



 **PLAINFIELD**
RIVERFRONT MASTER PLAN

ADOPTED MARCH 1, 2021

Acknowledgments

Village President

Michael P. Collins

Village of Plainfield Board of Trustees

Harry Benton

Margie Bonuchi

Kevin M. Calkins

Patricia T. Kalkanis

Cally Larson

Brian Wojowski

Village of Plainfield Administration

Brian Murphy

John Konopek

Allen Persons

Traci Pleckham

Jon Proulx

Lonnie Spires

Rick Kaczanko

Michelle Gibas

Village of Plainfield Planning Committee

Amy De Boni

Jessica Gal

Brian Fahnstrom

Zach Zigterman

Scott Threewitt

Rob Piotrowski

Riverfront Foundation

Plainfield Park District

Special Gratitude to:

Plan Commission

Historic Preservation Commission

Jennifer Hammer

Rob Epley

Bob Collins

Ed Arter

Tom Ruane

Nicki Alander

Tasha Marsaglia

Michael Burcham

Heath Wright

Richard Kiefer

David Schmidt

Andy Heinen

Suzanne Derrick

Debbie Olsen

Ralph Schultz

Paul Jackson

Eric Marsaglia

Consultants



APPLIED ECOLOGICAL SERVICES



Table of Contents

1

Site Context

Introduction - **6**
Goals of The Plan - **7**
Community Outreach - **8**
Historical Use - **10**
Regional Context - **11**
Existing Conditions - **12**
Flooding - **16**
DuPage River Water Rights - **17**

2

Concept Plan

Concept Plan - **22**
North Section - **28**
Central Section - **33**
Southern Section - **39**

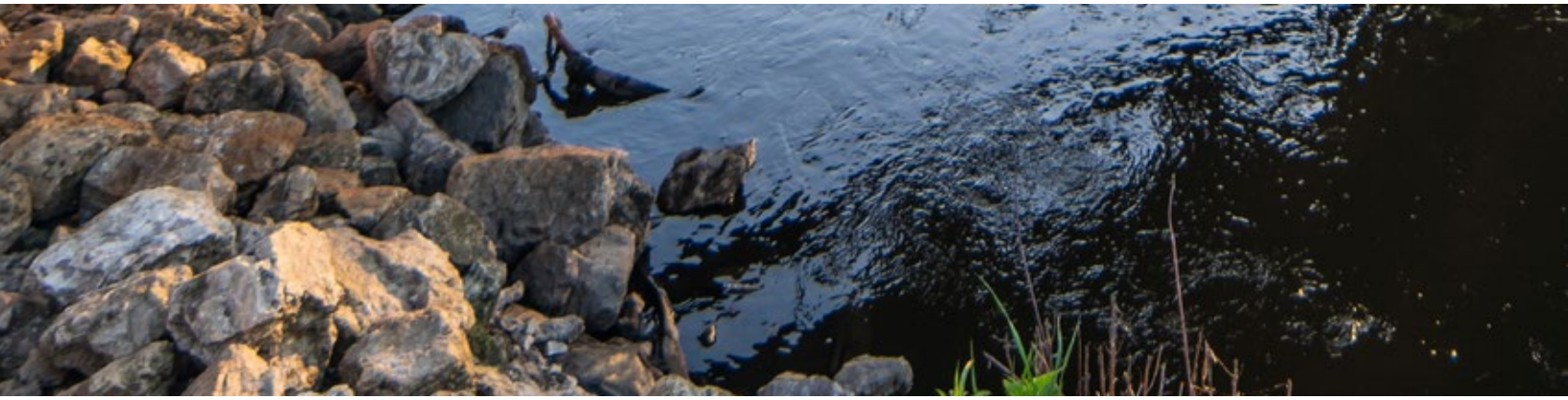
3

Implementation

Momentum Projects - **45**
Implementation Plan - **46**
Funding & Financials - **53**
Cited Material - **57**



SITE CONTEXT



INTRODUCTION

The master plan offers a framework for developing the riverfront over the next decade. The plan's vision is a catalyst of programmed spaces that honor past uses of the park, adjust to existing site conditions while looking to apply a soft development approach by expanding flooding mitigation and using sensitive construction methods with educational and recreational benefits. The riverfront master plan promotes recreational access from every direction, ultimately connecting east to west across the DuPage River using multiple modalities. The plan's intention is to be used as a communication tool to promote the overall riverfront vision while prioritizing planning, fundraising, and permitting efforts.

Project Area

The project area is a corridor of land parcels owned by the Village of Plainfield that abuts two miles of the DuPage River and is bordered on the west by the CN Railway. The northern boundary is the railway's river crossing toward Route 59 and the southern boundary ends just before Renwick Road. Extensions of this project area were accommodated in areas where strategic trail connections and new development were pertinent to the overall goals of the plan. Land acquisition recommendations were not considered for the timeframe of the implementation of the plan.

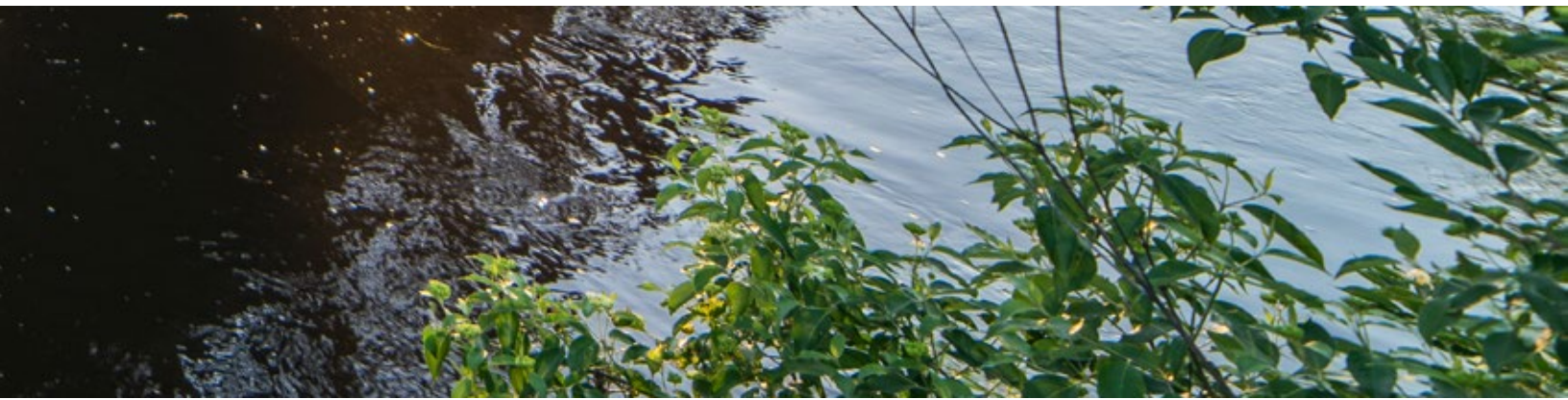
Previous Planning Efforts

Aspects of the previous riverfront master plan adopted in 2007 initiated land acquisition, planning, and development within the river corridor that addressed conditions the Village was experiencing from substantial population growth. This plan provided a grand vision that inspired many including a group of citizens that formed The Riverfront Foundation, dedicated to raising funds and promoting overall development. This riverfront master plan intends to expand upon the success of these previous planning efforts with a holistic approach to fluctuating environmental and regulatory constraints while providing amenities desired by the community.

Existing Plans & Ongoing Development

In addition to referencing the previous plan and the benefits that arose from its 2007 adoption, the following adopted plans and on-going development were coordinated into this plan.

- ~ Village of Plainfield Comprehensive Plan (updated 2013)
- ~ DuPage River Trail Plan (2008)
- ~ Will County Bikeway Plan (2016)
- ~ Springbank River Trail (2017)
- ~ Depot Drive Public-Private Partnership
- ~ Pace Park N Ride and Bus Maintenance Facility
- ~ 143rd Street Extension



Planning Process

With new residential and commercial growth along with community demand for outdoor engagement, the Village initiated a revised master plan process that began toward the end of 2019. Through a competitive proposal pool, a partnership between Applied Ecological Services and Houseal Lavigne Associates was chosen to develop the master plan document. The Village created a project team of Amy De Boni, Jessica Gal, Brian Fahnstrom, Zach Zigterman, Scott Threewitt, and Rob Piotrowski to direct and coordinate planning efforts with the consultants, stakeholders, and community.

Integral components of the planning process were organized in three phases. The first phase encompassed site analysis, stakeholder visioning, and community engagement to provide context to planning efforts, redefine development goals, and evaluate community preferences. The second phase allowed time for the consultants to analyze feedback which progressed into design solutions that formed a conceptual plan. This conceptual plan was presented to the public and Board of Trustees for further input. Phase three enacted the draft master plan, implementation plan, and identified funding sources based on feedback to compromise the final master plan document.

From the unforeseen viral pandemic of COVID 19, new strategies were implemented between the Village appointed project team and the consultants to progress the master plan efforts while practicing proper safety and health precautions set in place by the State of Illinois. The project team committed to working virtually and shifting the community engagement process toward virtual platforms such as social media voting, the project website surveying, online mapping, and webinar presentations. This proved to be highly successful.

GOALS OF THE PLAN

The **Goals** establish the framework for the design concept of the Plainfield Riverfront Master Plan. The Goals of the Plan were created based on community outreach feedback, input from Village staff, and the riverfront's assets and constraints identified during the initial existing conditions analysis phase. They describe the desired outcomes toward which riverfront planning efforts should be directed. The Goals are as follows:

- ~ Maintain sensitivity to floodplain regulations and annual flooding events.
- ~ Identify ecological and recreational functions that the riverfront will serve.
- ~ Identify current uses of the riverfront and what uses are desired by the community.
- ~ Maximize use of the riverfront specifically on land publicly held by the Village.
- ~ Link gaps in the Village's pedestrian pathway systems and improve river connections.
- ~ Install natural landscaping throughout the riverfront.
- ~ Provide a pedestrian connection to the Pace Park-n-Ride.
- ~ Incorporate landscaping enhancements, historic components, public art and signage into the riverfront plan.
- ~ Create a phased project implementation plan with identified funding sources.



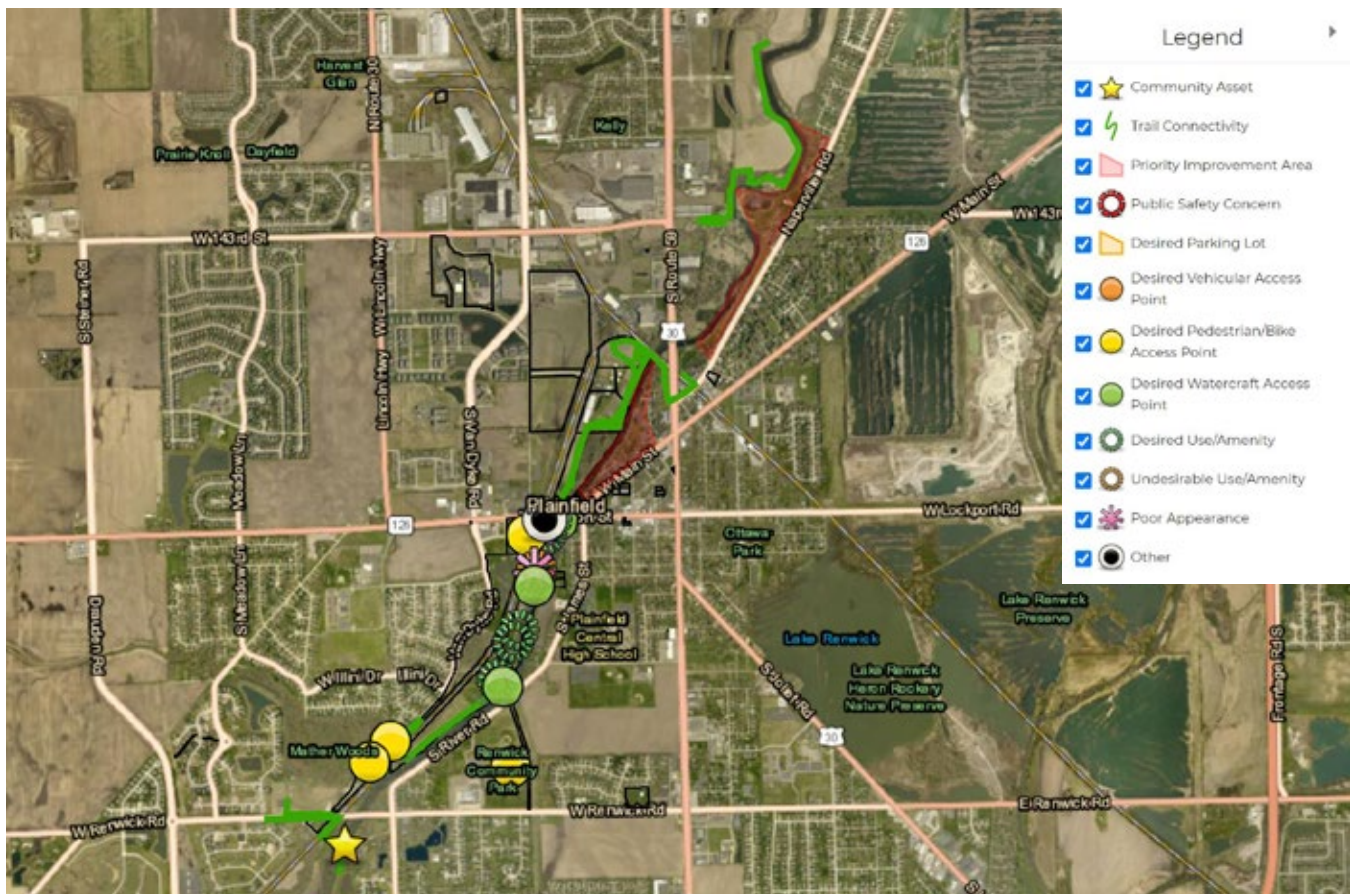
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Between September and December of 2020, the Village of Plainfield conducted community outreach through a series of engagement strategies to gain an understanding of the community's desires for the riverfront, as well as existing issues, challenges, assets, and opportunities. The feedback received during the public engagement period was analyzed and considered when developing the priorities and recommendations of the Plainfield Riverfront Master Plan.

The following is a list of the outreach strategies conducted:

- ~ **Stakeholder Meetings.** Two virtual meetings were held in September to meet with key stakeholder groups, such as the Riverfront Foundation, Park District, Forest Preserve District of Will County, and Historic Preservation Commission.
- ~ **Facebook Campaign.** Throughout the outreach process, project update posts and amenity polling, to gain an understanding of desired riverfront features, were posted on the Village's Facebook page.
- ~ **Project Website.** A website was created for the Master Plan where the public could learn information about the project, receive news and updates, contact the project team, and access online outreach opportunities and important Plan documents.

- ~ **Community Survey.** A survey was conducted from September to October to gain input from the community on topics like Riverfront access and connectivity, general character and land use, design elements and amenities, and environmental factors.
- ~ **map.social.** From September to October, map.social, a fun and engaging online mapping tool, was available where participants could create a personalized map of points of interest, issues, and opportunities along the Riverfront.
- ~ **Public Open House.** On December 10, a virtual Open House was conducted to present the draft content and preliminary recommendations of the Master Plan to the public. Members of the audience were able to ask questions during the Q&A portion to become more familiar with the draft Plan content.
- ~ **Village Board Meeting.** On December 14, the project team presented the draft Master Plan to the Village Board to gain input from the Board on the draft Plan content before the development of the final Master Plan document.
- ~ **Riverfront Foundation Meeting.** On January 21, the project team presented the draft Master Plan and Implementation Plan to the Riverfront Foundation to gain input from the Foundation on the draft Plan content before the development of the final Master Plan document.



Key Takeaways

The following are key takeaways derived from the feedback received during the outreach process:

- ~ Provide a connected trail system and bike routes along the riverfront.
- ~ Improve watercraft access, parking, lighting, seating areas, dining options, and public restrooms.
- ~ Provide a combination of natural/organic, programmed, and activated areas along the Riverfront.
- ~ Preserve the natural character of the Riverfront.
- ~ Ensure new improvements along the riverfront are flood resilient.
- ~ Improve connectivity to surrounding residential neighborhoods, Downtown, and north of Lockport Street Bridge.



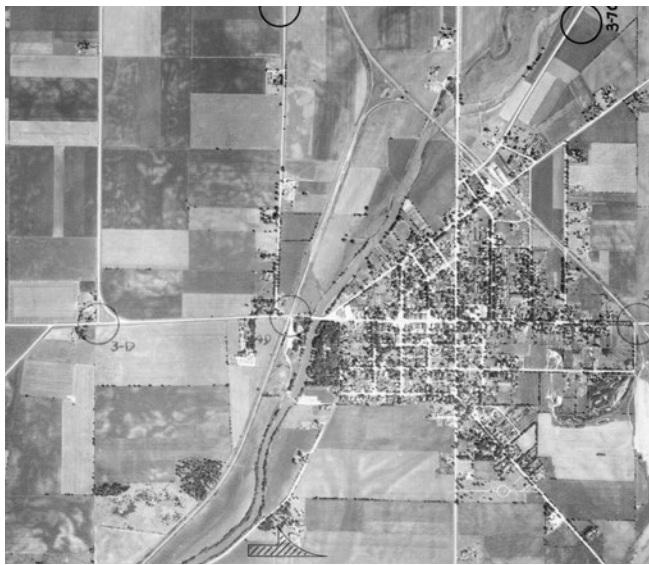
Public Open House
58 Attendees



map.social
27 Features



Community Survey
513 Participants



Historic 1939 Aerial Photograph of Plainfield



Riverfront Amenities Featuring Paddle Boats and a Waterslide



Vacationers Relaxing Among Lawn of Umbrellas



The Famous 5,000-Seat Auditorium Looking Onto the River

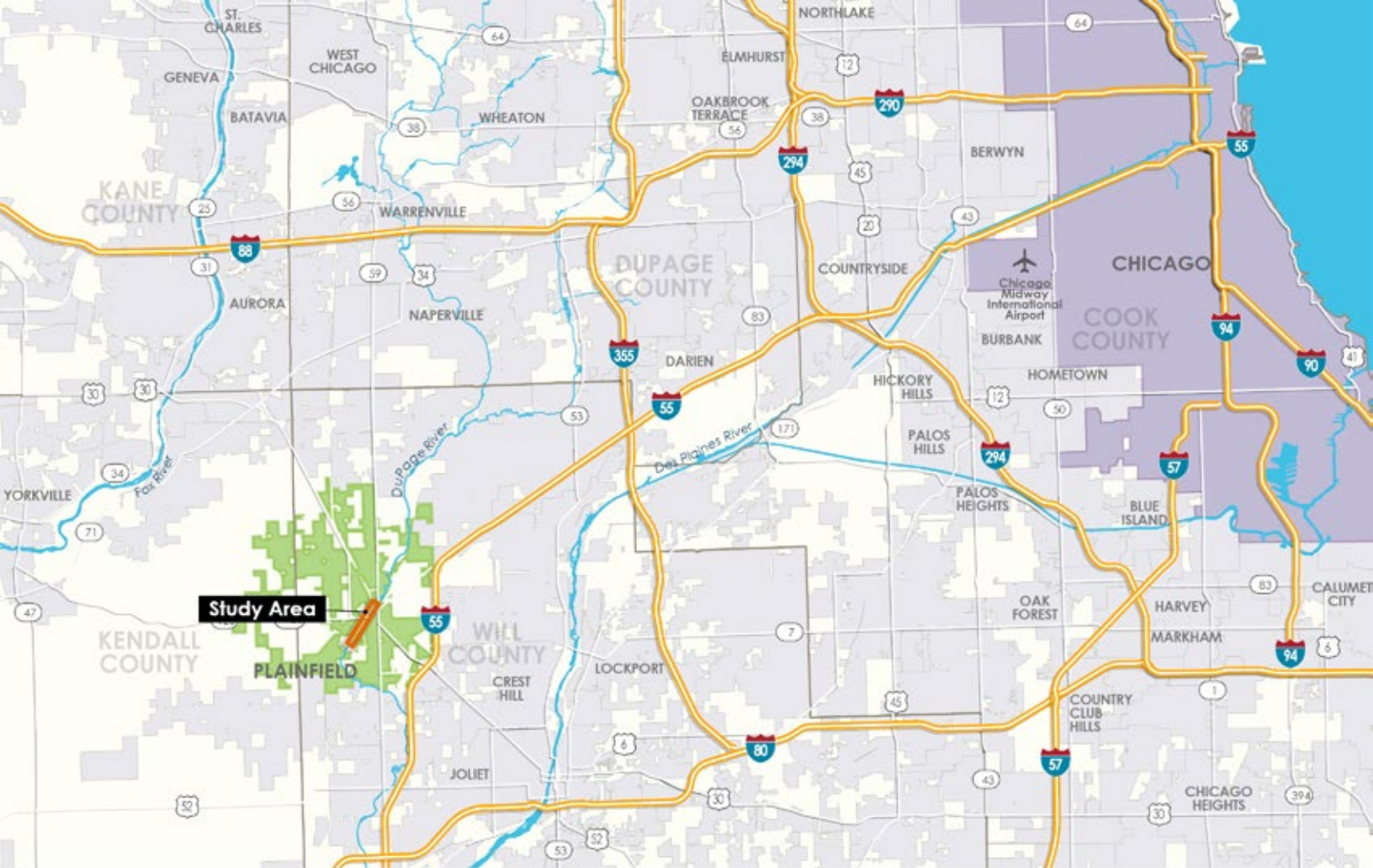
HISTORICAL USE

The riverfront is rich in history with remnants from prior land uses within and adjacent to the project area. To honor the past while looking toward the future, an opportunity exists in areas of significance to provide educational and wayfinding signage that display past functions and practices along the riverfront. Although annual flooding have deterred past historical uses of the riverfront, we can reflect and take inspiration for what the riverfront can still become with sensitive environmental applications.

Looking at the above images you gain an understanding of how programming has changed but also the alteration of the pre-European settlement landscape or natural watershed ecosystem. The original public land surveyors that worked for the office of U.S. Surveyor General in the early and mid-1800s mapped and described natural and man-made features and vegetation communities while creating the “rectangular survey system” for mapping and sale of western public lands of the United States (Daly & Lutes et. al., 2011).

Ecologists know by interpreting survey notes and hand-drawn Federal Township Plats of Illinois (1804-1891) that a complex interaction existed between several ecological communities including prairies, savannas, woodlands, and wetlands before European settlement in the 1830s. These communities are what the last Native American Indian tribe in the area, the Potawatomie, experienced before fur trading, and agricultural practices altered the land. One of the earliest aerial photographs, taken in 1939, depicts the Village of Plainfield as an agricultural hub with remnants of riverfront recreation still programmed.

Imagery Provided by the Village of Plainfield, Illinois State Geological Survey, and Plainfield Historical Society



REGIONAL CONTEXT

The Village of Plainfield is located approximately 34 miles from downtown Chicago, 9 miles northwest of the heart of Joliet, and 11 miles south of downtown Naperville. The Village includes land in Will County's Plainfield and Wheatland townships, as well as the Na-Au-Say and Oswego townships in Kendall County. Kendall County experienced significant growth from 2010 to 2019 at 12.4 percent, while Will County grew slightly by 1.9 percent. Like Kendall County, Plainfield has also experienced rapid growth over the last decade (about 11.1 percent), with a current population of nearly 44,500 residents.

The Village is well connected to the surrounding region by a series of major roadways, including I-55, U.S. Route 30, and Illinois Route 126 and 59. In addition, it is connected internationally with close access to O'Hare International Airport and Chicago Midway International Airport, about 29 miles and 26 miles northeast, respectively. The DuPage River traverses the center of the community, along which the study area is located, with the Des Plaines River running to the east and the Fox River to the northwest.

