

## Become a GIT Trail Blazer!

13. Village of Pecatonica *Pecatonica Prairie Path*
14. Rock Cut State Park *Willow Creek Trail*
15. Village of Richmond *Prairie Trail*
16. City of Elgin *Fox River Trail*
17. City of Wheaton *Illinois Prairie Path*

### Trail Blazer/GIT Optional Route

16a. Moraine Hills State Park

*GIT River Road Trail/West Loop Trail*

17a. Village of Glencoe

*Green Bay Trail or North Branch Trail*



A break in the rain long enough for a smile and group photo on the Hennepin Canal.



The Grand Illinois Trail  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
One Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, IL 62702-1271



Three Trail Blazers take a break under a Grand Illinois Trail marker.

I'm ready to go,  
how do I sign up?

Just fill out the form below and send it in, or email us and let us know you are starting your journey. Then start planning your trip(s)! It's that easy to get on the list of travelers setting out for this historic journey. Keep in touch with current trail information and alternative route information by visiting the Grand Illinois Trail web site at <http://dnr.state.il.us> and be sure to visit those valuable links to other area web sites for GIT information.

Once you have completed your journey and logged your stops at the checkpoints, submit your journal and/or pictures to the address listed in this brochure and await your certification as an official GIT Trail Blazer. Then your name will be listed in the Green Scene and each year new Trail Blazers will be announced on National Trails Day.

The Grand Illinois Trail Executive Council is very interested in the experiences and feedback of Trail Blazers. Your insights help the council better develop, maintain, promote and provide user information for the trail.

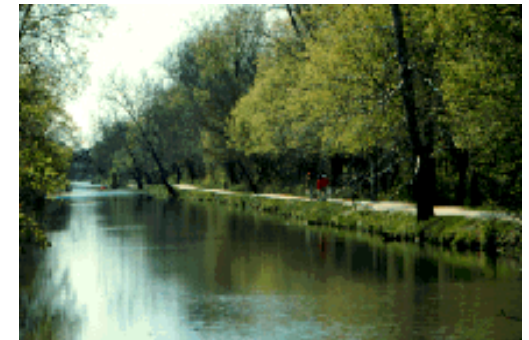
***A new GIT User Guide is available and will be sent upon receipt of entry form.***

Good luck and safe travels!

<b>GIT Trail Blazer Entry Form</b>
Name
Address
City, State, Zip
Email
Date you plan to begin your journey
Submit this form to: Illinois Department of Natural Resources One Natural Resources Way Springfield, IL 62702-1271 Attn: GIT Trail Blazer

GRAND ILLINOIS TRAIL

**ARE YOU READY TO BE  
A TRAIL BLAZER ?**



"...a wonderful experience and I would recommend to anyone who would truly like to see the many faces of our great state."

Trail Blazer charter member, Ted Sward



<http://www.dnr.state.il.us>

# TAKE THE CHALLENGE

## The Trail Blazer Program

Blaze the 475-mile Grand Illinois Trail as part of a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources called the Trail Blazer program.

The program officially began at the June 3, 2000, Grand Illinois Trail Celebration, an event highlighting National Trails Day and advances in developing the Grand Illinois Trail.

The Trail Blazer program required participants to complete, in one year from June 3, 2000 to June 2, 2001, the Grand Illinois Trail and visit all seventeen designated check points. Participants could do the trail in either a single, continuous trip or in several separate trips. Now each National Trails Day will mark a Trail Blazer celebration.

Those who complete the trail in one year and submit their journals will be recognized as GIT Trail Blazers.



Trail Blazer Freda Brown points to a GIT sign at the checkpoint in Moline.

## What do Trail Blazers do?

As a Trail Blazer you will keep a diary, or journal during your trip. Please indicate the date you reach the check points and the name of each check point.

Jotting down interesting experiences, or taking photographs is always encouraged, but not required.

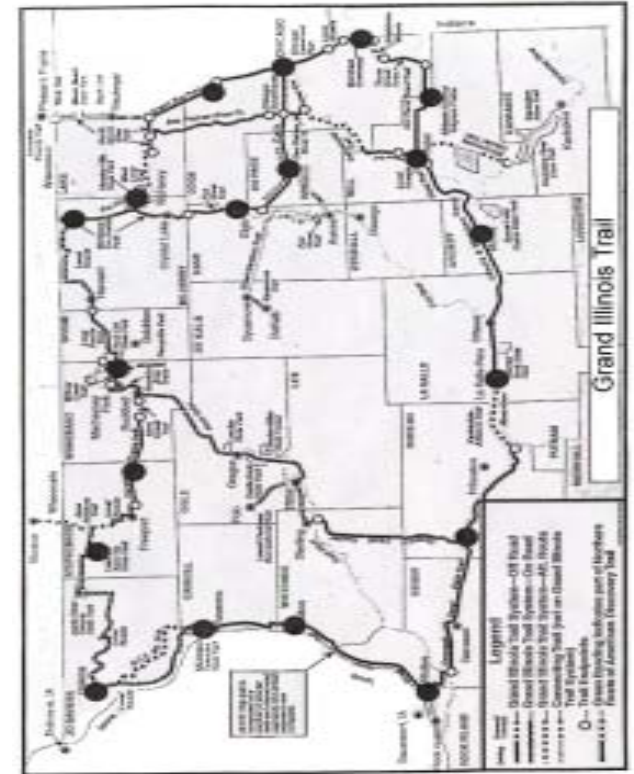
Send a copy of your completed journal, along with anything else you feel appropriate to the address in this brochure.

## What will I get if I become a Trail Blazer?

Participants certified as completing the Grand Illinois Trail in one calendar year will be inducted into the Grand Illinois Trail, Trail Blazer Hall of Fame.

Lucky participants will also receive a Trail Blazer T-shirt and certificate as our way of saying thanks and congratulations.

Perhaps most important, participants will be more appreciative of the diverse landscapes of northern Illinois.



### Trail Blazer Check Points

1. Navy Pier *Chicago Lakefront Trail*
2. William Powers State Natural Area *Burnham Greenway*
3. Village of Matteson: Depot *Old Plank Road Trail*
4. City of Joliet/Variou *GIT local street routes*
5. Gephardt Woods Visitor Center *I & M Canal State Trail*
6. Lock 14 Day Use Area *I & M Canal State Trail*
7. Hennepin Canal Visitor Center (Hennepin Canal State Trail)
8. East Moline/Hampton Park *Great River Trail*
9. City of Fulton Windmill *Great River Trail*
10. Mississippi Palisades State Park *GIT local road route*
11. City of Galena Old Market Square *GIT local road route*
12. Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Park *GIT local road route*