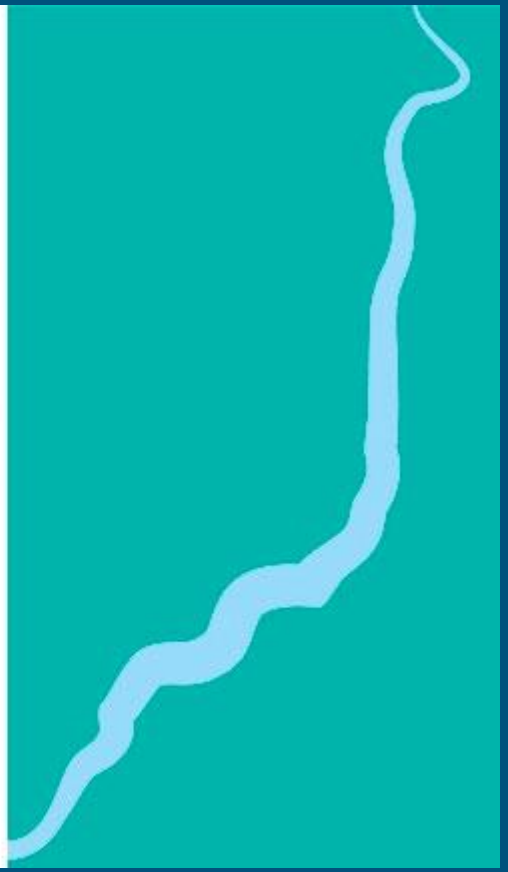
FOX RIVER STUDY GROUP



MISSION

The mission of the Fox River Study Group is to enhance the health and vitality of our river for the benefit of the nearly 1 million citizens in the Fox River Valley.

ABOUT

We are a diverse coalition of stakeholders using science to guide the region toward a cleaner, safer and more beautiful Fox River. We use research, data and collaboration to support sustainable policies and development across the Fox River watershed.

2022 Major Accomplishments

- Restart of Army Corps Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study
- 2022 Update of Fox River Implementation Plan (original plan completed 2015)

06.01.22

Durbin Announces $250,000 In Federal Funding For Fox River Restoration

Durbin Secures Funding To Restart And Complete The Feasibility Study For The Environmental Restoration Project

CHICAGO – U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) today announced $250,000 in new federal funding he secured to complete the long-delayed feasibility study for the environmental restoration of the Fox River in Elgin. Durbin secured the funds in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus appropriations bill to restart and complete the feasibility study for the environmental restoration project, with the collaboration of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Fox River Restoration Project, which will provide vital habitat restoration to the historically polluted Fox River, is one of 16 Illinois projects in the Army Corps' Section 519 Illinois River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Program.

Photo: Rob Linke

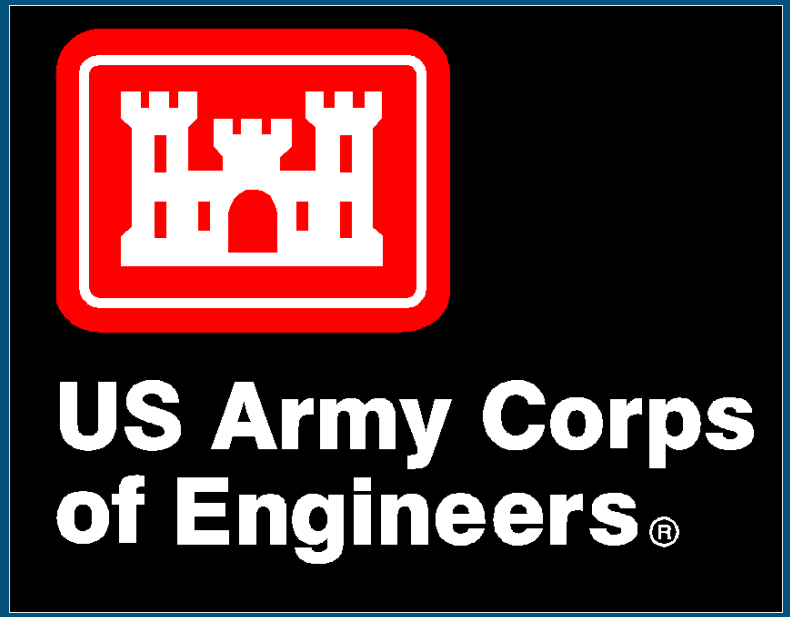
Army Corps
Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study

Schedule (as of Nov 2022)

