

The Indian Creek Watershed Project 1999-2009



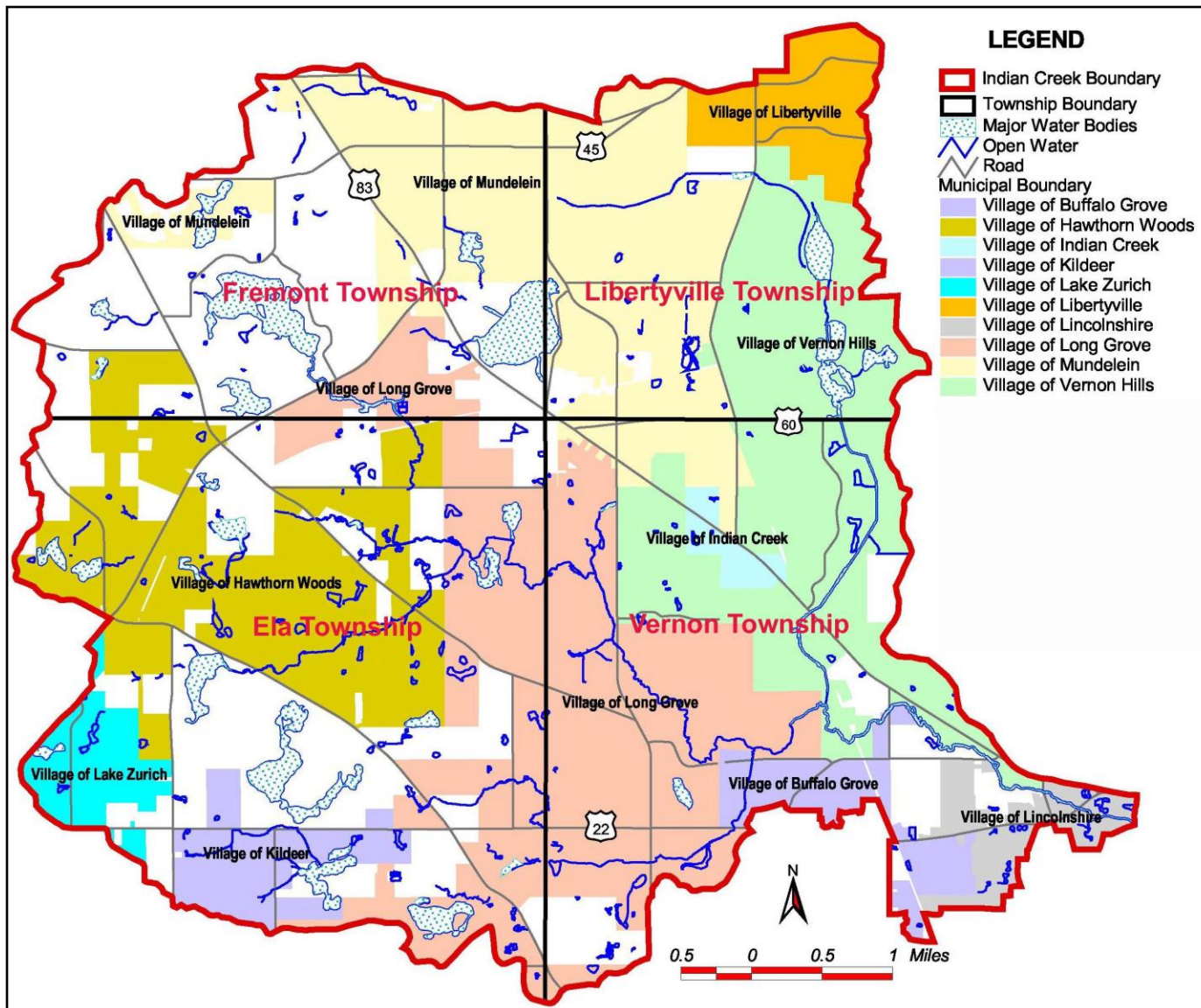
**Restoring Habitat and Water Quality
for ALL Our Stakeholders**



Concerned Citizens formed the Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd. in 2000 to implement Educational Strategies, and On-the-Ground Projects for Water Quality Improvements and Improve Water Quality and Habitat

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Indian Creek Watershed Project is comprised of watershed stakeholders dedicated to the 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.



