



# Menard County Trails & Greenways

WAYS TO DISCOVERY!

## Winter Newsletter 2021

### Members' Zoom Meeting

Save the Date

February 9, 2021

7:00 PM

Trails & Greenways is embarking on two exciting projects. We hope you can join us for a Zoom meeting to hear about the projects and how you can get involved.

#### New Salem Habitat Restoration Project

Habitat restoration at New Salem State Historic Site will focus on removal of bush honeysuckle, autumn olive and garlic mustard from the 65-acre upland area around Cardinal Trail. We'll be working under the supervision of INDR Natural Heritage Biologist, Ray Geroff. The objective of this long term project is to restore the historic landscape of the area.

A short slide presentation will describe the project in more detail, including volunteer needs and opportunities.

#### Virtual Tour of the Sangamon River

Working with Dave Cox, Biology professor at Lincoln Land Community College and a founder of Inspire EdVentures, a U.S.-based educational travel company that is currently conducting virtual tours with the Belize Zoo, we'll create a virtual tour of the Sangamon River. The "tour" will consist of several short videos featuring the unique ecology and natural history of the river.

Drawing on the expertise of Trails & Greenways members for content, Dave has offered to produce the final product.

### Follow Us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/MenardCTG>

### Free Seed Packets



Menard County Trails and Greenways and Rudin Printing are once again offering free pollinator seeds. All seed was collected on the Petersburg square and will include packets of butterfly milkweed,

swamp milkweed, purple coneflower, orange coneflower (AKA black-eyed Susan), golden Alexanders, and small yellow baptisia.

Seed packets will be available while they last at Hand of Fate Brewery, Petersburg Public Library and Hurley Funeral Home. We'll announce additional locations on Facebook.

To learn more about the history and status of the project, log onto the website to read about the Planting on the Square project, which began in 2019.



Join, Renew, Stay Informed at <https://menardcountytrailsandgreenways.org>

# Menard County Trails & Greenways Committees

## Everyone Welcome! Join Us!

### Membership & Communication

Chair: Alana McKean

Members: Chris Rudin, Terri Treacy

This committee:

- maintains the membership list and Listserve,
- posts to social media,
- maintains the website,
- produces printed materials (brochures, signs, etc.)

*If you're a techy with skills we can use your help.*

### Program & Events

Chair: Terri Treacy

This committee organizes special interest programs.

For example, programs have included:

*Growing Healthy Trees Workshops*

Sub-committee chairs will organize special events such as:

*Earth Day Clean Ups*

*Bike Rides*

*Sangamon River Watershed Celebration*

*Booth at Petersburg Harvest Fest*

*Sangamon River Fall Float*

*If you have ideas for programs, or a knack for organizing events, your talents can be put to use on this committee.*

### Wayside Maintenance

Chair: Guy Sternberg

Members: Dave Hedrick, Ben Kingingham, Mark Jones, Karen Erchinger, Logan Dudley, Alana McKean, Terri Treacy

This committee maintains the Wayside Park and includes weekly mowing during the growing season, tree care and pollinator waystation care.

*It's large committee, but there's a lot of work to be done during the growing season. The mowing team is always looking for additional volunteers to join the mowing rotation. And, the pollinator planting relies on a dedicated crew to keep the area weeded, and in the case of droughty summer, watered.*

### Adopt-a-Highway

Chair-Chris Rudin

The Trails & Greenways Adopt-a-Highway segment runs 2 miles along Rt. 97 from the south edge of town to the top of the hill at the south end of New Salem State Historic Site.

Litter is picked up on average 4 times per year.

*Pickup dates are announced through the Member Listserve and on our Facebook page.*

### Trails (Land & Water)

Co-Chairs: Kent Massie & Jenn Satorious

Members: Libby Shawgo, Doug VanAtten, Mike Wiant

Land trail work include projects such as:

- Sangamon Valley Trail Extension (*committee members stay abreast of the status of the SVT extension into Menard County*)
- Petersburg/New Salem trail (*IDOT will hold a public meeting for input into this proposal--stay tuned!*)
- Menard County Bike Routes & Signage (*This committee promotes bicycling in Menard County. Down the road the committee will be pursuing the establishment of Bike Route signs along routes that connect points of interest in the county. If biking is your passion, this committee would love your help.*)

Water trail work includes projects such as:

- National Water Trail Designation
- Sangamon River Access (*The committee is currently investigating various opportunities for the establishment of permanent Sangamon River public access near Gudgel Bridge. If improving river access is important to you, the committee can use the help.*)
- River clean-up sweeps. (*Sweeps are announced on the Member Listserve and Facebook page.*)

### New Salem Restoration Project

*This committee is looking for volunteers who are interested in restoring the historic 65-acre forest on Cardinal Ridge in New Salem. If you're interested in helping with invasive species removal we'd love for you to join the roster of project volunteers.*

### Sangamon River EdVenture

*This committee will be producing a series of educational videos covering a wide range of topics such as ecology, biology, geology, archaeology, and other natural history aspects of the Sangamon River. If you're interested in helping to provide content, photos, river transport (e.g. Jon boat) or even a drone, we're looking for volunteers to lend their expertise to this project.*

### To Volunteer

Please contact Terri (treacytt@gmail.com or 618-521-1030) for more information about or to join any of our committees.