



RIVER

talk

UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL 2009

UDPREP's Annual Meeting

Each year UDPREP members and guests gather to celebrate our conservation successes and elect UDPREP officers.

The theme for this year's meeting is Sustainable Agriculture. We'll learn about the many aspects of sustainability, what needs to be done to fix a broken system of food production, and what is being done today to protect our food and our watershed. Our featured speaker will be Rory Klick, M.S., Assistant Professor of Horticulture/Department Chair at the College of Lake County.

We'll hold our regular business meeting prior to the presentations. UDPREP members will be voting for officers to guide the organization in 2010. We'll also be voting to formally adopt the Lake County Vision for Land Preservation.

The Land Conservation

Partners of Lake County has developed a vision for land preservation in Lake County. The vision statement is "To realize a Lake County Landscape where, by 2030, at least 20% of the County is preserved forever as natural areas, parks, trails, farmland, and scenic views". UDPREP is one of the partners and all have been asked to indi-

vidually adopt the vision statement.

More information on the Lake County Vision is available for review on our website: <http://www.upperdesplainsriver.org/documents/LakeCountyVision.pdf>

The UDPREP Annual Meeting is a great place to learn about our organization and what we're doing to protect the watershed. We hope that you'll join us for this informative event.

DATE:

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009

TIME:

9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

COST:

\$5 (Free for members)

LOCATION:

Room C005 (Auditorium),
Building C
College of Lake County,
Grayslake, IL 60048

RSVP:

By December 7, 2009
Send email to: coordinator@upperdesplainsriver.org
or call (847) 561-2294



Liberty Prairie Area Homeowners Association Bull Creek stream clean up project.

Join us as we celebrate the many successes of 2009 within our watershed.

Are you a member?

Your membership in UDPREP helps fund our efforts to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River watershed.

As a member, you'll enjoy many benefits including our newsletters, invitations to special events, and voting privileges at annual meetings.

If you would like to join us, or if your membership has lapsed, you can find our membership form on our website. Click on "Membership".

Who is UDPREP?

UDPPREP is the Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership. Our mission is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed through stakeholder education, collaboration, and technical assistance. We bring people together to share ideas and discover partnership opportunities. We work with community leaders to identify grant prospects and develop strong proposals. And we work with the top professionals in the region to promote sound restoration plans and projects.

The center section of this issue of our newsletter is devoted to sharing the successes of our watershed partners in 2009. These partners are municipalities, county agencies, and other not-for-profit groups all working towards similar goals. We couldn't fit all the many accomplishments in this newsletter, so check our website for a much larger list!

So, join us as we celebrate the many success stories within our watershed. As we head into 2010, we plan to continue our role in fostering the collaboration between these many entities, both large and small.

Watershed Successes in 2009

Here are just a few of the projects that have been completed in the past year within the Upper Des Plaines River watershed by our partner organizations. You'll find more on our website under "Watershed Successes" on the front page.

Water Quality and Flood Mitigation Projects Funded by Lake County Stormwater Management Commission in 2009:

- Riverwoods Rain Garden Program: a village wide rain garden program to construct rain gardens and bioswales throughout the village to alleviate localized flooding.
- Carillon North Homeowners Association Retention Pond Retrofit (Grayslake): stabilization of eroding shorelines of a retention pond utilizing native plant species.
- Lakeridge Restoration Association Wetland Improvement: increasing the storage capacity of the wetland through the repair of a drain tile and enhancement of the wetland buffer utilizing native vegetation.
- Buffalo Grove Buffalo Creek Streambank Stabilization-Phase 3: stabilizing approximately 450 linear feet of Buffalo Creek and approximately 600 linear feet of an unnamed tributary to Buffalo Creek.
- Buffalo Grove Aptakisic Creek Streambank Stabilization: streambank stabilization of approximately 300 feet near Thompson Blvd. and approximately 150 feet near Weiland Rd.

