

EXISTING PLANS AND POLICIES

2.1 STATE LEVEL

Illinois Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (IDNR, 2009 and 2014):

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) prepares this report every five years to assess existing facilities, user statistics, future projects and actions, and a five-year implementation schedule citing agency responsibility for projects. It identifies prevalent issues such as accessibility for people with disabilities, linking transportation modes with recreation areas, and interagency coordination. It also helps maintain Illinois' eligibility to participate in the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program and establish funding goals for the use of State Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grants.



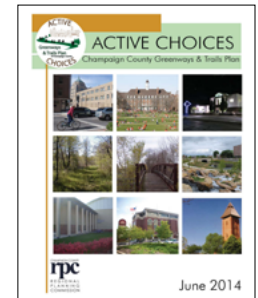
Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

According to the 2008 Illinois Outdoor Recreation Survey, 85 percent of statewide respondents agree that more trails should be developed (pg. 11). This sentiment was also found to be slightly higher among urban county respondents (including Champaign County) at 87 percent. Walking, hiking, and biking on trails were cited by respondents as some of the most important outdoor activities. Walking and bicycle riding on roads and trails were cited by respondents as the outdoor recreation activities with the most growth potential. The plan lists trails protection, development, and connection (especially linked to natural systems and greenways) as one of the Land and Water Conservation Fund's top priorities.

2.2 COUNTY LEVEL

Active Choices: Champaign County Greenways and Trails (GT) Plan (CCRPC, 2014):

This plan is a guiding document for the development of a countywide greenways and trails system for Champaign County residents and visitors. The purpose of this plan is to facilitate interagency cooperation for the development of a regional system of greenways and trails in the County by establishing potential projects, funding mechanisms, and an implementation schedule.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This document outlines existing trail infrastructure, including bicycle and shared use facilities, on municipal and regional levels. Many future trail facilities are also proposed. Consideration of these proposed features within the Urbana Trails Master Plan will strengthen regional planning efforts by matching relevant strategies for trail development.

Champaign County Greenways and Trails Design Guidelines, Logos & Signage (CCRPC, 2008; amended 2014):

This was created as a standalone document in 2008, and incorporated into the Active Choices GT Plan in 2014 (see above). This document is meant to facilitate the development of all non-motorized paths throughout Champaign County. The standardized design guidelines, logos and signage within this document will help create a recognizable, consistent, safe and convenient system of greenways and trails in the County.

Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This document is beneficial in creating a unified system of greenways and trails within Champaign County. Signage installed using these design guidelines will help users identify Urbana's municipal trails and links across jurisdictions.



Champaign County Greenways and Trails Funding Sources List (CCRPC, 2008; amended 2014):

This was created as a standalone document in 2008, and incorporated into the Active Choices GT Plan in 2014 (see above). This document outlines potential funding sources to support implementation of Champaign County's regional system of greenways and trails. It includes federal, state, private and non-profit development sources with agency names, websites, funding descriptions, deadlines, and maximum award amounts.



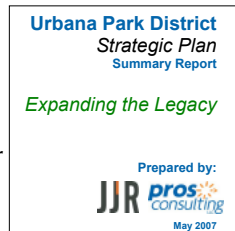
Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This document is important for identifying funding sources for the Urbana Park District and City of Urbana to help facilitate the development of trails within their jurisdictions.

2.3 LOCAL LEVEL

Urbana Park District Strategic Plan: Expanding the Legacy (JJR, Pros Consulting, 2007):

The Urbana Park District Strategic Plan has established a strategic vision, mission, priorities, goals, policies, and work plans to guide the next ten years of decision making for the Urbana Park District from 2007-2017. Significant stakeholder and public input, a demographic analysis, an operational review, a needs analysis, a facilities development plan and a strategic action plan supported its development.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

The Urbana Park District Strategic Plan has advocated for the continued and collaborative development of a trail system in Urbana with more loop trails in parks, connections between trails within current and future parks, and linkages to the regional trail system. This plan thus establishes a baseline service level of 3 acres of greenways and trails (corridor parks) per 1,000 people. It also advocates for the continued acquisition of open space to support unique facility guidelines and demonstrates that walking and biking trail facilities are one of the highest needs for Urbana's residents. According to its household survey, people would generally support funding the development of walking/biking and open space facilities with their tax dollars.

