

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

Summer, 1996

## *A Friendly Railroad City To Visit: Historic West Chicago*

West Chicago is justly proud of its many railroads, around which the city was built. One of them was the Geneva Line of the old Chicago, Aurora and Elgin electric commuter railroad, which began service from Winfield to West Chicago, Geneva and St. Charles in 1909 and abandoned the right-of-way in 1937. The major part of the property is now the site of the newly opened Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur.



Chicago, Aurora and Elgin trolley car on Main Street, West Chicago, leaving for Geneva and St. Charles, circa 1930. Drawn from photo, courtesy of The West Chicago City Museum.

The CA&E was just a johnny-come-lately among

West Chicago's famous railroads. The roster of names includes the Galena and Chicago Union (predecessor of the Chicago and NorthWestern), the Aurora Branch Railroad (today the Burlington Northern Santa Fe), the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern, and the Union Pacific (successor to the NorthWestern). The G&CU was the earliest built in the area and dated from 1849.

As the railroads grew so did the community. Changing times brought changing names: Junction (when the Chicago Branch Railroad joined the main line of the G&CU to go into Chicago the town was called Junction); next Turner Junction and later Village of Turner (named for the president of the G&CU); then Village of West Chicago; and finally City of West Chicago. This year the city celebrated on January 25 the centennial of its name.

West Chicago has many attractions including an outstanding park district, many charming old homes, a beautiful new library and a carefully preserved C&NW railroad station. A newly built section of the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur parallels the route of the old CA&E trolley line through the heart of the city's charming historic district. All year round but especially during the annual Railroad Days festival this hospitable city welcomes visitors from near and far to remember a romantic past and look forward with confidence to an even more prosperous future.

# A GREAT DAY FOR TRAILS IN ILLINOIS

National Trails Day, June 1, 1996, will long be remembered in northeastern Illinois and in Springfield for its outpouring of public support for trails and bikeways. Three local newspapers reported that an estimated 1000 people attended the Grand Celebration which climaxed the day at Reed-Keppler Park in West Chicago. Bicyclists, runners, hikers, equestrians, prairie experts, birders, camera fans, history buffs were all there to express their appreciation of our wonderful trail system to the many government officials in attendance. The message from people to government was loud and clear: "Keep building trails; we love 'em!"

The day began early, at 8:30 a.m., at First Avenue, Maywood. Mayor Freelon, on behalf of the Maywood Village Board, read a proclamation extending a warm welcome and best wishes to Mike Ulm and Kandee Haertel representing the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. The two were starting the last leg of their epic journey around the 475-mile Grand Illinois Trail, proposed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to cross northern Illinois



*Maywood Mayor Freelon reads National Trails Day proclamation flanked by (from left) State Rep. Eugene Moore (D-7), Maywood Trustees Gary Woll and Lonzia Casteel, Kandee Haertel and her horse, Mike Ulm and IPP Pres. Paul Aeschleman. Photo by William Armstrong.*

twice between Chicago and the Mississippi River. Also present to cheer on the adventurous duo and their entourage, which by then included Illinois Prairie Path President Paul Aeschleman and board members David Tate, Eric Keeley, John Kacich and many other trail fans, were most of the members of the Maywood Village Board and State Representative Eugene Moore (D-7), who expressed his enthusiastic support for the trail movement. The mayor then gallantly escorted the travelers all the way through the village to the Bellwood village limits. In Bellwood the group observed that the village had been working hard to clean up the Path and had installed Illinois Prairie Path logo

signs in anticipation of major improvements scheduled for next year by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Then the adventurers proceeded through Hillside (where the detour at Mannheim is now well marked) and through Berkeley picking up new recruits en route to the first official stop at Spring Road in Elmhurst, where Keith Olson and the Great Western Prairie stewards had set up a table and were prepared to lead tours of their beautiful prairie. State Senator Dan Cronin (R-39) was on hand to



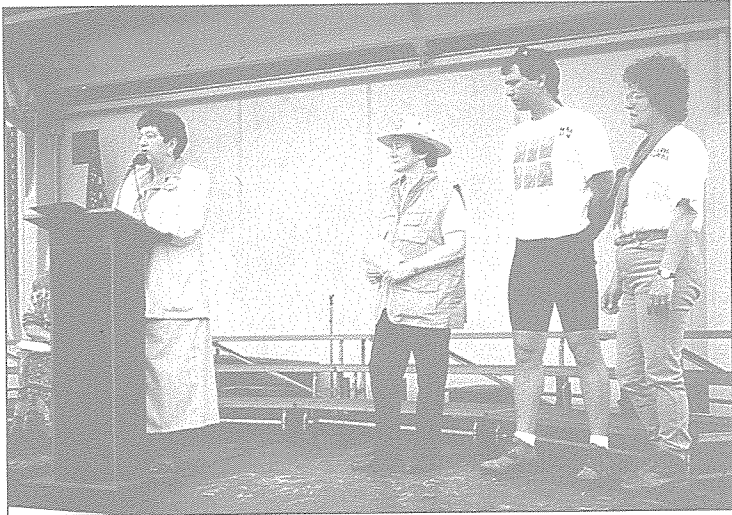
*State Senator Dan Cronin (R-39) expresses support for trails at Elmhurst Great Western Prairie. Photo by William Armstrong.*

congratulate Mike and Kandee; he promised to support projects such as the Salt Creek Trail, which will be a part of the Grand Illinois Trail System some day. In Villa Park the group noted with appreciation the two beautifully preserved Chicago, Aurora and Elgin railroad stations now on the National Register of Historic Places, and in Lombard they admired the Finley Road bridge built by the village for the Illinois Prairie Path. It was here that Mike spoke to a very young boy who had been riding his bike proudly with the group from First Avenue, Maywood. "Does your mother know you're with us?" asked Mike. "Well, no," replied the youngster, who was obviously ready to ride the whole 22 miles. "You've come a long way," said Mike, "but your mother will be worried so you had better go home now." The boy reluctantly agreed and turned around to pedal home, but his eyes were shining because he had proved he shared Mike and Kandee's adventurous spirit.

Another notable adventurer was the 19-year-old runner from Carol Stream, Glenbard North graduate Mitch Isaac, who ran all the way from First Avenue to Reed-Keppler Park, just four miles short of a marathon. "I wanted to show my support for trails," said he at the finish.

