



**CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**

***ENGINEERING***

**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Mayor Prussing and Members of the City Council

**FROM:** William R. Gray, Public Works Director  
Jennifer J. Selby, Civil Engineer

**DATE:** February 19, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines

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Introduction

The Champaign County Greenways and Trails (G&T) Plan, adopted in February 2004, is an effort coordinated by local agencies to develop the county greenways and trails system. The plan identifies goals and objectives developed by the Greenways and Trails Steering Committee that will help to evolve the existing system over the next 20 years.

The creation of countywide trails design guidelines is a first step in the implementation of the Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan. The Design Guidelines were created to facilitate the development of all non-motorized paths throughout Champaign County, including sidewalks, bike lanes, shared use trails, and nature trails. Once implemented, these design guidelines will help create a recognizable and consistent system of greenways and trails of which Champaign County can be proud.

These guidelines were developed utilizing a collection of resources to ensure that the end product meets the needs of municipalities, special use districts, grant-funding agencies, and trail users, while maintaining accessibility requirements. In compiling these guidelines, best practices already in use in counties across the nation were combined with guidelines tailored to the specific needs of Champaign County.

Design Guidelines Process

CUUATS staff interviewed all G&T participating agencies, including several City or Urbana staff members. They asked questions regarding what staff wanted addressed in the design guidelines, what format was preferred, and what practices the City currently followed.

After compiling the information from the interviews, the format of the design guidelines was determined. The guidelines are kept flexible for different settings and circumstances. The document is short, user-friendly, and easy to understand with more pictures and diagrams and less text.

All design guidelines for Champaign County follow what is recommended by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for grant funding purposes, as well as accessibility.

### Summary of Design Guidelines

The document is organized by trail type: sidewalks, bike lanes, shared-use trails, and nature trails. Sections on connections and crossings, facilities at trailheads and rest areas are also included. Each section begins with a description of the feature's use, followed by a cross-section with dimensions and engineering specifications.

The guidelines can be found at:

[http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/greenways/pdf/Final\\_GT\\_Design\\_Guidelines.pdf](http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/greenways/pdf/Final_GT_Design_Guidelines.pdf)

At their November 18, 2008 meeting, the City of Urbana Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Commission voted to recommend the City Council adopt/approve/accept the G&T Design Guidelines.

### Council Action

It is recommended to the City Council approve a resolution accepting the 2008 Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines.

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2008 CHAMPAIGN COUNTY GREENWAYS & TRAILS  
DESIGN GUIDELINES

WHEREAS the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan" was approved by the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Board in February of 2004; and

WHEREAS the members of the City Council passed Resolution No. 2004-05-013R on May 17, 2004 supporting the "Champaign County Greenways and Trails Plan"; and

WHEREAS, the creation of countywide trails design guidelines is a first step in the implementation of the "Champaign County Greenways & Trails Plan"

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF URBANA, ILLINOIS that the "Champaign County Greenways & Trails Design Guidelines", dated April 2008, as attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, are hereby accepted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution, duly adopted, shall be sent to the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2009.

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSTAINS:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phyllis D. Clark, City Clerk

APPROVED by the Mayor this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2009.

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Laurel Lunt Prussing, Mayor