

# PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE IN MI RIVER VALLEY TRAIL EXTENSION



Prepared By:



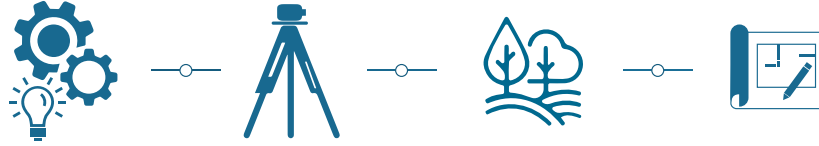
June 15, 2020

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# FIRM INFORMATION AND PROJECT TEAM

Spicer Group has been providing engineering, surveying, landscape architectural, architectural, and planning services to clients throughout Michigan for 76 years. Founded in 1944, Spicer Group has grown from a one-man firm to a corporation of more than 200 employees.

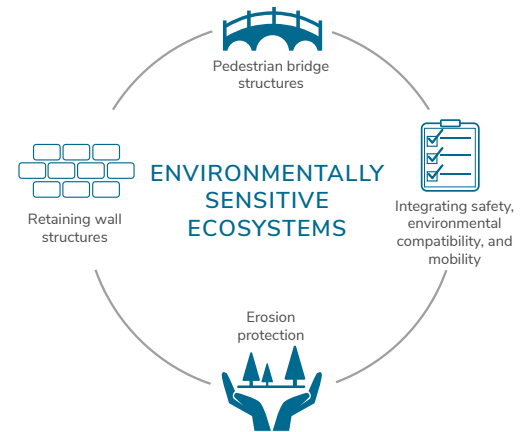


Our headquarters is located in Saginaw and we have offices in Dundee, Lansing, St. Johns, Manistee, Grand Rapids, and Atlanta, Georgia. Our qualified staff provides assistance to municipal, county, state, federal, private, industrial, commercial and institutional clients. We have also assisted in the grant writing and administration, planned, designed, and provided construction inspection and administration for dozens of non-motorized pathways across the state. Spicer Group, Inc. is incorporated and licensed to operate in the State of Michigan.

## NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAY DESIGN EXPERIENCE

For more than two decades, Spicer Group has provided professional services for pathway projects that have connected communities, regions, and states, enhanced health and economic benefits, and brought enjoyment to users of all ages and abilities. We have assisted a wide range of clients in building trails that are functional, maintainable, safe, and sustainable. These pathway projects have been as small as simple loops traversing through small parks, to as large as multi-county and multi-state routes that require extensive planning and coordination.

These trails have included the clearing of an entirely new route and others simply transitioned from an old railroad grade or along an existing road right of way. Many of these routes pass through environmentally sensitive ecosystems and we have incorporated design elements such as pedestrian bridge structures, retaining wall structures, and erosion protection to overcome obstacles while still integrating safety, environmental compatibility, and mobility.



Spicer Group has a team of experienced professionals with training and knowledge in pathway planning and development. Our staff members can make ideas into reality throughout the design and construction of a project. This experience includes feasibility studies, survey, easement and right-of-way acquisition, trail design, stormwater infrastructure design, cost estimates, grant writing, grant administration, permitting, and construction administration.

We have relationships with key players such as Consumers Energy, DTE, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, EGLE, and the US Forest Services, and have worked with them on pathway projects throughout the state in both urban and rural settings. Our engineers know the appropriate ADA, AASHTO, and MDOT design standards, and our team has the skills to coordinate cooperation and communication between residents, businesses, road commissions, funding agencies, and permitting agencies. We are an ally during community meetings and an on-site representative during construction.

Spicer Group manages trail projects from start to finish. Our team enjoys working on all types of trail projects and will go above and beyond to ensure our clients are satisfied with the final product.



## PROJECT TEAM

### **Robert R. Eggers, AICP – Principal in Charge**

Mr. Eggers has served as head of the Planning Department at Spicer Group for over a decade and now leads the company as president. He has overseen dozens of trailway and recreation projects, including those with the Iron Belle Trail. He has received awards from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association for his recreation plan designs as well as three from the American Planning Association for his outstanding planning efforts. In the past decade, Mr. Eggers has helped communities across Michigan acquire more than \$20 million in grant funds. Many of these dollars were for grant-funded projects that focused on improving trail and recreation opportunities. Mr. Eggers also provides valuable input regarding the design of universally-accessible improvement construction.

### **Joe D. Wright – Project Manager**

Mr. Wright received his Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Michigan State University. His experience and education have focused on park planning and design, non-motorized trail design, grant writing and administration, and streetscape design. Mr. Wright's responsibilities include site planning and design, public interaction, technical writing, grant writing, project management, project and site inspections, and permit acquisition.

### **Michael Niederquell, P.E. – Project Engineer**

Mr. Niederquell has more than 19 years of experience and is involved in the preparation of construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates for transportation-related projects, spanning from roadways to non-motorized trails. His trail experience includes studying potential routes, designing the paths, resolving trail conflicts like utilities, road crossings, drains, or railroads, path grading and other related skills. He is also familiar with AASHTO standards, MMUTCD standards, and MDOT procedures as they relate to trails.

### **Jenny Allen – Designer**

Ms. Allen has been the lead drafter/designer on many of Spicer's multi-use pathway projects. She is also one of Spicer's top roadway designers and is very familiar with all MDOT design standards and specifications as well as AASHTO, AWWA, ASTM, and OSHA codes, standards, and procedures. She regularly coordinates and receives necessary permits for projects involving EGLE and MDOT. Her multi-use pathway design experience includes short paved loops around local parks to expansive paved trails extending through multiple communities.

