

July 17, 2020



## FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

### President's Message

2020 has certainly been an interesting year so far, and mostly not in a positive way. And not in a way that any of us could have imagined. Yet here we are still battling a viral pandemic, having the veil lifted from the systemic racism in our society, and let's not forget climate change continues largely unchecked. And I admit that sometimes I struggle to find hope in all of this.

There are bright spots where people are making a positive difference in a variety of ways. We have to watch for them, or we might miss them. And I'm always asking what can I do to help?

FREP has been around since 1996, which means we are approaching our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We've endured longer than nearly all other ecosystem partnerships; we brought a significant amount of grant funding to our watershed; and continue to be a place for information and idea sharing.

Our challenge now, is how do we stay effective and relevant. How do we engage the youth and people of color in our watershed that have been lacking in any of our efforts? We've been pretty effective to a point, but we're largely a white, affluent, and aging organization. We cannot win the battles we face to save the habitability of our planet if we stay that way. It's going to take change on everyone's part. Let's all ask and discuss how we can help make those changes.

Let me know if there's anything else you need from me.

Thanks!!

**Jeff Mengler**  
FREP President

**FREP Noon Network**  
**Wednesday, August 12, 2020 Noon to 1:30 PM Via Zoom**

**Program:** Winchester Glen in Carpentersville and The Natural Areas Assurance Program  
**Presenters:** Dan Lobbes, Jennifer Hammer and Taylor Joray  
of The Conservation Foundation

[CLICK HERE to Register](#) After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

The Conservation Foundation will present their Natural Areas Assurance Program showcasing the Winchester Glen Subdivision in Carpentersville. The program protects and manages 122 acres of natural areas and naturalized stormwater detention through a combination of conservation easement and Homeowners Association funded ecological management.

Dan Lobbes, Jennifer Hammer and Taylor Joray from The Conservation Foundation will share their experiences with getting the program setup through the ACOE permitting process and lessons learned over the last 13 years.

**We hope you will join us for this Zoom Noon Network.**



## FREP News

### FREP Membership & Annual Dues

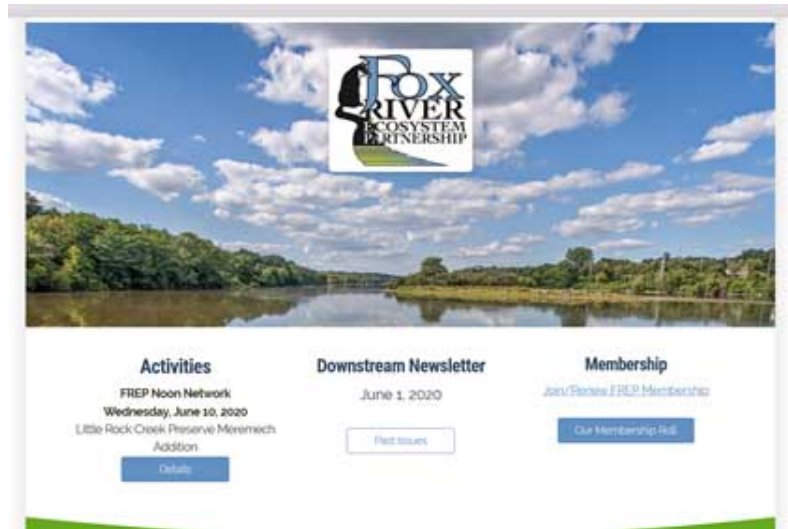
The FREP fiscal year runs July 1 to June 30 and we usually send out dues statements in June. This year we decided to wait until July to mail these out, and hope to find more people back in their offices to receive the mail.

Current members should receive their annual dues statement by July 27.

We truly appreciate your support and thank all who were members for 2019-20. You should all be listed at this link:

[FREP Membership Roll](#)

**Membership can be initiated or renewed online and dues paid via PayPal at:**  
[FREP Membership Form](#)



FREP's new website has been launched. We hope you will visit and become acquainted with the new layout. The format should be more accessible with different devices, such as cell phones and small tablets. NOTE: if you have bookmarked or created a link to a FREP webpage (other than the direct [foxriverecosystem.org](https://foxriverecosystem.org)), please check it because the url/address has changed. The website also now has the https security, though http still works, if that is how you access it first.

