2022 JO DAVIESS & CARROLL COUNTIES

Greenways & Trails Plan

bhrc
Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

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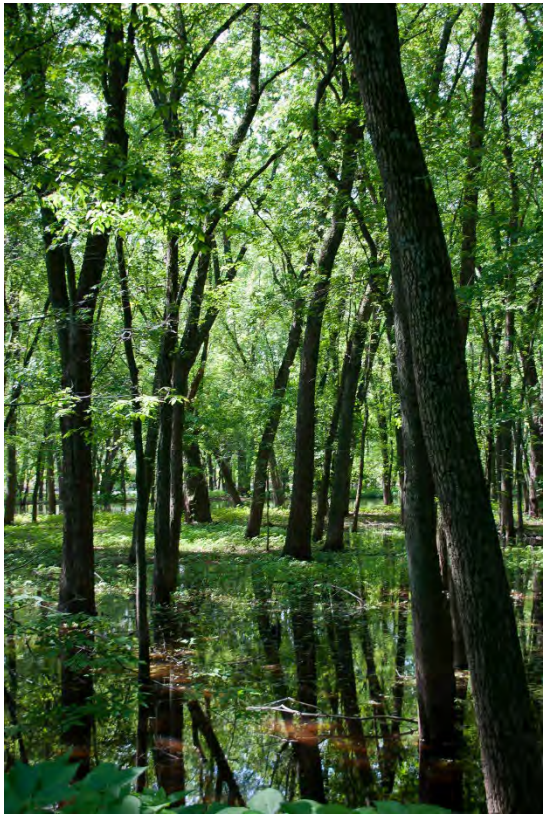
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Introduction

About

This plan serves as an update to the 2007 Carroll County Greenways and Trails Plan and the 2009 Jo Daviess County Greenways and Trails Plan. The 2007 and 2009 plans were funded, in part, by a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The development of the 2007 Carroll County plan was led by Peace Corps Fellows Intern Sarrah Hammon, and the 2009 Jo Daviess plan was developed by Fehr-Graham & Associates in consultation with a greenways and trails planning committee from the county. Like the 2007 and 2009 plans, this version aims to identify existing and potential opportunities for residents and visitors to recreate and connect with nature. Through a process of inventorying existing trails, parks, and open spaces and collecting public input, a list of initiatives was developed. These initiatives, once implemented, will support the counties' stakeholders' efforts to provide quality recreation and outdoor experiences.



Wetland forest near Savanna, photo credit: Daniel Payette

Objectives

This iteration of the Jo Daviess and Carroll counties greenways and trails plan intends to:

- Serve as a tool for government agencies at state, county, and municipal levels in recreation, transportation, land use, and natural resource planning
- Offer support for municipalities and local organizations seeking funds for recreation, open space, or trails projects
- Identify areas of recreation and trails demand for future planning efforts

Value of Trails, Parks, and Open Spaces

Outdoor public greenspaces, whether in the form of parks, trails, or undeveloped open spaces, benefit people and their communities. Benefits include but are not limited to the following:

Physical and Mental Health

Access to places for physical activity encourages people to partake in exercise and forms of active transportation, which are desperately needed at a time when a sedentary lifestyle is so prevalent. The CDC's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System shows that between 20 to 25% of adults in Illinois reported not participating in any form of physical activity or exercise other than their regular job over the past month.[1] Leading a sedentary lifestyle is a major contributor to obesity. Risks associated with obesity are well known and include high blood pressure, high cholesterol, congestive heart failure, stroke, and certain types of cancer (including endometrial, breast, and prostate).[2] Trails, parks, and open spaces offer hope for improving the nation's obesity epidemic. Studies conducted by the *American Journal of Preventative Medicine* showed that "creation of or enhanced access to places for physical activity combined with informational outreach" resulted in a 48.4% increase in the frequency of physical activity for residents.[3] The studies also showed an increase in aerobic capacity, weight loss, improvements in flexibility, and an increase in perceived energy following the intervention.[4]

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the value of trails, parks, and open spaces for maintaining both physical fitness and mental health. As people have sought alternatives to gyms and safer spaces to socialize, public outdoor spaces have provided solutions. Studies over the past several decades have proven that spending time in nature has positive mental health implications from reducing stress, anxiety, and depression to lowering levels of aggression and improving attention spans.[5] The physical and mental health benefits of public open spaces and trails underscore the need to provide equitable access to these spaces. People of color and lower-income households who have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic are the same populations that often lack adequate access to public parks and other recreational areas.[6]

[1] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Adult Physical Inactivity Prevalence Maps by Race/Ethnicity*, January 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/data/inactivity-prevalence-maps/index.html#overall
[2] U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Overweight and Obesity: Health Consequences*, http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/obesity/consequences.htm.
[3] Emily B. Kahn et al. and the Task Force on Community Preventive Services, *The Effectiveness of Interventions to Increase Physical Activity*, American Journal of Preventive Medicine 22, no. 4S (2002): 87–88. https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(02)00434-8/fulltext
[4] Ibid.
[5] The Trust for Public Land, *Parks and the Pandemic,* 2020. https://www.tpl.org/sites/default/files/Parks%20and%20Pandemic%20-%20TPL%20special%20report.pdf
[6] Ibid.

Environment

Although this iteration of the Jo Daviess and Carroll counties greenways and trails plan focuses primarily on the recreation and transportation value of trails, parks, and open spaces, the benefits these spaces have for habitat, water quality, and climate change resiliency should not be understated. In the state of Illinois where approximately 75% of land cover is farmland and 10% is developed[7], conserving and managing available land for its environmental benefits is critical. Charles E. Little, a thinker, author, and journalist on environmentalism in the second half of the 20th Century, defines greenways as "(1) linear open spaces established along natural corridors, such as riverfronts, stream valleys, ridgelines and railroad right-of-ways converted to scenic roads, recreational use, or canals, (2) natural or landscaped trails for pedestrian or bicycle passage, (3) open-space connectors that link parks, cultural features, nature reserves, or historic sites with each other and populated areas, and (4) local strips and linear parks designated as parkways or greenbelts."[8] Nearly all of the features examined or proposed in this plan fall into the "greenways" category. These spaces, particularly larger contiguous open spaces and natural or landscaped corridors, can provide habitat and habitat connectivity.

Animals, humans included, also benefit from the urban green space cooling effect. Larger parks have been shown to provide a measurable temperature reduction that extends beyond park boundaries.[9] This cooling effect is a welcomed benefit as extreme heat events become more frequent in Illinois due to climate change.[10] Another mitigating quality of greenways is their ability to handle increased runoff from more frequent and severe precipitation events. Strategies that combine conventional stormwater management infrastructure with green infrastructure - often found within greenways - may help to ease increased risk of flooding.[11] Greenways may also play an important role in storing carbon, thus reducing overall CO_2 in the atmosphere. A study of stored organic carbon in park trees and soil under cold climate conditions showed that the older the trees and less disturbed the soil, the more successful trees and soil were at storing carbon.[12] Although some amount of disturbance in parks and open spaces is unavoidable (indeed, it is sometimes desirable depending on management practices), the ability of these spaces to serve as a carbon sink is an important consideration in land use planning.

Further study of the environmental benefits unique to Jo Daviess and Carroll counties' greenways and trails will aid in decision making and planning around land use and development. Considering their numerous environmental benefits and potential to complement and offset effects

[7] U.S. Department of Agriculture. *2017 National Resources Inventory*. Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC. 3 February 2022, http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Internet/NRCS_RCA/reports/nri_il.html

[8] North Carolina State University Libraries Special Collections Research Center: Greenways Archive. Charles E. Little Collection. Scope and Content Note. 3 February 2022. https://www.lib.ncsu.edu/specialcollections/greenways/little_mc214.html

[9] Farshid Aram, Ester Higueras García, Ebrahim Solgi, Soran Mansournia, *Urban Green Space Cooling Effect in Cities*, Heliyon, Volume 5, Issue 4, 2019, e01339, ISSN 2405-8440, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2019.e01339.

[10] The Nature Conservancy. *Climate Change is transforming Illinois with more to come, major report by The Nature Conservancy concludes*. April 20, 2021. Chicago, IL. https://www.nature.org/en-us/newsroom/illinois-climate-assessment/

[11] Ibid.

[12] Leena Lindén, Anu Riikonen, Heikki Setälä, Vesa Yli-Pelkonen, *Quantifying carbon stocks in urban parks under cold climate conditions*, Urban Forestry & Urban Greening, Volume 49, 2020, 126633, ISSN 1618-8667, https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ufug.2020.126633.

of other land uses, this plan should be integrated into future land use planning and mapping at county and municipal levels. The Priority Conservation Areas Maps found in Appendix A provide a draft framework for further planning.

Transportation

Even environmentally beneficial electric vehicles cannot substitute for low-cost, accessible, and health-benefitting active transportation methods. Trails and other forms of bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure can often provide a transportation option to the one-third of Americans who do not drive due to age, disability, choice, or lack of financial means to own and maintain a vehicle.[13] Active transportation is a viable alternative to driving for many common trips. About 40% of all trips are less than 3 miles.[14] By extending, linking, and maintaining trail networks, options for active transportation are greatly improved.

Economy

Outdoor recreation has played an ever-growing role in the nation's economy. In 2019, outdoor recreation generated $788 billion in economic output and supported 5.2 million jobs, many of which were in rural communities.[15] Although the COVID-19 pandemic took an economic toll on virtually all industries, an incredible increase in demand for outdoor recreation opportunities was seen nation-wide as people sought ways to safely exercise, de-stress, and socialize. Despite a lower overall economic output for outdoor recreation in 2020, industry segments including bicycling, boating/fishing, and camping saw record sales and unprecedented growth.[16]

The economic benefits of trails have been recorded in the state of Illinois as well. A 2012 study of six regional trails in the state found that trail survey respondents spent an average of about $30 per trail visit on expenditures such as restaurants, gas, gear, and groceries.[17]

Studies have also linked recreation offerings with economic resiliency. People have been moving to recreation-based communities much more quickly since the end of the Great Recession. These communities have been successful in attracting new residents and businesses.[18] Strategies to maximize the economic potential of recreation offerings can be used to stimulate commerce and ensure return on investment to communities. Promoting existing recreation opportunities is an excellent place to start and was noted as a supported action in both the public survey and across several stakeholder interviews during this planning process.

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[13] Thomas Gotschi and Kevin Mills. *Active Transportation for America: The Case for Increased Federal Investment in Bicycling and Walking*. Rails to Trails Conservancy. 2008. https://www.railstotrails.org/resourcehandler.ashx?id=2948

[14] Litman, T. Short and Sweet: *Analysis of Shorter Trips Using National Personal Travel Survey Data*. Victoria Transportation Policy Institute. 2010. www.vtpi.org/short_sweet.pdf

[15] United States. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2019. 10 November 2020. 11 Jan. 2022. https://www.bea.gov/news/2020/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2019

[16] United States. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Outdoor Recreation Satellite Account, U.S. and States, 2020. 9 November 2021. 11 Jan. 2022. https://www.bea.gov/news/2020/outdoor-recreation-satellite-account-us-and-states-2020

[17] Buchtel, S., J. Robinett, J. Scheunemann, and E. Oberg. 2013. *Making Trails Count for Illinois*. Trails for Illinois, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Office of Recreation and Park Resources, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. https://headwaterseconomics.org/trail/72-trails-impact-illinois/

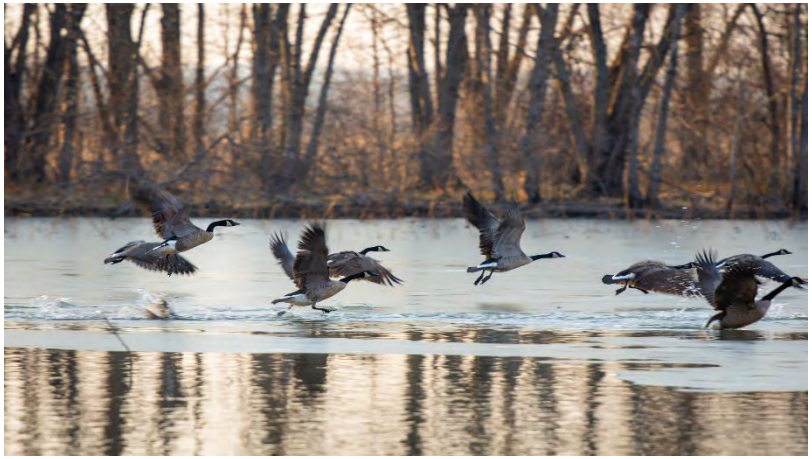
[18] Headwaters Economics. *Recreation Counties Attracting New Residents and Higher Incomes*. Jan. 2019. https://headwaterseconomics.org/wp-content/uploads/recreation-counties-attract-report.pdf

Equity and Inclusion

Greenways (including parks and open spaces) and trails have the opportunity to benefit everyone regardless of race, age, ability, or socioeconomic background. However, in reality, many groups of people have and continue to be excluded from these spaces for a variety of reasons, including unequal distribution of parks and park maintenance in low-income neighborhoods and communities of color. There is a growing number of resources available to help make park and trail development processes more equitable. Two resources that provide a solid foundation on this topic are Rails-to-Trails Conservancy's Equitable and Inclusive Trails webpage and the Partnership for the National Trails System's collection of Diversity and Inclusion Resources.

Equitable park and trail development starts with the planning process. It must be acknowledged that there are gaps in the public input gathered for this plan. Identifying these gaps provides a learning opportunity for how to improve future planning efforts, as well as project and program implementation. More information about segments of the population that were missed can be found in the Public Input section. Some recommendations include the translation of public surveys into Spanish, outreach to organizations that serve marginalized communities even if their main focus is not on recreation, and involvement of adaptive sports groups, which focus on adapting recreation opportunities for people with disabilities. Developing long-term, invested relationships with community groups representing diverse peoples shows the most promise for improving public engagement.

When moving forward to the design of parks and trails, it is particularly critical to consider the largest minority group in the country and in the State of Illinois. About 23%, or one in four adults in Illinois has a disability.[19] An opportunity exists to create an accessible experience in virtually all new park and trail projects. A growing body of reference material is available for designers to ensure that these spaces provide access to a population with a wide span of abilities. The U.S. Access Board's proposed Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) offers current best practices for features like sidewalks and curb ramps and will also address shared use paths in its next iteration. The U.S. Forest Service offers recreation-specific guidelines with their Outdoor Recreation Accessibility Guidelines and Trail Accessibility Guidelines. Prioritizing accessibility standards when working with contractors to implement projects can help to clarify desired outcomes and ensure that trails and park features are truly accessible.

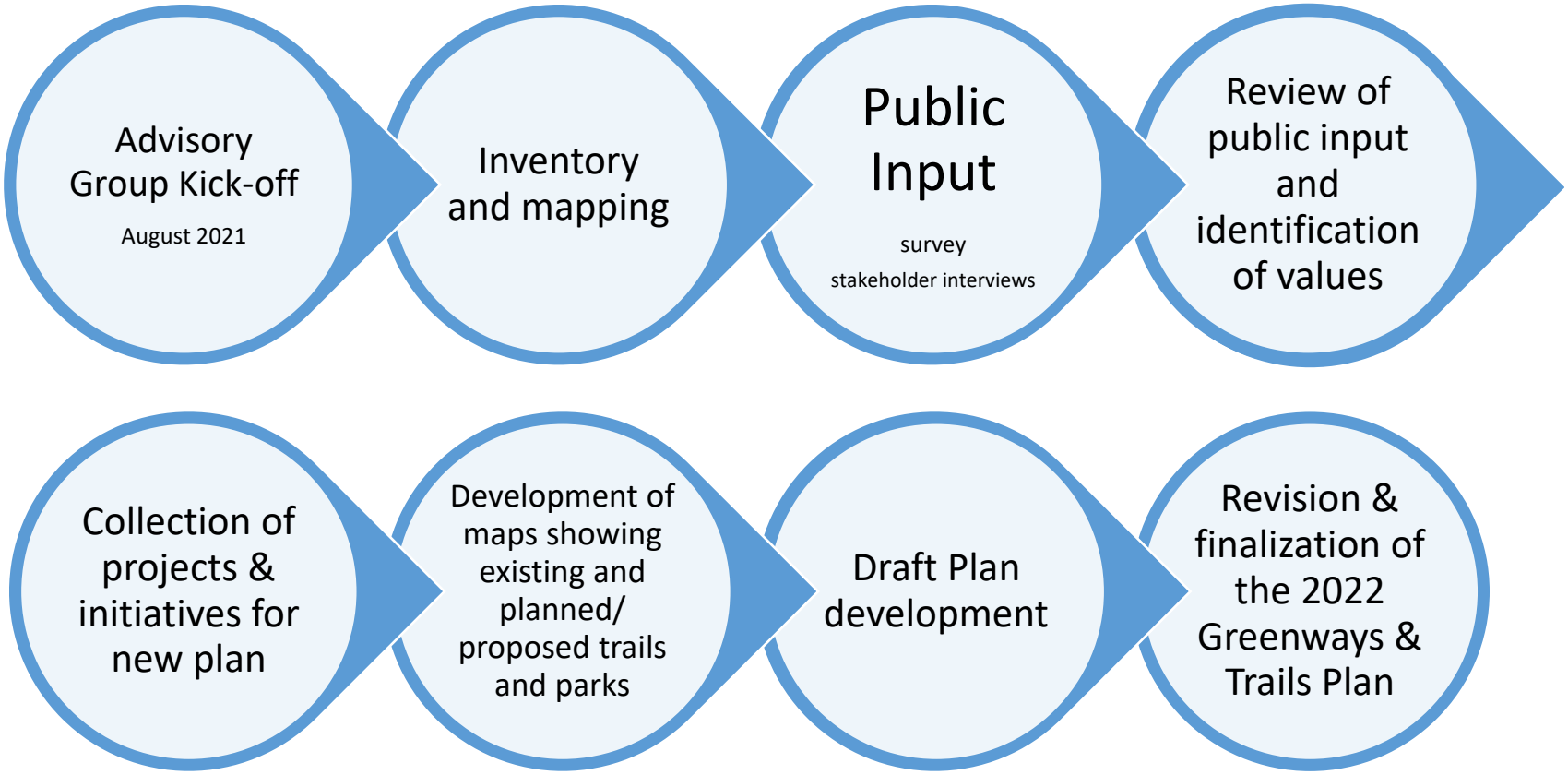


Canada geese on Spring Lake, photo credit: Blackhawk Waterways

[19] Centers for Disease Control. *Disability & Health U.S. State Profile Data for Illinois (Adults 18+ years of age).* 4 February 2022. https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/disabilityandhealth/impacts/illinois.html

Process

Following the county board's selection of the advisory group, the following steps were taken in the development of this plan update:



Existing Conditions

Several resources were used to develop the inventory of existing public trails, routes, parks, and open spaces below. Data was gathered from the USGS Protected Areas Database, the Prairie State Conservation Coalition's protected lands database, the National Register of Historic Places database, a BHRC trails layer, and knowledge provided by members of the advisory group. Additional information was collected from related plans (see Appendix B).