Urbana Comprehensive Plan and Update (City of Urbana, 2005; updated 2006):

This plan summarizes historic information, community profiles, growth, development, goals, objectives, and an implementation program for the City of Urbana. The plan captures the community's vision for preserving and enhancing Urbana's unique "small town" character, cultural diversity, economic competitiveness and natural resources.

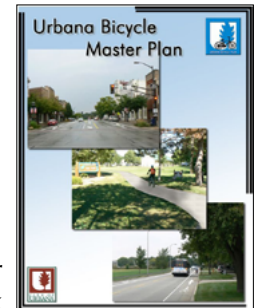


Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

The Urbana Comprehensive Plan and Update supports the development of trails in the region and promotes links to existing trails through new development, thus connecting Urbana's park system in the process.

Urbana Bicycle Master Plan (CCRPC, 2008; UPDATE 2016):

The Urbana Bicycle Master Plan is a guide for bicycle infrastructure development in the City of Urbana. It defines the bicycle network and recommends strategies to improve it over time. It also includes a comprehensive summary of public input, a system inventory, Bicycle Level of Service analysis, facility recommendations, cost estimates, and implementation strategies. The Champaign County Regional Planning Commission is updating the Urbana Bicycle Master Plan in conjunction with the development of the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan.

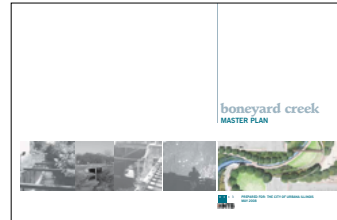


Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This plan leverages efforts from the 2004 Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan by addressing the potential for implementing recommended bicycle facility improvements in Urbana. The document presents existing and proposed (future) bicycle and shared use facilities at the municipal level in Urbana while identifying opportunities for regional connectivity. Consideration of these facilities within the Urbana Trails Master Plan will strengthen local and regional planning efforts by matching relevant strategies for trail development between Urbana Park District facilities.

Boneyard Creek Master Plan (HNTB, 2008):

The Boneyard Creek Master Plan outlines recommendations to improve recreational opportunities near the Boneyard Creek in the City of Urbana. The plan recommends several strategies for improving pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between downtown and the surrounding neighborhoods through the greening of the Creek.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

The plan focuses primarily on the stretch of the Boneyard Creek that runs from Main Street to Maple Street and directly intersects with Patterson Parklet while presenting connection opportunities within less than a quarter mile of Phillips Recreation Center, Leal Park, Crystal Lake Park, Chief Shemauger Park, and the Hickory Street Site. The Plan also suggests future greenway extensions connecting the University of Illinois to the west and Saline Branch to the east.

University Avenue Corridor Study (CCRPC, 2010):

The University Avenue Corridor Study examined current and future land use, zoning, redevelopment, and transportation conditions along the University Avenue corridor between Downtown Champaign and Downtown Urbana. The study established baseline goals for the corridor to promote orderly, attractive redevelopment; develop higher density multi-modal nodes; maximize the transportation system's safety and efficiency; and enhance bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

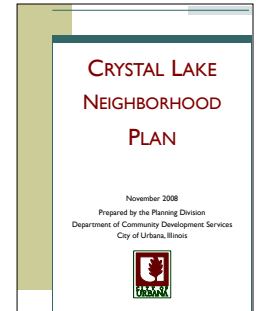


Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This plan outlines specific opportunities and challenges presented by the University Avenue corridor. Relevant topics to Urbana Park District parks include the Boneyard Creek Master Plan, the Norfolk Southern Railroad, Carle medical campus, pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and Level of Service (LOS) at the University Avenue intersections of Cunningham Avenue, Broadway Avenue, and Race Street. General pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure recommendations include signed bike routes, shared-use paths, on-street bike lanes and a Rails-to-Trails pathway in areas parallel to and intersecting University Avenue.

