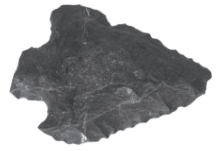


Flint Creek Watershed Partnership



July 2006

Barrington Area Development Council, Citizens for Conservation, Barrington Area Council of Governments, Barrington Hills Conservation Trust, Barrington and Cuba Townships, Villages of Barrington, Barrington Hills, Hawthorn Woods, Lake Barrington, Lake Zurich, and North Barrington. Advisor: Baxter & Woodman.

Representatives from Barrington Area Development Council, Citizens for Conservation, Barrington Area Council of Governments and the Village of Barrington joined forces in early 2005 to address surface water quality and quantity issues in Flint Creek and the watershed feeding it. The early partners have been joined by other governments, organizations and individuals throughout the watershed who are interested in projects that will stabilize eroding shorelines and minimize and purify the water entering the creek.

The partnership received start up funding for 2005-2006 from Barrington Area Development Council and Citizens for Conservation; Lake County Stormwater Management Commission (SMC) awarded it a Watershed Management Assistance Grant for 2006-2007. Our first project is to update the 1994 Watershed Management Plan to current standards for federal grant eligibility. Grants help defray the cost of projects as diverse as streambank restoration along the creek as well as detention and wetland upgrades throughout the watershed.

The first step of the update is a stream inventory this summer by SMC interns. They will survey the creek starting at the mouth in Lake Barrington where Flint Creek enters the Fox River and working upstream toward the main stem sources in Barrington and Barrington Hills and the source of the north branch of the creek in Lake Zurich. The inventory will take about five weeks starting the beginning of July.

Meetings are the 4th Monday of the month at 10 a.m. at changing locations throughout the watershed. Any landowner, municipality or organization in the watershed is welcome to attend. Contact Coordinator Patsy Mortimer, 847-381-8663 pmortimer@earthlink.net

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership
c/o Citizens for Conservation
459 W. Highway 22
Barrington, IL 60010

Flint Creek Watershed Partnership is comprised of watershed stakeholders dedicated to the preservation, protection and improvement of the Flint Creek sub-watershed of the Fox River in northeastern Illinois. Our mission is to realize a long-term vision for a healthy watershed and educated citizens. Our goal is to educate while building partnerships for projects to improve water quality, reduce flooding, and preserve and restore wetlands, prairies, and other natural features for future generations.



Great blue heron fishing

Chicago Wilderness photo

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Everyone lives in a watershed. People's actions affect their watershed whether they live on a creek or miles away. Flint Creek is the ultimate destination of stormwater running off roofs, lawns, driveways, parking lots and streets throughout the Flint Creek watershed. These impervious surfaces are the inevitable result of development. Development since 1992 requires detention basins to slow stormwater runoff and reduce flooding. Some detention is designed to remove the pollutants picked up as the water flows across the landscape, but most of it just drains into Flint Creek. This reduces water quality which affects fish and animal populations. In addition to impervious surfaces, development results in acres of bluegrass lawns that do not allow infiltration of water into the ground to recharge groundwater supplies. Deep-rooted native plants actually create channels that funnel water into the ground. The net result of development is increased runoff which increases flooding and stream flow causing streambank erosion and reduced water quality. The other effect of development in areas relying on wells for drinking water is a depletion of groundwater resources with little local recharge.

We can all make a difference conserving water in our homes and yards.

- Install water-saving toilets
- Reduce or eliminate lawn watering
- Fertilize your lawn only in the fall when roots (and not weeds) are actively growing
- Mow your grass higher with a mulching lawn mower
- Plant native plants which need no fertilizer or watering and channel rainwater into the ground, reducing water runoff and flooding
- Mulch flower beds and under trees out to the dripline (Grass doesn't grow well under trees and robs moisture from the tree.)
- Install a rain garden to absorb stormwater from your roof and yard (This is the home-scale equivalent to creating a filter marsh or wetland to help mitigate the effects of development.)
- Better yet, install a green roof to absorb rainwater before it hits the ground
- Wash your car at a car wash which uses water more efficiently and often recycles the water



Eastern tiger swallowtail on monarda

Tom Auchter

Flint Creek Watershed is a subwatershed of the Fox River which flows into the Illinois River, the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico. A recent study found pollution from Illinois in the Gulf.

