

Overview

Visioning Session Report

The Friends of the Sauk River and Planning Process

The Friends of the Sauk River (FSR) is a citizen based, non-governmental organization whose mission is to protect, improve and promote the enjoyment of natural resources in the Sauk River watershed. The watershed, which covers over 1,040 square miles, is located in central Minnesota.

To help the organization develop strategic projects to achieve their mission, the FSR board members decided to pursue assistance through the Healthy Lakes and River Partnership program (HLRP). The Initiative Foundation from Little Falls, Minnesota, established this program. Their program is designed to build the capacity of citizen leaders by developing and implementing a lake or river management plan. In this program, a visioning session is an essential, early step in the planning process.

Goal of the Visioning Session

The goal of the visioning session was to provide opportunities for citizens from the Sauk River watershed to share their input on the topics that the Friends of the Sauk River (FSR) organization should address. More specifically, the visioning session was intended to encourage participating citizens to:

- Learn more about the Sauk River watershed, its people and organizations that serve it.
-

The purpose of this report is to summarize the input gathered from citizens attending the visioning session held on April 28, 2006. Over 25 people met to discuss and review their concerns as well as opportunities regarding the Sauk River and its watershed. Participants were split into small round table groups to discuss individual responses to three worksheets. After discussions by the small table groups, a full group discussion was facilitated.

This Visioning Session Report includes a list of comments and suggestions made by citizens for the future management of the Sauk river watershed. This report is intended to be one of the primary sources for the board members of the Friends of the Sauk River to use in the development of the management plan for the HLRP program. Other organizations and agencies working in the watersheds are encouraged to use the public input as well.