

# Chapter 11: Trails

Oregon Park District has identified trails as a high priority. The connection of the community to OPD Parks and other local recreational resources is another high priority of the Park District. Prior to the implementation of any trails is important to inventory the existing trails and trail plans by other agencies. The first step is to create a regional planning team from all local agencies and begin the implementation process. This chapter contains a map of existing plans from Ogle County and all 6 adjacent counties: Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, Lee, Stephenson, Whiteside, Winnebago, as well as, proposed connections to the Grand Illinois Trail (G.I.T.)



Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center



## GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL

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THE GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL (GIT) IS A 500-MILE LOOP THAT CIRCLES ACROSS NORTHERN ILLINOIS stretching from Lake Michigan to the Mississippi River... and back.

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### Region 2

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#### Trails

• Boone County

- Elkhorn Riverfront Recreation Trail
- Long Prairie Trail

• Bureau County

- Kaskaskia Alliance Trail

• Carroll County

- Great River Trail

• DeKalb County

- DeKalb Nature Trail
- Great Western Trail
- Peace Road (Dycamore) Trail

• Henry County

- Hennepin Canal Parkway State Trail
- Rock Island State Trail

• Lee County

- Polo Recreational Trail

• Ogle County

- Byron Trail
- Joe Stenger Bicycle Trail
- Lowell Pathway Bicycle Trail
- Polo Recreational Trail
- Rochelle Area Cycling Connection

• Rock Island County

- Ben Rutherford Parkway
- Loud Thunder Forest Preserve Trails
- Hennepin Canal Parkway State Trail
- Great River Trail

• Stephenson County

- Jane Addams Trail
- Pecatonica Prairie Path

• Whiteside County

- Great River Trail

• Winnebago County

- Bout Briques Bike Trail
- Charles Street
- Cherry Valley Lake Trail
- Honoregan Recreation Path
- East Creek Trail
- Long Prairie Trail
- Nel Anderson Memorial Parkway
- Pecatonica Prairie Path
- Perryville Path
- Rock Cut State Park
- Rock River Trail
- Rockford Trail
- Sparta Brook Trail
- Stines Bridge Trail
- Wilcox Creek Trail

# Park Access and Walking Statistics

The industry recommendations are based on the probability to walk or bike to a facility. The science behind the “willingness” to walk has been duly researched. The following are excerpts from Boris S Pushkarev with Jeffrey M Zupan, *Urban Space for Pedestrians*, MIT Press, 1975, and the NHTSA 2002 Study to explain the habit and nature of walking and pedestrian connections to recreation sites.

Jeff Zupan and Boris Pushkarev published their findings that measured how people choose to travel and what affects travel pattern decisions. Some interesting and important results are highlighted below.

“The willingness to walk somewhere falls off drastically at about half a mile, although some people can be counted to walk up to two miles for all sorts of purposes.”

The study showed that people will walk longer distances and times to journey along a more enjoyable atmosphere. This study concludes there is probability that you can entice people to walk further distances if the walk is appealing and the route is a sensible connection. The study also indicated that if you build a large parking lot at a facility most people will opt to drive.

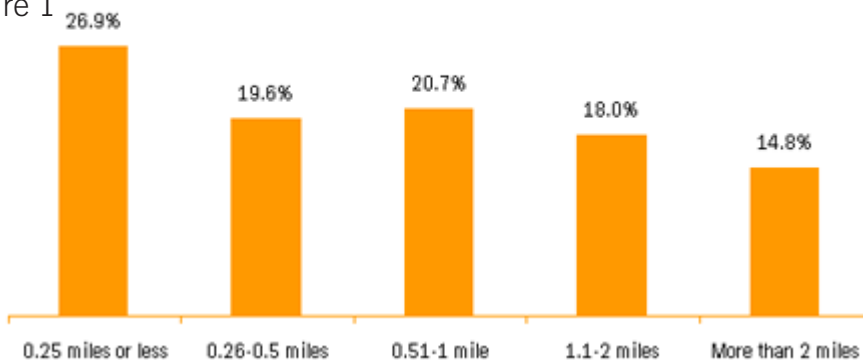
In 2002, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors discovered that people walk for exercise or their health 27 percent and for recreational purposes 15 percent of the time.

