



THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER



Fall 2019

SAVE THE DATE!

Illinois Prairie Path's 2019 Annual Meeting
Sunday, November 3rd
2pm to 4pm
Cantigny Park | Visitor's Center | Medill Room
1S151 Winfield Road | Wheaton, IL



Key Note Speaker: Mark Decker, Landscape Architect at the Forest Preserve of DuPage County
Topic: DuPage County - Trail Development

We are excited to host our 2019 annual meeting at Cantigny featuring guest speaker Mark Decker! Mark, a daily user of the path from Lombard, holds a Master of Landscape Architecture from the University of Illinois and a Bachelor of Biology from Trinity Christian College. In

his time with the Forest Preserve District, he has contributed to the development and construction of many miles of trails and several preserve improvements, including the design and implementation of a district-wide navigation signage system.

Mark will present an overview of trail projects both completed and currently in development and will discuss some of the challenges of regional trail development and how the district has worked to address those challenges.

To view their current and ongoing projects, visit:
<https://www.dupageforest.org/news/upcoming-projects>



West Branch Trail



Ech Pur

Thank you,
Mary Jo!



We would like to thank Mary Jo Malach for her time spent on The Illinois Prairie Path's Board of Directors. She has been generous and committed to the path's mission over her many years of service. During her tenure on the board, Mary Jo served as our Secretary and Editor of our quarterly newsletter. She was instrumental in coordinating the celebration of the path's 50th anniversary and worked tirelessly alongside North Central College to establish our historical archives and maintaining important path records.

Recently, Mary Jo helped lead the effort with the application process and subsequent award of a large grant resulting in new signage along the path. Although still in its preliminary stages, she played an integral part in the initial planning and design for a Warrenville Trailhead. Additionally, Mary Jo took ownership of maintaining relationships with our legacy volunteers (long-term ambassadors responsible for promoting the advancement of the path) and kept the legacy of our founding members alive. These contributions only represent highlights of her long-term advocacy and commitment to the Illinois Prairie Path. We are so appreciative for all of Mary Jo's efforts and her passion for the path. We wish her all the best!

Bike to Work Day

On June 25, 2019, the Illinois Prairie Path (IPPc) Board was represented at the DuPage County Chair's Bike to Work day. As in previous years, the bike ride started in Elmhurst and followed the Illinois Prairie Path to the DuPage County complex in west Wheaton. Annually, Bike to Work is an opportunity for DuPage residents and bicycle enthusiasts to ride with DuPage County Board Chairman, Dan Cronin. Each year, the Chairman provides a proclamation in support of active transportation.

At the Proclamation, Dennis Terdy, IPPc Board Member, provided the following comments on behalf of the Illinois Prairie Path:

I'm here with my colleague, IPP Treasurer, Rob Sperl. I am Dennis Terdy, a Director on the Illinois Prairie Path Board. It is an honor to have participated in the annual Bike to Work event today and the clear recognition this event gives to the county's commitment to our community trail system.

The Illinois Prairie Path, whom I represent, has a long history with DuPage County starting formally in 1986 when DuPage County assumed primary responsibility for the Illinois Prairie Path. Today, we benefit from great responsive, ongoing cooperation work with the DOT, Sid Kenyon, and others at the county.

Over 30 years The IPPc, now a non-profit organization continues with our mission:

to preserve, enhance, and advocate on behalf of the Illinois Prairie Path for current and future generations.

We residents of DuPage county, are very, very fortunate with 62 miles of trails on the IPP, mostly in DuPage County and the county's total of over 500 miles of trails.

Whether for biking, jogging, walking, or walking dogs as the primary path activities, we all benefit. On behalf of all our members and users, we truly appreciate the county's continued support and,

in particular, this proclamation on Bike to Work Day 2019. Thank you!



