

**Planning for a Heritage Park in Joliet and Lockport, Illinois:
A Microcosm of the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor
Volume 2**



Dellwood Park West (1873)



25 East Washington Street, Suite 1650

Chicago, Illinois 60602-1708

312.863.6250

www.openlands.org



September 2008

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Heritage Park Planning Area (Overview)	4
Introduction and Acknowledgements	5
Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve.....	7
Isle A La Cache.....	8
Long Run Seep Nature Preserve.....	9
Lewis University/Fitzpatrick House	10
Prairie Bluff Preserve.....	12
Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve.....	13
Gaylord Building	14
Lincoln Landing.....	16
Will County Historical Society	18
The Norton Building.....	19
Lockport Loop Trail.....	20
Lockport Prairie East Preserve.....	22
Dellwood Park West	23
Dellwood Park	24
Gladys Fox Museum.....	26
Lockport Powerhouse	27
Koppers Coke Oven.....	28
Joliet Iron Works Historical Site.....	29
Joliet Correctional Facility.....	30
U.S. Steel Property.....	32
Joliet Area Historical Museum/Route 66 Experience.....	33
Regional Trails.....	34
Regional Trail Map.....	37
Heritage Park Volume 2 Recommendations.....	38

Heritage Park Planning Area Overview

- Will Co. Forest Preserve Dist (Owned or Leased)
- Local Park or Illinois DNR Property
- Other Corridor Properties of Concern
- Existing
- Proposed
- Street Route



Intended for general planning purposes only. Select trails displayed. Data Source: Esri, Inc. ArcGIS Online Beta. Preserve boundaries, trails - Will County Forest Preserve District.

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In 1984, the U.S. Congress established the Illinois & Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, the first federal designation of its kind. The National Heritage Corridor extends 100 miles from Navy Pier on Chicago's lakefront to LaSalle-Peru along the Illinois River. Since its designation, the Heritage Corridor has become the model for the new category of "partnership park" within the U.S. Department of the Interior. Today, there are more than 40 federally designated national heritage areas throughout the United States.

The eight-mile section of the Des Plaines River Valley from Romeoville to downtown Joliet, referred to as Heritage Park, is a microcosm of the Heritage Corridor as a whole. It contains an unparalleled collection of cultural, natural, historic, and recreational resources, and embodies the corridor's tri-partite goals of ecology, economy, and culture. This was recognized in 1991 and 1992 when the Canal Corridor Association led a community planning process that resulted in the report, *Planning for a Heritage Park in Joliet and Lockport, Illinois: A Microcosm of the Illinois and Michigan Canal National Heritage Corridor, Volume One*. Heritage Park has been designated as an Open Space Legacy Project of the 2009 Burnham Plan Centennial Committee.

Openlands, a 45-year-old regional land conservation organization working in northeastern Illinois and adjacent regions, compiled the following report. It represents the present conditions and opportunities within a slightly expanded geography. The report contains brief descriptions of the various park elements arranged geographically from north to south. Next-step recommendations for implementation of this vision are included at the end of the document.

Openlands would like to thank all those who participated in this strategic update:

- BauerLatoza Studio
- Canal Corridor Association
- City of Joliet
- City of Lockport Planning Commission
- City of Lockport
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
- Gaylord Building Historic Site
- Give Something Back Foundation
- Heritage Corridor Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Hitchcock Design Group
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery
- Lewis University
- Lockport Township Park District
- Main Street Lockport
- Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- National Park Service, Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program
- Norton Building
- Will County Historical Society
- Will County Land Use Commission

Openlands would also like to thank the Lockport Township Park District Board of Commissioners and the Forest Preserve District of Will County Board of Commissioners, give special recognition to Illinois State Senator A. J. Wilhelmi and Will County Executive Larry Walsh, and special thanks to Ralph Schultz and Marcella DeMauro of the Forest Preserve District of Will County, and Sue Micklevitz of the Lockport Township Park District for their invaluable assistance in the creation of this update.

ROMEOVILLE PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE

Since 1982, within the eastern portion of the Village of Romeoville north of 135th Street/Romeo Road, approximately 330 acres have been protected by the Forest Preserve District of Will County through a combination of purchases, land donations, leases, and conservation easements. The Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve lies adjacent to the District's Centennial Trail and Isle a la Cache Museum as part of a protected greenway along the Des Plaines River.

Romeoville Prairie was dedicated as a State Nature Preserve in 1984 to acknowledge the significance of its wet-mesic dolomite prairie, marsh, sedge meadow, springs, fens, and floodplain forest on shallow soils over limestone bedrock. Prescribed management fires and brush cutting by Forest Preserve Natural Resource Managers started in 1985 to maintain and improve the health of these plant communities. There has been an emphasis on hydrological control and the expansion, enhancement, and monitoring of habitat for rare species such as the lakeside daisy and leafy prairie clover. There is currently no public access at Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve.



Area residents gather seeds at Romeoville Prairie Nature Preserve.

ISLE A LA CACHE

This island (“isle” in French) in the Des Plaines River in Romeoville may have been used by voyageurs in the 1700s to “cache” (store) their supplies and goods. In the early 1900s, the island was used for summer homes, private recreation, and sportsmen’s clubs. Between 1982 and 1997, the Forest Preserve District of Will County secured 100 acres through purchases, land donations, and conservation easements, including the island and nearby shorelines of the river.

Located on the island on the south side of 135th Street/Romeo Road is the Isle a la Cache Museum. The museum and other outdoor educational elements interpret the late 18th-century fur trade between Native Americans and French voyageurs. The island has a canoe landing for river access and a connection to the Centennial and Illinois & Michigan Canal Trails, which are located east of the Isle. Prairie and wetland communities were re-created in 1993, the same year the museum underwent its first major renovation.

An expansion and second renovation of the museum started in 2005 and was completed in July 2007. In order to increase the Isle’s connection to the surrounding area, the District is working with the Village of Romeoville on a trail connection westward into the community.



The Isle a la Cache museum offers visitors insights into Illinois’ early Native American and French fur-trade history.

LONG RUN SEEP NATURE PRESERVE

Another area rich in native plant life at the northern end of the Heritage Park is the 72-acre Long Run Seep Nature Preserve located along New Avenue between Lemont and Lockport. The first 41 acres were dedicated in April 1990 as a State Nature Preserve owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Its name is derived from the calcareous seeps common throughout the region. An abundance of calcium-loving plants thrive in the Preserve's calcareous soil, including grass-of-parnassus, great Angelica, Kalm's lobelia, and Riddel's goldenrod. In addition, spotted touch-me-not, tussock sedge, skunk cabbage, and shrub nannyberry are common.

Directly upstream from Long Run Seep Nature Preserve is a 41-acre addition that was designated by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission in 2004.



Long Run Seep Nature Preserve is rich in native plant life.

LEWIS UNIVERSITY/FITZPATRICK HOUSE

Founded in 1932 as the Holy Name Technical School for Boys under the direction of the Chicago Archdiocese and Bishop Bernard J. Sheil, Lewis University has developed into Illinois' 12th largest private college. The 376-acre campus, located along Route 53, is a cultural resource for the region through its Oremus Fine Arts Center which includes the Philip Lynch Theatre and Caterpillar Gallery. Also the campus library houses the Illinois & Michigan Canal and Regional History Special Collection.