Crystal Lake Neighborhood Plan (City of Urbana, 2008):

The Crystal Lake Neighborhood Plan serves as a guiding document for future land uses and improvements in the Crystal Lake Park area of Urbana. One trend identified from public input and technical analysis is a desire for connectivity to Downtown and other uses. Nineteen goals were developed, as well as implementation strategies for land use & development, housing, and mobility.

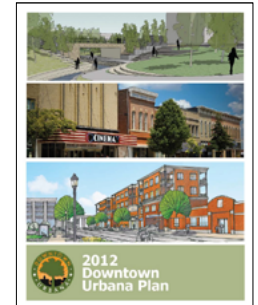


Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

Plan recommendations include a shared-use path around Crystal Lake Park and Busey Woods, linking Crystal Lake and Leal Parks, preserving residential access to Crystal Lake Park, and long term integration of homes and properties on Franklin Street into Crystal Lake Park. This plan also cites the 2007 Crystal Lake Park Master Plan, which calls for improving the visibility of the park through connections to neighborhoods and Downtown.

2012 Downtown Urbana Plan (City of Urbana, 2012):

The 2012 Downtown Urbana Plan expands on downtown Urbana's strengths and guides future growth to match the community's needs. The plan outlines seven key goals for downtown: strengthen economic activity; promote urban-style infill development; increase vitality by attracting more residents and visitors; develop engaging public spaces and streetscapes; improve mobility; protect and enhance character; and reduce environmental impacts.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

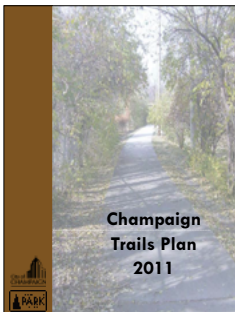
The plan advocates developing public open spaces and streetscapes and improving mobility in downtown. Specifically, the plan references the Boneyard Creek Improvement Project as a way to create an attractive green space connected to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure to enhance multimodal transportation capabilities. Furthermore, the rail line to the north of downtown is seen as a way to enhance local and regional transportation. Wayfinding signage is also planned for downtown to direct pedestrians and bicyclists to various destinations. Urbana Park District facilities that will benefit from enhanced trail connectivity as an indirect result of these developments include: Phillips Recreation Center, Patterson Parklet, Leal Park, Hickory Street Site, Judge Webber Park, Victory Park, and Crystal Lake Park.

2.4 CONTIGUOUS PLANNING AREAS

Champaign Trails Plan

(City of Champaign, Champaign Park District, 2011):

The Champaign Trails Plan has responded to residents' expressed desire for more trails throughout Champaign during recent surveys. The document provides a vision for a well-connected trail system in Champaign with recommendations for locations, design standards, and funding. This plan was a joint effort between the City of Champaign and the Champaign Park District.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This plan identifies opportunities for regional trail connectivity between Champaign and Urbana. Relevant trail links outlined in the plan include the Boneyard Greenway, Wabash Rail Trail, and Olympian Drive Multi-Use Trail. These recommendations include extending trails from Champaign to trail infrastructure and destinations within the Urbana Park District.

Champaign Park District Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan (Pros Consulting, 2008):

The Champaign Park District Comprehensive Park and Open Space Plan is a guiding document for the future development of parks and open space in the Champaign Park District. It includes a park and facility inventory, a financial analysis of facilities and programs, community collaboration opportunities, capital improvement plans, and future development plans.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

A top priority in the plan is the expanding the Champaign trail system by 2.6 miles each year for ten years for pedestrian and bicycle use. For this purpose, the plan recommends developing connections between existing trails (including linkages with Urbana specified within the Champaign Trails Plan) and greenway corridors to enhance accessibility, convenience and public health.

Champaign Park District Trails Master Plan (CCRPC, 2016):

The Champaign Park District has contracted with the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission to develop a trails master plan for its jurisdiction in 2015-16.



Connection to the Urbana Park District Trails Master Plan:

This upcoming planning process, combined with regional coordination efforts involved with the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan implementation process, will provide the Urbana Park District and Champaign Park District the opportunity to develop trails that connect between their jurisdictions, possibly creating a regional loop trail or extending the Kickapoo Rail Trail.