## Robert R. Eggers, AICP

Mr. Eggers is the President and a Senior Planner at Spicer Group. He has 21 years of experience and knowledge in a wide range of planning and design-related areas. He has played a major role in managing the design and construction of improvements for several non-motorized pathways including several projects that involved meeting the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). These projects included parks, rail trails, recreation paths, parks and wildlife viewing facilities. He also oversees all of Spicer Group's recreation grant writing activities.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE

#### **Village of Ashley Safe Routes to School – *Principal in Charge***

##### **Village of Ashley, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design of plans and specifications for 1.6 miles of new concrete sidewalk, sidewalk ramp replacement, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies, railroad, and utilities. This project is being completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

#### **AuSable Township Multi-Use Path – *Principal in Charge***

##### **Iosco County, MI**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 2.75 miles of new HMA pathway, two prefabricated pedestrian bridges and approach boardwalk, permanent signing, and construction cost estimate for this project on the Iron Belle Trail. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, water main relocation, and coordination with local government agencies, railroad, and utilities. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

#### **Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail – *Lead Design Consultant/Study Advisor***

##### **Bay, Saginaw, Midland Counties, MI**

Responsible for leading a multi-agency team in the development of a comprehensive study focusing on the construction of over 40 miles of new path. The new path will connect to nearly 60 miles of existing pathway in an effort to create an expansive interconnecting tri-county multi-use path.

#### **Saginaw Valley Multi-Community Rail Trail – *Senior Project Manager***

##### **James Twp, Thomas Twp, Swan Creek Twp, Village of St. Charles, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design, construction and grant administration of this nearly 10-mile long paved path which included the construction of 3 large bridges and several wildlife viewing decks. The project was awarded the Innovative Recreation Design award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association.

#### **Saginaw Charter Township Multi-Use Path – *Senior Project Manager***

##### **Saginaw Charter Township, MI**

Responsible for managing the design and grant administration (MDOT-TE) for the one-mile-long paved path which included the construction of a new pedestrian bridge and installation of park benches, lighting, informative signs and trees. Also coordinated the securing of easement agreements and assisted with construction administration.

#### **Years of Experience:**

24 Years

#### **Education:**

Bachelor of Science in Community Development, Cum Laude, Central Michigan University, Mt. Pleasant, MI, 1996

Associate in Applied Science in Architectural Technology, Delta College, University Center, MI, 1984

#### **Certification:**

American Institute of Certified Planners Certification, 2001, # 016834

#### **Professional Experience:**

Spicer Group, Inc., Saginaw, MI, since 1997

Wolohan Lumber, Corporate Development Manager, 1983-1996

#### **Professional Affiliations:**

American Institute of Certified Planners, 2001

American Planning Association

Michigan Society of Planning Officials

Leadership Saginaw Graduate 1999

National APA Planning Award Recipient

National NAHRO Award Recipient

Michigan Downtown Association Member

## **Robert R. Eggers, AICP** (continued)

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### **Sunrise Side Multi-Use Path – Senior Project Manager Iosoco & Arenac Counties, MI**

Coordinated the study, design, and funding (MDOT-TE grant) of a new 38.7-mile-long multi-use pathway extending through 2 counties and 8 municipalities along Lake Huron. A 7-mile-long section including a 100-foot prefabricated bridge has already been constructed, and funding is currently being gathered for the construction of the remaining sections.

### **Port Crescent State Park (Access to Recreation) – Principal in Charge Port Crescent, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design and construction administration of universal accessibility improvements at the park. New improvements include a new Bird's of Prey Observation Platform with deck and an Educational and Interpretive Trail. The observation platform included viewing scopes, bird guide holders, shade structure, benches and a picnic node. Both areas included improved accessible parking and access paths to connect with other areas of the day use area in the park.

### **Pinconning Park Waterfront Access Improvements – Principal in Charge Pinconning, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design of several major improvements at the park along the Saginaw Bay and Pinconning River. Tasks included the construction of a new fishing pier, half-mile-long elevated boardwalk through a marsh, a floating fishing pier and scenic overlook. All items were constructed to be ADA-accessible.

### **Plainfield Township Park Improvements – Principal in Charge Hale, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design and construction administration of major improvements to the park including new hiking trails, a new boat launch, universally-accessible fishing platform, pavilion, restroom and parking area. Also included a 7-foot wide, 520-foot-long universally-accessible boardwalk that spans through a marsh.

### **Kochville Township Multi-Use Path – Senior Project Manager Kochville Township, MI**

Responsible for overseeing the design and construction administration for this 4.5-mile pathway that provides access for students at Saginaw Valley State University, visitors and local residents to the Township's parks, recreation facilities and busy shopping districts. Also oversaw the administration of the MDOT-TE grant that made the project possible.

## Joe D. Wright, PLA

Mr. Wright has received a Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree from Michigan State University. His experience and education have focused on park planning and design, non-motorized trail design, grant writing and administration, and streetscape design. Mr. Wright's responsibilities include site planning and design, public interaction, technical writing, grant writing, project management, project and site inspections, and permit acquisition.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE

#### **Tittabawassee Township Path – Project Manager**

Responsible for assisting with the conceptual plan and grant submission to develop 2.69 miles of multi-use pathway as part of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. The majority of the trail is 10-feet-wide. A \$300,000 MDNR Trust fund grant was awarded to the project which is currently in construction.