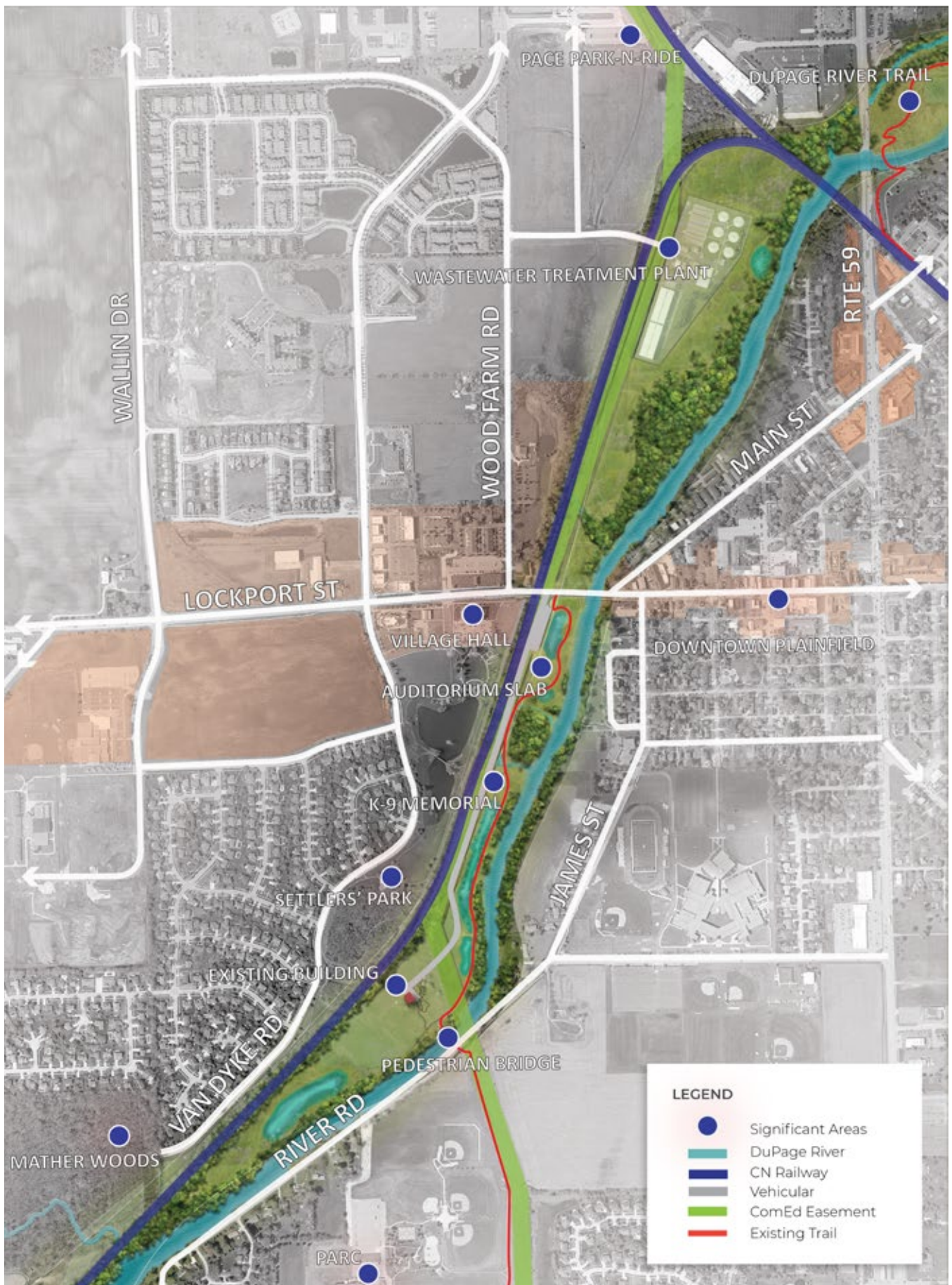
EXISTING CONDITIONS

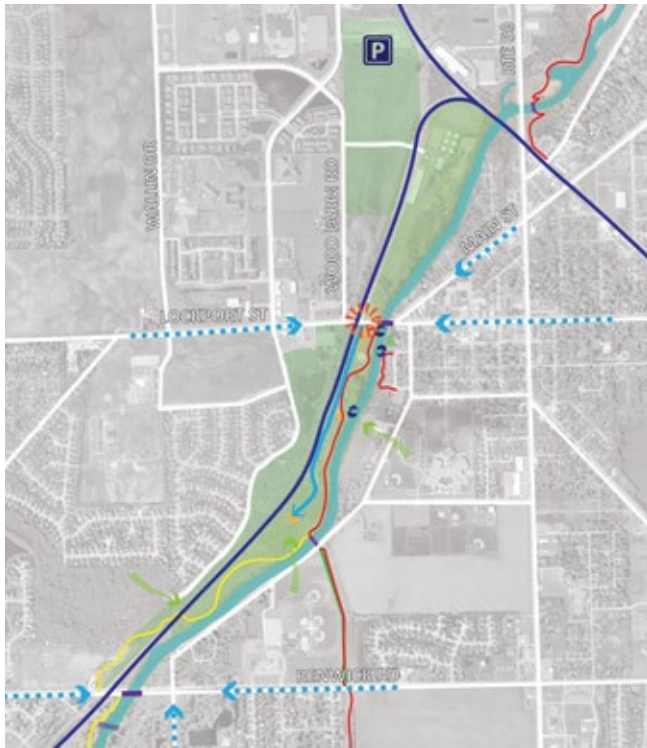
The riverfront currently provides an area of strategically dedicated open space along a two mile stretch of the DuPage River surrounded by commercial, light industrial, and residential land uses. From the west, this open space is bordered by the CN Railway and to the east the river's natural barrier runs adjacent to public and private property. The north area of the riverfront is generally untouched by development with a wide riparian corridor of floodplain woodland that gradually slopes toward the river. High ground is reserved for the Village's Wastewater Treatment Plant and prospective expansion.

Lockport Street forms the central nucleus of the riverfront corridor with historic downtown Plainfield and the Route 59 business corridor on the east side of the DuPage River and west of the railway, commercial development, Village Hall and Settlers' Park showcase western expansion and growth. Having undergone successful renovation stemming from the original master plan, the Lockport Street bridge provides two lanes of vehicular transport across the river with a southern pedestrian crossing and overlook area.

The Riverfront Foundation installed educational signage at the overlook to promote a mission of honoring the area's rich history. The railway crossing on Lockport Street has designated Quiet Zone status from long-term coordination and planning between the Village, Illinois Department of Transportation, and CN Railway.

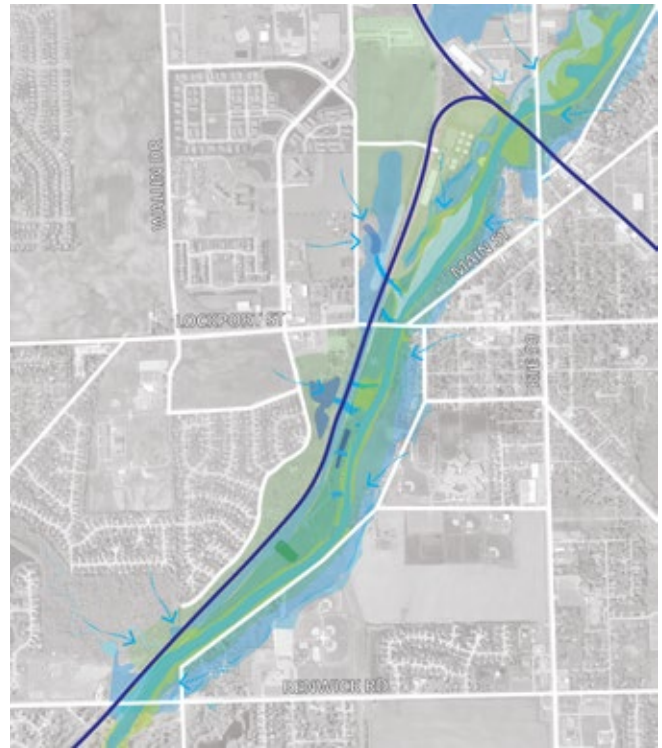
South of Lockport Street is historic Electric Park, abutting the river on the east and west side. A reminder of the area's famous park is the remnant of the former auditorium's foundation. Additional areas of interest include the K9 memorial honoring Village Police and Fire Department service dogs and the Riverfront Foundation's museum space located in the former Wastewater Treatment Plant building. Viewsheds of the river are provided with open space and additional floodplain woodland reaching further south toward Renwick Road.





RIVER ACCESS

- Plainfield Park-n-Ride
- Safety Concern
- Ingress Egress
- River Launch
- DuPage River
- CN Railway
- Vehicular
- Bridge Access
- Retired Bridge
- Existing Trail
- Springbank Trail
- Parking



WATERSHED DRAINAGE

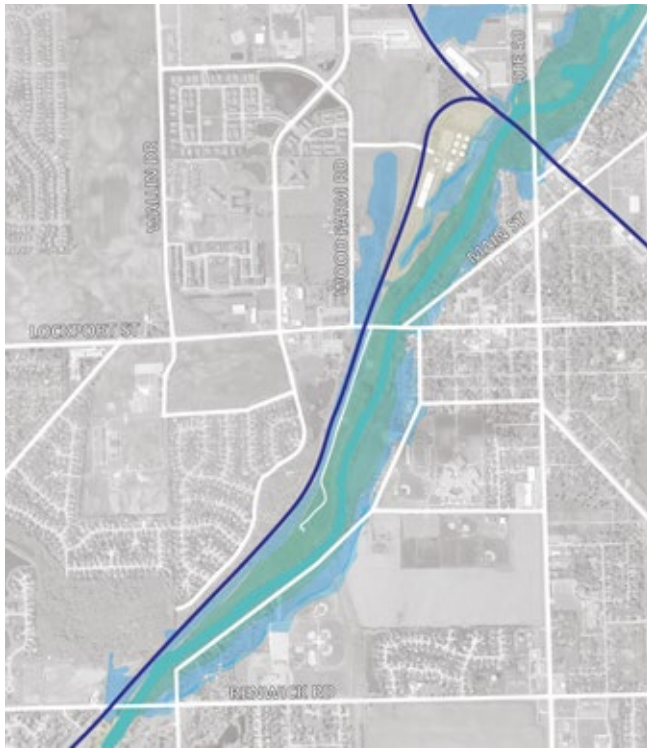
- Watershed Drainage
- Drainage Swale
- DuPage River
- Wetland
- Wet Detention
- Dry Detention

River Access & Circulation

A single vehicular access point to the project area is provided off Lockport Street by a right-in right-out necessary for the railway quiet zone designation and coordinated with IDOT. The Lockport Street bridge provides the central river crossing along with the Renwick Road bridge, the pedestrian bridge connecting the Fort Beggs Trail, and a second pedestrian bridge north of the project area, the DuPage River Trail. Three parking areas are provided but are inefficient to two-way traffic congestion. Existing and proposed trails continue regional extensions but limitations persist that the riverfront development plans to address. Three informal river launches exist south of Lockport Street, two accommodating the west side of the river and the third on the east side provided by the Park District in Electric Park.

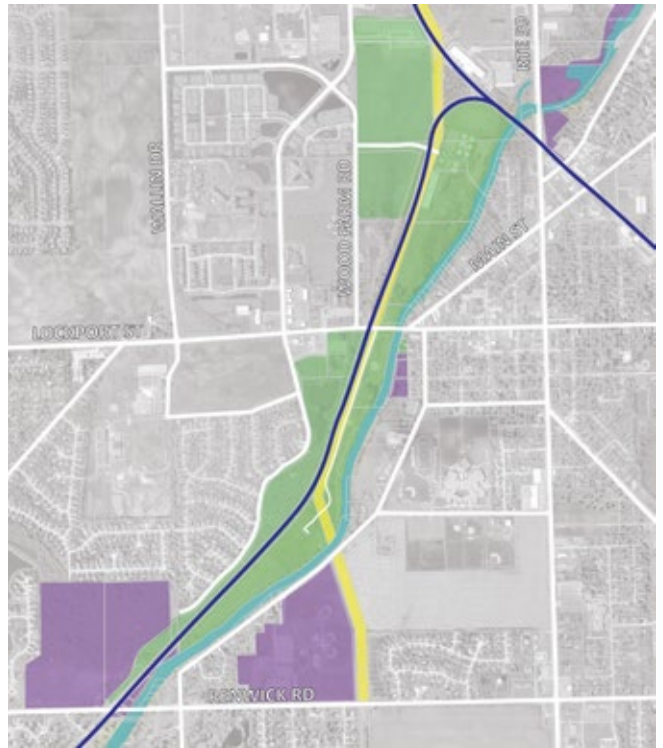
Watershed Drainage

Located within the lower DuPage River watershed, rainwater and surface runoff funnel toward the river at various velocities. This drainage is joined by the Upper DuPage River watershed which is considered highly developed area leading to heavy discharge during peak rain events. Natural drainage swales occur in the north and central regions of the project area along with wet retention and dry detention to offset adjacent land uses. One significant area of naturalized retention with a diverse population of wetland plants has been included south of the K9 Memorial to retain overflow discharge from Settlers' Park and drainage from the upper watershed during those peak rain events.



RIVERFRONT TENURE

- DuPage River
- Village Property
- Park District Property
- CN Railway
- ComEd Easement



FLOODWAY CONDITIONS

- CN Railway
- DuPage River
- Regulatory Floodway
- 100-year Flood
- 500-year Flood

Floodway Conditions

The project area is within the FEMA regulatory floodway with a majority of land area within the 100-year and 500-year flood zones. This means the project area at minimum has a one percent chance of flooding annually with back to back recurrence intervals in the 100-year flood zone and a 0.2 percent chance of floods inundating land up to the 500-year flood zone boundary. The frequency of flooding experienced by the Village of Plainfield and trends of increased water vapor in the atmosphere predict flooding within either zone will become a yearly event.

