



Friends of Klein FEN
West Chicago, Illinois
Non- Profit Organization 501(c) 3
www.friendsofkleinfen.org

Friends of Klein FEN Newsletter - September 2008 ***URGENT UPDATE***

Your involvement and support can make a difference!

We need your tax-deductible donation to support our ongoing activities. Your dollars will help support our much needed Regional Storm-water Initiatives. Please complete the lower portion of this letter and mail your check today! We can all make a difference if we work together. Please take some time to read the following information...

We have serious storm water issues in our neighborhoods!

The St. Andrews Golf & Country Club has asked the City of West Chicago to re-zone the major portion of their golf course to residential "R-3". A smaller portion has been requested to be zoned commercial "B-3". On Tuesday, September 16th, the City held a planning session to address the request. Although many residents voiced serious concern, the committee approved its plans to take the re-zoning recommendations to the City Council. We believe that these zoning changes will be incorporated into the City's overall plan within the next several weeks.

We are all very concerned about the recent flooding that has plagued our local community and we feel that future intensive development will only aggravate the situation. Please see the detailed surface water map for a view of how it impacts our community.

What we are doing about this situation:

- **Emphasizing environmentally friendly solutions to water quality and flooding issues have been the focus of our efforts**
- **Our legal representatives and technical experts have extensive knowledge and experience with local environmental issues and are providing key support and guidance**
- **Ongoing communication with members of our local community is critical. This means all of our neighbors, not just residents of West Chicago**
- **A formal statement addressing water quality and storm water concerns will be sent to the City of West Chicago and other government agencies prior to the final approval of any Planned Unit Development**

Friends of Klein FEN Mission Statement:

Promote the adoption of best management practices for storm water control and natural conservancy throughout the upper reaches of the watershed surrounding the West Branch of the DuPage River



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Background: The Friends of Klein FEN was founded in July of 2007 when the City of West Chicago responded to an earlier annexation and re-zoning request from the owners of St. Andrews Golf & Country Club for 203 acres of open farm land. This property is located just west of Klein Road in what was originally part of unincorporated Wayne Township. This new re-zoning allows for high density "R3" residential housing, which if developed could negatively affect a very unique and fragile wetland ecosystem within the West Branch Forest Preserve, also known as the "Klein Fen".

The Friends of Klein FEN labored to bring together local citizens, community leaders, and elected officials of the DuPage County Forest Preserve. Our efforts contributed to the DuPage County Forest Preserve filing a suit to preserve over 100 acres of open land deemed critical to the health and viability of the Klein Fen. Condemnation proceedings were filed with DuPage County last year and are moving forward. We are very proud of this accomplishment, as these efforts will help preserve the Klein Fen area for generations to come. However, until the remainder of this parcel is preserved our efforts must continue. Much work remains to secure the remaining 103 acres. We are still very concerned about water quality, storm water and residential flooding issues which we believe will most certainly occur should the property develop at the higher housing density being sought by the City of West Chicago.

Please visit our website for the full details as to our ongoing mission and progress. We have a "**Contact Us**" section and would encourage your feedback and comments. We post regular updates and information on how you can participate in the on-going work that needs to be done.

We appreciate your sincere interest and support!

Cary Dittmann

President, Friends of Klein FEN

Use the envelope provided for return donations...

Please cut/tear off and return this note with your donation made payable to the:

Friends of Klein FEN
745 Tanager Lane, West Chicago, Illinois 60185

___\$100.00 (Donate \$100 or more and request an informational packet that includes a T-shirt)

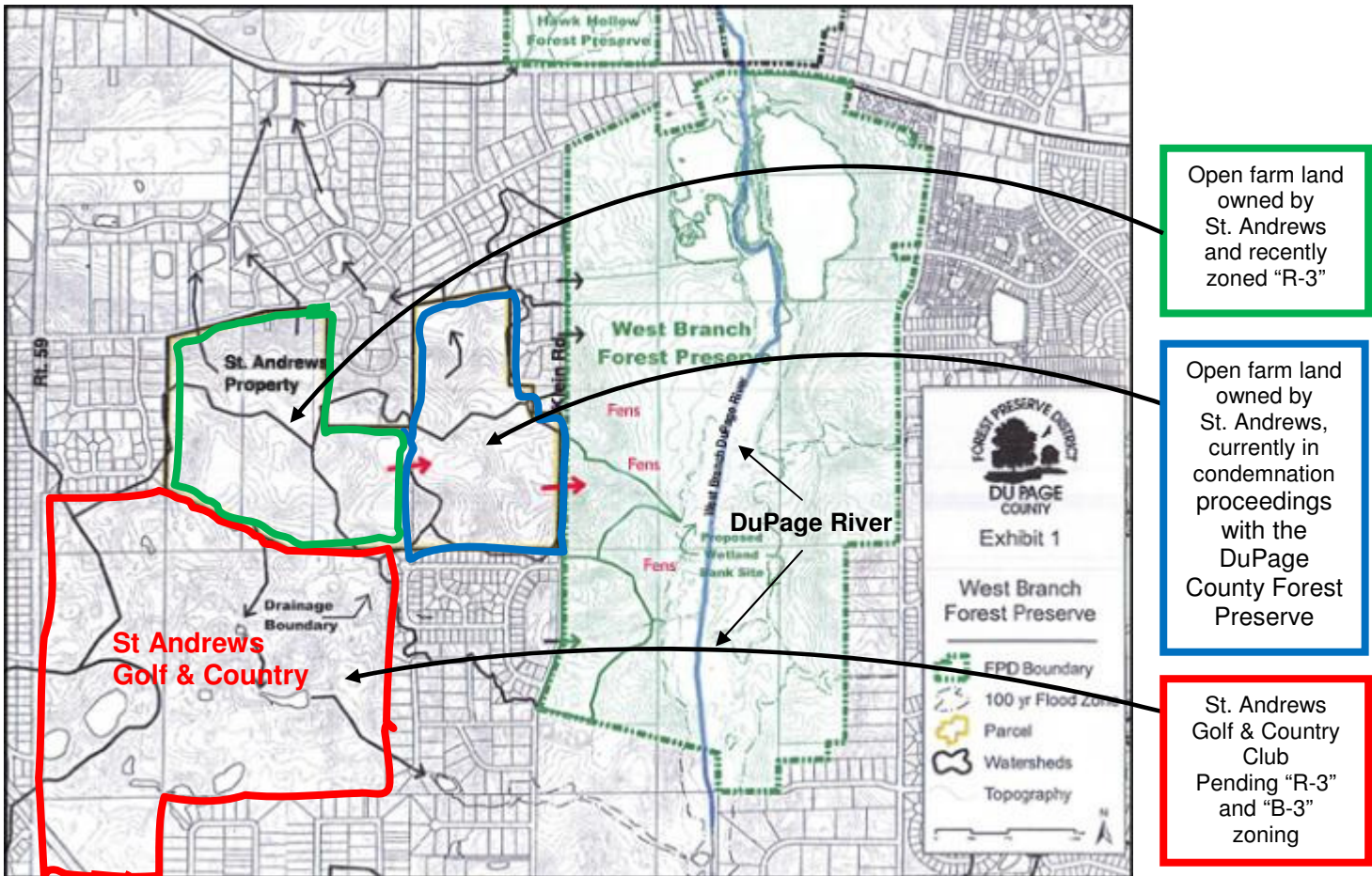
___XL, ___L, ___M, ___S Please provide your name/address and phone:

___\$250.00, ___\$150.00, ___\$50.00, ___Other \$ _____

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Surface Water Flow Map of our Local Area



The communities directly north, south and east of the St Andrews golf course and farm land are all “down hill” from any storm water run-off that flows to the West Branch of the DuPage River. Our concerns as a community are that any type of residential or commercial property building and expansion will eventually exacerbate the possibility of surface water run-off and local flooding. A significant portion of rainfall in forested watersheds is absorbed into soils, is stored as ground water, and is slowly discharged to streams through seeps, springs and fens. Flooding is less significant in these conditions because some of the run-off during a storm is absorbed into the ground, thus lessening the amount of run-off into a stream during the storm.

As watersheds are urbanized, much of the vegetation is replaced by concrete and asphalt driveways, roads, buildings, parking lots, etc., thus reducing the area where infiltration to groundwater can occur. Thus, more storm water run-off occurs, run-off that must be collected by extensive drainage systems that combine curbs, storm sewers and ditches to carry storm water run-off directly to streams. More simply, in a developed watershed, much more water arrives into a stream much more quickly, resulting in an increased likelihood of more frequent and more severe flooding. A lot of this is already happening today!!

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