



**Celebrating 42 YEARS
as North America's first successful
rails-to-trails conversion
1963-2005**

October 1, 2005

Mr. Robert Schillerstrom
Chairman
DuPage County
421 N County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Chairman Schillerstrom:

DuPage County has recently taken a zero tolerance approach to all encroachments on the Illinois Prairie Path. Letters are being sent out by the DuPage County State's Attorney threatening any property owner responsible for any encroachment with legal action.

A motion was passed unanimously at our September board of directors meeting to ask DuPage County again to allow access improvements to the trail's right-of-way. Included in the motion was a request that there should be an appeal process to the County's encroachment policy.

The board of directors of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC) has asked the DuPage County Board and staff of the Division of Transportation to consider some encroachments along the trails as improvements. Our board believes steps and bridges that allow neighbors to access and use the trails should be considered acceptable encroachments to be maintained by the homeowner under permit by DuPage County. Fencing to extend backyards, dumping, parking of vehicles, private gardens or the installation of buildings like sheds should be considered unacceptable encroachments.

The IPPC understands encroachments are a sensitive issue for trail users and the County. The IPPC will be pleased to offer the County recommendations on a revised County encroachment policy that addresses County and public concerns.

Attached is a copy of the earlier communication we sent to DuPage County regarding our views on encroachment.

Sincerely

Don Kirchenberg
President
Mailing address: 247 E Lincoln Ave., Wheaton, IL 60187

CC: DuPage County Board
DuPage County States Attorney Joe Birkett
Daily Herald
Chicago Tribune
Sun Publications
Liberty Suburban Press
Lombardian
Examiner Publications
Quest Publishing