

**FOX
RIVER
STUDY
GROUP**



Today's Agenda

Welcome- Cindy Skrukrud, FRSG Chair

Introductions

20 years of the Fox River Study Group

Presentations

Closing- *Celebrating 20 years of people working together for a cleaner, safer and more beautiful Fox River*

Presentations

WWTPs Nutrient Reduction Progress Report- Karen Clementi, District Manager Fox Metro WRD and Tim Wilson, Public Works Manager-Environmental Services, City of St. Charles

Dam Removal: An Opportunity to Develop Resilient Communities and Restore River Ecosystems- Serena McClain, Senior Director, River Restoration and Dam Removal Program, American Rivers

Current Status of the Fox River Fishery, Effects of Dams and Benefits of Dam Removal- Tristan Widloe, Region II Stream Specialist, IDNR

USACE Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study Next Steps- Ryan Johnson, Biologist and Cody Johnson, Project Manager, USACE, Chicago District

20 Years of the Fox River Study Group

1999 Fox River named Endangered River by American Rivers, nominated by local enviro groups

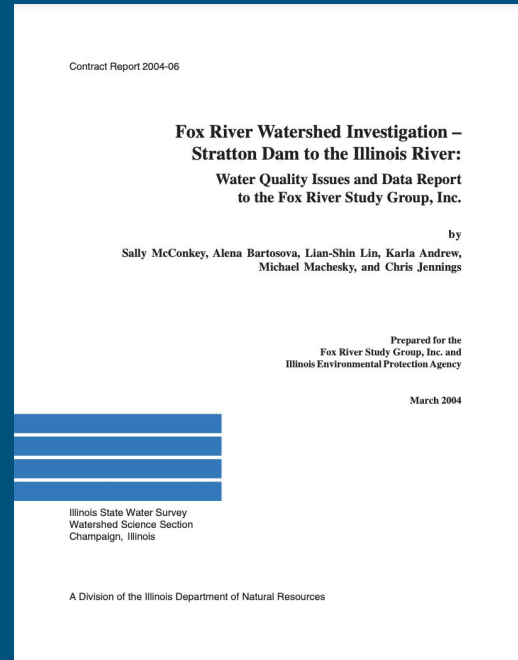
2001 Enviro groups and Water Reclamation Districts start working together

2002 Fox River Monthly Water Sampling Effort Launched, still going strong for 21+ years!

2003 Fox River Study Group incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation

Our Mission:
To bring a diverse coalition of stakeholders together to work to preserve and enhance water quality in the Fox River Watershed

2004 Phase 1- ISWS Critical Review of Data (funded by IEPA)



20 Years of the Fox River Study Group

2003-2009 Phase II – ISWS Tool Development

-watershed loading model & receiving stream model development

Phase II, Part 1: Methodology and Procedures for HSPF Model Development May 2007

Phase II, Part 2: Blackberry and Poplar Creek HSPF Models, Calibration and Initial Simulation Results June 2007

Phase II, Blackberry Creek and Poplar Creek Hydrologic and Water Quality Simulation Methods: Executive Summary.

Phase II, Part 3: Validation of Hydrologic Model Parameters, Brewster Creek, Ferson Creek, Flint Creek, Mill Creek, and Tyler Creek Watersheds. Sept 2007

2006-2013- Phase III – ISWS Model Validation

2011 Storm event monitoring completed

2012 Low flow monitoring completed

Phase II, Part 4: Fox River Watershed Hydrology Using the HSPF Model April 2011

Drought Helping Provide Data For Fox River Pollution Study

July 23, 2012 10:41 AM



The Fox River in Geneva, Ill. (CBS)

ALGONQUIN, Ill. (CBS) – The lack of rain this summer might be killing your garden, but it's actually good news for people studying the health of the Fox River.

WBBM [Newsradio's](#) Nancy [Harty](#) reports the based Fox River Study Group has been analyzing water samples for the last decade in an effort to

help address pollution of the river.

However, the group has not yet been able to take low-flow measurements from the river for several years.

