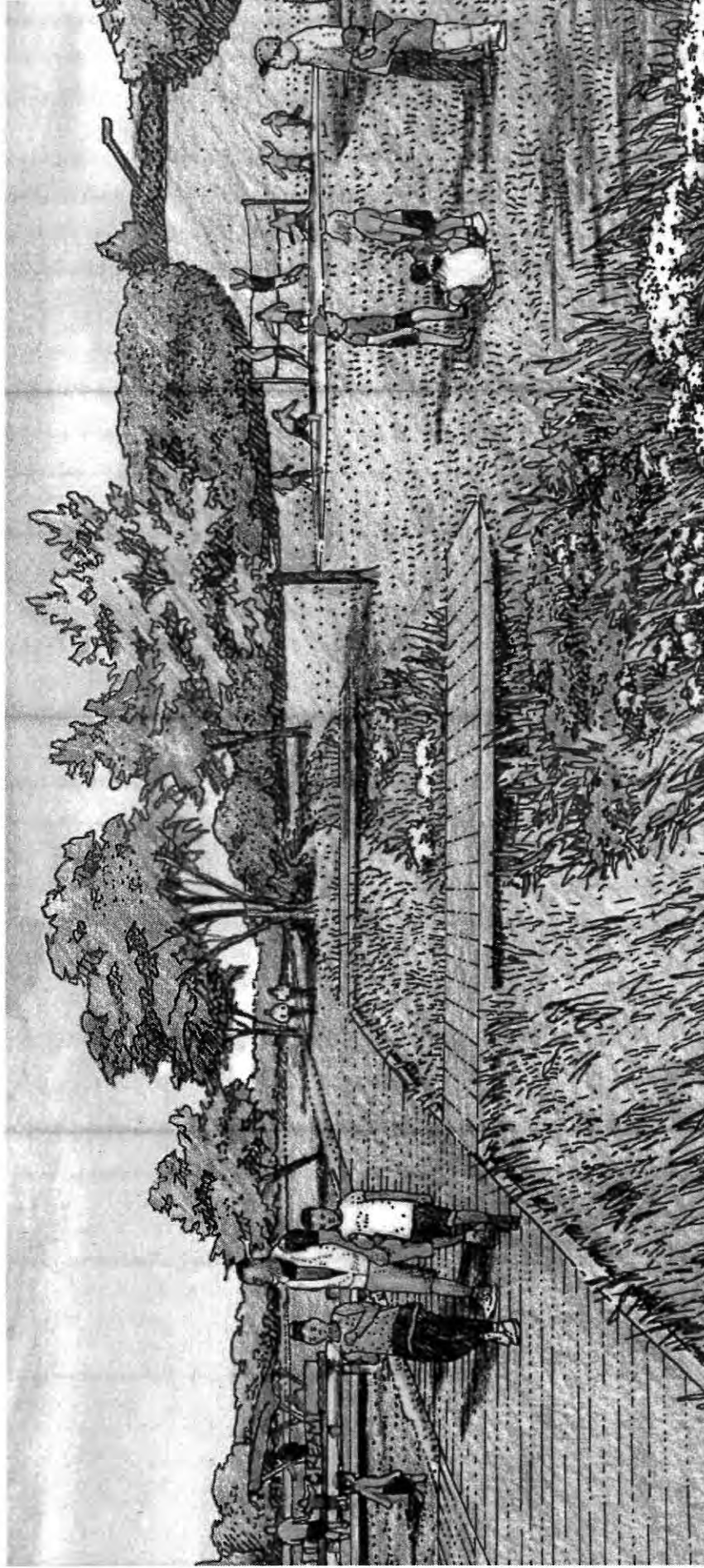




FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN FROM BURTONS BRIDGE TO FOX BLUFF

McHenry County Planning and Development | December 18, 2019





Fox River Corridor Plan

from Burtons Bridge to Fox Bluff

Adopted October 16, 2018



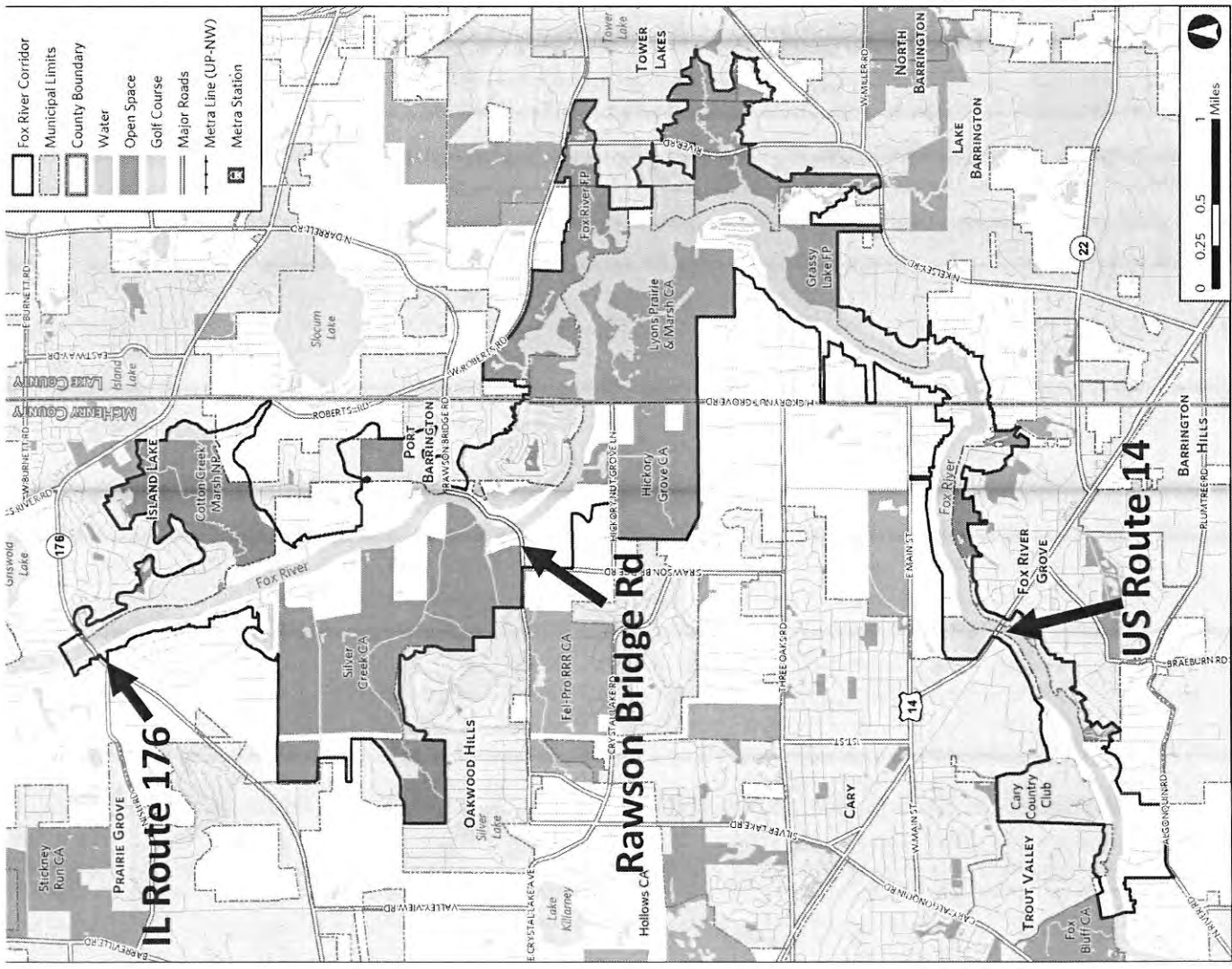
Fox River Corridor Plan

Establishes a vision for the next 10 to 15 years.

Outline the steps needed to meet that goal.

Builds on existing plans, water trail.

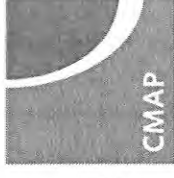
Helps set priorities, coordinate decision-making, and obtain grants.



Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, 2017

Burtons Bridge
Cary
Fox River Grove
Island Lake
Lake Barrington
Oakwood Hills
Port Barrington
Trout Valley
Cary Country Club
Cotton Creek Marsh
Fox River FP
Grassy Lake FP
Hickory Grove CA
Lyons Prairie & Marsh CA
Silver Creek CA
Wagner Fen

McHenry County Planning & Development CMAP Technical Assistance



**Funding: Federal Highway Administration,
Illinois EPA, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**

Steering Committee:

Cary Park District	McHenry County
Environmental Defenders of McHenry County	McHenry County Bicycle Advocates
Flint Creek and Spring Creek Watershed Partnership	McHenry County Conservation District
Fox River Study Group	Village of Cary
Fox Waterway Agency	Village of Fox River Grove
Illinois DNR	Village of Lake Barrington
Lake County	Village of Oakwood Hills
Lake County Forest Preserves	Village of Port Barrington
	Village of Trout Valley
	Visit McHenry County

THE FOX RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN

June 2015	Applied to CMAP's LTA program
Sep. 2016	Project kickoff
Mar. 2017	Public meeting #1
Sep. 2017	Public meeting #2
Oct. 2017	Existing conditions report published
July 2018	Draft plan released for review
Aug. 2018	Public meeting #3 and public comment
Sept. 2018	Presentation to County Board PED Committee
Oct. 2018	Adoption by the County Board

PROJECT TIMELINE

Steering committee

Stakeholder interviews

Online survey

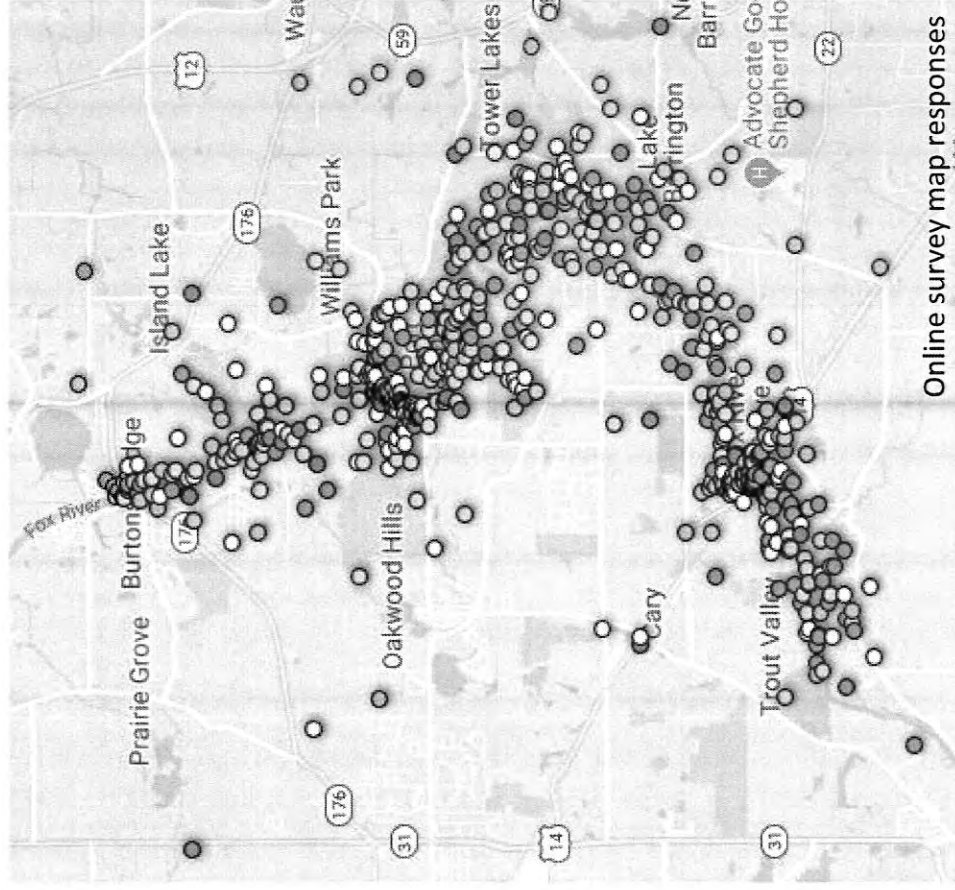
Public meetings (3)

Total participants = 465

Cary Main Street Fest

Fox River Summit

**McHenry County Water
Forum**



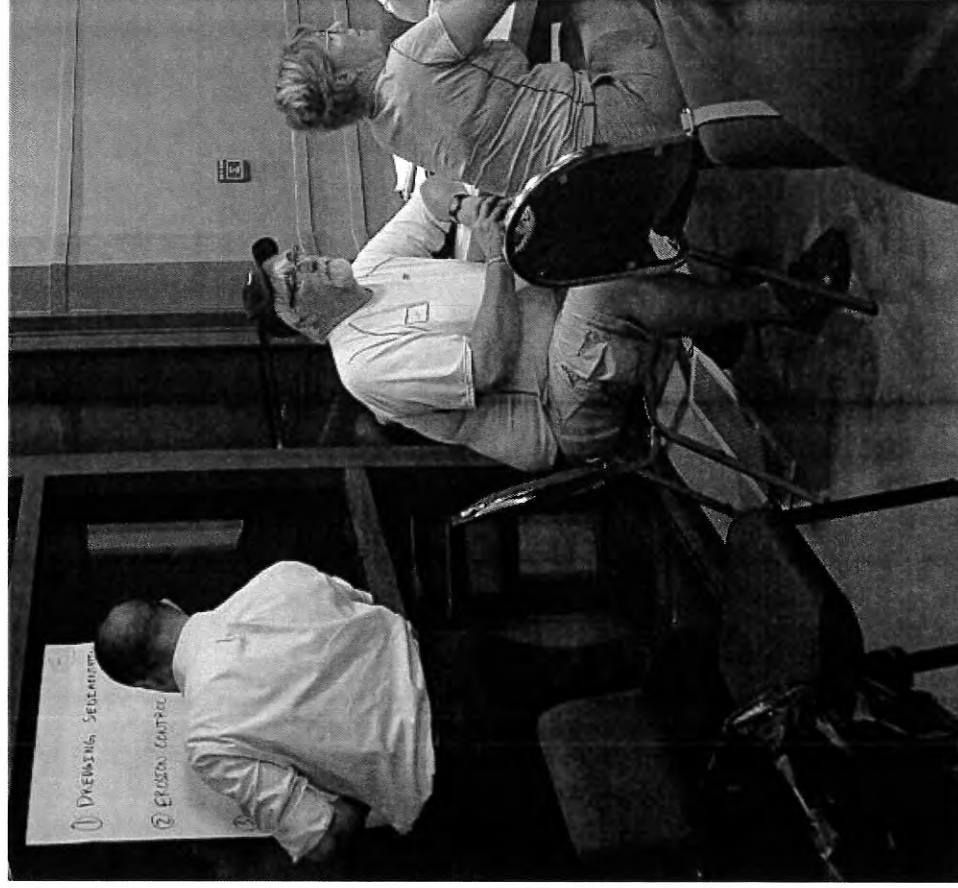
**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Broad themes:

- Preserve the scenic beauty and environment
- Balance a mix of activities
- Provide more public riverfront access, but no river trail
- Attract more family-friendly businesses and activities



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Top five ideas from public visioning workshop:

