

The Illinois Prairie Path Spring 2000 **NEWSLETTER**

Join our Earth Day 2000 Cleanup

*By David Tate,
IPP President*

In observance of Earth Day 2000, The Illinois Prairie Path has scheduled its annual cleanup on Saturday, April 29. The IPP's Earth Day cleanup is scheduled one week later than usual this year because Easter Sunday falls on April 23.

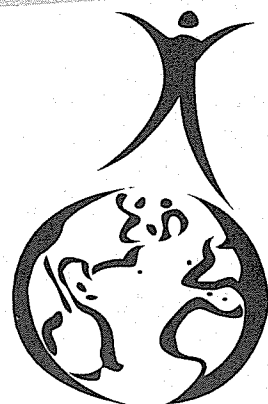
Once again our goal this year is to clean all 61 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path.

Litter on the IPP is picked up solely by volunteers. Your help on Earth Day is both needed and appreciated. However, it is also important to remember that since all litter on the Path is picked up by volunteers, any litter spotted along the Path throughout the year should also be picked up.

To be a participant in the Earth Day 2000 cleanup, take a trash bag to the IPP and join in at any time or contact one of the IPP Earth Day coordinators listed on page 3.

Villa Park, Glen Ellyn, and Wheaton will have Illinois Prairie Path Earth Day registration and refreshment tables set up on the IPP on Saturday, April 29, from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. The specific locations for these three registration tables are listed later in this article.

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the IPP Earth Day 2000
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Coordinators on page 3."***



It is recommended that volunteer groups contact one of our coordinators. The coordinators may recommend to some groups that they clean specific sections of the IPP.

The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation will fund the Earth Day registration and refreshment tables in Wheaton, Glen Ellyn and Villa Park. These three Earth Day registration tables will coordinate trail cleanup sections and also provide free refreshments, trash bags and multi-colored IPP maps.

Wheaton's Sign-up and Refreshment Table

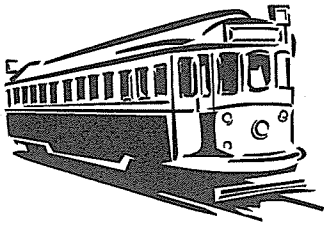
The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission will again manage Wheaton's Earth Day cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path

on Saturday, April 29, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon from a table at the intersection of Lincoln Avenue and the IPP in Stevens Park.

(Continued on page 3)

Inside This Issue

<i>Earth Day Cleanup</i>	<i>pp. 1-3</i>
<i>"Living Legacy" Book Review</i>	<i>p. 2</i>
<i>Remembering Ralph Franzen</i>	<i>p. 4</i>
<i>IPP Finances</i>	<i>p. 5</i>
<i>Annual Meeting</i>	<i>pp. 6-7</i>
<i>Remediation Site</i>	<i>p. 8-9</i>
<i>Cross-Country Skiing</i>	<i>p. 10</i>



***The Living Legacy
of the Chicago,
Aurora & Elgin***
in hardcover sells for
\$54.95 and is available at
the following locations:

Al's Hobby Shop
121 Addison Avenue
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 832-4908

Anderson's Bookshops
176 North York Road
Elmhurst, IL 60126
(630) 832-6566

The Book Store
475 North Main Street
Glen Ellyn, IL 60137
(630) 469-2891

Cardiff Brothers Trains
300 Crescent Place
(Union Pacific train station
in Geneva)
Geneva, IL 60134
(630) 262-0727

Timeless Hobbies
75 Danada Square East
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 690-5542

**Villa Park
Historical Museum**
220 South Villa Avenue
Villa Park, IL 60181
(630) 941-0223

W. S. Publications
P. O. Box 364
North Liberty, IA 52317
(800) 999-6901

The Living Legacy of the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin

The First Real History of the Illinois Prairie Path

By Jean Mooring

The name of the book is eloquent: *The Living Legacy of the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin, An illustrated history of the CA&E and the Illinois Prairie Path*. Authors Peter Weller and Fred Stark are cousins who grew up in the waning days of the electric railroad era when automobiles and a burgeoning highway system began to make interurban railroads obsolete. Peter lived in Chicago and Fred and his brother Richard lived in Elmhurst. Because neither family owned an automobile, the boys rode the CA&E regularly back and forth and all three became lifelong railroad fans.

