



THE AGENCY NEWS

A Publication of Fox Waterway

2024 Season

Update from The Executive Director

Dear Fox Waterway supporters! Thank you for your care and concern for our Chain O'Lakes and the wonderful Fox River! Your purchase of a sticker to access the waterway makes you the primary caregiver of our dynamic waterway. This year we sold 22,100 stickers which was slightly less than in 2022. As you may already know these are the primary means our Agency has to care for nearly 7,100 acres of waterway and 500 miles of shoreline. These dollars allow us to get some of our mission completed each year which focuses on keeping main navigational channels open for recreational uses, restoring environmental quality, efforts to alleviate flooding, promotion of tourism, and preserving and enhancing the quality of life along the waterway for residents and users alike.

These, and other efforts to open up new lines of funding through state, federal and other grant opportunities are crucial to enable us the means to accomplish our mission. We've made continued progress with our 319 Watershed plan this year which should be completed in early 2024, this will enable us to bring in more dollars for watershed projects to improve our waterways. Thanks to all of you who have partnered with us on this worthwhile initiative!

Our dredging work this year has resulted in the removal of 100,000 cubic yards of sediments from your waterway. We received over 350 customer concerns, and worked to alleviate even more. We removed an estimated 405 tons of natural debris consisting of trees, limbs, bogs, etc. We removed an estimated 356 tons of man-made items. We removed multiple beaver dams and 6 abandoned watercraft. We sold over 13,245 cubic yards of soils totaling nearly 160k. We also issued 11 waterway restriction permits for enjoyable events that you and your families enjoyed.

Although we've made some big strides to improve your waterway, we have much more work to do to remedy many years of eutrophication. With your continued, and additional help we remain confident that our efforts to further preserve and enhance our precious waterways for many future generations will be realized! From us, to you, we wish you and your family a safe, successful and very happy 2024!

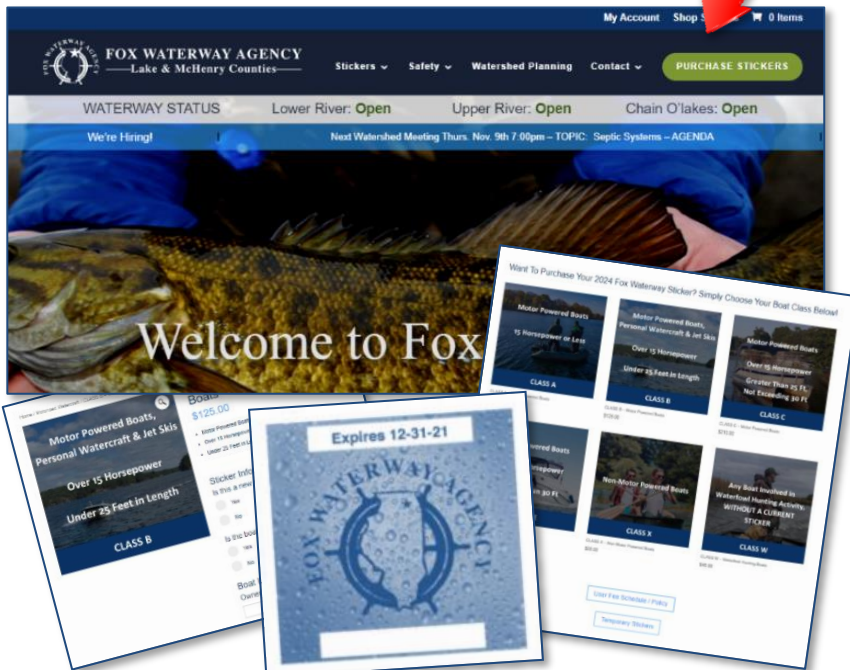


New FWA Webstore Coming Soon...

With the New Year comes our new Webstore! We heard you and we now have an additional way to renew your stickers!

You can now renew or purchase a new FWA boat user permit online. The new Webstore is your one stop shop for getting your renewal/purchase done in a time efficient way. When you renew online, our staff will process your order, verify all information is up to date and mail out your new stickers. Of course, you are still able to renew in person during normal business hours or you can visit a satellite location.

Renew Online & Save Some Time!



Important Numbers/Dates...

Enforcement

Lake County Marine Unit
847-587-4471 or 847-549-5200

McHenry County Marine Unit
815-385-3239 or 815-338-2144

IDNR Conservation Police
847-608-3100

Piers & Permitting

IDNR
847-608-3100

US Army Corps
312-846-5530

U.S. Coast Guard

Coast Guard Auxiliary
800-336-BOAT

Power Squadron
800-296-USPS

Jan 8th – Renewal Cards Mailed

May 1st – First Official Day of Boating!

