

THE SANGAMON RIVER IN PETERSBURG, IL

RIVERFRONT DEVELOPMENT REPORT

FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS



Riverfront Development Report

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Sangamon River shares a place in Petersburg's rich history since the town was formed nearly 200 years ago. Its waters led to the arrival of a young Abraham Lincoln who later surveyed land that is now Petersburg. The river and the tracks along it shuttled 100,000 visitors in the 10 day mega-event each year known as Chautauqua on a site just a mile south of town in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Sangamon River was the subject of popular writings of Edgar Lee Masters as he described the beloved Sangamon River and the people who called the area home. In much earlier times, it was home to mastodons and a wide variety of animal life. Native Americans utilized the river for food, water and transportation. Yes, the river has a rich history right here in our hometown of Petersburg.

Petersburg is fortunate to have city owned land running nearly uninterrupted along the riverfront in a flood plain area as part of a 2000 FEMA buyout plan from over twenty years ago. The buy out included land along the railroad tracks in various spots, through Hurie Park and north of the IL Rt. 123 bridge to the water treatment plant. It also includes a 20+ acre property on the south edge of town that was officially named Lincoln's Riverside Park (City Council Resolution #2014-05 dated June 17, 2014) and has been serving as a nature area with great potential. Much of the land has been unused and inaccessible to citizens and visitors. Parks and recreation are two main draws for visitors and reasons why people choose a community in which to live. The Sangamon is a real gem, hidden by brush, debris and invasive species. However, its natural beauty is coming to life as the city has been clearing various points along the waterfront for citizens and visitors to enjoy.

The Riverfront Development Group is a citizen-based volunteer effort that looked at the riverfront properties, discussed best practices for stabilizing and maintaining the shoreline, enhancing nature, planting areas for suitable trees and shrubs and other efforts to protect nature. Another focus was to recognize economic opportunities for developing the riverfront, as have many riverfront towns, such as Havana, Peoria and others. A total of 49 recommendations are offered to clear the debris, restore river views, expand picnic and viewing areas, and explore economic opportunities that entertain local citizens while attracting even more visitors to our area. Strategies are recommended for city leadership in expanding the parks. Ideas are offered for engaging citizens and civic groups to help with certain efforts. Funding options are identified for helping develop and maintain a first class park system. The group respectfully submits this report to Mayor Rick Snyder and members of the Petersburg City Council and stands ready to assist in initial and long-term efforts to achieve the short-term, mid-term and long-term goals in the report.

INTRODUCTION

A group of citizens from Petersburg and the surrounding area formed a group to study opportunities for developing the city-owned land along the Sangamon River in town, which became known as the Petersburg Riverfront Development Group. Meetings were open to the public and articles were published in advance of meetings to seek citizen involvement. The meetings featured experts in various fields talking about the river, its resources, techniques for stabilizing the riverbanks, desirable trees and plants, opportunities to enhance natural features, areas for economic development, enhanced public access to enjoy river views, ideas for economic opportunities, new recreational opportunities and much more. Participants in one exercise offered ideas and suggestions to enhance the riverfront, its parks potential and protecting the natural environment at the same time. The group also toured the riverfront areas described in this report.

To aid in summarizing the findings and recommendations offered through the meetings and discussions, participants were able to review findings and offer input into this report. To aid in its preparation, a small Steering Group worked to achieve consensus on the findings and recommendations offered herein. This group consisted of: Dan Williams (group coordinator and former PREP coordinator), Brie Allison (Vice-President of Petersburg Chamber of Commerce), Terri Treacy (President of Menard County Trails & Greenways), Anne Smith (CEO of Central Illinois Services NFP and former PREP member) and Richard Moss (President of Menard County Tourism Council and former PREP member).

This report is not the ending of a process, but rather the beginning. While there are findings and recommendations offered to the city, it is recognized that this will be an ongoing process. While many actions could be accomplished by city employees as part of their normal tasks, others may have to be prioritized and phased in over time. This group stands ready to assist with continuing guidance on: riverfront development ideas from the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and the Menard County Tourism Council; citizen work days; grant and funding assistance; study of the merits of a possible park district; festival ideas; student participation in making benches, picnic tables, signs and perhaps observation decks; and other voluntary efforts. A Citizens Conservation Corps can be formed to help with various projects. PORTA High School students have built some picnic tables and benches this spring that can be used in making the riverside parks more accessible to the public. There are other projects that they wish to engage in during the fall semester, in line with the recommendations contained herein.

