	AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	Agenda Item Number: 8b
CITY OF ST. CHARLES ILLINOIS • 1834	**Title:**	Recommendation to authorize inclusion of the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch Access site in the Fabulous Fox Water Trail.
	Presenter:	Russell Colby

Meeting: Government Operations Committee **Date**: September 19, 2022

Proposed Cost: $ N/A	Budgeted Amount: $ N/A	Not Budgeted: ☐

Executive Summary (*if not budgeted please explain*)**:**

The Kane County Development Department contacted the City regarding inclusion of the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch in the Fabulous Fox Water Trail. The Trail is proposed to be added to the National Park Service (NPS) "National Water Trails System", a national network of water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained, with the goal to increase non-motorized recreation on water bodies.

The Frank Gorham Canoe Launch is the floating metal boat dock structure located along the Freedom Trail riverwalk, adjacent to the old Police Station building, and accessible from Riverside Ave. The structure was installed by the City in 2007 and funded by a grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The IDNR grant funds required the City to maintain the dock for at least 12 years (through 2019).

Staff has requested clarification from Kane County regarding whether there would be any process required to remove the Canoe Launch from the program after designation. At this time, there is no plan to remove the dock, but it is of a removable-type design. Also, given that the City is considering redevelopment concepts for the adjacent property, this may result in a redesign of the pedestrian walkway and shoreline in this area. Additionally, the riverwall will require repair or replacement at some point in the future, and the City would likely want to reevaluate the design/location of this river access, or potentially improve it further at that time.

Staff has no objection to the Canoe Launch being included in the trail designation, provided that it is confirmed that inclusion will not impact future use or development of the area. If this is confirmed, a resolution will be placed on an upcoming Council meeting.

If approved, the site would be posted at the Canoe Launch indicating that the location is an access on the Fabulous Fox trail.

Attachments (*please list*)**:**
Request letter, Program information, template resolution.

Recommendation/Suggested Action (*briefly explain*)**:**
Recommendation to authorize support and permission for inclusion of the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch Access site in the Fabulous Fox Water Trail.

Subject: Requesting Permission for Inclusion in the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail

Dear Administrator McGuire,

If you haven't heard of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail we would like to introduce ourselves!

We are a group of stakeholders along the Fox River in Wisconsin and Illinois working to develop a water trail on the over 200 mile Fox River.

Studies have shown the health, recreation and economic development benefits water trails bring to communities and residents. So much so, that the National Park Service (NPS) created the National Water Trails System, a distinctive national network of exemplary water trails that are cooperatively supported and sustained with the goal to increase non-motorized recreation on water bodies in the United States.

In 2015, a bi-state group of individuals began meeting to discuss their interest in developing a water trail along the Fox River to meet the criteria set forth by the National Water Trails System, mainly implementation of the following best management practices: Community Support, Conservation, Education, Maintenance, Planning, Public Information and Recreation.

Since those early days our Core Development Team has accomplished a lot! We applied for and secured three years of technical assistance from the National Park Service and a surface water resources grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to establish a logo, conduct an access site inventory, produce a brochure, and create a web portal tool of the entire Fox River Network among both states of Wisconsin and Illinois; attracted the assistance of dozens of volunteers to visit and collect data on 80 access sites; received dozens of letters of support and/or resolutions from local governments, organizations, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and elected officials; and many requests for information and presentations.

The products, we are proud to say, are evident on the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail website and the attached brochure, of which we have distributed over 40,000 copies to local places including over 380 hotels, attractions and transportation hubs in the Milwaukee and Chicago regions. The website provides maps, safety information and itineraries for anyone interested in planning an adventure on the Fox River! Links to cultural, historical and food related opportunities are included. Attached please find Map #9 that includes the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch access site.

Recently we developed the attached signage to be tailored for each access site.

We anticipate submitting our application to the NP S by November 1st of this year. In order to do so we must meet the criteria set forth by the NPS. Two additional requirements include

obtaining a letter of approval from the landowners of each of the 80 access sites identified on our maps and website as being part of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail. Second, we need to identify a plan for installing signage at your access site.

To assist, our team has developed a template to acknowledge the City of St. Charles' permission to include the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch access site as part of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail. We would appreciate a letter of permission by September 1, 2022. Please do not hesitate to contact Tom Slawski (Wisconsin co-chair) or Karen Miller (Illinois co-chair) with any questions.

We hope you will choose to join us as part of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail.

Thank you!

Thomas Slawski

Karen Ann Miller

Choose your Paddle
something for everyone

Whether canoe, kayak, or paddle board, paddlers of every level and interest will find the perfect journey. Bring your own gear or choose to rent at locations along the river. Your adventure is waiting for you!