In 2001, the University acquired the landmark Fitzpatrick House. The building was part of the homestead that included the original 170 acres of the campus, donated to the Archdiocese of Chicago in 1920 by Michael and Frances Fitzpatrick. Just across from the university on Route 53, it currently houses University Advancement and Alumni Offices.

Beyond its active use by Lewis University, the Fitzpatrick House is an important local landmark that expresses continuity with the transportation and economic heritage of the Lockport area. Built in the 1840s by Patrick Fitzpatrick, the house was built along one of Illinois' earliest public highways: the stagecoach route from Chicago to Ottawa. The route – now Illinois Route 53 – was established in 1834 on the site of an early Native American trail and portage route of fur traders.

The house itself is an unusually fine example of early local limestone construction. It is one of fewer than a dozen stone farmhouses that exist in Will County outside the towns of Lockport and Joliet. It is a fine example of vernacular architecture using an indigenous material, although no architect or builder has been identified. It is probable that the limestone was quarried on-site since the Fitzpatrick holdings contained rich limestone deposits. The use of this local material ties the building to Will County's economic and architectural heritage.

The Fitzpatrick House was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1984 and was designated a Will County Historic Landmark in 2002.

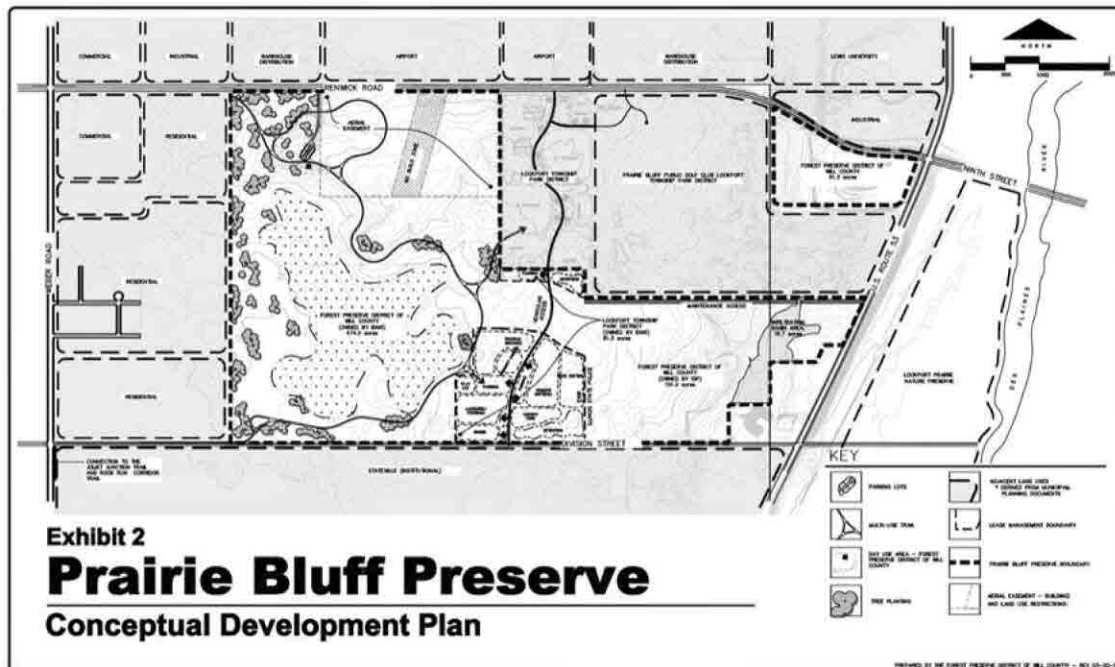


Built in the 1840s, the Fitzpatrick House is an important local landmark and currently used by Lewis University.

PRAIRIE BLUFF PRESERVE

Under the leadership of Illinois State Representative Brent Hassert, Prairie Bluff Preserve was created in 2006 when the Forest Preserve District of Will County and the Lockport Township Park District leased 730 acres from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and the Illinois State Police. Located between Division Street and Renwick Road west of Route 53, this land was previously part of the Illinois Department of Corrections' Stateville Prison. This new preserve has been protected to allow ecological restoration and hydrological management activities which will promote groundwater recharge of the seeps that feed the wetland breeding habitat of the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly in the adjacent Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve.

The Forest Preserve District is planning to complete restoration and public access improvements to Prairie Bluff Preserve by 2011. The Lockport Township Park District also manages the adjacent Prairie Bluff Golf Course.



LOCKPORT PRAIRIE NATURE PRESERVE

The 270-acre Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve lies on the west side of the Des Plaines River, both north and south of Division Street in Lockport. The Preserve has been leased by the Forest Preserve District of Will County from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago since 1983. That same year, the site was dedicated as an Illinois State Nature Preserve due to its ecological significance. The Preserve features one of the nation's largest high-quality dolomite prairies, and is habitat to the federally endangered leafy prairie clover and many other rare native plants.

The public has access to Lockport Prairie through a half-mile trail that includes informational signage. The Forest Preserve District began managing the prairie in 1983 with prescribed burns, brush removal, and hydrological work to maintain and enhance the leafy prairie clover population and breeding habitats for seven endangered or threatened species, including the federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly. The Forest Preserve District has also recently acquired additional properties to the west of the Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve to buffer and restore the groundwater and seeps supporting this rare habitat.



Prescribed burns are part of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's maintenance of Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve

GAYLORD BUILDING

The Gaylord Building Historic Site has been a central part of Lockport and a landmark along the Illinois & Michigan Canal since it was built in 1838. Situated along the northern edge of the Public Landing at 8th Street and the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the Gaylord Building reflects the canal's early importance to Illinois. Its numerous tenants and wide range of uses exemplify Lockport's commercial significance throughout the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Gaylord Building is the oldest industrial structure to survive along the Illinois & Michigan Canal. First utilized as a supply depot for the canal's construction, the "stone warehouse" was sold by the Canal Commissioners upon the project's completion in 1848. Through a succession of modifications and owners – including namesake George Gaylord – over the next 42 years, the building was explicitly tied to the trade of grain and merchandise along the canal.

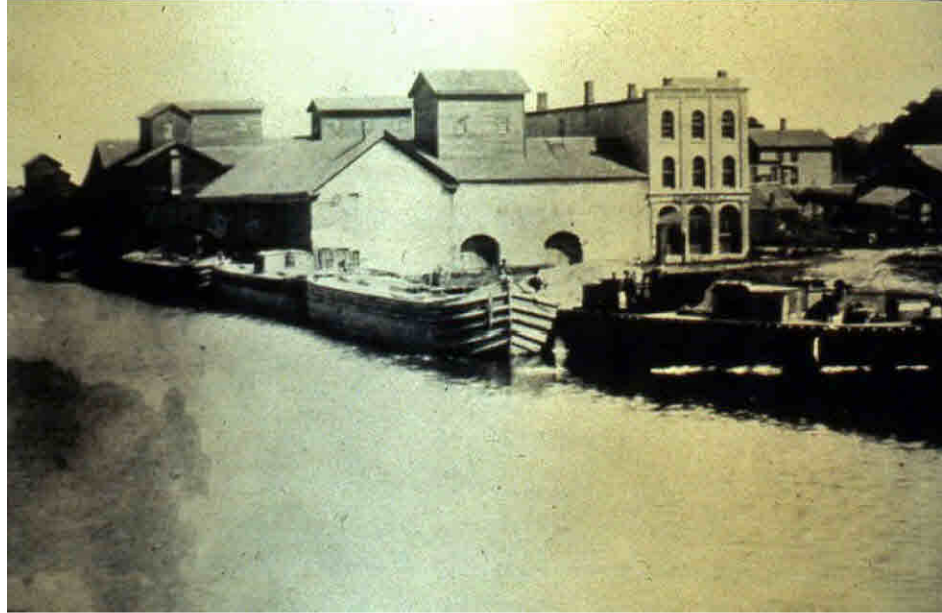
New business opportunities related to industrialization emerged in Will County in the late 19th century. In 1890, new owners modified the stone warehouse and surrounding structures to accommodate its industrial activities. The Gaylord Building's industrial use ebbed and flowed through subsequent owners along with the economic highs and lows of the national economy. The building was left neglected during the hard times of the 1970s recession.

