



The Illinois Prairie Path Summer 2002 **NEWSLETTER**

IPP Board Approves New Membership Rates

The Illinois Prairie Path Board approved new membership rates effective September 1, 2002. The modest increase was suggested to provide more funding for increased costs of special improvement projects along the Illinois Prairie Path, as well as to pay for increased printing and postage costs for the newsletters and other mailings and the development and printing of a new Illinois Prairie Path multi-color map which will be mailed to all members in early 2003.

Don Kirchenberg, IPP President, noted that the previous rates had been in effect for over 20 years.

Under the new rate system, Individual (\$10) and Family memberships (\$15) rates will be a combined category for \$20; Supporting members and Organizations (\$20) will be increased to \$30; and the Contributing (\$25) membership has been dropped. Other membership rates will stay the same including: Sustaining—\$50; Patron—\$100; Donor—\$250; Lifetime—\$500; and Society —\$1,000.

Corporate Matching Gifts

Members who work for companies with matching contribution programs can double or even triple the amount of their donation. Members should check with their employer's human resources or community relations departments for a matching gift form. Then send it to us along with your membership form. Thanks to our members who work for companies with matching contribution programs such as Illinois Tool Works, Household, and McMaster-Carr Supply, The Illinois Prairie Path has an additional source of funding for path improvements.

Illinois Prairie Path Membership Rates Effective September 1, 2002



Individual/Family Memberships—\$20
Supporting Memberships—\$30
Organization Memberships—\$30
Sustaining Memberships—\$50
Patron Memberships—\$100
Donor Memberships—\$250
Lifetime Memberships—\$500
Society Memberships—\$1,000

Commonwealth Edison Withdraws Vegetation Management Plan Along One Mile of Trails in Glen Ellyn

Following a number of county and community public hearings, Commonwealth Edison Co. withdrew its support and participation in a Vegetation Management Plan planned in conjunction with DuPage County. The plan called for the removal of 500 tall trees under power lines along one-half mile stretches of both the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail in Glen Ellyn and replacement of these trees with shorter varieties.



This plan was controversial with residents and environmental groups because of the proposed use of herbicides to remove trees and because the loss of the tall trees would mean the removal of the protective tree canopy along the trails.

DuPage County officials had originally approached the utility company with the idea for the pilot program as a way to replace ComEd's controversial practice of cutting off the tops of trees that become too tall and interfere with power lines. Environmental groups also noted that this type of tree cutting makes trees more prone to disease.

(Continued on page 3)

The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

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of Directors.

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Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box
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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 except August and No-
vember at Rathje Park, 616 Delles
Avenue, Wheaton. Members are
always welcome to attend!

The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors 2002

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Glendale Heights*

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Jean Mooring, Glen Ellyn
Erik Spande, Winfield
Rob Sperl, Warrenville
David Tate, Winfield
David Watts, Glen Ellyn*

Thoughts from our founder May Theilgaard Watts, Naturalist, Teacher and Author, About Appreciation of Natural Values Along Our Trails



*The following letter was written to former
Illinois Prairie Path board member Gene
McArdle to comment on a survey of Path
users. The letter was written two weeks
before her death and is an update on her
thoughts and feelings about the Path.*

*For another perspective on the thoughts of IPPC founder May
Watts, we are reprinting a poem she wrote on page 11.*

August 4, 1975

Dear Gene McArdle,

*Yes, indeed, I am pleased to see your report on the surveys of the Prai-
rie Path usage. It is an impressive and rewarding account, and seems
to justify the existence of the venture.*

*That the Path has become mainly a bikeway is evident. And I am glad
for every bike that uses it, and for everybody that breathes a little
deeper in safety because the Path is there.*

*But the minorities are important, too; the poet, the slow-moving philoso-
pher, the observer of life and land forms. Could there be, I wonder, a
method of checking on such usage? Would a page on the teachers' bul-
letin board in schools along the line, with questions like: How often
have you had a class unit based on the Prairie Path, -- a bird nest
count; a plaster cast of some footprint; a collection of naturalized plants
of other lands; a "What eats what" list; a sketch; even a poem, and so
on...? Even if such a questioning didn't result in a statistic, it might
plant an idea?*

*Probably we should be content with the use to which the Path is put.
But, as I read the Record and tried to visualize being one of five walkers
along the Path in Lombard and trying to watch a cicada emerge while
75 cyclists went by, I wondered.*

Thank you for sending the report.