Photo credit: Tom Slawski

Our Mission
developing

The mission of the Fabulous Fox River Trail is to develop and support a sustainable 200-mile water trail on the Fox River.

Our Vision
recreating

The Fabulous Fox Water Trail from Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, Illinois provides suitable access for the public to enjoy quiet and active recreation, scenic beauty, abundant wildlife, and historical and cultural features. Communities along the Fox River embrace stewardship and public engagement to create and maintain a sense of place.

Our Goals
caring

Education: recognize the geologic and human history, cultural and natural resources, and abundant wildlife making homes in and along the river.
Protection: advocate for the environment and water quality.
Engagement: invite communities to join in preserving, protecting, and promoting the river.

TRAVEL WISCONSIN

ILLINOIS. ARE YOU UP FOR AMAZING?

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

FabulousFoxWaterTrail.org

10M 5/2022

FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

Photo credit: Fox Valley Park District

Choose your journey...
Urban, rural, wild.
The adventure is yours!

FabulousFoxWaterTrail.org

200 Fabulous Miles

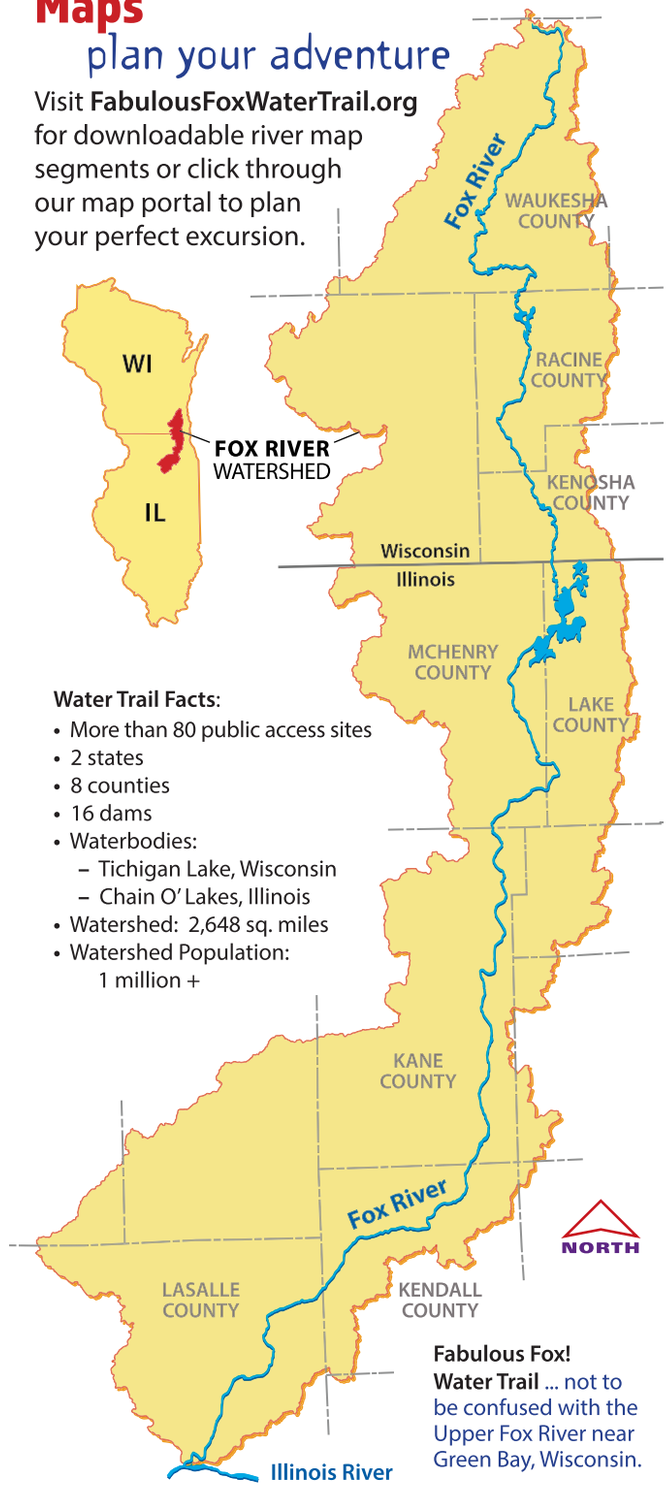
prairie, forest, farm and bluffs
communities large and small

Find something new around every bend from wildlife to street life. Pause with a picnic to breathe in peaceful nature. Discover new places to dine, to explore in the cities, villages, and towns along the Fox River. The river is yours to discover! Create new traditions and family fun.

