

PRESSRELEASE

The Conservation Foundation

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For Immediate Release

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Attend Grundy County Watershed Open Space Meeting

NAPERVILLE, Ill. – Grundy County citizens interested in discussing open space in the Aux Sable Creek watershed are invited to attend a public informational meeting at the Three Rivers Library, Minooka Branch, 109 N. Wabena, Minooka, Ill., 60447 on January 30 from 6 – 8 p.m. At the meeting, sponsored by The Conservation Foundation, Grundy County and various municipal governments, a draft open space map for the Grundy County portion of the Aux Sable Creek Watershed will be displayed and discussed.

The Aux Sable Creek is a tributary of the Illinois River and drains 118,785 acres (185.6 square miles). The creek originates south of the Village of Oswego and flows south until it enters the Illinois River east of Morris. Eight tributaries flow into the Aux Sable main channel all totaling 96 miles.

A component of the update to the Aux Sable Creek Watershed Plan is to create a watershed-wide open space plan. The Kendall County portion, which constitutes 77 percent of the watershed, was completed in 2006, as a part of the two-year initiative called *Protect Kendall Now!* Of the watershed's remaining area, approximately 22 percent is in Grundy County and less than 1 percent is in Will County. The draft open space plan combines existing state, county and municipal information to provide a view of the Grundy County open space opportunities in the watershed. It builds from there recognizing opportunities to enhance the open space network by identifying other natural areas and by connecting open space. *It is not a zoning map or a comprehensive plan.* The purpose is to identify special places that are either already preserved or could be through *voluntary* actions.

For more information on how the draft map was created, please attend this informational meeting. A brief presentation will be given at 6:15 describing how the map was created through the help of an advisory committee as well as provide some information about why open space is important. Several copies of the map will be on display the rest of the evening. Comments may be left at the meeting or with the meeting sponsors. Information is also available on the project website: www.auxsablecreekwatershed.org.

After the public has an opportunity to view and make comment on the open space plan, landowners in those areas will be contacted to see if they are interested in discussing options to preserve their land. This is strictly voluntary for landowners and local units of government. The goal, as landowners agree and funds become available, is to come as close as possible to mirroring the plan over the coming years.

For more information, interested persons may contact Stephanie Sheetz at The Conservation Foundation, 630-553-0687, Ext. 304.

***The Conservation Foundation** is a nonprofit land and watershed protection organization. Established in 1972 by business and community leaders, the Foundation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural lands, protecting rivers and watersheds, and promoting stewardship of the environment in northeast Illinois. Working closely with citizens, elected officials, developers, land use planners, park districts, and forest preserves, the Foundation has contributed to the protection of more than 30,000 acres of open space lands in northeast Illinois. The Conservation Foundation has more than 4,500 donors and members, and is headquartered at the 60-acre McDonald Farm in Naperville, Ill., with a program office located at the historic Dickson-Murst Farm in Montgomery, Ill. For more information or to become a member, visit www.theconservationfoundation.org or call 630-428-4500.*

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