Since our new website (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 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
- 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:** Landscape
**Photographer:** James Kozak
**Location:** Evergreen Lake

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

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

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

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

**Category:** People
**Photographer:** Geogri Baird
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Greenways Advisory Committee

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Illinois Grand Prairie Master Naturalist

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Friends of the Constitution Trail

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Friends of Moraine View

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