* Landowners
* Businesses
* Non-profits
* Agencies
* Governments

* 1996
* Membership/Noon Networks
* Last EP Standing!

* foxriverecosystem.org
2016 Fox River Summit – March 18, 2016
Burlington, Wisconsin

2013 Fox River Summit
Established to:

* **Encourage stewardship** of America’s rivers, shorelines, and waterways
* **Increase access** to outdoor recreation on shorelines and waterways
Water trails:

* Recreational routes on waterways consisting of a network of public access points
* Supported by broad-based community partnerships
* Provide both conservation and
* Recreational opportunities.
* connect Americans to the nation’s waterways
* strengthen the conservation and restoration by
  1. Establishing a distinct national network of exemplary water trails
  2. Becoming a catalyst for protecting and restoring the health of local waterways and surrounding lands
  3. Building a community that mentors and promotes the development of water trails and shares best management practices.
Designated by the **Secretary of the Interior** or the **Secretary of Agriculture**

Managed by a **local management entity** (local, state, or federal government agency; nonprofit organization; interagency organization)

**Property ownership remains.**

**Not acquired by the National Park Service!**
Benefits

* Designation by the Secretary of the Interior
* National promotion and visibility
* Mutual support and knowledge sharing
* Opportunities to obtain technical assistance and sources of funding
* Positive economic impact from increased tourism
* Stewardship and sustainability projects
* Increased protection for outdoor recreation and water resources
* Improved public health and quality of life
* Access to networking and training opportunities
* Recognition and special events
Criteria

* The trail (and its access points) must be open to public use and be designed, constructed, and maintained according to best management practices, in keeping with the anticipated use.
* The trail is in compliance with applicable land use plans and environmental laws.
* The trail will be open for public use for at least 10 consecutive years after designation.
* The trail designation must be supported by the landowner(s), (public or private), on which access points exist.
Best Management Practices

* Recreation
* Education
* Conservation
* Public Information
* Community Support
* Trail Maintenance
* Planning
Applying for National Water Trail Designation

* Submit formal application (www.nps.gov/watertrails)
* Describe how you meet criteria and will implement the best management practices
* Applications accepted on a continual basis
* Reviewed by water trail subject matter experts and collaborative interagency group
* Recommended nominations forwarded to Secretary of Interior for review and designation
* Announcement of New Designation
Fox River in Kane County

Already in Place!

* Kane County 2040 Plan/Municipal Plans
* KC Green Infrastructure Plan
* Forest Preserve
* Dundee Township Open Space
* Park Districts
* Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan
* Etc…
Feasibility

* Angie Tornes, NPS – Aug. 2014
* 3rd Annual Fox River Summit
* Fox River in Kane County vs full length of Fox River?
  * Wisconsin
  * Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle & McHenry Counties
Outreach

* FREP members
* Wisconsin interested?
* Other Illinois counties?
* Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Local Technical Assistance Grant?
* Other contacts?...
Next Step

* Apply for NPS technical assistance
  * Assessing and engaging partners and stakeholders
  * Inventory and mapping of community resources
  * Priority setting and consensus building
  * Identifying funding sources
  * Organizational development
  * Designing community outreach and participation strategies
  * Planning (trail, park, open space, greenway, water trail, etc.)

Applications due August 1st
Application

1. Project description
   * vision & goals
   * accomplishments
   * Support through plans & endorsements
   * Community benefits
   * Geographic location
   * Demographic characteristics
Application

2. How does project advance one or more NPS objectives:
   * Builds partnerships to promote healthy lifestyles
   * Engages youth to promote conservation, stewardship & recreation
   * Develops/improves connections to natural resources in areas with limited resources
   * Develops/improves access to NPS sites
   * Advances protection/stewardship of large natural landscapes
   * Expands public access to water resources
Application

3. Describe applicant and partner roles
   * Describe your role and level of commitment
   * List key partners and summarize anticipated role/contribution
   * Include three support letters from partners other than applicant
4. Public support

* Describe current public support and future public outreach
Application

5. How the NPS can help

* What are the biggest challenges & overall needs
* What type of assistance are you seeking from the NPS
  * Defining project vision & goals
  * Identifying & analyzing issues & opportunities
  * Assessing & engaging partners & stakeholders
  * Inventory & mapping of community resources
  * Priority setting & consensus building
  * Identifying funding sources
  * Organizational development
  * Designing community outreach & participation strategies
  * Planning
  * Other
Application Package

1. Completed application
2. Site location map
3. At least letters of support
4. Supplementary info.
   * Background documents
   * Media coverage
   * maps
Questions/Discussion