**10 Villages and 4 Townships are in the Indian Creek Watershed -
It is Located in South Central Lake County in Illinois**

Facts About the Indian Creek Watershed

- It Covers 38 Square Miles in Southern Lake County**
- It drains into the Des Plaines River near Lincolnshire IL
(The Des Plaines drains into the Illinois and the Mississippi River)**
- More than Half of the Watershed is Developed, 62%**
- 38% of the Watershed is in Open Space**
- Impervious Cover is Expected to Increase from 28% to 36% in 20 Yrs**
- More Than Half of the Pre-Settlement Wetlands Have Been Lost**
- 15 Wetlands Made Up of 865 Acres are Considered High Quality**
- Several T&E Species Are Listed in the Watershed**



Educating While Building Alliances to Improve Water Quality



History Since 1999

1999 Citizens Committee Begins Watershed Planning

2000 Indian Creek Watershed Project Non-Profit Formed

**2001 319 Grants Awarded to SMC for Watershed Planning
and ICWP for Educational and Site Restoration**

**2002 SMC, AES and Indian Creek Watershed Committee
Begin Planning for Watershed Region**

2004 Indian Creek Watershed Plan is Reviewed and Adopted

**2006 Nearly \$2.5 Million in Projects Have Been Completed in
the Watershed by ALL Partners**

2008 Final IEPA Revision of Watershed Plan Adopted

**2009 Another \$1 Million in Projects Were Awarded to Indian
Creek Watershed Partners– That Means 3.5M So Far**



**1999 Citizens Watershed
Planning And Watershed Tour**

**2000 Public Meetings
And Website Created**

**2000 Thru 2004 Workdays
and Many Other Outreach
Events**

**Since 2005
Education through
Restoration**

Sign Up for the INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED TOUR today!!

Indian Creek Watershed Project
TOUR DATE Saturday, July 10, 1999
8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Cost is \$8.00 per person
(includes light lunch and seat on air-conditioned bus)

Bus is limited to first 44 people

Meet at the Reed Turner Woodland parking area (on Old McHenry
Road south of Route 22 and just north of Cuba Road in Long Grove)

Advance registration, accompanied by check, is required - see form below

Come listen to the experts talk about water quality, shoreline stabilization, detention, wetland mitigation, sedimentation, manmade vs. natural water bodies, riparian restoration and many other informative topics. Problem areas as well as restoration sites will be visited during the tour.

**Sites to be visited are located in Mundelein,
Long Grove, Vernon Hills, Hawthorn Woods,
Fremont, Vernon, Elia and Libertyville Townships.
Rain or shine we'll tour, dress for the weather
and for wooded/wet hikes. Bring a water bottle.**



Questions about this tour may be directed to Tori Trauscht at (847) 566-8545 or
Cheryl Longfellow at (847) 837-8273. Thanks for signing up by July 2, 1999.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____
Company or other affiliation _____
Sandwich Preference- please circle (turkey / ham/ veggie)
Amount enclosed _____ (checks payable to Tori Trauscht)

Mail completed form to: Indian Creek Watershed Project, W76 Circle Drive, Mundelein, IL 60060.



[Current News](#)

[The Watershed](#)

[About Us](#)

[Our Partners](#)

[Our Plan](#)

[Indian Creek Watershed Problems](#)

[Best Management Practices](#)

[Rain Gardens](#)

[Native Plants](#)

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[Background](#)

[Members of the Board of the Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd](#)

The Indian Creek Watershed Project is Now 6 Years Old!

Since 2001 Nearly \$2 Million in Projects Have Been Awarded in the Indian Creek Watershed.



Indian Creek Watershed Project Board members from left to right... Bill Grinnell, Tori Trauscht, Donna Smith, Ron Aidikonis, Garth Huskey, Roberta Bagot, Greg Denny and Jeri Swanson. (Other members not pictured here, Rosemary Aitken and Jamie Godshalk)

- [Vernon Hills Seavey Creek Stream Restoration * \\$320,000](#)
- [Sylvan Lake's Ravinia and Indian Creek Parks Projects * \\$274,000](#)



We Are Engaging Communities in Watershed Protection

Our Watershed Goals

Our Watershed Plan was Adopted and Approved by the Lake County Board on November 6th, 2008. The plan has allowed our watershed to receive over \$3.5 million from granting agencies for projects.