The next stop was Prairie Path Park in Glen Ellyn where the Glen Ellyn Park District had set up its portable bandshell and public address system. Joining forces to double their impact were the sponsors of two events

observed nationwide on June 1, National Trails Day and Stand for Children. In attendance were representatives of the village, the park district, the Glen Ellyn Library, School Districts 41, 87, and 89, and The Illinois Prairie Path; also present were Girl Scouts planting a tree, an eighth grader speaking on ways to help our children, a group of children singing patriotic and well-loved songs, and some sixty



*Glen Ellyn Trustee Vicky Hase reads National Trails Day proclamation as Jean Mooring, Mike Ulm and Kandee Haertel look on.*

appreciative local residents. Village Trustee Vicky Hase read proclamations recognizing the two events on behalf of President Demling and the village board. The speakers for Stand for Children emphasized the importance of cooperation among government agencies and citizens in providing a secure future for our children in an uncertain and changing world. Cooperation as it applies to trail-building was also Jean Mooring's theme when she introduced Mike and Kandee for brief remarks.

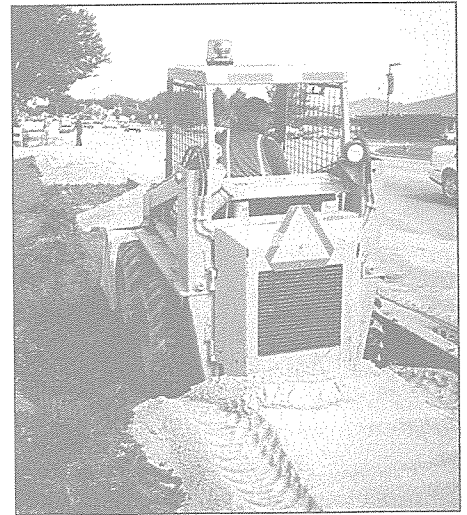


*Wheaton City Councilwoman Linda Johnson talks with Paul Aeschleman (center) in PADS parking lot as trail fan Jim Wear (next to water cooler) looks ready for the final ride to Reed-Keppler Park.*

Then the grand adventurers headed off to Wheaton as a few raindrops began to fall. By the time they reached Volunteer Park and the adjacent PADS (Public Action to Deliver Shelter) parking lot it was raining pretty hard but spirits remained high. In the event of a real cloudburst North Face had provided a tent they could have squeezed into, and toilet facilities had been made available to them in the PADS building. Food and services were donated to the travelers by various businesses along the way: Duke of Oil, Maywood (parking lot and restroom); Stemple's Cyclery, Elmhurst, Pro Bikes and Likes, Glen Ellyn, Midwest Cyclery, Wheaton (bicycle repair); Water One, (water cooler); Front Street Cocina, Wheaton (chips and salsa); Convenient/Subway, Wheaton (sandwich discount); North Face, Oak Brook (tent and Power Bars); PADS (parking lot and restroom).

City council member Linda Johnson read a Trails Day proclamation on behalf of the city. After lunch and a bit of picture-taking (one newspaper photographer and one

*Two days before the Grand Opening of the Geneva Spur DuPage County DOT crew was spreading limestone screenings on the connecting section along the north side of Geneva Road west of County Farm Road.*



independent photo-journalist accompanied the group the whole day), it was time to push on to West Chicago. Everyone made it to Reed-Keppler Park although some of the equestrians including Kandee Haertel missed the very new (finished the day before!) IPP Geneva Spur connection at County Farm Road and lost time wandering on the IPP Elgin Branch before they found their way. The rain did some good though, because it helped pack down the newly laid limestone screenings along the north side of Geneva Road to the Winfield Road crossing light.

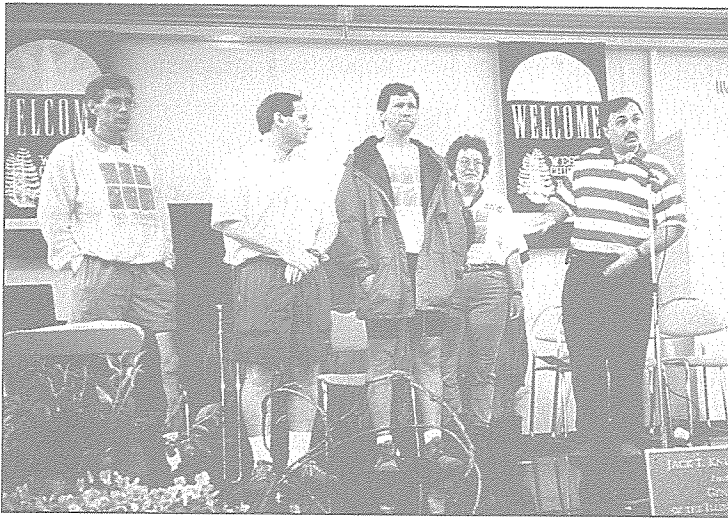
The Grand Celebration was a smash. It was held in a spacious, flower-bedecked hall provided by the West Chicago Park District and located next to the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur and the Jack T. Knuepfer Bridge. The spanking new portable stage was donated for the day by the Elmhurst Park District and music was provided by the Retired Rhythm Rascals from the Glen Ellyn Park District. Besides hundreds of trail fans the audience included many state and local government leaders: Rep. Tom Johnson (R-50) West Chicago; DuPage County Board members Dean Westrom (R-West Chicago) and Roger Kotecki (R-Glen Ellyn); Rae Rupp Srch, president of the



Village of Villa Park; Norm Smalley, Elmhurst Park District commissioner; Bill Brauer, West Chicago Park District commissioner; and Judge Mike Galasso, 18th Judicial Circuit. Some longtime friends of the Illinois Prairie Path who rode with Mike were Craig Williams, bicycle coordinator for the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Bob Thornberry of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Leading the speakers was Master of Ceremonies David Tate, Illinois Prairie Path membership chair, who exemplifies the ideal trails advocate as avid bicyclist and hiker, enthusiastic trail worker and happy homeowner (he and his wife Benna bought their house because it adjoins the Prairie Path).

Steve Lakics, Mayor of the City of West Chicago, took the microphone next to welcome everyone to his



*Mayor Steve Lakics of West Chicago introduces (from left) Mark Wolf-Armstrong, National Director of Development, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Washington; IPP Pres. Paul Aeschleman, and Grand Illinois Adventurers Mike Ulm and Kande Haertel.*

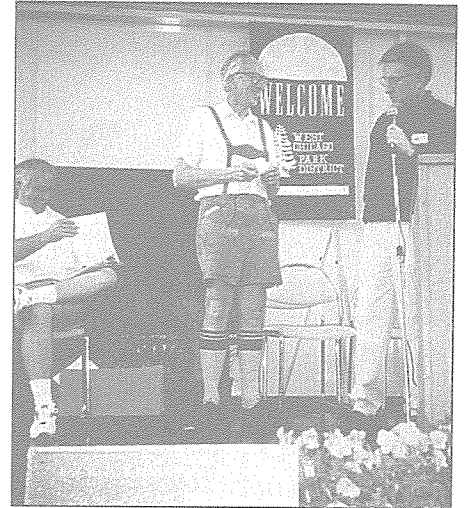
hospitable city. He introduced, to loud applause, the Grand Adventurers Mike Ulm and Kande Haertel together with Paul Aeschleman, president of The Illinois Prairie Path. Kande joked that on their long trip it rained every time Mike got on his bike. "He should hire himself out as a rainmaker to those drought-stricken farmers in Texas," said she. Mike said that the best part of their trip was the many friendly people they met. Following him was Tom Flattery, director of the Office of Realty and Environmental Planning, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, who brought along from Springfield a large map of the proposed Grand Illinois Trail. He also presented to Jean and Paul Mooring a handsome proclamation signed by Governor Jim Edgar and bearing the seal of the State of Illinois declaring June 1, 1996, Illinois Trails Day.

Jean Mooring gave a brief but heartfelt statement on behalf of all trail users thanking government agencies at all levels, from local to federal, for working with citizens to build the wonderful trail system we enjoy today and urging them to keep up the good work. "It's taken thirty-three

years to complete the Illinois Prairie Path in DuPage and Kane Counties, and the Path is still not finished in Cook though that may happen next year," said she. "If we want to build the Grand Illinois Trail by the year 2000, we'd better get moving!" Much applause.

Next on the program was DuPage County Board Chairman Gayle Franzen. He introduced his friend and

*DuPage County Board Chairman Gayle Franzen (at mike) introduces Jack Knuepfer. Seated (left) is MC David Tate.*



mentor, former Chairman Jack Knuepfer, for whom the nearby suspension bridge over the Union Pacific and Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroads had just been named by the DuPage County Board. Everyone admired the handsome bronze plaque to be installed near the bridge. Also on the platform were two former Kane County Board chairmen, who are staunch trail advocates, Philip Elfstrom and Frank Miller. Phil, the father of the beautiful Fox River Trail, brought down the house with the funniest speech of the day. He compared DuPage County's little "cricks", the Salt Crick and the DuPage Crick, to Kane County's "real river", the majestic Fox. He explained that Kane County has many nice bridges carrying the trail over its real river, and so Jack Knuepfer in DuPage, not to be outdone, wanted a big



*Inter-county rivalry flares as four county board chairmen (past and present) trade friendly jabs. (From left) Frank Miller, Kane; Gayle Franzen, DuPage; Phil Elfstrom, Kane; Jack Knuepfer, DuPage.*



*"Mr. Trails of DuPage County" Jack Knuepfer in his lederhosen garb holds bronze plaque soon to be installed beside the Jack T. Knuepfer Bridge as he admires new IPP Geneva Spur sign.*

beautiful bridge too. Without a real river Jack kept looking around to find something to build his bridge over and finally he found it: "about a hundred railroad tracks" in West Chicago that were almost as hard for a trail to cross as a river, and that's where he built his bridge. Jack had to respond in defense of his beloved DuPage County as the audience roared. The unspoken truth was that the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur would never have been completed without Jack Knuepfer's bridge.

"That's a hard act to follow," laughed Mike Formento, chairman of the DuPage County Board Transportation Committee, who had been asked to preside over the Grand Opening of the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur. He said that the successful completion of this nine-mile trail, a major trail in its own right, is due to the cooperative effort of seven agencies: the DuPage County Division of Transportation, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage

County, Commonwealth Edison Company, the City of West Chicago, the DuPage Airport, the City of Geneva, and the Kane County Forest Preserve District. Then he asked representatives of the two lead agencies who are both longtime trail advocates, Chuck Tokarski, director of the DuPage County Division of Transportation, and Jon Duerr, superintendent of field services for the Kane County Forest Preserve District, to unveil the new sign, donated by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation. The handsome sign displays the logos of the seven cooperating agencies. The audience applauded warmly to show its approval.

Concluding the ceremonies, David Tate introduced the committee that had planned the event, and then Dave Thomas, director of the West Chicago Park District, invited everyone to watch the installation of the sign, visit the bridge, enjoy cake and punch, and view the many interesting



*Equestrian Connie Schmidt of Trail Riders of DuPage was the official hostess for the Grand Celebration.*

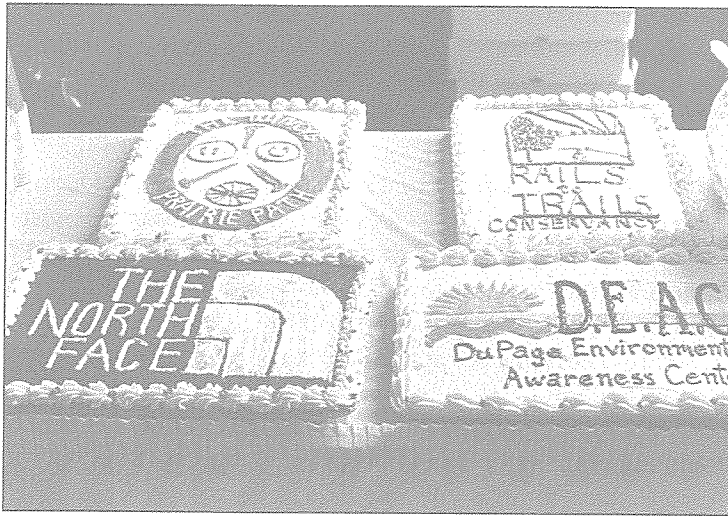
exhibits ringing the room. It was an extraordinary day and a magical milestone in the history of trails in Illinois.

