

Current & Future Economic Value

KANKAKEE RIVER IN ILLINOIS

Kankakee River Watershed Conference, February 10, 2017 – Olivet Nazarene University

KANKAKEE RIVER IN ILLINOIS

- Economic Impact
 - Industrial/Commercial
 - Residential
 - Recreational/Tourism
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
- Strategic Actions to Date
- Current Action Steps

- **COMMUNITY PROSPERITY** is intimately tied to how well our water works for us. Growth and economic vitality of any region is dependent upon the health of our primary water sources.
- As Kankakee County's primary water source, the Kankakee River meets **MANY AND VARIED DEMANDS**, requiring robust water and wastewater treatment; systematic investment in water distribution; strong source water management and conservation policies; and comprehensive, multijurisdictional flood control and other long-range planning.
- Kankakee County has a single water provider – Aqua Illinois. The average flow that passes Aqua's Kankakee treatment plant is 4 billion gallons per day. Aqua pulls less than 0.3% of that flow.



INDUSTRIAL/ COMMERCIAL IMPACT

- Manufacturing accounts for 14.2% of Kankakee County's economy, higher than the national average of 12.1%
- \$1.2B+ in capital investment 2014-16
- Advanced manufacturing growth in the food processing, bioscience, metals and chemicals sectors is strong. These are among our community's investment targets.
- Aqua Illinois has the capacity to deliver 18 million gallons per day (MGD) of water. A new claricone will increase the capacity of Aqua's plant by 12 MGD by year's end.
- These investments ensure adequate supply for economic growth in Kankakee County.



RESIDENTIAL IMPACT

- Aqua Illinois supplies drinking water for more than 80,000 local residents.
- Aqua's service area includes City of Kankakee, villages of Aroma Park, Bourbonnais, Bradley, Grant Park, Limestone, Manteno and Sun River Terrace as well as portions of Kankakee, Aroma, Bourbonnais, Limestone, Otto, Rockville, St. Anne, Sumner, Yellowhead, Ganeer and Manteno townships.
- Higher property values exist along river frontage.

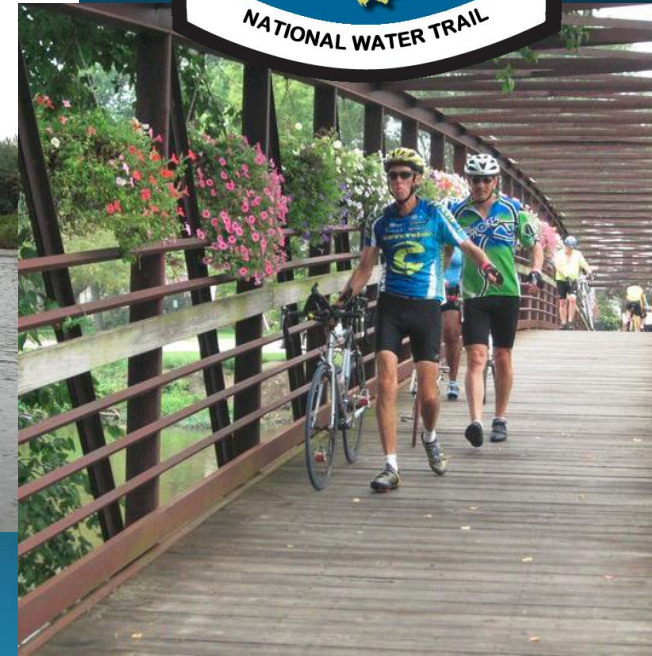
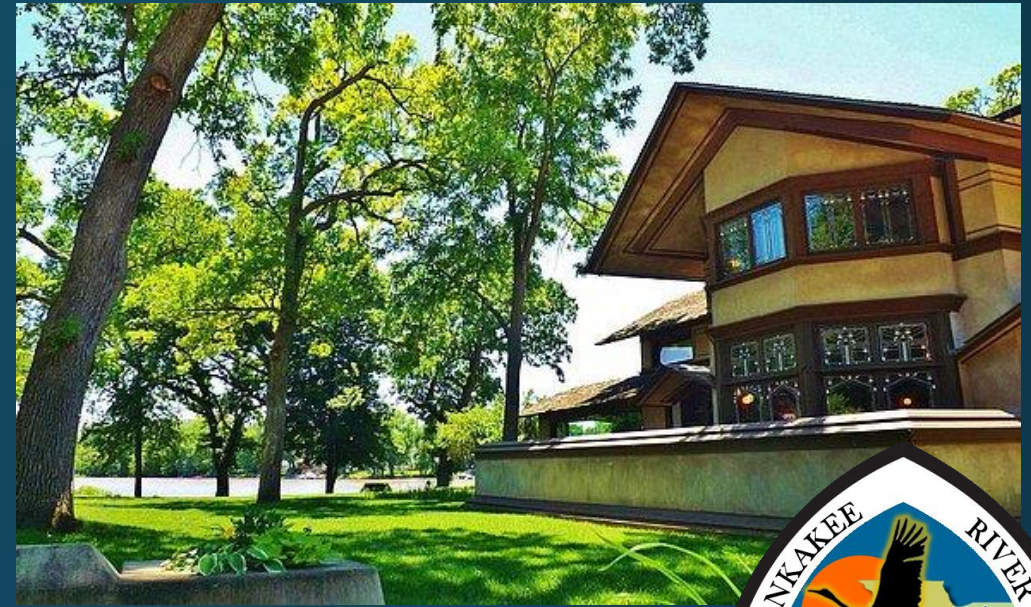