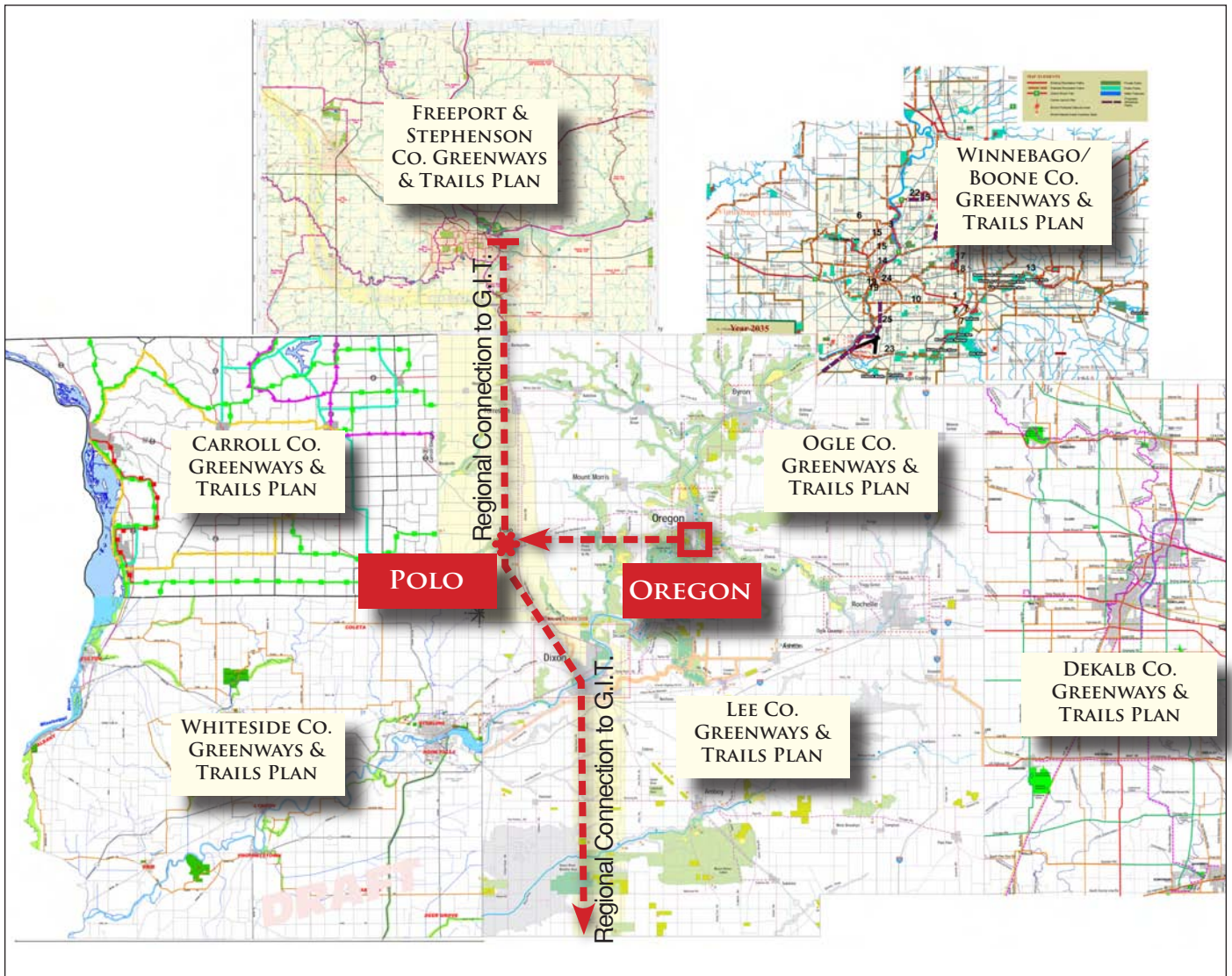
Walking Rates by Age Percent		Facilities Used by Pedestrians Percent	
5 to 15	15.2	Sidewalks	45.1
16 to 24	9.3	Paved roads (no shoulder)	24.8
25 to 39	9.2	Shoulders of paved roads	8.4
40 to 64	7.8	Unpaved roads	8.0
65 and over	8.9	Paths/Trails	5.8
(Pucher and Renne, 2003)		Grass or fields	4.9
		Other	3.0

The 2002 National Survey of Pedestrian and Bicyclist Attitudes and Behaviors, about 27 percent of walks are less than 1/4 mile in length and 15 percent are more than 2 miles. (see Figure 1)

**Percent of Trip Lengths on Most Recent Day Walked**

Figure 1





## County Greenway & Trail Plans

Above is a compilation of local county trail maps showing the relationship of all proposed trails and greenway plans. This is the "Big Idea", the Oregon Park District is a key component to these trail plans. The trails planned to connect Byron to Dixon and DeKalb to Polo cross in Oregon, the hub of the Oregon Park District.

How to make parks and recreation convenient? Trails, with out question, is the most beneficial investment. Build facilities in dense populated areas and connect them with dedicated trails. Trails are not only the most popular trend, they area a valuable tool to unite communities. Trails provide recreation, inexpensive exercise, reduce impacts to the environment, and may become transportation solutions in an energy crisis.

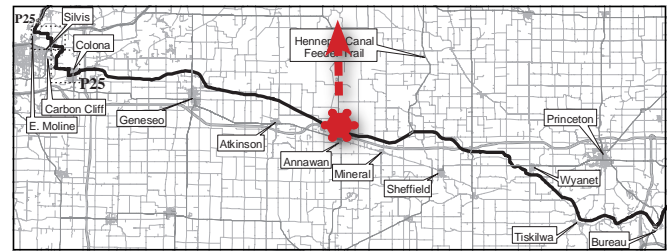
# G.I.T. and Ogle County Greenway & Trails Plan

Grand Illinois Trail

Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park to Rock Cut State Park - 68 miles