The organizing committee members were Jean and Paul Mooring of The Illinois Prairie Path, Connie Schmidt of Trail Riders of DuPage, Sue Ferguson of the Conservation Foundation of DuPage county Trails Project, and Dave Thomas. With energy, efficiency, and unfailing tact, Connie coordinated the publicity in cooperation with DuPage County Board Chairman Gayle Franzen's public relations office and recruited some twenty environmental and outdoor recreation organizations to sponsor booths and/or cakes (and help boost attendance); and she recruited riders of old-fashioned bicycles from the Chicago Bicycle Museum to entertain the crowd. She found tables at the DuPage County Election Commission and had them transported to the site courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County. She also acted as official hostess at the party.

Sue Ferguson, design consultant, had the idea of serving punch and sheet cakes decorated with the logos of the various sponsoring organizations (those that donated cakes). The cakes were displayed on tables flanking a lovely ice sculpture (also Sue's idea), shaped like the arch



*Organizers of the National Trails Day events on stage to take a bow. (From left) Paul Aeschleman who coordinated the ride from First Avenue, Maywood; Jean Mooring, Sue Ferguson and Connie Schmidt who collaborated to produce a super Grand Celebration. At right, MC David Tate.*



*Four of the delicious cakes donated by participating groups and businesses. Sponsors are listed in the enclosed program.*

of the Jack T. Knuepfer Bridge for a very elegant look. Sue decorated the portable stage (generously donated for the day by the Elmhurst Park District) with terra cotta pots of flowers and augmented them with more flowers and shrubs grown by the West Chicago Park District. She also provided colorful balloons, ribbons, and sparkling white table covers and skirts, which gave a bright and festive look to the 5000-square-foot hall.

Jean Mooring selected and recruited the speakers and provided the general plan for the Celebration: Purpose—To thank government leaders at all levels for the wonderful trail system we enjoy today and to urge them to continue improving it; Location—Reed-Keppler Park in West Chicago; Main Events—Return of the Grand Illinois Trail Adventurers, Naming of the Jack T. Knuepfer Bridge, and the Grand Opening of the Geneva Spur of the Illinois Prairie Path. She sent out announcements of the National Trails Day events to some eighty environmental and trail

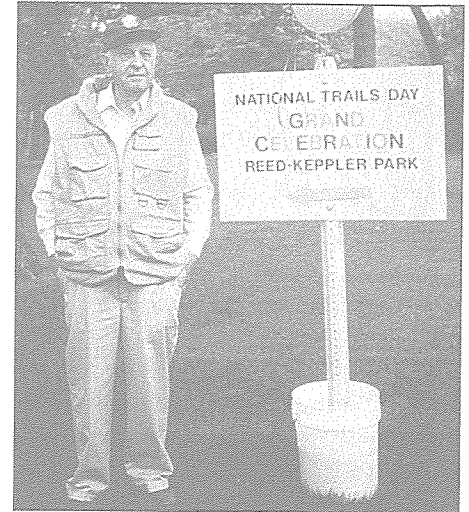


*Police Officers of the new West Chicago Bicycle Patrol escorted the Grand Adventurers through the city to Reed-Keppler Park on the well-marked IPP Geneva Spur. (See map of trail through city, page 7.)*

related organizations. She commissioned Hart Design Co. of Wheaton to create the striking Geneva Spur sign and suggested the wording of the bronze plaque to be made and installed next to the bridge by the DuPage County Division of Transportation. She also arranged for the Glen Ellyn

Park District's Retired Rhythm Rascals to play their foot-tapping Golden Oldies music.

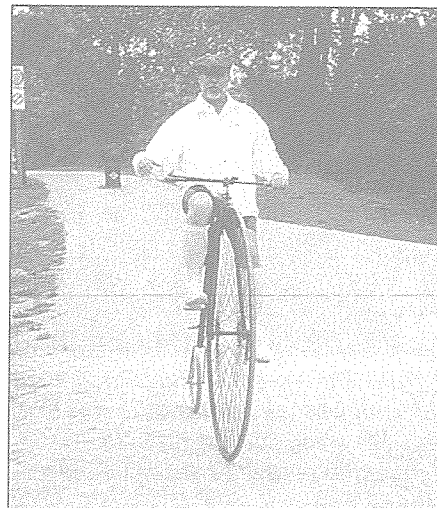
Paul Mooring attended all but one of the planning meetings, devised the program for the Celebration (copy enclosed), made the colorful street signs directing visitors to Reed-Keppler Park, delivered IPP logo signs to West Chicago, Bellwood, and Hillside, printed on his computer letters, speeches, and resolutions drafted by Jean and later



*Paul Mooring with colorful sign (one of nine) he made to direct guests to Reed-Keppler Park.*

presented by her to various governmental agencies, and generally kept her focused on the task at hand.

"Guardian angel" of the event was Dave Thomas, director of the West Chicago Park District, who was ably assisted by Jesse Felix, superintendent of parks, and the entire park district staff. The park district provided insurance, indispensable for an event of this size, and donated the use of its spacious maintenance building, which had to be cleaned and polished and decorated inside and out with flowers and shrubs from the park district greenhouse/nursery. Park district employees (after the ceremony and in the rain) installed the new Geneva Spur sign at the foot of the ramp east of the Jack T. Knuepfer Bridge. Dave participated generously in the entire lengthy planning process, offered excellent advice on ways to make the Celebration go more smoothly, and never lost his cool or sense of humor.



