

# Trail Usage Survey, Improvement Comments

## Connectivity

- Most trail locations are difficult to access, especially by residents in the Sycamore/Foxpointe area. Residents south and west of South Prairie elementary school must go all the way north to Borden to get on the trail. It is also difficult/dangerous for bikers and walkers to access business on Rt. 23 and the Sycamore/DeKalb downtown areas. Imagine the boost in quality of life if people were able to access these areas by bicycle. More people would ride their bikes to the Farmer's markets, downtown businesses, and Rt. 23 business which may reduce traffic congestion.

- I would like to be able to get from Prairie Park to NIU with greater ease; I live in Devonaire Farms, and would like a more connected route to Hopkins Park.

- We would use the trails more often and for daily functions if we were connected and the trails were connected

- When connectivity is not available, recommended routes would be useful.  
Thank you!!

- I would love to have a trail that goes from De Kalb to Kishwaukee College

- I've never heard of several of these trails. Perhaps some advertisements about the trails, or some maps posted might help. Also, there are very few options for NIU residents to access trails aside from the one at the East lagoon. Another trail might boost trail usage.

- I wish there were a connection between the Prairie Park trail and the trail by the lagoon. Currently, there's no particularly safe connection between the two.

- The Peace Rd Trail needs major maintenance. It's crumbling and buckling - making it quite unpleasant to ride.

Bethany Road needs a legitimate bike trail that runs from Peace Rd to N 1st. The sidewalk is ok from Peace to 23, but from 23 to n 1st is comical - sidewalk ends, grass, no curb cuts, perfect bike trail for 100yards and then nothing. The bike trail should continue through Nehring park, go behind the E Free Church, and connect to N 1st.

The bike path intersection at Greenwood Acres and 23 has a huge light post in the middle of it. The path is very narrow and dangerous there - especially for families and people hauling trailers. If you avoid the curb cut there (cause the path is too narrow), you can't get back on the trail until you get to the subdivision entrance 1/4mi down the road. Not good.

There should be a Bike Lane on Pleasant st from 14th to Peace and a crossing light at Peace - that's a dangerous intersection.

- My family rides from Devonaire Farms to Hopkins Park, down 23 by the country club, and then on the path connecting back to First Street. It is very difficult/unsafe crossing the busy road from the Kiwanis path into the Hopkins Park area (near American Family Insurance). While we will soon be able to ride the path near the new high school to the nursing home, this is where the path ends. At this point we have to

ride through the craziness of NIU or turn around and retrace our path. We would like to see more off-road pathways connected that create loops.

We would also like to see the path extended beyond the park in Devonaire Farms.

- We don't use the trail system because we are not located near any of them and we do not bicycle. However, we are very supportive of the trail system and believe it is one of the valuable assets of DeKalb and Sycamore communities.

- I mostly run near downtown Sycamore near my apartment and down Peace Rd. and Rt. 23 simply because of convenience. I think the Peace Rd. portion is always kept well-- however, it would be nice to see some sort of sidewalk to connect State St. from the entrance of the Sycamore UMC (near the cemetery) to the larger trail going down Peace Rd. It really is not a long stretch at all and I run down the road but it's near a busy intersection where the speed limit is 50 mph. Sometimes trucks get awfully close. The trail is nothing fancy and it gets boring after a while but it feels relatively safe because there's no stretch that isn't near some sort of residence or shop--that is, until you get further down Peace Rd going toward the tollway. Then it is mostly cornfields. I rarely run down this way because it is not near many other people and again, the speed limit is around 50 mph. This portion of the trail could use more upkeep as there are definitely a lot of parts where asphalt is sunken into the ground.

Now of course there are many concerns about safety near Prairie Park and rightfully so. I enjoyed running there when I lived near campus and did so multiple times each week. I appreciate that there is water nearby and there's nice scenery. Part of its appeal is that it is a little remote and calm but not too far off the beaten path. It's in close proximity to campus but you don't have to run on sidewalk near the congested traffic that is campus with little room to dodge bicycles.

