

The West Branch of the DuPage River and Other Environmental Features

The West Branch of the DuPage River, trees, forest preserves, and other natural environment elements are cited as important components that contribute significantly to the overall character and charm of the community. Residents feel strongly that these features are valuable community assets that should be protected and enhanced. Development of a River open space, paths, and public access space was noted throughout the outreach. However providing more/better bicycle trails and connections, few specific recommendations or suggestions were given as ways to enhance the environmental features of the community.

Goal

Preserve and protect the River, natural features, open space, and wooded areas that contribute significantly to the City's overall character, setting, and uniqueness, and seek opportunities to showcase, access, and promote these components as important and valuable community assets.

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Objective	Priority	Implementation				
			Timeframe	Consultant Assistance	Capital Improvement	Fiscal Impact
A. Support clean-up and maintenance of the River and adjacent natural areas.	1	Continue to coordinate with the US EPA on the West Branch of the DuPage River Thorium Cleanup project.	S			M
		Support and continue to coordinate with DuPage County and the DuPage County Forest Preserve District on the restoration and enhancement of the Warrenville Grove area after the thorium cleanup.	L			M
		Support the Forest Preserve and Park District, Conservation Foundation and DuPage River Coalition's annual "River Sweep," which encourages individuals and groups to volunteer to pick-up litter and debris along the River and other natural areas.	I			L
B. Create, fund, and implement a "Master Trail Plan" that provides a network of bicycle/pedestrian trails through the community, linking together and providing access to the various open spaces, environmental features and natural areas of the community and surrounding areas.	1	Retain a consultant to assist the Warrenville Bicyclists and Pedestrian Advisory Commission with the development of a Master Trail Plan utilizing citizen input.	S	Y	TBD	TBD
		Adopt and implement the Master Trail Plan using it to guide future land use, circulation, and capital improvement decisions.	M	Y	TBD	TBD
		Identify and pursue appropriate grants to assist with the development and implementation of the Master Trail Plan.	L	P	L	TBD
		Require new development to provide appropriate pedestrian and bicycle circulation and amenities, providing connections and linkages to existing and future trails wherever possible.	S		P	L
		Once the plan is established, priority sidewalks and trails should be included in the City's multi-year Capital Improvement Plan as priority capital improvement projects. Develop, fund, staff, and implement a maintenance plan once improvements are complete.	L		Y	TBD

TF - Likely Time Frame

I - Immediate, within 12 months
 S - Short, 1-2 years
 M - Medium, 3-5 years
 L - Long, 5+ years

CA - Consultant Assistance

Y - Yes, consultant likely.
 P - Partial assistance likely

CI - Capital Improvement

Y - Step is capital improvement

FI - Fiscal Impact

H - High impact
 M - Moderate impact
 L - Low impact
 TBD - Impact to be determined

RI - Resource Impact

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C. Incorporate appropriate "sustainable" and "environmentally sensitive" development practices by distributing information and providing technical guidance for developers and residents.	1	Consider amending Section 8A: Approval Criteria for Planned Development of the Zoning Ordinance to strengthen the standards of review and overall importance of incorporating environmentally sensitive, sustainable, LEED, or other appropriate practices and considerations.	S	P		L	L
		Assist developers and property owners with incorporating appropriate "sustainable" and "environmentally sensitive" development practices, by developing a Sustainable Development Guidelines Booklet that could be distributed to property owners and potential developers, which illustrates and provides examples of development practices the City would like to see implemented.	M	P		L	M
		Ensure that environmentally sensitive development practices are encouraged and discussed at every stage of the review and approval process, from initial concept meetings with staff to final City Council approval.	M				L
		Recognize and publicize sustainable development actions in the City.	I			L	L
D. Coordinate with/provide staff support for the new Environmental Advisory Commission	1	Attend meetings, conduct research, provide technical advice, act as liaison between Commission, staff and elected officials.	S			TBD	M
E. Evaluate community position on maintaining the area adjacent to the River as "public open space" along the entire length of the River throughout the City through the comprehensive plan process.	3	Ensure that the area along the River is designated as public open space in the City's Comprehensive Plan.	M				L
		Use the Comprehensive Plan and the open space designation as a tool to guide future land use decision making.	L				L
		Coordinate with the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, as needed, to design and maintain desirable public open space areas along the West Branch of the DuPage River corridor.	L	P		TBD	TBD
		Develop an acquisition plan/program to acquire property or easements as necessary to support any Council adopted plans.	M		P	H	M
F. Plan and develop river enhancements along the West Branch of the DuPage River, potentially incorporating a trail, scenic overlooks, fishing areas, gathering places, and other appropriate amenities.	3	Implement River enhancements per the Old Town/Civic Center Subarea Plan.	L	Y		TBD	TBD
G. Support the Conservation Foundation's efforts of working with area schools and community groups to establish educational and stewardship programs that focus on the River and other environmental features in the area.	4	Support efforts by schools and community groups to establish environmental education programs.	I				L
		Coordinate efforts of the Environmental Advisory Commission to further support and coordinate City efforts with groups such as the Conservation Foundation.	S			L	L

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