

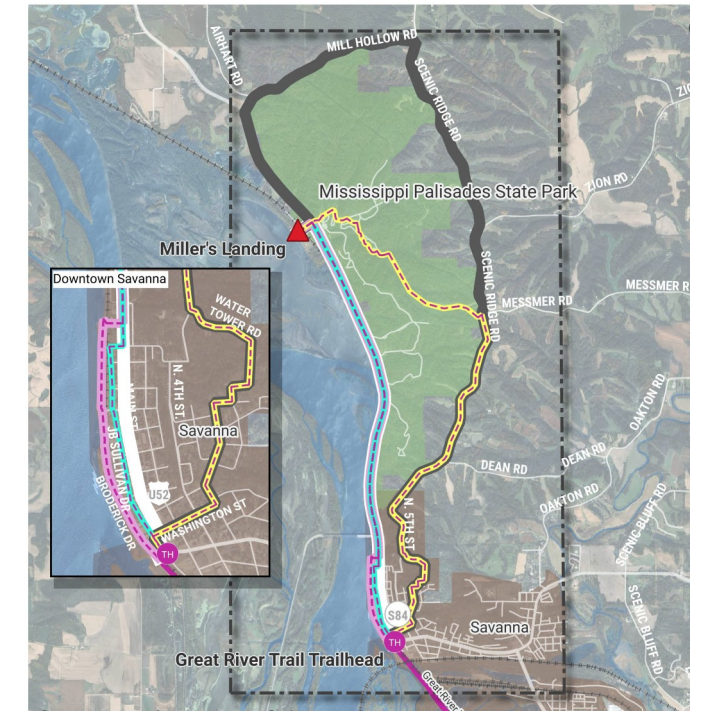
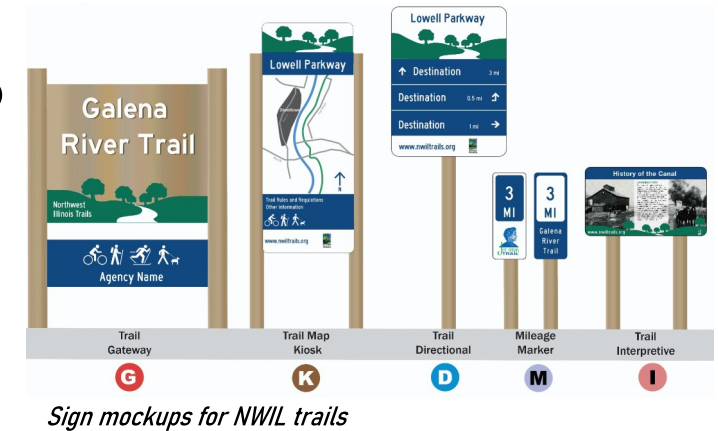
BHRC Annual Report

BHRC BOD | 309 1st Ave, Rock Falls | August 3, 2026 @ 11 am



Recent/ongoing Projects

- Savanna to Miller's Landing/Mississippi Palisades State Park planning and environmental linkages (PEL) study
 - Status: complete
 - Next steps: further alternatives review, environmental review, preliminary engineering (funding needed)
- Great River Trail Master Plan
 - Status: ongoing
- Regional wayfinding sign guide update/new sign plans
 - Status: ongoing



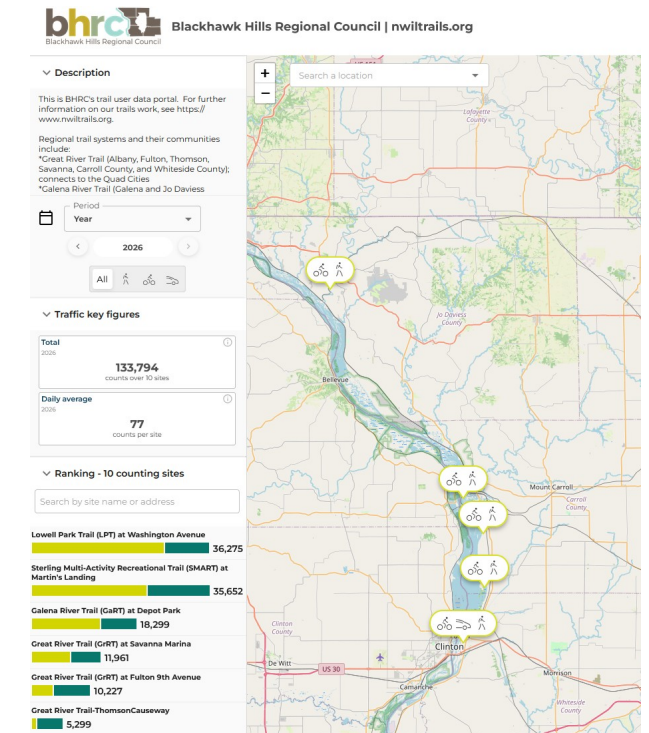
Recent/ongoing Projects

CONT'D

- Trail user counter deployment
 - Status: complete
- Community walkability studies
 - Status: ongoing
- Trail user intercept surveys
 - Status: ongoing
- Trail imaging
 - Status: ongoing
- Trail Towns guide
 - Status: ongoing



