

RIVER talk

WINTER 2004-05

A Journey Through the Watershed



Tour participants examine streambank stabilization efforts at Rivershire Park in Lincolnshire.

On September 23, 2004, an energetic crowd of nearly 40 local watershed enthusiasts participated in an UDPREP-sponsored tour of four restoration projects in the Upper Des Plaines River watershed.

At the first tour stop, Lydia Scott and Chris Fisher of the Village of Lincolnshire led the group through Rivershire Park, describing their team's multi-faceted efforts to restore prairie and control stream and riverbank erosion on the site. The tour continued at Reed-Turner Woodland where steward Barbara Turner described local sedge meadow and stream restoration efforts and encouraged everyone to



return in May to witness the nature preserve's striking display of spring ephemerals. Moving on to Libertyville, participants **UDPREP President Jim Anderson (center) of the Lake Co. Forest Preserves describes wetland restoration at Rollins Savanna.**

JOIN US!

Help the partnership grow in 2005—become a member! UDPREP members enjoy many benefits including a subscription to our quarterly newsletter, special event invitations, and voting privileges at annual meetings. Please read the enclosed letter for more information and join us today!



Barbara Turner (center right, pointing) shares the history of Reed-Turner Woodland before leading participants on a guided hike.

enjoyed a trek through Liberty Prairie, which offered the only fen on the tour. Long-time steward Ken Weik explained how Liberty Prairie Conservancy is working to restore the fen and other segments of prairie and wetland on the site. The last tour stop, Rollins Savanna, represents the largest restoration effort ever undertaken by the Lake County Forest Preserves. Jim Anderson, Nick Huber, and Ken Klick of the Lake County Forest Preserves chauffeured participants to a variety of interesting spots on the 1,226-acre site, including a remarkable old stand of oak trees.

Many thanks to the tour leaders, volunteers, and participants for making the event such a success!

Conservation 2000 News

As we went to press, the Illinois General Assembly was deliberating the Conservation 2000 Program's (C2000) FY05 capital budget during the Veto Session. We will keep the partnership informed as this story develops.

C2000's FY06 funding guidance is now available online at www.dnr.state.il.us/orep/c2000. For those unfamiliar with the C2000 funding process, the UDPREP Review Committee reviews and ranks all proposals for projects within the watershed. C2000 officials at the Illinois Department of Natural Resources use

the Review Committee's rankings to guide their final funding decisions.

As a service to partners, UDPREP offers a pre-application review process. Applicants can submit a draft proposal and receive feedback and suggestions from the Review Committee. The deadline for pre-applications is 5 p.m. on January 17, 2005. Please submit pre-applications to Alison Cook at upperdesplainesriver@yahoo.com using the application form from the C2000 web site. The Review Committee will provide feedback to applicants at a meeting on January 27, 2005.

CALENDAR

JANUARY 17, 2005:

Deadline for submitting FY06 C2000 pre-application (5 p.m.). See related newsletter article for more information.

JANUARY 27, 2005:

Pre-application Review Committee meeting. 9:30 a.m., 32492 N. Almond Rd., Grayslake, IL.

FEBRUARY 28, 2005:

Deadline for submitting FY06 C2000 final proposal to IDNR online.

Indian Creek Watershed Plan Approved

On November 9, 2004, the Lake County Board approved and adopted the final draft of the Indian Creek Watershed Plan; the plan was previously approved by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) on October 7, 2004. Prior to adoption, the plan was revised to incorporate comments received from stakeholders during the public comment period. In January 2005, SMC will be printing the final plan and burning the plan files on a CD. If you are interested in receiving a copy, please email Sean Wiedel at swiedel@co.lake.il.us and specify whether you would like a paper or CD copy. More information on Indian Creek is available online at www.indiancreekwp.org.

WEB SITE IN THE WORKS

Thanks to the efforts of the Web Site Committee and Planning Committee, UDPREP now has a detailed outline for a new and improved web site. We're currently in the process of hiring a professional designer to develop the new site's visual structure. Meanwhile, we are compiling key documents and data from UDPREP's many partners. If you'd like to help collect files and information for the site, please contact Alison Cook at upperdesplainesriver@yahoo.com or 847-328-3457.

Stay tuned for the official web site launch in 2005!

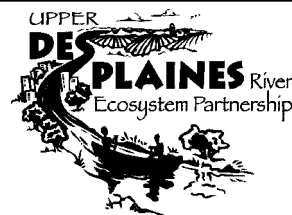
THANK YOU!

Many thanks to the following individuals and institutions for their recent contributions to UDPREP:

Jim Anderson, Lake Co. Forest Preserves
Steve Barg, Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Chris Brant, Lake Co. Health Dept., Lakes Mgmt. Unit
Alex Deans, Youth Conservation Corps
Chris Fisher, Village of Lincolnshire
Terry and Bill Gillespie, Village of Lincolnshire
Tim Girmscheid, Liberty Prairie Conservancy
Hall Healy, Facilitated Solutions International
Nick Huber, Lake Co. Forest Preserves
Ken Klick, Lake Co. Forest Preserves
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Ann Maine, Lake County Board
Jeff Mengler, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ward Miller, Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission
Mike Sands, Liberty Prairie Conservancy

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Christine Urban, U.S. EPA

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