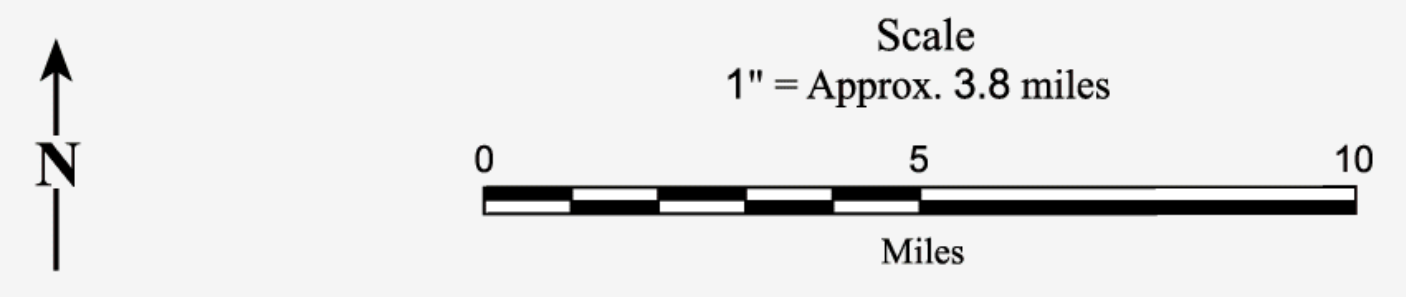


Legend

- Existing Greenway and Other Public Preserve
- Proposed Greenway
- Privately Owned Preserve
- Unincorporated Area
- Incorporated Area
- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Existing Boundary: Ill. & Mich. Canal National Heritage Corridor
- Proposed Eastern Boundary: Ill. & Mich. Canal National Heritage Corridor
- Illinois Nature Preserves
- Natural Area Inventory Sites
- Additional Natural Areas
- Regional Greenways Plan Names
County Initial and Location Number
See Reverse Side for Listing

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS & TRAILS PLAN



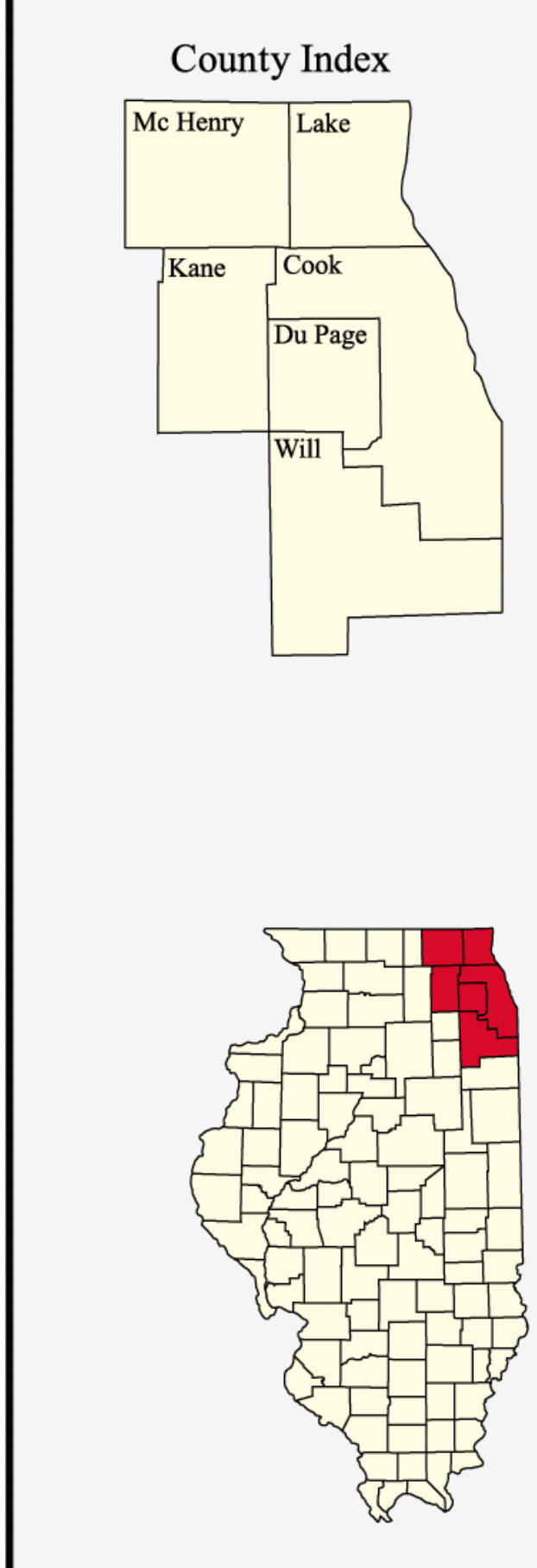
Map 2: A, B & C Quality Streams in Northeastern Illinois