Riverfront Tenure

The project area focuses on land owned by the Village of Plainfield between the DuPage River to the CN Railway. Also included is a small parcel owned by the Village east of the river and north of the Park District's east Electric Park. A ComEd easement runs along the east edge of the railway. The existing vehicular road is grandfathered into that easement. Adjacent public land owned by the Park District provides potential mobility extensions and cohesive coordination efforts. Distinctive of the region, parcel boundaries are not regulated to the edge or centerline of the river and can be sporadic. A detail to be respected as implementation progresses.

FLOODING

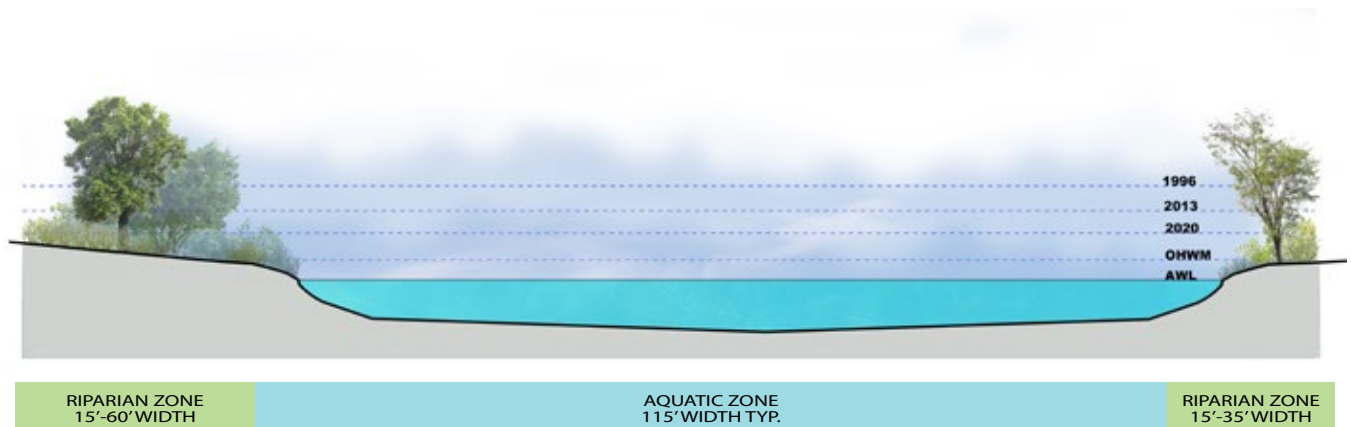
Since the Village's inception the riverfront has experienced multiple land use programs that have been affected by flooding. As annual heavy flooding is predicted to increase, the project areas development becomes restrained to sensitive forms of soft programming that will not impede floodplain detention. For this reason, the addition of new building enclosure development is not recommended within the project area. Secondary to this recommendation is the cost to insure and maintain such structures annually along with the restoration efforts required after flooding events. Because the project area sits within an expansive watershed area and the DuPage River is a critical floodplain drainage route for the region, expanding the overall riparian buffer through natural vegetation restoration, improving streambank function along swales and key areas of erosion along the riverbanks will offset soft development programming. Ultimately by slowing the speed of waterflow, increasing infiltration, and filtering surface runoff hazards of annual flooding can be mitigated while also contributing to improving water quality for the community.

Existing DuPage River Riparian Corridor

A typical section of the DuPage River riparian area depicts current riparian zone widths, the average water line, ordinary high-water mark, and elevations of a few of Plainfield's larger flood events. To promote the above benefits, it is recommended that at minimum seventy-five percent of the total stream length should be naturally vegetated to protect the functional integrity of the water resource and 75 foot wide minimum riparian buffers are recommended from the top edge of each stream bank that are naturally vegetated to protect water quality. With private property restrictions on the east side, the west side of the river provides the best opportunity to expand the riparian buffer.



Spring Flooding 2020, Imagery Provided by the Village of Plainfield



DUPAGE RIVER WATER RIGHTS

The Village of Plainfield owns property adjacent to the DuPage River suitable for providing public access to water-related recreational activities on the river. Public recreational use of the DuPage River includes both fishing and floating in personal watercraft such as kayaks or innertubes. The question has arisen over who owns and controls the use of the DuPage River.

The DuPage River is not identified as a public body of water (neither as an Illinois Public Water or a Federal Navigable Water) by the Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (see 615 ILCS 5, and implementing regulations at 17 Ill. Adm. Code, Chapter I, Section 3704, Appendix A Public Bodies of Water). Additionally, there is neither a statute nor case law in Illinois establishing either a public right or a public easement to recreational access or use of water bodies in Illinois that are located above or flow over the top of, the land is held in private ownership. Therefore, the land over which the DuPage River flows and the rights to the “reasonable use” of the water in the river is controlled by private property rights as defined by the State of Illinois to the extent that these rights do not conflict with Federal or Illinois law or interfere with the rights of other riparian landowners.

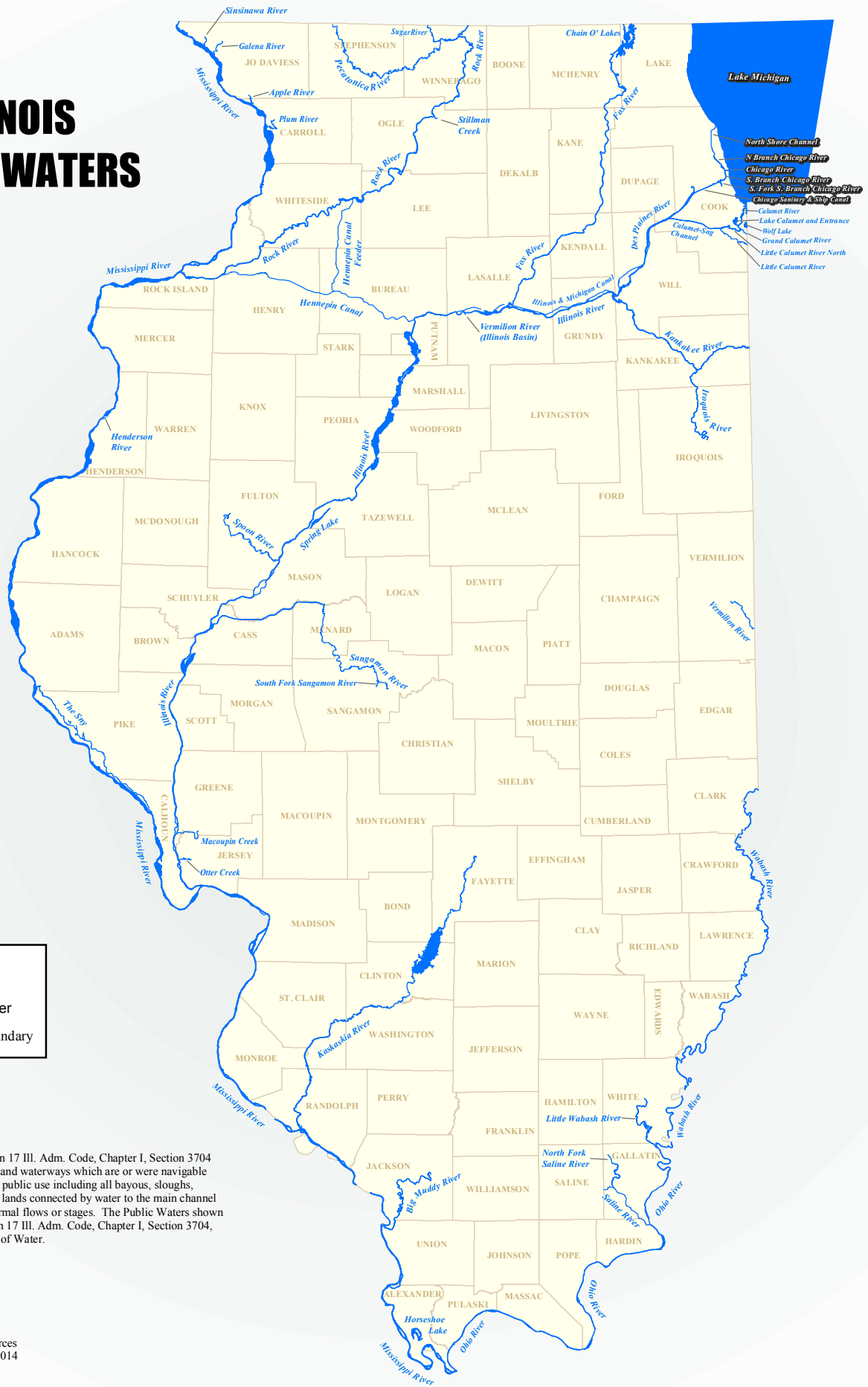
The current situation results in a gap between the practical enforcement of private property rights on the one hand, and the public desire for recreational access and use of water bodies on the other hand. The State of Illinois has recognized and tried to bridge this gap by enacting both incentives and legal protections meant to encourage private landowners to allow public recreational use of water bodies within their parcel boundaries.

Illinois passed the Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act (745 ILCS 65) to “encourage owners of land to make land and water areas available to the public for recreational or conservation purposes by limiting their liability toward persons entering thereon for such purposes.” This Act shields a landowner from responsibility or legal liability toward personal or property damage incurred by a recreational user on the owner’s property as long as the landowner does not

charge an access fee, make assurances about the property’s safety, or voluntarily assume a duty of care toward the recreational user.

To date, neither the state legislature nor the courts of Illinois have stepped in to explicitly resolve the gap between private landowner rights and public desire for recreational access on private water bodies that are navigable-in-fact, but which occur on private property. The current situation leaves both recreational users and landowners relying upon the “goodwill” of the other.

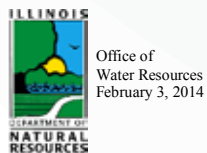
ILLINOIS PUBLIC WATERS



Legend

- Public Water
- County Boundary

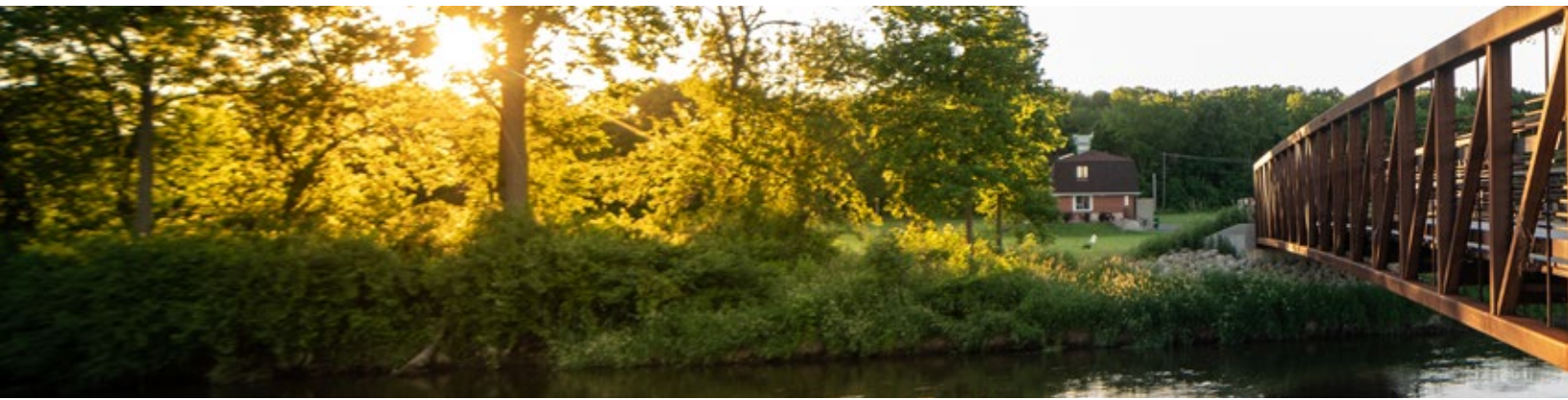
Public Waters are defined in 17 Ill. Adm. Code, Chapter I, Section 3704 as all lakes, rivers, streams and waterways which are or were navigable and are open or dedicated to public use including all bays, sloughs, backwaters and submerged lands connected by water to the main channel or body of water during normal flows or stages. The Public Waters shown on this map are identified in 17 Ill. Adm. Code, Chapter I, Section 3704, Appendix A Public Bodies of Water.



Illinois Public and Federal Navigable Waters (2007, July 5), Map Provided by Illinois Department of Natural Resources

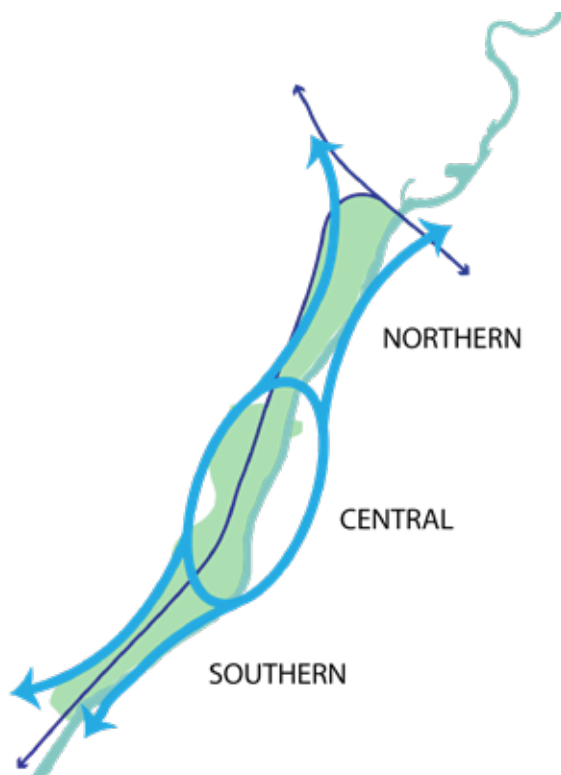


CONCEPT PLAN



CONCEPT PLAN

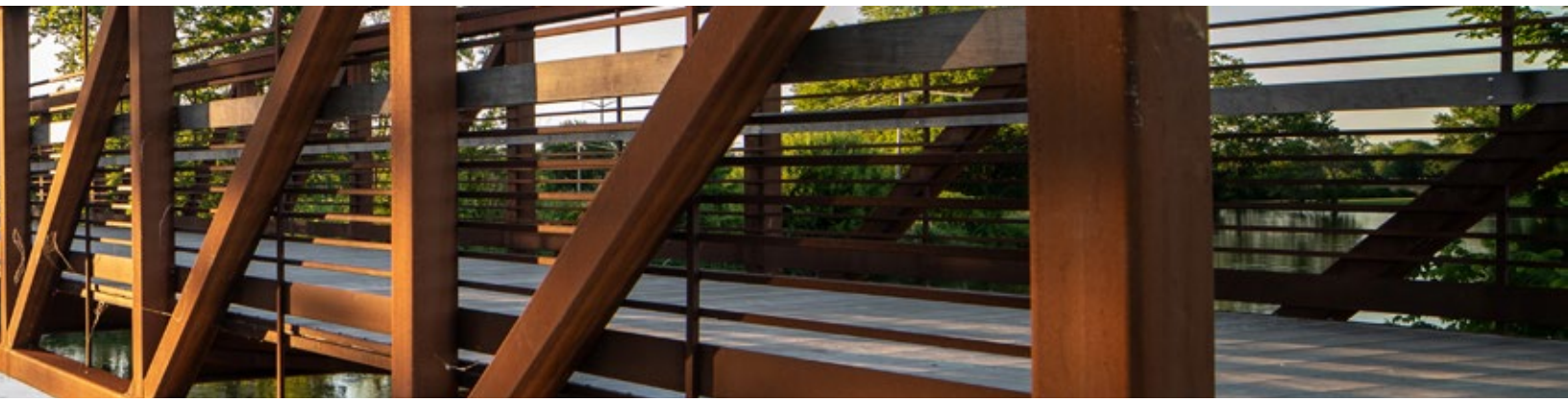
The concept plan offers an exciting vision for renewed and revitalized space along the DuPage River. Three distinct identities are formed along the riverfront organized by the northern section, central section, and southern section. Although the riverfront vision is considered soft development and passive in nature, for this plan each area provides distinct programming that is considered passive or active recreation as it relates to proposed program elements and is sensitive to existing conditions. Overall, the northern and southern sections provide passive recreation opportunities while the central section is the hub of programmed active recreation amenities.



Programming & Mobility

The riverfront is an area for everyone of all abilities and interests, but most people will be drawn to the area with one or two objectives in mind. In this way, visitors may be categorized into “user groups” who will demand a specific program and amenities from their visit. Based on community and stakeholder engagement response, the riverfront provides additional opportunities of exploration for active recreation users, passive recreation users, river-based users, cultural and commercial users, and eco-heritage users. Based on these defined user groups, program elements became evident and were incorporated into the Master Plan at appropriate locations to promote a general passive recreation use that weaves key connection points to the Plainfield community.

Multi-modal access to the riverfront is enhanced through trail extensions from north to south and a western connection to the Plainfield Park-n-Ride. Along with the east connections from the pedestrian bridge to Fort Beggs Trail, Lockport Street Bridge, and Renwick Street Bridge, all direction routes are included to enhance the riverfront as a prime alternative commuter route within the active and passive recreation user groups. These extensions also provide connections to the various neighborhoods previously dissected by the DuPage River and Canadian National Railway. Looking beyond land mobility the DuPage River offers a reincarnated water route with formal launch points that provide enhanced visibility to Plainfield as a destination or hub for new water uses.



Proposed Program Elements

Active Recreation

- ~ Multi-use trail encouraging bicycling
- ~ Bicycle maintenance stations
- ~ Multi-use trail encouraging running
- ~ Parking

Passive Recreation

- ~ Multi-use trail encouraging walking
- ~ Seating/overlook areas
- ~ Lounging/traditional picnicking
- ~ Informal open space areas
- ~ Play space

River-Based Recreation

- ~ Paddlecraft: Canoes, kayaks, paddleboards
- ~ Tubing
- ~ Fishing

Civic and Cultural Activities

- ~ Historical education signage
- ~ K-9 memorial space
- ~ Sculpture/art visuals
- ~ Wayfinding signage
- ~ Performance plaza
- ~ Formal landscaping
- ~ Lighting

Nature-Based Activities

- ~ Birding
- ~ Overlook wildlife viewing
- ~ Interpretive signage



Ecological Function & Aesthetic

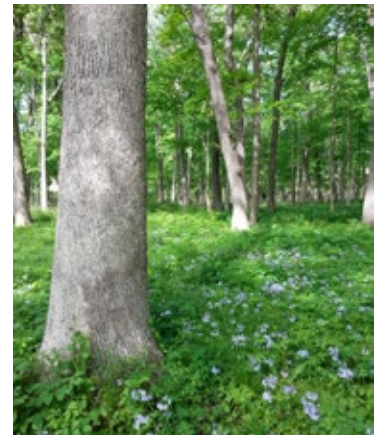
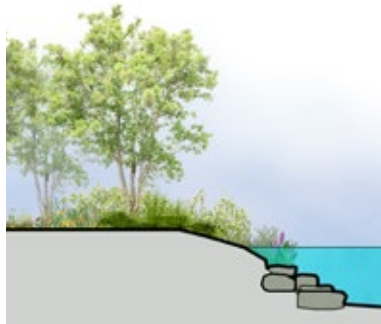
A model shift in our approach to riverfront park function and aesthetic away from traditional urban riverfronts and expansive park lawns leads us to a cohesive network of riparian river expansion and natural area restoration. The three plant communities and native landscaping are interwoven between turf lawn or hardscape programmed areas to provide user groups interactive opportunities to nature as well as develop a highly functional habit corridor for native flora and fauna. The master plan promotes these applications through the restoration of three significant broad ecosystems, riparian floodplain, wetland, and mesic prairie habitat along with recommendations for native formal landscaping. These broad plant communities are applied to riparian corridor expansion through width and plant diversity, shoreline restoration, constructed wetlands, prairie conversion from turf lawn, to beyond the above objectives. Greening the riverfront with these applications restores the natural function of the lower DuPage River watershed to adapt to fluctuating environmental conditions, reduces erosion, improves water quality, promotes water infiltration, reduce the need for fertilizer, provide wildlife food and habitat, and results in minimal maintenance costs.

Riparian Floodplain

Enhanced width and diversity of plant species provide bank stabilization during fluctuating water levels.

Typical Riparian Floodplain Plants

- ~ Red Maple
- ~ Sycamore
- ~ Elm
- ~ River Birch
- ~ Willow
- ~ Redosier Dogwood
- ~ Virginia Rye
- ~ Lake Sedge
- ~ Wild Bergamot
- ~ Black-Eyed Susan



Typical Riparian Floodplain Bank Stabilization Section, Imagery Provided by AES

Wetland

Returning hydrology (water) and vegetation to soils that once supported wetlands. Predominate coverage of grasses, rushes, and sedges with an assortment of insect loving flowering plants. This low area habitat attracts multiple types of birds, amphibians, reptiles, and mammals.

Typical Wetland Plants

- ~ Sweet Flag
- ~ Lake Sedge
- ~ Blue Flag Iris
- ~ Pickerel Weed
- ~ Bulrush
- ~ Arrowhead
- ~ Swamp Milkweed
- ~ Ironweed
- ~ Obedient Plant
- ~ Blue Joint Grass
- ~ Dudley's Rush
- ~ Switchgrass



Typical Wetland Section, Imagery Provided by AES



Typical Rock and Native Vegetation Bank Stabilization, Imagery Provided by AES

Mesic Pollinator Prairie

Providing a low-profile mesic plant community with an assortment of colorful flowers that attract indigenous pollinators such as the Monarch Butterfly.

Typical Mesic Pollinator Prairie Plants

- ~ False Indigo
- ~ Mountain Mint
- ~ Nodding Onion
- ~ Sky Blue Aster
- ~ Prairie Coreopsis
- ~ Purple Coneflower
- ~ Foxglove
- ~ Beartongue
- ~ Butterfly Weed
- ~ Purple Prairie Clover
- ~ Rough Blazingstar
- ~ Prairie Blazingstar
- ~ Dotted Mint
- ~ Showy Goldenrod
- ~ Spiderwort



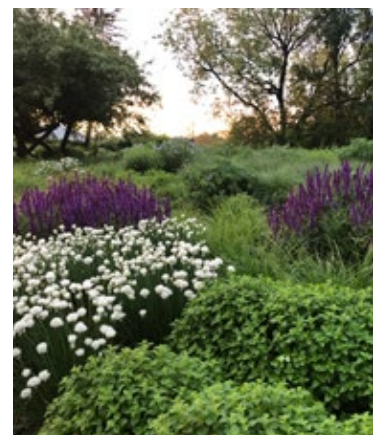
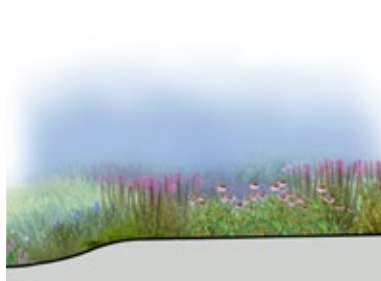
Typical Mesic Pollinator Prairie Section, Imagery Provided by AES

Native Landscaping

Hardy, lower maintenance, and deep-rooted native plants in formal beds or plant matrix formations provide three seasons of color interest along with winter form and texture variety.

Typical Native Landscaping Plants

- ~ Swamp White Oak
- ~ Red Oak
- ~ Hackberry
- ~ Ironwood
- ~ Serviceberry
- ~ Eastern Redbud
- ~ Hazelnut
- ~ Red Chokeberry
- ~ Switchgrass
- ~ Little Bluestem
- ~ Prairie Dropseed
- ~ Sky Blue Aster
- ~ Prairie Coreopsis
- ~ Purple Coneflower



Typical Native Landscaping Section, Imagery Provided by AES

Material Strength & Aesthetic

To continue the vision of a cohesive aesthetic that promotes strength, safety, and visibility, soft programmed areas shall include specified materials that withstand floodwater inundation, withstand floating debris impacts, and are easily maintained. It's recommended to use cast-in-place structures of concrete and steel along with pier system foundations in wetland and floodplain areas. These simple yet durable materials should be used for all park amenity features to maintain the riverfront vision and reduce operation budgets. Additional highlights are provided below of each element that can be incorporated into park development.

Materials

Incorporate soft development structures of bike racks, bike maintenance stations, trash receptacles, benches, boardwalks, and pergolas that use cast-in-place concrete, galvanized, powder-coated, or Corten steel.



Lighting

Promote a cohesive lighting plan by using the existing model canopy light post-frame along the entire trail stretch. Programmed spaces in the central and southern sections along with underpasses will be highlighted with up lighting for additional security and character.



Signage & Wayfinding

Provide distinctive wayfinding, historical, and interpretive signage within key programmed spaces along with water route wayfinding signage along the river. Frames shall consist of a cast-in-place pass-through design using the above durable materials.



Art & Sculpture

Promote local and regional artists through a walk in the park by offering durable destination-worthy installation interaction or improve less desirable areas such as underpasses.



NORTH SECTION





VISION

The site design for the northern section features riparian woodland restoration and prairie conversion from turf lawn in most of the land area. A looped trail provides access to the Park-N-Ride and DuPage River Trail through a boardwalk underpass beneath the rail line and connects to the central section by a boardwalk underpass below Lockport Street bridge. Two overlooks are provided, the first toward the DuPage River Trail and the second just before the proposed pedestrian bridge and swale restoration. This second overlook connects to the stone council ring. Two cast-in-place concrete benches are proposed on adjacent ends of the pedestrian bridge for passive connection. Bermed vegetation screening is added around the west and south-facing perimeters of the wastewater treatment plant for visual buffering.

Programming

DuPage River Trail Connection

A key connection to the north, the boardwalk underpass connects from the northern section of the riverfront to the DuPage River Trail. The boardwalk underpass is comprised of concrete piers, an interlocking concrete platform, and galvanized steel railing. It traverses along the west bank under the railway bridge and Route 59 to reach the existing DuPage River Trail. The connection requires coordination between the CN Railroad, Park District, Will County Forest Preserve, and a single easement along private property.



DuPage River Trail Connection and Lockport Street Underpass

Pedestrian Bridge & Stream Restoration

The pedestrian bridge would match the existing pedestrian bridge in the southern section of the project area. The bridge provides views of the proposed swale restoration running underneath the bridge with native shoreline vegetation and boulder outcropping enhancements. Since the swale drains offsite runoff into the river, stream restoration will increase infiltration and improve water quality.



Pedestrian Bridge

Park-N-Ride Connection

The plan proposes a multi-use paved trail connection from the northern trail loop to the Park-N-Ride, reinforcing the riverfront's use as a key commuter trail for the community. Coordination between the Village, CN Railroad, and Illinois Commerce Commission is required. The railroad crossing includes a concrete platform with flangeways, two signals, and two crossing barrier arms to provide adequate safety precautions. Canopy trail lighting is provided along the northern loop with an additional security camera option provided near the railway crossing.



Park-N-Ride Connection

Overlook & Council Ring

Overlooks are constructed of concrete piers and interlocking platforms with galvanized steel railing. Viewsheds are cut into the riparian floodplain. The stone council ring provides passive reflection space or intimate storytelling with a trail leading to the overlook.



Overlook & Council Ring

Lockport Street Underpass Boardwalk

An important connection point, the boardwalk underpass uses the same material as the overlooks with concrete piers, platform, and galvanized steel railing. Additional lighting is provided to enhance night views of this unique aesthetic and eliminate security concerns.

North Section Riverfront Amenities Framework



Legend

-  Overhead Lighting
-  Underlighting
-  Sculpture Art
-  Water Trail
-  See p. 32 for a section view of this area



Pedestrian Bridge and Stream Restoration



Inception of the Boardwalk Underpass of Lockport Street Bridge



VISION

The hub of the riverfront, the central section provides active programming for gathering, performances, and optimal views of the river. Additional trails connect to each program amenity while the existing trail remains as the primary multi-use system. The central section maintains existing lawn with pockets of constructed wetland around the central plaza to mitigate the parking expansion. An ADA accessible trail connects to the river cove from the parking expansion with converted prairie buffering the woodland. Portions of the existing woodland would be cleared to open viewsheds toward the river. Existing detention further south is enhanced in depth storage and plant diversity. Lighting is enhanced around the central plaza, boardwalk overlook, and pergola spaces.

Programming

Entryway & Road Enhancement

A revamped entryway sign is proposed with an expansive layout of native landscaping aligned with the Lockport Street sidewalk and running downhill toward the existing trail. The entryway sign includes a lit structure large enough to be recognized from the east riverside. Additional wayfinding signage situated at entrance nodes provides additional navigation to programmed space. Road enhancements include two waiting areas on the east side of the road to accommodate traffic at peak activity.

Parking Lot Expansion

The existing parking lot is paved to provide thirty designated spaces. A second parking lot is added to accommodate twenty spaces for new central section programs and river cove activity. A bicycle maintenance station is provided near the enhanced parking area.

Active & Passive Pergola Space

The active pergola space provides respite from the multi-use trail with a steel pergola where adult swings or hammocks can be hung in the middle of the structure for enhanced interaction. A series of cast-in-place block bench seating aligns the exterior edge of the pergola for additional passive reflection. The passive pergola space provides a simpler variation with a cantilevered pergola for reflection, cast-in-place block seating, and a designated area for interpretative signage.

Boardwalk Overlook

A focal point for water engagement, the trail leads to a crescent-shaped boardwalk that extends to the river edge with three tiers of steps leading toward the water. This overlook is planned without a railing but can be provided for additional safety. Overlooks are constructed of concrete piers and interlocking platforms. Bollard and uplighting accentuate the shape of the overlook.

Central Plaza

Using the remnant foundation of the auditorium, the central plaza provides a node of gathering space with an elevated bermed lawn in the center sloping down to a central space. Cast-in-place seating retains the bermed lawn while the exterior edge of the plaza is aligned with cast-in-place block benches. These benches provide a distinctive feature to the riverfront that is easy to maintain, can withstand flood debris, and allows for water to pass in between each block. Creating a double ring, both edges are uplit for enhanced evening displays.

River Cove & Woodland Restoration

An existing swale is excavated, regraded, and naturalized with stone rocktoe and outcropping. Aligned with the swale is an ADA accessible ramp leading to a zero-depth entrance at the average water level. Surrounding this entrance is a tiered boulder enclave for additional interest and active interaction. The existing woodland abutting the southern edge of the river cove is cleared of concrete debris with a percentage of tree removal opening the canopy structure to allow for native plants to thrive. Wayfinding signage is provided along the trail entrance to this area.

K9 Memorial & Parking Expansion

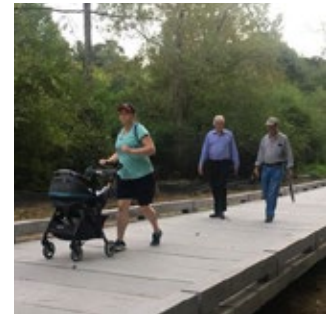
Interpretive signage is provided at the enhanced entrance. A new circular parking area provides fifteen spaces that also acts as turnaround space for vehicular users. Enhancements to the K9 memorial include paved expansion, a formal native landscaping bed placed behind the existing memorials, and an oval enclosure of memorial trees that can be uplit.

Detention Enhancement & K9 Memorial Stream Restoration

The area of existing detention is expanded and excavated to increase storage capacity. Just north of the K9 Memorial is an existing drainage swale that will receive streambank restoration to improve erosion, enhance water quality, and add aesthetic stone outcropping for interactive discovery.



Active and Passive Pergola Space



Boardwalk Overlook



Central Plaza














River Cove and K9 Memorial Enhancement

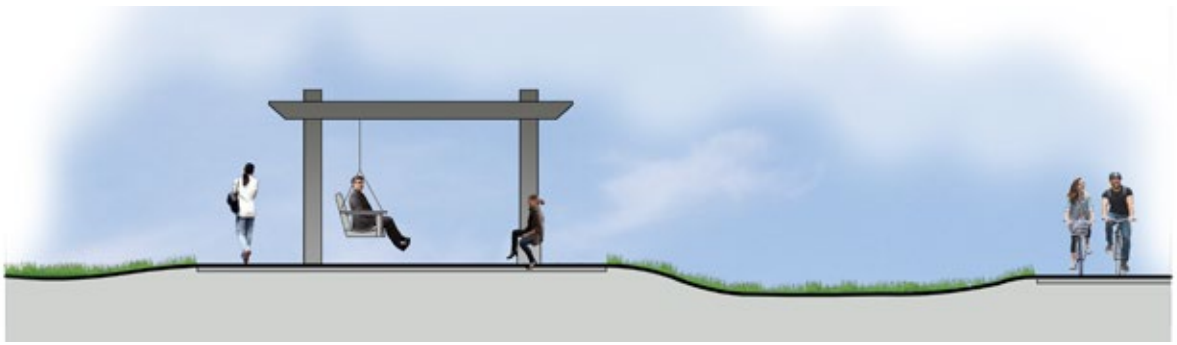
Central Section Riverfront Amenities Framework



Legend

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|---|---|
|  | Educational/Interpretive Signage |  | Underpass Lighting |
|  | Wayfinding |  | Mural Art |
|  | River Wayfinding |  | Sculpture Art |
|  | Bike Maintenance Stations |  | Water Trail |
|  | Overhead Lighting |  | See p. 38 for a section view of this area |
|  | Underlighting | | |

2A



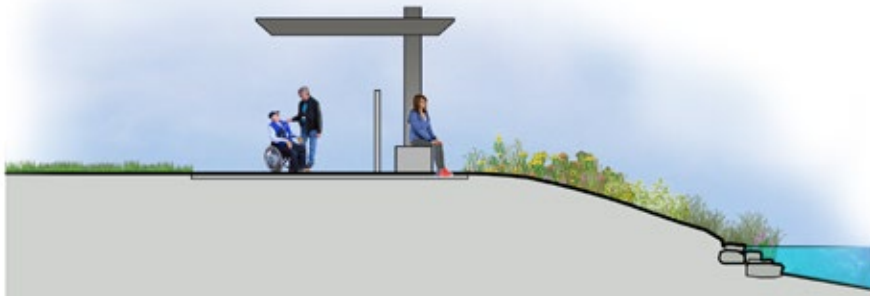
Active Pergola Space Looking Toward the Existing River Trail

2B



Central Plaza Expanse Toward the Boardwalk

2C



Passive Pergola Space With an Open Viewshed of the River

2D



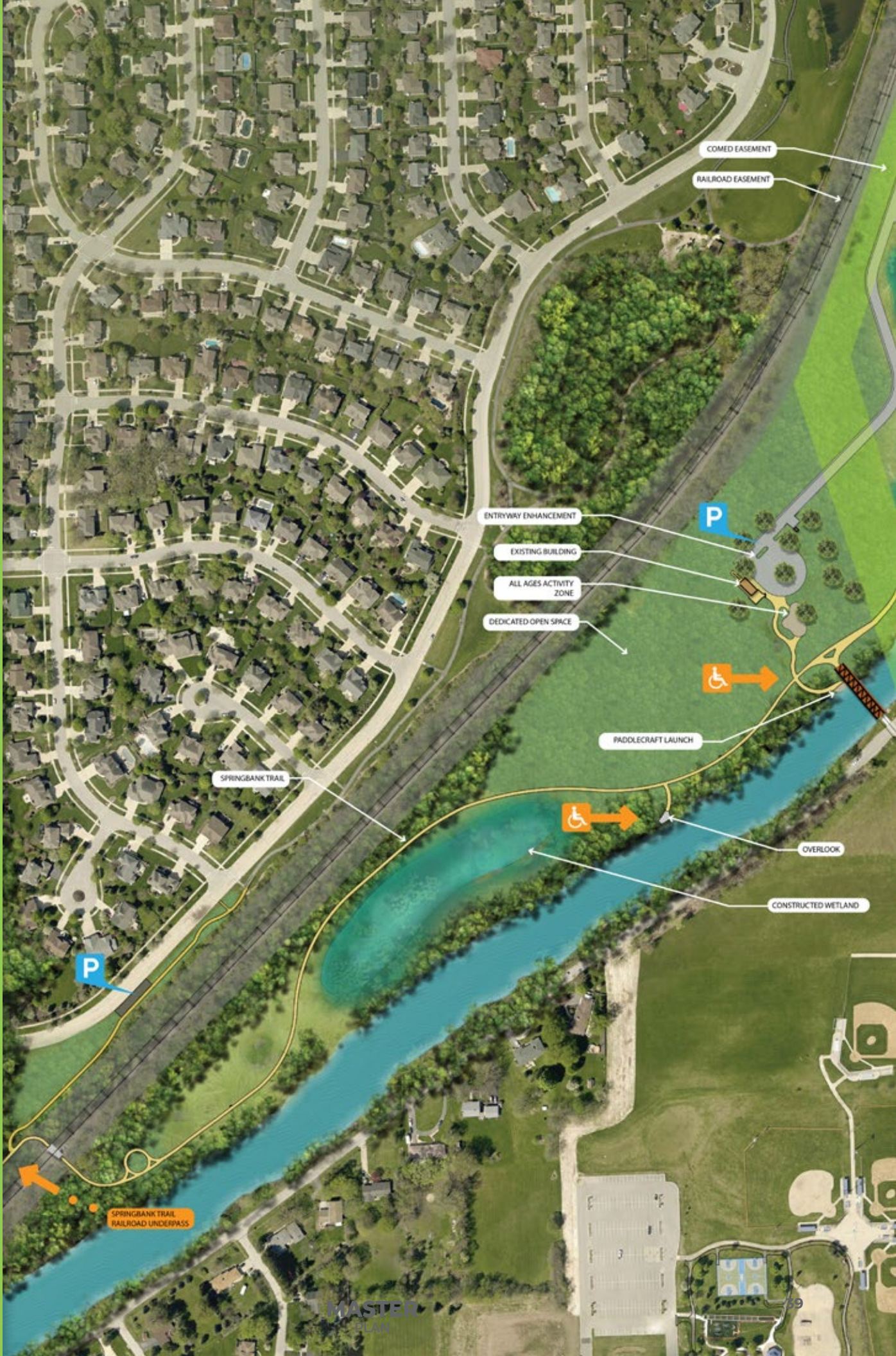
River Cove Boulder Enclave and Paddlecraft Launch

2E



River Cove Route Along the Swale and Woodland Restoration

SOUTH SECTION





VISION

A previously underutilized area now becomes central to paddlecraft, active play, and cycling activity. The existing parking area is expanded to provide additional vehicular flow throughout the park and accommodate recreational programs that have been moved from the central section of the park. Areas of expansive lawn remain as designated open space while the riparian area is expanded and enhanced to encapsulate the constructed wetland. The Springbank Trail extension and railway underpass provide access to neighborhoods and Mather Woods previously dissected by the rail line.