Des Plaines Water Quality Projects Funded Through the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission:

- Seavey Ditch Impoundment Removal and Stream Restoration: Village of Vernon Hills removal of a low dam on Seavey Ditch within the Vernon Hills Municipal Golf Course and restoration of approximately 2,000 feet of the stream channel.
- Cambridge Country Park Detention Basin Retrofit: Mundelein Park District stabilization of approximately 2,000 feet of turfgrass detention basin shoreline by converting it to wetland and prairie vegetation.
- Ryerson Woods Hydrological and Ecological Restoration Project: Lake County Forest Preserves installed 8 rock riffles to control streambed incision and restore riparian hydrology on a 2,000-foot reach of Thorngate Creek, a small tributary of the Des Plaines River that sustains high-quality plant communities within its riparian zone. The project also stabilized 8 culvert locations within the conservation area and removed existing trails in 2 locations and replaced the trail sections with boardwalks in order to restore overland and sub-surface hydrology to the floodplain forest community.
- Valley Lake Water Quality Improvement and Shoreline Stabilization Project: The Wildwood Park District removed approximately 100 feet of stormsewer and concrete channel and replaced it with stabilized stormwater outfalls discharging into a constructed plunge pool/wetland. Water then flows into the lake through a permeable rip-rap berm at the shoreline. This area functions to both dissipate stormwater energy that was causing shoreline erosion and to improve water quality in the lake.
- In-stream BMPs (Best Management Practices) and Native Vegetation Installation in Bull Creek: University of St. Mary's of the Lake will improve conditions along approximately 500 feet of Bull Creek. Volunteers have already begun to clear exotic understory species from the forested ravine.

Lake County Forest Preserve District Project Highlights:

- The Stoneroller Creek Streambank Stabilization and Restoration Project improved 1000 linear feet of tributary to the Des Plaines River (Gurnee, IL) and reduced sedimentation down stream by utilizing both bio- and hard engineering solutions. With the in-stream enhancement of existing stream bed structure and placement of new rock riffles and boulder toe, the project tried to balance the natural stream flow while protecting vulnerable sections of the streambank during high flow conditions related to surface runoff within the suburban watershed.
- Continued reestablishment of spotted salamanders, wood frogs, and spring peepers at MacArthur Woods. This year, LCFPD supplemented the reintroduced populations with an additional 84 spotted salamander, 123 wood frogs, and >73 spring peeper and the models are starting to show that all three species are now above the minimum viable population size.
- 5400 native wetland plants installed at Rollins Savanna.
- Reed Canary Grass and other invasive species were controlled at several preserves.
- A snake hibernaculum was constructed at Fourth Lake for Fox snakes that previously were overwintering in an abandoned house that was demolished.
- An additional 316 acres were acquired in the Des Plaines River watershed.

Removing Repetitively-Flooded Buildings from the Floodplain

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission continues to try to find permanent solutions to flood damage by removing

vulnerable structures that flood repeatedly from the floodplain. SMC received a federal grant through the Illinois Emergency Management Agency to purchase and demolish four homes that flood repetitively in the Des Plaines watershed. Properties are only purchased from willing sellers at their appraised value. Grant funds will cover 75% of the cost with 25% coming from local community and county in cash and services. Three of the four homes are flooded by the river in Gurnee and one is in unincorporated Ela Township located in a depressional area.

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Gauge at Route 22

The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission has partnered with the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Villages of Lincolnshire and Riverwoods to fund the installation and maintenance of a USGS stream gauge on the Des Plaines River at the Route 22 bridge in Lincolnshire. This gauge provides a water level and flow measurement point between the existing gauges at Route 120 in Gurnee and in the City of Des Plaines. The gauge will also be used by the National Weather Service as a forecast point, which will be invaluable during times of flood response, providing expected water levels and flows to local communities and emergency responders.

Phosphorus Fertilizer Banned in Vernon Hills

Vernon Hills joined Antioch, Lindenhurst, Third Lake, Round Lake Beach, and Long Grove in banning the use of phosphorus in most lawn fertilizer applications.

Indian Creek Watershed Project highlights:

- Held the Indian Creek Summit last November to announce their fully adopted and EPA-compliant watershed plan.
- Received a 319 grant from the EPA to restore inflow areas of Diamond Lake and to educate residents about the importance

of this lake – the only naturally formed glacial lake in the watershed.

- Participated in planning with IDOT on the expansion of area roads (Routes 60 and 22) and the impacts that the widening will have on area waters.

The Village of Buffalo Grove stabilized approximately 1,000 linear feet of eroded streambank along Buffalo Creek within the Buffalo Grove Golf Club. With funding assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and design assistance from Baxter & Woodman, Inc., the Village used biotechnical approaches with native vegetation to control erosion, reduce pollutant loadings, and improve wildlife habitat. The project included the increase in flood storage volume with new floodplain terraces.

