



Illinois River Awareness Cruise

“Save the Lakes”

Projects, Programs & Plans of Interest



Christe Island
Construction By Midwest Companies
Photo Courtesy of University of Illinois

Peoria Lakes Basin Alliance

“A Unified Voice for the Restoration and Preservation of the Peoria Lakes”



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2010 Illinois River Awareness Cruise Projects, Programs & Plans

(See ● on adjacent map for location)



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PEORIA LAKES LOWER & MIDDLE LAKES

PROJECTS, PROGRAMS & PLANS

- 1) East Peoria Riverfront Park
- 2) Farm Creek Delta
- 3) Farm Creek Watershed Plan
- 4) East Peoria Lakefront & Secondary Channel
- 5) East Port Marina
- 6) East Peoria's Hillside Development Ordinance
- 7) Christe Island & Deepwater Habitat
- 8) Edgewater Redevelopment Project
- 9) Ten Mile Creek Watershed Plan
- 10) Woodford County Lakefront
- 11) Blue Creek Delta & Watershed Plan
- 12) Singing Woods Hillside Management
- 13) Mossville Bluffs Best Management Practices Project
- 14) Peoria County/Tri-County Stormwater Management Plan
- 15) Peoria Stream Buffer Ordinance
- 16) Turkey Creek Streambank Stabilization (Springdale Cemetery)
- 17) Peoria "Green Edge" Plan
- 18) Peoria Combined Sewer Overflow Project
- 19) Bacteria: Other Contaminations & Causes
- 20) Peoria Downtown Riverfront

Depth of Peoria Lakes
Less Than 12" In Many Locations



- Island Projects
- Deepwater Projects
- Navigation Channel
- Secondary Channel
- Marina Access Channels

- 1) Detweiller Municipal Marina
- 2) Peoria Boat Club
- 3) Peoria Riverfront Docks
- 4) Wharf Harbor Marina
- 5) Altorf Dock
- 6) Burger Barge Dock
- 7) East Port Marina
- 8) Carl Spindler Marina
- 9) East Port Boat Club
- 10) Rainbow Cove Marina
- 11) Sodowski Boat Club
- 12) Illinois Valley Yacht Club
- 13) National Marine South Marina
- 14) Whitecap Drifters Boat Club
- 15) National Marine North Marina
- 16) Detweiller Park Marina
- 17) Galena Marina Boat Club
- 18) Spring Bay Marina
- 19) Hamm's Holiday Harbor Marina



EAST PEORIA RIVERSIDE PARK

Riverside Park was developed using Spindler Marina sediment for topsoil, which has resulted in an attractive green corridor linking the East Peoria Convention Center to the south with the proposed additional lakefront development opportunities to the north. This first “Mud-to-Parks” project has transformed the former Wallace Station industrial riverfront property into a community recreational and visitor-generating resource.



FARM CREEK DELTA

Farm Creek is a significant contributor of sediment to Peoria Lakes and the Illinois River. As the aerial photo depicts, the resulting delta is growing annually to the point where it is approaching the navigation channel and constraining the flow of water during flood events. It is proposed that the delta be reduced in size and sediment traps be established and managed in the lower portions of the Farm Creek Channel to cut down sediment flow into the lake. It is proposed that by reducing the size of the delta, mitigation credits provided would offset some very selective filling within the floodplain required to implement the overall comprehensive restoration plan components such as islands, linear parks, etc.





FARM CREEK WATERSHED PLAN



Ravine erosion in the bluffs of the Farm Creek Watershed

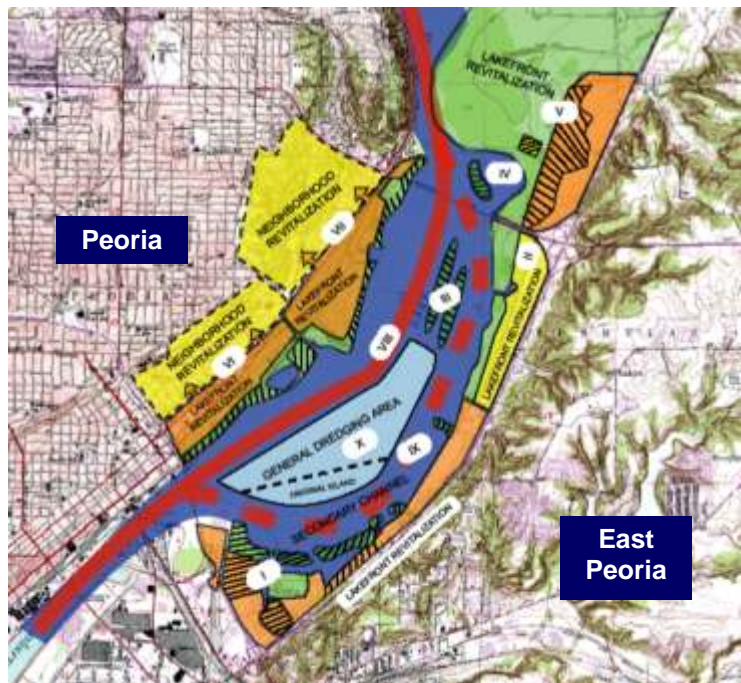
The Farm Creek Watershed Plan was completed by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in cooperation with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in 2001. Since that time several communities have taken action to improve water quality from this watershed. The Village of Morton has implemented an urban stormwater control program that is funded through a stormwater utility district. The City of East Peoria has adopted a steep slope ordinance to protect highly erodible slopes from stormwater runoff. The City of Washington has purchased 132 acres of stormwater detention areas to prevent flooding within the city. From a regional perspective, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has partnered with the USDA to conduct forest management in the Farm Creek Watershed to stabilize slopes in the bluffs with native vegetation.