#### **Oscoda Township Multi-Use Path – Project Engineer Iosco County, MI 2018**

Responsible for engineering study for 9.5 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between Iargo Springs and Old Orchard Campground. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

#### **Swan Valley Schools Safe Routes to School – Project Engineer Thomas Township, MI**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 0.9 miles of new HMA path, concrete sidewalk, sidewalk ramp replacement, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, and coordination with local government agencies, and utilities. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

#### **Moores River Drive River Trail – Project Manager/Landscape Architect City of Lansing, MI**

Responsible for design of a trail, retaining wall, landscape, naturalized bank to deter geese from nesting, two fishing overlooks, and two rain gardens.

#### **River Trail South Extension – Project Manager/Landscape Architect City of Lansing, MI**

Responsible for the design and construction administration of a two mile extension, between the Potter Park Zoo and McGuire Park, including the development of a 4-acre wetland and extensive hydraulic analysis to address the five proposed bridge crossings. The project further extended nearly 16 miles of scenic trails along the Grand River, Red Cedar River and the Sycamore Creek.

#### **Moores Park Extension – Project Manager/Landscape Architect City of Lansing, MI**

Responsible for the design associated with an extension to the Lansing River Trail through Moores Park, including a barrier free fishing pier.

#### Years of Experience:

24 years

#### Education:

Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, 1995

#### Certification:

Registered Landscape Architect, State of Michigan, Since 2005, #01508

Certified Playground Safety Inspector, NRPA, Since 2014

#### Professional Experience:

Spicer Group, Inc., Saginaw, MI, since 2017

City of Lansing, Landscape Architect, 2013-2017

LAS, Inc., Principal, 2010-2013

C2AE, Inc., Project Manager, 2000-2010

## **Joe D. Wright, PLA** (continued)

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### **Spring Street River Trail – Project Manager/Landscape Architect City of Lansing, MI**

Responsible for the design and construction administration associated with extending the Lansing River Trail near River Street and Spring Street, behind the S&S Die Corp. building and the installation of an elevated prefabricated steel and wood boardwalk with a total length of over 340 feet around the north side of one of their buildings.

### **Delhi Township River Trail – Project Manager/Landscape Architect Delhi Charter Township, MI**

Responsible for assisting with the design of the “north trail connector” (Phase I of three phases) under I-96 just north of the Woodland Lakes apartment complex. A portion of the trail crosses, or is within, a wetland area or floodplain.

### **Owosso TSBY Bike Trail – Project Manager/Landscape Architect City of Owosso, MI**

Responsible for managing the team who completed the design for a multiple span, 825 foot, wood framed boardwalk with steel intermediate piers and concrete abutments. AASHTO design criteria were utilized to complete the project design with a Michigan Department of Transportation enhancement grant providing funding for the project.

### **Otsego River Trail – Landscape Architect City of Otsego, MI**

Responsible for assisting with the development of the City’s Master Plan (Phase I). Elements included a half-mile length of paved pathway enhanced with a clear span pre-manufactured bridge, canoe launch, fishing access and picnic plaza. The design development included various accessibility challenges as a result of the amount of grade change. Coordination with the MDNR, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and residents along the Kalamazoo River was critical for the success of the trail. Provided design services in addition to the master plan development, for the river trail, streetscape and bridge replacement. Each element works together to achieve synergy, providing access to the attractive riverfront.

### **Davis Park Trail – Project Manager and Landscape Architect City Lansing, MI**

Responsible for the design and construction administration of a one mile paved walking trail within Davis Park, on the south side of Lansing. Worked closely with the Parks Department and the local Friends of Davis Park group to plan and layout the trail.

### **Frances Park Trail – Project Manager and Landscape Architect City of Lansing, MI**

Responsible for the design and construction administration of a one mile paved walking trail within Frances Park, on the southwest side of Lansing. Worked closely with the Parks Department and the local Friends of Frances Park group to plan and layout the trail, as well as develop a master plan for the park.



## Michael G. Niederquell, P.E.

Mr. Niederquell is involved in the preparation of construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates for state, municipal and county roadways. Design experience includes reconstruction and resurfacing road projects, storm sewer design, utility conflict resolution, maintaining traffic, right-of-way acquisition and guardrail improvements. He also designs freeway and non-freeway signing plans.

### RELATED EXPERIENCE

#### **Arenac County Multi-Use Path – Project Manager/Engineer**

##### **Arenac County, MI 2018**

Responsible for engineering study for 12 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between AuGres and Iosco County. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

#### **AuSable Township Multi-Use Path – Project Engineer**

##### **Iosco County, MI 2018**

Responsible for engineering study for 6.25 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between Baldwin Township and Mill Street. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

#### **Oscoda Township Multi-Use Path – Project Engineer**

##### **Iosco County, MI 2018**

Responsible for engineering study for 9.5 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between Iargo Springs and Old Orchard Campground. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

#### **Plainfield & Oscoda Township Multi-Use Path – Project Engineer**

##### **Iosco County, MI 2018**

Responsible for engineering study for 8 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between Loon Lake Park and Iargo Springs. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

#### **Swan Valley Schools Safe Routes to School – Project Engineer**

##### **Thomas Township, MI 2018**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 0.9 miles of new HMA path, concrete sidewalk, sidewalk ramp replacement, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, and coordination with local government agencies, and utilities. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Street Reconstruction – Project Manager/Engineer**

##### **City of Manistee, MI 2018**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 0.45 mile HMA reconstruction, bicycle lanes, curb and gutter, storm sewer replacement, pavement markings, permanent signing, construction staging, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

### Experience:

20 years

### Registration:

Professional Engineer  
State of Michigan, 2003  
License #: 6201049825

### Education:

Bachelor of Science in  
Civil Engineering,  
Michigan State  
University,  
East Lansing, MI  
1998

Master of Science in  
Civil Engineering,  
Michigan State  
University,  
East Lansing, MI  
1999

### Certifications:

Storm Water Operator  
• Construction Sites  
Lic # C-17175

Soil Erosion & Sediment  
Control –  
Comprehensive  
Cert.# SC/C 01295

First Aid and CPR  
Certified, 2017

### Professional Experience:

Spicer Group, Inc.  
Wade Trim, Inc.