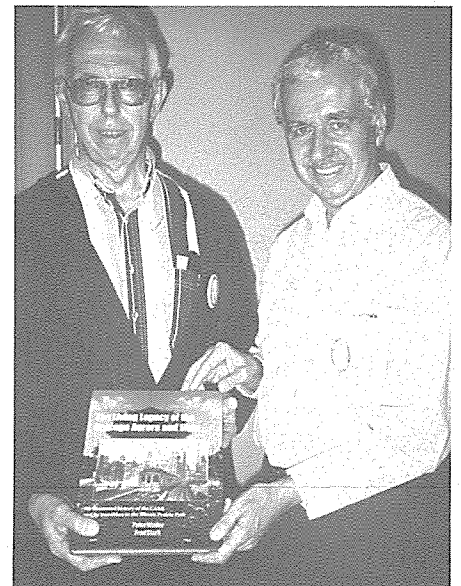
This well researched and illustrated book gives a brief history of the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railway from its beginning in 1902 as the Aurora, Elgin, and Chicago Railway through its best days before World War II to its final abandonment in 1961. (This reviewer as a visitor from Madison, Wisconsin in the 1930s and 1940s has fond memories of the "Roaring Elgin" which speedily carried two Madison sisters and their Wheaton cousins into Chicago for convenient shopping at Marshall Field's.)

After the abandonment, most of the CA&E cars were scrapped. The 18 that were saved were sent to operating museums; Chapter 6 describes their current status. For the true railroad buff the book re-creates a ride from Chicago in the 1940s and

also includes illustrations of fascinating CA&E memorabilia — tickets, timetables, cartoons, safety rules for CA&E motormen, ads for businesses served by the railroad and for the 1933 Chicago Century of Progress Exhibition.

Prairie Path members and friends will especially enjoy the final chapters of the book, which give a well documented history of the Path with special attention to the contributions of the volunteers whose stubborn determination over 35 years made the dream of the founders a reality.

This very readable volume, with its scholarly attention to facts and copious illustrations is a treasure to be proud of, the first real history of the Illinois Prairie Path and its volunteers.



Authors Peter Weller and Fred Stark

YOUR Help is Needed on Saturday, April 29!

You can make a difference! To volunteer for the cleanup, call one of our coordinators today!



Location	IPP Coordinator	Phone Number
Maywood & Bellwood	Paul Aeschleman	(708) 848-6023
Hillside	Nancy Becker	(630) 654-1019
Berkeley	John Kacich	(708) 544-7524
Elmhurst	Eric Keeley	(630) 691-1413
Villa Park	Nadia Gawron	(630) 941-8781
Lombard	Joelyn Kott	(630) 620-5718
Glen Ellyn	Tom Barriball	(630) 790-3171
Wheaton	Helen Bartlett	(630) 668-1759
Winfield	David Tate	(630) 682-1449
W. Chicago/Geneva Spur	Tom Yule	(630) 293-1726
W. Chicago/Elgin Branch	Birt Hurlbert	(630) 293-1062
Wayne	Gladys Johnston	(630) 584-2491
Warrenville	Bob Rawls	(630) 393-6720
Aurora/Naperville	Mike Cross	(630) 416-1415
Batavia Spur	Ed Barsotti	(630) 820-8759
Unincorporated areas	David Tate	(630) 682-1449
General information	Dick Wilson	(847) 299-7882

Join the Earth Day 2000 Cleanup

(Continued from page 1)

Glen Ellyn's Sign-up and Refreshment Table

The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission will again manage Glen Ellyn's Earth Day cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path on Saturday, April 29, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon from a table at Prairie Path Park (across from the Glen Ellyn train station).

Villa Park's Sign-up and Refreshment Table

The Villa Park Pride Commission will manage Villa Park's Earth Day cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path on Saturday, April 29, between 9 a.m. and 12 noon from a table next to the Villa Park Historical Society Museum on Villa Avenue.

Cleanup Recommendations

Volunteers will want to wear work gloves and clothing appropriate for the weather.

The entire right-of-way of the IPP, which varies in width from about 20 to 100 feet, should be cleaned. In addition, small paths and walkways that feed into the main trail and the IPP's parking lots should also be cleaned.

Trash bags should not be left along the IPP except in Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn, and Wheaton. Place all trash bags near one of the IPP's trash receptacles or take the bags home and dispose of them with your own recyclables and trash. In Elmhurst, Glen Ellyn and Wheaton trash bags may be left next to the trail and they will be picked up by Public Works or the Park District.

Batavia Spur :

A special request for cleanup

Due to the extensive construction of new homes along the IPP's Batavia Spur from Bilter Road to Kirk Road, a special request for volunteers is being made for this section of the IPP. Call Ed Barsotti at (630) 820-8759 for more information.



