



Meeting Notice

The Illinois Greenways and Trails Council will meet on **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. In person and virtually via the web platform WebEx, from 10:30am to 12:30 pm. In person attendees will gather in the Rock River Room on the 2nd floor of the DNR headquarters.

PLEASE NOTE: We will meet via WebEx, instructions are at the end of the agenda. Please plan to join 5-10 minutes before the scheduled meeting time to make sure you don't have any technical difficulties. Where there are council members listed on the agenda, they are asked to make sure meeting protocol is followed when and if decisions are made.

The council is designated by the Recreational Trails of Illinois Act and adheres to the Open Meetings Act.

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=286&ChapterID=5>
<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=84>

The **agenda** will be as follows:

- Introductions
- DNR Grants Report
- RTP Grants Report
- Council Member Terms – New nominations
- Recommended Projects
- Member Organizations Report
- Next meeting date
- Public Comment
- Adjourn

Members of the public are welcome to participate. Please contact amy.madigan@illinois.gov for more information.

Ways to Join the meeting:

From the meeting link

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m51425ea380e644afd7b5f587da6da12f>

By meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2868 476 4333

Meeting password: egVnPYrW322

From a mobile device (attendees only)

+1-312-535-8110,,28684764333##

United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002,,28684764333##

By phone

+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

Global call-in numbers

From a video system or application

Dial 28684764333@illinois.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

During the meeting council members will be able to ask questions either through the webcam/phone or via the chat function. Once in the virtual meeting, the chat function is represented at the bottom on the user screen and looks like a “thought bubble.” When you click it, it will open a box to the right where you can write questions and comments.

If you are a member of the general public in attendance, you will be muted until the Public Comment section of the agenda; you are welcome to add questions and comments via chat throughout the meeting. Once we get to the Public Comment section we will unmute all participants to see if there are any additional questions that haven’t arrived by chat.



Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

www.dnr.illinois.gov

Greenways & Trails Council

April 15, 2026

Meeting Summary

(Edited for brevity and clarity.)

Attendance

Bill Brown, IASC
Bryan Schmid, BiState Regional Commission
Daniel Johnson, IDNR
Darien Siddall, FHWA
Dave Simmons, Ride Illinois
Patrick Davis, IDNR
Ders Anderson, Openlands
Erick Huck, IDNR
Lauren Niepert, FHWA
Letsky, Stephen M., IDOT
Loren Easter, IL-IMBA
Amy Madigan, IDNR
Mark Hazzard, IASC
Greg Mihalich, IL Office of Tourism
Andrew C. Reagan, IDNR
Robert Bryant, IFOR
Shannan Karrick, Sangamon County
Tony Troyer- HCI
Hunter John Harris, ABATE/OHV Advisory
Board
Jay Hall, AMA/OHV Advisory Board

2

00:00:20.00 --> 00:00:33.716

All good times. There's Tony. All right, I'm gonna see who all we got here. You got another one joining now. Okay.

Let's see.

4 Tony Troyer -
00:00:36.118 --> 00:00:38.680
So how are you doing with crash?

5 Amy Madigan
00:00:38.680 --> 00:00:57.750
Alright, you know, I'm working, I'm working on it. Ok, Greg Mihalich. All right, I'm going to let's go ahead maybe well let's a couple more minutes, it's just now 1029. Look at all you good students here on time. I'm so proud of you all.

And I do have we are recording now, just to let everybody know that as again mentioning that I'm not very good at taking notes with my left hand. I did try to write the other yesterday, direct my name on my time sheet and it looked like a raccoon wrote it. So I'm like maybe I should stay away from writing for a while.

10 Amy Madigan
00:01:43.931 --> 00:02:00.930
Okay, 1030. If anybody continues to join us, we'll just have them hop in and I'm going to go around and have everybody, introduce yourself and tell me what your organization is just so I have that in our summary.

11 Jay Hall
00:02:00.930 --> 00:02:17.580
So I'll just start with us here in the rock river room, and that is Jay Hall, with American Motorcycle Association and representing the OHV grant board.

12 Amy Madigan
00:02:17.580 --> 00:02:37.917
Okay, great, thank you. I'm Amy Maddigan Department of natural Resources. I am the state Trails administrator, RTP program administrator, as well as Greenways and Trails outreach. Then I'm just gonna go around and see who I see on my screen. And the next person I see is Darien.

13 Darien Siddall
00:02:37.917 --> 00:02:43.353
Okay, can you, can you all hear me?

00:02:48.11 --> 00:02:51.130
I coordinate NEPA reviews, here at FHWA Illinois.

16 Amy Madigan
00:02:52.806 --> 00:02:59.857
Great. Thank you. Okay, and next I see Hunter John Harris.

17 Hunter John Harris
00:02:59.857 --> 00:03:12.258
Hey they call me Hunter. I'm I represent ABATEDa Illinois. I also sit on the OHV grant board with Jay and now I sit on the governor's advisory board.

18 Amy Madigan
00:03:12.258 --> 00:03:17.271
Thank you. And Mark Hazzard is who I see next?

19 Mark Hazzard

00:03:17.271 --> 00:03:21.216
Hi Mark Hazzard, Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

20 Amy Madigan
00:03:21.216 --> 00:03:25.436
Great, thank you. Bill Brown.

21 Bill Brown
00:03:25.436 --> 00:03:31.939
This is Bill Brown. I'm also with the Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs.

22 Amy Madigan
00:03:31.939 --> 00:03:38.36
Great. Thank you. Dave Simmons.

23 Dave Simmons
00:03:38.36 --> 00:03:43.995
Dave Simmons, executive director of Ride Illinois, states bicycle advocacy work.

24 Amy Madigan
00:03:43.995 --> 00:03:51.392
Thank you. Next I see Ders Anderson.

25 Ders Anderson
00:03:51.392 --> 00:03:55.375
I'm Ders Anderson with Openlands and the Grand Illinois Trail Alliance.

26 Amy Madigan
00:03:55.375 --> 00:04:05.595
Nice to see you Ders. Yeah, thank you. And let's see who I see next. Stephen Letsky.

27 Stephen Letsky
00:04:05.595 --> 00:04:19.998
All right, good morning, Steve Letsky with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Project development engineer primarily overseeing the northern half of the state of Illinois. I'm also our statewide former bicycle pedestrian ADA policy engineer.

28 Amy Madigan
00:04:19.998 --> 00:04:23.478
Okay, Daniel Johnson.

29 Daniel Johnson
00:04:23.478 --> 00:04:32.478
Yeah, thanks Amy. Good morning. My name is Daniel Johnson. I'm the Office Director for Reality and Capital Planning here at the Department of Natural Resources.

30 Amy Madigan
00:04:32.478 --> 00:04:37.336
Thank you, Bryan Schmid.

31 Bryan Schmid
00:04:37.336 --> 00:04:43.458
Good morning, Bryan Schmid, with Bi-State Regional Commission, the MPO in the Quad cities.

32 Amy Madigan
00:04:43.458 --> 00:04:45.373
Erick Huck.

33 Erick Huck
00:04:45.373 --> 00:04:53.597
Yeah hi, I'm Erick Huck, Division Manager of Statewide Operations. I'm with the Office of Realty and Capital Planning working with Amy and Dan. Okay.

34 Amy Madigan
00:04:53.597 --> 00:04:57.437
Great, thank you. Lauren.

35 Lauren Niepert
00:04:57.437 --> 00:05:02.554
Good morning. I'm a financial specialist at Federal Highway Administration.

36 Amy Madigan
00:05:02.554 --> 00:05:10.659
And the other Lauren. Realized we have two Lauren/Lorens. You didn't see that name up there, so Lauren Easter International Mountain Bike Association.

37 Loren Easter
00:05:10.659 --> 00:05:21.296
I
I've been speaking primarily to offer cycling interests but specifically natural surface trails as opposed to like pedestrian path type development. Great, thanks.

38
00:05:21.296 --> 00:05:29.916
Both ones, Tony.

39 Tony Troyer
00:05:29.916 --> 00:05:47.221
Horseman's Council of Illinois. I'm the president and, been on this board for quite a while. We're advocacy for all the horsemen and for our state of Illinois. Thanks.

