

## **Aux Sable Creek Watershed Landowner Bill of Rights**

Precept: We believe in private property and individual rights as a standard provided by the US Constitution. Private property includes all land, timber or other valuable considerations associated with land ownership. (Illinois Farm Bureau 2007 Policy Resolutions, Chapter 52)

The Aux Sable Creek watershed planning committee is a group of individuals representing widely varied backgrounds, opinions and motivations who have come together in mutual interest and respect to develop a watershed plan to improve water quality, without requiring additional regulation. In working on this voluntary watershed plan the committee members pledge to act as ordinary prudent persons and work diligently to respect:

- the right of any landowner in the watershed to farm, rent land to another, pass operations/land to children, and to sell land to another individual, investor, developer, hobbyist, forest preserve district or other governmental body, as the landowner and appropriate laws deem fit;
- methods of farming that result in: a profit for the farm operator, a clean environment, production of a safe food supply, and an adequate supply of high quality food (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 23);
- farming operations, drainage and tiling, creek maintenance, and farm conservation methods encouraged by the Farm Bureau, Soil & Water Conservation District, Natural Resource Conservation District and the US Department of Agriculture (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapters 20, 25 & 42);
- activities undertaken to conserve, maintain and improve soil, water and other natural resources within Kendall County (partially taken from SWCD & NRCS mission statements);
- the right of any landowner to deny access to their private property, in accordance with the law;
- development of new and enhancement of existing incentives for adopting voluntary stormwater best management practices on all private land to improve water quality and wildlife habitat (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 40);
- the economic and societal benefits of floodplains (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 48);
- that wetlands provide certain benefits and that reasonable efforts to discourage their conversion are appropriate, keeping in mind rights of all parties involved in such efforts (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 44);

- voluntary ecosystem and wildlife preservation methods that avoid negative impacts and nuisances to farming operations (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapters 39 & 45);
- pesticide and fertilizer use, if desired by the landowner and known not to be harmful if properly used, in agricultural and non-agricultural areas throughout the watershed (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 32);
- voluntary participation by residents in watershed-wide open space or greenway plans (IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 51);
- voluntary preservation of appropriate lands for agriculture, open space uses, and/or other stormwater best management practices (partially taken from IFB 2007 PR, Chapter 51);
- other?
- other?
- other?

We believe care for the creek is possible by planning for its preservation and enhancement. Such care can be accomplished while respecting private property rights and can result in economic and life enhancement for all those involved.