Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

4th Annual FOX RIVER SUMMIT
March 18, 2016

Rebecca Ewald
Waterford, Wisconsin

Karen Ann Miller
Fox River Ecosystem Partnership, Illinois
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

FOX RIVER SUMMIT
Celebrating Success & Addressing Shared Challenges
Friday, March 21, 2014 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

National Water Trail System
Angie Tornes, National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
March 21, 2014
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Established to:
* Encourage stewardship
* Increase access
* Supported by broad-based community partnerships

Best Management Practices
* Recreation
* Education
* Conservation
* Public Information
* Community Support
* Trail Maintenance
* Planning
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

* 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!
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

FREP Noon Network
August, 2014

Glacial Park, McHenry County Conservation District
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Greg Farnham
Coordinator

3rd Annual
FOX RIVER SUMMIT
Celebrating Success
& Addressing Shared Challenges
Friday, March 20, 2015
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Rock River Water Trail Index

Wisconsin
Illinois

Northern Water Trail Section A and East Branch through Horicon Marsh to Horicon Section B
Northern Water Trail Section A
East Branch through Horicon Marsh to Horicon Section B
Horicon to Friendship Water Trail Section C
Water, Town to Jefferson Section D
Jefferson to Port Jefferson to Indiantown Section E
Indiantown to Janesville to Beloit Section F
Beloit to Rockford Section G
Rockford to Oregon Section H
Oregon to Dixon to Sterling - Rock Falls Section I
Sterling - Rock Falls to Prophetstown to Erie Section J
Erie to Calhoun to Grand Cities Section K

This map was compiled by WinGIS on 08/30/12. WinGIS makes no representation, either expressed or implied, as to the accuracy, completeness, or suitability of this map for any particular purpose.

World Data/Full Coverage System: Oblique Zone North American Datum of 1983

Legend:
A - Albertus
B - Batavia
C - DeKalb
D - doorway
E - Elgin
F - McHenry
G - Chicago
H - Round Lake
I - Waukegan
J - Lake County.

Scale: 1" = 50 Miles

Note: All information is subject to change.
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

FREP NPS National Water Trails Program Committee

* Algonquin
* Aurora
* Batavia
* Bird Conservation Network
* Fox Valley PD
* FREP
* Friends of the Fox River
* Girl Scouts
* IDNR
* Il Paddling
* KC Canoe Network
* KC Council of Mayors
* Kane DuPage Soil & Water Cons. Dist.
* Residents
* St. Chas. Canoeing Club
* St. Chas. Rowing Club
* Sierra Club
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

• 2007 First Impressions
• 2008 River Rhythms
• 2008 SEWFRSC Grant - Village Hall Stream Bank Stabilization
• 2008 Master Plan Amendment
• 2010 CLUE Group Report
• 2012 Begin Planning Efforts for River Redevelopment & Ten Club Park
• 2013 Whitford Park Stream Bank Stabilization
• 2014 Concept Plan for River Redevelopment & Ten Club Park
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Partnership for Canoe/Kayak Launches 2015
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Goal 2: Work to Enhance Destination Appeal

Objective A

Advocate for Destination-Enhancing Development

Tactic

Support efforts to develop the Fox River Trail into a member of the National Water Trail System
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

• Build a place people want to visit, and you’ll build a place where people want to live.

• Build a place where people want to live, and you’ll build a place where people want to work.

• Build a place where people want to work, and you’ll build a place where business has to be.

• Build a place where business has to be, and you’ll build a place where people have to visit.

IT ALL – AND IT ONLY – STARTS WITH THE VISIT, AND THAT VISIT STARTS WITH US.

Maura Gast- Irving CVB
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Partners!

National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

Apply for Community Assistance in Conservation and Outdoor Recreation

Who May Apply
Project applicants may be state and local agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations, or citizen groups. National Parks and other Federal agencies may apply in partnership with other local organizations.

How To Apply
- Consult with community partners to build a broad base of support for your project idea.
- Review the NPS application guidelines and application form.
- Please contact us as early as possible before the...
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Application!

Letters of Support

- FREP
- Village of Waterford
- City of Waukesha
- Racine County
- Racine County Economic Development Corp.
- Real Racine
- Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission
- Waukesha County
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Accepted!

United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Midwest Regional Office, Natural Resources Program
Fox River Watershed, Tomahawk, WI 54487

October 8, 2013
Mr. Rvier
Fox River Partnership
112 Post Office Avenue
Green Bay, WI 54301

Dear Mr. River,

Thank you for your renewed application for technical assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) River, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program for Fiscal Year 2013. Although we have not had an opportunity to visit in person, we are pleased to inform you that our application supporting assistance for the Wisconsin and Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative meets our program goals and application criteria. Consequently, we have permanently accepted your application and fully expect to award your assistance over the budget as it is approved.