Click to visit our website

# Indian Creek Watershed-based Planning



## July 2020 Update

A project webpage has been set up on the FREP website! Visit <https://foxriverecosystem.org/fox/indian-creek> for project news, documents, maps, photos, and meeting materials. Project updates also will be provided monthly through FREP's *Downstream* e-newsletter and will be subsequently posted on the webpage.

CMAP finalized the planning area in mid-April following the concurrence of the project's Advisory Team and Illinois EPA to add approximately 1.7 square miles of direct drainage area to the Fox River that adjoins the 14.4 square mile Indian Creek watershed, to form a 16.1 square mile Indian Creek watershed planning area. Preparation of the watershed resource inventory (WRI) is underway to document watershed conditions including local governments and districts, population and demographics, physical and natural resources, land use and land cover, water resource conditions, pollutant sources, and land and water management practices. A draft WRI is due to Illinois EPA at the end of August.

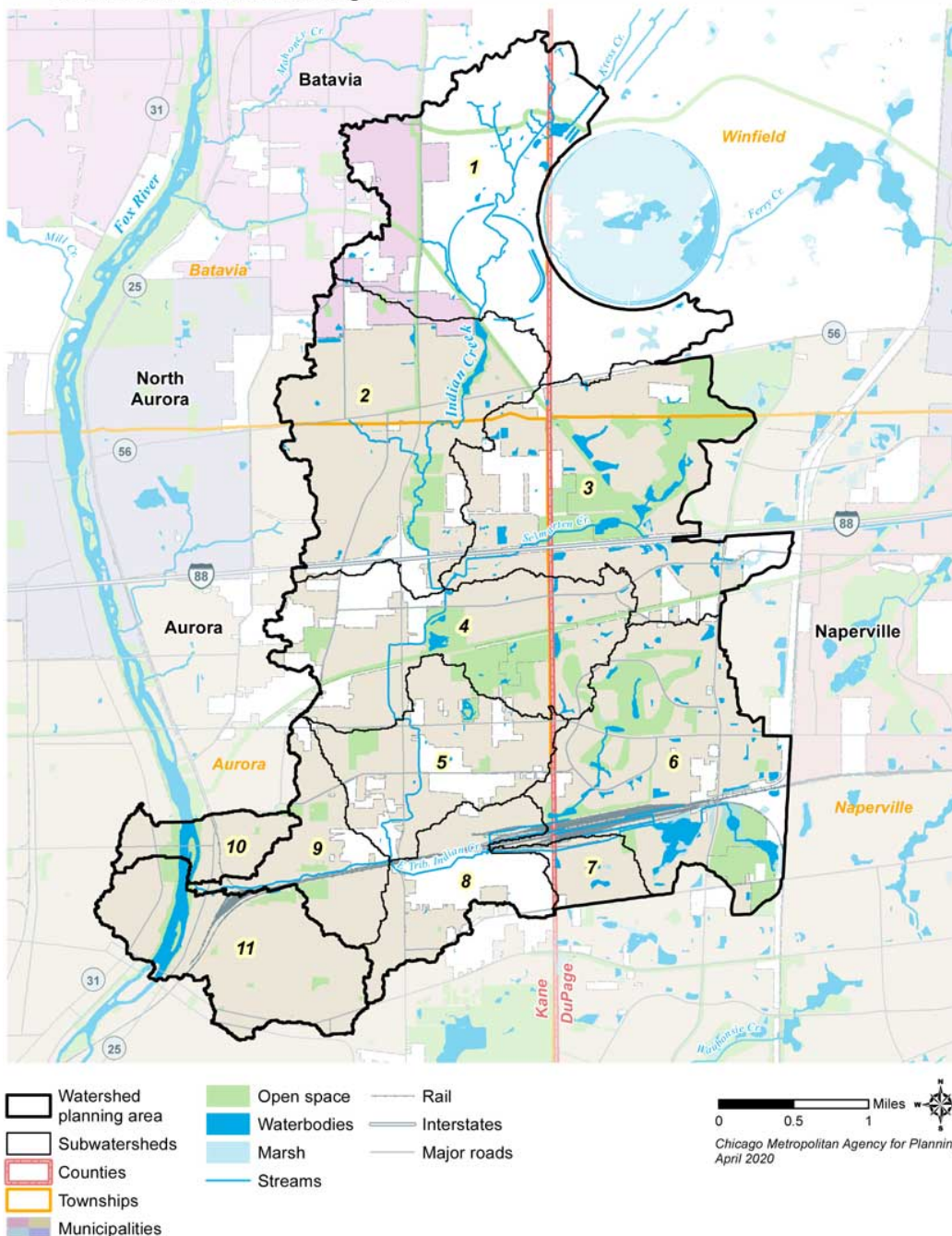
The project's Advisory Team met in early April via video conference. CMAP staff presented an overview of the project including purpose, requirements, and timeline; sought input on the proposed watershed planning area boundary, GIS datasets, and public input and engagement; and asked AT members to complete a visioning exercise. AT members as well as other state and local planning partners have continued to support WRI development by providing GIS datasets, water quality data, and pollutant modeling resources.