RECREATIONAL/ TOURISM IMPACT

- Kankakee River National Water Trail
- 60 miles of shoreline in Kankakee County

TOP ATTRACTIONS:

- 1 million visitors annually to 4,000-acre Kankakee River State Park
- Reed's Kayak & Canoe Trips
- Two Rivers Century bike event
- FLW 1900 B. Harley Bradley House



SWOT ANALYSIS



Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Potable Water Supply Quality Environmental Asset Effective Codes and Regulations Flood Plains with Land Uses to Protect People and Structures Lifestyle Attraction Scenic Beauty Recreational Use Fishing Waterfront Parks/Public-Owned Lands Ample Public Access Six Mile Pool: True Boat-able Access Strong Riverfront Property Values Redevelopment Opportunities Agriculture: Irrigation & Drainage Resource Business and Industry Opportunities Job Development Potential Name Recognition: "Kankakee" River Ties Communities Together Variety of Existing River Activities</p>	<p>Lack of Local, State and Federal Support and Lack of Awareness for Initiatives to Solve Problems General Apathy / Public Awareness Under-Utilized Commercial Development Lack of Economic Impact Studies on the River Effective Tourism Promotion Lack of River Issues Cohesiveness: "River Central" River Crossings Lack of Residential Land Use Planning Lack of Subdivision/Development Codes Related to the River</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Communities Need to Develop Plans Community Resource Planning Interests Creative Community Development Ideas Riverfront Development Strategic Location of Public Works Facilities Ample Water Supply for Industries Sand Extraction Resource Potential Back Water Lake Opportunity Lodge Development Potential Population of 10 Million People Within 1½ Hr. Driving Radius Boater/Fisherman Access and Facilities Commercial Riverfront Property River Marinas KCCVB Support of Riverfront Shapiro Developmental Center Partnerships Railroad Bridge Restoration I-57 Bridge Reconstruction</p>	<p>Pollution Urgency Sewage Facility Infiltration Decreases in River Storage Volume Increases in Drainage Flows Increased Flooding and B.F.E. Height River Bank Maintenance and Erosion Lack of Planning Increased Cost of Potable Water Losses in Property Values Congestion and Safety Issues Loss of Aquatic Life</p>

