

2.0 GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Spring Creek Watershed partnership Mission

The Spring Creek Watershed partnership (SCW) is comprised of watershed stakeholders dedicated to the preservation, protection, and improvement of the Spring Creek watershed.

The SCW's mission is to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and engaged citizenry. The partnership's primary goal is to educate while building partnerships for projects to improve water quality, maintain water supply, preserve ecosystems and restore wetlands, prairies, and other natural features for current and future generations.

2.2 Watershed Goals and Objectives

Six goals were established for the Spring Creek watershed to address the issues and opportunities raised by the SCW stakeholders. Objectives assigned to each goal are intended to be measurable where appropriate so that the SCW can assess future progress made toward each goal. Note: goals and objectives are not listed by order of importance.

- **Goal A:** Protect, enhance, and monitor surface water quality and groundwater resources to meet Illinois EPA water quality standards that fully support designated uses.

Surface Water Objectives:

- 1) Identify, implement, and monitor management measures (Best Management Practices (BMPs)) that address "Critical" and other high priority nonpoint source pollutant loading areas.
- 2) Retrofit existing stormwater management systems and design new systems within developed areas to specifically improve water quality and create wildlife habitat.
- 3) Use alternative to road salt.
- 4) Pursue significant phosphorus use reduction in the watershed.
- 5) Identify opportunities for drain tile modification to improve water quality.
- 6) Use manure composting and support education on manure management to reduce potential nutrient runoff.
- 7) Identify and replace failing septic systems.
- 8) Illinois EPA/IDNR begin monitoring Spring Creek as part of Intensive River Basin Survey program, monitor major lakes via the Illinois Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program, and continue RiverWatch and Friends of Fox River programs.

Ground Water Objectives:

- 9) Protect open space and monitor shallow aquifer water quality and supply in important recharge areas.

- **Goal B:** Identify and protect important natural areas/open space and provide appropriate passive recreational benefits.

Objectives:

- 1) Permanently protect all sites with high quality natural areas or threatened and endangered species through private or public land protection tools.
- 2) Identify buffer parcels for potential acquisition, conservation easements, and restoration adjacent to existing forest and nature preserves and other sites with high quality natural areas and/or threatened and endangered species.
- 3) Identify and protect open space that provides important green infrastructure corridor connections and provide passive recreation opportunities.
- 4) Adopt conservation and/or low density design standards for all new development or redevelopment.

- **Goal C:** Reduce existing structural flood damage and ameliorate potential flooding where flooding threatens structures and infrastructure.

Objectives:

- 1) Inventory undeveloped non-protected floodplain and protect as open space.
- 2) Reconnect channelized stream reaches to historic floodplain where feasible.
- 3) Implement multi-objective stormwater management measures (BMPs) within important open space and new developments that help reduce runoff and flashy stream flows through infiltration of rainwater.
- 4) Manage and maintain existing constructed storm water management systems.
- 5) Manage and maintain existing natural depressional storage, wetlands, streams, and riparian areas.
- 6) Inventory existing and potential structural flood damage areas and mitigate as needed.

- **Goal D:** Improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat to encourage balanced ecosystems.

Objectives:

- 1) Improve habitat in channelized stream reaches using natural design approaches.
- 2) Restore native riparian buffers along stream reaches identified as having poor buffer quality.
- 3) Improve habitat in degraded upland (terrestrial) communities by removing non-native plants, replacing with native plant species, and reintroducing fire via controlled burns.
- 4) Encourage development and implementation of management plans for natural areas.
- 5) Encourage native plantings in stakeholder landscapes.
- 6) Require future developers to protect sensitive natural areas both during and after construction, restore degraded natural areas, then donate natural areas and naturalized stormwater management systems to a public agency or conservation organization for long term management with dedicated funding.
- 7) Disable drain tiles where appropriate to restore historic natural hydrological processes.
- 8) Reduce streambed sedimentation resulting from known problem areas.

- **Goal E:** Increase communication and coordination among municipal decision-makers and other stakeholders within the watershed.

Objectives:

- 1) Encourage governing bodies to adopt the Spring Creek Watershed-Based Plan.
- 2) Encourage municipalities, counties, land use authorities, and stakeholders to participate in Spring Creek Watershed partnership.
- 3) Encourage amendments of municipal comprehensive plans, codes and ordinances to include watershed plan goals and objectives.
- 4) Encourage local policy makers to utilize the plan as guidance for new or amended policies.
- 5) Encourage municipal policy that protects groundwater supply and quality.
- 6) Encourage and support stakeholder efforts to implement recommended actions within the watershed plan.

- **Goal F:** Foster appreciation and stewardship of the watershed through education.

Objectives:

- 1) Educate the public on water supply, infiltration, potential contamination, groundwater recharge and nonpoint source pollution issues and the link between how property owners manage the land.
- 2) Provide watershed stakeholders with an education plan that promotes the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to take action on implementing the watershed plan.
- 3) Educate the public on the benefits of native plants, a balanced ecosystem, and natural area restoration.
- 4) Identify open space parcels adjacent to public facilities such as schools that would be appropriate for outdoor education.
- 5) Install environmental interpretation/education signage at access points throughout public open space.
- 6) Develop recommendations for education and alternatives to phosphorus use.
- 7) Develop recommendations for education and alternatives to road & other pavement salt use.
- 8) Educate homeowners how to best maintain septic systems.
- 9) Educate equestrian community about “Best Equestrian Practices”.