40
00:05:47.221 --> 00:05:52.215
Great. Is anybody on that I have not called on?

41 Greg Mihalich
00:05:52.215 --> 00:06:03.998
Amy, this is Greg. I'm with the Illinois Office of Tourism. I do have a little announcement, but I don't know if you want to wait until agency updates or.

42
00:06:03.998 --> 00:06:22.458
Yeah, let's do that because I think that we'll probably move through this pretty fast. I don't see Pat Davis or our local grant folks, so they must have had a conflict, so will, hello?

43 Andrew Reagan

00:06:22.458 --> 00:06:25.179
This is Andrew Reagan with IDNR.

44 Amy Madigan

00:06:25.179 --> 00:06:52.179

There you are. Okay, great. Thank you. Welcome, Andrew. Okay, so I think that we've got everybody. So let's just start right in. I know that Andrew, you're not gonna be able to talk about all of the grants, but maybe just if you have any status on other grant programs besides RTP, you know, OHV or STEF. If you don't have any information on those, let us know who the proper grant administrator for those is, forward, we know that.

That we have the right person because I know, you know, obviously a few folks OHV and our Snowmobile folks are always curious about those programs.

You can direct all the questions to me and I can, find the answers and get back with anybody.

Okay perfect. Is there anything specific anybody wants to know about those programs or just kind of a general status that we can get back out to you in our meeting summary?

Okay, alright, so let's just keep moving. RTP grants reports. So several projects from the last round that we approved last summer, are still some of our DNR grants are still making their way into the system.

Just, you know, people's workloads getting CERPS done and that type of, you know, procedural stuff sometimes takes a little bit longer than we'd like, I'll just say, but with the program that we are with what we've approved last summer, you may remember,, I think almost \$3 million worth of projects. And so once all of those projects are in FMIS, we are actually in a place that we have not been in a really long time.

We do dot have a huge backlog of funds. That motorized project that Sahara Woods, the campground, obviously, is going to take up most of those, you know, funds that we have not used yet motorized wise. So that will leave us at the end of the day all of those obligated and things that we're closing out about \$500000, in the FMIS bank, if you will or federal Highway Administration bank. Now we usually get our apportionment in Lauren I'm pretty sure it's like December, is that right Lauren?

51 Lauren Niepert

00:08:49.369 --> 00:08:55.258

I think it's December that we normally get that.

That'll be in that Quarter 1 probably. Usually, since the bill expires this year, it maybe December, it might be later than that.

53 Amy Madigan

00:09:03.737 --> 00:09:22.709

Okay,great. That'll be something that I'll do a little research about as far as that bill expiring, what that might mean, and get that out to you as well in the meeting summary. So at this point in time normally, you know, we would have a, a new grant list. We determined that it would be good.

To have a little holiday from the NOFO, from the locals, and we've kind of now decided maybe this or at least right now that we're not going to input any more projects. Now the comfort that we've talked about before is that as long as the money is there and the enforcement is there, we can pretty much obligate projects at any time.

So, allowing us, allowing the local side to kind of, get up to speed, you know, Andrew's just taken over, so let him kind of get into what he needs to be doing and manage how he's managing the grants as well as DNR. I'm, you know, managing our side of the grants to make sure that those are continuing to progress.

I think it's fine for us to have not have a new list right now. That doesn't mean that we don't have, can't have idea of projects like we've already asked our, our staff, our landscape architects who are the ones that generally generate those RTP projects. We asked them actually last year when Dale is still with us to come up with about like at least a three-year plan. And so that way we would have kind of some tentative projects over the course of three years so that, you know, in the events, you know, whatever might happen, we would already have something there that would be ready to go. And I think that that's really the great thing about FHWA. Lauren I know had asked us, as FHWA, thought that that was a good idea from their perspective. So that's pretty much what we've done. We kind of started and we've got that working list from last year. The LAs and engineers kind of reviewed that list again this year to make sure it's still in priority order for projects.

And again, we always, you know, go to the, health life safety issue projects, you know, fund those before, other projects just because we don't want our visitors to be at risk on any of our facilities. And some of those projects that are on that kind of three-year list are still those health life safety projects, but are still kind of in the queue of making sure that we can close out our project.