*Sincerely,
(Signed) May T. Watts*

Vegetation Management Program Withdrawn

(Continued from page 1)

DuPage County officials explained that many of the tall trees were undesirable, invasive species. They also noted that the tree removal would have been staggered over several years and herbicides would have been used sparingly.

According to the proposal for the four-year program, approximately 500 tall trees that grow 35 feet or taller (such as box elders, maples and elms) or are under power lines would have been removed along one-half mile sections of the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail in Glen Ellyn. The trees would either be cut down or eliminated using herbicides over the four-year period instead of taking down all the trees at once. Shorter species of trees, such as birches and dogwoods, would be planted as replacements.

The Illinois Prairie Path Board expressed concern about the proposal, according to Don Kirchenberg, IPP President who attended a number of community meetings with several other IPP board members.

Kirchenberg said the tree canopy along the path is an important buffer for residences and businesses. He also noted that neither the county nor ComEd ever provided answers to questions such as what kind of herbicide would be used. "Our position was that it was an extreme measure. Maybe ComEd can do a better job of trimming, so we'd have less of an eyesore," he said.

Help Keep IPP and Great Western Clean!

Litter on the Illinois Prairie Path and the Great Western Trail is picked up solely by volunteers throughout the year. Please pitch in to keep the trail clean! Thanks for your help!



Photo by Jean Mooring

Deborah Fagan (right), DuPage County Division of Transportation Trail Coordinator, explains proposed DuPage County Trail System vegetation management plan to local residents, Path members, and Glen Ellyn officials on the Path at Montclair in Glen Ellyn on May 20. Representing various interested agencies are (from left): Tom Bennington, chairman of the DuPage County Board Environmental Committee; Peggy Drescher, Glen Ellyn Village Forester; and Tim Zidek, Com Ed Vegetation Management Coordinator.

New Vehicle Barriers Installed



Paul Mooring examines with approval the new chevron-decorated bollard on the west side of Hill Avenue in Glen Ellyn. Photo by Jean Mooring

Earlier this year, the DuPage County Board's Environmental and Transportation Committees (chaired respectively by Tom Bennington and Pamela Rion) awarded bids for manufacture and installation of new vehicle bollards along several streets crossing the DuPage County Trail System. The bollards prohibit motor vehicles from entering the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail but can be folded down to allow access for maintenance crews from the County and the utilities, and also for emergency vehicles.

The new bollards, produced by PARS Direct, were installed at 66 locations to replace older existing bollards. Northern Contracting also installed new units at 10 locations (principally along the Great Western Trail) which did not have bollards in the past. This project is part of the County Trail System Improvement Plan. The final total cost for the materials and installation was approximately \$96,000.

2002 Earth Day Cleanup Report:

Thanks to our Volunteers For a Great Earth Day Cleanup



The annual Earth Day cleanup along the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail was a great success, thanks to the help of hundreds of volunteers. To recap the day's events, here are individual reports on the Earth Day activities from members of The IPP Board and volunteers.

Wheaton

On behalf of the Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission, many thanks go to all the 250 volunteers who helped clean the Prairie Path on April 27. It was a cool, windy and cloudy day — but no rain fell until afternoon.

Various groups participating included Longfellow 5th Grade, Boy Scout Troop 373, Cub Packs 134, 73, 163, 23 and 374; Wheaton Christian Academy, Wheaton Christian Reformed Church Cadets; Wheaton North and Wheaton Warrenville South Key Club; Wheaton-Warrenville Environmental Studies Class; Aurora Christian High School Girls' Softball Team; Wheaton Juniors; Jefferson Street Association; President Street Missionary Furlough Homes.

