

## Contact Information

Blackhawk Hills  
Regional Council  
815-625-3854

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Rock Falls, IL 61071

## Upcoming Events

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

## Regional Development Summit

October 30, 2015

8:00 AM

Lake Carroll Clubhouse  
29-11 Ironwood Drive  
Lanark, IL 61046

## Office Closed

November 11, 2015

Veterans Day

## Quick Links

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# BLACKHAWK HILLS Regional Council



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

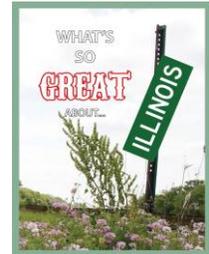
Thank you for your interest in Blackhawk Hills Regional Council. You are receiving this newsletter because we would like to keep you up-to-date on projects and initiatives in the six-county region of Blackhawk Hills. We serve Carroll, Jo Daviess, Lee, Ogle, Stephenson, and Whiteside Counties in northwestern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

## Blackhawk Hills Regional Council's Second Annual Regional Development Summit

For details and to register:  
[www.blackhawkhills.com/rsvp](http://www.blackhawkhills.com/rsvp)



Registration is available online for our Regional Development Summit! The annual event begins at 8 AM on October 30, 2015 at Lake Carroll Clubhouse (north of Lanark, IL).

The featured speaker is Steve Buchtel, Executive Director of Trails for Illinois, a tiny organization with the big mission of turning homes into trailheads statewide. For twenty years, Steve has helped Illinois communities plan and build non-motorized trails and improve facilities and policies that help people get outside, moving under their own power.

All are welcome. Breakfast and lunch are provided with registration (\$15/person). Please call 815-625-3854 with questions or issues with online registration.

## Funding Opportunities

Visit [blackhawkhills.com/grants](http://blackhawkhills.com/grants) or contact our office for more information on these and other funding opportunities.

**Every Day Capacity Building Grants** - The National Environmental Education Foundation is dedicated to connecting people to knowledge they can use to improve the quality of their lives and the health of the planet. The Foundation's Every Day Capacity Building Grants, sponsored by Toyota, offer support to nonprofit organizations, such as "Friends Groups," whose missions are focused on the improvement and responsible use of public land sites throughout the nation. Grants of up to \$5,000 are provided to increase organizational effectiveness so that grantees can better conserve public lands. The application deadline is October 30, 2015. Visit the Foundation's website to learn more about the program and the online application process. Click [here](#) for more information.

2016 School Garden Grant - Whole Kids Foundation is offering grants to schools and nonprofit organizations working at schools to support edible gardens at schools serving any grade K-12. These grants of \$2,000 are awarded in the U.S. and Canada. Consideration is given to new or existing garden projects at any stage of development, whether planning, construction, or operation, that help children engage with fresh fruits and vegetables. Deadline: October 31, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

Healthy Kids Innovation Grant - Whole Kids Foundation is excited to partner with United Health Foundation in launching a new grant program supporting the next generation of innovative ideas in children's health and nutrition. Through this grant, they aim to bring together multi-sector leaders in food, health, fitness and technology in support of the next big idea. Grants will range from \$15,000-\$25,000 and fund innovations that have a classroom "proof of concept", or have been piloted in at least one classroom, and are ready to scale to the next level. Deadline: October 31, 2015. Click [here](#) for more information.

Energy Rebate Programs for Businesses (including hospitals and non-profits) - Both [ComEd](#) and [Nicor Gas](#) maintain energy incentive programs for private businesses and non-profit organizations. Check out both companies' websites for the types of incentives (standard or custom) available to customers of either utility. Please note that ComEd currently has limited incentive funds available.

Examples of electric incentives:

- Lighting
- Retro-commissioning
- HVAC
- New construction
- Variable speed drives
- Industrial systems
- Refrigeration
- Data center efficiency
- Commercial kitchen equipment
- Transformers
- Battery chargers
- Load response
- Multi-family housing
- Farm equipment
- Lab equipment
- Custom project

Examples of natural gas incentives:

- Assessments
- Space/water heating equipment
- Steam traps
- Efficiency improvements
- Boiler tune-ups
- Commercial food
- Building optimization
- Free products
- Custom incentives

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## Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force

There are hundreds of unfunded mandates placed on local governments in Illinois that cost taxpayers billions per year and make it harder for local governments to provide core government services to Illinois residents.

Illinois Executive Order 15-15 created the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force. The Task Force's mission is to reduce taxpayer burden and empower citizens and government officials to streamline local government through consolidation and by eliminating unnecessary state mandates. The task force will research and analyze all current laws regarding local government consolidation and unfunded mandates. It will then compile a report with specific policy and legislative recommendations and send them to the Governor and the General Assembly by the deadline of December 31, 2015.

Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti invites the public to share their stories and submit ideas to improve local government in Illinois. Submissions will disseminated to the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force. A summary of public comments will be included in the task force's final report to the Governor and General Assembly. If you have any ideas to improve local government, you can submit your suggestions to the Lt. Governor online, click [here](#).

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## Conservation Days Held

The Tri-County Conservation Field Day was held on September 24, 2015, at Mississippi Palisades State Park. The event was hosted by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Jo Daviess, Carroll, and Whiteside Counties. Thirty-four classes from fifteen schools participated in the field day. The fourth grade students visited various stations where they learned about conservation topics. Julie Jacobs, Blackhawk Hills' Office Manager, oversaw the wood cookie station.

On October 6 and 7, 2015, Outdoor Stewardship Days were held at Lowell Park in Dixon, Illinois. About 1,000 third-graders from Lee and Ogle Counties participated in the event. At Stewardship Days, students traveled between 22 stations learning about the water cycle, conservation law enforcement, forestry and wildlife habitats, among other topics. The Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Lee and Ogle Counties organized the event. Blackhawk Hills' staff volunteered in the Activity Tent.



Students listening to wood cookie decorating instructions.



Students identifying animal tracks in the Activity Tent.

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## Illinois Bike Summit

Join those interested in better bicycling conditions at the 4th annual Illinois Bike Summit on October 28, 2015, at the I-Hotel in Champaign, Illinois. Learn from experts and network with others at this year's event, organized by the League of Illinois Bicyclists and Champaign County Bikes. The Summit will cover a wide range of topics to help local communities become more bike-friendly.

Nearly 300 advocates, professionals, and government officials from around the state attended last year's Summit. The Summit will energize you and teach you something new, whether you are a seasoned pro or just someone interested and curious about helping your town be more bike-friendly. For registration details click [here](#).

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