And not have too many projects started, and just making sure that we are also moving towards, mentioned before, but we're just about complete with our grants in Amplifund now, our DNR side of the grants and Amplifund. And again, that allows us to have a kind of common repository, a place to generate reports for all of us, you know, should Lauren need some type of support? Generally I think we can, I'm still kind of learning those reports, but there are a lot of things that we can generate from Amplify, and that just allows everybody to be operating on the same page. So, you know, on my side Blake dana Hold and me and I are the ones who are accessing FHWA.

And Andrew from, and I think Pat still has access to FMIS on the other side. So it's important that we just kind of had at least one check and or like kind of balance in place in FMIS, but we don't necessarily want, you know, ten people that have access to FMIS. Just making sure that, you know, we're all coordinating and entering the right information and staying on the timelines for how we kind of execute our projects. So just to kind of reminisce and remind everybody what we would generally do at this, at this meeting, we would have that list of projects that we were recommending for funding.

So the council would then, you know, review those projects, hopefully approve all those projects and then we would make sure that those projects, our projects DNR projects could already be in CERP, have been in CERP, because I've kind of recommended that, you know, as soon as we have a project, we just kind of generate try to generate our projects by near the end of the year, kind of our plan of work.

Process kind of coincides with that. So that way if there's a project, they can go ahead and put it in CERP. So, then that by the time basically that we came to you with our list, you know, those projects would already have gone through CERP would be ready to go to NEPA, which is the National Environmental Policy Act approval. That's what Darien handles. Once we get the NEPA approval, then those projects are, are entered into FMIS, the clock starts.

***The video recording ends at this point. Please provide any notes or items you feel should be included.**

Project Number	Recipient Project Number	Project Description	Project End Date	Earliest Authorization Date
RTP0161	RTP 20-161	The City of Silvis purchased the property adjacent to Phipps Park last fall. The additional 18 acres makes the park 28 Acres total. The intent is to maintain a natural area and expand the walking and hiking trail network. The trail will be the trail would be blacktop, eight feet wide and 1,700 feet in length. There will also be a rest area with a shelter and picnic tables.	09/24/2026	09/24/2021
RTP1163	RTP 21-163	Construction of a new 0.46-mile long trail along the Little Calumet River. The trail will be 10- feet wide and made of hot-mix asphalt. The multi-use trail is designed to encourage nonmotorized transportation within a commercial district and will provide a vital connection from the Regional Burnham Greenway Trail and Cook County Forest Preserve Facilities to the Calumet City Riverwalk Park that is slated for construction in 2021.	05/03/2027	05/18/2022
RTP1164	RTP 21-164	The Butler Point Park Recreational Trail proposed is a .25-mile trail within the Village of Catlin's current Butler Point Park. The trail will be a 10' concrete path to allow persons with disabilities to enjoy. Along the path, ten fit-trail exercise stations will be installed, and a no mow seed mix will be planted in the middle of the open space of the park, adding beauty to the trail and pollination.	05/03/2027	05/18/2022
RTP1165	RTP 21-165	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County proposes to conduct surface repairs on 3 miles of the Tinley Creek Trail and improve ADA access at two trailhead parking lots. The proposed work includes minor improvements to trail access with upgraded drop-gates and ADA access improvements in two trailhead parking lots. It also includes repaving of the 151st street trailhead parking lot and upgraded portable bathrooms to better accommodate ADA users.	05/05/2027	05/18/2022
RTP3174	RTP 23-174	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County proposes to conduct surface repairs on 1 mile of the Tinley Creek Trail Black Spur located in unincorporated Cook County (Orland Township), Illinois in the southwestern part of Cook County. The trail is 10 feet wide with an asphalt surface and connects to the popular 27.3-mile Tinley Creek Trail system used by tens of thousands of people annually for outdoor recreation activities. In addition to the trail surface repairs, the project would also enhance the parking area with pavement resurfacing and upgrades to ADA access at the Catalina Grove trailhead.	09/25/2028	09/25/2023
RTP3179	RTP23-179	The Freeport Park District is seeking RTP grant funding for improvements to Jane Addams Trail. The proposed Jane Addams Trail Improvements Project is comprised of three major components: 1) the rehabilitation of the J-8 Bridge; 2) rehabilitation of the J-10 Bridge, and 3) replacement of the J-13 Bridge with two culvert pipes.	09/21/2028	09/25/2023
RTP3180	RTP 23-180	Village Park Recreational Trail - The project's first phase is the construction of 0.25 miles of an eight-foot-wide recreational trail, and a parking lot at the entrance of the park. There will be a 20-foot radius at the end of the first phase with a bench and trash can for park users to rest and take in the beautiful landscape. The Village Park recreational trail mileage when both sections are completed will be a total of .5 miles.	09/25/2028	09/25/2023

