



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

March 2015



Last April, residents from Maywood and many other communities participated in the Path's Annual Spring Cleanup.

Earth Day- Annual Illinois Prairie Path Spring Cleanup

SAVE THE DATE! Saturday, April 25

By Susan Degnan, Vice President, IPPC

Once again, we are dedicated to keeping our Path an enjoyable and safe outlet for your enjoyment and pleasure. Saturday, April 25, 2015 is the designated date for observance of Earth Day cleanup. This is a perfect time to give back if you use the Illinois Prairie Path or Great Western Trail. These iconic trails belong to all of us for walking, running, biking, hiking, geo caching and horseback riding.

Several locations along the Path will be scoured again for trash removal by dedicated volunteers, and we hope you are one of them! Those who wish to casually volunteer on your own or with your own group, we thank you in advance. Many hands are needed...many users are grateful...we hope to see you out there. Please send pictures or write-up stories for us to use in our future publications. Why not nominate an extraordinary helper/volunteer? For more details, see page 2.



Annual Earth Day Trail Cleanup



The Illinois Prairie Path



Saturday, April 25th, 2015



9:00 a.m. – Rain or Shine

In observance of Earth Day 2015, The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit Corporation, has scheduled its **Annual Earth Day Trail Clean Up**

Volunteers are needed! Our goal each year is to clean up as much of the 62 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path as possible. Hopefully, we will continue to duplicate the same effective and extraordinary clean up that is done each year for Earth Day. We would like you to help us by rolling up your sleeves (but wear work gloves), and pick up litter along the trail. Please dress according to weather conditions, and join us on Saturday, April 25th.

If you, your family, co-workers and club organizations are interested in helping out, please contact one of the team coordinators listed below for more details and locations. However, any area along the IPP is subject to trash removal.

Elgin Branch/Oliver Square - Dick and Nancy Wilson 847-299-7882 or nancy60018@yahoo.com

Elmhurst - Bob Hoel 630-240-0219 or bob.hoel@comcast.net

Geneva (Fox River going East) - David Peterson 630-232-2153 or dw-peterson-pe@ieee.org

Glen Ellyn - Justin Keenan 630-469-5000 or jkeen@glenellyn.org

Lombard - Sam Pyne 630-469-0134 or ibsam@yahoo.com; Also, Lombard Pride Clean Up Day. Help remove trash, invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard. Call 630-620-5740 or contact publicworks@villageoflombard.org

Aurora Branch/Naperville – Ken McClurg (630) 858-8352 or McClurg@wideopenwest.com

Maywood/Bellwood - Lennel Grace 708-244-1673 or lennelgracejr@gmail.com

Villa Park - Theresa Bauer, VP Pride Commission 630-592-6052 or tchan.bauer@gmail.com

Warrenville - Jennifer McMahon 630-514-3040 or McMahon2635@comcast.net

West Chicago/Geneva Spur - Scott Hensey 630-231-8261 or scott.hensey@gmail.com

Wheaton - Tracy Vought 630-260-2870 or tgasiel_vought@yahoo.com

Winfield - Erik Spande 630-871-6640 or erik.spande@comcast.net

For additional information:

Susan Degnan: Suelite97@yahoo.com 630-940-4255

The path is cleaned year round by volunteers. Your help in keeping the path clean is appreciated. Please remove all drink containers and snack wrappers you take with you on the path. Please visit and “Like” us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/IllinoisPrairiePath>. For more information or to become a member of the Illinois Prairie Path visit our website at www.ipp.org. Thank you.

Illinois Prairie Path History Presentation – Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m.



On Tuesday, May 5 at 7 p.m., Tim Cummings and Dawn Fiorentino from the Trail Riders of DuPage County (TROD) are inviting members of TROD, members of the Illinois Prairie Path, and residents of communities along the Path, to a presentation by Kim Butler at North Central College about the history of the Illinois Prairie Path, and current challenges facing the Path. The event will be held at **North Central College, Koten Chapel, 329 East School Street, Naperville.**

Her presentation will include the 1964 restored historic film that was shown over 400 times to promote regional and statewide support for a public path. May Watts wrote the script for the film; Gunnar Peterson, Openlands President, sponsored the film. In addition, guests will have an opportunity to view some of the Path's 50 years of archives that are located across the street, at Oesterle Library. For event updates, visit www.ipp.org.

Photo: On January 20, Kim Butler presented at the Glen Ellyn Library to the Prairie River Group of the Sierra Club. Over 35 people attended.

Work Day – Bench Repair at Prince Road Crossing

Throughout the year, members of the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation work on specific projects to improve the Path.

Ken McClurg searched for strong, weather- and vandal-resistant materials and found them at the best price.

In late November, members of the Board of Directors **Erik Spande**, Legacy Volunteer **Paul Mooring**, **Sam Pyne** and **Ken McClurg** fixed a bench in need of repair at Prince Road Crossing.

“Special thanks to Ken McClurg for planning this so well,” commented **Erik Spande, Board President.** “The repair went smoothly and it looks darn good. I especially like that Ken added extra bracing under the seat planks to make them stiffer and stronger. Nicely done! And the weather was decent for late November!”



(L to R) Ken McClurg, Legacy Volunteer Paul Mooring and Sam Pyne.



Used Display Cases - Available for Non-profit Organizations

As time and dollars allow, the Prairie Path Board of Directors is replacing many of the 15 display cases that are located in wooden kiosks at strategic locations along the Illinois Prairie Path. Legacy Volunteer Paul Mooring designed and constructed the wooden kiosks that hold the display cases. If your non-profit organization is in need of a used display case (the plastic and metal viewing cabinet that is part of the kiosk) please contact Rob Sperl, Treasurer at Rob@sperlweb.net or (630) 836-9724).



Prairie Work Days

Do you want to learn about prairies and help maintain them? Volunteers are needed on the **third Saturday of the month from March through November in Elmhurst from 9 a.m. to Noon** – at Berkley Avenue and Prairie Path Lane (between Salt Creek and Spring Road). Help pick up litter, clear weeds and brush, collect, spread and plant seeds. Bring work gloves; wear work clothes and sturdy shoes. Contacts: David Price at dprice@epd.org or 630-993-8909; or, Keith Olson at keitholson@usa.net or 630-834-7357



DuPage County Trail Updates

Adopt-A-Trail Program - This spring, DuPage County Department of Transportation will again accept applications to adopt segments of the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail. This program provides an ideal alternative to the Adopt-a-Highway for youth groups to perform community service in a fun and safe environment. Work materials (work gloves, safety vests and garbage bags) and 'Work Crews Ahead' warning signage will be provided by the County. Also, the county will install a sign to identify your trail segment.

Adopted trail segments are approximately one-mile long. Groups are required to work 3 times annually between March and November. If your group wants to join this program, it needs to fill out an application and have all participants sign a waiver one week prior to a clean-up date. For more information, contact the Division of Transportation at (630) 407-6900 or e-mail adoptahwy@dupageco.org.



Dan Thomas, DuPage County Principal Planner and Trails Coordinator took this photo on the Path of a deer (on the left) – in Glen Ellyn near Hill Avenue.

Arbor Day Tree Planting Campaign - The County will be working with ComEd on an Arbor Day Tree Planting Campaign. The IPP and GWT have both lost a lot of shade trees to Emerald Ash Borer and Elm Disease. We plan to restore the tree canopy (fill the gaps) and ensure shady and scenic trail rides. Information is still developing, but if you wish to participate, please contact the County Trail Coordinator at TrailPathCoordinator@dupageco.org.

Trail Closures - This summer, the southwestern segments of the Illinois Prairie Path will once again experience long-term closures due to utility work. This winter and spring, the IPP Batavia Spur will be temporarily closed due to ComEd work. In the summer, the IPP Aurora Branch will be closed due to NICOR work. Trail closure notices will be sent and detour routes will be posted as needed. No other closures have been identified at this time. If you wish to get on the e-mail list to receive closures, please contact the County Trail Coordinator at TrailPathCoordinator@dupageco.org. Also, visit [http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways and Trails/32496/](http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways%20and%20Trails/32496/) for maps and updated information about trail closures and trail alerts.

Food Forest - Dan Thomas, Principal Planner/Trails Coordinator for DuPage County, has been working with the Resiliency Institute of the Nature Conservancy to establish a “food forest” where there will be harvestable and edible food adjacent to the Illinois Prairie Path. “We have identified a parcel along the Aurora Branch and Ferry Road to establish the first food forest. I think it is a good location because it will not interfere with trail traffic and provides an interesting amenity.” The plan: **November 2014 (completed)** Prepare land by putting down mulch; Create swales to retain / harvest water for garden; **Spring 2015:** Plant nut & fruit trees, Prune and potentially graft existing pear trees on adjacent bridge structure slopes; **Spring 2016:** Add edible “geld” plants which will put nitrogen back into the soil for other plants.

