



INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT LTD.

A watershed planning effort initiated under the Upper Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership
Serving portions of Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire, Long Grove and other areas in central Lake County

W76 Circle Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060

Phone and fax (847) 566-8570

Website: www.indiancreekwp.org

Stakeholder Connections

Watershed Area Newsletter • Winter 2005

SAVE THE DATE!!

Indian Creek Watershed Project's
**White Elephant
Auction and Dinner
Fundraiser**



Sat., February 18, 2006
From 5:30pm to 10?

At Flourchild's,
185 Milwaukee Avenue, in
Lincolnshire by Flatlanders

Come join us for an evening that promises to be fun-filled while helping us make more money to help the watershed! **Everyone brings one or more items to sell at the auction that night and it's great fun to see what happens.**

\$26 per person

Details will be on our website
in January- bring friends!!

The Indian Creek Watershed Project is Now 5 Years Old!

Look at ALL the helpful projects currently underway here.

Seavey Creek Stream Restoration Project Value * \$320,000

The Village of Vernon Hills will restore 80' of stream and buffer under a US EPA STAG Grant near the Arbor Theater.

Ravinia and Indian Creek Parks Project* \$274,000

Fremont Township will restore degraded spillway and lake inflow and outflow areas at Sylvan Lake in Mundelein under an IEPA 319 grant.

Indian Creek Restoration in Lincolnshire* \$156,000

Village of Lincolnshire restores downtown stream and buffers under an IEPA 319 grant to prevent nonpoint source (indirect) pollution.

Longview Meadow Stream Repair in Long Grove * \$92,000

Long Grove Park District restores 500' of stream and wetland under a US EPA STAG Grant.

Reed-Turner Woodland Hillside Stabilization * \$20,000

Under a Northeastern IL Wetlands Conservation Account grant Indian Creek volunteers have worked with contractors to stop sediment from loading into the restored sedge meadow from hillside streams.

(see SMC's website for a full list of all Indian Creek projects,
www.co.lake.il.us/smc/planning/indiancreek/IC%20BMPPProj.asp)

**Since 2001 Nearly \$1.5 Million in Projects Have
Been Awarded in the Indian Creek Watershed**

Sylvan Lake is Improving Water Quality

Sylvan Lake homeowners are focused on helping their lake and community. From Carp-O-Ramas (fishing competitions) to coordinated weekends to control buckthorn and other invasive species, this community has mobilized to improve their lake and the resources around it. By the end of 2004, Sylvan had completed four grant projects totalling more than \$185,000 in improvements for their lake and waterways. Erosion has considerably lessened in problem areas around Sylvan Lake because of these efforts. This past Spring, a new \$275,000 IEPA 319 grant was awarded to Sylvan Lake Homeowners and Fremont Township for restoring streambank, wetland, and savanna areas and rebuilding the spillway by 2006. Other projects have been paid for by the community. A manhole and tile system was upgraded to control sediment, and deep rooted native plants were added in many areas.



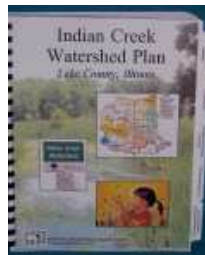
Connecting Kids to the Water, Mussel Hunting in Sylvan Lake 2005

Between these projects, avid community education, and hundreds of volunteer hours from Sylvan Lake residents, stormwater and lake quality are improving here.

Indian Creek Watershed Plan Was the FIRST Adopted in the Upper Des Plaines River System

*In 2004, the Indian Creek Watershed Plan was adopted. It will provide local municipalities, townships and county administrators, developers, the Lake Co. Forest Preserve, park districts, communities and others with policies and projects to improve the quality of the watershed. Plan components provide guidance for activities such as zoning, transportation considerations, drainage improvements, land acquisition, open space preservation and restoration. Countywide watershed development standards can also be tailored to fit our watershed. Having a watershed plan also makes us eligible for certain state and federal grants. A watershed plan proves we have taken stock of our resources, developed a strategy for long term improvement and shows that the community was part of the process. **In February or March plan to attend the Indian Creek Watershed Committee meeting at Stormwater Management to provide input on action plan updates. Watch our website for the public meeting date and please try to attend. Finally, ask your village or township to adopt the Indian Creek Watershed Plan and provide funding for projects so we can really get things done!***

For a copy of the Indian Creek Watershed Plan, please contact Sean Wiedel at SMC via email (swiedel@co.lake.il.us) or phone (847-918-7693).



Taking Stock of Our Lakes, the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP)

By trade Greg Denny is Operations Manager for a wastewater services testing laboratory, Environmental Monitoring and Technology (EMT), but in his leisure time he likes to be boating on the water near his home at Diamond Lake. He wanted to get more in touch with



the conditions of the lake so he decided to become a volunteer under the IEPA's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). Using a Secchi disk he measures water clarity (transparency). The disk is lowered into the lake, and the depth at which it is no longer visible is noted. This system documents the visual quality of lake water. Greg has noticed

that the water was clearer this year than previously, most likely due to the drought. Monitoring is conducted twice a month from April - October, at three sites per lake. He says it doesn't take much time really and keeps you in touch with your lake. After doing it for five years, he has become most aware of the annual increase of traffic on Diamond Lake. If you are interested in monitoring your lake for a few years or want more information about this program contact Holly Hudson, NE IL VImp Coordinator at the Northeastern IL Planning Commission, hhudson@nipc.org.

Forest Lake Student Learns the Importance of Buffers

Lisa Zickuhr was in an Environmental Ethics class at Notre Dame University this past Fall. As part of her "experiential learning project" she wanted to know more about Forest Lake, where she grew up in Hawthorn Woods. She called ICWP President, Tori Trauscht, and they visited the lake. After viewing the lake conditions and referring to the Lake County Health Department/Lakes Management Unit's report on Forest Lake from 2000, it appears that if homeowners



allowed more unmown buffers (10-15 feet) with deep rooted native plants on the shoreline (like the home at the right) and used less fertilizer containing phosphorus it would greatly help their lake. Carp also need to be controlled in the lake. This is the case with most lakes in Indian Creek as well. Natural buffers prevent erosion and trap extra nutrients while also providing habitat for other species. Carp stir up the lake causing turbidity and prohibit good plant growth. Some lakes like Sylvan Lake hold fishing contests to help control these bottom dwellers. Hats off to Lisa for wanting to learn more about her lake.



Natural Buffers Help Prevent Erosion on Forest Lake

For more helpful information on lake management or to view county lake reports go to the Lake County Health Dept./Lakes Management Unit website at <http://www.co.lake.il.us/health/ehs/lakes.asp>

Whether Flooding, Stable or During Drought Conditions: Indian Creek Needs Your Help

There are constant pressures on the Indian Creek Watershed. The primary difference between now and twenty years ago is people. Indian Creek used to be an agricultural area, but now with more neighborhoods, roads, businesses, channelized streams, and detention areas we are considered suburban in density. One third of our watershed has wetland soils, but we have only half the wetlands we once did. Currently about 28% of our watershed has impervious cover like parking lots, rooftops, driveways, etc. where water picks up speed and pollutants over the land during a big rain and causes excess flooding in some areas. Our impervious cover is projected to rise to 36% over the next 20 years. (Source: SMC's Indian Creek Watershed Plan). Our streams and lakes are having a hard time rebounding after such events because of the water volume. Mother nature can do it by herself in low density areas, but she needs help here in suburban Indian Creek. By planting



Sylvan Lake at Sunset

native vegetation, controlling exotics on shorelines and buffer areas, minimizing runoff and chemical use on our properties, installing rain gardens to soak up rain water, planting trees that suck up thousands of gallons of water, we can ALL help this special watershed.

In a drought situation like we had this year... save as much water as you can by limiting water use. Some people in our area have already experienced wells drying up, so please think about your water use. Don't waste it or run it needlessly, limit pollutants in your home and yard, plant native vegetation that does not require much watering, turn off water timers. You can also help provide healthy habitat for all our neighbors in Indian Creek by naturalizing your yard, woodland or swale, AND by supporting the Indian Creek Watershed Project so we can get more on the ground projects going for better water quality. Remember, the water you save today may be preserving your drinking water for tomorrow.

Indian Creek Resident Quote

"The less phosphorus you put in lakes the better it is for the environment" stated Dan Liberacki from Countryside Lake in an interview with the Pioneer Press on July 7, 2005. "Countryside Lake has a lot of algae. Homeowners are concerned about the health of the lake. This is one way (to) control it."

ICWP Note* Please do not mow right to the edge of your lake and try not to fertilize near shorelines.

