

### THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GREENWAYS

**Greenways...**

- Provide multiple benefits through the **preservation** of sensitive land resources.
- Represent a **long-term** and **cost-efficient** use of public and private resources.
- Act as **filter zones** to stop sediments and pollutants that degrade water quality.
- Allow waterways, wetlands and flood plains to **collect excess storm water** caused from development.
- Preserve or restore **natural ecosystems** so that plants and animals can expand their habitats.
- Provide **buffer zones** between incompatible development patterns, reducing noise, visual and environmental impacts.
- Allow for **access** to important archeological and historic sites. For example, Native American and pioneer trails, abandoned rail lines, or historic trading and commercial routes.
- Serve as **outdoor classrooms** for education in the field of natural and environmental sciences and management.
- Offer **non-discriminatory access** to open space opportunities; especially for the elderly, disabled, and socially disadvantaged.
- Provide **low cost** and **convenient** recreation opportunities to walk, run, bicycle, cross country ski, horseback ride, canoe, fish as well as snowmobiling and off-road ATV touring.
- Establish an **energy-efficient** and **safe** means of connecting people and places with trails between homes, schools, shopping, work, parks and other community facilities and points of interest.
- Greatly **enhance** quality of life values and community image, and **support** commercial recreation opportunities and tourist activities.
- **Reduce costs** of land maintenance by utilizing sustainable natural means coupled with heightened environmental awareness.
- **Impart an understanding** of the regional landscape and build a sense of place, cultural identity, and respect for the environment.



Yellow Creek

### PRIORITY GREENWAY PROJECTS

A number of specific greenway, open space, and trail projects have been identified for the purpose of instigating an urgency to protect and preserve. As the community continues to work with the plan, new projects should be added and the plan should be periodically updated and amended.

- 1st Priority** (Under Development or Pending)
- Jane Addams Trail, Sections A & B
  - Tutty's Crossing, Burgess Site, Trailhead & Boat Launch
  - Pecatonica Prairie Path
  - Orangeville/Jane Addams Trail Trailhead
  - Taylor Park/Pecatonica Floodplain Mitigation Plan
  - Forest Preserve/Conservation District Feasibility Study
  - Grand Illinois Trail (West from Jane Addams Trail to Galena)
  - NW Illinois Audubon Pecatonica Bend Preserve
  - Van Buren Avenue Bridge Reconstruction
- 2nd Priority** (Planned - Short Term)
- Yellow Creek/Krape Park/Fox Hollow Trail
  - Liberty Trail/Highland Community College Trail Expansion
  - Le-Walk-A-Na Trail
  - Old River School Historic Neighborhood/Tutty's Home Site Park
  - Galena Ave/Stephenson St./Adams Ave. Landscape Enhancement
  - U.S. 20/IDOT Prairie Shoulder Enhancement
  - Greenway Preservation Zoning Standards
- 3rd Priority** (Proposed - Long Term)
- Crane Grove Creek Trail
  - Yellow Creek Trail (Krape Park to Crane Grove Creek Trail)
  - Freeport Central Green (CBD)
  - Freeport Railroad Park (CBD)
  - Secondary On-Street Trails in Freeport
  - Kellogg Pioneer Trail Historic Research Study
- 4th Priority** (Conceptual)
- East & West Outer Loop Trails in Freeport
  - Yellow Creek Trail (Krape Park to Pearl City & Stockton)
  - Northeast Trail (Tutty's Crossing to Davis)
  - Southwest Trail (Pearl City to Loran & Mt. Carroll)
  - Yellow Creek & Pecatonica River Canoe & Boat Launches
  - Winslow/Pecatonica River Trail
  - Rural Secondary Trail Network
  - Albertus Airport Secondary Trail



Scenes Along Jane Addams Trail



### IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES FOR A GREENWAY PLAN

The success of the Stephenson County and Freeport Area Greenways and Trails Plan will require a partnership between a variety of agencies, groups, and organizations. Coordination of local, regional, state, and federal agencies, as well as the public sector, will lay the foundation for a strong greenway plan. Greenways/trail planning will be crucial to future comprehensive land use plans, transportation, public services, and environmental growth management. It will also be used as a tool for acquisition of grants and other funding sources by defining areas of importance. Because many of the greenways identified include public and private lands, effective greenway implementation and management will require the cooperation and understanding of the greenway concept and long-term goals of a greenways plan by all.

To insure the continued development of a regional greenways plan, local governments are encouraged to add the prioritized greenways in their comprehensive plans, park and recreation plans, and land use plans. To help preserve these areas from incompatible development, utilities and private property owners are encouraged to incorporate greenway planning into their future plans for development and management.

Through education and decisions on preservation, and management such as zoned conservation districts, conservation easements, zoned greenway overlay districts, land trusts, and covenants, the implementation of a greenways plan will be possible. The strength of any greenways movement, and the benefit of the concept, is within the diversity of its form and function. The benefit of this plan includes increased recreation opportunities, tourism, increased values, preserve natural areas, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as a better quality of life.

## The Freeport and Stephenson County

### Greenways and Trails Plan

### STEPHENSON COUNTY AND FREEPORT AREA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PLAN

The Greenways and Trails Plan is an important element for planning future growth in Stephenson County, the City of Freeport and northern Illinois. The plan can offer a cost effective approach to natural resource management and recreational planning and aid in future development. Creating a greenway could cost millions of dollars or it could require no more than convincing land owners to protect thin bands of healthy vegetation. Thus, the importance of cooperation between the private sector, local, regional, state, and federal organizations cannot be understated and will benefit planning and future development of greenways in Stephenson County.

The Stephenson County and Freeport Area Greenways and Trails Plan is also intended to serve as a model and guide to all the local jurisdictions in the County. Change and future development is inevitable. The plan demonstrates how natural areas and planned open space corridors can be used as a structural framework for organizing the future shape of individual local community areas in the County. This plan is critical to long-term protection of open spaces, as well as plant and animal species unique to our region.

