

**DRAFT  
FOR REVIEW ONLY**



# Riverwalk Master Plan 2031

## Naperville, Illinois

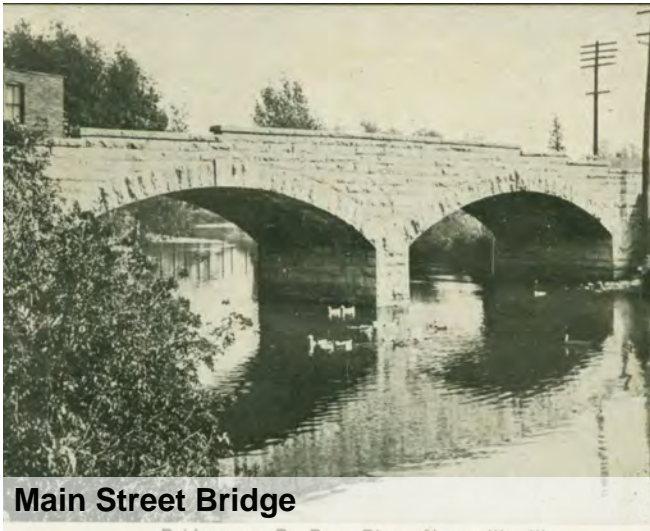
April, 2020







Centennial Beach



Main Street Bridge



Volunteers Lay Bricks

## Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan

In 2031, Napervillians will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our city's incorporation in 1831. In 1931, community leaders commemorated our 100th anniversary by converting an old stone quarry adjacent to the DuPage River into a unique zero-depth swimming facility, appropriately christened Centennial Beach, which served our growing community of X,000 people. Inspired by the centennial story and the enduring importance of Centennial Beach, a different generation of community leaders fortuitously decided to build the "Sesquicentennial Riverwalk" along two downtown blocks adjacent to the DuPage River to permanently commemorate our city's 150th anniversary in 1981, when our population was about 40,000. As we approach our city's bicentennial anniversary, with new technologies, new trends and new leaders, 160,000 Napervillians can be assured that the same river that anchored our community in the beginning, will play a vitally important role in our future – and that our beloved Riverwalk will be as important in 2031 as it is today.

This master plan defines a clear Bicentennial Goal and Objectives, and the standards, projects and actions that will advance and maintain the Riverwalk's extraordinary cultural, environmental and economic impact on Naperville's success. The call to action is simple; implement this important plan for the future of our community.

## Riverwalk Evolution

The Riverwalk was not a typical public works project. Originally proposed as a two-block riverfront park in Brown Heldt's 1974 master plan for downtown Naperville, the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk was built to permanently commemorate the 150th anniversary of the city's incorporation. For many reasons, including the success of this master plan, how the Riverwalk was built is as important as what was built.

In the grip of the 1980 recession, community leaders were determined to construct the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk in much the same fashion as a previous generation constructed Centennial Beach – using donated cash, in-kind gifts and volunteer labor. No state or federal funds were used to construct Centennial Beach, and they were specifically avoided to allow for greater design and construction flexibility of the Riverwalk. Instead, and in addition to their valuable time, some of Naperville's most influential business leaders made substantial cash contributions, proclaimed the sesquicentennial story to countless audiences, and inspired other private donors to give, generously. Along with the City's contribution of publicly-owned riverfront land and \$200,00 of "seed" money, the original two-block Riverwalk was funded by approximately \$750,000 in donated cash and \$250,000 of in-kind donations of materials and labor from local contractors.

Despite the recession, the stunning new Riverwalk, which appeared to the public to unroll like a beautiful carpet from Main Street to Eagle Street, captivated the community. And the efficient, home-spun implementation strategy ignited a widespread and unimagined spirit of pride and unity that lasted long after the dedication ceremony on Labor Day, 1981.

Using a combination of public and private funds, and with widespread community support, the Riverwalk Commission collaborated with both City and Park District officials to expand the Riverwalk, west of Eagle Street, through a series of annual, incremental projects. Segment by segment, the signature Riverwalk path, with its distinctive pavers, lighting, benches and landscaping, advanced along City and Park District-owned riverfront, revealing – then transforming underutilized and often hidden public assets into cherished community landmarks like the Paddleboat Quarry, Rotary Hill, Landforms Sculpture, Grand Pavillion and many others. When long-time, historic preservationist Jane Sindt died in 1995, her family donated the property, which now anchors the west end of the Riverwalk, to the Park District.