Additional recognition goes to all the families, singles, couples, bike riders and hikers — thanks for all your participation and enthusiasm. We look forward to your help next year and bring your friends!

Continue to be good stewards of the Earth and enjoy the Prairie Path.

*-Helen M. Bartlett, Coordinator,
Prairie Path Clean-up Committee &
Wheaton Environmental
Improvement Commission*



***Wheaton** More than 250 volunteers work to clean up the trail at the Earth Day cleanup on April 27. Photos by Nancy Wasielewski*





Wheaton

(Left photo) Helen Bartlett (far right) and her committee directed the efforts of 250 volunteers who pitched in to make the 2002 cleanup a great success in Wheaton.

Photo by Nancy Wasielewski

Glen Ellyn

(Photo below) This enthusiastic group of volunteers got an early start at 8 a.m. on the Illinois Prairie Path in Glen Ellyn.

Photo by Jean Mooring



Glen Ellyn *Middle left photo: A village front-end loader carries a bucket full of trash bags to the dump truck at Prairie Path Park in Glen Ellyn.*

Lower left photo: Karen Winter of the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission and her daughter supervised the registration table and kept dry under a canopy provided by Tom Barriball, commission chairman.

Glen Ellyn

In spite of the threatening weather more than 70 volunteers registered by 9 a.m. for the Glen Ellyn Prairie Path cleanup on April 27. By 11 a.m. when the rain began to fall, Glen Ellyn's section of the Path was as clean as the proverbial whistle. Scout, church, school and family groups, and a couple of Prairie Path board members did the job.

The Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission coordinated the event. The volunteers picked up almost a truckload of logs, lumber, cans, bottles, plastic, bricks, broken concrete and other debris. Village employees working on overtime used a municipal dump truck and a front-end loader to haul the trash away.

-Jean Mooring, IPP Board Member

Thanks to our Cleanup Volunteers



(Continued from page 5)

Great Western Trail

The fourth Annual Elmhurst Bicycle Club Celebration of Earth Day and IPP cleanup was a rousing success.

Twenty-seven members volunteered to help clean up a one-mile section of the Great Western Trail between Gary Avenue on the west, and Schmale Road on the east. The volunteers formed two groups and with work gloves, trash bags, ski poles, walking sticks and various other tools to help pick up trash started off on their assignment. One group started at Gary Avenue and worked east, while the second group started at Schmale Road and worked west. Two hours later the two groups met in the center of the one-mile section. So much trash was picked up it had to be hauled by vehicle to either Gary Avenue or Schmale Road where it could be picked up by the county. Everyone worked very hard, and felt good when they were finished.

-Ed Curtin, Elmhurst Bike Club

West Chicago

Birt Hurlbert, Dick and Nancy Wilson and three other volunteers cleaned from Rt. 59 to North Ave. The group picked up four bags of litter and a few odds and ends. Their original plan was to clean from Rt. 59 to Smith Road, but a pre-cleanup inspection by Birt and Nancy Hurlbert showed that another



group had cleaned this section. Most of the cleaning took place behind the Oliver Square shopping center. Over the years, this has been the most litter plagued section of the 61-mile Illinois Prairie Path. We found this section to be in a much improved condition. Credit for this should go to former IPP President David Tate. In March 2001, he sent a letter to all parties involved with this shopping center explaining the problem. The results are evident.

-Dick Wilson, IPP Vice President

Great Western Trail

(top photos, left and right)
Volunteers from the Elmhurst Bicycle Club helped clean a one-mile section of the Great Western between Gary Avenue and Schmale Road. Photos by Ed Curtin

West Chicago Industrial Drive

(left photo)
Junk including the kitchen stove cooktop was picked up by volunteers led by Erik Spande at Industrial Drive on the Geneva Spur in West Chicago. Photo by Jean Mooring

West Chicago Industrial Area

Erik Spande worked cleaning up the West Chicago industrial area. While I made a lot of progress, I really didn't make a dent in the trash. I pulled out 17 32-gallon garbage bags plus a truck-load of construction debris (wood, pipes). It took me 4 hours to clean a one block area. Luckily I had help from other volunteers including Dave Watts and members of the Naperville Bike Club to move the commercial stove cooktop.

-Erik Spande, IPP Board Member

Volunteers Conduct Prairie Burns Along IPP



IPP volunteers including Rob Sperl (foreground) assist with several prairie burns in Wheaton and West Chicago. Burns were conducted with supervision of prairie expert Larry Sheaffer. Photo by Dave Watts.

**By Jean Mooring,
IPP Board Member**

On Saturday, April 6, ten volunteers burned four prairies along the Illinois Prairie Path in DuPage County: Volunteer Park, President Street and Hoffman Park on the Main Stem in Wheaton; and near Nagel Court on the Elgin Branch in rural West Chicago.

The weather was dry with a light breeze, perfect for a successful burn. Participants included IPP President Don Kirchenberg, three members of the Keeley family -- Eric and his son and his wife Jennifer, Paul and Jean Mooring, prairie expert Larry Sheaffer, Erik Spande, Rob Sperl and Dave Watts.

In addition to the burns in DuPage County, there were two prairies burned in Cook County.

Wheaton's Downtown Park Plans Move Ahead

**By Rob Sperl
IPP Board Member**

On May 14, the DuPage County Board approved a lease to the Wheaton Park District for approximately 1.7 acres of land along the Illinois Prairie Path in downtown Wheaton.

It has been three years since this project was described in the summer 1999 newsletter, but good things come to those who wait. This area, between Reber Street and Washington Street, is one of the few sections along the Illinois Prairie Path where the path is not currently on public property.

The Wheaton Park District is planning to relocate the path onto the DuPage County right of way. The path will be 10 feet wide and have five feet of native plantings to buffer each side.

In addition to the trail relocation, the Park District is planning several other improvements. The current plan shows the remainder of the county right of way being divided among: an 18-hole miniature golf area, a skate park area, and landscaped areas. The center of the park will contain a plaza with restrooms, drinking fountains, vending machines, and various other trail related amenities.

The Wheaton Park District is currently working with Commonwealth Edison on the initial step to relocate some of the power lines through the area. They are also contacting various consultants to assist with the engineering and design of the various elements. Construction should begin in 2003.

New Road Crossing Signs



DuPage County Division of Transportation has completed production and installation of new roadway intersection signs at most locations across the county. The new smaller green and white signs replace older ones installed by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation in the early years of the Path's development.



IPP Mailbag



Mail from New Members

My wife Janet grew up in Villa Park a block away from the IPP. Her grandfather W. C. Ritter was a CA&E Traffic Manager (approx. 1915-35) and after our 3 kids (Elizabeth, Catherine and David) were born in the 1980s we had many a pleasant walk with Grandma on the IPP! With such a history together, it is only fitting that we join with you now.

Steve and Janet Olson
Canton, Michigan

We ride the Prairie Path every weekend. It's a very nice trail. We appreciate all the hard work you do to keep it clean and safe. I got my membership application at the Trails Day Bike Ride sponsored by the Elmhurst Bike Club!

Pam Nelson
Downers Grove

Members Suggest a Ride On IPP in Cook County!

This letter is long overdue but I want to try to express the thrill it was the year the path was paved in Cook County. My husband and I pedaled it occasionally when the path was hardly visible because of its overgrown condition. It is such a pleasure to pedal it now.

When we lived in Oak Park, we would get on the Path at 1st Avenue and ride. We usually pedaled to Elmhurst (York Road), got ice cream, chicken or would go to the movies, then head back. I'd like to encourage any IPP user that hasn't been east of Elmhurst that it's a great ride. For an urban, people-packed area outside of Chicago, it's really nice to have the path.

My husband and I moved to Pennsylvania in May 2002. However, we would like to remain members and receive the newsletter. We will get back to the Midwest because we have family here. Thanks for all the hours and

dedication to provide such an awesome trail.

Al and Carol Kohn
Formerly of Oak Park –
now of Tamaqua, PA

Old Plank Road Trail Has New Website

A web site for the Old Plank Road Trail (OPRT) has recently gone "live" on the internet. This new site — <http://oprt.org> — should be of interest to cyclists. Check it out for maps, history, contact info, and event schedules for the Old Plank Road Trail.

