

**Application form:
Community Planning Program and
Local Technical Assistance Program**

DEADLINE: Noon on Thursday, June 26, 2014

This application form is online at www.rtachicago.com/applications. You may submit the form by email to applications@rtachicago.com.
Upon receipt of application, you will receive an e-mail verifying that your application has been received.

1. Name of Applicant:

Forest Preserve District of Will County

2. Main Contact for Application (please include name, phone number and email):

Karen Fonte, Chief Landscape Architect, 815 722-5943, kfonte@fpdwc.org

3. Type of Applicant (please check any that apply):

Local government

Multijurisdictional group* \longrightarrow Please list the members of the group (including government and nongovernmental organizations):

Nongovernmental organization* \longrightarrow Name of local government partner(s):

*Applications submitted by multijurisdictional groups and nongovernmental organizations must include a letter indicating support from each relevant local government. See the FAQs for more information. Nongovernmental applicants are strongly encouraged to contact CMAP or the RTA prior to submitting their application to discuss their project and the demonstration of local support.

4. Project Type (please check any that apply):

Please check all statements below that describe characteristics of your project. (This will help us determine whether your project is best handled by CMAP or RTA.)

- My project involves preparation of a plan.
- My project helps to implement a past plan.
- My project links land use, transportation, and housing.
- My project has direct relevance to public transit and supports the use of the existing transit system.
- My project is not directly related to transportation or land use, but implements GO TO 2040 in other ways.

5. Project Location:

Please provide a brief description of the location of your project. You may include a map if that helps to describe location, but this is not required. If your project helps to implement a past plan, please include a link to that plan.

This planning project will cover all of Will County with an emphasis on non- motorized transportation in unincorporated areas and areas not covered by current municipal bikeway plans.

6. Project Description:

Please tell us what you would like to do in your community, and what assistance is needed. If you have more than one idea, please submit a separate application for each project. Please be specific, but also brief (less than two pages per project idea)—we simply want to have a basic understanding of what you want to do. CMAP and RTA staff will follow-up with you if we need any additional information to fully understand your proposed project.

(Please include any additional information that is relevant, preferably by providing links to online documents.)

WILL COUNTY BIKEWAY PLAN

The Forest Preserve District of Will County (District) is requesting assistance in the preparation of a Will County Bikeway Plan (Plan). This Plan will complement the Will County 2040 Transportation Plan being initiated this year and will support two goals of GO TO 2040 Comprehensive Regional Plan. This would be the first formally-adopted Bikeway Plan for Will County.

GO TO 2040 - Expand and Improve Parks and Open Space

As trails will be one component of the Plan, the expansion of trails in the county will help expand green ways and green connections. The Plan will strive to connect communities to open space with trails where feasible.

GO TO 2040 - Invest Strategically in Transportation

The Plan will recognize that a bicycle ride from a home to a recreational area is transportation.

As bikeways offer a non-motorized form of transportation, they offer an additional healthy and environmentally sustainable option in a multi-model approach to transportation. A priority of the Plan will be to connect bikeways to public transit, commercial areas, and open space.

Process

The District envisions a process that will inventory existing trails, proposed trails, bikeways, roadways, commuter stops, and utility corridors and then determine how to connect communities and open space and encourage the use of non-motorized transportation. The District has a substantial inventory of trails in GIS and will look at options to fill gaps between communities, connecting communities to forest preserves, public transit and commercial areas. The Plan will recommend standards for the most appropriate type of bicycle accommodation i.e. trail, side path, wider lane, paved shoulder, or signage.

Coordination and Collaboration

As Will County is initiating the 2040 Transportation Plan, the District will work in tandem to coordinate the two plans. We hope to seek public input together, avoiding overlap of activities and any potential contradictions. We hope the Plan will help improve communications during early planning of road improvements; recognizing a cost savings when bicycle accommodations are included with road upgrades or utility projects. The Plan will require collaboration with communities, municipal government and park districts throughout the county to integrate their plans as well as linking to bikeways across the county borders. It may also require coordination with IDOT, the Illinois Tollway and the transit agencies.

Implementation

The Plan will include realistic short term and long term recommendations which can be updated regularly and provide priorities for funding. Policies and design guidelines will be recommended as well as requirements for developers to include or contribute to bicycle accommodations. The Plan will assist in obtaining grants and voter support for future funding to implement portions of the plan.