In the early 1980s, Gaylord Donnelley, Chicago businessman and philanthropist, learned that his grandfather, George Gaylord, once owned the dilapidated but historically significant building. Donnelley soon formed the Gaylord Lockport Company with family members. The new entity set out to rehabilitate the building with the hope that it would spur a regional economic revitalization.

Gaylord Donnelley selected his niece by marriage, Barbara Donnelley, to oversee the building's rehabilitation. Between 1983 and 1987, archaeologists, historians, architects, and a multitude of tradesmen rehabilitated the building, earning the Presidential Award for Historic Preservation from Ronald Reagan in 1988. In 1996, Gaylord Donnelley's widow, Dorothy, donated the building to the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Six years later, the National Trust partnered with Canal Corridor Association to provide daily administration and local leadership.

A national example of adaptive re-use, the Gaylord Building houses a visitors center, exhibition space, and the Public Landing Restaurant.

GAYLORD BUILDING



Circa 1880



Present Day

LINCOLN LANDING

Downtown Lockport's Lincoln Landing (formerly known as the North Public Landing) is a unique civic space along the route of the Illinois & Michigan Canal and a feature within Lockport's original town plan. Over the past few years, several groups have worked to further expand and improve the Lincoln Landing's features. During the spring of 2007, the Give Something Back Foundation became involved in creating a landmark for the north half of the Public Landing by adding a Lincoln sculpture to commemorate his 200th birthday in February 2009, and his significant impact on the Illinois & Michigan Canal and the City of Lockport. The Will County Historical Society (WCHS), in association with the Foundation, has played a crucial role in the development of the park. Besides owning the majority of the land that the park sits on, the WCHS is working to create an environment in a different location that better suits the collection of buildings referred to as the Pioneer Settlement. This move opens up the opportunity to develop the space in a manner that reflects the history of the site itself and further educational opportunities surrounding the canal.

Most recently, the Canal Corridor Association created a series of recommendations for the site. Completed in January 2008, the Lincoln Landing Framework Plan outlines the following five broad design themes that are being considered with the redevelopment of the Landing that started in June 2008 and is scheduled for completion in February 2009:

- The *View* is framed and enhanced by an open lawn and trees on either side.
- The canal's *Geometry* is reinforced throughout the park by paths, lawns, walls, trees, lights, the sculpture location, and stone placement.
- *Materials* used in the new park strengthen the connections between Lockport and stone.
- *History and Interpretation* are brought to life by highlighting Lincoln's significant impact on the canal and Lockport as well as the significance of the Landing as a space, who used it, how it was used, and why it was important.
- *Education and Tourism* through the new park reach out to those within and outside of Lockport. New materials will be developed that tell the Landing and Lincoln stories to various audiences, from grade school children to adult bus tours.

The goal of the new design is to create a high quality public environment celebrating local history.

Elements



- Pedestrian Bridge
- Learning Environment
- Lincoln Sculpture
- Historic Wall Remnants
- Lawn Space
- Interpretive 'Rooms'
- Bike Path
- Existing Stone Wall
- Tree Buffer
- 9th Street Stairway (north and south side)



Prepared by:
Hitchcock Design Group
in association with
Hey and Associates, Inc.

Prepared for:
The Give Something Back Foundation

WILL COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Will County Historical Society (WCHS) was established in 1964 as a not-for-profit organization, growing out of the work of a small group of dedicated individuals and the need to preserve the history and heritage of Will County.

In 1969, the WCHS took possession of the historically significant Illinois & Michigan Canal Office Building at 803 S. State Street in downtown Lockport. Built in 1837, the wooden structure was second only to the Capitol Building in Springfield as the most important building in Illinois for many years. It was home to Illinois & Michigan Canal Commissioners' offices, the engineering office and the land office, and for a few months housed a branch of the State Bank of Illinois.

In 1970, the WCHS restored the structure as their museum. The building houses collections that relate to Will County and Illinois & Michigan Canal history and serves as a venue for changing exhibitions.



The Will County Historical Society Museum resides in the old Illinois & Michigan Canal Office Building in downtown Lockport, a significant structure in the area's history.

THE NORTON BUILDING

The Illinois State Museum Lockport Gallery is located on the first floor of the historic Norton Building, a massive limestone structure built by Lockport business mogul Hiram Norton around 1850. Strategically placed at the edge of the Illinois & Michigan Canal at the south end of the Public Landing in downtown Lockport, The Norton Building has large, arched portals – now windows in the west galleries overlooking the canal and a recreation trail that were originally used as access points for storing, processing, and packaging barrels of grain.

The building was originally constructed to house grain, a supply store, and a dormitory for canal crews. It continued functioning as a grain-processing facility until the 1950s, when it was sold to a steel fabricator.

In 1989, the structure was acquired by Norton Building and Company, Inc., who contracted with archaeologists to excavate the premises before beginning restoration of the building. Excavation uncovered the hydraulic turbines used as a power source during the building's heyday. The company has since developed the Norton Building into a multi-use facility with residential lofts, offices, commercial space, and the Illinois State Museum's Lockport Gallery that features changing exhibitions of art created by past and contemporary Illinois artists and artisans.

In addition, a not-for-profit corporation was formed in 1996 to present the annual Norton Building Concert Series. Five concerts are presented each year featuring international artists of world-class stature.



Built in 1850, the Norton Building today has many uses, including commercial, residential and cultural

LOCKPORT LOOP TRAIL

The proposed 1.75-mile Lockport Loop Trail would begin at the Gaylord Building and follow the existing Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail to Lock #1 and Division Street; travel west over the Division Street bridge to the Sanitary & Ship Canal; travel north along the apron of the Sanitary & Ship Canal to the historic Seven Arches Bridge; and then travel east along 9th, Daviess, and 8th Streets, returning to the Gaylord Building.

The concept for the Lockport Loop Trail was developed by volunteer Will County Special Places Advocates to foster educational, recreational, and economic opportunities in the Lockport area; broaden understanding of the impact and continued importance of the “old and new” canals that have shaped Lockport and Will County; and utilize existing canals and trails to expand the vision for downtown Lockport.

Most of the vacant land through which the Lockport Loop Trail will wind is historically significant, as it is the ancestral bed of the original Des Plaines River. The majority of the land is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Along the trail route is a seven-arch masonry bridge constructed of local limestone in the 1860s. In addition to providing the public with additional recreational opportunities, the Lockport Loop Trail represents a new educational opportunity for all ages through programs and interpretive signage.

Lockport Loop Trail

Seven Arches Bridge

State Hwy 7

● Gaylord Building

Lincoln Landing

● Norton Building

Canal St

Division St



DELLWOOD PARK WEST

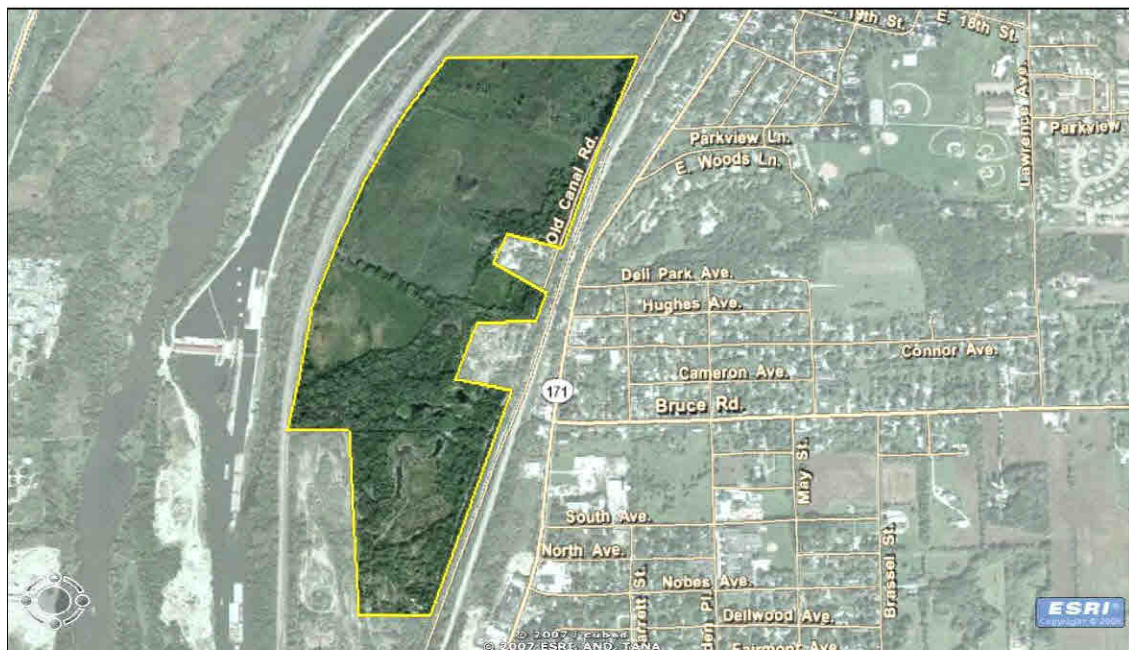
CorLands (Openlands' land-buying affiliate) in 1990 acquired the 176-acre property along along the Illinois & Michigan Canal east of Dellwood Park, today known as Dellwood Park West. CorLands transferred the property to the Lockport Township Park District in 1991.

In 1999, the Lockport Township Park District received an Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program Grant to develop the southern 67 acres of Dellwood Park West as an outdoor interpretive museum focusing on the operation and history of the Illinois & Michigan Canal. Phase I is scheduled for completion in September 2008 and includes a bridge over the Illinois & Michigan Canal that provides access to a recreational trail system through the property. Phase II will include interpretive signs, kiosks with historical information, trail paving, and the addition of an accessibility ramp and public parking areas.

In 2006, the northern 26 acres of the park were dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve and the middle 83 acres were dedicated as a Nature Preserve Buffer.

In addition, from 2001-2008, Openlands, the Lockport Township Park District, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers-Chicago District partnered on a restoration of the north 109 acres of Dellwood Park West in order to control invasive species and restore native plant communities. This section of the park contains a significant portion of an Illinois Natural Areas Inventory site called Lockport Prairie East, and is home to the federally listed leafy prairie clover, as well as remnant dolomite prairie plant communities.

There are two privately held parcels totaling just over 12 acres within Dellwood Park West that are adjacent to the Illinois & Michigan Canal.

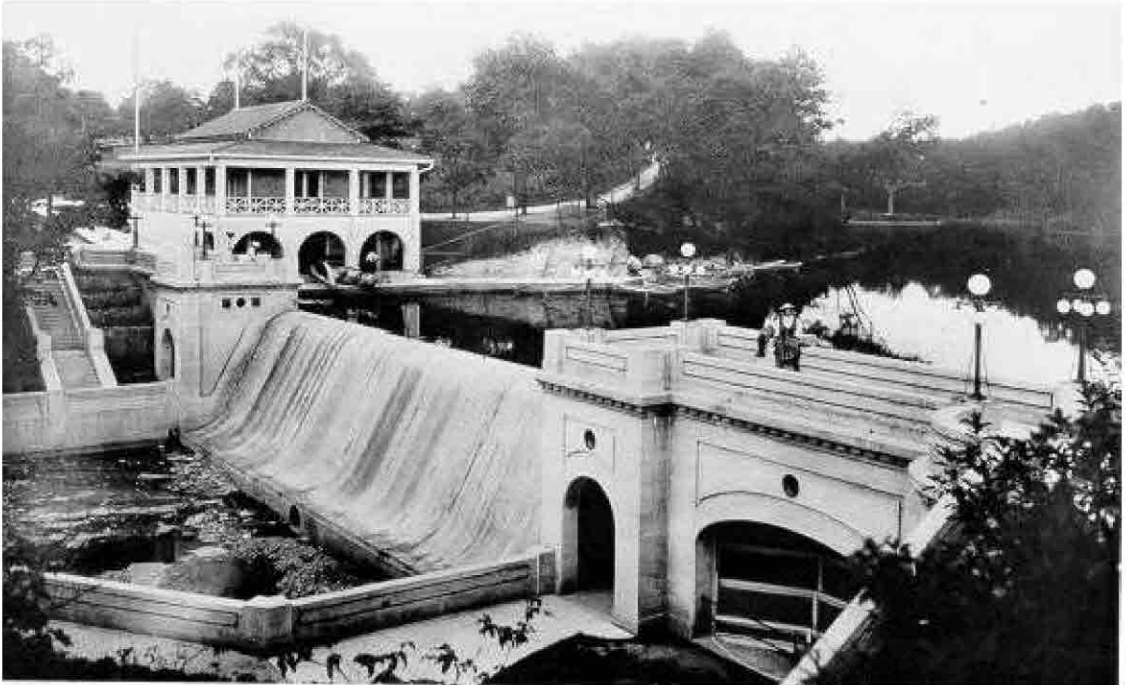


DELLWOOD PARK

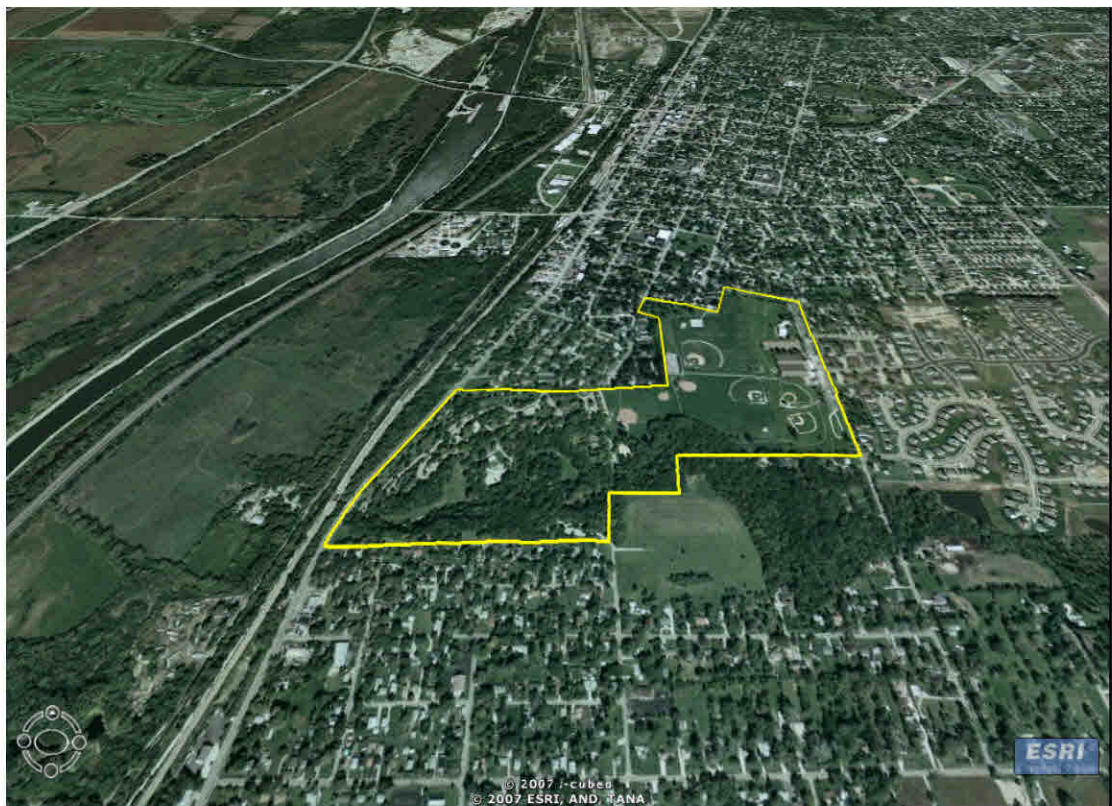
The Chicago & Joliet Electric Railway Company constructed Dellwood Park on the southern side of Lockport in 1906 as a way of increasing ridership. The 150-acre park featured a number of attractions that each year drew thousands of visitors from Chicago – including 10,000 over one summer weekend alone. Among the attractions were a boathouse, dance hall, grandstand for races, merry-go-round, open-air theater, and restaurant. A fire in 1930 destroyed many of the buildings.

Today, Dellwood Park is owned and operated by the Lockport Township Park District and continues to be a popular recreation destination for area residents. It features several miles of asphalt and crushed gravel trails, as well as a performing arts center, picnic pavilions, playgrounds, and ball fields.

DELLWOOD PARK



Dellwood Park (shown above circa 1916) has been a popular recreation destination for area residents for more than a century.



GLADYS FOX MUSEUM (Old Congregational Church)

The Gladys Fox Museum, originally the Old Congregational Church, was built in 1839 on land donated by the Illinois and Michigan Canal Commission on the southwest corner of Ninth and Washington Streets facing Lockport's Public Square.

The present facade in the Gothic Revival style replaced the original Greek Revival front that was destroyed in a fire during the 1880s. This structure is thought to be the oldest masonry church in the State of Illinois.

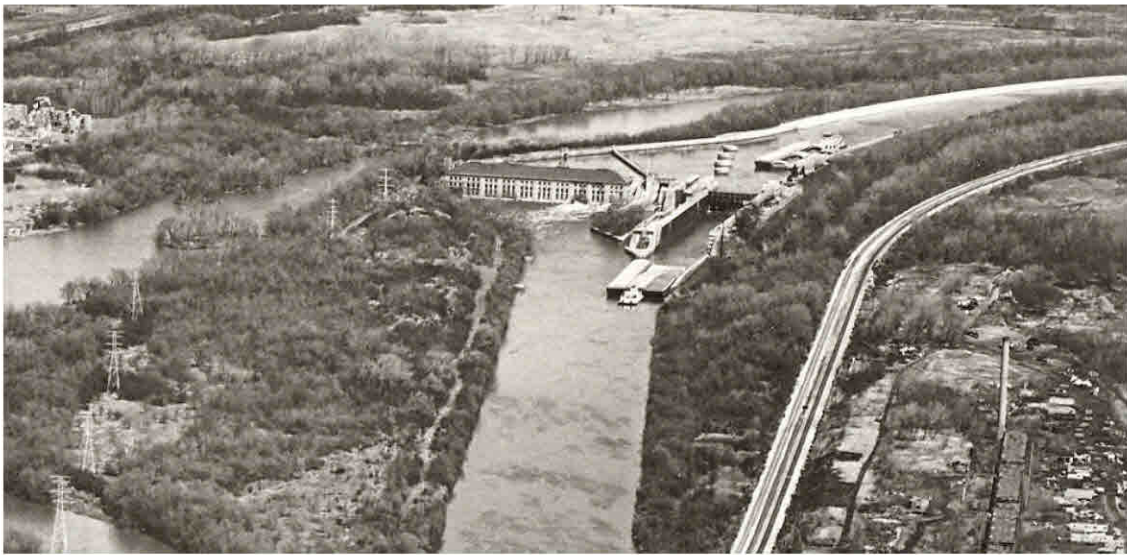
Today it is owned and managed by the Lockport Township Park District, who restored the building and named it after a long-time member of the board and Lockport civic leader. The Gladys Fox Museum contains exhibits on the history of Dellwood Park and serves as a venue for changing exhibitions and community events.



LOCKPORT POWERHOUSE

The Lockport Powerhouse, located on the Main Channel Extension of the Sanitary and Ship Canal south of Division Street in Lockport, was built in 1907. It is the largest hydro-electric plant in Illinois, providing power to the Commonwealth Edison grid. The Powerhouse is managed by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District and is one of the few still-operating reminders of the area's rich industrial history. It enables the District to control the outflow of the Sanitary and Ship Canal, and limit the diversion of water from the Lake Michigan Watershed into the Des Plaines River.

Looking ahead, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District is willing to make the Powerhouse accessible to the public through scheduled tours.



The Lockport Powerhouse has been providing hydro-electric power since its opening in 1907.

