

2 bicycle riders have been seriously hurt attempting to cross County Farm Rd at the GWT!

EDITORIAL in the DAILY HERALD supporting a safer GWT crossing at County Farm Rd.

Another bike trail danger to eliminate

The Great Western Trail crossing at County Farm Road indeed does need to be made safer. The Great Western Trail and the Illinois Prairie Path through DuPage County is a remarkable system that can take you from suburb to suburb with long stretches of peaceful forest in between each one. Unfortunately, there also are busy roads in the way. It's one reason we have said in our periodic bike trail listings that you should be careful, especially with children, on these trails.

The Friends of the Great Western Trails, a community group, is calling for a solution to one especially dangerous crossing: the Great Western Trail at County Farm Road in Winfield. We know what they mean. You can be riding along the trail, endorphins flowing as you let go of your stress or as you're just enjoying the nature, and suddenly, with no gates or fence or barricade or anything but a little sign, you're at the curb along four-lane County Farm Road, and heaven forbid it's rush hour. You'd better be paying attention.

Riders and walkers actually must cross several streets on the Great Western Trail and Illinois Prairie Path. Many are not too bad, like neighborhood side streets or otherwise less-busy thoroughfares (you still must look both ways). But County Farm Road takes the traffic up a notch, with vehicles zooming at 45 mph, if that slow, in both directions. Overhanging signs and a crosswalk do note the trail crossing, but there's no requirement to stop nor even a flashing light to encourage stopping.

A DuPage County Board member, Greg Schwarze, has put forth an idea: Install a traffic light just a couple hundred feet south on County Farm Road at Timber Creek Drive/Hawthorne Lane. The idea is to slow down traffic, as well as provide a safe way for cyclists and pedestrians to cross.

We also know another traffic light on County Farm Road can inhibit traffic flow. But we also hear people have been hurt at this crossing. And we remember how a cyclist was killed at another trail's intersection with a busy road, off Busse Woods just east of the Schaumburg border, before a bridge was built over Higgins Road there.

So we call for some measure to make this crossing safer. (And while we're at it, we see the same problem at the Great Western Trail crossing at Bloomingdale Road.) At the very least, a flashing beacon would be helpful as we've seen elsewhere in the suburbs, if not the traffic light. Anything, before more people flock to this pretty trail in the fall and risk getting seriously hurt. ###

Please contact the DuPage County Board supporting Greg Schwarze's traffic signal proposal via email at cbtransportcommittee@dupageco.org & cbjpscommittee@dupageco.org & chair@dupageco.org

Recommended trail etiquette for all trail users:

**SPEED LIMIT 15
STAY TO THE RIGHT
NO MORE THAN
TWO ACROSS
SIGNAL WHEN
PASSING
SAY "ON YOUR
LEFT"
DOGS ON 6 FT.
LEASH
SCOOP THE POOP**

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ALL Volunteer Trails Cleanup **of the Great Western Trails** **& the IL Prairie Path** **Saturday, April 29, 2023**

9:00AM is the approx. start time. Start times are set by coordinators.

Volunteers are needed!

In honor of Earth Day; the Friends of the Great Western Trails has scheduled its **annual trails cleanup for Saturday, April 29**. Our goal this year is to clean all the trails including both sections of the Great Western Trail (GWTs) from Villa Park to Sycamore. We want you to help us and rollup your sleeves (but wear work gloves) and pick up litter along these trails. Bring friends and family (and garbage bags to fill) on Saturday, April 29, 2023. **If you, your family and/or co-workers are interested in helping us clean the Great Western Trails, please contact** Don Kirchenberg via email frndsgrtwstntrl@aol.com

**For the Illinois Prairie Path cleanup info go to their website
at www.ipp.org or contact**

Ken McClurg
Dennis Terdy

info@ipp.org
dennis.terdy@gmail.com

For the cleanup of the GWT and IPP in LOMBARD please contact:
Dave Gorman 630-620-5765 gorman@villageoflombard.org

THANK YOU to long time trails supporter Kathy Slovick for sponsoring this years flyer!



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Please make copies of this flyer for trail users everywhere and post them on bulletin boards.

For more info. about the Friends of the Great Western Trails go to Facebook or check the website:
<http://www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com/>