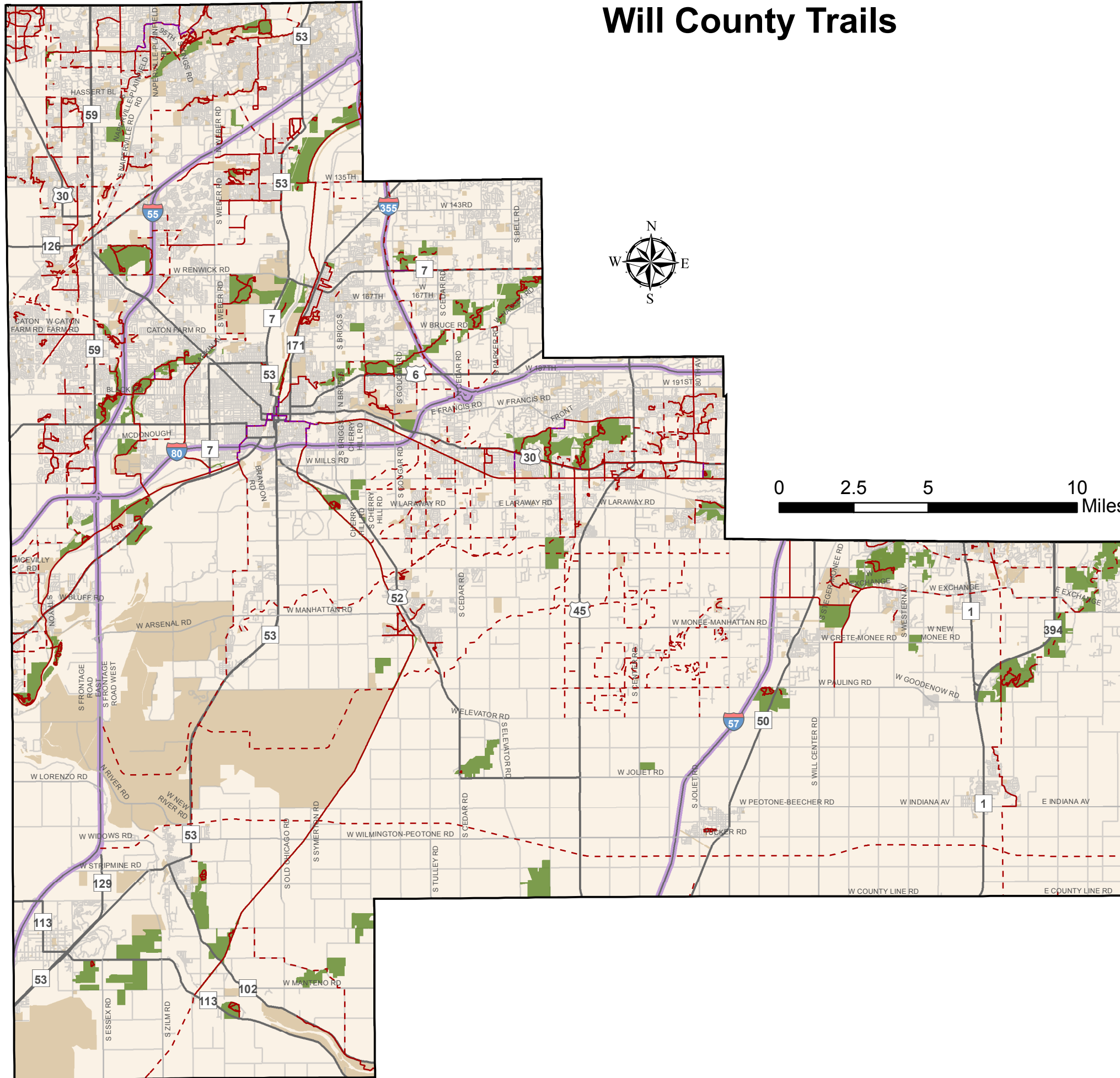
Benefits

The Plan will promote the benefits of bicycle use beyond transportation i.e. for health and fitness, stress management, treating and preventing obesity, improving air quality with reduced auto trips, transportation for those without cars i.e. children, the elderly, the poor, and disabled; and improving the overall quality of life.

Will County is the only county without a Bikeway Plan in the CMAP planning area. As population and development increase, a Will County Bikeway Plan will be a vital guide for the future of Will County.

On July 10, 2014, the Forest Preserve District of Will County Board of Commissioners will vote on a resolution to support this application. The resolution will be submitted immediately thereafter.

Will County Trails



Map Key

-  Road Routes
-  Existing Trails
-  Proposed Trails
-  Street
-  Forest Preserves
-  Street
-  Public Lands