AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions – Erik Spande
IPPc Business – Ken McClurg
Larry Sheaffer Award Presentation – Connie Schmidt
DuPage County Trail System – John Loper
IPP Main Stem Eastern Extension – Joe Seymour
Maywood Trailhead & other Cook Co Projects – Ralph DiFebo
Restoration & Staging of Car 321 – Kevin Patrick
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Wrap-up / Suggestions / Questions

Musical entertainment - Roger Kotecki



Illinois Prairie Path corporation
2026 Annual Meeting
01NOV2026

Welcome!









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2026 Annual Treasurer's Report

Cash Balance, November 1, 2025

$ 185,595.81

Revenue

$ 48,066.00*

Expenditures

$ 54,676.45*

Cash Balance, October 31, 2026

$ 179,734.27*

***Estimated**

2026 Expenditures exceeded Revenues by $6.7K

2026 Annual Treasurer's Report

Items to note

- Donations and Dues were consistent with our expectations
- Approximately $3,000 was generated in interest from the Pomerance Trust
- Largest expense was the purchase of benches installed along the path
  - This expense was primarily reimbursed by donors
- Followed by Special Projects and our Office Manager
- Some Special Projects budgeted for 2026 (i.e. Car 321) will rollover to 2027

2026 Annual Treasurer's Report Details

Underspent the 2026 budget. Much of these expenditures roll into the 2027 budget

The Illinois Prairie Path
Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year 2026
Includes Estimated figures for October 2026

Cash Balance, November 1, 2025	2026		
Checking - Chase	$ 24,173.65		
High Yield Savings	$ 10,278.22		
Community Bank	$ 84,471.40		
Pomerance Trust - Principal $66672.54	$ 66,672.54		
TOTAL	$ 185,595.81		
Revenue		Budget	
Donations, Grants, Bequests	$ 23,327.00	$ 20,300.00	115%
Dues	$ 21,594.00	$ 24,000.00	90%
Sales (Maps,Shirts, Patches, Guides, etc.)	$ 45.00	$ 150.00	
Interest	$ 3,100.00	$ 3,020.00	103%
Miscellaneous	$ -	$ -	
TOTAL	$ 48,066.00	$ 47,470.00	101%
Expenditures			
Office Management	$ 4,946.25	$ 6,000.00	82%
Newsletters	$ 3,089.68	$ 1,500.00	206%
Maintenance and Repairs	$ 621.00	$ 3,250.00	19%
Portable Toilet	$ 2,413.90	$ 2,400.00	101%
Post Office	$ 303.79	$ 300.00	101%
Telephone	$ 111.32	$ 120.00	93%
Special Projects	$ 15,075.00	$ 55,450.00	27%
Special Events	$ 139.55	$ -	0%
Prairie Restoration (Contract)	$ 5,320.00	$ 3,000.00	177%
Sign Replacement	$ 507.00	$ 1,500.00	34%
Memorial Bench Installation	$ 15,461.00	$ 12,000.00	129%
Printing (inc. maps)	$ 1,823.30	$ 7,300.00	25%
Merchandise For Sale		$ -	
Donations		$ -	
Travel/ Board Expenses	$ -	$ 400.00	0%
Legal and Consulting	$ -	$ 2,500.00	0%
Concrete Trash Receptacles	$ -	$ 5,000.00	
Dues and Subscriptions		$ -	
Insurance	$ 1,697.00	$ 2,000.00	85%
Web Page Maintenance/Special (Projects)	$ 2,423.19	$ 8,600.00	28%
Government and Service Fees	$ 35.00	$ 30.00	117%
Miscellaneous (PayPal)	$ 709.47	$ 500.00	142%
TOTAL	$ 54,676.45	$ 111,850.00	49%
Cash Balance, October 31, 2026			
Checking - Chase	$ 10,359.69		
High Yield Savings	$ 4,279.15		
Office Manager's Account			
Petty Cash			
Community Bank	$ 98,033.00		
Pomerance Trust - Principal $66672.54	$ 67,062.43		
TOTAL	$ 179,734.27		

Page 1

2027 Budget (draft)

Revenue

$ 50,000

Expenditures

$ 90,000

Expenditures are expected to exceed revenues in 2027

Expenditures include:

$50,000 for Special Projects (train car & Cook County safety improvements)

$ 6,200 for Web Special Projects

$ 3,000 for Prairie maintenance/restoration

IPPc Board of Directors

Ralph DiFebo. Real Estate professional/appraiser, Urban Studies, Municipal land use, Transit integration. 2027

Michelle Dunlap. IT professional, teacher, trainer, Wheaton Bicyclist & Pedestrian Commission. 2028

Jeff Friedman. Sourcing and Compliance Manager, Supply Chain, Industrial Component design. 2029

Vito Ippolito. Business Administration, Software Sales director, Theology teacher. 2027

Bill Kovacs. Corporate attorney and general counsel specializing in investment law. 2026

Ken McClurg (Vice President). Engineer, new product design & development, amateur photographer. 2026

Erik Spande (President). Hydrogeologist, Geology, Environmental Science, former Mayor of Winfield. 2028

Dennis Terdy (Secretary). English language (ESL), School principal, Grants, small business, author. 2029

John VanSanten (Treasurer). Business, Real Estate, Real Estate Finance, Appraisals, Expert Witness. 2027

Susie Terwedow
Retiring as 20-year board member & Legacy volunteer
Background: Self-Employed artist, calligraphy, artwork (parade float, newsletters, shirts, signs, etc)
Thank you for your service!

Susie Terwedow — Dedicated Supporter of the Illinois Prairie Path

Susie, thank you for your long-time support and service!!

- Longtime supporter of the Illinois Prairie Path and West Chicago resident.
- Served on the Illinois Prairie Path corporation's Board of Directors since 2006.
- IPP "Legacy Volunteer" and bridge volunteer honor roll.
- Avid runner, artist, and environmentalist.
- Contributed artwork and articles to IPPc's newsletters.
- Designed a commemorative Illinois Prairie Path T-shirt featuring native plants found along the trail.
- Dedicated her time, creativity, and enthusiasm to preserving and promoting the Path.
- Helped foster appreciation for the Illinois Prairie Path and its value to surrounding communities.
- Maryville College, Bachelor of Arts, Art/Art Studies, 1968.





Calligrapher Susan Terwedow paints names on donor sign.



A jogger crosses Volunteer Bridge in downtown Wheaton

That's our Susie!
Catch her if you can!

