

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

4th Annual

FOX RIVERSUMMIT

March 18, 2016

Rebecca Ewald

Waterford, Wisconsin



Karen Ann Miller

*Fox River Ecosystem
Partnership, Illinois*



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

FOX RIVER SUMMIT

Celebrating
Success
& Addressing
Shared Challenges

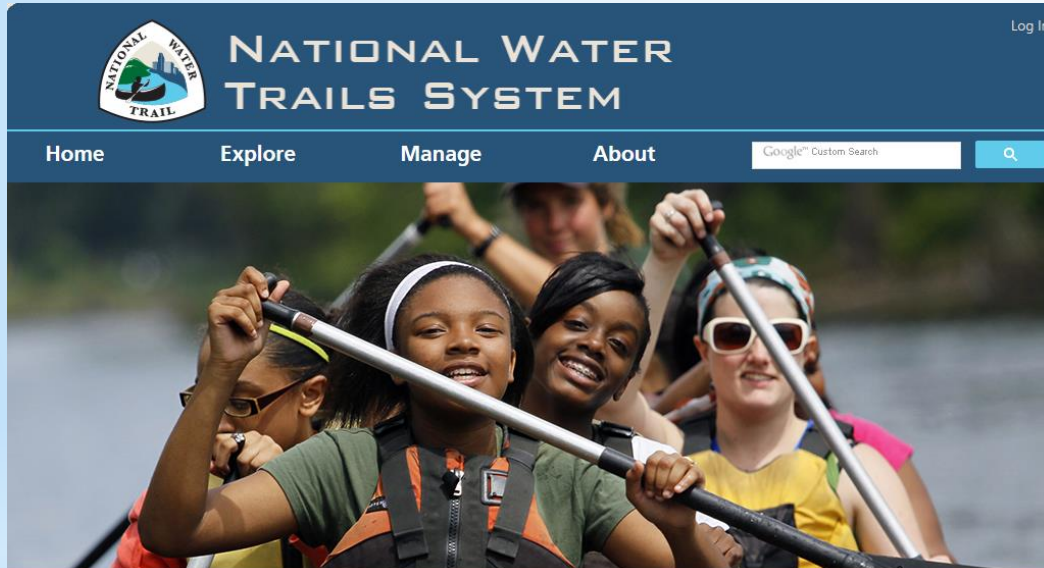
Friday, March 21, 2014
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

National Water Trail System

Angie Tornes, National Park Service
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program

March 21, 2014

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



Best Management Practices

- * Recreation
- * Education
- * Conservation
- * Public Information
- * Community Support
- * Trail Maintenance
- * Planning

Established to:

- * Encourage stewardship
- * Increase access
- * Supported by broad-based community partnerships

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



- * Designated by the **Secretary of the Interior** or the **Secretary of Agriculture**
- * Managed by a **local management entity** (local, state, or federal government agency; nonprofit organization; interagency organization)
- * **Property ownership remains.**
- * **Not acquired by the National Park Service!**

