



# *The Illinois Prairie Path* **NEWSLETTER**

[www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org)

Summer / Fall 2005

## **Opposition to Dasani Bike Locker Placement Grows**



*Twenty large Dasani bike lockers flank the Path, and are adjacent to the Villa Park Historical Museum in the Villa Park Historic District*

At the July meeting, The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPC) Board of Directors, we discussed the many concerns from residents of the Village of Villa Park have about the recent placement of the blue Dasani bicycle rental lockers on the Illinois Prairie Path (IPP). The citizens are seeking protection of the historic streetscape along the IPP and the area around the Villa Park Historical Museum on the IPP at Villa Ave.

The board of directors agreed with those concerns and voted unanimously to continue to seek protection for the historic

streetscape along the IPP in Villa Park and to ask DuPage County and the Village of Villa Park to have these Dasani bicycle lockers moved to a more suitable location. President Don Kirchenberg stated "The streetscape in Villa Park is an important part of the trail experience. The board feels strongly that the IPP, the Villa Park historic district and the Villa Park Historical museum should be protected from any overly-commercial placement like these blue Dasani bicycle lockers." President Kirchenberg continued "We work to protect the IPP and maintain many trail improvement

projects each year. In addition, we act as an advisory group regarding the IPP with all levels of government. If we had been asked to advise on the placement of these Dasani blue bicycle lockers, we would have recommended their placement approximately ¼ mile north of the trail near Lions Park where bicycle users have to go to register for bicycle rental cards. We would like to work with the Village of Villa Park and DuPage County to continue to protect the IPP and its right-of-way and hope they will move these bicycle lockers to a more suitable location."

To comment on these lockers please contact the Village of Villa Park at 630-834-8500 or [maryc@invillapark.com](mailto:maryc@invillapark.com)

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# *The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter*

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

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The Illinois Prairie Path,  
P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL  
60189

**Phone:** 630-752-0120

**Web Site:** [www.ipp.org](http://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 November, at Rathje Park Building, 616 Delles Ave., Wheaton. Members are always welcome to attend.

## *The Illinois Prairie Path Board of Directors 2005*

*Don Kirchenberg, President  
Glendale Heights*

*Dick Wilson, Vice President  
DesPlaines*

*F. Paul Mooring, Treasurer  
Glen Ellyn*

*Nancy Becker, Secretary  
Willowbrook*

*Dave Watts, Office Manager and  
Newsletter Editor  
Glen Ellyn*

*Paul Aeschleman, Oak Park  
Ray Bartels, Lombard  
Bob Bernero, Glen Ellyn  
Mike Cross, Web Master, Naperville  
Paul Didzerekis, Wheaton  
Jean Mooring, Glen Ellyn  
Tom Pedrick, Carol Stream  
Erik Spande, Winfield  
Rob Sperl, Warrenville  
Jan Stortz, Villa Park*

## **Reports from Earth Day IPP Cleanup, April 23, 2005**

*From Don Kirchenberg, IPPc  
President and Cleanup  
Coordinator*

Thanks to all the volunteers, and especially to the cleanup coordinators, for braving the 20 degree wind chill and cold temperatures during the Annual Earth Day Trail Cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trail.

In observance of Earth Day 2005, The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation in co-operation with the Friends of the Great Western Trails scheduled its annual trail cleanup, rain or shine. It is estimated that over 1,000 volunteers came out to help us achieve our goal this year to clean all 61 miles of the Illinois Prairie Path and over 20 miles of the Great Western Trails.

Special thanks go to the volunteer cleanup coordinators:  
On the Illinois Prairie Path: Maywood - Paul Aeschleman; Hillside - Nancy Becker; Villa Park - Pride Commission; Lombard - David Gorman; Wheaton - Helen Bartlett and the City of Wheaton's Environmental Improvement Commission; Glen Ellyn - Larry Noller and Jay Kinzler; Warrenville - Doug May; Winfield/Geneva Spur - Erik Spande; Naperville - Mike Cross; Wayne - Christine Cegelis; Batavia Spur - Ed Barsotti and Paul Mack; Elgin Branch at Prince Crossing Rd - Dave and Kandy Jedlicka; Elgin Branch at North Avenue - Tom Pedrick, Kevin Coleman and Ed Rottmann; Elgin Branch at Rte. 59 - Dick Wilson; Elgin Branch in Elgin - Schaumburg Bicycle

Club.