Board Member Term Renewals

- 2026 to 2030: 4-year term
  Bill Kovacs
  Ken McClurg

Requesting approval from the audience

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Larry Sheaffer

Jane Foulser Habitat Award Presentation

IPP Annual Meeting
November 1, 2026

DuPage Monarch Project:
Communities Protecting Pollinators





Remnant Prairie
Hoffman Park, Glen Ellyn
Restored and Maintained by Larry Sheaffer



A Patch of Prairie
returned to the
Prairie Path
for walkers & bikers
to enjoy
and where wildlife
thrives



IPP & DMP making a site visit at the prairie along the prairie path



Mile Marker Zero
Volunteer Park
Wheaton
with
Larry's Pollinator
Garden
Informational Sign
and Kiosk



IPP Sign at Volunteer Park
Wheaton



Some of the many colorful native plants at Volunteer Park

Larry Sheaffer

Jane Foulser Habitat Award Presentation

IPP Annual Meeting
November 1, 2026

DuPage Monarch Project:
Communities Protecting Pollinators



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DUPAGECOUNTY

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

DuPage Trails - 2026

John Loper, Chief Transportation Planner

Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building, 421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6900 • www.dupageco.org/dot

2026 Activities



Accomplishments

- Installation of 3 new benches along the Prairie Path in partnership with IPPc and donors, IPPc contractor installed 3
- Hemlock removal
- Summer storm debris and tree removal
- ~13,500 hours spent on trail maintenance
  - Mowing
  - Graffiti Removal
  - Storm Clean-up
  - Debris removal
  - Addressing line of sight issues
  - Responding to resident concerns





Trail Etiquette Signage

- Used to remind users of proper use including:
  - Safe Travel Speeds
  - Announce and pass on the left
  - Keep to the right of the trail and move off when stopped
  - Pets should be leashed and picked up after
  - Use trash receptacles for garbage
  - List prohibited activities
- Responses favorable
- 6 Locations – 5 on the IPP and 1 on the GWT
- Aspire to deploy more in 2027



Vegetation Management



- Prairie Maintenance
- Ackerman Park Hemlock
- Oak Ecosystem Management
- Montclair Pollinator Garden





DUPAGECOUNTY

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

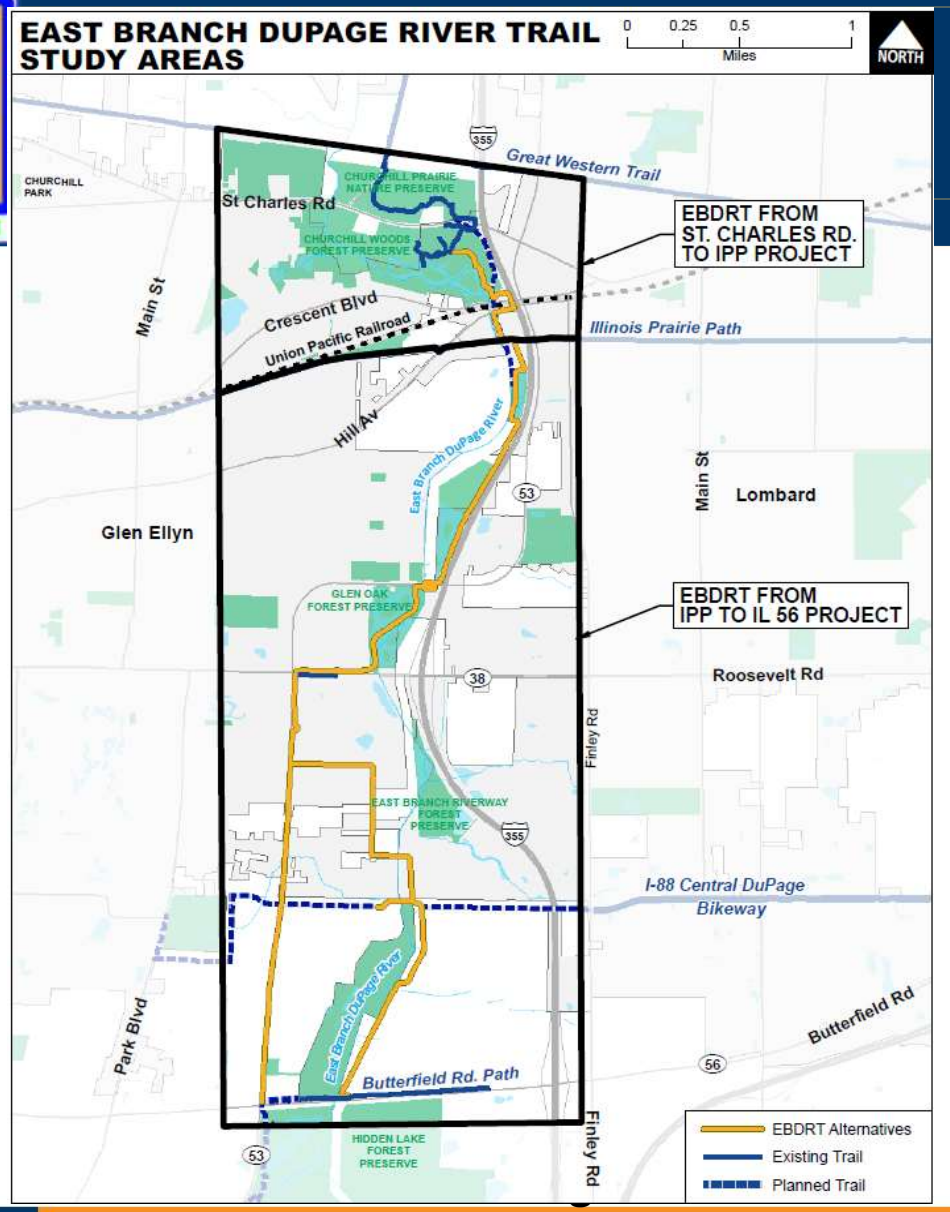
Active Projects

East Branch DuPage River Trail

EBDRT Update

- Currently in Phase I for multiple alignments
- Phase I Project Limits Extension occurred in mid-2026
  - Added 22nd Street bridge (Lombard)
  - Added IL 53 sidewalk east and west of the EBDRT centerline
  - Added a potential ‘fishhook’ path at IL 56
- Looking Ahead
  - Public information meeting – 2nd Q 2027
  - Preliminary Design Report to IDOT, mid-2027
  - IDOT Design approval late 2027

- More Information can be found at: www.ebdrt.com



Trail Parking Improvements



- Looking at long term solutions for parking near the trail system.
- Considerations over maintenance, accessibility, and space constraints.
- Focus area is the Illinois Prairie Path crossing at Army Trail Road.
  - Engineering design review is underway
  - Must include ADA accommodations







Great Western Trail at County Farm



- Recently turned on ped-activated signals
- Signal activation via ped button, signals are Audible Systems
- Signage present to remind people to press buttons
- Pedestrian refuge island remains





Trail Maintenance Policy



- Update to the Trail Maintenance Policy
  - Identify goals and objectives for trail maintenance
  - Clearly outline maintenance responsibilities
  - Invasive plant treatment protocol
  - How we will deal with encroachments
  - Expect a draft in December/January time frame