Easterly Riverwalk expansion was much more complicated because of limited space and multiple, privately-owned properties. Through tedious negotiations, Riverwalk and City leaders were able to secure land dedications and easements to allow the Riverwalk to expand east to Hillside Road, the current south terminus. Except for Fredenhagen Park, the east, more utilitarian segments of the Riverwalk suffer from less connectivity and exposure and include far fewer features. Fredenhagen Park, the result of a generous gift from Rita Harvard and Ted Fredenhagen at the site of their parents' long-time ice cream business, includes familiar Riverwalk elements plus signature clocktower and fountain features.

While systematic construction of new segments and features, in the eighties, gave the Riverwalk a high-profile, "look what's next" popularity, exceptional maintenance was and remains a cornerstone of the Riverwalk's enduring importance. Guided by an intergovernmental agreement with the City, and an Asset Management Plan (AMP) prepared by the Riverwalk Commission, the Naperville Park District manages the operations of the Riverwalk including routine maintenance, security and programming. The agreement spells out boundaries, operational and funding responsibilities. It also defines the difference between routine maintenance and the capital rehabilitation of aging Riverwalk assets, which are catalogued and prioritized by remaining useful life in the AMP.

Like its informal predecessor committee that nurtured the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk, the 13 member Naperville Riverwalk Commission includes volunteers with backgrounds in design, engineering, construction, and public relations along with elected and appointed City and Park District representatives. The Riverwalk Commission continues to plan, design, promote and advise both the City and Park District regarding Riverwalk improvements and the rehabilitation of existing assets. The Naperville Riverwalk Foundation was created in 1981 as the not-for-profit that could accept charitable contributions from the private sector that could be applied toward capital improvement projects advanced by the Riverwalk Commission and constructed through City purchasing and public works processes.

Like previous editions, this 2031 Riverwalk Master Plan was prepared by the Naperville Riverwalk Commission, its consultants, and other Riverwalk advocates to inspire the community and its leaders and to guide public policy and resource allocation. And like previous editions, the planning process has included considerable public outreach, and the thoughtful evaluation of available resources, stakeholder expectations, and best practices. However, unlike previous circumstances, the Riverwalk Commission recognizes that the City's approaching bicentennial anniversary creates a unique and important opportunity to close some geographic gaps, increase capacity, improve guest hospitality and engage a new generation of Riverwalk advocates.



# Riverwalk 2031

When we celebrate the city’s 200th birthday in 2031, we will also celebrate the golden anniversary of our beloved Riverwalk. Community leaders are certain to proclaim how our nationally acclaimed Riverwalk, the centerpiece of our marvelous downtown, continues to shape and distinguish Naperville’s exceptional brand. This master plan describes carefully considered capital and enhancement projects -along with an actionable implementation strategy that will advance our community’s heartfelt Bicentennial Goal:

## Bicentennial Goals and Objectives

In 2031, from West Jefferson Avenue to Martin Avenue, the Naperville Riverwalk will remain one of our most iconic and important cultural, recreational, environmental and economic development assets.

To that end, and in continuing collaboration with City and Park District leaders and other valued stakeholders, the Riverwalk Commission proposes to:

- 1. Complete connectivity gaps within the Riverwalk boundaries
- 2. Expand every day and programed capacity
- 3. Increase visitor safety, accessibility and hospitality
- 4. Enhance appearance while maintaining signature characteristics
- 5. Engage the next generation of Riverwalk advocates and donors

## Planning, Design, and Construction Standards

The Riverwalk Commission will accomplish the bicentennial objectives in a manner that is consistently:

- 1. **Collaborative**  
(includes adjacent property owners, other stakeholders and organizations in the planning, design and construction and funding process)
- 2. **Respectful**  
(of natural, structural and fiscal resources, and diverse stakeholders)
- 3. **Multi-dimensional**  
(appeals to a broad range of residents and visitors; is flexible, with a high return on investment)
- 4. **Fiscally prudent**  
(considers construction and maintenance costs including asset useful life)
- 5. **Healthy**  
(comfortable, clean and safe, promotes positive physical and mental well-being)
- 6. **Attractive**  
(engaging, stimulating, well maintained)
- 7. **Distinctive**  
(differentiated from other riverwalks)
- 8. **Barrier-free**  
(accessible by all)
- 9. **Sustainable**  
(environmentally, economically, culturally)

# Future Attractions

After careful consideration of many project candidates, the Riverwalk Commission identified 5 Capital Projects and 6 Enhancement Projects that when complete, will accomplish the Bicentennial Goal and Objectives. The Capital Projects are defined by their larger scale, greater complexity, substantial construction costs, and anticipated catalytic outcomes. Logically, the Capital Projects will require more complex funding and partnerships to accomplish. By comparison, the smaller, less complex and less costly Enhancement Projects may be more attractive for individual donors and funding through the Riverwalk Foundation.

### 1. Capital Improvements

The Riverwalk Commission recommends the construction of 5 capital projects to achieve the Bicentennial Goal. Each project advances every master plan objective and meets all of supporting design standards. Some projects will surely require multiple public and philanthropic funding sources and may require phased construction. The Grand Pavilion Plaza and the Eagle Street Gateway projects will correct existing deficiencies and add significant new dimensions to existing Riverwalk features. The Main to Washington Streets Riverwalk completely reimagines the existing south bank and includes a large portion of the north bank of the river. The Downtown/NCC Gateway and the South Gateway projects are completely new additions to the Riverwalk assets.

### 2. Enhancement Projects

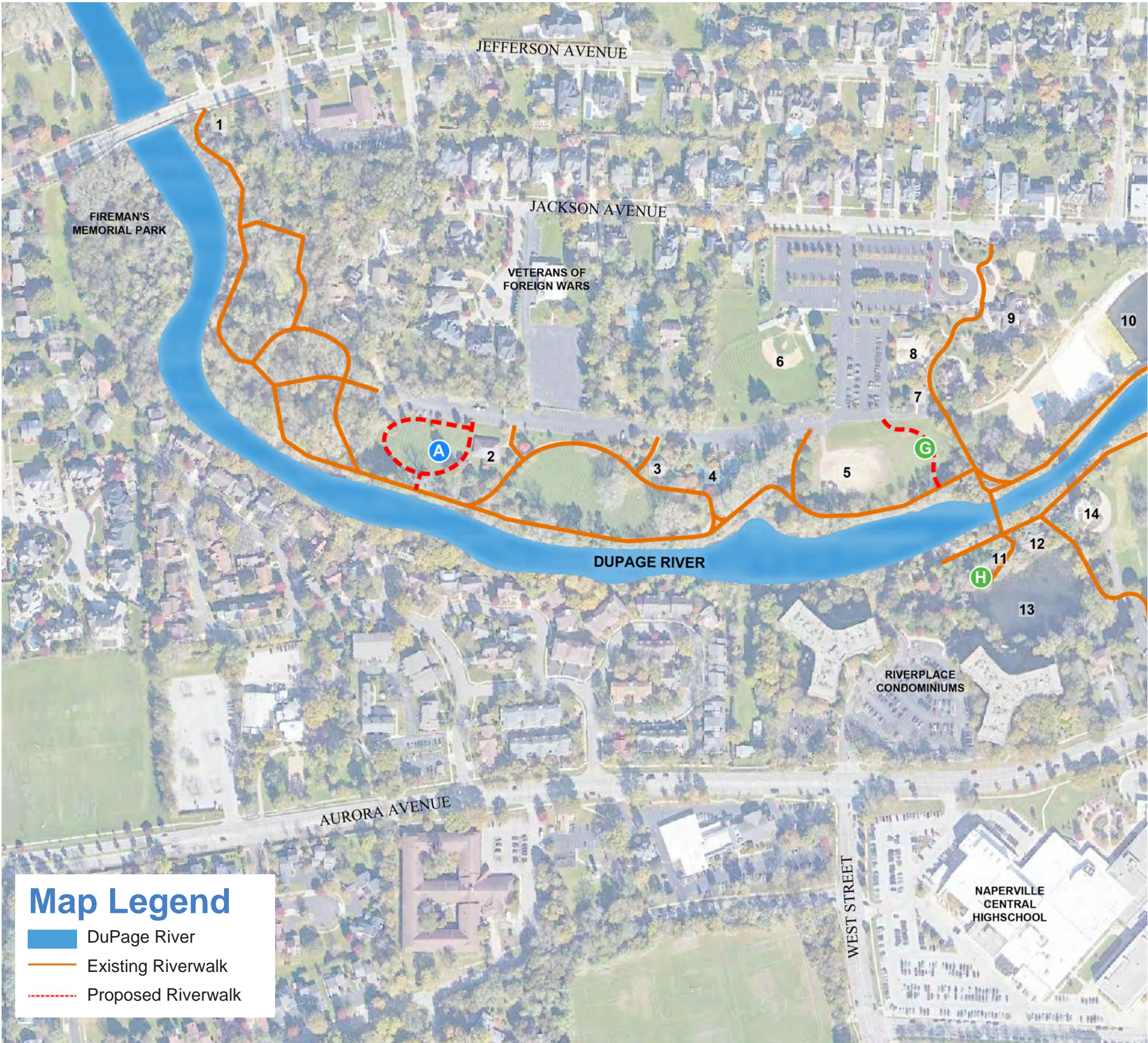
As an integral part of its annual Riverwalk operations, the Naperville Park District completes many important rehabilitation projects in consultation with the Riverwalk Commission. In addition to annual rehabilitation of existing assets, the Commission recommends the construction of these 6 Enhancement Projects that reach beyond traditional rehabilitation. While not as large or costly as the master planned Capital Projects, the Prairie Nature Garden, Paddleboat Quarry Overlooks, Netzley Overlook, Riverbank Restoration, Artists’ Overlook, and Hillside Road Gateway each offer distinctive, less costly opportunities to advance the Bicentennial Goal, accomplish important plan objectives, and engage a wide array of donors.



