

## 8 PLAN PROCESS

The *Active Choices* Greenways & Trails Plan update was completed during a 24 month process extending from Fall 2011 to Fall 2013. During this time, CCRPC staff and member agencies held quarterly Technical Committee meetings, who acted as the plan's steering committee; annual Policy Committee meetings; updated and expanded the greenway, trail, and bikeway inventories; updated goals; formulated "SMART (specific, measurable, agreed, realistic, and time-bound)" objectives; created performance measures; created new maps; held several public involvement meetings; and identified and prioritized greenway, trail, and bikeway projects for the 20 year planning horizon.

### 8.1 Public Involvement

Without the community's involvement, a plan will often not realize its full implementation potential. When residents have a vested interest in a project or idea, realization of goals can come more quickly and with more benefits to the residents than if they had not been involved. Likewise, the exchange of knowledge and ideas between residents and local government agencies can greatly enhance the outcome of a plan and its products. For these reasons, Champaign County Regional Planning Commission staff sought residents' active participation during the planning process. Champaign County Regional Planning Commission staff used comment cards, information sharing, and public workshops to involve the public in its planning efforts.

#### 8.1.1 Comment Cards

Comment cards were available at all public meetings for residents to hand in during the meeting or mail in at their convenience. Champaign County Regional Planning Commission staff also received resident comments via email and phone. CCRPC staff integrated comments received in this format into recommendations where appropriate. These comments are listed in Appendices 1 and 5.

#### 8.1.2 Information Sharing

CCRPC staff and Greenways and Trails member agencies make every effort to provide information to the public upon request. All final Greenways and Trails related documents are available for review at CCRPC offices and on the CCRPC website, including previous versions of the Plan and maps. CCRPC staff and member agency staff welcome residents' comments and information; such information sharing can play a significant role in planning and implementing greenways and trails.

#### 8.1.3 Public Workshops

CCRPC staff held four public meetings during the planning process. Advertisements were placed in the *Champaign-Urbana News-Gazette*, *Mahomet Citizen*, *Champaign County Star*, and *St. Joseph Leader* newspapers. Fliers were posted around Champaign-Urbana at popular locations for bicyclists, pedestrians, and all residents; on the CCRPC and member agency websites, social media pages, and government TV channels; and on bicycle, health, and neighborhood listservs.

CCRPC staff held the first series of workshops on November 15, 2012 at the Illinois Terminal in Champaign-Urbana; November 27, 2012 at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet; and November 29, 2012 with the St. Joseph Comprehensive Plan workshop. CCRPC staff asked participants to map where they would like to see bicycle, pedestrian, and greenway facilities. They also asked participants to comment on existing conditions. Approximately 50 residents attended those workshops. Full results are listed in Appendix 1.

The second workshop, held on April 23, 2013, was an open house at the Illinois Terminal in Champaign-Urbana. Participants were asked to rank their top three preferred trail and bikeway segments in different geographic areas across Champaign County (Champaign, Urbana, Savoy, Mahomet, and all other parts of Champaign County). Participants were also able to comment on proposed environmental conditions. 26 residents attended this event, and another 11 submitted comment cards to CCRPC in the following weeks. Full results are listed in Appendix 5.



Residents mark desired paths at the November 2012 Illinois Terminal workshop



Residents review and vote for preferred trails and bikeways at the April 2013 Illinois Terminal workshop

### 8.1.4 Project Prioritization

CCRPC staff and the Greenways and Trails Technical Committee continued to use the project prioritization checklist created for the 2004 Greenways & Trails Plan to prioritize all of Champaign County's recommended trail and bikeway projects and help determine how well proposed projects comply with this plan's goals and objectives. These project prioritization factors were developed based on input from the public and best planning practices. Section 14.1.2 contains more information on project prioritization and Section 14.1.3 contains a list of prioritized projects.