

As a result of the pandemic, trail use has soared across Legacy's preserve system. We're elated to welcome additional folks onto the preserves, especially those who might be trying outdoor recreation for the first time. The rise in preserve visitors has been especially remarkable at Shatter this year, following the completion of Phase one of the trail system.

Phase one consists of 362 feet of newly constructed boardwalk divided into several segments along the trail system. This allows visitors to avoid particularly wet and flooded areas of the trail, while still enjoying all the beautiful natural area that Shatter has to offer. Phase one was generously funded through a grant provided by the Speckhard-Knight Charitable Foundation.

Between the increased visitation visible at all Legacy preserves over the past two years and the increased use at Shatter resulting from the completion of Phase one of the trail system, we have seen a four-fold increase of visitors from 2020 to 2022. While increased use is a huge positive organizationally, it has come with some growing pains as well. One of the biggest difficulties from this growth stems from the access for Shatter via parking on the side of Brookville road. Preserve visitors have reported feeling unsafe entering and exiting their vehicles because of car's driving in excess of the speed limit. We have also had Salem Township residents living within close proximity to the preserve stop to ask Legacy Staff on the preserve when a parking lot might be installed, voicing disapproval of the current parking situation. Worst of all, preserve users have reported experiencing theft from unlocked vehicles on the street.



In summary, increased use at Shatter driven by the pandemic and completion of Phase one of the trail system have resulted in difficulties with the current parking situation for the preserve. We've heard from community members and preserve visitors alike that a parking lot on site would improve or remedy these issues. Given the previous Salem Township involvement in the pursuit of a parking lot at Shatter, we seek your continued support in this project.







As a result of recent interest in development of a shatter parking lot, we've put some leg work into identifying potential locations.

In the attached map (following page) we have depicted several potential parking lot locations, as well as the previous designated parking lot location for which a variance request was denied by the Washtenaw County Road Commission. Each potential location is described with a number, corresponding to how we have ranked the locations internally. Each potential parking lot location is discussed briefly below.

**Location 1** – Parking lot using existing gravel entry from Curtis Road.

The parking lot entrance would make use of the gravel farm lane running parallel with Shatter's southern boundary on the parcel owned by the township, while the parking lot would be installed within Shatter's boundary, along the power lane right of way. This would create the smallest impact on vegetation possible, as the entrance is already in use by the leasing farmer of the township property, and the lot location frequently has vegetation removed as part of utility corridor maintenance. With your support we would pursue an access easement for the use of the farm lane, with technical support provided by an attorney volunteering their time with Legacy. Improvements to the entrance would be necessary to support this use, however, the cost and impact of using this site would likely be comparable or less than the other sites depicted as a result of the existing grade and site conditions.



Location 1 photographed from the opposite side of Brookville road.

**Location 2** – Parking lot in low-impact preserve areas on Brookville road. Located approximately 480-500 ft and 650-670 feet from Curtis road intersection.

This parking lot would make use of one of two relatively open area within Shatter on Curtis road. Currently, both areas are primarily occupied by forbs, cool season grasses, and autumn olive, interspersed with trees (primarily maples) at a lower density than the preserve average. Initially, the hope had been to put the parking lot in an area almost entirely occupied by invasive species closer to the Brookville/Curtis intersection. However, since the previous location was denied a variance request, these potential areas came to light as potential parking lot locations as they are greater than the minimum distance from the corner as required by the WCRC and would limit negative impacts to preserve vegetation.



# The Anthony & Rose Shatter Family Preserve



One of the two Location 2 areas, photographed from across Curtis Road.




**Location 3** – Curtis Road, 480-500 feet from intersection.

Of the potential parking lot locations this would require the most financial support and leg work. This site is greater than the minimum distance from the intersection as required by the WCRC, and located within the power line right of way. It is occupied by low quality vegetation as well. However, the steep drop from Curtis road into the preserve here would likely require significant earth movement and a culvert to ensure the lot area remains dry, we would need to move a great deal of soil, and we would need to pave the entrance area.



**The Anthony & Rose Shatter Family Preserve**



-  Potential Parking Lot Locations
-  Previous Parking Lot Choice
-  Location 2, total potential lot areas

