



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

June 2014

Daily Herald 2014 Readers' Choice Awards - **Best Bike Path - Illinois Prairie Path!!!**



Illinois Prairie Path Archives Open House

Original Films, Videos, Displays
On-the-hour Legacy Volunteer Stories
Monday, August 11, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
North Central College – Oesterle Library
320 East School Street – Naperville
Lower Level – Elevator Access

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Photo of Illinois Prairie Path near Wayne – Copyright Ann Stacy

You're History!!!

For five decades, you and other Illinois Prairie Path volunteers, members, trail users and communities have contributed to the history of the Path. YOU are invited to stop by and celebrate the Open House of the Illinois Prairie Path Archives, now part of North Central College's Suburban Studies Archives. **On-the-Hour Stories (15 to 30 minutes)** and **Displays (related to the six topics)** will be highlighted by *numerous* Legacy Volunteers who helped build the Path!

1 p.m. *The Red Caboose Trail* - Dick and Nancy Wilson highlight decades of innovative scouting projects.

2 p.m. *Promoting the Vision for a Public Path* – Eugene Pomerance explains the role of early, frequent, *effective* communications.

3 p.m. *Wheaton Friends of the Prairie Path* – George Johnson and Don Westlake tell a citizen action story about “the first mile.”

4 p.m. *The Founders: People of Vision, Courage and Determination* – Carol Doty describes her inspiring friends and mentors.

5 p.m. *Prairies of the Path* – Keith Olson and possibly Larry Sheaffer talk about prairie sites, prairie burns and Monarch butterflies.

6 p.m. *Let's Build the Bridge* – Volunteers (TBA) who built Volunteer Bridge in 1983 will share their amazing stories. (Phil Hodge, PE and project leader may join in personally or virtually.)

Updated Open House information (films, presenters) will be posted on the website at www.ipp.org. Questions? Contact Kim Butler, North Central College Archivist, at 630-637-5714 or Mary Jo Malach, Illinois Prairie Path at 331-457-1618.

Thank You Annual Earth Day Trail Cleanup Volunteers!

On Saturday, April 26, hundreds of volunteers at 12 different sites were clearing rubbish and trash from the Illinois Prairie Path. A special shout out of THANKS to **Susan Degnan**, IPPC Board Member who chaired the event; and the VOLUNTEER COORDINATORS from Path communities who recruited and managed the cleanup at their site: **Dick and Nancy Wilson** (Elgin Branch); **Bob Hoel** (Elmhurst); **David Peterson** (Geneva-Fox River going east); **Justin Keenan** (Glen Ellyn); **Sam Pyne** (Lombard); **Ed Barsotti** (Aurora/Naperville); **Lennel Grace** (Maywood); **Theresa Bauer** (Villa Park); **Jennifer McMahon** (Warrenville); **Scott Hensey** (West Chicago/Geneva Spur); **Tracy Vought** (Wheaton); **Erik Spande** (Winfield).

ELGIN BRANCH



“Trail Riders of DuPage (TROD) and members of the Kaifish campaign joined us just east of Oliver Square Shopping Center. We had 20 volunteers and collected over 25 bags of assorted lumber, building materials and rubbish,” reported **Dick and Nancy Wilson**.

WINFIELD



St. Andrews Lutheran Church First Communion Class, led by **Phoebe Smith** spent time together cleaning up the Path.

WARRENVILLE



“We had a great group from Warrenville and Mayor Brummel was out there helping too!” reported **Jennifer McMahon**.

WINFIELD



Team Captain **Erik Spande** reported the Winfield Cleanup Crew was led by volunteers from Winfield Riverwalk who worked with the Forest Preserve on Geneva Spur, Elgin Branch and Forest Preserve and roads in the village and Central DuPage Hospital.

WHEATON



Tracy Vought, Team Leader, reported "We had 186 Volunteers participate in this year's cleanup." Tracy and the Wheaton Environmental Improvement Commission coordinate the annual cleanup in Wheaton.

WEST CHICAGO



"We had a great day and a great turnout" reported **Rachel Miller**, regarding employees from MAPEI Corporation who participated in the West Chicago cleanup.

MAYWOOD



Lennel Grace, a Maywood resident, facilitated the portion of the trail cleanup that spanned Maywood. He was accompanied by a few dozen volunteers, including Maywood Mayor Edwenna Perkins, Maywood Trustee Michael Rogers, Maywood Chief of Police Valdimir Talley, Deputy Chief Elijah Willis, Commander Sonja Horn, Maywood's assistant village manager David Myers, Neighbors of Maywood Community Organization (NOMCO) President John Yi and Maywood Historic Preservation Commissioner Tom Kus, among other residents from Maywood and surrounding communities.

Trail Count Survey Results now on IPP Website

Erik Andersen, IPPc Director, is managing the continual updating of the Path website at www.ipp.org. Take a look at the Trail Count results that were recently posted for your convenience.



AND THE SURVEY SAYS ...

Illinois Prairie Path Survey

The results from a study completed for the Illinois Prairie Path are in and there are some great facts about the path! Check out the highlights or download the full study to learn more »

CHECK OUT THE STUDY RESULTS ▶

The banner features a blue sky background with a white checkmark icon on the right side, symbolizing a successful survey.

Exelon announces grant to the Illinois Prairie Path



Erik Spande, President of the IPPc reported that the IPPc was pleased to receive a \$2500 grant from the Exelon Corporation, based in Chicago. This grant was to honor employees who recently received an Exelon Environmental Achievement Award for outstanding environmental accomplishment in 2014. The IPPc is honored to receive this recognition and will use these funds to invest in the IPP.

2014 Summer Trail Maintenance Updates

From Dan Thomas, DuPage County Principle Planner/Trail Coordinator

Questions? Contact Dan at Daniel.thomas@dupageco.org

- **Closure** - The Great Western Trail is closed between Main Street, Glen Ellyn and Bloomingdale Road until further notice. A contractor needs to perform excavation work adjacent to the trail riding surface and heavy equipment will be accessing the trail. Please seek alternate routes of travel and under no circumstances enter the construction zone. A future notice will be sent when the trail is re-opened.
- **Great Western Trail Counts** - The DuPage County Department of Transportation will be doing trail counts along the Great Western Trail this year, similar to what they did with the Illinois Prairie Path last year. Data gathered from the trail counts will help the DOT plan for future trail connections and improvements.
- **Updated DuPage County Trail Map** –The 2014 Trail Map has been released. It is available at this link: http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails/1150/. Please e-mail the Trail Coordinator at daniel.thomas@dupageco.org if you would like to receive a printed copy of the map in the mail.

Recycled Display Case Installed at Lincoln Marsh



In 2012 the IPP donated several old, worn out kiosk display cases to the Wheaton Park District that would have otherwise been disposed of. One of these display cases was recently refurbished by park district staff and installed within a brand new kiosk that is located at the Lincoln Marsh Natural area near Mile Marker 1 on the Elgin branch. This kiosk will be maintained by the park district and used to inform trail users about the Lincoln Marsh and its programs.

Thanks for being an IPPc member! Invite your friends and family to become members and/or volunteers. More information is available at www.ipp.org and Facebook. Contact the IPPc at president@ipp.org or call **630-752-0120**, or write The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187.