"For the last five years, we've had unusually wet years, and so we've never been able to meet those conditions since 2005," said Cindy [Skrukud](#), chairwoman of the group. "So, our study was kind of stalled."

Drought a boon for Fox River pollution study



Philippe Moreau, left, and Karen Clementi of [Deuchler Environmental](#) take algae samples earlier this month from the Fox River near [Fabyan Forest Preserve](#) in Geneva. They were one of several crews working as part of a low-flow study of the Fox River conducted by the Illinois State Water Survey. They had been waiting six years for the water level to be low enough to conduct the study.

RICK WEST | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

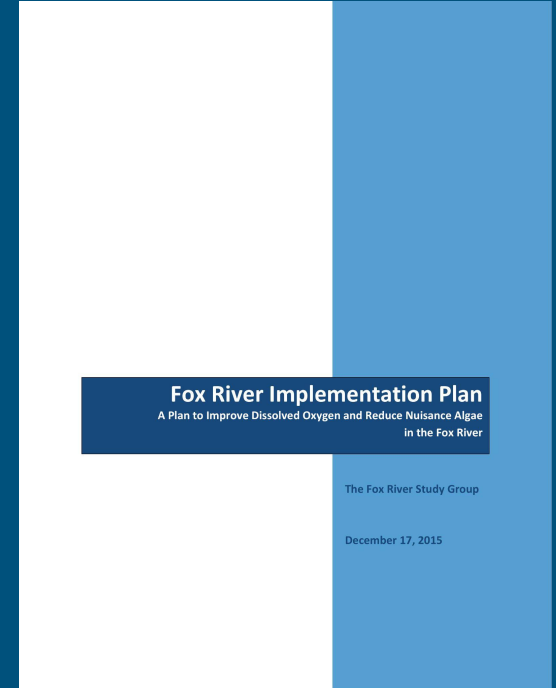
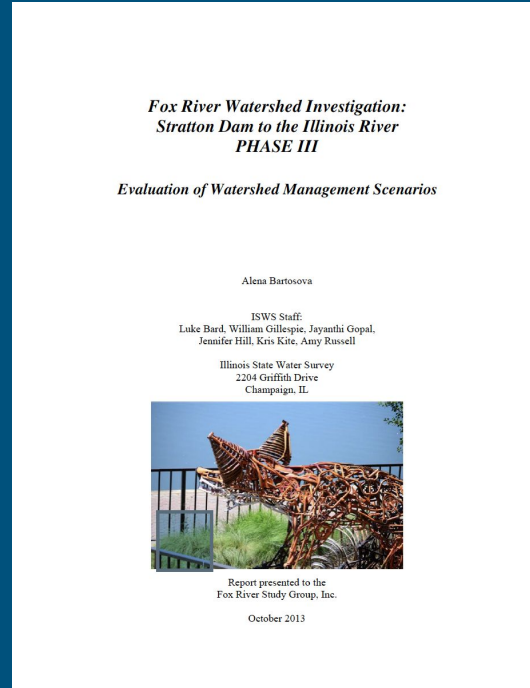
20 Years of the Fox River Study Group

