

PROGRESS REPORT
July 15, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Implementation of the Fox River Watershed Management Plan – Phase 1

Project Name: Fox River Watershed Restoration Action Strategy Implementation
Contacts: Sarah Nerenberg and Holly Hudson

Attached are progress reports for six of the eight projects as part of the above referenced grant. There is no progress report for the Nippersink Creek project because they will be submitting an annual report at the end of this month. There also is no progress report for Christ Community Church because, as noted over electronic mail correspondence between IEPA and NIPC, Christ Community Church decided not to proceed with the project after earlier indicating that they would proceed. An amendment deleting the Christ Community Church section of the agreement will be made during the next quarter.

NIPC has been working with the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership on the continued development of the Integrated Management Plan for the Fox River Watershed and the development of Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs) for subwatersheds. Specifically two summer interns began the stream inventory work this quarter.

Over 50 resumes were received by the April 15 due date. After review and ranking, eight potential candidates were interviewed over the phone. The top three were then interviewed face-to-face at NIPC. Chosen for the two internships were Lori Hron of Naperville, a senior environmental science major at Purdue University, and Mark Meyer of Lombard, a senior geography and environmental science major at Augustana University. The first three days of their internship (June 3-5) were spent at NIPC reviewing stream assessment guidebooks, determining which aerals were needed and placing orders through NIPC's Publications Department and the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District, and becoming familiar with the digital camera's operation and software. On June 6, the interns and NRD staff member Holly Hudson joined the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission stream interns and staff member Sean Wiedel for a training day in the field in northern Lake County. NRD staff and the interns spent June 7 getting set up at the "field office" provided by a consulting firm in Elgin (LFR Levine-Fricke), becoming familiar with the GPS unit, and visiting several sites at Elgin-area streams to view various characteristics the interns would likely encounter.

Stream inventory work began on June 10 in Poplar Creek (Cook and Kane Counties) and continued in this stream through June 18. Due to flooded conditions and road construction, some sections of Poplar Creek were not inventoried but will be later in the summer. NRD staff met with the interns on June 19 at the field office. This day was spent downloading and naming photos and preparing for the next stream's inventory. Inventory work was then conducted in Boone Creek (McHenry County) from June 20 through June 28. Boone Creek Watershed Alliance members Carol O'Donnell and Ed Ellinghausen provided help with stream access and joined the interns one day in the field.

LOWER TYLER CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT
PROGRESS REPORT
July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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Project Name: Lower Tyler Creek Watershed

Contact: Joe Evers, P.E., City Engineer, City of Elgin, Illinois

Project Design

The subject project involves 1 site of a total of 26 sites within plans. The full set of plans has been submitted for Army Corp. permitting. Army Corp. has responded with changes to four sites they could permit at this time and for which the City felt it could get cooperation from private property owners. The site numbers are 3, 5, 12 and 13 which they will permit together. Hey and Associates is working on addressing the Army Corp comments for all four sites but we have not resubmitted as of July 1. We are working with the City's testing firm, Testing Services Corporation, to complete soil borings on site 5 but access and their current work load have been caused delays.

For reference only, site 5 is generally located behind Creekside School, site 3 is generally located at the end of Kimberly Drive in Eagle Heights, site 12 is located behind Spring Grove Condominiums and site 13 is located behind a town home along the north side of Tyler Creek just west of Garden Crescent Drive. For the purpose of this progress report, the 319 Grant is only being applied to site 3. Except of site 5, redesign to satisfy Army Corp has not revealed problems.

Permits and Landowner Agreements

The project being considered for the 319 Grant encroaches into private property owned by Theresa and Thomas Boswell, of 1711 Kimberly Avenue. They verbally agreed to dedicate an easement to the City, however, a letter dated June 26, 2002 indicates that they would rather sell the area we need for an easement. Because the purchase of land is more complicated and time consuming, the City will respond that we can only consider the easement at this time.

Project Implementation

The project has not been permitted through the Army Corp of Engineers but the City would expect to obtain all permits by the end of July 2002. The City has an amendment to Hey and Associate's existing contract to include provisions for modifying the plans (as far as sites 3, 5, 12 and 13 are concerned), preparing monitoring plans and providing construction observation. The City expected to have revised plans back to Army Corp by June 1, 2002; however, we anticipate that we will complete by the end of July.

The project would be bid upon Army Corp permit of all four sites, IDNR permit (if necessary) and approval from NIPC. City anticipates bidding in August or September with work completed by the end of January 2003.

