

TBM CONSULTING

# Jasper County Eagle Trails & Greenways Comprehensive Plan

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## Appendix

In this section lies all documentation referenced within the Planning document.

# Public Survey

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One means of collecting input from the general public during the *Jasper County Eagle Trails & Greenways Plan* process was through an online survey. This survey was created and sent to all members of the Eagle Trails Coalition who in turn forwarded the survey to their personal and professional network connections. These responses were utilized during the planning process to assist in guiding the Eagle Trails Coalition while planning. Below the questions and responses are listed with the most popular response highlighted:

## What activities do you enjoy, or might you enjoy, if trails were available?

Bicycling	47.2%
<b>Walking</b>	<b>100%</b>
Jogging	11.1%
Canoeing	27.8%
Horseback Riding	11.1%
Mountain Biking	13.9%
Bird Watching	33.3%

## What features do you enjoy in local trails?

Access to parks and other locations in your hometown	68.6%
Access to recreational areas in the county	60.0%
Access to other towns in the county	17.1%
Scenic routes, historic sites, and landmarks	68.6%
<b>Drinking water and public restrooms</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
Shelter from weather	45.7%
Access to commercial establishments along the route	20.0%

## What features in Jasper County might be interesting to local residents and/or visitors?

<b>Lakes and state parks</b>	<b>85.7%</b>
Parks	77.1%
Schools	11.4%
The Mound Cemetery (Burl Ives burial site)	48.6%
Historic neighborhoods	51.4%
Scenic routes	74.3%
Industrial parks	5.7%
Other	11.4%
Specified: Embarras River	
Replica of Burl Ives' home	
Orchards, farms with tours/pumpkin patches, pet animals etc.	

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### What specific recommendations might you have for trail locations?

<b>Newton to Sam Parr State Park</b>	<b>71.4%</b>
Newton to Newton Lake	51.4%
Ste. Marie to Willow Hill	45.7%
Willow Hill to the Mound Cemetery	22.9%
Peterson Park to the Embarras River Bridge	57.1%
Other	11.4%
Specified: Using the old train track path from Hidalgo to Newton Bird Sanctuary Along the train tracks in Newton	

### What concerns or information do you feel is important?

<b>Safety</b>	<b>73.5%</b>
Amenities	38.2%
Trail Design	58.8%
Public Support	55.9%
Vandalism	41.2%
Other	2.9%
Specified: Publicity to increase usage and support	

# Eagle Trails Coalition, Public, and Stakeholder Meeting Notes

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## MEETING NOTES

### EAGLE TRAILS PUBLIC MEETING

MAY 19, 2009 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE, NEWTON, IL

1. Call to order, Chairman Ken Larimore
2. Introduction of guests. Those in attendance were: Alice Addis, Travis Farley, Scott Simpson, Dr. Scott Bloomberg, Roger Kinder, Beverly Lewis, Bruce Lewis, Lisa Meyer, Ken Larimore, Trisha Mason, Dave Miller, Tammy Ochs, and Ilene Woods
3. Report on IDNR Greenways and Trails Planning Assistance Program grant received by Jasper County.
4. Report on Actions for Implementation of Eagle Trails & Greenways Comprehensive Plan construction.
  - A. There were 13 community leaders and concerned citizens represented.
  - B. Questions were asked regarding where the paths would run and the costs to construct them. These questions were answered by informing the group that the Plan would utilize existing roadways for the most part and needed their help in choosing which roadways are the most utilized for this type of recreation and would lead to the safest routes.
  - C. The group discussed the value these trails will add to the County. It was stated that the hope was to connect Sam Parr State Park, Newton Lake, The Prairie Chicken Sanctuary, Newton and Ste. Marie. Economic development, quality of life, health, and other benefits were explained and discussed.
  - D. Utilizing the Old Mill Bridge was discussed and further information will be sought as many felt that the bridge would be a key attraction for the trails.
5. All were invited and urged to participate in further meetings. The next meetings would be called soon to aid in the trail planning process. The Jasper County Highway Department printed large maps breaking the County into quadrants. The Coalition was invited to participate on drafting out the routes they utilize most regularly and get their input in the mapping process.
6. Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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## MEETING NOTES

### EAGLE TRAILS COALITION

June 3, 2009 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE, NEWTON, IL

1. Call to order, Chairman Ken Larimore
2. Introduction of guests. Those in attendance were: Travis Farley, Dr. Scott Bloomberg, Ken Larimore, Trisha Mason, Tammy Ochs, Louise Lybarger, Dr. Brett Tarr, Roger Kinder, and Ryne Schmidt
3. Discussed possible trails in all four quadrant of the county and chose trails on the basis of connectivity and historic/scenic value.