I sometimes would go off the main trail to just have a nice stroll. Perhaps people should be encouraged to no longer do this. When I've gone off the trail, I have gotten into areas where it was clear there may be some gang activity due to graffiti and alcohol containers in the area. I have encountered questionable passersby (clearly not students) or all ages. One man appeared to be drunkenly staggering down the trail once. The railroad tracks nearby (VERY close to the trail) are also questionable in terms of safety. There are certainly nicer parts of this particular trail near the apartments where there are families with children. This portion seems to have less questionable people and fewer litter. This portion is the reason I ran through the part that made me less comfortable. The portion of the trail that concerns me is as you are going along the tracks (there's a bit of straight stretch). Just before you get to the portion where there is a bridge, there's a small unofficial path that leads back into the woods. There is a large structure of some sort that perhaps has to do with city waste? I'm not sure. As I recall, there are two of those and they have graffiti all over them. This area does not seem right to me but I can't really explain why. Perhaps there should be officers that occasionally patrol this area and look for criminal activity. It's a sketchy area for sure and we all know multiple unfortunate things have happened in that area of DeKalb. People should be made more aware of it. I would never go there alone again.

-connecting Cortland to the trails would be a great thing. it is very hard to ride your bike on barber green rd to get to the DeKalb and Sycamore area trails. a trail on loves rd and barber green rd that connects at peace rd would be great.

- 1. There is no trail connection between the north side of 38 and the south side. It is unsafe to cross 38, at times, on a bike this is a hindrance for running, walking, and commuting by bike to the NIU campus from the south side of 38 to the campus.

2. The trail in Prairie Park abruptly stops. Connecting the trail along the river to the other side of 38 by NIU would be a tremendous aid to safe walking, running, and biking.
3. The trail along Peace Road also abruptly stops. It is dangerous to ride my bike along Bethany because of the speed of the cars and the lack of a shoulder. A connecting trail(s) between Peace and the Great Western Trail would be fantastic.
4. I have always wondered why there can not be a trail along the Kish in the same way there is a trail along the Fox. This would be tremendous.

- I feel that some of the trails i have used are nice until they end almost unexpectedly. Also I feel that it is hard to use the trails for cycling(biking) when they are falling apart. I wish we could fix these trails and make them as smooth as possible, and maybe add trail signs to better know where they are and end.  
Thanks.

-I would like to see a connection in Cortland to some of these trails. Somonauk Rd and Barber Green Rd is not the best road to be running on and it would be nice to see some paths that we can get on to and not have to drive a mile to some of these paths. This is the one reason why I do not use the paths and I would actually use the path so I do not have to run on Pleasant/Cortland Center Drive down to Airport Rd and back

-I use the DeKalb Nature Trail the most and would like to see it continue East towards the Peace Rd. trail. I would also like to see the pathway by Rivermist on Bethany continue East on Bethany from N. 1st St. continuously to Peace Rd.

Overall, I like and appreciate the trails we have in the DeKalb/Sycamore area; however, they really could be something special if they were to become mostly inter-connected. Other than the Great Western Trail, I think the longest continuous path is on Peace Rd. and I find this too open and exposed to be enjoyable for exercise and relaxation. Trees are need along Peace Rd. and along the path from Hopkins to NIU (along the Kish River).

Safety is certainly a concern, particularly at night on secluded paths. Yet, I believe it is the responsibility of individuals to exercise common sense and not be alone on secluded paths after dusk.

Finally, with winter approaching, I am want to mention the importance of keeping paths usable. This includes the sidewalks between paths, such as from the Bethany Rd. path (near Rivermist) to the DeKalb Nature Trail. Is in not a requirement of residents to clear their sidewalks within "X" hours of a snowfall? Thank you for conducting this survey! As NITRO club member, I hope you find my feedback helpful.

- The connection across Lincoln Highway from the NIU lagoon to the path to the south. Also, there is a gap to get to the Dresser Road path from 1st Street.

- Connection needed on rt. hand side of Barber Greene to get to Borders.

Difficult to cross street to go to Target.

No good connection to get downtown DeKalb.

Would be a nice route using Peace rd trail to Nature trail by Michael's then take 1st to Bethany then pick up Peace again but Bethany too dangerous without a trail or continuous sidewalk.

Love GW trail but parts are very narrow because of grass growth and safety issues for a me being a women alone on the trail prevent me from using it daily. This is especially true now with the recent NIU event.

- The trail connectivity from the school near the Farm Bureau out to the Great Western Trail should be improved/better marked. The route from that school, across Borden(?), over to the public golf course is somewhat difficult to identify/follow.

- I think there should be some more apparent signage to bring more attention to the trails, specifically near the 1st and Bethany trailhead and also at the 23 entrance to this trail.

On another note, I think there should be a trail from NIU to Kishwaukee College, for commuters' sake. I know this is asking for a lot, but I see many people biking along 38 from the two colleges, which is really unsafe.