1. Sediment management
& dredging
2. Boater safety education
3. Water quality &
environmental
education
4. Stormwater
management
5. Keep river as a local
resource

Fox River Corridor in McHenry and Lake Counties



CMAP

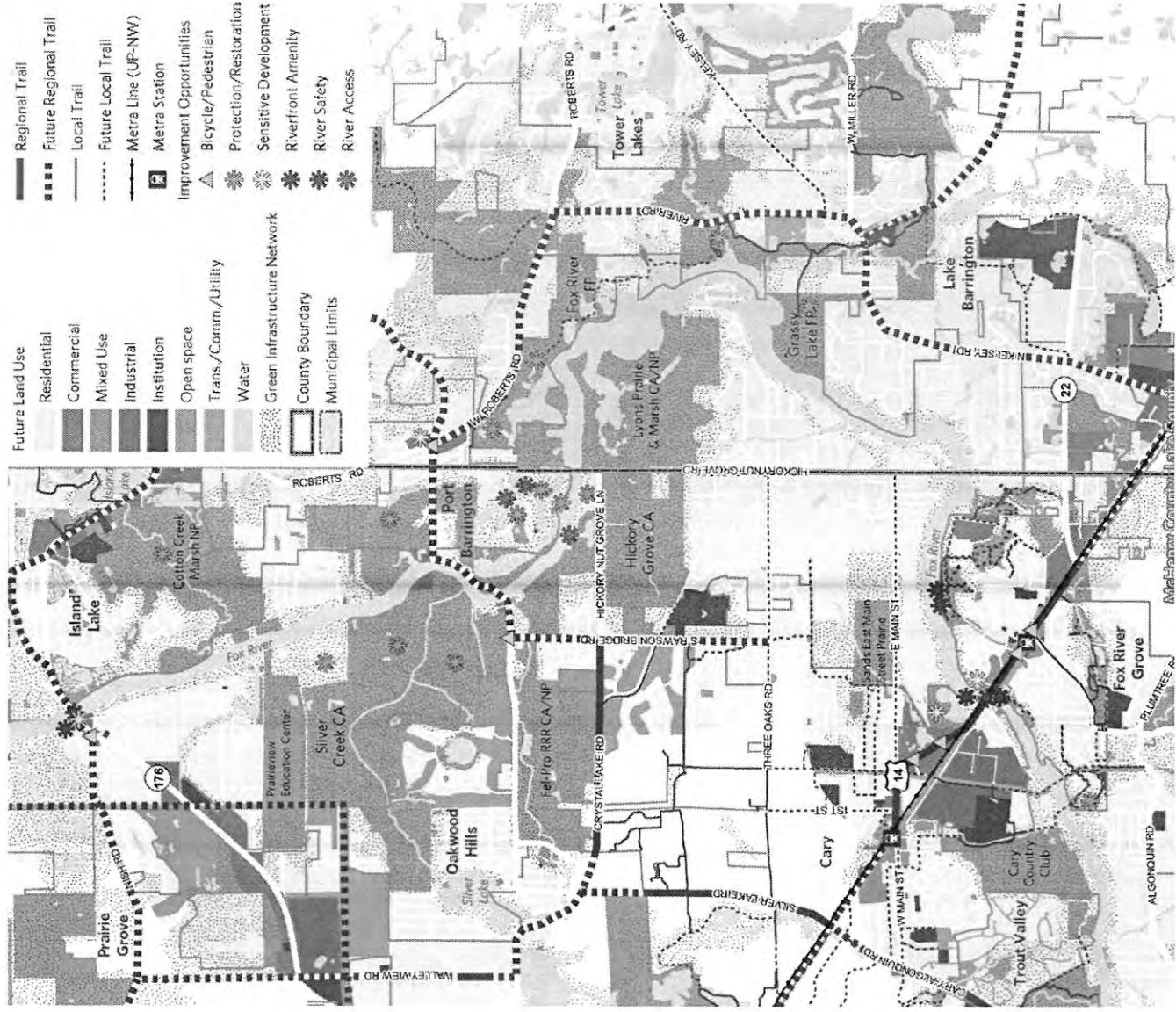
Existing Conditions Overview
October 2017

EXISTING CONDITIONS REPORT

Corridor Profile
Community Outreach
Water Quality and
Flooding
Open Space, Habitat,
and Recreation
Access and Circulation
Economic Development
Climate Vulnerability

- Create a healthy, safe, and accessible river environment.
- Balance the preservation and recreational use of the Fox River and connected natural areas.
- Foster a culture of appreciation and stewardship among residents, businesses, and river users.
- Preserve the area's rural and local character.
- Enhance the vibrancy of the riverfront and nearby commercial and downtown areas.
- Protect high quality and diverse habitats.
- Strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change to better withstand floods, droughts, and other impacts.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE PLAN



Framework Plan:

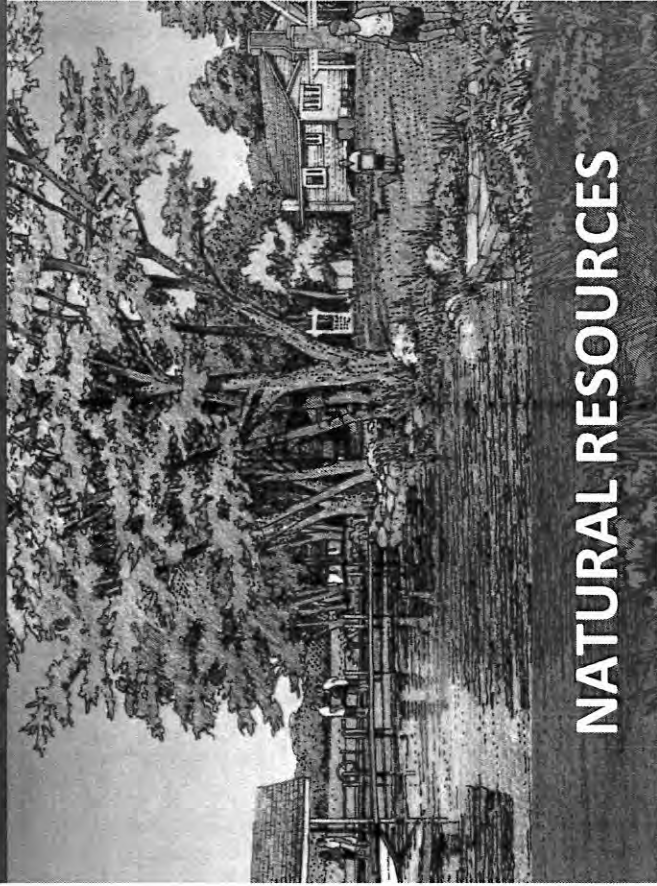
Local future land use plans

Green infrastructure plans

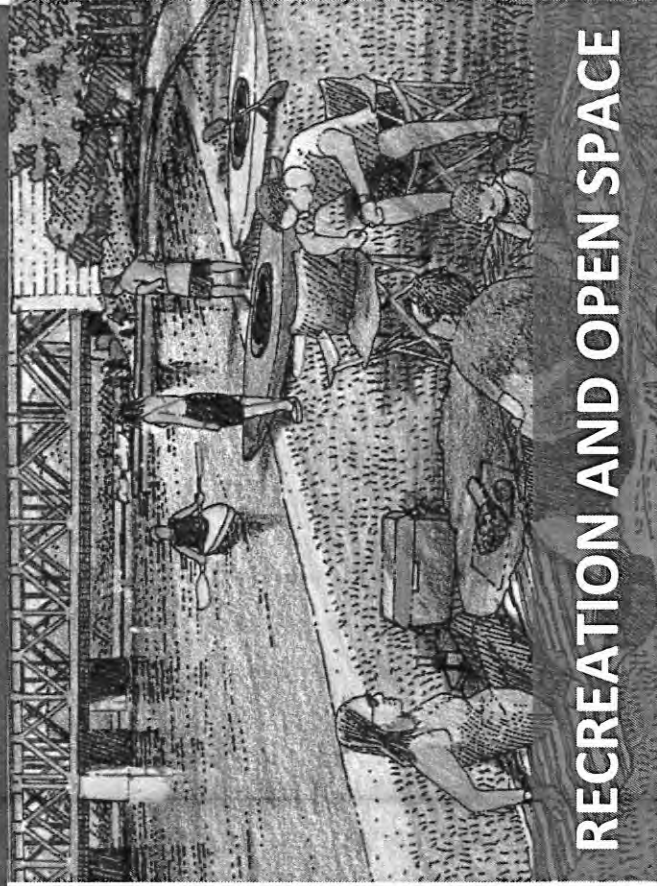
Existing and future bikeways

Improvement opportunities

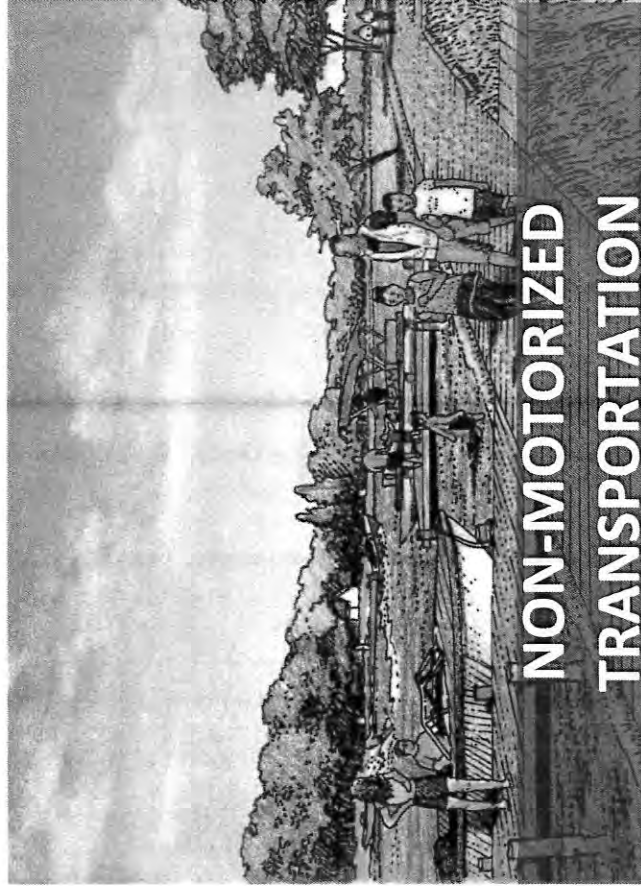
PLAN RECOMMENDATION AREAS



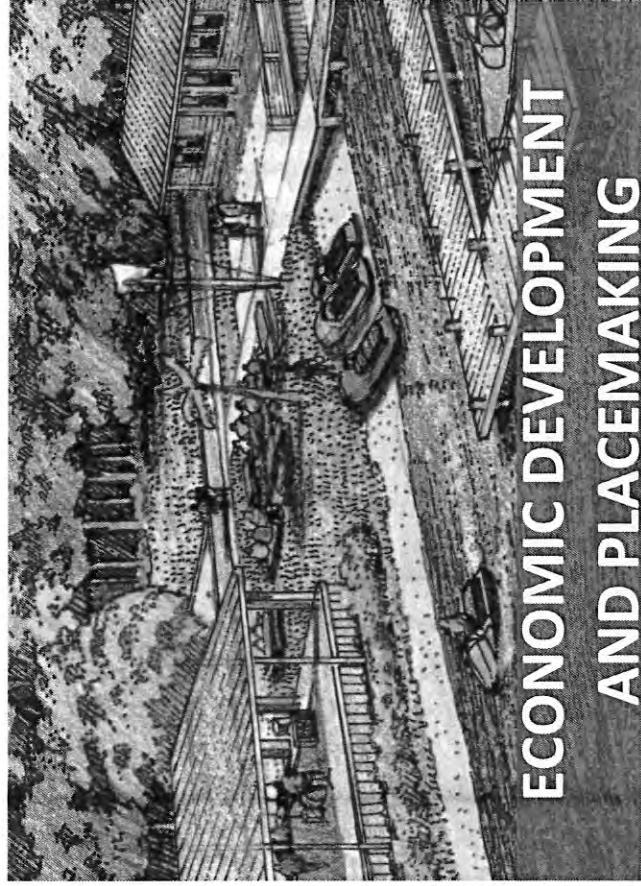
NATURAL RESOURCES



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

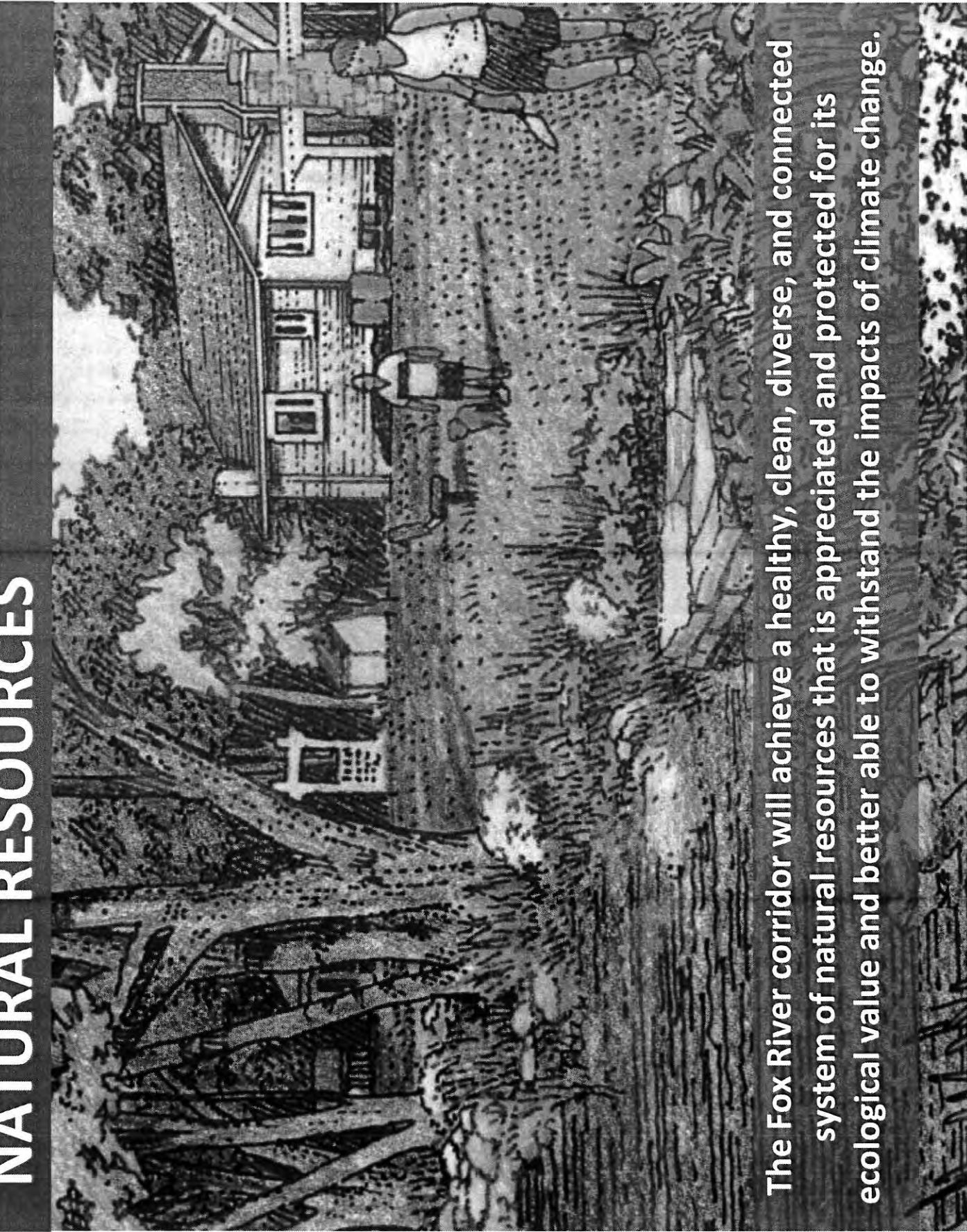


