



RACCOON CREEK WETLAND PRESERVE

PURPOSE OF GREENWAYS

To promote a regional greenway network that protects natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provides recreational benefits, enhances natural beauty, improves environmental quality, and stimulates economic development.

OBJECTIVES

To provide a comprehensive regional planning tool for government agencies and others involved in land use planning, natural areas preservation, transportation and recreation.

To coordinate transportation planning with the greenways planning process.

To reduce conflicts with development activities and offset the negative and costly impacts of urban sprawl.

BENEFITS

Education - Increases the level of understanding regarding the importance and value of greenways and encourages stewardship of natural and cultural resources.

Natural Area Protection - Provides a resource for community leaders, organizations, and individuals making decisions about which natural areas should be protected.

Recreation - Identifies the high quality outdoor recreational resources that define the character of the region.

Government Coordination - Provides a means by which the numerous government agencies in the two counties can coordinate their efforts in regard to greenway protection. This allows for a continuing forum for discussion among governmental jurisdictions and the private sector. This also coordinates land acquisition plans among government agencies and assists these agencies in allocating resources for natural areas and trails.

Growth Management - Provides a tool to help communities guide growth and development away from valuable natural resources and toward existing infrastructure.

Economic Development - Promotes natural and outdoor recreation areas improve our quality of life, help retain our current populace, and attract others who desire to live in an area with high-quality outdoor recreational pursuits.

Wildlife Protection - Promotes corridors along waterways that create an interconnected network of greenways that supports wildlife habitats and maintains ecological processes. Plants and animals must be able to move around in order to survive. Greenways provide that connection.

Environmental Quality - Encourage greenway protection that will reduce flood damage, improve water quality, and provide areas that can recharge underground aquifers.

Photo by Jamie B. Johannsen



NYGREN WETLAND PRESERVE

PRESERVATION STRATEGY

What areas are a priority?

Public agencies seek to preserve unique and high-quality natural resources including wildlife habitat, stream beds, fens, wetlands, prairie, and wooded areas. The best candidates for preservation are lands that meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Are adjacent to existing protected areas
2. Link trails, creeks, wetlands, or wooded areas
3. Are within critical and sensitive areas

What about my property?

We wait for you to come to us. Conservation agencies do not actively pursue private property. Most times, property owners seeking to protect a resource approach a public agency or private land trust to identify preservation opportunities.

How are natural resources preserved?

There are many different ways to preserve property. Wetland reserve programs, Illinois Nature Preserves, park dedications, conservation easements, and voluntary no-build agreements all provide varying degrees of flexibility to balance development needs and preservation goals.

Where can I learn more?

Contact any of the participating agencies for this plan or visit: www.mmapil.org



OAK RIDGE FOREST PRESERVE

MAP DEFINITIONS

Critical and Sensitive Areas

Floodplain, wetlands, forest, grasslands, prairie, wildlife habitat for rare, threatened or endangered species.

Floodplain

The part of the terrain adjacent to a river or stream that serves as the natural storage reservoir for flood waters. Improvements to land within a floodplain are regulated by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

Wetlands

A low-lying area, 10 acres in size or larger, inventoried by the US Army Corps of Engineers that may or may not be saturated with water.

Forest

Areas of land that are 80 acres in size or greater that contain densely spaced trees and other plants.

Grassland/Prairie

Areas of land that are 80 acres in size or greater that contain native grassland or prairie plants as identified by Winnebago County, Boone County, or the State of Illinois.

Canoe Launch Site

Canoe launch sites that are open to the public.

River Markers

Markers are located every 5 miles along streams and rivers.

Trails (Existing and Proposed)

Improved surface (paved or compacted gravel) trails in Boone and Winnebago Counties.

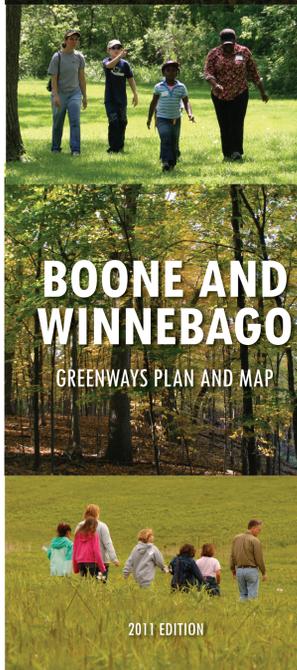
Crow's Foot Conservation Area (see map)

Area of land designated by Boone County as part of a conservation initiative to preserve and enhance the habitat along the Kishwaukee River and Coon Creek.

Illinois Nature Preserves

Public or private land protected by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission through dedication as nature preserves or land and water preserves. (dnr.state.il.us/inpc)

Photo by Jamie B. Johannsen



BOONE AND WINNEBAGO GREENWAYS PLAN AND MAP

2011 EDITION

BOONE AND WINNEBAGO
Counties offer a wealth of quality water resources. Most of the greenway corridors are rivers and streams. These corridors are critical to protecting water quality, improving biodiversity along the streams and creating recreation trails. The region offers a unique network of riverside parks, forests, campgrounds and boat landings that make it a favorite destination for recreationalists and nature lovers.

Many conservation areas and forest preserves are located on the area's four rivers and offer canoe launch areas. To enable residents and visitors to find and safely enjoy canoeing and fishing activities, the Winnebago County Forest Preserve District and the Rockford Park District have produced a comprehensive Boating, Fishing & Canoeing Guide which covers all recreational water facilities and regulations in Winnebago County.

