

FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, September 25, 2019

Greetings from FREP

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

Have you paid your 2019-20 FREP Dues yet? Scroll down to see if you are on the Membership Roll!

Our Next Activity

Wednesday, October 9, 2019 FREP Noon Network Noon - 1:30 PM

Program: Batavia High School Wilson Street Pond - Natural Area Enhancement Project

Presenter: Daniel Renz, Batavia High School Environmental Science & Biology Teacher

Location: Batavia High School, 1201 Main St, Batavia, IL 60510

We appreciate the medical offices just east of the project permitting us to use their parking lot for this activity, *as long as we use spaces in the outer perimeter of the lot, and not use handicap or spaces closest to the building*

Parking is also available in the lot by the tennis courts, just west of the football field

Meet at east end of the student parking lot on West Wilson Street

Tent provided, if raining

Tour the project created on Batavia High School property with Batavia High School teacher Dan Renz, students, and a large group of community partners.

The Wilson Street Pond Restoration Project started as an idea shared by students and teachers Dan Renz and Donna Detrick to introduce some biodiversity into the campus of BHS. They wanted an area like this that could be used by classes to study and enjoy. It started towards the end of spring 2018, where students assisted in writing the grant and designing a baseline plan for the pond.

Through various community partners, listed below, the Wilson Street Pond has started to flourish. In the Fall of 2018, there was a school work day where every Bio and AP Environmental Science student helped out by planting plugs, weeding, spreading mulch, and/or spreading seed. Later, there were a couple community days to assist in maintaining the site. Students continued to assist in the spring with AP Environmental Students planting even more aquatic plant plugs. The site is a work in progress, but it is an exciting work in progress.

Community Partners

ILDNR Schoolyard Habitat Grant
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Applied Ecological Services
The Conservation Foundation
Midwest Groundcovers
Kramer Tree Specialists
Natural Communities Native Plants

Anna Bakker and Super Bulldog
Fermilab Natural Areas
Batavia Mother's Club Foundation Grant
The City of Batavia, Public Works for "No Mow" Signs
Julia Dauskurdas, BHS student, graphics

Upcoming FREP Noon Networks & Membership Meetings

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 FREP Membership Meeting 1 PM

Program: Fox River Corridor Plan

Presenter: Kate Evasic and Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP

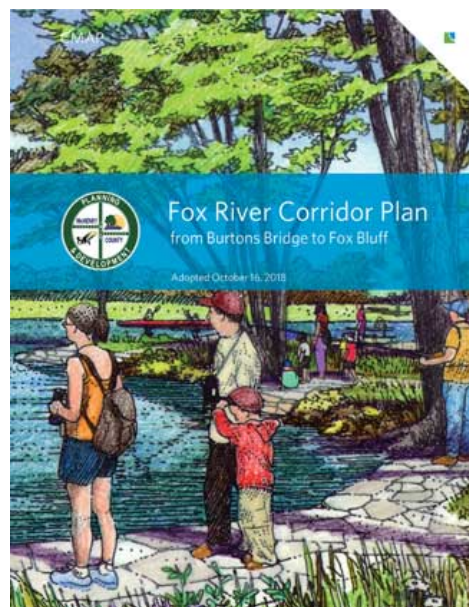
Location: Cary Village Hall, Board Room
655 Village Hall Dr., Cary, IL 60013 [Map Link](#)

Working with FREP and other stakeholders along the river, McHenry County and CMAP developed the [Fox River Corridor Plan](#) to help communities unlock the Fox River's potential for future generations.

The plan builds on planning efforts in the communities of Algonquin and Carpentersville to provide a consistent framework for planning decisions along the river, including natural resource protection, bicycle and pedestrian access, parks and recreation, and appropriate economic development. It includes a climate vulnerability assessment -- an innovative planning approach that demonstrates how to incorporate climate science in local planning, which is woven into the plan's recommendations.

CMAP staff will provide an overview of the plan, highlighting recommendations related to water resources protection and previewing future work to begin later this year.

FREP Executive Committee will meet at 11 AM



December Holiday Social Gathering

Date, Time & Location TBA

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!