Also, off-road mountain bike type trails would be of great benefit to the community. This would be great in Prairie Park, PA Nehring Forest Preserve, Afton Preserve, and Merrit Prairie, for example.

- Obvious safety concern is prairie park now... but even before, we would never walk it, only on bikes. (it needs to be opened up.). Need to have more connectivity of trails and interesting things to see. Peace road trail for example is very boring... peace road and a cornfield. Great western is only trail of any distance. How about something going north or west or something.

- We would use the bike trails but none of them seem to connect together - also north of sycamore there's no easy way to access any of the bike paths unless to want to ride on 23 or peace road to gain access.

Great Western Trail - needs to be maintained and cleared out some - trail is much wider and better maintained once you cross over to Kane County

Trail maps - being new to the area not sure where each trail goes and if it just ends without any warning - better posting of maps throughout the trails

Personal safety - being a woman I will not run alone on most trails - especially great western trail since it is so isolated and dense. If I have to run alone I make sure to have mace and my cell phone - not much you can do about the situation.

- I would like to the the Nature trail (1st St. -to- 23) extended south/east of 23 thru Hoger Farm Park along the same former RR-ROW.

- I couldn't find the connection between the trail that runs from Bethany to the elementary school and the Great Western Trail. Trail maps and signs would be helpful.

As for safety concerns, I don't go on certain trails by myself, like the Great Western Trail, because it's out in the middle of no where. Now, though, we apparently need to worry about trails that are even near residences like Prairie Park's trail. It's strange because I've never felt worried about going on a trail before, not even in Chicago, as long as it was near where people reside. I'm not sure how this can be resolved other than having phones available every few hundred feet like NIU does on its campus. Most people have cell phones on them anyway. I think the issue is that people shouldn't stray off the path in wooded areas for their own safety. Perhaps you can have signs that say, "Travel with a friend," or "Stay on the path for your own safety," or "Stay safe," and have bullet points on how people can stay safe (bring flashlight, cellphone, travel with a friend, stay on the path, tell people where you are). I really love these nature trails and I don't want to see them be closed because of this incident.

- DeKalb/Sycamore Trail along Peace Road between Bethany & Pleasant is fine for running, but we hate to bicycle here because of the bumps from broken-up pavement. It is dangerous and if you don't slow down one could fall.

Also, I'd LOVE to see the DeKalb/Sycamore Trail extend down to the new Jewel in Sycamore. Right now it follows Peace Road to Route 64 and stops. It would be beneficial to extend it all the way to Jewel BECAUSE there's the other trail down there behind Jewel (not sure if it has a name, but it is the one that winds through the woods surrounding Merry Oaks Drive). So that way someone from DeKalb could ride into Sycamore to that trail and also go to the businesses (Jewel, Captain Vic's, Subway, Eggsclusive). Pertaining to the bike path behind Jewel... it has one minor flaw which is that the loop doesn't go all the way around the pond that is there. It goes up to Peace Rd and goes to Jewel but then stops. If you want to get back on the trail you have to walk through weeds since there is not a path here. This is difficult on rollerblades, and even walking as some of the weeds are itchy. It wouldn't take much to pave a little connector here... it would make sense to do this. That little pond is nice because I've spotted herons there and it is a relaxing place to jog, rollerblade or bike around and needs to be a complete circle.

ALSO, since the Peace Road trail ends at Route 64, I've seen lots of runners jogging along the shoulder which is dangerous. I think there needs to be a trail/sidewalk here going into downtown Sycamore. I have jogged up to this point before and wanted to head East into Sycamore but was concerned about running on the dangerous shoulder so instead I had to turn around. It would make sense to extend the trail East into downtown, at least until you get to an area with sidewalks, to encourage people to go into downtown or vice versa. Especially since the entrance to Sycamore High School is down there. I think the sidewalks start at Johnson Road so that would mean it wouldn't take much to connect from Peace Road. People often FLY down Route 64 coming from the West since the speed limit is higher out West and we really need a distinct path on that little stretch here.

Thank you.

## **Maintenance**

- In light of recent events I assume the DeKalb Park District will consider the need to improve visibility along the trail in Prairie Park - more specifically, to take out much of the wooded area so people can no longer hide back there.

- We are incredibly fortunate to have such an active and involved community of trail users and such a wealth of local trails here in DeKalb/Sycamore!

Trail access, signs, maps, road crossings, and safety are unparalleled in their excellence here in our community.