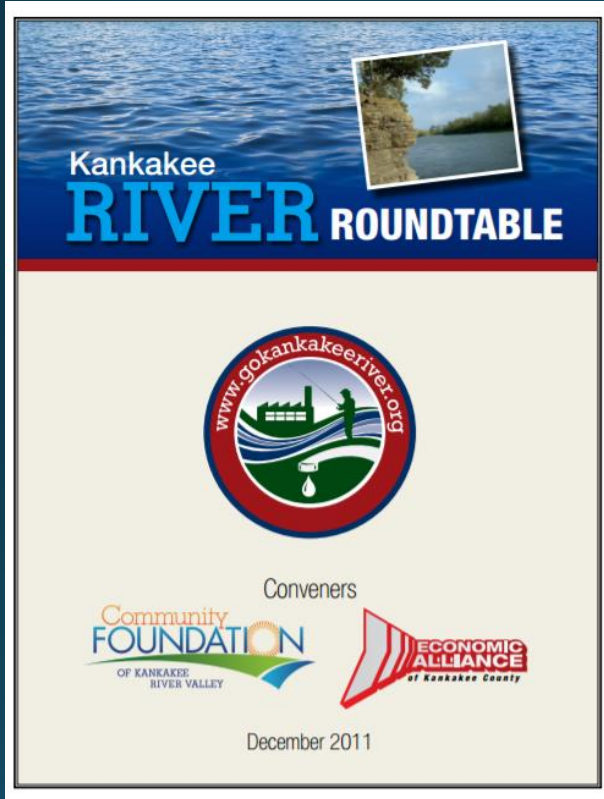
SWOT ANALYSIS



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & AGRICULTURE

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p> Potable Water Supply Volume of Water Stormwater Management Filter for Pollutants Wildlife Habitat Scenic Value Real Estate Values Recreational Opportunities Economic Growth Historic Settlement State Parks Forest Preserves Agriculture Drainage Job Development Electrical Power Recruitment Value Quality Fishing Scenic Trailways Agricultural Practices & Management Local Ordinances </p>	<p> Flooding Limited Access due to Private Development Lack of Public Awareness (Local & Regional) Lack of United Voice Lack of Public Education / Outreach Jurisdictional Boundaries Lack of Government Funding Public Apathy Public Planning Bridge Crossings Education Limited Dialogue with Indiana Officials </p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p> Unrestricted Water Availability Tourism Development Recreation Development Aquatic Resources Urban Renewal Education Public Support Increased Public Access Expand Economic Development Bi-State / Tri-County Cooperation Expand Trail System Improve Drainage Improve Bank Erosion Improve Flood Control </p>	<p> Sand and Sedimentation Iroquois River Sediment Load Threats to Potable Water Supply Degraded Aquatic Resources Lack of State / Federal Resources Recreational Threats Invasive Aquatic Species Increased Flooding Real Estate Planning Agricultural Harmony with Development and Recreation Lack of Public Awareness Loss of Wetlands Over Usage of Surrounding Land Decreased Property Values Need for Development of Flood Plain Areas Ice Jams Quality of Life Strategies Incompatible Land Uses </p>

SWOT ANALYSIS



TOURISM & RECREATION

Strengths	Weaknesses
<p>Kankakee Riverfront Trail Scenic Landscapes / Scenic Routes Clean River Quality Fishing / Hunting Boating, Canoeing, Kayaking Camping Bird Watching / Flora Abundance of Parks and Open Space Public River Access 10 Million People in NE Ill. and NW Ind. Exercise Areas Along River Established, Successful River Events Golf Courses on River Historic Tourism, Indian Lore Perry Farm Park and Indian Caves Lack of Density: Frontier Character Remains Image Opportunity for Kankakee County</p>	<p>Sedimentation Threatens Recreational Opportunities and Access Lack of Restaurants and Destination Choices Lack of Lodging On or Near River Lack of Public Facilities on River Lack of Available Property for Development in Six Mile Pool Area Lack of Promotion and Advertising Lack of Local Education About River Lack of Unified Promotional Plan for River Lack of Events on River Lack of Recognition of Mazonia Fish & Wildlife Lack of Bait Shops in Area Lack of Access to Iroquois River Lack of Convention Capacity Lack of Accommodations for Larger Activities / Events Lack of Grant Researchers, Writers</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Advertise River Activities in Neighboring Counties I-57 River Bridge Reconstruction Trail Ways and Expansion Cross-Promotion Planning and Marketing Promotion Within the County Chicago Area Market Stay Vacations Expanding Camping Opportunities Character of the River Area Developing Lodges, Conference Centers Market to Multiple Age Groups Lake Development East Side of County Fish, Wildlife and Open Space Initiatives</p>	<p>Lack of Unity Among Communities Hesitance for Spending Money Lack of Volunteerism Ecology Threats to River, Loss of Fishing Complications of Multiple Governmental Jurisdictions Elective Support and Long-Term Vision Lack of Service Industries Kankakee County Convention and Visitors Bureau Resources Funding Pollution by Agriculture Chemicals, Municipal Services Flooding</p>