IN MEMORIAM: RALPH FRANZEN, IPP VOLUNTEER

By Jean Mooring

Longtime friends of the Illinois Prairie Path were saddened to learn of the death of Ralph O. Franzen, 79, one of the Path's first volunteers, at Windsor Park Nursing Home in Carol Stream on November 5, 1999. Ralph and his wife Janice (Jan) Gosnell Franzen had lived for many years in Oak Meadows, where their property adjoined the Prairie Path.

Beginning in the late 1960s before the Oak Meadows section of the trail had even been surfaced with limestone screenings, Ralph began taking an interest in the Path. As a local farmer and owner of the Farmers Feed Center on Glen Ellyn Road south of North Avenue, he had equipment including an old dump truck which he used to do many jobs for the Prairie Path



Ralph Franzen loads junk on his truck during an IPP cleanup in the mid-1970s. Photo by Jean Mooring

volunteers. In those days our board was trying to build the trail on a shoestring budget with very little help from any governmental agencies.

Ralph and his truck hauled and spread tons and tons of limestone screenings and picked up and hauled to the dump countless loads of brush and junk. He also hauled railroad ties and provided a strong shoulder when our volunteers were

working on our first construction project in 1975 — the steps on both sides of the Great Western right-of-way on the Elgin Branch west of Prince Crossing Road.

In those early days, keeping the Path clean was a never-ending struggle. We tried to keep 55-gallon steel drums placed at all intersections, but they regularly disappeared. A collection of these drums, plus railroad ties and steel sign posts, had been donated to the Path. Ralph volunteered to let us store these materials at his Farmers Feed Center property so that we would always have replacements near at hand. He was truly a godsend. One of the nicest things Ralph did was to build our first bench for Path users northwest of Klein Creek on the Elgin Branch. It served many years and its remnants can still be seen.

The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors has voted to install a new bench on that site in memory of Ralph Franzen, a good friend who generously gave us help when we needed it most.



Volunteers upgrade steps at Great Western (west of Prince Crossing) in 1979. Ralph Franzen, center. At left, Birt Hurlbert and Nancy Wilson (Dick Wilson behind her). At right, Nancy Hesler and Paul Mooring. Photo by Jean Mooring



REPORT ON THE 1998 AUDIT

By Paul Mooring, Treasurer

In the fall of 1997, The Illinois Prairie Path Board voted to work with the Glen Ellyn Taylor Avenue Bridge Task Force and raise funds to help pay for a much needed bridge to carry the Path over Taylor Avenue in Glen Ellyn. To be able to raise that kind of money, the task force suggested we should solicit the aid of a professional fund raiser and The IPP Board concurred. During fiscal year 1997-98 with the expert's help we were able to raise \$62,103.57 for the project. This amount does not include \$50,000 added to the State of Illinois budget at the request of our local Representative Vince Persico; and we had fund-raising expenses of \$11,217.26, most of which went to pay the fund raiser. These extra receipts, when added to the normal IPP operating income, caused the total for the year to exceed \$100,000. That fact plus the fee we paid to our fund raiser triggered the IRS requirement that we have our books audited for that fiscal year.

We hired the firm of Chadwick & Verduin, L.L.C., located in Glen Ellyn, to audit our books. The CPA who actually reviewed our finances remarked that our bookkeeping records were straightforward and totally in order and that he found no errors. The firm provided the audit at a minimum fee, which saved The IPP considerable money; and the unaudited financial statement of the operating fund that appeared in The 1998 Fall and Winter Newsletter is

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH Treasurer's Report

November 1, 1998 - October 31, 1999
(Unaudited)

Cash Balance November 1, 1998

First National Bank of Chicago (checking)	\$24,296.84
Stein Roe Cash Reserves (Money Market Fund)	89,823.46
TOTAL	\$114,120.30

Revenue

Donations	\$1,145.00
Dues	42,652.00
Sales (maps, T-shirts, Patches, "Guides", hats)	2,567.00
Interest	4,310.53
Miscellaneous (a)	1,708.79
TOTAL	\$52,383.32

Expenditures

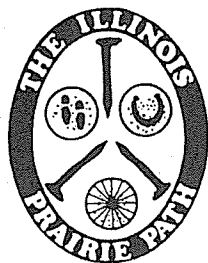
Office Manager (salary)	\$7,920.00
Newsletters (printing and mailing)	8,402.48
Membership/Flyers	1,739.97
Maintenance Supplies (includes 13 new trash containers)	6,313.90
Litter Removal/Port-o-let	3,995.00
Postage	946.48
Office Supplies	1,416.48
Telephone	483.32
Special Projects (installation of pump in Wayne)	5,875.00
Special Events (cleanups and Chicago Bicycle Show)	1,174.32
Prairie Restoration (includes new Maywood Prairie)	7,581.16
Other Printing	380.30
Merchandise for Sale (new maps)	7,966.00
Donations (Conservation Foundation Trails Project)	1,300.00
Travel	30.00
Legal and Consulting (mostly audit of 1998 books)	1,105.00
Miscellaneous (b)	2,857.71
TOTAL	\$59,487.12

