

# ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY

## AUGUST 2010 TRAIL NEWS

### THE NEXT MILE: AMERICA'S TO DO LIST OF BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PROJECTS @ <http://nextmile.americabikes.org/>

- Let's each of us put in our pick of the bicycle and walking priorities in our area and see how we do connecting Trails all over Illinois!!!

### 2010 ILLINOIS TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM (ITEP)

- Applications and information available at [www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/opp/itep.html)
- 80% reimbursement for eligible projects costs. 20% Project Sponsor Cost.
- August 31, 2010 Deadline to submit on line with a paper copy within 3 working days.
- For help with your application...Contact Craig Williams @ [www.lykah.com](http://www.lykah.com)

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Contact Megan at DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov

### LOCAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **Bloomington** has added ½ mile of trail to the main North-South portion on the south end. A bridge over 4 lanes of traffic on Route 150 was necessary for this section. Hopefully some day this trail will go all the way through town to connect to the Route 66 Trail. Mike Kerber & Bob Clay are active.
- **Flora** Depot hosted a Fine Art and Craft Fair in July. This is a beautiful structure that hopefully will be the location of another bike trail in Southern Illinois.
- **Wheaton** is looking at the possibility of Woodland Hawk Trail in Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve.
- **Elmhurst** residents' committee still in bike path talks. Jean Collins sent Bev a newspaper article about the issue of the Salt Creek Greenway which would connect the Illinois Prairie Path to Madison Street. Please attend the August 9 meeting to share your input. From what Bev read it seems that the residents are concerned about hitting a cyclist as they back out of their driveways. Do they not have sidewalks? Do they not have to check for cars on the streets? Do they not want to have the option to ride a bicycle to a destination rather than use their automobile? Do they not want the value of their home to increase? Would it be possible to put a green median down the middle of the street with plants and trees to create a pleasant environment where cyclists and walkers would be safe from people backing out of driveways?

### REGIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- **RMAP GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN 3<sup>RD</sup> UPDATE** T.Y. Lin is chosen consultant
- **Centennial Trail** will experience some construction during the month of August. Detours may occur.
- **CMAQ** shared the following in their Weekly Update. **Well-written comprehensive plans can be the foundation for federal grants.** Bev has encouraged all trails to be identified on all plans.
- **A connection between Will County through DuPage and up into Hawk Hollow/Bartlett area** application for ITEP funds will be submitted. We certainly hope this project will be selected.
- **Urbana-Danville Trail** will be another ITEP application that we hope will be funded.
- **McHenry County Bicycle Advocates** meet monthly at Algonquin Township Building.
- **Grundy County on Minooka Road** will be provided with a 10' multi-use path across the structure extending to the job limits according to information received from IDOT Region 2/District 3.
- **Bureau County** Route 613 will experience a bridge replacement. Bev requested wide shoulders.
- **Kane County was notified of a railroad abandonment.** Bev heard that action has occurred. This would be a GREAT connection between the Prairie Path and Great Western at Leroy Oakes F.P. according to Greg Valent. Jonathan Durston was concerned that noone would do this. All is well.
- **Kane County** also has a wonderful Bicycle Map that Deborah Fagan shared with Bev who mailed one to George Wight at Wight Consulting
- **Peoria Recreational Trail Advocates & Friends of the Rock Island Trail** next meeting will be in September. This local trail group deals with trails between Peoria & Bloomington. **It is so important to support your local organization to help connect trails in your community to others.**

- **Sterns Road Project is moving along well** according to a newspaper article from Gordon James Jr. The project is 50% and will be completed in the spring. It includes 13 acres of wetland, 7 miles of trails and two new trail underpasses. YEAH.
- **Go To 2040 CMAP Chicagoland Plan** is FANTASTIC. Bev attended a public meeting in Woodstock.

#### **STATE TRAIL NEWS:**

- **The Route 66 Trail Concept Plan** is FANTASTIC. Bev attended a meeting in Bloomington and now has 2 copies. Contact [marla.gursh@illinois.gov](mailto:marla.gursh@illinois.gov) to see it.
- **Illinois State Fair – Aug. 13-22** will have a booth for Share the Trails. Denise Maxwell is lining up volunteers to share information about Multi-Use Trails in Illinois. Call her at 618-656-2591 to help.
- **Conservation Congress 2009 Report** is available at <http://dnr.state.il.us/nrab/cc.htm>
- **Illinois Greenways & Trails Council met July 14 at IDNR.** Recreational Trails Program for Illinois was presented for \$1,216,700. **Bev suggested that this program be transferred from IDOT administration to IDNR administration.** IDOT needs less work especially on recreational projects. This program is administered by Natural Resources in Iowa and FHWA has no problem with this suggestion. **BEV WROTE A LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR WITH THIS SUGGESTION.**
- **Inter-Agency Bikeway Working Group Council met July 14 at IDOT** Additional funds are available for ITEP grants due to the rescission funds being replaced that had previously been withdrawn. Complete Streets applies to State Roadways and needs to be adopted by local agencies.
- **Illinois Governor Pat Quinn signed two bills for cyclists** One for the Share the Road License Plates and the other making it illegal to harass a cyclist on a roadway.
- **Illinois Dedicated Funds were used by the Governor BUT ONLY AS A LOAN WITH INTEREST TO BE PAID.** This is an issue that Bev commented on during Conservation Congress.

#### **NATIONAL TRAIL NEWS:**

- **Rails to Trails supports THE ACTIVE COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION ACT OF 2010.** Representatives from Illinois who support this Legislation are Daniel Lipinski, Jesse Jackson Jr. & Luis Gutierrez. THANK YOU TO EACH OF YOU.