The Village of Buffalo Grove stabilized approximately 500 linear feet of eroded streambank along Aptakisic Creek at various locations within the Village. With funding assistance from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and design assistance from Baxter & Woodman, Inc., the Village used biotechnical approaches with native vegetation to control erosion, reduce pollutant loadings, and improve wildlife habitat.

The City of Prospect Heights removed accumulated sediments and restored the shoreline of Old Willow Falls Pond to improve water quality of the pond and the Des Plaines River. Baxter & Woodman, Inc. assisted the City with this project.

The Village of Lincolnshire continues to manage Rivershire Park for invasive species and augment native vegetation with seeding of native plants. Approximately \$15,000 was spent in 2009 for continued natural area protection at Rivershire Park.

The Village of Lincolnshire also undertook a major improvement to Indian Creek. The creek was regraded, invasive plants removed, native plants installed and seeding. Riffles were installed in the base of the creek to improve water quality. High quality native trees were also installed. The total cost when completed is estimated to be around \$300,000.

The 52nd Annual Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon, believed to be the largest single-day canoe race in the country, included approximately 865 competitors in 440 canoes and kayaks. The finish line festivities included an exhibit by UDPREP to familiarize race participants with efforts under way to enhance environmental and recreational features of the watershed and how they may help to achieve these objectives.

Event Spotlight

BROWN BAG BRIEFING: PHOSPHOROUS BANS IN LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In recent years, there has been a strong movement in the Midwest to ban phosphorus in lawn fertilizers to protect water resources. Numerous lake associations, cities, and counties in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin have enacted such bans. Illinois, however, has been slow to enact similar changes. In lake-rich Lake County, homeowners and municipalities are starting to take notice and ordinances have been drafted and passed. This presentation focused on the processes which communities in the county are using to address phosphorus problems, as well as some of the challenges they are experiencing.

Our featured speaker was Kelly Deem, Water Quality Specialist with the Lake County Health Department.

David Brown, Village Engineer for the Village of Vernon Hills, spoke about their newly enacted ordinance, the economic benefits of the ban, and the challenges that the Village faced in enacting and enforcing the ordinance.

See the complete presentations online:

http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org/events/bbb_phosphorus.htm



Photo © Jill Hughes

PROJECT UPDATE: RAIN GARDEN

Last year, UDPREP held a hands-on rain garden installation workshop to encourage public and private landowners to install rain gardens on their own property by providing them with an opportunity to learn how to design, install, and maintain a rain garden.

The rain garden was constructed on the grounds of the Forest Lake Community Center in Ela Township, Illinois. The location was selected for its high visibility and the community's enthusiasm and interest in rain gardens.

We are thrilled with the success of the garden after its first year of growth! The above photo shows the beauty of this very functional project. More photos are on our website.

Information on rain gardens, plus links to resources to help you design and construct a rain garden, can be found on our website. Look in the section on watershed-friendly landscaping: http://www.upperdesplainesriver.org/landscaping_home.htm

THANK YOU!

2009 Member Contributions \$1,000+

Des Plaines River Association

\$200-\$499

Baxter & Woodman
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd
Lake County Grading Company, LLC
Lake County Stormwater Management
Commission

\$100-\$199

Bonestroo
CMB Foundation
Des Plaines River Watershed Alliance
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Jerry Kolar
Liberty Prairie Restorations
Living Waters Consultants
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Lydia Scott
Tallgrass Restoration, LLC
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V3 Companies
Village of Addison
Village of Buffalo Grove
Village of Lake Zurich
Village of Lincolnshire
Village of Third Lake
Village of Vernon Hills

\$75-\$99

Lake County Forest Preserve District
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\$40-\$74

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Thomas Groth
Barbara Ignatowicz
Land Conservancy of Lake Co.
Bruce Lyons
North Cook Co. Soil & Water
Conservation District
Northwest Municipal Conference
Sylvan Lake Improvement Assoc.
T.O.W.N., Green Town Waukegan

\$25-\$39

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Upper Des Plaines River
Ecosystem Partnership
www.upperdesplainesriver.org



UDPREP works to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed through stakeholder education, collaboration, and technical assistance.

The Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible.