

## Portage Creek Trail, a key link for Downtown Kalamazoo

The City of Kalamazoo is known for many distinctive attractions – the Western Michigan University Broncos, the Kalamazoo Mall, Bell’s Brewery, and the Kalamazoo Air Zoo to name a few. It’s also quickly becoming known for its non-motorized trail network, and takes great pride in this outdoor metro-area endeavor.

Running through the heart of downtown is its most recent addition, the Portage Creek Trail (PCT). This trail is currently a half mile long and 12 feet wide. It’s paved with hot mix asphalt (HMA) and includes a boardwalk that follows Portage Creek. From the trail, users can view the city skyline and the creek’s wildlife in one glance (cover photo). The trail connects Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Bronson Hospital, Upjohn Playground, and Nicholas Kik Pool. The City of Kalamazoo, in partnership with

a heavy rainfall, causing the project area to flood. The trail is within the 100-year flood plain, so the project was put on hold for one week to let the water recede.

Constructing the ADA ramps for the 12-foot-wide path also created a challenge due to limited space and the constraints of the bridges and designated rights-of-way across main roads. There were multiple public utilities that needed to be relocated, including decorative light poles, fire hydrants, meter pits, fences, and irrigation systems.

Phase 2 extends the trail north to Pitcher Street, connecting PCT with a new extension in a business park. When complete, PCT will meet the 35-mile-long Kalamazoo River Valley Trail on Harrison Street, thereby, finishing the north extension. As part of Phase 2, the trail will also extend south, splitting both east and west along Portage Creek. The west side extension takes a direct route south, while the east path leads travelers to the Farmers Market on Bank Street. The trail will continue south down Reed Court to Reed Avenue. The master plan is to continue the trail two miles south to Kilgore Road to connect with Portage Creek Bicentennial Park Trail.

Phase 1 construction began in March 2017 and was completed ahead of schedule in June 2017. This portion of the project received a

\$157,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund. The MDNR is also supporting the construction of Phase 2 with a grant. Construction is expected to begin in 2019.

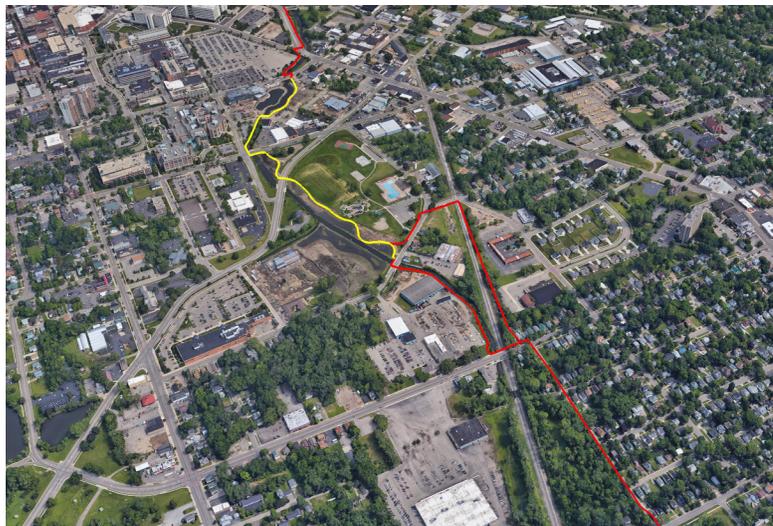
In addition to designing and preparing plans for this project, Prein&Newhof helped with MDEQ and MDNR permitting, acquiring rights-of-way, and construction bidding and observing.

If you are interested in developing or expanding a trail in your community, contact P&N Project Manager **Scott Post, PE** at 616-364-8491.

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The view from the Portage Creek Trail boardwalk near Lake Street incorporates both urban infrastructure and nature.



Phase 1 of the Portage Creek Trail is shown in yellow; Phase 2 is in red.

