



Thursday, June 26, 2019

Greetings from FREP

Please visit our [Website](#) for additional information and updates on activities shared in this newsletter

## Our Next Activity

Wednesday, July 10, 2019    FREP Annual Social Activity - Paddle Trip on the Fox    2 PM - ?



Photo by Brook McDonald

### **FREP's annual social outing this year is a joint activity with Friends of the Fox River: A guided, interpretive canoe trip.**

An experienced canoe guide will lead the trip. Our route is from Cornish Park in Algonquin and float/paddle 3.5 miles down to the Fox River Shores Forest Preserve Boat Ramp near Carpentersville.

Cornish Park is located at the north end of La Fox River Drive on the west bank of the river in Algonquin just south of the Rt. 62 Bridge. We'll shuttle cars and canoe trailer to the "Take-Out" in Fox River Shores Forest Preserve and a car will bring the drivers back to Cornish Park, as needed.

#### **FEE for Canoe Rental & Safety Gear: \$20 per person**

If you have your own paddlecraft and gear, and wish to join us, be sure you bring your PFD.

**All participants need to register below, whether canoe rental needed or not.**

**Register Online by July 8th (date extended) at:** <http://foxriverecosystem.org/paddle.htm>

Pay with credit card via PayPal

[Paddling Trip Flyer to print and share](#)

## Upcoming FREP Noon Networks, Membership Meetings & Activities

August 14, 2019    FREP Noon Network    Noon to 1:30 PM

**Program:** Sterne's Woods and Fen Hydrologic Restoration

**Presenters:** Steve Byers, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission; Ann Viger, Crystal Lake Park District;

**Location:** Sterne's Woods and Fen, Crystal Lake, IL

The site is a designated Illinois Nature Preserve owned by the Crystal Lake Park District and managed by the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission. The restoration area is a calcareous groundwater-fed fen. Prior to the projects, the fen had developed a channel bisecting the critical habitat as a result of past development around the site and concentration of flow. The project consisted of installing elevated grade control structures in the channel, backfilling the channel to raise groundwater elevations, and restoring native fen hydrology.

Check our [Website News Page](#) for information about additional upcoming Noon Networks & Meeting Programs

**All FREP Membership Meetings & Programs, and FREP Noon Networks are free and open to the public.** Reservations are not required. Most Noon Networks accommodate us bringing our lunch to eat during the program.

Many of our past **Noon Network & Membership Meeting presentations** are available in pdf form [HERE](#)

FREP is happy to offer Professional Development Hour (PDH) certificates for our Noon Networks and Membership programs. There is a place on our sign-in sheet to request one, or, just ask!

## President's Message



Summer is upon us, albeit a little cool and wet to start, but now the heat is arriving. This means it is time for annual FREP summer outing that is more social in nature. This year we're trying for a paddle trip on the Fox River – something we haven't done for a few years. It is being led by Gary Mechanic of Friends of the Fox River and I'm sure will offer interesting history, folklore, and natural history of the Fox River. This trip does require advance sign-up – so please register on the FREP web page. See details in this [Downstream](#). If we have inclement weather or lack a critical mass for number of people (high vacation season) then we'll notify you in advance of the cancellation and refund the fees if you were renting equipment.

And as FREP begins its new fiscal year on July 1, I want to seek your input. We need to keep FREP relevant, and I want to be sure we're providing programs that meet our members and friends needs and interests. So please let me know of any ideas you have for FREP Noon Networks, meeting program topics, or other activities we should pursue. I want to make it so that FREP meetings and Noon Networks are something you want to attend and prioritize on your calendar – but to do so, we need your input on what topics are of that level of interest to you. Our attendance over the last year or two has varied from 5 to 80 people – indicating quite a difference in level of interest.

This will also be another little test to see who's actually reading this column. Call, text, or email. 815-451-8352  
[jmenqler@heyassoc.com](mailto:jmenqler@heyassoc.com)

**Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President**

## Watershed Partners/Links

Illinois: [Friends of the Fox River](#) [Fox River Study Group](#) [Fox Valley Sustainability Network](#)  
Wisconsin: [Southeast Fox River Partnership](#) [Southeastern Wisc Fox River Commission](#) [Illinois Fox River Group](#)

my part of the watershed

Send us a photo from your part of  
the Fox River Watershed  
and we'll feature it in a future

**Downstream**

## Monthly feature in the *Downstream*

**Help us share the beauty and activities in our  
Fox River Watershed**

**We want a photo from YOU!**

Email your jpg to Becky Hoag at [foxriverinfo@comcast.net](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)  
Please provide your name, photographer's name (if different),  
and the location & county, and in what season it was taken

my part of the watershed



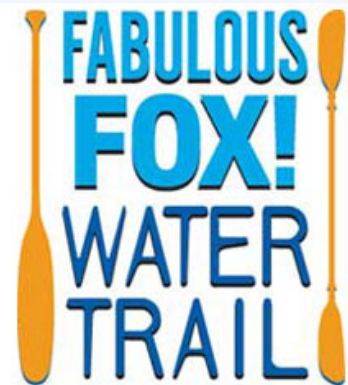
St. Charles, Fox River looking south

Mike Hoag

#### WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Initiative



*Wisconsin  
and Illinois  
partners  
working with  
the National Park  
Service  
to create the:*



FREP has joined with the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership and the Village of Waterford, Wisconsin, to pursue the designation of all or portions of the Fox River in Wisconsin and Illinois as a National Water Trail through the National Park Services' National Water Trail System. Technical assistance from the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program has been awarded and planning is now proceeding.