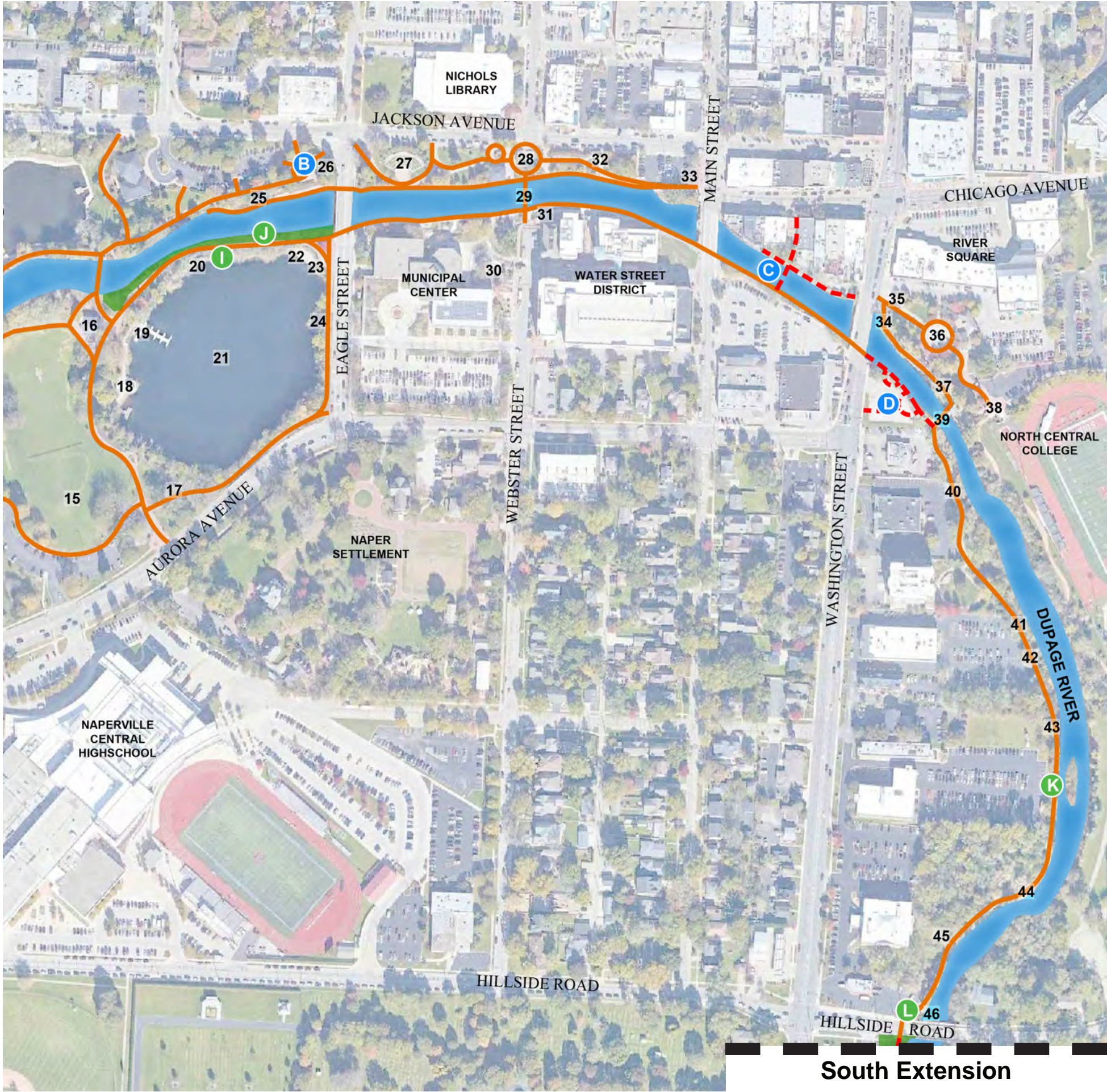


# Current Attractions

1. Brethren Peace Plaza
2. Grand Pavilion
3. Warming House
4. Jaycee Playground
5. Volleyball / Ice Rinks
6. Centennial Park Little League Field
7. Studio One
8. Centennial Park Skate Facility
9. Centennial Beach Bathhouse
10. Centennial Beach
11. Netzley Plaza
12. Visitor Center
13. Netzley Quarry
14. Millennium Carillon In Moser Tower
15. Rotary Hill / Sled Hill
16. Riverwalk Cafe
17. Rotary Harmony Park
18. Gregory Gazebo
19. Jaycees Marina
20. Nalco Shelter
21. Paddleboat Quarry
22. Sesquicentennial Overlook
23. Farmer's Plaza & Cliff Preston Memorial
24. Physicians & Dentists Shelter
25. Oliver Hoffman Pavilion
26. Landforms Sculpture
27. Amphitheater, Millennium Wall, & Labyrinth
28. Dandelion Fountain & Smykal Free Speech Pavilion
29. James & Harold Moser Bridge
30. Naperville Jaycees Park
31. Naperville Township Plaza
32. Naperville Exchange Club Veteran's Plaza
33. White Plaza & Horse Trough Fountain
34. Rotary Plaza
35. Fredenhagen Park
36. Exchange Club Memories Fountain
37. Jaycee Gazebo
38. Wehrli Family Garden
39. Dr. Edward & Cecila Moser Bridge
40. Masonic Plaza
41. Charles Vincent George Garden
42. Naperville Community Gardeners
43. Morton Arboretum Grove
44. Nicor Plaza
45. O'Shaughnessy Garden
46. Edward Hospital Plaza







Future Attractions

Capital Improvements Projects