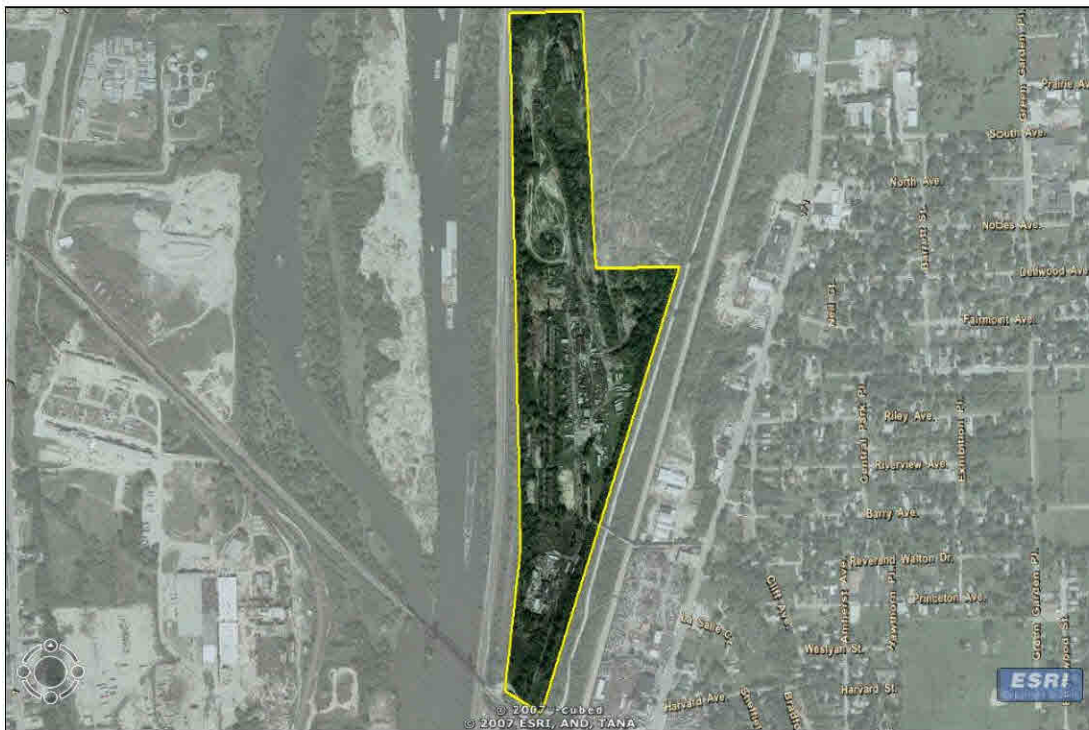
KOPPERS COKE OVEN

The 55-acre Koppers Coke Oven County Historical Landmark Site, located south of Dellwood Park West, was part of the Joliet Steel Works, and was at one time in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's preservation plans. The project was not pursued due to the site's current use as a junkyard and its associated environmental concerns.

However, the site was designated a Will County Historical Landmark in 1995 and remains an integral part of the overall interpretation of the historic iron manufacturing process:

*Heinrich Koppers invented his first Cross Regenerative Coke Oven in Germany in 1902. United States Steel brought Koppers to the United States in order to improve the efficiency of their operations in the face of newly developed competition. The Joliet Steel Works was chosen in 1908 as the first plant in the nation to use this new oven. The Koppers technology subsequently became one of the leading technologies for by-product production in the United States. It is because of the link to this nationally recognized innovation in the chemical and steel industries that the Koppers Coke Oven Plant Site of Joliet Steel Works was designated a Will County Historic Landmark on September 21, 1995.**

**Will County Land Use Department Website (www.willcountylanduse.com).*



JOLIET IRON WORKS HISTORIC SITE

The Joliet Iron Works Historic Site is located on Columbia and Scott Streets in downtown Joliet. This 52-acre preserve was created in 1991 with the 45-acre donation of a historic industrial archaeological site by USX Steel through CorLands (Openlands' land-acquisition affiliate). Situated at the confluence of the Illinois & Michigan Canal, the Des Plaines River, and a number of railroads, the site was part of an industrial complex that produced iron and steel from the mid-1800s until the recent past.

After the preserve was established, the Forest Preserve District of Will County installed public access and education trails in the mid-1990s, and continues to conduct interpretive programs at the site. In 2008, the City of Joliet and the Forest Preserve District are partnering to make additional improvements to the site's picnic and group-event areas.



JOLIET CORRECTIONAL FACILITY

The former site of the Joliet Correctional Facility on Collins Street (State Route 171) in Joliet is owned by the State of Illinois. The property straddles Collins Street, with 24 acres of the old prison on the west, and 150 acres of open space and a smaller correctional facility on the east. The 150 acres is bisected diagonally by active EJ&E railroad tracks. The northern, southern, and eastern borders are residential and commercial uses, and the western border is a mix of residential and industrial uses, as well as a regional trail system.

The prison operated until just a few years ago when its age rendered it obsolete. However, at the time of its construction in 1858, the facility was the largest prison in the country and its design became a model for United States prisons. The prison's limestone buildings were designed by William W. Boyington, who designed the Chicago Water Tower and the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield.

The City of Joliet has established a task force, chaired by Senator A. J. Wilhelmi and Will County Executive Larry Walsh, to examine re-use opportunities for the Joliet Correctional Facility and U.S. Steel property. Mixed-use redevelopment plans are being explored that would include stores, offices and possibly residences. The City of Joliet has made it clear that any redevelopment plan would include preservation of the prison structure.

JOLIET CORRECTIONAL FACILITY



The Joliet Correctional Facility's limestone buildings were designed by William W. Boyington, who designed the Chicago Water Tower and the Illinois State Capitol Building in Springfield.

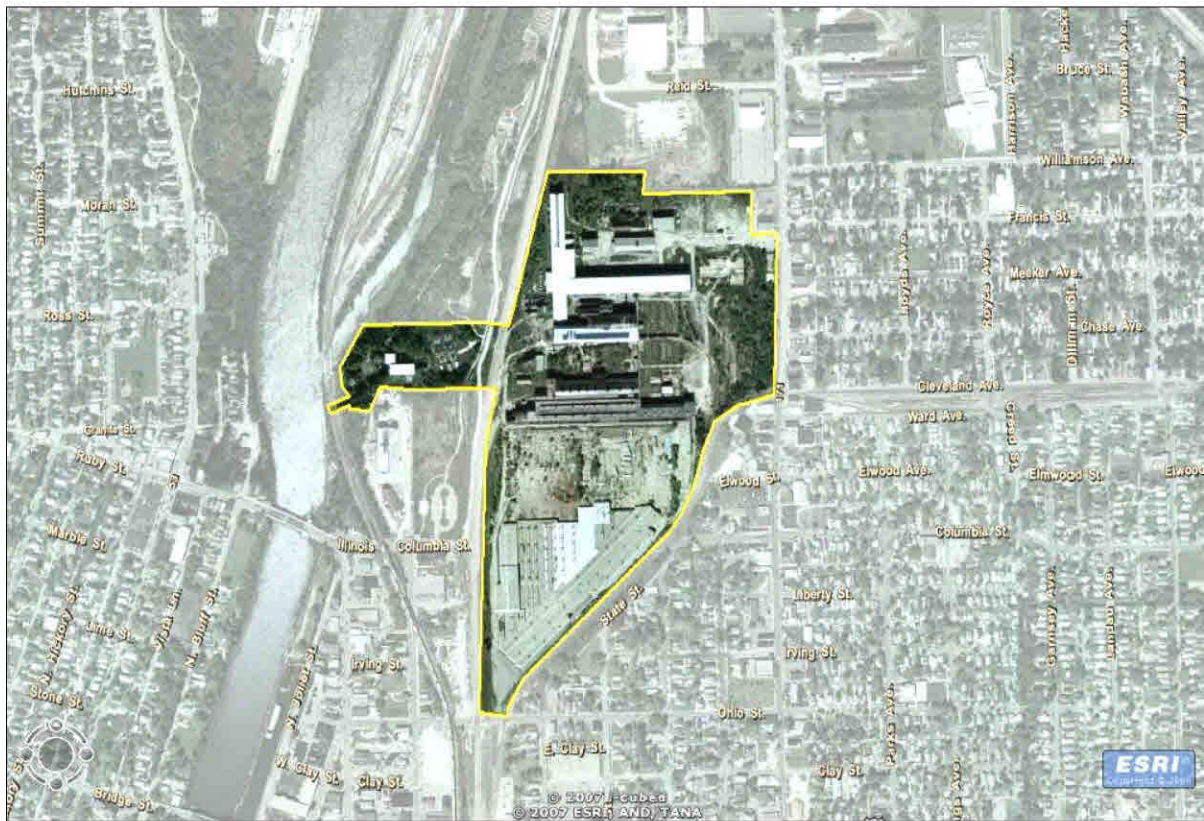


U.S. STEEL PROPERTY

The U.S. Steel property consists of 80 acres of the former American Steel & Wire Corporation and is located on Collins Street (State Route 171) in Joliet. Residential and commercial uses border the site on the south and east. The west is buffered by railroad tracks and the Joliet Iron Works Historic Site.