#### **Core Development Team (CDT)**

**Co-Chairs:** Karen Miller, FREP, for Illinois

Barb Messick, Village of Waterford, WI, for Wisconsin

Angie Tornes, National Park Service; Greg Farnham, Rock River Trail Initiative; Brian Daly, CMAP; Tom Slawski, Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership; Rick Kania, SEWRPC; Jaki Berggren, Visit McHenry Convention & Visitors Bureau; and Dave Blank, Real Racine Convention & Visitors Bureau. Sigrid Pilgrim and Jodie Auliff, Illinois Paddling Council, ad hoc members.

**Update:** The Core Development Team (CDT) has been hosting a series of Open Houses to encourage public input on the draft series of maps illustrating the data collected on the access sites, dams and portages along the Fox River. In the past two weeks Open Houses were held in Geneva and Yorville, Illinois, and Waukesha and Burlington, Wisconsin, where the Team received many substantial comments including those drawn on the maps provided.

There is still time to attend an Open House and offer your input!

- Fri. June 28th, City of McHenry Rec Center, 333 S. Green St., McHenry, IL

We are still looking for a location to hold an Open House in LaSalle County. If anyone has suggestions please contact [Karen Ann Miller](#).

Please join us at one or more workshops. We value your knowledge and experience and want to share our information with you!

Our next Core Development Team meeting is scheduled for Wed. June 5th from 1:00 to 3:00 PM at the [Lost Valley Visitor Center](#) in McHenry County.

**For more information contact Karen Ann Miller** at [millerkaren@co.kane.il.us](mailto:millerkaren@co.kane.il.us).

Visit our **Water Trail Initiative page** [HERE](#) Trail Website: [fabulousfoxwatertrail.org](http://fabulousfoxwatertrail.org)

#### FREP Membership Roll 2019-20

**Thank you to our members listed below who have already responded to our Membership Drive  
You are helping to keep FREP strong.**

*(showing dues received as of 6/26/19)*

**Dues statements for 2019-20 were sent out to current members in June**

#### **TO PAY YOUR ANNUAL DUES/TO JOIN FREP:**

Use the online membership form and link to make your payment through PayPal [HERE](#)

A printable/mailable form [HERE](#)

Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD  
Linda Cole, Friend, Aurora  
Nancy Cox, Friend, St. Charles  
Deuchler Engineering Corporation  
Sarah Duple, Friend, East Dundee  
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County  
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District  
McHenry County Conservation District  
Oswegoland Park District  
Jason Pettit, Friend, Aurora  
Jack Shouba, Friend, St. Charles  
Cindy Skrukud, Friend, Richmond  
Village of Port Barrington

The membership roll is also posted on our website [HERE](#).  
Links are provided for those members who have websites

We share this list in each issue so that readers of Downstream can easily find links to our members,  
to promote communication and collaboration on Fox River watershed issues.

## Watershed Planning

A number of Fox River subwatershed groups are in various stages of developing, completing, and implementing plans for their watersheds. They are listed below, with links to their webpages/websites.

FREP continues to be a central source of information for these activities and will post meeting dates and information, and news of new planning here in the **Downstream** and on our website [HERE](#).

### Mill Creek Watershed Planning

CMAP, in collaboration with Kane County, is coordinating the development of a watershed-based plan for the Mill Creek Watershed in east-central Kane County. FREP is assisting with communications for this effort and will be posting updates in the Downstream e-Newsletter and on the Mill Creek Watershed Plan page on the FREP website.

**Mill Creek Contact:** Holly Hudson, CMAP Project Manager, [hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov), 312-836-8700

[CMAP page on Mill Creek](#)

[FREPs Mill Creek page](#)

Photo of Mill Creek at Rt. 31 by Mooseheart, by Ken Gortowski



**UPDATE:** Outreach to communities and organizations continued throughout the Mill Creek watershed to gain additional input on watershed concerns as well as identify opportunities for planning, policy, education, and on-the-ground best management practices (BMPs) to help protect and improve water and habitat quality. During June, CMAP staff met with the St. Charles Park District, Mill Creek Special Service Area, and Village of Campton Hills. A key component of watershed-based plans, BMPs identified in such plans become eligible for Nonpoint Source Pollution Control grant funds through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act, and eligibility for other grant and technical assistance programs is also enhanced. Additional stakeholder meetings are being scheduled and BMP opportunities are being accepted through July, so if your group is interested in submitting water quality related BMP ideas, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP by mid-July.