*“A river is more than an amenity, it is a treasure.”
~ Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes ~*



EAST PEORIA LAKEFRONT & SECONDARY CHANNEL

The East Peoria lakefront is filling in with sediment, and within just a few years we are likely to see mudflats and willow trees appearing along its entire edge. The most cost-effective long-term solution to addressing this problem is the establishment of a secondary channel running parallel to the lakefront that will serve recreational boaters, provide expanded deepwater habitat, keep existing marinas open and promote economic growth.



East Peoria's Lakefront In Peril!

East Peoria's Lakefront In Peril!

East Peoria
Lakefront Today



East Peoria
Lakefront
A Decade from
Now!

*"Never doubt that a handful of committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that has."
~ Margaret Mead ~*



EASTPORT MARINA

EastPort Marina's very existence is in jeopardy because of sedimentation. In just 14 short years since its development at a beginning depth of approximately 6 feet, many close to shore locations today are only 1 to 2 feet deep. The City has established its own dredging operation and has encountered numerous challenges in getting it addressed in a timely and cost-effective way. It is believed that establishing the secondary channel, implementing a regional marina and overall dredging program and putting together an aggressive public/private sediment marketing and utilization program are collectively the long-term solutions to this important problem for EastPort and other marinas.



EAST PEORIA'S HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT ORDINANCE

In 2006, the East Peoria City Council adopted its Steep Slope Ordinance in order to reduce the rate of erosion on steep slopes within the City and to protect persons and property by doing so. The ordinance regulates the removal and replacement of vegetation from steep slopes, the construction of improvements on steep slopes and the flow of stormwater in the vicinity of steep slopes. The ordinance was also adopted in order to further the maintenance of forested bluffs and ravines that adjoin the Illinois River and by doing so reduces sediment flow into the river.





CHRISTE ISLAND & DEEPWATER HABITAT

Construction has commenced on Phase 1 of the establishment of the Christe Island & Deepwater Habitat Project just north of the McCluggage Bridge. When completed, this approximately \$7 million project will establish a 21-acre conservation island and approximately 38 acres of backwater aquatic habitat 5 feet deep. In addition, there will be several channels dredged at 9 feet deep. The island project consists of 3 rows of geotextile containers assembled to 6 feet in height to form the island perimeter that is 4,800 feet long. Sediment from the dredging of the deepwater area is used to fill the containers and will also be used to fill the center of the island once the perimeter is established.



EDGEWATER REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Preliminary discussions have been held with the City of East Peoria and a private business entity concerning the potential to establish a sediment processing and bagging operation east of the Christe Island Project on land owned by the Christe family and several other adjacent properties that include a junk yard and an extremely old trailer park. This important project could potentially be carried out with the involvement of Heartland Water Resources Council, TransPort Regional Port District, the private development entity, and the Community Development & Service Institute. It could serve as an anchor to the development of an expanded business/industrial project to the east.





PARTRIDGE & TENMILE CREEK WATERSHED PLAN



Streambank erosion along Partridge
Creek tributary
Photo courtesy of Pete Fandel

The Partridge and Tenmile Creek Watershed Restoration Plans were completed in 2004 by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. These watersheds are priority areas because they drain directly to Peoria Lakes. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has completed field reconnaissance helicopter surveys of the stream systems to determine high priority stream channel erosion sites and is conducting a complete geomorphic study on the Tenmile Creek system to determine appropriate stabilization measures throughout the watershed. Local governments in these watersheds are working cooperatively on a regional scale to address stormwater runoff and improve the quality of water delivered to the Illinois River from tri-county communities.