One area with room for improvement is that on occasion broken glass bottles seem to show up from time to time, especially along the Peace Road Trail where it intersects Pleasant Street, and this hazard could easily be mitigated by a team of volunteers or city workers willing to sweep the glass with a broom and a dustpan.

- There are many bad spots on the Peace Road trail - one is so bad that if you hit it going anything over 8-9 miles an hour, you are likely to get thrown from the bike. It's just south of Barber Greene Rd.

At that same corner, I have several times seen cars in the right turning lane coming from the east, completely ignore a biker's right to cross nearly hitting a companion once.

- Pleasant and Peace needs a crossing. All trails need bike sensitive crossing sensors to trigger lights. Due to the Pot holes/cracks the trails need to be repaved.

- Need bike trippable traffic signals in roadbed on Greenwood Acres (& Sycamore Rd) , Pearl St (& Lincoln Highway), Dresser Rd (& N 1st St), and Malta Rd (at Kish College).

Repair the DeKalb - Sycamore trail & keep heavy equipment off it!

Install drainage alongside the DeKalb-Sycamore Trail near Tails. That whole stretch is often under water when it rains hard, and it doesn't drain on its own.

Post signs on some of the trails to warn people about bike traffic. Too many groups of 2-3 people walking together walk side-by-side spanning the whole trail and they expect bikers to move for them.

- The crossing at Hillcrest is hard to cross with traffic. A bridge over Peace Road would be nice to go smoothly through a ride. In Sycamore, clear signage is needed to mark the path on the streets. The upkeep of the trail along Peace Road is in great need of repair. The Great Western Trail would be even better if it was paved because after a rain, it is very soft and slippery.

- Overall I think the park district does a good job of keeping the trails in good working order, kudos to them! there are a few places where it gets a little bumpy so please consider that bicycles with road tires feel every bump and crack and this can cause great fatigue over the course of a day. i think keeping the brush off the trail is very important to give everyone enough space on the paved portion. its also nice to have them cleared in the winter, i would love to be able to continue using them in all seasons without risking a fall.

- The trail along Greenwood Acres Dr to 23 needs work, cracked and fissures near 23. Peace Rd from Bethany to Pleasant needs similar work. My safety concerns are encountering traffic when trying to cross the street. Crossover bridges would be great or signage to watch for pedestrians/bikers, etc.

- Improvements needed at the trail head of the Great Western. The area is too over grown. Another area of concern is along Airport Road. The auto traffic is heavy and fast, so a wider shoulder would be safer.

- Crosswalk pavement markings needed at ALL street crossings; e.g., Nature Trail at Greenwood Acres.

- Peace Rd bike path is in need of maintenance, very large bumps and potholes make for some tricky riding.

- Need signage for walkers to go single file when meeting runners and bikers. Most do not make room and appears they don't know the guidelines or just don't care!

It would be nice to have all streets with a bike lane or path so riders wouldn't have to ride out in the street. 1st street is a good example, from Coltonville Rd. in Sycamore down 1st street to DeKalb there's a good section that you have to ride out in the street and during high traffic times it can be pretty hairy. I

think a lot more people would use bikes for transportation if they didn't have to ride in a traffic lane.  
thanks kk

- I'm encouraged that there is a survey. I'm an avid runner and in the summer I run about 60 miles per week around the Dekalb/Sycamore area. I'm also the VP of the local running club.. We represent 100 or so community members, many of whom run the Chicago Marathon yearly. If you look at the Chicago marathon results you'll see that between Dekalb and Sycamore there were about 100 runners from our towns represented in the Chicago Marathon. We're out on the streets and trails all summer (and winter) long.

Since you're asking (and thanks for asking), these are my specific observations:

The trail between N 1st and 23 is one of the cities best trail segments -- but it could really use some lighting. It is very dark in the dawn and twilight hours. I am on it frequently in the dark and more worried that I'm going to scare somebody running up behind them than being scared myself, but I'm sure others find it a little spooky in the dark. It's also treacherously icy in the winter.

The Great Western Trail is the gem of Dekalb county. Our club does long runs on this trail weekly. In fact the "Trail" part of our name (Northern Illinois Trail Runners Org) derives from our frequency of running on the GW Trail. Even though it's dark out there, I don't see the need for lighting. Sometimes parking at the trailhead can get congested so we park at Sycamore Park. We never feel safe going down airport road and crossing 64 and . If there were more parking at the trailhead, and maybe a bathroom, we could skip the run across 64. Also a bathroom or two along the trail would be highly welcomed by all trail users.