### Saginaw Office

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[miken@spicergroup.com](mailto:miken@spicergroup.com)

## **Michael G. Niederquell, P.E. (continued)**

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### ***Arenac County Multi-Use Path – Project Manager/Engineer***

#### **Arenac County, MI 2017**

Responsible for engineering study for 8 miles of new HMA pathway and construction cost estimate between Omer and Au Gres. Project also included coordination with local government agencies.

### ***AuSable Township Multi-Use Path – Project Engineer***

#### **Iosco County, MI 2017**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 2.75 miles of new HMA pathway, two prefabricated bridges and approach boardwalk, permanent signing, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies, railroad, and utilities. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

### ***Village of Ashley Safe Routes to School – Project Engineer***

#### **Village of Ashley, MI 2017**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 1.9 miles of new concrete sidewalk, sidewalk ramp replacement, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey and coordination with local government agencies, railroad, and utilities. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

### ***Pine Road Rehabilitation – Project Manager/Engineer***

#### **Portsmouth Township, MI 2017**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 1.98 miles of rehabilitation (Full Depth Reclamation (FDR), pulverize, stabilization, and HMA paving), US Bike Route 20, pavement markings, permanent signing, maintaining traffic, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

### ***Alabaster Township Sunrise Side Multi-Use Path Extension – Project Engineer***

#### **Alabaster Township, MI 2015**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 3.32 miles of new HMA pathway and 100 feet prefabricated bridge, permanent signing, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

### ***Dearborn Rouge River Gateway Extension – Project Engineer***

#### **City of Dearborn, MI 2014**

Responsible for plans and specifications for 0.25 mile of new HMA pathway and 325 feet of elevated boardwalk, permanent signing, and construction cost estimate. Project also included topographic survey, geotechnical investigation, and coordination with local government agencies. This project was completed through MDOT's Local Agency Programs.

## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Spicer Group has a healthy history of rail trail and pathway projects that provide community-enhancing safe access and enjoyment to users of all ages and abilities, and they were designed to remain functioning for many years with minimal maintenance. As requested in the Request for Proposal, we have included brief descriptions of similar projects that were completed in the last five years. We have many more trail projects that we have completed over the last 15 year that we can highlight if you request.

### Iron Belle Trail Study – Plainfield Township

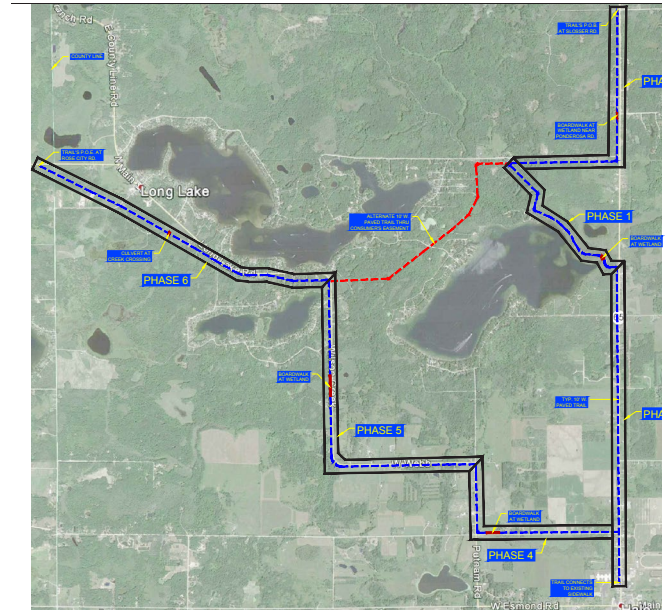
Spicer Group was hired by Plainfield Township to study the entire portion of the Iron Belle Trail in Plainfield Township. The Township felt it was important to route the trail through the unincorporated community of Hale. The original Iron Belle Trail (IBT) route was to pass through no communities or villages from Oscoda to Rose City, a distance of 43 miles.

The studied route through the Township takes users into Hale and connects several lake communities in the Township. The route brings users through Loon Lake Park off of Kokosing Road, connecting to M-65 southward into Hale. From there the route heads west along Ora Lake Road, north on Putnam Road, west on Webb Road and then west on Long Lake Road where it rejoins the route in Ogemaw County along Rose City Road.

By routing the path through Hale, trail users have access to amenities such as restaurants, food, and repair and maintenance supplies. Plainfield Township is anxious to provide these services and sees the trail as an economic asset in their community. The alternate route will connect through Loon Lake, Little Long Lake, and Long Lake providing a link from those more densely populated communities outward onto the Iron Belle Trail.

Spicer Group was responsible for studying the proposed routes, contacting the DNR to have the Iron Belle Trail route amended, developing cost estimates for the proposed routes, working with the Township to write the IBT grant for submittal and progress reporting to the IBT (DNR) staff.

