

**LOCAL ACTIVISM--WHAT CAN I/WE DO?
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND WATERSHED**

1. REDUCE NON-POINT SOURCE RUNOFF OF NUTRIENTS (Nitrogen, Phosphorus)

Reduce or eliminate the application of fertilizers by you, your landscape contractor, park districts, schools, municipalities.

Example: The "Lawns for the Nippersink" campaign educates local homeowners about phosphorus-free fertilizers and works with local garden & lawn care retailers to promote those products. See <http://www.nippersink.org/pdfs/NippersinkPhosporus-Free-4-8-13.pdf>

2. REDUCE OTHER NON-POINT SOURCE CONTAMINANTS

● *Learn about coal tar sealants and work to prohibit their use by municipalities & their contractors, residential & business contractors, and residents.*

Example: The Glenview Park District prohibits use of coal tar sealants, and the Village of Glenview bid specifications and contracts also prohibit their use.

● *Reduce or eliminate the use of lawn & garden pesticides.*

● *Do not discard unused prescription medication in the toilet or down the sink. Dispose of it through periodic prescription drug "take back" days, or return it to a pharmacy.*

3. MITIGATE NON-POINT SOURCE RUNOFF

Identify green infrastructure opportunities and advocate for their implementation.

4. FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH WATERSHED MANAGEMENT EFFORTS

Understand where your water comes from and where it goes. Learn about sewage infrastructure and funding. Observe the board meetings of your wastewater treatment plant authority and/or your local watershed planning work group.

Example: LWV Jo Daviess County [<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6allUzZiMn3eW1pVXg1SzRSdzg/view>]

5. GET KNEE DEEP INTO IT!

Become a Citizen Scientist through the RiverWatch program and get up close and personal in learning about the condition of your local waterway. [<http://www.ngrrec.org/RiverWatch/resources/> and <http://www.ngrrec.org/News-Stories/RiverWatchWorkshops2016/>]

6. LEARN ABOUT THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

If your drinking water is supplied by your municipality or a private water provider (e.g. American Water), read the annual report they are required to send to you.

7. START BY REQUESTING A PRESENTATION TO YOUR LEAGUE

PARTIAL LIST OF ILLINOIS WATERSHED PLANNING GROUPS* (as of February 25, 2016)

BOONE CREEK WATERSHED ALLIANCE: <http://www.boonecreekwatershed.org/>

This McHenry County group is currently working with CMAP on developing their plan.

FLINT CREEK WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP: www.flintcreekwatershed.org/

Part of the Upper Fox River Basin in northeastern Illinois, it drains 36.5 square miles in southwest Lake County, northwest Cook County and a small portion of McHenry County. Flint Creek has three branches and eight municipalities & five townships are located partially or entirely within the watershed.

FRIENDS OF THE FOX RIVER: www.friendsofthefoxriver.org/

HICKORY CREEK WATERSHED: hickorycreekwatershed.org

Includes Joliet, New Lenox, Frankfort, Homer Glen, Mokena, Tinley Park, Orland Park

INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT LTD.: <http://www.indiancreekwp.org/>

Encompasses parts of unincorporated Lake County as well as portions of Mundelein, Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Long Grove, Lincolnshire, Libertyville, Lake Zurich, Kildeer, Buffalo Grove, Indian Creek, and covers the townships of Fremont, Ela, Vernon, and Libertyville.

LA MOINE RIVER ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: <http://www.lamoinecreek.org/>

Includes all or part of the following counties: Fulton, Schuyler, McDonough, Hancock, Adams, Brown, Henderson, Warren, Knox

LOWER DES PLAINES ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP: <http://www.lowerdesplaines.org/>; **UPPER DES PLAINES RIVER ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP:**

Originating in southeast Wisconsin, the upper Des Plaines R. flows south to the confluence with the Salt Creek near Riverside, and the lower Des Plaines begins at the confluence with the Chicago Ship & Sanitary Canal. The Upper Des Plaines partnership is no longer active though their information has been posted to the Lower Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership website. Sixty-four communities fall within the reach of the Lower Des Plaines watershed.

LOWER DU PAGE RIVER WATERSHED COALITION: <http://www.dupagerivers.org/events.html>

NIPPERSINK CREEK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION: <http://www.nippersink.org/index.htm>

Encompasses over 200 sq. mi. in northeast McHenry Co., as well as portions of Kenosha County and Walworth Co. Wisconsin.

PARKLANDS FOUNDATION (Mackinaw River): <http://www.parklandsfoundation.org/>

Middle and Upper Mackinaw River watershed in McLean, Tazewell, & Woodford counties, as well as the Sangamon River watershed in McLean County.

HEARTLAND WATER RESOURCES COUNCIL OF CENTRAL ILLINOIS: <http://www.heartlandwaterresources.com/>

Peoria Lakes watersheds

SALT CREEK WATERSHED NETWORK: <http://www.saltcreekwatershed.org/>

With more than 30 municipalities, this watershed starts in northwest Cook County, runs south and east through DuPage County, and empties into the Des Plaines River in central Cook County.

CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning): <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/livability/water/water-quality-management/watershed-planning>

This link provides access to CMAP-developed watershed plans of the Upper Kishwaukee River; Poplar Creek; Thorn Creek; Beaver Creek; Jackson Creek; Ferson-Otter Creek; Blackberry Creek; Silver Creek & Sleepy Hollow Creek; 9 Lakes Watershed.

* Sources: Prairie Rivers Network: prairierivers.org/for-watershed-groups/illinois-watershed-groups/ Last updated July 2011;
CMAP (Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning)