

Flint Creek Watershed Plan 5-Year Report 2012

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership finished a new watershed plan in 2007. What have we been doing since partners adopted the plan in 2008? All support watershed goals with natural area protection, programs and projects; these are the actions partners and participants completed in the last five years in support of the plan's six goals:

Protect water resources and enhance water quality in the lakes and streams.

Converted two detention basins from turf grass to native vegetation in Inverness and Lake Barrington, the latter received a Chicago Wilderness/US EPA Conservation and Native Landscaping Award. Municipalities passed resolutions supporting phosphorus-free fertilizers; the state banned the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus by commercial applicators. BACOG has a well water quality testing program and a campaign to reduce road salt usage. Villages, Lake County Lakes Management Unit and RiverWatch volunteers monitor surface water quality.

Identify and protect important natural resources and open space.

2500 acres are permanently protected by forest preserves, land trusts and villages; 70 acres were added in the last five years. Barrington Area Conservation Trust and Citizens for Conservation are restoring floodplains and CFC an 8-acre oak savanna next to floodplain.

Reduce existing flood damage and prevent flooding from worsening downstream.

BACT, CFC, and Lake Barrington each acquired and protected land totaling 45 acres in Flint Creek's floodplain. Lake Barrington's Tallgrass Subdivision incorporated infiltration Best Management Practices. North Barrington cleared debris from North Flint Creek and has now received funding for creek restoration. There are six public rain gardens in Barrington, Barrington Township and Lake Zurich and 16 FCWP-sponsored private rain gardens that received free native plants.

Improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat in the watershed.

CFC is continuing a four-year project to expand native sedges in the floodplain as well as restoration of Flint Creek Savanna, Grigsby Prairie, Steyermark, Baker's Lake Savanna and Ela Prairie; BACT is restoring Pederson Preserve and helping Pepsico restore floodplain; Lake County Forest Preserves continues Cuba Marsh and Grassy Lake restorations, Forest Preserve District of Cook County Baker's Lake and Crabtree Nature Center, Cuba Township its namesake prairie and Deer Park Vehe Farm. Homeowners added natural areas to their yards and along Flint Creek.

Increase communication and coordination among municipal decision-makers.

With the recent addition of Barrington Hills, all villages operate under the Lake County Watershed Development Ordinance which protects watershed resources. FCWP met as a group 32 times to share information and ideas to further watershed goals.

Foster appreciation and stewardship of the watershed through education.

North Barrington produced a BMP manual that is available on-line. CFC has adult and youth education programs on the natural world and an annual native plant sale. BACT's Conservation@Home and CFC's invasive plants programs provide homeowner visits to encourage native landscaping. FCWP produced a Fall Festival, homeowner workshops, two bus tours, partnered with others on programs, made presentations and met with homeowners on projects.

Supported in the past five years by these partners: Barrington Area Conservation Trust, Barrington Area Council of Governments, Barrington Area Development Council, Citizens for Conservation, Kainz Family Foundation, Barrington and Cuba Townships, Villages of Barrington, Barrington Hills, Deer Park, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Barrington, Lake Zurich, and North Barrington. Additional funding from Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Rain Garden Initiative, and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. In-kind contributions from Applied Ecological Services, Green Star Design, Kevin's Rain Gardens, Lake County Lakes Management Unit, Tallgrass Restoration, and Trillium Native Landscapes



Flint Creek Watershed Partnership - dedicated to the preservation, protection and improvement of the Flint Creek sub-watershed of the Fox River. Our mission is to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and educated citizens. Our goal is to educate while building partnerships for projects to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and preserve and restore wetlands, prairies, and other natural features for future generations.

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