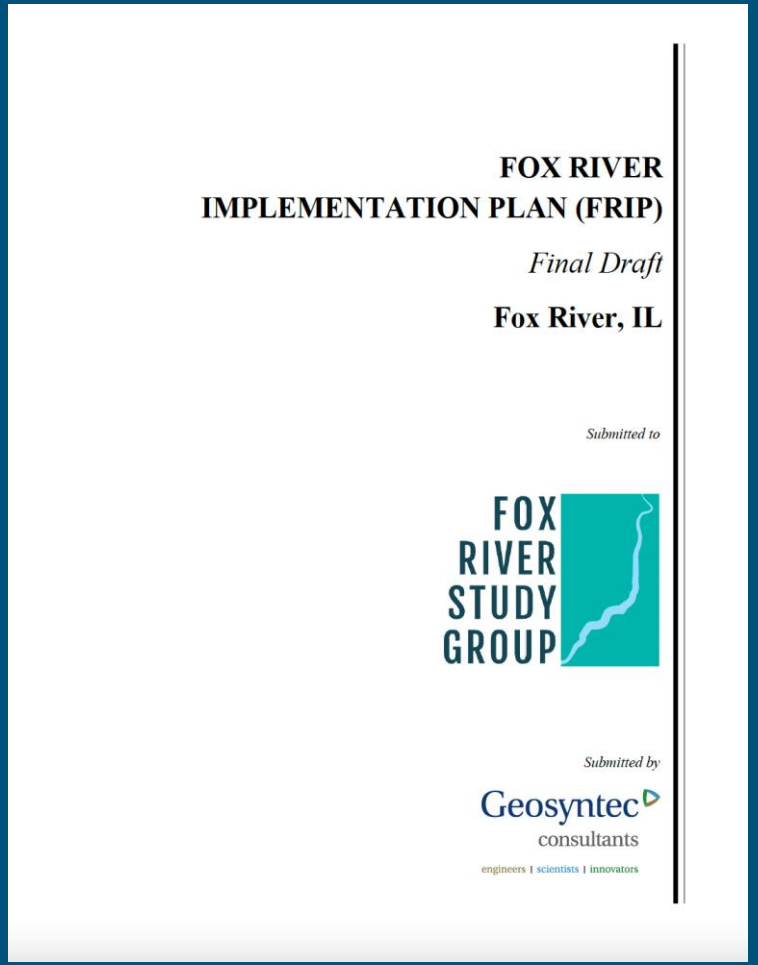
- Draft plan May 2023
- Public review June 2023
- Final report October 2023
- Headquarters Approval February 2024

Implementation

- Led by Corps
- 65% federal, 35% local cost share



2022 Fox River Implementation Plan



2022 FRIP Major Findings

- Major wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) should proceed with capital improvements to achieve a 0.5 milligram per liter (mg/L) annual geometric mean total phosphorus (TP) limit by 2030;
- FRSG should focus on collaborating with partners to support removal of dams along the mainstem river and monitor the resulting water quality impacts after the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes the Fox River Connectivity & Habitat Study (anticipated in 2024);
- FRSG should encourage state-of-the-art watershed management practices that can mitigate the impact of projected population growth in the FRIP Study Area;

2022 FRIP Major Findings

- FRSG should continue to support and direct research into nutrient control and management in the watershed, both natural and anthropogenic. The FRSG should leverage statewide work on evaluation of streambank erosion and quantify its impact on phosphorus loads in the watershed;
- FRSG should partner with efforts to reduce nutrients entering the FRIP Study Area from Illinois and Wisconsin and should also partner with agricultural entities in the Lower Fox River; and
- FRSG should continue to engage, collaborate, and partner with other agencies and organizations, including those in Wisconsin, to progress towards the goal of eliminating the impairments in the river due to non-nutrient related pollutants and therefore removing the river from the Illinois EPA list of impaired waters.

