

ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY

JUNE 2010 TRAIL NEWS

GOOD NEWS RE TRAILS IN ILLINOIS

- Recessions of Funds restored to Illinois = TE \$25,475,472 - CMAQ = \$83,578,010 – RTP=\$1,543,217 & SRTS=\$1,034,474 YIPPEE
- PECATONICA PRAIRIE PATH – Underpass on Highway 20 is complete.
- HUNTLEY/UNION/MARENGO TRAIL may become a reality thanks to Trains on the Track.
- GEORGE ROGERS CLARK DISCOVERY TRAIL Groundbreaking was held May 21,2010
- KELLER BRANCH RAILROAD LINE WILL become a Trail. After a 20 year battle.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOLS – Grant submittal button should be on **TODAY**. Contact Megan at DOT.SafeRoutes@illinois.gov

LOCAL TRAIL NEWS:

- Bloomington is planning to sign Route 66 trails through town “later this year”. An extension is under construction that would connect the McLean County Trail to Shirley. Bob Clay shared this good news.
- Naperville is building an underpass at the intersection of Washington St. & 75th St. so that people biking on the DuPage River Trail will be safe. Louise Grobl shared this information.
- I & M Canal west of the Dresden Lock & Dam is extremely bumpy. This comes from Louise also.
- Centennial Trail in Lemont is connected to the I & M Canal via a ramp that goes West under Route 83 and North on a separate roadway/bridge. From there a rider can either go back east on the Centennial back to Willow Springs Road or go West through DuPage County back into Cook at Lemont Road, west to under I355 where it connects back to the DuPage Trail. Ed Bartunek shared this information.
- Cal-Sag Trail would tie in nicely with the Centennial Trail and Waterfall Glenn as well as the I & M Canal. This would also tie in the Major Taylor Trail and trails at Palos. Info from J. Durston.
- Wheaton Bikeway Plan will have a public meeting on June 9, 7:00 p.m. at City Hall per Rob Sperl.
- Great Western Trail Cleanup was a total success according to Don Kirchenberg.
- Crystal Lake will soon have a WONDERFUL Bicycle & Pedestrian Facility MASTER PLAN. To see it and comment on it contact Eberhard Veit @ eberhard.veit@eisenmann.com
- McHenry County College Trail connection from West of Oak Street to Veterans Acre Park hopefully will open in Fall 2011. MCC to Lily Pond Road is set for 2012/13 and Lily Pond Road to West Lake Shore Drive could be 2012/13. Good planning on the part of McHenry County Conservation District.

REGIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- Lemont Trail Connection – Eric Oberg from Rails to Trails in Ohio sent pictures & drawings of Cantilever Bridges around the country. Bev forwarded them on to those who need to know.
- Veteran’s Memorial Trail will connect to the Woodridge/Woodridge Park District bikeway system, the Southern DuPage County Regional Trail and the Waterfall Glen Trail when it is built.
- Southern DuPage County Regional Trail will be completed in 2010. Thanks to Deborah Fagan.
- Pecatonica Prairie Path – has asphalt approaches on either side of Highway 20. Several calls have been received at ITC asking about the future connection between Rockford & Freeport.
- Huntley-Union-Marengo Connection could be facilitated when the Union Pacific Rails are upgraded for the Amtrak Train that will be coming out of Chicago to Galena. McHenry County Conservation District owns 25 feet on either side of the 50 foot railroad corridor. RAILS WITH TRAILS WORKS.
- GREAT RIVER TRAIL Connection between Savanna & Thompson is under construction. COME JOIN US FOR A 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF A SECTION OF THE GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL.
- WILLOW CREEK PATH Connection between Rock Cut Park and Long Prairie Trail Phase I Engineering is complete. Bev sent thanks to office of Don Manzullo for his support of this project.

- **CMAP GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN IS COMPLETE.** ITC is disappointed with no public meetings.
- **RMAP GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN 3RD UPDATE** is selecting a Consultant for the Project.
- **CENTER FOR NEIGHBORHOOD TECHNOLOGY** has a new brochure Pennywise Pound Fuelish.

STATE TRAIL NEWS:

- **Safe Routes to Schools** Process Begins June 1,2010.
- **Recreation Trail Project Grant Applications** list is available from ITC. Total \$1,914,880. Requested.
- **FY 2011 Bicycle Path Grant Program Applications** list is available from ITC. Total \$5.6 million.
- **GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL 10TH ANNIVERSARY** – Logos are available on the ITC web site.
- **Shared Trails Exhibit at the Illinois State Fair** is available if you want to participate. Call Amy.
- **American Bike Trails Training Workshops** participation with IDNR is available if you want to participate. Understanding Accessibility and Building Better Trails, Universal Trail Assessment Process Workshops, Trail Crew Leadership Training, Creating a State Trails Training Program Workshop and Working with Developers Forum are suggested topics. Call Amy for more info.
- **Ribbon Cutting on the Great River Trail at 2:00 p.m. in Savana is planned** by George Bellovics.
- **Leave no Child Inside Partnership of IDNR & Chicago Wilderness** invites you to participate. Call Olivia Dorothy at 217-557-1214 at IDNR or Emilian Geczi at 773-631-1790 Ext. 18 in Chicago.
- **IDNR Rain Garden Initiative Grants were awarded.** Applications are now being accepted for the Nov. 30, 2010 deadline. See <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>
- **IDOT Structure Replacement on Route 102 in Kankakee County over Rock Creek** is scheduled. ITC asked for wide shoulders.