Biological Stream Characterization

- A - Streams: Unique Aquatic Resource
- B - Streams: Highly Valued Aquatic Resource
- C - Streams: Moderate Aquatic Resource

This map shows those streams which harbor the richest concentrations of biodiversity (A and B), and those more degraded streams which have opportunities for restoration to higher quality (C).

Source of stream classifications: IDNR and IEPA



Greenway and trail information current as of 1997. Greenway designations on this map do not imply specific widths, other design characteristics, or management approaches. These should be determined through detailed planning for the individual greenways.

The Natural Areas Inventory Sites current as of 1995. Illinois Nature Preserve Sites current as of 1995. Additional information can be obtained from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Natural Heritage Division, Phone (217) 785-8774.

Prepared by: Ders Anderson, Openlands Project, Richard Mariner and Lori Heringa, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission
Special Assistance in the development of this map was provided by Hubert Morgan, Kim Soulliere, (NIPCC) and the many participating local government staff in the region.

This map brochure was prepared under the graphic direction of Eva Wurm, (NIPCC)

Department of Geography
 Laboratory for Cartography & Spatial Analysis
 Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2554
 815/753-0631

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

A MAP OF THE GREENWAY AND TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES AND SUMMARY

Developed by

THE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PLANNING COMMISSION
OPENLANDS PROJECT

With funding from the Illinois Prairie Trail Authority, and additional support from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

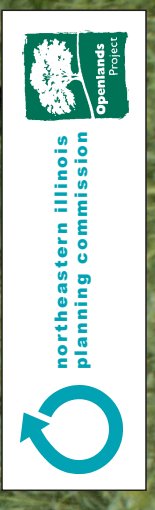
Adopted by NIPCC, June 19, 1997

THE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS PLANNING COMMISSION (NIPCC) was created in 1957 by the Illinois General Assembly to be the advisory comprehensive planning agency for the six-county Chicago metropolitan area. The Northeastern Illinois Planning Act gave the Commission three charges: to conduct research and collect data for planning; to advise and assist local government; and to prepare comprehensive plans and policies to guide the development of the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will.

OPENLANDS PROJECT is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting, expanding, and enhancing open space and water - to provide a healthy natural environment and a more livable place for all the people of the region.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS: Recognizing the importance of a region-wide network of trails, the Illinois Prairie Trail Authority contracted with the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Openlands Project to develop an update of the Regional Greenways Plan. Additional funds were provided to this effort by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

THE NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM was developed with the help of the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, the Forest Preserve District of Cook County, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County, the Lake County Forest Preserve District, the McHenry County Conservation District, the Forest Preserve District of Will County, the transportation planning liaisons for the Council of Mayors, and many county, municipal and park district staff members and citizens.



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS REGIONAL GREENWAYS AND TRAILS IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