Maps

plan your adventure

Visit **FabulousFoxWaterTrail.org** for downloadable river map segments or click through our map portal to plan your perfect excursion.



Water Trail Facts:

- More than 80 public access sites
- 2 states
- 8 counties
- 16 dams
- Waterbodies:
  - Tichigan Lake, Wisconsin
  - Chain O' Lakes, Illinois
- Watershed: 2,648 sq. miles
- Watershed Population: 1 million +

Fabulous Fox! Water Trail ... not to be confused with the Upper Fox River near Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Our River

a community of participants

Wisconsin Communities: Menomonee Falls, Brookfield, Pewaukee,Waukesha, Big Bend, Vernon, Mukwonago, Waterford, Rochester, Burlington, Wheatland, and Salem Lakes.

Illinois Communities: Fox Lake, Johnsburg, McHenry, Holiday Hills, Port Barrington, Lake Barrington, Fox River Grove, Cary, Trout Valley, Algonquin, Carpentersville, West Dundee, East Dundee, Elgin, South Elgin, St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia, North Aurora, Aurora, Montgomery, Oswego, Yorkville, Plano, Millbrook, Millington, Sheridan, Wedron, and Ottawa.

Our Team: Kane County, Illinois; Village of Waterford, Wisconsin; Southeast Fox River Partnership; Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Fox River Ecosystem Partnership; Real Racine; Visit McHenry County; and National Park Service.

Technical assistance provided by the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. Funding provided in part by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

9

Slade Avenue Park
72.1
Veterans Memorial Park
71.4
Kimball Street Dam
71.2
Kimball Street Dam
71.1
Lake Street
70.4
Elgin Shores Forest Preserve
69.3
South Elgin Dam North
South Elgin Dam
67.5
South Elgin Dam South
Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve
Bonnie St
65.4
Direction of river flow
Ferson Creek Park
61.0
Boy Scout Island
60.5
Pottawatomie Park
North Ave
60.4
NO SAFE PORTAGE
Main St
60.0
St. Charles Dam
Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch
60.2
Mt. St. Mary Park
59.5
Prairie St

Elgin
South Elgin
St. Charles

Wing St
Grove Ave
Summit St
Kimball St
Chicago St
Bode Rd
Highland Ave
Villa St
National St
Liberty St
Poplar Creek
Elgin Bypass
State St
Sundown Rd
McLean Blvd
Fox River
Kane Co.
Cook Co.
Gifford Rd
Bartlett Rd
Spring St
La Fox St
Stearns Rd
Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve
Brewster Creek
Silver Glen Rd
Randall Rd
Burr Rd
Bolcum Rd
Red Gate Rd
Dunham Rd
Army Trail Rd
Powis Rd
Kane Co.
DuPage Co.
Country Club Rd
Crane Rd
Ferson Creek
Kirk Rd
5th Ave
Dean St
Peck Rd
Illinois Ave
7th Ave

Elgin Bypass
Randall Rd
Larkin Ave
Nesler Rd

20
31
25
58
19
64
5

NORTH

0 1
Scale: one inch = one mile

This map is for reference and trip planning only (dated as of April 2021) and not intended as a sole source for navigational information.

TITLE SIGN: 2 signs. Same for both Land and River sides of Access Point **Dimensions:** 12″x18″ w/(2) 3/8″ holes at 2.0″