The northern half of the property is still owned by U.S. Steel; however, the southern portion is owned by the Gateway Company, an industrial user.

The City of Joliet has established a task force, chaired by Senator A. J. Wilhelmi and Will County Executive Larry Walsh, to examine re-use opportunities for the Joliet Correctional Facility and U.S. Steel property.



JOLIET AREA HISTORICAL MUSEUM ROUTE 66 EXPERIENCE

The mission of the Joliet Area Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa Street in Joliet, is to promote awareness, understanding, and preservation of the Joliet area's diverse history through an active, community-based collections acquisition program, engaging exhibits, and innovative educational programming. The Museum is open year-round and houses exhibits that let visitors of all ages experience how people lived, worked, traveled, and built the foundation for today's thriving community. The Special Exhibits Gallery hosts unique traveling exhibits of photographs, art, and artifacts from some of the nation's premier museums and private collections.

Within in the Joliet Area Historical Museum is the Route 66 Experience, an interactive exhibit about America's most well-known highway whose first major stop was downtown Joliet. The nearby Route 66 Park and informational kiosks highlight each Route 66 attraction in Joliet with directions, photos, and other information.



REGIONAL TRAILS

Many regional trails pass through or along Heritage Park. These trails provide access to many of the Park's historic and natural attractions, and are oftentimes situated along areas of geographic or historical significance themselves. Furthermore, these trails are part of the Grand Illinois Trail, a 500-mile network extending between Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River.

Centennial Trail

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Forest Preserve District of Will County

In 1993, the Forest Preserve District of Will County constructed a 3-mile trail from 135th Street in Romeoville to the Cook County border on property owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago to celebrate the Reclamation District's centennial. The trail extends south as the Illinois & Michigan Canal Heritage Trail on property owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Since Centennial Trail's creation, the Forest Preserve District has developed an access point known as Schneider's Passage on 135th Street, which includes a relocated historic swing bridge that had previously spanned the Des Plaines River. The Forest Preserve Districts of DuPage and Cook Counties are also working to extend the trail north into Lemont. This trail also forms a portion of a newly planned Veterans Memorial Trail which will follow portions of I-355 through northern Will County.

Illinois & Michigan Canal Heritage Trail

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Lockport Township Park District

The Forest Preserve District of Will County and Lockport Township Park District have built and maintain a 6-mile trail within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Illinois & Michigan Canal property from 135th Street in Romeoville through Lockport to the Forest Preserve District's Joliet Iron Works Historic Site. An additional 1.25-mile trail segment passes through the Joliet Iron Works Historic Site to Columbia Street in Joliet. The City of Joliet has developed a street route through the City Center linking this trail with the I&M Canal State Trail at Brandon Road in Rockdale.

Old Plank Road Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Under the leadership of Openlands, a 21-mile section of the abandoned New York Central Rail Road in Will and Cook Counties was acquired in 1992, and later developed and operated by a multi-jurisdictional Management Commission as the Old Plank Road Trail. The various agencies have developed numerous access points to the trail. The City of Joliet and the Forest Preserve District of Will County are currently working on completing a road route to connect it to the Heritage Trail. The Old Plank Road Trail is a segment of the state's Grand Illinois Trail and the national coast-to-coast American Discovery Trail.

Wauponsee Glacial Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

In 2004, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources transferred two abandoned railroads to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. The lines extend from Joliet to the Kankakee River and Custer Park, and the Forest Preserve District recently completed a 21-mile biking, hiking, and equestrian trail along them called the Wauponsee Glacial Trail. The District is also working with the City of Joliet on a road route extension to connect the Wauponsee Glacial Trail with the Old Plank Road Trail.

Veterans Memorial Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has been working with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (ISTHA), Woodridge Park District, Village of Woodridge, Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Lemont Park District, Village of Lemont, Village of Homer Glen, Homer Township, City of Lockport, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, and Chicagoland Bicycle Federation to promote and develop a 10-mile trail along the Interstate 355 Veterans Memorial Tollway in Will and Cook Counties. As currently planned, the first phase of the Veterans Memorial Trail will extend from the Woodridge Municipal Trail at International Parkway south to the existing Centennial Trail to reach 135th Street. This segment of the trail is being designed and funded locally by the Forest Preserve District of Will County and the Village of Woodridge. The second phase of the trail will then turn east and follow 135th Street to the Tollway Corridor, then turn south to US Route 6 in the Village of New Lenox. A segment of trail will also be constructed between 127th Street and 135th Street to allow local connections by the Village of Lemont.

The Veterans Memorial Trail will connect existing trail systems in three counties and provide a vital link across the Des Plaines River Valley, which has been a major impediment to regional trail connections. It will connect the Centennial Trail System (20 miles long), the Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail Systems (120 miles long), and the Spring Creek Trail System (9 miles long), and create connections to cultural attractions, including the Isle a la Cache Museum in Romeoville and Pilcher Park in Joliet. Veterans Memorial Trail will also connect many local schools, parks, and commercial districts, as well as the Waterfall Glen Forest Preserve in DuPage County to the 20-mile Old Plank Road Trail in Will and Cook Counties via street routes.

Spring Creek Greenway Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has been very successful in protecting the Spring Creek watershed, conserving a 7-mile greenway of four natural preserves that total more than 1,765 acres in a rapidly developing area. Plans are in the works to connect these four preserves via the Spring Creek Greenway Trail. Portions of the trail are under construction in Messenger Marsh and Hadley Valley Preserves. Spring Creek has a broad and very scenic valley. It comes into Will County in Homer Township, and flows west to its confluence with first Hickory Creek and then the Des Plaines River in Joliet. The stream and floodplain is hydrologically significant. Although much of the stream has been channelized, the hydric soils remain, offering an excellent opportunity for stream dechannelization and wetland re-creation. In addition, the underlying Hadley Aquifer is an important water source for the City of Joliet.

Joliet Junction Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Between 2000 and 2002, the Forest Preserve District of Will County acquired a 4.5-mile (60-acre) abandoned private railroad and developed it as a paved bike trail in partnership with the City of Joliet – the Joliet Junction Trail. In conjunction with the State’s Illinois & Michigan Canal Trail and the District’s Rock Run Greenway Trail, it creates a 15-mile loop trail through Joliet, Crest Hill, and Rockdale. The District provides access to the Joliet Junction Trail at Theodore Marsh on Gaylord Road in Crest Hill.