Trails and Routes				
Name	**Type**	**Designed Uses**	**Manager**	**County**
Grand Illinois Trail (GIT)	Route	Bike	Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	Jo Daviess, Carroll
Backroads Bicycle Routes	Routes	Bike		Jo Daviess, Carroll
Mississippi River Trail (MRT)	Route	Bike	IDNR	Jo Daviess, Carroll
Galena River Trail	Designated Path	Bike, Walk, X/C Ski	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
Great River Trail	Designated Path	Bike, Walk	Local municipalities	Carroll
Public Waterways: *(sections of)* Galena River Plum River Apple River Sinsinawa River	Route	Paddle	IDNR (designation of public waterways)	Jo Daviess, Carroll
Great River Road National Scenic Byway	Route	Drive	Mississippi River Parkway Commission	Jo Daviess, Carroll
Galena Trail & Coach Road	Route	Drive	Galena Trail Committee of Peoria County	Jo Daviess, Carroll
Mount Carroll Historic District Walking Tour	Route	Walk	Mount Carroll Historic Preservation Advisory Committee	Carroll
Quilters' Journey	Route		Participating shops and B&Bs; Blackhawk Waterways Convention and Visitors Bureau	Carroll
Trail of Terror	Route		Participating festivals, events, orchards, wineries, pumpkin patches	Jo Daviess, Carroll

Parks and Open Spaces			
Name	**Type**	**Manager**	**County**
Gramercy Park	Park	City of East Dubuque	Jo Daviess
Dunleith Park	Park	Dunleith Park District	Jo Daviess
Galena Gateway Park	Park	City of Galena, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF)	Jo Daviess
Grant Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
Galena Recreation Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
Old Cemetery Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
Depot Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
Muchow Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
East Side Tot Lot	Playground	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
West Side Tot Lot	Playground	City of Galena	Jo Daviess

Riverside Park	Park	City of Galena	Jo Daviess
James H Wienen Park	Park	West Galena Township	Jo Daviess
Meridian Park	Park	Black Hawk Park District	Jo Daviess
Warren Little League Park	Athletic Fields	Black Hawk Park District	Jo Daviess
Jo Daviess Fairground	Fairgrounds	Black Hawk Park District	Jo Daviess
Nora Park	Park	Black Hawk Park District	Jo Daviess
Chadwick Village Park	Park	Village of Chadwick	Carroll
Handel Park	Park	Village of Chadwick	Carroll
Lanark City Park	Park	City of Lanark	Carroll
Millwheel Park	Park	Village of Milledgeville	Carroll
Stover Park	Park	Village of Milledgeville	Carroll
Point Rock Park	Park	City of Mount Carroll	Carroll
Percy Park	Park	City of Mount Carroll	Carroll
Lions Club Park	Park	Village of Thomson	Carroll
Del Curly Memorial Park	Park	Village of Thomson	Carroll
Fat Jack Memorial Skate Park	Skate Park	City of Savanna	Carroll
Helle Park	Park	Savanna Park District	Carroll
Marquette Park	Park	Savanna Park District	Carroll
Old Mill Park	Park	Savanna Park District	Carroll
Sixth Street Park	Park	Savanna Park District	Carroll
Savanna Marina	Marina	Savanna Park District	Carroll
Decker Aquasod Acres Park	Park	Village of Stockton	Jo Daviess
Stockton Township Memorial Park	Park	Village of Stockton	Jo Daviess
Kidstown Wooden Playground	Playground	Village of Stockton	Jo Daviess
Shannon Village Park	Park	Village of Shannon	Carroll
Shannon Lion's Park	Park	Village of Shannon	Carroll
Scales Mound Village Park	Park	Village of Scales Mound	Jo Daviess
Apple River Park	Park	Village of Apple River	Jo Daviess
Village Park	Park	Village of Elizabeth	Jo Daviess
Schap Park	Park	Village of Elizabeth	Jo Daviess
Terrapin Park	Park	Village of Elizabeth	Jo Daviess
Hanover Township Park	Park	Hanover Township Park District	Jo Daviess
Speer Park	Park	Village of Hanover	Jo Daviess
White Park	Park	Village of Hanover	Jo Daviess
Galena Golf Course	Golf Course	Private	Jo Daviess
Lacoma Golf Course	Golf Course	Private	Jo Daviess
Palisades Golf Course	Golf Course	Private	Carroll
Canyon Camp BSA	Scout Camp	Scouts BSA	Jo Daviess
Chestnut Mountain Resort	Ski Resort	Private	Jo Daviess
Long Hollow Scenic Overlook	Scenic Overlook	Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)	Jo Daviess
Mississippi Palisades State Park	State Park, Campground	IDNR	Carroll
Apple River Canyon State Park	State Park, Campground	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Miller's Landing	Marina	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Blanding Landing Recreation Area	Campground	US Army Corps of Engineers	Jo Daviess
Thomson Causeway	Campground	US Army Corps of Engineers	Carroll
Big Slough Recreation Area	Boat Ramp	US Army Corps of Engineers	Carroll

Open Spaces			
Name	**Type**	**Manager**	**County**
Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve	Ecological Reserve	Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation (JDCF)	Jo Daviess
Keough Effigy Mounds Land and Water Reserve	Ecological Reserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Wapello Land and Water Reserve	Ecological Reserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Buehler Preserve	Nature Preserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Casper Creek Natural Cemetery	Natural Cemetery	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Horseshoe Mound Preserve	Nature Preserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Portage Preserve	Nature Preserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Schurmeier Teaching Forest	Teaching Forest	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges	Ecological Reserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary	Ecological Reserve	JDCF	Jo Daviess
Elmoville Prairie	Nature Preserve	The Prairie Enthusiasts	Jo Daviess
Hanley Savanna	Nature Preserve	The Prairie Enthusiasts	Jo Daviess
Tapley Woods State Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	The Nature Conservancy, IDNR	Jo Daviess
Ward's Grove Nature Preserve	Nature Preserve	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Witkowsky State Wildlife Area	Wildlife Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Little Rock Creek State Habitat Area	Wildlife Area	IDNR	Carroll
Rall Woods State Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie	Nature Preserve	IDNR	Carroll
Primm's Pond State Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Eagle's Landing State Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
French Bluff Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Carroll
Ayers Sand Prairie	Nature Preserve	IDNR	Carroll
Winston Tunnel State Natural Area	Natural Area	IDNR	Jo Daviess
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	Wildlife Refuge	US Fish & Wildlife Service	Jo Daviess, Carroll

Heritage Sites		
Name	**Type**	**County**
Julien Dubuque Bridge	National Historic Place	Jo Daviess
Apple River Fort Site	Illinois State Historic Site, National Historic Place	Jo Daviess
Ulysses S. Grant Home	Illinois State Historic Site, National Historic Place	Jo Daviess
Old Market House	Illinois State Historic Site	Jo Daviess
Chicago Great Western Railroad Depot	National Historic Place	Jo Daviess
Carroll County Courthouse	National Historic Place	Carroll
Lookout Point	Scenic Overlook	Carroll
Charles Mound	Highest natural point in Illinois	Jo Daviess



View from Mississippi Palisades State Park, photo credit: Daniel Payette

Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

After reviewing the parks, trails, and open spaces inventory, the advisory group completed a strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) exercise. This exercise was also completed by several stakeholders during interviews. Results suggest that the counties have good foundations in existing regional trails and municipal parks and that they also have opportunities to improve many of these spaces and build upon and complete existing projects. A consolidated and summarized version of the SWOT analysis can be found below:

Strengths	***Weaknesses***
• Natural beauty of the Driftless Area • Open spaces are spread throughout Jo Daviess County • Galena River Trail is a big strength, well-maintained • Mississippi Palisades is stunning year-round • Hills provide a welcomed challenge for many bicyclists • Great River Trail has a lot of potential	• Unified promotion of parks, trails, and open spaces is something to work on • Maintenance is a struggle- the more that is developed, the more there is to maintain • Lack of centralized leadership in trail and green space planning (no county-level recreation program or forest preserve district) • Longer trails in Mississippi Palisades State Park need maintenance • Closure of the Galena River Trail for hunting seasons is disappointing for some users • Galena River access is problematic- especially when there is private property between access points • Bike routes are unmarked, and it can be difficult to determine when you are on private property • Most roads aren't safe for bicycling- no shoulder, high speeds. • (Jo Daviess) trails don't go long distances (over 10 miles). Connectivity would be helpful for navigating the region. • Great River Trail (Savanna to Thomson) functions as an independent trail (can't go north past Palisades) • Can be challenging to find trailheads, parks, and open spaces • Current on-road route of the Great River Trail (along 84) isn't safe and it's unattractive
Opportunities	***Threats***
• Organizational improvements- such as a committee or similar group to unify the effort around trails and recreation • Expand Galena River Trail to Hanover area—needs signage, promotion • Larger map of Mississippi Palisades State Park would be helpful- if entering from the far side entrance without the kiosk, it can be confusing • Promoting the snowmobile trails in the area would be helpful • Educating people about the trails, open spaces, and parks and where they are located is a big priority • A map that records all of the trails, recreation sites, and open spaces in the area would be helpful • Terrain would work well for technical biking/single track mountain bike trails- would need to find a public space to host. These trails tend to be cost effective and popular • Consider a bike pump track in Galena • Adding shoulders on township roads would improve safety for cyclists • Apple Canyon State Park could use improvements in signage, addressing deferred maintenance, and access • Trail maps for wayfinding would be helpful- there are mile markers, but not much as far as maps on the trails • Providing adequate parking at trailheads is important • Advertising the trail system online would be helpful for tourism • E-bikes could be a great option for transportation- especially with the hilly terrain. They will likely become more popular and should be planned for • Linking the Galena River Trail with the Great River Trail would be a big opportunity • Pursue rails-to-trails with any future rail decommissioning • Long-term future opportunities for a trail through the Savanna Army Depot • Upper Mississippi Wildlife Refuge could be used/promoted more	• Funding is always a challenge for on-going maintenance and new trails. As popularity of sites and trails increases, it can be challenging to maintain and provide more amenities • Lack of volunteerism and concerns about liability issues with volunteering • Trail projects need momentum for implementation • Last two miles of Galena River Trail is very unwelcoming • IDNR is minimally funded- affects state parks (Apple Canyon, Mississippi Palisades) • Not-in-my-backyard (NIMBY) reaction of neighbors to trails • State of Illinois law regarding 35 mph maximum speed limits for roads designated for OHV use make connections between towns very challenging • The disincentive for on-road bicycle infrastructure in Illinois created by the Boub v. Wayne 1998 case makes adding bike lanes and route signage unappealing for townships • Illinois law regarding public water access prevents many rivers and streams from being open for paddling

Public Input

The public input process for the greenways and trails plan update included an online public survey and a series of stakeholder interviews. Information gathered during this process helped to identify underlying values that people in the counties hold regarding trails, parks, and open spaces. Ideas about new trails and parks and improvement projects were also collected.

Online Public Survey

The public survey, which was open 70 days from October 27, 2021 to January 5, 2022, was hosted on an ArcGIS Survey 123 platform accessible by smartphone, tablet, or personal computer. The survey was advertised by members of the advisory group and other stakeholders via social media, newsletters, and email. Survey participants were asked questions (some with multi-part ranking components) about what benefits of parks, trails, and open spaces they valued, which parks and trails they had visited in the past year, what factors prevent more use of parks and trails, and what actions around improving the park and trail network they would support. The survey also included a text box for free-form comments and ideas. A full record of the survey questions and responses is found in Appendix C.

In addition to questions about parks and trails, the survey also included three demographics questions on household size, race and ethnicity, and household income. The race and ethnicity and household income questions included an answer option of "prefer not to say". Respondents also had the option of skipping any of the questions while still being able to submit a survey, although this was not explicitly stated.

128 respondents participated, contributing 38 free-form comments. Answers to the demographics questions suggest, however, that the respondents do not represent the counties' overall population. Household sizes of respondents were slightly larger than the 2015-2019 US Census Bureau's American Community Survey averages. The average for respondents was 2.6 people per household, while the 2015-2019 American Community Survey averages are 2.2, for both Carroll[20] and Jo Daviess[21] counties. The small sample size of the survey also impacts the average household size. Household incomes of respondents were also higher than typical in either county. Most respondents reported household incomes between $75,000 and $150,000, while the median household income according to 2015-2019 American Community Survey is $52,410 (Carroll)[22] and $57,946 (Jo Daviess)[23]. Another shortcoming of the survey to note, is that a question about the respondent's home municipality or township was not included. This made some of the comments difficult to interpret when references to unnamed parks and trails were made. The lack of respondents' home locales also made it difficult to tell whether responses were coming from county residents. Some preliminary recommendations for improving future public outreach efforts can be found in the Equity and Inclusion section of this plan.

[20] U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts. Carroll County, Illinois. 1 March 2022. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/carrollcountyillinois/PST045221
[21] U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts. Jo Daviess County, Illinois. 1 March 2022. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/jodaviesscountyillinois
[22] U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts. Carroll County, Illinois.
[23] U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts. Jo Daviess County, Illinois.

Although value can still be found in the survey results, it is important to note that they may not be representative of opinions shared across the population in Carroll and Jo Daviess counties.

One of the goals of the public input survey was to uncover shared values around trails, parks, and open spaces. A question that asked respondents to select the top three (of nine) most important benefits of these spaces revealed some majority common values. The top four selected benefits included:

1. Conservation of natural areas (65.6% of respondents selected this benefit in their top three)
2. Promotion of health (physical, social engagement, psychological), wellness, and fitness (54.7%)
3. Historical or heritage preservation (41.4%)
4. Neighborhood/community open space for social interactions and play (creating a sense of community/bringing people together) (38.28%)

Respondents were also asked what reasons prevent them from using trails, parks, and open spaces more often. The top two responses were:

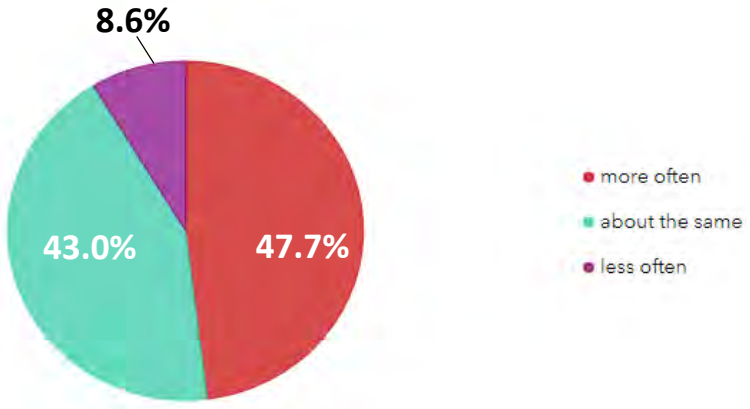
1. Don't know where parks/trails are located (38.3%)
2. Parks/trails lack adequate maps or directional signage on-site (24.2%)

These answers suggest that promoting existing recreation opportunities and improving wayfinding signage would benefit the counties.



Spring Lake wetlands near Savanna, photo credit: Daniel Payette

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought significant changes to trail, park, and open space use. The increase in use has been noted nationwide, but can also be seen at the county level. Survey respondents were asked whether the pandemic had affected their use of trails, parks, and open spaces. A significant number reported changed behavior.



Pie chart showing survey respondents' answers to the question "During the COVID-19 pandemic, have you and your household members used trails, parks, and open spaces in the county more often, less often, or about the same?" 47.7% responded more often, 43.0% responded about the same and 8.6% responded less often.

Comments were also collected during the public input process through the survey and the stakeholder interviews. The comments spanned many subjects, but there were clear common themes that should be considered when planning and prioritizing projects. The top five topics were:

1. Trail connectivity and linkages (including mention of the Great River Trail extension)
2. Trail wayfinding signage and maps
3. Promotion of trails, parks, and open spaces
4. OHV trails and on-road routes

Stakeholder Interviews

Stakeholders from various recreation groups, municipal park districts, and state-level organizations were identified by BHRC staff and the advisory group. Several stakeholders were also members of the advisory group. These individuals were asked a set of questions over phone interviews with BHRC staff to identify strengths, opportunities, and needs for trails, parks, and open spaces in the counties. The interviews were also used to collect information about proposed and on-going projects and initiatives. In addition to stakeholder interviews, email and phone conversations were had with municipalities to collect information about planned and on-going projects.

Stakeholder Interviews:
Mark Hazzard, Illinois Snowmobile Clubs Alliance
Dave Simmons, Ride Illinois
Mark Moran, City of Galena
Brienna Lee, Explore Savanna
Justin Helle, Galena Country Tourism
Chris Carter, Galena River Outfitters
Jim Johannsen, Jo Daviess Conservation Foundation
Ryan Birkicht, People for Bikes
Cathy Wolfenden, Shenandoah Riding Center

Municipality Input:
Jo Daviess County:
City of Galena
Village of Apple River

Carroll County:
City of Savanna
City of Thomson

2022 Initiatives

The following table lists greenways and trails initiatives that were collected throughout the public input process. The supported actions column relates initiatives back to questions asked in the public survey about support for recreation and trails improvements.

Jo Daviess & Carroll Counties 2022 Greenways & Trails Initiatives

County / municipality	Initiative	Category	Cost Range Estimate **$** *Less than 100,000* **$$** *100,000 to 500,000* **$$$** *500,000 to 1,000,000* **$$$$** *More than 1,000,000*	Supported Actions *Percent of public survey participants that expressed support for related actions*
Jo Daviess / *Warren*	Upgrade surfacing material for walking path at Meridian Park • Current path is crushed limestone, which requires frequent re-grading. Upgrade would be to concrete or asphalt	Improvements	$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)
Jo Daviess / *Warren*	Complete Meridian Park pool reconstruction	Improvements	$$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)
Jo Daviess / *Galena*	Implement proposed bike improvements in downtown Galena	Improvements	$	• Focus on improving on-road bike route conditions and safety (66%)
Jo Daviess / *Galena*	Implement playground equipment updates in Galena parks • City has a two-year plan to replace playground equipment in three city parks	Improvements	$-$$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)
Carroll / *Savanna*	Improve Savanna Great River Trail depot trailhead	Improvements	$-$$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)

Jo Daviess & Carroll	Implement improvements at open spaces, parks, and preserves to include parking, road signage, and amenities • Partnering with federal and state agencies will be necessary for improvements on public lands such as Apple River Canyon State Park or Mississippi Palisades State Park	Improvements	$-$$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)
Jo Daviess *East Dubuque*	Implement enhancements at North Gramercy Park • Master plan includes construction of a parking area, park entrance improvements, walking paths, gathering spaces, wayfinding and interpretive signage, overlooks, stairs, and a pedestrian bridge	New Construction	$$$$	• Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation facilities (89%)
Jo Daviess *Nora*	Continue planning efforts for a walking path in the Village of Nora	New Construction Planning	$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Jo Daviess *Galena*	Construct a splash pad in Galena • Conceptual plans for a splash pad near the swimming pool have been developed	New Construction	$-$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%)
Jo Daviess *Galena*	Construct a dog park in Galena • A property in an East Galena subdivision has been offered for donation for the construction of a dog park • The park would include multiple areas including a wooded section with trails	New Construction	$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%)

Jo Daviess *Galena*	Implement the Galena View Trail Expansion • Trail would run from the north end of the Galena River Trail through Buehler Preserve over the Canada National railroad via a pedestrian bridge, through Gateway Park, under IL 20 via a tunnel to Horseshoe Mound Preserve	New Construction	$$$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Construct trails or designate routes that create linkages between cities and villages (80%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Jo Daviess *Galena*	Collaborate with IDOT to plan a trail along IL 20 from Midwest Medical Center to the intersection with Industrial Dr. • Construction of a multi-use path would coincide with repaving of this section of road	New Construction Planning	$-$$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Carroll *Savanna*	Implement Savanna riverfront master plan	New Construction	$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Great River Trail improvements and extension from Savanna to Galena • Build upon conceptual plan developed by Iowa State University's Community Design Lab • Develop a "Friends of" group or coalition of government agencies to continue the trail extension effort • Master Plan development • Trail improvements around Thomson • Trail experience improvements around Aiken- transition from Galena River Trail to Great River Trail	New Construction Planning	$-$$$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Construct trails or designate routes that create linkages between cities and villages (80%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Jo Daviess	Acquire land (through a willing transaction) for an accessible public canoe/kayak launch north of Galena	New Construction	$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%)

Jo Daviess	Plan and construct a trail connecting Hanover to Wapello Land & Water Reserve	 New Construction  Planning	$-$$	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Construct trails or designate routes that create linkages between cities and villages (80%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Trail wayfinding signage improvements • Northwest Illinois Trails Wayfinding Sign Guide Template to be used and adopted as the signage standard for trails in the counties • Accessibility information such as trail surface, elevation change, slopes, and trail width to be included • Implementation of the Galena River Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan	 Communications/ Promotion	$-$$	• Implement cohesive wayfinding trail signage (77%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Promotion of Jo Daviess & Carroll counties' trails, parks, and open spaces • To include the development of a publicly available map showing recreation opportunities- may build upon the Northwest Illinois Trails webpage • To advertise new and existing opportunities such as the horse hotel at the Shenandoah Riding Center and signature local bike rides	 Communications/ Promotion	$	• Invest in advertising outdoor recreation opportunities in the counties (66%)
Jo Daviess *Apple River*	Conduct a planning study for alternative uses for the baseball diamond space	 Planning	-	