Cash Balance October 31, 1999

The First National Bank of Chicago (checking)	\$13,086.95
Stein Roe Cash Reserves (money market fund)	93,929.55
TOTAL	\$107,016.50

(a) Includes \$1,698.79 from Taylor Avenue Bridge Fund account to repay IPP [see (b)].

(b) Includes \$1,698.79 paid to the Taylor Avenue Bridge Fund fund raiser + office manager's \$1000.00 petty cash account.



1999 Annual Meeting Report

35th Annual Meeting — A Record Breaker

*By Jean Mooring,
IPP Board Member*

More than 140 members and friends attended The Illinois Prairie Path corporation's annual meeting on November 7, 1999. Held at The Abbey, an Elmhurst Park District facility on St. Charles Road, the event attracted a standing-room-only crowd. Many of the attendees were fans of the Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin Railroad, whose former right-of-way is now the site of the Prairie Path.

Illinois Prairie Path President David Tate called the meeting to order and introduced the current board members. After approval of the minutes of the 1998 annual meeting, the president called for the nomination of the five board members whose terms were expiring. There being no further nominations from the floor, these directors were re-elected by acclamation: Paul Aeschleman, Bob Bernero, Paul Mooring, David Tate, and Nancy Wasielewski.

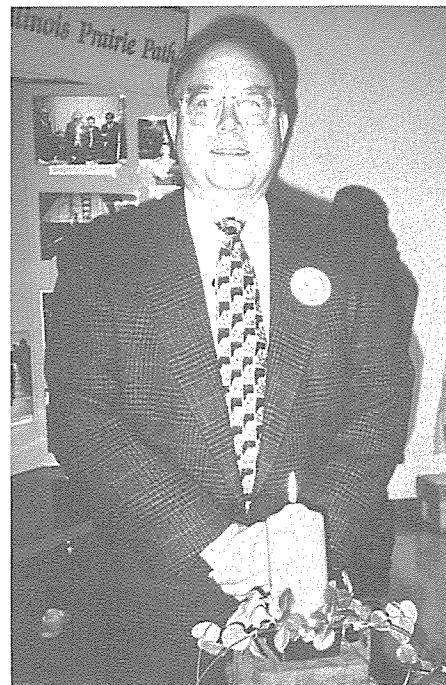
Highlights of the President's Report, which was presented in written form to save time, included:

- the new well and pump at Army Trail Road on the Elgin Branch;
- repairs to several display cases;
- distribution of 30,000 free trail maps;
- revision of the full color trail

map and printing 7,500 copies;

- purchase of 13 new weather-stone trash containers with the IPP logo (The IPP pays for servicing trash containers in the unincorporated areas of DuPage County as well as one port-o-let at Army Trail Road);
- work by our volunteers under the direction of Larry Sheaffer, prairie landscape architect, at various prairie restoration areas adjoining, or on, the IPP right-of-way at a cost of \$7,500 (this includes the new demonstration prairie at First Ave. in Maywood);
- a donation of \$10,000 for the construction of a bridge in 2000 over Taylor Avenue in Glen Ellyn;
- a donation of \$1,000 to the Conservation Foundation Trails Project.
- coordinating the annual Earth Day cleanup including funding the registration and refreshment tables for the Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission and the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission.

Next on the program was IPP Treasurer Paul Mooring, who noted that the auditing firm of Chadwick & Verduin, L.L.C. had found our financial condition to be excellent. See page 5 for the Treasurer's Report. The audit was required because The IPP raised funds to do-



Guest speaker Steve Hyett poses with CA&E insulator-assembly-and-candle centerpiece at The IPP Annual Meeting.

nate to the Taylor Avenue Bridge project, generating a contribution of \$100,000 for the bridge, and thus triggered the one-time audit under the U. S. tax code.

Board member Ken Moss introduced the first of our guest speakers, Steve Hyett, who presented a nostalgic slide program entitled, "When Trolleys Rode the Prairie Path." Steve apologized for not wearing his authentic Chicago, Aurora, and Elgin conductor's uniform. He said it must have shrunk and just didn't fit any more, but he was still able to convey the sights, sounds and sensations of riding the old Roaring Elgin and its many sister lines in Chicagoland. The crowd of railroad fans loved it.