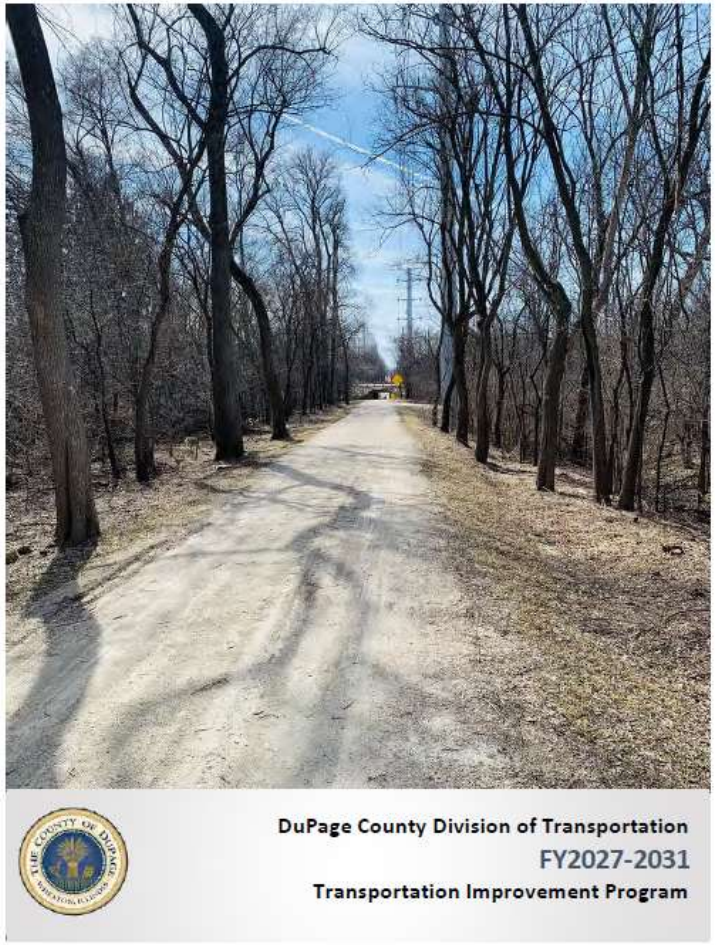




FY 2027-31 Transportation Improvement Plan



- 5 Year Program
- Over $320 million
- Focus on Maintenance and State of Good Repair
- Increased Levels of Funding for:
  - Mobility
  - Resilience (drainage/flooding projects)
  - Intersection and Pedestrian Safety
- Includes IL 59 @ IPP-Aurora Underpass
- Released in November



Active Transportation Plan



- Completed first phase of a multi-phase, county wide Active Transportation Plan
- Collect information on existing conditions of the County wide system
- Evaluated origin and destinations and how people might navigate the existing system – what might be done to improve access to key locations
- Presenting to Transportation Committee in 2027

DUPAGE COUNTY
Active
TRANSPORTATION PLAN



DUPAGECOUNTY

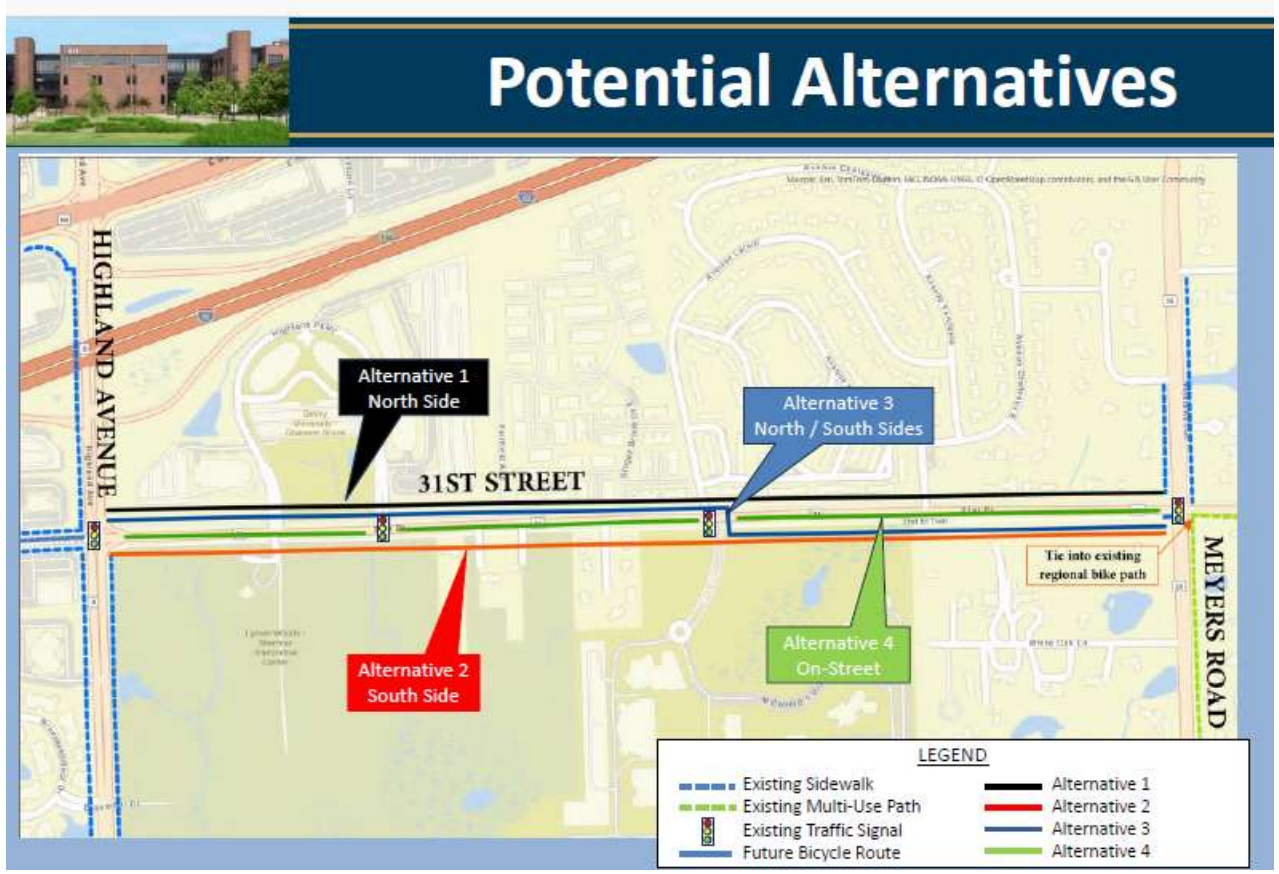
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Future Projects

Complementary Projects



- 31st Street Multiuse Path
- Stearns Road Multiuse Path
- Southern DuPage Regional Trail Audit
- Winfield Road Area Safety



Long Range and ADA Transition Plan Updates



- Plans are more than 5 years old
- Need to reflect a changing world that includes more non-motorized demand
- More significant emphasis on improving performance and safety of systems without adding lanes
- Update public on ADA activities and provide an updated schedule for meeting PROWAG in public right of way



DUPAGECOUNTY

DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION

Thank You!

Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building, 421 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, IL 60187

(630) 407-6900 • www.dupageco.org/dot

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COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Illinois Prairie Path and Cook County Transportation Initiatives

Sunday, November 1, 2026
Joe Seymour, AICP
Lead Planning Specialist
Strategic Planning and Policy Bureau

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Agenda

- Introduction and DoTH background
- County Bike Plan priorities
- Past Prairie Path support
- Illinois Prairie Path Extension project
- Next steps
- Questions

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

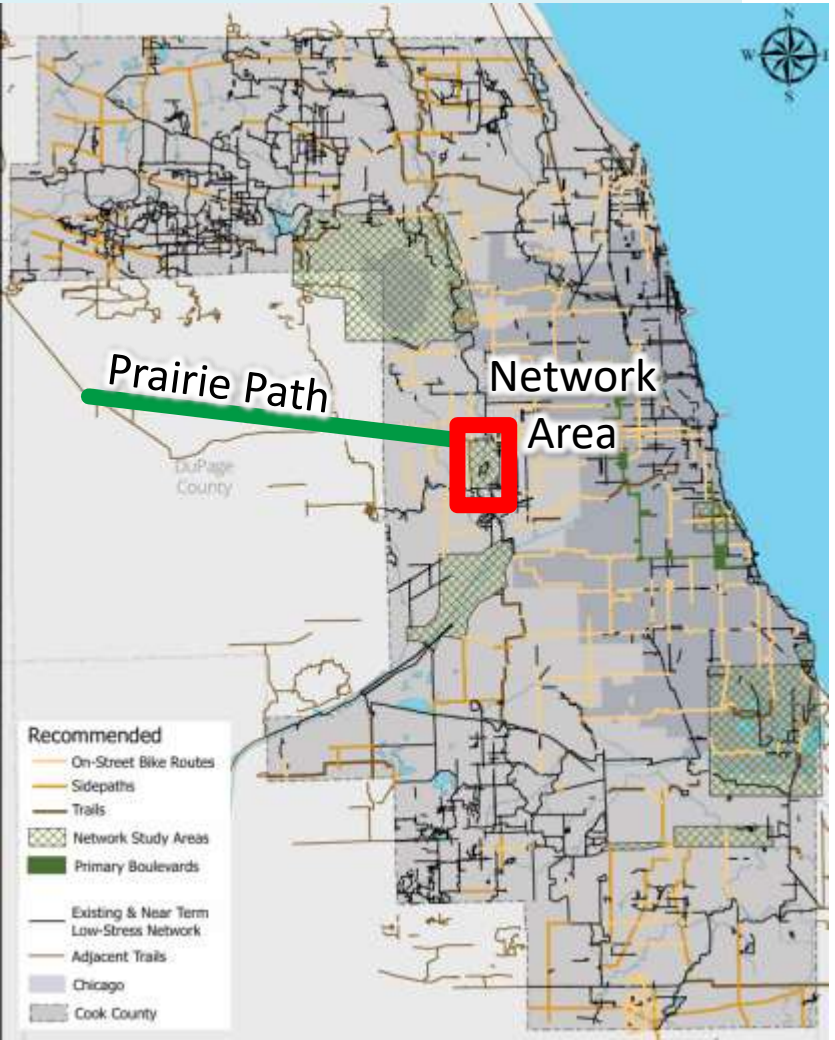
About the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways (DoTH)

DoTH 5-Year MYP link

- Within the Bureau of Administration under the Offices of the President
- Five Bureaus
- $1.4 billion Multi-Year Transportation Plan for 2026-2030, link left
- Maintains:
  - 1,620 lane miles
  - 360 traffic signals
  - 132 structures
  - 7 pumping stations
  - 4 maintenance facilities

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Role of the Cook County Bike Plan



- Adopted in 2023
- Prioritizes bicycle projects that:
  - Create a low-stress network (e.g. separated paths, low speed roadways, low traffic roadways)
  - Encourage everyday cycling
  - Invest equitably
- Includes programs, projects, and planning areas to achieve Countywide low-stress bicycle network (map left)
- 12 Network Study Areas for further review, including Central Des Plaines River Trail with Prairie Path connection (red box, map left)

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DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

DoTH Prairie Path Support



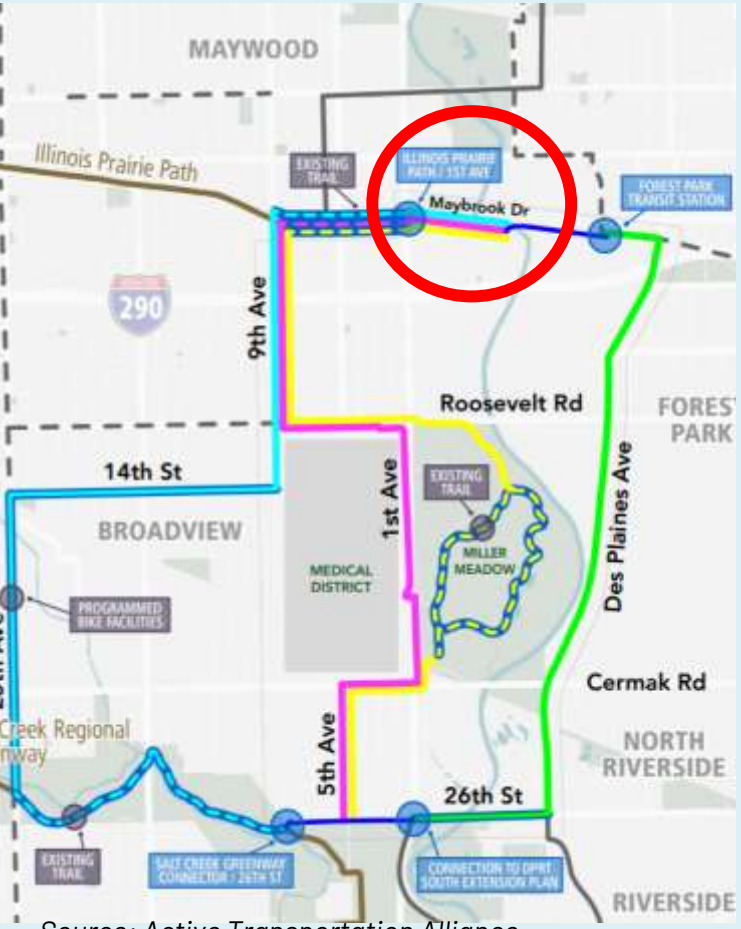
Invest in Cook Program Link

Over $1.3 million in awarded grants for Prairie Path improvements and community connections through the Invest in Cook program