Other Activities

Need to resolve easement issue at site 3.

Additional Information

- Describe and problems you have encountered while working on the project
Property acquisition.

Because of the unique shape of the particular parcel at site 3, legal descriptions were difficult to develop. Also, the homeowners' position has changed and they now want to sell the land instead of dedicating an easement.

- Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project
Difficulty providing description of benefits to landowners.

Property owners slow to respond. Having difficulty obtaining access.

OTTER CREEK STREAMBANK RESTORATION AND WETLAND PROTECTION

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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Project Name: Streambank Repair and Restoration on Otter Creek

Contact: Mary Ochsenschlager

ACTIVITIES OCCURRING DURING PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD

Project Design

Permits and Landowners Agreements All permits have been received including Kane County

Project Implementation – Project implementation is tentatively scheduled for late July or August if the land dries out.

Other Activities –

Additional Information

- Describe any problems you have encountered while working on the project
Wet conditions deter access.
- Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project
Be patient.

BREWSTER CREEK STREAM RESTORATION AND DAM REMOVAL

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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Project Name: Brewster Creek Stream Restoration

Contact: Karen Kosky, Kane County Environmental Management Department

ACTIVITIES OCCURRING DURING PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD

Project Design

Project engineers have worked through the second quarter of 2002 on the new design for the Brewster Creek Stream Restoration project. The new naturalized approach, developed after the original design was abandoned in January 2002, calls for a gradual notching of the dam spillway, leading to the natural formation of a new channel over the course of a year to several years, based on emerging conditions and the opinion of a review team. The Technical Advisory Committee will oversee the process and approve the timing of each notching phase.

The new design is anticipated to be ready, in draft format, in mid-July, 2002. At that time a meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee will be called to review the design and offer any comments before final design is complete and permit applications submitted, slated for mid-August.

Concurrent with the redesign, a ten-year Operations & Maintenance plan is being developed. O&M plan will be available for review in August 2002.

Permits and Landowners Agreements

Previously submitted permits were recalled in January 2002. New permit applications will be submitted to all required agencies upon completion of the new project design, by mid-August, 2002. The project continues to have full support of all landowners involved.

Project Implementation

The USGS has begun work to coordinate and conduct extensive water quality, biologic, and geomorphic monitoring on the project site for the duration of the project. The USGS has installed two gaging stations, one upstream and one downstream of the project site. The USGS is monitoring flow and sediment load during and after storm events. IDNR-OWR has committed to providing surveying assistance for the project, and IDNR – Fisheries will conduct monitoring of the fish populations. Additionally, the Shedd Aquarium will periodically monitor mussel and other macroinvertebrate populations before and during the restoration process.

The USGS and IDNR will be collecting background data through December 2002. From January 2003 through January 2004, the dam will be removed and stream restored. The

ultimate implementation start date will depend on the timing of permit returns from the required state and federal agencies.

Other Activities

A Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held in late July to offer members a chance to present comments on the draft design before the design is finalized and permit applications are submitted.

The BMP sign designs will be revised upon completion of final re-design and will be available for review in September 2002. Installation will be complete at the beginning of the construction phase.

Additional Information

- **Describe any problems you have encountered while working on the project**

- **Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project.**

WEST MAIN STREET PARK BIOFILTRATION PARKING ISLAND

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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Project Name: Batavia Bioinfiltration
Contact: Jim Eby, Batavia Park District

ACTIVITIES OCCURRING DURING PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD

Project Design
Complete

Permits and Landowners Agreements
Complete

Project Implementation
Bio infiltration island complete. Reconfiguration proposal to be submitted to NIPC/IEPA.

Other Activities
We still have some items under review with regards to our signage. Currently being reviewed by IEPA and NIPC.

Additional Information

- Describe any problems you have encountered while working on the project
- Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project

FOX RIVER STREAMBANK STABILIZATION

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
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Project Name: Fox River North Watershed Improvement

Contact: Kenneth N. Anderson, Jr., Kane County Department of Environmental Management

ACTIVITIES OCCURRING DURING PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD April 1, 2002 to June 30, 2002

Project Design

Consultant Earth Tech, Inc. submitted a revised Final Design Plans, Report and supplemental information for review and comment. This information was then submitted to NIPC and other regulatory agencies for review and comment.

Permits and Landowners Agreements

The County has received signed Intergovernmental Agreements from the Villages of Carpentersville and East Dundee. The Village of East Dundee is working with their respective landowners to get landowner agreements and easements for access to private properties. Landowner agreements are also being processed with the Village of West Dundee for a portion of the project that will be on private property.