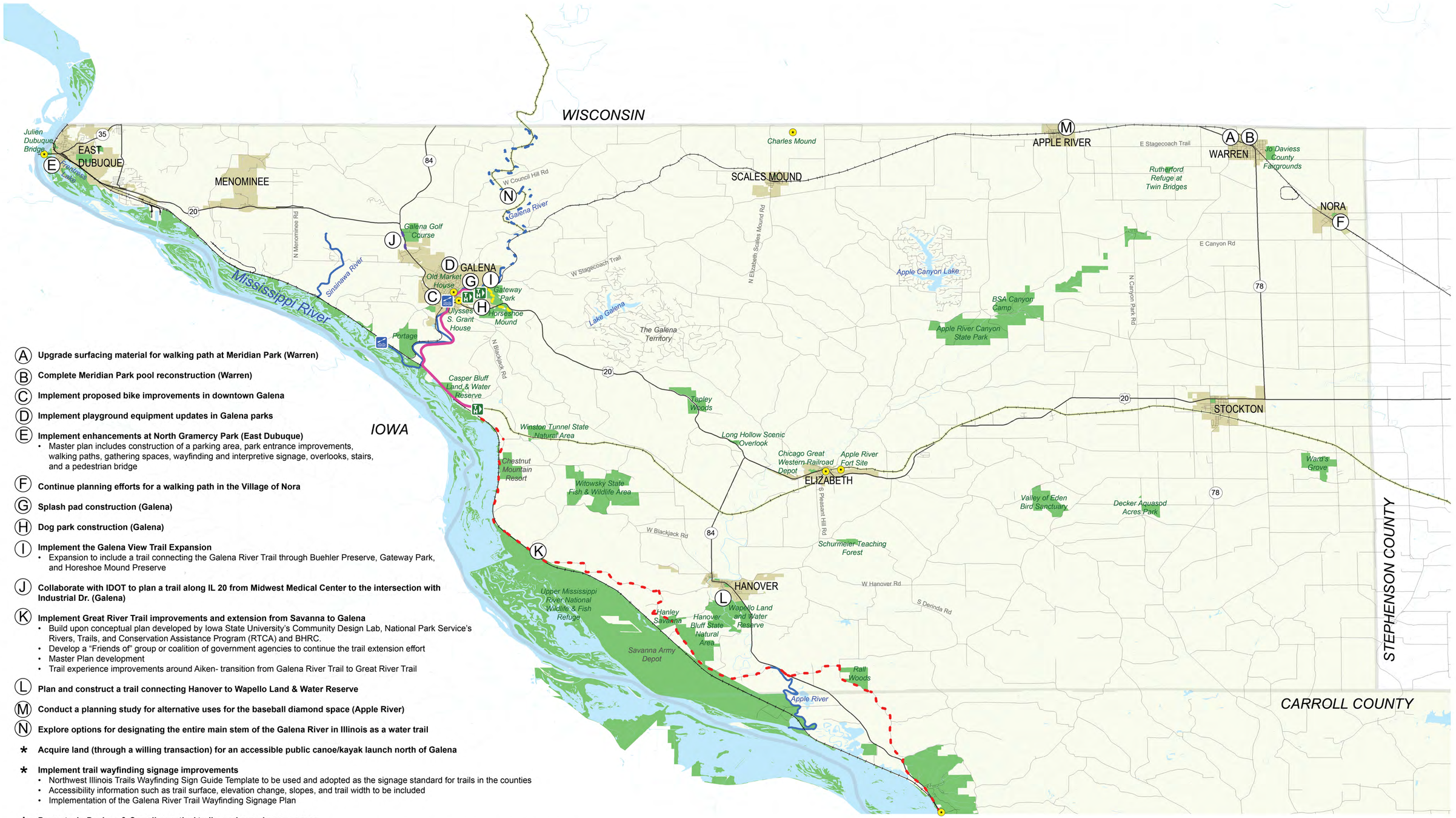
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Develop additional bike/pedestrian plans at county and/or municipal levels • Analysis done for City of Galena could be replicated/built upon for other communities • Identify needed safety improvements: lighting, crosswalks, road conditions • Advocate for bicycling as a mode of transportation	Planning	$	• Focus on improving on-road bike route conditions and safety (66%) • Support legislative changes that would open opportunities for more designated and signed bike routes (77%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Stay abreast of upcoming railroad abandonments for opportunities to railbank for rails-to-trails development • Rails-to-Trails Conservancy offers Early Warning System alerts about local rail abandonments for corridor preservation and future trail use.	Planning	-	• Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' needs and priorities (76%) • Construct trails or designate routes that create linkages between cities and villages (80%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%) • Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities (80%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Continue to explore options for providing OHV opportunities in the counties • Important steps to take include an inclusive public input process and a study of options for a legal ordinance at the county level	Planning	-	• Support legislative changes that would open opportunities for OHV trails and routes (34%)

Jo Daviess & Carroll	Explore potential locations for providing mountain biking opportunities • Opportunities may include purpose-built mountain bike trails or mountain bike skills courses • Providing adaptive mountain bike trails would offer an opportunity for riders who don't use a standard mountain bike and would serve as an additional draw to the area	 Planning	$-$$	• Construct purpose-built mountain bike trails (46%) • Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways (92%)
Jo Daviess & Carroll	Conduct a feasibility study for an interagency coalition, county park district, forest preserve district, or county conservation district • This organization or agency would meet the need and demand for an entity to manage some parks, trails, and open spaces. The organization would also work on implementing regional projects such as the extension of the Great River Trail	 Organizational, Management	$	
Jo Daviess	Explore options for designating the entire main stem of the Galena River in Illinois as a water trail	 Legislation/Policy	-	• Support legislative changes that would open opportunities for water access/paddling trails (67%)

2022 Greenways & Trails Maps

The following set of maps show existing, planned, and proposed trail locations along with parks, open spaces, and heritage sites. Supplemental maps of backroads bicycle routes are also included to show how the routes interface with existing and proposed trails. Although not included in the maps below, more information about snowmobile trails, including maps, can be found on IDNR's Snowmobiling in Illinois webpage. The Illinois Association of Snowmobile Clubs also provides important information on trails and links to local clubs' webpages.

Jo Daviess County Greenways & Trails 2022



Ⓐ **Upgrade surfacing material for walking path at Meridian Park (Warren)**

Ⓑ **Complete Meridian Park pool reconstruction (Warren)**

Ⓒ **Implement proposed bike improvements in downtown Galena**

Ⓓ **Implement playground equipment updates in Galena parks**

Ⓔ **Implement enhancements at North Gramercy Park (East Dubuque)**
- Master plan includes construction of a parking area, park entrance improvements, walking paths, gathering spaces, wayfinding and interpretive signage, overlooks, stairs, and a pedestrian bridge

Ⓕ **Continue planning efforts for a walking path in the Village of Nora**

Ⓖ **Splash pad construction (Galena)**

Ⓗ **Dog park construction (Galena)**

Ⓘ **Implement the Galena View Trail Expansion**
- Expansion to include a trail connecting the Galena River Trail through Buehler Preserve, Gateway Park, and Horseshoe Mound Preserve

Ⓙ **Collaborate with IDOT to plan a trail along IL 20 from Midwest Medical Center to the intersection with Industrial Dr. (Galena)**

Ⓚ **Implement Great River Trail improvements and extension from Savanna to Galena**
- Build upon conceptual plan developed by Iowa State University's Community Design Lab, National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) and BHRC.
- Develop a "Friends of" group or coalition of government agencies to continue the trail extension effort
- Master Plan development
- Trail experience improvements around Aiken- transition from Galena River Trail to Great River Trail

Ⓛ **Plan and construct a trail connecting Hanover to Wapello Land & Water Reserve**

Ⓜ **Conduct a planning study for alternative uses for the baseball diamond space (Apple River)**

Ⓝ **Explore options for designating the entire main stem of the Galena River in Illinois as a water trail**

* **Acquire land (through a willing transaction) for an accessible public canoe/kayak launch north of Galena**

* **Implement trail wayfinding signage improvements**
- Northwest Illinois Trails Wayfinding Sign Guide Template to be used and adopted as the signage standard for trails in the counties
- Accessibility information such as trail surface, elevation change, slopes, and trail width to be included
- Implementation of the Galena River Trail Wayfinding Signage Plan

* **Promote Jo Daviess & Carroll counties' trails, parks, and open spaces**
- To include the development of a publicly available map showing recreation opportunities- may build upon the Northwest Illinois Trails online map
- To advertise new and existing opportunities such as the horse hotel at the Shenandoah Riding Center and signature local bike rides

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

Existing
- Trailhead
- Water Trail Launch Sites
- Heritage Points
- Parks and Open Spaces

- Railroad
- Historic Rail Lines
- Galena River Trail
- Illinois Public Waters
  - *Sinsinawa River*
  - *Galena River*
  - *Apple River*
  - *Mississippi River*

Proposed/Planned
- Great River Trail Extension
- IL 20 Trail Proposed
- Galena View Trail Expansion
- Great River Water Trail Extension



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Produced by Regional Planner Emily Lauderdale with data from Jo Daviess County GIS, USGS, National Park Service, and Illinois Department of Transportation
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Carroll County Greenways & Trails 2022

Ⓐ **Improve Savanna Great River Trail depot trailhead**

Ⓑ **Implement Savanna riverfront master plan**

Ⓒ **Great River Trail improvements and extension from Savanna to Galena**
see Jo Daviess map and initiatives table for more details
- Trail improvements around Thomson

* **Implement improvements at open spaces, parks, and preserves in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties**
- To include parking, road signage, and amenities improvements
- Partnering with federal and state agencies will be necessary for improvements on public lands such as Apple River State Park or Mississippi Palisades State Park

* **Develop additional bike/pedestrian plans at county and/or municipal levels (Carroll & Jo Daviess counties)**
- Analysis done for City of Galena could be replicated/built upon for other communities
- Identify needed safety improvements: lighting, crosswalks, road conditions
- Advocate for bicycling as a mode of transportation

* **Stay abreast of upcoming railroad abandonments for opportunities to railbank for rails-to-trails development (Carroll & Jo Daviess counties)**

* **Continue to explore options for providing OHV opportunities in the counties**
- Important steps to take include an inclusive public input process and a study of options for a legal ordinance at the county level

* **Explore potential for providing mountain biking opportunities (Carroll & Jo Daviess counties)**
- Opportunities may include purpose-built mountain bike trails, mountain bike skills courses, or pump tracks
- Providing adaptive mountain bike trails would offer an opportunity for riders who don't use a standard mountain bike and would serve as an additional draw to the area

* **Conduct a feasibility study for an interagency coalition, county park district, forest preserve district, or county conservation district (Jo Daviess & Carroll counties)**
- This organization or agency would meet the need and demand for an entity to manage some parks, trails, and open spaces. The organization would also work on implementing regional projects such as the extension of the Great River Trail

JO DAVIESS COUNTY
STEPHENSON COUNTY
OGLE COUNTY
WHITESIDE COUNTY
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge
Savanna Army Depot
Apple River
Mississippi River
Palisades Golf Course
Mississippi Palisades State Park
Lookout Point
Scenic Ridge Rd
Zion Rd
Messmer Rd
Oakton Rd
Savanna-Sabula Bridge
SAVANNA
Plum River
Ayers Sand Prairie Nature Preserve
French Bluffs Natural Area
THOMSON
Thomson Causeway Recreation Area
S Loran Rd
Lake Carroll
MT CARROLL
Carroll County Courthouse
Waukarusa Canyon
SHANNON
Shannon Route
W White Oak Rd
LANARK
CHADWICK
Argo Fay Route
Benson Rd
Little Rock Creek State Habitat Area
MILLEDGEVILLE
Milledgeville Rd
Coleta Rd
84
78
52
40
72
73

Existing
- Heritage Points
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Railroad
- Historic Rail Lines

- Illinois Public Waters
  - *Apple River*
  - *Plum River*
  - *Mississippi River*

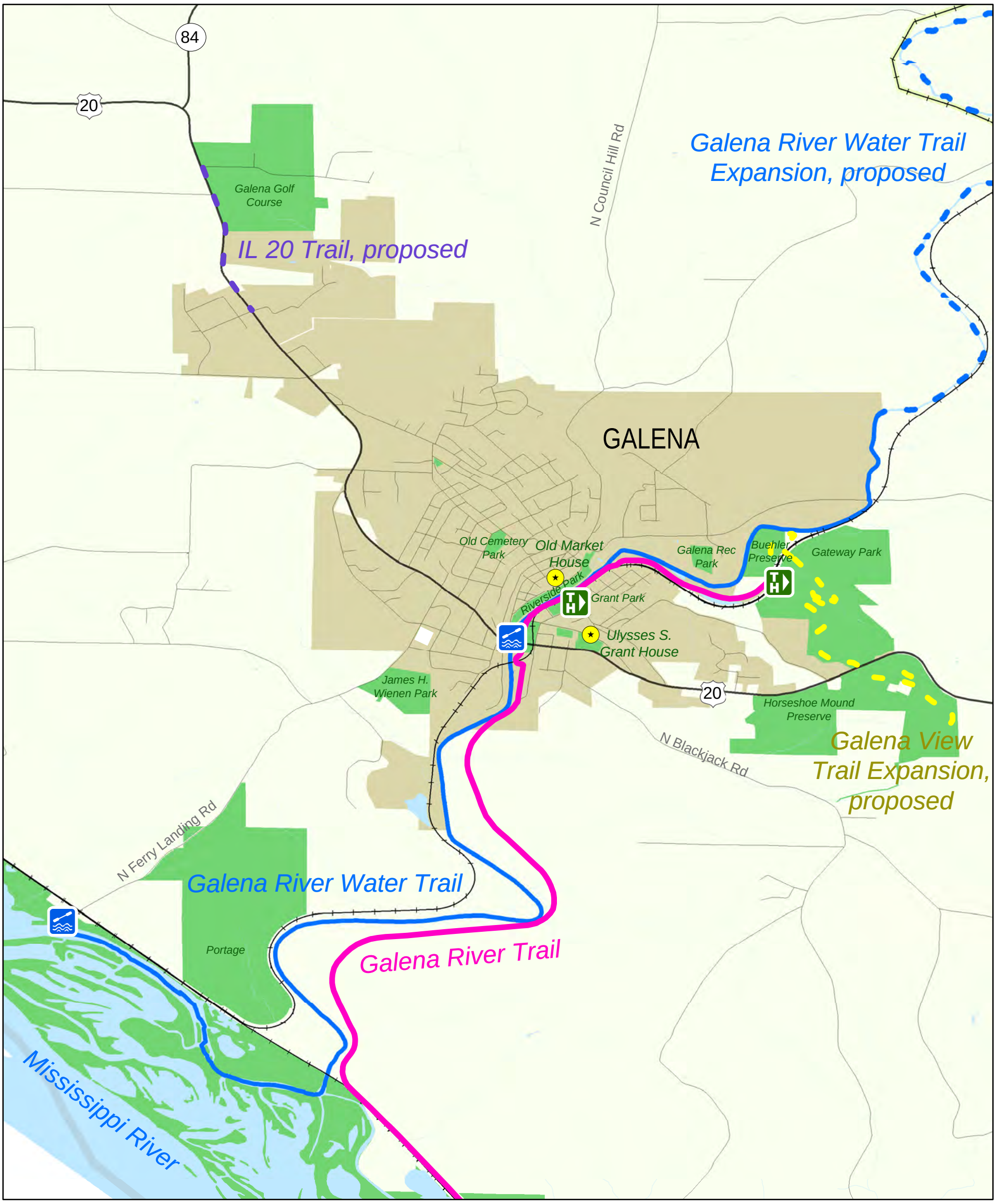
Proposed/Planned
- Great River Trail Extension

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

N

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Jo Daviess & Carroll Counties Greenways & Trails 2022

Existing

- Trailhead
- Water Trail Launch Sites
- Heritage Points
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Galena River Trail
- Galena River Water Trail
- Railroad
- Historic Rail Lines

Proposed/Planned

- IL 20 Trail, proposed
- Galena View Trail Expansion
- Galena River Water Trail Extension

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Jo Daviess & Carroll Counties Greenways & Trails 2022

Existing

- Trailhead
- Parks and Open Spaces
- Great River Trail
- Plum River
- Railroad

Proposed/Planned

- Great River Trail Extension

N

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Jo Daviess County Greenways & Trails 2022

Backroads Bicycle Routes

WISCONSIN

IOWA

CARROLL COUNTY

STEPHENSON COUNTY

Julien Dubuque Bridge

EAST DUBUQUE

Frentress Lake

MENOMINEE

N Menominee Rd

Galena Golf Course

Sinsinawa River

Mississippi River

W Council Hill Rd

Galena River

GALENA

Old Market House

Gateway Park

Ulysses S. Grant House

Horseshoe Mound

Portage

W Stagecoach Trail

Lake Galena

The Galena Territory

W Blackjack Rd

Casper Bluff Land & Water Reserve

Winston Tunnel State Natural Area

Chestnut Mountain Resort

Witowsky State Fish & Wildlife Area

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife & Fish Refuge

Hanley Savanna

Hanover Bluff State Natural Area

Wapello Land and Water Reserve

HANOVER

Savanna Army Depot

Rall Woods

Apple River

Schurmeier Teaching Forest

S Pleasant Hill Rd

Tapley Woods

Long Hollow Scenic Overlook

Chicago Great Western Railroad Depot

Apple River Fort Site

ELIZABETH

Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary

Decker Aquasod Acres Park

Charles Mound

SCALES MOUND

N Elizabeth Scales Mound Rd

Apple Canyon Lake

BSA Canyon Camp

Apple River Canyon State Park

N Canyon Park Rd

APPLE RIVER

E Stagecoach Trail

Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges

WARREN

Jo Daviess County Fairgrounds

NORA

E Canyon Rd

STOCKTON

Ward's Grove

S Pennyrile Rd

W Hanover Rd

35 20 84 78

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

Grand Illinois Trail (GIT) Bicycle Route

Backroads Bicycle Routes

Existing

- Trailhead
- Water Trail Launch Sites
- Heritage Points
- Parks and Open Spaces

- Railroad
- Historic Rail Lines
- Galena River Trail
- Illinois Public Waters
  - *Sinsinawa River*
  - *Galena River*
  - *Apple River*
  - *Mississippi River*

Proposed/Planned

- Great River Trail Extension, route option
- IL 20 Trail, proposed
- Galena View Trail Expansion
- Great River Water Trail Extension

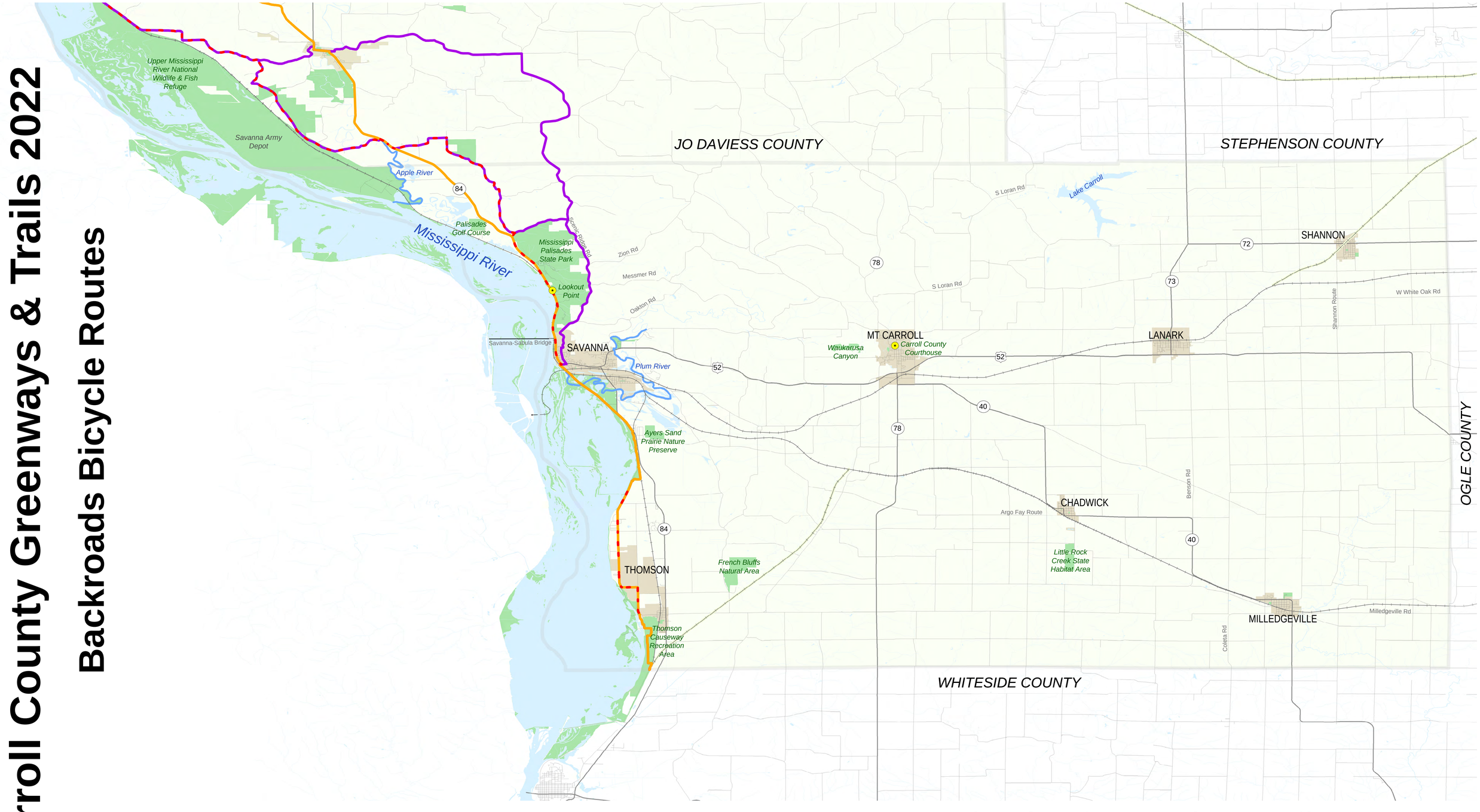
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Carroll County Greenways & Trails 2022