Fred Lewis, Supervisor of Plainfield Township  
415 E. Main Street, Hale, MI 48739  
989.728.2811 | supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com



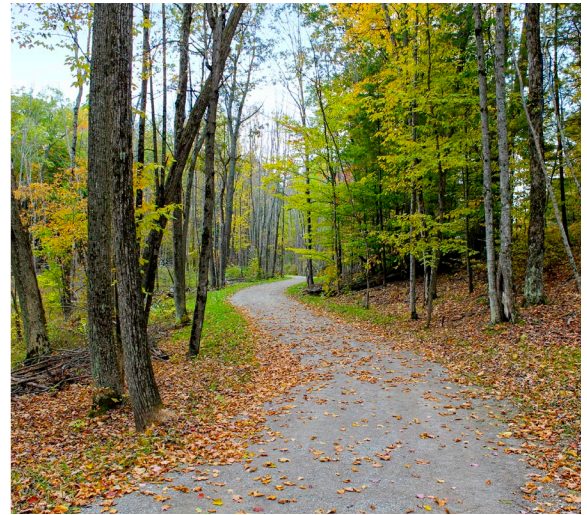
## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### Loon Lake Park Trail – Plainfield Township

Loon Lake Park, located along M-65 north of Hale, is rich in natural resources. It has access to both Mud Lake and Loon Lake, rolling hills, woodlands, and wetlands, which all supply wildlife with a secluded and desired habitat. Spicer Group has been working with Plainfield Township on projects with the park for over a decade.

In 2016, the Township worked with Spicer Group to apply for a Trust Fund development grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The \$140,000 grant was awarded to the Township, who then hired Spicer to design and construct the one-mile-long trail route through the park property. By then, the trail had been adopted as Phase 2 of the IET, and into the Iron Belle Trail route.

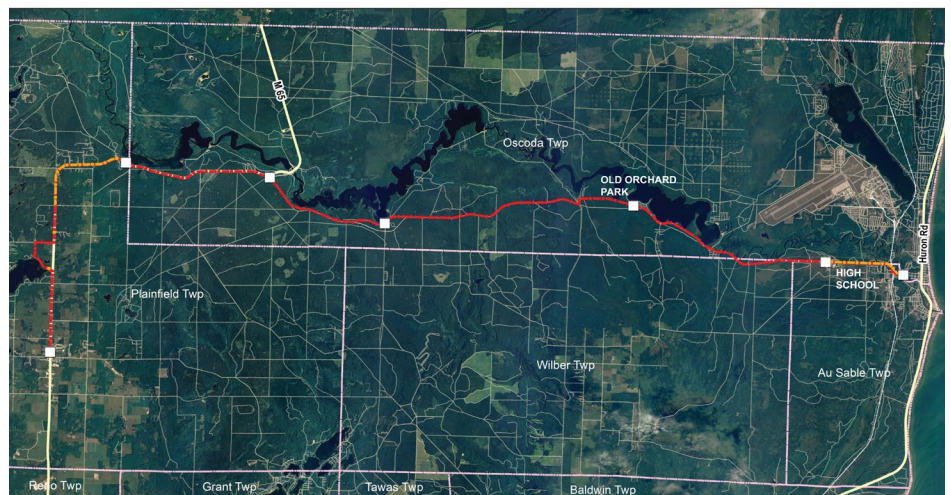
To save on overall costs of the pathway, Spicer Group engineers designed a six-foot-wide path made of crushed stone that when compacted, is as hard as concrete. The trail winds through the forest between Mud Lake and Loon Lake, traveling near Wild Cherry Lane, before turning north, crossing wetlands with the help of wooden boardwalks, and connecting to a new trailhead along Kokosing Road with a trailhead parking lot. The project also features benches, rest areas, and interpretive signs, along with trash and recycling receptacles near the parking lot.



Construction began in late 2018 and was significantly finished by October of 2019. Spicer's team was responsible for all grant administration, surveying, design, bidding assistance, construction administration, and construction inspection on the project.

### Iosco Exploration Trail – Iosco County

In 2014, Spicer Group completed a study for the Iosco Exploration Trail (IET) for a proposed 34-mile non-motorized trail connecting Oscoda to Hale via the River Road National Scenic Byway. This route is on the Iron Belle Trail route. Routes were examined and cost estimates were developed. The results of the study were presented to the path committee in March of 2014.



## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

At that time, the group agreed that the first phase of the trail they would like to complete was from the Au Sable River westward to Oscoda High School. The group helped secure multiple grants through MDOT and the DNR to help fund the project. The grants were awarded in 2016. Construction on Phase 1 began in October of 2019. Spicer Group is assisting with the grant administration, survey, the design, and will be working on construction administration.

Phase 2 encompasses the section of trail through Loon Lake Park in Plainfield Township. Spicer assisted the Township in pursuing a DNR grant and with the grant awarded, Spicer designed the project and obtained the EGLE wetland permits. Construction was completed on Phase 2 in October of 2019.

Spicer Group also assisted Oscoda Township with the writing and submission for multiple grants for Phase 3 of the project, which runs from Oscoda Area High School west to Old Orchard Campground. We are currently assisting Plainfield, Oscoda, and AuSable Townships in studying the remaining phases of the path. Much of this proposed route is on U.S. Forest Service Land. This will allow the U.S. Forest Service to begin preliminary work to allow for the planned trail on their property, and allow the Township to apply for funding for design and construction of the trail.