Flint Creek and its tributaries are over 27 miles long and encompass 37 square miles mainly in Lake County, but partly in Cook County. The main stem flows north out of Baker's Lake in Barrington to Lake Louise, joining the south stem west of Barrington High School which originates at Braymore Lake in Inverness before flowing through Hawley, Keene, and Hawthorn Lakes in Barrington Hills. North Flint Creek flows out of Lake Zurich and Echo Lake. It meets the flow from Honey Lake in North Barrington at Grassy Lake in Lake Barrington. All these branches come together at Flint Lake before continuing north into the Fox River.

***Map notes:** Wetland sources are McHenry County ADvanced IDentification wetlands, Lake County Wetland Inventory and Cook County National Wetlands Inventory; 100-year and 500-year flood information is combined.

History of watershed activities

Flint Creek Watershed Completed Projects 1992-2005

Village of Barrington

Thunderbird (now Makray) Golf Course Pond/Stream Stabilization
Fairfield of Barrington Stream Stabilization and Naturalized Detention
Kilgoblin Wetland Stormdrain Daylighting
Southgate Detention Basin
Barrington HS Stream Stabilization
Langendorf Pond Retrofit
Fox Point South Stream Stabilization
Fox Point North Stream Stabilization

Barrington area (privately funded)

Uarco Wetland Restoration/Flow Control
Creeside Pointe Stream Stabilization
Makray Memorial Golf Course Wetland and Stream Restorations

Citizens for Conservation

Flint Creek Savanna Stream Restoration
Flint Creek Savanna Prairie and Wetland Restorations
Grigsby Prairie Wetland Restorations

Village of Lake Zurich

Paulus Park Shoreline Stabilization
Streambank Stabilization
Urban BMPs
Seth Paine Elementary School Detention Retrofit
Dearborn Group Flint Crossing Streambank Stabilization

Lake County Forest Preserve District

Grassy Lake Streambank Restoration

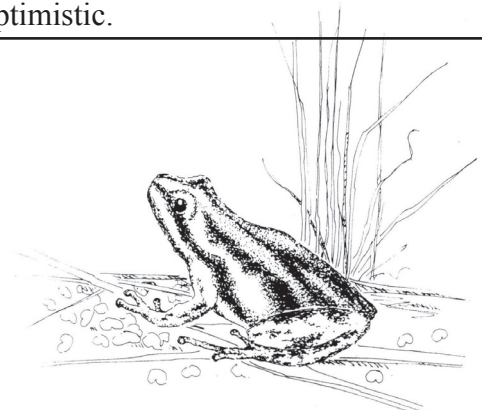
A Management Plan for the Lake County portion of Flint Creek was created by Lake County Stormwater Management Commission in the early 90's. This was a period of heightened interest in waterways during which Citizens for Conservation announced a campaign to improve the "Natural Areas of Flint Creek." Municipalities, businesses and individuals completed projects to control streambank erosion, enhance or create wetlands, and plant native prairie – which improved water quality and quantity. Many of the projects were on public property and partially funded by federal grants. The Village of Barrington broke new ground with projects on private property. Some of the projects were more successful than others as the need for ongoing maintenance as an integral part of the project became clearer. New projects include at least three years of follow up planting, weeding and burning in the initial funding. Barrington and Lake Zurich were particularly dedicated to improving sections of Flint Creek flowing through their villages.

LESSONS LEARNED

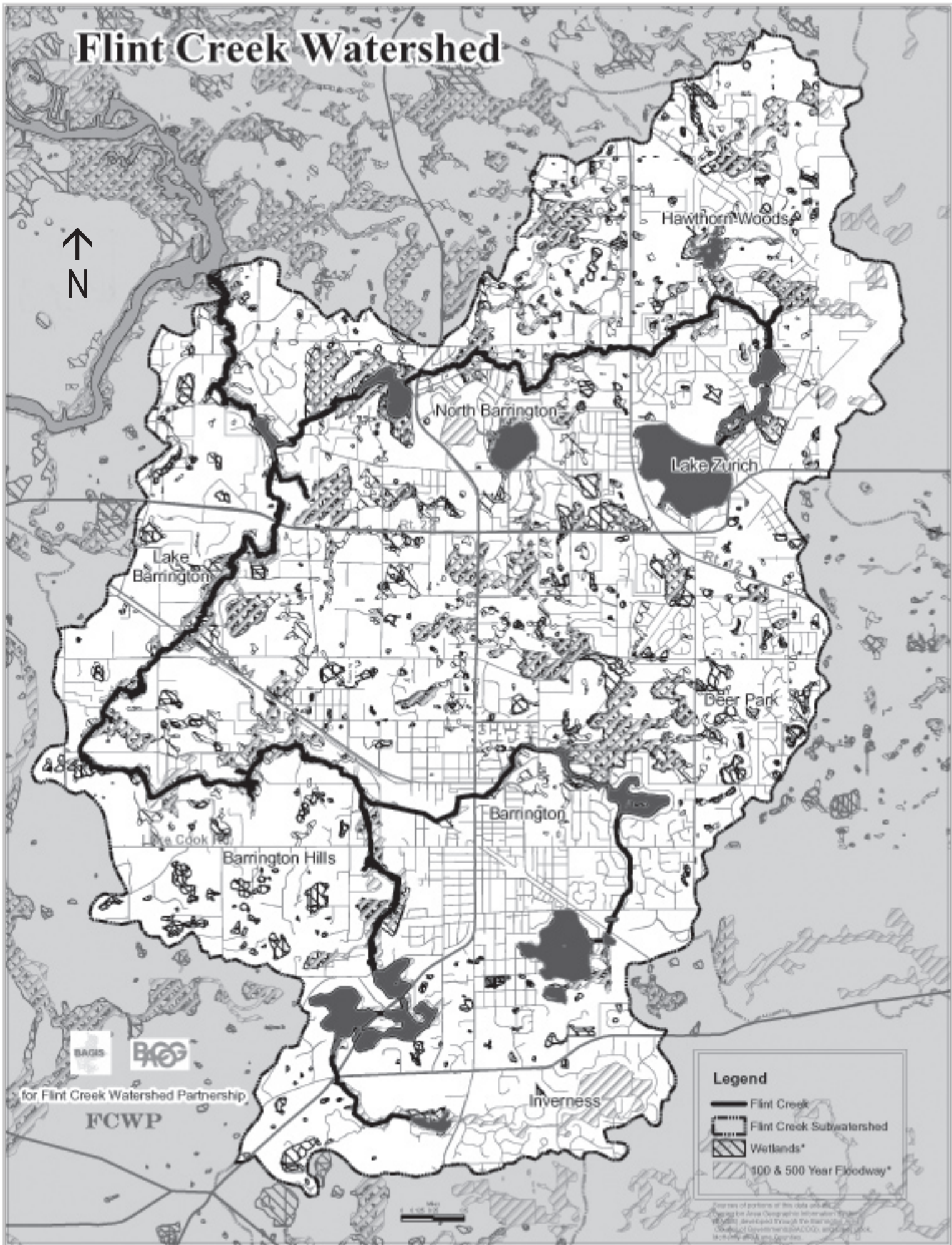
Fox Point South and North

Flint Creek flows through the back yards of Fox Point Subdivision residents in Barrington. However, high water was eroding large chunks of their yards and depositing the silt in Lake Louise. The homeowners association spent \$400,000 dredging the lake in the 90's. The Village of Barrington obtained a grant in 1999 to stabilize Flint Creek in Fox Point south of Lake-Cook Rd. The project involved removing buckthorn and other invasive shrubs and trees along the stream, recontouring the streambanks, adding riffles to the creek bed and planting native wetland plugs along the creek as well as a prairie buffer. Deep-rooted native plants help hold the soil and filter pollutants from lawn fertilizers and pesticides. The grant would not cover any maintenance, but some follow up replanting was done. The construction to stabilize the streambanks is intact but the native plants are sparse while the prairie buffers have disappeared which could affect the long-term viability of the stabilization projects.

In 2005 Flint Creek in North Fox Point from Lake-Cook Rd. north to Lake Louise was restored. Even though plantings were adversely affected by drought conditions, the contractor is back this year spraying weeds and reseeding bare areas. This will continue for three years until the native plants are established. In this case the long-term outlook for success of the streambank stabilization project is more optimistic.



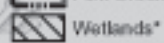
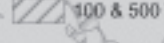


Flint Creek Watershed



 
for Flint Creek Watershed Partnership
FCWP

Legend

-  Flint Creek
-  Flint Creek Subwatershed
-  Wetlands*
-  100 & 500 Year Floodway*

Portions of portions of this data are derived from the Iowa Geographic Information System (IGIS) developed through the Barrington, Illinois, and Cook County, Illinois, partnership. All rights reserved. © 2004. All rights reserved.