High School, Harroun Community Park, Flower Hospital, Downtown, Sylvania Country Club, and Signed Bike Route 5.*

### **P-6 Flower Hospital Loop**

A combination of bike paths and other facilities will split away from the main branch of the Sylvania River Trail and loop through the Flower Hospital property. A trail through the woods along the eastern edge connects to a second bike path running along Harroun Road. New facilities will be developed to extend the network streets from Brint Road and Main Street to Harroun Road and the Flower Hospital Loop.



Norfolk Southern Rail - Photo Source: JJR

### **P-7 South Rail Connector**

The South Rail Connector is 1.5 miles within Sylvania and an additional 1.3 miles outside of Sylvania of paved bike path within or along the existing Norfolk Southern railroad corridor, connecting downtown Sylvania south to the University/Parks Trail. The proposed route is a significant link that will connect the north and south parts of the city as well as the downtown, and will greatly enhance access to the University/Parks Trail, metroparks, and the regional network.

Implementation of this route is challenged by the ongoing operations of the railway. Establishing this bicycle facility should consider two options; a rails *to* trails option and a rails *with* trails option. The rails to trails option would stop rail service along the existing railway and

replace the tracks with the bike facility. The rails with trails option would construct the bike facility parallel to the tracks within the railroad right-of-way.

### Route Destinations

*Downtown, UT*

### **P-8 North Rail Connector**

The North Rail Connector is 0.6 mile of paved bike path along the existing railroad corridor, extending from downtown Sylvania north into Michigan.

