



Fox River Ecosystem Partnership Strategic Plan 2002-2005 --- OVERVIEW ---

Prepared by: FREP Strategic Plan Committee
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Mission of FREP

The purpose of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) is to promote, preserve, protect and enhance the natural, cultural, economic and recreational resources of the Fox River and its watershed.

Our vision for the Fox River watershed is to balance all the uses and demands on our natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Planning Committee developed this strategic plan to guide the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership in 2002-2005. The committee created the following goals based on its knowledge of FREP and a survey of FREP members. The Committee developed a vision of successes possible in three years and the steps to reach that vision. (*FREP committee responsible for each goal in [].*)

Elements of the Plan:

- I. **Continue the strong Fox River Ecosystem Partnership program with a focus on the following activities:** *[Executive Committee]*
 - A. **Coordinate Partnership**
 - B. **Seek funding opportunities to support the goals of the Partnership**
 - C. **Market the Integrated Management Plan (IMP)**
 - D. **Conduct FREP public relations efforts**
 - E. **Provide Oversight & Review of Grants**

- II. **Create a *Repository of FREP Projects* to provide information on what projects have been implemented in the watershed and identify what projects have been successful.** *[Education Committee]*
 - A. **Identify who will coordinate effort.**
 - B. **Develop a database format based on needs of potential users (FREP committees, grant review, education efforts, other planning projects).**
 - C. **Data management & presentation**

III. Engage Elected Officials & Decision Makers in the mission of the Partnership

[Government Relations Committee – NEW]

Focus on reaching politicians and decision-makers on two scales:

Macro: state and federal, which includes elected officials and their staff

Micro: local counties and municipalities, including elected officials, staff, and appointed members of boards and commissions.

- A. Form a FREP Political Information/Outreach Committee that would interface with other FREP committees to gather pertinent information.
- B. Establish and maintain meaningful contacts with all federal and state elected official and/or their staff (over 3 years)
- C. Within the next three years, create *Fox River Council*, a group that would create "peer-to-peer" networking and interaction for key local decision makers (similar to Great Lakes Council of Mayors).
- D. Create and maintain a database of all federal, state, and local officials; expand to include boards and commissions when possible.

IV. Collaborate with other groups and agencies to develop and promulgate model conservation design (CD) ordinances.

[Conservation Design Committee - NEW]

- Partnering groups: e.g. Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago Wilderness, Metropolis 2020, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC), and Openlands Project
- Fund the work through grant requests, e.g. to the Grand Victoria Foundation, IDNR Conservation 2000 and Illinois 2020.

- A. Identify benefits associated with CD, e.g. livable communities, open space linkages, water quality benefits, sustainable transportation, green infrastructure and attracting business to the community.
- B. Create mechanisms to support CD.
- C. Educate stakeholders about conservation development ordinances.
- D. Incorporate green infrastructure into the sustainable watershed action plan.

V. Develop a basin-wide water resource plan

[Water Quality Committee]

- A. Partner with other groups or agencies presently working on water resource issues.
- B. Develop a Watershed Implementation Plan (WIP) for the entire watershed.
- C. Develop water budget (quantity).