



# The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

September 2015

**You are invited!**

**Sunday, November 1 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**

**Looking Ahead – Dan Thomas, DuPage County**

**Keynote Speaker – Steve Tiwald**

**Music – Roger Kotecki**

**Refreshments following the meeting**



promoting  
**Nutritional Health & Environmental Sustainability**



**Steve Tiwald, Keynote Speaker**

Members of the not-for-profit volunteer Board of Directors of the Illinois Prairie Path are honored to announce that **Steve Tiwald, Founder and Executive Director of the Green Earth Institute in Naperville will be the keynote speaker at the 2015 Annual Meeting.**

The Green Earth Institute ([www.greenearthinstitute.org](http://www.greenearthinstitute.org)) is a nonprofit organization formed in 2002 with a mission, "to promote nutritional health and environmental sustainability. Using our organic farm as a demonstration and learning center, we grow healthful vegetables in an earth-friendly way and educate about nature, nutrition, and caring for the earth."

Steve explains, "We have a dual interest - healthy food and healthy planet. Unhealthy food is a factor in health problems for many people. Numerous common agricultural practices contribute to an unhealthy planet. These problems are immense! Where can a person start? Our response is 'start locally.' The focus of the Green Earth Institute is local. Nutritious

locally-grown food for local families. Grown in a manner that protects local soil and streams. Education programs, especially for children, to connect them with nature here and now."

At the IPP Annual Meeting, Steve will describe the Green Earth Institute's organic vegetable farm and educational programs. Giving a pictorial tour of the farm, he will illustrate the sustainable growing methods that produce healthy food for hundreds of area families. He will also discuss the Institute's popular children's education programs, which focus on nature discovery and gardening. After his presentation, he will be available to answer questions.



## Three New Display Cases - *Your membership dollars at work*

The IPPc installed and maintains 15 information kiosks along the 61 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path. Many of these kiosks were designed and hand-built in the early 1970s by Legacy Volunteer Paul Mooring. In August, three of the older display cases were removed and replaced at these locations: Prince Crossing, Lombard, and Hillside. Volunteer board members Erik Spande, Erik Andersen and Rob Sperl completed the work in about three hours.



**Volunteer board members Erik Andersen (L) and Rob Sperl (R) replaced a display case along the Path.**



President Spande reported, "It went pretty well, and we learned that in addition to cordless drills, bits, and related tools that we also need WD40 to deal with difficult locks! The old keyed-alike locks were placed in the new cases." Every year, the Path will budget dollars to purchase a few new display cases until all are updated. The old display cases are being donated to worthy causes."

## Guide to Prairie Path Archives now online

<http://library.noctrl.edu/archives/collections/suburbanstudies/prairie.html>

Anyone who has access to the internet now has access to the online guide to the Illinois Prairie Path Collection at North Central College. **Enter the link above and you will be directed to the site.** The guide includes a list of every folder in the collection. It does not include digital versions of each item. But the guide allows researchers to target which information is going to be the most useful to their interest and make a trip to the Archives most productive. The guide includes navigation through an outline format, as well as keyword searching of folder titles through your browser. For instance, if you click Record Group 4: Individuals, the list of folders created for the founders and legacy volunteers will appear. The Paul and Jean Mooring Slide Collection (with over 10,000 slides) is also categorized by topic in a slightly separate guide, although the IPP and Mooring slide collection are linked.

NORTH CENTRAL COLLEGE  
ARCHIVES



## Path Images



**Turtle on the Path by Dan Thomas**



**West DuPage River / Geneva Spur by Ken McClurg**



**Leaves on limestone by Ken McClurg**



## Part 2: Ferry Forest Garden planted along the Illinois Prairie Path

In January 2013, **Jodi Trendler** (President/Secretary) and **Michelle Hickey** (Vice President/Treasurer) co-founded **The Resiliency Institute**, a non-profit educational organization. It is located at McDonald Farm, 10S404 Knoch Knolls Road in Naperville, IL. They are developing the Ferry Forest Garden on a 1/3 acre site on Ferry Road near the entrance to the Illinois Prairie Path.



Jodi Trendler stated, "There are about 190,000 people who use the Prairie Path each year. In a few years (2017) they will have access to all the things we planted." Michelle Hickey explained, "With the help of volunteers, The Resiliency Institute began the land's transformation with sheet mulching in November, 2014."

Michelle added, "In spring 2015, we planted 20 trees funded by the Illinois Prairie Path. Over 30 shrubs and a hugelkultur berm have also been installed. We would love to include a gazebo made from pruned branches with a mosaic tiled floor growing with grapes and artwork crafted from scrap materials inviting Path users to enter the garden and explore. This project has been funded by The Resiliency Institute through tuition from educational programming and donations made to our Growing Food Security Program. All labor has been volunteered."

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Help build the Ferry Forest Garden**

This is a community project, so we invite input from people who use the Illinois Prairie Path Trail or live nearby and have ideas for the Forest Garden.