Trail imaging in progress



NWIL Eco-Counter data portal

Recent/ongoing Projects

CONT'D



Savanna trailhead conceptual improvements

Recent/ongoing Projects

CONT'D

- Steward and Caron Roads Industrial Corridor Strategic Plan
 - Status: complete pending final review
- Rochelle Energy Action Plan
 - Status: ongoing
- Housing Design Competition/Exhibition (now Housing Development Initiative)
 - Status: competition complete, exhibition ongoing; development ongoing
- Community Funding Pilot Programs
 - Status: call for projects complete; award process ongoing
- Capital Improvement Planning
 - Status: ongoing
- Water Resources Planning
 - Status: current round complete

5 Long-Term Resilience and Sustainability

5.1 Install 5MW Solar and Battery Storage Plant

RMU should install a community renewable energy system with battery energy storage system to maximize the use of renewable energy and offset spot purchases of energy. Analysis of renewable options indicated east and west oriented solar with battery storage reduced energy and demand costs the most.

EnergySense assessed the impact of pairing a 5MW wind farm or 5MW solar array in different orientations with a 5MW, 30 MWh battery storage system to evaluate impacts on overall utility costs.

RMU has a very flat energy demand profile due to the high percentage of industrial loads, which tend to be flatter than commercial and residential loads. Solar or wind alone would introduce large dips and rises in demand that can result in unstable local utility service and high operating costs for RMU. This would increase overall utility costs. Adding a battery storage system has multiple benefits:

1. Shift generation to periods of higher demand to limit peak demand charges and spot purchases
2. Match generation more closely to flat demand profile, stabilizing the local grid
3. Use battery to supply up to 6 hours of 5MW back-up service in the event of an outage or power shortage
4. Employ battery in existing demand response program, stacking large demand management rebates and passing those savings along to customers

	Implementation years:	2030-2040
	Projected annual energy savings:	<5 MW Peak 7,300 MWh
	Projected annual GHG reductions:	5,300 MT-CO ₂
	Economics:	\$17,000,000 Investment ~43 yr Payback
Priority Steps		
Priority 1: Identify site for renewable and battery system		
Priority 2: Determine purpose for battery storage system		
Priority 3: Identify management system to optimize for desired purpose		
Priority 4: Install renewable+battery storage system as an RMU asset or PPA contract		

Excerpt from Rochelle Energy Action Plan

Recent/ongoing Projects

CONT'D

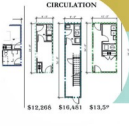
- Technical assistance/grant-writing support
 - AARP Community Challenge Grant* (BHRC)
 - Community Canopy Tree Planting Grants* (Morrison)
 - Community Development Block Grant (Harmon)
 - Digital Equity Capacity Grant (United Way of Northwest Illinois)
 - Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant* (Rochelle)
 - Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development Grant* (Coloma Township Park District)
 - Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant* (Stephenson County)
 - Rural and Tribal Assistance Pilot Program Grant* (Stephenson County)
 - Safe Routes to School Grant* (Dakota)
 - Safe Streets for All Grant (Stephenson County)
 - Unsewered Communities Grant* (Harmon)
 - Lee-Ogle Enterprise Zone administration (Lee and Ogle counties)
 - Various grant research and administration projects
 - Various letters of support

* = awarded

SUBMITTED DESIGNS
FROM THE NWIL HOUSING DESIGN COMPETITION

JUDGING PANEL WINNERS

PUBLIC VOTE WINNER

	Blackhawk Housing Initiative Name: Quinn Follett Design location(s): Sterling	
	Effortless Living Homes for Generations Name: Access Green Design Group Design location(s): Freeport	
	Expand-It Mod Homes Name: Studio GWA Design location(s): Freeport	
	Home³ Name: Mackenzie Knautz Design location(s): Galena	
	Within Reach Name: Fifth Star Architecture and Design Design location(s): Sterling	
	Pocket of Love Name: Gertrude Heimerdinger Design location(s): Pearl City	

Northwest Illinois Housing Design Exhibit flyer

Recent/ongoing Projects

CONT'D

- Administrative
 - Finance manager
 - Continuing to prepare BHRC books to audit current/past fiscal years
 - Investment policy
- Office
 - Alley/pass-through mural
 - ADA parking stall and new paving
 - EV charger and bicycle rack
 - Electrification ongoing (water heater, HVAC)

Reviews



Sort



Marshall Doane

Local Guide · 125 reviews · 44 photos



★★★★★ 9 months ago

An asset to the downtown, they have done a lot of work in the community and even more fixing up their building and the land around it. In addition to a vibrant and colorful mural overlooking their back landscaping, they even put in an electric car recharging station, which I think is the first in the city!

Nice job! Things like this don't go unnoticed!



Review from Google Maps, Photo by Alex T. Paschal

New projects/anticipated

- Housing implementation, including infill parcel map
- Comprehensive planning
- Hazard mitigation planning
- Additional cellular trail user counter deployments
- www.nwiltrails.org refresh
- Continued grant research/writing/administration support

Contact

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