OVERVIEW OF CITY-OWNED RIVERFRONT LAND

When Abraham Lincoln arrived at New Salem, forest dominated the Sangamon River valley landscape. The variety of trees depended on landscape position: floodplain, bluff slope, and uplands. In central Illinois, a floodplain forest is a bottomland, deciduous forest community occupying areas adjacent to streams and rivers. Floodplain forests are inundated by periodic flooding, creating a distinct habitat for various plants and animals that tolerate flooding and require nutrient-rich soil.

The Sangamon River flows north through Petersburg on its way to the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. The first parcel being discussed is former FEMA buy out land which was designated as a public park under Petersburg City Council Resolution #2000-09 dated May 16, 2000. This 20+ acre park has been rough but somewhat accessible to walk on the sandbars, fish, hike and minimally access the land. The Plan to Revitalize and Energize Petersburg (PREP) was originally formed in 2010 through the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and released its first report in the spring of 2012. A total of 36 recommendations were made to revitalize and grow the business base in town and attract new residents and businesses, among other goals. Many recommendations were implemented, including low interest city loans to businesses, creation of a TIF district, a facade reimbursement program for businesses, the re-bricking and paving of the town square, new welcome signs including one on Rt 123 on the east bluff overlooking Petersburg and the other in the park across from RiverBank Lodge.

Other accomplishments included a study and recommendations for naming and developing a portion of the FEMA buy out land and officially naming it "Lincoln's Riverside Park." A city resolution (#2014-05) approving its name was adopted on June 17, 2014. The next chapter in this story lies in this group and its 2023 report. Discussions were held as to commercially developing the park or making it a nature reserve. Consensus was achieved that recommends a parking and a grassy area near the entrance with space for picnic tables and benches for enjoying the river and its views. The remainder of the park would be accessible by foot with emphasis on nature trails for hiking and biking. The sandbars facilitate small boat launching (kayaks and canoes) and areas for fishing from the banks and picnics. Tree and plant experts, along with nature groups have offered to help with select plantings, signage and educational efforts. The other city parks along the riverfront are more urban and can be used for more commercial and economic opportunities with the existing infrastructure, roads, parking, electricity, water, rest rooms, etc.

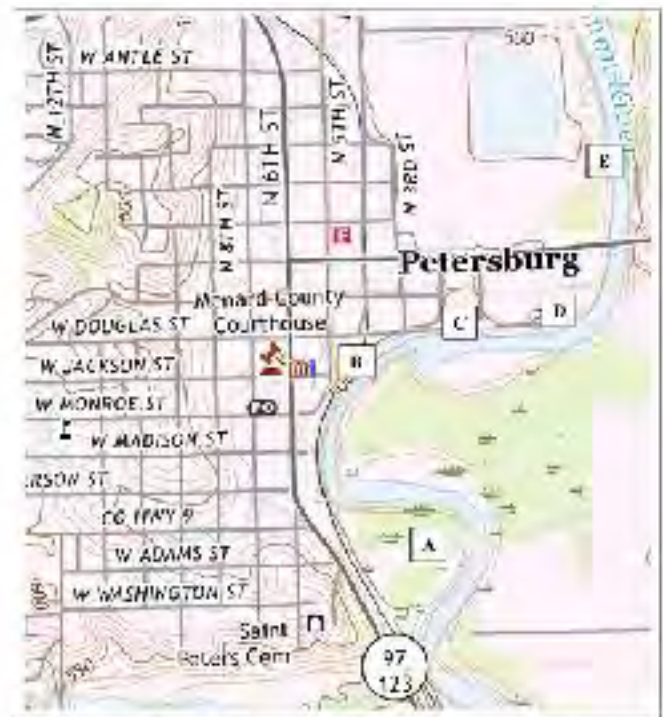
All city-owned land along the river is a local treasure that's previously been generally neglected but now has tremendous opportunity for development and improved public access. The city is urged to hold on to all of these properties and not sell or lease any of it for purposes other than for city parks. It is suggested that properties currently used for storage of rock, debris, dirt, etc., could be cleaned up and planted or enhanced as per the recommendations. It is recognized that

finding alternative land for equipment or debris/rock storage may take some time but it should be a high city priority. The city property that is behind Hardees/County Market has tremendous potential for the parks system and alternate parking areas may be identified so that this area can be used by the citizens for these valued areas with riverfront views. This area has potential for trees, festivals, business and more. Again, it can be part of a long-term strategy and an effort to find alternative areas for parking trucks but that process should start soon.

For the purposes of this report, the group has identified **five geographic areas of riverfront parks** (or potential park areas). These include:

1. **Riverfront Park 1** - Lincoln's Riverside Park.
2. **Riverfront Park 2** - The Urban Trail from Lincoln's Riverside Park, past RiverBank Lodge through downtown along the railroad tracks to city-owned property adjoining Triple Creek Nursery on South Fifth Street and on to the old Monument Building.
3. **Riverfront Park 3** - City property adjoining the railroad tracks from the old Monument building east, past the truck parking space being leased, to the old dam on the river.
4. **Riverfront Park 4** - Hurie Park
5. **Riverfront Park 5** - City land from the Rt. 123 bridge and to the north to the area between the water treatment plant and the river.

All of these areas have unique potential. All are city-owned properties. All can be cleaned up to provide public access with amenities to become part of a well-planned and beautiful park system. Parks have been proven to be a big draw to new residents, an enhanced benefit to current residents, and a draw for visitors.



Petersburg Riverfront Development
 A - Riverfront Park 1 - Lincoln's Riverside Park
 B - Riverfront Park 2
 C - Riverfront Park 3
 D - Riverfront Park 4 - Hurie Park
 E - Riverfront Park 5

There are recommended needs common to all parks in general. Additionally, there are needs and opportunities for each individual park. These are spelled out as follows.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ALL FIVE PARKS

There are common sense needs for all five parks, as well as city parks in general. These include:

1. All parks should have names and signage along the roads and highways that identify the parks and where to turn, etc. The parks should be included in all marketing materials and tourism promotions with pre-determined looks, colors, and signage. Two of the parks are already named: Hurie Park and Lincoln's Riverside Park and should be part of a five-park riverfront system.
2. Parks should have adequate parking areas and trash cans that are emptied regularly. Also consider select surveillance cameras in areas in which trash is not properly handled. Consider an ordinance allowing for strict fines or public service time for intentional dumping or littering.
3. Parks should be cleaned up with all debris piles removed. The city could look at alternative city property, out of sight of the parks, for purposes of storing rock, dirt, cinders, etc.
4. Trail routes should be designated, marked and maintained. Civic groups may help in these areas.
5. Invasive species should be controlled in all parks. Civic groups may help in these areas as well.
6. Tree, bush and flower planning should be accomplished with zones identified. Again, civic groups may help with work days along with possible help with watering if needed.
7. Signage should be developed, along with digital messaging via phone apps, about local history, tourism, types of trees, nature and other information about the city and all it has to offer. Signage should be available in each park and accessible digitally. Develop materials that may be hosted on an active community website including an interactive GPS trail application that features information about the river, the floodplain forest and other plant species, and wildlife for self-guided tours on mobile devices.

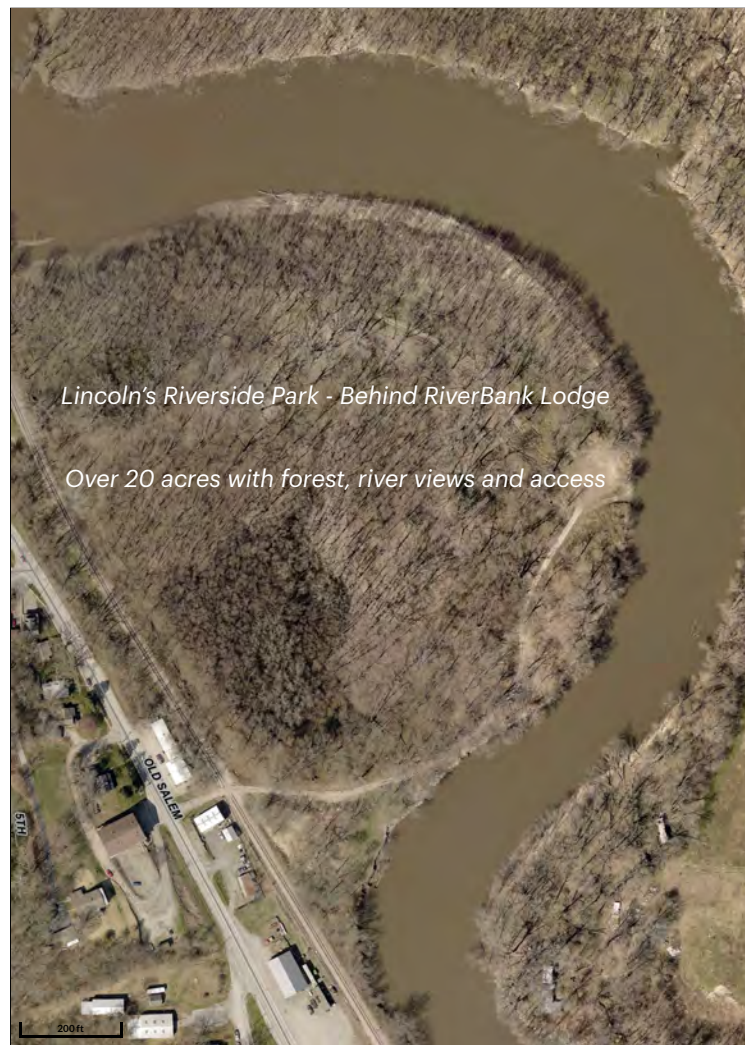
8. The local high school has built picnic tables and benches for the project and perhaps observation decks can be built in fall 2023 semester as part of their classroom experience, while having something they can take pride in as a visible sign of their work.
9. Remove dead or dying trees that pose a public safety risk; others host birds and wildlife.
10. Encourage stabilizing growth of flood-tolerant native shrubs and small trees, via natural seed germination as well as plantings in the site areas settled between rock and concrete chunks. Sow native ground covers such as river oats as well as wild pecans and bur oaks to help control erosion. Seek new and emerging technologies or best practices techniques for controlling erosion, maintaining banks, and other stabilization efforts.
11. The old dam is a subject not addressed by this group as it involves negotiations among agencies.
12. Consider portable potties in the event of festivals at any of these parks.
13. City crews could be tasked with temporarily moving any benches or picnic tables during the limited number of days in any given year that the river level would pose a threat of floods.
14. Connect all five parks with a walking trail including some streets and sidewalks. Continue to work to achieve a hiking/biking trail between New Salem and Petersburg.

RECOMMENDATIONS - RIVERFRONT PARK 1 - "LINCOLN'S RIVERSIDE PARK"

This park is located on the east side of the railroad tracks from RiverBank Lodge and about 200 yards by highway to the south. A sign is needed with the park's name and the turn identified on Rt. 97. This park comprises over 20 acres of floodplain forest consisting of silver maple, cottonwood, and other bottomland tree species and various understory plants along the Sangamon River. An apron of sand and gravel borders the east and north sides of the property. This park provides an opportunity to enjoy and learn about the value of river floodplains.

The following are some recommendations specific to this park:

1. Enhance public foot traffic from downtown to the railroad crossing for those entering the park.
2. Establish the park as a nature reserve. Create a sub-committee to develop an infrastructure enhancement plan consistent with the character of a nature reserve. Provide amenities at the entrance to the park: parking, grass, picnic tables, benches, etc. Loading and unloading may be accomplished a few hundred yards downstream for kayaks, canoes, picnicking, fishing, etc. From there a maintenance road should be locked and the trails would be reserved for hiking or biking with no further vehicle traffic (except work crews). Move the trail from along the tracks more inland and have several observational points.
3. Establish trails in the park including access to the water's edge.
4. Develop a tree, shrub, forb, and grass planting plan and program with the assistance from local experts. Restore or



establish vegetation to include seeding suitable native plants such as river-oats and sedges. Hand/foot direct seed sewing could be used to establish local provenance native trees and shrubs such as Sangamon River pecan nuts and sticking cuttings of native willows, shrub dogwoods, elderberry and other riparian woody species along the river where the banks might need limited protection from erosion.

