

The Friends of the Great Western Trails are very pleased that Commonwealth Edison and the IL Commerce Commission have agreed to a meeting that will finally allow the public to voice their opinions concerning the bad tree trimming practices found on our trails and along our private properties by Com Ed and Asplundh. We appreciate Chairman Schillerstrom sponsoring this meeting that will be held at the DuPage Administrative Building at 421 N. County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL. (See the details about the public forum below). Don Kirchenberg, Voluntary Chairman of the Friends of the GWTs, stated "we are hoping that feedback from this meeting will result in a more sustainable and an environmentally friendly tree trimming program. Earlier this year over 3,000 trees were killed in DuPage County by the Com Ed's contractor Asplundh when they were supposed to be trimming them."

Kirchenberg continued "This public forum will be the first of its kind and should give Com Ed, the ICC and DuPage County the information they need to develop a plan that establishes a standard for healthy tree maintenance. As Chairman of the Friends of the Great Western Trails I have been working on getting healthy tree trimming for over 8 years so we are excited about this forum. We encourage everyone to attend and voice their opinion at this public forum."

"We wish to again thank DuPage County Board members Rita Gonzalez (District 1), Dirk Enger (District 6) and Tony Michelassi (District 5) for their ongoing support and work to get us to this point. The meeting we all had on December 14th with representatives from Com Ed, the ICC and Governor Quinn's office established the basis for this public forum. The agreement on the participation of everyone in this first ever public forum was predicated on having it sponsored by DuPage County so we thank Chairman Schillerstrom again for sponsoring the forum and providing the meeting room." concluded Don Kirchenberg. ###

The media is welcome to contact Don Kirchenberg at 630-853-7650 mobile or email Frndsgrtwstntrl@aol.com
More information about the trails and trees is always available at www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com

PUBLIC FORUM INFORMATION:

DU PAGE COUNTY — DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom will be hosting a public forum regarding Commonwealth Edison's tree trimming practices along the county's trail system on Tuesday, January 12, 2010.

The public forum will contain presentations by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), Commonwealth Edison (Com Ed), and the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office. Following these short presentations, there will be an opportunity for public input in which citizens can share their concerns.

WHAT: Public forum on tree trimming practices along county trail system

WHEN: Tuesday, January 12, 2010

TIME: 7:15 P.M.

WHERE: DuPage County Board Room
Jack T. Knuepfer Administrative Building
Third Floor
421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL
