

Contact Information

Blackhawk Hills
Regional Council
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Upcoming Events

[Click event title for more information.](#)

Regional GIS/IT Roundtable

August 27, 2015

11:00 PM

Lanark City Hall

111 South Broad Street
Lanark, IL 61046

Zoning Administrators' Meeting

September 2, 2015

9:30 AM

Ogle County Planning and
Zoning Department
911 West Pines Road
Oregon, IL 61061

Labor Day


September 7, 2015

Office Closed

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BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council



Jo Daviess • Stephenson • Carroll • Ogle • Whiteside • Lee

Thank you for your interest in Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. You are receiving this newsletter because we would like to keep you up-to-date on projects and initiatives in the six-county region of Blackhawk Hills. We serve Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties in northwestern Illinois.

If you have a project that you would like our assistance with, please contact our office at 815-625-3854 or submit a [Project Proposal Form](#) on our website.

If you have news or upcoming events that you would like us to share in our newsletter, on Facebook, or our website, please contact us at 815-625-3854 or by email at info@blackhawkhills.com.

"What's so great about Illinois?"

Save the Date: Blackhawk Hill's 2nd Annual Regional Development Summit

October 30, 2015



Photo taken at the Fall 2014 Regional Development Summit.

Our state - despite citizens' well-founded concerns about Illinois' future - remains among the top of the pack when it comes to economic performance and quality of life. At this year's Regional Development Summit, Blackhawk Hills Regional Council will feature what's worth celebrating in the Land of Lincoln, as well as issues with which policy makers, organization leaders, and local elected officials must contend.

So, save the date, plan your schedule, and we'll be in touch with more information soon.

Funding Deadline Reminder

Visit www.blackhawkhills.com/grants or contact our office for more information on these and other funding opportunities.

[Department of Homeland Security Flood Mitigation Assistance](#) - August 28, 2015

Funding Opportunities

Visit blackhawkhills.com/grants or contact our office for more information on these and other funding opportunities.

[Let's Play Community Construction Grants](#) - Dr. Pepper, Snapple, and KaBOOM! have teamed up to offer \$15,000 grants to be used toward the purchase of playground equipment. Grantees will lead their community through a self-guided planning process, using the \$15,000 grant towards the total cost of playground equipment and assembling the playground using the KaBOOM! community-build model. Grantees have up to one year to build the playground and will have the support of a remote KaBOOM! Grants Manager and an onsite Certified Playground Installer. The application deadline is September 9, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

[Local Foods, Local Places](#) - The 2015/2016 application for EPA's "Local Foods, Local Places" technical assistance program is now available. Local Foods, Local Places helps communities create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods through the development of local food systems. The program aims to:

- Boost economic opportunities for local farmers and businesses.
- Improve access to healthy local food and promote childhood wellness.
- Create walkable, healthy, economically vibrant neighborhoods.

The application is due September 15, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

[National Endowment for the Arts](#) - The Our Town program supports creative placemaking projects that help to transform communities into lively, beautiful, and resilient places with the arts at their core. Creative placemaking is when artists, arts organizations, and community development practitioners deliberately integrate arts and culture into community revitalization work, combining art with land-use, transportation, economic development, education, housing, infrastructure, and public safety strategies. The application deadline is September 21, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

[Grades K - 5: For Teachers](#) - Toshiba America Foundation's mission is to provide teachers with additional funds to support classroom projects. After school and summer projects, and independent study projects are not eligible. The Foundation strongly encourages projects planned and led by individual teachers or teams of teachers for their own classrooms. Many successful grantees have designed projects that tap into the natural curiosity of their students, enable students to frame their own scientific questions, and incorporate the expertise of community partners. Any K-5 teacher in a public or private (not-for-profit) school is eligible for a grant to support science or math education up to \$1,000 for project materials only. The application deadline is October 1, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

Need to Stock a Pond

Thinking about stocking your pond or lake? Several local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are conducting Fall Fish Sales. To view a list of SWCD contacts in the Blackhawk Hills region, please visit the Environment section of our website by clicking [here](#).

