

THE FRANKLIN CREEK CHRONICAL



Summer 2022

- Preserve - Engage - Understand -

We need your input!

It is important to regroup and reevaluate your goals from time to time to make sure you are on the correct trajectory in your personal life and career. Are you reaching those goals you set for yourself? Do you need to change some things to make sure you hit those goals or are those goals unrealistic and need to be changed? It is the same for any non-profit organization. This reevaluation goes by the term “Strategic Planning” and the outcomes of this plan are used to help guide the organization’s plan for a set time.

As our organization continues to mature, we will always need to make those periodic adjustments to help guide FCCA’s plan for capitol projects, fundraising, and what we can offer to the community. This year at Franklin Creek Conservation Association, we are beginning a strategic planning process to guide us for the next five years with the help of the Small Business Development Center at Sauk Valley Community College. We need your input to help finesse our trajectory and make sure we are accomplishing these goals or need to make adjustments to the overall plan.

This newsletter will look a bit different from the previous ones. You will still find brief information about our events and what we have accomplished so far, but you will notice a difference in the insert. The insert is a survey we hope you will complete and send back to us by July 15, 2022. To make this accessible to all, you are welcome to email us the answers if you would like. As a stakeholder of our organization, your input is crucial to making a successful plan.

We hope you take your time to fill out the survey. Even if partially filled out, the answers will be useful in this process.



Sincerely,
Heather Herakovich
Executive Director

Surveys should be returned to 1893 Twist Rd. Franklin Grove, IL 61031 or emailed to engage@franklincreekconservation.org by July 15, 2022.

Franklin Creek Conservation Association

Franklin Grove, IL 61031

The Menace Within

We are raising money to receive a 3:1 Match from Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation to remove unwanted Honeysuckle from the State Natural Area and allow for our native plants to thrive. Every dollar donated will be quadrupled by the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation for the project! Whether you donate \$5 or \$500, every bit helps and increases our impact on preserving this natural land. If donating for this grant, please write "Stewardship Match" in the memo!

Why is removing Honeysuckle important for our woodlands?



The invasive Honeysuckle is the first shrub to leaf out in the spring, as shown above on the top left. This shades out the spring ephemerals (inset) that are blooming at the same time as the Honeysuckle is leafing out. It also negatively impacts nesting birds and oak survival! Removing this shrub is key to keeping our oak woodlands healthy and without removal it has got out of control. Help us take a chunk out of Franklin Creek State Natural Area!

RiverWatch Certified!

Five members of the Education Committee were trained in the RiverWatch protocol that is run by the National Great Rivers Research and Educational Center. This training allows us to take samples of Franklin Creek and determine the water quality based on the type of macroinvertebrates that are present in the water. We are now in the process of picking sites on Franklin Creek to monitor over time. This will help us determine the creek quality and how well the protected land surrounding it is cleaning up the waterway. Want to join? Let us know and we will put you on the list!



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FCCA Strategic Planning Questionnaire

1. From your vantage point, what do you think the mission and goals of FCCA are?

2. Would you suggest that FCCA expand or change its mission? If so, how?

3. What do you think the role of FCCA is for Franklin Creek State Natural Area and the community/region?

4. List two things you think FCCA does very well.

1.

2.

5. List two things you think FCCA could do better.

1.

2.

6. Are there things you wish we offered that we currently do not? What are they?

7. List three things you would like to see FCCA accomplish in the next five years?

1.

2.

3.

8. How do you use Franklin Creek State Natural Area? (Circle all that apply)

HIKING/RUNNING FISHING/HUNTING HORSEBACK RIDING

OTHER: _____

FCCA Strategic Planning Questionnaire Continued

9. How do you use FCCA Assets? (circle all that apply)

Grist Mill: DISPLAYS INFORMATION MILL DEMOS RENTALS PROGRAMS
EVENTS OTHER_____

Franklin Creek Headwaters: HIKING BIRD WATCHING HUNTING
OTHER_____

1480 Old Mill: VOLUNTEER RENTAL OTHER_____

10. What other assets or amenities would you like to see FCCA invest in?

11. Do you want to volunteer? YES NO I ALREADY VOLUNTEER

12. If you answered "YES," what opportunities would be of interest? (Circle all that apply) BOARD MEMBER EDUCATION COMMITTEE MILL DOCENT
EVENTS COMMITTEE FIELD TRIP LEADER RESTORATION WORK
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

13. What type of programs would you or your family be interested in attending or have attended? (Circle all that apply) ENTERTAINMENT OUTDOOR
YOUTH EDUCATION ADULT EDUCATION OTHER_____

14. Did you know that you can rent the Grist Mill 3rd floor? (Circle one) YES NO

15. How did you find out about us? (Circle one) NEWSLETTER WEBSITE
OUTREACH WORD OF MOUTH OTHER:_____

16. What method of communication do you prefer? (Circle one) EMAIL
PHONE SNAIL MAIL OTHER:_____

17. Please add any additional thoughts or comments here or on a separate page.

Volunteers Needed!

