NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN

Legend

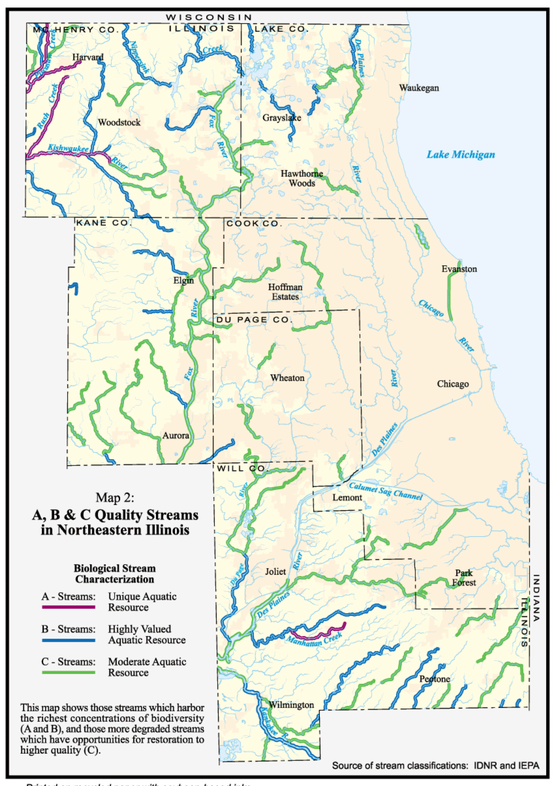
- Existing Greenway and Other Public Preserve
- Proposed Greenway
- Privately Owned Preserve
- Unincorporated Area
- Incorporated Area
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Existing Boundary: Ill. & Mich. Canal National Heritage Corridor
- Proposed Eastern Boundary: Ill. & Mich. Canal National Heritage Corridor
- Illinois Nature Preserves
- Natural Area Inventory Sites
- Additional Natural Areas
- K50 Regional Greenways Plan Names
  County Initial and Location Number
  See Reverse Side for Listing

Scale
1" = Approx. 3.8 miles
0 5 10
Miles

N

County Index

Mc Henry | Lake
Kane | Cook
Du Page
Will



Map 2:
A, B & C Quality Streams in Northeastern Illinois

Biological Stream Characterization

- A - Streams: Unique Aquatic Resource
- B - Streams: Highly Valued Aquatic Resource
- C - Streams: Moderate Aquatic Resource

This map shows those streams which harbor the richest concentrations of biodiversity (A and B), and those more degraded streams which have opportunities for restoration to higher quality (C).

Source of stream classifications: IDNR and IEPA

northeastern illinois planning commission

Openlands Project

Prepared by : Ders Anderson, Openlands Project, Richard Mariner and Lori Heringa, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

Special Assistance in the development of this map was provided by Hubert Morgan, Kim Soulliere, (NIPC) and the many participating local government staff in the region.

This map brochure was prepared under the graphic direction of Eva Wurm, (NIPC)

Greenway and trail information current as of 1997. Greenway designations on this map do not imply specific widths, other design characteristics, or management approaches. These should be determined through detailed planning for the individual greenways.

The Natural Areas Inventory Sites current as of 1995; Illinois Nature Preserve Sites current as of 1995. Additional information can be obtained from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Division, Phone (217) 785-8774.

