



Friends of the Fox River

2006 Annual Report

Our Mission: To preserve, restore and protect the Fox River Watershed's resources by connecting people with nature through education, research, restoration and advocacy

Year's Highlights —

- Advocated for the complete removal of the Glen Palmer Dam in Yorkville.
- Petitioned, in conjunction with Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn & Prairie Rivers Network, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to adopt rules for comprehensive dam safety.
- Advocated to protect Big Rock Creek from Prairie Parkway freeway negative environmental impacts.
- Partnered with Prairie Rivers Network and the Sierra Club to encourage the IEPA to require the City of Sandwich to disinfect their treated wastewater before discharging it to a tributary of Little Rock Creek.
- Removed 8.3 tons of trash from over 17 river miles at 15 individual Fox Rescue cleanup events with the assistance of over 400 volunteers and in conjunction with partnership groups too numerous to mention individually.
- Planted 3,000+ water willow plants to enhance river habitat at two Fox River locations in Oswego (2,000+ plants) and West Dundee (1,000 plants) with the assistance of 50+ volunteers.
- Partnered with McHenry County Conservation District, Campton Township, Kane County Forest Preserve District, Fox Valley Park District and Forest Preserve District of Kane County to train 29 new stream monitors for our Fox River Watershed Monitoring Network. The Monitoring Network added 18 new stream monitoring sites (increasing its total monitoring sites to 108). Collectively, over 2,500 students, teachers, and adults actively monitored stream sites this year.
- Partnered with Dundee-Crown High School's FOXMap Project to enable over 300 students from third grade through college level to collect water quality data using GPS/GIS technology, investigate the relationship between land and water quality, and report their findings at a student conference attended by local decision makers.
- Received grants for Friends of the Fox River projects:
Monitoring Network - \$5,000-Kane County Department of Environmental Management;
\$2,000-Patagonia and Lost Arrow Corporation
Water Willow Planting Projects - \$3,000-Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn and the Illinois River Coordinating Council; \$650-Illinois Smallmouth Alliance
Fox Rescue River Cleanups - \$1,750-Illinois Environmental Protection Agency-SCALE ,
\$1,250-Kane County Department of Environmental Management.
- Presented the Fox Environmental Hero Award to Judy Boehmer of Elgin.
- Presented the Reese's Clean-Up Cup Award to Kane County Forest Preserve District.
- Completed the Third Annual "Your Fox River Watershed" Photo Contest.
- Participated as an active member of the Fox River Study Group.
- Adopted a three-year Friends of the Fox River strategic plan.
- Joined Chicago Wilderness.

2006 Events -

- Bald Eagle Days, Ottawa, January 28-29
- Monitor Appreciation Banquet, East Dundee, January 31
- Macroinvertebrate ID Workshop, Crystal Lake, March 7
- FOXMap Focus Student Conference, Elgin, March 7
- Waubensee Community College History Event, March 24-25
- Gail Borden Public Library Volunteer Fair, Elgin, April 1
- Monitoring Network Trainings- April 28 (Crystal Lake), April 29 (Wasco), May 6 (Crystal Lake), May 10 (North Aurora), May 18 (Yorkville)
- Monitor with Your Mother, Carpentersville, May 14
- Fox Rescue river cleanups, May 21
 - Nippersink Creek in Richmond
 - Boone Creek near Rt. 120 in the City of McHenry
 - Fox River at Fox River Shores Forest Preserve in Carpentersville
 - Fox River at Voyageur's Landing Forest Preserve in Elgin
 - Fox River at Geneva RiverPark in Geneva
 - Fox River at Clark Island in Batavia
 - Fox River at Les Arends Forest Preserve in Batavia
 - Waubensee Creek and the Fox River at Hudson Crossing Park in Oswego
 - Fox River at Yorkville City Park in Yorkville
 - Fox River/Prairie Parkway in Aurora (held April 22)
 - Fox River in Aurora (held May 18)
- Gail Borden Public Library Summer Reading Kickoff, Elgin, June 1
- St. Charles RiverFest, St. Charles, June 9-11
- Algonquin Community Day, Algonquin, June 16
- Water Willow Planting Projects (River Habitat Enhancement):
 - In partnership with Oswegoland Park District, Illinois Smallmouth Alliance, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Bob Rung), and Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn & the Illinois River Coordinating Council – Oswego Planting – July 15
 - In partnership with Illinois Smallmouth Alliance, Illinois Department of Natural Resources (Bob Rung), and Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn & the Illinois River Coordinating Council – West Dundee Planting – July 22
 - In partnership with the City of Aurora – Aurora Planting – July 29
 - In partnership with the Village of Oswego – Oswego Planting – August 5
- "It's Our River Day" Fox Rescue river cleanups, September 16
 - Fox River at Fox River Shores Forest Preserve in Carpentersville
 - Fox River at Norris Woods Nature Preserve in St. Charles
 - Fox River at RiverWalk in Batavia
 - Fox River near Stolp Island in Aurora
- Rolling on the River, Yorkville, Sept. 2-3
- Mussel Mania Workshop, St. Charles, Sept. 9
- Hunting and Fishing Days, Oswego, Sept. 23-24
- Prairiefest, Elgin, Sept. 30
- Annual Meeting and Photo Contest Winner Reception, Crystal Lake, November 6

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