- Active Transportation Alliance (2021) – Central Des Plaines River Trail Feasibility Study
- Maywood (2022) – Prairie Path lighting, benches, ramps, bike racks, and more
- Berkley (2025 & 2026) – Taft Avenue improvements and Coolidge sidewalk connections
- Hillside (2025 & 2026) – Taft Avenue improvements and engineering design for Wolf Road bridge rehabilitation
- Invest in Cook 2027 application opening in January 2027

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DoTH Support – Continued



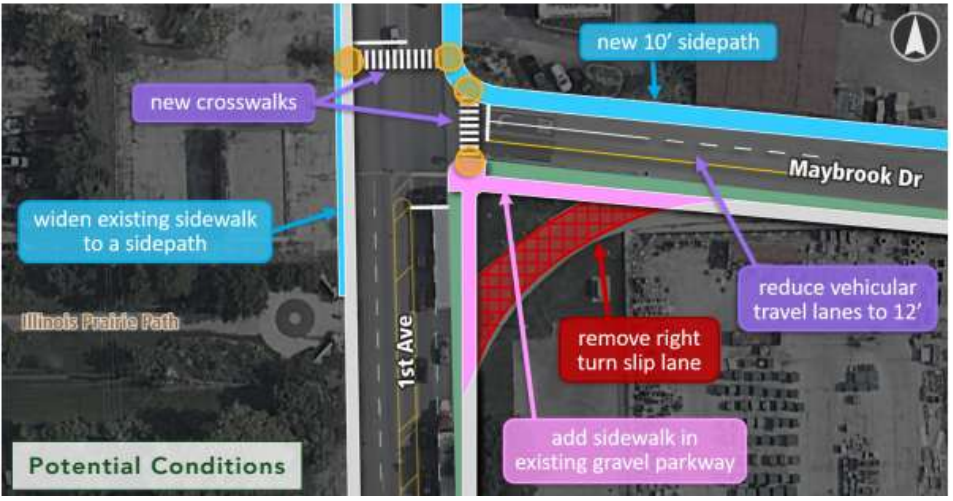
Source: Active Transportation Alliance

- Active Transportation Alliance (ATA) study for Central Des Plaines River Trail area ended in 2023
- ATA plan recommended improved connections to Prairie Path and four alignments for Des Plaines River Trail (map left)
- Recommendations within DoTH Bike Network Focus Area
- DoTH followed-up with a Phase I study for Maywood Trailhead to CTA Forest Park Blue Line path connection (red circle)

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

ATA 2023 Study Recommendations along Maybrook Drive





MAYBROOK DR & 1ST AVE



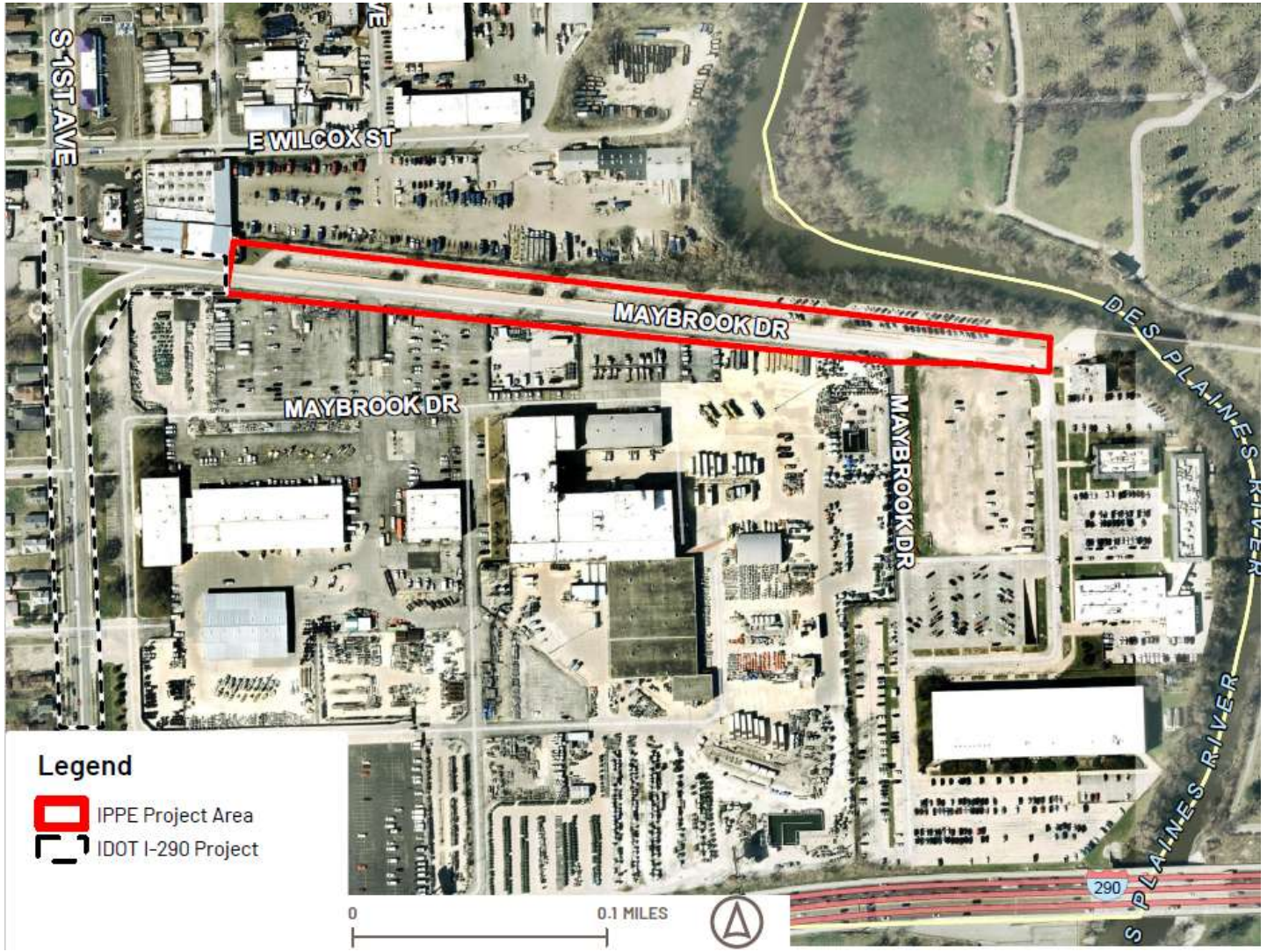


Source: Active Transportation Alliance

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Illinois Prairie Path Extension Phase I

- DoTH Project Studies Unit scoped and initiated a Phase I study in June 2024
- Project area in red outline and IDOT I-290 project area in black outline (map right)
- Project along Maybrook Drive in Village of Maywood and within Cook County Courthouse complex



COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Illinois Prairie Path Extension Phase I



Sidewalk along north side of Maybrook Drive, looking west



Sidewalk along north side of Maybrook Drive, looking east

Key Project Information

- Limits: Maybrook Drive, 300 feet east of the IL–171/1st Avenue intersection to Des Plaines River pedestrian bridge
- 0.3 miles long
- Replace existing sidewalk with asphalt sidepath and path paved shoulders (see images left for existing conditions)
- Reduce driveway conflicts and create low-stress connection
- Improve non-motorized connection to CTA Forest Park Blue Line Station
- Coordinate with IDOT intersection project at IL–171/1st Avenue for crossing improvements to Prairie Path trailhead

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Next Steps

- DoTH to address IDOT Phase I comments and finalize study
- Project progression informed by ITEP application outcome (decision anticipated Spring 2027)
- Evaluating other funding sources to complete project
- DoTH initiating Phase I study for Central Des Plaines River Trail Extension to connect Salt Creek, Prairie Path, and Des Plaines River Trail systems

COOK COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
Transportation
and Highways

Questions

Thank you!

