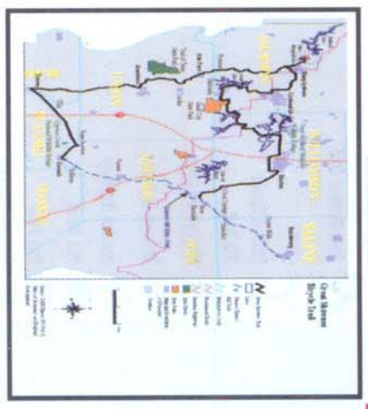
Southern Illinois Bicycle Trails Plan

MAP

Southern Illinois
Regional Bicycle Trails Plan
Map



Developed by the
Office of Economic and Regional Development
Southern Illinois University Carbondale

And the
Southern Illinois Regional Bike Trails Task Force

With Funding by the
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

A number of other public agencies provided support, including:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Golconda Main Street
Shawnee Development Council, Inc.
Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce
Southernmost Tourism Council
Southeastern Illinois College
Williamson County Tourism Bureau
Illinois State Police
Harrisburg Chamber of Commerce
Union County Chamber of Commerce
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Crab Orchard Wildlife Refuge
Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau
Wayne Fitzgerell State Park
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Rend Lake College
Greater Egypt Reg. Plan. & Dev. Comm.
Land of Lincoln Legal Assist. Found.
Carbondale Conv. & Tourism Bureau
Illinois Nature Conservancy Group
U.S. Forestry Service
University of Illinois Extension
City of Carbondale
Southern Five Reg. Plan. & Dev Comm.
Southeastern Il. Reg. Plan & Dev. Comm.
Shawnee National Forest
Rend Lake Conservancy District
Kinkaid Lake Conservancy District
Southern Illinois Tourism Development Office

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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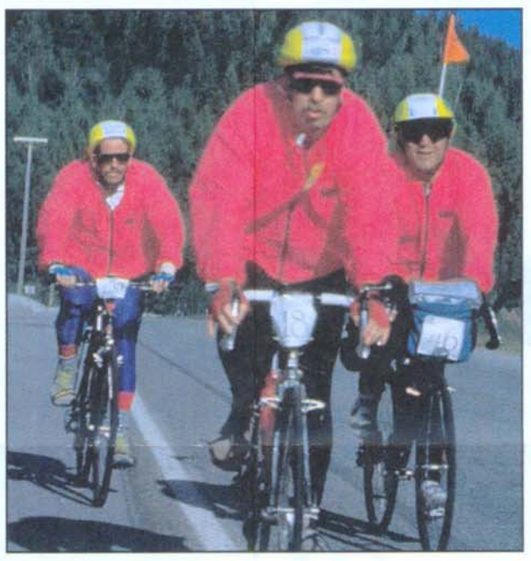
INTENT OF THE PLAN

The southern Illinois plan is to function as a catalyst and tool in coordinating projects among local communities and agencies, and assist IDNR in evaluating priority areas in its grant program selection process.

The Task Force has assisted in bringing various public and private sectors together, reaching a common goal of bicycle trail development.

"I see the regional bike trail as a revenue-generating catalyst for small business and a not-inconsequential growth engine for the region. It can create the need for motel beds, more services and more specialty shops, while giving us a broader income tax base that's not so dependent upon singular industries."

-- BERNIE DICKNEITE
BICYCLE FITNESS CENTER



WHAT IS A BICYCLE TRAIL?

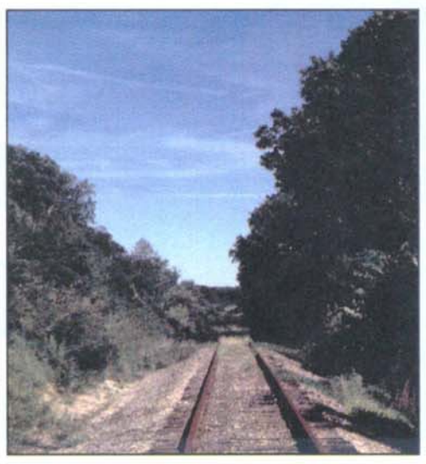
Bicycle trails or paths vary in style and function. Mountain, on-road, off-road and motocross bikes all have distinct bicycle trails. As defined by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials "Bicycle Paths are facilities on exclusive right of ways and with minimal cross flow by motor vehicles. Bicycle paths can serve a variety of purposes. They can provide a commuting bicyclist with a shortcut through a residential neighborhood. Located in a park, they can provide an enjoyable recreational opportunity. Bicycle paths can be located along abandoned railroad right of ways, the banks of rivers, and other similar areas. Bicycle paths can also provide bicycle access to areas that are otherwise served only by limited access highways closed to bicycles."

"Completion of the Great Shawnee Bicycle Trail will be a tremendous asset to the amenities of southern Illinois and will have a tremendous economic impact."

-- RAYMOND LENZI
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE OUTCOMES?

- Preservation of natural corridors for current and future generations.
- Tourism economic impact.
- Recreational amenities to enhance the region.