The consultant submitted for permit during the middle part of June. The County met with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to discuss the project. The Corps will process in accordance to their requirements. The County also has contacted the IEPA to discuss their review of the permit application and they indicated they would review in accordance to their requirements.

The County has requested to NIPC a date change to the project. The date change was related to the “Permits and Landowners Agreement: Executed Arrangement” the new date is September 1, 2002, changed from June 1, 2002. NIPC and IEPA have accepted this date change.

Project Implementation

The consultant is finalizing documents for the bid process. They should be ready by July 1, 2002. Anticipate start of construction to be September 1, 2002, or once required permits are obtained.

Other Activities

A summary of the “Pre-Construction Survey” has been completed by NRCS and has been forwarded to NIPC for review. In mid February 2002, the County mailed the “Pre-Construction Survey” to 167 landowners. We received 79 responses that were useable for survey purposes from landowners who live along the Fox River and its tributaries in the subject project area. According to the NRCS no clear trend of landowner thinking was determined by the survey. But generally people did prefer softer landscapes compared to hard landscapes.

The County and consultant have meet with Village officials and interested property owners on various occasions to discuss the project and its benefits.

Some video footage has been completed documenting existing conditions. The County is working with Mr. Gary Swick (Dundee-Crown High School Teacher) and two County interns to develop an outline and script for the educational video requirements of this project.

County interns are working on creating draft educational signage utilizing power point.

County met with a sign company who could produce the project identification and educational signs. The cost to do the required colors increases the cost of the signs. We may need to evaluate the colors or sizes of signs so we stay within budget for signage.

The County is proposing a summer streambank stabilization tour and workshop. It is anticipated that this tour and workshop would be considered a kickoff meeting prior to construction.

Additional Information

- Describe any problems you have encountered while working on the project.
Meeting time schedule has been difficult especially dealing with consultant, officials and landowners.
- Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project.
With so many players involved with the project, coordination is critical.

GREATER RACEWAY WOODS ECOSYSTEM PROJECT

PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2002

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Implementation of the Fox River Watershed Management Plan – Phase 1

Project Name: Greater Raceway Woods Ecosystem Project

Contact: Karen Kosky, Kane County Environmental Management Department

ACTIVITIES OCCURRING DURING PROGRESS REPORT PERIOD

Project Design

A cursory study of the project site was conducted by Applied Ecological Services, Inc., and submitted as part of the grant application dated April 1, 2002. Upon notice that funds were available for the project, a team was assembled to develop engineering plans for streambank stabilization in the eroding portion of Shaw Creek* as well as plans for an improvement to the outlet structure of the pond.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service, NRCS, Plainfield Office, will prepare plans for the streambank stabilization to occur on Shaw Creek*. Civil Design Group (CDG), an engineering firm, will develop plans for the pond outlet structure.

Permits and Landowners Agreements

A private landowner, the owner of the pond outlet, indicated initial willing participation in the project. As details about engineering plans are developed, owner will be contacted again to proceed with agreements. Several individuals own land comprising the Shaw Creek* corridor adjoining Raceway Woods. Easements have been granted for this project along said corridor.

Permit applications for this work will be submitted to all appropriate agencies upon completion of the engineering design phase.

Project Implementation

The construction phase of this project will begin after the design phase has been completed, construction documents have been developed, and a qualified restoration/engineering firm has been selected.

Other Activities

Additional Information

*Dundee Township is pursuing a new name for the creek that runs through Raceway

Woods and is tributary to the Fox River - "Shaw Creek".

This is the same creek that runs adjacent to Four Winds Way park in Carpentersville. The section of this creek adjacent to Four Winds Way park is included in the list of tributaries to be addressed through the Fox River North stabilization project (referred to there as "Four Winds Way Creek"), another IEPA 319 project managed through Kane County Environmental Management Department. The simultaneous improvement of both stretches of tributary should yield a significant improvement to the overall stream health and resulting water quality entering the Fox River.

- **Describe any problems you have encountered while working on the project**
While the study of this site did address in good detail the types of improvements necessary to stabilize the streambanks on Shaw Creek, little information was provided as to the nature of the pond feeding the creek (depth, sediment accumulation, sediment load, etc.) Therefore, the engineering design phase will need to include a brief examination of those issues.

Upon examination of the pond characteristics, the design engineers will determine whether the proposed outlet structure of the pond will be appropriate or a new design will be necessary.

- **Describe lessons learned by you and any collaborators in undertaking the project**