Countryside Lake Kids: Learning How to Help Indian Creek and Their Lake Every Summer



Countryside Lake Kids Group Relaxes During a Lake Tour

Over recent years, Countryside Lake has had problems with erosion and issues with sediment coming into their lake from upstream development and agriculture. Rosemary Aitken, ICWP Board member, believes in helping the lake's conditions and the watershed by working with the future ... the children. Her Countryside Lake Kids Club has grown from 8 members three years ago to as many as 30 participants this summer. They have studied lake quality with the Lake County Health Department, they have done volunteer monitoring of streams with Stormwater Management Commission staff, they have looked for critters under a microscopic lens in a pool and they have done much more good science for the benefit of water quality. This year their weekly excursions took them water sampling with Pat Bland from Integrated Lakes Management, to Volo Bog to compare wildlife with that of Countryside Lake, on a waterway tour and to the lakeshore of the Chicago Botanic Garden. They also looked for shoreline erosion areas around their lake. Rosemary says "We'll beat watershed problems if we work with the children. They have the creativity and the energy to solve our current and future problems, we just have to give them the tools!"

Local Entities Are Actively Working to Help Restore Riparian Areas

Long Grove Park District Restores Stream Corridor with Help from the Staff at Shedd Aquarium: The Long Grove Park District was awarded a State and Tribal Assistance grant (STAG) from the USEPA in December 2004 to restore a stream corridor and buffer along the south branch of Indian Creek near Route 22 and Route 83. Contractors and volunteers during the project have helped remove huge log jams and invasive trees to lighten the canopy so that many native trees and shrubs could be planted to restabilize the stream corridor and upgrade the habitat for wildlife. Several volunteer groups have helped during the project including Cub Scout Pack 64, Eagle Scouts from Troop 79, students from Quest Academy, and Mundelein High School volunteers. This year the park district was also fortunate to have 30 volunteer staff from Shedd Aquarium's CAM group come out and help do trees planting and clearing in October.

This occurred thanks to a lead from the Chicago Wilderness staff that connected ICWP with the Shedd Conservation Action Month group (CAM). These Shedd staff work to make a difference in Chicagoland communities each year. "We like to get our feet wet, outside too, on projects like this where we can also learn restoration techniques from a variety of perspectives," said Hilary Corcoran, Shedd Animal Healthcare Technologist and CAM coordinator. Between the Lake Co. Stormwater Management Commission, Chicago Wilderness, Shedd staff, scouts, high schools and the Long Grove Park District, the education from this project will be realized over many watersheds.



Shedd Staff Pose After an Intense Workday

Village of Lincolnshire Restores Downtown Stream: The Village of Lincolnshire received funding under the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Section 319 Grant to restore of a portion of Indian Creek located in what is soon to be the Village of Lincolnshire's downtown area. Grant funding and matching monies from the village will help with bank stabilization, reforestation of areas that have been invaded by exotics (buckthorn and garlic mustard), and native plantings in the creek channel and to aid detention areas. Educating the public on the watershed and the importance of Best Management Practices during the downtown redevelopment was also a goal of the grant. The project is due to begin after all plans are finalized and permitted.

Vernon Hills to Stabilize Portions of the Seavey and Harvey Lake: Vernon Hills will be restoring Seavey Ditch from the Arborthheater to Route 45 near Prairie Road. The Seavey, also known as Hawthorn Drain is the main stream that runs from Butterfield Road past Lake Charles and Big and Little Bear Lakes all the way to Route 45 where it joins with Indian Creek by the Lincolnshire downtown area. This project will be funded by a State and Tribal Assistance grant (STAG) with oversight from the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. Vernon Hills is also actively working to improve Harvey Lake. The Army Corps of Engineers has committed \$260,000 to mitigate shoreline erosion, remove invasive plants, reintroduce beneficial native plants, and enhance water quality. Village staff are meeting with area residents to help educate during these projects. Volunteers are welcome to help on workdays.

Upper Des Plaines Partnership Is a Valuable Partner in NE IL Watershed Efforts

The mission of the Upper Des Plaines Ecosystem Partnership, or UDPREP, is to preserve, protect, and enhance the Upper Des Plaines River Watershed through education, collaboration and technical assistance of stakeholders. The Indian Creek subwatershed is within the UDPREP system of 15 subwatersheds in Lake County. UDPREP has become an important advocate for water quality and coordination in northern Illinois by providing support on grant reviews, sponsoring educational events, and encouraging public and private watershed leadership. They also update their calendar for grant deadlines and key watershed events. UDPREP's website is www.upperdesplainesriver.org or email alison.cook@upperdesplainesriver.org



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Volunteers will be needed for workdays next Spring during various Indian Creek Watershed grant projects. Please check our website for workdays on the various projects at www.indiancreekwsp.org under workdays.