Now Posted on the FREP Website presentations page, our program from Sept. 11, 2019:

TMDL for the Upper Fox River/Chain O'Lakes & Upper Fox River/Flint Creek Watersheds

President's Message



With the global climate strike the youth and environmental organizations of the world worked to make a statement and get the attention of decisionmakers throughout the world. While in our Fox River watershed we are not likely to be among the hardest hit parts of the country with climate change, we are seeing the affects and will see more. This brings us to the question of what are we doing about it locally, and how will it affect the ecosystems of our watershed?

Are we doing what we can and should be to make our watershed the most resilient it can be? Are we thinking about both nature and humans, and how we can inhabit this place together in an altered climate?

I am thinking that 2020 should be a year of focus for FREP with an emphasis on sustainability and resiliency for our watershed. Please let me know what specific actions and policies you know of that are being taken in your community to combat climate change. We want to be able to share ideas and success stories among our stakeholders across the watershed. Are there changes in vehicle purchases and policies, are there changes in mowing practices, are there changes in pesticide application, are there changes in stormwater management?

Bring us your ideas and your observations on what's happening in your part of our watershed. We can't tackle the challenges alone but need to act together.

And not unrelated to these questions, come out and see what some of our local youth are doing at the October Noon Network at Batavia High School!!

Jeff Mengler, Hey and Associates, FREP President

Watershed Partners/Links

Illinois: [Friends of the Fox River](#) [Fox River Study Group](#) [Fox Valley Sustainability Network](#)
[The Conservation Foundation Fox River Initiative](#)

Wisconsin: [Southeast Fox River Partnership](#) [Southeastern Wisc Fox River Commission](#) [Illinois Fox River Group](#)

Monthly feature in the *Downstream*

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

We want a photo from YOU!

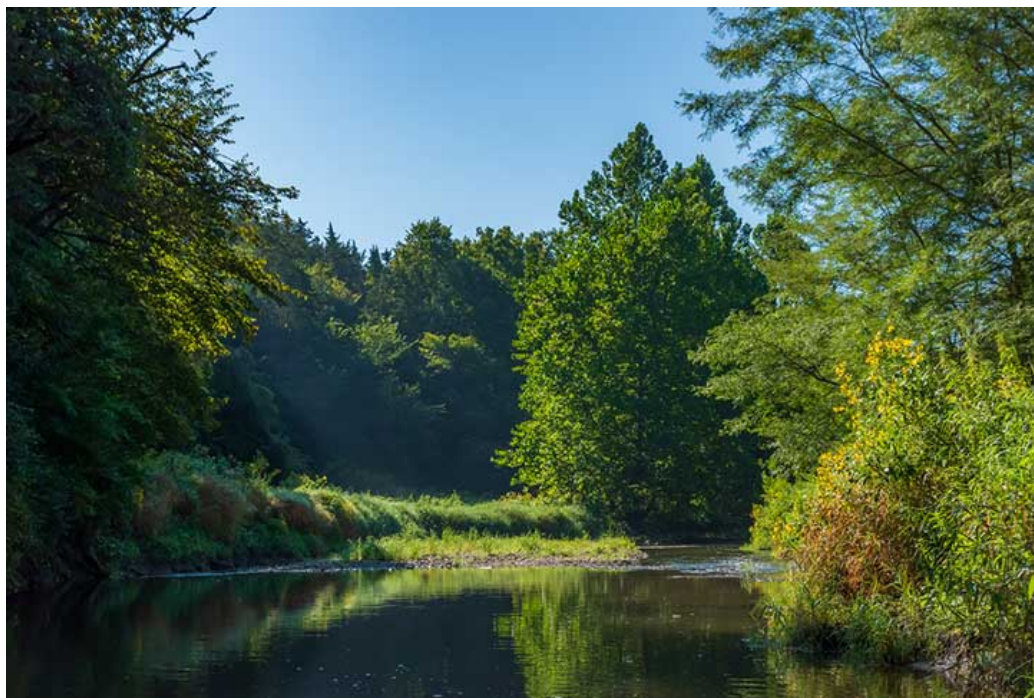
Email your jpg to Becky Hoag at foxriverinfo@comcast.net
Please provide your name, photographer's name (if different),
and the location & county, and in what season it was taken

