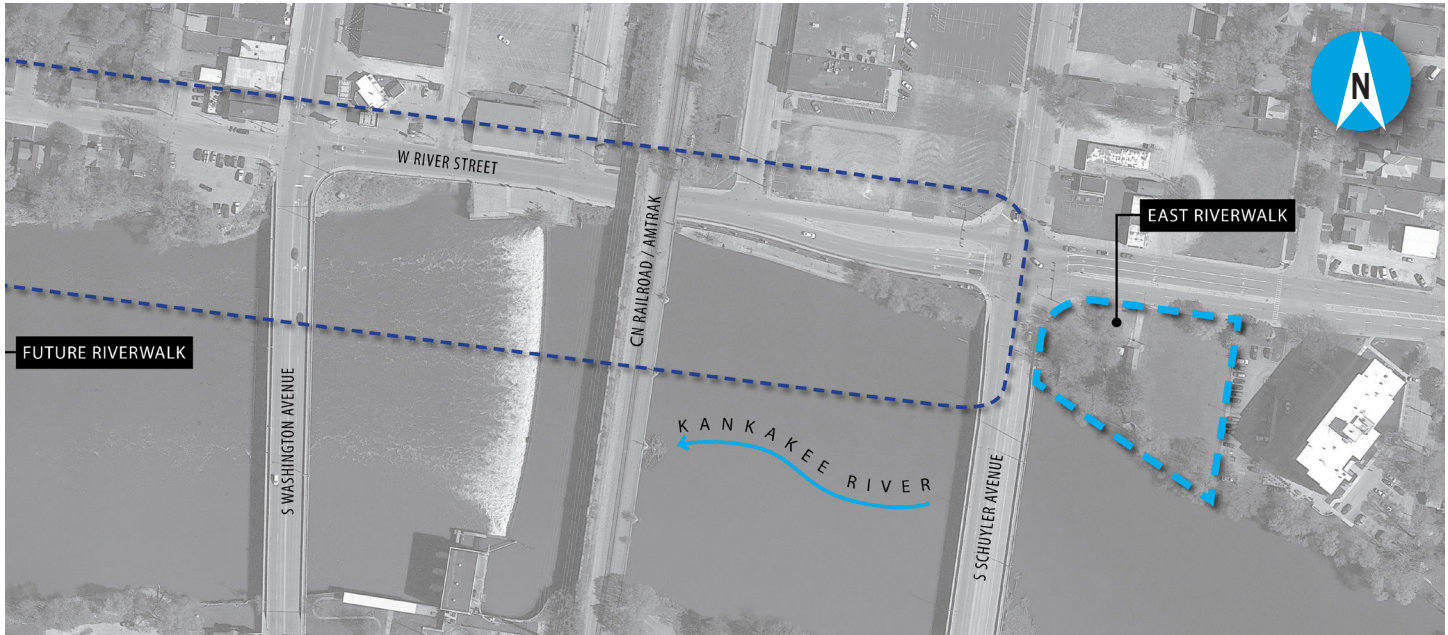


The Currents of Kankakee

East Riverwalk Project Synopsis



The East Riverwalk is the working name for the public riverfront improvement planned for the southeast corner of Schuyler Avenue and East River Street in downtown Kankakee. The East Riverwalk will be constructed on 1.06 acres along the north bank of the Kankakee River, which is primed to become the first public segment of *The Currents of Kankakee*, the new riverfront district first described in the 2018 [Kankakee Riverfront Master Plan](#).

The Kankakee Riverfront Master Plan sets out a compelling, long-term vision, a multi-dimensional, public/private strategy, and a series of incremental implementation actions that will transform the region’s image, raise its marketplace appeal, and enhance its quality of life. The master plan is anchored by the dynamic Kankakee River – one of the cleanest in the country – and features a package of distinctive public attractions, multi-modal connections, and lively commercial and residential development. In cooperation with the City of Kankakee and the Kankakee Valley Park District, the **Kankakee Riverfront Society (KRS)**, a not-for-profit organization of riverfront advocates, is coordinating a number of riverfront marketing and funding initiatives - and the planning, design, engineering, permitting and construction of the East Riverwalk.

In 2020, the City of Kankakee expects to acquire the properties on which the East Riverwalk will be constructed through a state grant and a land donation. In 2019, the City was awarded a \$134,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grant from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to acquire two of the three East Riverwalk parcels. Joe and Scott Franco, Heritage Development and Construction, plan to donate the third parcel, which will also serve as the City’s “match” to qualify for the OSLAD grant. Consequently, no taxpayer funds are being used to acquire the East Riverwalk sites.

The Currents of Kankakee East Riverwalk Site Today



Because of specific grant requirements, the East Riverwalk is likely to include a gateway plaza, a boat dock, a canoe/kayak pull-out, a small parking lot and other improvements. **However, the design of this groundbreaking park is far from complete.** The City of Kankakee has engaged Hitchcock Design Group, a nationally recognized riverfront consultant and author of the Kankakee Riverfront Master Plan and OSRAD grant applications, to advance the Preliminary Design and Engineering for the East Riverwalk. During the next few months, the consultant team will confirm the project program and reach consensus with KRS and jurisdictional authorities on the type, location, organization, scale, character, permit requirements, construction schedule and potential cost of the East Riverwalk improvements. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the Preliminary Design and Engineering process will feature extensive community outreach and engagement that will include a broad cross-section of stakeholders using a wide variety of communication tools and techniques.

Based on thorough analysis of existing resources, best practices and stakeholder expectations, Hitchcock Design Group will deliver a Preliminary Design Report, near the end of the year, that will be instrumental for community outreach and fundraising. The report will also become the foundation of the Final Design and Engineering documents that will be used to permit, competitively bid, and when funded, construct the East Riverwalk improvements. KRS has not established a timeline for construction of the East Riverwalk.

Preliminary Design of the East Riverwalk is funded by a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is administered by the City of Kankakee Economic and Community Development Agency (ECDA). Please contact Barbi Brewer-Watson (bjbrewer-watson@citykankakee-il.gov) (815.351.0486) for more information about the CDBG or the ECDA.

Key Milestones

Preliminary Design

Data Collection: Spring 2020

Stakeholder Interviews: September 15 & 16, 2020

Public Event: September 17, 2020

Alternative and Preferred Concepts: October 2020

Public Review: November 2020

Schematic Design Report: December 2020

City Council Review: January 2020

Final Design, Engineering and Permitting

To Be Determined

Construction

To Be Determined

Project Information and Contacts

Visit www.thecurrentsofkankakee.com for more information about Kankakee riverfront improvements.

Visit www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/kankakee-east-riverwalk/ for more information about the East Riverfront project.

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