

# FLINT CREEK GREENWAY PLAN

## CHAPTER 1.0 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 FOREWORD

This Flint Creek Greenway Plan represents the results of a "grass roots" multi-objective stream corridor management program prepared from an interested citizen's perspective. The plan was prepared, in part, with the generous support of the Association of State Floodplain Managers Flood Hazard Fellowship Fund, 1992. Seeds for the Greenway Plan were planted through membership in the Citizens for Conservation and with participation on the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission's Flint Creek Steering Committee. The Plan represents a preliminary working document as a forum for discussion about the merit and need for a greenway in the Barrington area. The Greenway Plan can be implemented only through the debate and cooperation of many interested property owners, governments, and citizens. Constructive comments can be forwarded to the author as a means to monitor consensus and support for the Flint Creek Greenway Plan.

### 1.2 NEEDS

The Flint Creek rises in the headwaters near the Village of Barrington, Illinois. The creek forms in the wetlands of Unincorporated Cook County, flows through residential and commercial areas of Barrington, and courses through pastoral communities such as Barrington Hills, Lake Barrington, North Barrington, and Cuba Township in Lake County before entering the Fox River. The character of the floodplain includes wetlands and lakes in the headwaters, channelized portions through the middle reach of the stream, and natural, meandering pool and riffle sections adjacent to the oak savannas, golf courses and farm fields in the downstream portions of the watershed. The Flint Creek watershed is the ecosystem which unites the Villages of the greater Barrington area into a unique community with a similar land and water conservation ethic.

The citizens and political leadership of the Villages in the greater Barrington area recognize the unique purpose and potential of Flint Creek as a multi-purpose natural, cultural, recreational, and community resource. The Village of Barrington Trustees have formed a Flint Creek Committee to restore the Creek for flood protection and soil erosion control functions. Agencies such as the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are currently assisting the Villages with Flint Creek restoration functions. Both the Lake County Forest Preserve District and Cook County Forest Preserve District have acquired significant public open space within the watershed. The Barrington Area Citizens for Conservation (CFC) owns and provides ecological restoration of several parcels, most notably the Flint Creek Savanna, along the stream

corridor. The citizens of the watershed largely desire the restoration and conservation of the Flint Creek floodplain for multi-objective purposes as a community asset.

Greenways, as a means for stream corridor conservation and recreation, are receiving great public visibility in the United States and in Illinois. Successful greenways in the Chicago metropolitan area include the Fox River Prairie Path, North Branch of the Chicago River, Forest Preserve, and Chicago Lakeshore Path. The respected National Geographic and the New York Times have recently published articles about the importance of greenways to the vitality of communities. Congress recently recognized the importance of trails, pedestrian corridors, and bicycling mobility for non-vehicle transportation purposes by dedicating gasoline tax funds for greenway planning from the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1990. Floodplain managers nationwide are recognizing the natural as well as the flood control values of the stream corridor. The need for a continuous greenway in the Flint Creek watershed has been debated in the public forum through newspaper articles in the Chicago Tribune, the Barrington Courier Review, and the Daily Herald.

### 1.3 GREENWAY

This report summarizes a modest proposal for a Greenway Plan for the Flint Creek watershed. Greenways are linear segments of open land conserved for multi-objective flood control, water quality, natural resources, recreation, and wildlife enhancement functions. The purpose of the Plan is to inventory the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Flint Creek corridor and recommend a potential greenway from the headwaters to the Fox River. The Plan is prepared from a "grass roots" basis from the perspective of an interested citizen of the watershed. Implementation and funding of the greenway plan is best performed only after much public debate and citizen input. Agencies such as the Lake County/Cook County Forest Preserve Districts, Village Park Districts, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Citizens for Conservation would best be able to acquire easements, conserve land, obtain funds, and implement the greenway plan. The Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG), as the regional land use planning agency, might coordinate the greenway as a facilitator between the various political and government jurisdictions. The Citizens for Conservation, representing the interests of people with a desire for the harmonious conservation of land and water in the Flint Creek watershed, might provide volunteer help for ecological restoration and land stewardship of the greenway.

#### **1.4 GOALS/OBJECTIVES**

The overall objective of this land and water conservation plan is to recommend a continuous greenway of linear open space along the Flint Creek from the headwaters to the Fox River.

The goals of the Flint Creek Greenway Plan are to:

1. Improve recreational resources in the watershed by connecting a pedestrian trail along the creek between existing open space, parks, and schools.
2. Conserve floodplain land to maintain the flood control functions of the creek, prevent flood damage, and reduce the flooding threat to human health and safety.
3. Maintain buffer areas in the riparian zone adjacent to the creek to filter stormwater runoff and improve water quality.
4. Prevent soil erosion along the creek channel, reduce the need for expensive erosion control measures, and control the loss of land due to erosion.
5. Conserve natural resources such as wetlands, oak savannas and prairies for their water quality, open space, plant life, and wildlife habitat enhancement functions.
6. Improve the scenic value of the floodplain corridor and maintain aesthetically pleasing "view-sheds" for citizens, motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists.
7. Conserve open space for property tax relief, traffic reduction, and quality of life improvement purposes.
8. Conserve the riparian (near-stream) zone of the creek to provide wildlife habitat and migration corridors for mammal, fish, bird, reptile, and amphibian species.
9. Link the Villages of the watershed into a single community with a common ecosystem and a compatible land and water conservation ethic.

#### **1.5 DATA COLLECTION**

Substantial data was collected to inventory the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the Flint Creek watershed for greenway planning. Mapping was obtained to determine existing land use, wetlands, and wooded areas. Prior reports addressing the Flint Creek were reviewed. Newspaper articles were collected to assess public perspectives about Flint Creek conservation themes. Flood Insurance Study floodplain mapping was obtained to determine floodplains and near-stream planning corridors. The following data was collected to prepare the Greenway Plan for the Flint Creek:



LOCATION MAP  
 FLINT CREEK GREENWAY PLAN  
 BARRINGTON, ILLINOIS

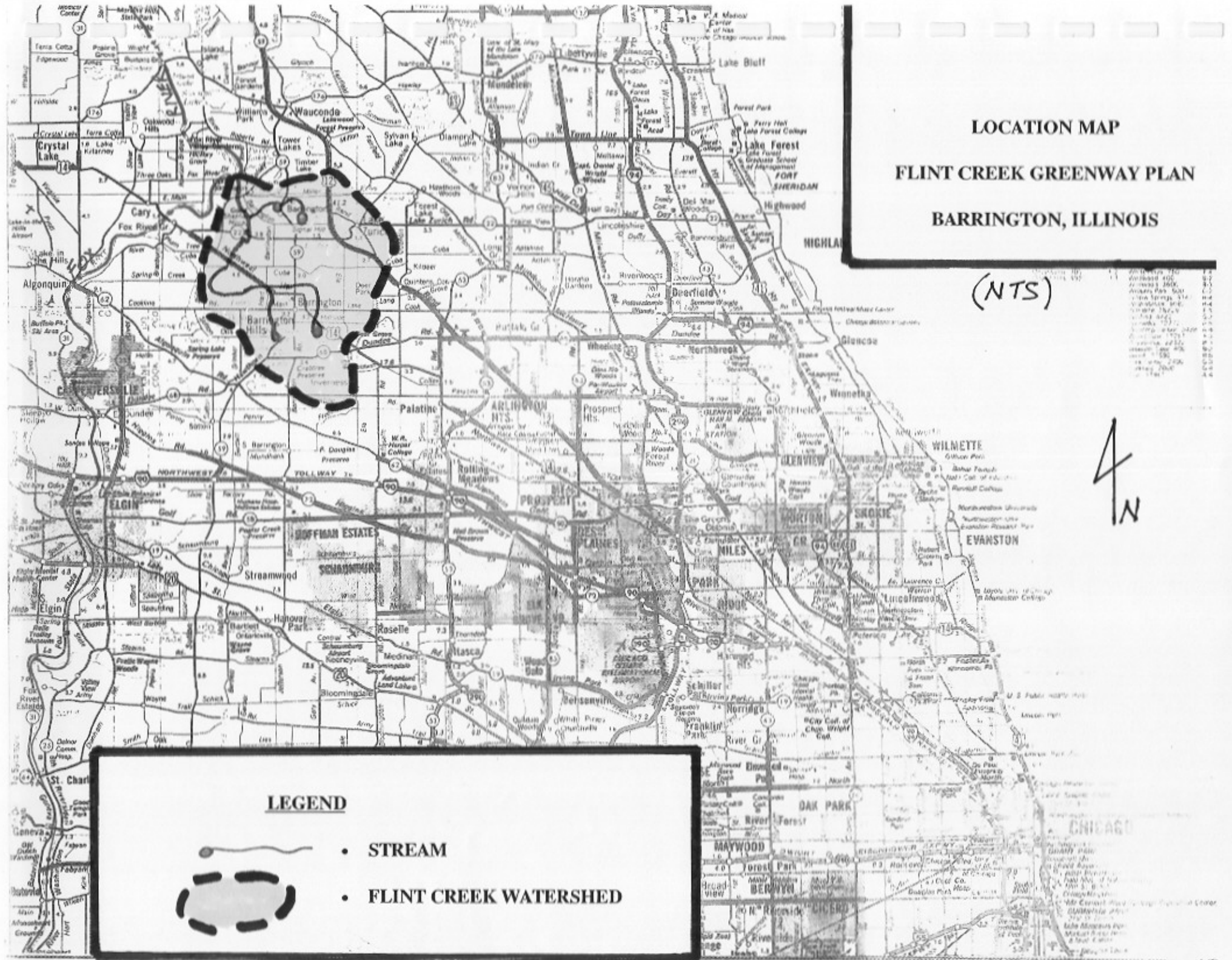
(NTS)



**LEGEND**



- STREAM
- FLINT CREEK WATERSHED



### 1.5.1 Mapping

1. Aerial Photographs (1" = 400'), Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, 1990 - Used to determine existing land use, wooded areas, open space, wetlands, and likely trail routes.
2. Topographic Mapping (1" = 2000'), U.S. Geological Survey, Barrington and Lake Zurich Quadrangles - Used to prepare report maps, and determine wooded areas, streams, lakes, and watershed limits.
3. Barrington Area Road Map (not to scale) - Used to prepare report maps, and determine Village/county limits, public property ownership, and land use.

### 1.5.2 Floodplains

1. Flood Insurance Studies, Villages of Barrington, North Barrington, Lake Barrington, and Barrington Hills and Unincorporated Lake County, Illinois - Used to determine 100-year floodplain for the greenway planning area.

### 1.5.3 Wetlands

1. National Wetland Inventory, (1" = 2000') U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Illinois Department of Conservation, Barrington and Lake Zurich Quadrangles - Used to determine approximate locations of wetlands in watershed.
2. Lake County Advanced Identification of Wetlands Study (ADID), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 5) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ela and Cuba Townships - Used to identify ecologically significant aquatic resources and wetlands in the watershed.

### 1.5.4 Oak Savannas/Woodlands

1. Field Reconnaissance - Winter stream walks were conducted to identify unique wooded areas.
2. Aerial Photo Interpretation - Reviewed to screen and identify significant woodlands and oak groves.

### 1.5.5 Newspaper Articles

1. Chicago Tribune, Daily Herald, and Barrington Courier Review - Various Articles summarized current activities, including Flint Creek Restoration by the Village of Barrington and Water Quality Stream Inventory by the Lake County Stormwater Management Commission.

### 1.5.6 Reports

1. Northeastern Illinois Regional Greenways Plan, Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission and Openlands Project, Draft, July, 1992 - Summarizes a Regional Chicagoland Greenway Plan including the Flint Creek.
2. Village of Barrington, Comprehensive Land Use Plan, 1980 - Summarizes recommended open space conservation areas along Flint Creek.
3. Barrington Area Development Council (BADC), Report on Environment and Open Space in the Barrington Area - Outlines conservation of open space parcels within the Flint Creek watershed such as McGraw Oak Woods, Grassy Lake, Flint Creek Savanna, Flint Creek Greenway, Cuba Marsh, Quaker Oats and Bakers Lake.
4. Flint Creek Inventory, Lake County Stormwater Management Commission, Draft 1993 - Outlines the first phase of a \$200,000 water quality and stream maintenance inventory of the Flint Creek within Lake County.
5. The Barrington, Illinois Area, Phase 2: Evaluation of Growth and Governmental Alternatives, Barrington Area Development Council, by Barton-Aschman Associated, Inc., Feb. 1970 - Recommends preservation of the "countryside" environment in the Barrington area along Grassy Lake, Flint Creek, and the Fox River.



## CHAPTER 2.0 WATERSHED DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 FLINT CREEK

The Flint Creek watershed encompasses 38 square miles in the Counties of Lake and Cook in Illinois. The watershed is situated approximately 40 miles northwest of the "Loop" in the far northwest Chicago suburbs. Principal communities in the watershed include the Villages of Lake Zurich, Deer Park, Inverness, Barrington, Barrington Hills, North Barrington, and Lake Barrington. Except for Lake Zurich, all of these Villages are represented by an effective regional land use planning agency known as the Barrington Area Council of Governments (BACOG). Unincorporated areas include Barrington Township in Cook County, and Cuba Township and Ela Township in Lake County.

Flint Creek is actually composed of 3 tributaries which unite into a single stream before entering the Fox River. The total length of the tributaries exceeds 20 miles. The watershed includes many lakes and wetlands which originated from meltwater and debris left by the last glacier from Wisconsin. The South Branch and East Tributary of Flint Creek combine near Barrington High School and continue downstream as the Main Stem of Flint Creek. The North Tributary and Main Stem combine at Flint Lake before continuing as one stream several miles to the Fox River.

### 2.2 NORTH TRIBUTARY OF FLINT CREEK

The North Tributary includes the larger water bodies in the watershed including Lake Zurich, Echo Lake, Honey Lake, and Grassy Lake. The North Tributary originates as Lake Zurich and flows via an open channel drain through the Village of Lake Zurich to Echo Lake. The stream exits Echo Lake and continues several miles west under Route 12, and then through the rolling, wooded residential Biltmore area of North Barrington to Route 59. The surface water drain from Honey Lake combines with the North Tributary just upstream from Route 59. The combined drain from Lake Zurich and Honey Lake continues as a single stream (known as the North Tributary) under Route 59 into Grassy Lake.

The wetlands, sedge meadows, and oak savannas surrounding Grassy Creek are now owned by the public as part of the Flint Creek/Grassy Lake Forest Preserve in the Lake County Forest Preserve District. The North Tributary exits Grassy Lake through wetlands and runs through a channelized area of North Barrington, under Old Barrington Road and into Flint Lake. The North Tributary combines with the Main Stem of Flint Creek at Flint Lake.

### 2.3 EAST TRIBUTARY OF FLINT CREEK

The East Tributary includes the Bakers Lake, Lake Louise, Jewel Lagoon, Langendorf Park, and Barrington High School reaches of Flint Creek. Except for the area near Bakers Lake, the East Tributary is situated almost entirely within the Village of Barrington. The East Tributary rises near Dundee Road in Cook County and flows into Bakers Lake near Ron Beese Park and the Cook County Forest Preserve District's Younghusband Farm. Bakers Lake is a designated Illinois Nature Preserve and includes a thriving blue heron rookery and nesting site for endangered and threatened shore birds, marsh birds, and wading birds. The lake is surrounded by publicly owned open space including Ron Beese Park, Cook County Forest Preserve, and Bakers Lake Campground Savanna. A small portion of the lakeshore is privately owned in the "college" area of unincorporated Barrington Township.

The East Tributary leaves Bakers Lake and flows through a wetland near the "Round Barn, under Route 14 and the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Tracks into the Thunderbird Country Club Golf Course. The creek flows through the golf course, under Hillside Avenue and into the Village of Barrington. The creek cuts through the residential floodplain in the Fox Point Subdivision to Lake-Cook Road into Lake County. The stream then meanders along the rear lots of homes in the Fox Point Subdivision into Lake Louise. The lakeshore is privately owned and is maintained by the Fox Point subdivision residents.

The North Tributary flows from Lake Louise, over the dam, and runs through sedge meadow wetlands to the Jewel Lagoon. Runoff from the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve wetlands joins the North Tributary of the Flint Creek at Jewel Lagoon.

The creek flows from Jewel Lagoon, through a corporate campus, under the Elgin, Joliet, and Eastern Railroad (EJ & E) to Lake Zurich Road. Downstream from the EJ & E railroad, the North Tributary courses through a wooded area into the Jewel Park residential subdivision. The creek leaves Jewel Park, flows under Route 14 again and continues east through a long culvert at BFI in a commercial area to Route 59. The creek crosses under Route 59 (Hough Street), flows through a commercial area, and then into the Barrington Park District's Langendorf Park.

A dam in Langendorf Park creates a lagoon (on-stream pond) along Flint Creek. The creek flows over the park lagoon dam, along a wooded floodplain, and again under a Chicago and Northwestern Railroad trestle. Downstream from the railroad, the creek flows through Village of Barrington public property along a wood-chip compost area, a tree nursery, Public Works Department building, and the Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant. The North Tributary continues downstream along a wooded channel through the Barrington High School athletic fields to New Hart Road. The North Tributary joins the South Branch of Flint Creek near a beaver dam downstream from New Hart Road. The entire floodplain between the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad tracks and New Hart Road is publicly owned, either by the Village of Barrington or Barrington High School.



## 2.4 SOUTH BRANCH OF FLINT CREEK

The South Branch includes the Crabtree Forest Preserve, Hawley and Hawthorne Lakes, Barrington Hills, Flint Creek Savanna, Stonehenge Golf Course, Good Shepherd Hospital, and Flint Lake portions of Flint Creek. The South Branch of Flint Creek is situated almost entirely within the Villages of Barrington Hills and Barrington in Cook County between Hawley Lake and Lake-Cook Road. Between Lake-Cook Road and Route 14, the creek is situated within the exclusive estates of the Village of Barrington Hills in Lake County. North and downstream of Route 14, the creek is situated within the Villages of Lake Barrington and North Barrington in Lake County.

The South Branch of Flint Creek rises in the headwaters near the Cook County Crabtree Forest Preserve, just south of Dundee Road. The creek flows through a natural floodplain on the Forest Preserve, north under Dundee Road and crosses through Route 59 into the Hawley Lake, Hawthorne Lake, and Keene Lake system. The South Branch leaves Hawthorne Lake at Otis Road and flows under the EJ & E railroad bridge through a wooded/wetland complex. The creek parallels the west boundary of the EJ & E railroad, and then continues through the open space of the Quaker Oats property to Lake-Cook Road.

North of Lake-Cook Road in Lake County, the South Branch passes through a naturally wooded floodplain on the open space on the UARCO, Inc. corporate business campus. The South Branch joins the East Tributary of Flint Creek just west of Barrington High School at the confluence.

The South Branch and East Tributary of Flint Creek combine and continue under Old Hart Road adjacent to the General Electric Capital Building (home to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). Downstream from Old Hart Road the creek courses through the exclusive horse farms and residential restates of the Village of Barrington Hills. The creek flows through low density, privately owned residential areas, through the Barrington Hills Golf Course, under Oak Knoll Road (twice), and then under Merry Oaks Road. The floodplain of Flint Creek is adequately conserved as open space in private ownership throughout the estates of the Village of Barrington Hills.

The creek leaves the Village of Barrington Hills and continues under the bridges of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad and Route 14 (Northwest Highway). The creek flows gently north of Route 14 adjacent to the Pepper Road Industrial Park into Lake Barrington. This reach of the creek is surrounded by a large, open water and sedge meadow wetland complex which extends for one mile from Route 14 to Route 22.

The creek meanders from the wetland and then cascades over a pool and riffle section through the restored prairies and oak savannas of the Citizens for Conservation's Flint Creek Savanna near Route 22. The creek then flows adjacent to the Smith Medical Building property, under Route 22, and through the Stonehenge Golf Course. The creek

leaves the manicured flood plain of the golf course and flows through the Flint Lake residential subdivision into the privately owned and maintained Flint Lake. The vast Good Shepherd Hospital grounds are situated west of the Stonehenge Golf Course floodplain along Route 22.

## 2.5 MAIN STEM OF FLINT CREEK

The South Branch of Flint Creek combines with the North Tributary at Flint Lake to form the Main Stem. The shore of Flint Lake is privately maintained by a residential property owners association. The creek, now larger due to the combined flow of all three tributaries, flows over the Flint Lake dam onto public land owned in common by the Lake County Forest Preserve District as the Grassy Lake/Flint Creek Forest Preserve. The creek meanders through the serene wetlands and oak savannas of the Forest Preserve and then cascades over the pleasant pools and riffles to Kelsey Road. The Lake Barrington Village Hall is currently under construction on open land adjacent to the creek just south and upstream from Kelsey Road.

The Flint Creek bubbles turbulently downstream from Kelsey Road through a wetland area and wooded floodplain through the riparian land in the Lake County Forest Preserve District's public ownership. The creek continues north along the publicly owned Forest Preserve Land to the confluence with the Fox River. Backwater from the Fox River creates a placid, navigable waterway at the mouth of the Flint Creek, suitable for canoeing and fishing.

## CHAPTER 3.0 RESOURCE INVENTORY

### 3.1 CONNECTIVITY

One of the functions of the Flint Creek Greenway is to connect the natural, cultural, and recreational resources of the watershed. Natural resources in the watershed include Lake and Cook County Forest Preserves, Village Parks, significant wetlands, oak savannas/wooded areas, lakes, and undeveloped open space. Cultural resources of the watershed include the Village of Barrington's downtown district, schools, cemeteries, and municipal buildings. Recreational resources also include forest preserves, parks, golf courses, and playgrounds. The following sections provide an inventory or list of the resources in the Flint Creek Watershed, which should be connected by the greenway.

