



# The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

## September/Fall 2017

### *Invitation*

#### **Illinois Prairie Path (IPPC) Annual Meeting**

SUNDAY, November 5 - 2 pm to 4 pm

#### **Cantigny Education Center**

1S151 Winfield Road

(Let the entrance gate guard know you will be attending the Path meeting)

#### **Path Annual Board Meeting**

Welcome

Path Overview / Annual Financial Report

Board Member Term Renewals

**Sid Kenyon, DuPage County**

County Path Improvements - 2017 / 2018

#### **Guest Speaker**

**Greg Hipp, Executive Director**

Chicago Area Runners Association

Q & A

*Refreshments*

*Leaf photo on the Path by Ken McClurg*

### **Celebrate the Path's 54th Year!**

*Promo flyer inserted - please post*

Join us at the Path's Annual meeting where **Greg Hipp, Executive Director for the Chicago Area Runner's Association (CARA)** will share how CARA uses the Path to train all levels of runners.



In addition to running cross country and track, he is a USA Track and Field Level 2 Certified Coach. His 13-year coaching career spanned four universities, numerous championship teams and coaching many talented athletes. He has directed or served in a leadership role for hundreds of major running events.

While serving two years on CARA's staff, he helped shape the direction of the CARA Runner's Choice Circuit and the implementation of the Go Run program in partnership with the Chicago Park District. In addition to running, Greg likes to spend time with his wife Jill, their son Jackson and daughter Lydia.

#### **CARA is:**

- focused on **Legacy** (founded in 1978 to make Chicago a great place to run); **Advocacy** (they take on issues of important to runners); and **Connecting** (they continue to build their community of runners).
- the largest community of runners in the Midwest; third largest in the USA.
- fills over 9,500 volunteer roles and provides over 42,000 volunteer service hours per year.
- encourages running and building community by providing Go Runs (72 free-timed 1 mile and 5K runs per year) in underserved neighborhood parks around Chicago.
- administers the CARA Race Certification Program.

# IPP information kiosks are being repaired or replaced



In the early years of the Path, Legacy Volunteer Paul Mooring designed, constructed and installed 15 wooden kiosks along the Path. Many of them are in need of repair. In late August, volunteer IPPc Board members **Erik Spande, Rob Sperl, and Erik Andersen** worked together to repair three kiosks.

**VILLAGE OF BERKELEY, COOK COUNTY** -The Village of Berkeley began their kiosk repair process by building a new dark wood structure, similar to the original design. A new display case was added.

## VILLAGE OF LOMBARD, DUPAGE COUNTY

A new display case was also installed on the Lombard kiosk.

Weather takes a toll on the kiosks. Over time, the sun damages and clouds the plastic (water proof) display cases. Unfortunately, the kiosks are often damaged by vandals. **Please report any Prairie Path amenity damage to us or take the initiative as one Hillside resident recently did.**



## VILLAGE OF HILLSIDE, COOK COUNTY

This kiosk project began with an **email from a concerned citizen, Roger Romanelli**, who wrote, "The Butterfield Road and Forest Avenue kiosk plexi-glass is vandalized." We thanked Roger for reporting the vandalism and asked him to share why he took the time to report the damage.



**Roger and his dog Oliver on the Path in Hillside.**

"I live in Hillside, and our village proudly hosts the eastern segment of the Path. I see myself as a steward of the Path. I enjoy the Path and seek ways to improve it like the many volunteers who came before me. Public safety is paramount, and we must be vigilant in our observations. When I saw the

vandalized kiosk, I acted immediately. I consider the Path as an essential extension of my home. I cherish it and want to improve it. Vandalism and crime occurs when people don't have self-respect or feel secure.

We started a new volunteer group called "**Hillside Forward.**" We are determined to bring maximum public safety, jobs and new investment to Hillside, which should lead to a reduction in crime.

Toward this goal, **in November 2016, Hillside Forward coordinated the installation of a new water fountain, new doggy-care station and new crosswalk at Butterfield Road and Forest Avenue in collaboration with village officials.** Our group is creating a "2018 Hillside Safety Improvements Plan" that will also call for Prairie Path improvements.



Fall 2017 / Stay connected: [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org) or [info@ipp.org](mailto:info@ipp.org), Facebook, or 630-752-0120

## Thanks to...

These organizations that helped retain the current Path route through Aurora...



## New Members

Raghu Angara  
Larry Appleson  
William Bell  
Lisa Bohl  
Jim and Pat Carpenter  
Ann Cliff  
Susan Crowell  
Don Dornblaser  
Mike Dugo  
Mary Pat Esposito  
David Heyson  
Jeff Knight  
Jack Mehrtens  
Scott Masters  
Brian McLaws  
Tracy Mehr  
Joel Nathan  
Rita Nathanson and Bill Nieman  
Jeanette Press  
Roger Smith  
Richard Sturm  
William White  
John Woodson

## Donors

Clinton Meininger Trust  
Mark and Debbie Dillon  
William S. Pyne Family Trust  
Fidelity / Donald & Louise  
Goodwin  
Wheaton Garden Club  
GE Foundation

## In the Community...

Path board volunteers **Heather Mahler, Jeff Friedman and John Marconnet** brought an educational **Prairie Path display** to a number of local community events throughout the summer. Be sure to stop by and share your Path stories and ideas at future events.

### WHEATON BIKE FESTIVAL



Every year, Wheaton sponsors a free bike festival in August at Memorial Park in downtown Wheaton.

This year, the event celebrated the 200th birthday of the invention of the bicycle.

The event is free (no registration needed) and open to all. The event included bike safety information, a parade, and a bike rodeo organized by the Wheaton Police Department.

The event is sponsored by the Downtown Wheaton Association and the Wheaton Bicycle Advisory Committee.

### BATAVIA FARMERS' MARKET



Located on North River Street between Wilson Street and State Street, the market is open on Saturday mornings from 8 am to noon through the end of October.

**THANKS BATAVIA FARMERS' MARKET!** The Market provides **FREE BOOTH SPACE** to educational non-profit groups up to two times per year. No items may be sold.

The Prairie Path booth offered healthy refreshments, brochures, maps, history, and membership information, as well as Path logo patches and window decals.

### NEW PRAIRIE PLANTED IN LOMBARD



**Jimmy Lynch, Boy Scout Troop 202** (Lombard) worked on creating a prairie in Lombard to complete his Eagle Scout Project.

The prairie is located on the southwest corner of Main Street and the Illinois Prairie Path in Lombard.

**THANKS TO THE SIERRA CLUB RIVER PRAIRIE GROUP** for recently donating and planting many native plants that support pollinators like butterflies and bees.