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



FREP Noon Network
August, 2014



Glacial Park, McHenry County Conservation District

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

**3rd Annual
FOX RIVER SUMMIT**

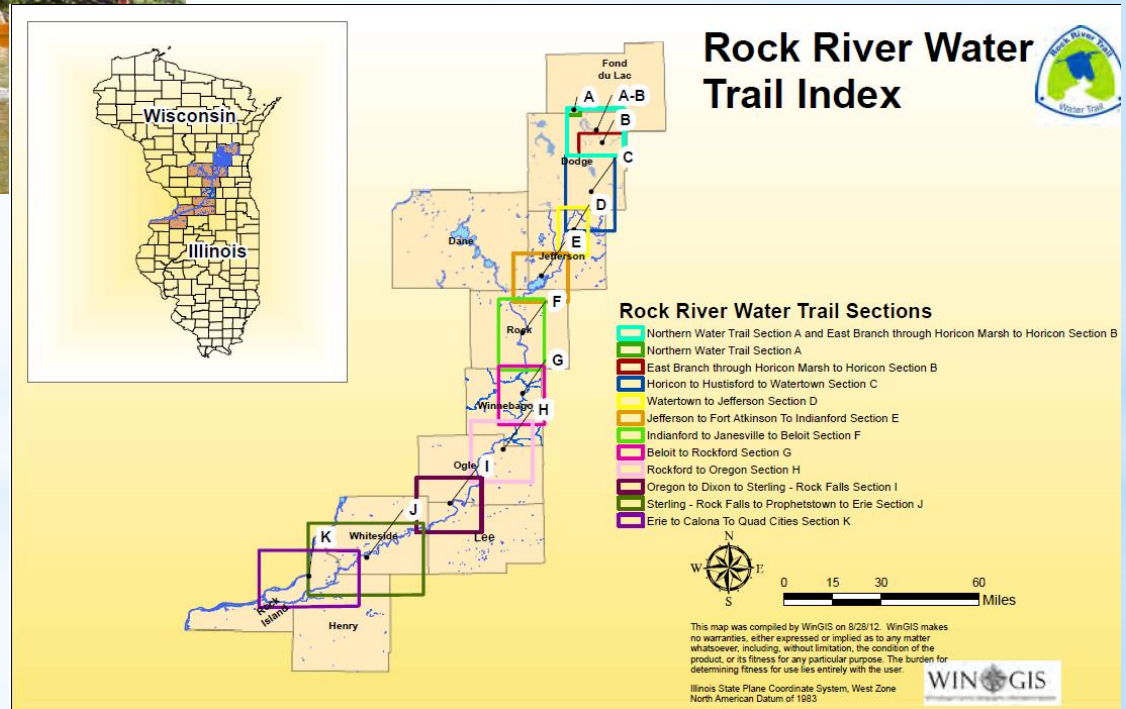
Celebrating **Success**
& Addressing
**Shared
Challenges**



Friday, March 20, 2015
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Greg Farnham
Coordinator



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

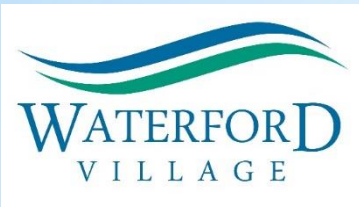
FREP NPS

National Water Trails Program Committee



Participants

- * Algonquin
- * Aurora
- * Batavia
- * Bird Conservation Network
- * Fox Valley PD
- * FREP
- * Friends of the Fox River
- * Girl Scouts
- * IDNR
- * Il Paddling
- * KC Canoe Network
- * KC Council of Mayors
- * Kane DuPage Soil & Water Cons. Dist.
- * Residents
- * St. Chas. Canoeing Club
- * St. Chas. Rowing Club
- * Sierra Club

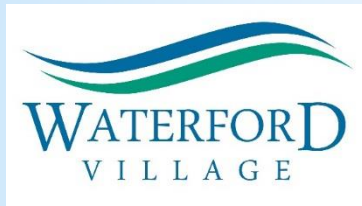


Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

- 2007 First Impressions
- 2008 River Rhythms
- 2008 SEWFRC Grant - Village Hall Stream Bank Stabilization
- 2008 Master Plan Amendment
- 2010 CLUE Group Report
- 2012 Begin Planning Efforts for River Redevelopment & Ten Club Park
- 2013 Whitford Park Stream Bank Stabilization
- 2014 Concept Plan for River Redevelopment & Ten Club Park



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



Partnership for
Canoe/Kayak
Launches
2015



Racine
Community
Foundation
ENHANCING THE QUALITY OF LIFE

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Goal 2: Work to Enhance Destination Appeal

Objective A

Advocate for Destination-Enhancing Development

Tactic

Support efforts to develop the Fox River Trail into a member of the National Water Trail System



Wisconsin-Illinois

Fox River Water Trail Initiative

- Build a place people want to visit, and you'll build a place where people want to live.
- Build a place where people want to live, and you'll build a place where people want to work.
- Build a place where people want to work, and you'll build a place where business has to be.
- Build a place where business has to be, and you'll build a place where people have to visit.

