



Illinois Waters 2010 Conference Technical Session

Fox River Successes

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Fox River 1835

April 1835 James T. Gifford described the Fox River as:

“The Fox is the finest stream I ever saw, it has uniformity in this state a limestone bottom, its current uniform and gentle, its waters pure and is abundantly supplied with fish.”

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Water Uses

- 1835 Mr. Gifford and Mr. Kimball agree to construct a dam for a flour mill and a saw mill.
- 1837-38 the first bridge was constructed.
- 1838-39 the first Dam was constructed.
- 1848 construction began on the first railroad.
- 1850 Elgin population was 2,359.
- 1851 Elgin was the third most important manufacturing town in Illinois.

River Discharges

- The late 1800's saw the construction of combined sewers to get sewage out of neighborhoods and to the Fox River.
- The dam also made Elgin a major supplier of ice to the Chicago area in the early 1900's.
- By the winter of 1908/09 the Chicago Board of Health condemned ice from the Fox River.
- The Sanitary District Act of 1917.
- 1922 Elgin population was 28,359.
- 1922 Residents of Elgin voted 480 to 131 to form the Sanitary District of Elgin.

Wastewater Treatment

- Interceptor sewers and wastewater plants construction of the began in 1924.
- The Treatment Plants went online in the fall of 1926.
- In 1930 the Illinois State Department of Health is a detailed report on the condition of the Fox River.
- Additional improvements where slow due to the depression and the start of WW II.
- Post war 1950's saw growth and improvements to the sewer systems to prevent sewer backup in Elgin.

Sanitary District of Elgin

- In the 1960's the North WWTP was constructed to prevent sewer backups and reduce overflows.**
- In 1969 the Village of South Elgin voted to join the SDE**
- The 1970's and the Clean Water Act sparked numerous improvements and service expansions.**
- In 1972 SDE agreed to take over operations of the Elgin Mental Health Hospital Wastewater Facilities.**
- 1972 Fox River had Phosphorus limits assigned, later changed to River above the chain of lakes.**

Sanitary District of Elgin

- 1983 The Village of West Dundee signed an agreement for SDE to provide WWTP.**
- 1990 The Sanitary District of Elgin became the Fox River Water Reclamation District.**
- 1994 FRWRD agreed to take over operations of the Skyline Water and Wastewater Facilities.**
- By 2003 all Skyline wastewater was transported to the FRWRD South WWTP.**

Fox River Water Reclamation District

- In 2001 The Fox River Study Group was created to ...**
- In 2003 the West WWTP was expanded from 1.5 MGD to 5.0 MGD with a Biological Nutrient Removal option.**
- Since 2002 FRWRD has spent over \$50 million on plant expansions, upgrades and lift station replacement projects.**
- 2010 FRWRD submitted its Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) to the IEPA to address the District's only CSO.**

FRWRD South Water Reclamation Facility
Albin D. Pagorski WRF



FRWRD North Water Reclamation Facility



FRWRD West Water Reclamation Facility





QUESTIONS?

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