



Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP)

**Fox River Summit
Celebrating Success and
Addressing Shared
Challenges**

3.21.14

Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

- FREP established in 1996
- FREP's territory is the entire Fox River watershed in Illinois
- One of 41 ecosystem partnerships in the state under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Conduit for State and Federal grants



Fox River Watershed Facts In Illinois

- 1,720 square miles
- 130 miles in length
- 9 counties
- Over 90 communities
- Over 400 lakes
- Land cover/use: wetlands, recreation, urban, farming, scenic



Vision and Goal

- *Our Vision for the Fox River watershed in Illinois is to balance all the uses and demands on our natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.*
- *Our Goal is to promote, preserve, protect and enhance the natural, cultural, economic and recreational resources of the Illinois Fox River and its watershed.*



Organization Structure

- Not-for-profit group
- Funding is mostly membership based and some grant funding
- All are welcome: individuals, businesses, organizations, government entities, HOA, consultants
- One paid Communications Manager
- Executive Committee oversees activities
- Integrated Management Plan



Factors Impacting the Fox

- Population Growth and Development
- Regulated Discharges
 - 160 NPDES permits
 - 55 WWTP on Fox and Tributaries in IL
- Water Supply
 - Over 300,000 people drink from Fox
- Dams
 - 13 on Fox in IL, 80+ on tributaries
- Wisconsin—what happens upstream



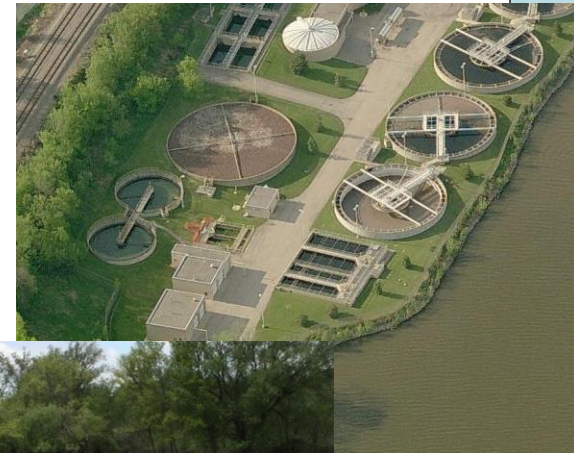
Integrated Management Plan

- Collaborative, Inclusive Process to establish
- 6 Areas of Concern
 - Recreation, Habitat, Land Use, Water Quality, Stormwater, Education
- 16 Critical Factors
- 37 Recommendations for Action
- Endorsed by municipalities, counties, conservation and park districts, environmental consultants, environmental groups and more



Managing a Multi-Purpose Resource

- Drinking water
- Wastewater and stormwater conveyance
- Recreation
- Habitat for aquatic and terrestrial species
- Aesthetic value



Fox River Watershed Grants and Matches

- Lead effort in grant writing review
- FREP instrumental in bringing \$\$ to watershed
- IDNR C2000 \$2,333,250
 - 58 grants since 1996
- EPA319 \$9,500,000
 - 47 NPS Pollution Control Grants since 1990



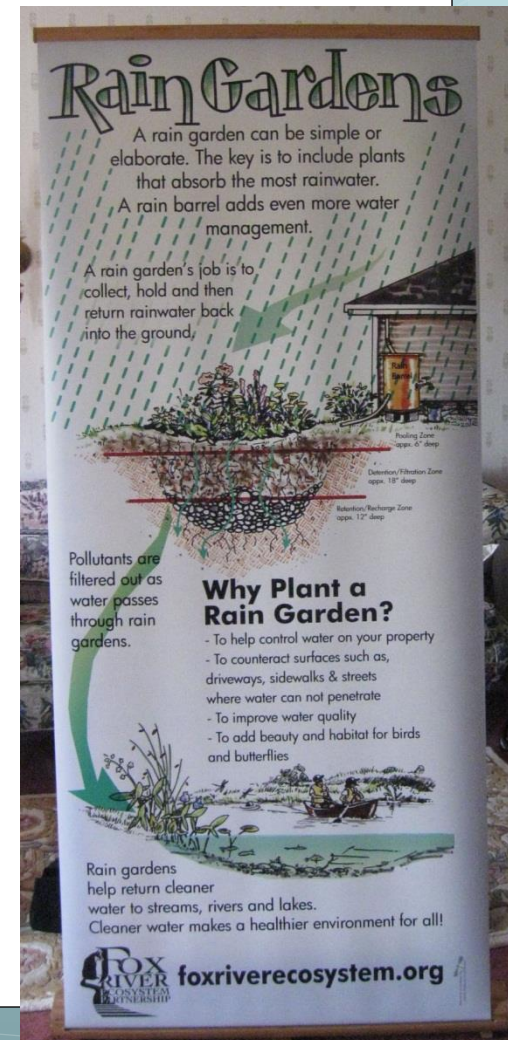
FREP Activities

- Bi-monthly FREP Noon Network programs featuring environmental projects throughout the watershed
- Bi-monthly membership meetings with program
- Assisting CMAP with 9 lakes TMDL project
- Provided Watershed Planning assistance for four subwatersheds: Blackberry Creek, Ferson-Otter Creek, Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek
- Collaborated with the Conservation Foundation on the Preserve the Fox Guide and Website



FREP Activities Continued

- Host IEPA 319 Grant Workshop to help applicants improve their grant applications
- Kane County Rain Garden Initiative
- Annual Conversations about Conservation with our Legislators
- Municipal Smart Growth/BMP Workshops



FREP Benefits You

- Monthly educational programs
- Monthly *Downstream* e-newsletter
- Comprehensive website full of resources
 - Model ordinances, subwatershed plans, studies, activities and more
- Networking opportunities
- Assist with grant applications and funding sources





Join FREP

- www.Foxriverecosystem.org

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