

# 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

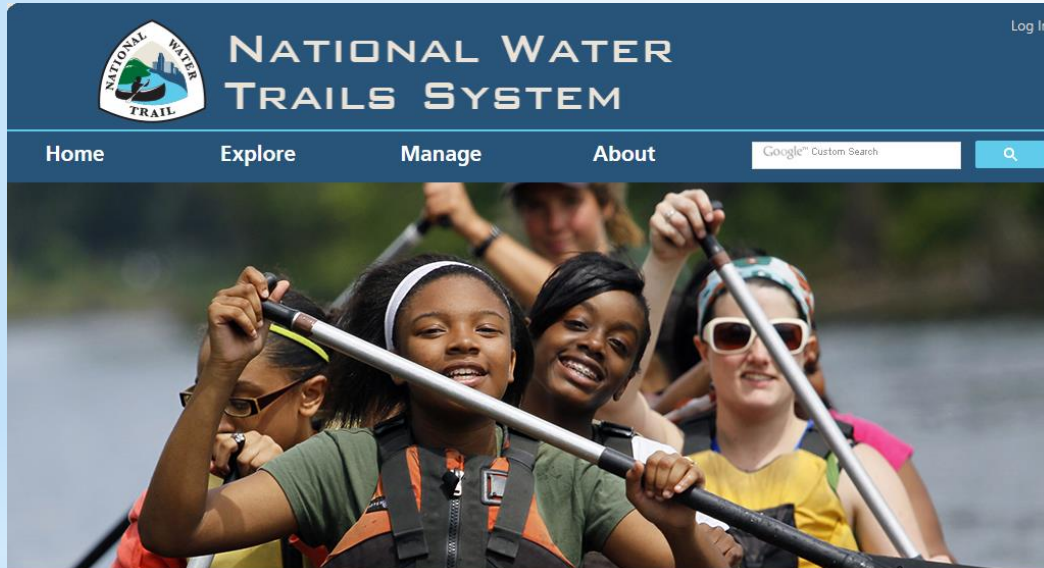
Celebrating  
**Success**  
& Addressing  
**Shared Challenges**