Fred Lewis, Supervisor of Plainfield Township  
415 E. Main Street, Hale, MI 48739  
989.728.2811 | supervisor@plainfieldtwpmi.com

### **Saginaw Valley Rail Trail – Saginaw County**

Spicer Group assisted with the Rail Trail Master Plan, which studied and assessed an abandoned rail line with railroad bridges. Once the Master Plan was completed, Spicer assisted the County with grant writing and administration, as well as providing the complete design and construction administration for multiple phases of the project. Spicer helped the county work with many different parties to make the project a success. These included grant sources, advisory committees, local governmental units, and adjacent property owners. The Saginaw Valley Rail Trail has undergone four phases of development. The 11.5-mile trail begins in the Village of St. Charles and winds its way northward through Swan Creek and James Townships before connecting with the Saginaw Township Path system at Center and Stroebel Roads.



Owned and operated by the Saginaw County Parks Department, the trail was designed and built with relatively little funding from the County. The trail has received over \$3 million in funding from Michigan grants, private foundations, and donations. The trail is barrier-free and boasts a fishing platform, wildlife viewing area, parallel equestrian trail and eight bridges - one of which stretches 141 feet over the Swan Creek. The trail also offers three pocket parks with pavilions and picnic tables, restrooms, a trail eye, interpretive signs, a midpoint trail parking area, and a rest station. This project also won an award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Association for Innovative Recreation Design.

Brian Lechel, Director of Saginaw County Parks and Recreation Commission  
111 S. Michigan Ave., Saginaw, MI 48602  
989.790.5281 | blechel@saginawcounty.com



## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### **Kochville Township Pathway – Kochville Township**

Spicer Group originally worked with Kochville Township in 2003 by updating their Recreation Master Plan. When the development of the Recreation Plan was in progress, several public participation meetings were held to gain knowledge of what residents of the area would like to see in the future. One common item that residents agreed on was the development of a multi-use pathway.

Spicer Group aided the Township in applying for an MDOT-TE grant to help pay for the cost of the proposed pathway. The Township was awarded the grant and received \$270,000 from MDOT. Spicer Group provided the design and construction administration for the 4.5-mile pathway.

A \$570,600 MDOT grant was awarded in 2012 in conjunction with Kochville Township. Spicer Group assisted with the grant writing, administration, design, and construction administration on the project.

The completed pathway now links the Township's business district, which includes a newly developed Super Wal-Mart and Sam's Club, with Saginaw Valley State University, the North Saginaw Charter Academy Schools and the newly developed 27-acre Elmer Lange Park. The path also weaves through several natural wildlife habitats and encircles a lake located in the park. In 2018 the Township was awarded a \$300,000 Trust Fund Grant through the DNR to continue the path westward to Tittabawassee Township.



### **Tittabawassee Township Path – Tittabawassee Township**

In 2017, Tittabawassee Township was awarded an MDNR Trust Fund grant for \$300,000 to develop 2.69 miles of multi-use pathway as part of the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail. Spicer Group assisted the Township in applying for the grant. This portion will connect Freeland with Tittabawassee Township and Kochville Township along the Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail.

This portion of the trail extends the existing Freeland path eastward to Garfield Road, north to Kochville Road, and then south on Hackett Road where it crosses into a Consumers Energy easement, and continues east for the final mile to connect to the Kochville Township portion of the path on Hospital Road. The trail is 10-feet-wide, except for a portion along Kochville Road, which will be six-feet-wide in front of residences.

Spicer Group is responsible for the design, survey, grant administration, and construction administration for this project. This project is currently under construction.



## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### Bad Axe Walking Trail – City of Bad Axe

In 2017, the City of Bad Axe was awarded a Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund grant for \$140,000 to develop an ADA accessible walking trail with park amenities. The new trail is a renovation of an existing walking trail made from wood chips and traverses through a wooded area near the City's skate park.



Spicer Group assisted the City in applying for the grant funding. This path winds through a natural setting that includes open grasslands and wooded areas. The trail begins at the city maintenance garage and extends east, then south along the existing Bad Axe Drain. The path follows the drain and eventually loops into the woods near Buffalo Road, then loops back to the trail. A small parking lot with ADA accessible parking is also being constructed near the trailhead as part of this project.

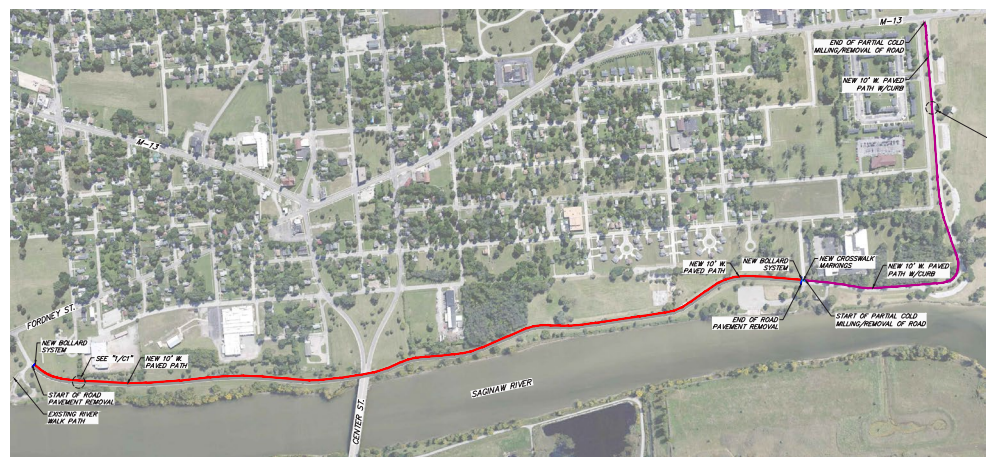
The project also includes trash receptacles, benches, and interpretive signage. Spicer Group is responsible for grant administration, design, survey, bidding assistance, and construction administration on this project.

