



## KICKAPOO CREEK WATERSHED

### OUR VISION:

## CREATE A GEOPARK ENCOMPASSING THE KICKAPOO CREEK WATERSHED

### THE MISSION

We seek to build working coalitions among all the people of the watershed to promote sustainability in agriculture, our communities and in the natural world.

In 2021, the Friends of Rocky Glen voted to expand their purpose and activities to protect the Kickapoo Creek Watershed using the concept of a geopark. Geoparks provide a framework to understand the many aspects of a watershed, including the geology, biology and human land use. A Kickapoo Creek Geopark will give people a sense of pride in their region; begin to identify and address environmental injustice; develop recreational opportunities; and create and restore wildlife habitat.

### EDUCATION ACTION

- Educational hikes and public information outreach.
- Regularly scheduled workdays
- Volunteer training.
- Working to realize a vision for the Kickapoo Creek Watershed encompassing recreational amenities, preservation of natural areas and watershed healing opportunities.
- Compiling lists of site-specific flora / fauna inventories and geologic features. Seek opportunities to quantify levels of impairment in terms of soil quality, erosion burden and water pollution through citizen science and historic research.
- Develop a land management plan that includes soil evaluation, measurable goals and methods including specific locations, unique habitats, geological features and hiking / biking trails.

### COLLABORATION, RESTORATION AND HABITAT ACTIONS

- Build collaborative relationships with governmental, business and community support, including the farming community, for the creation of the Kickapoo Creek Watershed Conservation Area. This process will include increasing sustainable agricultural acreage, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.
- We will seek letters of support from community groups to demonstrate their commitment to our process.
- We will identify areas of increased opportunity in these areas and provide support for their enactment.
- We will seek involvement of technically skilled agencies to develop the KCWCA Land Management Plan.
- The general areas of focus will be the seven miles of streamway from Jubilee College State Park and Historic Site southeast to Wildlife Prairie Park plus the final thirteen miles of Creek to the confluence with the Illinois River.
- We will research, develop and promote the Kickapoo Creek Watershed using a geopark model as defined by the UNESCO Global Geoparks Network.