2013 Phase III – ISWS
Evaluation of Watershed
Management Scenarios

2015 First Fox River
Implementation Plan (FRIP)
with Limnotech

Called for WWTPs to meet annual
average P discharge of 1.0 mg/L
by 2022

Supported dam removal but
called for model improvements



2019 ISWS Water Quality Trends Reports Shows In-Stream Progress

Annual Flow-normalized Concentrations between 2006 and 2016 Declined

Fox River at Montgomery

Total P by 27%, NH3 by 23%,
Chlorophyll by 10%

ISWS CONTRACT REPORT 2019-04

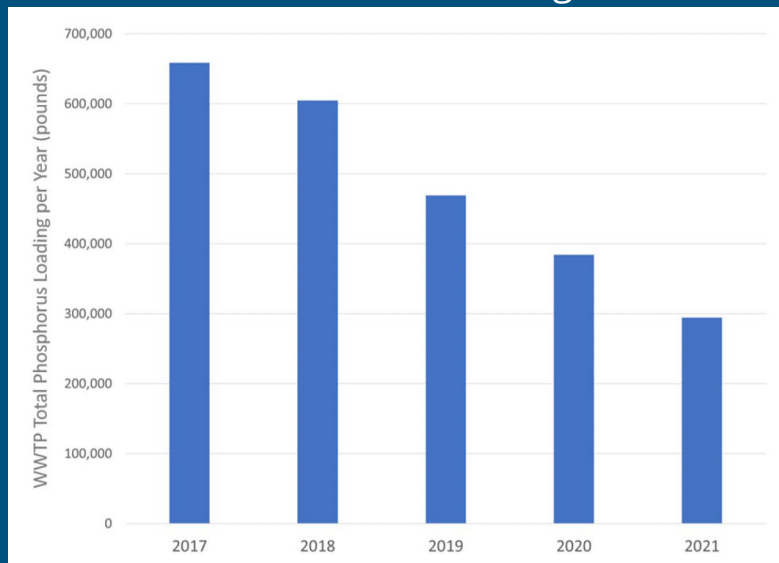
Water Quality Trend Analysis for the Fox River Watershed: Stratton Dam to the Illinois River

Elias Getahun, Laura Keefer, Sangeetha Chandrasekaran, and Atticus Zavelle
February 2019



ILLINOIS
Illinois State Water Survey
PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

2017-2021 Wastewater P Discharges in Decline



2020 Updated Logo & Website & Mission Statement



Our Mission:

To bring a diverse coalition of stakeholders together to work to preserve and enhance water quality in the Fox River Watershed



MISSION

The mission of the Fox River Study Group is to enhance the health and vitality of our river for the benefit of the nearly one million citizens in the Fox River Valley.

ABOUT

We are a diverse coalition of stakeholders using science to guide the region toward a cleaner, safer and more beautiful Fox River. We use research, data and collaboration to support sustainable policies and development across the Fox River watershed.

20 Years of the Fox River Study Group

2017-2021 Improvement of models with Geosyntec Consultants

2021-2022 Update of Fox River Implementation Plan (FRIP) with Geosyntec Consultants

Major WWTPs complete reductions to meet the 0.5 mg/l annual geometric mean TP limit by 2030

Collaborate on removal of dams on the Fox River and monitor the resulting water quality impacts after completion of the Fox River Connectivity & Habitat Study recommendations

Encourage watershed management practices to mitigate projected population growth impacts

Leverage statewide work on evaluation of streambank erosion and quantify its impact on phosphorus loads in the watershed

Partner with efforts to reduce nutrients upstream and downstream

Partner with other agencies and organizations to eliminate non-nutrient related impairments

FOX RIVER IMPLEMENTATION PLAN (FRIP)

Final Draft

Fox River, IL

Submitted to



Submitted by

Geosyntec 
consultants
engineers | scientists | innovators

20 Years of the Fox River Study Group

2022 Restart of Army Corps Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study

2023 Engagement During Army Corps Fox River Habitat & Connectivity Study Public Comment Period



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Chicago District



06.01.22

Durbin Announces \$250,000 In Federal Funding For Fox River Restoration

Durbin Secures Funding To Restart And Complete The Feasibility Study For The Environmental Restoration Project

CHICAGO – U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) today announced \$250,000 in new federal funding he secured to complete the long-delayed feasibility study for the environmental restoration of the Fox River in Elgin. Durbin secured the funds in the Fiscal Year 2022 Omnibus appropriations bill to restart and complete the feasibility study for the environmental restoration project, with the collaboration of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Fox River Restoration Project, which will provide vital habitat restoration to the historically polluted Fox River, is one of 16 Illinois projects in the Army Corps' Section 519 Illinois River Basin Ecosystem Restoration Program.

WEBSITE

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FACEBOOK

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Fox River Study Group meets each 4th Thursday (3rd Thurs. Oct-Dec), 9:30 am on Go To Meetings. Join us!