

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

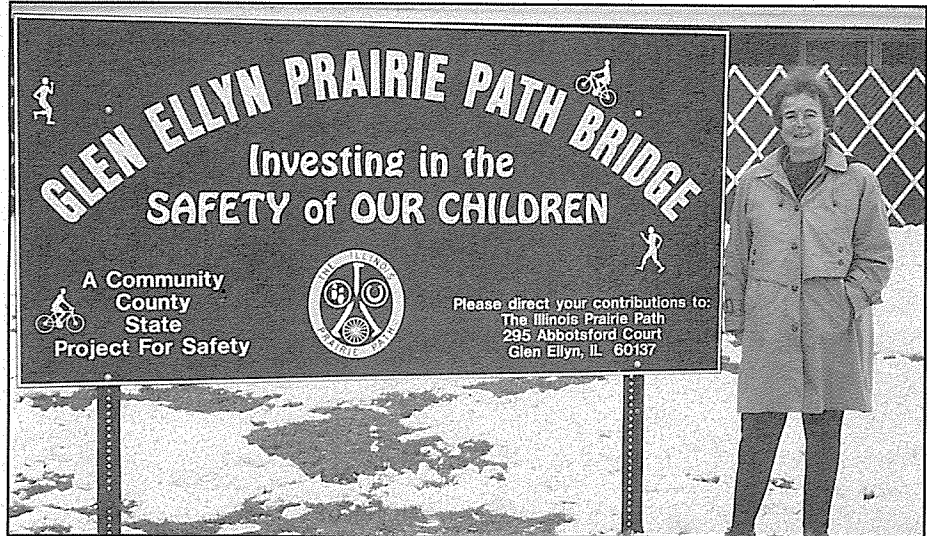
Winter/Spring 1998

Fundraising Underway for Taylor Avenue Bridge

By Jean Mooring

"Investing in the Safety of Our Children" is the message on the new sign in Glen Ellyn at the corner of Taylor and Walnut. The importance of a bridge to promote the safety of children, all Illinois Prairie Path users, and passing motorists was stressed in a letter sent to village residents and businesses just before Christmas by the Glen Ellyn Prairie Path Bridge Task Force.

The letter explains that the DuPage County Board, which owns the



This new sign is located at Taylor and Walnut in Glen Ellyn. "We hope all our trail users and friends will help build this bridge," said Jean Mooring.

Prairie Path right-of-way, has hired an engineering firm to design the bridge and will seek a grant to fund a portion of the project. Matching funds will have to be raised in the community. The letter states that a volunteer architect will assist with the plans to make sure that "as little damage as possible is done to the prairie restoration planted at the site by Glenbard West students over many years."

The Taylor Avenue intersection has

long been considered one of the most dangerous on the Prairie Path because of the path's 13 percent slope on each side of the crossing and because any motorist's view is impaired by the narrow, one-lane Taylor Avenue underpass at the adjacent Union Pacific Railroad.

Members of the committee were appointed by the Village Board and include former Village Trustee Ron Rennard, James Bourke, Pi Irwin, David Kennedy, Jean Mooring, Paul Mooring, Warren Senneke, and Tom Waters.

Contributions to The Illinois Prairie Path/Glen Ellyn Bridge Fund are tax-deductible. Donations made payable to the fund may be sent in care of:

**Paul Mooring, IPP Treasurer,
295 Abbotsford Court,
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137-4803.**

A donation form is available on the special insert included with this newsletter.

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IPP News from Cook County

Des Plaines River Bridge to Extend Illinois Prairie Path to CTA Station

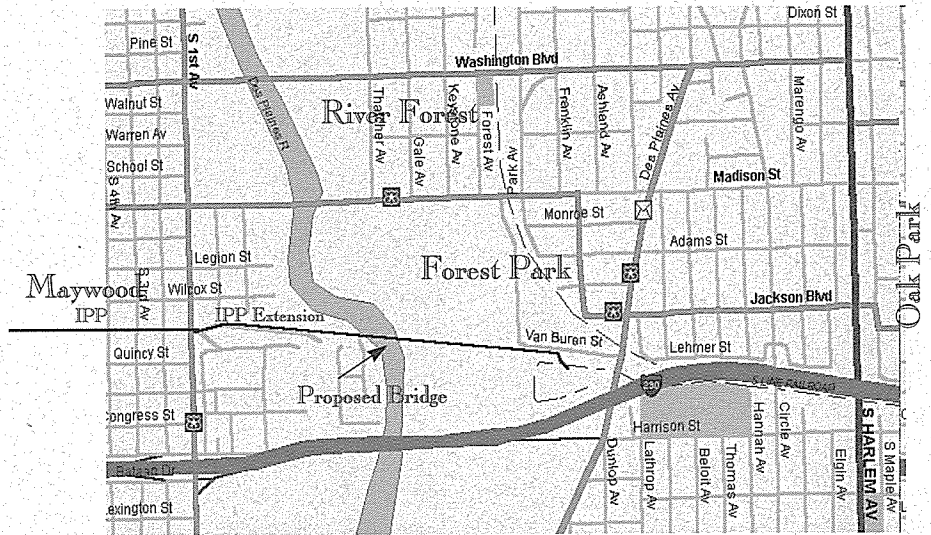
By Paul Aeschleman

Another exciting Cook County project is the resurrection of plans to build a bridge across the Des Plaines River from Maywood to Forest Park. This project would extend the length of the IPP by approximately one mile.

The Villages of Forest Park and Maywood, the Park Districts of Forest Park and River Forest, the Illinois Prairie Path, and the Open Lands Project have joined forces to promote the construction of a bridge over the Des Plaines River. When completed, this vital link will connect the CTA Congress Line terminal in Forest Park to the Cook County Maybrook Court facilities, the Illinois Prairie Path, and the proposed Des Plaines River Trail in Maywood. The bridge will be built on the long abandoned Chicago Great Western Railroad right-of-way.

This project is being coordinated by the Village of Maywood. Recent discussions with Maywood's Village Manager have indicated that the CTA is supportive of this project and that the engineering component of the project may begin as early as the first quarter of 1998. The engineering work is being funded by the Villages of Maywood, Forest Park, River Forest and the Illinois Prairie Path. Funding for the construction and maintenance of the bridge has been requested from the Illinois Department of Transportation's Operation Greenlight Grant Program.

For additional information on IPP events in Cook County, contact Paul Aeschleman at (708) 848-6023, or e-mail: paeschle@aol.com.



The Des Plaines River Bridge will be built on the long abandoned Chicago Great Western Railroad right-of-way.

The Bids Are Out for IPP Cook County Section

By Paul Aeschleman

After numerous delays and reviews, the Illinois Prairie Path is excited to announce that the bid package for the construction of the Cook County Section of the Illinois Prairie Path was finally released to prospective bidders on January 11, 1998.

Numerous competitive bids for this project were received by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the IDNR has recommended that the contract be awarded to the low bidder. The cost for this upgrade is expected to be approximately \$660,000.

George Bellovics (DNR - Grand IL Trail Coordinator), informed the IPP that construction could begin as early as this spring if the terms of the contract can be finalized and the weather cooperates. This project is being funded by an ISTE A grant and matching contributions from local communities.