On the Great Western Trail in DuPage County: Chodori Chokar, Elmhurst Bicycle Club, Kelly Saltzmann, Bob Camp, Ralph Keller, Susie Terwedow, Don Kirchenberg and many others. On the Great Western Trail in Kane and DeKalb Counties - Anthony Virtue.

Along with the hundreds of families, neighbors and supporters of the trails who assisted with the cleanup, special recognition should be given to the following for their extra efforts to support the trail cleanups: City of West Chicago Public Works Department, DuPage County Division of Transportation, the DuPage County Sheriff's office, Illinois Toll Highway Authority and dozens of employees from the local Starbucks Coffee stores.

We encourage everyone to help keep the trails clean throughout the year. For more information about helping the trails go to the following webpages: [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org) and <http://hometown.aol.com/frndsgrtwstntrl/myhomepage/business.html>.



*Jay Kinzler (center) mans the Glen Ellyn sign-in table*

**West Chicago - Tom Pedrick, IPPc Board Member**

Tom Pedrick coordinated the cleanup of the Elgin Branch at North Avenue with the help of many volunteers from area Starbucks stores using trucks from the West Chicago Public Works Department to haul away the many bags of trash and other large items dumped along and near the trail. Special thanks to City Council Member Mike Kwasman and Rob Flatter, Director of Public Works for arranging the use of city trucks.

**Glen Ellyn - Jean & Paul Mooring, IPPc Board Members**



*Deborah Fagan and Margaret Mooring help clear garbage along the Path near Hill Ave. in Glen Ellyn*

The weather was cold, cloudy and windy. As usual the Glen Ellyn Environmental Commission sponsored the Prairie Path cleanup between Hill Avenue on the east and the Wheaton city limits on the west. The sign-in table was in a new area this year next to the trail just west of the library parking lot. In addition

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to literature about the Illinois Prairie Path, the commission provided cookies, cereal bars and juice for the hungry volunteers that numbered about fifty-five. Jay Kinzler, a member of the commission, supervised the table and passed out a hundred plastic garbage bags.

Jay Kinzler reported that the Path in Glen Ellyn was fairly free of debris before the cleanup but nevertheless volunteers picked up enough trash consisting of bottles, cans, paper, plastic and logs to fill the bucket of the village's front-end loader several times. The Mooring group (Paul, Jean, Sam Pyne and Mark Newell of Glen Ellyn and Margaret and Ovidio Calderon of Madison, Wisconsin) found enough wet and dirty athletic shoes, which had been discarded in an IPP trash container, to fill two large plastic garbage bags. The shoes just needed to be cleaned before they could be recycled. No doubt some local runners, maybe high school students, need to be educated.

The Moorings met another enthusiastic volunteer, Deborah Fagan, DuPage County Trail Coordinator and Senior Planner, sweeping loose gravel off the short IPP bypass trail on the east side of Hill Avenue. From eastern Glen Ellyn the Mooring group moved on to Wheaton and cleaned the Path across from the new College Avenue train station. Everyone felt that it had been a very productive day.

**Elgin Branch - Dick and Nancy Wilson**

The Wilson's and a couple who have an "adopt-a-spot" cleaned from Rte. 59 to Smith Road. We got one and a half trash bags.

This is the cleanest we have ever seen this section.

**Naperville - Michael Cross, IPPc Board Member**

A great big thanks to the 22 or so volunteers that braved the wind and cold weather this year! This was by far our best turnout.

We pulled almost 30 bags of trash and 19 old tires out of the trail and nearby woods. Although construction on Diehl Road has made the Aurora Branch almost impassable, there was very little construction debris to be picked up. Most of the trash was either dumped or came from local businesses in the area.

**Wheaton - Helen Bartlett, Coordinator - Prairie Path Cleanup Committee for The Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission**

April 23rd was a cold windy day in the 30's, but we had an excellent turnout of 200+ volunteers. Many groups were represented; these included the Knights of Columbus, Rotary Club of DuPage, Wheaton Junior Women's Club, Cosley Park staff, College Avenue Neighborhood, Naperville Bicycle Club,

*Continued next page...*



*Helen Bartlett (right) directs cleanup volunteers to areas that need special attention in Wheaton*

...*Cleanup Reports continued*

Elmhurst Bike Club, and many families, couples and singles.

