



# Des Plaines River Trail Touhy Avenue to Illinois Prairie Path



## Frequently Asked Questions

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This document provides responses to the frequently asked questions pertaining to the proposed extension of the Des Plaines River Trail (DPRT) from North Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path within the Village of River Forest. These summary questions combine various questions received at the Community Meeting held October 1, 2024 and e-mailed comments received within the two week comment period.

## Community Meeting Executive Summary

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A Community Meeting for the Des Plaines River Trail (DPRT) Phase I Study was held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024, between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. in an open house format at the River Forest Village Hall, 400 Park Ave, River Forest, IL 60305. The purpose of the meeting was to present the proposed improvement plans and provide an opportunity for public comment regarding the potential for an on-street extension along Thatcher Avenue within the Village of River Forest limits. This is part of a larger Phase I Engineering Study for the DPRT that extends from Touhy Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path.

The Village of Rosemont is the lead agency for the Phase I Engineering and Environmental Study and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County is a non-participating co-sponsor. The proposed trail extension is largely within the Village of River Forest. The Phase I Study will address trail reliability, safety and access issues along the DPRT, as well as a potential on-street extension on Thatcher Avenue from North Avenue to the Illinois Prairie Path.

A variety of project information was displayed at the Public Meeting. This included a project brochure and exhibit boards that provided information regarding the project overview, alternatives considered, and proposed improvements. Attendees were provided an opportunity to speak with representatives from the Village of River Forest and CBBEL staff. All materials presented at the Community Meeting were posted to the Village's project website following the meeting. <https://www.vrf.us/departments/department/4/service/3/Des-Plaines-River-Trail-River-Forest-Segment.html>

There were 42 people that signed in that attended the meeting. A total of 27 comment forms were received at the Community Meeting and 24 comments were received via e-mail before the close of the 2-week comment period. The comment period for the project closed October 15, 2024.

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# Des Plaines River Trail

## Touhy Avenue to Illinois Prairie Path



### 1. Why is the proposed extension on-street instead of within the Forest Preserve?

Impacts to sensitive resources within the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) property were considered in developing the range of alternatives between North Avenue and the Illinois Prairie Path. Based on coordination with the Forest Preserve District, there was no feasible alternative within FPDCC property. This portion of FPDCC has some of the Forest Preserve's highest quality resources and any trail within the property would have too many impacts.

### 2. Are we eliminating parking along Thatcher Avenue?

Parking is not being eliminated along Thatcher Avenue. Two alternatives for providing bike accommodations were considered between Chicago Avenue and Lake Street. Based on public comments, the majority of respondents preferred to maintain parking along the west side of Thatcher Avenue. Therefore the preferred alternative includes/maintains parking along the west side of Thatcher Avenue.

South of Hawthorne, there are no impacts to existing parking along Thatcher Avenue. The proposed DPRT extension is off-street as a side path along the west side of Thatcher Avenue.

### 3. Can we add stop signs along Thatcher Avenue at Augusta, Division and/or Hawthorne?

Thatcher Avenue is an IDOT jurisdiction roadway from North Avenue to Chicago Avenue. As such, an all-way stop warrant analysis will need to be completed at these intersections. If the intersection(s) meet warrants for a stop sign, those recommendations will need to be reviewed/approved by IDOT in order to be installed.

### 4. How will public input be taken into consideration?

Stakeholder involvement is critical to project success and will continue to be considered throughout the project development process. Refinements to the proposed improvements based on feedback gathered at the October 2024 Community meeting will be considered and coordinated with the Village. Another public meeting will be held as the project progressed into Phase II Engineering. This is likely to occur in Late 2025 / Early 2026.