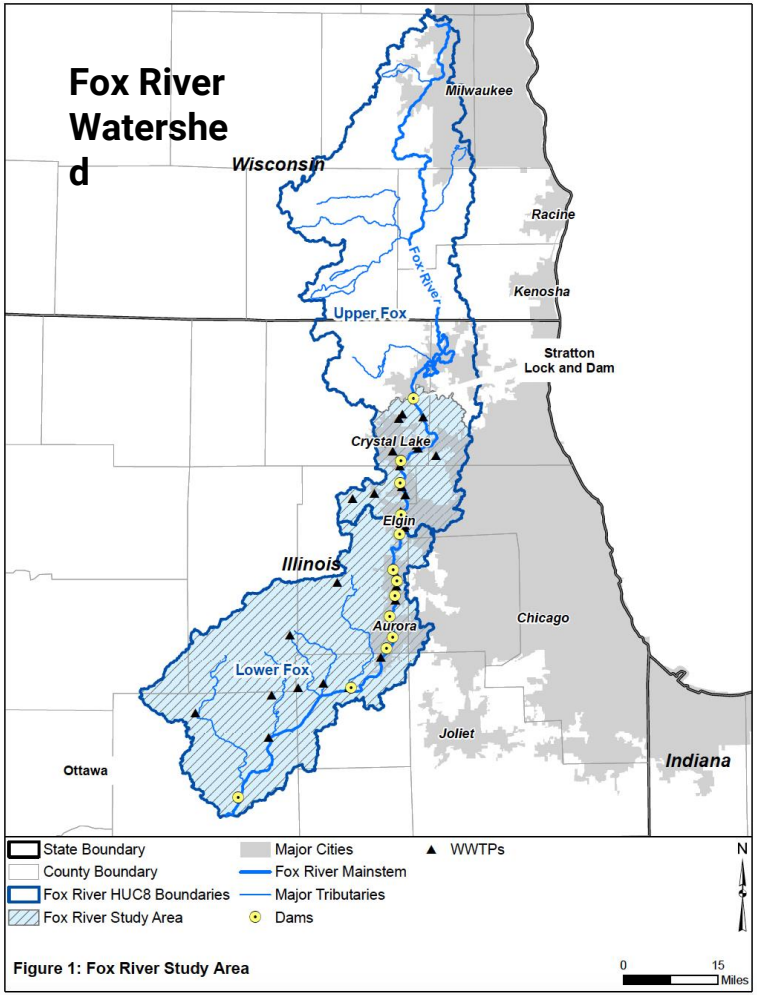


Figure 1: Fox River Study Area

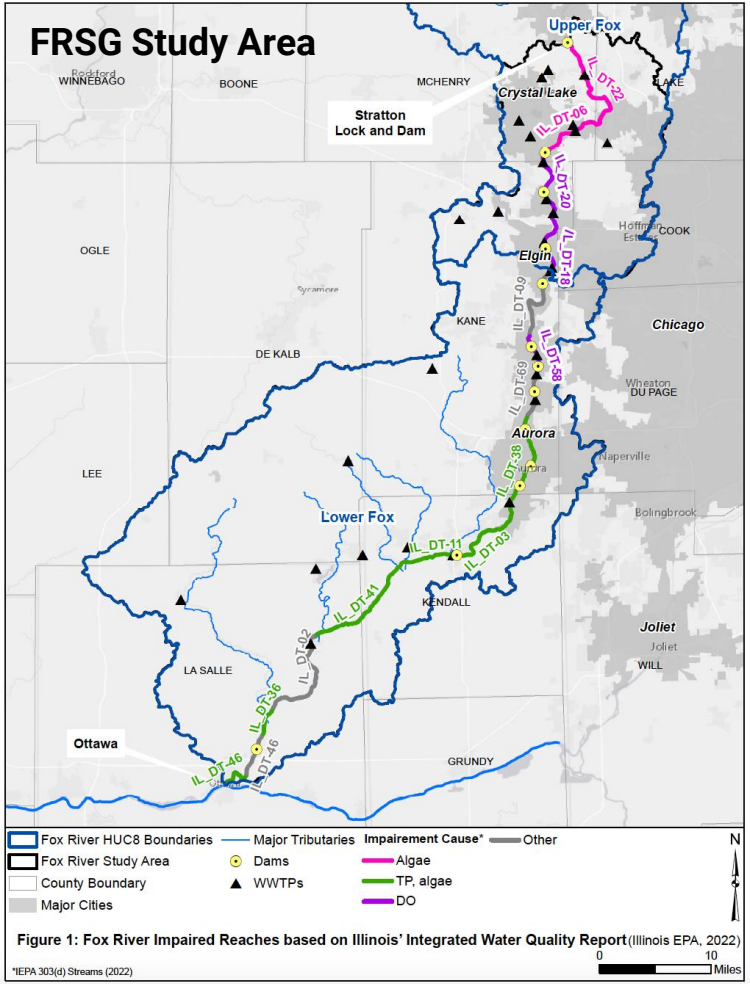


Figure 1: Fox River Impaired Reaches based on Illinois' Integrated Water Quality Report (Illinois EPA, 2022)

*IEPA 303(d) Streams (2022)

ISWS CONTRACT REPORT 2019-04

Water Quality Trend Analysis for the Fox River Watershed: Stratton Dam to the Illinois River

Elias Getahun, Laura Keefer, Sangeetha Chandrasekaran, and Atticus Zavelle

February 2019

ILLINOIS
Illinois State Water Survey
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Wastewater P Inputs Continue to Decline