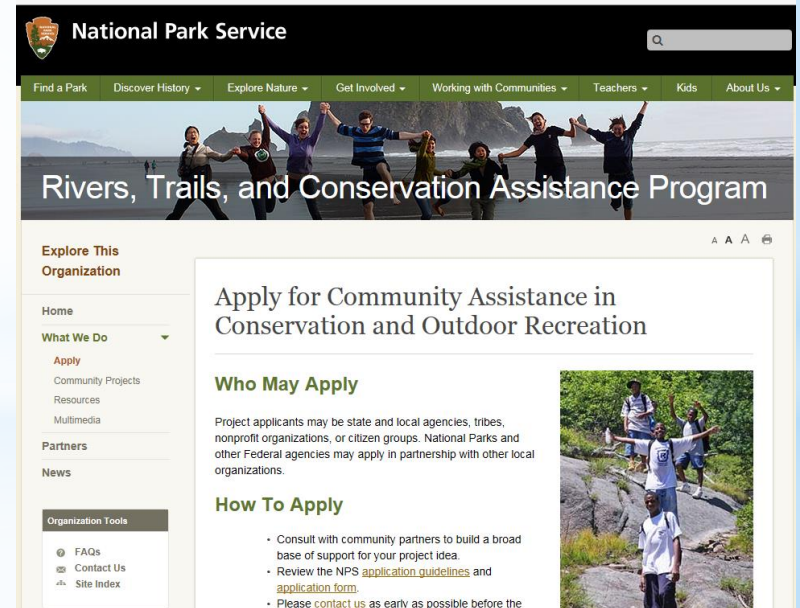
IT ALL – AND IT ONLY – STARTS WITH THE VISIT, AND THAT VISIT STARTS WITH US.

Maura Gast- Irving CVB

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



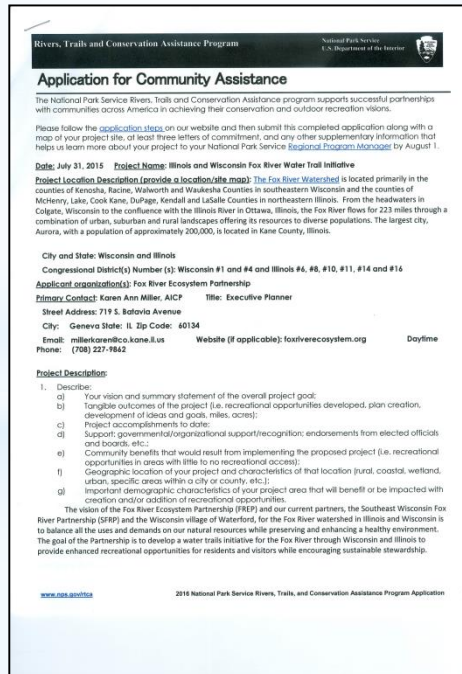
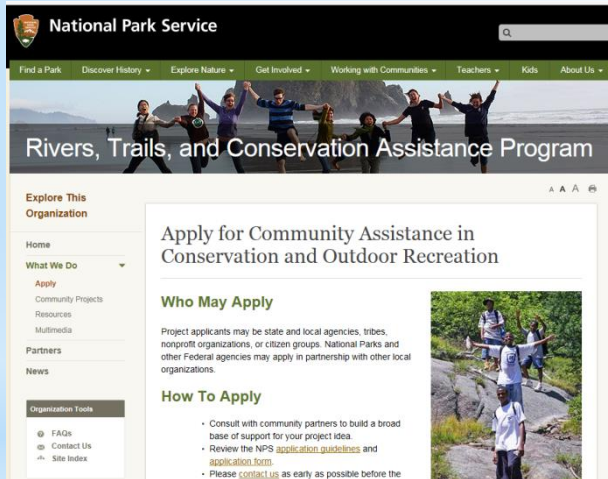
Partners!



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



Application!



Letters of Support

- FREP
- Village of Waterford
- City of Waukesha
- Racine County
- Racine County Economic Development Corp.
- Real Racine
- Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Commission
- Waukesha County



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



Accepted!



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Midwest Regional Office/ Wisconsin Field Office
Rivers and Trails Program
626 East Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 400
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53202

9.B0MWR-PR(TCA)
October 6, 2015

Ms. Karen Miller
Fox River Ecosystem Partnership
719 Batavia Avenue
Geneva, IL 60134

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for your renewed application for technical assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) program for Fiscal Year 2016. Although we have not received an approved budget from Congress and the President, we would like to confirm that your application requesting assistance for the Illinois and Wisconsin Fox River Water Trail Initiative meets our program goals and application criteria. Consequently, we have preliminarily accepted your application and fully expect to continue our assistance once the budget is finally approved.

The Illinois and Wisconsin Fox River Water Trail project is a 223-mile, multi-dimensional project encompassing 11 counties and numerous units of local government including municipalities, towns, and townships. The river valley is replete with rich resources including protected open space, Native American and pioneer cultural sites, urban and rural landscapes, and recreation opportunities making the river ideal for a water trail. In addition, your application sites many plans which refer to developing assets associated with a water trail. Lastly, your project is aligned with National Park Service strategic objectives identified in the NPS "Call to Action" such as youth engagement, linking parks, increasing outdoor recreation, etc.