**NON-MOTORIZED
TRANSPORTATION**

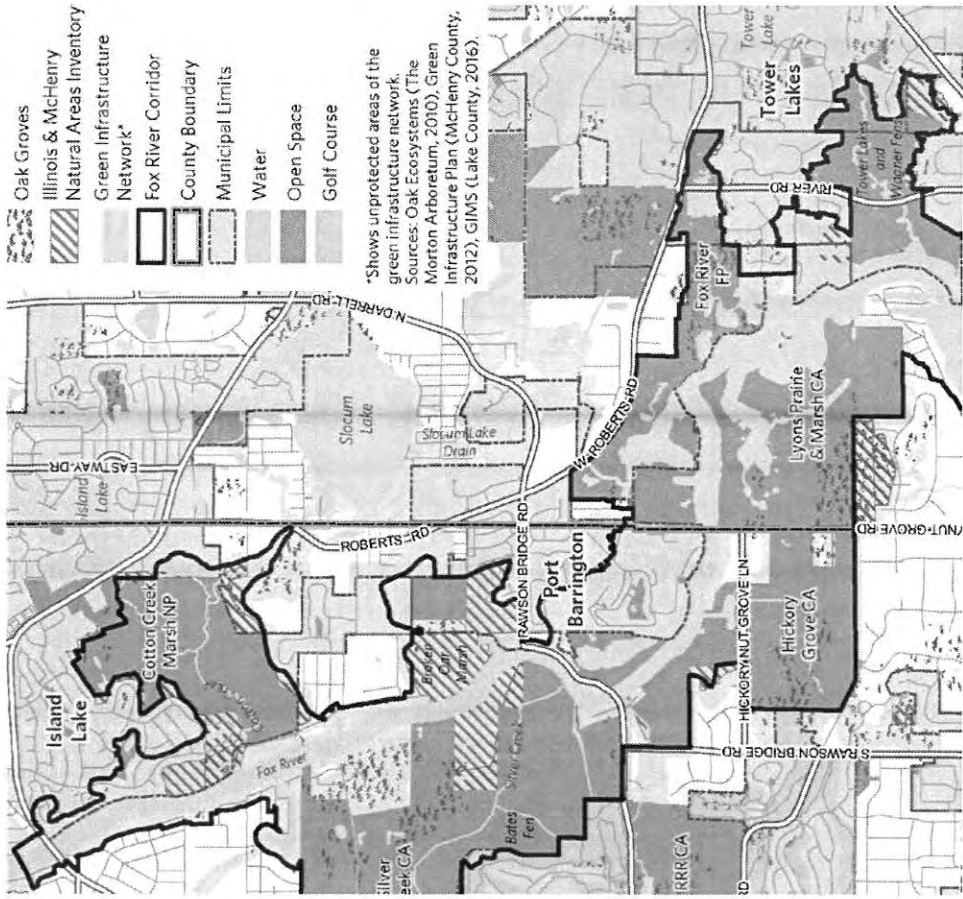


**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND PLACEMAKING**

NATURAL RESOURCES



The Fox River corridor will achieve a healthy, clean, diverse, and connected system of natural resources that is appreciated and protected for its ecological value and better able to withstand the impacts of climate change.