Airport Road really needs a wider shoulder, from 64 to Barber Greene. We're on that road frequently in the summer months and could really use a buffer between us and the traffic.

Adding to the wider shoulders list - Bethany Rd. from 23 to Airport.

It would be really cool if the trail segment between 23 and N. 1st extended West to Annie Glidden. Then even cooler if there were a path on Annie Glidden connecting to campus. This would not only be great for runners, but for students wanting a safe bike ride or walk to the Wal Mart shopping area.

One last note, the Kiwanis Trail that goes from Lions Park to Prairie Park winding along the Kish could use more lighting and a clearing of the brush that encroaches on the trail.

Feel free to contact me. Our club would be happy to provide feedback and help with any trail cleanup, volunteering, or trail building activities. We're also pretty decent at fundraising.

Thanks,

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-Weeds in middle of trail and overgrowth on the edges. There are also some holes in the asphalt.

- The trail portion along Peace Road between Bethany and Barber Greene needs attention.

- More rail to trail routes. Possible blacktop of great western trail for year round access

-Crossing IL23 at Greenwood Acres Drive leaves something to be desired. I would like to see a red light for the traffic turning onto IL23 (particularly left hand turners coming from Lowe's area) while I have the walk signal. It would also be nice if walk signals lasted more than a nanosecond because drivers believe I should not be in the intersection if the orange hand is flashing.

-There are some spots along Peace road that need repair. Whoever mows along the Peace Road portion of the trail leaves the grass clippings all over the trail. There could be a better connection between the Lagoon and Prairie Park. I would like to see more off road mountain bike trails in places like Prairie Park. I'd like to see more bike lanes marked along trails that are on city streets, for instance from Prairie School to The Great Western Trail, particularly along Airport Road. Car traffic along Airport Road is fast and busy.

I'm willing to be more involved with the bike trail system.

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- The Great Western Trail needs maintenance on the surface in De Kalb County, also the parking lot in Sycamore needs some improvements.

- The Dekalb County portion of the Great Western Trail is poorly maintained. Specifically, it needs to have fresh limestone added and be graded, especially in the spring. Additionally, it would be great if snowmobiles did not use the Great Western Trail in the winter. The snowmobiles go dangerously fast, which is a great concern when I am on foot. Also, the snowmobiles leave tracks which are difficult to run on. I am a member of the NITRO running club and we greatly appreciate the trail system.

- The great western needs new crushed limestone added to the trail

- I would like to have water fountains on the great western trail. I train for marathons so it would be nice to have access to water over the miles.

regarding safety, it would be useful to have a call button or something installed somewhere. perhaps more light?

-Mile markers would be helpful.

-My family and I have used each and every park and trail this area has to offer. I have found most of the areas to be cleaned, well maintained, and safe. There are some exceptions though. Trails behind Vienna Blvd in DeKalb are littered with junk and trucks whip through the trails. My family and I actually found a murder victim in the back of those woods!!! There's a few others that are a bit spooky.

- I just want a outhouse/toilet somewhere out on the Great Western trail. I run with the NITRO.com running club on the Great Western trail every weekend. The club places water out on the trail around every 2 miles at intersections. We start from the Sycamore Park shelter. Portable toilets are used there. Right around Sycamore Speedway is an ideal spot. If the indoor plumbing gives the urge it would happen in that vicinity. A portable toilet and well for water would be perfect about every 5 miles. The majority (cyclists and runners) are doing distance on the trail and are going to be out there for some time.

For your information, the NITRO (Northern Illinois Trail Runners Org.) and FRTR (Fox River Trail Runners) use the trail from either direction for marathon training on Saturday mornings starting in early spring to late fall. The trail will have around 50 persons on the trail at that given time just between those two groups.

Besides that, the NITRO group meets over at FitWorkz in the evening through the spring through fall, using the Hopkins Park trail to the old Milwaukee Road rails-to-trails connecting Sycamore Rd to 1st, then down Royal back to FitWorkz for about a 4 mile loop. The second route is from FitWorkz taking the trails from Hopkins to the NIU lagoon and back for a 5 mile loop. Right now the group is using Rotary Park since it is well lit at night. If the other routes were better lit the club would not seasonally move.

I hope that information helps. Contact NITRO President Dennis Haile: dhaile61@msn.com, Tobie DePauw of North Central Cyclery in DeKalb, and FRTR President Tom Spadafora: president@foxrivertrailrunners.org from St. Charles west, if you want more information on the usage patterns of your trail system in regards to health and fitness.