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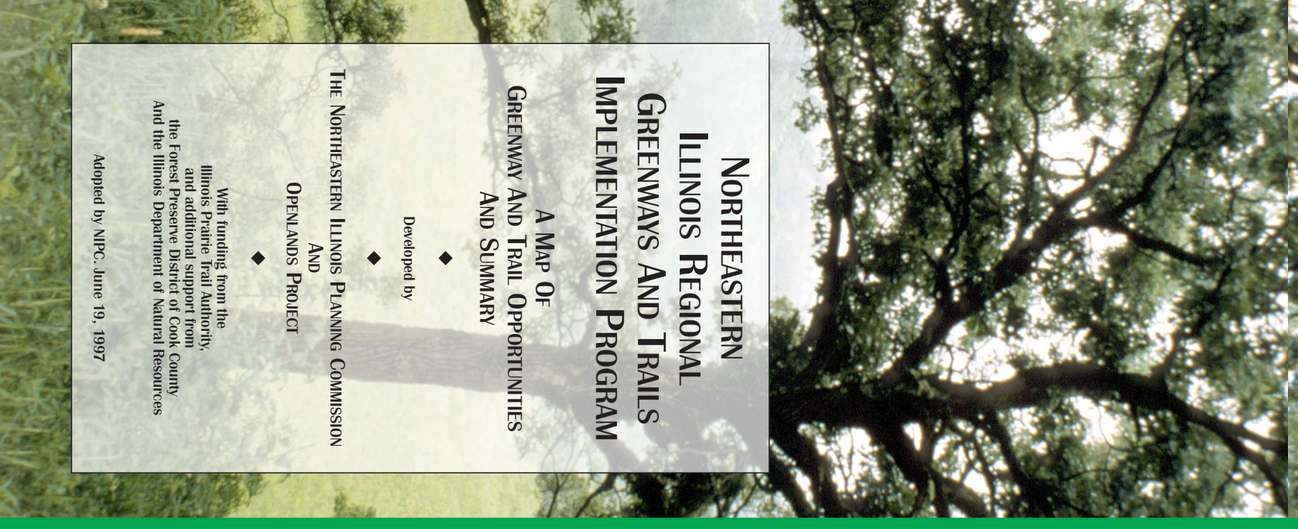


Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program

A Map Of Greenway And Trail Opportunities And Summary

◆

Developed by

◆

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
And
Openlands Project

◆

With funding from the
Illinois Prairie Trail Authority,
and additional support from
the Forest Preserve District of Cook County
And the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Adopted by NIPC. June 19, 1997

The Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) was created in 1957 by the Illinois General Assembly to be the advisory comprehensive planning agency for the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Act gave the Commission three charges: To conduct research and collect data for planning; to advise and assist local government; and to prepare comprehensive plans and policies to guide the development of the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

Openlands Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, expanding, and enhancing open space - land and water - to provide a healthy natural environment and a more livable place for all the people of the region.

Acknowledgments: Recognizing the importance of a region-wide network of trails, the Illinois Prairie Trail Authority contracted with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Openlands Project to develop an update of the Regional Greenways Plan. Additional funds were provided to this effort by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

The Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program was developed with the help of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the McHenry County Conservation District, the Forest Preserve District of Will County, the transportation planning liaisons for the Council of Mayors, and many county, municipal and park district staff members and citizens.

northeastern illinois planning commission
Openlands Project

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

*An Executive Summary**

REGIONAL GREENWAYS PLAN NAMES AND CODES

Cook County		
1	Spring Creek System	GW
2	Des Plaines River Corr.	GT,GW,GIT
3	EJ &E Corridor	GT
4	Crabtree to Deer Grove Corridor	GT
5	Crabtree Trail	GT
6	Algonquin Rd. Bike Path	GT
7	Paul Douglas Trail	GT
8	Poplar Creek Reserve to Paul Douglas Corridor	GT
9	Poplar Creek System	GW
10	Poplar Creek Trail	GT
11	EJ & E to County Line Road Corridor	GT
12	EJ & E to Fox River Trail	GT
13	Streamwood Bike Route	Rte.
14	Bartlett Bike Route	Rte.
15	Schaumburg Bike Routes	Rte.
16	Salt Creek Trail	GT,GW
17	DesPlaines Corridor to Ned Brown Corridor	GT,Rte.
18	Ned Brown Trail	GT
19	Salt Creek System	GW
20	Palatine Trail to Paul Douglas Route	Rte.
21	Palatine Trail	GT
22	Deer Grove Trail	GT
23	Hintz Road Route	Rte.
24	Wheeling Drainage Ditch	GW
25	McDonald Creek	GW
26	Techny Corr. to Des Plaines River Corridor Route	Rte.
27	West Glenview Rail Corr.	GT
28	Techny Corridor	GT
29	Middle Fork of the North Branch Chicago River	GW
30	North Branch Trail	GT,GW,GIT
31	Green Bay Trail	GT
32	West Fork of the North Branch Chicago River	GW
33	N. Shore Channel Trail	GT,GW
34	Skokie Swift Corridor	GT
35	N. Br. Trail to Des Plaines River Corridor Route	Rte.
36	Weber Spur	GT
37	Evanston Route	Rte.
38	North Shore Lakefront	GW
39	Chicago Lakefront and Trail	GT,GW,GIT
40	Chicago River Corridor	GT,GW,GIT
41	North Branch Chicago River Corridor	GT,GW
42	Valley Line	GT
43	Irving Park Corridor	GT
44	Illinois Prairie Path	GT,GIT
45	Illinois Prairie Path to Centennial Trail Corridor	GT
46	Illinois Prairie Path to Blvd. Network Route	Rte.,GIT
47	Boulevard Network	GT,GIT
48	Chicago River to Lakefront Connections	GT,GIT
49	Boulevard Network to Dan Ryan Woods Corr.	GT
50	Southwest Transit Bikeway	GT
51	Mud Lake Portage Corridor	GT,GW,GIT
52	Midway Bikeway	GT
53	I&M Canal	GT,GW
54	Chicago Ridge to Summit Corridor	GT
55	Centennial Trail	GT,GW,GIT
56	W. Homer Township Corr. to Centennial Trail Conn.	GT
57	Tampier to Cal Sag Connection	GT
58	Tampier to Tinley Creek Preserve Connection	GT
59	Tinley Creek Trail	GT
60	Cal Sag Trails (North and South Banks)	GT,GW
61	Stony Creek Corridor	GT,GW
62	Alsip Corridor	GT
63	Stony Creek	GW
64	Rock Island Corridor	GT
65	Major Taylor Trail	GT
66	CDOT Calumet Loop Network	GT
67	Nickel Plate Connector	GT.
68	Calumet River	GW
69	Grand Calumet River Corridor	GT,GW
70	Burnham Corridor	GT,GIT
71	Little Calumet River	GW
72	Greenwood Corridor	GT
73	South Holland Parks System Trails	GT
74	South Park Route	Rte.
75	162nd/167th Route	GT
76	Midlothian Creek	GW
77	Orland Trail Loop	GT
78	Sieden Prairie Conn.	GT
79	Butterfield Creek Corr.	GT,GW
80	Hickory Creek System	GW
81	Long Run Creek	GW
82	Spring Creek (Orland)	GW
83	Marley Creek System	GW
84	Old Plank Road Trail	GT,GIT
85	Matteson Corridor	GT
86	Butterfield Creek	GW
87	Vincennes Corridor	GT
88	Lansing Corridor	GT,GIT
89	Lansing Corridor/Lansing Woods Trail Connection	GT,GIT
90	Lansing Woods Trail	GT,GIT
91	Thorn Creek Corridor	GT,GW,GIT
92	Illinois Central Corridor	GT
93	Sauk Trail Woods Loop	GT
94	Sauk Trail Corridor	GT
95	Steger to Old Plank Road Trail Corridor	GT
96	Deer Creek	GW
97	Lansing Drainage Ditch	GW