*Rider of old-fashioned bicycle from Chicago Bicycle Museum shows off.*

**PROGRAM**

**PRESENTED BY**

The Illinois Prairie Path

Trails Riders of DuPage

The Conservation Foundation of DuPage County  
Trails Project

DuPage County

**WITH THE COOPERATION AND HELP OF**

The West Chicago Park District

The City of West Chicago

The Elmhurst Park District

<b>I. Opening Remarks</b>
<b>II. Proposed Grand Illinois Trail</b>
<b>III. Welcome to Grand Adventurers</b>
<b>IV. A Statement of Thanks from Trail Users to Public Officials</b>
<b>V. Naming of Bridge over Union Pacific and EJ&amp;E Railroads in West Chicago</b>
<b>VI. Grand Opening of the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur</b>
<b>VII. Closing Remarks</b>

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

### ATLANTIC

Chicago Area Bicycle Dealers Association  
Chicagoland Bicycle Federation  
Chicago Bicycle Museum  
Conservation Foundation of DuPage County Trails Project  
Duke of Oil, Maywood  
DuPage Environmental Awareness Center  
Front Street Cocina  
Great Harvest Bread Company  
Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs  
The Illinois Prairie Path  
Illinois Rails-to-Trails Conservancy  
League of Illinois Bicyclists  
Midwest Cyclery  
North Face  
Openlands Project  
PADS  
Power Bars  
ProBikes and Likes  
Quad Cities Sports and Recreation  
Retired Rhythm Rascals  
RLA and TURF  
Stemple's Cycle Center  
Subway/Convenient Food Mart  
Trail Riders of DuPage  
Walk the World  
Water One  
West Chicago City Museum

## NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

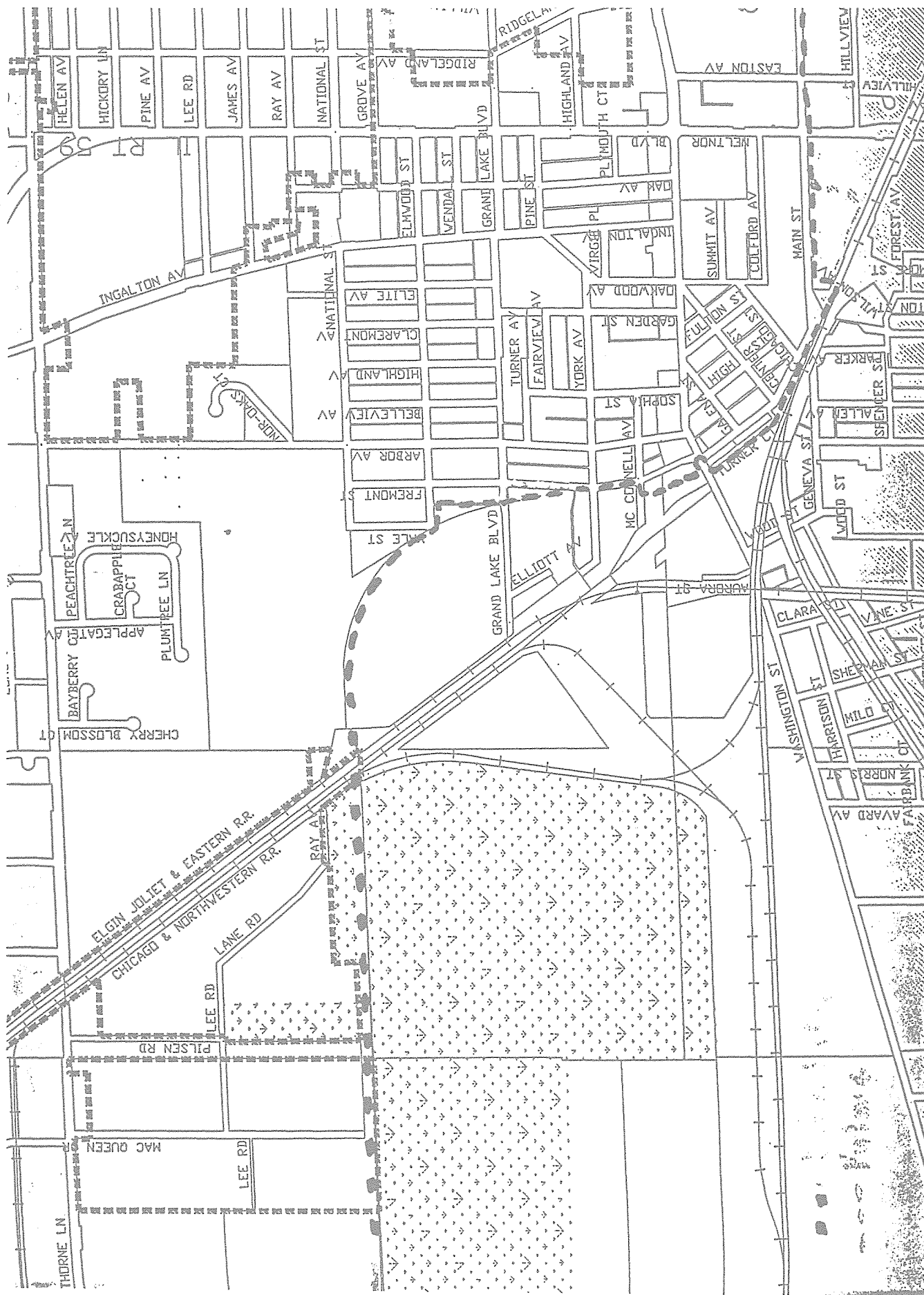
### PROGRAM

## *A GRAND CELEBRATION*

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 1996  
2:00 p.m.

REED-KEPPLER PARK  
WEST CHICAGO, ILLINOIS





The route of the Illinois Prairie Path Geneva Spur through West Chicago is now clearly marked by green-and-white IPP logo signs.

# REPORTS ON SPRING CLEANUP

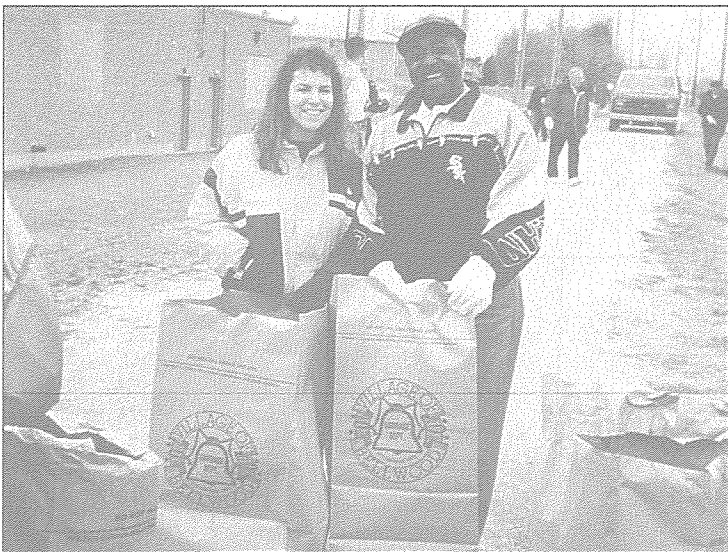
## **Bellwood. Susan Wisniewski**

"The Earth Day Prairie Path Cleanup in Bellwood was a huge success. I called Mike Sturino, village director of economic development, ahead of time and asked to have some coverage in the *Bellwood Community News*. He put an article on the front page which generated several phone



