FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN
FROM BURTONS BRIDGE TO FOX BLUFF

Kate Evasic, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
McHenry County Water Forum | September 12, 2018
• Official regional planning organization and MPO for northeastern Illinois

• Adopted GO TO 2040 regional plan in 2010

• Developing ON TO 2050 regional plan
LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
Establishes a vision for the next 10 to 15 years.
Outline the steps needed to meet that goal.
Builds on existing plans, water trail
Helps set priorities, coordinate decision-making, and obtain grants
Burtons Bridge
Cary
Fox River Grove
Island Lake
Lake Barrington
Oakwood Hills
Port Barrington
Trout Valley

Cary Country Club
Cotton Creek Marsh
Fox River FP
Grassy Lake FP
Hickory Grove CA
Lyons Prairie & Marsh CA
Silver Creek CA
Wagner Fen
Collaboration between CMAP and McHenry County Planning & Development

Funding: Federal Highway Administration, Illinois EPA, NOAA, among others

Steering Committee:

Cary Park District
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
Flint Creek and Spring Creek Watershed Partnership
Fox River Study Group
Fox Waterway Agency
Illinois DNR
Lake County
Lake County Forest Preserves
McHenry County
McHenry County Bicycle Advocates
McHenry County Conservation District
Village of Cary
Village of Fox River Grove
Village of Lake Barrington
Village of Oakwood Hills
Village of Port Barrington
Village of Trout Valley
Visit McHenry County

THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN
EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Community Outreach
Water Quality and Flooding
Open Space, Habitat, and Recreation
Transportation and Access
Economic Development
Climate Vulnerability
- Flooding
- River/business closures
- Decreased baseflow affecting surface water supplies and aquatic habitat
- Less aquifer recharge
- Ecosystem health and biodiversity
Broad themes:

- Preserve the scenic beauty and environment
- Balance a mix of activities
- Provide more public riverfront access, but no river trail
- Attract more family-friendly businesses and activities
Top five ideas from public visioning workshop:

1. Sediment management & dredging
2. Boater safety education
3. Water quality & environmental education
4. Stormwater management
5. Keep river as a local resource
• Create a healthy, safe, and accessible river environment.
• Balance the preservation and recreational use of the Fox River and connected natural areas.
• Foster a culture of appreciation and stewardship among residents, businesses, and river users.
• Preserve the area’s rural and local character.
• Enhance the vibrancy of the riverfront and nearby commercial and downtown areas.
• Protect high quality and diverse habitats.
• Strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change to better withstand floods, droughts, and other impacts.
PLAN RECOMMENDATION AREAS

NATURAL RESOURCES

RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMAKING
• Collaborate to leverage resources and maximize impact.
  – Support existing cross-jurisdictional groups.
  – Tailor outreach to meet the needs of the Fox River corridor.
NATURAL RESOURCES RECOMMENDATIONS

• Protect and restore green infrastructure.
  – Strengthen local ordinances and plans.
  – Target green infrastructure expansion and management.
  – Improve stormwater management and erosion control.
• Maintain and enhance groundwater resources.
  – Adopt groundwater protection ordinances.
  – Use McHenry County Sensitive Aquifer Recharge Area (SARA) map and BACOG data to identify sensitive areas.
Other Water-Related Recommendations

- Promote best practices in boat operations and maintenance.
- Improve waterway capacity and water quality through sediment control and management.
- Pursue responsible river-oriented economic development.
NEXT STEPS

http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs-and-resources/lta/fox-river-mchenry-lake
LTA Call for Projects open now through October 28, 2018

www.cmap.illinois.gov/programs/lta/call-for-projects

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ON TO 2050
Inclusive Growth

Grow the economy through opportunity for all
Resilience

Prepare for rapid changes, both known and unknown
Prioritized Investment

Target resources to maximize benefits
Community
Prosperity
Environment
Governance
Mobility
Environment Chapter Highlights

• Calls for the protection of high-priority natural areas throughout the region and renews discussions on funding sources for land acquisition and stewardship.

• Calls on local land use plans to acknowledge and protect natural lands and water resources and minimize development impacts through design process.

• Encourages planners and water utilities to work together to understand future water demand and supply constraints, and adopt water conservation strategies to reduce water use.
Celebrate in Millennium Park

October 10

RSVP

www.cmap.illinois.gov
THANK YOU!

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