May 15th – 31st – Placement of Navigation Buoys into System

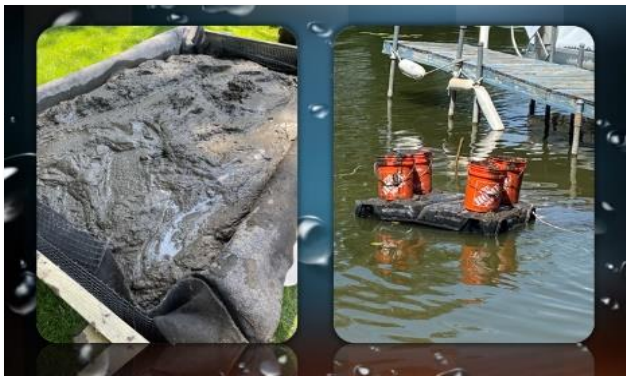
Oct 1st – 15th – Removal of Navigation Buoys from System

November 1st – IDNR Begins Winter Drawdown of water levels.

Minor Maintenance Dredging...

The buildup of sediment in lakes is a natural aging process that is accelerated by human activity. The Fox Waterway Agency has an extensive dredging program focused on major navigational channels in the Chain O' Lakes. If you have a buildup of sediment along your shoreline you may want to consider your own dredging activity. There is a national permit for minor dredging projects that the Army Corp of Engineer approves activity under. Getting approval to dredge under the national permit is not difficult and it helps you think through the necessary steps for removing sediment. Like any home improvement project, it can be hard work yet rewarding when you improve the utility of your shoreline by reducing the presences of muck and weeds. To learn more, check out the presentations on our website.

EASIEST METHOD: Using a Bucket & Shovel then putting into a drain box.



Rich Top Soil...

SALE

One of Lake and McHenry counties best resources for successful gardening is the use of FWA's reclaimed topsoil. The soils are nutrient rich with natural fish fertilizer which improves soil health and increases soil fertility by providing the primary nutrients necessary for plants to thrive. Proceeds are used to further preserve your Chain O'Lakes & Fox River.

Please note that FWA is unable to deliver soil. To make arrangements to purchase contact Cheri at 847-587-8540.

- **Contractor Soil Special \$15/Cubic Yard (Semi/6 Wheeler Quantities)**
- **Contractor Home Garden Soil Special \$20 / Pick-up Truck (Pickup Truck Load Only)**

DIRT FIELD OPEN – Monday thru Friday 6a – 2p
And some Saturdays (weather dependent) or by appointment.



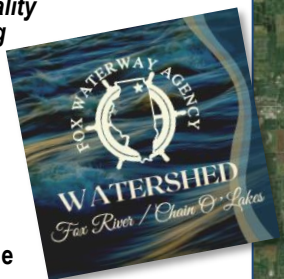
Visit Our Website

FWA Watershed Update...

The Chain O' Lakes is vital to our community, whether you enjoy the waterway personally or benefit from the business it brings to the area. To sustain that impact preserving and improving water quality is essential; but how do we do that? To answer that question the FWA obtained a grant from the IEPA to develop a watershed plan. That plan is to perform a technical review to identify projects and activities that can positively change our water quality and sets the stage for obtaining grant funds for projects. The plan is nearing completion and the key finds will be shared through public meeting over the winter. Watch for the dates and come out and find out how you can get involved in preserving the Chain O' Lakes.

We have held several Watershed Education Meetings on various topics to date as follows:

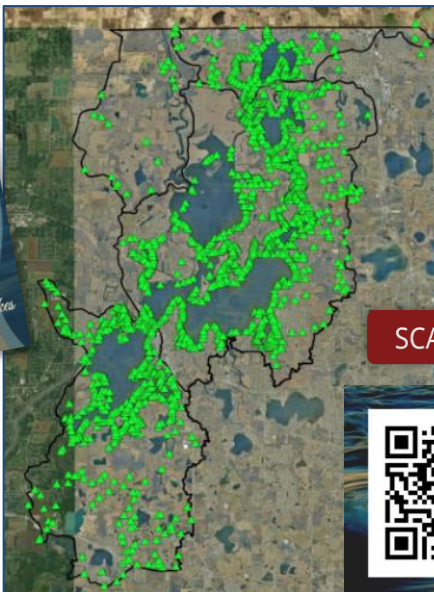
- **Septic Systems & Water Quality**
- **Minor Maintenance Dredging**
- **HOA & Stakeholder Update**
- **Canadian Geese**
- **Rain Gardens & Bioswales**
- **Excess Nutrients**
- **Shoreline Stabilization**
- **Sedimentation**
- **Water Quality**



More meetings are planned for the 2024 season to be announced.

The final draft for the 319 Grant submission of our key target areas and findings with our proposed project list will be in early 2024.

Visit Our Website



Boating Safety...



Vessel Safety Checks

Alan Golbach - USCGA
Email: agolbach@uscgafoxlake.com

Roger Quinlan - Power Squadron
847-343-0352

USCGS Safety Course (1 DAY ONLINE COURSE)

- February 17, 2024
- March 16th, 2024
- April 20th, 2024
- May 18th, 2024
- June 15th, 2024

Register - <http://uscgafoxlake.com>

America's Boating Club Safety Course

(3 DAY IN PERSON COURSE)
Saturdays May 4th, 11th & 18th 2024
Hours - 8:00a – 12:30p.

IN-PERSON (3 Days) - FWA –
45 S. Pistakee Lk. Rd., Fox Lake, IL 60020



**Preserving our great Fox
Waterway for all!**

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