Early Spring Rains Show Flooding Before Rain Gardens

A Few of Our Projects...Before, During, After

Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd Further Stabilizes Reed-Turner Woodland Uphill Streams with Rain Gardens

Last year, the Indian Creek Watershed Project was awarded \$20,000 from the Conservation Fund's Northeastern Illinois Wetlands Conservation Account (NEIWCA) to help provide erosion protection for the gullies upstream from the recently restored sedge meadow at Reed-Turner Woodland. The sedge meadow restoration effort has been a very important project to the Indian Creek Watershed Project because it helped greatly improve the wonderful Reed-Turner Woodland Illinois Nature Preserve, one of the gems of our watershed.

This project involved clearing weedy trees, herbiciding exotics, burning brush and debris, building a rock path, seeding in uphill drainage areas, and the construction of two rain gardens to help slow down the water in this flood prone section of Reed-Turner Woodland. Shallow rain gardens (pictured here) were dug in winter and then planted in the Spring so that more water could infiltrate into the soil via the deep rooted planted vegetation. Education of area neighbors about the importance of rain gardens for erosion and flood control is also part of the project as well as a bird and butterfly inventory. We invite you to come see how the rain gardens work after the next Spring or Summer rains establish them at Reed-Turner, then you'll want to build one in your yard!



Cub Scouts Help Plant Rain Gardens in May 2005

The U.S. has approximately 121 million acres of land within the 100-year floodplains of rivers. At one time, most of the acreage contained riparian forests and wetlands. It no longer does. Today, only about 23 million acres are in their natural or semi-natural conditions. In some floodplains, only 5 percent of the natural vegetation remains. More than 70 percent of the original floodplain forests have been converted to urban or agricultural use.~ Jim Hain, Foreword [Dam By the River](#)

Fremont Township Helps Stabilize an Eroded Creek in Unincorporated Mundelein



Dark, narrow, eroding corridor - 2001

In unincorporated Fremont Township a creek downstream from recent development in the West Shoreland neighborhood has been gradually eroding from high water volumes, upstream development, and obstructions in the stream corridor. Fremont Township Highway Department received Stormwater Management Watershed Management Board funding to stabilize the stream walls with rock, erosion control fabric and native plants. Applied Ecological Services worked this past summer to remove low quality trees along the stream. This will promote better infiltration and allow for stabilization. Several neighbor meetings were required to educate residents about the project purpose and the process of the work.



Wider, More Stable Floodway - 8/2005

YOU can help the ICWP by joining us on a workday, attending a board meeting with your ideas, or by donating today!

Indian Creek Watershed Hands at Work



Students From Quest Academy in Palatine Help Clear Debris from a Stream Corridor in Long Grove



Jeri Swanson Reviews Drainage Project at Sylvan Lake



Fremont Township Highway Commissioner Bill Grinnell Helps Plant Native Plugs



Students From Mundelein Plant Donated Native Flowers and Grasses at New County Courthouse



Ela Township Resident Fred Lutter Plants Native Wetland Species to Stabilize Shores Around His Detention Pond



Barbara Turner and Tori Trauscht Pick Up Native Plants to Help Stabilize ICW Shores



Mike Redmer, US Fish & Wildlife, Demonstrates the Dangerous Jaws of a Snapping Turtle

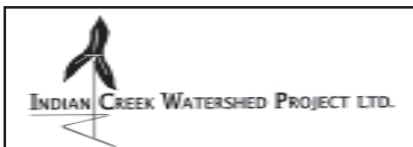


Sunset Over New Lake Co. Forest Preserve-Heron Creek



Long Grove Park District Interns Removed Six Loads of Trash Like This from Indian Creek

When you put your hand in a flowing stream, you touch the last that has gone before and the first of what is still to come.
• Leonardo da Vinci •



The Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization formed in the summer of 2000 to promote water quality education and improve conditions in the Indian Creek watershed of northeastern Illinois.



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We are proud to have the following Board of Directors:

- Tori Trauscht *President and Watershed Coordinator*
- Bill Grinnell *Treasurer and Roads/Drainage Director*
- Jeri Swanson *Secretary and Director of Lake Information*
- Rosemary T. Aitken *Director of Youth Education*
- Ron Aidikonis *Director of Public Information and Outreach*
- Greg Denny *Director of Water Quality Issues*

Help us plant more seeds of education, support us with your donation today, participate in a project and/or join our board! For direct email addresses of board members contact us at cleanwater@indiancreekwp.org

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We Are Very Thankful To Our Donors!