- To that end, the Greenways and Trails Plan will...**
- **Assist** local and regional organizations in implementing greenway and trail projects by referencing the plan when seeking funding and allocating limited financial resources;
  - **Show** where buffers can be created to preserve land for the propagation of plants and animals when they are threatened by unplanned development or sprawl;
  - **Provide** suitable locations for convenient public trails and places for exercise and the leisurely enjoyment of the outdoors;
  - **Establish** regional open space and natural area preservation priorities and a basis for pursuing and forming a Forest Preserve or Conservation District that serves the whole community; and
  - **Link** Stephenson County and the Freeport Area to a larger regional greenway and trail network.



# The Freeport and Stephenson County Greenways and Trails Plan

## Plan Sponsor:

Partners in Planning  
Freeport Area Economic  
Development Foundation  
26 S. Galena Ave.  
Freeport, IL 61032  
(815) 233-1350

## Planning Consultant:

Thomas Graefia and Assoc.  
4777 East State St.  
Rockford, IL 61108  
(815) 229-4000

## Contributing Agencies:

Illinois Department of  
Natural Resources

City of Freeport

Stevenson County

Freeport Park District

City of Freeport

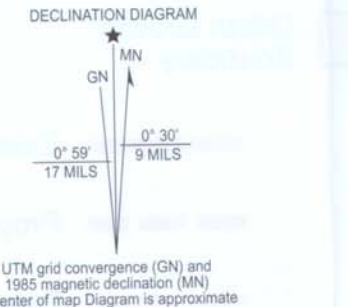
Stevenson County  
Visitors Bureau

Pearl City Park District

Northwest Illinois  
Trails Association

Lena Park District

Winslow Township Park District



Scale 1:63,360

0 1 2 3 4 Miles  
0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers

Base map adapted from U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles.  
Intruding margin lines refer to the Illinois Coordinate System, West Zone. Interval is 10,000 feet.

- 20 Federal Highway
- 73 State Highway
- Other Roads
- Railroad
- State Line
- County Line
- Section Line
- Section Number

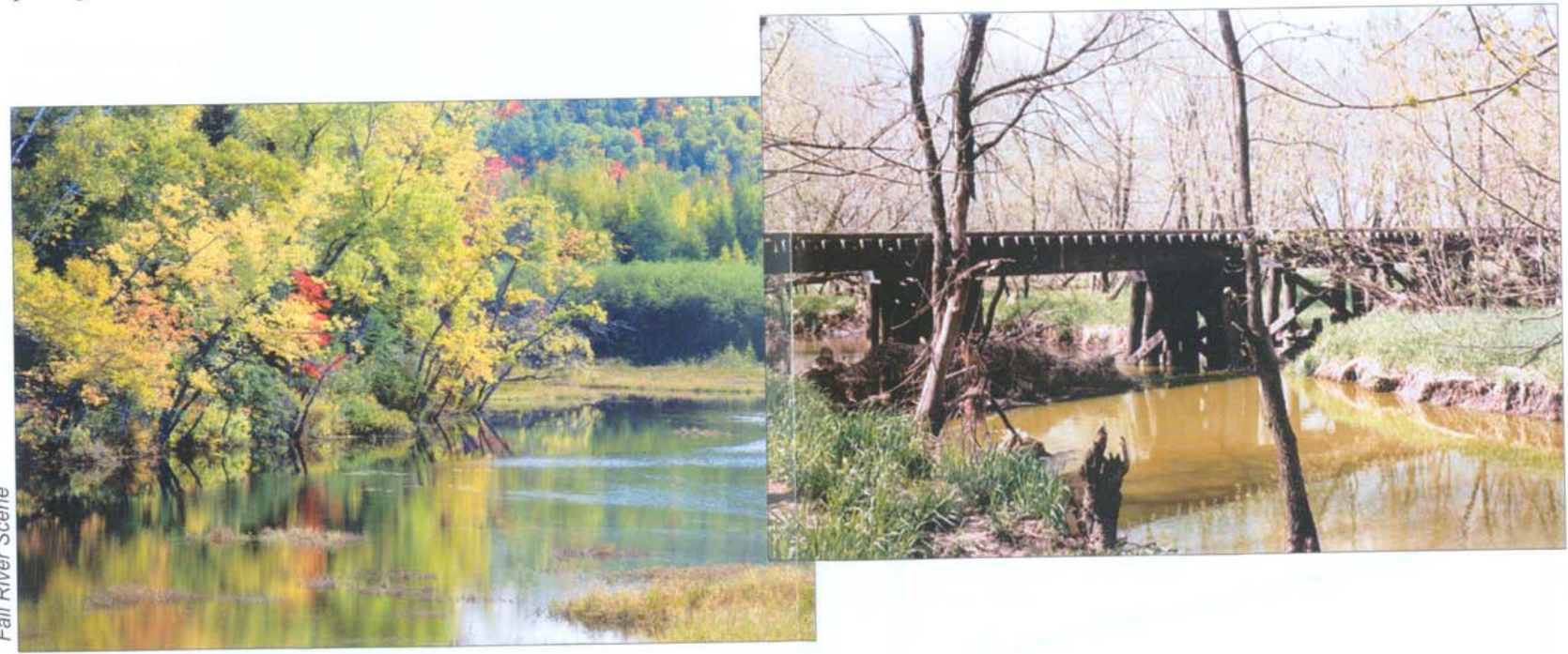
- Proposed U.S. 20, Freeway Option
- Proposed U.S. 20, Expressway Option
- Proposed New Roads, Freeway Option
- Proposed New Roads, Expressway Option
- Proposed Cut-De-Sac & Bridge, Freeway Option
- Proposed Cut-De-Sac & Bridge, Expressway Option
- Urban Growth Boundary
- Unincorporated Community

- Existing Facility
- Priority Park/ Greenway Area
- Critical and Sensitive Area
- Private Open Space or Farm Preservation Area
- Existing Regional Trail
- Proposed Regional Trail
- Existing Secondary Trail
- Proposed Secondary Trail

- Scenic Driving Route
- Illinois Natural Area Inventory Site
- Grand Illinois Trail
- Rest Stop/Wayside
- Canoe/Boat Launch

## WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

Broken down, the word "greenway" denotes two separate images: **Green** suggests natural amenities, such as parks, forest preserves, wetlands, cultural and historic sites in communities; **Way** implies a route, path, or corridor. Together they describe a vision of natural circulation of plants, animals, and people across a landscape that has been otherwise transformed by development. Many of Illinois' greenways border waterways, deserted railroads, swampy wetlands, urban rights-of-way, or rural roads, providing long, linear passageways that join existing open spaces, both public and private.