NATIONAL TRAIL NEWS:

- According to NPR: **U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood turned transportation policy on its head with a declaration that pedestrians and cyclists should be treated as equals with drivers. That means federal dollars for more projects geared toward walking and cycling”. YIPPEE!!**
- **Other Good news is the Rescissions Funds that are being restored to each State. (See Above)**
- **Complete Streets** Bicycles Facility Selection Table and Sample Resolutions are available at ITC.

IN MAY ITC,

- Created MAY TRAIL NEWS and e-mailed more than 128 copies, printed and mailed 80 copies.
- Received a \$100.00 Trailblazer Renewal from Joann Fraser in Washing who has been an ITC member for 10 Yrs.
- Issued FREE RENEWALS to 6 ITC members who have been members for 10 years.
- Talked to Lon Haldeman at Village Café regarding his 2011 Route 66 Pak Tour from Amarillo, Texas to Chicago
- Gave a talk to Blackhawk Bike Club in Rockford about the Long Prairie Trail aka KD Rail line across Boone Co.
- Gave a talk to Huntley Sun City Cycle Club about the HUM Trail possibilities and ITC in general.
- Attended a BRATS Meeting in Wheaton when Diane Banta gave a talk about the Cal Sag Trail.
- Received an address change from Don & Donna Shippy. They moved back to Illinois from Wisconsin.
- Added Dr. Vidoni to the mail label list since he is having trouble downloading TRAIL NEWS.
- Shared information about Liability Insurance for Trails with Bob Hargis who now lives in Ohio.
- Exchanged e-mail conversations with Todd Volker who is upset about Kaskaskia Alliance Trail Connections.
- Asked Web Manager Tommy Geer to add links on our www.ILLTrails web site to get to the Google Connection where you can route a bike ride on back roads and trails. Also have Grand Illinois Trail 10th Anniversary Logos available for downloading to others.
- Attended a McHenry County Advocates Meeting at Algonquin Township Office to share HUM info.
- Provided directions for 4 College Students who were traveling from Chicago to Madison and their bicycles.
- **ITC NEEDS A BOARD MEMBER FROM SOUTHERN ILLINOIS. Contact Bev if you can help out.**

SORRY FOR THE EXTRA PAGE. IT HAS BEEN ANOTHER BUSY MONTH.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU

- * **10th Anniversary Celebrations on the GIT GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL**
- **June 2 – 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Riverside Receptions at 35 North River Lane in Geneva**
- **June 5 – NATIONAL TRAILS DAY** event at Waterfall Glen sponsored by DuPage County Forest Preserve.
- ***June 5-6 – Mississippi Adventure Day** – Kayak, hike & bike. Call 815-776-9425 for information.
- ***June 5-6 – Bike or Scooter to Galena Cellars Winery** Call 815-776-9425 for information
- **June 5 – Indiana-Illinois bike trail connection Event.** Contact is at <http://www.cc4cc.org> for more info.
- **June 9 – Bike Plan Study for Wheaton – 7:00 p.m. at City Hall**
- **June 12-13 – TOUR DE FARMS RIDE** See BIKEMSILLINOIS.ORG for more information
- ***June 12-13 – TOMRV, QuadCities BC**
- ***June 13-18, 2010 GITAP RIDE** – Contact Chuck Oestrich @ chuckace2@gmail.com for information.
- ***JUNE 17 – RIBBON CUTTING ON GREAT RIVER TRAIL IN SAVANNA @ 2:00 p.m.**
- **June 19 – 10th ANNUAL PIE RIDE** in Janesville, Wisconsin. Visit www.pieride.org for information.
- **June 19-20 – NATIONAL 24 HOUR CHALLENGE BICYCLE RIDE.** IN Middleville, Michigan. Call 616-656-0275
- ***June 20 – Ride the River, River Action**
- **June 27 – 41st Annual Swedish Days Ride** sponsored by Fox Valley Bicycle and Ski Club. fvbsclub@hotmail.com
- ***July 17 – Jo Davies Natural Area Guardians Nature Walk.** Call 815-777-6932 for more information
- ***August – Quad Cities Marathon**
- ***August 7 – POKER RUN ON THE LONG PRAIRIE TRAIL – 8:00 a.m. – Noon.** Call Bev @ 815-569-2472
- ***September 18 – Midwest Health & Fitness Center 6th 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
- **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 12 – Safe Routes to Schools Last Day for 2010 Application Cycle**
- **Nov. 14-17 – 20th American Trails National Symposium in Chattanooga, Tennessee** email 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, The Confluence from Trail Net in St. Louis, Conservation Foundation News Flash, Illinois Trail Riders Equestrian Group, Iowa's Bicycle Trails, McHenry County Pedaler, National Park Service & Riffles and Eddies from Boone County Conservation District.

CONTACT ILLINOIS TRAILS CONSERVANCY at www.ILLTrails.com or Bev at bebomoore@aol.com regarding anything mentioned in TRAIL NEWS.