A water trail is an excellent vehicle for stewarding Fox River resources and improving the quality of life, health, recreation, safety, and ecotourism along its course. Your application demonstrates an abundance of support for water trail planning and implementation including non-governmental organizations, governments and elected officials, businesses and individuals. One of the primary challenges, as you mention in your application, will be coordinating among many stakeholders over a long distance.

You've requested our assistance assessing and engaging partners to work over the 223 river miles; assistance in priority setting and consensus building, identifying community outreach, and participation strategies; and assistance in identifying potential funding sources. You've identified river-related work in which you and the partners have been engaged as well as potential other partners who may help with mapping and data collection.

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



CMAP



Core Development Team



Wingspread



Lost Valley



Waterford

Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Vision

The Fox River Water Trail from Lisbon, Wisconsin, to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, IL provides suitable access to the public, to enjoy the quiet and active recreation, scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and historic and cultural features. Communities along the Fox River embrace stewardship and public engagement to provide a sense of place.



Mike Hoag



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Mission



The mission of the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Core Development Team is to develop and support a sustainable 223-mile water trail along the Fox River.

Mike Hoag



CMAP



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Goals

1. *Develop the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail Action Plan using the National Water Trail System's best management practices and guidance.*
 - * *Conduct an evaluation of access sites and locations for existing conditions and go a **gap analysis** to identify where new access sites may be needed.*
 - * *Develop the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail map, website, and **signage** with information on access points; dams and other hazards; trip times; points of interest; historical, cultural, and natural features; and resources.*
 - * *Complete and submit an application for national designation in the National Water Trail System.*
 - * *Support the **enhancement and development** of access sites for all abilities as needed.*



Mike Hoag



CMAP



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Goals



Mike Hoag

2. Develop and promote an education component that recognizes the geologic and human history of the river and communities along the river, the cultural features, natural resources, and wildlife that visitors will encounter.
3. Protect and advocate for the environment and water quality of the Fox River and a program of promoting the Fox River environment and features.
4. Design a public planning process to engage communities and other stakeholders to develop and sustain the water trail.
5. Identify a sustainable oversight partnership to guide water trail implementation, including programming, maintenance, and promotion.



CMAP



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Core Development Team

Outreach to Stakeholders



Mike Hoag

WI-IL FOX RIVER WATER TRAIL
Core Development Team
<http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm>

March 15, 2016

Dear Fox River affiliate,

We would like to introduce our team and share information about a multi-faceted, exciting project in your area. We are the Wisconsin -Illinois Fox River Water Trail Core Development Team, a group working to develop a water trail on the 223-mile Fox River, from Wisconsin through Illinois. A water trail is a series of sustainable, marked access sites along a waterway which connects communities and increases awareness about the waterway.

A bi-state group met in July of 2015 to discuss submitting an application for a grant of technical assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program; the technical assistance grant was received in October.

Since then we have had several meetings to develop vision and mission statements and establish goals (see below). The team will keep the mission and goals at the forefront of our planning as we combine our efforts with key stakeholders and communities along the river. We will share information about public workshops with opportunities for interested parties to share their enthusiasm, skills and expertise to bring the vision of the WI-IL Fox River Water Trail to reality.

We welcome your participation and look forward to collaborating with you. In the meantime, please visit our web page: <http://www.foxriverecosystem.org/trail.htm> and share this information with others.

Sincerely,

| | |
|---|--|
| Rebecca Ewald Co-Chair rewald@waterforwisc.org 262-534-7912 | Karen Ann Miller, AICP Co-Chair millerkaren@co.kans.il.us 630-232-3418 |
|---|--|

WI-IL Fox River Water Trail
Core Development Team

*Judi Auliff – Illinois Paddling Council
Brian Dely – Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Rebecca Ewald – Village of Waterford Wisconsin, Administrator
Greg Furnham – Rock River Trail Initiative
Rak Kania – Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission
Derek Masick – Village of Waterford Wisconsin, Administrative Analyst
Karen Ann Miller – Fox River Ecosystem Partnership; Kane County Illinois Development Department
Tom Narski – Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Fox River Partnership
Aige Torres – National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program*



CMAP



Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

Please join us!



Mike Hoag



CMAP