Rob Sperl, IPPc Treasurer, and Dennis Terdy, IPPc Board Member receives this year's proclamation from Chairman Cronin



Tour of Lake Ellyn – Glen Ellyn

The Illinois Prairie Path, along with representatives from the East Branch DuPage River Trail, shared a table display at the 4th annual Ray Whalen Builders Tour of Lake Ellyn. This privately funded activity, benefitting the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, is coordinated with the Village of Glen Ellyn and Glen Ellyn Park District. The event enables the community to come together and enjoy the beautiful Lake Ellyn park area along with exciting professional and amateur bicycle racing. The racing series is a part of the Intelligentsia Cup p/b SRAM that brings competitive bicycle racing to the Chicagoland area, with top-level professional and elite amateur athletes.

Would you like to help restore a local Woodland?

There are very few remnants left of the old forests and prairies. Less than 0.5% of the land in Illinois is still prairie. Fortunately, several isolated spots within our county have been purchased or donated to preserve them. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has several restorations going on. The IPP has an ongoing restoration program of its own. We're looking for volunteers to remove invasive plants, collect and plant native seeds. Dress for the weather and fill out the waiver. To volunteer, please register with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County- Call/Email Bruce Blake at (630) 206- 9630 or Rllnstns1@aol.com or visit: apm.activecommunities.com/fpddc/Home



Four New Commemorative Illinois Prairie Path Signs

We are proud to announce the development and installation of four new Illinois Prairie Path signs. Initially funded through REI's Stewardship Grant Program, one of this grants two objectives was **improve awareness of the Illinois Prairie Path, historical information access, and recognition at four prominent Prairie Path sites.** Recognizing the need for additional funds to complete four signs targeted in the original project, the IPPc applied for and received a Commonwealth Openlands grant that was coordinated through DuPage County, Division of Transportation.

The four signs, installed on July 19, were designed to commemorate key individuals and groups that have had major roles in the Illinois Prairie Path's history. They include:

- **Jean and Paul Mooring** – Highlighting two individuals with over 50 years of service to the Illinois Prairie Path and its community
- **Steel Bridge** – recognizing the many volunteers that initiated and built the first bridge over the Metra West Line railroad tracks
- **May Watts** – recognizing the founder of the Illinois Prairie Path at Founders Park in Wheaton
- **Maintainers** – acknowledging the many volunteers who have sustained the entire Prairie Path in Wayne Township located at Illinois Prairie Path and Army Trail Road

Mary Jo Malach, Jeff Friedman, and Dennis Terdy, IPPc Board members, were responsible for various aspects of this sign project, including securing grant funding from REI and Commonwealth Edison, the grant writing process, sign composition, and sign development and installation. Marty Berent, of Nameplate & Panel Technology in Carol Stream, provided design skills and layout for this project. Sidney Kenyon of DuPage County, Department of Transportation, provided coordination for the Commonwealth Edison Grant. The first sign (pictured right) is located on the Prairie Path near the DuPage River Branch east of Glen Ellyn and highlights the contributions of Jean and Paul Mooring.

In the coming issues of the IPPc Newsletter, we will highlight each of the remaining three signs and their locations.

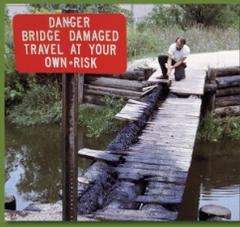


PAUL & JEAN MOORING MEMORIAL BRIDGE



The Moorings were life-long Path Volunteers for over 50 years. For over two decades, Paul served as the President of the Board of Directors. Jean became the Path's newsletter editor. They organized the building of limestone paths, bridges, kiosks, benches and native plant areas. Paul built the Path's kiosks in their backyard.

AT THIS SITE... 1969.
The first bridge over the East River was built by Volunteers. Over time, led by the Moorings, they built a total of five bridges. Four were totally destroyed by vandalism, arson or floods.





1988. The Moorings accepted, on behalf of all Path volunteers, the Take Pride In America Award - Civic/Citizen Organization category. The Path's history was honored in the July 26, 1988 Congressional Record.