WOODFORD COUNTY LAKEFRONT

Woodford County must be a major player in the Peoria Lakes restoration endeavor not only because of its 13 miles of lakefront, but also because of its seven tributaries that contribute to the siltation challenge. Without an aggressive restoration plan involving selective dredging, secondary channel establishment and high impact, early action sediment flow reduction projects, Woodford County will be the first entity to experience the appearance of massive amounts of mudflats and willow trees and the inability to connect lakefront properties to the remaining shallower lake and navigation channel.



BLUE CREEK DELTA & WATERSHED

Because of its proximity to the proposed future Middle Lake Secondary Channel Project, the Blue Creek Delta and Watershed areas have been selected for priority focus and consideration for early action, high impact sediment reduction projects. Future planning efforts will identify sediment catchment and management locations and implementation strategies will be established.



Make conservation a part of your lifestyle.

Using water wisely and saving money are always in season. To learn more about wise water use and how to protect our valuable water resources visit www.illinoisamwater.com or call 1-800-422-2782.





SINGING WOODS HILLSIDE MANAGEMENT

The Peoria Park District has, for a number of years, been carrying out an ecological restoration project in the 700-acre Singing Woods area in Peoria County. This project has been focusing on stabilization of bluff erosion and enhancement of populations of rare native plant and animal species and their associated habitats. The project builds upon successful best management practices to address the unique ecological problems that occur at Singing Woods. The project staff members were shocked to learn how significant forested areas contribution to siltation can be, if the areas are not managed properly,



Before

After



MOSSVILLE BLUFFS BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROJECT



Thick vegetation carpets this slope to protect the bluff from eroding.

The Mossville Bluffs is a section of the Illinois River Bluffs that drains directly to the Peoria Lakes at Medina Township in Peoria County. Since 2006, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission has partnered with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to provide landowners with technical assistance and cost-share opportunities for the installation of best management practices. As a result, landowners have restored 250 acres of forest and have stabilized over 17,000 linear feet of ravine.



REGIONAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

A Regional Stormwater Management Plan was completed in the spring of 2009 by Tri-County Regional Planning Commission and the Illinois River Valley Council of Governments (IRVCOG) Stormwater Advisory Committee with funding secured by Peoria County. The plan puts forth action items in six categories – Studies, Construction, Education, Enforcement, Regulation, and Programs – that local governments, landowners, and other groups can implement to improve water quality and reduce the quantity of stormwater runoff. Peoria County has secured approximately \$500,000 to begin implementing the plan, and projects listed in the plan are being submitted for inclusion in the reauthorization of the Water Resources Development Act.



Low impact development practices such as the use of vegetated medians are identified in the Regional Stormwater Management Plan as ways of reducing the quantity of stormwater runoff that reaches local tributaries.



PEORIA STREAM BUFFER ORDINANCE

In September of 2007, the City of Peoria adopted a Stream Buffer Ordinance to 1) establish minimal acceptable requirements for the design of buffers to protect property adjacent to streams and floodways, 2) protect the water quality of watercourses, reservoirs, lakes, wetlands, and other significant water resources, 3) protect riparian and aquatic ecosystems, and 4) provide for the environmentally sound use of land resources.

The stream buffers, including wetlands and floodways, shall be managed to enhance and maximize the unique value of these resources.



TURKEY CREEK STREAMBANK STABILIZATION (Springdale Cemetery)

Tri-County Regional Planning Commission received a grant from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to reduce erosion in Turkey Creek in Springdale Cemetery. The Project consisted of two parts – stream channel stabilization and hillside restoration. For both parts of the project, there were two additional goals. They were to incorporate a variety of stream stabilization techniques (BMPs) to enable the project to be used as an educational site, and to provide practices that were compatible with the aesthetic requirements of the public in a historical cemetery. Over 1,900 feet of stream channel were stabilized and over seven acres of hillside were restored.



PEORIA “GREEN EDGE” PLAN



The City of Peoria Economic Development Department has prepared a plan for the future revitalization of the Peoria Lakefront running from downtown to north of War Memorial Drive. At the center of the plan is the development of a lakefront drive running parallel to the lake's edge. As an offset for the existing lakefront park accommodating the proposed street right-of-way and residential development, an in-lake conservation island is being proposed.

PEORIA COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW PROJECT

The City of Peoria has completed its study of its combined sewer overflow and a recommended plan has been submitted for EPA approval. Unfortunately, the study demonstrated that even with the proposed City investment, the Lower Lake will remain polluted from other sources. The following chart denotes the finding that Peoria is contributing only between 9% to 28% of the problem caused by e-coli and fecal coliform bacteria.

| Wet-Weather Bacteria Sources in the Illinois River | | |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Source | June '07 Storm | July '07 Storm |
| Peoria Sewage Overflows | 9% | 28% |
| Upstream Pollution | 29% | 58% |
| Kickapoo Creek | 53% | 10% |
| Farm Creek | 8% | 2% |
| Other | 1% | 2% |



OTHER WATER QUALITY ISSUES: BACTERIA



The Illinois River in the tri-county area is listed as an “impaired” waterway because of elevated levels of bacteria. The City of Peoria has been required to post notices along its riverfront to alert people about the risks of coming into contact with the water. However, the problem has been detected upstream of the City’s combined sewer outfalls. This gives us useful hints about the sources of the problem, but more study is needed. The Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

has partnered with the US Geological Survey on a major effort to better understand the location and nature of the sources. Water samples have been taken from several locations in the river and tested for bacterial contamination. A study is now underway by Illinois EPA and U.S. EPA that will identify the most cost effective measures to address this problem.

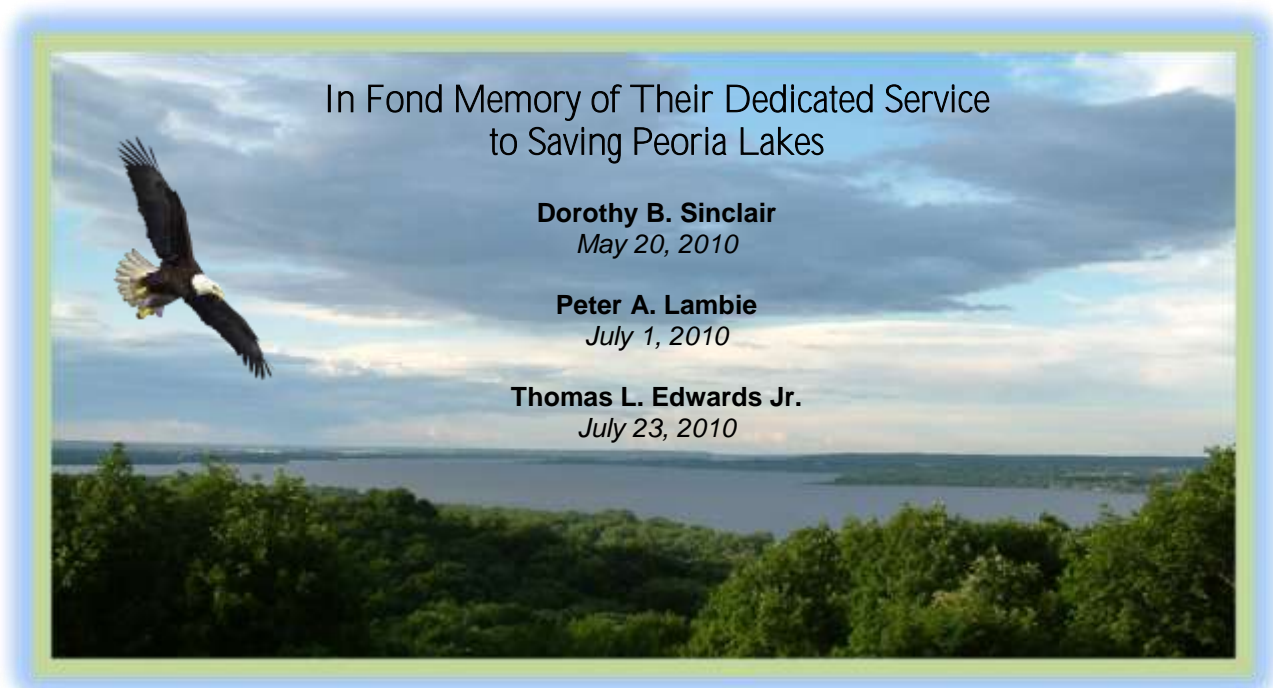


PEORIA DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT

The City of Peoria was one of the first river cities in the region to bring new economic life to its community through riverfront revitalization. The \$200 million in public and private investment made within only a five year period now provides an inviting image of a vibrant downtown, and there is more to come with the museum and Caterpillar Visitors' Center on the horizons.



"If my ship sails from sight, it doesn't mean my journey ends, it simply means the river bends."
~ John Powell ~



Moderator



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Tri-County Regional Planning Commission

Speaker



Colonel Shawn McGinley
District Commander
Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Speaker



Tom Tincher
Executive Director
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Speaker



Doug Blodgett
Director of River Conservation
The Nature Conservancy

Other Speakers

Ducks Unlimited

Eric Schenck
Illinois Regional Biologist

Midwest Foundation Corporation

Tim Troyer
President