The Old Plank Road Trail (OPRT) is a 5-year-old, 20-mile-long (soon to be 21-mile) smooth, paved, straight, shaded, rail-trail conversion that runs east-west through northern Will County and southern Cook County in Illinois. From the western end of the OPRT in Joliet you can connect with the Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail and the Joliet Heritage Trail to Lockport. It's also part of the 525-mile Grand Illinois Trail loop. There are also easy connections from the OPRT to five Will County and Cook County Forest Preserve District bike paths for those who prefer more hills.

On a somewhat related note: you might also be interested in the new Forest Preserve District of Cook County web site at <http://www.fpdcc.com>. It looks like another good resource for area cyclists.

Thanks for you time,
Jim Nugent for the OPRT

Open Letter to Villa Park Re: Dog Waste on IPP

I am a long-time resident of Villa Park, actually since the mid-1970's, and a frequent user of the Illinois Prairie Path. It is not hard for me to remember the Path years back when it was much less aesthetically pleasing and no where

near the shape it is presently. Therefore I commend you and your staff on your efforts in coordinating with the various local and county agencies which have aided in creating, maintaining and patrolling this central park environment for the enjoyment of our community's residents, and on behalf of all Prairie Path users.

However, I would like to take the opportunity to share with you my concerns, with respect to the numerous trail users who choose to walk their dogs, unleashed, and do not pick up their pet's (fecal) waste. Pursuant to my last inquiry to the Villa Park Police Department, it is a village ordinance that all pets are to be leashed, and their walkers are required to have on their person items to be used to collect and properly dispose of their animal's waste, in the event it is needed, or otherwise punishable by fines. Although this ordinance is basically unknown to the general public, grossly ignored by many and never in my life have I observed it to be enforced - I can not blame the walkers for their ignorance, only their lack of civility.

In order to reduce the Path's collection of these "suburban land-mines", I would like to challenge you to lobby the village government for municipal signs to be conspicuously placed, notifying the Path users that, should they choose to walk their dogs on the Path, they must do so responsibly. Furthermore, should they disregard the Village's leash and animal waste reclamation ordinance, they will be fined. Additionally I would like to challenge you to lobby the police department to actually enforce this ordinance. Thank you for your continued attention.

Clifton E. Sperry III
Managing Director,
Structured Finance

BE AN ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH VOLUNTEER!

We are forming a new volunteer committee as part of The Illinois Prairie Path, a not-for-profit corporation. We welcome volunteers to help participate in trail improvement and trail management issues. Here are a number of ways you can get involved! If you've already sent in your form from the last newsletter, you will be contacted soon!

- **Attend Board Meetings:** The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors meets the first Tuesday of every month (except August and November). Open meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the Members' Room (2nd floor) at Rathje Park, 616 Delles Ave. in Wheaton, IL
- **Help on Workdays:** Monthly warm weather workdays are usually held on the third Saturday morning of the month spring through fall at a location along the trail to add, improve, maintain, or change a trail amenity. Example: painting a water pump, weeding a flower box, etc. No special skills are required – just energy and a community spirit.
- **Be a Map Box Filler:** Volunteers are needed to help us keep an eye on our free Illinois Prairie Path map boxes and refill them as needed. The supply of maps will be provided.
- **Be a Trash Monitor:** Adopt a trash can and watch it to see if it is being maintained by the contracted service provider. If the containers are not emptied as scheduled, the volunteer is asked to make follow-up phone calls.
- **Be a low impact trail user!** Pack in and pack out any lunch bags, drink containers, and other products you bring along when using the trails. IPP membership dues are used to pay for and maintain 15 trash containers (and one Port-o-Let at Army Trail Road) along the trail.
- **Renew and help build membership for The IPPc.** Spread the word of the "good work" of The IPPc to your neighbors, friends and relatives. Encourage their membership in our organization.
- **Buy a shirt, map, patch or other mail order IPP product.** Small profits from the purchase of these items help fund trail improvements and amenities.