Two more lifelong rail fans followed Steve, cousins Peter Weller

and Fred Stark, who introduced their new book, *The Living Legacy of the Chicago Aurora and Elgin, An illustrated history of the CA&E and its transition to the Illinois Prairie Path*. (See page 2 for a review of the book and purchasing information.) Many autographed copies of the book were sold after the meeting.

Last on the program was the annual Mooring slide show, assembled and written by Paul and narrated by Jean. The show illustrated most of the activities of our hardworking board members, spouses, and friends as listed in the President's Report. The presentation closed with a symbolic trip from the yellow-flowered prairie restoration at First Avenue in Maywood, near the mighty Des Plaines River, west to the peaceful Fox River in Batavia where the new trail bridge leads to a curving brick river walk flanked by purple New England asters.

The meeting concluded with a social hour and cider, cakes, and cookies provided by board members and their wives. Dick and Nancy Wilson brought a delicious sheet cake with a CA&E car depicted in the frosting.

Steve Hyett pointed out the centerpiece, made by Jean Mooring, and informed the crowd that the base was a three-piece CA&E insulator assembly. This was topped by an orange column candle nested in a ring of variegated vinca and orange and cream euonymus berries.

Trail fans and rail fans alike agreed this was one of our best meetings ever.

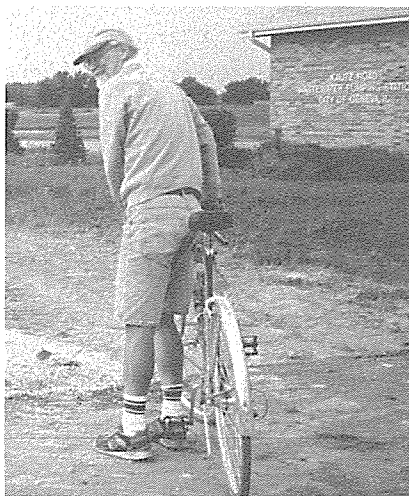
IPP Announces Board Changes

By Jean Mooring

The members of The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors announce the election of a new board member, Charlie Johnson, of Lisle.

Charlie replaces Susan Wisniewski of Bellwood, board member since 1992 and vice president since 1993. Susan is a self-employed professional artist who air-brushes her own original designs on T-shirts and other clothing. Since our annual meeting she has decided to resign and give more time to her business. We wish her great success in her work and know she will continue her commitment to the improvement of the Prairie Path in Bellwood.

Charlie Johnson has been an enthusiastic Prairie Path bicyclist for many years and probably knows more than anyone about what is actually happening on the



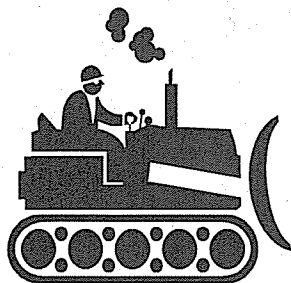
Charlie Johnson, new IPP Director

Path, especially west of Wheaton. He is a civil engineer who retired from the Army Corps of Engineers in October, 1998. His field of expertise is coastal engineering and he has conducted shore erosion studies on all of the Great Lakes including Lake Michigan at the Indiana Dunes. Now he has more time for his avocation, bicycling; and he can be found on the trail virtually every weekend as well as many weekdays.

1999-2000 IPP Board of Directors

David Tate (Winfield) - President
Dick Wilson (Des Plaines) -
Vice President and Projects &
Maintenance Chairman
F. Paul Mooring (Glen Ellyn) -
Treasurer
Nancy Becker (Willowbrook) -
Secretary & Public Relations
Chairman
Paul Aeschleman (Oak Park) -
Director
Bob Bernero (Glen Ellyn) -
Director
Mike Cross (Naperville) - Director
& Webmaster for IPP website
Birt Hurlbert (West Chicago) -
Director
Charlie Johnson (Lisle) - Director
Eric Keeley (Oak Brook Terrace) -
Director
Jean Mooring (Glen Ellyn) -
Director
Ken Moss (Elmhurst) - Director
Bob Rawls (Warrenville) - Director
Nancy Wasielewski (Naperville) -
Director, Office Manager &
Newsletter Editor
Tom Yule (West Chicago) -
Director

What's Going on at the Superfund Site in South Elgin?



