



News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021

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Region 1 Planning Hosts Keith Creek Clean-Up Event & More

ROCKFORD, IL —Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) is hosting a cleanup event Saturday, July 31, 2021, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., which focuses on picking up trash in areas around Keith Creek. RPC is looking to get the community involved in a neighborhood clean-up to create awareness and seek engagement on the ongoing Keith Creek Corridor Study, as well as lay the groundwork for future sustainable corridor development efforts.

*Volunteers will meet at Valli Produce 5880 E. State St., Rockford, IL 61108. No registration is required.

WHY KEITH CREEK – Beginning in western Boone County, Keith Creek travels south-west through Winnebago County before converging with the Rock River in southeast Rockford. The creek meanders through natural areas, parks, urban neighborhoods, and channelized routes for approximately 4.5 miles and intersects several arterial roads. The Keith Creek watershed consists of approximately 14.6 miles of drainage area. *Keith Creek flows through most of the city of Rockford and into Belvidere.*

Additionally, the relationship between land use, the environment, and transportation is important in understanding how a community is impacted by the regional transportation network. Currently, the Keith Creek corridor is comprised of built, undeveloped, and naturally-preserved lands that interweave with surface transportation infrastructure.

PUBLIC INPUT – We are also seeking public opinion to identify problems experienced by the community and educate residents on potential strategies addressing these concerns. With the help of a team of consultants, RPC is working on a Keith Creek Corridor Study to identify opportunities for an improved greenway and to study the relationship between land use, the environment, and transportation.

In addition to the clean-up efforts, RPC staff will also be located in the Valli Produce lobby on Saturday, July 31, 2021 seeking public comments. In the future, the RPC plans to host community work group sessions, public forums, and workshops for the Keith Creek Corridor Study.

STUDY GOALS - This project will address the relationship between land use, the environment, and transportation, with an emphasis on flooding infrastructure, social equity, and economic development improvements. The broader goals of this comprehensive analysis include the study of socio-demographic metrics, access to transportation, and environmental conditions. Additionally, the project supports an inventory of current conditions along the corridor and recommendations for development. There will be direct benefits through these investments.

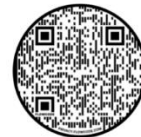
WHO TO INTERVIEW - Shelby Best at sbest@r1planning.org. Shelby will also be present at Valli Produce for comment.

ABOUT R1 - Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities
For more information, visit www.r1planning.org.

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KEITH CREEK COMMUNITY CLEAN UP EVENT



Map here!

A volunteer and community engagement opportunity

JULY 31, 2021, 8 AM - 12 PM
MEET AT VALLI PRODUCE: 5880 E. STATE ST.
CONTACT: KAYLIN JANICKE
(815) 319-4194, kjanicke@r1planning.org

Join us to help keep the Keith Creek community clean and learn about Region 1 Planning Council's Corridor Study. This project will address the relationship between land use, the environment, and transportation, with an emphasis on flooding infrastructure, social equity, and economic development improvements.

Public input is welcome!