



Fox River  
Ecosystem  
Partnership  
(FREP)

# Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

- FREP established in 1996
- One of 41 ecosystem partnerships in the state under the auspices of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- FREP membership includes individuals, governments, organizations and businesses
- FREP's territory is the entire Fox River watershed in Illinois

# Fox River Watershed Facts

- 1,720 square miles
- 130 miles in length
- 9 counties
- Over 90 communities
- Over 400 lakes
- 14 dams on the Fox River
- 214,000 people depend on Fox River for drinking water



# 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
- Volunteer organization
- One paid Communications Manager
- Executive Committee oversees activities
- Integrated Management Plan

# Integrated Management Plan

- 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
- Reviewing Plan at our September 19 meeting

# FREP Activities

- Bi-monthly FREP Noon Network programs featuring environmental projects throughout the watershed
- Bi-monthly membership meetings with program
- Assisting CMAP with Watershed Planning for four subwatersheds: Blackberry Creek, Ferson-Otter Creek, Silver Creek and Sleepy Hollow Creek
- Collaborating with the Conservation Foundation on the Preserve the Fox Guide and Website
- Kane County Rain Garden Initiative
- Annual Conversations about Conservation with our Legislators
- Host IEPA 319 Grant Workshop to help applicants improve their funding applications

# Fox River Watershed Grants and Matches

- IDNR C2000            \$2,333,250
  - 58 grants since 1996
- IEPA                    \$9,500,000
  - 47 NPS Pollution Control Grants since 1990



# 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

- Attend the September 19 meeting at 1:00pm at Kane County Farm Bureau to help move FREP forward (facilitated discussion on strategic plan)
- [www.Foxriverecosystem.org](http://www.Foxriverecosystem.org)