

**Public
Forum!**

The first ever PUBLIC FORUM about Com Ed's butchering of the trees will be held this TUESDAY 1/12 at 7:15PM at 421 N County Farm Rd, Wheaton, IL. EVERYONE is urged to attend and speak out to Com Ed, the IL Commerce Commission and members of the DuPage County Board.

The Friends of the Great Western Trails are very pleased that Commonwealth Edison and the IL Commerce Commission have finally agreed to a meeting that will 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. 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 continues "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 we have been working on getting healthy tree trimming for over 8 years so we are excited about this forum. We urge everyone to attend and voice their opinion at this public forum."

Trees are being TOPPED not trimmed And now Commonwealth Edison wants to spray HERBICIDES along the trails to kill trees, bushes & wildlife habitats.

Commonwealth Edison's and its contractor Asplundh has done considerable damage to the trees on the trails including the IL Prairie Path & Great Western Trail and along private property too. Many trail users and neighbors have complained about their practice to cut the tops off the trees instead of trimming the branches. "**When you top off hardwood trees, you are killing them from the top.** Many thousands of trees have just been topped off as far as 20 feet below their power lines along the IL Prairie Path and Great Western Trails. This butchering of the trees takes away from the beauty and the natural feel of our trails." stated Don Kirchenberg, Voluntary Chairman of the Friends of the Great Western Trails.

Please remember: at meetings on 5/19 & 9/16/2009 at the DuPage County Admin. Building ***Com Ed announced plans to use herbicides along the trails and homes of thousands to kill trees, bushes & wildlife*** along both the IL Prairie Path and Great Western Trail in DuPage County.

Concerned citizens are encouraged to attend the public forum & contact their state legislators and county officials to voice their opinions about the tree cutting directed by Commonwealth Edison. The state of Illinois has jurisdiction over the tree maintenance practices of all power companies. They can force the IL Commerce Commission to ensure better tree maintenance that will help protect the trees on the trails and anywhere near power lines. And DuPage County officials can stop the use of herbicides to kill trees, bushes and wildlife along the trail

➡ **File a complaint with the IL Commerce Commission about Com Ed's tree butchering on the trails and along private property & plans to use herbicides along miles of the GWT & IPP. Ask for a public hearing too.** Complaints should be filed at the ICC's website
<http://www.icc.illinois.gov/consumer/complaint/wizard.aspx>

➡ **Contact your local elected officials about the damage to the trees in your community.** They can be found by calling the IL Board of Elections at 312-814-6440 or by going to webpage:
<http://www.elections.state.il.us/DLS/Pages/DLSAddressCrit.asp>

PLEASE PASS ALONG COPIES OF THIS MESSAGE. Also check www.friendsofthegreatwesterntrails.com