



JCFRWC Journal

The newsletter of the Jelkes Creek – Fox River Watershed Coalition (JCFRWC)
www.kanedupageswcd.org/jelkes-creek.htm 2018 - Volume 3 - Number 1

State of the Fox River

Last year was a story of water feast and famine. Floods in July were followed by extreme heat and drought in the fall. A healthy watershed is important both to mitigate flooding from too much water and serve as a reservoir for the water that we need for our daily lives.



Fox River Headwaters in Menomonee Falls, WI

The Fox River receives the influx of precipitation that falls on the land in our watershed. It also provides drinking water to two major communities – Elgin and Aurora. We can help manage this resource by utilizing green infrastructure, which enables the water to recharge aquifers and not become problematic runoff. We can also help by removing dams that isolate aquatic populations. Besides the essence of the Fox, its water, the river also provides a critical nature corridor through riparian and aquatic habitat, and an important recreational resource for local communities. As an asset to our lives, it deserves our attention and support both now and into the future; especially under the continuous pressures of a growing population and a greater built environment. Please consider your actions in 2018 and how they affect the health of our Fox River.

Watershed Boundary Signs

Carpentersville becomes the first in the greater Chicagoland area to support identification of watershed boundaries with “entering the watershed” signs. The signage helps to increase public awareness of the fact that we all live in a watershed along with the importance of this fact.



Entering JCFR Watershed Sign

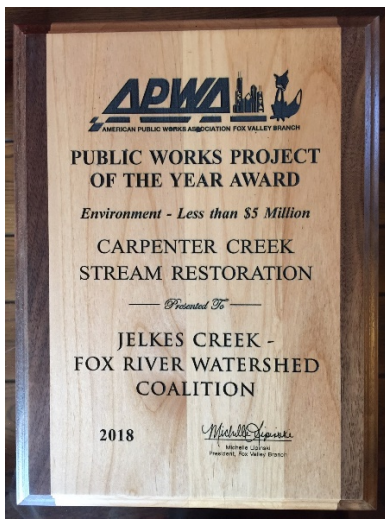
Four signs have been placed in the village along major routes at the boundary of the Jelkes Creek – Fox River watershed.

- Eastbound Huntley near Randall Road
- Eastbound Binnie near Randall Road
- Westbound Route 68 near Penny Road
- Southbound Route 25 near Boulder Drive

We look forward to partnering with other villages, counties and the township in the watershed to place additional boundary signs.

Carpentersville Shares Award with Coalition

As mentioned in an issue of last year’s newsletter (Vol. 2, No. 3), the Village of Carpentersville completed a flood and erosion management project for Carpentersville Creek, a tributary to the Fox River. This \$2.8 million stream restoration project was part of the JCFRWC’s, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency approved, action plan. The design was performed by HR Green, while environmental support was provided by Applied Ecological Services. Supplemental project funding in the amount of \$1.14 million (60/40 split) was secured from the IEPA by a Section 319 clean water grant.



APWA Award Presented to JCFRWC

The Carpentersville Creek project is notable for removing approximately 40 homes from the floodplain, thereby negating the need for costly flood insurance for these homeowners. Further, by creating 8 wetland basins (1.4 acres), 8 rain gardens, 8 stream meanders; stabilizing nearly 8,000 feet of stream bank and creating riparian buffer strips, the following reductions in pollutant loading to the Fox River were achieved: watershed.

- 499 tons/year sediment
- 96 tons/year suspended solids
- 612 pounds/year phosphorous
- 1,607 pounds/year nitrogen

On January 9, 2018, this project was awarded Public Works Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association Fox Valley Branch (APWA). We congratulate Carpentersville on the successful completion and APWA award.

[Fox River Water Trail](#)

The Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative will enhance recreational opportunities, garner national recognition and be an economic development driver for municipalities and counties along the Fox River. In 2014, individuals at the Fox River Summit learned about the National Park Service (NPS) Water Trail System. In 2015, the idea of working together to develop a water trail for the Fox River that may someday be designated as part of the NPS Water Trail System was discussed. This designation includes national recognition, listing on the NPS website with interactive maps and other information for paddlers, and support for conservation and protection of the trail. The Core Development Team (CDT), applied for and is receiving

technical assistance from the NPS's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program to develop the Initiative. The CDT and a number of volunteers have been busy collecting existing data regarding canoe/kayak access points including signage, parking, and amenities on land at the access location. Data collection on river segments regarding the journey experience such as time expected to travel a segment, hazards, dams and portages, and experience level is also needed. This data will be used to develop maps of the Fox River, a public website and plan for suggested future improvements.

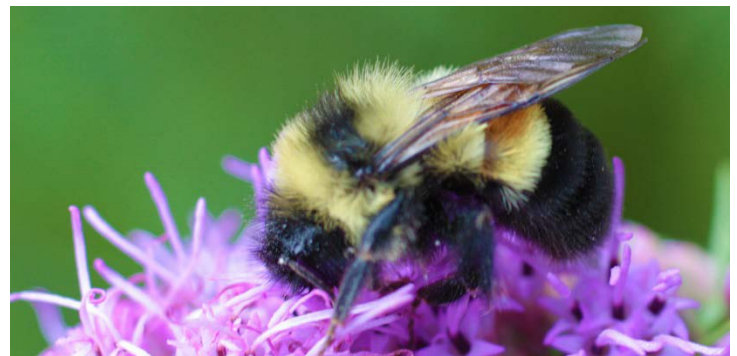


Access Point at Fox River Shores

The CDT still needs data collected in the Elgin, Carpentersville and Batavia areas. For more information or to volunteer, please visit www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm.

[Endangered Bee Found In Our Watershed](#)

The federally endangered Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (*Bombus affinis*) was positively identified by a Cook County wildlife biologist in 2017 at a site in our watershed. In the past 20 years, its population has plummeted by 87% and is only present in 0.1% of its historical range. The bee emerges in early spring and is one of the last species to hibernate. It requires a constant supply of blooming flowers during this time. Consider planting a native plant garden this spring to help our Rusty Patched Bumble Bee.



Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (chicagowilderness.org)

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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