



Winter 2023



# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

North America's first successful rails-to-trails conversion. Founded 1963.

Stay Connected: [www.ipp.org](http://www.ipp.org), [info@ipp.org](mailto:info@ipp.org), 630-752-0120 or [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ipp.org)

## Annual Trails Cleanup

### SAVE THE DATE



In honor of Earth Day, the Illinois Prairie Path corporation, in cooperation with the Friends of the Great Western Trail, DuPage County and other partner organizations, has scheduled its annual cleanup for Saturday, April 29 at 9 a.m. Please note that exact time and date are set by each site coordinator. If you are interested in helping with this event, please visit [ipp.org/cleanup](http://ipp.org/cleanup) for more information and to sign up. If you have any questions, please contact:

IPPC - Ken McClurg 630-209-2969 [info@ipp.org](mailto:info@ipp.org)

IPPC - Dennis Terdy 630-309-7837  
[dennis.terdy@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.terdy@gmail.com)

Great Western - Don Kirchenberg 630-853-7650  
[frndsgrtwstntrl@aol.com](mailto:frndsgrtwstntrl@aol.com)

Please join us!



2022 Annual Trails cleanup in Villa Park

## Winter: A Great Time to Conduct "Deep Cleaning" of Our Path!

While the winter is not typically associated with IPPC clean-up efforts, it is actually a great time, prior to deep snow fall, to engage in a "deep cleaning" of the adjacent tall grass/shrubs that are part of our trail system. Due to trash collecting in these adjacent areas over time, when leaves are in full bloom, it is difficult to get access to these areas to remove the trash. As such, the IPPC is involved in various winter "deep cleaning" efforts to address this very issue.

Our most recent work is in the Bellwood area where a small stream near a lengthy strip of tall grasses has collected a large volume of trash. This area includes many beneficial plantings including Milkweed that are home to Monarch butterflies during their summer visit.

As noted in the photo, this is not a small project, and the "deep cleaning" does not occur in one day. Still, it is a friendly reminder to please use the various trash cans placed along the path to keep our trail clean for all to enjoy! If you would like to conduct your own Deep Cleaning efforts along our path, please know that the IPPC is willing to assist in providing some of the basic items to remove the trash. Please reach out to us via our [website](http://www.ipp.org) and thank you all for your continued support of our organization!



Bellwood deep cleaning

## Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting November 2022



*Annual Meeting Participants Engaged in Follow-up Discussion*

The first Annual Meeting of the Illinois Prairie Path (IPPC), in almost three COVID-affected years, took place at the Mary Lubko Center in Wheaton on Sunday, November 6, 2022 at 2 p.m. Attendees are listed at the end of this document.

Rob Sperl, Board Treasurer, substituting for Erik Spande, Board President, chaired the Annual Meeting with a “near full house” of attendees. A short, regular monthly business meeting took place at the beginning of the meeting. Rob provided the Annual Budget Report highlighting the following:

- Cash Balance November 1, 2021 – \$182,240
- Cash Balance October 31, 2022 – \$192,816
- Revenue – Donations above projections
- Significant Expenditures
  - Office Management \$5,300 – Under budget
  - Prairie Restoration \$14,000 – On budget
  - \*\*Special Projects – Under budget - \$50,000 committed to Warrenville Trailhead



*Warrenville Trailhead Photos documenting the progress in late fall - Above and below photos by Rob Sperl  
(Note rail “stampings” in the cement pathway.)*

In addition, Rob shared service terms of the current board members:

Spande - 2 year term ending 2024  
 Sperl - 2 year term ending 2024  
 Friedman - 3 year term ending 2025  
 Ippolito - not up until 2023  
 Kovacs - 4 year term ending 2026  
 McClurg - 4 year term ending 2026  
 Terdy - 3 year term ending 2025  
 Terwedow - 3 year term ending 2025

If you are a member who is considering becoming a board member, please contact Ken McClurg at [info@ipp.org](mailto:info@ipp.org).



## Sid Kenyon, DuPage County Division of Trails, Senior Planner DuPage County Trails (2020 to 2022)

Highlights of Sid's presentation:

- Provided an overview of the responsibilities and functions of his office.
- Presented a 2022 DuPage Trails slide show
- Delivered an update of plans for the North Central Regional Trail (Pratt Woods), West Branch DuPage River Trail, East Branch River Trail, and the DuPage Bike Plan

In the near future, his office will develop a Trails Plan based on stakeholder feedback. The objective is to develop a strong framework for DuPage County trail management



## Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting November 2022 (con't)

### Highlighted Prairie Path Activities

Board Members, Ken McClurg and Dennis Terdy, highlighted key Prairie Path activities over the past 3 years. The Illinois Prairie Path:

- Sponsored the 2022 Earth Day Trails Clean-up with 18 site coordinators in conjunction with DuPage County Adopt-A-Trail sites. Over 250 volunteers participated in this year's cleanup event.
- Donated and repurposed trash containers to Cook County municipalities.
- Donated prairie plantings sign at Maywood trailhead.
- Contributed to the MacDonald's IPP-themed wedding.
- Held regular Cook County Trash clean-up outings.
- Consulted with Bellwood on plans to beautify IPP near 25th street.
- Advocated for IPP expansion east to Blue Line.
- Consulted with Hillside on proposed reroute near Mannheim.
- Advocated for Cook County and IL trail enhancements.
- Implemented new online membership platform which provides the option for automatic renewals.
- Supported other prairie maintenance / restoration efforts.
  - Recruitment for Elmhurst Great Western Prairie work days.
- Milemarker Update
  - Installed signs on all DuPage County Main Stem & Elgin branch posts.
  - Replaced three missing posts – Warrenville, Winfield, Glen Ellyn.
- Prairie Path Map Update
  - Updated map to include adjoining trails, amenities, etc
  - Installed new maps in most IPP kiosks.
  - Distributed revised folded maps at local bike shops.
- Prairie Path Transitions
  - Said goodbye to Board members, Heather Mahler and Erik Anderson.
- In cooperation with J & R Cyclery (Villa Park) developed forthcoming IPP jerseys (anticipated in early winter).

### GUEST SPEAKER(s):

#### Brian & Joyce Ostberg, Local Historians History & Prehistory Along the Illinois Prairie Path

Brian and Joyce Ostberg provided a fascinating and insightful tour of the Illinois Prairie Path geographical and historical roots. With extensive experience in producing and sharing pre-historic and historic stories of DuPage and other nearby regions, they developed "An IPP Historical Tour" highlighting many known and little known facts of the Prairie Path's shared history. Their BeHistorical YouTube channel provides additional content of their previous videos. For more intriguing videos of our geographic area see:

<https://youtu.be/Oo8ujdG3ubM>

Musical entertainment, as provided regularly at our Annual meeting, was performed by Roger Kotecki.



*Vista from the Path – A Good-bye to 2022  
Photo by Ken McClurg*

### Thank You for Attending the Annual Meeting

#### Attending board members:

Jeff F.  
Bill K.  
Ken M.  
Rob S.  
Dennis T.

#### Meeting attendees:

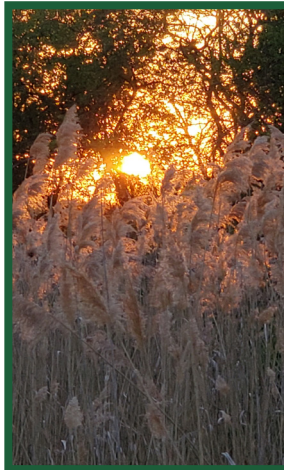
Paul B.  
Jess C.  
Michelle D.  
Sean D.  
Victoria F.  
Joseph H.

Sid K.  
Gary K.  
Roger K.  
Rachel M.  
Joe M.  
Brian O.  
Joyce O.  
Connie S.

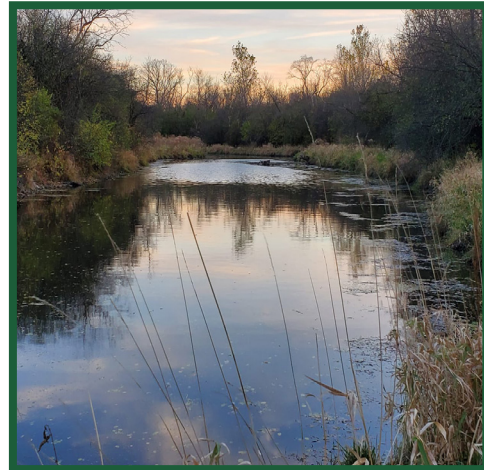
George S.  
Michael S.  
John S.  
Mike S.  
Bob V.  
Alan W.



St James Forest Preserve. Warrenville  
Photo by Ken McClurg



Great Western Trail - Winfield



Winfield at the West Branch DuPage River

### Illinois Prairie Path “Inspired” Jerseys

J & R Cycle & Ski of Villa Park, in cooperation with the IPPc, produced a new IPPc “inspired” jersey that went on sale in early December. A portion of each jersey (@ \$85.00) sale will be donated to the IPPc.

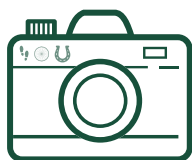
These jerseys can be purchased at:

J & R Cycle  
240 W St. Charles Road  
Villa Park, IL 60181  
630-620-1606

<https://www.jandrcycleandski.com/>



Illinois Prairie Path “inspired” bicycle jersey



If IPP members have Prairie Path photos they would like to share with the IPPc for newsletter consideration, please send them to [info@ipp.org](mailto:info@ipp.org).

### September | October | November | December

*Thank you*

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

#### Lifetime Members

Ronald J.  
Lisa S.

#### Donations

Michael and Margaret C.  
JoAnn & Andy G.  
Patrick H. – AT & T  
Eric P.  
Marilyn S.  
Marty S.  
Robert V.  
Bonnie W.

#### New Members

Patricia B.  
Frieda D.  
Keegan G.  
Stephen I.  
Dean I.  
Ellis J.  
John J.  
Brian K.  
John L.  
Rebecca M.  
Stephen M.

David M.  
Sally N.  
Rebecca P.  
Mark P.  
Chris S.  
Leann S.  
Bradley S.  
James S.  
Eric S.  
Michael W.