Programming

Paddlecraft Launch

An ADA accessible zero-depth ramp to the average water line is nestled past the pedestrian bridge in an existing cove. Outcropping stone and riparian planting is added upslope to retain soil.



Paddlecraft Launch

Overlook

A quiet overlook area constructed of concrete piers and interlocking platforms with galvanized steel railing. Viewsheds are cut into the riparian floodplain.



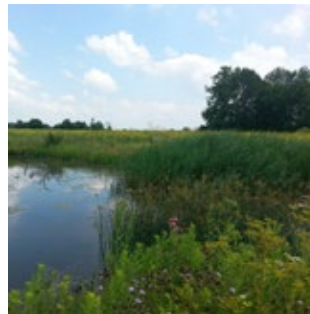
Activity Zone

Activity Zone

An area for all ages to explore nature play activities of climbing, jumping, swinging, and repelling.

Constructed Wetland

Excavated to provide compensatory storage and promote wetland habitat enhancements for passive recreation interaction. Situated along the Springbank Trail, the area provides additional interest for passing pedestrians or naturalists. With a diverse native plant palette, species such as Bald Eagle, Heron, Osprey, Painted Turtle, Blanding's Turtle, Monarch Butterfly, Bluebirds, and Goldfinches are bound to become residents.



Constructed Wetland and Overlook

Parking Expansion

Parking is expanded to provide forty spaces that can accommodate paddlecraft trailer circulation. A bicycle maintenance station is provided near the existing building.

Existing Building

Remnant from the south wastewater treatment plant, the existing building is the sole enclosed structure within the flood zone located on the project area. Limitations include the frequency of flood events that inundate the first floor, cost-prohibitive aesthetic renovations, and a lack of programmed use. Several programmed options can serve this area such as a yoga and meditation platform, designated open space, pavilion shell, enhanced patio space, or elevated performance stage.



Parking Lot Expansion

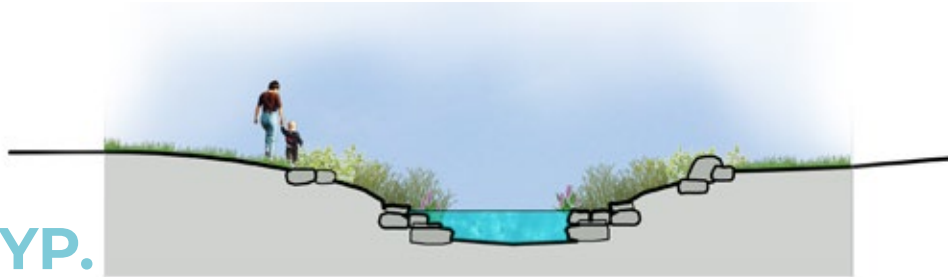
South Section Riverfront Amenities Framework



Legend

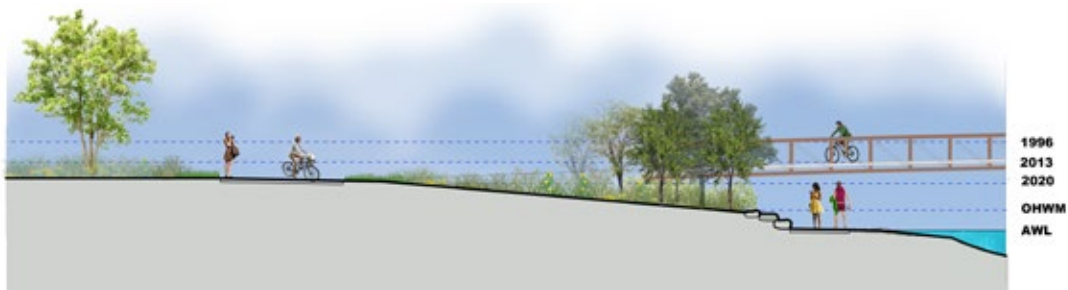
- | | |
|--|---|
|  Educational/Interpretive Signage |  Sculpture Art |
|  Wayfinding |  Water Trail |
|  Bike Maintenance Stations |  Bollard |
|  Overhead Lighting |  See p. 43 for a section view of this area |

TYP.



Typical Stream Restoration Treatment

3A



Paddlecraft Launch Past the Pedestrian Bridge

3B



Entrance of the Southern Overlook

TYP.



Trail View of Constructed Wetland



Trail View Along the Riparian Corridor



IMPLEMENTATION

3

MOMENTUM PROJECTS

Successful implementation of the riverfront master plan will be a collaborative effort spearheaded by the Village with support from the Riverfront Foundation, Park District, and various other public and private entities. Provided the ambition of the plan, a decade of prioritization has been outlined to ensure planning efforts are developed. The initial success of implementing this master plan begins with identifying momentum projects that amplify the overall vision. Momentum projects are of high-priority expressed through Village, stakeholder, and community feedback that align with these principles:

- ~ Defined as project area situated on Village-owned property or public land
- ~ Provide access to the central riverfront corridor through trail extensions
- ~ Ability to promote Village initiatives and positive recognition to the area
- ~ Capacity for harmonious coordination between public and private partners
- ~ Capacity to gain significant funding and initiate permitting requirements

Based on these principles the evident momentum projects are:

- ~ **Northern Section Lockport Street Trail Connection:** Pedestrian underpass connection to the northern section of the riverfront. The trail with overhead lighting will lead to the council ring and overlook.
- ~ **Central Section Corridor:** The hub of the riverfront with central plaza gathering area, active and passive pergola areas with seating, additional decorative lighting, and the central boardwalk overlook accentuating views of the river.
- ~ **Southern Section Paddlecraft Launch and Parking:** Designated launch site that increases water trail length. Parking expansion accommodates group tours and general activities reimagined for the area.

To initiate the above momentum projects there are several important first steps that the Village will need to accomplish before beginning implementation.

- ~ Coordinate with the Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition to encourage a plan update to the 2011 Lower DuPage River Watershed Plan or coordinate written approval from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency the DuPage River/Salt Creek Watershed TMDL Report 2019 is adequate to apply for IGIG or 319 Grant funding.
- ~ Perform environmental analytical testing in areas of structural development or excavation.
- ~ Perform a Phase I archaeological survey to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources within the project area. Typically prompted by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) for federal and state funding or permit award.
- ~ Perform a wetland delineation of the project area to determine precise wetland boundaries and request a jurisdictional determination from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

With the first steps in place, the three momentum projects can establish goodwill with the community while providing a stable platform for the remaining plan vision. A designated project within each corridor can be pursued simultaneously or separately dependant upon the available funding opportunities. Each exemplifying a successful undertaking of the overall plan vision.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

To maintain momentum and encourage public support, the phased approach to implementation is essential to delivering the ultimate riverfront vision. Project priorities have been outlined and discussed between the Village and stakeholder groups to organize projects by feasibility, coordination efforts, and available funding opportunities. The implementation plan is organized into three sections: **Momentum Projects, Priority Projects (0-5 Years), and Priority Projects (5-10 Years).**

Each project or project group is ranked in order by priority, in other words what should be addressed first. Each project has also been allocated a level of feasibility ranging from 1 to 3, which can be defined as follows:

- 1 - Easiest to impement; typically less costly
- 2 - More costly and complicated to implement
- 3 - Costly to implement; a desirable but not pressing improvement

Key of Partners

Identified partners are integral to a combination of planning, design, funding, permitting, and construction with varying levels of support throughout each projects phase. The list below is a key of partners used within the partnership section of the implementation plan:

Village	Village of Plainfield
Park District	Plainfield Park District
FPD	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Will Co	Will County
Township	Plainfield Township
CNR	Canadian National Railway
COMED	CommonWealth Edison
NICOR	Nicor Gas
IDOT	Illinois Department of Transportation
PRF	Plainfield Riverfront Foundation
PHPC	Plainfield Historic Preservation Commission
ILEPA	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
USACE	United States Army Corp of Engineers
IDNR	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
SHPO	Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
LDRWC	Lower DuPage River Watershed Coalition
ICF	Illinois Conservation Foundation
ICC	Illinois Commerce Commission

Capital budgets include design, engineering, permitting and contingency. Easement and site investigation not included.

Momentum Projects

Priority	Feasibility	Project	Lead Agency	Partnerships	Capital Budget
1	2	Northern Section Lockport St Trail Connection	Village	IDOT, COMED, NICOR, USACE, IDNR	\$ 198,625
	2	Lockport St Underpass Boardwalk	Village	IDOT, USACE, IDNR,	See Above
	1	Lighting	Village	PRF	See Above
	1	Northern Section Overlook and Council Ring	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 78,500
2	2	Central Section Corridor	Village	USACE, IDNR, PRF	\$ 393,350
	1	Central Plaza	Village	USACE, IDNR, PRF	\$226,500
	1	Active and Passive Pergola Space	Village	USACE, IDNR, PRF	\$ 187,700
	2	Boardwalk Overlook	Village	USACE, IDNR, PRF	\$ 670,000
	1	Central Section Parking Lot Expansion	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 189,500 - \$412,800
	1	Central Section Wayfinding and Signage	Village	IDNR, PRF, LDRWC	\$ 28,350
	1	Lighting Addition	Village	PRF	See Central Plaza
3	2	Southern Section Paddlecraft Launch	Village	IEPA, USACE, IDNR, LDRWC	\$ 94,300
	1	Southern Section Parking Lot Expansion	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 148,200 - \$313,600

Action to Progress	Capital Sources	Operating Sources
Schematic Design, CNR Coordination and Assessment, COMED coordination, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, IDOT coordination, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Design Development	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Park District, Regional park funding, Regional Trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Soil Excavation Plan	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Soil Excavation Plan	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional water access funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Donation Bank	Village, Regional park funding, Foundations, Corporate partnerships	Village, VPW, VPD, Foundations, Corporate Partnerships
Design Development	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Design Development	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional water access funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships

Priority Projects (0-5 Years)

Priority	Feasibility	Project	Lead Agency	Partnerships	Capital Budget
1	2	Springbank Trail	Village	Park District	TBD
2	1	Southern Section Lighting	Village	PRF	\$ 180,000
3	1	Park Entryway and Road Enhancement	Village	IDOT, USACE, IDNR, COMED	\$ 93,000
4	2	River Cove and Woodland Restoration	Village	IEPA, USACE, IDNR, LDRWC	\$ 515,750
5	1	K9 Memorial Enhancement and Parking Lot Expansion	Village	PRF, USACE, IDNR	\$ 134,100 - \$209,700
6	1	Southern Section Activity Zone	Village	Park District, USACE, IDNR, PRF	\$ 121,810
7	1	Southern Section Overlook	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 54,200

Priority Projects (5-10 Years)

