

# Greenways Newsletter

*The McLean County  
Greenways project  
connects residents  
with natural areas and  
improves their quality  
of life.*



FALL 2019

## Message From the Chair

**Moraine View State Park**  
**Photo Source: Angie Mohn**

Since our new website ([mcplan.org/greenways](http://mcplan.org/greenways)) started last year, the McLean County Greenways Advisory Committee has been actively working to expand its efforts in acquainting citizens with information about using county greenways, advocating for green spaces and providing educational opportunities for people to understand more about the importance of these important corridors of land and water that connect us.

In spring of 2020, the Greenways Advisory Committee will host its first "Go Greenways" seminar (see pg. 2). This seminar is planned for people who like to walk, hike, bike, boat, fish and enjoy nature (birds and wildflowers) along the greenways paths and waterways. Participants

in the seminar will be able to sign themselves and their family members up for some "feet on" trails and water learning experiences to take place in early spring.

This past year, we ran two photo contests (see pg. 3). Our first was a Fall and Winter contest. Our second, Spring and Summer contest, is still in the works as of this newsletter printing. These contests helped us gain photos of the greenways featured on our website and will be used in upcoming stories and promotions for the sites.

Our new website continues to add more content and features each month. We encourage you to read the events section regularly as more nature and green activities are being added

frequently that are offered by some of our committee organizations and others.

We recently added our simple McLean County Greenways brochure to the website which provides a capsule summary of what's on the site including the map of greenways locations and most amenities found there. You are welcome to print this off for your personal use or for any groups who may want to see it.

Enjoy the nature around you.

Deanna Frautschi  
Chair, Greenways Advisory  
Committee

# Subcommittee Updates

## Mission and Awareness

We are enhancing the new Greenways website by encouraging more local activities at greenway sites be placed in the events section. We want to encourage citizens to look frequently at this website for events they may enjoy doing with others.

Also added to the website was a simple single sheet brochure that can be printed off for use by individuals or with groups wanting to find out more about Greenways. For more detailed information and current updates, it directs people to the Greenways website.

This Fall newsletter was just

completed and we will soon be wrapping up our Spring and Summer Photo Contest.

We are currently working on finishing the details for our first "Go Greenways" seminar. This seminar is intended for users of greenways and will highlight activities people can do at various greenways sites.

Deanna Frautschi, Chair  
*Mission and Awareness Subcommittee*

## Education and Outreach

The committee is promoting educational opportunities at our Greenways locations by creating interpretive signs at various sites. We are working with the U. of I. Prairie Research Institute to create

signs featuring geological, natural, historical and cultural experiences. Our first two sites will be on the Rt. 66 Bike Route in Towanda and Shirley.

We are partnering with Friends of the Constitution Trail and McLean County school districts to deliver bicycle and pedestrian safety training. A Safe Routes to Schools grant has been awarded to deliver instruction at both the primary and Middle school levels.

Geocaching is being utilized to encourage exploration of Greenways sites.

Patrick Dullard, Chair  
*Education and Outreach Subcommittee*

## Go Greenways Seminar

A half day "Go Greenways" seminar for adults has been set to take place Saturday, May 2 from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at Uptown Station in Normal. Cost per participant is \$10.00.

The Greenways Advisory Committee wants to acquaint potential users with activities they may want to pursue at Greenways sites throughout McLean County.

The agenda will include coffee and a breakfast snack from 8 to 8:30 followed by a welcome and introduction to the Greenways website and how to make best use of it.

Featured activities you can do at various Greenways sites will include

### Presentations on:

- Birding the trails with Angelo Capparella
- Biking safely by Michael Brown and Patrick Dullard.
- Kayaking and water safety by Lenore Sobota
- Wildflowers at Greenways sites by Mary Jo Adams
- Fishing locally by Terry Brown\*

There will also be the availability to sign participants and other family members up for demonstrations by



**Constitution Trail**  
**Photo Source: Vinay Devari**

presenters at some of the sites (at later dates) including a wildflower walk, bicycle ride, safe kayaking demonstration, and birding identification walk.

*\*Terry Brown's presentation will be subject to his availability in 2020.*

## Goals and Objectives

The subcommittee has been reviewing the McLean County Regional Greenways Plan published in 2009 for the purpose of updating progress towards the plan's goals and objectives since that time.

A group representing multiple local governmental agencies and other organizations

has worked to fully review and document progress on the Greenways Plan implementation.