Fall River Scene

Jane Addams Trail



Scenic Driving Route

## A CRITICAL NEED FOR PLANNING

Today, less than 1% of Illinois' native habitat remains. The forests, savannahs, prairies, and wetlands of Stephenson County are continuing to be degraded or destroyed. Current conservation practices can slow the rate of loss, but can't reverse the process.

The total land area of Stephenson County is 568 square miles or 363,734 acres. Since 1870, more than 90% of the county's land area has been developed. Only about 12% or 43,000 acres can be classified as woodland, upland prairie, lowland marsh or wetland.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has designated four Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites that are listed for their high quality prairie communities or significant geological features. These natural area inventory sites, parks, and nature preserves, it should be noted, include both public and privately owned properties and account for less than 1% of the County's total land area.

Thus, it is easy to see how a Stephenson County and Freeport Area Greenways and Trails Plan will create opportunities to address rural, suburban, and urban sprawl, as well as provide a plan for growth management and preservation. A long-term plan such as the Greenways/Trails Plan will ultimately provide a basis for discussion and resolution of greenway planning issues among government, regional, local, and private organizations.

## A STATE-WIDE PLAN

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, recognizing a need and growing interest in metropolitan greenway and regional trail planning on a nation-wide basis, created the Illinois State Trails Plan in May of 1995.

At the Governor's Workshop on Greenways and Trails (1995), Edward T. Mahon, Director of the Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program, said "... those places in this country that have successfully protected their uniqueness - whether natural or man-made - are those places that have used vision, planning, and management to protect their special characteristics. To work, a community's vision must accommodate change and development, as well as conservation and environmental protection." In July 1997, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar approved \$3.4 Million in grant money to go toward bike/recreation paths, boosting support for Illinois communities interested in greenway and trail planning.

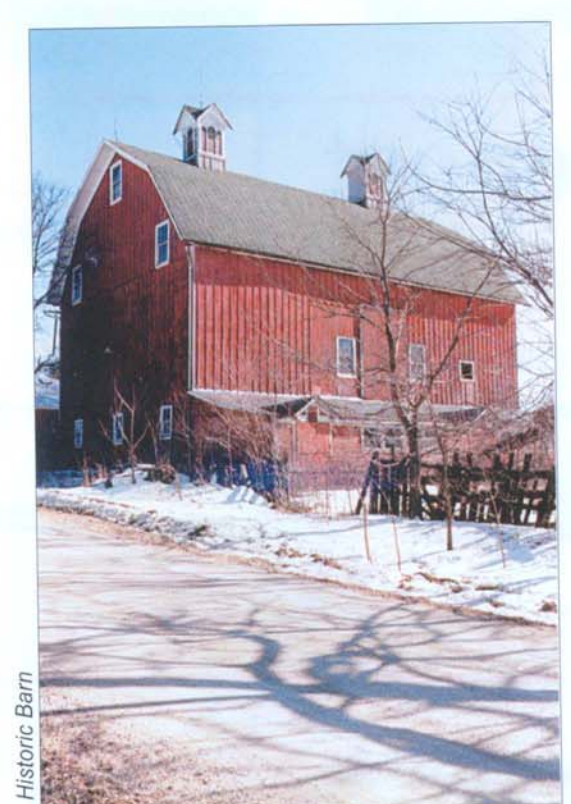
The Grand Illinois Trail Plan, adopted in December of 1997, is a network of existing and proposed trails in northern Illinois linking Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, as well as trails into Wisconsin and southern Illinois. The proposed trail plan provides a 475-mile loop connecting people, places, and communities of northern Illinois.