Additional groups included Aurora Christian High School Girls Softball Team, Wheaton North Key Club, Wheaton Warrenville South High School Vettera Club, and others. The many scout groups included Girl Scout Troop 1689, Cub Pack 317, Cub Pack 163 and Brownie Troop 1484. Longfellow School Rangers and Sandburg School Recycling Club rounded out the volunteers.

## Annual Trail Cleanup Coordinators Needed

Trail Cleanup Volunteer Coordinators are needed to take a section of the trail and help organize the Annual Trail Cleanup, scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd, 2006. We welcome your participation! Contact Don Kirchenberg, IPPc President at 630-682-9297 or email [FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com](mailto:FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com).

### Upcoming Events

Sunday, November 6, 2005  
IPPc Annual Meeting,

Saturday, April 22, 2006  
Annual Earth Day Path Cleanup

Keith Olson has monthly volunteer workdays at the Elmhurst Great Western Prairie. 630-834-7357 or email [KeithOlson@usa.net](mailto:KeithOlson@usa.net)

## DuPage County Encroachment Crackdown

DuPage County has recently taken a zero tolerance approach to all encroachments. Letters have been sent out by the DuPage County States Attorney threatening any property owner responsible for any encroachment with legal action.

The board of directors of The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation has asked the DuPage County Board and staff of the division of transportation to consider some encroachments along the trails as improvements. Steps and bridges that allow neighbors to access and use the trails are encroachments we would like to see maintained. Encroachments such as fencing to extend backyards, dumping, parking of vehicles, private gardens or the installation of buildings like sheds are considered unacceptable encroachments.

Trail users who believe that encroachments such as steps and bridges (if they are properly maintained by the adjoining property owners) are positive improvements to the trails should contact DuPage County. Emails can be sent to the Chairman of the DuPage County Board at [rschillerstrom@dupageco.org](mailto:rschillerstrom@dupageco.org). Letters may be mailed to Robert Schillerstrom, Chairman, DuPage County Board, to 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton, IL 60187.

## Eagle Scout Project



L to R: Andrew Zika, Ryan Kuntz, and Albert Zika at Volunteer Park. Not pictured, Chris Farley

Ryan Kuntz is one hard working Scout. Ryan, an Eagle Scout candidate from Troop 191, along with at least three other Scouts and seven parents, is responsible for a rather complicated repairs to the IPP display stand at Volunteer Park in Wheaton.

Additionally, the Village of Hillside now has it's own IPP display thanks to Ryan. You can



L to R: Andrew Zika, Danny Greco, Dick Weifenbach, Shelby (dog), Carl Zika, Jerry Kuntz, Ryan Kuntz, Brad Greco, Albert Zika

see this new case just north of Butterfield Road along the Main Stem. A special thanks also goes to Russell Wajda, the Village Manager of Hillside for his support with this project.

And if all this wasn't enough, three more display stands will be installed by Ryan and crew in late 2005.

## Lombard Center Island Makes Crossing Safer



*The Village of Lombard has installed a center island on Main Street to help Path users get across the busy intersection. We hope to see other municipalities follow this practice.*

### **Moving? Please let us know**

The Post Office doesn't always notify us of your new address

## Everyone is Invited to the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of The Illinois Prairie Path

Date: Sunday, November 6, 2005

Time: 2pm

Place: The Abbey Leisure Center, 407  
West St. Charles Road, Elmhurst

Informational Presentations:

by guest speakers

Entertaining Slide Show:

Jean & Paul Mooring

Reports:

2005 President's Report, Don Kirchenberg

2005 Treasurer's Report, Paul Mooring

2005 Membership Report, Dave Watts

Nominations of Directors, Don Kirchenberg

Refreshments & desserts (provided by the Board members) will be served following the meeting.

Please pass this extra membership card on to a friend...

### **The Illinois Prairie Path**

P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton IL 60189

630-752-0120 [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org)

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### **Got a Question?**



**Just call us at**

**630-752-0120**  
(Voice Mail)



## Some IPPc Board Member Positions Are Available

*From Don Kirchenberg, IPPc President*

Volunteer board positions are available with the Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation (IPPc).

A board member must be a current member of The IPPc and attend monthly board meetings. A board member usually gets involved because of a specific interest or concern. As a board member you work to solve that problem and contribute efforts to whatever solutions help improve that section or problem with the trail. Decisions are made by the board at the monthly meetings to preserve, promote and protect the trail and its users. Liability insurance is provided to protect the board of directors.

We have a monthly volunteer workday (see below) on a Saturday in each warm weather month to fix or enhance something along the trail. The board meets the first Tuesday of every month at the Rathje Park building at Delles and Roosevelt in Wheaton at 7:30PM. These meetings end at 10:00PM or earlier.

In August we hold our picnic meeting at noon on the first Saturday. November's meeting is our Annual Members Meeting held the first Sunday at 2PM in Elmhurst.

## Two More Honors for The IPP

- In June, the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy named The Illinois Prairie Path as their Path of the Month. You can learn more at [www.railstotrails.org/fnd/totm/archives/05-06.asp](http://www.railstotrails.org/fnd/totm/archives/05-06.asp)

- The fall edition of Chicago Wilderness magazine also has a great story on the IPP. The article covers its history, prairies and natural areas, some nearby businesses and museums.

Chicago Wilderness should be available at larger news stands or on the web at:

[www.chicagowildernessmag.org/issues/fall2005/weekendexplorer.html](http://www.chicagowildernessmag.org/issues/fall2005/weekendexplorer.html)

## IPP Volunteer Workdays

### Bellwood Prairie Work

*Reported by IPPc Board Member, Dick Wilson*

On May 14th, nine volunteers showed up to help Larry Sheaffer expand the Bellwood Prairie. Board members present were Paul Aeschleman, Dick Wilson, Nancy Becker and Erik Spande along with Nancy Wilson, two members of a high school ecology club and a father and son team.

### Bench Repairs



*Photo at right: Jean Mooring (right) supervises Paul Mooring and Dick Wilson as they work to repair and reinstall a bench back into place along the Elgin Branch. Not pictured, Don Kirchenberg, Dave Watts*

## Request for Prairie Path Photos

The IPPc is looking to add photos to our collection of your favorite places along the Path. In particular, shots that depict the natural beauty, usage of, and parks and forest preserves located along any portion of the IPP and Great Western Trail. Photos should be digital, or scanned from film, and can be emailed to [Bikedave1@aol.com](mailto:Bikedave1@aol.com) or [FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com](mailto:FrndsGrtWstnTrl@aol.com)

These photos might be used in future newsletters, the IPPc website, or other promotional purposes. Credit will be given.

# Illinois Prairie Path Native Plant Restoration Project

By Ray Bartels, IPPc Board  
Member



*Prior to the native plantings, the eroded area was shored up on several occasions. Photo by Ray Bartels*

Members and friends of the Illinois Prairie Path and the Sierra Club's River Prairie Group joined forces in late April to help shore up a severely eroded spot along the glacial kame on the Path's Main Stem, west of Hill Avenue, in eastern Glen Ellyn. The project's scope was to landscape and plant native species on the kame, adjacent to the "Special 8" natural area.

Kames are terminal moraines and are an accumulation of rocks and clay left by glaciation when the front of the ice was stationary.

The volunteers for the plantings were Bruce Blake, Bonnie Blake, Stella Banak, Jennifer Carey, Michael Sinner, Ray Bartels, Jan Stortz, Don Kirchenberg, Paul

Duffy, and Michael Damico.

This project was funded by The IPPc and the Sierra Club, and coordinated by Bruce Blake.

## News from the League of Illinois Bicyclists

*From Ed Barsotti, Executive Director, League of Illinois Bicyclists*

### **LIB Unveils "Complete Streets" Website, an easy way to comment on upcoming roadwork near you**

Do you want more bike-friendly roads in and around the Prairie Path area? Be a "squeaky wheel" and ask for them! No need to hunt down what roadwork is being planned – simply visit [www.bikelib.org/completestreets](http://www.bikelib.org/completestreets), answer a few brief questions, and LIB handles it from there.

### **What is the goal of the Complete Streets website?**

To give folks an easy way to speak up for better bicycling and walking conditions, when road projects are being designed. Many of us get frustrated when road construction does not improve conditions, often worsening them. The time to improve the design is early, when it is easier (and cheaper) for the road-building agency. Through this website, you can help show the demand and suggest what should be done.