The Wisconsin and Illinois Fox River Water Trail is a 273-mile, multi-faceted project encompassing 11 counties and a diverse range of local governments including municipalities, school districts, and businesses. The trail serves as a connector between existing and new communities, creating opportunities for outdoor recreation and economic development. By providing a network of trails and greenways, the project aims to enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

As a result of our assistance, your project will have access to NPS-recognized technical expertise and resources, including training, workshops, and technical assistance. Specifically, we are committed to providing support in the areas of trail design, construction, and maintenance. In addition, we will work closely with your team to ensure the successful implementation of your project goals.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your partners to ensure the continued success of the Wisconsin and Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]

[Letterhead]

A water trail, as an excellent vehicle for promoting Fox River resources and improving the quality of life for residents, visitors, and recreational users alike, is the foundation of the project. Your application demonstrates the importance of integrating such efforts into a cohesive and comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of the communities along the Fox River. Your project, supported by NPS assistance, will serve as a model for similar efforts in other communities and will continue to enhance the Fox River’s reputation as a valuable resource for all who live and visit the area.

NPS will provide technical assistance and support, including guidance on trail planning, design, and construction. This support will help ensure the successful implementation of your project and will contribute to the overall goal of creating a network of interconnected trails that will benefit residents and visitors alike.

We commend you and your partners for your commitment to preserving and enhancing the Fox River’s natural beauty and recreational resources. Your project will serve as a model for similar efforts in other communities and will continue to enhance the Fox River’s reputation as a valuable resource for all who live and visit the area.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We look forward to working with you and your partners to ensure the continued success of the Wisconsin and Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
[Name]
[Title]

[Letterhead]
Wisconsin-Illinois
Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Wingspread
Lost Valley
Waterford
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Vision

The Fox River Water Trail from Lisbon, Wisconsin, to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, IL provides suitable access to the public, to enjoy the quiet and active recreation, scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and historic and cultural features. Communities along the Fox River embrace stewardship and public engagement to provide a sense of place.
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Mission

The mission of the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Core Development Team is to develop and support a sustainable 223-mile water trail along the Fox River.
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

**Goals**

1. **Develop the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Action Plan** using the National Water Trail System’s best management practices and guidance.

   * Conduct an evaluation of access sites and locations for existing conditions and go a **gap analysis** to identify where new access sites may be needed.

   * Develop the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail map, website, and **signage** with information on access points; dams and other hazards; trip times; points of interest; historical, cultural, and natural features; and resources.

   * Complete and submit an application for **national designation** in the National Water Trail System.

   * Support the **enhancement and development** of access sites for all abilities as needed.
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

---

Goals

2. Develop and promote an education component that recognizes the geologic and human history of the river and communities along the river, the cultural features, natural resources, and wildlife that visitors will encounter.

3. Protect and advocate for the environment and water quality of the Fox River and a program of promoting the Fox River environment and features.

4. Design a public planning process to engage communities and other stakeholders to develop and sustain the water trail.

5. Identify a sustainable oversight partnership to guide water trail implementation, including programming, maintenance, and promotion.

---

Mike Hoag
March 15, 2016

Dear Fox River affiliate,

We would like to introduce our team and share information about a multi-faceted, exciting project in your area. We are the Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Core Development Team, a group working to develop a water trail on the 223-mile Fox River, from Wisconsin through Illinois. A water trail is a series of sustainable, marked access sites along a waterway, which connects communities and enhances awareness about the river.

A bi-state group met in July of 2015 to discuss submitting an application for a grant of technical assistance from the National Park Service’s Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; the technical assistance grant was received in October.

Since that time, we have held several meetings to develop vision and mission statements and establish goals (see below). The team will keep the vision and goals at the forefront of our planning as we combine our efforts with key stakeholders and communities along the river.

To further this vision, we will hold workshops with opportunities for interested parties to share their enthusiasm, skills and expertise to bring the vision of the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail to reality.

We welcome your participation and look forward to collaborating with you. In the meantime, please visit our web page: http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm and share this information with others.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ewald
Karen Ann Miller, AICP
Co-Chairs
rewald@waterfordwi.org
millerkaren@co.kane.il.us
630-232-3418

WI-IL Fox River Water Trail
Core Development Team

Jodie Auliff – Illinois Paddling Council
Brian Daly – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Rebecca Ewald – Village of Waterford Wisconsin, Administrator
Ken Cusson – Rock River Trail Initiative
Rick Kania – Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Tom Slawski – Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Fox River Partnership
Angie Tornes – National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

WI-IL FOX RIVER WATER TRAIL
Core Development Team
http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm
-------------

Mike Hoag
Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Please join us!