Some of the goals of our plan include:

- * Better channel function/conveyance**
- * Improved water quality**
- * Reduced flooding**
- * Protect and restore biodiversity**
- * Enrich quality of life**
- * Develop healthy recreation**
- * Link waters and economy**
- * Foster educational stewardship**
- * Preserve open space**
- * Encourage stewards and land management**
- * Strengthen regulations**



**Reed-Turner Woodland
Sedge Meadow
Restoration 319 Grant Site
2001 - 2004**



**WHY We Restored the
Floodplain
and Sedge Meadow of
Reed Turner Woodland**



Reed-Turner Woodland

C2000 Transect Monitoring 2003

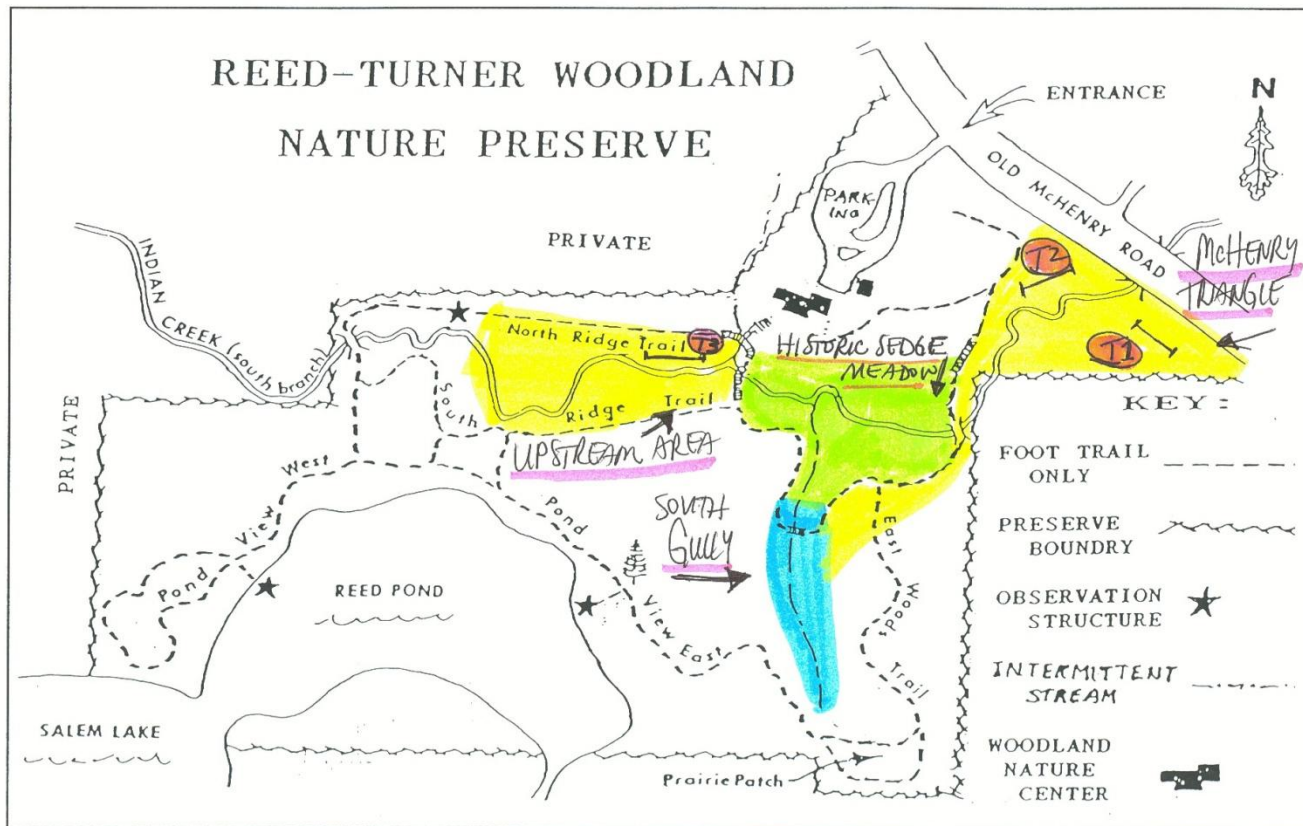
C2000 Grant # UDP004-03
Indian Creek Cooperative 8-Acre Restoration Project
At Long Grove Park District's Reed-Turner Woodland

Colored Map Legend:

1/2005

- Invasives Control/Sedge Meadow Restoration Area
- Lightened Canopy/Invasives Control/Planting Areas
- Erosion Control/Daylighted & Planted Gully Area