### **What do I do?**

It's easy – go to the website, look at our maps, click on a road project to learn about it, type in your comments, and click submit.

LIB has filtered lists of upcoming projects down to those early enough in the process and with an appropriate scope of work (widening; reconstruction; shoulder work; some resurfacing projects)

### **What happens after I submit a survey?**

Your responses go to LIB. We add a cover letter explaining the survey, and asking that your comments be considered and added to the official project record. We send it to the head of the appropriate road-building agency and to the elected official in charge of it.

It's our hope that each IPP member takes advantage of this simple opportunity to visit the Complete Streets webpage listed above.

## New Artwork Along The Path



*The two cyclists bronze statue greets Path users in Glen Ellyn across from the train station*

Dr. John Murphy is enthusiastic about sharing artwork. So serious, that the Glen Ellyn orthodontist has donated four bronze works to the Village of Glen Ellyn. One of these has been placed just feet away from the Path, in Prairie Path Park, located opposite the train station. Another cycling oriented statue adorns the front lawn of his office, located around the corner on Park Boulevard.

"I found this work at an auction in Loveland, Colorado" Dr. Murphy said, referring to the new bronze along the Path. "I wanted to give back to the community that has given many wonderful things to us."

Three other statues are located in highly visible public spots around the Village.



*Benches may be placed along the Illinois Prairie Path like this one honoring Ron Degnan, runner and longtime friend of the Path.*

*Contact the IPPC for more information.*

### Corrections

In the last issue, the article covering our 2004 Annual Meeting included an incorrect quote from Henry David Thoreau. The correct quote is "In wildness is preservation of the world."

## It's Like a Bike Path to the Great Beyond

*by Karen Stahlecker, Chicago Tribune, Published August 28, 2005*

My 7-year-old son and I recently took our first long bike trip on the Illinois Prairie Path, starting in Elmhurst. After an hour of riding, we decided to sit on a nice bench on the side of the path and have a snack. Brett noticed on the bench a small plaque dedicated to a gentleman (let's call him John Smith), and he asked why it was there.

I explained that Mr. Smith's family did this as a special way of memorializing him after his death. I mentioned that perhaps Mr. Smith spent a lot of time on this path riding his bike, walking, etc., and his family thought that this was a good way to remember him.

As we continued to eat our snack, Brett kept looking at the ground. Thinking he had dropped something, I asked what he was looking for. He peered up and asked quietly, "Mom, are there dead people buried under here?"

He was quite relieved when I explained that, no, the people who have died are buried in cemeteries, not under park benches on public bike paths.

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# Illinois Prairie Path Store

## Show Your Support For The Illinois Prairie Path! Long Sleeve IPPc Shirts Now Available

Ride or walk the IPP in style! Our new shirt design features The IPPc 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 denim colors. Shirt also features wood-tone buttons and double-needle stitching. Price: \$40.00 per shirt, plus add \$5 shipping and handling. For multiple shirt orders, call 630-752-0120 for shipping price. For current shirt inventory, go to [www.ipp.org/GUI/ipp\\_store.htm](http://www.ipp.org/GUI/ipp_store.htm)



## Illinois Prairie Path Color Map 7th Edition



Only \$6 - Includes postage and shipping.

(Note: new members are sent one free map when they join The IPPc!)

- Full color illustrations and photos
- Large 18" x 24" size (folds to 3 1/2" x 9") on tear-proof, water-proof paper
- New! Includes updated information on renovated Cook County portion of the Illinois Prairie Path
- Includes full suburb/street detail of the 61-mile trail from Cook County
- Discover 26 points of interest along the IPP and 14 recommended bike routes
- Details train stations, prairies, parking lots, restrooms and drinking fountains
- Learn more about The IPPc's management, its history and its founder May Watts. Published by The Illinois Prairie Path not-for-profit corporation



## IPP Guidebook - by Helen Turner

This 32-page guidebook contains information about the history, geology, trees, flowers, birds and animals of the Illinois Prairie Path. Cost: \$5 per copy includes shipping.

## The IPPc Patch Shows You Care

The IPPc patch can be yours for \$1.50 each. Includes shipping.



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## **Prairie Path** **Trail Etiquette**



### **Regulations to Protect People, Animals and Power Lines:**

- 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 remote controlled toys.
- 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.