

**Fox River Corridor
1991-92**

**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF APPLETON
FOX RIVER CORRIDOR: The Fox River and Its Banks
1991-1992**

The League of Women Voters has long supported water quality improvements; the study of the Fox River by the Appleton League reveals the immense strides made by industry and government in cleaning up the river. The Fox River has been changed from a polluted, industrial river to one clean enough for recreation and water supply. Now communities along the banks are turning back to the river that unites them.

The Appleton League of Women Voters supports protection and restoration of the river and its water quality, the river banks, and unique historical features:

I. Environmental Goals:

A. Water Quality:

1. Continue improvement of water quality.
2. U. S. Army Corps of Engineers to remain in charge of water regulation through maintenance and operation of the dam system, since they can best coordinate the conflicting needs of the varied uses of the river (from hydroelectric power production to municipal water supply to wildlife habitat).

B. Natural Areas Protection:

1. Protect unique places like Thousand Islands Conservancy Area, with its special habitat for eagles and herons. Harmful boating activities to be regulated by low speed, low wake restrictions; certain areas or hours off limits; noise regulations.
2. Promote wetland and shoreland restoration.
3. Encourage native vegetation and wildlife; discourage harmful non-native vegetation and wildlife, such as sea lampreys, zebra mussels, starlings and house sparrows. Measures to exclude sea lampreys from the river system.

C. Riverbank Protection:

1. City of Appleton should adopt a shoreland zoning ordinance at least as strong as the ordinance required of counties and unincorporated areas by the Department of Natural Resources.
2. Prevent erosion.
3. Protect scenic qualities by restricted tree cutting and appropriate replanting of native vegetation.

D. Public Access:

1. Encourage hiking and biking trails that skirt the river. Walking may be more compatible with urban neighborhoods.
2. Provide public boat access, with boats controlled by noise ordinances and not encouraged in important natural areas.
3. Promote city parks along the river.

II. Economic Goals:

- A. The Lower Fox River remains a working river, and requires water level management by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assist its multiple uses.
- B. Restore the navigation system, with the repair and ongoing maintenance of the historic locks, since a through navigation system could not be recreated if it were lost.

- C. Encourage private and public development in the river corridor, making creative reuse of existing buildings.
 - 1. Promote historic buildings, museums, the locks, and excursion boats.
 - 2. Avoid a "Dells" effect.
 - 3. Discourage gambling.
- D. Coordinate emergency rescue preparedness.

III. Historic Goals:

- A. Promote the Fox-Wisconsin National Heritage Corridor, as a means of saving natural and historic features.
- B. Repair and continue operation of the historic locks navigation system, with durability stressed over historic replication.
- C. Support a Landmarks Commission in the City of Appleton.
- D. Preserve the visual fabric of the river through adaptive reuse of historic structures.

- April 28, 1992

FOX RIVER CORRIDOR

Consensus Units:

Tuesday, February 11, 7:00 PM & Wednesday, February 12, 9:30 AM

We will begin with discussion questions that raise issues such as shoreline protection, protection of unique features like 1000 Islands, the proposed National Heritage Corridor, and so on, followed by the Consensus Questions.

1. **What would you like to see (and what wouldn't you like to see) develop along the river?**
2. **Are there any features (natural or manmade) that need special protection?**

How could these features be protected?

Possible ideas: protect shoreline, Preservation District, river side owners group

Protect unique features like 1000 Islands, keep boats out

Protect public access

Support local landmarks commission, historic ordinance, National Heritage Corridor (include Wisconsin River)

Support wetlands preservation