T = TRANSECT STUDY SECTIONS





Everyone Knows
the BEST Time
to Plant a Wetland
is in the RAIN

**Reed-Turner Woodland
Sedge Meadow
Restoration 319 Grant Site
2001 - 2004**





Certificate of Appreciation

Reed Turner Woodland's Sedge Meadow Restoration Project

This is to certify that Mike Lawler, Rob Weiss, George Van Der Bosch, Mark Freshour, Joy Mauck, Bob Borg, John and Timmie Clementsen, Lee Bassett, Nancy Burgess, Vernadine Martlock, June and Paul Neumann, Dona & Jay Blunt, April Cooksey, Nicole Felice, and Tom and Tori Trauscht helped us during our 1/19/02 workday at the Reed-Turner Woodland sedge meadow 319 project site. Your volunteer hours really count! By helping to restore this floodplain of the Indian Creek you are helping to curb sedimentation and erosion, you are helping to lighten the tree canopy so native and rare sedge and forb species can reemerge, and you are ultimately helping to prevent nonpoint source pollution within this Dedicated Illinois Nature Preserve of the Indian Creek Watershed.

The project is due to be completed by the Spring of 2003.

It is funded, in part, by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) with oversight from the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC).

Thank you. We greatly appreciate your support.

The Indian Creek Watershed Project Ltd. Board of Directors

Indian Creek Watershed Planning Project Mission Statement

The Indian Creek Watershed Project is a group of concerned watershed residents and stakeholders dedicated to the preservation, protection, and improvement of the Indian Creek sub-watershed of the Des Plaines River. Our mission is to assess and prioritize the problems and opportunities and to develop a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and an educated citizenry. Our goal is to build partnerships to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and preserve and restore wetlands, woodlands, and other natural resources for future generations.



WHY We Restored the Floodplain and Sedge Meadow of Reed Turner Woodland



Before project began in 2001



**For Nonpoint Source
Pollution Control,
Stopping Erosion and
Sedimentation and
Habitat Improvement
Of a Nature Preserve**

Success 2006!

Plant Transect Studies Were Conducted in 2001 and 2003



**Reed-Turner Woodland
Sedge Meadow
Restoration 319 Grant Site
2001 - 2004**



Transect comparisons Over Two Years

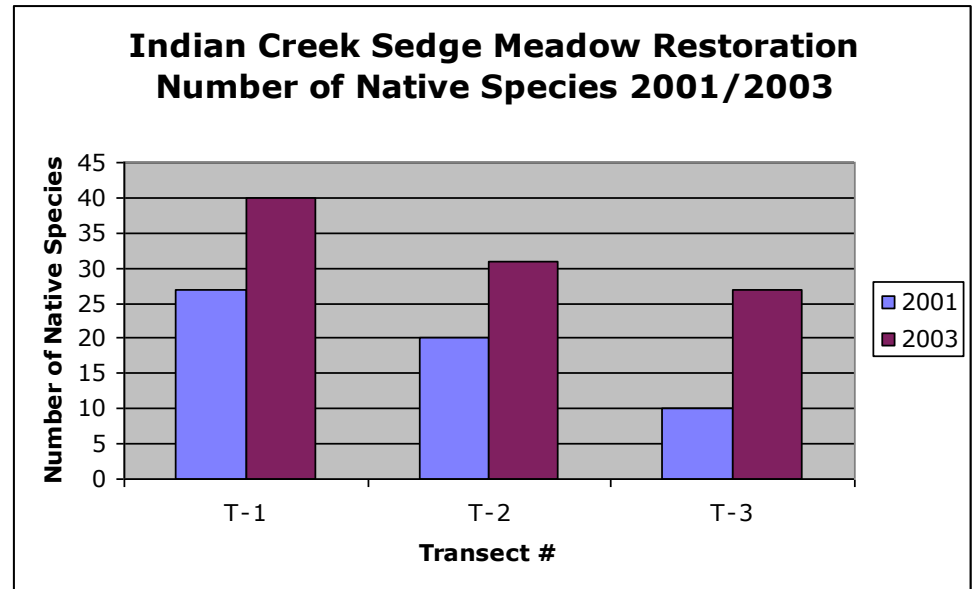
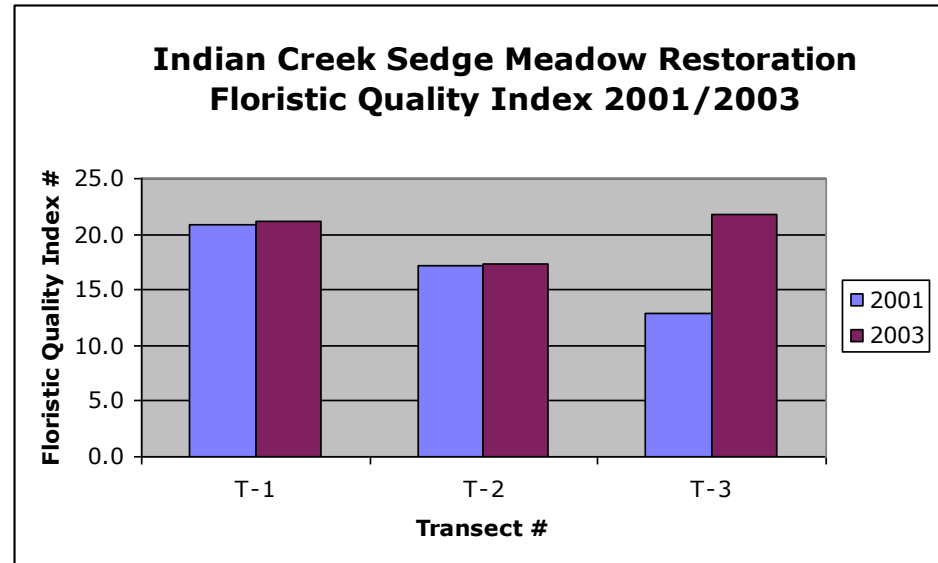