*Mayor Lemm of Bellwood joined the cleanup volunteers.*

calls from interested local residents. I also had a Prairie Path display in the Bellwood Public Library. On cleanup day Pat Gartland and Ed Sheehan of the Boys and Girls Club were as always helpful in organizing the approximately twenty-five boys who took part. We met at the Boys and Girls Club. Present were several Kiwanis, two men from the Prairie View Senior Apartments, and two female Bellwood residents (in addition to me). Larry Doyle, general foreman of the public works department, provided a supervisor and three strong DUI guys to do the heavy cleanup, and also a truck, large paper trash bags,



*The Bellwood cleanup volunteers had a good time and did a good job.*

gloves, and sticks.

"Soon after we began we were joined by Mayor Lemm, several village trustees, and a reporter. When I told Mayor Lemm that I had brought OJ and doughnuts provided by our organization, he offered to reimburse me for it and did. We cleaned up from Mannheim to beyond Eastern from 9:00 to 11:30; and afterwards the mayor bought us all pizza, ordered from Nick's, a local restaurant."

## **Elmhurst, Jean Korleski, Volunteer Coordinator, Elmhurst Park District**

"On March 22 eleven volunteers cleaned the IPP and the adjacent Great Western Prairie between Spring Road and Salt Creek prior to burning the prairie. On April 13 a troop of 15 Girl Scouts cleaned other sections of the Prairie Path in Elmhurst."

## **Lombard, Connie Sichrovsky, Communications and Marketing Specialist, Village of Lombard**

"We had a successful Lombard Pride Cleanup Day on April 27. The theme was 'Clean and Green-Community Pride'. More than 600 residents took to the streets throughout the village and to the two trails, the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western, and gave them a thorough sprucing up."



*This cleanup sign was posted by the Glen Ellyn Public Works Department at the Taylor Avenue Prairie soon after the annual spring burn.*

## **Glen Ellyn. Jean Mooring**

"The Glen Ellyn Public Works Department gave us unusually strong support this year. Besides providing a dump truck and a front end loader on the day of the cleanup, our new director, Sally Roethle, met with me in advance to look at some problem areas which needed special attention. She also had the sign department make metal signs announcing the cleanup, which were attached a

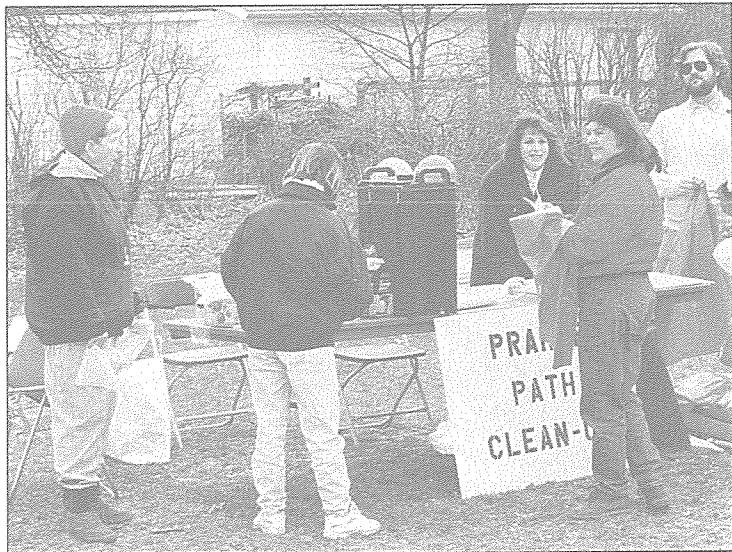
couple of weeks ahead of time to posts along the Path mainly at street intersections in the downtown business area. With very minor changes the signs can be used from year to year. In spite of several competing events we had twenty volunteers on April 13, who cleaned between Hill Avenue on the east and the village parking lot west of the new library. One week after the cleanup there was still some litter between the parking lot and the Wheaton city limits, but in general Glen Ellyn's section looked good."

#### **Wheaton, Winfield, West Chicago. and Wayne. David Tate**

"The Illinois Prairie Path handed out Earth Day flyers to 1,550 homes that border the Path in Wheaton, Winfield, West Chicago, Wayne and Geneva. The flyers not only requested that individuals volunteer for the Earth Day Cleanup but also conveyed the important reminder that litter along the trail in these communities is picked up mainly by volunteers and so any litter spotted throughout the year should also be picked up.

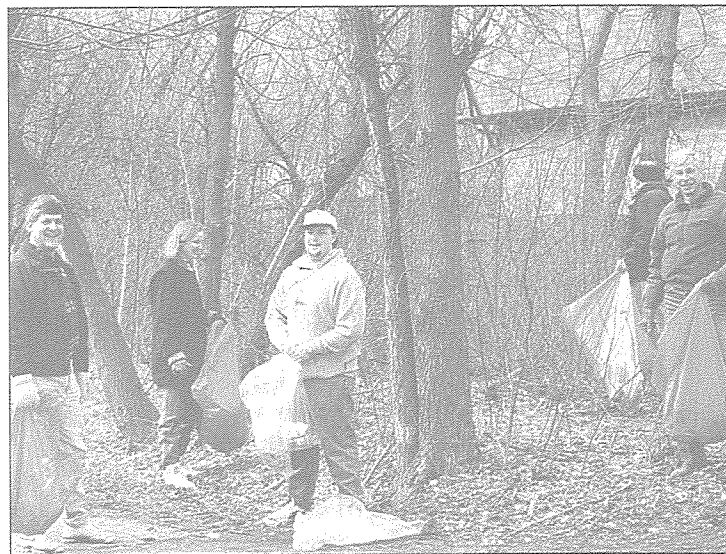
#### **Wheaton.**

"Again this year the Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission coordinated a thorough Earth Day cleanup along eight miles of the Prairie Path. Kathy Williamson organized the cleanup and reported an excellent turnout of 113 people who registered at their table, set up next to Stevens Park at Lincoln Avenue. Available at the table for the Earth Day volunteers were recycling bags, plus coffee, orange juice, and doughnuts donated by The Illinois Prairie Path. Kathy assigned cleanup teams to the two miles of the Prairie Path Main



*Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission table near Lincoln Avenue was staffed by IPP lifetime member Helen Bartlett (far left), Kathy Williamson and Ted Witte (both facing camera).*

Stem east to the Glen Ellyn village limits, the 1.5 miles of the Prairie Path Elgin Branch to Jewell Road, and almost five miles of the Prairie Path Aurora Branch to Warrenville Road.



