

# Saginaw Trail Pipeline

Modernizing Oakland County's  
natural gas system to improve safety, reliability



## CONSUMERS ENERGY TEAMS WITH MILFORD, METROPARKS FOR SAFE PIPELINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Consumers Energy, the Village of Milford, Milford Township and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks are working closely to minimize impact on the environment as the energy company modernizes its natural gas infrastructure.

Construction is scheduled to start in May 2020 on the final phase of the Saginaw Trail Pipeline project, which will replace or reroute 28 miles of pipeline in Genesee and Oakland counties to improve safety and reliability.

Roughly three miles of the planned route will cross through Kensington Metropark, which comprises 4,481 sprawling acres of wooded, hilly terrain surrounding Kent Lake in Milford.

Consumers Energy is planning jointly with Milford and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks leadership teams to protect the public and the environment during this important project.

Here are answers to some key questions you may have:

### **Q: What is the proposed project and why is it needed?**

**A:** The Saginaw Trail Pipeline is a four-phase, \$610 million effort to improve energy affordability, safety and reliability for customers by replacing 78 miles of natural gas transmission pipeline in Saginaw, Genesee and Oakland counties. Consumers Energy is replacing 12- and 16-inch pipeline dating back to the 1940s with new, American-made, 24-inch steel pipeline and upgrading city gates, where gas pressure is regulated for safe delivery to customers. The new infrastructure will help move more natural gas quickly, safely and efficiently. The first three phases of the Saginaw Trail Pipeline were completed safely and successfully. The work in Milford and Kensington Metropark is part of the fourth and final phase of the work. Learn more about the project [here](#).

### **Q: Who must grant Consumers Energy permission to construct this pipeline?**

**A:** The project has been approved by the Michigan Public Service Commission. Consumers Energy owns the property easement rights that legally provide the space to safely construct, replace and maintain a natural gas pipeline. In some cases, we'll need to secure additional work space through easement rights from neighboring property owners to ensure we can complete the project safely.

**Q: I am a frequent visitor to this Metropark. Will the park still be open for use?**

**A:** Yes, most of the park and its amenities will remain open and safe for recreational use. Please watch for, and obey, signs and avoid going too close to construction zones. As always, please keep pets leashed within the park.

**Q: What kind of work will be done in the park? What will I see?**

**A:** Consumers Energy plans to replace about two miles of existing pipeline that already runs through the park. The utility also will reroute a roughly one-mile section of pipe, laying the new, larger line further away from a nearby residential neighborhood. This section of pipe is planned for an existing natural gas pipeline corridor. Crews of skilled workers from Consumers Energy and the main construction contractor, will install the new, larger line. All employees and contractors will be clearly identified and wearing personal protective equipment, including reflective vests to ensure visibility. You'll also see a variety of heavy equipment and vehicles needed for the work. Please stay alert for both workers and machines during construction. Click [here](#) to watch a video about the project.

**Q: How long will construction last?**

**A:** Each phase of construction must be complete in time for the full pipeline to deliver natural gas for the next winter heating season. Construction in the park is planned primarily for June-October 2020 with restoration work to follow.

**Q: Will there be any road or trail closures?**

**A:** Yes. To ensure the safety of park users and our employees, we'll need to close several of the park's hiking, biking and equestrian trails for periods of time — some temporarily for work and equipment crossings and others for the entire construction period. **Please see the attached map for details.** Consumers Energy and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks team worked together to determine which closures are necessary and ensure you can continue to safely use the portions of the park that remain open. Closures will be communicated through signage placed on the trail segments, the Metroparks social media pages, [www.metroparks.com](http://www.metroparks.com) and [www.villageofmilford.com](http://www.villageofmilford.com). Please check there for closure updates throughout the summer. We apologize in advance for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we work to complete this important project safely.

**Q: How are you working to protect the environment and local wildlife?**

**A:** Nothing is more important to Consumers Energy than protecting the public, its employees and the environment. The company has a long, proud history of environmental stewardship in Michigan.

- With support from the village, the township and the Metroparks team, the company has completed a detailed environmental inventory of the project area – including all wetlands, and stream crossings – and is working with applicable federal, state and local agencies to consider all environmental concerns.

- With the help of Eastern Michigan University, we conducted a study to ensure endangered and protected species of bats won't be present during construction.
- Environmental inspectors will work onsite daily during construction to identify and protect any threatened or endangered species and their habitats. They also will help ensure all conservation measures are met to reduce potential impacts on other wildlife.
- We are conducting winter mowing and brushing to reduce potential harm to Eastern Massasauga snakes.
- A herpetologist plans to help reptiles such as snakes, frogs and turtles that may be impacted. During 2018 construction, we rescued two rare adult turtles and a nest of turtle eggs from the right-of-way. The eggs were incubated under the care of a herpetologist and we plan to release the hatched turtles back into their habitat in spring 2019. Learn more [here](#).
- Nesting birds will be identified and roped off in the construction area to ensure incubation when possible.

**Q: Will any trees have to be removed?**

**A:** Yes. We'll have to remove trees from our property to ensure our crews can perform their work safely. We'll mitigate the environmental impact by working with the parks team to carefully select the trees that must be removed and to determine how, where and when to plant the appropriate replacements.

**Q: How will you restore Kensington Metropark so it's "back to normal" afterward?**

**A:** Consumers Energy will work closely with the Metroparks to determine mitigation and restoration techniques specific to the park area to protect the current species residing in the area and to ensure it is restored to benefit them in the future.

We plan to work with the Huron-Clinton Metroparks team to determine how many acres of habitat to restore with native plants. We plan to use a special pollinator mix to restore construction areas where new pipeline was buried to create new habitat for butterflies, bees and other pollinators. Learn more about those efforts [here](#). We are also working with the parks team to restore other areas with appropriate trees and shrubbery. Consumers Energy will continue to maintain the easement after the project with periodic mowing to allow continued access to the pipeline area for monitoring and maintenance.

**Q: How will you test the newly installed pipeline to make sure it's operating safely and properly?**

**A:** We'll follow industry best practices by conducting a hydrostatic test to verify the pipeline will operate as expected at a safe pressure. The test involves filling the pipeline with water and slowly pressurizing it. No natural gas will be in the pipeline, and no

digging or excavation is usually required. The testing should not impact neighboring landowners or park users, though we do ask you to stay off the project right-of-way during the 8-hour test period for safety reasons.

**Q: Where will the water come from for the test?**

**A:** Consumers Energy plans to draw water from a private property owner to conduct the hydrostatic test. Following the test, the water is emptied into a discharge structure where it's filtered according to environmental requirements and best practices before re-entering the source.

**Q: How can I learn more and/or ask questions about the project?**

**A:** There are several ways to find details about the Saginaw Trail Pipeline and the work planned for 2020 in Milford and the Kensington Metropark. You can:

- Attend a public informational open house on Feb. 10 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Milford Senior Center, 1050 Atlantic St., Milford, MI 48381. Stop by at your convenience to meet the Consumers Energy team and talk with project managers.
- Visit [www.ConsumersEnergy.com/SaginawPipeline](http://www.ConsumersEnergy.com/SaginawPipeline)
- Call us at 800-647-8101
- Email us at [SaginawPipeline@cmsenergy.com](mailto:SaginawPipeline@cmsenergy.com)