DuPage County built the current (sixth) bridge in 2009 and dedicated the bridge to the Moorings in 2017.



"We walked every inch of that path in Cook, DuPage and Kane counties," Paul commented. "Paul says we can't enjoy a walk on the path because I'm always looking for trash or pointing out things that need to be fixed," Jean added.



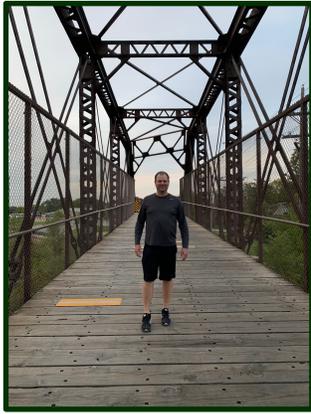
info@ipp.org
www.ipp.org

Sign Identity staff installing the Paul and Jean Mooring sign located on the Prairie Path near the DuPage River Branch east of Glen Ellyn highlights the contributions of Jean and Paul Mooring



What I Like About the IPP

I moved to Wheaton over 20 years ago and wanted a find somewhere to walk and ride my bike. A friend suggested the Illinois Prairie Path and described the various routes and where to access them. Soon after,



Patrick Henkel on the IPP

I felt like I had discovered a hidden gem in the Western Suburbs! When describing it, I like to say that all routes start at mile marker zero in downtown Wheaton. The Prairie Path affords a wide variety of changing sceneries, depending on which direction you go, ranging from neighborhoods, low plains, wooded areas and bustling downtowns from Wheaton to Elmhurst and areas beyond. There was a period of time when I was an avid runner (some might say jogger) and the Prairie Path was where I went to enjoy that activity for several years. It provides a wonderful and safe environment as evidenced by the many running organizations that use the path to train for various races. The crushed limestone surface, mile markers, and drinking fountains along much of the path and the ability to trek relatively long distances without the constant worry of vehicles makes it a perfect location whether running, walking, or biking. Recognizing that this widely used amenity requires constant upkeep and additional improvements, I wanted to do my part to help support the organization. My company allows me to contribute each year through our employee giving campaign, and each year I happily renew my pledge! I applaud the founders who had the vision to create the Prairie Path and I implore those who now use it to

contribute, either financially and/or by volunteering, to ensure the Path remains in existence for future generations.

-Patrick Henkel



Maywood Trail Clean Up

On Saturday, June 29, Illinois Prairie Path Board members participated in a special cleanup at the Maywood Trailhead at First Avenue. This general maintenance consisted of cleaning up trash and brush and trimming overgrown plants in the entire trailhead area. In addition, a new large Illinois Prairie Path map was installed in the trailhead kiosk. The Village of Maywood also helped in removing excess trash that had accumulated in this high traffic area. We hope that this clean up, along with the well-maintained wildflower gardens, will provide a welcoming entrance to all westbound path users.



Board Members, Dennis Terdy (top) and Ken McClurg (bottom), working at the Maywood Trailhead



Swallowtail Cater

2019

June • July • August • September

thank you

Your membership and donations are used to provide services and fund improvements benefitting Illinois Prairie Path members and users.

New Members

Jim Abernante
Shawn Blackwell
Preston Bricker
Sherry Burlingame
Bruce Davidson
Amy Earwood
Christine Edison
Barbara Glasgow
Scott Hensey
Annie Jansen
Michael Johns
Laura Kapala
John Klus
Robert Mulcahey
David Navarro
Scott Pollock
Doug & Nadine Rorem
Glen Scheffler
Jim Seeman
Karen Solem
Michael Sparks
Donald Woznica

Donations / Gifts / Grants

S & E Bramsen Foundation
Preston Bricker
Hollie Brownlie
Robert Cibic
Mitchell & Julie Federico
Hamill Family Foundation
Patrick Henkel
Thomas Hogan
Daniel Jaris
Ken McClurg
Lowell & Helen Olberg
Michelle Reef
Maryellen Skerik
David Snider
John Woodhull