**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

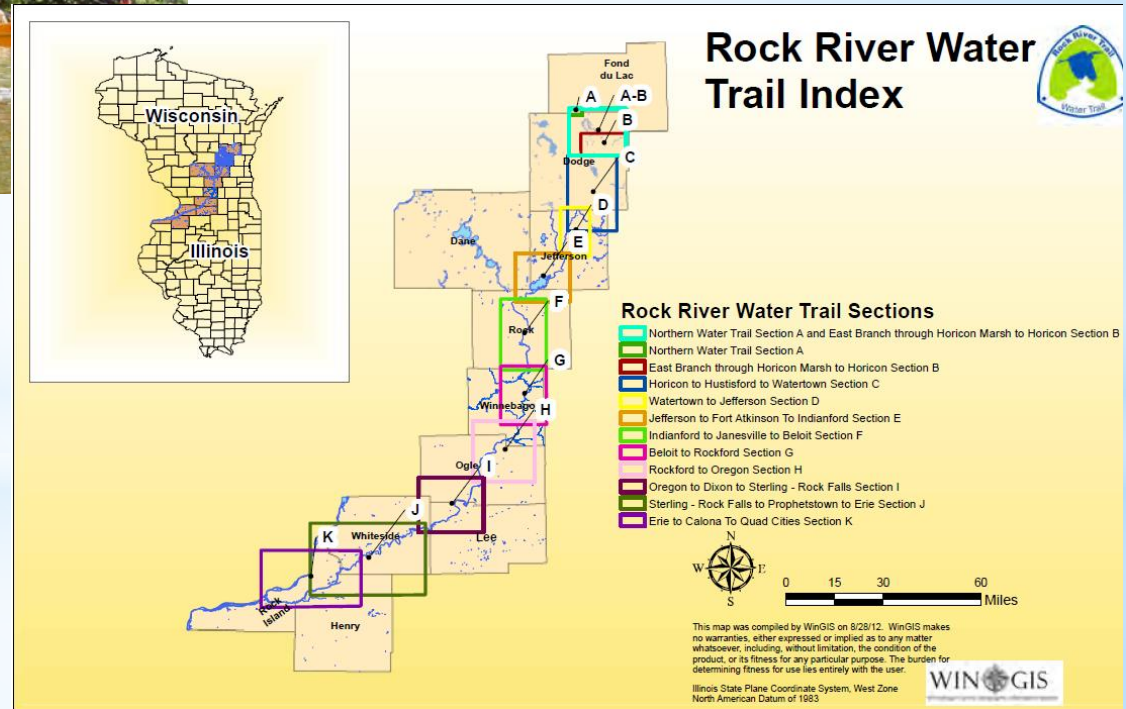


Glacial Park, McHenry County Conservation District

# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



Greg Farnham  
Coordinator





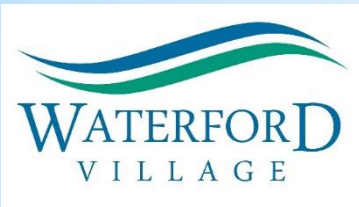
# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

## 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



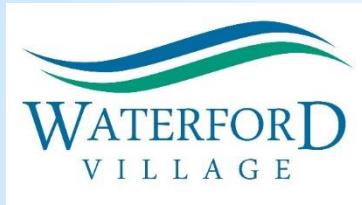
# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

- 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



# 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

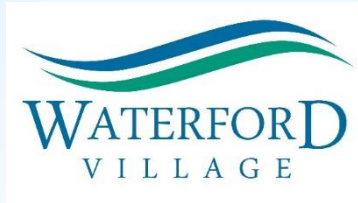
- Build a place people want to visit, and you'll build a place where people want to live.
- Build a place where people want to live, and you'll build a place where people want to work.
- Build a place where people want to work, and you'll build a place where business has to be.
- Build a place where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

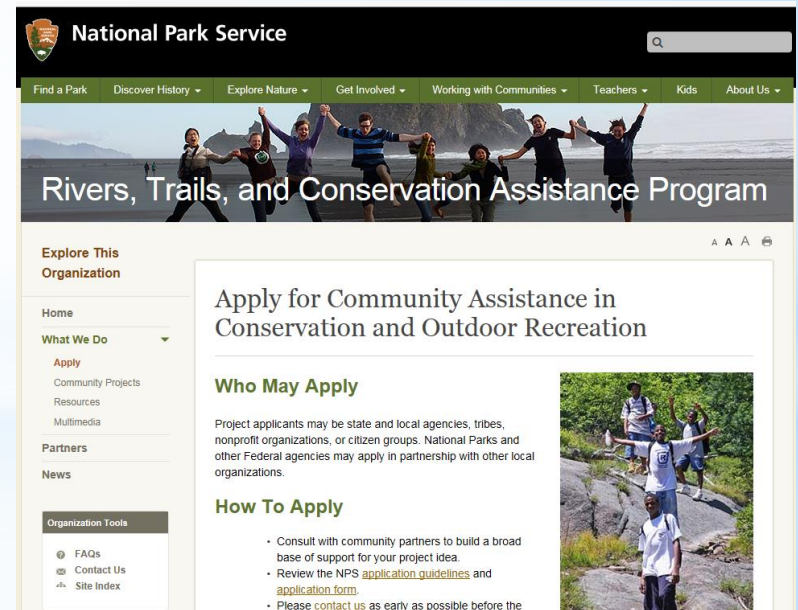
*Maura Gast- Irving CVB*



# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



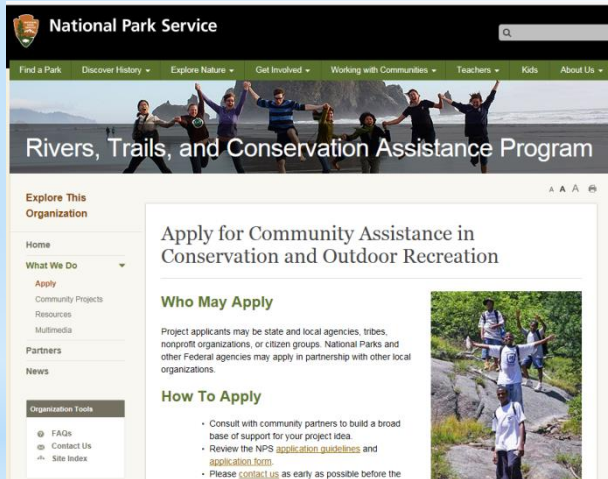
## Partners!



# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative



## Application!



**Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**

**Application for Community Assistance**

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program supports successful partnerships with communities across America in achieving their conservation and outdoor recreation visions.

Please follow the [application steps](#) on our website and then submit this completed application along with a map of your project site, at least three letters of commitment, and any other supplementary information that helps us learn more about your project to your National Park Service [Regional Program Manager](#) by August 1.

**Date:** July 31, 2015 **Project Name:** Illinois and Wisconsin Fox River Water Trail Initiative

**Project Location Description (provide a location/site map):** The Fox River Watershed is located primarily in the counties of Kenosha, Racine, Walworth and Waukesha Counties in southeastern Wisconsin and the counties of McHenry, Lake, Cook, Kane, DuPage, Kendall and LaSalle Counties in northeastern Illinois. From the headwaters in Colgate, Wisconsin to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, Illinois, the Fox River flows for 223 miles through a combination of urban, suburban and rural landscapes offering its resources to diverse populations. The largest city, Aurora, with a population of approximately 200,000, is located in Kane County, Illinois.

**City and State:** Wisconsin and Illinois

**Congressional District(s) Number (s):** Wisconsin #1 and #4 and Illinois #6, #8, #10, #11, #14 and #16

**Applicant organization(s):** Fox River Ecosystem Partnership

**Primary Contact:** Karen Ann Miller, AICP **Title:** Executive Planner

**Street Address:** 715 S. Superior Avenue

**City:** Geneva **State:** IL **Zip Code:** 60134

**Email:** millerkaren@foxriver.wisconsin.gov **Website (if applicable):** foxriverecosystem.org **Daytime Phone:** (708) 227-9842

**Project Description:**

- Describe:
  - Your vision and summary statement of the overall project goal;
  - Tangible outcomes of the project (i.e. recreational opportunities developed, plan creation, development of ideas and goals, miles, acres);
  - Project accomplishments to date;
  - Support: government/organizational support/recognition; endorsements from elected officials and boards, etc.;
  - Community benefits that would result from implementing the proposed project (i.e. recreational opportunities in areas with little to no recreational access);
  - Geographic location of your project and characteristics of that location (rural, coastal, wetland, urban, specific areas within a city or county, etc.);
  - Important demographic characteristics of your project area that will benefit or be impacted with creation and/or addition of recreational opportunities.

The vision of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership (FREP) and our current partners, the Southeast Wisconsin Fox River Partnership (SWFRP) and the Wisconsin Village of Waterford, for the Fox River watershed in Illinois and Wisconsin is to balance all the uses and demands on our natural resources while preserving and enhancing a healthy environment. The goal of the Partnership is to develop a water trails initiative for the Fox River through Wisconsin and Illinois to provide enhanced recreational opportunities for residents and visitors while encouraging sustainable stewardship.

[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca) 2015 National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program 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

9BOMWR-PRICA)  
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*



Mike Hoag

*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.*



# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

## Core Development Team

### *Mission*



*Mike Hoag*

*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.*



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



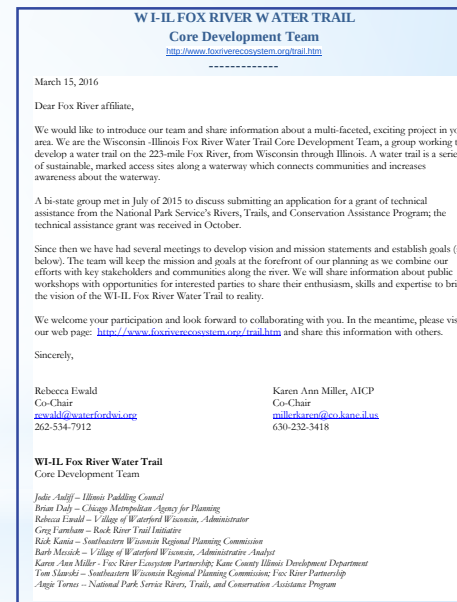
# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

## Core Development Team

### Outreach to Stakeholders



Mike Hoag





# Wisconsin-Illinois Fox River Water Trail Initiative

## *Please join us!*



Mike Hoag



CMAP

