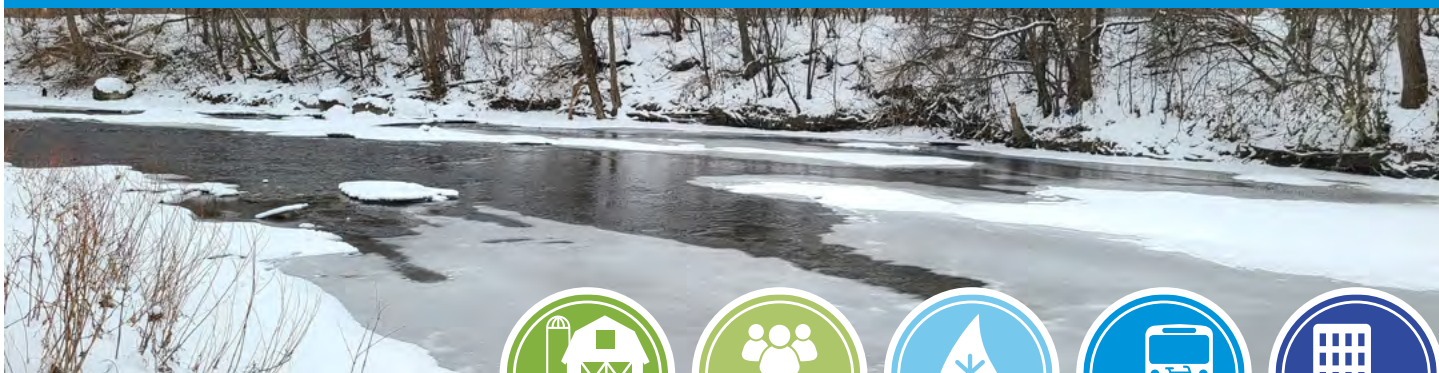


REGIONAL PLANNING NEWS

A publication of the **Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission**



Volume 9 • Issue 4 • December 2022



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Waukesha Area Transit Development Plan Outreach Completed

In partnership with Waukesha Metro Transit and Waukesha County Transit, Commission staff conducted public outreach in October and November to gather feedback on the draft transit service recommendations for the Waukesha Area Transit Development Plan. The public involvement process included three public information meetings (two in-person, one virtual), an online survey, and a business-focused meeting. Written comments were also accepted by email, mail, and an online comment form. An electronic newsletter was sent to over 600 individuals and handouts summarizing the draft recommendations were provided to transit riders.

Major themes collected include an interest in on-demand transportation options, a preference to continue commuter bus service to the City of Delafield, interest in using smaller transit vehicles when appropriate, and requests to keep and expand transit service to important destinations for jobs, shopping, services, and educational opportunities. Thank you to everyone who participated in this process, including the nearly 90 individuals that attended a public meeting, responded to the survey, or submitted comments! The Advisory Committee approved the final transit service recommendations on November 29th, which will be presented to the City of Waukesha and Waukesha County for their consideration. More information can be found on the project website: www.sewrpc.org/WaukeshaTDP.