For more information, visit the Forest Preserve District online at www.wcpd.org.

BEAVER CREEK WATERSHED ACTION PLAN

Land Protection and Restoration Recommendations

- Beaver Creek Watershed
- Stream
- Shaded
- Shaded land (not wooded)
- Preservation/Restoration priority areas
- Existing protected land

For more information, visit: www.mmapil.org/technical-reports

KISHWAUKEE RIVER WATER TRAIL

A VISION OF THE KISHWAUKEE RIVER WATER TRAIL

For more information, visit: openlands.org/Northeastern-Illinois-Water-Trails/View-category.html

ROCK RIVER TRAIL

For more information, visit: rockrivertrail.com

GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL

For more information, visit: dnr.state.il.us/orep/planning-git.htm
www.bikelib.org/maps-and-rides/rides/gitap/



NYGREN WETLAND PRESERVE

Privately preserved under the Wetland Reserve Program as part of the Illinois Natural Resource Conservation Service | Photo by Jamie B. Johannsen

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

ourmap
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning
www.mmapil.org

BOONE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.boonecountycnsrvlanddist.org
815-547-2933

WINNEBAGO COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
www.wcpd.org
815-877-6100

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
dnr.state.il.us

ROCKFORD PARK DISTRICT
www.rockfordparkdist.org
815-877-8900

Belvidere Park District
www.belviderepark.org
815-547-3711

ADDITIONAL PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Natural Land Institute
www.naturaland.org

Rock Cut State Park
dnr.state.il.us/lands/landmap/parks/1/rockcut.htm

Boone County Winnebago County

City of Belvidere
Village of Caledonia
Village of Capron
Village of Cherry Valley
Village of Durand
City of Loves Park
Village of New Milford
Village of Pecatonica
Village of Poplar Grove
City of Rockford
Village of Rockton
Village of Roscoe
Village of South Beloit
Village of Timberlane
Village of Winnebago

Boone County Soil and Water Conservation District
Winnebago County Soil and Water Conservation District
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
Illinois Conservation Foundation
Illinois Trails Conservancy

Illinois Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration

Prepared by: TX Lin International
Photo by Jamie B. Johannsen



Preserved by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources | Photo by Jamie B. Johannsen

PLAN COORDINATION

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

In addition to coordinating with agencies within the Rockford Region, the Greenways Plan assists local agencies in furthering the development of parks and open space within developing areas. This helps to ensure that everyone in the Rockford Region has access to high-quality recreation opportunities right in their own community. Municipal land use plans and park district plans make it possible to set aside park space during the development process.

BOONE COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT MASTER PLAN

The Boone County Conservation District (BCCD) Master Plan is the guiding document in District's mission to "preserve and manage natural areas and open spaces for ecological, educational, and recreational benefits of present and future generations."

Extensive efforts are in effect to return BCCD lands to their natural integrity. These restored habitats provide a foothold for native wildlife and create a wide range of educational and recreational benefits for county residents. BCCD identifies some critical and sensitive areas as Conservation Opportunity Areas to focus restoration resources and efforts towards restoring these areas. For more information, visit: www.boonecountycnsrvlanddist.org/pages/ecologicalprojects.html

ourmap
Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning

The Rockford Metropolitan Agency for Planning (RMAP) is the transportation Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the Rockford region. By Federal law, urbanized areas (over 50,000) are required to have an organization that plans and coordinates decisions regarding the area's transportation systems. RMAP is empowered and governed by a Cooperative Agreement that has been adopted by the Cities of Rockford, Belvidere, Loves Park, Village of Machesney Park, the Counties of Boone and Winnebago and the State of Illinois acting through the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

Planning for transportation, land use and environmental issues traditionally are undertaken separately by different agencies within an urban area. This separation makes it difficult to understand the connection among various subjects and how changes in one area may affect another. Over the past several decades, an integrated approach to transportation planning has evolved to create a system that incorporates environmental, economic development and community goals. This Greenway Plan is the result of a collaborative process to integrate environmental and transportation planning.

The Greenways Plan was first prepared in 1997 and was updated in 2005. It is a planning tool that identifies parks, preserves, natural resources, and environmentally sensitive areas. The 2011 edition of the Boone County and Winnebago County Greenways Plan uses the most recent natural resource inventory data that is available from various sources. The Greenways Plan is a planning resource that identifies land that should be protected from development.

WINNEBAGO COUNTY LAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY

The Winnebago County 2030 Land Resource Management Plan and Natural Areas Inventory were created to assist in developing policies, informing land use decisions, and identifying areas for natural resource conservation and management.

Primary goals of these documents are to preserve the existing beneficial functions and valuable assets of Winnebago County's Green Infrastructure by facilitating well thought out built infrastructure development in appropriate areas, and providing adequate protection, restoration and management of greenways and natural resources. The NRI catalogues the natural resources of the county.

For more information, visit: www.co.winnebago.il.us

ILLINOIS WILDLIFE ACTION PLAN

The Illinois Wildlife Action Plan provides a means for public agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and citizens to focus collective efforts on the common goal of preventing wildlife from becoming endangered. The vision of the Illinois Wildlife Action Plan is to increase the amount and quality of habitat available to support Illinois' native plant and animal species and other game species; promote their population viability; regulate the recreational, commercial, and scientific utilization of those species; to ensure their long-term persistence and abundance and provide for their appreciation and enjoyment by future generations of Illinoisans while also expanding the frontiers of natural resource management. For more information, visit: www.wildlifeactionplans.org/illinois.html