Kalamazoo Valley Community College (KVCC), hired Prein&Newhof to design and prepare plans for the PCT. This new trail was the last portion of the KVCC Healthy Living Campus project; it connects KVCC’s Food Innovation Center with the Culinary/Allied Health Building.

Construction was split into two phases: Phase 1 included the section of path between Lake Street and Walnut Street, with a 275-foot-long boardwalk made of composite decking and wood railing (photo to the right). At one point during construction, Kalamazoo received



**Jim Hegarty, PE** retires from Prein&Newhof

**Jim Hegarty** retired from Prein&Newhof in May, after 25 years with the company. With a background in pipe sales, Jim joined the team in 1993, with the directive to help “get more work.” During his career, he approached his work with an entrepreneurial mindset, applying his broad working knowledge of civil engineering to find new project and client opportunities. He often put his P&N peers first, helping them to develop their own business development skills and to become experts in their fields. We thank Jim for his zealous service to Prein&Newhof and wish him well in his retirement.

## P&N Welcomes Six More Professionals

**Brian Folkema** joined P&N in March as a Construction Observer in our Muskegon office. Brian recently graduated from Ferris State University with an associate’s degree in civil engineering technology.

**Don Hiltz** began working full-time at P&N in March as a Construction Observer in our Cadillac office. He graduated from Lake Superior State University with a bachelor’s degree in fisheries and wildlife management.

**Jim Herman, EIT** joined P&N in April as an Engineer-in-Training in our Grand Rapids office. Jim has a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from Michigan Technological University.

**Chad Shepard** joined P&N in April as a Construction Observer in our Muskegon office. Chad has 30 years of experience as a construction foreman.

**Scott Tezak, PE** joined P&N in May as an Engineer in our Cadillac office. Scott comes to us from Southwest Traffic Engineering, LLC where he worked for 10 years. He graduated from Michigan Technological University with a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering.

**Zac Culbert, EIT** began working full-time at P&N in May as an Engineer-in-Training in our Kalamazoo office. Zac graduated from Western Michigan University with his bachelor’s degree in civil engineering.



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## In memory of P&N Co-Founder Ed Prein, PE, RLS

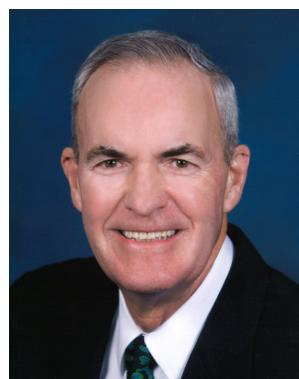
In May of 2018, Prein&Newhof co-founder H. Edward Prein passed at the age of 85. Ed will be remembered for his vision, wisdom, strong technical skills, and committed service to our clients, all of which helped to grow our business.

In 1969, **Ed Prein, PE, RLS** and **Tom Newhof, PE** established Prein&Newhof, a civil engineering firm founded on the belief that each engineer should take responsibility for meeting his or her clients' needs by building long-term relationships and managing projects from start to finish with honesty and professionalism. Tom Newhof recalls their partnership, "Ed Prein was very astute. He had the ability to evaluate a situation and decide if it was a worthwhile venture with which to get involved. He approached me with the idea of starting an engineering company. While I had thought of the concept in abstract terms, I hadn't thought of it as something that we should do at that time, but Ed did and he convinced me to join him. For that foresight, I will always be grateful."

P&N has grown from a venture of two talented engineers working from a rented space on the north side of Grand Rapids, to a business that employees nearly 150 employees and has a physical presence in six office locations across Michigan, as well as an environmental laboratory.

Ed earned a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Notre Dame and a Master of Science in Structural Engineering from Michigan State University. As both a Professional Engineer and a Registered Land Surveyor, he was active in many professional and civic organizations, including serving as President of the state and local chapters of the Michigan Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE). He retired from Prein&Newhof on December 31, 1995.

Ed Prein will always be honored with respect and gratitude by the P&N family.



### Prein&Newhof specializes in:

- Civil & Environmental Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Surveying
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