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Illinois Prairie Path Annual Meeting
11/1/2026
Cook County & Villa Park Updates

Ralph DiFebo

11/1/2026

IPPc Board of Directors

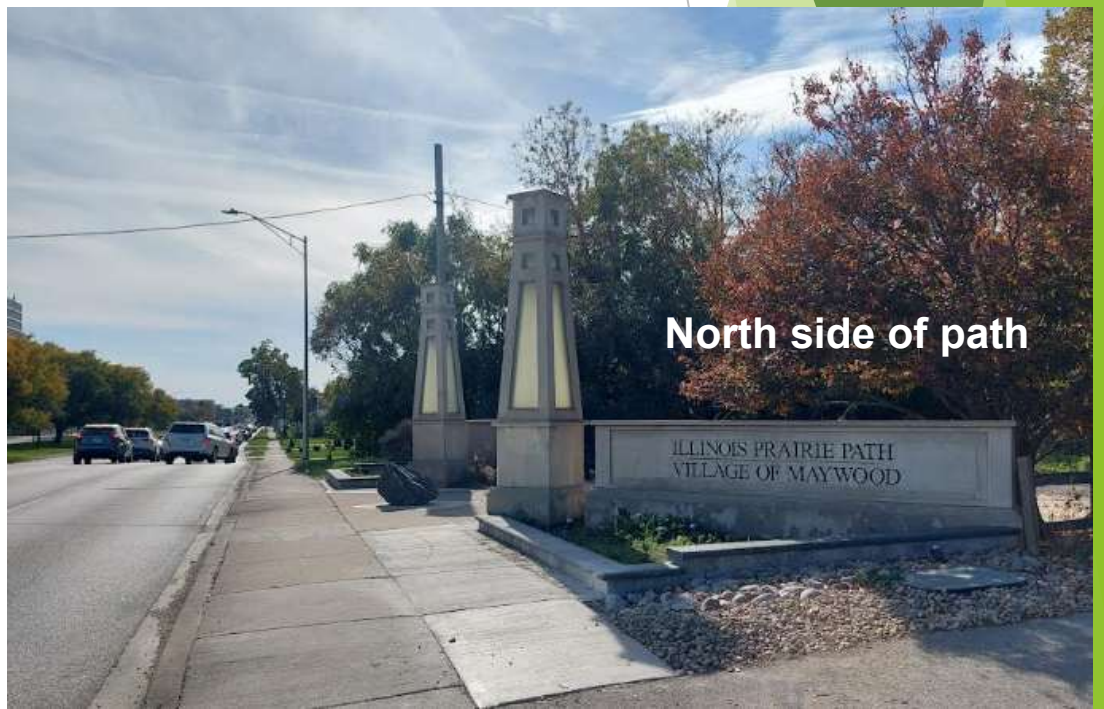
Maywood First Ave. Trailhead Improvements

Two raised garden beds have been installed to keep road debris out.

The entrance to the trailhead has been widened to nine feet wide.

The DoTH / IDOT Prairie Path Extension will continue the increase width of the entrance to the traffic light.



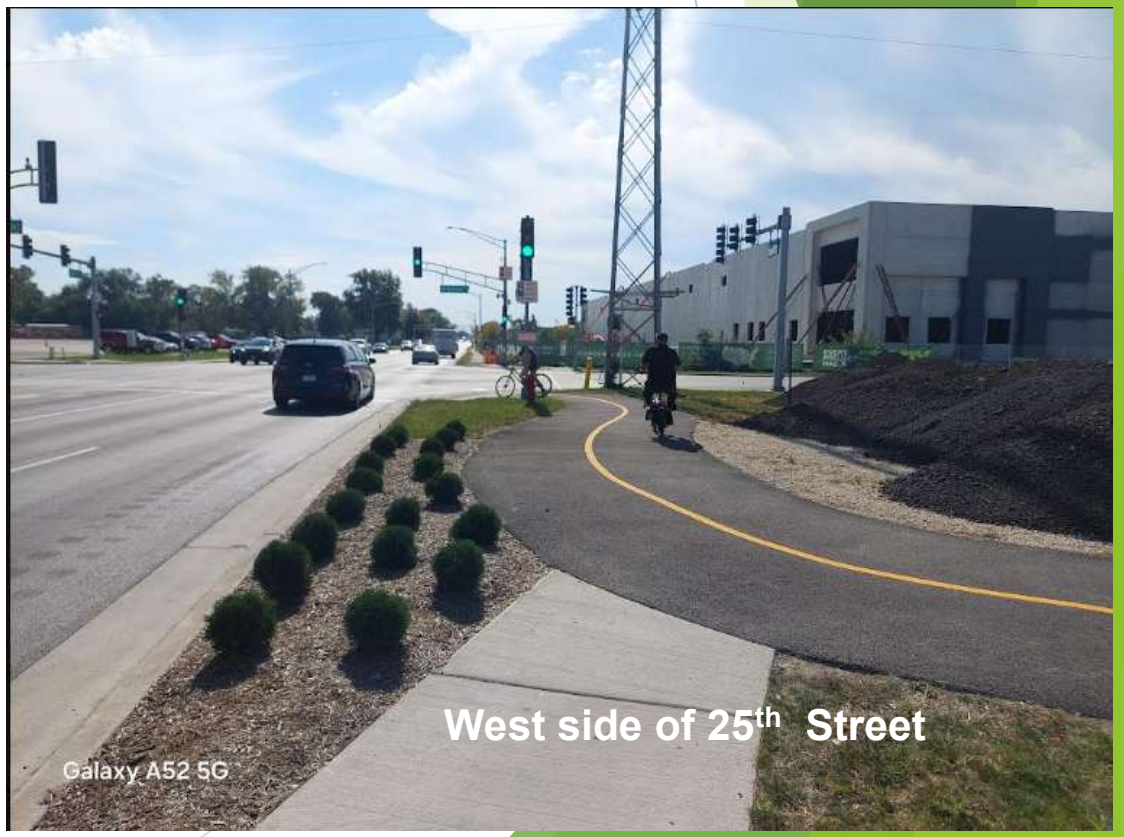


25th Ave. Bellwood Construction is Completed

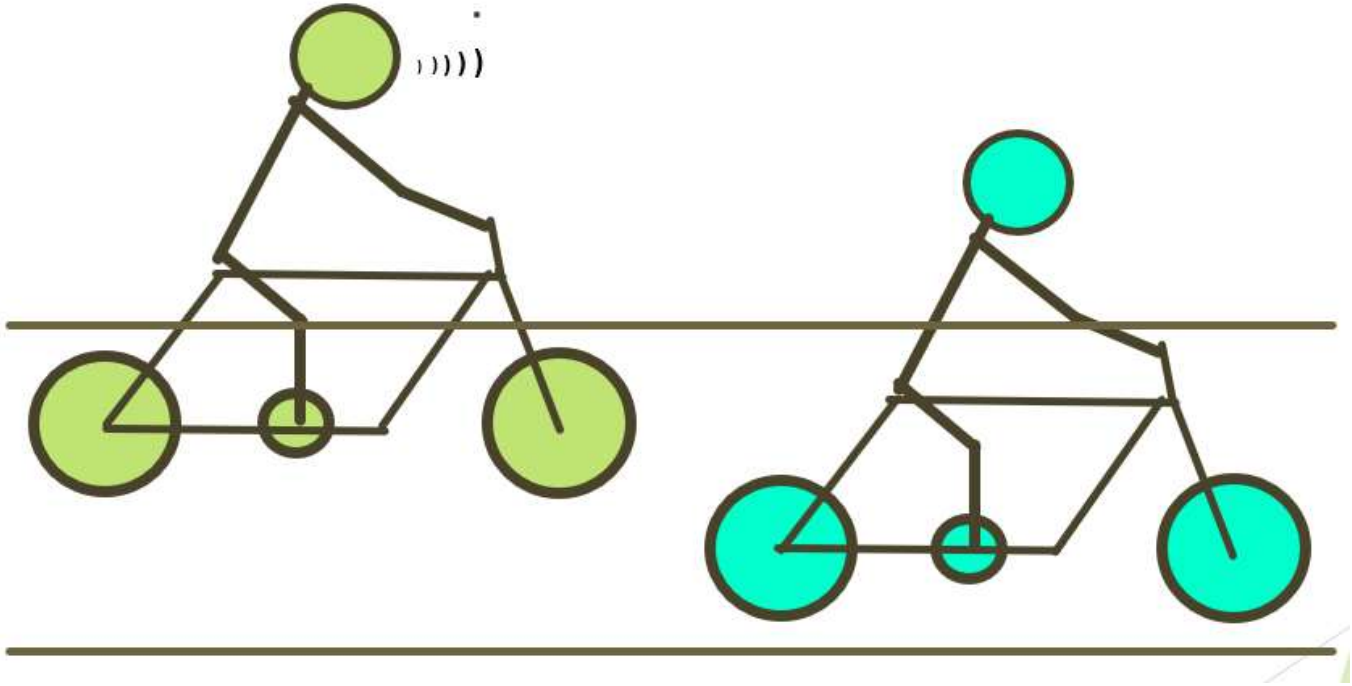
Bellwood is exploring improving this intersection further by installing a pedestrian bridge over 25th St.







Our Membership Says Slow Down





How Fast is Too Fast?

