

## FREP DOWNSTREAM E-NEWSLETTER

Thursday, October 31, 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, November 13, 2019 FREP Membership Meeting 1 PM

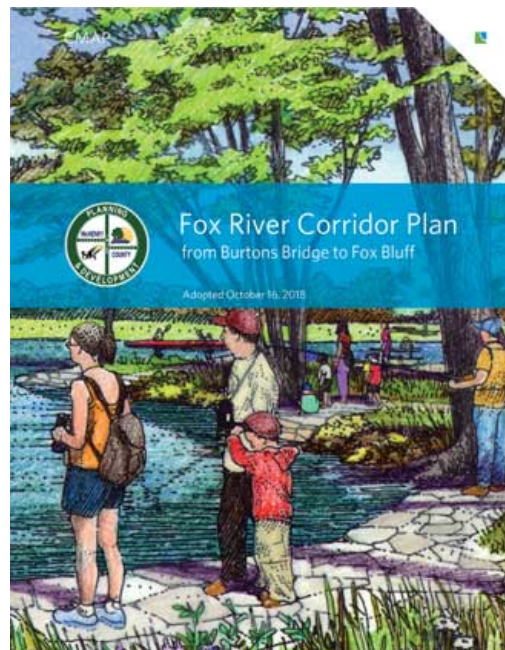
**Location:** Cary Village Hall, Board Room  
655 Village Hall Dr., Cary, IL 60013 [Map Link](#)  
**Program:** Fox River Corridor Plan  
**Presenter:** Kate Evasic and Kelsey Pudlock, CMAP

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**



### Upcoming FREP Activities

Wednesday, December 4, 2019 4 PM - ? Holiday Social Gathering



**Location:** River's Edge Bar & Grill  
12 North River Street, Batavia [Website](#)

We will meet with River's Edge owner Melissa Monno and learn about their efforts to provide locally-sourced food, craft beers, and reduce their use of plastics, as much as they can.

Please RSVP to Becky at [foxriverinfo@comcast.net](mailto:foxriverinfo@comcast.net) or 630-482-9157 so we can have enough tables arranged for our group. Order/pay for what you'd like.



Wednesday, January 8, 2020 FREP Membership Meeting, Annual Elections 1 PM

**Location:** The Centre, Elgin  
Heritage Ballroom, Lower Level  
100 Symphony Way, Elgin, 60120  
**Program:** The Decline of Migratory Birds and Climate Change - What can we expect and do in the Fox Valley?  
**Presenter:** Jim Herkert, Executive Director, Illinois Audubon Society

The Illinois Audubon Society was organized as an independent, state-wide, educational and scientific organization, incorporated April 10, 1897, by the State of Illinois. Their mission is "to promote the perpetuation and appreciation of native flora and fauna of Illinois and the habitats that support them." Fundamental to this end are the control of pollution, the conservation of energy and all natural resources, a sound ecological relationship between human populations and their environments, and the education and involvement of the public in such efforts.

Illinois Audubon Society website    **Local chapter webpages:**  
Kane County Audubon Society    Lake-Cook Audubon Society    McHenry County Audubon Society  
Starved Rock Audubon Society    Will County Audubon Society

## FREP Executive Committee will meet at 11 AM

**NOTE:** The annual elections will be conducted at this Jan. 8th meeting. FREP is currently looking for a member interested in filling the role of Secretary, and serving on the FREP Executive Committee, starting in January.  
If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Hagen-Moeller, who is preparing the Slate of Officers.  
[elizabeth@kanedupageswcd.org](mailto:elizabeth@kanedupageswcd.org)

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



**Imagine a Day  
Without Water**  
October 23, 2019

I wrote about this campaign last year, and since it is really of critical importance throughout our country and the world as we face the inevitable changing climate, I want to draw your attention to this again. **Imagine a Day Without Water** is an annual campaign by the U.S. Water Alliance. Beginning in 2015, Imagine a Day Without Water 2019 will be the fifth annual day of action. I signed up FREP as a participant in this campaign for 2019.

### **Millions of Americans take water service for granted every day.**

- Turn on the tap, and clean water flows out. Flush the toilet, and dirty water goes away.
- When you have reliable water service, you don't have to think twice about the infrastructure that brings water to your home or business, and then safely returns water to the environment.
- The reality is, America's water infrastructure is aging and failing—and there are even communities that have never had access to water infrastructure in the first place.
- On Imagine a Day Without Water, we ask everyone to consider what their day would be like if they couldn't turn on the tap and get clean drinking water, or if you flushed the toilet and wastewater didn't go anywhere. What would that day be like?

### **A day without water is a public health and safety crisis.**

- A day without water means firefighters can't do their jobs, hospitals would be unsanitary, and no one could wash dirty dishes or clothes.
- Living without water is an economic crisis too: a single nationwide day without water service would put [\\$43.5 billion in economic activity](#) at risk.

### **Water infrastructure is the lifelines of our communities.**

- Our water infrastructure supports every facet of our daily lives, but our water infrastructure is facing unprecedented challenges.
- Demographic changes and climate pressures, including natural disasters like droughts, flooding, and wildfires, threaten our infrastructure and increase the possibility of a day without water.
- Some communities are grappling with toxic algae blooms and pollution from chemicals or raw sewage, others are facing startling groundwater depletion.
- These challenges look different to different communities and will require local solutions, but it's clear that reinvestment in our water systems must be a national priority.

And this is all just from an American first world perspective. Think about those across the globe where there is no real water infrastructure. Where a person's daily allotment of water is less than one toilet flush here.

We are fortunate here is that we don't have a water crisis yet. But we are depleting our groundwater, even after the Lake Michigan diversion. And we know our communities that rely on the Fox River have had challenges with algal blooms. We're just learning about plastics in our water.

So, ponder these things, and start those conversations with others – **Imagine a Day Without Water**. Let's see if we can develop some watershed activities for this event in 2020. [Imagine A Day Without Water Website](#)

**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

*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*

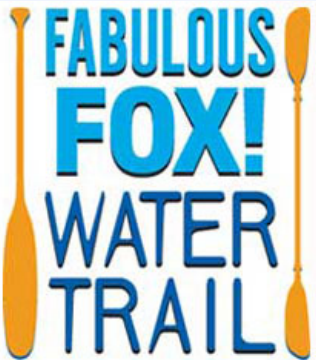


Fox River from Norris Woods, St. Charles Fall Jeff Mengler

**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.

Watch for an update in the December *Downstream*.

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**

**We are at 78% 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/mailable 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  
City of St. Charles  
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 Co. Development & Community Services Dept.

Kane County Farm Bureau  
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  
Quentin Podraza, Friend, Fox Lake  
Larry Rakunus, Friend, St. Charles  
St. Charles Park District  
Jack Schaefer, Friend, Barrington  
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  
V3 Companies  
Village of Algonquin  
Village of Fox River Grove  
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@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hhudson@cmapp.illinois.gov),  
312-836-8700

[CMAP page on Mill Creek](#)



**UPDATE:** A final draft of the Mill Creek Watershed-based Plan and an executive summary were submitted to Illinois EPA and the project's steering committee members in early October. This version of the plan is available on FREP's [Mill Creek webpage](#) under the "Resources & Documents" section.

The Plan includes more than 130 site-specific best management practices (BMPs) identified by stakeholders, as well as a suite of watershed-wide BMP scenarios which 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.

Many thanks are extended to all who participated in the planning process! Following receipt of comments, the Plan will be finalized and posted to the FREP and CMAP websites. Then, the process will begin of putting all those great ideas identified in the Plan into action!

If you have any questions about the project, comments on the final draft plan, or would like to discuss Plan implementation ideas and opportunities, please contact Holly Hudson at CMAP: [hudson@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hudson@cmapp.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,  
[hudson@cmapp.illinois.gov](mailto:hudson@cmapp.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](#)

#### Nippersink Watershed Association News

In May 2018, Nippersink Watershed Association (NWA) received a Stewardship Challenge Grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation (ICEC). The resulting project is the Merchant Creek Corridor Restoration Project.

**An update from NWA:** Thank you to all who have supported our Merchant Creek Corridor Restoration Project with your volunteer time and donations. With the matching funds we are receiving from the [Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation](#), we have raised \$34,000 for this restoration through our Stewardship Challenge Grant. This project is also being funded with \$64,000 in IEPA Section 319 "Clean Water" funding and a \$40,000 donation from NRB Land, the upstream landowner of the Thatcher Meadows development. We have been busy this fall working on stabilization of Merchant Creek's streambed and streambanks. Illinois EPA calculates that the project will reduce the sediment load to Wonder Lake by 20 semi-dump truck loads per year.

Check out more details and photos of their work at: [nippersinkwatershed.org/CSgrant.htm](http://nippersinkwatershed.org/CSgrant.htm)

#### 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 November 2 10 AM - 3 PM</b>	<b>McHenry County College Annual Green Living Expo</b> 8900 US Hwy 14 Crystal Lake, IL 60012 FREE <a href="#">LINK</a>
<b>Thursday, November 21 10 AM - Noon</b>	<b>Fox Valley Sustainability Network Forum: Energy Efficiency in the Built Environment</b> South Elgin Public Works Facility 1000 Bowes Rd South Elgin, IL RSVP Required: <a href="#">Registration Link</a>
<b>Monday March 9, 2020 7 PM</b>	<b>One Earth Film Festival Screening -- Co-Sponsored by FREP</b> Waubonsee Community College Aurora Downtown Campus Multipurpose Room, First Floor, 18 S. River St., Aurora, IL Watch for details in January
<b>Thursday March 26, 2020</b>	<b>8th Annual Fox River Summit</b> Burlington, WI Details to come
<b>April 14-20, 2020</b>	<b>2020 National Watershed and Stormwater Conference</b> , Center for Watershed Protection Austin, Texas <a href="#">Info/Registration</a>

#### November Webcast -- Salt and Stormwater: The Salinization of Our Watersheds

**Wednesday, November 20, 2019 12 - 1:30 PM** [Flyer](#)  
Hosted by [Clean Water Kane](#)

Kane County Government Center Building A—1st Floor Auditorium, 719 S. Batavia Avenue Geneva, IL 60134  
Please RSVP to Jessica Mino, with Kane County's Division of Environmental and Water Resources, at [minojessica@co.kane.il.us](mailto:minojessica@co.kane.il.us) or (630) 208-8665 by November 19th if you plan to attend.

#### 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

**Congratulations to Jay Womack of Geneva** for being named 2019 Outstanding Citizen Volunteer of the Year by the Illinois Association of Park Districts, in recognition of his devotion to nature preservation. We had a great FREP picnic with him in 2018, and got to tour the work he leads at Fabyan Forest Preserve in Geneva. Read more about it [HERE](#) in *Kane County Connects*.

**Congratulations to The Conservation Foundation** for achieving national accreditation from The Land Trust Accreditation Commission. They've joined a network of over 400 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in their work. [Details](#)

**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](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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