



JCFRWC Journal

The newsletter of the Jelkes Creek – Fox River Watershed Coalition (JCFRWC)
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Defining a Watershed

If it rains on you, you are in a watershed. *You do not need to live adjacent to a body of water to be part of and to play an important role in the health of your watershed.* A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common water body, such as a stream or lake. The watershed includes both the surface and groundwater within that area. The topography typically determines the area of the watershed and is often a reflection of the shallow groundwater gradient within the watershed. Our watershed is a sub-watershed to the Illinois River watershed, which is then part of the Mississippi River watershed. This means what starts in your backyard ends up in the Gulf of Mexico!



US EPA functions within a watershed

Why Watersheds Matter

The health of our watershed is critical to the well-being of the population within and downstream of the watershed, because how we treat the land impacts the quality of drinking water we extract from the Fox River or groundwater, as well as wildlife habitat and recreational resources. A healthy watershed supports healthy and sustainable communities. Water is fundamental to life. Here in the Fox Valley we rely on the Fox River and/or groundwater resources. Fertilizer, pesticide, salt, sediment and other impacts to tributary streams that feed the Fox River impact the quality of the Fox River as well as regional groundwater. Further, the health of wildlife habitat depends on clean surface and groundwater as does our enjoyment of recreation activities within this watershed.



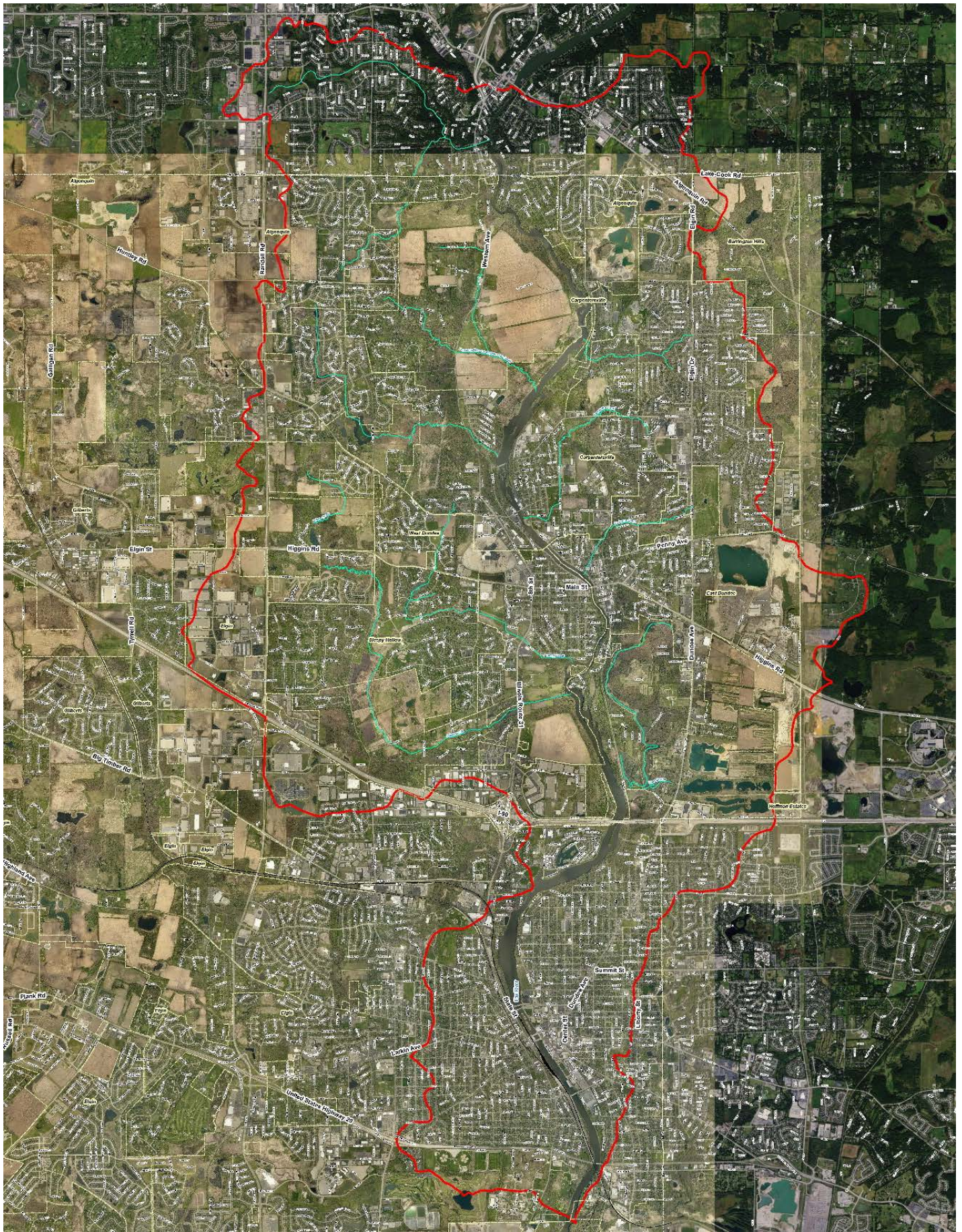
We need water for survival (photo patch.com)

What Is In a Name

The watershed bears the name of the largest tributary, Jelke Creek, in its boundaries but it also includes the Fox River from approximately 62 to 20 and Carpenter Creek, Dixie Creek, Fourwinds Way (Selmartin) Creek, Lake Marion Creek, Cougar (MacIntosh or No Name) Creek, Ratt Creek, Shaw Creek, and Sleepy Creek. The 40 square miles of watershed spans three counties, Kane, Cook and McHenry, and includes Algonquin, Barrington Hills, Carpentersville, East Dundee, Elgin, Sleepy Hollow, West Dundee and unincorporated areas of Dundee Township. The boundaries encompass the highly populated city centers of all but Barrington Hills. A map of the watershed is provided on the following page.

A Watershed Coalition

The Jelkes Creek - Fox River Watershed Coalition, along with sister watershed organizations upstream and downstream from our watershed, is focused on protecting and enhancing water quality within the Fox River Valley. The Coalition, comprised of local stakeholders, has prepared an Action Plan for the Fox River watershed. The plan was prepared with support and guidance from the Kane - DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District and approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. Our objectives, and the objectives of the JCFRW Action Plan, are to educate the residents within the watershed on the impacts of non-point source pollution, and help develop programs and projects to improve water quality. The Coalition encourages the participation of both residents and local governments. To hear about upcoming meetings or to help make a difference, please send an email to jcfrwc@gmail.com.



Our Mission: Improve surface water and groundwater quality through outreach and implementation of best management practices

Meetings: Schweitzer Environmental Center (SEC)
16N690 Sleepy Hollow Road, West Dundee, IL

Email us to be added to mail list for meetings and other news

Email: jcfrwc@gmail.com

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