Transect 3 Quadrat 8 in 2001
No vegetation at all!



Transect 3 Quadrat 8 in 2003
What a difference in 2 years.

Transect Comparisons Between 2001 & 2003



**Reed-Turner Woodland
Sedge Meadow
Restoration 319 Grant Site
2001 - 2004**



**Re-Establishing
Floodplains**



BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Streambank Shoreline Stabilization



**Sylvan Lake
Soil Lifts**



**Reed-Turner
Woodland
Erosion Control**



Sylvan Lake's Maple Park Restoration

Native Plants Help Stabilize Steep Banks



Summer 2006



Sylvan Lake's Maple Park Restoration Shedd Aquarium Teachers



www.slia.net

August 2006

Sylvan Lake Shoreline

One of the advantages of being disorderly is that one is constantly making exciting discoveries. -A.A. Milne

WHY WERE TEACHERS, RESIDENTS, TOOLS & A HOSE AT MAPLE PARK ON TUESDAY, JULY 25th?

The Shedd Aquarium held a 3 day conference for teachers addressing clean water, invasive animals and invasive plants. They spent one day here installing streambank plants to help curb soil erosion. **Tori Trauscht** with the Indian Creek Watershed Project taught them all about plant species and the role they play with their deep roots. We installed Blue Vervain, Monarda, sedges, grasses and irises.

Residents **Chris Hinrichsen, Jon Kartmann, Gen Connor and Eric Swanson** helped prepare the site. Gen, Tori and I cleaned up the site after their departure. Not much to clean up, because part of their "lesson" was hauling all the garbage produced that day back to the aquarium to be sorted, weighed and recycled. Garbage included waste from lunch and empty containers from 115 plant plugs brought. Funding for this project came from Indian Creek Watershed Project, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and Sylvan Lake's Erosion Management budget.

I want to express our big THANKS to **Don & Betty Kroening** for opening their home to us for bathroom



use. After the long ride from Chicago, every one of them visited the Kroenings. They also spread seed, approximately 20 lbs worth, at Dead Man's curve where we had recently cut down the tall invasive stuff growing up by the road. This revealed the very steep slope where teachers transformed themselves into monkeys ! One teacher forgot he was wearing shoes and freely waded in the creek to install irises.



I hope we gave them a positive experience that they pass along to students. The teachers and staff from Shedd were sweatin' away, but enthusiastic and eager to learn.

The future of this little park as well as all other little parks around the globe will soon be in the hands of our kids. 'Twas a beautiful site to see yellow finches bathing in the creek, frogs jumping as we entered, dragonflies floating around and bees collecting nectar.

Biodiversity lives on at Sylvan Lake !

~Jeri Swanson

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Seavey Ditch Stream Stabilization & Enhancement

Vernon Hills Village Golf Course



Networking for More Outreach

Learn the Importance of Planting Native Illinois Trees and Shrubs
on YOUR Property, And ORDER Some of these Gems!

At A Special Presentation Sponsored by the Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd.

Date: Saturday April 14, 2007 From 10:00 am to Noon

Location: Reed-Turner Woodland, 3849 Old McHenry Road in Long Grove
(1/2 Mile South of Route 22 and 1 mile North of Downtown Long Grove)



On Saturday, April 14, During Our Indian Creek Watershed Project's Sixth Annual Meeting:
We Are Pleased to Feature Three Experts and Two 40-Minute Presentations on Native Plants
**Connor Shaw, from Possibility Place Nursery and
Todd Polacek & Charlie Halbleib from
Taylor Creek Nursery/Applied Ecological Services**

The Following Topics Will Be Addressed:

Why Native Plants are Important to the Indian Creek Watershed and Our Chicago Region!

