



THE AGENCY NEWS

A PUBLICATION OF FOX WATERWAY

2025 SEASON

UPDATE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Fox Waterway Agency expresses gratitude to its supporters for their ongoing commitment to the care of the Chain O' Lakes and the Fox River. By purchasing a sticker to access the waterway, boaters play an essential role in maintaining nearly 7,100 acres of waterway and nearly 500 miles of shoreline. Sticker sales, which were slightly lower in 2024 than the previous year, are the primary funding source for the agency's efforts. These funds support crucial tasks, including keeping primary navigational channels open, restoring environmental quality, alleviating flooding, promoting tourism, and enhancing the quality of life for both residents and visitors. This year, the agency achieved several milestones, including completing the 319 Watershed Plan, which is vital for the future of improving water quality. The dredging efforts alone removed nearly 100,000 cubic yards of sediment, and the team cleared over 400 tons of natural debris, such as trees, limbs, beaver dams and bogs, as well as hundreds of tons of human-made items like abandoned watercraft. The agency also sold about 7,500 cubic yards of soil, generating nearly \$70,000 in revenue.



Joseph S. Keller
Executive
Director
Fox Waterway
Agency

In addition to environmental maintenance, the agency issued permits for a variety of events on the waterway, such as boat races, fishing tournaments, concerts, and tours honoring veterans. Planning an event is made easy by contacting the agency to determine if any necessary permits are required. The agency has also focused on improving its online presence, with updates to its website and online store, enhancing the sticker-buying process for customers. Educational videos, created in collaboration with the Advisory Committee, are available on the agency's Facebook and YouTube channels, offering greater transparency and community engagement.

Despite significant progress, the agency acknowledges that much work remains to address the ongoing challenges of past and current eutrophication. To better manage the waterway and build long-term sustainability, the agency continues to focus on acquiring additional strategic properties within the Fox watershed. With the continued support of its community, the agency is confident in its ability to preserve and enhance the waterway for future generations. Again, we thank you for your continued support! Best wishes and a happy 2025 to all.

Visit The FWA Webstore
to Renew Online
& Save Time



BOATING SAFETY



IMPORTANT DATES & NUMBERS



SCAN ME!



[Shop | Fox Waterway Agency](#)

You can renew or purchase a new FWA boat user permit online.

The Webstore is your one stop shop for getting your renewal / purchase done in a timely efficient manner.

When you renew online, our staff will process your order, verify all information is up to date and mail out your new stickers. Yes, you are still able to renew in person during normal business hours or you can visit a satellite location.

* New this season *

If you purchased online last season, log into your account, update any necessary information & reorder for 2025

You can now put multiple boats on one order



Vessel Safety Checks

Roger Quinlan - US Power Squadron
847-343-0352

Call or Text for appointment

USCGS SAFETY COURSE

(1 DAY- 8 Hour IN PERSON 9AM-5PM)

FEBRUARY 15th

MARCH 15th

APRIL 19th

MAY 17th

JUNE 21st

LOCATION:

Fox Waterway Agency

45 S. Pistakee Lake Rd. Fox Lake 60020

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

ONLINE SAFETY COURSE

America's Boating Club



Boating Safety
Certificate **REQUIRED**
for persons born after

Jan. 1, 1998

Boating safety courses help you grow in awareness, knowledge of what to do in each situation & ability to perform boat-handling skills that will help you enjoy boating & keep **everyone** safe.

Safety is always #1 on the water

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

US COAST GUARD

Coast Guard Auxiliary
800-336-BOAT
Power Squadron
800-296- USPS

PIERS & PERMITTING

IDNR 847-608-3100
US Army Corps 312-846-5530



Jan 2nd

Renewal Cards Mailed Out

May 1st

1st Official Day of Boating

May 15th -31st

Navigation Buoys are Deployed

Oct 1st- 15th

Removal of Navigation Buoys

November 1st

IDNR Begins Winter Drawdown

STAY UPDATED

Follow our Social Media Pages



FOLLOW



Fox Waterway Agency
12K followers • 91 following



FOLLOW US



SUBSCRIBE
TO OUR CHANNEL



FWA WATERSHED UPDATE...

- The big news is our watershed-based plan for the Chain O' Lakes was completed and approved in February 2024. This shows us a path forward to improve water quality and helps with possible grant funding for associated projects.
- The watershed plan shows where local runoff contributes excess nutrients and may in some places contribute to flooding so we are working with county stormwater management in both counties.

We all love the Chain, Let's help keep it clean



- Our 2024 Junk challenge was a success with many prize winners sending in pictures of trash they removed from the waterway. Thanks to our local businesses for donating prizes. Continue sending us pictures & sharing your efforts. It helps us keep the lakes free of debris and you could win prizes too.



Thank you to our sponsor & all the participants that contributed to the June Junk Challenge!!

RICH TOP SOIL

FOR HOME GARDENS & BUSINESSES

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 Anita at 847-587-8540



DIRT FIELD HOURS:

Monday - Friday 6a - 2p

Some Saturdays (weather dependent) or by appointment.

Contractor

Soil Special \$15/Cubic Yard (Semi/6 Wheeler Quantities)

Contractor/Home Garden

Soil Special \$20 / Pick-up Truck (Pickup Truck Load Only)

PROJECTS~PAST & FUTURE

Sediment removal continues as planned with three major projects completed and advanced in 2024.

- The north end of the Lotus channel was hydraulically dredged and pumped to the Sediment Dewatering Facility (SDF) called Ackerman Island. Ackerman can next receive sediment in 2026 after the current sediment dries and is removed.
- Nippersink Creek and Orchard Heights mechanical projects are ongoing. Check our website for any new developments.



Preserving our great Fox Waterway for all!

45 S. Pistakee Lake Rd. ● Fox Lake ● IL ● 60020

847-587-8540 -Phone ● 847-587-9742 -Fax

www.foxwaterway.com