*Employees from Target store in Wheaton pick up litter along one mile of the IPP Aurora Branch south of Roosevelt Road.*

#### **Winfield.**

"Melanie Hansberger led Winfield Cub Scout Pack 575 Den 9's cleanup efforts at County Farm Road. Six scouts from Den 9, four of their brothers and sisters, and four adults picked up five bags of litter on the Path near County Farm Road. It is obvious that almost all of the litter here is not from trail users but rather is wind-blown from the Prairie Trail Shopping Center and residents' uncovered curbside recycling bins. Thus it sometimes seems to be snowing newspapers when there is a windstorm on trash/recycling night. Bob Jones of Winfield also filled a thirty-gallon litter bag at County Farm Road. The five-mile section of the Prairie Path Elgin Branch from Jewell Road to Illinois Rte. 59 is regularly walked and cleaned by IPP board member David Tate. It is rare to see any litter along the Path through Timber Ridge Forest Preserve. The new Prairie Path Geneva Spur through the Winfield Mounds Forest Preserve and up to Prince Crossing Road was also cleaned.

#### **West Chicago.**

"On the new Prairie Path Geneva Spur, cleanups were also done at both Industrial Drive and Kautz Road, which necessitated the disposal of ten tires at a cost of \$1.25 per tire.

"The Prairie Path Elgin Branch behind Oliver Square Shopping Center, between North Avenue and Illinois Rte. 59, was cleaned by both the DuPage DOT and the shopping center's maintenance firm, The Sweeping Doctor. As regular trail users know all too well, this section of the Path behind the Oliver Square Shopping Center has been the most litter-plagued section of the 55-mile trail for several years. Early this spring the DuPage County DOT picked up fifty 30-gallon bags of wind-blown litter on the Path behind the shopping center. In addition, at The Illinois Prairie Path's request, the shopping center's manager, Mid-America Asset Management Company, had a walk-through behind the shopping center with The Sweeping Doctor.



Mid-America put The Sweeping Doctor 'on notice' regarding wind-blown litter on the Path from the shopping center, and these parties have agreed that litter on the Path must be picked up twice a week.

#### **Wayne.**

"Gladys Johnston, the president of the Wayne garden club, picked up litter along the Path in the Wayne area for the Earth Day cleanup. Gladys routinely polices the Path through Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve and keeps this section in immaculate condition."

#### **Warrenville, Bob and Maureen Rawls.**

"The Spring Cleanup in Warrenville was held on April 20th, a week later than other cleanups. This was necessary so as not to conflict with the Friends of the Prairie Path's 'Bike 'N' Hike' on April 13th. That event was to raise money for the legal fight to save the Path from Com Ed's destructive plans.

"This year we were fortunate to have a very enthusiastic Brownie Troop 305 from St. Irene's School. Leaders Donna Coleman, Donna Bovine, Iona Sirotek and Sue Cirock were joined by Brownies Suzy Johnson, Elizabeth Marshall, Meagan Rawls, Meghan Mitchell, Cindy Pratcher, Jacqueline Sirotek, Kristine Coleman, Kristine Bovine, Jenny Cirock and Beth Rybarski to clean the Path. Other individuals joining the cleanup included Kelly and Katie Coleman and Michael, Laura, and Maureen Rawls.

"The day started-out promising with sunshine but quickly turned to high winds, rain, and tornado warnings. The Brownies, however, were not to be denied their opportunity to fulfill their duty and proceeded to fill fifteen plastic garbage bags with trash. For her effort each Troop 305 Brownie received an Illinois Prairie Path patch to display proudly on her Brownie vest."



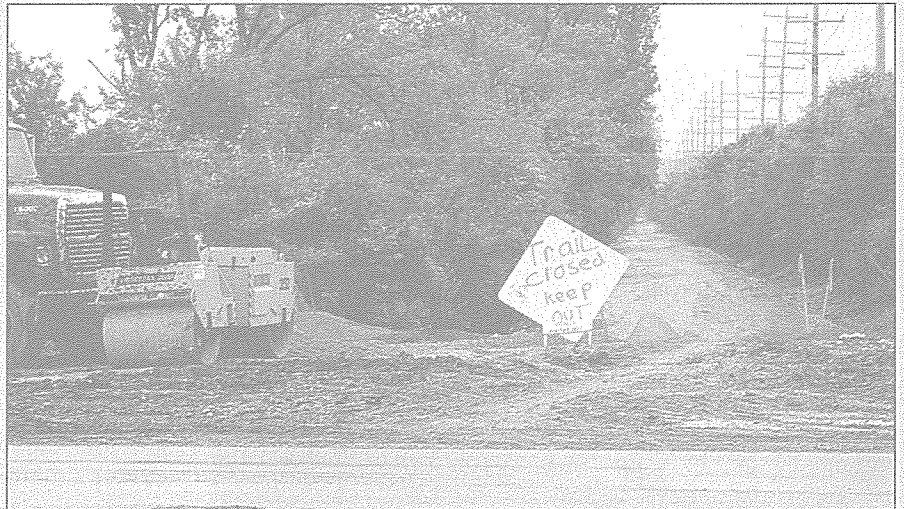
*Brownie Troop 305 cleaned Prairie Path in Warrenville. Little brother Michael Rawls, 4 (foreground) helped.*

## **BATAVIA SPUR CONSTRUCTION**

### **David Tate sends the following report:**

"Construction along approximately three miles of the Illinois Prairie Path Batavia Spur will continue through August 2, 1996. The trail will be open on weekends but will be closed Monday through Friday each week. During this period the surface of the trail could be rough. However, by mid-summer we should see a better, somewhat elevated trail with improved drainage, plus a new bridge over Indian Creek.

