



Annual Meeting -
Special Edition
Newsletter

THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH NEWSLETTER

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Illinois Prairie Path

ANNUAL MEETING

Mary Lubko Center
208 W Union Ave, Wheaton IL

November 2, 2025
2:00 - 4:00 pm

The program will include:

- E-Bikes and Policy
- DuPage County Trail Updates
- Illinois Prairie Path Projects

Live musical entertainment will be provided before and after the meeting by **Roger Kotecki**. Please join us for light refreshments and additional conversation afterwards.



Annual Meeting Topics and Speakers

The State of E-mobility Modes in Illinois – Challenges & Recommendations



Dave Simmons

Executive Director of Ride Illinois

Topic

Dave will be providing a detailed review of the various types of e-mobility modes, the benefits they offer, how they are being used, issues that have arisen in recent years, and our recommendations as to how they can be safely used on the IPP

About the Presenter

After 25 years working in educational publishing, Dave made the leap to a nonprofit role in 2019 to become Executive Director of Ride Illinois – the state's nonprofit bicycle advocacy organization. Dave strongly believes in the many benefits of the humble bicycle and enjoys encouraging others to rely on active modes of transportation for everyday trips. In his current role, Dave oversees the daily tasks of the Ride Illinois non-profit organization, including: staff and board management, advocacy, finances, marketing and communications, and collaboration with partners at the local, state, and national level.

Trail Updates for DuPage County



Melisa Ribikawskis

Senior Transportation Planner DuPage County Division of Transportation

Topic

Melisa will provide an update on the trail system within DuPage County which will include highlights and updates from the 2025 season and information on current projects that the County is working on. Additionally, she will discuss upcoming County projects and future initiatives for the trail system.

About the Presenter

Melisa has received her Master's in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus on transportation planning. She has been the Senior Transportation Planner and acting Trails Coordinator for DuPage County for a year and a half but has been actively involved in active transportation planning for over five years. She has been a long-time trail user with a passion for multi-modal transportation.

Current projects of the Illinois Prairie Path in Cook County and Villa Park



Ralph DiFebo

Director Illinois Prairie Path Board

Topic

Ralph will provide a brief update on the plans underway in Cook County to improve several street crossings along the Illinois Prairie Path. In addition, he will address the IPPC's efforts to coordinate the return of CA&E Rail Car 321 to the Village of Villa Park. Donated by the Illinois Railway Museum in Union, IL, this historic car is projected to sit on a parcel of land just east of the existing Ardmore station, very near to the original rail line that ran through the village.

About the Presenter

Ralph DiFebo is a bicycle enthusiast and community advocate who has served on the Illinois Prairie Path Board for the past three years. He has a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Loyola University and worked as a Certified General Real Estate Appraiser at the Cook County Assessor's office for 30 years.