-Along the Great Western Trail are many areas of vegetation overhanging the trail, nearly blocking it. This is especially troublesome when encountering another bicyclist, runner, or other user of the trail. Many times I've had near-collisions with others or the vegetation itself while riding in these close quarters. In October, 2010, for instance, I happened to meet the Sycamore High School Boys Cross Country Team while heading East on the trail and they were returning (?) Westbound. I was forced off the trail (into the grass) three feet or more. Fortunately, the area where we met was fairly open of vegetation so we avoided a collision but this is a potentially dangerous situation.

Also, the trail on Peace Road (between Bethany Rd. and Pleasant St.) is in increasingly rough condition with the pavement in worsening condition year after year. There have been attempts at repairs but many areas are still in need of repair. Mostly what I see are pavement issues such as holes in the pavement or plants growing through the pavement.

The intersection at Rt. 64 and Airport Rd. is hazardous - would it be possible to get improved signage and possibly a warning light? Riding from Syc. Park on Airport Rd. to the Great Western Trail can be an adventure, especially with children. Has there been any discussion of adding a bicycle lane to this section of roadway?

Thank you for this opportunity to share this trail-user's opinion, I hope any new developments or solicitations for volunteer help will be published in the Daily Chronicle so I can be of service.

- the great western trail in dekalb county is in poorest condition of the trail

- Just wondering when the bike trail will be completed between Katz Park and 1st St. Overall, there does not seem to be any regular maintenance performed on the trails with a couple of the trails really needing some work.

- The trail between 1st and Sycamore Rd and the section from 1st to NIU Music building could use some resurfacing. Rest areas and lighting would be nice Rest areas would be especially appreciated on the Great Western Trail as this is where a large number of Us train for Marathons.

- I wish there were more maps with mileage and more maintenance. The Peace Road trail has really gotten rough...lots of holes and heaving. The Great Western Trail could use some mileage markers in our county.

- 1. Where Peace Rd. Trail ends at Pleasant. Cannot trigger "walk" light to cross Peace; Pleasant west of Peace narrow and no sidewalk.

2. Non-functioning "walk" manual buttons many places.

3. Lack of manual "walk" buttons many places.

4. Connectivity (lack of).

5. Need "share the road" and pavement chevrons.

6. Need community education. I have been yelled at and swore at more here than I ever was in the suburbs.

- The trail between Route 23 and North First Street on average I walk twice a week. It is very well maintained year round and much appreciated. It is much too short to be considered a significant biking trail. As I say, I walk it.

I bike the Great Western trail twice a week between my home in Sycamore and Wasco. The portion that lies in DeKalb County needs to be resurfaced. All you need to do is go out to the County Road intersection and compare the trail in Kane County to the trail in DeKalb County. DeKalb County is a disgrace. Admittedly, Kane County has more people and thus more resources. A good bike trail needs to be long (say 20 miles), flat (no rolling hills, that's why abandoned rail right of ways are so great), and with few traffic intersections. A really great trail is paved.

- The Great Western Trail should be better maintained. The trail is becoming a very narrow two-track. I would like to see the surface grated and the overgrown trees and bushes trimmed back. When passing on-coming runners or bikers it is getting a little tight.

- Regarding trail maintenance, mowing crews often leave great amounts of debris and grass clippings on the trail, which creates lots of hazards for runners and blade skaters and it is not esthetically pleasing either. I'd rather prefer that they don't mow at all near the trail. I see most of this in Sycamore between Borden and Bethany and further on the Sycamore-DeKalb path from Bethany to Barber Green Road. Also, some of these and other paved paths have sink holes.

The difficulty in using other parts of the trail system is that the trails are not connected with each other. This forces me and I think other runners to make certain choices, which would not be the same if the paths were connected. Also some of the street crossings are obstructed with vegetation and prevent both runners and drivers from seeing each other. The street signs should also alert the drivers to be on the lookout and to yield to the people already in crosswalks.

- A few huge bumps along peace rd.

- Peace Road Trail from Bethany to Pleasant Street in DeKalb is in awful disrepair.

Connect side walk from Bethany & Fairway Oaks Drive continue all the way to Bethany and 1st street

Sycamore -

I would like to see the trail on peace and rt. 64 continue north and east to plank road. Also have someway to connect peace and freed road to a sidewalk going east instead of just a road.

Would like to connect the path to the Jr. High across to the new park accross from Rt 23 and Swanson.

Would like to see a trail on in Maplewood Drive instead of walking or riding on the road.