DuPage County		
1	Illinois Prairie Path - Elgin Branch	GT,GIT
2	Wayne Trail Corridor	GT
3	E J & E R.R. Corridor	GT
4	Pratt's Wayne Corridor	GT
5	Pratt's Wayne/ West Branch Trail	GT,GW
6	Woodland Hills Corridor	GT
7	Schick Rd. Corridor	GT
8	S. Bartlett Rd. Corridor	GT
9	West Branch Trail	GT
10	Lies Rd Corridor	GT
11	Klein Creek	GW
12	Mallard Lake Trail	GT
13	Clause Rec Area Bike Corridor	GT
14	Spring Brook Cr. (North)	GW
15	North Central Bikeway Corridor	GT
16	E. Branch DuPage River	GW
17	East Branch DuPage River Corridor	GT,GW
18	I-355 Corridor	GT
19	Medinah Rd. Corridor	GT
20	Meacham Creek	GW
21	Swift Prairie/Salt Creek Park Connection	GT
22	Addison Corridor	GT
23	Addison Road Corridor	GT
24	Salt Creek Corridor	GT,GW
25	Commercial St. Route	Rte.
26	Church Rd. Route	Rte.
27	Eastern Lake St. Corridor	GT
28	Lake St./IPP Corridor	GT
29	Great Western Tail	GT,GIT
30	Harger Rd. Trail	GT
31	York Rd./22nd St. Trail	GT
32	Ginger Creek System	GW
33	Fullersburg Trail	GT
34	Lacey Creek	GW
35	Illinois Prairie Path - Main Stem	GT
36	Winfield Creek	GW
37	Timber Ridge Trail	GT
38	Blackwell Trail	GT
39	Illinois Prairie Path - Geneva Spur	GT
40	Great Western Trail Ext.	GT
41	Kress Creek	GW
42	Fermi Lab Trail	GT
43	West Branch DuPage River System	GW
44	Illinois Prairie Path - Aurora Branch	GT
45	Danada Trail	GT
46	Herrick Lake Trail	GT
47	DuPage River Pathway-West Branch	GT,GW
48	Ferry Creek	GW
49	Illinois Prairie Path - Batavia Spur	GT
50	Eola Rd. Bikeway Corr.	GT
51	Waubonsee Creek	GW
52	Oswego Road Bikeway Corridor	GT
53	Spring Brook Cr. (South)	GW
54	83rd St. Corridor	GT
55	Woodward Ave Corridor	GT
56	75th Street Bikeway Corr.	GT
57	Hinsdale Bike Route	Rte.
58	Madison St. Corridor	GT
59	Madison St. Route	Rte.
60	Sawmill Creek System	GW
61	91st St. Corridor	GT
62	Frontage Rd. Corridor	GT
Kane County		
1	Fox River and spring runs	GW
2	Harmony Creek	GW
3	Hampshire Creek System	GW
4	Burlington Creek System	GW
5	Route 72 Corridor Bike Path	GT
6	Eakin Creek	GW
7	S. Br. Kishwaukee River	GW
8	Huntley to Elgin Conn.	GT
10	W. Fox River Corridor	GT, GW
11	Bolz Rd. Corridor	GT
Fox River Trail Connections		
9	Huntley to Fox River Trail Corridor	GT, RTE
13	Higgins Rd. Corridor	GT
14	Dundee Road Corridor	GT
15	to Schweitzer Woods	GT
16	to Sleepy Hollow	GT
18	to Tyler Creek	GT
19	Elgin Corridor	GT
21	S. Elgin Corridor	GT
34	Red Gate Rd. Corridor	GT
35	Wayne Corridor	GT
43	N. Aurora Corridor	GT
45	Main Street Corridor	GT
46	West Bank Geneva Trail	GT
47	Geneva Corridor	GT
61	Scheffer Road Corridor	GT
12	County Line Corridor	GT
17	Jelkes Creek	GW
20	Illinois Prairie Path - Elgin Branch	GT
22	Otter Creek System	GW
23	Central Kane Corridor	GT
24	Fitchie Creek	GW
25	CGIX RR Corridor	GT
26	Tyler Creek System	GW
27	Coon Creek	GW
28	Great Western Trail	GT
29	Hampshire to Great Western Trail Corridor	GT
30	Ferson Creek System	GW
31	Stony Creek	GW