Backroads Bicycle Routes



0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

Grand Illinois Trail (GIT) Bicycle Route

Backroads Bicycle Routes

Existing

Heritage Points

Parks and Open Spaces

Illinois Public Waters

Apple River

Plum River

Mississippi River

Railroad

Historic Rail Lines

Proposed/Planned

Great River Trail Extension, route option

N

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Planning and Implementation Resources

Planning & Funding Resources	Administrating org.	Funding available & match requirements	Eligible project categories
Statewide Planning and Research (SPR) Funds	Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)	Recommended minimum request is $20,000; no maximum project cost; 20% local match required	Trail planning up to a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study
Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)	U.S. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Review Call for Projects for information about project cost minimums or maximums; no local match requirement.	Funding is available for trail planning, construction, and enhancements such as signage or parking. Eligible projects must be located on, adjacent to, or provide access to Federal lands.
Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) Program	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	This is a technical assistance and planning program, no funds are provided	Planning support for development of the local recreation economy
The Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Rural Economic Development Toolkit	Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR)	This is a set of online resources for building and improving outdoor recreation economies	Resources for supporting rural outdoor recreation economies
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program	National Park Service	This is a technical assistance and planning program, no funds are provided	Support for project planning and community engagement
Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP)	IDOT	Up to $2,000,000; check program website for details on match requirements	Construction of bike/ped facilities, turnouts, overlooks, and viewing areas

Illinois Trails Grant Programs • Bike Path Program • Local Government Snowmobile Program • Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) Program • Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Program • Federal Recreation Trails Program (RTP)	Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)	Funding and match requirements vary by program	Programs cover trail construction and improvements for numerous motorized and non-motorized uses Some programs also cover acquisition of trail corridors from willing sellers through easements or fee simple title
Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Grant	IDNR	Up to $750,000 for acquisition projects and up to $400,000 for development/renovation projects; 50% local match required	Funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space
Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF/LAWCON) Grant	IDNR	Up to $750,000; 50% local match required	Funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition of land for public parks and open space
Boat Access Area Development (BAAD) Grant	IDNR	Up to $200,000 for motorized launch sites and up to $80,000 for non-motorized sites; 10% local match required for land acquisition costs	Funding assistance to local government agencies for acquisition, construction, and expansion/rehabilitation of public boat and canoe access areas
T.R.A.I.L.S. (Trail development, Responsible riding, Access, Initiatives, Lobbying, Safety) Grant	Polaris	Up to $10,000; check grant application for any match requirements	Funding for OHV clubs and associations for trail development and maintenance, safety and education initiatives, lobbying and other projects to increase and maintain land access
Snow PASS grant	Ski-doo	Up to $5,000; 50% local match required	Funding for not-for-profits and government organizations for snowmobile projects including trail development, safety initiatives, accessibility improvements, and aid to snowmobile clubs

Rails-to-Trails Trails Grants Program	Rails-to-Trails Conservancy	Varies	Various trail and trail amenity construction grants are available annually Sign up for the Trail Expert Network to keep informed about upcoming opportunities
PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program	PeopleForBikes	Up to $10,000; 50% local match required	Bicycle infrastructure projects and some advocacy projects such as campaigns to increase investment in bicycle infrastructure
The Trail Fund	American Trails	$2,000 to $15,000 20% local match required	New annual grant opportunity starting in 2022 Funding priorities are: 1) trail maintenance backlog on state and local lands, 2) research, 3) stewardship training

Appendix A. Priority Conservation Areas

The following priority conservation areas maps were developed using a weighted overlay technique with ArcGIS software. The process works by accounting for different criteria that affect the value of a given place for natural resource, habitat, or recreational use conservation. The criteria are weighted to give more or less impact in the suitability map output. Weights are given in decimal form and must add up to 1. It was found that criteria that involved distances were generally weaker and were thus given higher weights. The ability to adjust the weight of criteria is a benefit of this analysis, but it can also be seen as a weakness as there are assumptions made when assigning weights.

The criteria used for this analysis were:

Distance from existing public and private parks and open spaces (*weighted 0.3)*
Higher suitability was assigned to land closer to existing parks and open spaces to represent the value of conserving contiguous spaces for habitat. This layer comes from the Prairie State Conservation Coalition's protected lands database[24] and information collected from the greenways and trails plan update process.

Key wildlife areas *(weighted 0.1)*
This layer comes from The Nature Conservancy's Site Renewables Right database for wind energy.[25] It includes the following important wildlife areas: whooping crane stopover sites, eagles/other raptors, prairie grouse, high waterfowl breeding density, important bird areas, bat roosts, threatened/endangered species, big game, water/wetlands/riparian corridors, intact natural habitats, other biodiversity significance, and climate resilient lands. Although the layer is very valuable for this analysis, it should be noted that there are likely gaps within this dataset. For example, certain wildlife areas, such as an eagles/other raptors corridor, stop abruptly at the Wisconsin/Illinois boarder. This suggests that there are discrepancies between what data is collected in different states and/or regions.

Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs) *(weighted 0.1)*
COAs are included in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois Wildlife Action Plan. They are considered priority areas for conserving Illinois' Species in Greatest Need of Conservation. Specifically, COAs are places with:

- with significant existing or potential wildlife and habitat resources
- where partners are willing to plan, implement, and evaluate conservation actions
- where financial and human resources are available

[24] Prairie State Conservation Coalition. I-View. 7 March 2022. https://www.prairiestateconservation.org/pscc/iview/
[25] The Nature Conservancy. Site Renewables Right. 7 March 2022. https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/site-wind-right/?vu=siterenewablesright

- where conservation is motivated by an agreed-upon conservation purpose and set of objectives[26]

Distance from Biologically Significant Streams *(weighted 0.3)*
This criterion comes from IDNR's Biological Stream Ratings database.[27] Land closer to streams with A or B integrity ratings were given higher values to represent the importance of conserving these streams and surrounding areas.

Land Cover *(weighted 0.2)*
The 2011 National Land Cover Data Set[28] was used to rank land cover types for conservation value. Developed lands and open water were ranked as 0, and all other land cover types were ranked as 1.

The second set of maps highlight corridors and islands of concentrated lands that ranked high for conservation value. These areas may overlap with natural features such as rivers or floodplains that provide high-value habitat. Focusing on larger grouped areas for conservation planning may help with habitat linkages and contiguity.

This analysis and resulting maps serve as an initial step towards developing what is perhaps a set of land use planning maps. Other layers that will likely be important for future iterations of land use planning analyses include orthoimagery and LiDAR data, Illinois Agriculture Preservation Areas, Highly Erodible Lands, and the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory. Adding to and refining the parks and open spaces layer would also be of value. Including cemeteries that have remnant prairies and additional privately-held conservation easement lands would result in more inclusive and robust output maps. Ground-truthing the output maps and gathering more input from local stakeholders would also help improve future models.

[26] Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Conservation Opportunity Areas. 7 March 2022. https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/IWAP/pages/conservationopportunityareas.aspx
[27] Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Biological Stream Ratings. 7 March 2022. https://www2.illinois.gov/dnr/conservation/BiologicalStreamratings/pages/default.aspx
[28] Multi-Resolution Land Characteristics Consortium. NLCD 2011 Land Cover (CONUS). 7 March 2022. https://www.mrlc.gov/data/nlcd-2011-land-cover-conus

EAST DUBUQUE
MENOMINEE
GALENA
SCALES MOUND
APPLE RIVER
WARREN
NORA
STOCKTON
HANOVER

Public & Private Parks & Open Spaces

Conservation Value

High

Low

Jo Daviess County Priority Conservation Areas

2022

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

N

bhrc Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Produced by Regional Planner Emily Lauderdale with data from The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and Illinois Department of Transportation
Best printed at 24 x 36 in

EAST DUBUQUE
MENOMINEE
GALENA
SCALES MOUND
APPLE RIVER
WARREN
NORA
STOCKTON
ELIZABETH
HANOVER

Public & Private Parks & Open Spaces

Conservation Value

High

Low

High Value Islands & Corridors

Jo Daviess County Priority Conservation Areas

2022

0 2 4 8 12 16 Miles

N

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Produced by Regional Planner Emily Lauderdale with data from The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and Illinois Department of Transportation
Best printed at 24 x 36 in

SAVANNA
MOUNT CARROLL
SHANNON
LANARK
CHADWICK
THOMSON
MILLEDGEVILLE

Public & Private Parks & Open Spaces

Conservation Value

High

Low

Carroll County Priority Conservation Areas

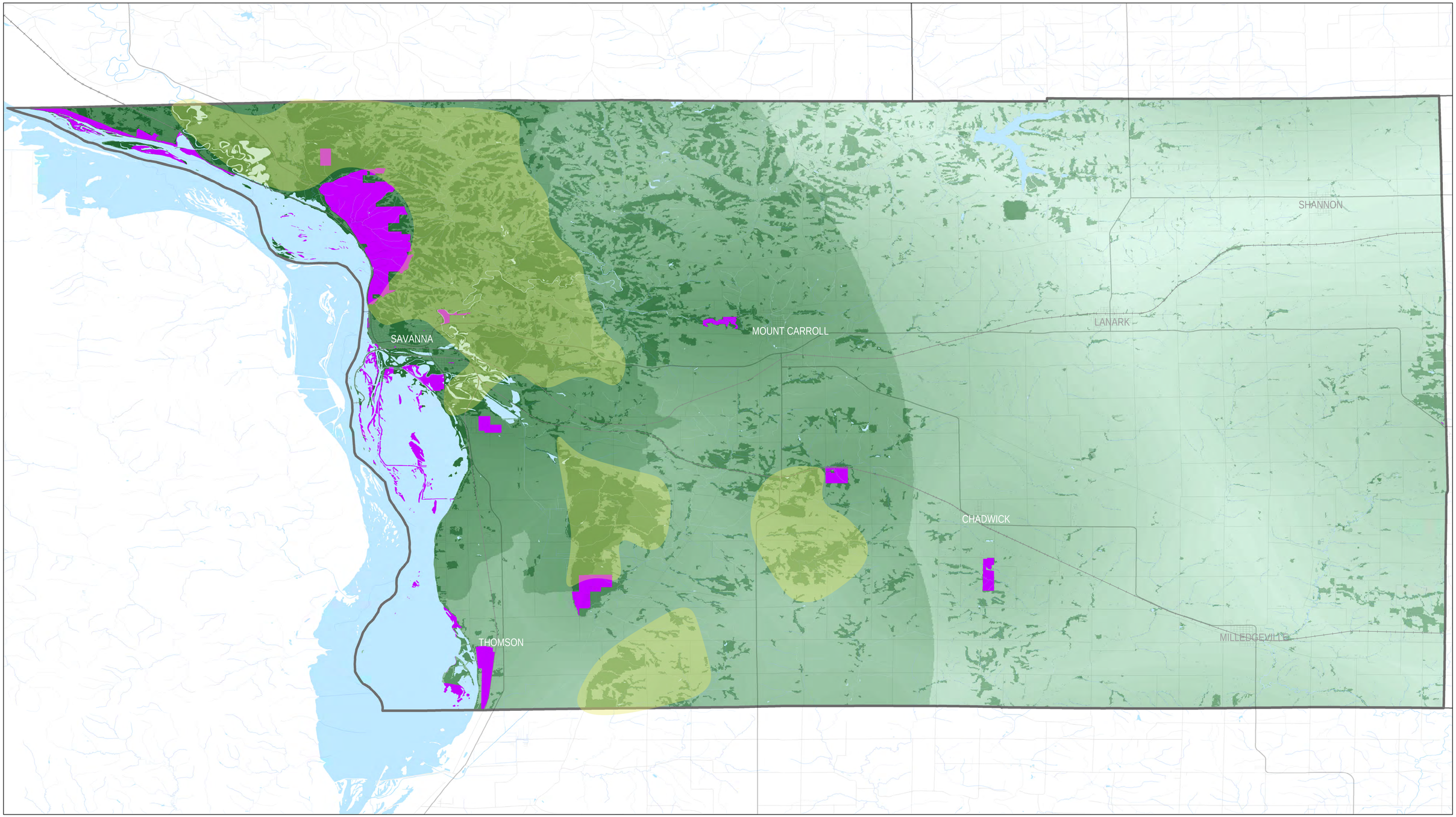
2022

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

N

bhrc Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Produced by Regional Planner Emily Lauderdale with data from The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and Illinois Department of Transportation
Best printed at 24 x 36 in



Public & Private Parks & Open Spaces

Conservation Value

High

Low

High Value Islands & Corridors

Carroll County Priority Conservation Areas

2022

0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Miles

N

Blackhawk Hills Regional Council

Produced by Regional Planner Emily Lauderdale with data from The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, USGS, and Illinois Department of Transportation
Best printed at 24 x 36 in

Appendix B. Related Plans

Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) – last updated in 2015

North Gramercy Park Master Plan

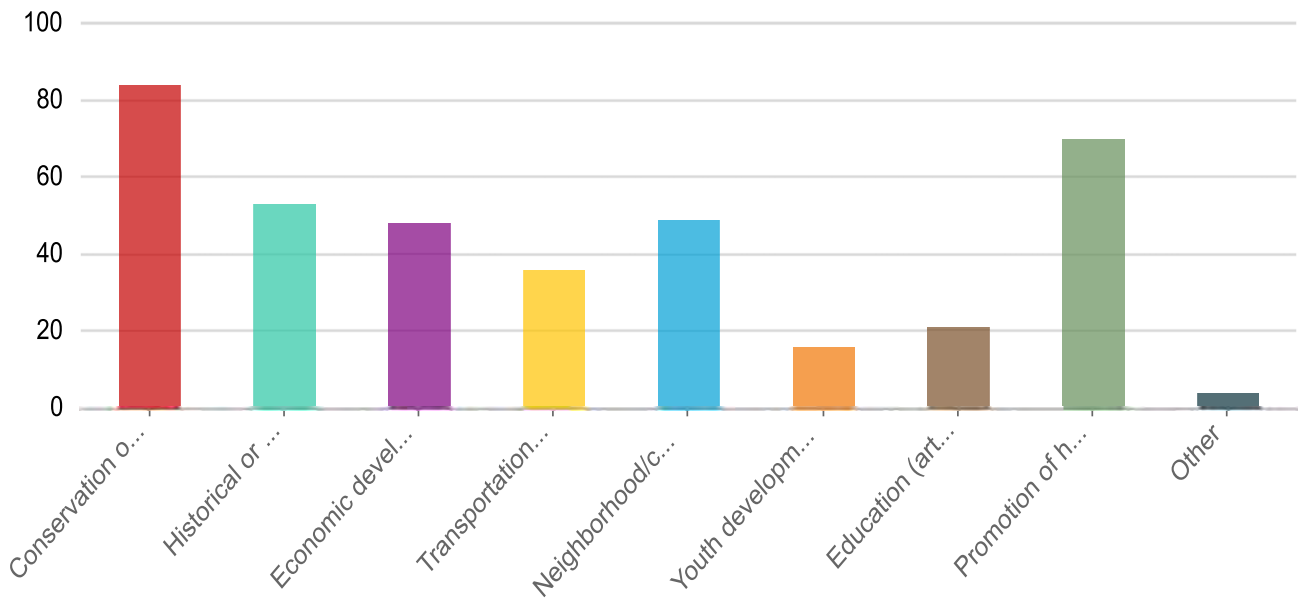
Savanna Riverfront Master Plan



Tree Frog in the Village of Shannon, photo credit: Daniel Payette

Jo Daviess & Carroll Counties Greenways & Trails Survey

Trails, parks, and open spaces offer many benefits. Please select the top THREE benefit…

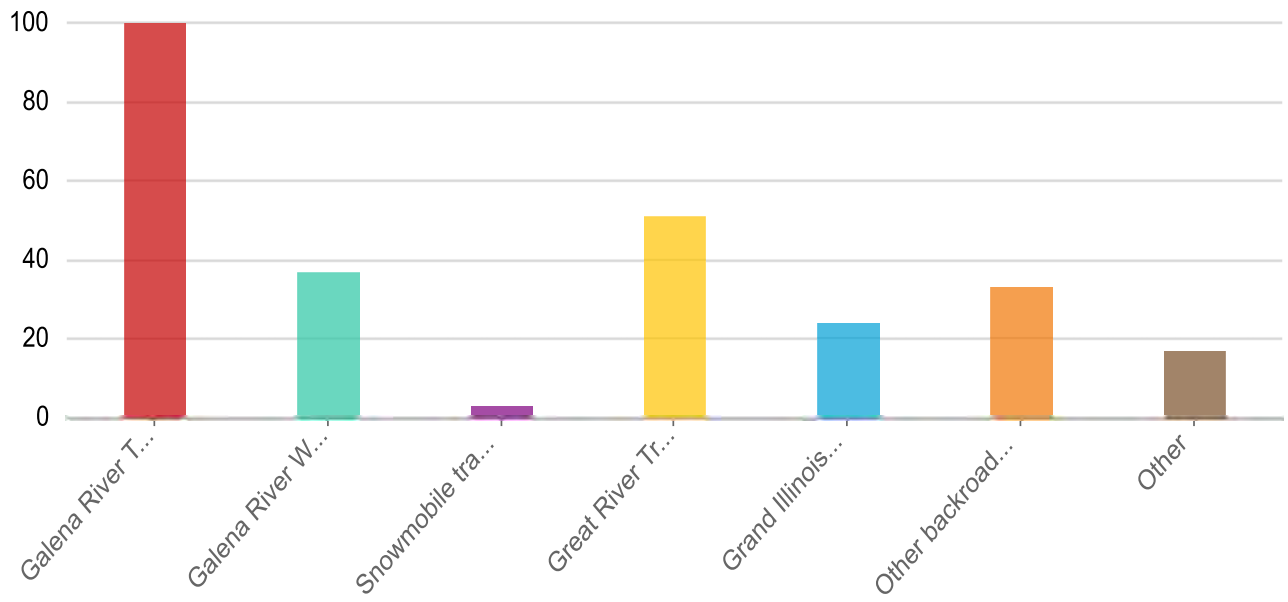


Answers	Count	Percentage
Conservation of natural areas	84	65.63%
Historical or heritage preservation	53	41.41%
Economic development (helping the community attract and retain residents and businesses, increase property values, and be more resilient)	48	37.5%
Transportation/connectivity, options for commuters (e.g. bike lanes, trails)	36	28.13%
Neighborhood/community open space for social interactions and play (creating a sense of community/bringing people together)	49	38.28%
Youth development	16	12.5%
Education (arts, culture, science, etc.)	21	16.41%

Promotion of health (physical, social engagement, psychological), wellness, and fitness	70	54.69%
Other	4	3.13%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1