Scenic Countryside

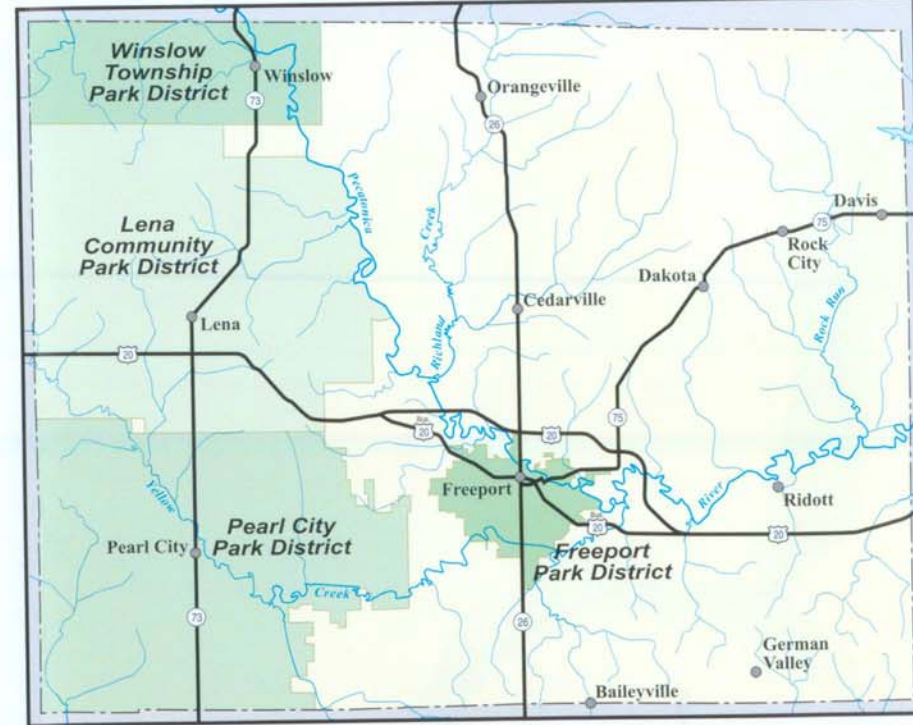
## NATURAL AREAS/HERITAGE SITES

- Alfoly Road Prairie (Dakota Township)
- Artesian Well/Paradise cove (Winslow)
- Blackhawk Monument (Kent)
- Central House (Orangeville)
- Civil War Monument (Freeport)
- Ester Parriott Trust Property (Harlem Township)
- Freeport Prairie (Freeport)
- Freeport Southeast Geological Area (Silver Creek Township)
- Grand Illinois Trail
- Historical Museum & Arboretum (Freeport)
- Indian Gardens Nature Preserve (Freeport)
- Jane Addams Homestead (Cedarville)
- Jane Addams Trail
- Kellogg Pioneer Trail
- Le-Aqua-Na State Park (Lena)
- Lincoln/Douglas Debate Square (Freeport)
- Oakdale Nature Preserve (Freeport)
- Old River School Historic District (Freeport)
- Pecatonica Prairie Path
- Silver Creek & Stephenson Antique Railroad & Museum (Freeport)
- Stagecoach Trail (Lena)
- Tutty Baker's Home Site (Freeport)
- Van Buren Avenue Bridge (Freeport)
- Wetlands Preserve (Freeport)

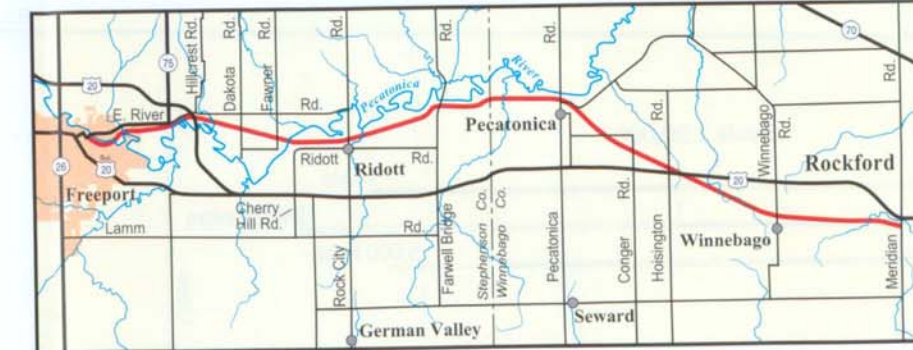


Historic Barn

## Stephenson County Park Districts



## Pecatonica Prairie Path



## Lincoln-Douglas Debate Site



Antique Steam Train

## Grand Illinois Trail



Northwest Illinois University, Department of Geography  
Laboratory for Cartography & Spatial Analysis  
Rockford, IL 61101-2600  
(815) 757-0631





# **GREENWAYS and TRAILS PLAN**

**for  
Stephenson County  
and  
City of Freeport**

**Prepared for  
Partners in Planning and  
Freeport Area Economic  
Development Foundation**

**NOVEMBER, 2000**  
Amended October, 2001

**GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PLAN  
for  
Stephenson County, Illinois  
and  
City of Freeport, Illinois**

November, 2000  
Amended October, 2001

Prepared by:  
Thomas Graceffa and Associates, Inc.  
Planning/Landscape Architecture  
4777 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108

With Grant Funding Provided by:  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Grant No. GOGRT07  
and  
Additional Financial Assistance from:  
Freeport Park District and Partners in Planning

Prepared for:  
Partners in Planning Division  
Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation  
26 S. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032



Partners in Planning Division  
Freeport Area Economic Development Foundation  
26 S. Galena Ave., Freeport, IL 61032  
Tel: (815) 233-1350 Fax: (815) 235-4038  
E-mail: freecondev@aeroinc.net

**Executive Committee** (Governing Board)

Bruce Helm, PIP Chairman, FAEDF  
Jim Gitz, Mayor, City of Freeport  
Boyd Boyer, Chairman, Stephenson County Board

**Stephenson County Representatives**

John Blum  
Corrine Bruce  
Mary Ann Ostendorf

**City of Freeport Representatives**

Michael Clark  
Ronnie Bush  
Bob Trueblood

**FAEDF Foundation Representatives**

Pamela Lanier  
Mark Winter  
Mark Wright

**Staff**

Jim Bruehler, Executive Director, FAEDF  
Gerald A. Estes, AIA, Architect, Director of Planning  
Tess Dahm, Administrative Assistant



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## INTRODUCTION

Stephenson County and the City of Freeport have a long standing history in planning for open space, recreation and trails. More recently, the Lena Park District, Pearl City Park District and the Winslow Township Park District have been established to serve their respective communities. Likewise, the Villages of Cedarville, Orangeville, Davis, Dakota, Rock City, Ridott, and German Valley have various village sponsored park, open space and recreation facilities.

Certain local non-governmental groups have played and continue to play a strong role in influencing community awareness to our natural environment and recreational opportunities. For example, the Northwest Illinois Trails Association and the Northwest Illinois Snowmobile Alliance have spearheaded local trail planning efforts. Similarly, the Jane Addamsland Park Foundation, the Northwest Illinois Audubon Society, the Stephenson County Conservation Task Force, and the Natural Land Institute have greatly advanced the preservation of environmentally important tracts of land in the County and the greater community.

Finally, several other governmental groups have provided invaluable technical and administrative skills to keep the process on track. In addition to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the list includes the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Stephenson County Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Illinois Department of Transportation-District 2, and the State-sponsored Sugar-Pecatonica Ecosystem Partnership.