If you would like to be added to the contact list for Indian Creek Watershed-based Planning news and events, or have any questions about the project, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP:

[hudson@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hudson@cmapp.illinois.gov)

or 312-386-8700.

## Indian Creek Watershed Planning Area

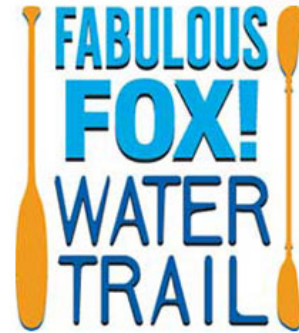


## Celebrate Lakes! July is Lakes Appreciation Month

Glacial lakes, quarry lakes, ponds, reservoirs, and lil' ol' fishin' holes – the Fox River watershed has 'em all. From the Chain O'Lakes in Lake and McHenry Counties down to Shabbona Lake in DeKalb and Lake Holiday in LaSalle County, and everywhere in between, take some time to enjoy and celebrate your favorite! Check out the North American Lake Management Society website <https://www.nalms.org/lakes-appreciation-month/> for ideas and opportunities to share your lake appreciation, and how to contribute to citizen science through the Secchi Dip-In <https://www.nalms.org/secchidipin/>.



**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.

The Core Development Team (CDT) of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail has not met recently, but work continues! Karen Miller, Illinois co-chair, has been working with Kane County staff from the Development Department, Department of Transportation and the Forest Preserve District on a series of five articles in Kane County Connects to encourage recreation on the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail and the land-based trails as well as patronizing local businesses. Portions of these articles were also published in the [Illinois Paddling Council](#) newsletter.

You can find the articles by following these links:

[\*How to Explore Kane County and Support Local Businesses During Restore Illinois\*](#)  
[\*Kane County Trails Offer Perfect Escape During Phase 3\*](#)  
[\*Northern Kane is Perfect for Paddling, Biking and Hiking\*](#)  
[\*Recreation Opportunities in Central Kane County\*](#)

[\*Take a Trip to Southern Kane County\*](#) –look for this article in Kane County Connects the week of July 20<sup>th</sup>.

Karen is also developing a series of itineraries for the Illinois portion of the Fox River. Itineraries for Wisconsin can be found at: [\*Itineraries\*](#)  
Sigrid Pilgrim is updating the list of entities that rent canoes and/or kayaks.

The Coronavirus pandemic has eliminated, hopefully temporarily, tourism funding to pay for the printing and distribution of FF!WT brochures this paddling season. Karen does have some brochures. If you would like brochures please contact her at [millerkaren@co.kane.il.us](mailto:millerkaren@co.kane.il.us).

## Other Watershed News & Activities

### **Friends of the Fox River sponsors Fox River Fridays on Facebook**

5:55 PM 15-Minute Episodes [Facebook Link](#)

Toast the week's end as you sit back, chill, and learn fun facts about our river (and FOFR)

Friday, July 17: Who's Fixin' the Fox River? (Special guest -- Jeff Mengler)

Friday, July 24: Creating a Watershed of Caretakers

Friday, July 31: Friends of the Fox River and YOU!

Friday, August 7: Meet The Fox River - A Virtual Tour!

### **Virtual Solar Power Hour Thurs. July 23rd 6:00 - 7:00 PM**

Co-sponsored by Kane County [CLICK to Register](#)

**Fox River Study Group** has launched its re-designed and expanded website at [foxriverstudygroup.org](http://foxriverstudygroup.org)

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Visit our website

Visit us on Facebook

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Please email Becky if you have an email to add to our mailing list or content to add to the next monthly Downstream.