FCCA provides a variety of different volunteer activities for all age groups and experience levels. From stewardship and maintenance to Grist Mill Docent, we have opportunities for everyone!

If you would like to learn more about how YOU can get involved at FCCA please contact Heather at 815.456.2718 or at engage@franklincreekconservation.org.

Franklin Creek Grist Mill

We are open! Grinding Demonstrations occur on the last Saturday of the month. Please check our website and social media for more information before heading out. Open Sat-Sun 12PM-4PM April-October and also on Fridays 12PM-4PM June-August.



1893 Twist Rd.
Franklin Grove, IL 61031



(815) 456-2718



www.franklincreekconservation.org



@CreekFranklin

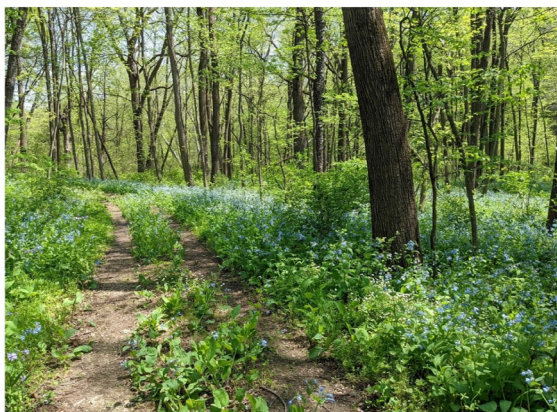


/franklincreekconservation



Wildflower Escape Trail was a Blast!

We had our first annual Wildflower Escape Trail. This was a free event that led participants down the John Husar Memorial Trail. At each stop, the group would have to solve a puzzle to help them open the next box. At the end of the trail, they should have successfully solved the final puzzle to open the prize box! Along the way, participants were able to see all the wonderful spring ephemerals that were blooming. The event was a success and we plan on having it again next year. We hope to see you trying to escape the trail!



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Save The Dates

Events

June 3—First Friday Mill Open
June 25—Evening at the Mill with
Marques Morel

Nature Hikes

Last Saturday of the Month
May-Sept

*More information can be found on our website:

www.FranklinCreekConservation.org*

Some events will require RSVP. You can RSVP on our website, by phone 815.456.2718 or email engage@franklincreekconservation.org. All programs and dates are subject to change.

Have You Made Someone's Day?

We need your help! Help us get families and individuals involved in local history and nature, and protect, restore, and maintain the natural areas we all love so much!



"Our mission is to care for the natural areas of Franklin Creek for current and future generations."



© Megan Sneyd

Yes, I wish to support FCCA!

- ☐ BFF, \$1000 and up \$ _____
- ☐ Ally, \$500-\$999 \$ _____
- ☐ Buddy, \$250-\$499 \$ _____
- ☐ Friend, \$100-\$249 \$ _____
- ☐ Supporter, \$1-\$99 \$ _____

Please indicate if anything applies to your donation

- ☐ Undesignated, to be used to fulfil our mission where most needed.
- ☐ Designated for Illinois Clean Energy 3:1 Stewardship Match
- ☐ In Memory/ Honor (circle one) of: _____
- ☐ Please contact me about how I can be a lifelong supporter through legacy giving options (estate plan, stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and qualified charitable distributions (QCDs)).
- ☐ Please contact me about volunteering.

FULL NAME(S)

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE & ZIP CODE

PHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS TO GET PROMPT FRANKLIN CREEK UPDATES

Checks should be made out to Franklin Creek Conservation Association and mailed to:
1893 Twist Road, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Online one-time and reoccurring credit card donations can be made at our website:
www.franklincreekconservation.org

Franklin Creek Conservation Association is a non-profit registered 501(c)(3). Your gift is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