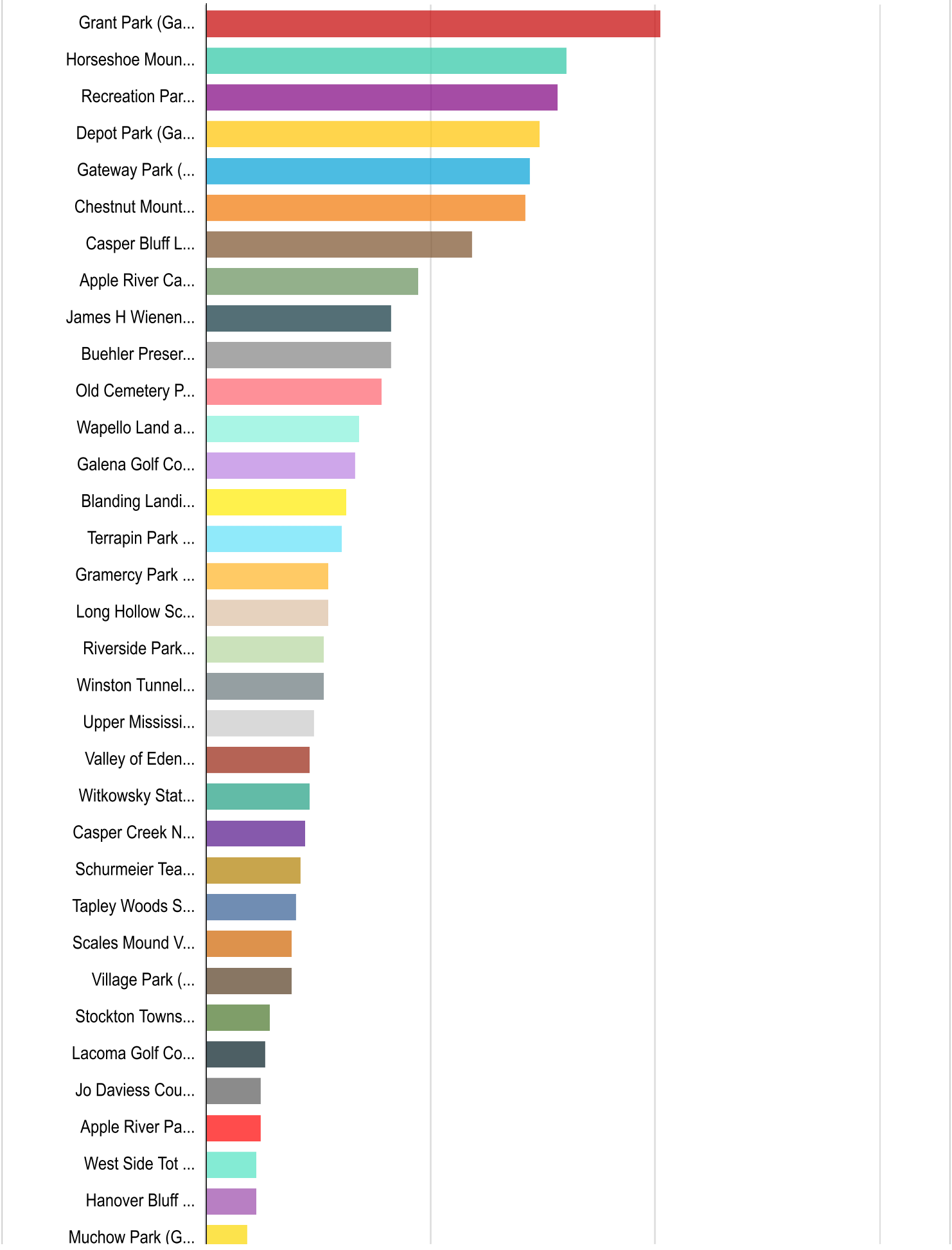
Please check ALL of the trails in Jo Daviess and Carroll Counties that you or members …

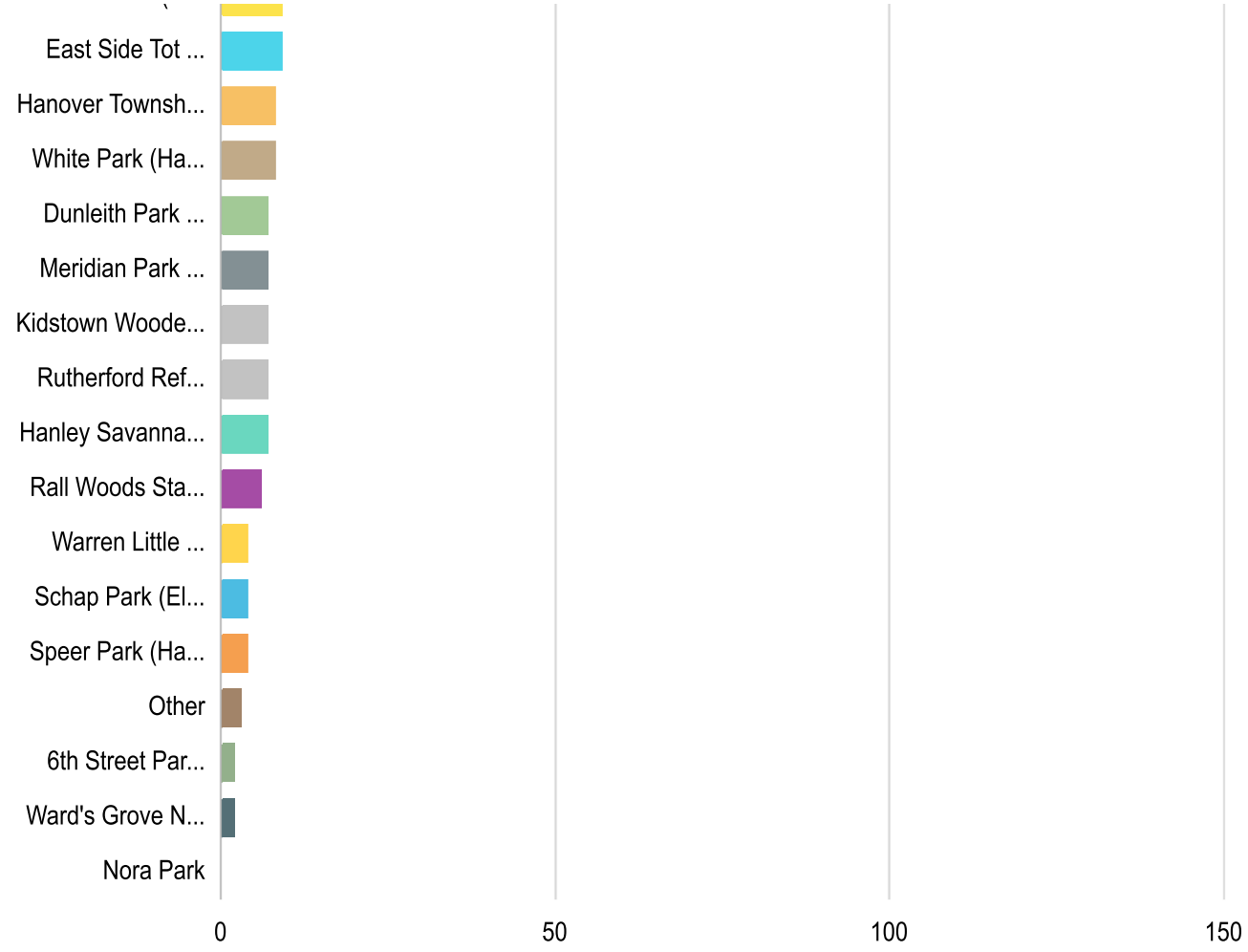


Answers	Count	Percentage
Galena River Trail	100	78.13%
Galena River Water Trail (paddling)	37	28.91%
Snowmobile trails in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties	3	2.34%
Great River Trail	51	39.84%
Grand Illinois Trail (bicycle route)	24	18.75%
Other backroads bicycle routes	33	25.78%
Other	17	13.28%

Answered: 114 Skipped: 14

Please check ALL of the parks and open spaces in JO DAVIESS County that you or…


Grant Park (Ga...
Horseshoe Moun...
Recreation Par...
Depot Park (Ga...
Gateway Park (...
Chestnut Mount...
Casper Bluff L...
Apple River Ca...
James H Wienen...
Buehler Preser...
Old Cemetery P...
Wapello Land a...
Galena Golf Co...
Blanding Landi...
Terrapin Park ...
Gramercy Park ...
Long Hollow Sc...
Riverside Park...
Winston Tunnel...
Upper Mississi...
Valley of Eden...
Witkowsky Stat...
Casper Creek N...
Schurmeier Tea...
Tapley Woods S...
Scales Mound V...
Village Park (...
Stockton Towns...
Lacoma Golf Co...
Jo Daviess Cou...
Apple River Pa...
West Side Tot ...
Hanover Bluff ...
Muchow Park (G...



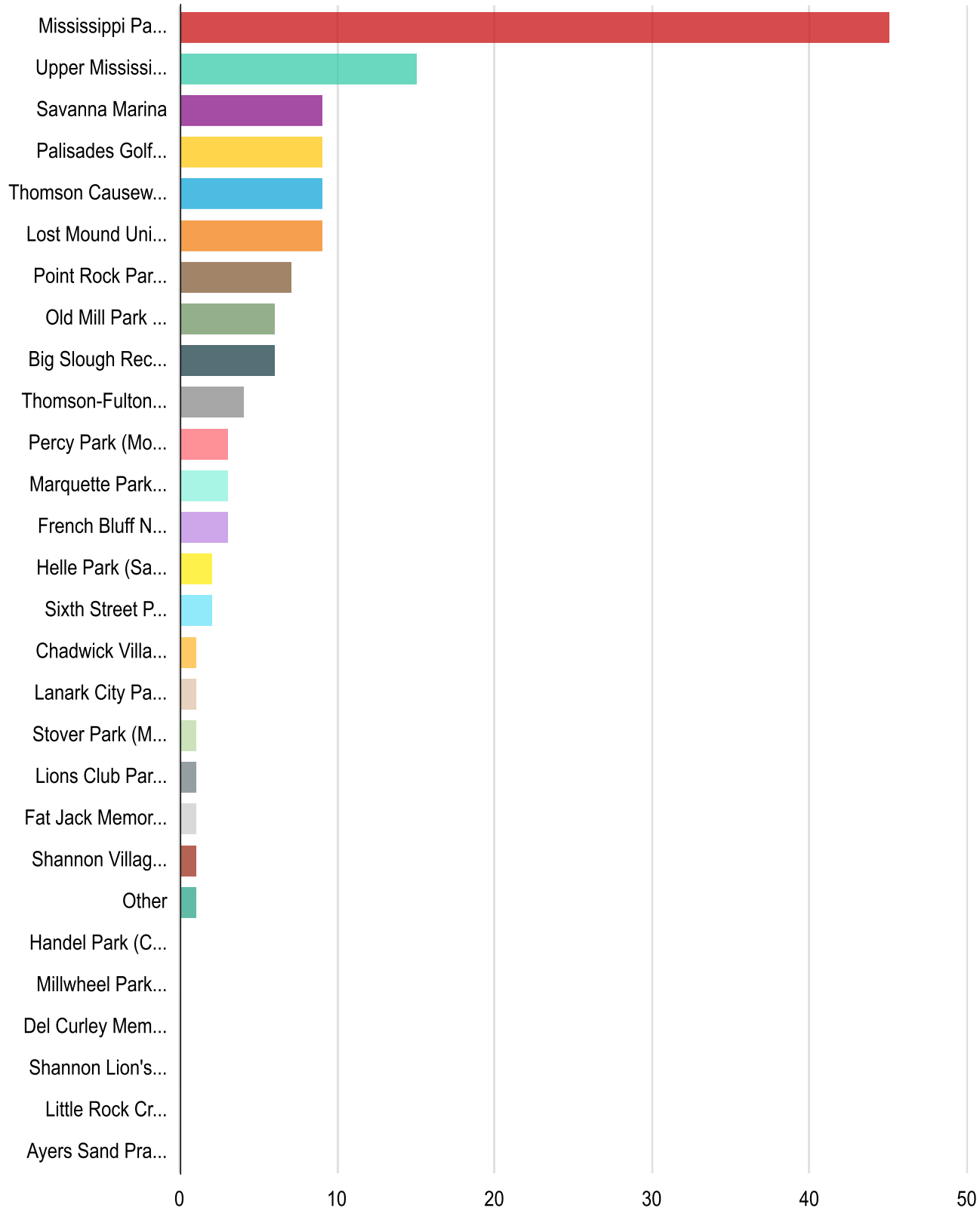
Answers	Count	Percentage
Grant Park (Galena)	101	78.91%
Horseshoe Mound Preserve (Galena)	80	62.5%
Recreation Park (Galena)	78	60.94%
Depot Park (Galena)	74	57.81%
Gateway Park (Galena)	72	56.25%
Chestnut Mountain Resort (Galena)	71	55.47%
Casper Bluff Land and Water Reserve (Galena)	59	46.09%
Apple River Canyon State Park	47	36.72%
James H Wienen Park (West Galena Township)	41	32.03%

Buehler Preserve (Galena)	41	32.03%
Old Cemetery Park (Galena)	39	30.47%
Wapello Land and Water Reserve (Hanover)	34	26.56%
Galena Golf Course	33	25.78%
Blanding Landing Recreation Area	31	24.22%
Terrapin Park (Elizabeth)	30	23.44%
Gramercy Park (East Dubuque)	27	21.09%
Long Hollow Scenic Overlook (Elizabeth)	27	21.09%
Riverside Park (Galena)	26	20.31%
Winston Tunnel State Natural Area (Galena)	26	20.31%
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	24	18.75%
Valley of Eden Bird Sanctuary (Stockton)	23	17.97%
Witkowsky State Wildlife Area (Rice Township)	23	17.97%
Casper Creek Natural Cemetery (Galena)	22	17.19%
Schurmeier Teaching Forest (Elizabeth)	21	16.41%
Tapley Woods State Natural Area (Hanover)	20	15.63%
Scales Mound Village Park	19	14.84%
Village Park (Elizabeth)	19	14.84%
Stockton Township Memorial Park	14	10.94%
Lacoma Golf Course (East Dubuque)	13	10.16%
Jo Daviess County Fairground (Warren)	12	9.38%
Apple River Park	12	9.38%
West Side Tot Lot (Galena)	11	8.59%

Hanover Bluff Nature Preserve	11	8.59%
Muchow Park (Galena)	9	7.03%
East Side Tot Lot (Galena)	9	7.03%
Hanover Township Park	8	6.25%
White Park (Hanover)	8	6.25%
Dunleith Park (East Dubuque)	7	5.47%
Meridian Park (Warren)	7	5.47%
Kidstown Wooden Playground (Stockton)	7	5.47%
Rutherford Refuge at Twin Bridges (Warren)	7	5.47%
Hanley Savanna (Hanover)	7	5.47%
Rall Woods State Natural Area (SE of Hanover)	6	4.69%
Warren Little League Park	4	3.13%
Schap Park (Elizabeth)	4	3.13%
Speer Park (Hanover)	4	3.13%
Other	3	2.34%
6th Street Park (East Dubuque)	2	1.56%
Ward's Grove Nature Preserve (SE of Stockton)	2	1.56%
Nora Park	0	0%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

Check ALL of the parks and open spaces in CARROLL County that you or members of…



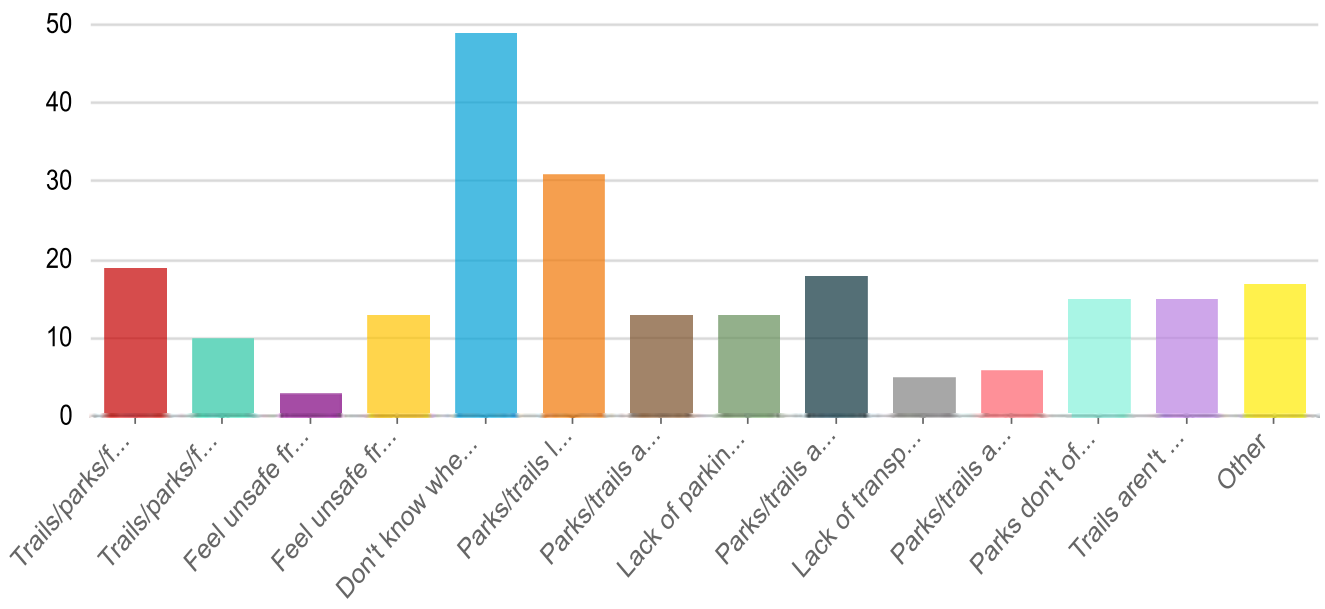
Answers	Count	Percentage
Mississippi Palisades State Park	45	35.16%

Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge	15	11.72%
Savanna Marina	9	7.03%
Palisades Golf Course (Savanna)	9	7.03%
Thomson Causeway	9	7.03%
Lost Mound Unit Wildlife Refuge Observation Overlook	9	7.03%
Point Rock Park (Mount Carroll)	7	5.47%
Old Mill Park (Savanna)	6	4.69%
Big Slough Recreation Area (Thomson)	6	4.69%
Thomson-Fulton Sand Prairie	4	3.13%
Percy Park (Mount Carroll)	3	2.34%
Marquette Park (Savanna)	3	2.34%
French Bluff Natural Area (Thomson)	3	2.34%
Helle Park (Savanna)	2	1.56%
Sixth Street Park (Savanna)	2	1.56%
Chadwick Village Park	1	0.78%
Lanark City Park	1	0.78%
Stover Park (Milledgeville)	1	0.78%
Lions Club Park (Thomson)	1	0.78%
Fat Jack Memorial Skate Park (Savanna)	1	0.78%
Shannon Village Park	1	0.78%
Other	1	0.78%
Handel Park (Chadwick)	0	0%
Millwheel Park (Milledgeville)	0	0%

Del Curley Memorial Park (Thomson)	0	0%
Shannon Lion's Park	0	0%
Little Rock Creek State Habitat Area (S of Chadwick)	0	0%
Ayers Sand Prairie State Nature Preserve	0	0%

Answered: 52 Skipped: 76

Please check ALL the reasons that prevent you or other members of your household fro…

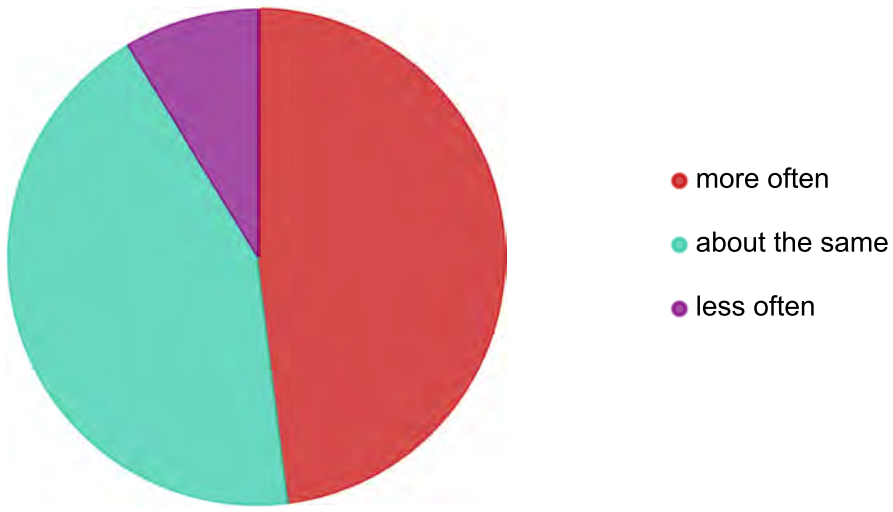


Answers	Count	Percentage
Trails/parks/facilities are not open when I want to use them	19	14.84%
Trails/parks/facilities are not well maintained	10	7.81%
Feel unsafe from crime at parks/trails	3	2.34%
Feel unsafe from vehicular traffic along trails/bike routes	13	10.16%
Don't know where parks/trails are located	49	38.28%
Parks/trails lack adequate maps or directional signage on-site	31	24.22%
Parks/trails are not easily accessible by walking or biking	13	10.16%

Lack of parking at parks/trailheads	13	10.16%
Parks/trails are too far from my home	18	14.06%
Lack of transportation to/from parks or trailheads	5	3.91%
Parks/trails are not accessible for those with disabilities	6	4.69%
Parks don't offer the facilities or amenities that my household and I are looking for	15	11.72%
Trails aren't open to or designed for the uses I'm interested in	15	11.72%
Other	17	13.28%

Answered: 96 Skipped: 32

During the COVID-19 pandemic, have you and your household members use…

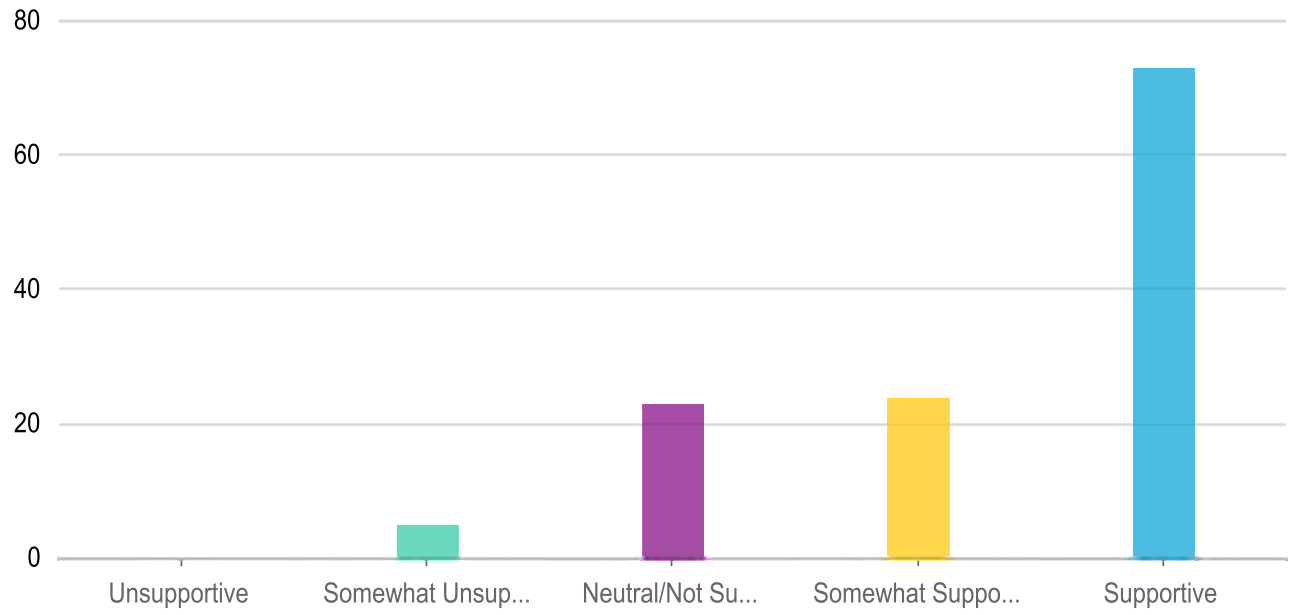


Answers	Count	Percentage
more often	61	47.66%
about the same	55	42.97%
less often	11	8.59%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1

Please indicate how supportive you would be of each of the following actions that could be taken to improve the parks and trails network in Jo Daviess and Carroll counties.

