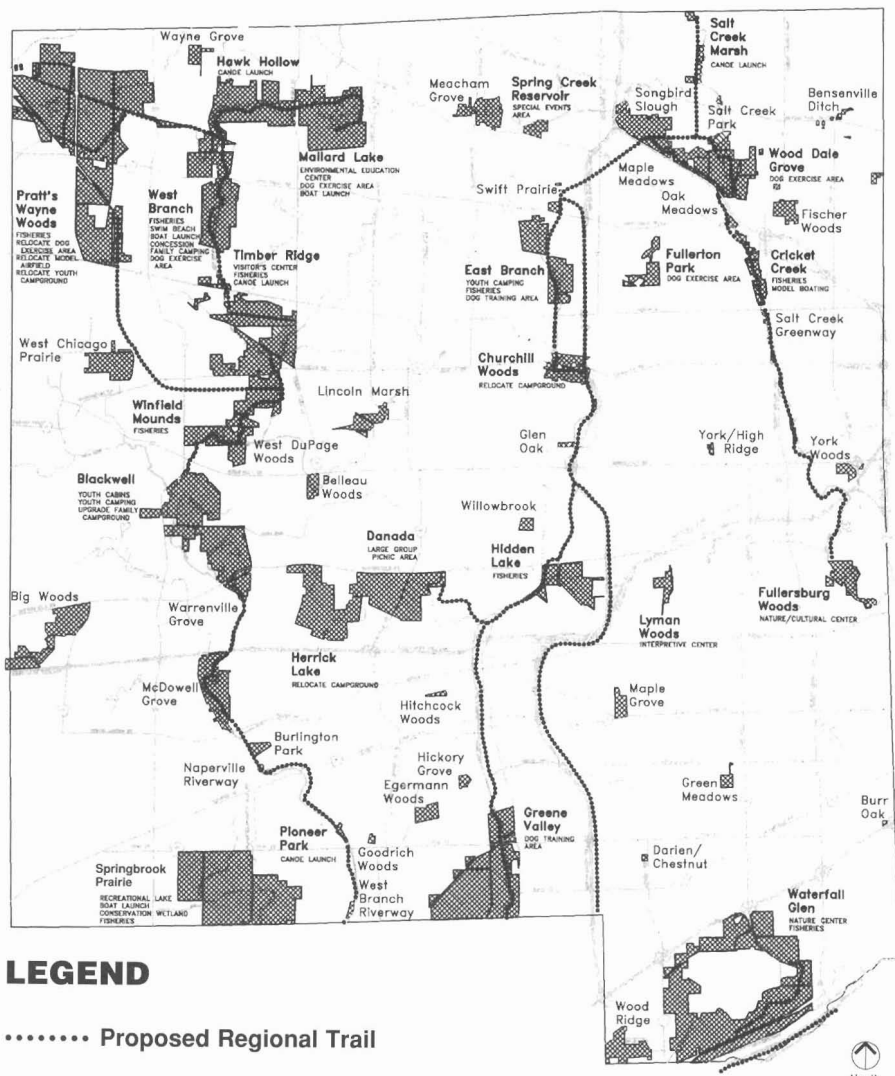


Regional Trails



F O R E S T P R E S E R V E D I S T R I C T O F D U P A G E C O U N T Y



M A S T E R P L A N
S U M M A R Y

The DuPage County Regional Planning Commission (DCRPC) is involved in countywide planning and has several projects and activities that can potentially impact the District. One of these activities is planning for regional trails. In 1983, the DCRPC completed a regional bikeway plan and will be updating this plan during 1994. Through this effort, the county and the District, along with several municipal, county, regional, state, and special district organizations, will be working together to develop an integrated system of trails throughout the county.

In 1992, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC) and Openlands Project prepared the Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan. A 'greenway' is defined as a corridor of open land that links existing pieces of open space. Greenways connect parks, forest preserves, wetlands, historical and cultural sites, and communities and often follow waterways, wetlands, and abandoned rail lines, such as the Illinois Prairie Path.

The primary greenways recommended in DuPage County are the Centennial Trail, Illinois Prairie Path, Salt Creek, and the East and West Branches of the DuPage River. All of these systems have already been identified by the Forest Preserve District and DuPage County as significant greenway opportunities, and incorporate the existing preserves listed below:

Centennial Trail: Waterfall Glen and Wood Ridge.

Illinois Prairie Path: Salt Creek Greenway, Warrenville Grove, Big Woods, Lincoln Marsh, Timber Ridge, West Chicago Prairie, and Pratt's Wayne Woods.

Salt Creek: Salt Creek Marsh, Salt Creek Park, Maple Meadows, Oak Meadows, Wood Dale Grove, Cricket Creek, Salt Creek Greenway, and Fullersburg Woods.

East Branch of the DuPage River: East Branch, Churchill Woods, Glen Oak, Hidden Lake, and Greene Valley.

West Branch of the DuPage River: Mallard Lake, Hawk Hollow, West Branch, Timber Ridge, Winfield Mounds, West DuPage Woods, Blackwell, Warrenville Grove, McDowell, Burlington Park, Naperville Riverway, Pioneer Park, and West Branch Riverway.



Public access to the regional greenways through a variety of trail systems is an important component of the system. For example, regional trails in the Hidden Lake, Danada, and Herrick Lake Forest Preserves will be linked through the Morton Arboretum to allow access to the East Branch River greenway from the West Branch River greenway.



Other greenways and trails outlined in the plan include:

- Songbird Slough to Wood Dale Grove.
- Churchill Woods to Hidden Lake.
- Herrick Lake/Danada to Hidden Lake.
- Herrick Lake to Blackwell.
- McDowell Grove to Blackwell and Prairie Path.
- McDowell Grove to Naperville parks.
- West DuPage Woods/Winfield Mounds to Blackwell and Prairie Path.
- Klein Creek to Timber Ridge.

Finally, the NIPC Regional Greenways Plan offers several implementation recommendations directed at local and county governments, regional agencies and organizations, and other entities. The District will be one of the lead agencies assisting in the implementation of this plan.