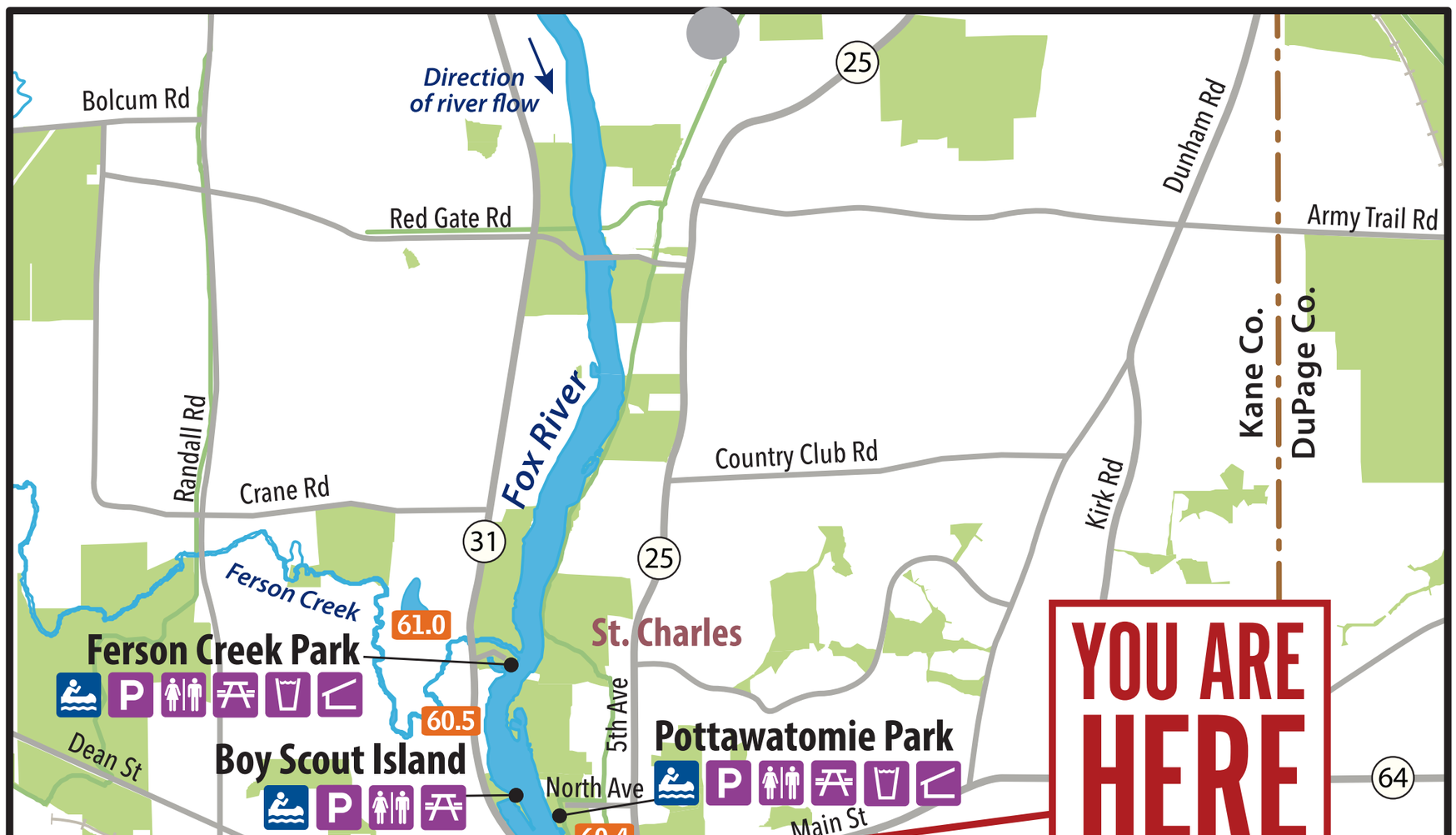
Frank Gorham Canoe Launch

FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

River Mile 60.2

MAP SIGN: 1 sign. Land side of Access Point **Dimensions:** 12″x18″ w/(2) 3/8″ holes at 2.0″

Visit **fabulousfoxwatertrail.org** for maps and trip planning



- Visit **Safety** at **fabulousfoxwatertrail.org** for current river conditions
- Respect private property and the environment
- Wear a proper fitting Life Jacket
- Carry a map and locational device
- Tell someone your plans
- Wear clothing appropriate for conditions
- Bring emergency and rescue gear

FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AUTHORIZING SUPPORT AND PERMISSION FOR INCLUSION OF THE FRANK GORHAM MEMORIAL CANOE LAUNCH ACCESS SITE IN THE FABULOUS FOX! WATER TRAIL

WHEREAS, the Fox River is recognized as a major natural resource corridor with potential for recreation, scenic and historic trails and for economic development of river communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Park Service's National Water Trails System is a collaborative effort administered by the National Park Service; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Charles enjoys the beautiful and scenic Fox River as part of their community and as a clean, drinkable water source; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Charles has an outstanding open space system and is engaged in development of river access and diverse recreational opportunities along the Fox River to serve the needs of residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the City of St. Charles encourages and supports efforts to enhance economic development along the riverfront and revitalization of river communities; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail is to establish and interpret a Fox River Water Trail along the 200 + mile river course from the headwaters in Waukesha County, Wisconsin to the confluence with the Illinois River in Ottawa, Illinois to provide access for all to the natural resources, recreational opportunities, scenic beauty, and historic and cultural assets of the Fox River Valley; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail includes promoting ecotourism and recreational opportunities throughout the River corridor, enhancing community recognition of the unique assets of the Fox River and supporting economic development and revitalization of river communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of St. Charles hereby supports inclusion of the Frank Gorham Memorial Canoe Launch access site in the Fabulous Fox! Water Trail seeking designation as a National Water Trail as part of the National Water Trail System.

Passed by _____ on _____