These trails were identified:

Little Eagle Trail would extend from Newton Community High School past the Prairie Ridge Wildlife Area and the Robert Ridgway Grassland Nature Preserve back to Newton, forming a nearly 7 mile loop. The trail would provide access to both of these wildlife areas and the existing trail in the Robert Ridgway Grassland Nature Preserve.

The Golden Eagle Trail would extend from Newton Community High School past Stone's Throw Golf Course, the CIPS Power Plant and the Newton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area, then connecting with the Bald Eagle Trail to go back to Newton Community High School, forming a 35 mile loop. The trail would provide access to the North Entrance of the Newton Lake State Fish & Wildlife Area where the 22.5 miles of existing multi-purpose trails begin, as well as the 4.6 mile bike trail begins. This trail would also provide access to the South and East Boat Ramps.

The Bald Eagle Trail would extend from Peterson Park in Newton to Sam Parr State Fish & Wildlife Area and on toward Mound Cemetery, home to Burl Ives burial site, then on through Willow Hill and back toward Newton, forming a 26.25 mile loop. The route would provide access to the 2 miles of hiking trails and 13 miles of equestrian trails, as well as several picnicking and resting facilities within the Park. This route would also go past the Mound Cemetery and connect with another trail in Willow Hill, giving users the opportunity to go on to Ste. Marie or loop back toward Peterson Park.

The Long-crested Eagle Trail would extend from Peterson Park in Newton through the beautiful countryside toward Ste. Marie Park before heading toward Willow Hill and connecting with the Bald Eagle Trail to either head back to Peterson Park or to go on past the Mound Cemetery and Sam Parr. The route would be 16.25 miles in length.

The Stellar's Sea Eagle Trail would extend from Peterson's Park along the shoreline of the Embarras River connecting to Water Street near the Old Mill Bridge, a historic site, before heading out of out Newton toward Apple Shed Road, then continuing on to Effingham County to connect with the National Road in Montrose or to Jewett to connect with the National Road. This route is comprised of winding

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roads and a mix of flat and hilly landscape and totals 20.50 miles in length heading to Montrose and 17 miles in length heading to Jewett.

The Embarras River Walk would begin in Peterson Park in Newton and extend along the Embarras Riverfront to the Old Mill Bridge, then heading south toward the Newton Public Square and continuing down South Van Buren Street going West at Curtis Street and North on Lafayette Street past many beautiful historic homes and back toward the square. The trail totals a little over 2.5 miles in length.

**4. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**

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## **MEETING NOTES**

### **EAGLE TRAILS COALITION PRESENTATION TO ROTARY**

**June 30, 2009 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

#### **PARKLANES, NEWTON, IL**

1. Rotary President and Eagle Trails Coalition Member, Dr. Scott Bloomberg introduced Trisha Mason from TBM Consulting to the 25 in attendance.
2. Trisha Mason presented the group with the Proposed Eagle Trails and Greenways plans and opened the floor for questions.
3. Questions arose regarding the length of the trails and funding sources for the trail construction. Ms. Mason and Ken Larimore answered questions regarding distance covered and potential funding sources available for construction.
4. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

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## MEETING NOTES

### EAGLE TRAILS COALITION

August 21, 2009 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE, NEWTON, IL

Members Present: Ken Larimore, Bill Weber, Ed Mitchell, Scott Bloomberg, Travis Farley, Trisha Mason

1. The group agreed to name the trails Eagle Trails and keep the names as recommended.
2. A suggested edit to the Golden Eagle Trail was recommended to avoid gravel.
3. Trisha Mason asked the group to aid in identifying historic and other points of interest around the county that would be tied in to the trails. Ms. Mason had already identified the Old Mill Bridge and The Mound Cemetery. Other points of interest recommended included: the Latona Church and Cemetery, Shiloh Cemetery, Stone's Throw Golf Course, Lake Jasper, and Ms. Mason will be contacting Pat Rice and Lloyd Galloway, and Joe Bierman to interview regarding other historical elements surrounding Ste. Marie, Bogota, and the Island Grove areas. Also additional famous or well-known individuals that were once residents of Jasper County were identified to further research and tie-in to the trails as well.
4. Ms. Mason presented the group with an outline she constructed as recommendations to begin developing a plan of action to follow to bring the trails from plan to construction. The group agreed upon a trail construction priority list:
  - a. Embarras River Walk
  - b. Bald Eagle Trail
  - c. Long-crested Eagle Trail
  - d. Little Eagle Trail
  - e. Golden Eagle Trail
  - f. Stellar's Sea Eagle Trail
5. The group was interested in having the League of IL Bicyclists come to Newton during his next visit to Effingham to provide guidance in the construction of the Embarras River Walk. Ms. Mason agreed to contact Frank Brummer of TREC to find out when he would be coming and how we can best prepare for his visit and will get back to the group.
6. Trails funding was discussed. Highlights centering on obtaining OSLAD grants, hosting fundraisers, and developing a "Friends of the Trails" campaign.
7. The Coalition members present decided that a logo needed to be created as Eagle Trails' identity. Travis Farley volunteered to work on logo design along with Bill Weber aiding in identifying help in computerizing the image.
8. Ken Larimore informed the group that he was in contact with Phelps Map Service and presented the options to the group on creating maps to be given to the public which led to a brainstorming session of ways to promote the Trails system. Ideas on website design and social media outlets were discussed.