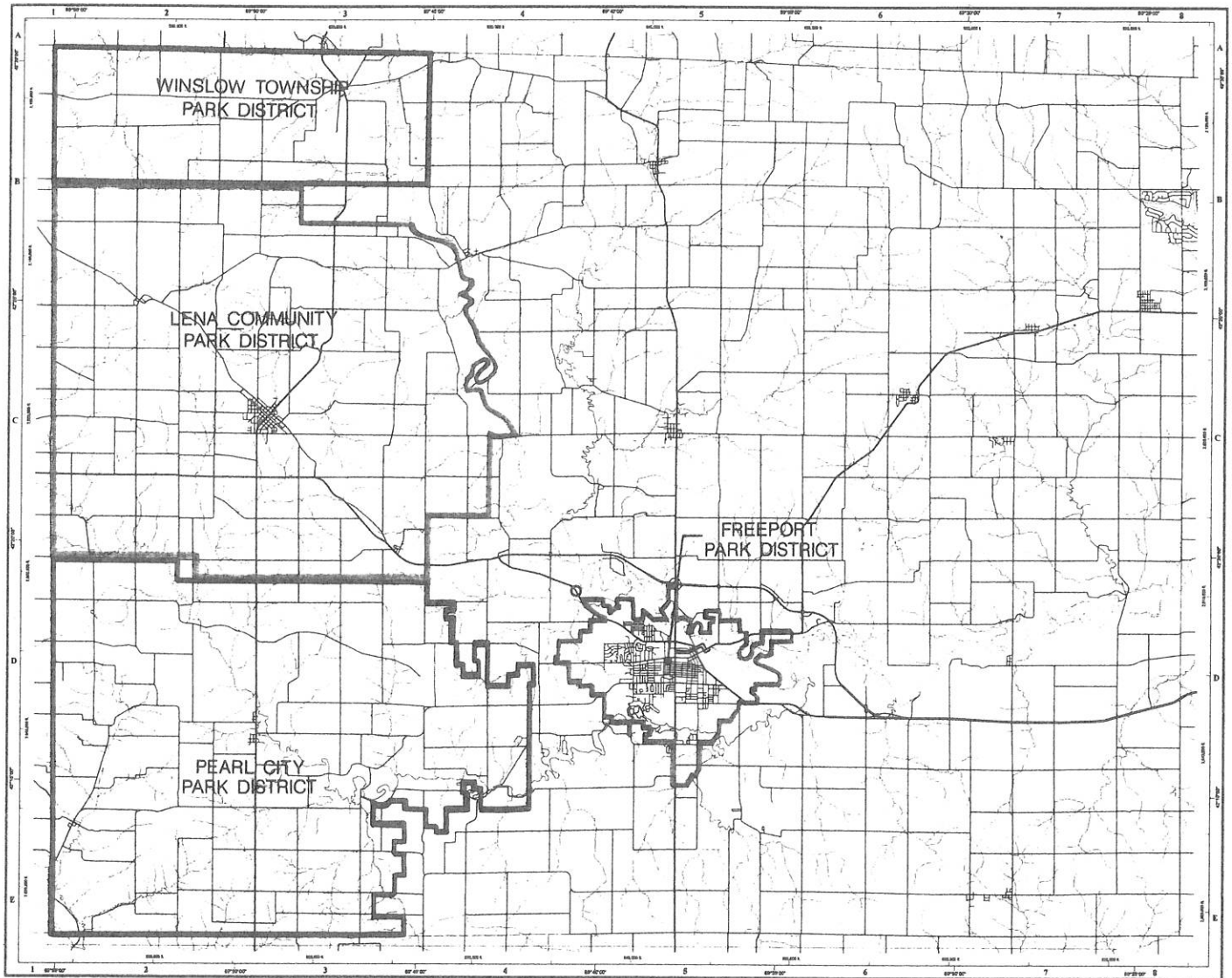
Altogether, the combined effort of each of these parties provides a strong foundation for a comprehensive regional plan for on-going greenway and trail planning. This planning document is intended to establish that framework for continued public policy making. The first step will be to take the plan to public hearings in both Stephenson County and the City of Freeport. Thereafter, the intention is to have the plan adopted as an amendment to the comprehensive plans of both of these jurisdictions. The recently completed Future Land Use Plan for Stephenson County and the City of Freeport anticipates that action.

## WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

Broken down, the word "greenway" denotes two separate images: **Green** suggests natural amenities, such as parks, forest preserves, wetlands, cultural and historic sites in communities; **Way** implies a route, path, or corridor. Together they describe a vision of natural circulation of plants, animals, and people across a landscape that has been otherwise transformed by development. Many of Illinois' greenways border waterways, deserted railroads, swampy wetlands, urban rights-of-way, or rural roads, providing long, linear passageways that join existing open spaces, both public and private.



## STEPHENSON COUNTY PARK DISTRICTS



Source: Illinois Department of Revenue, Feb., 2000



## **A VISION**

Greenways are not a product of the environmental revolution of the 60's, 70's, and 80's; rather, the vision of today's greenways began in 1865 when the noted land planners Frederick Law Olmstead and Calvert Vaux planned several "parkways" or "shaded pleasure drives" in New York City. Possibly the best and most expansive greenway to date is the Appalachian Trail, which was proposed by Benton MacKaye in 1921.

A report by the President's Commission on Americans Outdoors (1987), "Americans Outdoors: the Legacy, the Challenge" indicated a growing interest in linear forms of recreation, and a desire to protect our natural heritage. The report responded by recommending a nation-wide system of greenways.

At the Governor's Workshop on Greenways and Trails (1995), Edward T. Mahon, Director of the Conservation Fund's American Greenways Program, said ". . . those places in this country that have successfully protected their uniqueness - whether natural or man-made - are those places that have used vision, planning, and management to protect their special characteristics. To work, a community's vision must accommodate change and development, as well as conservation and environmental protection." In July 1997, Illinois Governor Jim Edgar approved \$3.4 Million in grant money to go toward bike/recreation paths, boosting support for Illinois communities interested in greenway and trail planning.

