**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Stream Crossing Signs Promote Water Understanding**

**WOODSTOCK –** People driving over bridges on McHenry County highways can now learn more about their water, thanks to new signs being placed at stream crossings.

The Stream Sign Project is a collaborative effort between the McHenry County Division of Transportation and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County to place informational signage at stream crossings throughout McHenry County. Each sign identifies the name of the stream, as designated by the US Geological Survey, as well as the name of the watershed the stream flows through. All McHenry County streams are part of either the Fox River Watershed or the Kishwaukee River Watershed.

“While stream crossing signs are common in many parts of the country, there were very few in McHenry County,” McHenry County Water Resources Specialist Scott Kuykendall said. “We hope the Stream Sign Project will help people learn to recognize streams in the county and develop a personal connection to the land and water around them.”

The Environmental Defenders obtained an $8,100 grant from the Full Circle Foundation for the project, which covered the cost of the sign stock, posts and other hardware. The MCDOT is printing the signs and installing them at stream crossings on roads under MCDOT jurisdiction.

The group hopes to work with other communities to add the signs at stream crossings on municipal and township roads.

“The Environmental Defenders are hoping to create a better understanding of the streams in our watersheds through this project,” Second Vice President Nancy Schietzelt said. “We believe that having consistent stream signage will improve awareness of, and concern for, water quality in our streams.”

To learn more about MCDOT and the Environmental Defenders of McHenry County, visit their websites at [www.mchenrycountydot.org](http://www.mchenrycountydot.org) and [www.mcdef.org](http://www.mcdef.org). To learn more about the county’s Water Resources Division and the need to protect our groundwater, visit [www.mchenryh2o.com](http://www.mchenryh2o.com).

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