Volunteers Needed for Plum River Clean-up

On July 29-31, the Carroll County Soil and Water Conservation District hosted an AmeriCorps team clearing logjams in the Plum River near Savanna. Assisting the team were local landowners, Ritchie Excavating of Savanna, SWCD Resource Conservationist Shay Bradbury, and Blackhawk Hills' GIS Mapping Specialist Andy Shaw.

Three sites holding remaining blockages on the river were targeted. Two were accessible by an excavator and winch so team members worked in the river to attach chains and cables to logs to pull them up on shore for cutting. One site landowner now has a large woodpile for his family's winter heating. The remaining site was handled from canoes and from atop the jam itself with chainsaw work by Shay Bradbury and Andy Shaw, with AmeriCorps' members removing cut logs and debris from the pile.

Two of the three sites were largely cleared and the other was made passable by canoes without the difficult land portage that was previously necessary. Additional work remains but the largest part of the log clearing has been successfully completed at this time.

Preparations are now being made for the public cleanup coming on Saturday, September 19th. See <http://www.carrollcountyswcd.com/plum-river.html> for information on how to participate in the cleanup and future efforts or call the Carroll County SWCD at 815-244-8732x3.



AmeriCorps team helping with clean-up.



Logjam clearing on the Plum River.

Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainable Lifestyle Fair



The Illinois Renewable Energy Association (IREA) supports sustainable energy development in Illinois. They provide hands on opportunities for the public to learn about the benefits, potentials and uses of renewable energy and energy efficiency for our homes and businesses. Each year they host an energy fair where exhibitors can share their ideas and tools. The 14th annual Illinois Renewable Energy and Sustainability Fair will be held August 22 and 23, 2015, at the Ogle County Fairgrounds, Oregon, IL. The fair will include speakers, exhibits, children's activities, music, and food.

Featured speakers will include the following topics:

- Climate Confusion: Demystifying The Science That Drives Climate Change (Saturday, August 22, 12:00 - 1:00 PM)
- Profiles of Progress: How Does a Community Strive for Energy Independence? (Sunday, August 23, 1:00 - 2:00 PM)
- Building Resilient Communities in Turbulent Times (Sunday, August 23, 10:30 - 11:30 AM)

The entrance fee for adults is \$5 per day or \$7 for both days. Youths, children (with an adult), and IREA members are free. For more information visit www.illinoisrenew.org.

Illinois Releases Final State Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy to Address Pollution Loads in Illinois Waters and the Gulf of Mexico *Strategy Emphasizes Coordinated, Voluntary and Cost-Effective Efforts*

Illinois EPA Director Lisa Bonnett and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Philip Nelson announced the release of a finalized statewide strategy designed to improve water quality in Illinois and the Gulf of Mexico. The Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy (the Strategy) is the culmination of more than a year of work by a policy working group, as well as public input.

The Strategy does not call for new regulations for either point or non-point sources; rather, it relies on the latest science and best available technologies to guide statewide efforts to reduce phosphorus and nitrogen losses that impact Illinois waterways and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. These nutrients spur algae blooms that deplete oxygen levels, hinder recreation, and threaten public health. Nutrient pollution can also degrade drinking water quality and require cities to install costly treatment equipment.

The Strategy outlines best management practices to reduce nutrient losses from point sources, such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities, and non-point sources, including runoff from farm fields and city streets. It uses scientific assessments to target the most critical watersheds and to build upon existing state and industry programs. The goal is to reduce the amount of total phosphorus and nitrate-nitrogen reaching Illinois waters by 45 percent.

The final version of the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and additional information is available at [Illinois EPA's website](#).

Survey: Statewide Congestion Analysis Study

As part of its Statewide Congestion Analysis Study, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is collecting input from users of the state's transportation system and needs your help.

Please take a moment to complete IDOT's survey, so they can evaluate your experiences and priorities regarding Illinois' transportation infrastructure. You may click [here](#) to access the survey.

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