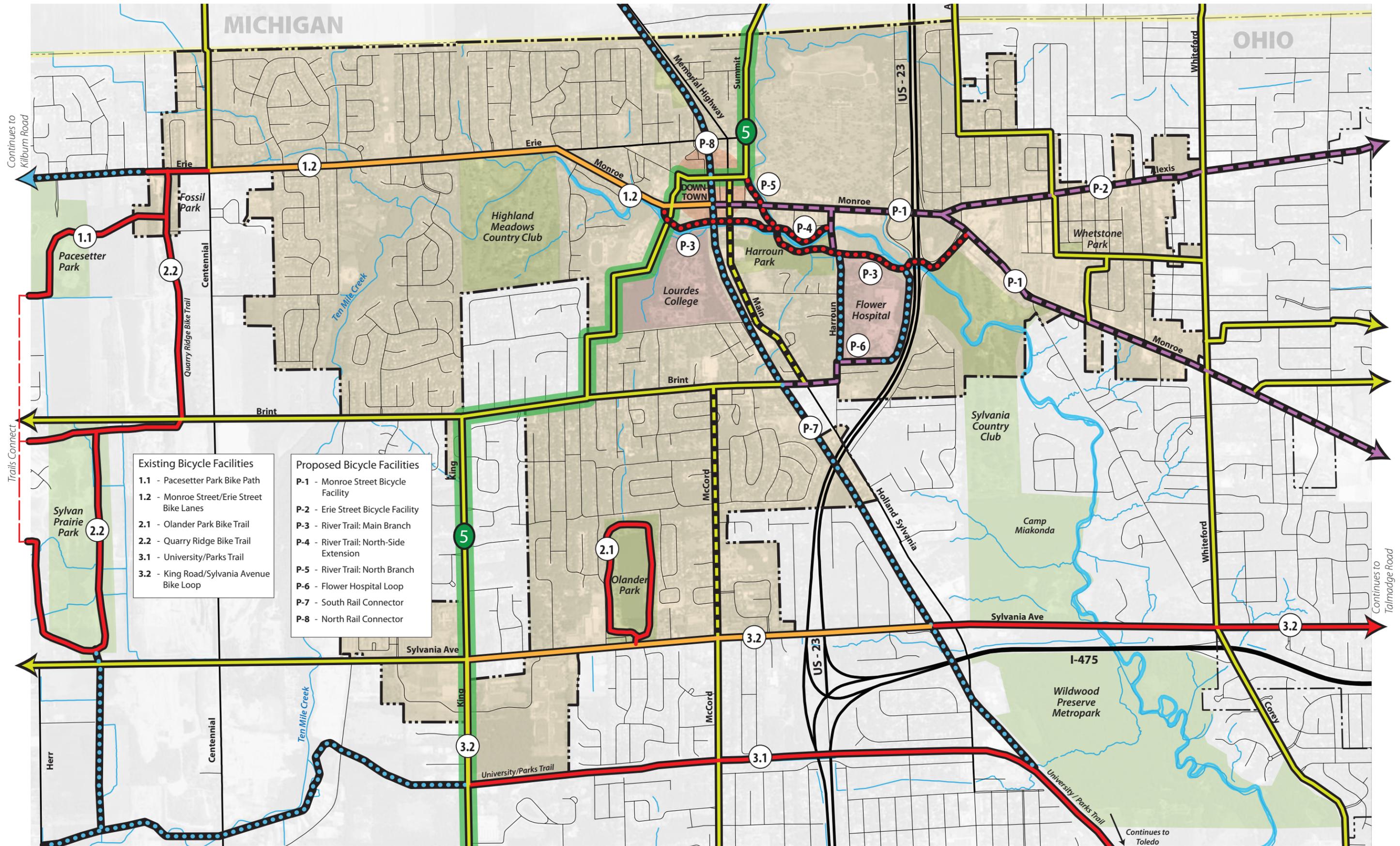
## Implementation

Implementing the proposed bicycle facilities requires a long-term commitment and careful sequencing to best connect the Sylvania bike network to existing and regional facilities. The Sylvania River Trail along Ten Mile Creek is the current priority for implementation. It is anticipated that phase 1 of the Sylvania River Trail will be constructed within the next 1 to 2 years. Other priority connections, as funding becomes available, include the South Rail Connector (P-7), which is vital in connecting Downtown Sylvania to the important University/Parks Trail, and the Flower Hospital Loop (P-6).

The design and planning of the proposed Sylvania bicycle facilities aim to create a consistent experience across the proposed Sylvania bike network. The network will be easy to navigate and will serve different skill levels and ages. In addition, the design and construction of all bicycle facilities should follow the guidelines and recommendations in the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) *Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities* and address ADA standards for accessibility.

Implementation will require funding from a number of sources, including Sylvania city funds, state and federal funding, and private or foundation funding. Potential federal funding sources include the Federal Transportation Enhancement Funds (TEA), and state funding includes the Recreational Trails Program; the Clean Ohio Fund; Nature Works; and Land and Water Conservation Funds.



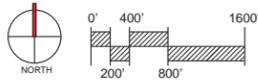


- Existing Bicycle Facilities**
- 1.1 - Pacesetter Park Bike Path
  - 1.2 - Monroe Street/Erie Street Bike Lanes
  - 2.1 - Olander Park Bike Trail
  - 2.2 - Quarry Ridge Bike Trail
  - 3.1 - University/Parks Trail
  - 3.2 - King Road/Sylvania Avenue Bike Loop

- Proposed Bicycle Facilities**
- P-1 - Monroe Street Bicycle Facility
  - P-2 - Erie Street Bicycle Facility
  - P-3 - River Trail: Main Branch
  - P-4 - River Trail: North-Side Extension
  - P-5 - River Trail: North Branch
  - P-6 - Flower Hospital Loop
  - P-7 - South Rail Connector
  - P-8 - North Rail Connector

# BIKE NETWORK PLAN

Sylvania, Ohio



- Signed Bike Route
- Existing Bike Path
- Existing Bike Lane
- Proposed Bike Path
- Proposed Facility Type TBD
- Proposed River Trail
- Network Street
- Network Street (needs improvement)



# References

Facility descriptions were compiled from a number of existing resources, including:

**Sylvania Recreation:** [www.sylvaniarecreation.org](http://www.sylvaniarecreation.org)

Contact: Sylvania Area Joint Recreation District, 419.882.1500, E-mail: [sajrd.adm@sylvania.sev.org](mailto:sajrd.adm@sylvania.sev.org)

**Sylvania Area Chamber of Commerce:** [www.sylvaniachamber.org](http://www.sylvaniachamber.org)

**Toledo Metroparks:** <http://www.metroparkstoledo.com/metroparks/>

Contact: Metroparks of the Toledo Area, 419.407.9700

**The Olander Park System:** [www.olanderpk.com](http://www.olanderpk.com)

Contact: E-mail: 419.882.8313 [olanderpk@sev.org](mailto:olanderpk@sev.org)

**The TMACOG Bicycle Facilities Guide for Recreational Riding in Northwest Ohio and Southeast Michigan 2008-2009:**

[www.tmacog.org/Transportation/bike\\_guide\\_08\\_09.pdf](http://www.tmacog.org/Transportation/bike_guide_08_09.pdf)



JJR