Cook County Village's Speed Limit Signs

Installed in Hillside



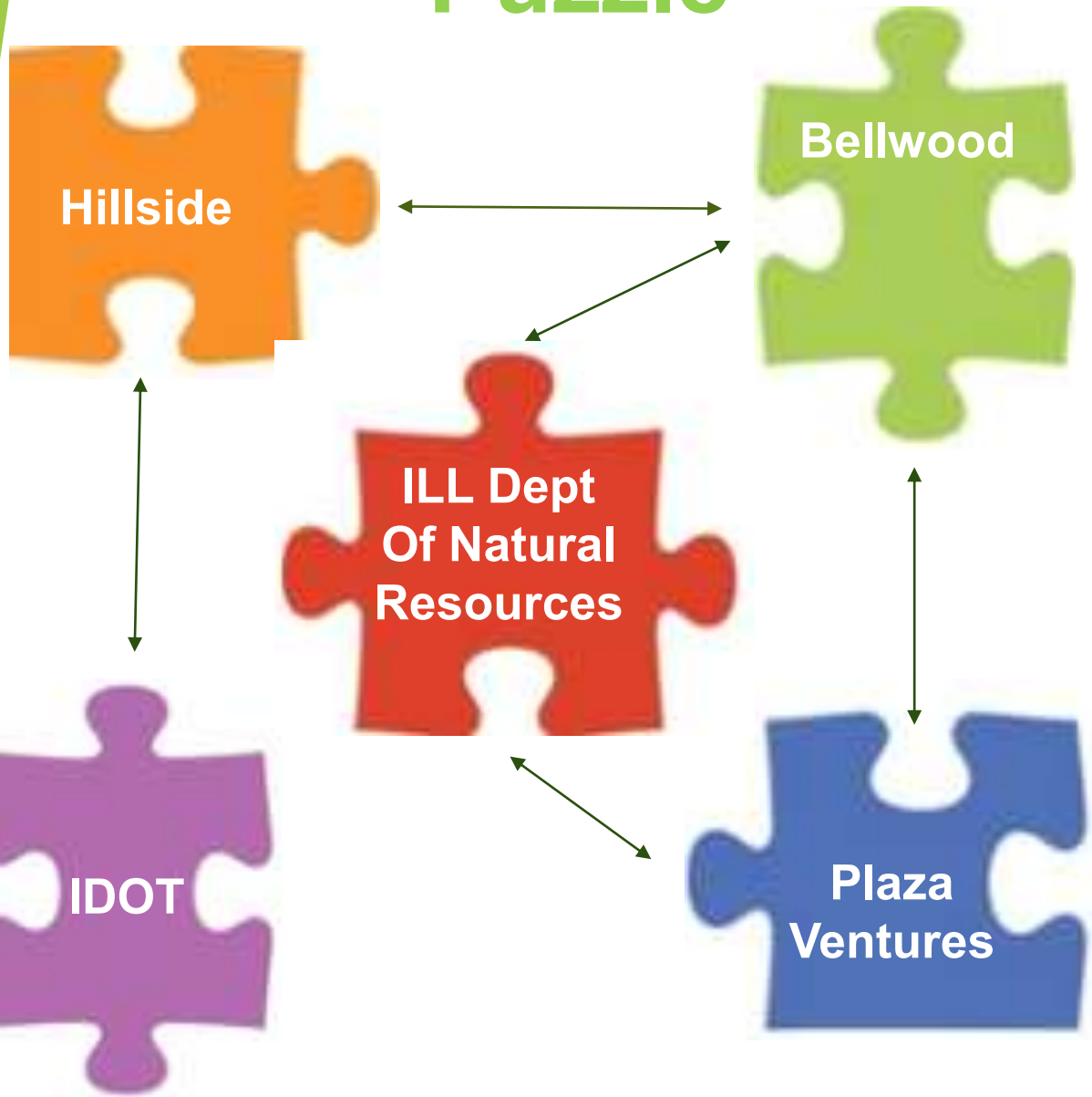
Installed in Berkley



Installed in Bellwood



Mannheim Canyon Puzzle





Questions

Villa Park President
Kevin Patrick

- **Current Role**: Kevin Patrick serves as the *Village President of Villa Park*, a position he was elected to in the April 1, 2025 general election.
- **Community Roots**: He has been a *dedicated resident of Villa Park since 1994*, actively participating in local governance and civic initiatives.
- **Leadership Style**: Patrick emphasizes *transparency, trust-building, and community engagement*. In a recent board meeting, he spoke passionately about earning residents' trust and improving local governance.
- **Occupations**:
  - *Department of Homeland Security*
  - *Illinois Department of Corrections*
  - *Small Business Owner*
- **Education**
  - *University of Phoenix*. Associates Degree
  - Elmhurst University – BA Urban Studies
  - Arizona State University MA Emergency Management & Homeland Security – Community Resilience
- **Civic Roles**:
  - *Villa Park Trustee*
  - *Chairman of the Villa Park Fire & Police Commission*
  - *Chairman of the Villa Park Economic Development Commission*



What has been done to bring Car 321 home to Villa Park?

Village of Villa Park
President
Kevin Patrick



Car 321Check List

- Approval of Villa Park Village Council ✓
  - Create a scope of work
  - Design a canopy
  - Obtain DuPage County Permits
- Signed MOU Agreememt with the Illinois Railway Museum ✓
- Track installation (the Fox River Trolley Museum) ✓
- Union Agreements ✓
  - Carpenters
  - Iron Workers
  - Painters
- Charitable Donation Pledges ✓
  - IPPc
  - Burke Engineering
- Restoration of Car 321 ○
- Transportation of Car 321 ○
- Construct Canopy and deck ○

Selected Location





Where are we now.

Tracks are laid and the station has been designed.

feedback@invillapark.com







Thank you for your time and consideration.

Questions?



CAR 321
Site Improvements & Shelter
East Ardmore Ave
Villa Park, IL
Village Board Meeting
3/14/26

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2026 Illinois Prairie Path Year in Review



Annual Trail Clean-up

- 450+ volunteers led by 24 site coordinators
  - Individuals, groups (corporate, environmental, historical, community service, social, etc)



Naperville International



Glen Ellyn West



Geneva



West Chicago

We covered 60 miles!!







Join us April 24, 2027

ComEd had over 120 volunteers

Biking & Butterflies Ride - 9/27

- DuPage Monarch Project, River Prairie Group, Go Green Glen Ellyn, Glen Ellyn Library & the IPPc
  - Visited seven locations along the Path in Glen Ellyn & Wheaton, including tended gardens & natural areas.
    - Discussed pollinators, prairie plants & Prairie Path history.







Memorial benches

- A beautiful amenity that honors a loved one while bringing enjoyment & appreciation to Path users.
- IPPc works out order details including proposed location, places order, applies for permit, & coordinates shipping
  - Thank you, DuPage County and PG Landscaping, for installation
  - Thank you, donors: Jake, Kim, Les, Erik, Frank & Janet

Six benches installed in 2026







Mosaic Mural at Warrenville trailhead

- "Rails to Trails: A Seasonal Journey"
  - 2000+ pieces of handmade ceramic tile & glass depicting four seasons
  - Thank you, Warrenville! Special thanks to Laurie, Linda & team for 3,000+ hours!



Electric Trike Improved Frank's Life

- Frank suffered a stroke and battled cancer. He spent his days sitting around the house afraid to go outside until he bought an e-bike.
- Now he rides hundreds of miles. Meets many new people, talks to every baby, and scratches the ears of every dog.
- These rides transformed Frank's life. He's no longer depressed or afraid to leave home.
- Frank is a responsible and courteous e-bike rider
  - *Always announces when passing*
  - *Does not exceed 15mph*
  - *Always wears a helmet*
  - *All Path users should do the same*



Frank donated a bench in memory of his father.
Thank you on behalf of all Prairie Path users!!
Frank also reports Path maintenance issues!!

Other projects

- Ongoing discussion with Aurora, IDOT, Kane Co Forest Preserve, KCDOT to explore Butterfield crossing improvements.
- Continuing to pursue strategies to get users to "Slow Down". Ongoing discussion with Ride Illinois, Active Transportation Alliance, DuPage County, Kane County, Cook towns.
- Numerous website, hosting, email updates.
- Advocated for parking lot accessibility, and trail etiquette.
- Board approval to purchase 5 additional IPP logo trash receptacles.
- Actively participating the Healthy West Chicago's walkability planning initiative (signage, etc)
- Exploring program where municipalities approach IPPc with projects. Joint planning and funding.
- Exploring creation of more educational/historical signs.
- Exploring tree planting project.
- Promote volunteer opportunities & IPP related events on ipp.org & Facebook.
  - Share news of Path enhancements & adjoining trail news, closures, etc
  - Post nature photos.
- Ongoing support of East Branch DuPage River Trail efforts.
- Replaced & refurbished many display cases
- Prairie maintenance in Cook County & Volunteer Park.
- Cook County sign study is being implemented.
- Participated in several bike rodeos/festivals.
- Map distribution via bike shops & Villa Park
- Produce & distribute newsletters.
- See other presentations for Car 321 restoration & staging in Villa Park, and significant Cook County projects (Maywood trailhead, Eastern extension, Mannheim safety improvements, etc)

AGENDA

Welcome & Introductions – Erik Spande
IPPc Business – Ken McClurg
Larry Sheaffer Award Presentation – Connie Schmidt
DuPage County Trail System – John Loper
IPP Main Stem Eastern Extension – Joe Seymour
Maywood Trailhead & other Cook Co Projects – Ralph DiFebo
Restoration & Staging of Car 321 – Kevin Patrick
IPPc Year in Review – Ken McClurg
Wrap-up / Suggestions / Questions

Musical entertainment - Roger Kotecki

IPPc Strategy Planning meeting – late 2026

- On your behalf…..
  - We advocate
    safety, amenities, convenience, beauty, adjoining trails, etc
  - We provide some amenities
    drinking fountains, benches, display cases, signs, etc
  - We organize/promote volunteer events

- What should our top priorities be for 2027 & beyond?
  More enjoyable? More scenic? More interesting? Safer?

- We request your feedback!
  - ***Now***
  - ***Before you leave***
  - Monthly IPPc board meetings
  - Email to info@ipp.org







THE ILLINOIS PRAIRIE PATH

Questions?

Thank you for coming!