Would like to see a trail in Sycamore in back of the Jr. High following the River to connect to the Larson Park Trail.

## **Personal Safety**

-The corner of the trail on 23 by Lowe's is dangerous. When approaching from the south/west, you have to either ride in the roadway or take a very difficult, narrow approach past a stoplight post. Adding a curb cut and extending the crosswalk just a few feet further up the side road (sorry--don't know the name but it runs behind Lowe's) would be a quick solution that would encourage me to use that path even more.

- Trail seems generally safe. I never see any patrols though.

- wooded areas need to be thinned out! we have a murderer in our community! the north trail thru Hopkins Park and the majority of the nature trail are heavily wooded and NOT safe! Prairie Park should be bulldozed.

- We'd like to see a bicycle path under Lincoln Hwy. by Castle View Real Estate which was originally built as we understand it and unfortunately ran into a conflict with the railroads permission.

Like to see police on bicycles patrolling Prairie Park, we use this bike path to walk and bike and don't want the nature part of it changed because of the recent incident.

-crossing Barber Greene (north and south) and Peace Road (east and west), at that intersection feels dangerous - not enough visibility for bikers/pedestrians. Better pavement markings and signals with the seconds-to-cross display might help.

I live in unincorporated Cortland Township and would like to be able to commute by bike to campus, but there is no way to get to the Peace Road trail without riding on high speed/high volume roads. I would use the existing trails more if I could get there safely

-The portion of the Dekalb trail that runs behind Target often has people loitering. All of the trails are nice but in short stretches, with the exception of the Great Western trail. A longer looping trail would be helpful. Also, the short trails have many street crossings that are not as safe for children on bikes.

- The path along Peace Road is in horrible condition with too many holes.

Getting from the path at Huber (People's) Park to the path along the NIU lagoon under Pearl Street is too dangerous.

- I'd like to see these trails have

- 1) More lighting along the trails;
- 2) Emergency phones/depots for personal safety (much like NIU has on campus)

-Needs to be a safer and better designated connection between Great Western and Path at South Prairie School.

Also need to increase bike paths in general to allow for increased use by people wishing to commute by bike.

Bike trails also need better maintenance. Perhaps sponsor a community service day event to work on them and include volunteer citizens.

-I stopped using the trail in Prairie park years ago, sometime in the late 90s. I did not feel safe. I would come across weirdoes in broad daylight. That is why I stopped running there. I was also running through Hopkins Park in the wooded area in early October, around 2PM, and I did not feel safe there. While the parks with wooded areas are beautiful areas in which I prefer to run, they also seem to attract not so lawful people. It is sad that a girl can't enjoy herself on a solitary run in a beautiful park without having to worry about something bad happening to her.

- Some of these trails (Peace Road between Barber Green and Bethany for example) are getting dangerous due to lack of maintenance. Also the Kiwanis trail along Kishwaukee River between North First and the NIU Campus is getting bad.

- There needs to be a safe connection from Kiwanis Trail (by WNIJ) up to DeKalb Nature trail. A bicycle lane spanning this distance on N. First would be great.

Snow removal on the Peace Road trail would be good.

- I am unable to use the DeKalb Nature Trail between First and 23 because of nails and tacks left on the ground, since I have not heard any news saying otherwise, I will assume they are still there. Also, the sidewalks are either non-existent or stop and start on Bethany especially between First and 23 and on 23.

- I don't know what you call it, but that section of trail that runs between Brother's Park and Taylor, behind Spruce Hill apartments needs to have ALL OF THE TREES CUT DOWN AND STOP GIVING MURDERERS AND RAPISTS A PLACE TO PRACTICE THEIR HOBBY ON LITTLE GIRLS. There has always been plenty of evidence that the lowest class of DeKalb county's residents uses that area to loiter unobserved, and is a popular place to go for underage drinking, drug use, and most recently MURDER. Wake up and smell the burning flesh. Close it down, clear it out, light it up, I don't care. FIX IT NOW.

- We live right by Prairie Park, but I run down Taylor to Glidden or Kensington Pt. through the neighborhoods and along Glidden near the park because I've always been uncomfortable alone on the trail. I have used the parts of it that are visible from the road. I wish there was better visibility or a wider trail through there. The few times I've used it over the years, there have always been loiterers who seemed to appear out of nowhere...and it made me very uncomfortable. Other runners seem to be fine with it. We do use it for family bike rides. We also ride down to Devonaire to use the park--I wish

that one looped for better ease in running. It seems like a fairly safe neighborhood.. I run with NITRO on the Hopkins park trails and the one by Castle Bank off 23. I used some of the other trails to run back and forth from Hopkins Park Pool this summer. I have looked at the Sycamore Trails, but don't feel comfortable running any trail alone. It might be nice to have some porta potties on the great western trail for those marathoners that use it. You might draw runners/bikers from other areas out this way.