### Wickes Park Multi-Use Path – Saginaw County

In 2017, the City of Saginaw was awarded an Iron Belle Trail grant to conduct a study and develop a design for the Iron Belle Trail route through 1.84 miles of Wickes Park in Saginaw. Spicer Group assisted the City of Saginaw with the study of converting much of the existing drive in Wickes Park into a multi-use path. This covers approximately one half of the portion of the Iron Belle Trail that goes through the City of Saginaw.

The northern section of the trail consists of converting the existing vehicular drive to a multi-use path. The existing drive has deteriorated, and the City no longer wishes to maintain it as a roadway. From the boat launch south to the exit on M-13, a path is designed so it is separate from the existing roadway.

Spicer's team was responsible for the design, survey, and cost estimates for the City for this project. Spicer Group is also currently assisting the City with applying for more grant funding for this project.



# SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE

## Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity Trail Connector – Jackson County

Spicer Group assisted Jackson County by providing the survey, design, and construction administration for a new path that connects Sparks Foundation County Park to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity Trail (formerly the Inter-City Trail). The new path also connects the Cascades Trail Loop to the Falling Water/Inter-City Trail Corridor which is connected to the City of Jackson and the Village of Concord. The project was funded partly by a \$173,500 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. Spicer Group also assisted the County with grant administration tasks.



The new path is located through a natural setting that includes wetlands, uplands, and wooded areas, providing access to a natural area and wildlife viewing opportunities in an otherwise urban setting. The new asphalt section is a quarter-mile long and 8 feet wide, and includes 300 lineal feet of boardwalk that traverses through a wetland area. The boardwalk has an observation deck area.

## SIMILAR PROJECT EXPERIENCE TEAM MATRIX

	<i>Iron Belle Trail Study</i>	<i>Loon Lake Park Trail</i>	<i>Iosco Exploration Trail</i>	<i>Saginaw Valley Rail Trail</i>	<i>Kochville Township Pathway</i>	<i>Tittabawassee Township Path</i>	<i>Bad Axe Walking Trail</i>	<i>Wickes Park Multi-Use Path</i>	<i>Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Equity Trail Connector</i>
Rob Eggers, AICP - Principal in Charge	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Michael Niederquell - Project Engineer	X	X	X			X	X	X	X
Joe Wright - Project Manager	X	X	X		X	X		X	
Jenny Allen - Project Designer	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X



## CONSTRUCTION COST CONTROL AND SCHEDULING

Spicer has a long-standing history of completing trail studies and construction documents for projects across the state. As such, we have an experienced team of engineers and designers who know all that goes into preparing a complete and accurate set of construction documents. This same expertise will be used to complete the plans for the River Valley Trail Extension.

Our team works efficiently between our specialized groups. Our lead professionals will be a landscape architect and a transportation engineer who have over 50 years of combined experience working on non-motorized paths and recreation projects. Working with them will be a team of designers, engineers, and planners who have the skills and knowledge to be thorough and efficient with our budget.

Given the limited budget for a project of this size, we're proposing a unique approach. More detail will be shared in section 6.5, but for purposes of this section we will briefly summarize our thoughts. We feel the best use of the \$13,000 available is to use that to further develop the preliminary trail layout, and to seek additional grant funding. Relative to being efficient and timely with our efforts, these tasks will be led by a landscape architect and a planner who brings over four decades of trail and recreation experience to the table.

In addition to writing successful grant applications, we also understand the grant administration component of a project like this. We communicate with staff from MDNR and MDOT often and are able to navigate the systems they have in place should they fund your project.

Should the stakeholders succeed in funding the remaining design engineering, the work we performed upfront will allow us to seamlessly transition to the design and engineering phases of this project. During the preliminary and final design phases our team will meet and discuss the project weekly. Should questions or concerns arise, our project manager will reach out to the SWMPC/stakeholders to discuss the issue and work towards a solution. Detailed invoices will be mailed out monthly showing the work tasks performed and the percentage of budget used and remaining.

During construction we have several professionally trained and certified construction technicians who know how to organize construction tasks and communicate effectively with contractors. To help the process go even more smoothly, we offer in-house materials testing and construction staking, thereby eliminating the need for additional subcontractors.

We understand that maintenance over the long term is a concern, especially when undertaking the cost to construct a 9-mile trail. One of the keys to reducing long-term maintenance costs is to properly design and construct the trail from the beginning. While some may view a project like this as something "simple", we understand that it's no different than designing a road, and that it will be expected to maintain its integrity for years to come. By paying attention to the pavement details – thickness of base aggregate and pavement section – and closely monitoring the contractor's methods, we help to deliver a quality, long-lasting product to our clients.

