WHY PRESERVE THE LOWER FOX?

The Lower Fox River basin from Yorkville in Kendall County to where it joins the Illinois River at Ottawa in LaSalle County is widely known as one of the most scenic and highest quality river segments in Illinois and is adorned with towering sandstone cliffs, hill prairies and spring wetland seeps.

These environmental features provide economic and recreational opportunities, and have enticed a rapidly increasing number of people to the area over the past decade. Such rapid population increases can put pressure on the viability and quality of many of the river basin’s resources if protection is not adequately planned.
THE PROJECT

The voluntary Lower Fox River Land Conservation Planning Project concentrates on land areas along the Lower Fox River, its tributaries and the Lower Fox River Conservation Opportunity Area (COA), an area identified as having important conservation value by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The plan, which was completed Aug. 1, 2012:

- Is strictly voluntary.
- Was developed by a diverse group of local stakeholders in Kendall and LaSalle Counties, including private landowners, local municipalities, counties, agencies and other groups, with facilitation by The Conservation Foundation.
- Help stakeholders to determine priorities regarding natural resource protection.
- May raise the likelihood of obtaining funding for projects by complying with the local and state plans.

The overall goal of the project is to develop a recognized plan for local entities and individuals to use in land preservation efforts in the Lower Fox River basin for the protection of water quality, natural resources and open space. The Lower Fox River Planning Process was funded through a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to The Conservation Foundation.

**Mission:** To encourage voluntary actions that will preserve and protect the highest quality natural areas in the Lower Fox River watershed area.

**Lower Fox River:**
- Beauty
- Water quality
- Wildlife
- Recreation
- Economic value
- Tourism

**Legend:**
- Publicly Owned and Protected
- Privately Owned and Protected
- Previously-Identified Open Space Opportunity
- Additional Open Space Opportunity
- Lower Fox COA Boundary
- Lower Fox COA Buffer