Geosyntec Consultants refined the calibration of the HSPF (Hydrologic Simulation Program–Fortran) model for the Mill Creek watershed and has estimated pollutant loads from current land uses. This information will be added to the watershed resource inventory chapter of the watershed plan. The HSPF model will next be used to estimate pollutant load reductions from applicable on-the-ground BMPs identified during the stakeholder meetings.

Also during June, Kane County and CMAP staff continued conducting field assessments of stormwater detention basins to document various characteristics including shoreline erosion, buffer condition, maintenance needs, and retrofit opportunities that could help improve water quality. Assessments will continue during July, and this information will be added to the watershed resource inventory chapter in the watershed plan.

CMAP has completed mapping various physical stream characteristics recorded during the 2018 assessment of channel conditions along Mill Creek. Several elements were documented including bank erosion, hydraulic structures (e.g., bridges, culverts), point discharges (e.g., pipes, ditches), degree of channelization, debris jams, and general riparian condition along the stream corridor. This information is being added to the watershed resource inventory chapter of the watershed plan.

A first draft of the watershed plan is due to Illinois EPA in early July, and it will be posted on the Mill Creek page on the FREP website. A public open house will be scheduled for late summer.

If you have any questions about the project, or would like to be added to the contact list for Mill Creek Watershed-based Planning news and events, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: [hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmap.illinois.gov) 312-386-8700

FREP has signed a letter of support for CMAP's new Section 604(b) grant proposal to develop a watershed plan for the Indian Creek subwatershed, located in Kane County. We will let you know if this project is funded and gets underway.

## Subwatershed Links

**9 Lakes Watershed Plan** [Webpage](#)

**Blackberry Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)

**Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)

**Jelkes Creek-Fox River Watershed Coalition** [Webpage](#)  
[Newsletter](#)

Schweitzer Environmental Center (SEC), the brick house on the top of the hill located at Schweitzer Woods Forest Preserve, 16N690 Sleepy Hollow Road in West Dundee.

Contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: 312-386-8700,  
[hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmmap.illinois.gov)

**Ferson-Otter Creek Watershed** [Webpage](#)

**Flint Creek Spring Creek Watershed Partnership**

The group was recently notified that:  
2018 Flint Creek Watershed Plan Update – 2018 meets the threshold of the required USEPA minimum requirements for the development of a watershed-based plan.  
[Website](#)

**Nippersink Creek Watershed** [Website](#)

**Silver & Sleepy Hollow Creeks Watershed Coalition** [Webpage](#)

**Tyler Creek Watershed** [Webpages](#)

**Meets 3rd Wednesday of the month**  
4:30 p.m. at the Riverside Water Treatment Plant,  
375 W. River Road, Elgin IL

**Woods Creek Watershed Study Stakeholders** [Website](#)

**Other Activities & News of Interest**

**If you have an activity or event you'd like FREP to share on our Website or in the Downstream, please email the information to Becky at:**  
[foxriverinfo@comcast.net](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)

<b>Saturday June 29 1 - 4 PM</b>	<b>Love Our River Spring Cleaning in Yorkville</b> Co-sponsored by Friends of the Fox River, Southbank Original BBQ and Sweetwater Brewing Co. <a href="#">Information/Registration</a>
<b>Saturday August 10</b>	<b>The Conservation Foundation's Annual Farm to Fork Dinner at McDonald Farm, Naperville</b> FEE <a href="#">Registration Required</a>

**Request for Qualification (RFQ) - Program Coordinator to Lake County MS4 Program, DRWW & NBWW Workgroups**  
[Details](#) [RFQ posted until filled.](#)

**Tips on how to properly recycle:** [Video](#) prepared by the Illinois Task Force for Recycling Contamination, shared by Kane County Recycling.

**Illinois Environmental Council's**

[Environmental Executive Report: Recommendations for the Illinois Governor - 2019-2022](#)

**Prairie Rivers Network:** [RiverWeb News](#)

FREP members -- please remember the Downstream when you wish to share information about an activity, job listing, or achievement. Email your information to Becky Hoag, generally by the 20th of the month, to make the next issue that comes out at the end of the month.

ALSO -- Spring river & community clean-up season is approaching. Be sure and send us your clean-up information and we'll be happy to share in the Downstream, and on our [Clean-Up News Page](#).

**Becky Hoag, Communications Manager, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership** 630-482-9157 [foxriverinfo@comcast.net](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net)

Please email me if you have an email to add to our mailing list.

**FREP WEBSITE:** [foxriverecosystem.org](http://foxriverecosystem.org)

 **FREP on Facebook**

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