Priority	Feasibility	Project	Lead Agency	Partnerships	Capital Budget
1	2	Northern Section Trail Loop	Village	CNR, COMED, NICOR, USACE, IDNR	\$ 30,700
	2	Park-N-Ride Connection	Village	CNR, ICC, COMED, USACE, IDNR,	\$ 142,000
	1	Lighting	Village	PRF	\$ 180,000
	1	Pedestrian Bridge & Stream Restoration	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 402,500
2	1	Northern Section Security	Village	PRF	\$ 10,800

Action to Progress	Capital Sources	Operating Sources
Permitting, Construction	Village, Local Transportation funding, Transportation grants	Village
Design Development	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, IDOT coordination, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional water access funding	Village
Environmental Analytical Testing, Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional water access funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Donation Bank	Village, Regional park funding, Foundations, Corporate partnerships	Village, VPW, VPD, Foundations, Corporate Partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Donation Bank	Village, Park District, Regional park funding, Foundations, Corporate partnerships	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional water access funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships

Action to Progress	Capital Sources	Operating Sources
Schematic Design, CNR Coordination and Assessment, COMED coordination, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, ICC coordination, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Design Development	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Design Development	Village	Village

Priority Projects (5-10 Years) [Continued]

Priority	Feasibility	Project	Lead Agency	Partnerships	Capital Budget
3	2	DuPage River Trail Connection	FPD	Village, Park District, CNR, Private Ownership	\$ 716,000
	2	Underpass Boardwalk	CNR, IDOT	Village, Park District, CNR, IDOT	See Above
	1	Overlook	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 56,500
4	2	Central Section Detention Enhancement & K9 Memorial Stream Restoration	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 340,800
5	2	Southern Section Constructed Wetland	Village	USACE, IDNR	\$ 240,575
6	2	East Overlook and Trail Connection	Village, Park District	IDOT, Park District, Private Ownership, IDNR	\$ 72,500
7	1	Southern Section Security	Village	PRF	\$ 10,800
8	1	Riparian Corridor Restoration	Village	Park District, PRF, LDRWC	\$ 157,000
9	3	Art Installations	Village	PRF, PHPC	TBD
10	3	Old Renwick Pedestrian Bridge	Township	Park District, Village	TBD

Action to Progress	Capital Sources	Operating Sources
Schematic Design, Easement Agreement, CNR Agreement, Will Co Forest Preserve Coordination, Park District Coordination	Village, Will County, Forest Preserve, IDOT, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Park District, Will Co
Schematic Design, CNR Agreement, Will Co Forest Preserve Coordination, Park District Coordination	Village, Will County, Forest Preserve, IDOT, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Park District, Will Co
Schematic Design, Permitting	Village, Will County, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Soil Excavation Plan	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Permitting, Soil Excavation Plan	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration	Village, Grant compliance, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Schematic Design, Easement Agreement, Park District Coordination	Village, Park District, Regional park funding, Regional Trail funding	Village, Park District, Foundations, Corporate partnerships
Design Development	Village	Village
Define project scope, Permit advisory	Village, Regional park funding, Regional trail funding, Regional natural area restoration, Foundations,	Village, Foundations
RFQ, Community Partnerships, Foundation partnerships	Village, Regional park funding, Foundations, Corporate partnerships	Village, Foundations
Feasibility Study, Define project scope, IDOT coordination, Park District Coordination	Township, Regional trail funding	Township

FUNDING & FINANCIALS

Through the compelling vision of the concept plan, opportunities to secure capital funding for riverfront projects are widespread due to the variety and diversity of agencies and partnerships recommended in the implementation plan. Public and private organizations that administer various conservation and environmental programs are often eager to form partnerships and leverage funds for land preservation, restoration, and environmental education. Combining these programs with active and passive recreation uses will further enhance funding capabilities.

Funds generally fall into two relatively distinct categories. The first includes existing grant programs, funded by a public agency or by other sources. These funds are typically awarded following a competitive application process. The IEPA Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 Grants) is an example: an applicant will submit a grant application to the program, and, if the proposed project meets the required criteria and if the funds appropriated have not been exhausted, a grant may be awarded.

The second category, one that can provide greater leverage, might be called "money to be found." The key to this money is to recognize that any given project may have multiple benefits. It is important to note and explore all of the potential project benefits from the perspective of potential partners and to then engage those partners. Partners may wish to become involved because they believe the project will achieve their objectives.

It is not uncommon for an exciting and innovative project to attract funds that can be allocated at the discretion of project partners. When representatives of interested organizations gather to talk about a proposed project, they are often willing to commit discretionary funds simply because the proposed project is attractive, is a priority, is a networking opportunity, or will help the agency achieve its mission. In this way, a new partnership is assembled.

Riverfront Foundation Partnership

As advocates for the protection and enhancement of the riverfront, the Riverfront Foundation plays an integral part in sourcing funding and leveraging goodwill to advance riverfront development. Throughout the Master Plan development the Riverfront Foundation has coordinated with the Village to identify their concentrated funding priorities. Based on their mission and direction, the Central Section Corridor has been chosen as the Riverfront Foundation's integral point of fundraising focus since the area aligns with their overall mission and vision for the community. Key components to this central section that are of particular focus are:

- ~ Central Plaza
- ~ Active and Passive Pergolas
- ~ Central Boardwalk Overlook
- ~ Central Section Wayfinding and Signage

The grand vision for the Plainfield riverfront in addition to the Village's direct efforts and the unwavering support of stakeholders will enable attractive capital funding opportunities from local, state, public, and private sources. Potential operation funding may also be available to maintain the community investment although it is important to note there are fewer dedicated annual operation funding sources. Creating a solid operations and maintenance approach with resources from stakeholders, public, and private philanthropy will maintain investments and the grand vision of this beloved riverfront.

CAPITAL FUNDING

VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD

- Development Contribution
- Municipal Appropriations
- Tax Increment Financing

STATE & FEDERAL

- Federal Conservation & Recreations Grants
- Federal Roadway & Trail Grants
- State Natural Resources Grants
- Stormwater/Floodway Funding

FOUNDATIONS & ENTITIES

- Riverfront Foundation
- Conservation Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
- City Parks Alliance
- Chicago Wilderness
- Openlands

LOCAL PHILANTHROPY

- Campaigns Involving Businesses & Civic Leadership
- Individual Donations

OPERATION FUNDING

VILLAGE OF PLAINFIELD

- Municipal Appropriations
- Value Capture

STATE & FEDERAL

- Grant Award Requirement Allocation

FOUNDATIONS & PHILANTHROPY

- Earned Income
- Volunteer Program Branches

Capital Funding

This list was developed as a collection of Illinois State grant resources and private entities appropriate to the riverfront programming elements. Most applicable federal grant funds for recreation and wildlife in this context are pass-through funds via the state. Although comprehensive, this is not an exhaustive list as there may be other available funds through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), additional foundation groups, or local philanthropy.

Parks

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD)

Primary park development grant for Illinois local governments.

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- ~ **Purpose:** Funding to local governments for the acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Local governmental units with land oversight.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Park creation and expansion. Includes architectural and engineering services for planning and construction of most recreational components, especially visitor access. Scoring based on need of the community and specific proposed recreational components.
- ~ **Funding:** Up to 50% of project costs (90% for distressed communities); \$750,000 maximum for acquisition projects; \$400,000 maximum for development/renovation projects.

PARC Park and Recreational Facility Construction

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- ~ **Purpose:** Acquisition, development, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, improvements, architectural planning, and installation of capital facilities consisting, but not limited to, buildings, structures, and land for park and recreation purposes and open spaces and natural areas.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Local governmental organizations with land oversight.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Park and recreational facility construction.
- ~ **Funding:** 75% of approved project costs

Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- ~ **Purpose:** To financially assist eligible local units of government in acquiring, constructing, and rehabilitating public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Local governmental organizations with land oversight.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Linear corridor land acquisition costs and bicycle path development or renovation.
- ~ **Funding:** \$200,000 maximum

Recreational Trails Program

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- ~ **Purpose:** Acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized public recreation trails.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Government Organizations; Nonprofit Organizations; For-Profit Organizations; Small Businesses; Individuals
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Acquisition and trail development.
- ~ **Funding:** \$750,000 maximum

Water Recreational Access

Boat Access Area Development

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)
- ~ **Purpose:** Acquisition and development of public boat and canoe access areas.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Local governmental units able to own land.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Water frontage land acquisition for public access areas and new construction or renovation of boating-related facilities (ramps, docks, parking areas, access roads, restrooms, security lighting, etc.).
- ~ **Funding:** Reimbursable grant, \$200,000 maximum

Water Quality

Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO)

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
- ~ **Purpose:** Projects that implement green infrastructure best management practices (BMPs) that prevent, eliminate, or reduce water quality impairments through the decrease of stormwater runoff into Illinois' rivers, streams, and lakes. BMPs may be located on both public or private land.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** BMPs that 1) reconnect a waterbody to its floodplain, 2) treat and control flow of stormwater runoff at sites directly upstream or downstream of an impervious area that currently impacts river, stream, or lake water quality, and 3) treat and control the flow of water generated from impervious surfaces associated with urban development.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Government Organizations; Education Organizations; Public Housing Organizations; Nonprofit Organizations; For-Profit Organizations; Small Businesses; Individuals; Foreign Applicants.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Funds are for construction and limited design of green infrastructure best management practices.
- ~ **Funding:** \$75,000-2.5M

Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 Grants)

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Projects which control or eliminate non-point pollution sources.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Funds are awarded to projects focusing on non-point source pollution concerns not fully addressed through regulation. Awarded projects implement best management practices, education, and outreach. Examples of projects include stream restoration, septic repair/replacement, conservation easements, green infrastructure, agricultural BMPs, and more.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Public entities most affiliated with local watershed planning.
- ~ **Funding:** Requires 40% non-federal matching funds or in-kind services. Will provide up to 60% reimbursement of the project cost. The program period is two years.

Habitat Restoration

Pollinator Meadows Program

- ~ **Funder:** Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation
- ~ **Purpose:** Help local governments and nonprofits convert turf grass to pollinator habitat. The foundation may limit invitations from a geographic region to ensure an equitable distribution of awards.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** Local governments and nonprofits
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Two acres in size or two sites of one acre each. A plan to add signage acknowledging the foundation's grant is necessary. Agree to create and maintain pollinator habitat for five years.
- ~ **Funding:** \$20,000 or 50% match. Reimbursement grant program.

ComEd Green Region Program

- ~ **Funder:** Commonwealth Edison and Openlands
- ~ **Purpose:** Nature-based solutions to mitigate climate change and conserve or restore pollinator habitat.
- ~ **Eligible applicants:** ComEd serviced counties, park districts, townships, conservation districts, forest preserve districts, and municipalities.
- ~ **Eligible projects:** Communal open space that encourages climate resiliency efforts and enhancing pollinator habitat. Past grantees are eligible to reapply once grant requirements are fulfilled for past awards.
- ~ **Funding:** \$10,000 maximum.

CITED MATERIAL

Daly, J., T. Lutes et. al. "Federal Township Plats of Illinois 1804-1891: Glaciation." Accessed July 11, 2011. [Federal Township Plats of Illinois \(cyberdriveillinois.com\)](https://www.cyberdriveillinois.com)

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. "IEPA Nonpoint Source Management Program." Accessed December 1, 2020. [Nonpoint Sources - Nonpoint Sources \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.epa.gov/nonpoint-sources)

Illinois General Assembly. "Recreational Use of Land and Water Areas Act (745 ILCS 65)." Accessed December 8, 2020. [https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2081](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=2081)

Illinois General Assembly. "Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5)." Accessed December 8, 2020. [https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1781](https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1781), and implementing regulations at 17 Ill. Adm. Code, Chapter I, Section 3704, Appendix A (Public Bodies of Water).

Capital Funding Sources

Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD), [Grants \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)

PARC Park and Recreational Facility Construction, [Park and Recreational Facilities Construction Program - Grants \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)

Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program, CSFA Number: 422-11-1077, [CSFA | GATA | Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov)

Recreational Trails Program, CSFA Number: 422-11-1154, [CSFA | GATA | Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov)

Boat Access Area Development, CSFA Number: 422-11-1095, [CSFA | GATA | Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov)

Green Infrastructure Grant Opportunities (GIGO), CSFA Number: 532-60-2388, [CSFA | GATA | Illinois.gov](https://www.illinois.gov)

Nonpoint Source Management Program (Section 319 Grants), [Nonpoint Source Grants - Nonpoint Sources \(illinois.gov\)](https://www.illinois.gov)

Pollinator Meadows Program, [Pollinator Meadows Program | Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation](https://www.illinois.gov)

ComEd Green Region Program, [Improving Open Spaces, Powering Lives – Openlands](https://www.illinois.gov)