my part of the watershed

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

Downstream

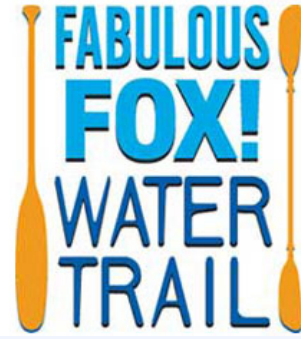
my part of the watershed



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.

On September 23rd the Core Development Team (CDT) bid a grateful and fond farewell to Angie Tornes from the National Park Service (NPS) who has been guiding us through the process to create the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail. Amidst the expressions of appreciation, Angie presented Illinois co-chair Karen Miller and Kane County with a Partner Excellence Award on behalf of the NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program.

Angie's departure doesn't mean the Team has completed the tasks needed to submit an application to the NPS for consideration as part of the National Water Trail System. Angie has laid the groundwork for the CDT to move forward with developing a Management Plan, continue to request letters of support and resolutions and other tasks. So, if you have not submitted a letter of support or passed a resolution on behalf of your local government or organization in support of the Fabulous Fox! please contact [Karen Miller](#) who can send you templates.

In the meantime, the CDT continues to process all the comments provided during the five open houses held in June. Appropriate suggestions will be added to the next version of the maps which can be found at fabulousfoxwatertrail.org.

For more information contact Karen Ann Miller at millerkaren@co.kane.il.us.

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

FREP Membership Roll 2019-20 We are at 65% of our goal

**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 8/29/19)

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/available form [HERE](#)

Links to member websites are provided, when available

Michael Ander, Friend, Sleepy Hollow
Paul Anderson, Friend, Geneva
Applied Ecological Services
Barrington Area Council of Governments
Batavia Park District
Thomas Berres, Friend, DeKalb
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD
City of Aurora
City of Batavia
City of Elgin
City of Geneva
John Church, Friend, Oswego
Linda Cole, Friend, Aurora
Nancy Cox, Friend, St. Charles
Crystal Lake Park District
DeKalb County Forest Preserve District
Deuchler Engineering Corporation
Bill Donnell, Friend, Aurora
Dundee Township
Sarah Duple, Friend, East Dundee
Engineering Enterprises, Inc. - EEI
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
Forest Preserve District of Kane County
Fox Metro Water Reclamation District, Oswego
Fox River Water Reclamation District, South Elgin
Geneva Park District
Hey and Associates
Holly Hudson, Friend, Elgin

Illinois Paddling Council
Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District
Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District
June Keibler, Friend, Dundee
Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
Living Waters Consultants
Julie Long, Friend, St. Charles
McHenry County
McHenry County Conservation District
McHenry County Conservation Foundation
North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation Dist
Oswegoland Park District
Jason Pettit, Friend, Aurora
Larry Rakunus, Friend, St. Charles
St. Charles Park District
Jack Shouba, Friend, St. Charles
Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter & Valley of the Fox
Cindy Skrukud, Friend, Richmond
Faye Sinnott, Friend, Barrington
The Conservation Foundation
Tyler Creek Watershed Coalition
United City of Yorkville
Village of Algonquin
Village of Millbrook
Village of Oakwood Hills
Village of Port Barrington
Village of Round Lake
Village of Sleepy Hollow

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, 312-836-8700

[CMAP page on Mill Creek](#)

[FREP's Mill Creek page](#)

Mill Creek as it flows downstream through the Garfield Farm Museum grounds by CMAP staff



UPDATE: The Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan is nearing completion. Pollutant load reduction and planning level cost estimates for more than 100 site-specific best management practices (BMPs) identified by stakeholders, as well as a suite of watershed-wide BMP scenarios, are under development. The watershed-wide BMP scenarios account for common BMP types that could potentially be implemented throughout the Mill Creek watershed but are not associated with a site-specific location at this time. BMP opportunities include a variety of urban, agricultural, and hydrologic practices such as permeable pavements, detention basin retrofits, infiltration trenches, rain gardens, vegetated swales, grassed waterways, streamside vegetated buffers, streambank stabilization, and wetland restoration. Additional watershed protection-related opportunities noted by stakeholders include education and outreach activities and products, coordinated resource management planning, and water quality monitoring programs.