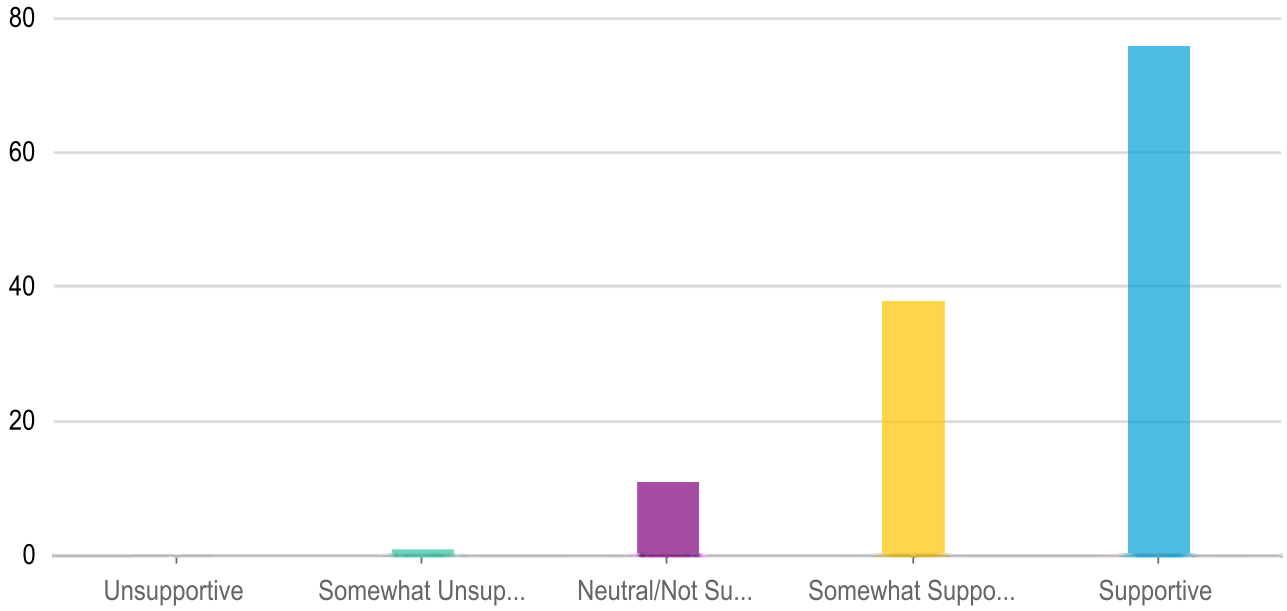
- **Develop new parks and recreation facilities to better meet residents' need…**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	0	0%
Somewhat Unsupportive	5	3.91%
Neutral/Not Sure	23	17.97%
Somewhat Supportive	24	18.75%
Supportive	73	57.03%

Answered: 125 Skipped: 3

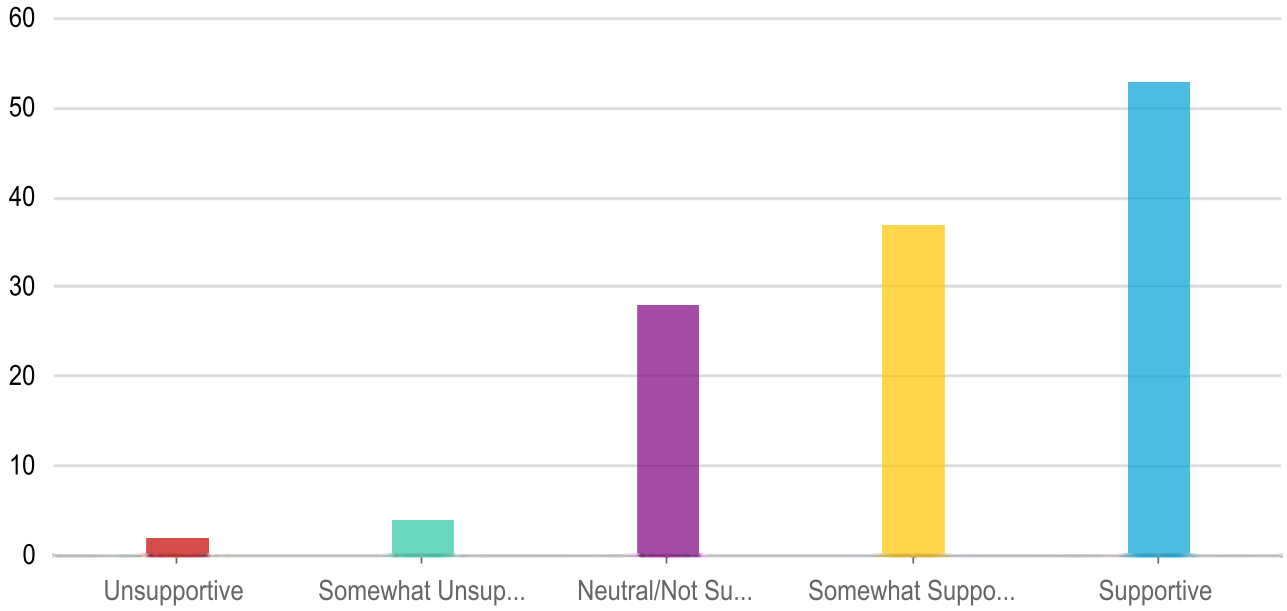
- **Invest in upgrades and renovations at existing parks and recreation…**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	0	0%
Somewhat Unsupportive	1	0.78%
Neutral/Not Sure	11	8.59%
Somewhat Supportive	38	29.69%
Supportive	76	59.38%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

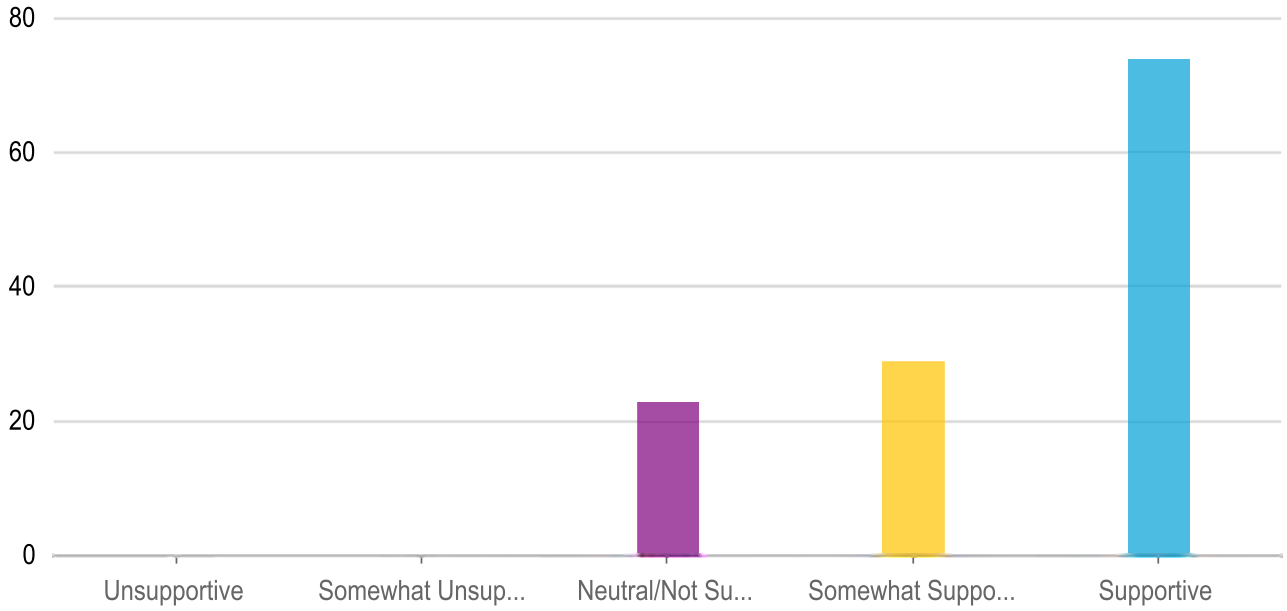
Expand recreation and staff resources to offer more programs and events…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	2	1.56%
Somewhat Unsupportive	4	3.13%
Neutral/Not Sure	28	21.88%
Somewhat Supportive	37	28.91%
Supportive	53	41.41%

Answered: 124 Skipped: 4

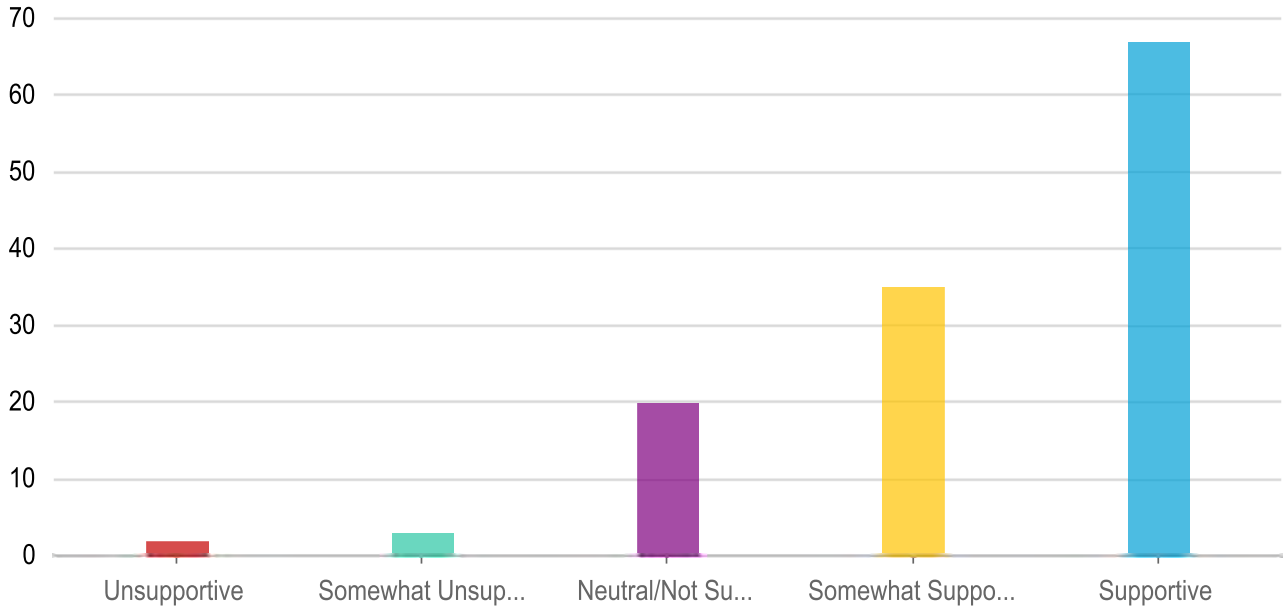
- **Preserve greenspace and add to tree canopy**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	0	0%
Somewhat Unsupportive	0	0%
Neutral/Not Sure	23	17.97%
Somewhat Supportive	29	22.66%
Supportive	74	57.81%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

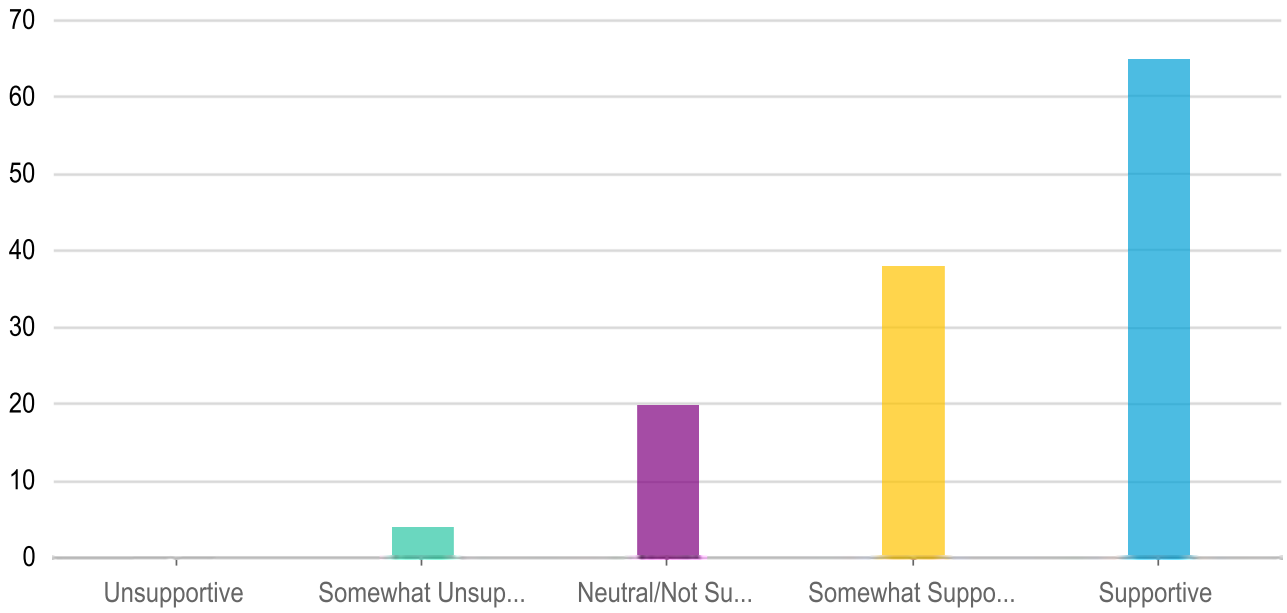
- **Construct new ADA-accessible trails for users of all abilities**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	2	1.56%
Somewhat Unsupportive	3	2.34%
Neutral/Not Sure	20	15.63%
Somewhat Supportive	35	27.34%
Supportive	67	52.34%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1

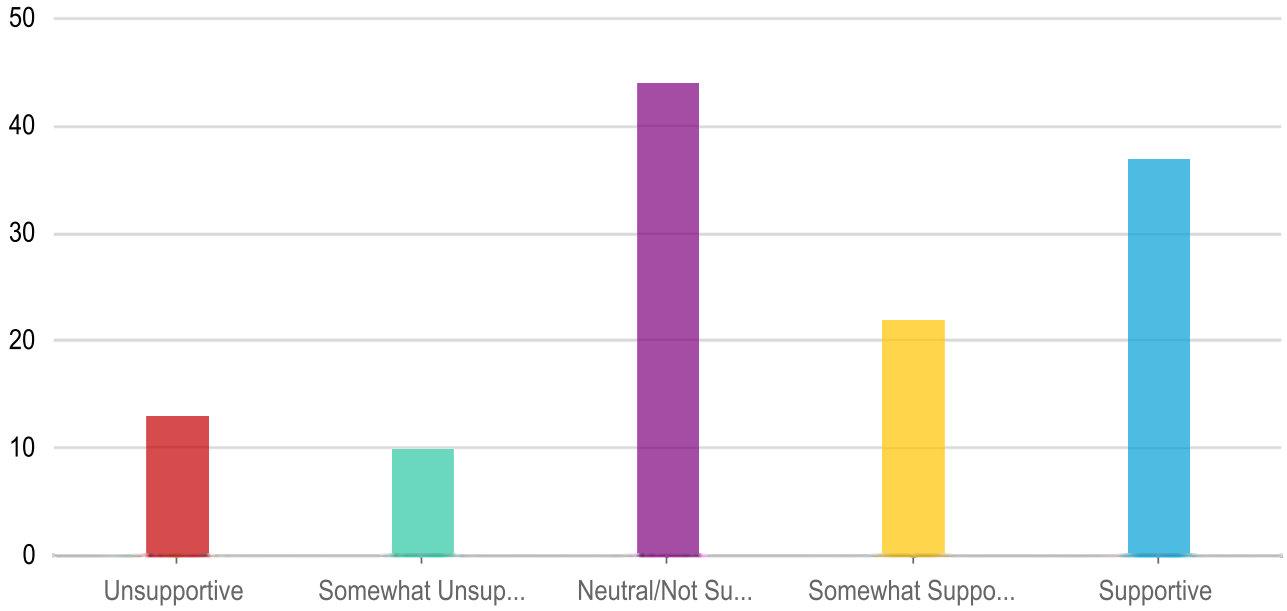
Improve existing parks and recreation facilities to meet ADA-accessibility…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	0	0%
Somewhat Unsupportive	4	3.13%
Neutral/Not Sure	20	15.63%
Somewhat Supportive	38	29.69%
Supportive	65	50.78%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1

