

## THE GENERAL DACEY TRAIL

The *General Dacey Trail Concept Plan* is a multi-partnered regional initiative centered around Lake Shelbyville in Shelby and Moultrie Counties. If fully implemented, the 170-mile trail system will provide significant recreation benefits to thousands of citizens for bicycling,



hiking, and other recreational trail uses and provide off-road connectivity between local communities, public recreation areas and other interesting and scenic attractions in the region. The trail network

is designed to be part of a regional and statewide trail network by affording opportunities to connect with other trails such as the Lincoln-Prairie Trail and the Lincoln-Heritage Trail. Realization of this plan promises increased tourism, economic development and improved quality of life for area citizens and visitors to the region.

## MANY PARTNERS

The City of Shelbyville is a sponsor of the General Dacey Trail plan in partnership with the City of Sullivan, Shelby and Moultrie Counties, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other public and private entities. Partnerships with organizations such as the Central Illinois Mountain Bicycling Association, Boy Scouts of America and 4-H Clubs will be an important focus for long-term maintenance of future trail development.

## SCENIC LAKE SHELBYVILLE

Lake Shelbyville is 11,000 acres of surface waters with 172 miles of shoreline and approximately 23,000 acres of surrounding public lands



that are dedicated as state parks, Federal public recreation areas, fish and wildlife management areas. Operational since 1972, Lake Shelbyville was constructed on the Kaskaskia River to provide flood damage reduction, water supply, recreation, fish and wildlife management and navigation benefits to the Kaskaskia River Watershed. Lake Shelbyville is the outdoor recreation hub of Central Illinois with over 2.8 million visitors a year. This significant tourist destination is the centerpiece of the General Dacey Trail network.

## GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

A greenway is a linear corridor of open space connecting natural areas, cultural and historic sites, parks, neighborhoods and communities. These corridors can be located along waterways, streets, railroads, utility easements, bluffs, ravines or any other linear feature connecting open space. In many cases greenways preserve existing resources and allow for natural filtration of streams and rivers.



They promote erosion control along stream banks, ravines or bluffs, and create protective buffers for woodlands and prairies. Greenways protect wildlife migration routes and allow for recreation

and multi-purpose trails. Economic development is associated with greenways through increased property values along a corridor; recreation related sales and rental enterprises, tourism and historic attractions, and quality of life amenities that can attract new business to the region.

## MAJOR GENERAL ROBERT J. DACEY

The Greenway trail's namesake, Major General Robert J. Dacey, was a significant leader in the development of Lake Shelbyville and the region. As a young officer in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Captain Dacey was a resident engineer overseeing the construction of the Lake Shelbyville Dam. As a Colonel, Dacey also served as the District Engineer for the St. Louis District Corps of Engineers overseeing the operation and maintenance of the lake until he was promoted to a Brigadier General and later retired as a Major General. He continues to maintain a strong interest and connection to the Lake Shelbyville area.



## TRAIL GOAL

The goal of the comprehensive General Dacey Trail Plan is to promote environmental, recreational, aesthetic and economic enhancements in the region. This will be accomplished by establishing strong partnerships and intergovernmental cooperation between municipalities, counties, developers and other public and

private interests to pursue funding, development, operations and maintenance of a collaborative trail and greenway network.

## IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The General Dacey Trail Committee has adopted the following set of guidelines for the implementation of the trail network.

*Sponsored Segments:* Those segments that have an identified sponsor and established user base will be given first consideration.



Examples are the "loop" segment in the City of Shelbyville and the rehabilitation of the Dam West snowmobile trail. Since these segments do not require the purchase of any additional right-of-way and will primarily utilize existing public lands, they represent segments that have established a support base and the necessary

sponsorship to construct and implement.

*Community Benefits:* Those segments that benefit and connect regional communities will be given high consideration. Connections that use easements, such as along regional utility corridors and road rights-of-way would be utilized wherever possible.

*Improving Existing Trails:* Any segment that improves an existing trail should be considered. Examples are the realignment of the Illini Multi-purpose Trail and the expansion of the Camp Camfield Mountain Bike Trail Network.

*Connects Multiple Public Facilities:* Trail segments connecting multiple public recreation facilities and areas (State and Federal parks, Visitor Centers, Watchable Wildlife areas, historic sites, etc.) will be pursued.

*Reasonable Length:* The trail should be phased into logical segments that link destination points and provide a quality recreational experience within funding availability.

The General Dacey Trail plan identifies concepts and strategies to move the plan from paper to constructed reality. Support of a regional trail system through the efforts of grassroots partnerships between local, State and Federal units of Government, and other public and private interests will foster long-term sustainable benefits for the Lake Shelbyville region.



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