A late August version of the draft plan is available on FREP's [Mill Creek webpage](#). A final draft of the plan is due to Illinois EPA in early October and will be posted on the webpage as well. Any comments received from Illinois EPA and stakeholders will subsequently be addressed, and a final plan and executive summary will be available on both the FREP and CMAP websites.

If you have any questions about the project, comments on the draft plan, 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 or 312-386-8700.

Subwatershed Links

9 Lakes Watershed Plan [Webpage](#)

Blackberry Creek Watershed [Webpage](#)

Boone-Dutch Creek Watershed [Webpage](#)
Contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: 312-386-8700,
hhudson@cmap.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](#)

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

Next meeting: **Monday, Nov. 18, 6 PM**
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.

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
[Annual Meeting Summary - Sept. 18, 2019](#)

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

Friday, September 27	Fox Metro WRD is proud to present the Greenfest Last Stop! Just like the water used in your home reaches its last stop for treatment at Fox Metro, this event will be the last stop before the Aurora Greenfest on the following day. Please join us at 11 a.m. for a brief presentation on our latest improvements followed by a tour of our new South Plant wastewater treatment facility. Please RSVP via email to info@foxmetro.org . These latest upgrades are Fox Metro's contribution to helping improve the Fox River water quality. We will also provide an update on our new solar energy installation project.
Saturday, September 28 10 AM - 4 PM	Aurora Greenfest PRISCO COMMUNITY CENTER, 150 West Illinois Avenue Aurora, IL 60505 Now in its 10th year, the Aurora GreenFest is the longest running greenfest of its kind. Offering common sense solutions for Aurora & Fox River Valley! Website
September 30, October 1 or 2	Lake County Stormwater Management Annual Deicing Workshops September 30: Parking Lots & Sidewalks; October 1 and 2: Roadways

	Online pre-registration is required by September 25 More information and Register Here
Thursday October 3 7:30 AM - 12:30 PM	Kane County's Parking Lots and Sidewalks Deicing Workshop Brewster Creek Forest Preserve, St. Charles Hosted by The Conservation Foundation and Kane County Division of Environmental & Water Resources. The workshop aims to help personnel from Public Works, Park Districts, School Districts and Landscape Contractors implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce the amount of salt they use in snowfighting operations and to address NPDES Permit Requirements. This low cost workshop includes a hot buffet breakfast and up to 4 PDHs. FEE Info/Register
Tuesday October 29	VETO Session Clean Energy Lobby Day, Springfield Illinois Environmental Council Info/Register
April 14-20, 2020	2020 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference , Center for Watershed Protection Austin, Texas Info/Registration

Suburban Illinois Regional Conservation Message Survey prepared for The Conservation Foundation August 2019

EPA Announces 2019 Campus RainWorks Challenge

EPA is pleased to announce the rules for the 8th annual Campus RainWorks Challenge, a green infrastructure design competition for United States institutions of higher education that seeks to engage with the next generation of environmental professionals, foster a dialogue about the need for innovative stormwater management techniques, and showcase the environmental, economic, and social benefits of green infrastructure practices. Stormwater pollution is a problem that impacts public health and water quality in communities across the country. The Campus RainWorks Challenge invites today's students to become part of the solution.

To learn more about Campus RainWorks visit <https://www.epa.gov/campusrainworks> and check out the official [2019 Campus RainWorks Challenge Competition Brief](#). The brief contains details on the challenge's design categories, submission requirements, and rules for participation. Submission deadline December 17, 2019

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.

Becky Hoag, Communications Manager, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership 630-482-9157 foxriverinfo@comcast.net
Please email me if you have an email to add to our mailing list.
FREP WEBSITE: foxriverecosystem.org

facebook **FREP on Facebook**

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