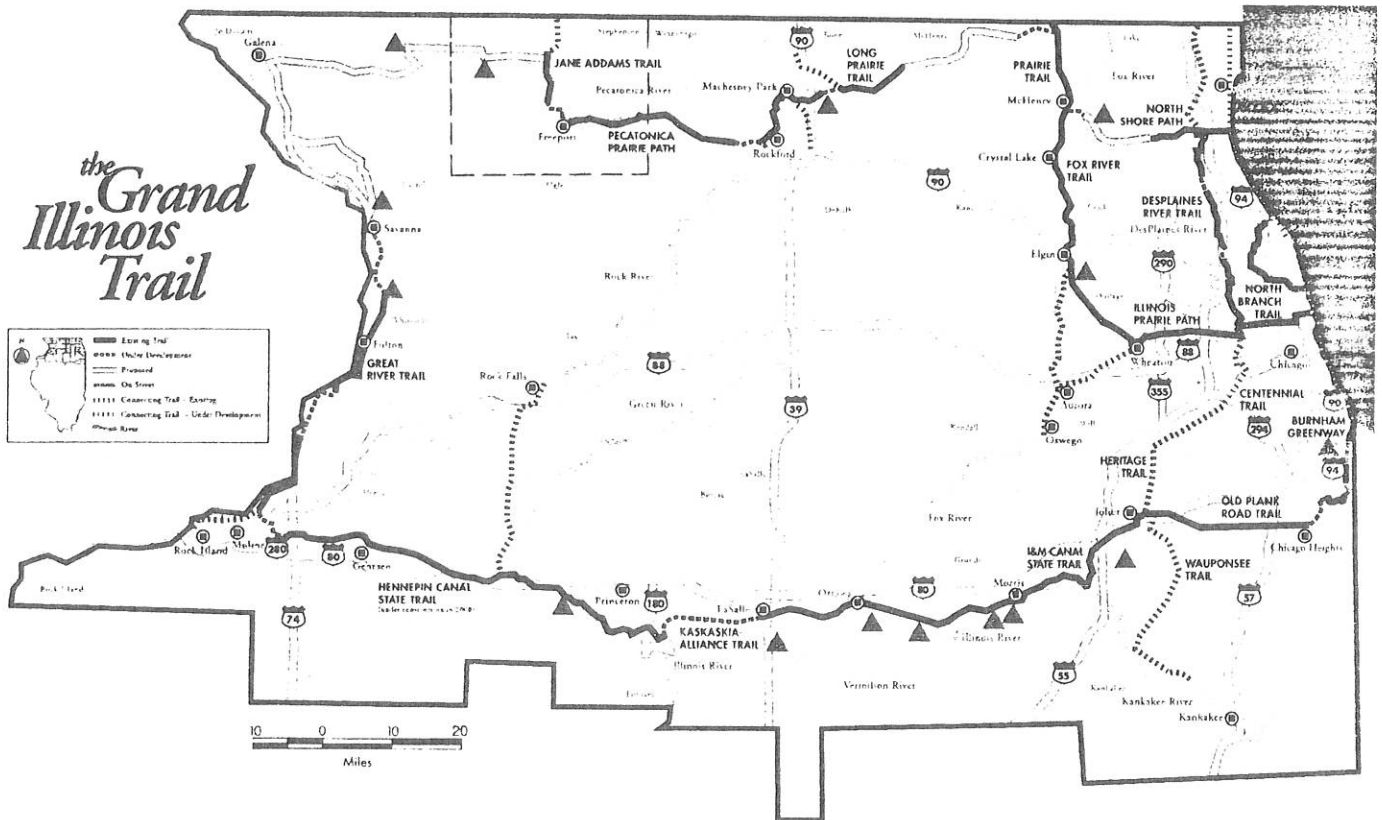
## **A STATE-WIDE PLAN**

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, recognizing a need and growing interest in metropolitan greenway and regional trail planning on a nation-wide basis, created the Illinois State Trails Plan in May of 1995. The goal of the plan was to facilitate active, self-sustaining trails and greenway programs in Illinois' metropolitan and suburban areas. The role of the Department of Natural Resources is to assist with the implementation of local and regional trails and greenway plans through grant programs and technical assistance; however, local and regional planning issues are to be handled by each respective community.

The Grand Illinois Trail Plan, adopted in December of 1997, is a network of existing and proposed trails in northern Illinois linking Lake Michigan to the Mississippi, as well as trails into Wisconsin and southern Illinois. The proposed trail plan provides a 475-mile loop connecting people, places, and communities of northern Illinois.



# THE GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL



Source: Illinois Department of Natural Resources, 2000



## REVIEW OF OTHER GREENWAY PLANS

In researching for the preparation of this report, several other recently adopted Greenway and Trail Plans were reviewed. Each was prepared with similar grant assistance from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Only one, that for Boone and Winnebago Counties, adjoins our study area. We have endeavored to make the plan for Stephenson County seamless across the common boundary line with Winnebago County. Likewise, the Stephenson County plan establishes a regional structure for possible future plans for the neighboring counties to the south and west, and even to the north in the State of Wisconsin.

The Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan was published by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Open Lands Project in September of 1992, with an update in July of 1994. The Greenways Plan was prepared as a comprehensive plan to aid in guiding development in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will Counties.

The Greenways of the Illinois Quad Cities, developed by the Illinois Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenway Coalition in May of 1997, was developed to help to plan, prioritize, develop, and/or preserve existing greenways throughout the area. The plan was an interesting cooperative as it incorporated ideas of the Bi-state Regional Commission, including the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa.

The Natural Land Institute, along with many other planning agencies, published the Boone and Winnebago Regional Greenway Plan in December of 1997. The mission of the plan was to create a green infrastructure while preserving natural areas and natural diversity through regional planning in Boone and Winnebago Counties.

## THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHARACTERISTICS OF GREENWAYS

### Greenways...

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- Act as **filter zones** to stop sediments and pollutants that degrade water quality.
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- Allow for **access** to important archeological and historic sites. For example, Native American and pioneer trails, abandoned rail lines, or historic trading and commercial routes.
- Serve as **outdoor classrooms** for education in the field of natural and environmental sciences and management.
- Offer **non-discriminatory access** to open space opportunities; especially for the elderly, disabled, and socially disadvantaged.
- Provide **low cost and convenient** recreation opportunities to walk, run, bicycle, cross country ski, horseback ride, canoe, fish as well as snowmobiling and off-road ATV touring.
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To insure the continued development of a regional greenways plan, local governments are encouraged to add the prioritized greenways in their comprehensive plans, park and recreation plans, and land use plans. To help preserve these areas from incompatible development, utilities and private property owners are encouraged to incorporate greenway planning into their future plans for development and management.



