Fox River Water Trail Initiative Data Collection
Volunteer Instructions

Thank you for joining the Fox River Water Trail Initiative. The trail will extend for more than 200 miles from the headwaters in Wisconsin to the confluence with the Illinois River. Collecting data on access points, hazards, trip conditions, dams and portages, estimated trip times, points of interest and more will help the Core Development Team create maps and details about access points and segments to help paddlers plan and enjoy their time on the trail. Your role in collecting data is very important to providing the best experience for paddlers and assist in efforts to seek designation as a National Water Trail.

Collecting information in two areas – Access Data and Segment Data

Access Data includes areas to launch and leave the river; parking; distance from parking area to launch; type of access; types of amenities such as restrooms, drinking water, shelter, etc.; fees; and signage.

Segment Data provides information about particular segments of the river. You will be asked to identify the river segment beginning from one access point to the ending access point. Other information you may collect will be dams; portages; water hazards such as rapids, log jams, low bridges, low water, motorized boat traffic, etc.; skill levels needed to navigate this area; segment type – rural, urban; journey times; and any other observations such as amenities, points of interest, historical or cultural interest, anything that would assist a paddler in choosing this river segment or might enhance their journey.

Photo Collection - You are also asked to provide photos when possible. Again, any photos that will help a paddler determine if this is a viable river segment to travel.

Data Collection
Please contact Karen Miller at millerkaren@co.kane.il.us to select your access point and/or segment.

The data collection forms are available as a paper copy or for those comfortable with electronic forms (which we prefer, because the data entered is automatically stored in a spreadsheet) through Google Drive.

Forms
- **Select the proper form**
  - **Access:** collect information on access points, parking, land amenities, signage, etc.
  - **Segment:** collect information on river journey, including dams, hazards, experience level, journey time, etc.

- **Choose your data collection tool**
  - **Paper Forms**
    - Please contact Karen Miller at millerkaren@co.kane.il.us to receive paper forms.
    - When you complete your data collection, return the form to your volunteer coordinator as soon as you can. Your data will be entered into a spreadsheet by the Core Development Team.

  - **Electronic Forms (preferred)**
    - You can use the Access Data Collection electronic form and enter data on your smart phone or tablet:
      https://goo.gl/forms/znKLFSAhN5sD2Ptj1
    - The Segment Data Collection electronic form:
      https://goo.gl/forms/zxPLLQxAEhXpHASx1

- **Photos**
  - Photos are an important element of data collection. It helps the CDT in determining where enhancements would improve the trail and provides a visual tool when approaching counties or municipalities in making those recommendations. The photos will also help with promotional materials or website development for the water trail, and provide extra guidance for paddlers to choose an appropriate journey.
  - Include GPS coordinates for your photo, if possible, to help identify the location and map placement. Using your smart phone you can collect location through enabling the location tag or download an app that will provide location data.
  - Photos must be identified using the following naming convention:
  - **Site Name or Number Photo ID** (i.e. access point, signage, hazard, portage, etc.)_**Date** (monthdayyear) **Your Initials** (include middle initials). EXAMPLE: **FramePark_Signage_100116_BJM**
  - Please email your identified photos with GPS coordinates, if available, to Karen.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Miller, Illinois CDT Co-Chair at 630-232-3418 or millerkaren@co.kane.il.us.