32	Bowes Creek	GW
33	Riverbend Trail	GT
36	Kirk Rd. Trail	GT
38	Illinois Prairie Path - Geneva Spur	GT
39	Fabyan Parkway Trail	GT
40	Fermilab Trail	GT
41	Illinois Prairie Path - Batavia Spur	GT
42	Red Oak Trail	GT
44	Mill Creek System	GW
48	Great Western Trail to SW Kane Forest Preserve Loop Connection	GT
49	Fabyan Trail to Forest Preserve Loop Conn.	GT
50	SW Kane Forest Preserve Loop	GT
51	Blackberry Creek System	GW
52	Virgil Gilman Trail	GT
53	Welch Creek System	GW
54	Youngs Creek	GW
55	Big Rock Creek System	GW
56	Blackberry Creek to SW Kane F. P. Loop Conn.	GT
57	Blackberry Creek Corr.	GT, GW
58	Deerpath Rd. Corridor	GT
59	Indian Trail Rd. Corridor	GT
60	Illinois Prairie Path - Aurora Branch	GT
62	Waubonsee Creek Trail to Scheffer Road Corr.	GT
63	Waubonsee Creek Corr.	GT, GW
64	Montgomery Corridor	GT
Lake County		
1	Fox River	GW
2	Des Plaines River System and Trail	GW, GT, GIT
3	Bluff Lake to Lake Marie Shoreline Corridor	GW
4	Sequoit Creek	GW
5	Deer Lake to Redwing Slough System	GW
6	Mill Creek System	GW
Des Plaines River Trail Connections		
7	Van Patten Woods to Robert McClory Bike Path	GT
15	Wadsworth to Illinois Beach State Park	GT
16	Rollins Savanna to Des Plaines River Trail at Wadsworth	GT, GW
25	Washington St. Corridor	GT
27	Greenbelt Woods to Independence Grove	GT
39	Buffalo Creek to Ryerson Woods	GT
40	Ryerson Woods to West Chicago River	GT
43	Grainger Woods to Prairie Wolf Slough	GT
8	Lake Michigan Tributaries & Ravines	GW
9	Kellogg Ravine	GW
10	Robert McClory Bike Path	GT
11	Robert McClory Bike Path Illinois Beach Loop	GT
12	Bull Creek	GW
13	Dead River	GW
14	Waukegan River	GW
17	West Loop Trail	GT, GIT
18	Squaw Creek	GW
19	Fox Lake Metra Corridor	GT
20	West Loop Trail to Volo Bog Corridor	GT
21	Fish Lake to Wooster Lake Drainage	GW
22	Moraine Hills to West Loop Trail Corridor	GT, GIT
23	Mutton Creek	GWL
24	Rollins Savanna to Riverhill F.P.D. Corridor	GT
26	Gurnee to Robert McLory Bike Path	GT
28	EJ&E Corridor	GT
29	North Shore Bike Path	GT, GIT
30	Route 53 Corr. (Proposed I-355 extension) Bike Tr.	GT
31	Flint Creek System	GW
32	Rt. 14 Corridor Bike Path	GT
33	Rt. 22 Corridor	GT
34	Cuba Marsh to Deer Grove Corridor	GT
35	Buffalo Creek	GW
36	Indian Creek	GW
37	Buffalo Grove/Vernon Hills to EJ&E Connection	GT
38	Buffalo Creek to Wright Woods Connection	GT
41	West Fork Chicago River Trail	GW
42	W. Fork N. Br. Chicago River	GW
44	Middle Fork, N. Br. Chicago River	GW, GT
45	Green Bay Trail	GT, GIT
46	Middle Fork Corridor	GT
47	U.S. 41 Corridor	GT
48	Skokie River	GW
49	Lake Michigan Shoreline	GW
McHenry County		
1	Fox River System	GW
2	Beaver Creek System	GW
3	Hebron to Boone County Corridor	GT, GIT
4	Mokeler Creek System	GW
5	W. Br. Piscasaw Creek System	GW
6	Lawrence Creek System	GW
7	Union Pacific Corridor	GT
8	Nippersink Creek System	GW
9	N. Br. Nippersink Creek System	GW
10	Hebron Trail Corridor	GT, GIT
11	Lake Geneva Transit Authority Corridor	GT
12	Prairie Trail	GT, GIT
13	Nippersink Creek to Chain O'Lakes State Park Conn.	GT
14	Dutch Creek System	GW
15	Lily Lake Drain	GW

16	Prairie Trail to West Loop Trail Connection	GT, GIT
17	Cotton Creek	GW
18	McHenry to Cary Conn.	GT
19	Fox River Spring Run	GW
20	Silver Creek	GW
21	Com Ed Corridor	GT
22	Sleepy Hollow Cr. System	GW
23	Boone Creek System	GW
24	Union Pacific to Prairie Trail Connection	GT
25	Kishwaukee River System	GW
26	Union Pacific to Com Ed Corridor Connection	GT
27	N. Br. Kishwaukee River System	GW
28	Rush Creek System	GW
29	Mud Creek	GW
30	Huntley-Union - Marengo (H.U.M.) Corridor	GT
31	Coon Creek System	GW
32	H.U.M. to Com Ed Corridor Connection	GT
33	S. Br. Kishwaukee System	GW
34	H.U.M. to Pleasant Valley Connection	GT
35	Eakin Creek	GW
36	H.U.M. to Lake in the Hills Trail Connection	GT
37	Pleasant Valley to Lake in the Hills Trail Conn.	GT, GW
38	Woods Creek System	GW
39	Lake in the Hills Trail	GT
40	Crystal Creek	GW
41	Prairie Trail to Cary Connection	GT
42	Spring Creek	GW
Will County		
1	Virgil Gilman to Du Page River Corridor	GT
2	Des Plaines River System	GW
3	Lincoln Highway Corr.	GT
4	E, J & E Corridor	GT
5	West Norman Drain	GW
6	East Norman Drain	GW
7	Wolf Creek System	GW
8	Du Page River Corridor	GT, GW
9	Clow Creek	GW
10	Du Page River System	GW
11	Springbrook Creek Corr.	GT, GW
12	West Branch Du Page River Corridor	GT, GW
13	East Branch Du Page River Corridor	GT, GW
14	Lily Cache Creek System	GW
15	Lockport Road Corridor	GT
16	Plainfield, Romeoville, Lockport, Loop	GT, GW
17	Centennial Trail	GT, GW, GIT
18	Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal	GW
19	I & M Canal	GW
20	W. Homer Township Corr.	GT
21	Long Run Creek System	GW
22	E. Homer Township Corr.	GT
23	Spring Creek System	GW
24	Fiddyment Creek System	GW
25	Lockport/North Homer Township Corridor	GT
26	Mink Creek System	GW
27	Black Road Bridge Conn.	GT, RTE
28	Rock Run Creek Corridor	GT, GW
29	Heritage Trail	GT, GW, GIT
30	Gaylord Donnelly Trail	GT, GW, GIT
31	Fraction Run Cr. System	GW
32	Spring Creek Corridor	GT, GW
33	Marley Creek System	GW
34	Wabash Corridor	GT
35	Frankfort to Orland Park Corridor	GT
36	Hickory Creek System	GW
37	Hickory Creek Corridor	GT, GW
38	Hickory Cr. Junction Tr.	GT
39	Old Plank Road Trail	GT, GW
40	Joliet Downtown Bike Route	RTE, GIT
41	Sugar Run Creek System	GW
42	Wauponsee Glacial Trail	GT
43	Cedar Creek System	GW
44	Brandon Dam to Wilmington Corridor	GT
45	I & M Canal State Trail	GT, GW,GIT
46	Channahon to Des Plaines Conservation Area Corr.	GT
47	Des Plaines Conservation Area/Midewin Tr. System	GT
48	Grant Creek System	GW
49	Jackson Creek System	GW
50	Prairie Creek System	GW
51	Garden Grove to Manhattan Corridor	GT
52	Illinois Central Corridor	GT
53	Thorn Creek	GW
54	Plum Creek to Illinois Central Corridor	GT
55	Crete/Beecher Corridor	GT
56	Plum Creek Corridor	GT, GW
57	Plum Creek System	GW
58	Bull Creek	GW
59	Pike Creek System	GW
60	Trim Creek System	GW
61	Beecher to Midewin Corr.	GT
62	Exline Slough	GW
63	S. Branch Rock Creek	GW
64	Marshall Slough	GW
65	Black Walnut Creek	GW
66	Rock Creek System	GW
67	Forked Creek System	GW
68	Jordan Creek System	GW
69	Kankakee River System	GW
70	Dresden Cooling Lake	GW
71	Wilmington to Godley Corridor	GT
72	Wilmington to Kankakee River State Park Corridor	GT, GW
73	Terry Creek	GW
74	Kankakee River to Kankakee County Corr.	GT
75	Horse Creek System	GW

GW = Water-Based Greenway
RTE = On Street Route
GT = Land-Based Greenway
GIT = A Segment of the Grand Illinois Trail

Map 3: Conceptual Map of Grand Illinois Trail

PUBLIC SUPPORT SPURS GREENWAY PLAN UPDATE

On June 19, 1997, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission adopted the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program, an update and replacement to the 1992 Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan Map. This map is an important part of this Program, reflecting proposed expansions and additions to existing trails and greenways. Since the 1992 plan, the size of the greenway network has nearly tripled, the trail component alone has doubled from 1000 miles to 2000 miles. The region's greenway network is unprecedented around the country.

Increasing appreciation by citizens of the values of open space, greenways, and trails is evidenced by referenda passed for open space protection in the region, as well as by federal and state initiatives and programs. Results of local government and developer surveys show that residents are ranking trails and open space highest on lists of desired community amenities.

This update was made necessary by several factors. Continuing urbanization of the region imposes stresses on stream corridors and other natural resources which need to be identified for preservation. These pressures will increase: the population in the outer counties is forecasted to increase 70 to 100 percent by 2020. In addition, the continuing progress by all levels of government in the development of trails and protection of natural areas has created new opportunities and support for enhancing the regional system and to establish links within it.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE REGIONAL GREEN WAYS MAP?(MAP 1)

The regional map provides a 1997 update of existing and proposed major open space and trails, and recommendations for revised and new greenway and trail corridors and linkages. Proposed trail corridors as illustrated are conceptual; final alignments would correspond to county and municipal planning efforts.

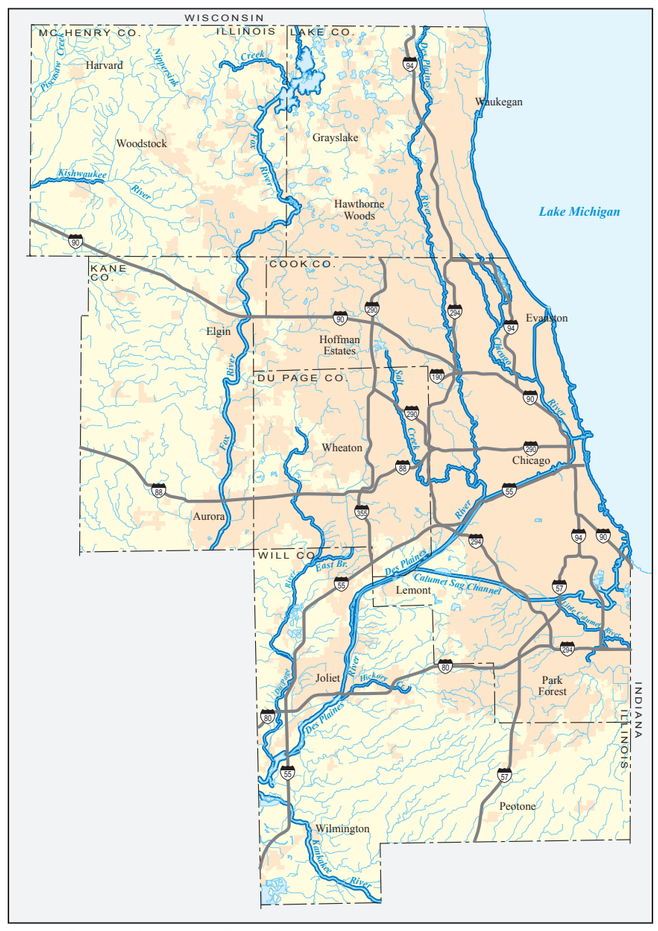
With the support and involvement of local governments, numerous greenways and trails were identified, which NIPC and Openlands assembled into a coordinated network. Regional workshops, and other forums which guided the design of this plan, raised two primary issues: (1) the need for more east-west trail linkages to the many north-south trails; and (2) the desire for more loop trails. The 1995 regional inventory of local and subregional existing and proposed bikeways was used in identifying strategic additions to the regional trail system. Updating the map included digitizing the corridors using NIPC's Geographic Information System (GIS), allowing various analyses such as adjacent land use characteristics and comparison with population and employment statistics.

Another feature of the plan and map is the focus on streams, which are key determinants of many greenways. Healthy stream corridors are increasingly recognized as important landscape features for local communities. Stream greenways can provide valued opportunities for canoeing and kayaking; they are focal points for environmental education and stewardship; they can be rich centers of biodiversity; and they can provide important water quality and flood mitigation functions.

The map includes the locations of Illinois Nature Preserves and sites on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Many of these high quality areas are within designated greenways and existing open space and need to be protected. The regional trail system may, where appropriate, provide opportunities for viewing these areas, but care must be taken to protect fragile Natural Area resources from adverse impacts. Unprotected natural areas sites need to be given preservation status through acquisition or other means.

An important function of the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program and the plan map is to support the programs of open space jurisdictions which are working to preserve and manage greenway corridors. Much of the on-the-ground implementation will occur through the initiative of the forest preserve and conservation districts, park districts, municipalities, and state and federal agencies, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The open space, outdoor recreation, and natural resource advocacy organizations of the region play an invaluable role in plan implementation.

**This map is intended as an overview of the officially adopted Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program. For a copy of the complete text, contact the Illinois Prairie Trail Authority, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) at 222 South Riverside Plaza, 60606, (312) 454-0400, or Openlands Project (OLP) at 25 East Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, (312) 427-4256.*



Map 4: Potential Location of Water-Based Trails

WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE PLAN DOCUMENT?

The plan includes numerous actions that would contribute to implementation of the plan. These recommended actions in the plan are not necessarily site specific, but may indicate general priority areas. In the plan, these action recommendations are grouped and listed under the appropriate objective. The eight general objectives identified in the plan are contained in the following list.

Objective 1: Preserve Additional Greenway Open Space

Objective 2: Preserve and Improve the Quality and Biodiversity of Existing Open Space, including Greenways

Objective 3: Improve the Effectiveness and Use of Trails

Objective 4: Expand the Existing Regional Trail System and Create Linkages

Objective 5: Expand the Region's Efforts to Protect, Restore and Utilize Water-Based Green ways

Objective 6: Improve the Transportation Benefits of Trails

Objective 7: Sustain and Strengthen the Funding Base for Trails and Greenways

Objective 8: Continue the Tradition of Innovative Trail and Greenway Planning in Northeastern Illinois

Implementation of the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program will require a partnership effort among state natural resource and transportation agencies, forest preserve and park districts, county and municipal governments, conservation and recreation advocacy organizations, and private landowners. Specific actions to implement the eight objectives are detailed in the plan document

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of undeveloped landscape that run through urban and suburban development, to wide corridors that incorporate diverse natural and cultural features. A greenway can be land- or water-based. It can incorporate both public and private property, but always provides benefits for the larger community. Some greenways are primarily recreational corridors, while others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not necessarily intended for substantial human passage. Some greenways run along stream corridors, shorelines or wetlands; others follow old railway tracks or other land-based features.

Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall a greenway network will protect natural and cultural resources, provide recreational opportunities, improve and sustain hydrological functions, and enhance the natural beauty and the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GREENWAY?

Each greenway project offers some combination of the following characteristics.

- benefits large population in many communities
- bridges gaps to help complete existing greenways
- creates new connection between existing greenways
- provides wildlife (animal and plant) migration paths between isolated natural areas
- protects tributary streams to preserve water quality and ecological value in main regional waterways
- protects residential and commercial areas threatened by flood damage
- improves access to recreational trails where it is currently lacking
- protects high quality natural areas threatened by development
- offers a variety of recreational uses
- provides alternative transportation routes (i.e., walking, bicycling) and improves access to public transportation systems