Michigan Lily still found in Elmhurst Great Western Prairie

In July, volunteers were deep in the prairie removing sumac trees (an invasive species) when a volunteer shouted, "look what I found!" It was a Michigan Lily. Prairie preservation is saving original species such as the Michigan Lily. The flower has been seen before, but it is not abundant. Continued prairie management is keeping them there. More information is available at: www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/mich_lilyx.htm

October

Elmhurst Great Western Prairie Work Day
Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. to Noon
www.epd.org/Elmhurst-great-western-prairie

Elmhurst Bicycle Club: IPP Cleanup
Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Meet: Villa Park Depot (Villa Ave. and IPP)
www.elmhurstbicycling.org

Sierra Club River Prairie Group
IPP Work Day in Glen Ellyn
Saturday, October 22 - 9 a.m. to Noon
Meet: 485 N. Montclair St. - east end pkg lot
www.sierraclub.org/illinois/river-prairie

November

Illinois Prairie Path - ANNUAL MEETING
Sunday, November 6 - 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wheaton Memorial Park Leisure Center

Elmhurst Great Western Prairie Work Day
Saturday, November 19, 9 a.m. to Noon
www.epd.org/Elmhurst-great-western-prairie

For up-to-date listings and locations of all Path events visit www.ipp.org/events.

Be sure to "Like" the Illinois Prairie Path on Facebook.
Everyone is Welcome to Attend the Path's Annual Meeting

Sunday, November 6 at 2 p.m.
Annual Meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path
Wheaton Memorial Park Leisure Center
208 West Union Avenue
Year in Review – Board of Directors
Music – Roger Kotecki
Refreshments following the meeting

The Annual Meeting Tradition was started by the Path’s Founders. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to review its fiscal year (ending July 30) with the general public and Path Members during a VERY brief business meeting. There will be an explanation of the Annual Financial Report. Also, current members of the Board of Directors will be introduced and a vote will be taken to approve their new terms of office. We hope to see you there!

North Central DuPage Regional Trail plans announced
(From the website of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County)

The North Central DuPage Regional Trail is a 35-mile long regional bicycle trail spanning the northern part of the county which, when complete, will connect the Elgin Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path on the west to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and Schaumburg Bikeway System on the east.

The Forest Preserve District has been working cooperatively with DuPage County, local municipalities and park districts to implement this trail for decades.

The entire trail is complete except for the final remaining segment that will connect existing trails in Bartlett, west of IL 59, through Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve in Wayne to the Illinois Prairie Path – Elgin Branch. This segment is estimated to cost $3,100,000 for engineering and construction.

The Forest Preserve District recently received $1,500,000 in Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds for the construction of this final remaining segment and is currently working on Phase I engineering for the project. Next steps toward implementation include applying for additional grant funds to cover the funding shortfall, completing the necessary engineering studies and public outreach. To meet the terms of the STP grant, the trail must be under construction by 2021.
Advocacy Alert!

Recently, the Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors sent two letters requesting the County of DuPage to take action on two items that could affect the current and future functioning of the Path:

1. **The Trail Coordinator position**, once held by Dan Thomas, and before him, Deborah Fagan, **needs to be filled as soon as possible**. Trail Coordinators have been the ‘go to’ people on trail issues for residents, communities, and the County Board. Their work also brought in millions in grants that were used to improve the trail system, demonstrating the value of the position to the County government and county taxpayers.

2. **The Illinois Prairie Path Board**, trail organizations and trail users throughout the region need to be involved in the re-routing of the Path through the Aurora Branch - between Diehl and Eola Road. An article in the *Naperville Sun* newspaper reported "Open meetings with the public might not be required." The Path Board trusts that the county will:

   - **Hold open meetings** so that all interested parties may better understand the proposed changes and offer their important ideas and suggestions in the early stages of this project.
   - **Involve and work cooperatively** with regional trail user organizations, especially the Illinois Prairie Path members and board of directors in all stages of this process - to create the **safest, most environmentally sound and cost-effective improvements possible**.

To voice your opinion on these issues, contact Chairman Dan Cronin at chairman@dupageco.org.
New SAFETY challenges for Path walkers, runners, bikers, equestrians

On August 12, two representatives from the DuPage County Sheriff's Office - Corporal Mike Urso, Neighborhood Liaison Officer, Patrol Division and John Luxem, Volunteer Bike Patrol Supervisor - attended the Illinois Prairie Path Board Meeting.

Urso and Luxem, along with other trained volunteers, use bikes, ATVs or 4-wheelers to patrol segments of the Path in DuPage County.

They are asking YOU to put SAFETY as YOUR number one priority whenever you are on the Path.

"Everyone on the Path should be with a safety buddy," advised Corporal Urso. "Many segments of the Path are in remote, less-traveled areas. If an accident happens, your friend can call for help. If you run into trouble, there is strength in numbers. Your eyes and your ears can alert you to safety problems in front of or behind you."

For your safety, and the safety of others, please be alert when you are enjoying the Path.

Photos from the Wheelmen Event in Downtown Wheaton - July 8
Photos courtesy of Ken McClurg. For more information visit thewheelmen.org.