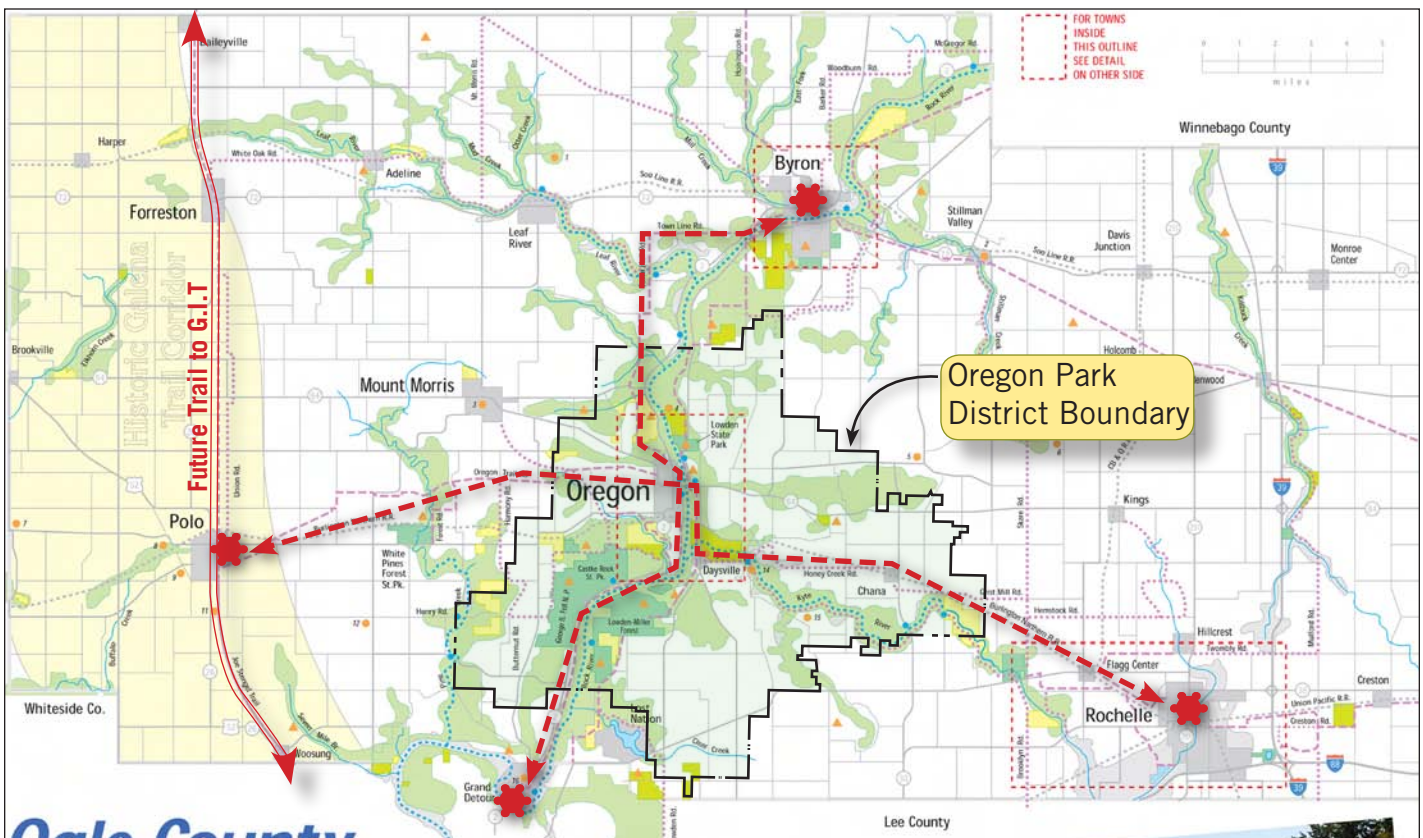
Grand Illinois Trail

Bureau to East Moline - 67 miles



The Ogle County Trails Map (BELOW) illustrates the Ogle County piece of the “Big Idea”. A Trail destination to Polo means a future connection to the G.I.T. north to Freeport and south to the East Moline Segment.

The Park District has 5 parks sites that are directly in the path of regional trail plans, Veterans Prairie, Kiwanis Park, Park East, Park West, and Carnation Park.



## Ogle County Regional Greenways and Trails Plan

- Historic Attractions**
- 1 Lightsville settlement
  - 2 Black Hawk War Background Memorial
  - 3 Pine Creek Seminary/Mount Morris College buildings, 1839/1884
  - 4 Eagle's Nest Artists Colony cottages, cottages, 1839/1884
  - 5 Garjner's Spring, 1898-1942
  - 6 Paul's Point settlement
  - 7 White Rock Burg settlement on the Chicago & Iowa Trail
  - 8 Eagle Point settlement
  - 9 Pine Creek settlement/Pines Corners
  - 10 Paul's Point settlement/Mount Morris College buildings, 1839/1884
  - 11 Appington House/Point Historical Society
  - 12 Henry School, 1878
  - 13 Pine Creek settlement/Pines Corners
  - 14 Dayville settlement
  - 15 Waterlawn settlement
  - 16 Washington Grove settlement
  - 17 Grand Detour settlement/John Deere Historic Site (St. Peter's Episcopal Church (restored))
  - 18 Brodie's Grove/Brodie's cabin site