Reed Turner Woodland Board of Trustees
Oppenheimer Foundation *Edward Rogan*
Blue Gator Foundation *Nicholas Ceisel*
Long Grove Park District *Ethel Untermyer*
Barbara Reed Turner *Chris Ardent*
Fremont Township *Charles Bartels*
Village of Lincolnshire *Terrance McCann*
Village of Vernon Hills *The Reifenberg's*
Jeri and Eric Swanson *Peter Fay*
Dorothy Davis Smith *Gordon Smith*
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The Trauscht Family *James Phlamm*
Rosemary Aitken *John White*
Swanson's Home Leisure Products, Inc.
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Zych
Alvin Gorman

We Appreciate Our Project Partners for Grants and Assistance

Army Corps of Engineers
 Chicago Wilderness
 The Conservation Fund
 Fremont Township and Highway Department
 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
 Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
 Illinois Nature Preserves Commission/Steve Byers
 Lake County Division of Transportation
 Lake County Health Dept./Lakes Management Unit (LMU)
 Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD)
 Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC)
 Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC)
 Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
 Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership (UDPREP)
 US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA)
 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Lake Co. Board Members Diana O'Kelly, Carol Calabresa, Pam Newton,
 Sandy Cole and Michael Talbett
 Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWCD)
 Michael Silver and Co, Certified Public Accountants
 Strauss and Malk, Attorneys at Law

Special thanks to all those wonderful folks who have adopted highways!

Please Support the Indian Creek Watershed Project Today!

We are all volunteers, none of our board members is paid for the administrative tasks we do. We are 100% funded by donations or grants and 98% of our money is spent on projects. We need funding to do more grant projects, provide outreach materials and pay for minimal administration fees. We have no paid staff, we only have accounting and operational costs. We watch our money and get things done! Your donation could help us buy seeds, fund a portion of a grant, help us underwrite an educational program or newsletter. As a supporter you will receive our newsletters and watershed planning updates as they occur, but be assured most of your donation will be spent on ways to improve our watershed. Please give to the ICWP today, your donation is tax exempt.



(Please cut or copy here and mail)

Stakeholder supporter \$25-50 _____ Streamleader \$75-100 _____ Any amount helps! _____

Please list the name(s) by which we may recognize your contribution:

Your name _____
 Your address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ ext. _____ Fax _____



E-mail Address (please print clearly) _____

If applicable - this gift is in honor/memory of:

(Checks should be made payable to the Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd.)

*** Please mail your tax deductible donation to Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd.**
W76 Circle Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060 *(sorry, we are not able to process credit cards)*

The Indian Creek Watershed Project Ltd. is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization which was formed in July of 2000 for the benefit of the Indian Creek watershed. Financial reports for the Indian Creek Watershed Project Ltd. are available for inspection at the Lake County Clerk's Office at 18 N. County Street, Waukegan, IL.

The Mission of the Non-Profit Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd.

The Indian Creek Watershed Project is comprised of watershed stakeholders dedicated to preservation, protection, and improvement of the Indian Creek sub-watershed of the Des Plaines River. Our mission is to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and an educated citizenry. Our goal is to educate while building partnerships to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and preserve and restore wetlands, woodlands, and other natural resources for future generations.



A Great Blue Heron Wades in a Shallow Lake in Long Grove

Indian Creek Watershed Project Needs YOU!!!

If you are a stakeholder (resident, landowner, employee or representative of a governmental body) in the Indian Creek watershed we need your help! If you live or work in Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Lincolnshire, Lake Zurich, Kildeer, Buffalo Grove or Indian Creek you may be a stakeholder of Indian Creek watershed. We are looking to expand our board of directors, we especially need representation from Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire, Long Grove and Hawthorn Woods. It is not a large commitment, only four hours a month. If you would like more information or are interested in attending our next board meeting please contact Tori Trauscht, ICWP President at cleanwater@indiancreekwp.org. Join us TODAY!

We let a river shower its banks with a spirit that invades the people living there, and we protect that river, knowing that without its blessings the people have no source of soul.

• Thomas Moore •



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Indian Creek winding through Reed-Turner Woodland

**Help Us Celebrate Our 5th Year of Work - February 18, 2006
With Your Support We Can Do Much More!**