Waste Management Project Manager Explains Remediation Project

Editor's Note: The IPP has received a number of questions from our membership about the excavation activities in South Elgin at the Superfund site in the area bounded by the IPP, Route 25 and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources property. The Superfund site is on the east side of the IPP's Elgin Branch between Dunham Road and Middle Street. The following interview was conducted by The IPP as part of its ongoing efforts to provide our membership with an insight into the site's current activities, a timeframe for its completion and the long-term plans for the site. IPP Director Paul Aeschleman contacted Jack Dowden, Waste Management's Project Manager Tri-County Landfill Remediation, who has been overseeing the remediation of this abandoned waste landfill site. Although Waste Management does not own this property, the company has entered into an agreement to oversee the remediation of the site. The following questions and answers are a summary of an interview with Jack Dowden of Waste Management Inc. concerning the project.

*Interview with Jack Dowden, Waste Management Project Manager,
Tri-County Landfill Remediation
Questions by IPP Director Paul Aeschleman*

Q Can you provide some details on why the site is being remediated?

A: The 35-acre site which is being remediated is a former municipal waste landfill which was constructed and closed before the passage in the 1980s of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). Most landfills constructed prior to the enactment of this legislation did not have engineered liner systems or significant restrictions on the types of wastes that they accepted. As the wastes buried at the site began to decompose, they began producing

leachate and methane, both of which can be very serious pollutants. In the late 1980s the US EPA listed the site on its National Priority List (NPL), also known as the Superfund list and began to work with the owners to develop a remediation strategy.

Q: What is Waste Management Inc.'s role in this project?

A: In the early 1970s, Waste Management Inc. purchased the local hauling company and Woodland Landfill from its owners. The sites being remediated were not included in the purchase, and the owners chose to have Waste Management

oversee the remediation of the abandoned sites.

Q: Can you provide a brief overview of the events which occurred at the Tri-County site during 1999 and the events which are planned for the site in 2000?

A: Acting under the direction of a US EPA Record of Decision (ROD), we removed the poorly constructed final cap and cover, and regraded/repositioned much of the underlying waste. We also installed a methane collection system, installed retention basins, and covered the site with an intermediate soil cover. In 2000 we plan to install a thick synthetic cap (30 ml HDPE plastic) over the entire site, cover the synthetic cap with 18 inches of intermediate cover and six inches of topsoil, establish a vegetative cover, reintroduce wetland species to a reconstructed wetland, install fencing, and connect the gas collection system to a flare.

Q: That sounds like a busy year, when do you hope to have the projected completed?

A: If all goes well and the weather cooperates we hope to have grass growing on the remediated areas by mid to late August.

Q: What are the long term goals of this remediation project?

A: The installation of the synthetic cap should eliminate or significantly reduce the amount of moisture (e.g., rain) which seeps into the garbage and therefore reduce the amount of leachate that is produced and may escape from the site.

Q: Have you considered using native prairie species as part of your final vegetative cover?

A: Yes we evaluated using prairie plants and other native species because we have had very good success with these plants in other locations. Unfortunately it was determined that the 20-24 inches of soil was not sufficient to support deep rooting prairie plants, and therefore we will be using shallow rooting plants such as fescue, ryegrass and Kentucky bluegrass.

Q: Once the remediation efforts are complete are there any plans to redevelop the site, and if so will any of the redevelopment be adjacent to the IPP right-of-way?

A: At the present time there are no redevelopment plans for the site, other than the establishment of grassy field. We do anticipate that the new gas flare will be visible to IPP users because this will allow

the technicians at Woodland RDF, just southwest of the IPP to monitor the flares performance. The local Waste Management hauling company has inquired about using a portion of the site for container storage. If this should occur the storage areas would be screened from path users.

A: We have had some preliminary discussions with the US EPA and Kane County Forest Preserve about establishing the area as an open area, but have not reached any final decisions. At this time the US EPA ROD requires that we fence in the entire 35 acres, and since a

"If all goes well and the weather cooperates we hope to have grass growing on the remediated areas by mid to late August."

*— Jack Dowden, Project Manager
Waste Management Corporation*

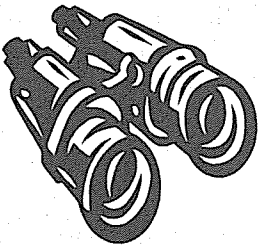
Q: Are there any other plans to improve the natural flora and fauna at the remediated site?

A: In addition to the wetland restoration efforts, we are investigating the feasibility of installing raptor poles, for the birds of prey which are common throughout the Fox River valley.

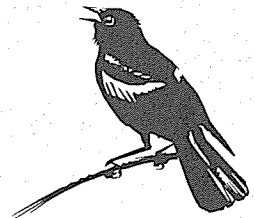
Q: Once the site is completed, will it be completely fenced in or will it remain an open area?