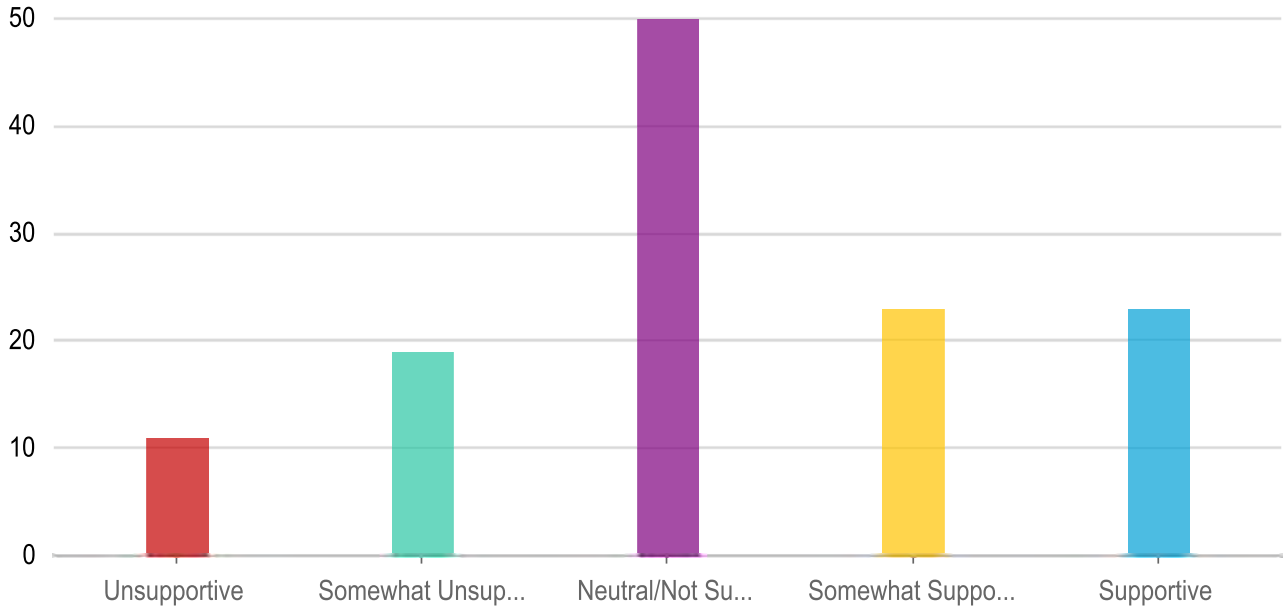
- **Construct purpose-built mountain bike trails**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	13	10.16%
Somewhat Unsupportive	10	7.81%
Neutral/Not Sure	44	34.38%
Somewhat Supportive	22	17.19%
Supportive	37	28.91%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

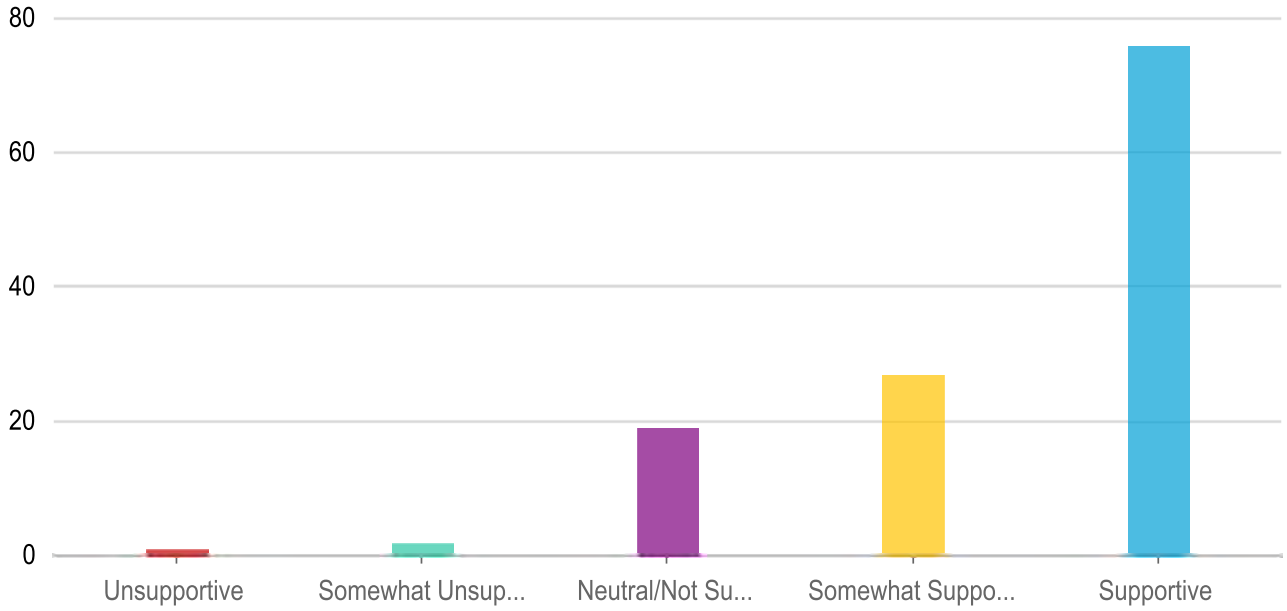
- **Open more trails to equestrian use and incorporate amenities for this use**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	11	8.59%
Somewhat Unsupportive	19	14.84%
Neutral/Not Sure	50	39.06%
Somewhat Supportive	23	17.97%
Supportive	23	17.97%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

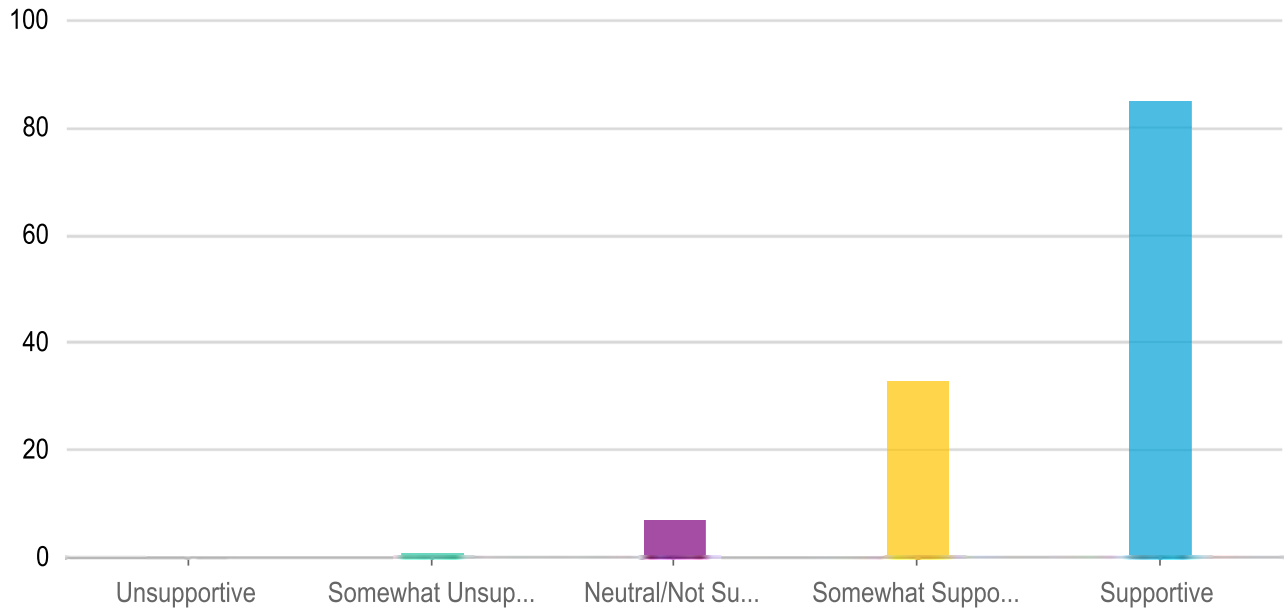
Construct trails or designate routes that create linkages between cities an…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	1	0.78%
Somewhat Unsupportive	2	1.56%
Neutral/Not Sure	19	14.84%
Somewhat Supportive	27	21.09%
Supportive	76	59.38%

Answered: 125 Skipped: 3

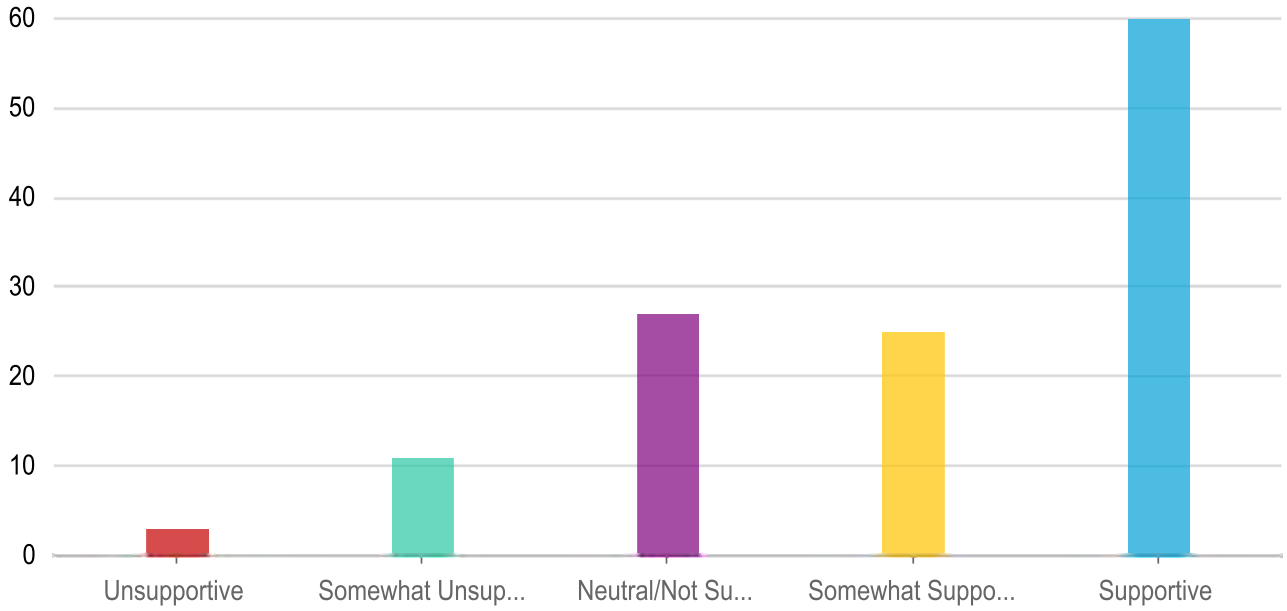
- **Focus on creating walking/biking trails separate and distinct from roadways**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	0	0%
Somewhat Unsupportive	1	0.78%
Neutral/Not Sure	7	5.47%
Somewhat Supportive	33	25.78%
Supportive	85	66.41%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

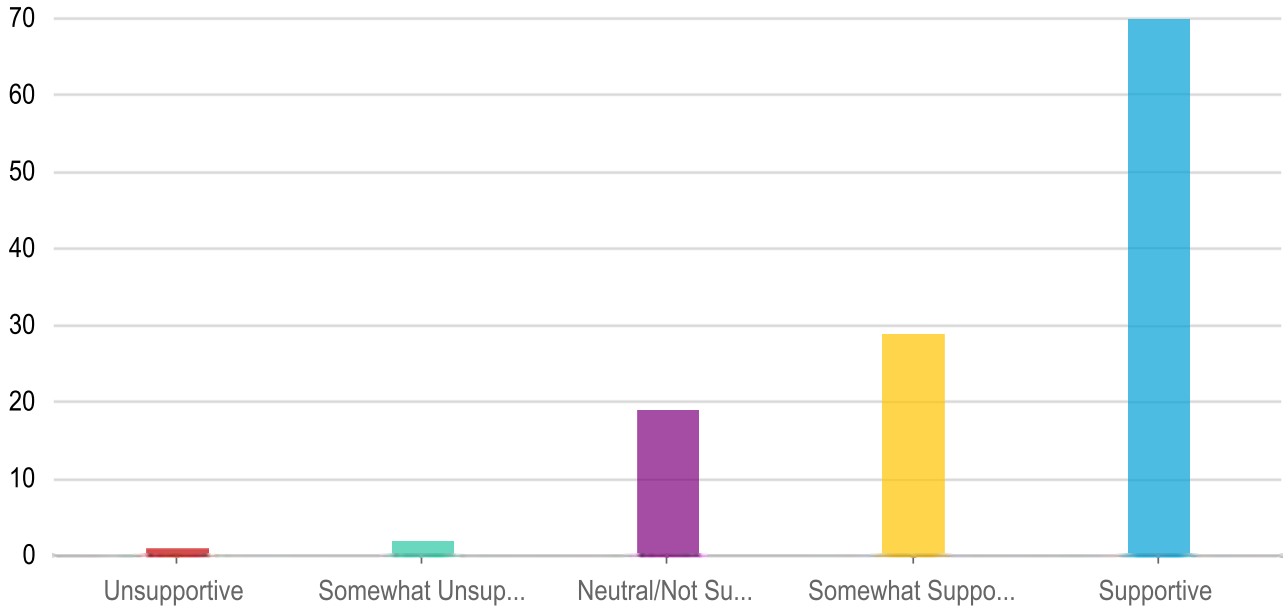
- **Focus on improving on-road bike route conditions and safety**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	3	2.34%
Somewhat Unsupportive	11	8.59%
Neutral/Not Sure	27	21.09%
Somewhat Supportive	25	19.53%
Supportive	60	46.88%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

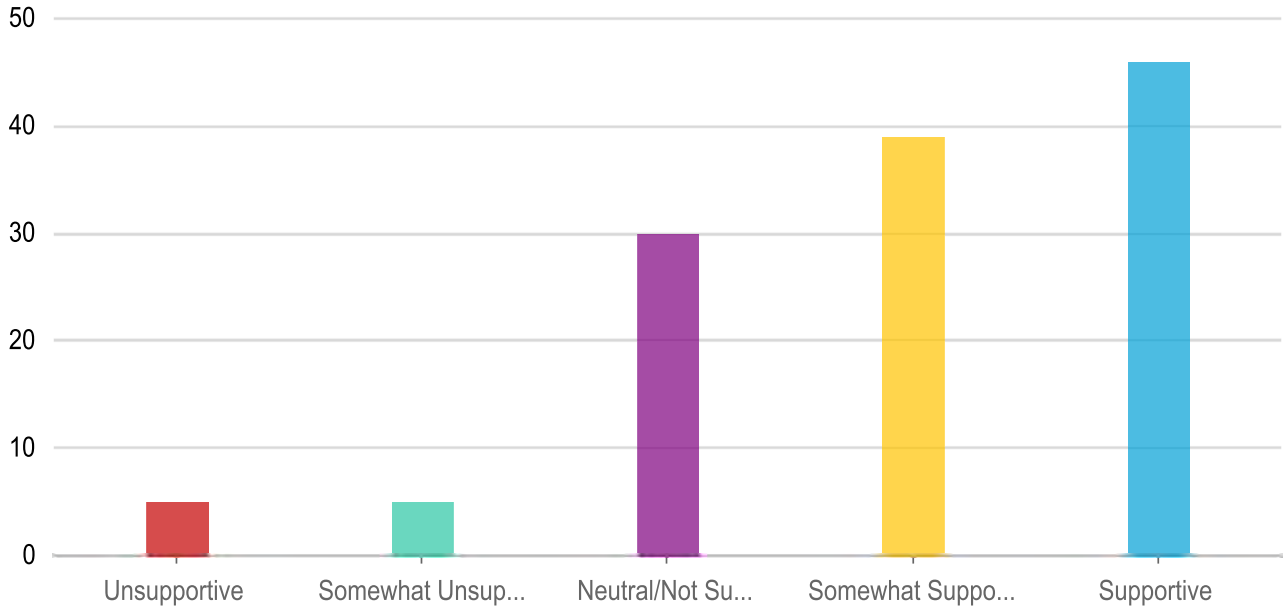
- **Implement cohesive wayfinding trail signage**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	1	0.78%
Somewhat Unsupportive	2	1.56%
Neutral/Not Sure	19	14.84%
Somewhat Supportive	29	22.66%
Supportive	70	54.69%

Answered: 121 Skipped: 7

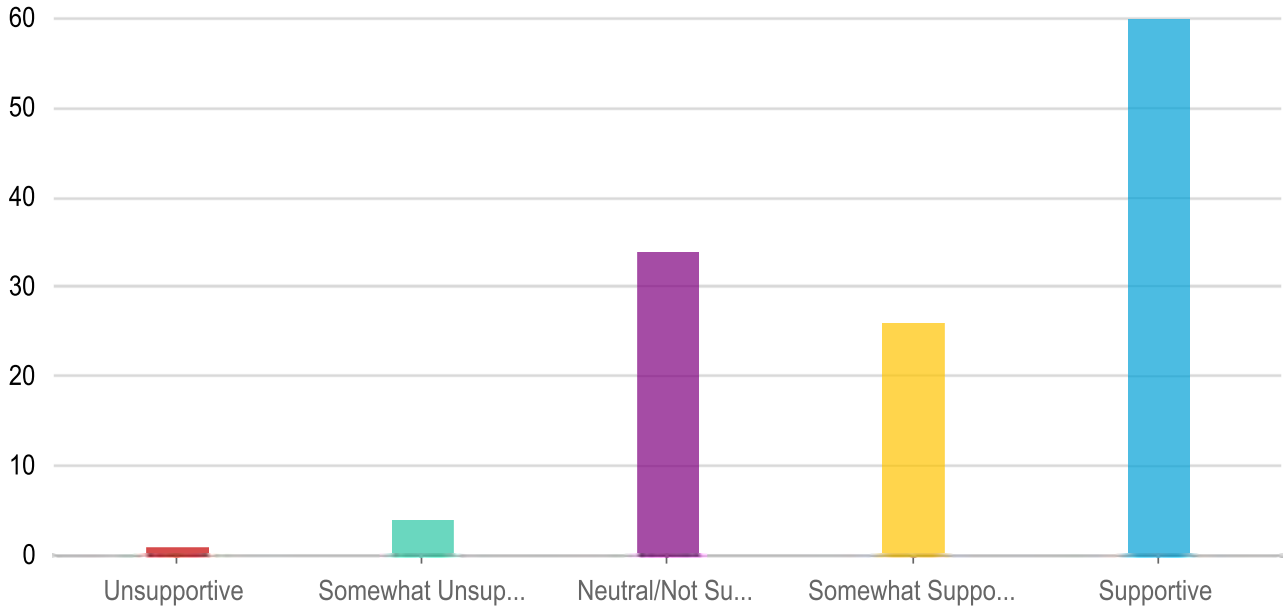
- **Invest in advertising outdoor recreation opportunities in the county**



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	5	3.91%
Somewhat Unsupportive	5	3.91%
Neutral/Not Sure	30	23.44%
Somewhat Supportive	39	30.47%
Supportive	46	35.94%

Answered: 125 Skipped: 3

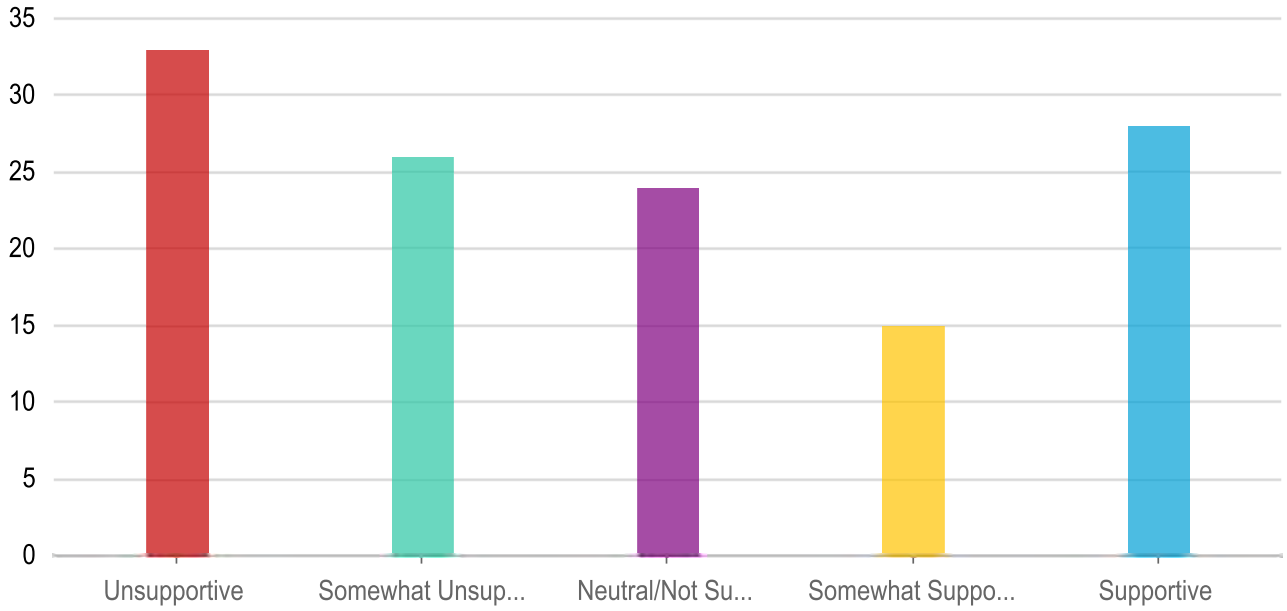
Support legislative changes that would open opportunities for water…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	1	0.78%
Somewhat Unsupportive	4	3.13%
Neutral/Not Sure	34	26.56%
Somewhat Supportive	26	20.31%
Supportive	60	46.88%