### 3.2 FOREST PRESERVES

These sites are owned by the Cook County Forest Preserve District (CCFPD) and the Lake County Forest Preserve District (LCFPD) as open land for common public use. The following forest preserves contain existing trails and open space within the Flint Creek watershed:

1. Crabtree Forest Preserve (CCFPD) - Natural area containing headwaters, near Dundee Road.
2. Bakers Lake/Younghusband Farm/Round Barn Forest Preserve (CCFPD) - Natural area protecting Bakers Lake.
3. Deer Grove Forest Preserve (CCFPD) - On the watershed divide, near Route 14 and Dundee Road.
4. Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve (LCFPD) - Wetland and prairies, near Cuba Road and Ela Road.
5. Grassy Lake/Flint Creek Forest Preserve (LCFPD) - Newly acquired natural area along Miller and River Roads, between Route 59, Kelsey Road, and the Fox River.



### **3.3 CITIZENS FOR CONSERVATION**

The Citizens for Conservation (CFC) is a Barrington grassroots organization which owns open space and provides stewardship for the conservation and ecological restoration of land and water. The CFC is currently supervising land conservation practices at the following parcels:

1. Flint Creek Savanna - near Good Shepherd Hospital at Route 22.
2. Grigsby Prairie - near Oak Knoll Road and Buckley Road in the Village of Barrington Hills.

### **3.4 VILLAGE PARKS/OPEN SPACE**

These Village-owned parks contain existing recreational open space along the Flint Creek corridor.

1. Ron Beese Park (Village of Barrington Park District) - near Bakers Lake.
2. Langendorf Park (Barrington Park District) - southwest of Route 59/Route 14 intersection.
3. Bakers Lake Campground Savanna (Village of Barrington) - near Hillside Avenue and Route 14.

### **3.5 GOLF COURSES**

Golf courses are situated along the Flint Creek Corridor. While privately owned, the golf courses provide reasonable use of floodplain land for flood control, open space, and recreational purposes.

1. Thunderbird Country Club - near Route 14 and Hillside Avenue.
2. Barrington Hills Golf Course - near Oak Knoll Road.
3. Stonehenge Golf Course - near Good Shepherd Hospital at Route 22.

### **3.6 CEMETERIES**

Cemeteries contain monuments commemorating the heritage of the original settlers, war veterans, and citizens of the watershed. The following cemeteries provide cultural heritage, open space, wildlife habitat conservation purposes in the watershed:

1. Evergreen Cemetery - Contains Civil War monuments, and is also situated on one of the highest vistas in the Village of Barrington at Dundee Avenue.
2. St. Johns Cemetery - Situated at Lake-Cook Road and Route 14.
3. White Cemetery - Situated at Cuba Road.

### **3.7 SCHOOLS**

Schools provide playgrounds, open space, recreational, cultural, and educational benefits for students and citizens of the watershed. Greenway trails should be connected between the schools to provide safe commuting routes for school children, pedestrians, and cyclists. The following school campuses are in the Flint Creek watershed:

1. Barrington Middle School - Prairie Campus
2. Barrington Middle School - Station Campus
3. Barrington High School
4. Lines Elementary School
5. Hough Street Elementary School
6. Roslyn Road Elementary School
7. Countryside Elementary School
8. Grove Avenue Elementary School
9. St. Ann's Catholic Elementary School

### **3.8 MUNICIPAL LAND**

Municipal land such as Village Halls, Public Works Buildings, and libraries provide open space conservation benefits. Greenways should connect the following municipal open spaces, wherever possible:

1. Barrington Area Library - along Route 14, near the Jewel Corporate campus.
2. Village of Barrington Municipal Building - along Route 59, just south of Lake-Cook Road.
3. North Barrington Village Hall - along Old Barrington Road, just north of Route 22.
4. Lake Barrington Village Hall - along Old Barrington Road, near Kelsey Road.

### **3.9 CORPORATE OPEN SPACE**

Corporate open space frequently includes large undeveloped floodplain, wetland, and oak savanna parcels adjacent to office campuses. The following leafy, corporate sites in the Barrington area provide potential open space for greenway easements along the Flint Creek:

1. Jewel Company - Contains the "Jewel" Lagoon along Flint Creek.
2. American Can Company - Expansive, garden-like campus near the Village Library.
3. Quaker Oats - Site of physical fitness research center for Gatorade. Contains undeveloped floodplain land south of Lake-Cook Road, across from Barrington High School. Could provide jogging path along greenway for cooperative Gatorade physical fitness research program.
4. UARCO Company - Contains large expanse of undeveloped floodplain north of Lake-Cook Road, adjacent to Barrington High School and Quaker Oats.

5. GE Building (New Hart Road) - Adjacent to appealing floodplain corridor and office of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
6. Good Shepherd Hospital - Evangelical Health Systems (EHS) holdings contain large tracts of undeveloped land adjacent to the Flint Creek floodplain.
7. Elgin, Joliet, & Elgin Railroad Right-of-way (EJ & E) - Potential lineal greenway.
8. Chicago & Northwestern Railroad Right-of-Way - Potential lineal greenway along Route 14, connecting the Barrington countryside with the Village of Barrington.

### 3.10 HISTORIC HERITAGE

Recent history in the Flint Creek Watershed dates to the Potowotami Indians prior to the Revolutionary War. Indian trading routes wound along the Fox River, and probably along the Flint Creek, too. French traders used the Fox River as a trading route after the Revolutionary War.

The first permanent white settlers were mostly Yankees from Massachusetts and other New England States. Great Barrington, Massachusetts is the probable namesake of Barrington, Illinois. The first settlements in the Barrington area were homesteaded during the 1800's prior to the Civil War. Several families sent their men to fight for the Union during the War between the States. A monument to the dead from the North and South is situated today on the Barrington summit in Evergreen Cemetery.

Later, prior to the Great Chicago fire in 1888, a railroad was constructed along the Northwest corridor between Chicago and Wisconsin. The Village of Barrington thrived with the commerce and convenient transportation provided by what is now known as the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad. The railroad provided the opportunity for a daily commute between home in Barrington and work in Chicago. As a result, the Village of Barrington grew in the traditional main street grid pattern as a center of regional commerce and domestic life. The Village proper grew to its present size prior to the Second World War.

After the homecoming from the Second World War, residential suburbs and farmettes were formed in the Villages of North Barrington, Lake Barrington, and surrounding country Villages. Homeowners were attracted by abundant land, convenient railroad transportation to Chicago, a vital commercial district in downtown Barrington, and low density "countryside" zoning. Many of the residents in the Village and surrounding countryside now commute to work in Chicago via the train or travel via car to work in surrounding office parks in the "edge" cities of Schaumburg and Hoffman Estates.

The past is preserved by the Barrington Area Historical Society. The Society commemorates the comprehensive history of the Barrington area heritage in a museum on Lake-Cook Road, and through annual historic house tours during May and the Christmas holidays.



