



A Chapter of the Rock River Coalition

2012 Status Report

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed

Planning Committee

Background

Local interest in the Badfish Creek peaked in March 2005 when the Creek was classified by the Dane County Regional Planning Commission as “Class I—In Need of Protection” through the Dane County Water Body Classification Study Phase I. Local residents met with the Dane County Land and Water Resources Department to advocate for the creek’s inclusion in Dane County’s 2006-2011 Parks and Open Space Plan. Since its inception in 2006, the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed (FBCW) continues to partner with Dane County as well as other municipalities, Wisconsin DNR and in 2012 collaboration with Rock County agencies in support of activities and planning. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services has offered to assist with financial and technical assistance to landowners for wetland restoration.

Community outreach and education programs were held in 2012 to inform municipalities, community members, Creek users of its history, navigability, cleanliness, and the Creek’s importance in the ecosystem. The Rock River Coalition (RRC) continues to support the FBCW as a Chapter affiliate allowing the Friends to respond to funding opportunities as a non-profit organization. When projects are funded, the RRC assumes financial administration of grants received.

The FBCW prefer involvement in activities that enhance the Watershed while developing strategies for recognition and respectability of the Badfish Creek, as evidenced in this second Annual Status Report.

Reinforce and Expand Partnerships

In an effort to enhance collaborations and reach new partners, the FBCW developed, printed and disseminated (through grant opportunities described on page 3) the following communication materials:

- Five Year Strategic Plan,
- 2011 Status Report,
- Business cards with QR codes containing a link to the FBCW website and local map,
- Brochure insert for public officials to highlight the Creek’s recreational activities, and
- Professional education board with scrip, timeline with photos depicting the Japanese knotweed eradication project from inception to present progress.

The Friends group has connected with numerous Dane and Rock County officials to promote the protection and recreational activities available along the Badfish Creek. Outreach to the following groups has reinforced and expanded the Friends’ partnerships:

- Dane County Parks and Open Space to ensure portions of the Badfish Creek were considered and accepted as Natural Resource Area,
- Rock County Parks Department, Town and Country RC&D Invasive Species Issue Team and the Rock County Land Conservation Committee,
- Coordination with Rock County Parks and the Town and Country RC&D Invasive Species Issues Team to include a stop at the Riley Road Badfish Creek bridge during the May 11, 2013 Wheel Against Weeds bike tour.
- Dane County Townships of Dunkirk, Porter, Union and Rutland heard a FBCW presentation and/or received communication materials.

Five-Year Strategic Plan Development

The first five-year Strategic Plan was developed and published. Dissemination was accomplished via the web site in addition to meetings with municipalities and other community organizations and during outreach activities at various events.

Annual Status Report

The first Annual Status Report (2011) was written and disseminated in 2012; updates will be completed annually each spring.

Badfish Creek User Survey

The first user survey was developed and deployed in May, 2012 after pilot testing by Friends and RRC Board members. By December 31, 2012, 25 surveys had been completed primarily by paddlers and hunters. The ongoing Badfish Creek User Survey is at this site:

<http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/badfish/surveys/>.

Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed 2012 Funding Opportunities

An application to the Dane County Environmental Council (DCEC) Community Partners Program was submitted in February with an award granted in April. Upon successful application and award of the DCEC grant, matching funds were available through the Madison Metropolitan Sewage District to support the development, printing and dissemination of the educational and outreach materials as referenced earlier in this document.

Friends of Badfish Creek Project Activities

- **Stream Monitoring**—Citizen Monitoring by the Friends continues at Riley Road monthly from April through October.
- **Annual Canoe trip** was cancelled due to low water levels related to the drought.
- The **Adopt-a-Highway** litter patrol continued for the second year and was completed in June.
- **Invasive Species Control**
 - The Friends continued efforts to eradicate **Japanese knotweed** at the Riley Road bridge crossing the Creek by spraying in early summer and injecting a select stand in the fall.
 - **Garlic mustard** was pulled in the spring where knotweed had grown previously at the Riley Road bridge location.
 - **Wild parsnip** was dug using “parsnip predators” in the DNR Wildlife Area parking lot on Old Stone Road during May.
- Nine **planning meetings** were held during 2012 with guest presentations by Chris James (Dane County Parks and Recreation), Jim Post (Madison Metropolitan Sewage District), and Al Sweeney (Rock County Board of Supervisors). (See website as listed below for meeting notes.)

Various activities have been supported by planning members and other volunteers.

For more information about the Friends of Badfish Creek Watershed, including volunteer activities and dates, please visit the website at: <http://www.rockrivercoalition.org/badfish/>