2 Lake Surveys



4 Bluemound Corridor Transit Study



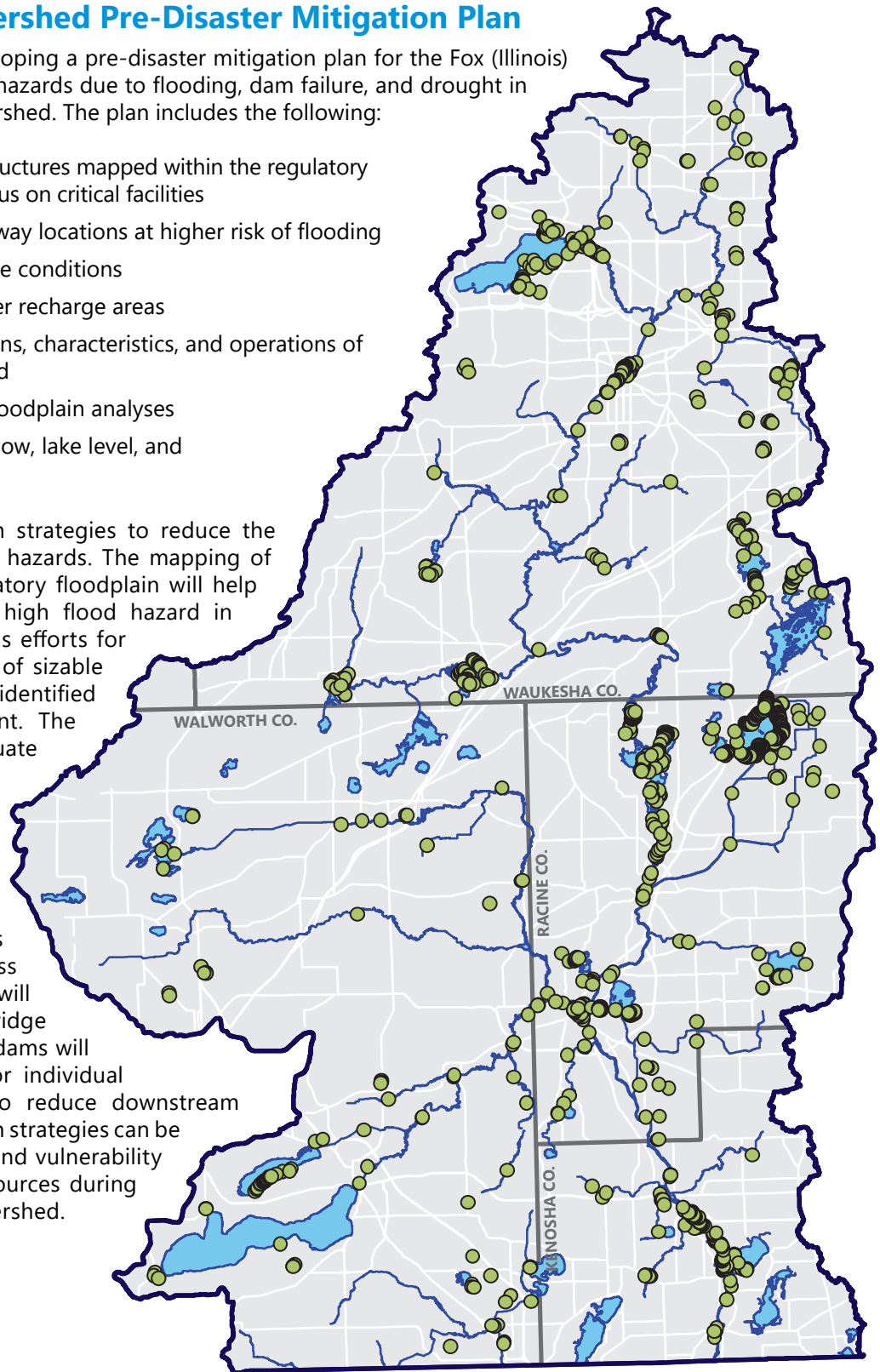


Fox (Illinois) River Watershed Pre-Disaster Mitigation Plan

The Commission is currently developing a pre-disaster mitigation plan for the Fox (Illinois) River Watershed, which identifies hazards due to flooding, dam failure, and drought in the Wisconsin portion of the watershed. The plan includes the following:

- Identification of insurable structures mapped within the regulatory floodplain with a specific focus on critical facilities
- Identification of major roadway locations at higher risk of flooding
- Assessment of current bridge conditions
- Identification of groundwater recharge areas
- An inventory of the conditions, characteristics, and operations of major dams in the watershed
- Recommendation for new floodplain analyses
- A review of existing streamflow, lake level, and precipitation gauges

The plan will propose mitigation strategies to reduce the risk and vulnerability from these hazards. The mapping of insurable structures in the regulatory floodplain will help to identify developed areas of high flood hazard in the watershed and can help focus efforts for reduction of that risk. Locations of sizable flood storage areas will be identified for preservation or enhancement. The flood storage areas can attenuate peak flooding and reduce flood damages downstream. Areas of protected high groundwater recharge can help provide resilience against drought. Maps of major roadway flooding will aid communities in identifying emergency access routes during flood events and will help communities prioritize bridge projects. The inventory of major dams will be used to assess the ability for individual dam operators to coordinate to reduce downstream flooding impacts. These mitigation strategies can be implemented to reduce the risk and vulnerability to life, property, and natural resources during future flooding events in the watershed.