Answered: 125 Skipped: 3

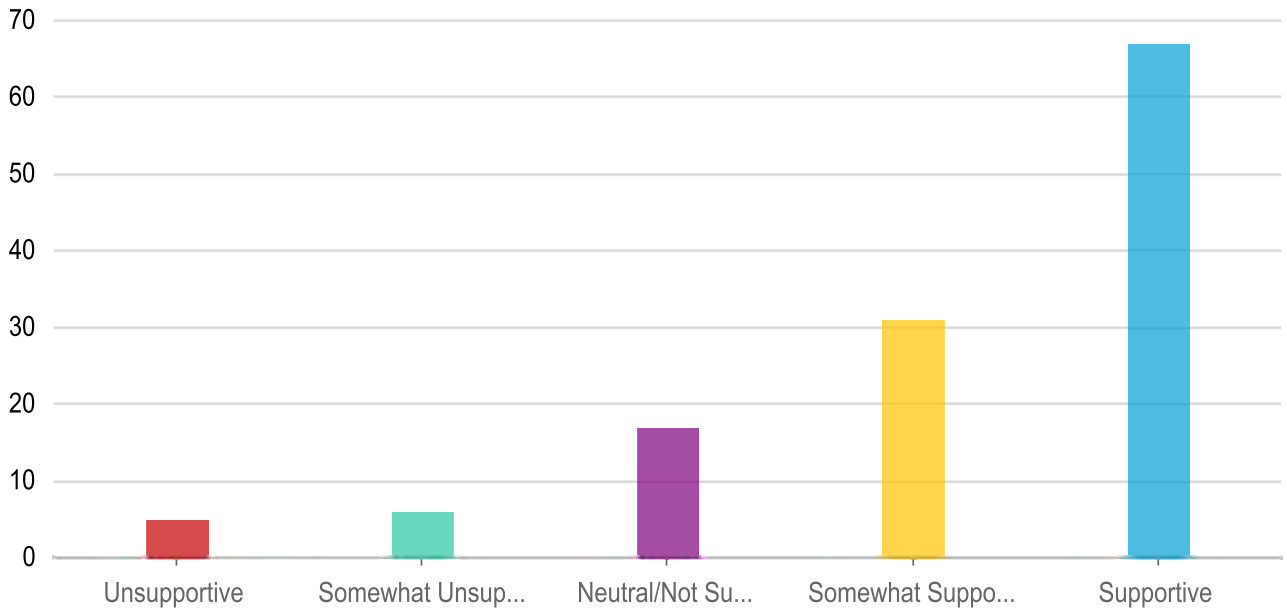
Support legislative changes that would open opportunities for ATV/UTV…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	33	25.78%
Somewhat Unsupportive	26	20.31%
Neutral/Not Sure	24	18.75%
Somewhat Supportive	15	11.72%
Supportive	28	21.88%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

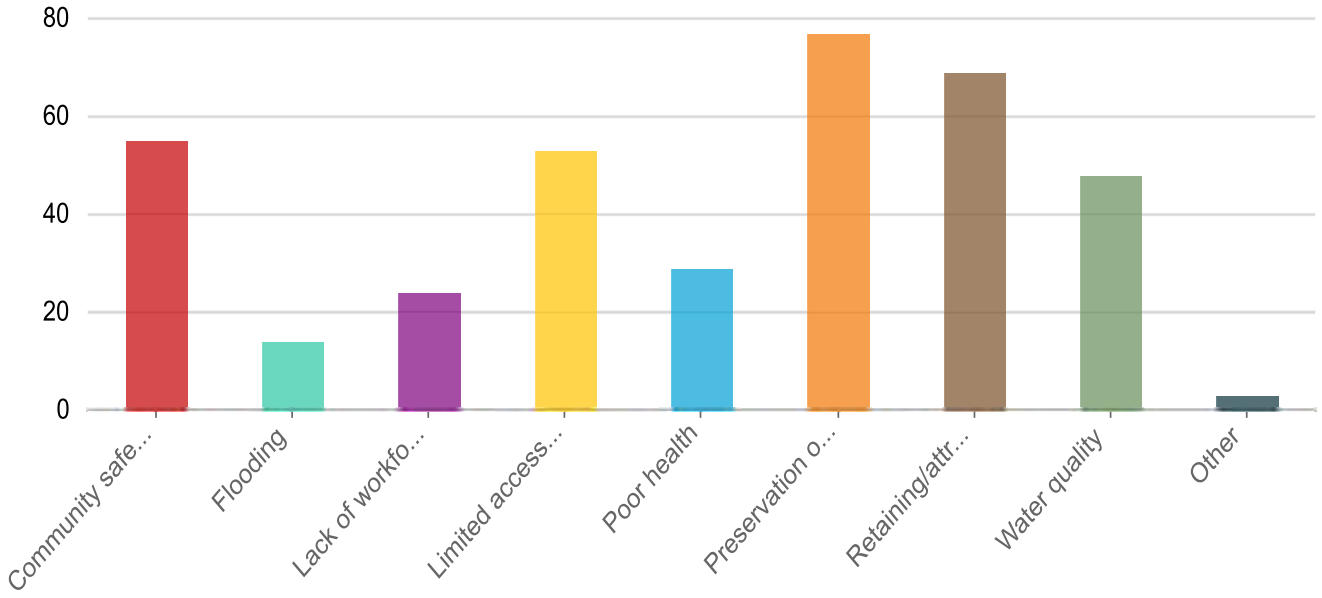
Support legislative change that would open opportunities for more…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Unsupportive	5	3.91%
Somewhat Unsupportive	6	4.69%
Neutral/Not Sure	17	13.28%
Somewhat Supportive	31	24.22%
Supportive	67	52.34%

Answered: 126 Skipped: 2

Trails and parks have the potential to help address some complex social, economic, an…



Answers	Count	Percentage
Community safety	55	42.97%
Flooding	14	10.94%
Lack of workforce housing	24	18.75%
Limited access to multimodal transportation options (e.g., side walks, bikeways, trails, transit)	53	41.41%
Poor health	29	22.66%
Preservation of natural areas	77	60.16%
Retaining/attracting youth and young families	69	53.91%
Water quality	48	37.5%
Other	3	2.34%

Answered: 124 Skipped: 4

Please provide any additional comments or ideas for trails, parks, or public open spac…



Response	Count
Younger people want it fast and easy to recreate and want to use electricity, water and sewer for cam ping. Snack bars, equipment rentals, and safety are essential for everyone. We can not spend money until we can assure of income so jobs and affordable housing are essential. Farming should not be dis rupted.	1
would love to see rail trail from elizabeth east to stockton or further and west toward blanding.	1
would love to see a backpacking trail around Jo Daviess County or from Jo Daviess to Carroll, with de signated spots along the trail for backpackers to tent camp.	1
We would love to see more bike trails in the area and easier access to existing trails (We are in Galen a but it is difficult to get to the bike trail on a bike from our home because of traffic/lack of bike lane). We would also like to see playground equipment updated at the parks in Galena. We would like to se e some innovative ideas for families as well. Possibly a splash pad- the pool is wonderful, but it closes in early August and there are still many weeks of hot weather left.	1
We need to strike a balance between sites in the community and over promoting those facilities to visi tors to the point that they can not be enjoyed by both sectors. Visiting downtown Galena on an averag e summer Saturday would be an example of this point.	1
We need a parking ramp for visitors and if the ramp is out of the downtown area there should be a pu blic bus or some sort of public transit for tourist to use. Then use the revenue to make our public place s more desirable. Also, if there were trails for ATVs in the summer, possibly where the snowmobile trai ls are in the winter, I could see that as a way to generate money for the city by locals and visiting gues ts.	1

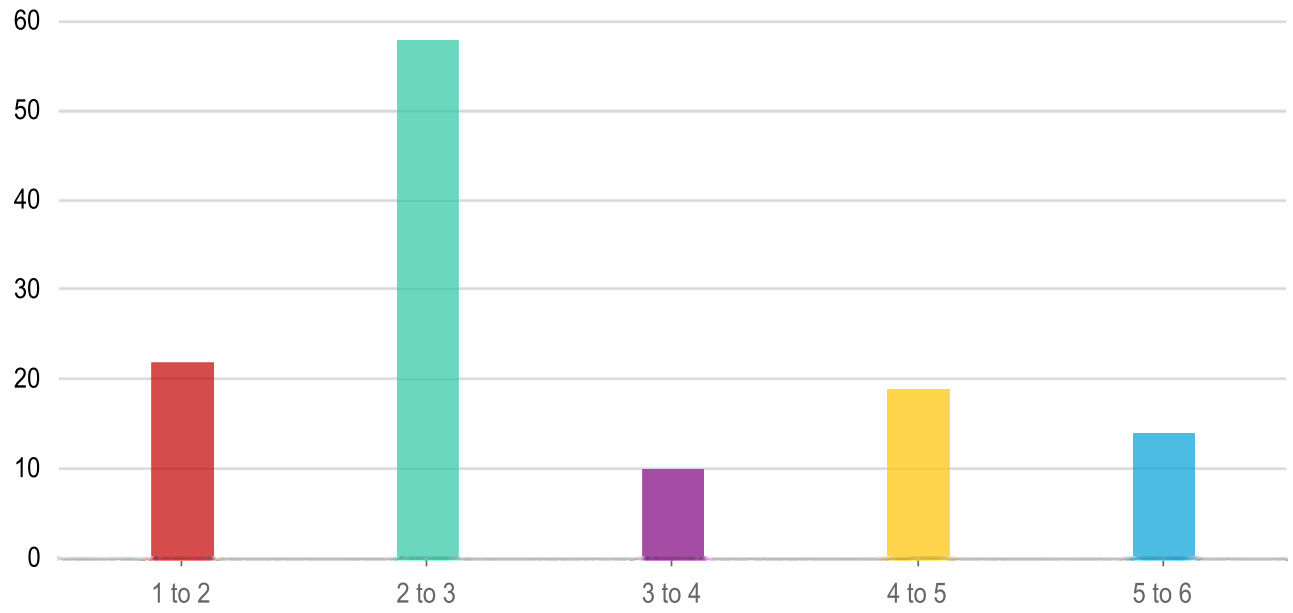
We need a dog park	1
We have a great place for horse trails open it up Watawski land preserve.	1
Very important is linking trails and safe access to towns and services along route, building for the futur e to attract and retain young families	1
UTV trails in Jo Daviess County would bring in a lot of potential revenue. Our current gravel roads thr oughout the county would be a wonderful opportunity!	1
This is a VERY exciting conversation!!! Love the topic of opening the access to water ways in Illinois... Thank you!	1
The parks and recreations should have more programs for the community. I moved from a community that we could pay for dance classes, spring break and Christmas break camp for kids, t-ball, theater c amp, ect we paid for.	1
The county needs to pursue a dedicated recreation path from Hanover to Savanna to connect to the Great River Trail. Too many Jo Daviess County parks do not provide access to bikes or other activitie s. While I support preservation, safe areas for outdoor recreation, especially mountain bike and trail ru nning are needed. Not only would these benefit residents but also increase the number of visitors to t he area seeking to enjoy our unique terrain. Most of the JDCF land is underutilized and is only access ible to those who wish to walk. More balance is needed between preservation and recreation.	1
Thank you for what you are doing. When are the atv trails coming? Thanks	1
Pump tracks and mountain bike skills courses would be excellent to have in the area!	1
Please consider connecting trails. Additionally, please include lengths/ times walks/ hikes would take and whether they're good for strollers, hikers, climbers, elderly, families, etc.	1
Our household isn't in the area but we visit family often and we love the area. We have our favorite pl aces and are happy to support the JDCF in whatever way we can.	1
More lighting potential, more safe crosswalks.	1
More advertising of what parks are available and what each park offers for activities	1
Modern campgrounds with water and electrical hook-ups.	1
Love the idea of using natural resources for health and well-being of everyone	1
Last question unclear	1

Jo Daviess County, and Illinois in general, need to find a way to legalize UTV usage on rural roadways. It seems all of our towns have ordinances that allow for them, but because rural roadways have speed limits greater than 35 MPH, no rural roadways allow for leagl access. It'd be great for the local economies to be able to connect the towns with UTV routes.	1
It's important to try and connect as many trails as possible - to make a web. If you bike in Minnesota, the Rails to Trails bike trails offer many different routes and options. A master plan would help to create a network of trails that allow bike riders/hikers many different options and levels of difficulty. It would be great to create a series of bike paths that would offer cyclists a minimum of 30 miles of connected trails.	1
It would be nice to have a green space running from the schools to Rec Park and Grant Park (Galena) that would make it easy and safe to walk or ride a bike too. Same idea for a green space corridor to some of our closer country subdivisions. Also, I had no idea there were so many parks and trails. Figuring out where to access that information is not easy or intuitive, that should be addressed.	1
It is a delight when there are benches available and detailed information about the trails such as surface, distance, inclines.	1
I'm thinking places to gather, yoga clubs meeting outside, less bugs, a place to sit and read	1
I would love to see a bike / walking trail along 84/highway 20 past Midwest Medical into Galena.	1
I would like more walking paths I don’t have to share with rude bikers, horses or noisy snowmobiles and ATVs. I just want nature and quiet.	1
I think Partnerships with organizations, the County and IDNR cooperation and financial assistance are necessary to develop and implement a cohesive trail system. This kind of investment has economic value for surrounding communities I think JoDaviess County should continue to pursue the purchase of Spirit Hallow property. It is important to preserve property that contains Native American Cultural Heritage and rare habitat (wildlife and plants on endangered list)	1
I love & support outdoor activities! A dog park would be great too!	1
I live in the Galena Territory, and all too often see non property owners using GTA sites, most specifically Thunderbay Falls. Private parks need to be respected.	1
I believe we have adequate public recreation land but could improve the offerings at some of the sites.	1
Create a trail along the route of the old rail line that ran from Elizabeth toward Galena. Create trail linkage between Wapello, Oneota, Hanover Bluff, Hanley Savanna. Create trail connection between Horseshoe Mound, Gateway, Beuller.	1

Connecting the Galena bike trail to Savanna by way of a designated bike path (no roadways). I know this is being looked at and planned as we speak. Thank You.	1
Closing trails during hunting season in areas such as Witkowski prevents me from exploring the trails during the best weather of the year.	1
Better trails for ATV/UTV	1
A long pilgrimage type trail connected to other trail networks such as the Heritage Bike trail in Iowa or the Ice Age Trail in WI with appropriate primative lodging (or hostel/bnb style) would add soul to Jo Daviess & Carroll county area. An immersive experience. We have so much to discover here. Our asset is the landscape and story of heritage.	1

Answered: 38 Skipped: 90

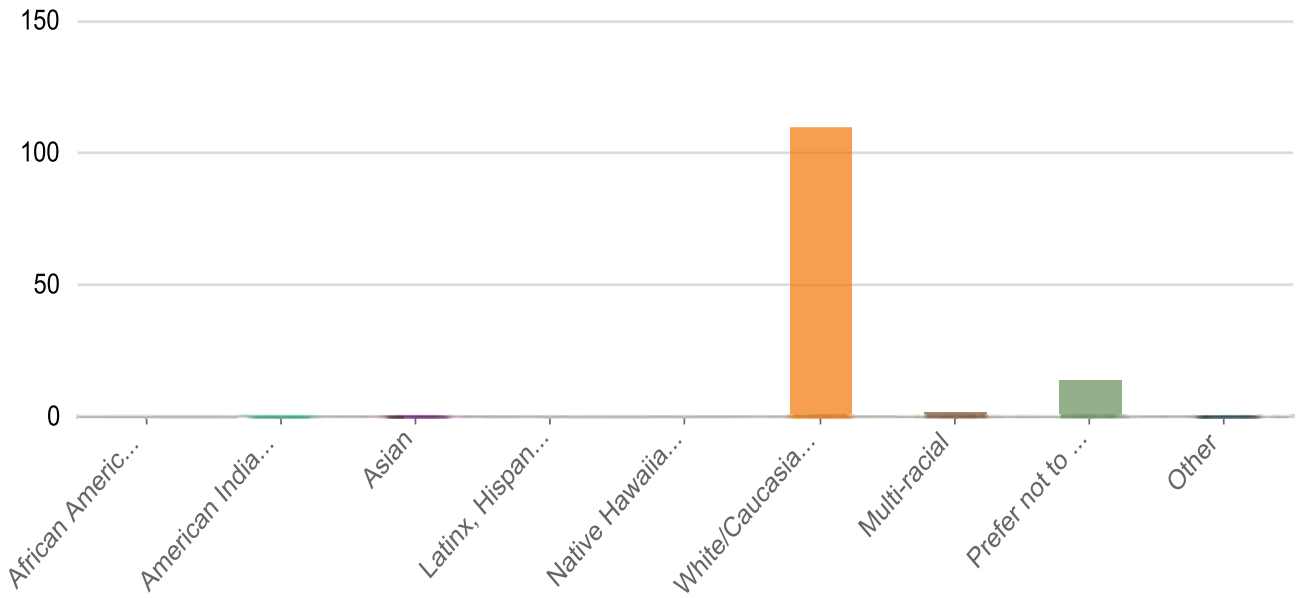
Counting yourself, how many people are in your household?



Stats	Value
Min.	1
Max.	6
Avg.	2.56910569105691
Sum.	316

Answered: 123 Skipped: 5

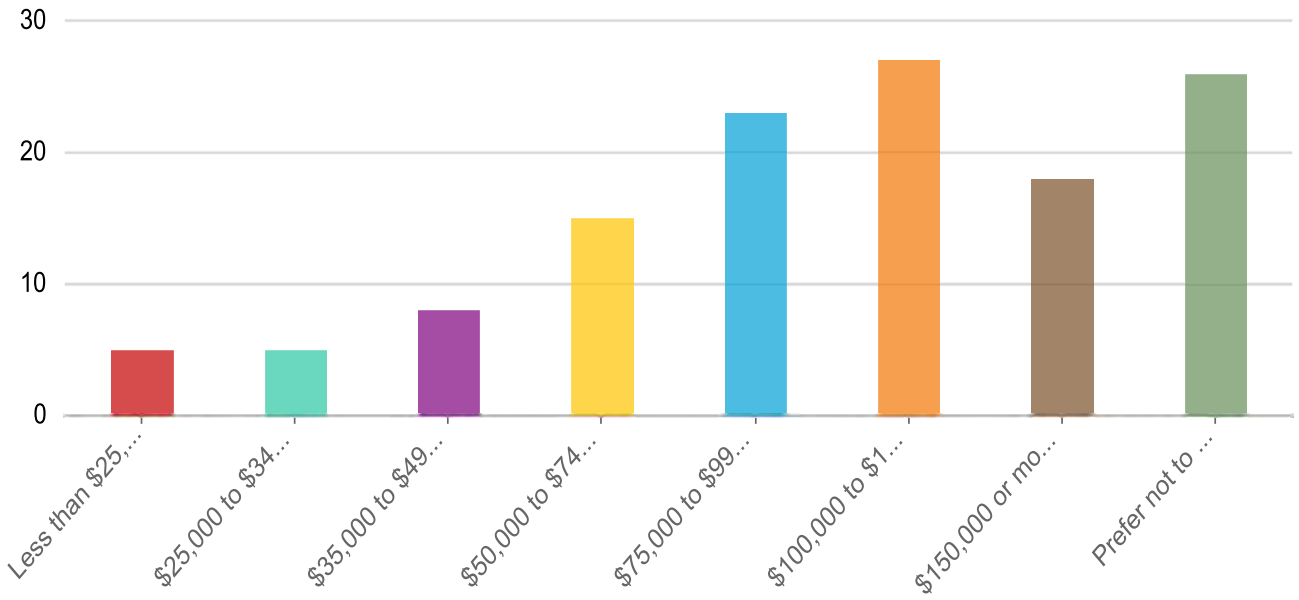
What is your race or ethnicity?



Answers	Count	Percentage
African American/Black	0	0%
American Indian/Alaska Native	1	0.78%
Asian	1	0.78%
Latinx, Hispanic, or Spanish	0	0%
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0	0%
White/Caucasian	110	85.94%
Multi-racial	2	1.56%
Prefer not to say	14	10.94%
Other	1	0.78%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1

What is your total annual household income?



Answers	Count	Percentage
Less than $25,000	5	3.91%
$25,000 to $34,999	5	3.91%
$35,000 to $49,999	8	6.25%
$50,000 to $74,999	15	11.72%
$75,000 to $99,999	23	17.97%
$100,000 to $149,999	27	21.09%
$150,000 or more	18	14.06%
Prefer not to say	26	20.31%

Answered: 127 Skipped: 1