- Increase chances for bike trail funding opportunities.
- Quality of life.
- Image and economic development benefits.
- Bicycle as a means of alternative transportation



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Leadership by the Southern Illinois Bicycle Trails Coalition, Inc. to coordinate this regional bicycle trail plan.
- Prompt development of Phase I of the Great Shawnee Trail, including completion of the Rend Lake portion of the trail.
- Acquisition and development of selected segments of trail corridors by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate trail development as necessary.
- Utilization of the Southern Illinois Regional Bicycle Trails Plan by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation and other federal, state and local governments when making development decisions.

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS BICYCLE TRAILS COALITION, INC.

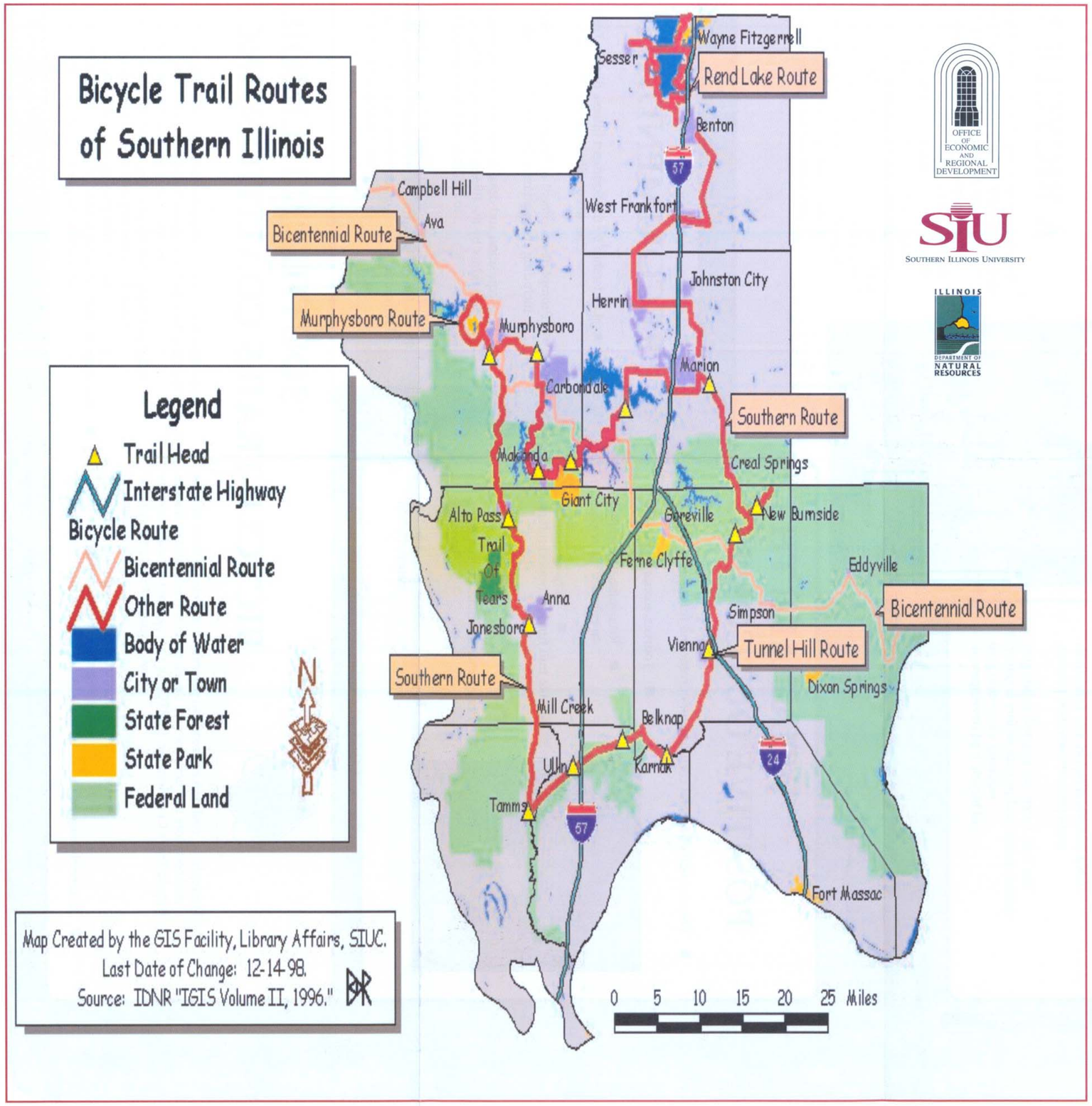
The regional coalition approach to planning and development of bike trail corridors is crucial for trail development. The Southern Illinois Bicycle Trails Coalition, Inc. (SIBTCI) is a recognized Illinois corporation, organized September, 1998.

