Discover the fun and beauty of greenways and natural areas in Boone & Winnebago Counties

A Greenway network protects natural, cultural, and scenic resources, provides recreational opportunities, enhances the natural beauty and the quality of life in neighborhoods and communities, and stimulates economic development opportunities.

This plan is distributed to local officials to better understand the impact of this network. These greenways have the potential to increase real estate values and to establish a marketing tool for the area. Expanding greenways and parks would also allow for work with landowners to preserve unique natural areas and open spaces.

In addition to the natural and cultural assets, the regional greenways are designed to be more than just another river trail. They are a way to make it easier for people to get to the outdoors and connect with nature.

Benefits of greenways:
- Provides recreational opportunities
- Increases property values
- Provides wildlife habitat
- Increases economic development
- Provides flood protection
- Meets community needs

Wetland and Stream Sensitive Areas

Wetland and stream sensitive areas are sufficiently undisturbed to demonstrate what nature can do for us. These areas are important for the health of the environment and the community.

Conservation efforts through their own private organizations have played a key role in the development and preservation of these areas. Boone County Conservation District, the Rockford Park District, the Belvidere Park District, and the Belvidere Park District are involved in conservation efforts through their own private organizations.

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