RTP3182	RTP 23-182	Big Rock Forest Preserve Trail Improvements - This project will consist of renovating 0.59 miles of 10' wide limestone trail, installing a new 0.35 mile, 10' wide limestone trail, and mowing in a new 0.55-mile, 10'-wide trail. There are no anticipated modifications to any of the structures.	09/25/2028	09/25/2023
RTP3187	RTP 23-187	Hodge Park Recreation Trail - The Hodge Park Community Recreation Trail will be in the heart of the Rock Island Community at Hodge Park, a neighborhood park that is used for many forms of recreation. The trail that is being proposed for this grant will be a .34 mile trail with a width of 60" with a surface of a form of crushed stone.	09/25/2028	09/25/2023
RTP4191	RTP24191	Renovation of 0.5 miles of existing 10' bike trail, and installation of wayfinding and interpretive signage. Trail to be milled, repaired, and a new asphalt surface to be installed. Wayfinding and interpretive signs to be surface mounted on concrete pads adjacent to the trail.	06/24/2029	09/03/2024
RTP9157	RTP 19-157	This project will be the first phase of a looped trail through the 55-acre area of the proposed TREC park. It will also connect the trail system to West Evergreen Ave. This phase of the project (VI-A) will consist of tree and brush removal. A pipe culvert and guard rail will be installed at a drainage ditch. An elevated walkway constructed of wood and helical steel piles will be installed across Milton Branch near the existing Little Wabash River bridge. Approximately 100-foot of concrete trail will be constructed at the elevated walkway. This project will provide access to the TREC park area immediately, by use of the cleared areas and the stream/ditch crossings. it will also provide access for construction equipment in future phases of the project. The outcome of this project will be a 1.4-mile multi-use trail accessible to walkers, runners, mountain bikes, and horses.	09/25/2024	09/25/2019
RTPS018	RTPS018	This project will install a handicap accessible pedestrian bridge, and accessible parking spot at the Lock 31 day use area.	03/09/2027	03/17/2022
RTPS023	RTPS023	This project provides funding for engineering services to prepare plans to replace Bridge #1 and Bridge #4 , and a stairway on the lake trail. The project will also provide funding for all construction engineering, materials, and labor necessary to remove & replace two Bridge #1 and Bridge #4 and a stairway. The project will be bid through the IDNR procurement process and contracted labor will perform needed repairs on the footbridges and trail surfaces	09/15/2027	09/26/2022
RTPS025	RTPS025	Argyle Lake -This project will make repairs to the existing 0.6 mile "Lake Shore Trail" at Argyle State Park. The Lake Shore trail is a primitive hiking trail with a +/- t he project will replace five (5) sets of wooden stairs, and 3 existing wooden bridges. The project will also include construction of four (4) new wooden boardwalks in low lying wet areas. Three of the five existing wood stairways will be replace with stone steps instead of wood as shown in the attached map. Three-foot wide bare-earth walking surface. The project is requesting RTP funds for all labor and materials to replace these structures, as well as any design fees necessary to prepare and bid the project	01/05/2028	05/01/2023

