



Spring 2023

# THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

North America's first successful rails-to-trails conversion. Founded 1963.  
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## 2023 Trail Cleanup

### SAVE THE DATE

04  
MONTH

29  
DAY

23  
YEAR

9 A.M.  
TIME

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](#).

Cleaning litter from all miles of the Illinois Prairie Path and Great Western Trails is a huge task. It simply could not be done without hundreds of volunteers. Please join us for this fun and productive event. We all want our trails to look their best for 2023, the 60-year anniversary of the Prairie Path!

#### Equipment:

Volunteers should wear long pants, gloves and sturdy shoes.  
Bring grabbers if you have some.  
Site coordinators will provide trash bags.

#### Full trash bags:

It's best to leave bags at an existing trash container; they will be picked up automatically.  
The second-best location is at a major street; please let us know where full bags were left.  
Finally, if an item cannot be moved, please report its location to your site coordinator.

Visit [ipp.org/cleanup](http://ipp.org/cleanup) for more info and to sign up! A site coordinator will contact you.

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)



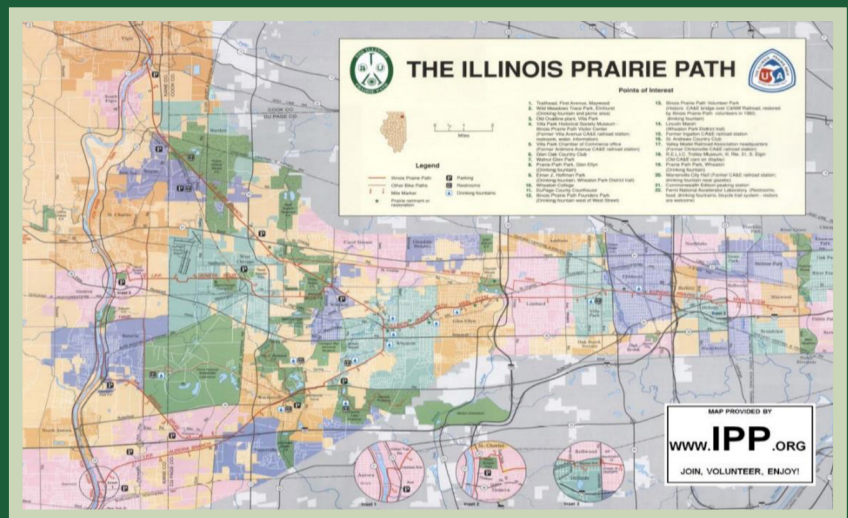
## The Illinois Prairie Path Prairie Collection

There are many aspects of the IPP that we can all agree we are fortunate to experience. From the communities that it ties together, to outdoor recreation, and more, the IPP has a lot to offer!

One aspect of our trail system that is perhaps not fully understood are the 7 various prairies that the IPP maintains. These prairies offer a glimpse of what our area looked like prior to settlement and showcases a wide variety of native plants and insects that is truly stunning to behold!

With spring now upon us, viewing these prairies provide an extra special sense of the beauty that our trails have to offer. To encourage your interest, the IPPC thought it might be helpful to note the location of these various prairies as perhaps encouragement for you to enjoy a day trip “prairie tour” with family & friends. To help you plan your route, we have provided the IPP system map below that notes the location of these 7 prairies, as well as, a detailed listing of each of our cherished prairies:

- Maywood Trailhead- 1st Ave. & the IPP in Maywood
- Hoffman Prairie- Northeast of the Hill Ave crossing in Wheaton.
- Presidents Prairie- Just west of President's Street in Wheaton
- Founder's Park- Just east of West Street in Wheaton
- Volunteer Park – Liberty St and Carleton in Wheaton
- Prince Crossing Prairie– Approx. 0.30 miles west of Prince Crossing Road in West Chicago
- Wayne Prairie – Army Trail Road just east of Powis Road in Wayne



So, enjoy the visits and please share with us your feedback, we always appreciate hearing from our members!

