



The Illinois Prairie Path Newsletter

Spring Edition (April - May 2013)

Aurora Branch and Batavia Spur - Closed Until October



Beginning the week of April 8, 2013, the Illinois Prairie Path Batavia Spur and the Illinois Prairie Path Aurora Branch will be closed to facilitate NICOR work. Along I-88, the IPP Batavia Spur is located on NICOR right-of-way and the County must allow them access to maintain and upgrade their gas delivery system.

Dan Thomas, DuPage County Trails Coordinator explained, "The Batavia Spur is closed between its intersection with the Aurora Branch and Eola Road and the Aurora Branch is closed between Ferry Road and Diehl Road. Please use caution while utilizing the detour and dismount your bike on the Eola Bridge over I-88 for your safety." **A current detour map is available on the County's trails webpage at [www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways and Trails](http://www.dupageco.org/EDP/Bikeways_and_Trails).**

These closures may be inconvenient but they are necessary. Please keep in mind that the founders of the Illinois Prairie Path worked long and hard with all of the utility companies to build cooperative partnerships. For five decades, miles and miles of trails have been able to co-exist with miles and miles of public utility infrastructure that needs to be maintained.

Saturday, May 18 - Experience the Illinois Prairie Path in Naperville

From **11 a.m. to Noon** at **Madden Theater/Wentz Concert Hall/North Central College** at 171 East Chicago Avenue.

PARKING IS FREE. Visit the [Park Easy, Park Smart](http://www.naperville.il.us/downtownparking) site at the city's website: www.naperville.il.us/downtownparking.

If you bike to the event, bike rack locations are marked on the [Naperville Biking Map and Guide](#) on the city's website.

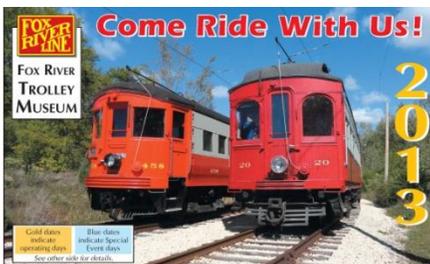


For one hour, experience the Path from many different perspectives.

At this one hour multi-media event, for the first time, you will be able to:

- Hear the voice of Mrs. Watts during a 1969 interview
- See photos of all of the early founders
- Meet some of their second and third generation family members
- Meet the legacy volunteers who helped build the Path
- Experience children performing a song written by Mrs. Watts
- View new images of the Path by a team of talented photographers
- Experience volunteers and students building Volunteer Bridge
- Enjoy music, poetry, stories and videos by people who use the Path

Saturday, June 29 - Fox River Trolley Museum



A special day has been planned for Illinois Prairie Path members and their families. The Fox River Trolley Museum has partnered with the IPP, and is providing free trolley rides on a 100 year old trolley car that once ran on the Chicago, Aurora and Elgin railroad that we now know as the Illinois Prairie Path. Illinois Prairie Path Day will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This educational and enjoyable 4 mile round trip experience travels along the Fox River to the Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve and back to the Museum. The forest preserve offers a quiet picnic area with restrooms for your convenience. The Fox River Trolley Museum location is on Illinois Route 31 (LaFox St.), three blocks south of the State St. traffic light in South Elgin, Illinois. For directions and map on the FRTM and this IPP event, see www.foxtrolley.org.

On the Path: DuPage Birding Club - www.dupagebirding.org



Founded in 1985, the DuPage Birding Club is nationally known as one of the largest and most active birding groups in Illinois. President Jeff Smith explained, "Our mission is to promote birding through education and field experiences that take advantage of the various habitats in DuPage County, the greater Chicago area, and other regional hotspots."

"If you are new to birding, there are a number of ways to get involved. Our field trips are open to our members and to the general public," Jeff added. "Information about all of our upcoming field trips (dates, locations, and guidelines) is on our webpage. We also invite you to attend one of our meetings." For upcoming field information visit their website or call John Cebula (630-858-3767).



The DuPage Birding Club meets eight times per year, usually on the **second Thursday** of January, March, April, May, July, September, October, and November at **7:30 pm**. Unless otherwise noted, the club meetings take place at Faith Lutheran Church, 41 N. Park Blvd. (just north of Roosevelt Rd.), in Glen Ellyn. Park in the back of the church and enter through the glass doors, then go down the stairs to the meeting hall on your right. At their May 9 meeting, the speaker will be William Rapai, on "*The Kirkland's Warbler: An Extraordinary Bird, Extraordinary People.*"

Join ippCORP (Illinois Prairie Path - Cadre of Remarkable People)

If you have talent and/or experience in any of these areas, and if you are willing to share your time (on a limited or ongoing basis) with the Illinois Prairie Path, please send your area of interest, your experience and your contact information to: IPP President Erik Spande at Erik.Spande@comcast.net

- **Trail Count** - staff tables, interview trail users, record data
- **Social Media** - help develop social media strategies and tools
- **Web Design** - help implement changes to the IPP website
- **Media / Public Relations** - help promote IPP events

50th Anniversary Calendar reminders...

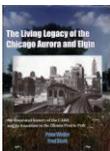


Healthy Patients 5K Run

WHEN: Sunday, April 21, 2013 (to benefit Illinois Prairie Path)

WHERE: Bemis Woods Forest Preserve in Western Springs. Select the "Illinois Prairie Path" as your team.

VISIT: www.healthy5k.com



Author Fred Stark to speak about CA&E Railroad in Elmhurst

WHEN: Monday, April 22 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

WHERE: The event will be held at Wilder Mansion, 211 Prospect Avenue, Elmhurst, IL, 60126

VISIT: www.wildermansion.org



Annual Earth Day Trail Cleanup

WHEN: Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to Noon - Rain or Shine

WHERE: Aurora Branch/Naperville; Elgin Branch/Oliver Square; Elmhurst; Geneva (Fox River going East); Glen Ellyn; Lombard; Maywood/Bellwood; Villa Park; Warrenville; West Chicago/Geneva Spur; Wheaton; and Winfield.

VISIT: www.ipp.org



DEADLINE - Wednesday - May 15 - **IPP SCHOLARSHIP** submissions are due (www.ipp.org)

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](tel:630-752-0120), or write The Illinois Prairie Path, P.O. Box 1086, Wheaton, IL 60187.