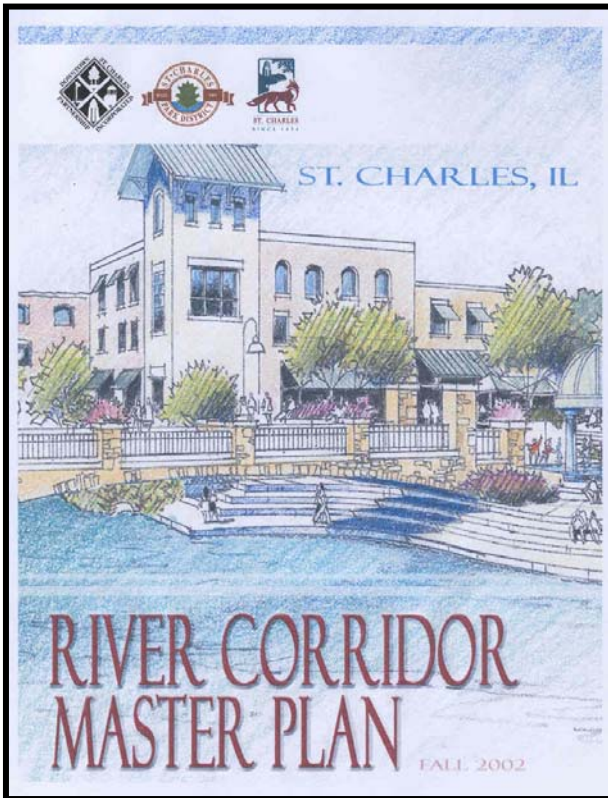


FOX RIVER STABILIZATION PROJECT COMPLETED

Another project partially funded through the Kane County Riverboat Grant Program has recently been completed. A much needed riverbank stabilization project on the Fox River in St. Charles has made a dramatic impact on the area. This beautiful river that runs through the heart of downtown St. Charles has always played an important historical role in the life of the community.



In 2000, the City of St. Charles, and the Downtown St. Charles Partnership completed their Downtown Strategy Plan. This guiding work highlights the community's desire to emphasize the river as the primary focal point of the downtown. As a result, the St. Charles River Corridor Master Plan, a multi-million dollar long term project, was finalized and published in February, 2003. It represents ideas, suggestions, and recommendations from numerous residents, civic, business and government participants. Collectively, the community and the consultants have articulated an exciting strategy for the redevelopment of the Fox River Corridor in downtown St. Charles. More information is available at <http://www.ci-st-charles.il.us/planning/RiverCorridor.pdf>

While reviewing the Master Plan to determine which project to start with first, the Illinois Street to Piano Factory Bridge River Project was singled out as the most critical project due to the extreme erosion that had occurred and would continue to occur along the West bank of the Fox River. The City of St. Charles submitted a request for 2006 Riverboat Grant funding to assist with this project, which was broken into two phases, and the County Board approved a Grant in the amount of \$100,000 to address this environmental issue. The first phase addressed the need for riverbank stabilization. The project included the installation of riprap (large boulder like rocks). Stream barbs were placed within the river and natural plantings will also assist in creating a healthier habitat for fish and other wild life.



*Eroded streambank on West side of River
just south of Illinois Street*

Once the area is stabilized, the second phase of this project is a walkway. This will allow for continuous pedestrian and bicycle access from Illinois Street to Prairie Street. This project will also assist in creating a continuous pedestrian and bicycle path from Main Street South to the Prairie Street once the proposed First Street Redevelopment project is completed.



Facing south, wildlife observe a “work in progress” on a wintery day.

St. Charles Mayor Don DeWitte commented, "The first significant shore stabilization project of our "Fox River Corridor Improvement Program," would not have been possible without the Riverboat grant awarded by the Kane County Board. Chairman McConnaughay's leadership has brought more money back to local Kane County communities for the original purpose of improving our natural resources. We are most appreciative for the support shown by the Kane County Board facilitating the improvements to this vital community asset, our Fox River Corridor."

The Kane County Riverboat Grant Program is proud to have partnered with the City of St. Charles on this important environmental project that will improve the natural habitat of the Fox River and create a healthier river, better fishing and other activities like canoeing and boating. The entire community and visitors will benefit from this project as it cleans up and beautifies the Riverfront area and makes it more appealing to walk or ride along, shop downtown, or spend time with family and friends.



Before stabilization project



After stabilization project