*An Executive Summary**

REGIONAL GREENWAYS PLAN NAMES AND CODES

COOK COUNTY	DUPAGE COUNTY	LAKE COUNTY	WILL COUNTY
1 Spring Creek System	1 Illinois Prairie Path - Elgin Branch	1 Fox River	1 Virgil Gilman to DuPage River Corridor
2 Des Plaines River Corridor	2 Wayne Trail Corridor	2 Des Plaines River System and Trail	2 Des Plaines River System
3 E.J. & E.R. Corridor	3 E.J. & E.R. Corridor	3 Bluff Lake to Lake Marie Shoreline Corridor	3 Lincoln Highway Corridor
4 Crabtree to Deer Grove Corridor	4 Pratt's Wayne Corridor	4 Sequoi Creek	4 E.J. & E. Corridor
5 Crabtree Trail	5 Pratt's Wayne/ West Branch Trail	5 Deer Lake to Redwing Slough System	5 West Norman Drain
6 Algonquin Rd. Bike Path	6 Woodland Hills Corridor	6 Mill Creek System	6 East Norman Drain
7 Paul Douglas Trail	7 Schick Rd. Corridor	7 Wolf Creek System	7 Wolf Creek System
8 Poplar Creek Reserve to Paul Douglas Corridor	8 S. Bartlett Rd. Corridor	8 DuPage River Corridor	8 DuPage River Corridor
9 Poplar Creek System	9 West Branch Trail	9 Clow Creek	9 Clow Creek
10 Poplar Creek Trail	10 Lies Rd. Corridor	10 DuPage River System	10 DuPage River System
11 E.J. & E. to County Line Road Corridor	11 Klein Creek	11 Springbrook Creek Corridor	11 Springbrook Creek Corridor
12 E.J. & E. to Fox River Trail	12 Mallard Lake Trail	12 West Branch DuPage River Corridor	12 West Branch DuPage River Corridor
13 Streamwood Bike Route	13 Clause Rec. Area	13 East Branch DuPage River Corridor	13 East Branch DuPage River Corridor
14 Bartlett Bike Route	14 Spring Brook Cr. (North) Corridor	14 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	14 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
15 Schumberg Bike Route	15 North Central Bikeway Corridor	14 Herick Lake Trail	14 Herick Lake Trail
16 Salt Creek Trail	16 E. Branch DuPage River	15 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	15 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
17 DesPlaines Corridor to Ned Brown Corridor	17 East Branch DuPage River Corridor	16 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	16 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
18 Ned Brown Trail	18 L355 Corridor	17 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	17 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
19 Salt Creek System	19 Medinah Rd. Corridor	18 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	18 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
20 Palatine Trail to Paul Douglas Route	20 Meacham Creek	19 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	19 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
21 Palatine Trail	21 Swift Prairie/Salt Creek Park Connection	20 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	20 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
22 Deer Grove Trail	22 Addison Corridor	21 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	21 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
23 Hintz Road Route	23 Salt Creek Corridor	22 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	22 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
24 Wheeling Drainage Ditch	24 Salt Creek Corridor	23 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	23 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
25 McDonald Creek	25 Commercial St. Route	24 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	24 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
26 Techy Cor. to Des Plaines River Corridor Route	26 Church Rd. Route	25 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	25 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
27 West Glenview Rail Corridor	27 Eastern Lake St. Corridor	26 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	26 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
28 Techy Corridor	28 Lake St./JPP Corridor	27 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	27 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
29 Middle Fork of the North Branch Chicago River	29 Great Western Trail	28 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	28 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
30 North Branch Trail	30 Harger Rd. Trail	29 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	29 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
31 Green Bay Trail	31 York Rd./22nd St. Trail	30 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	30 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
32 West Fork of the North Branch Chicago River	32 Fullerburg Trail	31 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	31 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
33 N. Shore Channel Trail	33 Lacey Creek	32 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	32 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
34 Skokie Swift Corridor	34 Illinois Prairie Path - Main Stem	33 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	33 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
35 N. Br. Trail to Des Plaines River Corridor Route	35 Winfield Creek	34 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	34 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
36 Weber Spur	36 Timber Ridge Trail	35 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	35 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
37 Evanston Route	37 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	36 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	36 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
38 North Shore Lakefront and Trail	38 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	37 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	37 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
39 Chicago Lakefront and Trail	39 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	38 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	38 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
40 Chicago River Corridor	40 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	39 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	39 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
41 North Branch Chicago River Corridor	41 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	40 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	40 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
42 Valley Line	42 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	41 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	41 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
43 Irving Park Corridor	43 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	42 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	42 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
44 Boulevard Network	44 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	43 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	43 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
45 Illinois Prairie Path to Centennial Trail Corridor	45 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	44 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	44 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
46 Illinois Prairie Path to Blvd. Network Route	46 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	45 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	45 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
47 Boulevard Network	47 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	46 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	46 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
48 Chicago River to Lakefront Connections	48 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	47 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	47 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
49 Boulevard Network to Dan Ryan Woods Corridor	49 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	48 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	48 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
50 Southwest Transit Bikeway	50 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	49 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	49 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
51 Mud Lake Portage Corridor	51 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	50 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	50 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
52 Midway Bikeway	52 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	51 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	51 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
53 I&M Canal State Trail	53 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	52 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	52 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
