

# RIVER talk

SPRING 2005

## UDPREP Welcomes Lt. Governor To Annual Meeting

UDPREP is pleased to announce that our 2005 Annual Meeting, scheduled for Monday, May 23, will feature guest speaker Illinois Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn. A vocal supporter of watershed restoration efforts across the state, Lt. Governor Quinn will share his perspective on current conservation initiatives (see sidebar). The Annual Meeting agenda also includes updates on several local restoration projects, a presentation of the UDPREP draft strategic plan (see related story), and the annual election of Executive Committee officers.

The 2005 meeting will take place at Independence Grove Forest Preserve located on Buckley Rd. (Route 137) just east of Milwaukee Ave. (Route 21) in Libertyville. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. with an informal mixer with light refreshments. The meeting will run from 7 – 9 p.m. This free event is open to the public, but an RSVP is required at 847-328-3457 or [alison.cook@upperdesplainesriver.org](mailto:alison.cook@upperdesplainesriver.org).

The annual meeting is co-sponsored by the Lake County Forest Preserves.

Lake County Forest Preserves  
[www.LCFPD.org](http://www.LCFPD.org)



**The eagle has landed! An unusual sight in the watershed, this bald eagle was photographed feeding at Lake Leopold this winter. Photo courtesy of the Liberty Prairie Conservancy.**

## Draft Plan Released for Public Comment

After months of lively deliberations and numerous revisions, the Planning Committee released UDPREP's draft 5-Year Organizational Strategic Plan in April. Watershed stakeholders are invited to review and comment on the draft by Monday, May 23, 2005. When finalized, the Plan will guide UDPREP's annual planning efforts, help us measure success, and provide us with direction and focus. A copy of the plan and a comment form are available at [www.upperdesplainesriver.org](http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org). Comments can also be emailed directly to [alison.cook@upperdesplainesriver.org](mailto:alison.cook@upperdesplainesriver.org).

## WEB SITE LAUNCHED

UDPREP is pleased to announce that we have officially launched our brand new web site: [www.upperdesplainesriver.org](http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org). Visit the site to learn more about the watershed, key issues, and UDPREP's plan to build a strong network of stakeholders who will work together to address the watershed's challenges. The site also offers a

variety of interesting maps, a photo gallery, and links to helpful resources at the local, state, and national levels.

And this is just the beginning. Over time, UDPREP plans to add more resources, data, and special features—building the site into a valuable clearinghouse of news and information on the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed.

## About Lt. Governor Pat Quinn

Lieutenant Governor Quinn serves as chair of the Illinois River Coordinating Council (the Upper Des Plaines River is a tributary of the Illinois River) and has spearheaded initiatives to promote residential rain gardens as a win-win strategy for managing stormwater and reducing flood events.



Quinn recently launched the Illinois Conservation Initiative which proposes to restore vital funding for recently cut IDNR programs and save Illinois taxpayers over \$25 million dollars by eliminating an obsolete landfill gas subsidy. Of particular interest to UDPREP members is the Lt. Gov.'s plan to allocate \$10 million to the Conservation 2000 Program (C2000) through the Conservation Initiative. Conservation 2000 has been a crucial source of grants and technical support for watershed restoration in our region and across the state. Since its inception, C2000 has approved 21 grants totaling \$887,000 for projects designed to improve the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed. These grant funds have generated an astonishing \$1,218,000 in additional matching funds.

To learn more about the Conservation Initiative and the Lieutenant Governor's ongoing work to protect Illinois' natural resources, visit his web site at: [Conservation2005.il.gov](http://Conservation2005.il.gov).

## UDPREP CREATES EMAIL NEWS GROUP

In February, UDPREP launched a free news service for watershed stakeholders. News group subscribers receive periodic emails about watershed news, upcoming events, important announcements, and more. To subscribe visit <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UDPREPnews/> and select "Join This Group!"

# Grants For Growth

UDPREP is pleased to announce that we recently received two grants in support of our efforts to build and strengthen the organization.

The Lake County Watershed Management Board, in conjunction with the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, awarded UDPREP a \$7,000 support grant in March. The funds will be used to upgrade and maintain the Lake County portion of our master database and to develop a variety of outreach materi-

als. Special thanks to Ward Miller and Tony Wolff of SMC, and Lake County Board Member Anne Maine, for their assistance and support.

The IL Department of Natural Resources Conservation 2000 Program granted UDPREP \$3,000 in support of our strategic planning project. The funds will help cover the costs of producing and distributing the plan. Special thanks to Nancy Williamson and Paula Martel of C2000 for their help and guidance.

## BY-LAW VOTE RESULTS

This February UDPREP members voted overwhelmingly in favor of four proposed By-Law amendments. With over 60% of dues-paying members casting their ballots, members agreed to change the UDPREP By-Laws to include a new conflict of interest policy, a new dissolution clause, a member dues revision, and a more clearly defined statement of charitable purpose.

All four proposed amendments were recommended by the UDPREP Executive Committee who, from time to time, review the By-Laws to ensure they are up-to-date, in compliance with all applicable laws, and fully serve the needs of our organization.

# THANK YOU!

UDPREP is grateful to the following in-kind contributors for their recent support.

Nathan Aaberg, Liberty Prairie Conservancy  
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 Lori Artiomow, Kenosha/Racine Land Trust  
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 Nan Buckardt, Lake Co. Forest Preserves  
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 Hall Healy, Facilitated Solutions International  
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 Gary Mechanic, The Access Project

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 Sean Wiedel, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission  
 Nancy Williamson, IDNR, Conservation 2000  
 Tony Wolff, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission  
 Christine Urban, U.S. EPA

# WELCOME 2005 MEMBERS!

Thank you for your contribution!

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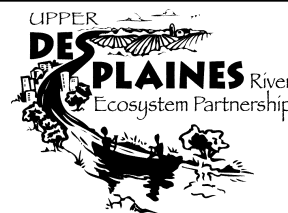
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UDPREP works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River watershed through stakeholder education, collaboration, and technical assistance.