Greenways/trail implementation and construction will include site specific design criteria, and be current with AASHTO, MUTCO, and IDOT Standards.

Through education and decisions on preservation, and management such as zoned conservation districts, conservation easements, zoned greenway overlay districts, land trusts, and covenants, the implementation of a greenways plan will be possible. The strength of any greenways movement, and the benefit of the concept, is within the diversity of its form and function. Any greenway/trail may have many and varied values and uses to those who use it or live nearby. The greenway concept is flexible enough to adapt to many combinations of local uses, needs, values, and conditions. The benefit of this plan includes increased recreation opportunities, tourism, increased values, preserve natural areas, improve water quality and wildlife habitat, as well as a better quality of life.

### **A CRITICAL NEED FOR PLANNING**

Today, less than 1% of Illinois' native habitat remains. The forests, savannahs, prairies, and wetlands of Stephenson County are continuing to be degraded or destroyed. Current conservation practices can slow the rate of loss, but can't reverse the process.

The total land area of Stephenson County is 568 square miles or 363,734 acres. Since 1870, more than 90% of the county's land area has been developed. Agricultural use accounts for about 80%, followed by 10% for urban development and highways, and a small fraction for artificial lakes and ponds and tree plantations. Only about 9% or 32,500 acres can be classified as upland prairie and lowland marsh or wetland. Existing park, recreation, and nature preserves, such as Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park and the Freeport Park District properties only occupy a total of about 2,000 acres.

Woodland areas exist in approximately 3% of the county (11,000 acres) of which most is mixed upland hardwoods that thrive on west- to south-facing slopes and uplands. To see one thriving today in its natural state, one must visit a nature preserve such as Oakdale Nature Preserve, south of Freeport. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has designated four Illinois Natural Areas Inventory sites that are listed for their high quality prairie communities or significant geological features. These natural area inventory sites, parks, and nature preserves, it should be noted, include both public and privately owned properties and account for less than 1% of the County's total land area.

Thus, it is easy to see how a Stephenson County and Freeport Area Greenways and Trails Plan will create opportunities to address rural, suburban, and urban sprawl, as well as provide a plan for growth management and preservation. A long-term plan such as the Greenways/Trails Plan will ultimately provide a basis for discussion and resolution of greenway planning issues among government, regional, local, and private organizations.



## **UNIQUE QUALITIES OF STEPHENSON COUNTY AND FREEPORT AREA**

Known to naturalists as the "Rock River Hill Country", the Stephenson County and Freeport area has diverse and unique geological, biological, and riparian communities. Stephenson County once was covered by a warm, shallow tropical sea approximately 450 million years ago where the 400-foot-deep Pecatonica bedrock valley was deposited. This bedrock is now a primary source of crushed rock for the mining and quarry industry in northern Illinois. Less than a 1,000 years ago, glaciers and melt water filled the Pecatonica River and Yellow Creek valleys, creating Lake Silveria. This gigantic lake stood long enough to deposit 15' of glacial sediment and debris that the Pecatonica River, Yellow Creek, and their tributaries have carved through, creating the landscape of Stephenson County.

Recent studies of the rivers and creeks of Stephenson County have shown that they have excellent water quality conditions and support a moderately diverse aquatic community including several endangered species. The region also supports some of the most extensive riparian, or river side, wetlands and marshes left in Illinois.

Stephenson County lies at the cross-roads of continental climate zones, which allows it to support several of the best and last remaining dry Dolomite prairies in northern Illinois. Those prairies offer an exceptionally rich array of prairie wild flowers and forbs, including over 30 endangered and threatened species. Only one Illinois county has more grassland than Stephenson County, which is also the State's leader in the production of forage crops.

## **STEPHENSON COUNTY AND FREEPORT AREA GREENWAYS AND TRAILS PLAN**

The Greenways and Trails Plan is an important element for planning future growth in Stephenson County, the City of Freeport and northern Illinois. The plan can offer a cost effective approach to natural resource management and recreational planning and aid in future development. Creating a greenway could cost millions of dollars or it could require no more than convincing land owners to protect thin bands of healthy vegetation. Thus, the importance of cooperation between the private sector, local, regional, state, and federal organizations cannot be understated and will benefit planning and future development of greenways in Stephenson County.

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To that end, the **Greenways and Trails Plan** will...

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- **Show where** buffers can be created to preserve land for the propagation of plants and animals when they are threatened by unplanned development or sprawl;
- **Provide** suitable locations for convenient public trails and places for exercise and the leisurely enjoyment of the outdoors;
- **Establish** regional open space and natural area preservation priorities and a basis for pursuing and forming a Forest Preserve or Conservation District that serves the whole community; and
- **Link** Stephenson County and the Freeport Area to a larger regional greenway and trail network.

The fold-out maps included in the appendix illustrate the elements of the plan. One side shows the plan for the whole of Stephenson County. The other side depicts details of the plan in and around the Greater Freeport area. Also, parts of this report are summarized and a number of area photographs are included.

## **PRIORITY GREENWAY PROJECTS**

Prioritizing significant Projects for development will provide a strong foundation for progressive and long-term greenway and trail planning.

A number of specific greenway, open space, and trail projects have been identified for the purpose of instigating an urgency to protect and preserve. They are grouped to reflect their priority of importance as elements of the plan. Since the plan is a flexible and dynamic document, their ranking may vary depending on available funding or development opportunities. However, this listing should be considered only our best recommendation at this time. As the community continues to work with the plan, new projects should be added and the plan should be periodically updated and amended.