54 Chicago Ridge to Summit Corridor	54 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	53 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	53 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
55 Centennial Trail	55 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	54 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	54 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
56 W. Homer Township Corridor to Centennial Trail	56 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	55 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	55 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
57 Tampier to Cal Sag Connection	57 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	56 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	56 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
58 Tampier to Tinley Creek Preserve Connection	58 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	57 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	57 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
59 Tinley Creek Trail	59 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	58 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	58 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
60 Cal Sag Trails (North and South Banks)	60 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	59 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	59 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
61 Stony Creek Corridor	61 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	60 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	60 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
62 Alsip Corridor	62 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	61 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	61 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
63 Stony Creek	63 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	62 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	62 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
64 Rock Island Corridor	64 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	63 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	63 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
65 North Taylor Trail	65 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	64 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	64 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
66 CDOT Calumet Loop Network	66 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	65 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	65 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
67 Nickel Plate Connector	67 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	66 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	66 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
68 Calumet River	68 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	67 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	67 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
69 Grand Calumet River Corridor	69 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	68 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	68 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
70 Burnham Corridor	70 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	69 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	69 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
71 Little Calumet River	71 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	70 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	70 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
72 Greenwood Corridor	72 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	71 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	71 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
73 South Holland Parks System Trails	73 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	72 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	72 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
74 South Park Route	74 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	73 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	73 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
75 162nd/167th Route	75 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	74 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	74 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
76 Middlebrook Creek	76 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	75 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	75 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
77 Orland Trail Loop	77 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	76 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	76 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
78 Sieden Prairie Conn.	78 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	77 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	77 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
79 Butterfield Creek Corridor	79 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	78 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	78 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
80 Hickory Creek System	80 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	79 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	79 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
81 Long Run Creek	81 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	80 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	80 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
82 Spring Creek (Oland)	82 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	81 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	81 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
83 Marley Creek System	83 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	82 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	82 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
84 Old Plank Road Trail	84 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	83 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	83 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
85 Matteson Corridor	85 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	84 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	84 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
86 Butterfield Creek	86 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	85 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	85 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
87 Vincennes Corridor	87 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	86 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	86 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
88 Lansing Corridor	88 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	87 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	87 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
89 Lansing Corridor/Lansing Woods Trail Connection	89 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	88 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	88 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
90 Lansing Woods Trail	90 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	89 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	89 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
91 Thorn Creek Corridor	91 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	90 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	90 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
92 Illinois Central Corridor	92 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	91 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	91 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
93 Sauk Trail Woods Loop	93 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	92 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	92 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
94 Sauk Trail Corridor	94 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	93 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	93 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
95 Steger to Old Plank Road Trail Corridor	95 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	94 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	94 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
96 Deer Creek	96 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	95 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	95 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch
97 Lansing Drainage Ditch	97 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	96 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch	96 DuPage River Pathway- West Branch