Why It is Important to Remove Exotic Shrubs (like Buckthorn) and Replace with Natives

A Review of the Natives that Help Prevent Erosion along Waterways

Which Plants are Most Appropriate for Various Conditions

Soil - Moisture - Light - Salt & Drought Tolerance and Natives

Native vs. Non-Native Plants the Important Benefits of Illinois Species

(Historically The Old "Long Grove" was Oak, Hickory, and Hazelnut Woodland!)

Backyard Wildlife Food & Habitat Improvement with Native Trees, Shrubs & Plants

Considering Color & Privacy Screening with Natives

Deer Resistant Native Species

Ending with Question & Answer Period



Important!

A Portion of What You Purchase During This Meeting Will Equally Benefit the Indian Creek Watershed Project and The Reed-Turner Woodland Trust Fund. A Subsequent Reed-Turner Delivery Date Will Be Established in May for Pick-Up of All Shrubs that are Ordered on April 14. Remember We Get Credit! Be Sure to Mention the Indian-Creek/Reed-Turner Event When Placing Your Order with Either Company! Please Come to this Informative Meeting! Kindly Forward This to ALL Your Friends and Neighbors! Note * Another Group Meets at Reed-Turner Promptly at 12:30 pm on April 14th, So Come Early Rather than Late! Order Forms and Information Sheets Will Be Available.

This meeting will include a brief introduction about the Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd.

The ICWP represents areas in Mundelein, Long Grove, Vernon Hills, Lincolnshire, Hawthorn Woods, Kildeer, Buffalo Grove, Libertyville and Indian Creek. The Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd. is looking for a few new directors for our volunteer board, especially from Vernon Hills, Long Grove, Hawthorn Woods and Lincolnshire. It is a very small but hard working group. Please consider joining our worthy effort! Ask us about what we do, and check our Website at www.indiancreekwvp.org. Support the concepts of our new watershed-wide plan!

Questions about the meeting can be emailed to Tori Trauscht, at cleanwater@indiancreekwvp.org.

You may also call ICWP at 847-566-8570 (also FAX), please leave a message, your call will be returned.





June 2006

Village of
Vernon Hills



INDIAN CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT LTD.



**Thank You National City
Bank Volunteers!**

**For Helping Plant Needed Shrubs
Along Seavey Creek Under
a Vernon Hills Stag Grant**



GREAT JOB!





We Thank Our Volunteers And We Feed Them!



Calendar of Events • Indian Creek Watershed

Important!

Public Review of Indian Creek Watershed's New DRAFT Watershed Plan presented by Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and Applied Ecological Services

*** Wednesday, October 23, 7pm ***

**Lake County SMC offices, 333 Peterson Rd, Libertyville
Phone - 847/918-5260**

Other Events For Stakeholders, Meetings Open to Public:

Indian Creek Watershed Planning Committee meetings

Thursdays, Sept. 19, Nov. 21, Dec. 19, Jan. 16

1:30 to 3:30 at SMC office

Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership meeting

Topic: C2000 Grant funding status, Nancy Williamson/IDNR

Thursday, September 26, 9:30am, Prairie Crossing

Call 847/566-9189 for directions

Chicago Botanic Gardens' Invasive Plants Conference

October 27-30, www.chicagobotanic.org

Indian Creek Watershed Project, Adopt-A-Hwy Cleanup Day

Saturday, Oct. 18 and Jan. 18, 9am - Noon

Meet at Woodlawn School on Gilmer Road

Reed-Turner Woodland Workday, Long Grove

Saturday, January 18, 2003 from 9-1pm

Lake County Stormwater Planning in Indian Creek Due for Completion in Spring of 2003

Planning, data collection and networking is underway for creation of a comprehensive watershed plan for Indian Creek by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission. The planning contractors, Applied Ecological Systems, are analyzing current data and helping to determine objectives for the Indian Creek Watershed. A draft plan for action will be developed by fall 2002. The cost of the Indian Creek Watershed Planning effort is being shared by SMC and a Section 319 Clean Water Act grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Watershed planning is proactive. The plan serves as a blueprint for improving water quality, reducing flood damage, and protecting natural resources in a watershed. It also provides direction for preventing existing watershed problems from worsening as a result of future land development. Additionally, watershed planning offers an opportunity for multiple jurisdictions with varying priorities to coordinate their efforts and accept responsibility for the impact their actions have both up and downstream. Planning can help lessen impacts on natural drainage systems such as wetlands, lakes and streams in watersheds.