"The construction along the Batavia Spur is an AT&T project. The company is laying fiber optic cable under the Path and plans to complete the work in three sections. The first section, between Kirk Road and Butterfield Road, is expected to be completed in June. Construction will then begin on the second section between Butterfield Road and Bilter Road. Mike Pruyn, director of public relations for



*"Trail Closed - Keep Out." Sign on IPP Batavia Spur at Butterfield Road warns of hazards ahead.*

AT&T, assures us that if the weather cooperates, the final section between Hart Road and Kirk Road will be completed by August 2. Then back to smooth bicycling!"



# What is ISTEA (and Why Do We Need It)?

By Al Sturges

It's ISTEA time again in Washington, DC. This summer, the House Transportation Committee will be holding hearings on reauthorizing ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act). The support of bicyclists is crucial to ensure that the legislation continues to recognize bicycling as a legitimate mode of transportation.

## What exactly is it we're supporting?

OK, everyone seems to know that ISTEA means money for bicycle facilities. But guess which of the following came from ISTEA:

- A full-time state bicycle coordinator
- The IDOT "Routine Accommodations" policy
- Metro area and local bicycle/pedestrian plans
- Public (bicyclist) participation in plans

The answer — without ISTEA, we probably wouldn't have any of the above. ISTEA has created a culture, at least in Illinois, where bicyclists have the opportunity to interact with public officials to let them know what we want.

Before ISTEA, bicycle and pedestrian planning was largely done by parks and recreation departments. So, facilities tended to be loop trails developed for recreational purposes.

Unfortunately, local planners and officials often have very limited experience with bicycling and may be unaware of the problems facing bicyclists. The public participation specified under ISTEA has brought the knowledge of people who actually ride bikes into the process.

Because of this, many of the bike/ped plans developed under ISTEA are better at addressing the needs and challenges facing bicyclists who ride on busy roads for transportation purposes. In addition, ISTEA still provides

resources for trails along greenways, railroad rights-of-way and other corridors with limited intersections.

Still not convinced?

Transportation money programmed for bicycle projects in the entire country was \$10 million during the 10 years prior to ISTEA. Since ISTEA, about \$110 million has been funded in Illinois alone.

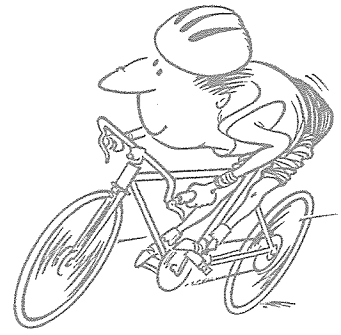
## Okay, we need more ISTEA — so what can I do?

How about telling a Congressman? Two Chicago area Representatives, **William Lipinski** and **Jerry Weller**, sit on the House Transportation Committee. They're in a good position to ensure that bicycling remains important in the new ISTEA legislation. You can reach them at:

The Honorable  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Thank them for the 1991 ISTEA legislation and tell them to please protect the pro-bike sections of ISTEA, which have benefitted everyone by reducing road congestion, protecting air quality and conserving energy. For a list of ISTEA-funded projects in Lipinski's and Weller's districts, call 708/481-3429 or send e-mail to [AlbikeIL@aol.com](mailto:AlbikeIL@aol.com).

*Editor's Note: The above article is reprinted from the Chicagoland Bicycle Federation NEWS, Volume 11, Number 3, June/July 1996. Continued ISTEA funding is so important that we recommend sending letters not only to Reps. Lipinski and Weller but also to your own congressperson, whether or not he/she is a member of the House Transportation Committee.*



## WEST CHICAGO PRAIRIE EVENTS

### Saturday, July 13

*Seed Collection.* Collection of Spiderwort seed over much of the Prairie. Many other species in bloom.  
8:00 a.m. - Noon.

### Saturday, July 20

*Butterfly Trip.* Butterfly expert Doug Taron will lead this trip. The main purpose is to see and learn about the butterflies of our Prairie. We will also see many blooming flowers. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

### Saturday, August 17

*Field Trip.* Good displays of Prairie Dock, False Dragonhead, Nodding Onion, Tall Coreopsis, Prairie Sunflower, Blazing Star, and many others. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

### Saturday, September 7

*Seed Collection.* General seed collection, mostly forbs.  
9:00 a.m. - Noon.

### Sunday, September 22

*Field Trip.* Good displays of Asters (five species), Goldenrods (four species), Bottle Gentian and tall grasses in seed. 9:00 a.m. - Noon.

### Sunday, September 22

*Seed Collection.* General seed collection, mostly forbs.  
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

All events start from the West Chicago Prairie parking lot located on the east side of Industrial Drive between Western and Downs. Information: Mel Hoff, (708) 393-4715, or JoAnn Monge, (708) 961-2041, day or evening. Special trips can be arranged for groups.

# SUMMER ACTIVITIES, rain or shine

## Sunday, July 14

*Bike Ride* on IPP Main Stem to First Ave. Maywood, and on to Brookfield Zoo via Salt Creek Trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Volunteer Park, Wheaton (Liberty at Carlton). Leader: Paul Aeschleman (708) 848-6023.

## Saturday, July 20

*Work Day.* Move display case stand from Industrial Drive on Geneva Spur to Bennett Park, Geneva. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Members' Room, Wheaton (Delles Road north of Roosevelt). Leader: Dick Wilson (847) 299-7882 (from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.).

## Sunday, August 11

*Bike Ride*, round trip on Aurora Branch, Fox River Trail, and Geneva Spur. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Volunteer Park, Wheaton (Liberty at Carlton). Leader: Paul Aeschleman (708) 848-6023.

## Saturday, August 17

*Prairie Work Day* to remove brush and alien plants at junction of IPP and Great Western Trail. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Prince Crossing Road and Great Western Trail. Leader: Dick Wilson: (847) 299-7882 (8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

## Saturday, September 21

*Great Western Prairie Work Day and Festival.* Begins at 9:00 a.m. at Berkley Ave. and IPP, Elmhurst. Leader: Keith Olson (708) 834-7357

## Saturdays, October 19, November 16

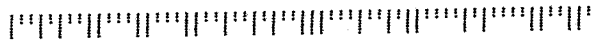
*Regular Work Days* at Great Western Prairie, Elmhurst. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at Berkley Ave. and IPP, Elmhurst. Leader: Keith Olson (708) 834-7357.

— Jean C. Mooring, Editor —

MEMBERSHIP RATES:	Individual \$10
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