### 3.11 LAND USE

The "countryside" Villages in the Flint Creek Watershed are situated like spokes on a wheel around the hub of the Village of Barrington. The Village of Barrington is the commercial and business center providing shopping, educational, and community needs for the residents. The Villages of Lake Barrington, North Barrington, Barrington Hills, Inverness, and Deer Park are pastoral "countryside" areas which surround the more densely populated Village of Barrington. The population density in the watershed is 756 people per square mile, which is relatively low compared to other watersheds in the Chicago area, which can exceed 2,000 people per square mile.

The Village of Barrington provides a traditional Village center oriented around a visually pleasing commercial downtown district and the train station. The downtown is a viable commercial and retail hub situated at the juncture of two busy arteries - Route 59 and Lake-Cook Road. Village streets are oriented north-south and east-west in the traditional pedestrian-friendly rectangle grid fashion, modeled after European communities and later copied by New England settlers. Except for commercial areas along Route 14, Route 59 and Lake-Cook Road and several corporate campuses, the Village consists largely of residential neighborhoods, with 1/4- to 1-acre single family homes and tasteful apartment and townhome communities.

Pedestrian movement between the residential and commercial areas of the Village center is eased by the traditional rectangular block pattern of the streets. However, sometimes pedestrian, bicycling, and other non-motorized mobility is impeded by the busy roadways such as Route 59 and Lake-Cook Road, and by the lack of safe crossings over the Chicago & Northwestern and EJ & E Railroad corridors. Pedestrian access to the land-locked Langendorf Park is largely prevented by the restrictions created by Route 14, Route 59, and the C & NW Railroad. Greenways can provide off-road pedestrian routes and restore mobility to village residents for non-motorized transportation uses (shopping, errands, exercise).

The Villages of North Barrington, Lake Barrington, Barrington Hills, and Deer Park are "garden" communities consisting largely of low density residential areas and open space. Residential properties in the "countryside" Villages outside of Barrington are generally one to 10 acres in size, with some larger estates. Village zoning reflects the residents' desire for a "country" way of life with low traffic and harmony with the environment. Most of the non-residential areas are Forest Preserves, large campuses (Good Shepherd Hospital), wetlands and fields. Privacy (as a way of life) is a common desire in the "countryside" villages.

### 3.12 GOVERNMENTS

Responsible greenway planning requires mutual and trustworthy cooperation between the various governments and Villages in the Flint Creek watershed. The following governments provide community services for residents:

1. Barrington Township - Unincorporated Cook County
2. Cuba Township - Unincorporated Lake County
3. Ela Township - Unincorporated Lake County
4. Village of Barrington (and Park District)
5. Village of Lake Barrington
6. Village of North Barrington
7. Village of Barrington Hills
8. Village of Deer Park
9. Village of Inverness
10. Village of Lake Zurich

The following agencies have primary natural resources and water resources management responsibilities in the Flint Creek Watershed:

1. Lake County Stormwater Management Commission
2. Northwest Cook County Soil and Water District Conservation
3. Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District
4. Lake County Forest Preserve District
5. Cook County Forest Preserve District
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### 3.13 TOPOGRAPHY

The gently rolling topography of the Flint Creek watershed is largely due to the scouring action of the last Wisconsin Glacier. The watershed exhibits moderate relief with small hills or moraines interspersed with the lowland areas of lakes, wetlands, and streams. Land elevations range from a high point (elev. 900 feet NGVD) at the Village of Barrington Water Tower to a low point (elev. 730 feet) on the shores of the Fox River. The average slope along the Flint Creek is about 3 percent. The contrast of rolling wooded hills against the lowland floodplains and wetlands provides a great deal of aesthetic and visual appeal for residents and visitors to the watershed.

### 3.14 WATER QUALITY

Water quality in the Flint Creek is moderately impacted due to soil erosion and non-point sources from stormwater and agricultural runoff. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency monitors water quality of Illinois streams using the Water Quality Index. The Water Quality Index (WQI) of the Flint Creek is 42, based on a scale from 0 to 100. A WQI of 20 indicates minimal impacts, a WQI of 40 denotes moderate water quality impacts, and a WQI of 60 denotes severe water quality impacts. Water quality in the creek through the residential and commercial areas of the Village of Barrington is impacted by channel bank erosion, construction site erosion, and particulate matter from roadway storm sewers. The creek in the downstream "countryside" areas is relatively clean, but still exhibits minor water quality impacts due to channel bank erosion, runoff from lawn care fertilizers, and debris jams.

Certain reaches of the Creek exhibit relatively little sedimentation with a clear cobble-lined channel bottom. Reaches with reasonable clarity are between the EJ & E railroad and Lake-Cook Road south of Quaker Oats, adjacent to the CFC Flint Creek Savanna, and upstream and downstream from Kelsey Road near the Grassy Lake Forest Preserve. The Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) is currently conducting a \$200,000 program to assess water quality and recommend stream maintenance and natural channel bank erosion control solutions. The Lake County SMC program will recommend solutions to improve the water quality of the Flint Creek system.

### 3.15 WETLANDS

One of the prominent natural features in the Flint Creek watershed are the diverse wetlands. The wetlands generally consist of sedge meadows, marshes, bogs, and open water areas along the stream corridor or internally drained pothole areas away from the creek. The wetlands in the watershed provide the following vital functions for the ecosystem:

1. Natural flood storage and stormwater runoff control.
2. Water quality treatment through natural biofiltration, nutrient uptake and sedimentation processes.
3. Wildlife habitat, particularly for endangered and threatened avian species such as great blue herons, egrets, common moorhens, pied bill grebes, and red winged blackbirds.
4. Appealing areas of flora and vegetation, such as cottonwoods and sedge meadows.
5. Passive recreation for pursuits such as hiking, fishing, boating, photography, and nature study.
6. Open space conservation.
7. Aesthetic appeal and natural beauty.



The following Flint Creek Corridor wetlands are presently identified for existing or future public acquisition and conservation:

1. Entire Flint Creek floodplain from the Fox River to Flint Lake.
2. Grassy Lake from Route 59 to Old Barrington Road.
3. Flint Creek floodplain from Route 22 to Route 14, near Pepper Road Industrial Park and CFC Flint Creek Savanna.
4. UARCO and FE Capital Corporate campuses near Old Hart Road to Lake-Cook Road, and New Hart Road south of the Barrington High School.
5. South of Quaker Oats property and Lake-Cook Road, paralleling the west side of EJ & E Railroad.
6. Younghusband Farm on CCFPD property near Bakers Lake.
7. Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve Lagoons.
8. Numerous isolated "potholes" away from Flint Creek.

### 3.16 LAKES

Many natural and manmade lakes are situated along Flint Creek. These lakes provide flood control, water quality treatment, and recreational water sport functions. Some of the larger lakes include:

1. Lake Zurich
2. Honey Lake
3. Grassy Lake
4. Flint Lake
5. Hawley Lake
6. Hawthorne Lake
7. Keene Lake
8. Bakers Lake
9. Lake Louise

### **3.17 POOLS AND RIFFLES**

Some of the most interesting features of the Flint Creek corridor are the cascading pool and riffle sections. These areas include stream reaches with moderate gradients where runoff cascades over the natural cobble bottom. Pool and riffle sections along creeks are somewhat unique in the Chicagoland area because many other Northeastern Illinois streams have mild slopes with placid flow characteristics. The pool and riffle sections along Flint Creek provide a visual appeal to hikers, a water quality benefit due to reoxygenation, and good habitat for the fishery. The unique pool and riffle sections are situated along the following reaches of the Creek:

1. Upstream from Old Hart Road near the GE Capital Building (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Headquarters).
2. Adjacent to CFC Flint Creek Savanna and upstream from Route 22.
3. Several notable cascades between Flint Lake, Kelsey Road and the Fox River on newly acquired LCFPD Grassy Creek/Flint Creek Forest Preserve land.