- Kiwanis trail thru Hopkins Park is not well-lit.

Trail between Prairie Park and Lions Park has always been unsafe, including before the current events. Can honestly say that, in discussion with others, we cannot think of any park in DeKalb in which we feel completely safe, except Great Western Trail when run with others.

Trail along Knolls to Devonaire has a lot of traffic and in a neighborhood area, which provides a safe feeling.

I checked 'trail maps' as I did not know about some trails mentioned in survey.

- Prairie Park off Annie Glidden and Taylor is a scary place and I never go there alone, even during the day. Too much riff raff, drinking, and smoking God knows what. I run on the Great Western trail every Saturday rain or shine. The DeKalb county portion of the trail could use upgrading with limestone. It's obvious exactly where the Kane county line is because the trail gets much nicer at county line road and east. DeKalb county has no mile markers or maps on the Great Western, whereas Kane county does. I love the nature trail between rt 23 and 1st street in DeKalb and through Hopkins Park: well maintained and well marked.

-Trail signage needs to be better marked. Need better crosswalks across main roads.

-The Sycamore bike path should not go out on State St. (Rt 64). It should follow Turner Place to Cloverlane, then to Fairway Lane and east to enter Sycamore park at the southwest corner adjacent to Doug Roberts house. There is already a de facto trail there. This would be much safer and more scenic. Check it out!

- My feel of the frisbee golf area in Peace Park isn't a good one. It is usually only men (and some of them appear to be rough-looking) who are in that park, and that has kept me away from that area.

- It would be great if there could be some lighting on all the trails, I do run with a headlamp but some areas are REALLY dark! Also a dividing line in areas where there are a lot of twists such as through Hopkins Park where two way traffic particularly on a bike can get dangerous, divide the path with a notice to stay to the right.

- I feel no safety concerns about the trails I use - the Great Western and the Dekalb Nature trail (between First and 23). In light of recent events, and from many stories I have heard from others, I feel there are major safety concerns about the trail through Prairie Park on the South side (south of RR tracks and just east of Annie Glidden).

- Security when walking alone.

Keeping it plowed in the winter and blow off leaves in the fall.

- Hillcrest road can be especially dangerous crossing during busy hours. The trail is not directly connected. That is, it does not continue in a straight line, you need to cross the bridge over the river in order to get to it.

- I have tried to use all the connecting trails once and it was difficult to find the exact trail path of each trail so the use of signs would be good. Also, some of the sidewalks are hard to navigate on.

- in general the trails are in good basic condition. I use them frequently. My kids could use them more frequently unsupervised if crossing major intersections was more clear (more for car traffic than the bikes). If cars are not looking for bikers then it is dangerous for bikers, whether walking or riding across the street, crossing 1st street at CRMS and crossing Hillcrest between 1st & 7th come to mind first. Connecting the nature trail to cross 1st street heading west is another area of concern. Thank you for your work. I look forward to many more years of enjoyment of these trails!

- I used to use the trail between Lion's Park and Prairie Park a bunch. It actually is my favorite one. It has a bit of everything on it to see. My boys even like seeing the trains go by. This past summer, I just didn't feel safe there. Now of course there is the missing student and that scares me. I feel as though if possible to have emergency call boxes installed in that area. Also it seems as though that is traveled by more people using it for transportation to get from the apartments and houses near lions park to either NIU or Junction shopping area. Maybe a good fence to keep people from going across the tracks in that area would work well. I see a lot of men not in exercise clothing and that I think is what makes me feel unsafe. I am usually with my children when I used that trail. We also like the paths inside the woods to see birds and animals. There is obvious usage from teens and other people drinking there. Is there a way to improve that?

The great western trail is just not as pretty and kept up in our county as it is on the Kane County side.

-When the days get shorter, there is much less time I feel safe to be on the trail. I see very few other people on these trails, and with the recent death of a NIU student found on my most frequented trail, I most likely will not be using this trail anymore. If the trail was lit, it might be a bit better, but other circumstances cannot be manipulated.

-When I have to cross busy roads to continue the bike path

- Have some blue boxes/emergency call boxes along the trails.