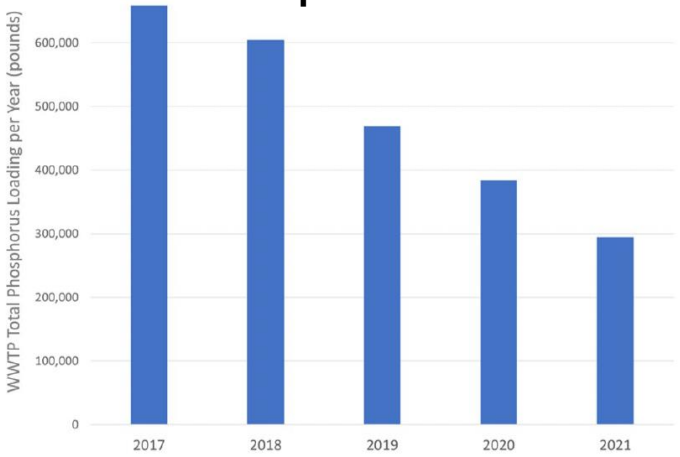
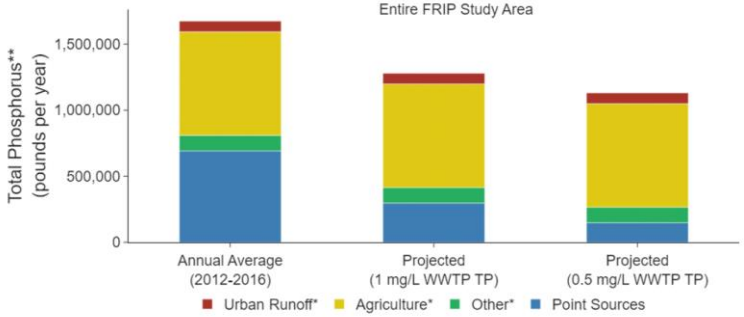


Figure 4: Estimated Quantity of Total Phosphorus (TP) Load 2012-2016 Annual Average, Projected TP Corresponding to 1.0 mg/L and 0.5 mg/L TP Effluent Limits.

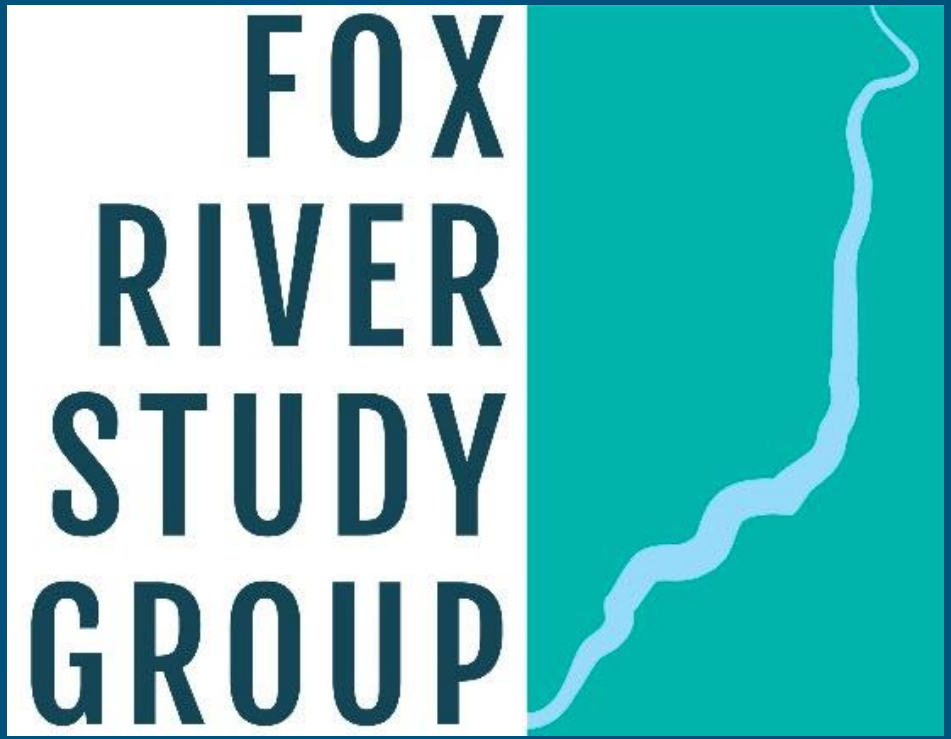


*Not modeled in HSPF. Loads were estimated by multiplying the annual average loading rates from 2012-2016 across the subwatershed by the acres.

**Not including upstream loads

WEBSITE

www.FoxRiverStudyGroup.org

FACEBOOK

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