RTPS026	RTPS026	Ferne Clyffe -Round Bluff is a one-mile-long trail within the 53 acre Round Bluff Nature Preserve at Ferne Clyffe State Park. The trail traverses some steep slopes and sandstone outcrops at the base of Round Bluff. At three locations, long wooden stairways were built in the 1980s to negotiate some steep inclines. The stairways have numerous rotted support posts and structural pieces that are split and decayed. There is one short bridge about 20' in length that needs a new railing system and decking installed. There are numerous wood timbers used as a either steps or water bars that because of erosion, are more of trip hazards. Hikers are circumventing the timbers and causing trail braiding and resource damage. This project will replace all three (3) of the long wooden step assemblies with new construction in the same location as the existing. The one bridge will get new railing and decking. At one location, a new set of steps should be built where the terrain is extremely steep and to keep hikers confined to the desired alignment. New timber water bars or rolling grade dips will be installed where needed throughout the trail.	01/05/2028	03/23/2023
RTPS029	RTPS029	This project will repair a section of the Tunnel Hill State Trail that has become more vulnerable to erosion damage from large rainfall events in Southern Illinois, which create unsafe conditions.	02/01/2029	03/27/2024
			02/01/2029	03/27/2024
			02/01/2029	03/27/2024
RTPS030	RTPS030	The project consists of the following widths and lengths. Starting on the north end from the USFWS, the trail is approximately 1800' of 11' wide trail, which transitions south to 3950' of 12' trail. Beyond this point a NIC trail continues south onto a township roadway for approximately 1 mile to the intersection at Lock Road. The project, in general, consists of rehabilitation work using a 2" HMA overlay on the existing paved surface. No culvert replacement, nor shoulder work is anticipated. Detailed work description is as follows: miscellaneous full depth patching is provided on the existing trail to repair the potholes; resurfacing will consist of Bituminous Materials Prime Coat with 2" thickness of HMA surface course Mix D N 50 conforming to IDOT standards; miscellaneous trail signage replacements; temporary exclusionary fencing, such as silt fencing (as a mitigation technique for T&E impacts), may be utilized along the length of the repaving area, to prevent access of protected species during the repaving process, this due to protected botanical, herpetile, and reptile populations within the IDNR lands surrounding the trail; and miscellaneous permanent access control signage and structures to limit unauthorized vehicular access within the 11'/12' wide trail sections.	09/03/2029	09/13/2024
RTPS031	RTPS031	Rehabilitate vandalized (fire-damaged), timber bridge deck and steel superstructure, by removing and replacing selected, existing bridge deck timbers and affected steel beam and ties by replacing in kind.	01/03/2030	02/12/2025
RTPS033	RTPS033	This project will rehabilitate the Lone Rock Trail stairway and boardwalk, as well the boardwalk of the Prairie Trail.	02/05/2030	02/12/2025
RTPS034	RTPS034	This project will rehabilitate 11 bridges along the park's 20 miles of nature trail.	02/05/2030	02/12/2025

Name	Organization	Representing
Jay Hall	American Motorcycle Assn.	(1) non-motorized water sports paddling; (2) motorized off-road motorcycle;
Hunter John Harris	ABATE/OHV Advisory	(3) non-motorized hiking pedestrian;
Dave Simmons	Ride Illinois	(4) motorized all-terrain vehicle;
Bill Brown	IL Snowmobilers Assn	(5) non-motorized road and trail cycling;
Tony Troyer	IL Horsemen's Council	(6) motorized snowmobile;
Mark Hazzard		(7) non-motorized equestrian;
Loren Easter	IL IMBA	(8) motorized snowmobile;
Scott Bryant	IFOR	(9) non-motorized mountain bike;
Bryan Schmid/Shannon Karrick	BiState/Sangamon Karrick	(10) recreational trail users with disabilities; and
Steve Letsky	DOT	(11) a diverse, multi-use, multi-purpose outdoor
Lauren Niepert	FHWA	(1) one member from a local government or planning
Andrew Reagan	DNR-Grants	(2) one member from the Department of Transportation
Amy Madigan	DNR - RTP	(3) one member from the Federal Highway Administration
		(4) one member from the Department of Natural Resources- Grants
		(5) one member from the Department of Natural Resources-RTP



Illinois
Department of
**Natural
Resources**

JB Pritzker, Governor • Natalie Phelps Finnie, Director
One Natural Resources Way • Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

www.dnr.illinois.gov