- **Boy Scout projects available** - a pergola, log benches, picnic table, signs, and bird houses.
- **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> – Permablitz event** (a work *and* learn volunteer experience) to complete some work on the Forest Garden.
- **Winter 2015 – Ferry Forest Garden Ambassador Program** will be launched. Ambassadors are volunteers who contribute to the care of the forest garden on their own time or during scheduled activities. In February, we will be asking Ambassadors to grow a flat of perennials that they can plant in the Forest Garden in the spring. We will provide the seeds and have some trays and pots to distribute.



*These peas were harvested from the hugelkultur bed (left) that was built then planted with fertilizing plants - peas, daikon radish, calendula, and chicory.*



*Ferry Forest tree planting*

### **Ferry Forest Garden 2015 Plant List**

#### **20 Fruit and Nut trees**

- 2 Almonds
- 2 Chinese Hybrid Chestnuts (Qing & Peach)
- 2 Persian Walnuts
- 1 American Persimmon
- 2 Apple Serviceberries
- 3 Pawpaws
- 2 Cornelian Cherry
- 1 Cherry var. Stella
- 1 Semi-dwarf Plum var. Toka
- 2 Semi-dwarf Peaches var. Blushingstar & Contender
- 2 Semi-dwarf Asian Pears var. Hosui & Kosui

#### **58 Food Producing Shrubs**

- 3 American Plum
- 4 Hazelnuts
- 4 Juneberries/Serviceberries
- 3 Gooseberries
- 6 Rosa rugosas
- 4 Raspberries
- 3 Northern Spicebush
- 6 New Jersey Tea
- 2 Aronias
- 1 Siberian Pea
- 3 Bush Cherries
- 3 Nanking Cherries
- 1 Black currant
- 2 Clove currants
- 2 Red currants
- 5 Elderberries
- 2 Nannyberries
- 2 High Bush Cranberries
- 2 Clethra

#### **Community Plant Donations**

- Violets
- Ginger
- Yarrow
- Stiff Goldenrod
- Bee Balm
- Baptisia
- Chives
- Wild garlic
- Nodding onion
- Oregano

#### **Contact information:**

[www.theresiliencyinstitute.net](http://www.theresiliencyinstitute.net)

Michelle Hickey / 630-425-4285

# Memorial benches honor individuals, families and organizations

Every year, new memorial benches are added along the Illinois Prairie Path. Memorial benches enhance the Path by honoring the lives and contributions of individuals or groups and providing privately-funded amenities along the Path. What is the process for donating a memorial bench? **Dan Thomas**, Principal Planner, DuPage County Division of Transportation, recently provided background information that pertains to amenities on the Path.

"The County owns the Illinois Prairie Path right-of-way and it is officially a county highway. However, the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit Corporation (IPPC) (board of directors) manages the amenities such as kiosks, fountains, garbage cans, mile markers, and benches. The IPPC developed the Illinois Prairie Path in the 1970's, but due to insurance reasons, DuPage County Division of Transportation took over other maintenance responsibilities in the 1980's. DuPage County maintains most of the vegetation, trail surfaces, trail structures, signage, and intersections. Also, a number of villages and cities maintain their Path segment."

"Because you are going to 'construct' or install something on a DuPage County highway, you must obtain a DuPage County Highway Permit. The permit application is routed through the Illinois Prairie Path Corporation and because the permit goes through the IPPC, the permit fee is waived. The IPPC's role in this is to help you select the bench location, work with us to make sure it will be installed properly, and to make sure the bench design is consistent with other benches along the trail."

## **If you are interested in a memorial bench within DuPage County, here are the steps involved:**

1. Contact the Illinois Prairie Path board and describe what you would like to do. Call **(630) 752-0120** or send an e-mail to [president@ipp.org](mailto:president@ipp.org).
2. Determine a location, bench type, and plaque information
3. Confirm your memorial bench with an email or letter and a check for \$2,500
4. The Illinois Prairie Path will take care of permitting, purchasing, ordering a plaque and installation

**What type of benches are available?** Erik Spande, President of the IPPC board explained the selection and installation process. "The IPPC installs powder-coat steel benches on a poured concrete pad. The donor can have a bronze plaque with a few words embedded on the bench or in the concrete. The IPP will coordinate all permits, utility location, contracting, and will oversee installation with a contractor."

**How much does a bench cost?** Spande added, "The standard price for the memorial bench is \$2500. The attached images show the type of durable bench to be installed."

Some cities and villages along the Path (outside of DuPage County) require a city permit. They also may have a standard style of bench that is required in all of the trail and park areas they manage. An IPP board member will coordinate all of your location-specific requirements.



*Example of a bench in Maywood: A memorial bench was donated "In Memory of Leonard Chabala, Mayor of Maywood, 1969-1973, Board Member of the Illinois Prairie Path and Volunteer, 1981-1993."*