Map 3: Conceptual Map of Grand Illinois Trail

PUBLIC SUPPORT SPURS GREENWAY PLAN UPDATE

On June 19, 1997, the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission adopted the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program, an update and replacement to the 1992 Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan Map. This map is an important part of this Program, reflecting proposed expansions and additions to existing trails and greenways. Since the 1992 plan, the size of the greenway network has nearly tripled, the trail component alone has doubled from 1000 miles to 2000 miles. The region's greenway network is unprecedented around the country.

Increasing appreciation by citizens of the values of open space, greenways, and trails is evidenced by referenda passed for open space protection in the region, as well as by federal and state initiatives and programs. Results of local government and developer surveys show that residents are ranking trails and open space highest on lists of desired community amenities.

This update was made necessary by several factors. Continuing urbanization of the region imposes stresses on stream corridors and other natural resources which need to be identified for preservation. These pressures will increase: the population in the outer counties is forecasted to increase 70 to 100 percent by 2020. In addition, the continuing progress by all levels of government in the development of trails and protection of natural areas has created new opportunities and support for enhancing the regional system and to establish links within it.

WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE REGIONAL GREENWAYS MAP?(MAP 1)

The regional map provides a 1997 update of existing and proposed major open space and trails, and recommendations for revised and new greenway and trail corridors and linkages. Proposed trail corridors as illustrated are conceptual; final alignments would correspond to county and municipal planning efforts.

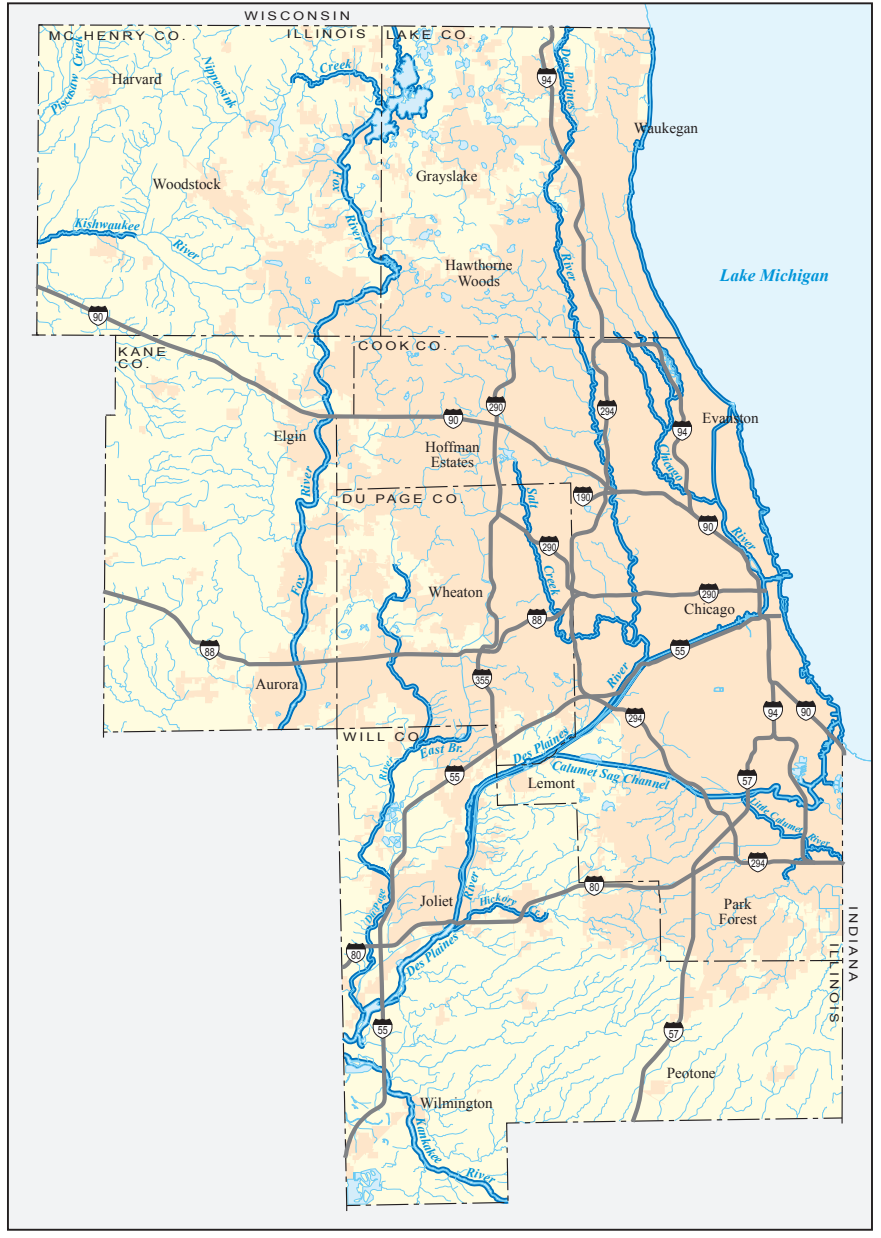
With the support and involvement of local governments, numerous greenways and trails were identified, which NIPCC and Openlands assembled into a coordinated network. Regional workshops, and other forums which guided the design of this plan, raised two primary issues: (1) the need for more east-west trail linkages to the many north-south trails; and (2) the desire for more loop trails. The 1995 regional inventory of local and subregional existing and proposed bikeways was used in identifying strategic additions to the regional trail system. Updating the map included digitizing the corridors using NIPCC's Geographic Information System (GIS), allowing various analyses such as adjacent land use characteristics and comparison with population and employment statistics.