#### **IN JULY ITC,**

- **E-mailed TRAIL NEWS** to 132 members and postal mailed to 73 members. Keep in mind that several of our members are clubs with many members such as the Blackhawk Bike Club in Rockford, Illinois Prairie Path Group, McHenry County Bike Club, Starved Rock Bike Club and Sun City Bike Club in Huntley. Trailblazer renewals for \$100.00 were received from Ron & Mary Anne Ayers from Flora, Christine Stocker from Lemont & Fred Bates & Ellen Benjamin from Chicago.
- **Bev attended a Best Practices for Sustainable Communities sponsored by IDOT.** WOW.
- **ITC Liability Policy has been renewed** with McKay Insurance. This will cover the Poker Run Fundraiser on the Long Prairie Trail as well as other events and exhibits.
- **ITC will attend Trails, The Green Way for America in November in Chattanooga, Tennessee.**
- **ITC was invited to attend a Stateline Area Bike-Pedestrian Plan Update in Beloit, Wisconsin.**
- **ITC received information from Contech** a company that supplies prefabricated steel truss bridge structures. Bev shared this information with others who could use the info.
- **ITC provided a Cake for the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Grand Illinois Trail** in Savanna. Thanks to several ITC members on the GITAP Ride and others who joined us for the Event.
- **ITC Members contacted Bev:** Louise Grobl from Naperville received a local bicycle Map to share with a friend. Don Lawrence from Carbondale is considering helping out as a Board Member in Southern Illinois. Albert Whetter will be stopping in Capron on his Bike Trip from Western Springs to Madison. Michael Mast requested his membership be continued until he has sufficient funds to renew. Bill Tornow & Dan Hunter-Smith indicated that they would like to receive TRAIL NEWS via e-mail. Bob Dittrich renewed his membership that had lapsed. William Bruse shared some GREAT photos from his bicycle trips. Bev assured Greg Valent that IDOT Bicycle Maps will be continued. Sally Olds ( a mature lady bicycle rider) shared her plans for a bike ride in Michigan.
- **ITC MEMBERS ARE GREAT!!!**

**WE ENDED UP WITH A THREE PAGER AGAIN. THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE.**

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU**

- **August 3 – GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan** meeting at CMAP Offices in Chicago 6:00-8:00 p.m.
- **\*August – Quad Cities Marathon**
- **August 4 – Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor** meeting in Lemont 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **August 5 – Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor** meeting at Ottawa City Hall 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- **\*August 7 – POKER RUN ON THE LONG PRAIRIE TRAIL** – 8:00 a.m. – Noon. Call Bev @ 815-569-2472
- **August 9 – Elmhurst Park District Board of Commissioners Meeting** re Salt Creek Trail
- **August 10 – BRATS Meeting** at Wheaton Park District Comm. Center – 7:30-9:00 p.m.
- **August 10-15 – Boone County Fair** – Come Visit Bev at the ITC trails exhibit.
- **August 14 – Sullivan Area Arts Bicycle Tour: Cruisin’ the Cornfields** E-mail Zak @ [zstand@hotmail.com](mailto:zstand@hotmail.com)
- **August 16 – McHenry County Bicycle Advocates Meeting** @ Algonquin Township Bldg. 7:30 p.m.
- **September 13 – Recreational Trail Advocates Meeting in Peoria 7:00 p.m. at Safety Town**
- **\*September 18 – Midwest Health & Fitness Center 6<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Walk Run.** Start at 9 a.m.. Call 815-777-4960
- **\*September 18 – Fever River Adventure Triathlon** – 6 mile paddle, 17 mile bike ride and 3.1 mile run. Call Deb Malone @ 815-776-9425
- **September 21-25 – Brita Climate Ride California** is a 5 day, 320 mile ride beginning in Eureka and tracing its way through Northern California redwoods, along the Pacific Coast, through Wine Country and across the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Check Rails to Trails web site for information and registration.
- **September 24 through November 30 – Nygren Wetland Preserve Juried Art Exhibit** at Burpee Natural History Museum in Rockford.
- **October 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Call for Projects opens.** A School Travel Plan is necessary
- **October 21 – Public Meeting for the Environmental Literacy of Illinois Strategic Plan** in Lisle
- **October 23 – Harvest Fest in Belvidere** a Fundraiser for Riverfront Development of the Trail – 9:00-5:00
- **November 1 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day to Submit School Travel Plan**
- **November 5-7 – ANNUAL CONVENTION OF SNOWMOBILE CLUBS.** Best Western Prairie Inn of Galesburg
- **November 12 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day for 2010 Application Cycle**
- **Nov. 14-17 – 20<sup>th</sup> American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee** email [symposium@americantrails.org](mailto:symposium@americantrails.org) to register.
- **December 15 – Safe Routes to Schools Call for Projects. No more applications accepted.**
- **January 2011 – Safe Routes to Schools Application Review & Scoring begins.**
- **Mid to Late 2011 – Safe Routes to Schools Funded Projects Announced.**

**OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT ITC:** includes NATURAL LAND INSTITUTE IN ROCKFORD, OUTDOOR ILLINOIS MAGAZINE from IDNR, RAILS TO TRAILS, American Trails National Symposium, The Confluence and Trail Net in St. Louis, McHenry County Pedaler, Center for Neighborhood Technology, CMAP Weekly Update, Trail of Tears, Friends of the Parks and National Park Service News.

**CONTACT ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY** at [www.ILLTrails.com](http://www.ILLTrails.com) or Bev at [bebomoore@aol.com](mailto:bebomoore@aol.com) regarding anything mentioned in TRAIL NEWS.