



**For Release on August 22, 2020**

### **Kankakee Riverfront Society Announces Public Outreach Plan**

The Kankakee Riverfront Society, a recently formed not-for-profit organization of riverfront advocates, announces an important community outreach initiative associated with the preliminary design of the East Riverwalk. The East Riverwalk is the working name for the first segment of **The Currents of Kankakee**, the new riverfront district first described in the 2018 Kankakee Riverfront Master Plan. The East Riverwalk is planned for the southeast corner of Schuyler Avenue and East River Street on three properties that the City of Kankakee expects to acquire this year. Please see the attached Project Synopsis for additional East Riverwalk facts.

In announcing the public outreach initiative, Kankakee Riverfront Society Chairperson Staci Wilken stresses that despite the COVID-19 restrictions, the Kankakee Riverfront Society, City leaders and the City's riverfront consultant are eager to share important information about the project. The riverfront team is also eager to learn more about the community's understanding of and expectations for the East Riverwalk. The public outreach will continue until completion of the Preliminary Design in early 2021. Plans include a regularly updated project website, pre-design interviews with key stakeholders, an online community survey, an onsite event, frequent press updates, social media and presentations to public officials and community organizations.

"The website is the best place to get up-to-date information about this transformational project," explains Wilken. "The website includes a project summary, a location map, a schedule of key milestones and events, consultant information and contacts if you have information to share or questions about the project. The website also has a link to a brief, but important community survey. You can find the link on the project website: [www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/kankakee-east-riverwalk/](http://www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/kankakee-east-riverwalk/).

Mayor Chasity Wells-Armstrong, Kankakee Riverfront Society Vice Chair and riverfront visionary, urges everyone in the community to take a few minutes to complete the online survey. "We had an overwhelming response in 2017 when we first asked the community about the future of our riverfront. Now we need to refine our understanding of the community's expectations as we design the first segment of what will become **The Currents of Kankakee**." Preliminary results of the survey will be made public in early September.

The Kankakee Riverfront Society is also planning a public onsite event on September 17 to acquaint the community with the East Riverwalk property and to gather additional feedback. The event is being carefully organized to manage the ongoing challenges of the pandemic. The Kankakee Riverfront Society will announce additional event details in the coming weeks.

The Kankakee Riverfront Society, Inc. (KRS) is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization dedicated to the implementation of the 2018 Kankakee Riverfront Master Plan. KRS includes City of Kankakee and Kankakee Valley Park District officials and other community leaders whose mission is to make **The Currents of Kankakee** an extraordinary riverfront experience that will transform the region's image, raise its marketplace appeal and enhance its quality of life.

**The Currents of Kankakee** brand for the Kankakee Riverfront was created and is owned by the Kankakee Riverfront Society.

Preliminary Design of the East Riverwalk is funded by a Community Development Block Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and is administered by the City of Kankakee Economic and Community Development Agency.

Please see the attached Project Summary or visit the Project Website at [www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/kankakee-east-riverwalk/](http://www.hitchcockdesigngroup.com/kankakee-east-riverwalk/) for more information or to take the community survey.

For more information about *The Currents of Kankakee*, please contact Staci Wilken by email at [staci@kccvb.com](mailto:staci@kccvb.com) or by phone at 815.935.7390; or Tim King by email at [tking@hitchcockdesigngroup.com](mailto:tking@hitchcockdesigngroup.com) or by phone at 630.698.5960.

cc: Chasity Wells-Armstrong, Mayor, City of Kankakee  
Barbi Brewer-Watson, Kankakee ECDA  
Rachel Schramm, Kankakee ECDA  
Jasmyne Humble, City of Kankakee  
Staci Wilken, Kankakee Riverfront Society  
Tim King, Lacey Lawrence, Rick Hitchcock, Hitchcock Design Group