*Illinois Prairie Path system map*

## Thank you Steve, for Supporting OUR Path

If there is one thing we know about our IPP members, it is that many of you have a genuine passion for our path, one that we share with you! We are constantly reminded of this passion by the many folks who contact us to volunteer in some fashion. As an example, please meet Steve Ingersoll from Oak Park. Steve enjoys riding the path and felt compelled to do his part and help pick up trash in Maywood. Five bags later, Steve's work has made a huge difference! Thank you, Steve! For others, if you would like to assist in trash pick-up, beyond our Annual Earth Day Event (April 29, 2023), please [contact us](#) and we can assist in providing the necessary materials to do so. Thank you members, please know we appreciate all that you do in supporting OUR path!



*Steve Ingersoll's cleanup efforts in Maywood*



## Elmhurst Bicycle Club Winter Ride

On January 28th, seven Elmhurst Bicycle Club members rode 15 miles on the prairie path in perfect winter conditions: 2 inches of fresh powder on top of a frozen base. Snow showers added to the atmosphere. Good times, but now it's time for spring!



*Elmhurst Bicycle Club winter ride (pictured above)*

## Warrenville Trailhead Progress

Located at the southwest corner of Butterfield (IL 56) and Batavia Roads, the multi-year Warrenville municipal project along with the design and slight reconfiguration of the Illinois Prairie Path are reaching their final stages. In the photos, particularly note the "Rails to Trails" pavers embedding the path's heritage into the trailhead design.



*Warrenville Trailhead progress (pictured above)*

# TALKING TRAILS | WITH DUPAGE COUNTY



The DuPage Trails Plan continues to be underway as we enter spring of 2023. DuPage County DOT is developing a Draft Plan that will be released to the public for review and comment late this spring. As many may recall, topics that are covered in the Trails Plan include maintenance, operations, and use of the trail right of way, among many others. When the Plan is adopted by County Board, DOT staff will rely on its guidelines to manage its trail network going forward, with a focus on the Illinois Prairie Path, Great Western Trail, and Southern DuPage Regional Trail. We appreciate those of you who participated in our trails engagement surveys, and we eagerly await the opportunity to hear from you about our draft Plan.

In case you haven't seen it yet, there is a new trail connection to the North Central DuPage Regional Trail via Pratt's Wayne Woods. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County completed construction of the new trail late in the Summer of 2022, extending the NCDRT's

terminus to link up with the Illinois Prairie Path. The new trail segment is approximately 1.5 miles long, and brings you along the west side of Munger Rd. If you take the Elgin Branch you can find it just west of Smith Rd and Munger Rd in Wayne.

Lastly, we look forward to the IPPc and the Friends of the Great Western Trail taking advantage of the improving weather to conduct the Annual Trails Cleanup. The County greatly appreciates IPPc's continued coordination of the cleanup effort, as it is a service that is not only appreciated by the County but also by the trail-using public. If you haven't yet signed up, please consider joining the effort! Please visit [ipp.org/cleanup](http://ipp.org/cleanup) for more information and to register.

Sidney Kenyon, AICP  
Senior Transportation Planner  
DuPage County Division of Transportation

## Illinois Prairie Path "Inspired" Jerseys

J & R Cycle & Ski of Villa Park, in cooperation with the IPPc, produced a new IPPc "inspired" jersey went on sale at the beginning of the year. A portion of each Jersey (@ \$85.00) sale will be donated to the Illinois Prairie Path.

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

## January | February March

*Thank you*

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

### New Members:

James B.  
Patricia G.  
Moe G.  
Susan K.  
Jane K.  
Mary T.

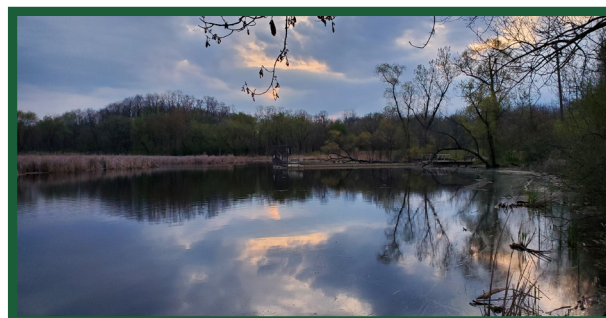
### Donations

J & R Cycle & Ski  
KPMG Gives  
Patrick H. - AT & T  
Dorothy L.  
Randall M.  
Mary Ann O.  
Ronald R.  
Marie T.  
James & Melodie W.  
John W.



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).



IPP Elgin branch - Lincoln March Wheaton