ROD is a federally binding agreement we will install fencing unless otherwise directed.

Jack, thank you very much for providing the Illinois Prairie Path with a very thorough understanding of the activities occurring at the site. We look forward to the day when the hawks are circling the site in search of small prey.



IPP's Annual Bird Walk in Pratt's Wayne Woods



Pack your binoculars and a picnic lunch and join IPP members to look for spring arrivals at the annual IPP Bird Walk in Pratt's Wayne Woods on Saturday, May 20! Meet at 9 a.m. in the far back parking lot. From Rt. 59 go west on Army Trail Road to Powis Road in Wayne, then go north to Forest Preserve entrance. The group will have a picnic after the walk.

For more information, call Dick Wilson between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 847-299-7882.

Enjoy Scenic Cross-Country Skiing on the IPP

By David Tate

When I was younger, like almost all students, I would wish for a heavy snow so that school would be cancelled. Today I no longer wish for heavy snows during the week, but rather hope they will occur on the weekends so that I can cross-country ski on the Illinois Prairie Path. Some of the most beautiful winter scenes in Illinois can be found in the forest preserves and parks along the IPP.



These white tail deer were spotted on the Elgin Branch. Photo by David Tate

The 61-mile IPP offers some of the most scenic and safest cross-country skiing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Listed below are 5 sections of the IPP that are my favorites. These routes have fewer cross-streets than most sections of the IPP plus each route goes through at least one forest preserve. Here are my recommendations:

2-mile round-trip route:

IPP Aurora Branch – Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve

Start in Warrenville at the IPP parking lot at Winfield Road (1/8 mile south of Butterfield Road) and go west one mile to Batavia Road, and then return to Winfield Road. This 2-mile round-trip route goes through the 116-acre Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve, crosses the West Branch of the DuPage River, and does not require crossing any streets.

3-mile round-trip route:

IPP Elgin Branch – Volunteer Bridge and Lincoln Marsh

Start in Wheaton at the IPP's Volunteer

Park at mile marker 0 (intersection of Liberty Drive and Carleton Avenue) and go northwest 1.5 miles to Jewell Road, and then return to Volunteer Park. This 3-mile round-trip route crosses the IPP's 370-foot Volunteer Bridge, crosses Winfield Creek, and goes through the Wheaton Park District's 135-acre Lincoln Marsh Forest Preserve. Lincoln Avenue, a small two-lane street, is the only street that this route crosses. An IPP display case, a rail-to-trail sculpture and a comfort station are provided at Volunteer Park. Parking is available across the street from Volunteer Park in the large Wheaton commuter parking lot, which is free on weekends.

3-mile round-trip route:

IPP Geneva Spur – West Chicago Prairie Forest Preserve

Start in West Chicago at Reed-Keppler Park and go west 1.5 miles to Kress Road, and then return to Reed-Keppler Park. This 3-mile round-trip route goes through the 305-acre West Chicago

Prairie Forest Preserve, crosses the IPP's \$1.2 million Jack Knuepfer bridge over eight Union Pacific and EJ&E railroad tracks. Industrial Drive is the only street this 3-mile route crosses. Plenty of free parking is available in Reed-Keppler Park.

4-mile round-trip route:

IPP Elgin Branch –

Timber Ridge Forest Preserve

Start in Winfield at the IPP parking lot at the intersection of Geneva Road and County Farm Road. Go northwest two miles to Prince Crossing Road, and then return to Geneva Road. This 4-mile round-trip route crosses Klein Creek, goes through the 1,108-acre Timber Ridge Forest Preserve, crosses the 1902 vintage bridge over the West Branch of the DuPage River, and does not require crossing any streets. The Timber Ridge Forest Preserve is the most likely place to spot deer along the 61-mile trail.

4-mile round-trip route:

IPP Elgin Branch – Pratt's

Wayne Woods Forest Preserve

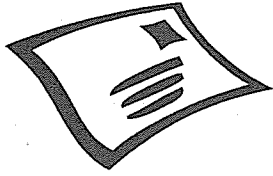
Start in Wayne at the IPP's Army Trail Road parking lot and go northwest two miles to Dunham Road, and then return to Army Trail Road. This 4-mile round-trip route goes through the 3,388-acre Pratt's Wayne Woods Forest Preserve and requires crossing only Powis Road. A comfort station is provided at Army Trail Road.

The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

This newsletter is published by The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors.

Address correspondence to: The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60189 **Phone:** 630-752-0120 **Web Site:** www.ipp.org

Meetings: The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month in Rathje Park, 616 Delles Avenue, Wheaton. Members are always welcome to attend!