Specific objectives and purposes of the Coalition are:

- to provide information to local groups interested in starting and maintaining bicycle trails,
- to directly engage and assist these local groups in obtaining funding assistance for creation and maintenance of these bicycle trails,
- to garner local public support through education for various bicycle trail projects in southern Illinois,
- to act as a focal point for planning and development of the "Great Shawnee Bicycle Trail" and other significant bicycle trail projects in southern Illinois, and
- to engage in other activities related to educating the public and promoting bicycle trails in southern Illinois.

If you would like to become a member of the Southern Illinois Bicycle Trails Coalition, Inc. and show your support for regional bike trails, contact Coalition President Kyle Harfst at (618) 536-4451. We appreciate your help!

Southern Illinois Regional
Bike Trail Plan



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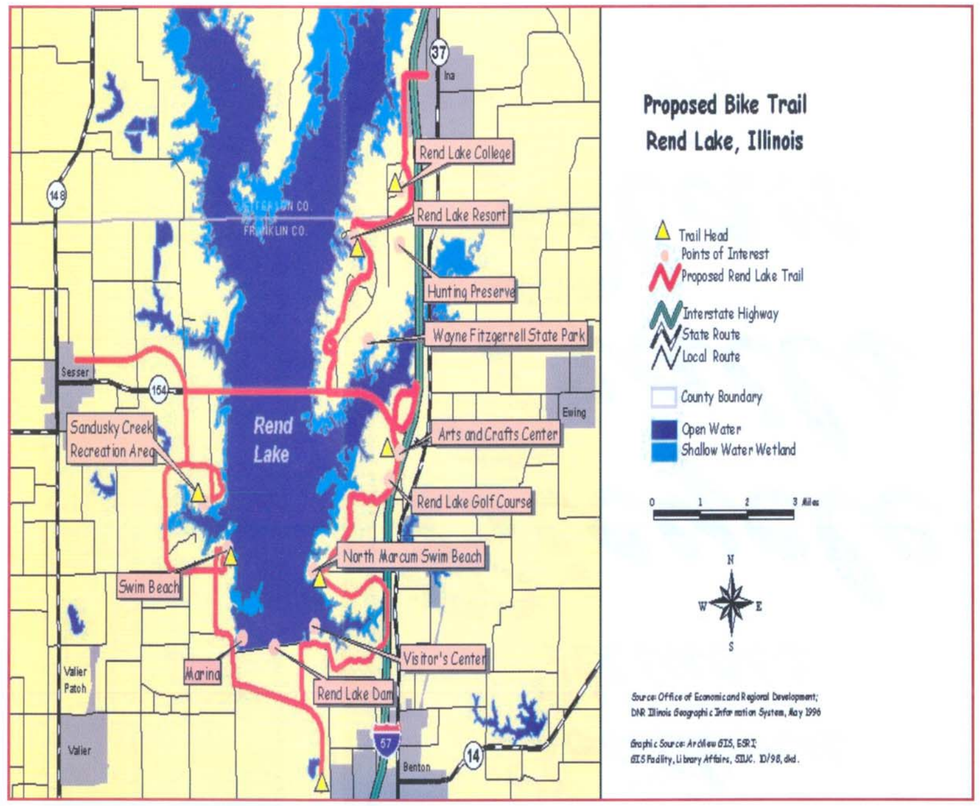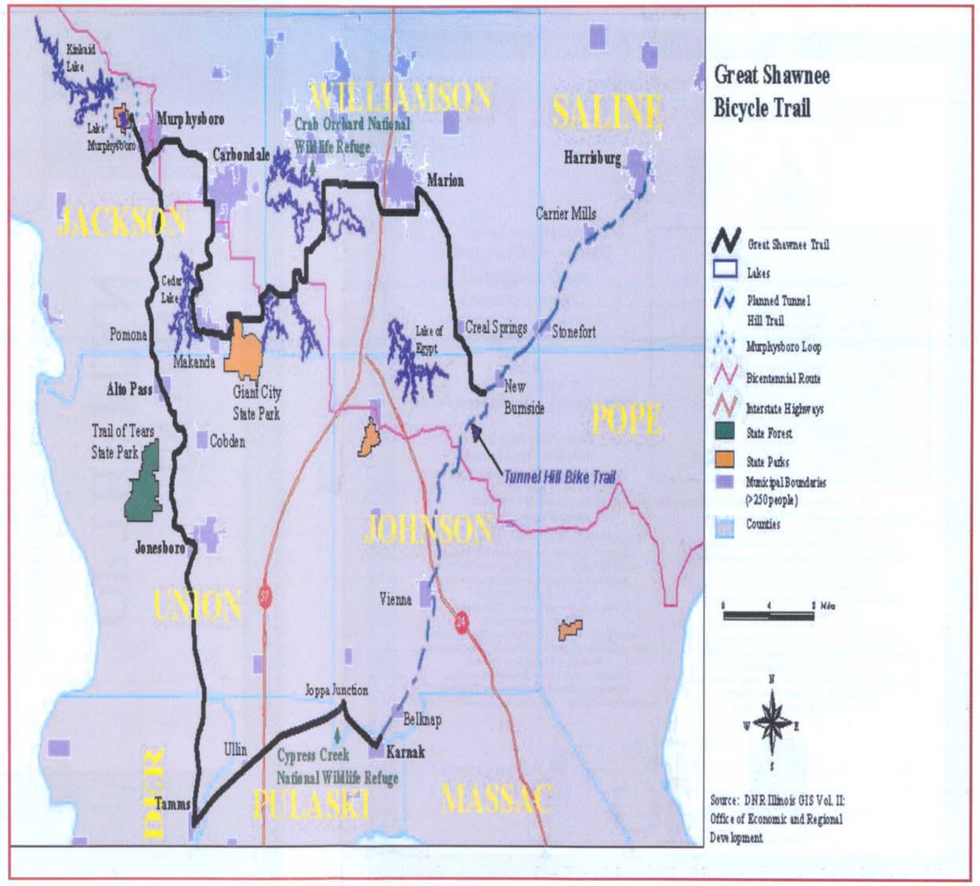
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