### **3.18 FISHERY**

The Flint Creek possesses a moderately thriving warm water fishery. Many small mouth/large mouth bass, panfish, catfish, and carp swim upstream from the Fox River backwater to the dam at Flint Lake. The dam is a barrier to upstream fish migration. Many of the lakes in the upstream reaches in the headwaters also maintain a viable warm water fishery, especially during the winter ice-fishing period. The fishery between the headwater lakes at Hawthorne Lake, Bakers Lake and Grassy Lake downstream to Flint Lake is poor due to low flows (especially during June through March) and debris jams which prevent fish migration.

### **3.19 WATER SPORTS**

Residents enjoy water sports along the lakes and Flint Creek. Residents swim at supervised beaches at Lake Zurich and Honey Lake. Sailors race over the same two lakes and Flint Lake during the summer.

During the spring thaw, flows in the Flint Creek are high enough to canoe from Route 14 downstream through the wetland to Route 22, to Flint Lake, and then down along the pools and riffles to the Fox River. A canoe route could be established in the following two areas due to sufficient high flow most of the year and the potential for public access:

1. Wetland from Route 14 to Route 22 - This mile-long wetland can be negotiated by canoe adjacent to the Pepper Road Industrial Park and the CFC Flint Creek Savanna.

2. Lake County Forest Preserve District in Grassy Lake and from Flint Lake to Fox River - This reach provides suitable canoeing along Grassy Lake, small pool and riffle sections near Kelsey Road, and a placid backwater at the mouth of the creek near the Fox River.

### 3.20 OAK SAVANNAS

The most significant upland natural resource features in the watershed are the oak savannas. These groves of white and burr oaks were present during the presettlement period, prior to colonization by the migrating pioneers. The oak savannas currently provide an aesthetic contrast and visual appeal to the open countryside. The early settlers from the humid and forested East found a familiar landscape among the oak grove "openings" in the treeless prairie of Illinois. The oak groves provide wildlife habitat and visual diversity in the prairie environment. The original settlers found savannas characterized by stately, grand oak tree stands, interspersed with native prairie shrubs and woody vegetation.

Unfortunately, introduction of aggressive, non-native species from Europe, such as buckthorn and slippery elm, have stifled the growth of the native prairie species, and negatively impacted the growth of oak seedlings from acorns. Settlement of the prairie largely halted the frequent wildfires which are critical to prairie plant ecology. An aggressive program of non-native vegetation brush cutting and annual selected fire burns can remove the invading species and restore the fragile oak savanna appearance and biodiversity. The following areas include oak savannas of various ecological quality in the watershed:

1. Southwest of Kelsey Road and Old Barrington Road - On LCFPD property.
2. South of Miller Road - LCFPD Property near Grassy Lake.
3. North of Route 22 at Good Shepherd Hospital and Quaker Oats Property.
4. South of Route 22 - CFC Flint Creek savanna.
5. Bakers Lake Campground Savanna.
6. East of North Avenue between Route 14 and Lake-Cook Road - south of Lines School.
7. Numerous Oak Groves on Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve.

(Note: Several other non-oak wooded areas are also included on the mapping. These wooded areas consist of maple, ash, hickory, and cottonwood tree stands.)

### 3.21 PRAIRIES

Healthy prairie landscapes are vital to the ecology of the Flint Creek watershed. The prairies were the prevalent pre-settlement landscape in the Flint Creek watershed. Prairie grasses such as big blue stem, little blue stem, Indian grass, and coneflowers used to proliferate over the landscape. The native prairie vegetation, with a dense root matrix, exhibits a low flood runoff potential (when compared to a Kentucky Blue Grass lawn), provides good storm water quality treatment through filtration, and prevents soil erosion. The prairie landscape also supports a diverse collection of wildlife and pretty wildflower species. Native prairie vegetation changes color seasonally throughout the year from the colorful wildflowers in the spring and summer to the brown and orange hues during fall and winter. The prairie landscape is pleasing to the eye.

Unfortunately, the proliferation of aggressive non-native species such as buckthorn have negatively impacted native prairie grasses. Negative impacts from exotic invasive species are particularly acute in many of the uncultivated, former agricultural areas in the watershed. The ecology of the prairie is complex, relying on periodic burns or fire to remove non-native species and spur new growth of native seedlings. Settlement and cultivation has removed the natural wildfires that are so important to the prairie ecology. Fortunately, ecological restoration efforts can return the prairies to their beneficial stormwater runoff control, water quality filtration, and wildlife habitat purposes. A 5-year program of brush cutting, burns, and reseeding with native grasses can remove the invasive species and restore the prairie to presettlement conditions. The following areas are current or candidate prairie restoration sites in the Flint Creek watershed:

1. Grassy Lake/Flint Creek Forest Preserve (LCFPD) - Needs restoration of oak savanna and prairie.
2. Flint Creek Savanna - Under active restoration by CFC.
3. Grigsby Prairie (Oak Knoll Road) - Under active restoration by CFC.
4. Old Hart Road to Barrington High School - Candidate for future restoration adjacent to GE Capital building and UARCO corporate properties.
5. Bakers Lake Campground Savanna - Under active prairie restoration by CFC.
6. Bakers Lake/Forest Preserve, Younghusband Farm/Round Barn (CCFPD) - Candidate for continued prairie restoration.
7. Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve (LCFPD) - Under active prairie restoration.



### 3.22 FLOODPLAINS

The floodplains are the near-stream, riparian corridors designated for the passage of floodwaters. The floodplains along the 3 tributaries of Flint Creek and the Main Stem are delineated by the Flood Insurance Studies of Barrington, Barrington Hills, North Barrington, Lake Barrington, and Unincorporated Lake County. The floodplains are delineated on separate Flood Insurance Study, Floodway/Floodplain maps prepared by The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Stream-related flooding in the Village of Barrington occurs every several years. Reports of over-bank flooding were received during the early 1980's due to clogging of culverts with debris. The floodplain along Flint Creek is largely undeveloped except for culvert restrictions at commercial and residential areas in the Village. Fortunately, large parcels of undeveloped floodplain are available for the passage of floodwaters. Failure to conserve the floodplains for flood conveyance could result in the chronic flooding observed along the developed Salt Creek floodplain in DuPage County and the Des Plaines River floodplain in Lake and Cook Counties.

## CHAPTER 4.0 GREENWAY PLAN

This section summarizes a recommended greenway trail plan to connect and conserve the natural, cultural, and recreational features of the Flint Creek corridor for community use. A major component of the greenway plan would be a pedestrian trail. The purpose of the greenway is to link the Barrington Area Villages with a comprehensive conservation corridor and recreational trail system. The greenway path would include existing trails and proposed routes. The total length of proposed trails includes 36 miles along 16 miles of stream corridor.

