



## News Release

### For Immediate Release

**Date:** Friday, June 18, 2021

**Contact:** Gabrielle Torina, Communications Specialist

**Email:** [GTorina@r1planning.org](mailto:GTorina@r1planning.org) | **Office:** 815-319-4457

## Winnebago County and Loves Park Awarded \$2.6M ITEP Awards

**ROCKFORD, IL** — Region 1 Planning Council would like to congratulate Winnebago County and City of Loves Park on their recent **ITEP** awards. The Illinois Department of Transportation has awarded \$2,660,600 to Winnebago County and the City of Loves Park through the Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (**ITEP**). **ITEP** utilizes federal and state funds to improve alternate transportation systems and enhance the quality of life throughout the state of Illinois.

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY** – Awarded \$660,600, Winnebago County will use the funds to extend an existing multi-use path along Perryville Road from Anjali Way to Willowbrook Lane. The existing path begins at the intersection of Perryville Road and Argus Drive in southeast Rockford, and currently terminates at Hart Road, approximately 6.6 miles long. The extension would continue the multi-use path another 1.24 miles to the north, connecting the Village of Machesney Park, the City of Loves Park, and the southeast portion of Rockford.

**CITY OF LOVES PARK** – Awarded \$2,000,000, Loves Park will extend the IL 251 Streetscape. This project will provide financial support for engineering and construction of a shared use bike path and sidewalk improvements along IL 251 from River Lane to Windsor Road to provide a safe, direct, and accessible route for pedestrians and bicyclists along a major, high-speed four-lane arterial roadway. Along with pedestrian amenities, other upgrades along the corridor will be upgrades traffic signals at several intersections, street lighting, and landscaping.

The **ITEP**, Award Cycle 14 2020, received 270 project applications and Winnebago County and Loves Park represent two of the total 99 projects awarded funding. These projects ensure the region is a more bike-and pedestrian-friendly place, where users of all ages and abilities can use these facilities recreationally. They also present a viable alternative to motorized vehicles for day-to-day transportation needs. These projects align with the goals of the Regional Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan and the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan for the Rockford Region developed by the Region 1 Planning Council in coordination with its partner agencies.

See the full list of **ITEP** awarded projects [here](#).

Read the **ITEP** announcement [here](#).

**ABOUT R1** - Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) is a **special-purpose, regional government agency**. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. The [regional planning model](#) provides an efficient means to promoting a well-informed, comprehensive dialogue that holistically addresses regional issues by fulfilling the needs of government entities for long-range planning, securing funding, and analyzing and providing data in support of regional projects and initiatives.

For more information, visit [www.r1planning.org](http://www.r1planning.org).

# # #