STRATEGIC ACTIONS TO DATE

- Economic Alliance and Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley have co-convened the Kankakee River Roundtable – a forum for local stakeholders – since 2011.
- 2011 Strategic Action Plan Document
- Sand Collection Project
- Marketing promotion, including GoKankakeeRiver.org, print collateral and awareness video
- 2011 WaterWorks conference @ Hilton Garden Inn
- Legislative outreach
- River tours



CURRENT ACTION STEPS

- Convene regional, bi-state stakeholders and leadership
- Approach project in a multi-jurisdictional manner
- Continue to foster strong media relations
- Continue legislative outreach in a more concerted fashion
- Consider establishing a more robust local funding mechanism to augment prospective state and federal funding
- Continue to research uses for extracted sand
- Support strategic economic development of river and frontage



September 2, 2016

The Honorable Richard Durbin
United States Senate
230 S. Dearborn Street, Suite 3892
Chicago, IL 60604

RE: Watershed Planning for Illinois' longest National Water Trail

Dear Senator Durbin,

The fact is clear: The prosperity of our communities is intimately tied to how well our water works for us.

Here in Kankakee County, as elsewhere, we rely on the availability of water for drinking, for crop irrigation, for industrial operations, for recreation. Meeting these many and varied demands requires robust water and wastewater treatment; systematic investment in water distribution; strong source water management and conservation policies; and comprehensive, multijurisdictional flood control and other long-range planning.

Source water in our community is the 150-mile-long interstate Kankakee River, which was designated a National Water Trail by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior in June of this year. In Kankakee County alone, the river supplies water for more than 80,000 local residents and hundreds of businesses, while supporting new industrial and commercial development that exceeded \$1 billion in 2014-15.

Balancing our community's critical water needs and forming a regional plan of action for sustainability and growth is a shared responsibility. As such, the Kankakee River Roundtable was formed in 2011 to bring together elected officials, riverfront property owners, water officials, environmental stewards, developers and recreation enthusiasts, among others. In the intervening period, much has been illuminated about the Kankakee River's state of health, including a number of points of concern that have been extremely challenging to resolve given the multistate nature of the waterway. These include:

- Upstream sedimentation from Indiana has significantly reduced the capacity of the Kankakee River. The Kankakee Soil and Water District estimates sedimentation at 55% of the river's volume.
- The main stem of the Kankakee River in Momence is now 100% blocked with sand.
- Without remediation, the Momence Wetlands is on track to lose 29% of its volume due to increased sedimentation.
- The Environmental Protection Agency, in its ambient water data collection, has found the Kankakee River to be over the allowable limits for nutrients, including phosphorus and iron.

Watershed Planning for Illinois' longest National Water Trail

- Funding participation for four super gauges to study and document sedimentation at Momence, Kankakee, Wilmington and Chebanse.

We thank you for your attention to the matter of sustainable development for the Kankakee River in the State of Illinois and look forward to further discussion.

Sincerely,

Timothy O. Nugent
President/CEO
Economic Alliance of Kankakee County

Rep. Katherine Cloonen
79th District
Illinois House of Representatives



OUR RIVER TOMORROW



If corrective work is performed to resolve the sand and sedimentation effects in the Kankakee River, the future is bright for Kankakee County as well as for Indiana. The economic and community development capabilities will be reinforced for continuing high quality of life for the area with one of

the best water supplies in the Midwest. The possibilities for tourism are endless with the development of a river walk district, expanded recreational activities, lodges and visitors facilities. The right blend of environmental and agricultural practices will give Kankakee County residents the river from which they can benefit.



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