- Legend:**
- Flood Plain
  - Potential Greenways
  - Public Greenspace
  - Private Greenspace
  - Recreational Areas (private and commercial campgrounds, religious, etc.)
  - Canoe Access
  - Historic Site
  - Illinois Natural Inventory Site
  - State / County Highway
  - Township Road
  - Existing Trail
  - Potential Recreational Trail
  - Potential Secondary Trail
  - Rail Road
  - River & Streams
  - Potential Canoe Trail

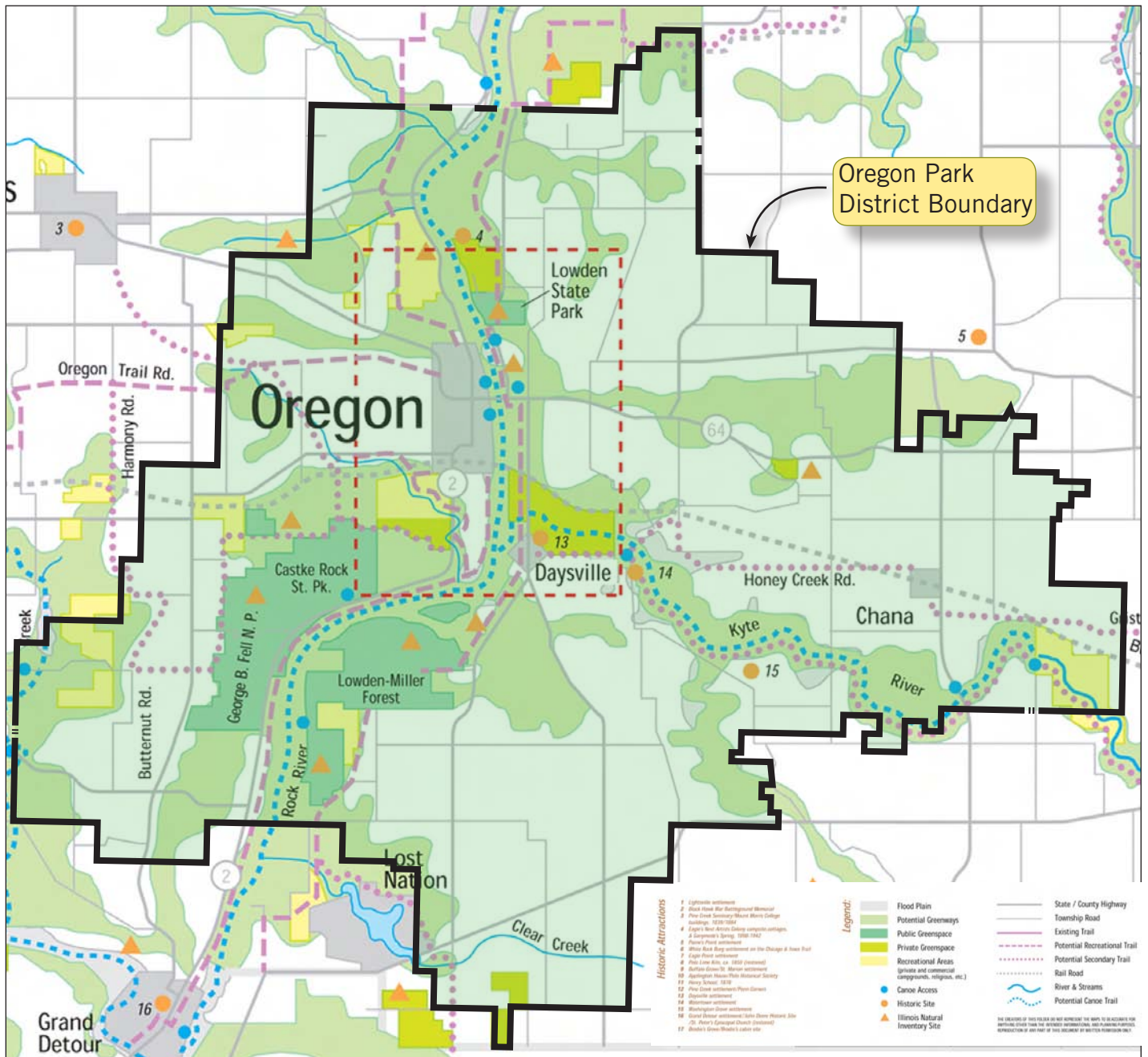
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Courtesy of the Ogle County Greenways and Trails Plan: by Scheaffer Landscape Architects

