

## **Jelkes Creek – Fox River Watershed – Problem Statement**

Over the last decade, Kane County has experienced rapid growth. Much of the northwestern portion of the Jelkes – Fox Watershed changed from Agriculture to more Urban land uses which have caused an increase in pervious surfaces which have lead to increased stormwater runoff and a change in the type of pollutants carried by the stormwater. The upper Fox River has also seen an increase in stormwater outfalls.

The Illinois EPA has listed two of the Fox River stream segments as impaired for Sediment and Physical and Hydrologic Alterations. The residents of the Jelkes – Fox Watershed have seen floods, streambank erosion, and also siltation. In 2011, the Kane DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District received funding from the federal (319) Nonpoint source grant dollars from the Illinois and US EPA to develop a Watershed Protection Plan. The Jelkes – Fox Watershed Action Group was formed and given the privilege to help form a Plan that will provide federal, state, and local decision makers with a variety of mechanisms that can be employed to promote the preservation and restoration of the Watershed's aquatic environment and to prevent additional degradation.

## **Steering Committee**

A Steering Committee was created to establish project communication among local stakeholders and ensure that the Coordinators and Contractors were addressing local concerns as well as the IEPA given water quality concerns in order to get landowner buy in. Landowner support is imperative in order to ensure that the plans recommendations will be implemented. Specific tasks that were undertaken by the Steering Committee included: identification of areas with the greatest concerns; making recommendations for additional monitoring; and making recommendations on management measures to improve water quality. Steering Committee meetings were held on a recurring basis to enhance and support participation of stakeholders (including the general public and other interested parties), enhance public understanding of the potential projects, and encourage early and continued participation in selecting, designing, and implementing management measures.