The Greenway trail would consist of two major components: (1) the Village of Barrington Perimeter Trail, and (2) the Lower Flint Creek Conservation Corridor. The Village of Barrington Perimeter Trail is the first component which would completely circumnavigate the Village in a greenbelt. This circular greenbelt would conserve the unique identity of the Village center and provide pedestrian, bicycling, hiking and jogging routes for Village residents and school children. The Lower Flint Creek Conservation Corridor is the second component which would envelope the wetlands, oak savannas, and forest preserves along the open "countryside" areas near the Fox River. This countryside corridor would provide a low-impact footpath for wildlife study, contemplation, and exercise. The combined greenway path could conceivably allow residents to safely and quietly hike from Bakers Lake in the south easterly portion of the watershed all the way to the Fox River.

### 4.1 CRITERIA

The trail or path is tentatively routed to travel along publicly owned or corporate open space with no impact to adjacent residents. The greenway trail should:

1. Travel along existing, publicly owned open space wherever possible.
2. Follow the Flint Creek floodplain, wetlands, and lakes.
3. Link forest preserves, parks, and open space.
4. Connect wetlands, oak savannas, and lakes.
5. Join schools together with an "off-road" route to maximize safety for bicycling or walking school children.
6. Avoid proximity to residential areas to preserve privacy in the "countryside" areas.
7. Connect the commercial and residential districts within the Village of Barrington.
8. Promote use and be aesthetically pleasing for users.
9. Provide access at publicly owned parks, schools, and municipal land.

## 4.2 STANDARDS

The greenway path should meet the following standards:

1. Greenway Easement Corridor - Minimum 30 feet wide
2. Trail Width -
  - Asphalt Bicycle Path (8')
  - Limestone Gravel Bicycle or Foot Path (8')
  - Low Impact Foot Path (4')
3. Clearance - 10' overground
4. Footbridges - Install to cross streams where needed, and provide sites of interest for users, minimize due to cost and flooding impact.
5. Boardwalks - Construct along wetlands as points of interest where path cannot be routed on higher ground.
6. Trail Surface
  - Asphalt - Only for high-use areas around Village of Barrington where desired for bicycling near schools and commercial areas.
  - Limestone Gravel - Use around Village of Barrington in low-use areas where desired for cycling, hiking, and jogging use.
  - Narrow Footpath - Low impact trail desired in Forest Preserves and in Lower Flint Creek Corridor for passive recreational use, and maintain privacy for adjacent residents.
7. Trail Signs - Use the standards for signs maintained by the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

## 4.3 FOOTPATH DESCRIPTION

The tentative route of the proposed greenway footpath is shown for debate and discussion on the attached work maps. The route is preliminary and is subject to citizen comment, government review, funding, and acquisition of easements. The following contains a segment-by-segment description of the proposed path:

- (A) Fox River to Kelsey Road - This 0.4 mile segment includes a proposed low impact footpath through the Lake County Forest Preserve adjacent to the pools and riffles, wetlands, floodplain, and the future Lake Barrington Municipal Building.
- (B) Kelsey Road to Big Bend - This 0.8 mile segment includes a low impact foot path through the Lake County Forest Preserve adjacent to the pools and riffles, wetland, floodplain, and the future Lake Barrington Municipal Building.
- (C) Old Barrington Road Oak Savanna Complex - This 1.6 mile series of proposed low impact footpaths would travel over several footbridges on the Lake County Forest Preserve west of Old Barrington Road and South of Kelsey Road, and through a large oak grove.

- (D) Alice Lane Oak Savanna - This 1.3 mile series of trails would include a proposed low impact footpath, and footbridges. This area is currently privately owned and includes a large oak savanna.
- (E) Grassy Lake - This 3.1 mile series of trails would include a proposed low impact footpath through the oak savannas and sedge meadow wetlands on Lake County Forest Preserve District Land south of Miller Road near Grassy Lake.
- (F) Good Shepherd Hospital - This proposed 1.4 mile low impact footpath would travel through a 30 feet wide easement on land owned by Good Shepherd Hospital. The easement could be negotiated and obtained during the future site development review process by the Village of Lake Barrington. This segment would travel adjacent to, but not through, the Flint Lake subdivision and Stonehenge Golf Course. The hospital footpath could also provide physical rehabilitation for hospital patients.
- (G) CFC Flint Creek Savanna - This proposed 1.1 mile series of low impact footpaths and a creek ford would supplement existing hiking corridors maintained for wildlife and prairie study by CFC.
- (H) Route 22 to Route 14 Wetlands - This proposed 1.1 mile, low impact footpath would travel along the western edge of the large wetlands on the upland areas. Trail rerouting may be necessary due to lack of access created by the Pepper Road Industrial Park roadways and buildings adjacent to the wetlands. Open Lands, a Chicagoland open space conservation agency, is researching acquisition of this wetlands for possible stewardship by the Citizens for Conservation.
- (I) Northwest Highway (Route 14)/C&NW RR Corridor - This proposed 2.0 mile segment would connect the lower Flint Creek Conservation Corridor with the Village of Barrington Perimeter Trail. This trail would bypass the Flint Creek corridor through exclusive Barrington Hills. The trail would be limestone screening or asphalt adjacent to the railroad right-of-way. This section of the trail should be studied and routed safely away from the commuter rail corridor.
- (J) Village of Barrington Perimeter Trail - Old Hart Road/GE Capital Building/UARCO corporate campus - This proposed trail system would be 1.5 miles long and consist of a limestone or low impact path on existing, corporate open space. The parcel includes wetlands, wooded areas, and pool and riffle sections adjacent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife field headquarters at the GE Capital Building. A trail easement is necessary on the corporate open space. This property could provide environmental study and physical education use for the adjacent Barrington High School students.



- (K) Quaker Oats/EJ & E RR Corridor - This 1.1 mile segment would travel through an easement on the Quaker Oats corporate property and continue through the wooded area to the EJ & E Railroad. Portions of the trail on Quaker Oats property could be used for physical fitness research for the company's Gatorade program.
- (L) Evergreen Cemetery - This 0.4 mile trail segment would travel adjacent to the historic cemetery and Civil War monument on one of the highest vistas in the watershed.
- (M) Hillside Avenue/Grove Avenue School/South Street - This 1.0 mile segment of the trail would travel safely on Village residential streets, through the Grove Avenue School campus, to Bakers Lake.
- (N) Bakers Lake Trail System - This enjoyable series of trails would circle the perimeter of Bakers Lake Nature Preserve on the Campground Savanna, Beese Park and Cook County Forest Preserve property. The 4.5 mile series of trails would supplement existing trails and be on publicly owned open land. A small portion of the trail may be routed on streets in the residential "College" area adjacent to the lake.
- (O) Thunder Bird Country Club/Fox Point/Lake Louise - This proposed 1.8 trail segment is optional to Segment "P", and would travel along the perimeter of Thunder Bird Golf Course, and travel along an easement or public streets through the Fox Point subdivision to the Lake Louise Dam.
- (P) North Avenue/Lines School/American Can/Jewel Corporate - This 1.7 mile segment is an alternative to Segment O. The trail would leave Bakers Lake, continue along North Avenue to the Lines School campus, travel along Lake-Cook Road to the American Can corporate campus and Jewel Corporate Open Space. A 30 feet wide easement would be needed on the corporate open land.
- (Q) Jewel Park - This 1.0 segment would travel from Jewel Lagoon, over the EJ & E railroad, along the Flint Creek floodplain and through the Jewel Park subdivision along Village Streets.
- (R) Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve (West) - This 2.9 mile segment would supplement existing trails on the Lake County Forest Preserve prairies, wooded areas, and wetlands. A short portion of the trail would parallel the EJ & E Railroad right-of-way to connect the Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve to the Village of Barrington perimeter trail.
- (S) Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve (East) - This 3.8 mile series of trails on LCFPD property currently exist for hiking, ecological restoration, and wildlife study.

- (T) Jewel Park/Lake Zurich Road - This 0.8 mile segment is an alternate to Segment Q and would travel on Corporate Open Space parallel to Lake Zurich Road to Route 14.
- (U) Langendorf Park - This 0.8 mile segment would link up with Langendorf Park and its recreational facilities. The trail could be totally on land owned by the Barrington Park District.
- (W) Langendorf Park/Downtown Link - This 0.3-mile segment would include an overpass or underpass over the EJ & E railroad to safely link the Village of Barrington downtown (Ice House) with Langendorf Park. Currently, Langendorf Park is landlocked and largely inaccessible to pedestrian use from the high school and downtown. This link along Segment "W" would provide long-overdue safe pedestrian access from the Barrington downtown area to Langendorf Park.
- (V) EJ & E RR/Village's Department of Public Works Yard/Nursery/Barrington High School - This 0.6 mile segment would parallel the Flint Creek channel through Village owned land near the Public Works Building, Nursery, and Sewage Treatment Plan. The trail would leave Langendorf Park by crossing under the C & NW Railroad through an existing trestle. The segment would complete the Village of Barrington Perimeter Trail by traveling through the Barrington High School Campus to New Hart Road. This segment is a suitable candidate for a demonstration and environmental education trail for use by the high school students, since the floodplain is in total public ownership.

## CHAPTER 5.0 CONCLUSIONS

### 5.1 BENEFITS

The Flint Creek Greenway will provide the following potential benefits to improve the quality of life for residents of the Barrington-Area community:

1. **Flood Control** - Conservation of the stream corridor will maintain the floodplain for passage of floodwaters, prevent flood damage, and prevent negative impacts.
2. **Water Quality** - Conservation of natural areas, wetlands, and the lowland riparian corridor will prevent soil erosion, filter pollutants in stormwater runoff, and improve the creek water quality.
3. **Wildlife Habitat** - The greenway conservation corridor will provide wildlife habitat for breeding, nesting, and migration of bird, fish, and mammal species.
4. **Recreation** - The greenway trail will provide diverse recreation for the pursuits of bicycling, hiking, photography, jogging, fishing, canoeing, and meditation. Greenways provide opportunities for mini-vacations in today's busy world.
5. **Open Space Conservation** - The greenway corridor will conserve non-developable open space which in turn, will reduce traffic impacts and need for community services (more taxes) due to unplanned growth.
6. **Aesthetics** - The stream corridor greenway will maintain the beauty, visual appeal, and unique picturesque qualities of the Barrington Area Countryside.
7. **Safety** - A greenway trail system connecting schools and residential areas will provide safe routes for traffic-free travel for school children walking or bicycling back and forth to school.
8. **Economics** - The greenway will raise adjacent property values and reduce demand for Village services (i.e. taxes) due to lower population density. Economic development could be stimulated by new bicycle shops, ice cream stores, and new influx of pedestrian-oriented shops in the Village of Barrington downtown commercial district. Corporations desire open space and recreational opportunities for their employees, and might be convinced to relocate here to some of the vacant office buildings along Route 14 and Hart Road (GE Capital).

9. Quality of Life - Greenways provide an intangible benefit related to a general sense of satisfaction about ones way of life and community. Proximity to a regional greenway provides convenient recreational opportunities, which in turn, raise the quality of life for residents.
10. Community Spirit - The greenway will unite the various segments of the Barrington Area Citizenry into what is commonly know as "Community Spirit"
11. Physical Fitness - The greenways will provide convenient opportunities for exercise for school children and working people, therefore providing the potential for better personal health and lower medical insurance payments (currently a National Health Insurance crisis).

## 5.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Public Comment - The citizens of the Villages should review the Plan, make comments, and provide input to arrive at a common consensus on the worth of the greenway plan.
2. Coordination - A coordinator or facilitator should be selected during the initial stages of public input to oversee implementation of the plan. Logical candidates for coordinator include:
  - Barrington Area Council of Governments (preferred)
  - Citizens for Conservation (advisory)
  - Lake County Forest Preserve District
  - Cook County Forest Preserve District
  - Village of Barrington Department of Public Works
  - Barrington Park District
  - Villages of North Barrington and Lake Barrington
3. Support - Corporations with open space should designate a 30 feet wide conservation easement where the greenway is designated on business campuses.
4. Funding - Monies for greenway easements, land acquisition, and installation should be obtained from:
  - County Forest Preserve District Programs
  - Park District Fees
  - Illinois Department of Conservation Bicycle Trail and Park Development Funds
  - Illinois Department of Transportation (ISTEA) Pedestrian/ Bicycling Trail Funds



- Conservation Fund, American Greenways, Annual DuPont Greenway Grant
- U.S. National Parks Service, Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, Midwest Region, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
- Corporate and Business Donors

5. Pilot Project - A pilot project to demonstrate the worth of the greenway trail should be established first:

- From Langendorf Park through the Barrington Department of Public Works land through Barrington High School to Old Hart Road.
- Along Flint Creek from Grassy Lake to the Fox River on the Flint Creek/Grassy Lake Forest Preserve District.
- Stewardship - Environmental advocacy groups such as the Citizens for Conservation could be responsible for volunteer trail maintenance, prairie/oak savanna stewardship, and ecological restoration.

### 5.3 IMPLEMENTATION

The following agencies or groups would be responsible for implementation, funding, acquisition, and installation of the respective trail segments:

<u>IMPLEMENTATION AGENCY</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE FOOTPATH SEGMENTS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>DISTANCE (MILES)</u>
Lake County Forest Preserve District	A, B, C, D, E	Grassy Lake/ Flint Creek Forest Preserve	7.2
Good Shepherd Hospital	F	EHS Parcel	1.4
Citizens for Conservation	G, H	Flint Creek Savanna Wetland	2.2
Lake County Forest Preserve District (Potentially)	I	C & NW RR R-O-W	2.0
GE Capital/UARCO Corporate	J	Near Old Hart Road	1.5
Quaker Oats	K	South of Lake-Cook Road	1.1
Barrington Department of Public Works	L, M	Village Roadway	1.4
Cook County Forest Preserve District	N	Bakers Lake System	4.5
Barrington Department of Public Works	O, P, Q	Thunderbird CC to Lake Louise	4.5
Lake County Forest Preserve District	R, S	Cuba Marsh Forest Preserve	6.7
Barrington Department of Public Works	V, W, X	Langendorf Park, Village D.P.W., Barrington High School	1.7

## SUMMARY

The Flint Creek Greenway Plan will unite the citizens and natural areas of the watershed into a single community. The Plan exemplifies the theme of conservation which is defined as a state of harmony between man and nature. Adoption and implementation of the Greenway Plan will improve the quality of life for citizens of the Flint Creek watershed, and provide for the common good of future generations in the Barrington Area Villages.

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