

The Conservation Foundation Kane County Activities

LAND CONSERVATION

Kane County Forest Preserve District

The Foundation organized the 1999, 2005 and 2007 open space referenda totaling \$230 million. The Foundation has assisted the forest preserve district on land acquisitions such as the former Fox River Country Day School site and additions to the Big Rock and Johnson's Mound forest preserves.

Campton Township Open Space

The Foundation helped fund and assisted in the passage of the \$18 million open space referendum in Campton Township in 2001 and the \$28.4 million referendum in 2005. The Foundation has assisted the township on numerous occasions with landowner contact and negotiations. The Township has preserved 1,300 acres of open space.

Fox Valley Park District

The Foundation assisted in the passage of the \$44.8 million open space/park improvement referendum in 2008. The Foundation worked with the park district on landowner contacts and successful negotiation for 17 properties.

Batavia Park District

The Foundation is working with Batavia Park District to acquire properties along the Fox River in downtown Batavia. So far, the Foundation bought three properties and held them until the District was ready to purchase them back.

Conservation Easements

The Foundation currently holds several conservation easements in Aurora, Carpentersville, Dundee and Wayne. Discussions are occurring on additional conservation easements throughout Kane County.

WATERSHED PROTECTION

Blackberry Creek Watershed

The Foundation coordinated the update of the Blackberry Creek Watershed Plan, which will include IEPA's nine criteria.

Ferson/Otter Creek

The Foundation coordinated the development of a watershed plan for the Ferson and Otter Creek watersheds.

Kane MS4 Group

The Foundation is an active member of Kane County's MS4 Group (a group of municipalities and county staff working to improve stormwater and wastewater management) and is working on ways to help its members meet their federal stormwater/wastewater regulations.

Fox River

The Foundation is on the executive committee of the Fox River Ecosystem Partnership.



Established 1972



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Mighty Acorns®

Foundation educators are currently bringing the Mighty Acorns® program to two classrooms and an after-school program to Hillcrest School in Elgin. As part of the program, the students steward an area at the Hawthorne Hill Nature Center. The Foundation is discussing the implementation of Mighty Acorns® in the Aurora school system as well.

The Foundation worked with the former Fox River Country Day School to incorporate the Mighty Acorns® programming into its curriculum, then worked to preserve the site once the school closed. The Foundation, along with the Illinois Nature Preserves Commission, pulled together a coalition that purchased and preserved this new Illinois Nature Preserve. The coalition included the Illinois Tollway Authority, the City of Elgin, Kane County Forest Preserve District and Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation.

Sustainable Development

The Foundation is promoting sustainable development techniques throughout the county. Funding from Foundation donors and the Kane County Riverboat Grant Fund made it possible to conduct a series of workshops with municipalities throughout the county relating to stormwater management practices. Working with local groups to influence the way their own communities grow, the Foundation is committed to seeing conservation development become the norm in this region.

Envirothon

For many years, the Foundation partnered with the Kane-DuPage Soil & Water Conservation District to organize the annual Northeastern Illinois Envirothon competition for high schools, including Kane and DuPage Counties.

Waubonsee Community College

The Foundation continues to work with top administrators to incorporate sustainable development and watershed education, and also support sustainable building practices as the campus expands.

CONSERVATION @ HOME/CONSERVATION @ WORK

Residential and Commercial Certifications

Numerous locations in Kane County have been certified with the Conservation @ Home or Conservation @ Work designations. They are being recognized for employing conservation practices such as using native plants and water-conserving measures on their properties.

Homeowners Association presentations

The Foundation, along with ecological management consultants, have made presentations to groups of HOAs in Kane County about how to manage their natural areas and convert conventional common area/detention pond landscaping to native vegetation.

Municipal Programs

The Foundation has done presentations on using rain as a resource and the use of native vegetation to replenish groundwater supplies. In addition, municipalities have had Conservation @ Home “days”, where presentations are given and a number of residential and municipal sites are certified.

Rain Barrels

In addition to selling thousands of rain barrels to individuals, the Foundation also works with corporations and municipalities to sell rain barrels on a larger scale. Presentations and a discount program are offered. Aurora, Elgin, Geneva and Batavia have all have municipal rain barrel programs.