Rock Run Greenway Trail

Forest Preserve District of Will County

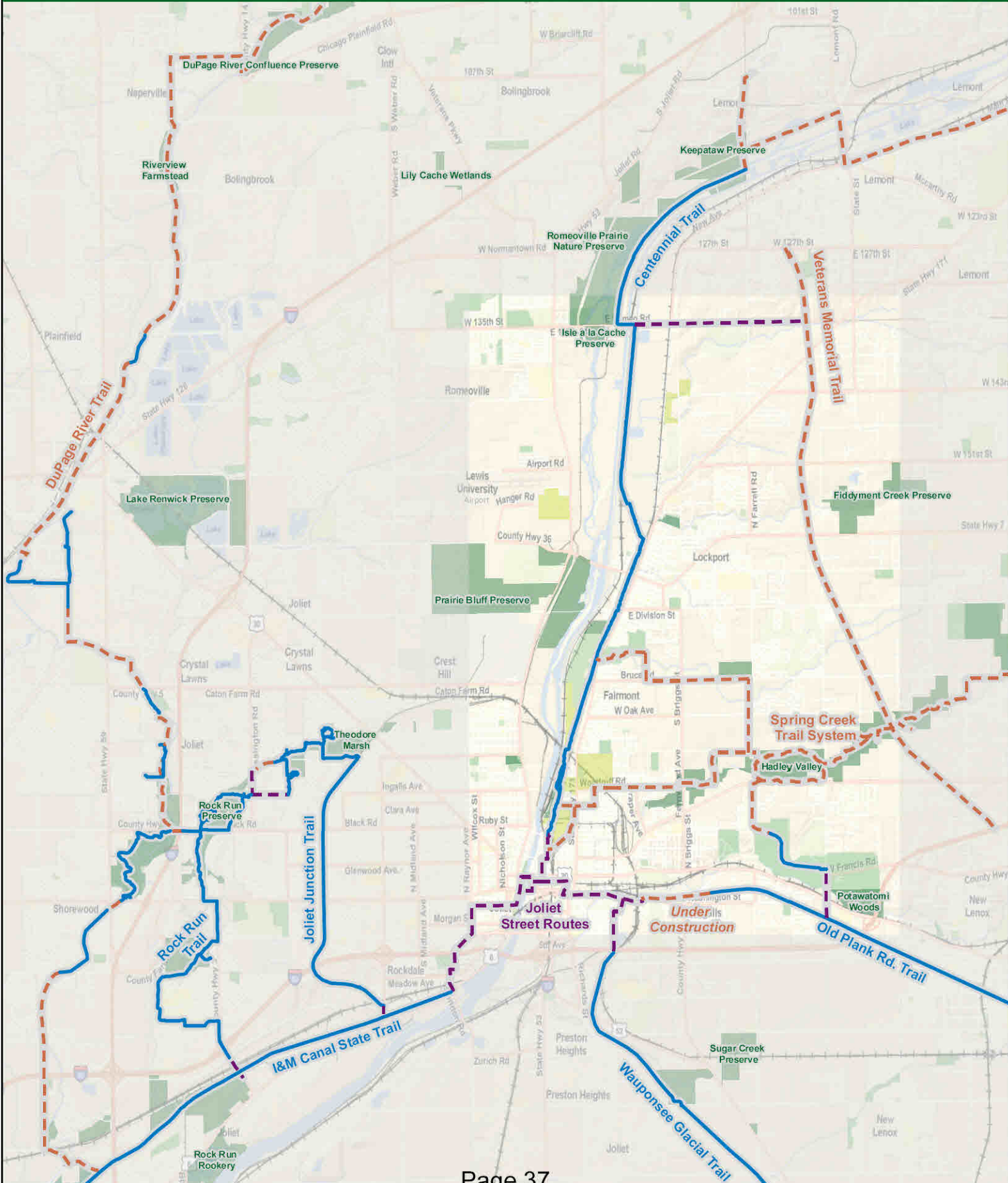
Although a channel in some locations, Rock Run is predominantly a high-quality wetland slowly flowing from Crest Hill through Joliet into the Des Plaines River. Rock Run has been adopted by local residents and the City of Joliet as an important amenity. To date, the Forest Preserve District of Will County, aided by the City, has successfully protected more than 1,200 acres within the watershed, and additional acreage is expected to be added. District holdings connect and link to those of the Lockport Township Park District, Channahon Park District, Joliet Park District, and Joliet Junior College to create an almost continuous greenway along the entire Rock Run.

Heritage Park Planning Area

Regional Trail Context

Trail Status

-  Existing
-  Proposed
-  Street Route



Heritage Park Volume 2 Recommendations

1. Lockport Loop Trail/7-Arch Bridge
 - A. City of Lockport and State of Illinois confirm ownership of the 7-arch stone bridge and adjacent property, and work cooperatively to clean up existing debris.
 - B. City of Lockport and Lockport Township Park District (LTPD) coordinate with Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) to develop the Lockport Loop Trail connection with the I&M Canal Trail system.

2. Dellwood Park West/Lockport Prairie East
 - A. LTPD and FPDWC work to establish a management agreement allowing the cooperative management of the north 109 acres of Dellwood Park West and Lockport Prairie East.
 - B. LTPD, FPDWC, and City of Lockport work cooperatively on the protection and enhancement of the gateway area to Dellwood Park West and Lockport Prairie East at the entrance to Old Canal Road.
 - C. LTPD, FPDWC, and City of Lockport develop a strategy for the enhancement of in-holding properties within Heritage Park.
 - D. IDNR confirm and define state property boundary along I&M Canal and research the legal standing for the existing road and use by in-holding parcels.

3. Coke Oven property
 - A. County of Will confirms if the existing land uses conform to the County's zoning ordinance and codes. If not, work to bring the property into compliance.
 - B. Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and County of Will confirm if there are clean-up goals and time lines that need to be established for the property.

4. Former Joliet Penitentiary
 - A. Monitor redevelopment plans for the site.
 - B. City of Joliet investigates the potential for the existing abandoned quarry being a source of dolomite for the restoration of historic buildings.

5. Heritage Park Plan

- A. Openlands, FPDWC, and LTPD secure adoption/resolutions of support for Plan by County of Will, FPDWC, City of Joliet, City of Lockport, LTPD, and IDNR.
- B. Openlands periodically reconvene the Heritage Park partners (Lockport, LTPD, FPDWC, IDNR, City of Joliet, and County of Will) to discuss the status of Heritage Park Plan.

6. Recreation and Access

- A. City of Joliet and FPDWC work cooperatively on establishing street and off street routes and signage connecting the DuPage, Rock Run, I&M Canal (including Centennial Trail), Wauponsee, Old Plank Road, Spring Creek, and proposed Veterans Memorial Trail systems.
- B. Cities of Joliet and Lockport, LTPD, and the FPDWC explore additional access points to the Des Plaines River water trail within Heritage Park.

7. Education & Volunteerism

- A. FPDWC, LTPD, Cities of Lockport and Joliet, Will County Historical Society, Joliet Area Historical Museum, Illinois State Museum (Lockport Gallery), and Gaylord Building work to develop coordinated volunteer and education programs within Heritage Park.

8. Bruce-Caton Farm Road Corridor

- A. The FPDWC co-ordinate with the County of Will on trail access and land protection issues related to the proposed connection of Bruce and Caton Farm Roads within Heritage Park.