- STRUCTURES MAPPED IN THE FEMA FLOODPLAIN
- FOX RIVER WATERSHED BOUNDARY



Lake Surveys in Waukesha and Walworth Counties

In mid-July, Commission staff worked with the City of Oconomowoc to complete an aquatic plant survey of Fowler Lake. Located in the heart of downtown Oconomowoc, Fowler Lake is a 97-acre lake attaining a maximum depth of 50 feet. The clear, blue waters of the Lake provide a scenic backdrop to the shops and restaurants along the Lake's shore. The Lake is easily accessible via the community park on its eastern shore as well as the boardwalk and public boat launch on its southern shore. Commission staff observed a healthy aquatic plant community with over 20 native species as well as waterfowl, herons, muskrats, and an otter. This aquatic plant survey will be used in the updated aquatic plant management plan for Fowler Lake, which will aid in the continuing the stewardship of this prized waterbody.

In Walworth County, Commission staff conducted meander surveys on North Lake and Swan Lake. Similar to surveys completed on Army and Wandawega Lakes, the survey goals were to detect and report aquatic invasive species (AIS), record native aquatic plant species, measure baseline lake water quality, and provide a brief report on these findings to the County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), and riparian owners.

On the 255-acre North Lake, Commission staff observed 20 native aquatic plant species and four AIS, including one species that had not been previously verified by the WDNR for the Lake: purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). On the 27-acre Swan Lake, staff found 11 native aquatic plant species and two AIS, including one newly observed AIS: spiny naiad (*Najas marina*). Despite these novel AIS observations, neither lake appeared to be suffering from AIS over-abundance and both lakes support several beneficial native species, including pondweeds, bladderworts, watershield, and pickerelweed. These species provide food and shelter for fish, amphibians, mammals, and waterfowl and are an important piece of the lake ecosystem. Notably, staff did not observe any invasive zebra mussels, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, or purple loosestrife in Swan Lake. The absence of these species is a rarity for Southeastern Wisconsin lakes. Both lakes had good to excellent water clarity and had water temperatures and dissolved oxygen concentrations within healthy ranges for fish and other aquatic organisms.

If you are interested in learning more about preventing the spread of AIS and/or applying for grant funding for an aquatic plant or AIS survey, you can find more information at the following links:

- AIS Resources: dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Lakes/AIS/Monitoring.html
- Surface Water Grant Program: dnr.wisconsin.gov/aid/SurfaceWater.html



Bluemound Corridor Transit Study

At the request of Waukesha County, the Commission is working to complete a bus rapid transit (BRT) study along and near Bluemound Road. The study will provide recommendations for an incremental investment approach to implement a BRT route from downtown Waukesha, connecting to Milwaukee County’s East-West BRT route at the Milwaukee Regional Medical Center in Wauwatosa. The improvements will include recommendations for more frequent transit service, extending dedicated bus lanes, bus stations, off-board ticketing options, next-bus arrival information, and transit hubs. A public meeting is planned for February 2023 and the study is expected to be completed in Spring 2023.

Did You Know?

Yerkes Observatory, located in Williams Bay is known as the birthplace of Astrophysics and was the center for astronomical research for over 100 years. The Observatory opened in 1897 with the main dome housing the world’s largest refracting telescope. Early observations include Neptune’s moon Triton in 1899, in 1906, a star catalog of 13,665 star systems was published, the dark clouds of the Milky Way were discovered, and Edwin Hubble photographed the expansion of the universe. Many notable scientists and scholars studied at the Observatory, including Mary Ross Calvert, a “computer” whose skills made the work possible, and Carl Sagan. Albert Einstein also visited the Observatory in 1921.

Source: [Wikipedia.org](https://www.wikipedia.org), [yerkesobservatory.org](https://www.yerkesobservatory.org)

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