# Ogle County Greenway & Trails Plan Enlargement

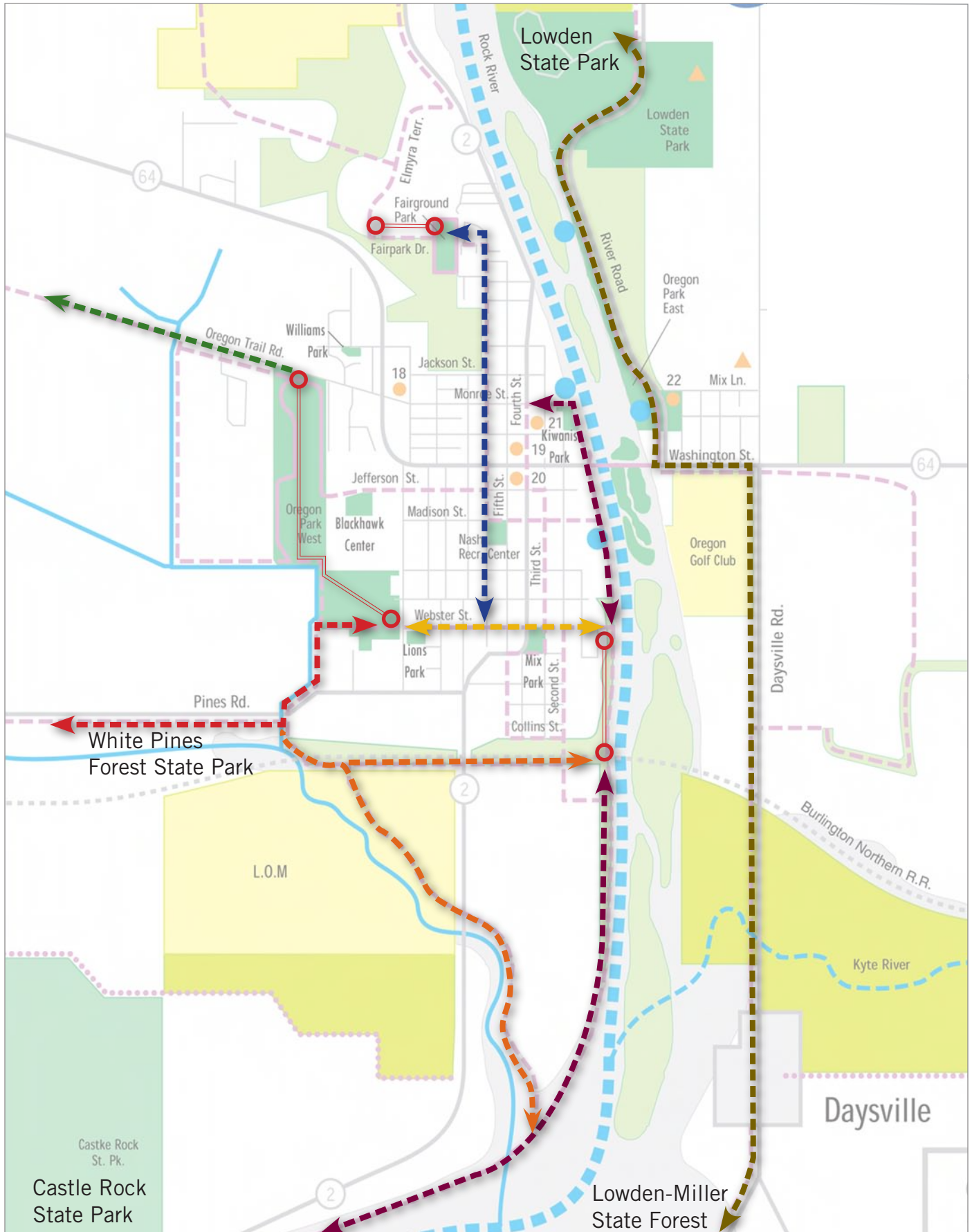


Courtesy of the Ogle County Greenways and Trails Plan: by Scheaffer Landscape Architects