FAQ



Frequently Asked Questions About the Illinois Prairie Path

Office Manager's Note:

Thanks to all who write, call or e-mail The Illinois Prairie Path with your many questions. This column features some of the most frequently asked questions so that all members can benefit from the information. One reminder — when calling our voice mail at 630-752-0120 to ask a question, please leave your complete name and your day and evening phone numbers and the reason for your call. It is not always possible to return your calls during daytime hours.

Q: Which sections of the Illinois Prairie Path are snowplowed for runners in the winter?

A: As a general rule, the Illinois Prairie Path is not plowed in the winter. It is used by many people for cross-country skiing. It has come to our attention that several communities such as Villa Park and Glen Ellyn do plow portions of the path that are used by train commuters, but this decision is made by individual villages.

Just a reminder that maintenance for the Illinois Prairie Path is handled by the following agencies. If you have

any questions or concerns regarding trail maintenance contact:

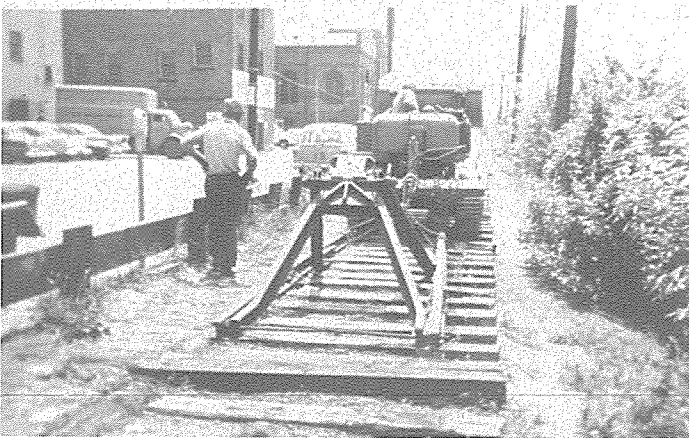
- **DuPage County:** DuPage County Division of Transportation, 630-665-1155
- **Kane County (except Aurora Branch):** Kane County Forest Preserve District, 630-232-5980
- **Kane County (Aurora Branch):** Fox Valley Park District, 630-897-0516
- **Cook County:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 312-917-2070

Q: Where can I obtain a copy of "The Living Legacy of the Chicago, Aurora & Elgin" book? The line holds fond memories for me as I rode it as a child. My wife and I rode to Chicago while we were dating prior to the expressways, then only to Forest Park. It went out of the passenger business on my 17th birthday, 07-03-57. I was in downtown Elgin and a motorman I knew showed me the orders to pull the watch company cars back to Wheaton. I think it was one of the saddest days in my life. This line, as well as the North Shore, could and should have been running today. I have pictures of the rails being torn out from Chicago St. to National St. taken every day, just before the Prairie Path was constructed. (See below)

William Ahrens, Elgin

A: Thanks for your letter and photos, William. See page 2 for details about where to purchase the book. We appreciate your sending the photos for our readers to enjoy!

Reminiscing: Sights in Elgin in 1960 / CA&E tracks being torn up from Chicago St. to National St.



Crews pull up Elgin Station bumper stop. The building with arch windows was the old substation power house. Both photos by William Ahrens taken in Elgin, May 1960.



On the track to the Elgin Station, crews break the bolts by the old substation. The power house (arched windows) has railroad name on right side of building (gray rectangle).



The Illinois Prairie Path NEWSLETTER
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Work Days & Trail Events

The Illinois Prairie Path Board is looking to expand its crew of volunteers to complete needed repairs to mile markers and display cases, plant prairie flowers along the 61-mile trail, and complete other improvement projects. Individuals, as well as bike clubs, neighborhood groups and civic clubs, are invited to contact us at 630-752-0120.

Late March & April

Prairie Burns, weather permitting. If you'd like to volunteer to help with this annual project, call The IPP at 630-752-0120.

Saturday, April 29

Earth Day Cleanup along the 61-mile IPP. This is the biggest IPP event of the year and your help is needed! See pages 1-3 for details.

Saturday, May 20

Bird Walk in Pratt's Wayne Woods to look for spring arrivals. For more information, call Dick Wilson at 847-299-7882 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturday, June 5

Celebrate National Trails Day!

**Saturdays, June 17,
July 15, September
16 & October 21**

Work Days. Meet at 9 a.m. at Rathje Park, 616 Delles Ave., Wheaton. For more information, call Dick Wilson at 847-299-7882 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m.