## EXPERIENCE WITH STATE/FEDERAL FUNDING

Spicer Group has designed and administered many trail development projects that were funded by grants with the MDNR through the Iron Belle Trail, Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the Recreation Passport Fund, along with the MDOT TAP and FLAP funds. Below is a portion of trail grants we assisted in acquiring that have been awarded since 2011, totaling more than \$12 million:

- Iron Belle Trail: Iosco Exploration Trail - Iosco County: \$2,195,456
- Iron Belle Trail: Iosco Exploration Trail Study - Multiple Communities: \$135,000
- Iron Belle Trail: Cass River Trailhead - Bridgeport Township: \$275,800
- Iron Belle Trail: Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Land Acquisition - Saginaw County: \$104,400
- Iron Belle Trail: Ojibway Island Improvements - City of Saginaw: \$245,000
- Iron Belle Trail: Loon Lake Park Improvements - Plainfield Township: \$140,000
- Iron Belle Trail: Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Development - Frankenlust Township: \$30,000
- Iron Belle Trail: Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail - Frankenlust Township: \$1,069,200
- Iron Belle Trail: Sunrise Side Pathway - Alabaster Township: \$718,160
- Iron Belle Trail: Wickes Park Trail - Saginaw County: \$45,000
- Iron Belle Trail: State Street Historic Bridge and Trail - Multiple Communities: \$1,698,770
- Saginaw Valley Rail Trail - Saginaw County: \$251,500
- Cole Park Improvements - Village of Chesaning: \$300,000
- Van Etten Creek Land Acquisition - Iosco County: \$148,000
- Camp Dearborn Improvements - City of Dearborn: \$268,000
- Looking Glass River Park - Dewitt Township: \$78,000
- Saginaw Township/Kochville Township Path Connection: \$570,664
- Rouge River Gateway Trail - City of Dearborn: \$581,000
- Pere Marquette Rail Trail Improvements - Midland County: \$300,000
- Rail Trail - Village of Jonesville: \$296,000
- Lincoln Park - Lincoln Township: \$144,700
- Horizon Park Improvements - City of Belleville: \$120,700
- Kochville Township Path - Kochville Township: \$300,000
- Bay County Riverwalk - Portsmouth Township: \$71,250
- Bad Axe Trail Improvements - City of Bad Axe - \$140,000
- Great Lakes Bay Regional Trail Trailhead Development - Saginaw County - \$209,200
- Tittabawassee Township Path - Tittabawassee Township - \$300,000
- Ford Lake Improvements - Belleville Township: \$99,600
- Cass River Water Trail - Bridgeport Charter Township: \$171,100
- Cass River Water Trail - City of Vassar: \$42,600

## COSTS FOR EACH ACTIVITY/TASK/ DELIVERABLE

The proposed trail length, according to the RFP, is approximately 9 miles. To effectively survey and design a trail of this magnitude would cost well over \$300,000. To best utilize the \$13,000 budgeted, we are proposing a different and unique approach to this project. The proposed Scope of Services will include but may not be limited to:

- 1. Refine Trail Concept:** Our thought is to use those funds to further develop the preliminary trail alignment into a detailed concept suitable for attaching to various grant applications that are available. Both MDNR and MDOT require drawings showing the proposed trail alignment to accompany all grant applications. We feel a good use of the available funds would be to further refine the existing trail alignment. Along with refining the alignment we will develop a detailed Probable Estimate of Cost. Estimated Fee: \$6,000
- 2. Apply for MDNR Trust Fund Grant:** For decades Trust Fund grants have been used to fund or partially fund trail projects. We feel that applying for an MDNR Trust Fund grant is one of your best first steps. The benefits not only include funding for construction, but they will also cover a portion of your design engineering costs. Estimated Fee: \$2,000
- 3. Apply for MDOT TAP Grant:** Similar to the Trust Fund grant, a TAP grant is a great source for trail funding. One requirement for applying is to submit a detailed drawing(s) of the project, which is why step 1 above is so critical. Estimated Fee: \$5,000
- 4. Estimated Fees for Design and Construction Engineering:** Based on the length of the proposed trail, and the process we would proceed with should you decide to partially fund the project with a TAP grant, we estimate the fees for design engineering to be in the \$320,000 - \$330,000 range. MDOT will require full-time construction administration and oversight for any project that they help to fund. The fee for this for the entire nine miles would be in the \$600,00-\$750,000 range. The cost for this is certainly something to consider when looking at what the grant will fund for construction. If selected, we could assist you with determining the cost benefit of grant funding versus what you would be obligated to pay above and beyond that funding.

## **July 1 through September 30, 2020**

- Upon project award we will begin refining the trail alignment immediately.
- Once we have an approved trail concept, we will develop the Probable Estimate of Cost for the project.
- When the first two steps are complete, and the plan and estimate are approved, we will begin the TAP Grant application. It currently has an October submittal date, so we will have to begin that process, before the end of July. When applying for these two grants specifically at the same time for the same project, the state asks that you apply for the TAP grant first.
- Concurrent with the TAP Grant application, we can begin the preliminary work for the Trust Fund Grant application. This is not due until April 1, 2021 (and will require that the applicant has a current 5 Year Recreation Plan on file with the DNR), but some preliminary work can be started this August and September. While the \$13,000 won't be enough to cover the entirety of the grant application preparation, it will allow the process to at least get started. If the Stakeholders can find additional project funding (\$2,000-3,000), we could complete both applications.

## **October 1, 2020 Through Project Completion**

- If additional funding is secured for design, we could begin the preliminary design on October 1, 2020.
- During this same timeframe we could be completing the Trust Fund grant application for submittal on April 1, 2021. Note that public hearings would be required as part of the grant application submittal requirements. Those hearings would take place in January/February 2021.
- If we're successful in securing a TAP grant, you should be notified in early 2021.
- If we're successful in securing a Trust Fund grant, you should be notified in late 2021, early 2022.
- Final design drawings and specifications could be completed in August/September 2021.
- Assuming you use both potential grants to fund part of the construction, the earliest you could let this project for bidding (going through the MDOT letting process will be mandatory if the project is partially funded by a TAP grant) is January of February 2022.