### 1st Priority (Under Development or Pending)

Oakdale Nature Preserve - Land Acquisition  
Jane Addams Trail, Section A & B  
Tutty's Crossing, Burgess Site, Trailhead & Boat Launch  
Pecatonica Prairie Path  
Orangeville/Jane Addams Trail Trailhead  
Taylor Park/Pecatonica Floodplain Mitigation Plan



Forest Preserve/Conservation District Feasibility Study  
Grand Illinois Trail (West from Jane Addams Trail to Galena)  
NW Illinois Audubon Pecatonica Bend Preserve  
Van Buren Avenue Bridge Reconstruction

2nd Priority (Planned - Short Term)

Yellow Creek/Krape Park/Fox Hollow Trail  
Liberty Trail/Highland Community College Trail Expansion  
Le-Walk-A-Na Trail  
Old River School Historic Neighborhood/Tutty's Home Site Park  
Galena Ave./Stephenson St./Adams Ave. Landscape Enhancement  
U.S. 20/IDOT Prairie Shoulder Enhancement  
Greenway Preservation Zoning Standards

3rd Priority (Proposed - Long Term)

Crane Grove Creek Trail  
Yellow Creek Trail (Krape Park to Crane Grove Creek Trail)  
Freeport Central Green (CBD)  
Freeport Railroad Park (CBD)  
Secondary On-Street Trails in Freeport  
Kellogg Pioneer Trail Historic Research Study

4th Priority (Conceptual)

East & West Outer Loop Trails in Freeport  
Yellow Creek Trail (Krape Park to Pearl City & Stockton)  
Northeast Trail (Tutty's Crossing to Davis)  
Southwest Trail (Pearl City to Loran & Mt. Carroll)  
Yellow Creek & Pecatonica River Canoe & Boat Launches  
Winslow/Pecatonica River Trail  
Rural Secondary Trail Network  
Albertus Airport Secondary Trail



## **APPENDIX A      NATURAL AREAS/HERITAGE SITES**

Alfolkey Road Prairie Dakota/Wirth Prairie (*Dakota Township*)  
Artesian Well/Paradise cove (*Winslow*)  
Blackhawk Monument (*Kent*)  
Central House (*Orangeville*)  
Civil War Monument (*Freeport*)  
Ester Parriott Trust Property (*Harlem Township*)  
Freeport Prairie (*Freeport*)  
Freeport Southeast Geological Area (*Silver Creek Township*)<sup>\*</sup>  
Grand Illinois Trail  
Historical Museum & Arboretum (*Freeport*)  
Indian Gardens Nature Preserve (*Freeport*)  
Jane Addams Homestead (*Cedarville*)  
Jane Addams Trail  
Kellogs Pioneer Trail  
Le-Aqua-Na State Park (*Lena*)  
Lincoln/Douglas Debate Square (*Freeport*)  
Oakdale Nature Preserve (*Freeport*)  
Old River School Historic District (*Freeport*)  
Pecatonica Prairie Path  
Silver Creek & Stephenson Antique Railroad & Museum (*Freeport*)  
Stagecoach Trail (*Lena*)  
Tutty Baker's Home Site (*Freeport*)  
Van Buren Avenue Bridge (*Freeport*)  
Wetlands Preserve (*Freeport*)



## **APPENDIX B      COUNTY AND COMMUNITY PLANS AND PROJECTS**

Blackhawk War Monument, 1886  
Lincoln/Douglas Debate Site, 1903  
Freeport Park District, 1911  
Artesian Well, Winslow, 1927  
Stephenson County/Freeport Land Use and Zoning Plan, 1953  
Lena Park District, 1955  
Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park, 1958  
Freeport Land Use Plan Update, 1966  
Stephenson County Comprehensive Plan, 1970  
Jane Addamsland Park Foundation, est. 1970  
Pearl City Park District, 1970  
Winslow Township Park District, 1970  
Stephenson County Soil Survey, 1976  
Freeport Flood Insurance Study, 1976  
Ester Parriott Trust Property, 1977  
Stephenson County Flood Insurance Study, 1982  
Freeport Comprehensive Plan, 1982  
Pecatonica Prairie Path Interim Commission, 1994  
Stephenson County and Freeport Land Use Plan Update, 1995  
US Army Corps of Engineers, Updated Pecatonica River Flood Mapping, 1995  
Partners in Planning Division of Freeport Economic Development Foundation, est. 1996  
Freeport Park District Preliminary Trails Plan, 1998  
Jane Addams Trail Commission, 1999  
Le-Walk-A-Na Trail Plan, 1999  
Stephenson County & City of Freeport Future Land Use Plan, Public Hearing Draft, 1999  
Freeport Downtown Development Foundation Plan Draft, 2000  
Stephenson County Future Land Use Plan, adopted 2000  
Freeport Future Land Use Plan, pending 2000



## APPENDIX C      PRIMARY SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Boone and Winnebago Regional Greenways Plan*, developed by the Natural Land Institute

*Downtown Freeport Master Plan, Draft*, prepared by Teng & Associates, 2000

*Freeport/Stephenson County Future Land Use Plan Public Hearing*, published 1999

*Grand Illinois Trail Plan*, dated December, 1997

*Greenways: A Guide to Planning, Design, and Development*, by Charles A. Flink and Robert M. Searns

*Greenways of the Illinois Quad Cities Plan*, developed by the Illinois Quad Cities Metropolitan Area Greenway Coalition

*Illinois State Trails Plan*, dated May, 1995

*McLean County Regional Greenway Plan*, prepared by McLean County Regional Planning Commission, 1977

*Northern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan*, developed by the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

*Stephenson County Overall Economic Development Program, 1990*, prepared by Stephenson County OEDP Committee and Ellen Burgeson

*The Sugar-Pecatonica Rivers Basin: An Inventory of the Region's Resources*, published by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

*Trails for the 21st Century*, by Karen-Lee Ryan

*Van Buren Avenue Bridge, Preliminary Preservation Report*, prepared by Partners in Planning, 2000

*Northeastern Illinois Regional Water Trails Plan*, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, Open Lands Project, and Illinois Paddling Council

*Prairie Highway*, Illinois Department of Transportation

*Railroads of Southern and Southwestern Wisconsin: Development to Decline*, by Daniel J. Lantz, 1985