5. The city should work with the railroad to improve the rail crossing to facilitate better ingress and egress to the site. Trimming trees along the railroad right of way on the riverfront should be a part of discussions. Also, it suggested to post hours of use with no overnight camping. There should be consideration for a fence next to the tracks in new parks for safety.

RECOMMENDATIONS - RIVERFRONT PARK - 2

This area that could become a park includes the area between RiverBank Lodge and the old monument building on the east side of the tracks, upstream of the old dam. It includes private property, but it may be worth contacting the few businesses to allow foot traffic near the tracks. Alternatively, there are sidewalks along Rt. 97. From there, the city owns adjoining space to the south of Triple Creek Greenhouse on Fifth Street (approx. .7 acre) and makes a perfect urban spot/park to enjoy both river and courthouse views. It is located just one block off of the square and could be a center for enjoying lunch and drinks from area businesses. It could be a spot for learning about local history and more. Recommendations are as follows:

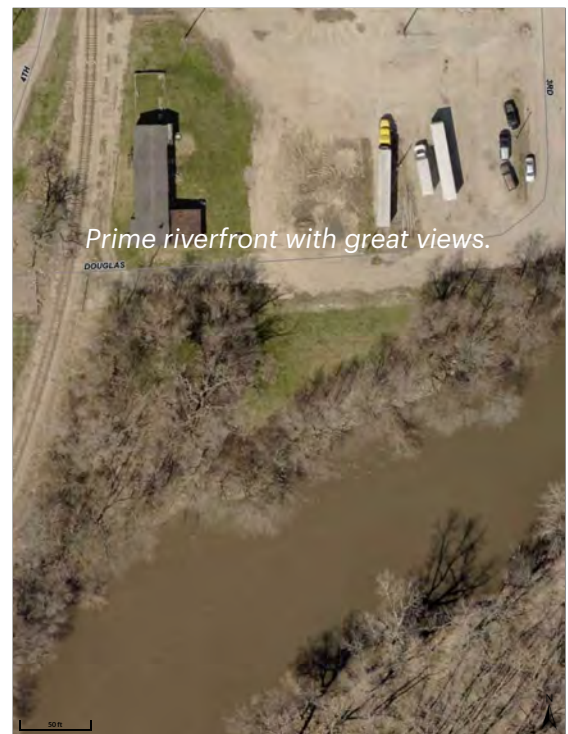
1. Create an observation platform/deck to elevate those wishing to get a great view of the river on one side and the downtown area on the other. This could have a roof for shade.
2. Concrete below the platform could facilitate shaded picnic tables and benches for resting, taking in the views and enjoying some food.



3. Informational signs that include QR codes can inform visitors about the town, the river, history, tourism stops and much more.
4. Continue a hiking and biking trail through this park.
5. The city could consider looking for another spot to store street rock and other materials currently stored on the ground between this park and the car dealership. Again, this may take some time but should a long-term goal to have a permanent spot for vehicles and materials that are not in valued public park areas.
6. Incorporate this mini-park into celebrations and events. It would provide additional space just off of the square and near the action.

RECOMMENDATIONS - RIVERFRONT PARK - 3

This area is geographically defined as from the railroad tracks due east along the river to the present dam on the river. The area was previously unviewable and inaccessible due to overgrowth of invasive species, old railroad ties and other junk accumulated over the years. The city has cleaned up this area and tremendous river views can now be enjoyed. Just feet away from the river are city owned parcels of approximately 2 plus acres that is currently used by local companies for storing trucks, trailers and their cargo, along with separate riverfront (.51 acres). This is prime real estate that has great potential for expanding public parks and attracting more visitors to the area. It would make a great spot for a pavilion, restroom, community building, park area with trees and a site for festivals and parking. It is truly a treasure that has much potential and is only one block from IL Rt. 123. The city should hold onto and not sell or lease any city owned property along this riverfront park system. It is recognized that some property may be under a contract at present time. However, going forward, the Riverfront Development Group suggests that an alternative site for vehicle parking and material storage be found for city use. Please save prime space (land) for parks and recreation. Park recommendations for this area include the following:



1. The city should work with the Chamber of Commerce and this group to come up with ideas for a strategic development plan for the area, along with areas 2, 4 and 5. Given the size and location of these areas, there is much opportunity for business, festivals, special events and other activities that would increase visitors to the park and enhance local revenues and taxes. This could include potentially new buildings that would fit into a master plan along with a review of aging structures along the river.
2. This property has a high vantage point to view the river and it is one block away from eating establishments and just off of the highway. This would be a good place for a pavilion, deck or other structure for sitting, eating and just watching the river and nature. Picnic tables and benches would be big additions. Enhance fishing spots where the dam is currently located. It is one of the few areas where individuals can walk down to the water and fish. It goes without saying that in the event of a flood which is relatively uncommon in this area, that structures may be elevated or tables and benches moved in the event of a major flood.
3. This park is unique to the others due to its size and location. It has much potential for long-term development and possible spawning of river-related businesses, such as canoe/kayak rentals, festivals, music venue, concessions run by civic groups and other uses.
4. From this spot a hiking/biking trail could go all of the way through Hurie Park, under the Rt. 123 bridge (with some improvements) and to a park area north of the bridge to the water treatment plant.

RECOMMENDATIONS - HURIE PARK - 4

This zone is known as Hurie Park. It is a multi-purpose park that has been home to baseball and soccer games for decades. The ball diamonds and soccer fields are used throughout the year. The Petersburg Athletic Association is recognized for its great work over the years for maintaining the recreational facilities at the park. However to modernize the park, bathroom facilities may need upgrading including the concession stand that has been used in the past. There is adequate parking and lights for events. It served as the Harvest Fest location in 2015 when the streets around the square were torn up and replaced. There are many enhancements possible here that would increase recreational value of the park. Cars park along the riverfront to take in a view in a limited area but the city has made progress in opening up the area by trimming up lower branches and removing invasive



Aerial view of Hurie Park on Rt. 123

species. The river is much more visible now while protecting the shoreline. There is space for commercial and new recreational opportunities here that should be studied and considered. Specific recommendations include the following:

1. Hurie Park traditionally begins where the roads go into the park on the southeast corner of the grocery store property. The vertical posts in the ground along the roads may need to be studied and possibly removed to facilitate new zones or spots for parking or picnicking to enjoy the river.
2. Explore business opportunities for new attractions to draw people to Petersburg. This could include bocce ball, pickle ball, corn hole/bags and other games that could be turned into leagues, tournaments or ongoing recreational opportunities. This in turn lends itself to more business potential. Frisbee golf is currently being explored as an option. With its location on IL Rt. 123 it is highly visible and would get thousands of impressions each day if new businesses or recreational opportunities are created. Signage in the park and on both sides of the highway could help promote such businesses, music festivals or other events. There are food catering and drink opportunities in conjunction with future business as well as existing local businesses. It is possible to build a multi-use facility that local businesses could share to offer their products
3. Install picnic tables and benches in certain locations to enhance opportunities for enjoying the riverfront and its views.
4. Continue the hiking/biking trail through the park and in conjunction with the other parks. Make the routes available in printed park information, signage and websites.
5. Study the viability and necessity of the existing brick building, and seek to repair it if a use is determined; otherwise consider removing it. Consider the need for other buildings or structures here and to the west.
6. Replace, repair or relocate the bathrooms to accommodate larger crowds or future festivals.
7. Determine the need for a possible pavilion(s) in the park, similar to those in Greenview, Athens and various riverfront communities..
8. Develop a plan to plant new desirable trees and bushes in select areas or zones. Citizens groups could help in this effort.
9. Make improvements to the boat launch area. Consider a fish cleaning station.

10. Create new access points for fishing from the bank.
11. Work with the other parks in town and possible reuse some playground equipment. While new playground equipment may be ineligible for grant funds due to its location in a flood plain, used equipment may be added since many siblings use the playground next to the ball fields and it helps keep the kids and families together. However, equipment may be purchased through other funds.

RECOMMENDATIONS RIVERFRONT PARK - 5

This area involves a 11 acre property north of the IL Rt. 123 bridge. It is wooded yet has some open space. There are currently dirt trails through the property in which vehicles can have limited access. The area can fairly easily be cleaned up, invasive species removed, trees trimmed to recover river views and open up the space to recreation or economic opportunities. This area is bordered by the river and the city's water treatment plant. Some recommendations include:

1. Enhance the wetlands experience under the bridge and include educational displays or information about the river and the value of wetlands.
2. Explore options for a crossing a slight ravine under the bridge after securing approval by IDOT for use of the space.
3. Expand the trails within this area.
4. Consider options for business and recreation in this area. Again, it may be an extension for frisbee golf or some other recreation-related enterprise that would draw people to the area.
5. Create select river viewing areas for picnic tables and benches. Utilize existing logs here and at Lincoln's Riverside Park for additional seating along the walking trails.



16.8 acres on left side of Sangamon River

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The group feels that to accomplish great things for the parks system in Petersburg, ongoing dialog is needed to get things done over time. It's not a case of "one and done." Rather, these many recommendations will take time to implement; some taking a year or a few years to fully accomplish. Thus if this group or its sub-committees continues to work with the city over time, much can be accomplished with the good faith ideas for the city and a willingness for citizens to engage and work together to get things done through work days, fund raisers and more. To this end, once this report has been reviewed by the mayor and members of the City Council, it is hoped that they will support the findings and call upon the group to continue its work. Several subcommittees are recommended to provide the ongoing work and support for the projects identified herein. This is a similar approach to that followed by the PREP group. While discussions lasted for two years, once the report was released in 2012 a core group called the Steering Committee met monthly to work on project goals that took time (months and years) such as creating a TIF district, a facade program, raising money for "Welcome to Petersburg" signs and other achievements described elsewhere in their report. The following sub-committees may be useful in accomplishing the goals in the report going forward:

1. **Form a Business & Economic Development Sub-Committee.** This group may look at such issues as: recommending new businesses to the park areas that bring tourists and visitors to town; creation of festivals and special events that can operate in the parks with access to food and restrooms; draw possible new businesses to the area that deal with recreational opportunities along the river, concessions and possible food service along the riverfront; pavilions and observation decks to facilitate public access and viewing of the river; and future initiatives to be suggested by the Tourism Council or the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce.
2. **The Funding Sub-Committee.** This group would comprise persons with extensive experience in grants to seek new opportunities; seek private donations; coordinate fund raisers; consider formation of a not-for-profit status to help with donations; or explore the pros and cons of a possible park district. This group could also coordinate projects with the high school.
3. **The Nature Sub-Committee.** This group may look at such issues as nature reserves; appeal to volunteers to help with invasive species; develop a habitat restoration and enhancement plan; develop an infrastructure enhancement plan consistent with the character of a nature reserve; appeal to volunteers to assist with implementing such restoration plans; aid in invasive species removal and planting appropriate native species; launch a web-based educational and trail applications; and promote the use of a floodplain forest nature reserve.
4. **Form Education & Interpretative Sub-Committee.** There are a number of local residents with highly credentialed backgrounds in a wide range of subjects including: geology, history,

fisheries, trees and native plants, anthropology and more. With lifetime experiences as experts in their fields, these individuals are willing to meet and help formulate educational information about the town, the river, history and much more. Other individuals have film making and related skills to make videos and other materials to share this knowledge and expertise with the public.

SUMMARY

The Riverfront Development Group would like to thank Mayor Rick Snyder and members of the Petersburg City Council for their consideration of this report and its recommendations. It takes positive leadership to consider ideas from a citizen group that wishes to work cooperatively with city leaders and city workers to make a great place to live even better.

We recognize that many of these recommendations are no cost to low cost. Many of the initiatives have been underway for some time, in terms of cleaning up trash, removing invasive species along the river, trimming up trees along the river to open up views and other actions. Others will involve policy decisions about future matters of governance. While still others will take a few months or a few years to accomplish. Too often reports are issued only to take undisturbed space on a bookshelf. We hope that it becomes an often used guideline from which to check off goals met and aid in meeting others.

We use PREP as an example as it was a similar, multi-year effort involving a wide range of citizens wishing to help out. The group worked with the city to achieve the easy to meet recommendations and took the time necessary to tackle the tougher issues. But together we got it done because the core group of members continued to work with the mayor at that time and City Council over the course of a few years to help revitalize our downtown district at a time when there were many vacant buildings around the square. Today, we are proud of our vibrant small town. This same type of potential exists for parks and recreational opportunities along the riverfront. Most communities don't own large expanses along a river; we do. Holding onto city-owned property is essential going forward, along with finding opportunities to perhaps acquire and protect even more land.

Quality of life is what helps make Petersburg so special. A friendly town with great businesses, restaurants, recreation, theatre and so much to see and do. Housing is vital to growth, and a great parks system is a major attraction for new families and businesses to our town. We've been sitting on a hidden treasure (the Sangamon Riverfront) for many years now and this is a new growth potential for Petersburg and Menard County.

Petersburg citizens own the land along the river. Individual citizens and civic groups are willing to work together to create and help maintain a park system. The business community can help with ideas for new festivals and businesses along the riverfront. And most importantly, our residents and their families will soon be able to see the river and the nature that surrounds it from comfortable and accessible vantage points. There is not currently a picnic table or bench along any of the areas described in this report. But that can all quickly change for the better. PORTA high school students are building some picnic tables and benches right now, during the current school year through privately donated funds so that residents can enjoy the riverfront this year, starting this summer. Progress is underway and many more exciting possibilities are on the horizon. Hopefully the Mayor will lead these efforts and concurrently appoint an individual or city employee to spearhead these efforts. The group stands ready to further assist and to make this a joint, ongoing relationship with the City of Petersburg to accomplish great things together.

On behalf of those who participated in this study, I thank you all for reading the document and considering the group's recommendations.

Dan Williams, Riverfront Development Group Coordinator & Past PREP Coordinator

Steering Committee:

- Brie Allison, Petersburg Chamber of Commerce
- Richard Moss, Menard County Tourism Council & PREP Member
- Anne Smith, Central Illinois Services NFP & PREP Member
- Terri Treacy, Menard County Trails & Greenways

Special thanks to various individuals for their participation, presentations, written comments, and other contributions to the process representing either themselves as citizens wishing to help or as representatives of their organizations. The individuals will be identified in the updated supplement to this report when committees are formed and work continues. In the meantime, the group wishes to acknowledge and thank the following groups: Central Illinois Services, City of Petersburg, IL Natural History Survey (IL River Biological Station), Menard County Soil & Water Conservation District, Menard County Tourism Council, Menard County Trails & Greenways, Menard County Zoning Office, Petersburg Chamber of Commerce, PORTA Building Trades, Starhill Forest Arboretum, and Town & Country Women's Club.

Photos of Sangamon River at Lincoln's Riverside Park - 1



Races and floating on the Sangamon River



View of park east of RiverBank Lodge and site of previous canoe race takeout point



Great views of river from Lincoln's Riverside Park

Photos of Land & River at Riverfront Park - 2



Left: Petersburg on the banks of the Sangamon. Right: Land for Park 2.



Another view of land on 5th Street behind City Hall and view from the tracks.



Left: View from 5th Street. Right: View of river with plans for an elevated platform to enhance views.

Photos of Land & River at Riverfront Park - 3



Left: Great view of river with prime space for tables & benches. Right: Fisherman on the old dam.



Left: View from behind Hardees towards river. Right: Opposite view of city owned parking lot along river.



Left: Debris cleared from city property on river. Right: Invasive species cleared from bank.

Photos of Land & River at Riverfront - Park 4 (Hurie)



Left: Hurie Park ball field. Right: Entrance to park.



Left: River widens below old dam. Right: Boat ramp at Hurie Park



Left: View of Hurie Park restrooms & concession stand. Right: Aerial shot of Hurie Park.

Photos of Land & River at Riverfront - Park 5



Left: IL Rt. 123 bridge. Right: Current trail through approximately 11 acre park space.



Left: Road to access this parcel of city property behind water plant. Right: winter scenes along river.



Left: Invasive species need attention. Right: Riverfront behind (east) water plant with great views.