



Friends of East Branch DuPage River Trail Applauds \$1.5 Million Federal Grant

Glen Ellyn, IL – *January 11, 2023* – The Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail (EBDRT) are thrilled to learn that DuPage County is being awarded a \$1.5 million federal appropriation from the United States government in support of development toward the East Branch DuPage River Trail (EBDRT). The funding was part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 from the Community Project Funding Program through the office of Congressman Sean Casten (IL-06).

DuPage County Director of Transportation Christopher C. Snyder, P.E., said, “The funding will allow for studies to move forward for that section of the EBDRT from the Illinois Prairie Path south to Illinois 56 (Butterfield Road) and will include engineering, environmental reviews, stakeholder engagement and public/community participation. That portion of the East Branch DuPage River Trail from the Great Western Trail to the Illinois Prairie Path is currently being advanced by DuPage County as a separate project using county-only funding.”

As citizens and residents of DuPage County, the Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail are in support of the development and construction of this multi-modal transportation corridor in the central region of DuPage County. It was envisioned decades ago as a regional trail and has been included in the comprehensive and transportation plans of DuPage County for many decades. There is a groundswell of public support for the project which will serve the entire community through a connected active transportation network, and has the support of the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the Chicago region's overarching transportation planning agency.

The Friends of the East Branch DuPage River have collected about 5,000 signatures on paper and online petitions representing broad public support. As volunteers, the organization regularly talks with elected officials at all levels of government and meets with community groups to garner support and raise awareness for trail construction. In 2022, an advisory board was formed with highly regarded citizen volunteers to meet regularly.

DuPage County has coordinated with multiple agencies, such as the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, the villages and park districts of Glen Ellyn and Lombard, in addition to the Butterfield Park District, and more, in order to determine potential alignments for the trail, while carefully considering any sensitive natural areas. However much work is yet to be done.

The EBDRT is a win-win-win for the people of DuPage County. It will connect disparate parks for hikers and bicyclers, improve property values, connect communities, increase pedestrian and non-motorized travel safety, reduce carbon emissions for folks who prefer not to travel by car, improve mental and physical health of residents and allow citizens better access to natural areas, in addition to providing safe off-street access to area schools for those who prefer not to arrive by automobile.

The Friends of the EBDRT are grateful to Congressman Casten and his staff, and the staff of DuPage County Department of Transportation, for the work needed to include the EBDRT in the request for the Community Project Funding Program. The Friends of the EBDRT believe this transportation project should be a top priority, as recreation trails such as the EBDRT are extremely popular around the county, and federal dollars are set aside for projects like this around the USA.

Thank you Congressman Casten for all you have done and continue to do to make the EBDRT a reality.

Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail
An Illinois Not-for-Profit



For more information, contact Ginger Wheeler, president, Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail, thetrailbetween@gmail.com, 630-835-6959.

About the Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail

The Friends of the East Branch DuPage River Trail are volunteers who advocate for the completion and maintenance of a greenway trail along the East Branch DuPage River. Our mission is to support DuPage County's comprehensive long-range plan ensuring health, environmental economic and social benefits to the residents of DuPage County.