To volunteer, send the form below to:

The Illinois Prairie Path, PO Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60189

Name _____ E-mail address: _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening phone _____

Type of Volunteer Work Preferred _____

Best Time to Contact You: _____

Bog Dog Adventure Sprint



The Wheaton Park District and Partners for the Lincoln Marsh are hosting the second Bog Dog Adventure Sprint on Saturday, August 24. The race will feature more than 40 miles of biking, running, canoeing, orienteering and unique team challenges. Up to 70 coed teams will be competing, and the day will end with a banquet to recognize winners, competitors and sponsors.

The Elgin Branch of the Illinois Prairie Path bisects the Lincoln Marsh Natural Area approximately 1 mile north of Volunteer Park. Partners for the Lincoln Marsh is a 501

(c)3 affiliate of The Cosley Foundation, and was formed by residents of Wheaton interested in developing the Lincoln Marsh Natural Area as an educational community resource.

Volunteers are needed to help with the Bog Dog Adventure Race. To receive volunteer or team registration materials for the Bog Dog Adventure Sprint, go to wheaton-parkdistrict.com/bogdog, or call (630) 871-2810.

Rob Sperl, IPP Board Member



Free Grand Illinois Trail Guides Available

Call (217) 782-3715 to order a free copy of the 32-page, comprehensive biking guide to the trail. It is also available on the web at bikelib.org or e-mail greenway@dnrmail.state.il.us. The guide was produced by the League of Illinois Bicyclists and the Illinois Dept. of Natural Resources.

Illinois Prairie Path Store

- **NEW! Show your support for the IPP by wearing one of our new shirts.** IPP shirts feature logo embroidered (green thread) above the left breast pocket of this 7.26 oz. 100% cotton long sleeve denim shirt in both natural (light khaki) and light blue colors. Shirt also features wood tone buttons and double needle stitching. Sizes available include S, M, L and XL. Total price of \$51 (\$45 per shirt plus \$6 shipping)

Quantity/Size	Amount
_____	_____

- **IPP Guide:** This 32-page guidebook contains information about the history, geology, trees, flowers, birds and animals of the Illinois Prairie Path. Cost: \$4.75 per copy includes shipping

Quantity	Amount
_____	_____

- **Gift Memberships:** Available in amounts ranging from \$20 for Individual/Family members to \$1,000 for Society Lifetime Memberships. Please include names and addresses for gift memberships on a separate piece of paper. Members receive an IPP multicolor map and IPP newsletters.

Quantity/ Membership Type	Amount
_____	_____

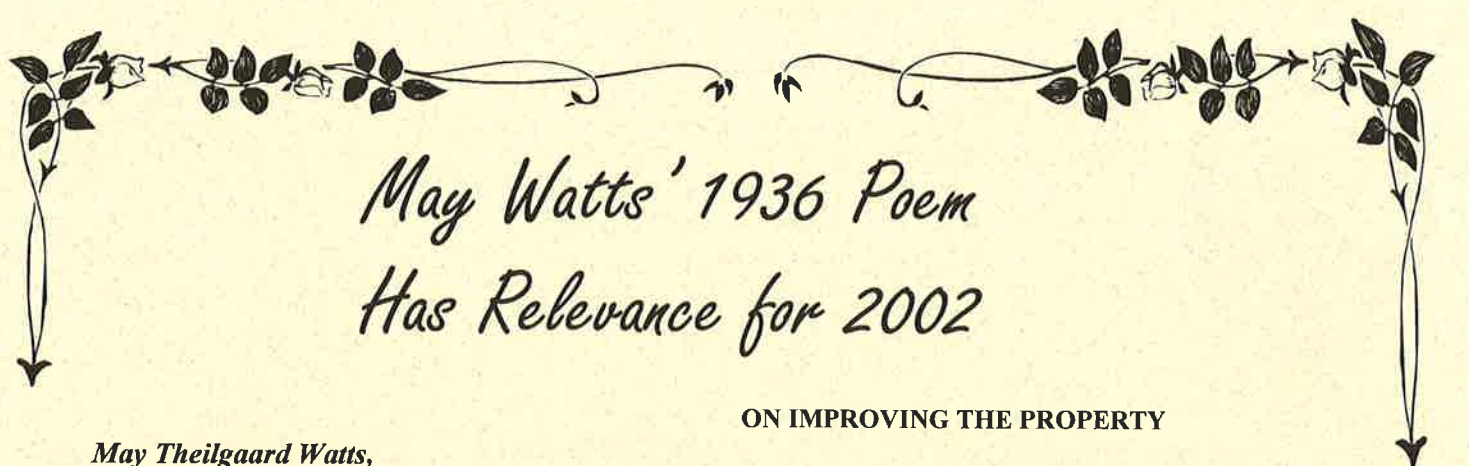
Make checks payable to: The Illinois Prairie Path

Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip Code _____

Send order form and check to: The Illinois Prairie Path, PO Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60189



May Watts' 1936 Poem Has Relevance for 2002

May Theilgaard Watts, a distinguished naturalist, teacher and author, was 70 years old in 1963 when she wrote a letter to the editor of the Chicago Tribune that started the rails-to-trails movement in the United States. In 1965 Mrs. Watts' group formally established The Illinois Prairie Path, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

This poem, published in 1936, expresses Mrs. Watts' love of native plants and flowers and her despair at excessive vegetation management that destroys them. Such management includes, of course, excessive mowing which prevents valuable native plants from competing along trail edges with invading weeds like crab grass, quack grass, creeping Charlie, dandelions, garlic mustard, plantain, thistles, and ragweed, both giant and common.

ON IMPROVING THE PROPERTY

They laid the trilliums low,
and where drifted anemones and wild sweet phlox
were wont to follow April's hepaticas – they planted grass.

There was a corner that held a tangled copse
of hawthorne and young wild crabs,
bridal in May above yellow violets,
purple-twiggled in November.
They needed that place for Lombardy poplars – and grass.

Last June the elderberry was fragrant here,
and in October the viburnum poured its wine
beneath the moon-yellow wisps of the witch-hazel blossoms.
They piled them in the alley and made a burnt offering – to grass.

There was a slope that a wild grapevine had captured long ago.
At its brink a colony of mandrakes held green umbrellas close,
like a crowd along the path of a parade.
This job almost baffled them; showers washed off the seed
and made gullies in the naked clay.
They gritted their teeth – and planted grass.

At the base of the slope there was a hollow
so lush with hundreds of years of fallen leaves
that maiden-hair swirled above the trout-lilies,
and even a few blood-roots lifted frosty blossoms there.
Clay from the ravaged slope washed down
and filled the hollow with a yellow hump.
They noticed the hump – and planted grass.

There was a linden that the bees loved.
A smug catalpa has taken its place,
but the wood ashes were used to fertilize the grass.

People pass by and say: "Just *look* at that grass –
not a weed in it. It's like velvet!"
(One could say as much for any other grave.)

-- May Theilgaard Watts





The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter
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www.ipp.org



Prairie Path Trail Etiquette



It's summer on the Illinois Prairie Path — the busiest season of the year. So that everyone can enjoy the experience, here are some regulations to keep in mind!

- Cyclists and equestrians should give an audible warning when overtaking another user by calling out "passing on the left."
- Users should make an effort to stay to the right when traveling the Path.
- Cyclists should not travel at excessive speeds.
- Care should be given when approaching horses to avoid "spooking" them.
- Cyclists (really all users) should stay on the surfaced portion of the path and not damage native vegetation and landscaped areas.
- Cyclists should wear helmets at all times.
- Pets must be leashed and you must clean up after them.
- No motorized vehicles are allowed (county law). Power-assisted wheelchairs are allowed.
- No firearms, kites, or model airplanes.
- No hunting.
- No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances.
- We provide trash containers at many intersections — please use them.
- Camping is not allowed on the Path. The Path is adjacent to several county forest preserves. For camping information call the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, 630-790-4900, or Kane County Forest Preserve District, 630-232-5980.