## Suggested Agency Collaboration

- Illinois DOT
- Illinois DNR
- Ogle County
- City of Oregon
- Oregon Park District
- Byron
- Rochelle
- Dixon Park District
- Village of Mt. Morris
- Village of Polo
- Grand Detour
- Byron Forest Preserve
- Byron Park District
- Flagg-Rochelle Park District
- Economic Development Groups

# Ogle County Greenway & Trails Plan Oregon Enlargement



Courtesy of the Ogle County Greenways and Trails Plan: by Scheaffer Landscape Architects

# Oregon Park District Master Plan Trails Opportunities

## Trail A Carnation Park to Veterans Prairie

+/- .75 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a trail from Carnation Park along Webster St. to Mix Park, Lions Park. Connecting to the existing trail through Veterans Prairie northwest into Park West.

## Trail B Fairgrounds Park to Nash Recreation Center

+/- 1.4 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a from Fairgrounds along 6th St. south to Nash Recreation Center. The Master Plan recommends extending this trail south to Webster St. to connect to Trail A (Carnation - Mix - Lions - Veterans Prairie - Park West)

## Trail C Kiwanis Park to Castle Rock State Park

+/- 4 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a trail from Kiwanis Park south along the Rock River to Carnation Park. This trail is planned to be extended to Castle Rock State Park.

## Trail D Lowden State Park to Lowden Miller State Park

+/- 6 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a trail from Lowden Miller State Park south along River Road to Park East. This trail would then extend along Daysville Rd. through the Kyte River Bottom into Daysville south to Lowden Miller State Park.

## Trail E Park West to Mt. Morris

+/- 6 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a trail from Park West along Oregon Trail Rd. connecting to Mt. Morris with potential destinations at Dillehay Park and the nearest skate park.

## Trail F Veterans Prairie to White Pines Forest State Park

+/- 6 Miles 

The Ogle County Trails Map indicates a trail from Park West along Oregon Trail Rd. connecting to Mt. Morris with potential to destination to Historic Downtown and +/- 20 acre Dillehay Park.

### Trail Map Legend

  Existing Oregon Park District Trails

 Oregon Park District Trail Alternate Routes

<b>Historic Attractions</b> 1 Luptonville settlement 2 Black Hawk War Background Memorial 3 First State Sanitary Menstrual Discharge 4 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 5 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 6 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 7 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 8 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 9 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 10 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 11 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 12 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 13 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 14 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 15 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 16 Camp's Mill (1820-1824) 17 Camp's Mill (1820-1824)	<b>Legend:</b> Flood Plain Potential Greensways Public Greenspace Private Greenspace Recreational Areas (private and commercial campgrounds, religious, etc.) Canoe Access Historic Site Illinois Natural Inventory Site	State / County Highway Township Road Existing Trail Potential Recreational Trail Potential Secondary Trail Rail Road River & Streams Potential Canoe Trail
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## Trails Summary

The community input has voiced strong support to build trails to parks, on parks and to connect local destination. Designations of trails through roadway striping and signage, easement agreements, R.O.W improvements, and through public lands requires planning, collaboration, permitting, and funding. The recommendations of the Master Plan is to create a planning team to target trails A - F, and begin the design process.

### Trails Action Process

- Assemble a Trails Planning Team from agencies
- Prioritize Trails A-F
- Create a Trail Master Plan (trail layout & alternates)
- Provide Public Presentation and Input
- Identify permitting requirements
- Identify grant and funding opportunities
- Secure permitting and funding
- Design, bid, and construction