Our intention is to provide and share a full update of accomplishments in a later document. Some notable statistics resulting from this process include:

- 28 "complete" initiatives

supporting Greenways plan goals.

- 55 "ongoing" initiatives
- Only 7 "incomplete" initiatives

Michael Brown, Chair  
*Goals and Objectives Subcommittee*

## Fall and Winter Photo Contest Winners

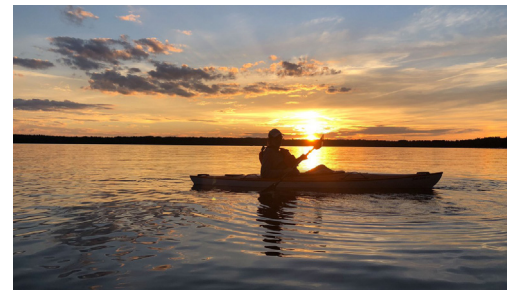


**Category:** Best of  
**Photographer:** Dave Weth  
**Location:** Evergreen Lake

Congratulations to the winners of the Greenways 2018-19 Fall and Winter photo contest. These photos are also featured on our website.

The Greenways Advisory Committee received over 100 submissions for this contest (September 1, 2018 to February 28, 2019) and winners were chosen in each of the four categories – landscape, people using site, wildlife at site and a best of Greenways. Winners received a \$50 gift card.

A Spring and Summer contest was launched March 1, 2019 and will run through September 15, 2019. Winning photos will appear in the spring Greenways newsletter.



**Category:** People  
**Photographer:** Geogri Baird  
**Location:** Dawson Lake



**Category:** Wildlife  
**Photographer:** Dave Weth  
**Location:** Merwin Nature Preserve



**Category:** Landscape  
**Photographer:** James Kozak  
**Location:** Evergreen Lake



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## Greenways Advisory Committee

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**Deanna Frautschi, Chairperson**

*Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist*

**Meg Anderson**

*Friends of the Constitution Trail*

**Denise Bilski**

*Friends of Moraine View*

**Joan Brehm**

*Sociology Department, Illinois State University*

**Jordan Brown**

*McLean County Regional Planning Commission*

**Michael Brown**

*Ecology Action Center*

**Jake Callahan**

*Bloomington & Normal Water Reclamation District*

**Angelo Capparella**

*Biology Department, Illinois State University*

**Douglas Damery**

*Parks and Recreation Department, Town of Normal*

**Mercy Davison**

*Planning & Zoning Department, Town of Normal*

**Philip Dick**

*Building & Zoning Department, McLean County*

**Patrick Dullard**

*Friends of the Constitution Trail*

**George Farnsworth**

*The Nature Conservancy*

**Angela Funk**

*Sugar Grove Nature Center*

**Sue and Chip Hendricks**

*Prairielands Preservation Foundation*

**Luke Hohulin**

*Highway Department, McLean County*

**Jacqueline Kraft**

*McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District*

**David Lamb**

*Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department, City of Bloomington*

**Taylor Long**

*Planning & Zoning Department, Town of Normal*

**Mike McCurdy**

*WGLT*

**Gretchen Monti**

*John Wesley Powell Audubon Society*

**Jeanne Moonan**

*Normal Public Library*

**Skip Nelson**

*Illinois State University*

**Ken Newgren**

*Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist, Sugar Grove Nature Center*

**Ryan Otto**

*Engineering Department, Town of Normal*

**Nick Pershey**

*Horticulture Department, Illinois State University*

**Marcia Rossi**

*Wild Ones*

**Dawn Sanner**

*Campus Recreation Department, Illinois State University*

**Katie Simpson**

*Community Development Department, City of Bloomington*

**Michael Steffa**

*Parks & Recreation Department, McLean County*

**Randy Stein**

*Bloomington & Normal Water Reclamation District*

**Jay Tetzloff**

*Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department, City of Bloomington*

**Luke Thoele**

*Engineering Department, City of Bloomington*

**Casey Weeks**

*Community Development Department, City of Bloomington*

**Doug Welch**

*Citizen*

**Drake Zimmerman**

*Friends of Kickapoo Creek*

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### STAFF

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**Casey Peterson**

Stevenson Fellow

### COMMISSIONERS

**Carl Teichman**

Chairperson, Town of Normal

**Mary Kramp**

Vice-chairperson, McLean County

**Bart Bittner**

McLean County

**John Burrill**

Bloomington/Normal Water Reclamation District

**Jim Fruin**

McLean County

**Diana Hauman**

City of Bloomington

**Taunia Leffler**

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