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## MEETING NOTES

### EAGLE TRAILS COALITION PRESENTATION TO IDNR

November 4, 2009 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

#### U OF I EXTENSION OFFICE, NEWTON, IL

Members Present: Ken Larimore, Scott Bloomberg, Travis Farley, Trisha Mason, Tammy Ochs, and Marla Gursh with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Trisha Mason presented the completed *Jasper County Eagle Trails & Greenways Plan* to the Coalition and to Marla Gursh from IDNR for approval. Ms. Gursh expressed her approval of the plan and recommended that it be taken to the Jasper County Board and the City of Newton for adoption. She stated that the approach taken in construction the plan was “realistic and practical.” The plan was constructed to enhance the existing assets. Discussion surrounded around next steps and many ideas where discussed. The Coalition agreed that the momentum must be kept high to lead this plan into implementation.

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## MEETING NOTES

### EAGLE TRAILS COALITION PUBLIC MEETING

November 9, 2009 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

#### VILLAGE HALL, STE. MARIE, IL

**Present:** Ken Larimore, Trisha Mason, Ron Kirts, Frank Miller, Donald Hartrich, Eufala Bigard, Annette Kirts, Susan Phillips, Pat Reis, Maxine Calvert, Maurice Calvert, Bill Hartrich, Joe Boehl, and Karen Boehl.

Ken Larimore welcomed the group and thanked everyone for coming out. He then proceeded to give the background on the Eagle Trails & Greenways planning process and introduced Trisha Mason, the lead consultant on the project.

Trisha Mason presented the *Jasper County Eagle Trails & Greenways Comprehensive Plan* as approved by IDNR and opened the floor for questions. The audience asked questions regarding liability and next steps. Good questions were asked and the audience approved of the plan. Ms. Mason asked the audience to identify any other additional assets that should be identified along the trails or nearby. The audience asked to include the Ste. Marie Foundation house, the Joseph Picquet Monument and Ste. Marie time capsule burial site, as well as the Jim Bridges' walking path. These assets will be identified on the folded map to be printed soon for public education and awareness.

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### INDIVIDUAL STAKEHOLDER MEETING AND CONVERSATION NOTES

Trisha Mason and Ken Larimore introduced themselves and the Eagle Trails project to Denise Meinhart, Jasper County Highway Department, and Jim Gillespie, Sam Parr State Park, on April 23, 2009. Both Ms. Mason and Mr. Larimore answered any questions and met concerns regarding the development of the project.

Trisha Mason interviewed Louise Lybarger, Jasper County Health Department, on May 5, 2009. Louise pointed out routes that she already utilizes as a cyclist and led Ms. Mason to find out more about existing trails in the County.

Trisha Mason and Ken Larimore interviewed Frank Brummer, TREC, on May 8, 2009. Frank led Ms. Mason and Mr. Larimore to further resources and answered questions regarding garnering community support and trail design.

Trisha Mason emailed and conversed with Todd Hill, IDOT, throughout the planning process. Mr. Hill answered questions regarding liability of the townships and county for utilizing existing roadways as designated routes. He also suggested that Ms. Mason speak with Jerry Yockey with the General Dacey Trail in Shelby County.

Trisha Mason interviewed Jerry Yockey, General Dacey Trail, on August 24, 2009. Jerry informed Ms. Mason about their planning process and how they gained the support of all stakeholders. He also agreed to speak to the public of Jasper County if needed.

Ken Larimore and Bill Weber, Jasper County Board, met with Dick Patterson, Jasper County Engineer on September 1, 2009. Mr. Larimore and Mr. Weber spoke with Dick about utilizing the county roadways as designated routes until the separate trails were constructed. They ensured them that no further liability would be brought on to the County by putting up signage designating the road for non-motorized traffic. Both Mr. Larimore and Mr. Weber heard all concerns from Mr. Patterson and answered all of his questions.