For more on watershed planning check SMC's website at:
http://www.co.lake.il.us/smc/projects/Ping_Descrpt.htm

We Are Very Thankful To Our Project Supporters!

Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC)
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IDPA)
Lake County Health Dept./Lakes Management Unit (LMU)
Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission (NIPC)
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Illinois Nature Preserves Commission/Steve Byers
Upper Des Plaines River Ecosystem Partnership (UDPEP)
Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
Reed Turner Woodland Stewards
Fremont Township and Highway Department
Vernon, Libertyville, and Elia Townships
Lake Co. Board Members, Diana O'Reilly, Carol Calabrese,
Pam Newton, Sandy Cole, Al Westerman
Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District (LCSWD)
Lake County Dept. of Transportation (LCDOT)
Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD)
Integrated Lakes Management
Witness Tree Native Landscapes
Applied Ecological Services
Strauss and Malk, Attorneys at Law
Michael Silver and Co, Certified Public Accountants
Indian Creek Watershed Project, Ltd. (ICWP Board)
All of the Indian Creek volunteers who have helped us.

We Truly Appreciate Our Donors! Your Donation Will Help Us Do Even More!

**Reed Turner Woodland Board of Trustees
Long Grove Park District**



**Barbara Reed Turner
Fremont Township
Village of Lincolnshire
Village of Vernon Hills
Jeri and Eric Swanson
Dorothy Davis Smith
Brice R. Smith Jr.
The Trauscht Family**

**Rosemary Aitken
Swanson's Home Leisure Products, Inc.**

These People Have Helped Us on Special Projects

**Sean Nixel, Tony Wolff, Patty Werner, Ward Miller and SMC staff
Riverwatch sampling volunteers**

**Greg Denny
Mike Warner
Kathy Donnelly**

**Cheryl Longfellow
Joe Huleleski
Kathy & Nicole Felice**

Volunteer Lake Monitoring:

**Greg Denny
Rosemary Aitken**

LCDOT Adopt-A-Highway volunteers

**Bridget Berns
Tracy Trauscht**

**Lisa & Alex Tomaszek
Kaitlin Pilewski**

**Indian Creek Watershed Student/State Award Winner!
Bob Harvey of Long Grove**

Indian Creek Watershed Leadership Award



**In Deepest Appreciation to
Sean Wiedel for
Being Our Indian Creek
Watershed Hero**



*Board of
Directors*

Indian Creek Watershed Summit November 6, 2008



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People in Action – Everyone Is Learning



Volunteer Roles

- **Watershed Board**
- **Leadership on Projects**
- **Public Outreach**
- **Holding Special Events**
- **Networking With Other Groups**
- **Leadership is Very Important !!!**
- **So Is Support from Agencies Like Lake Co. Stormwater Management**



Volunteer Supporters from ALL Over Have Helped US Clear, Plant, Monitor and Restore Our Watershed



CLA Lagoon Peninsula Restoration Project Shoreline Stabilization and Demonstration



Indian Creek Watershed Leadership Award



**In Deepest Appreciation to
Countryside Lake Association
For Monitoring and Protecting
Their Lake and Shorelines**



*Board of
Directors*

Indian Creek Watershed Summit ~ November 6, 2008

Oak Terrace Community Effort in Mundelein Diamond Lake Shoreline Restoration and Rain Gardens



Spring 2007

Future 319 Site



Indian Creek Watershed Longview Meadow Wetland Restoration





**Summarizing... Since 2000
Nearly \$4 Million in Projects Have
Been Completed in Indian Creek
Watershed
THANKS to Our Active Partners!**

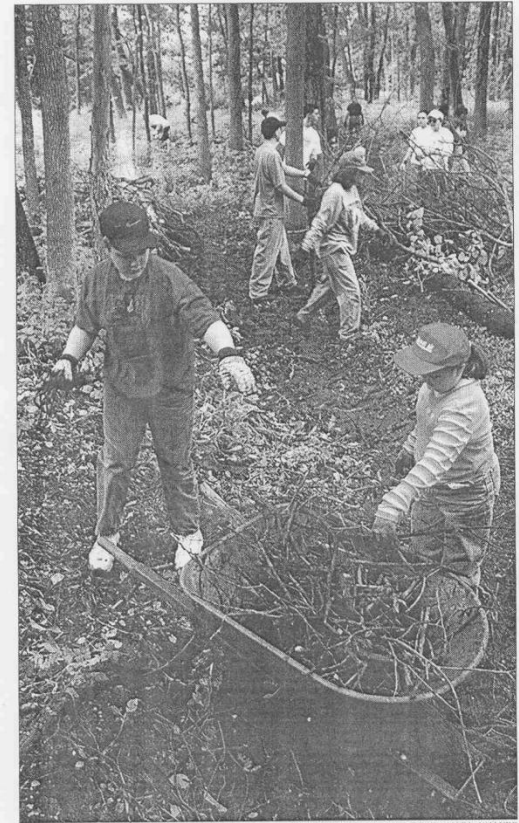
**ALL For the Benefit of Cleaner Water,
Less Flooding, Water Quality,
Education, Preserving Biodiversity
and Open Spaces, and Promoting
Stewardship of Our Regional Natural
Resources.**

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 2001

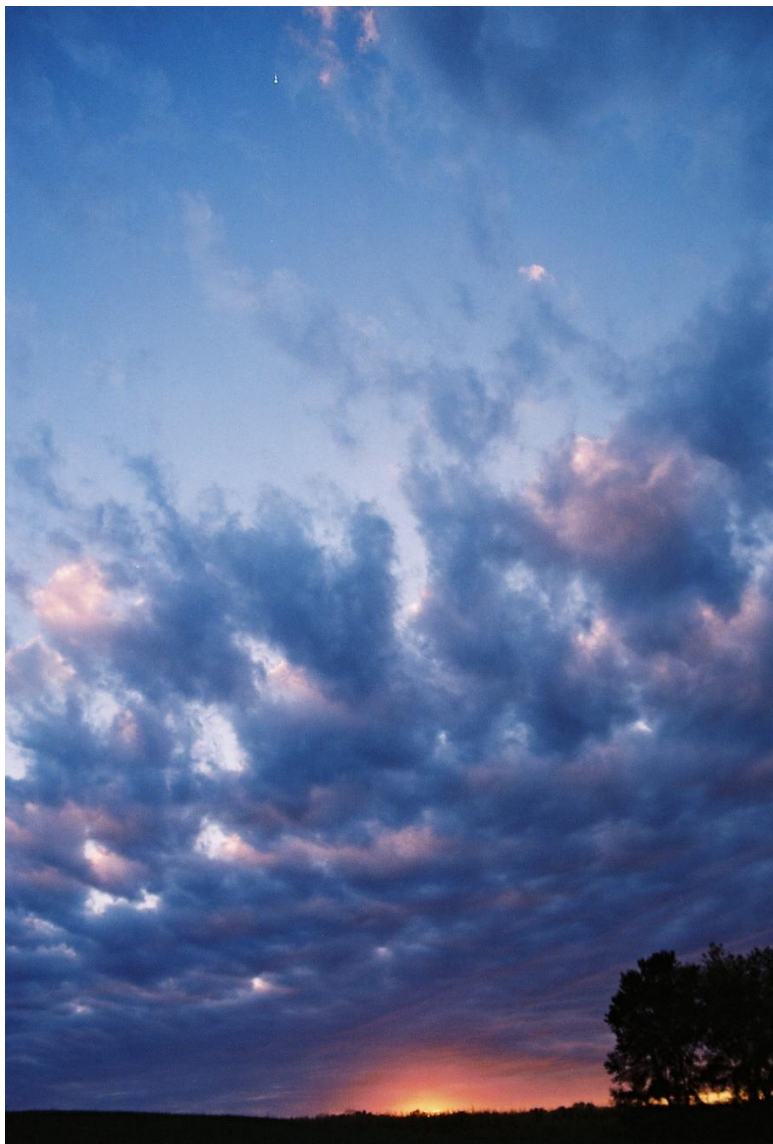
Daily Herald

Local Focus

Nature's helpers



DAILY HERALD PHOTO-DANIEL WHITE
Tracy Trauscht, 12, and Sarah Longfellow, 9, of Mundelein, help other volunteers clean up Indian Creek in Long Grove Saturday. The section cleaned is in the Reed-Turner Woodland Nature Preserve.



**Working to restore our watershed
and Special Places Since 1999**

**Help YOUR Watershed,
Get Involved Today!!**

- * Educate Your Stakeholders**
- * Save Drinking Water**
- * Prevent Garbage Flow to Waters**
- * Do Not Use Phosphorus**
- * Naturalize Your Shorelines and**

Save Your Streams

- * Assess your Natural Areas
Before they are Lost**
- * Install a Rain Garden**

*** Start a Watershed Group and Get
Actively Working**