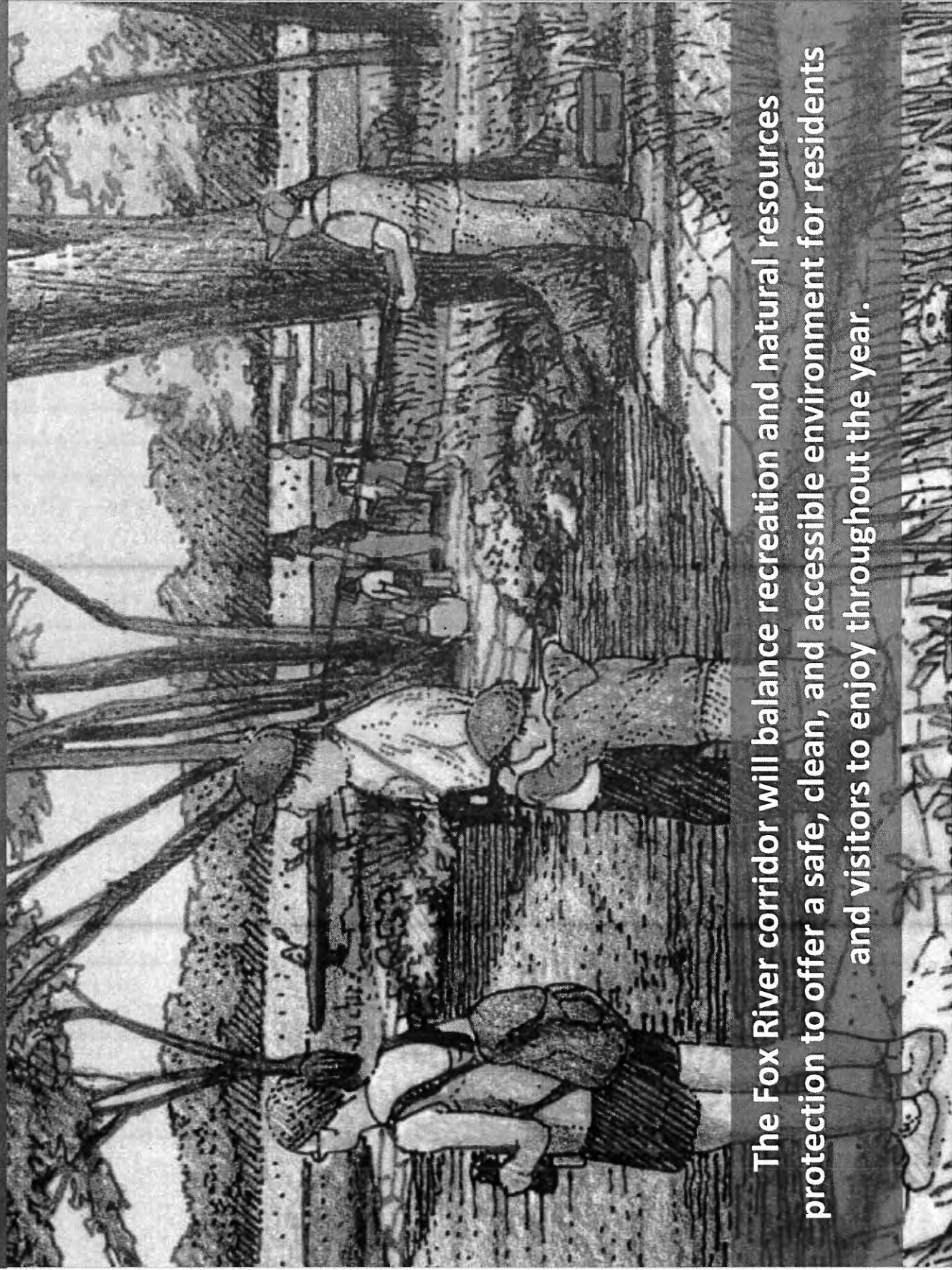


Natural Resources

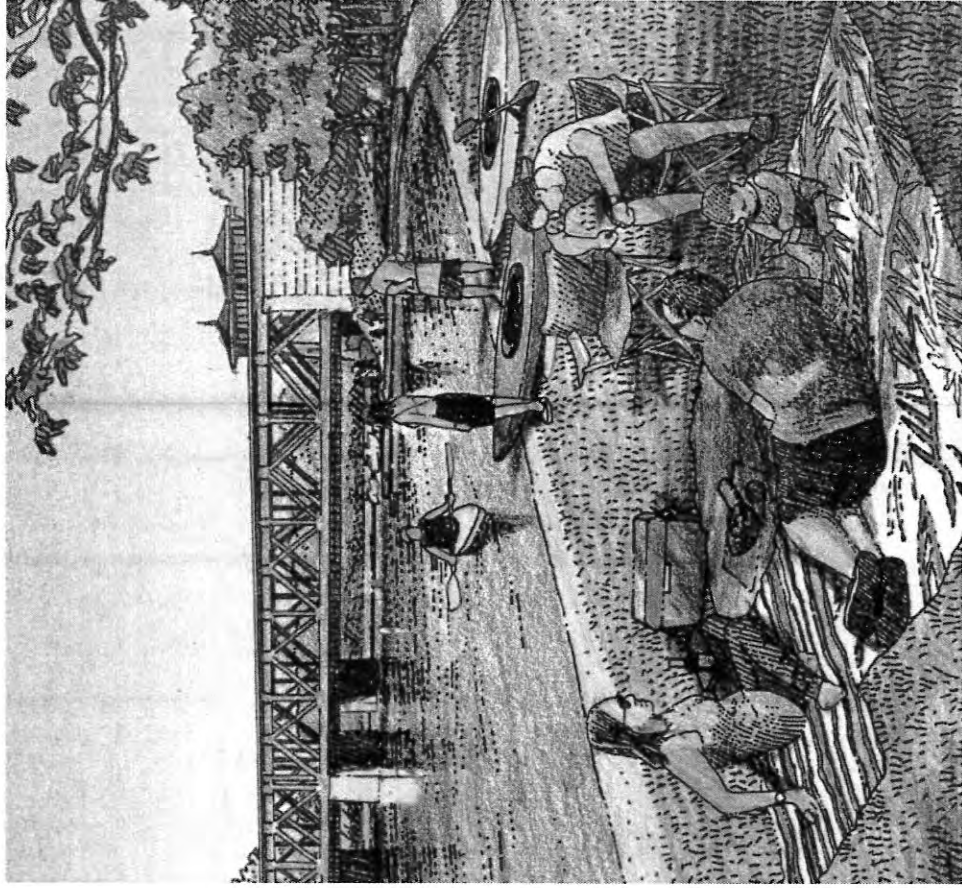
- Collaborate to leverage resources and maximize impact
- Protect and restore green infrastructure
- Maintain and enhance groundwater resources



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE



The Fox River corridor will balance recreation and natural resources protection to offer a safe, clean, and accessible environment for residents and visitors to enjoy throughout the year.



RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE

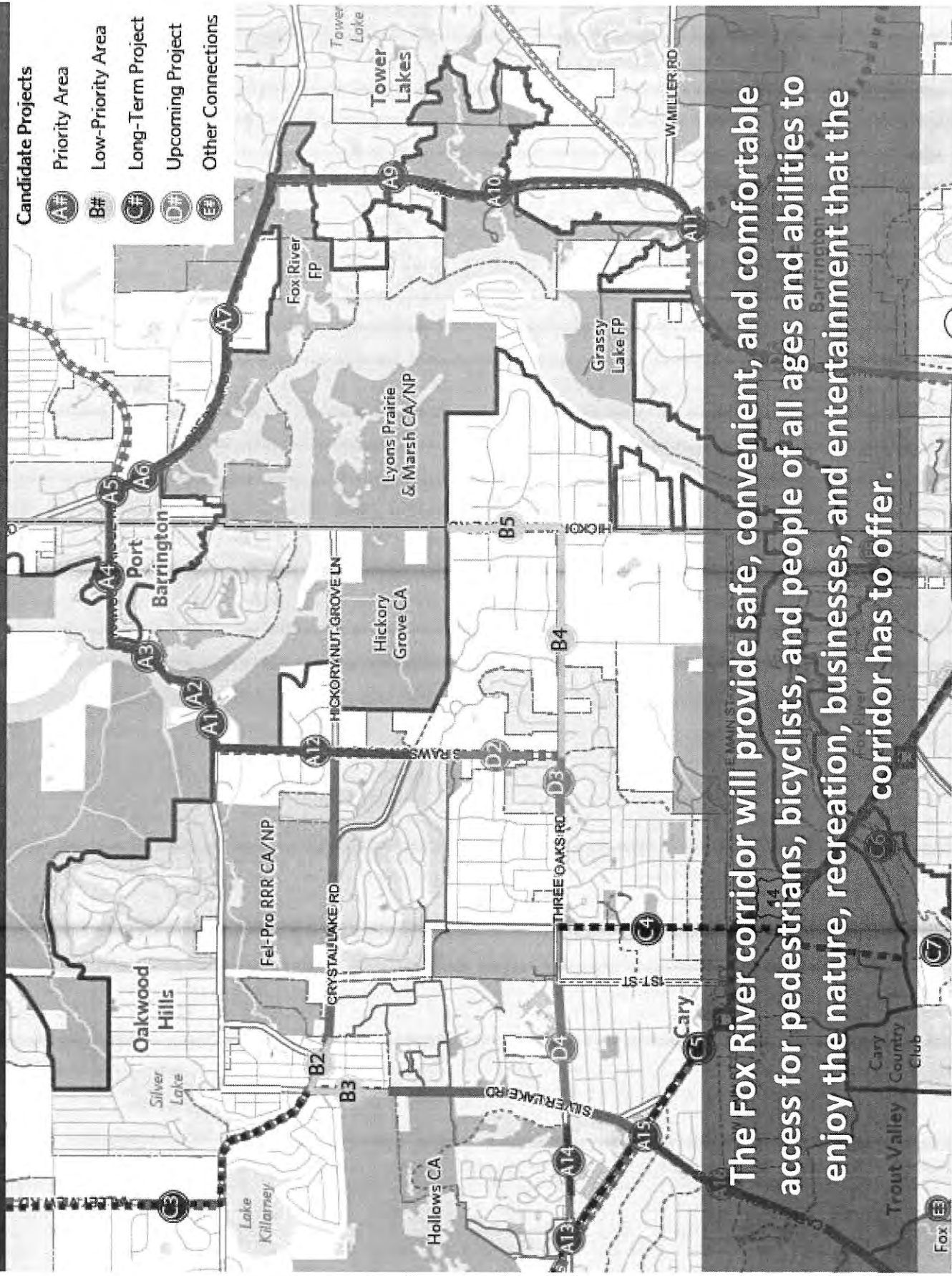
- Enhance river access and recreation amenities
- Participate in the Fox River Water Trail Initiative
- Support recreational boating
- Improve safety for all river users

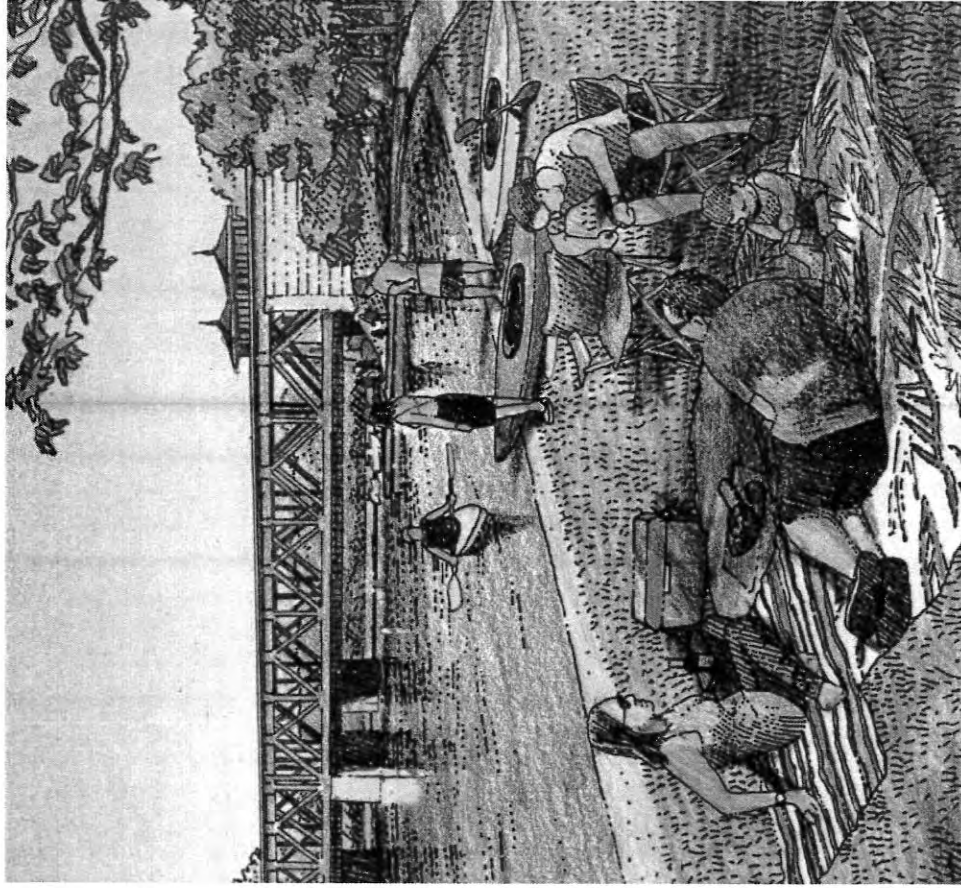
- **Safety education**
- **Coordination among enforcement agencies**
- **Any establishment of safety/“no-wake” zones should be led by the communities with public input**



**IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL
RIVER USERS**

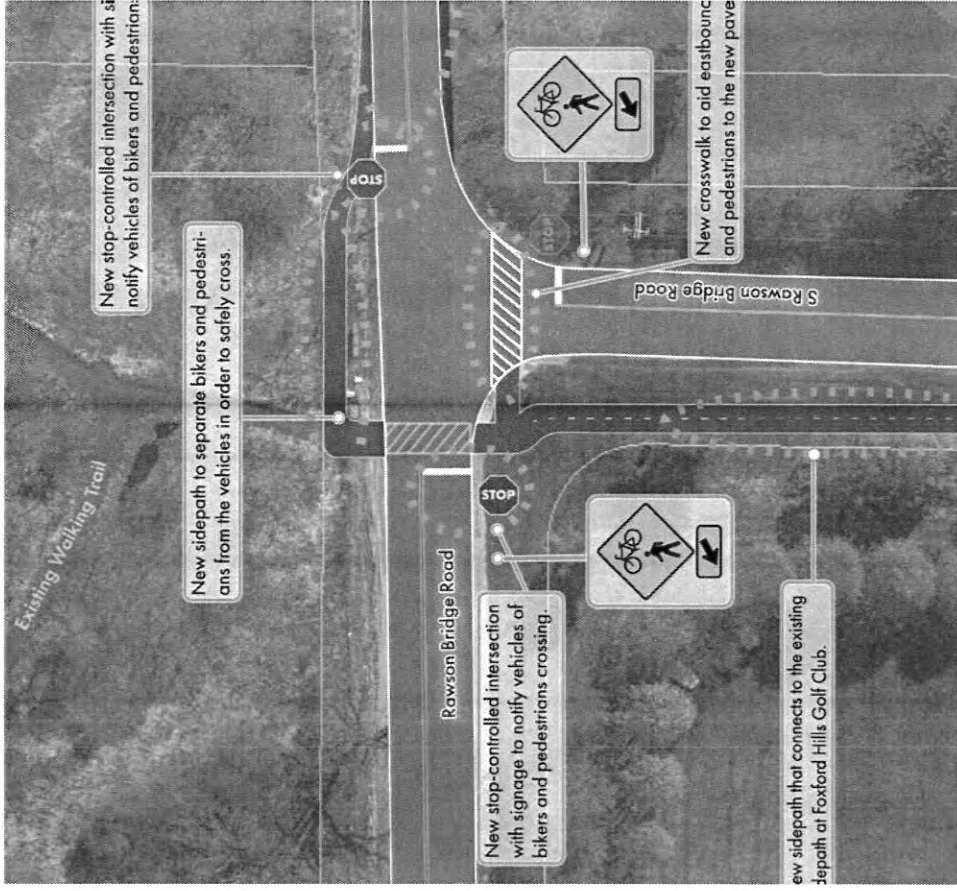
NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION





NON-MOTORIZED TRANSPORTATION

*Expand the bicycle and
pedestrian network
Invest in pedestrian
improvements along US
Route 14*



EXPAND THE BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN NETWORK

Priority Areas

- Rawson Bridge Road*
- South Rawson Bridge Road*
- Rawson/Roberts intersection
- Kelsey Road
- Three Oaks Road
- Cary Algonquin Road

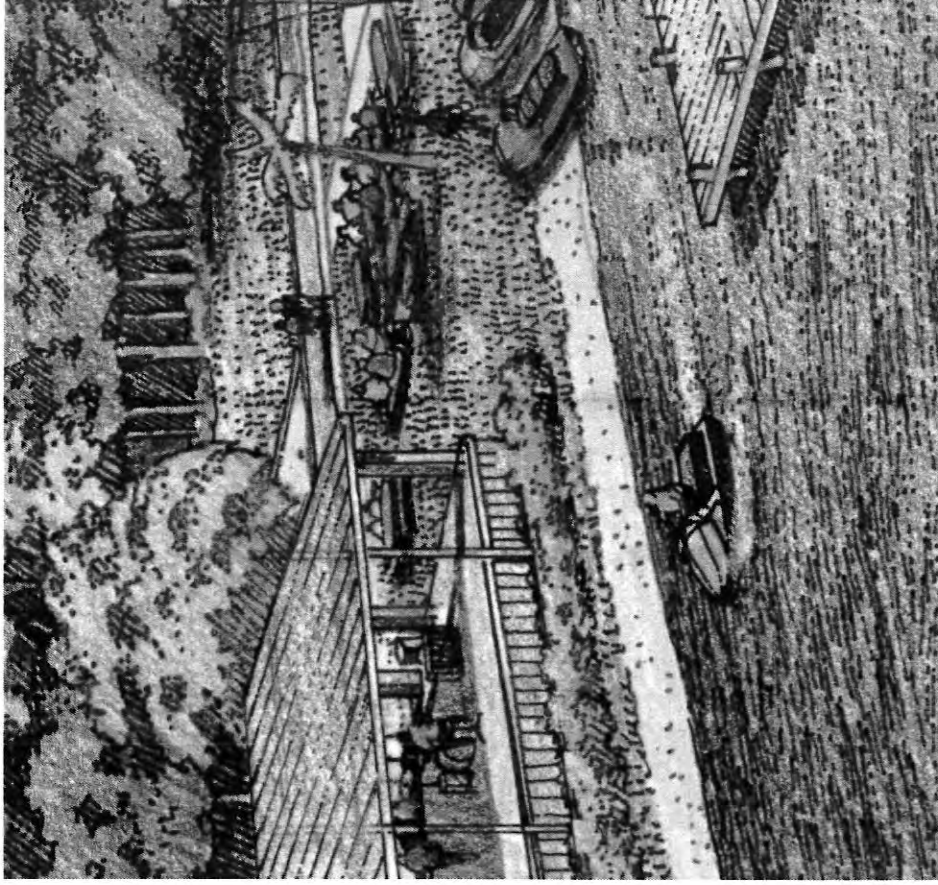
**Plan provides concept plans and cost estimates for improvements*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLACEMAKING

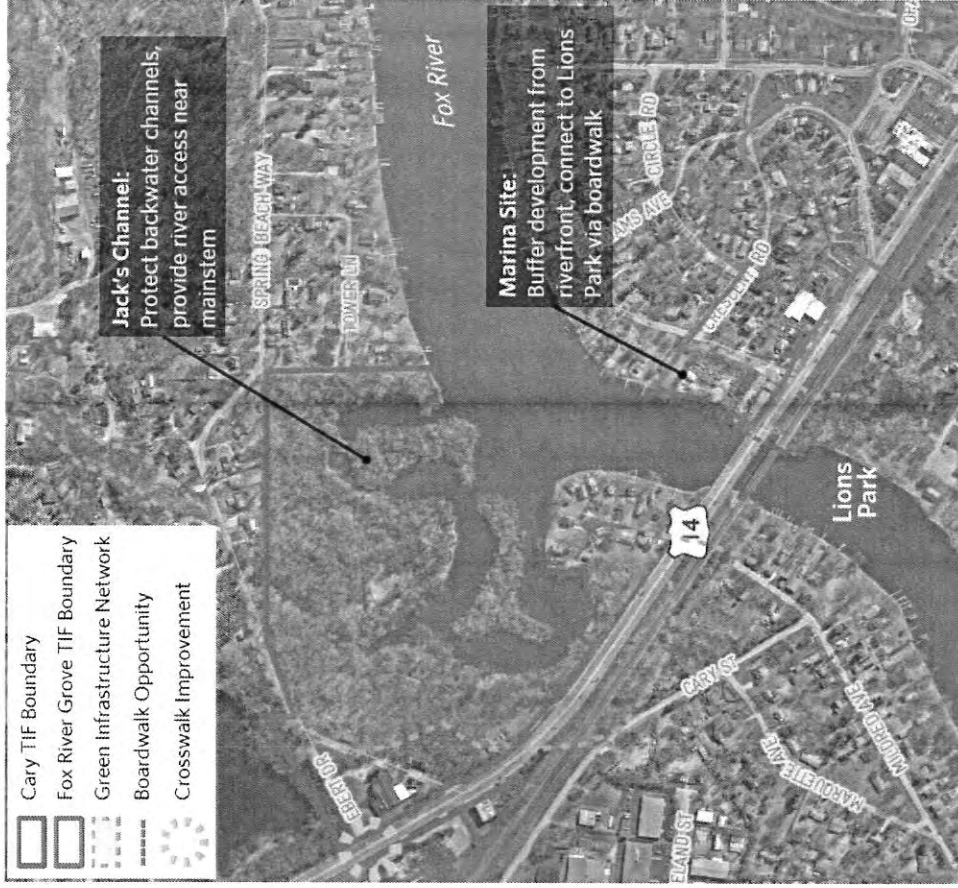


The Fox River will be a primary gateway into corridor communities, creating a vibrant and unique place that leverages river recreation, placemaking, and sensitive development opportunities to expand the local economy.

- Draw people to the river through programming and open space
- Pursue river-oriented economic development
- Market ecotourism activities and river-oriented businesses

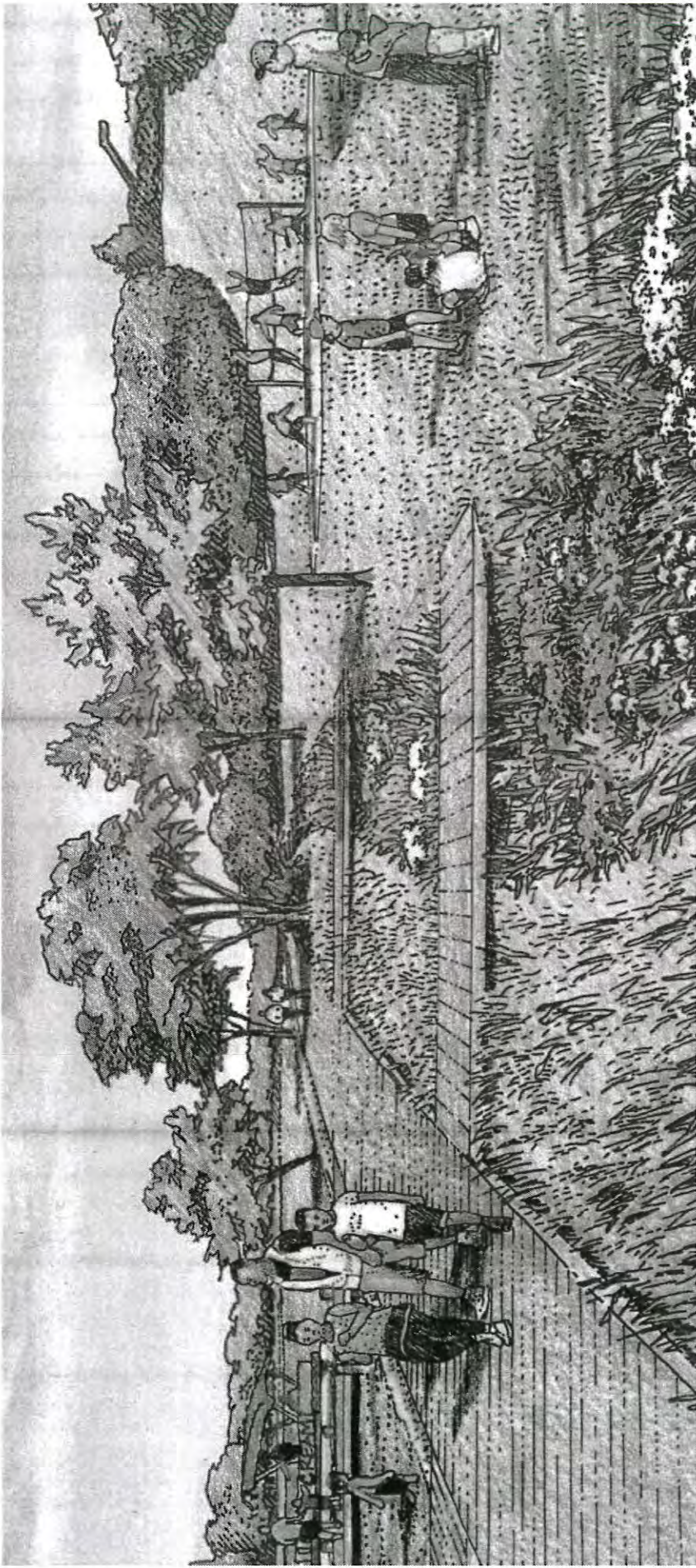


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLACEMAKING



PURSUE RIVER-ORIENTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Preserve floodplains and wetlands
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Improve aquatic habitat
- Provide river access /recreation
- Provide infrastructure for people biking and walking



THANK YOU!

Dennis A. Sandquist, AICP
Director of Planning and Development
McHenry County, Illinois
DASandquist@mchenrycountyil.gov

Chuck Haling
Chuck Haling