Another feature of the plan and map is the focus on streams, which are key determinants of many greenways. Healthy stream corridors are increasingly recognized as important landscape features for local communities. Stream greenways can provide valued opportunities for canoeing and kayaking; they are focal points for environmental education and stewardship; they can be rich centers of biodiversity; and they can provide important water quality and flood mitigation functions.

The map includes the locations of Illinois Nature Preserves and sites on the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Many of these high quality areas are within designated greenways and existing open space and need to be protected. The regional trail system may, where appropriate, provide opportunities for viewing these areas, but care must be taken to protect fragile Natural Area resources from adverse impacts. Unprotected natural areas sites need to be given preservation status through acquisition or other means.

An important function of the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program and the plan map is to support the programs of open space jurisdictions which are working to preserve and manage greenway corridors. Much of the on-the-ground implementation will occur through the initiative of the forest preserve and conservation districts, park districts, municipalities, and state and federal agencies, including the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The open space, outdoor recreation, and natural resource advocacy organizations of the region play an invaluable role in plan implementation.

*This map is intended as an overview of the officially adopted Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program. For a copy of the complete text, contact the Illinois Prairie Trail Authority, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPCC) at 222 South Riverside Plaza, 60606, (312) 454-0400, or Openlands Project (OLP) at 25 East Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois 60602, (312) 427-4256.



Map 4: Potential Location of Water-Based Trails

WHAT ARE THE KEY FEATURES OF THE PLAN DOCUMENT?

The plan includes numerous actions that would contribute to implementation of the plan. These recommended actions in the plan are not necessarily site specific, but may indicate general priority areas. In the plan, these action recommendations are grouped and listed under the appropriate objective. The eight general objectives identified in the plan are contained in the following list.

- Objective 1: Preserve Additional Greenway Open Space
- Objective 2: Preserve and Improve the Quality and Biodiversity of Existing Open Space, including Greenways
- Objective 3: Improve the Effectiveness and Use of Trails
- Objective 4: Expand the Existing Regional Trail System and Create Linkages
- Objective 5: Expand the Region's Efforts to Protect, Restore and Utilize Water-Based Green ways
- Objective 6: Improve the Transportation Benefits of Trails
- Objective 7: Sustain and Strengthen the Funding Base for Trails and Greenways
- Objective 8: Continue the Tradition of Innovative Trail and Greenway Planning in Northeastern Illinois

Implementation of the Regional Greenways and Trails Implementation Program will require a partnership effort among state natural resource and transportation agencies, forest preserve and park districts, county and municipal governments, conservation and recreation advocacy organizations, and private landowners. Specific actions to implement the eight objectives are detailed in the plan document

WHAT IS A GREENWAY?

A greenway is a corridor of open space. Greenways vary greatly in scale, from narrow ribbons of undeveloped landscape that run through urban and suburban development, to wide corridors that incorporate diverse natural and cultural features. A greenway can be land- or water-based. It can incorporate both public and private property, but always provides benefits for the larger community. Some greenways are primarily recreational corridors, while others function almost exclusively for environmental protection and are not necessarily intended for substantial human passage. Some greenways run along stream corridors, shorelines or wetlands; others follow old railway tracks or other land-based features.

Greenways differ in their location and function, but overall a greenway network will protect natural and cultural resources, provide recreational opportunities, improve and sustain hydrological functions, and enhance the natural beauty and the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities.

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GREENWAY?

Each greenway project offers some combination of the following characteristics.

- benefits large population in many communities
- bridges gaps to help complete existing greenways
- creates new connection between existing greenways
- provides wildlife (animal and plant) migration paths between isolated natural areas
- protects tributary streams to preserve water quality and ecological value in main regional waterways
- protects residential and commercial areas threatened by flood damage
- improves access to recreational trails where it is currently lacking
- protects high quality natural areas threatened by development
- offers a variety of recreational uses
- provides alternative transportation routes (i.e., walking, bicycling) and improves access to public transportation systems