- A Grand Pavilion Plaza pg. 5
- B Eagle Street Gateway pg. 6
- C Main - Washington Streets Riverwalk pg. 7
- D 430 South Washington Street pg. 8-9
- E Riverwalk South Extension / Gateway pg. 10

Enhancement Projects

- G Prairie Nature Garden pg. 11
- H Netzley Overlook pg. 12
- I Paddleboat Quarry Overlook pg. 13
- J Riverbank Restoration pg. 14
- K The Artist's Overlook pg. 15
- L Hillside Street Trailhead pg. 16







Perspective View

A

## Grand Pavilion Plaza

**Today:** Constructed in 1987, the Grand Pavilion, which comfortably seats **XXX** at movable picnic tables, is a favorite spot for family and corporate events. With its convenient location, abundant parking and expansive, grassy setting, the handsome, 3200 square foot, stone-columned structure has also become a popular place to stage community fund-raisers and launch a multitude of philanthropic walks and runs. In fact, its popularity makes it challenging to reserve during prime, seasonal dates, and its regular, heavy use takes a toll on the surrounding lawn, which receives considerable storm water runoff from the adjacent parking lot.

**2031:** The Grand Pavilion Plaza will increase the capacity and hospitality of this valuable asset. New signature paving will provide additional, sure-footed space for event staging and spill-over socializing, reduce adjacent soil compaction, and improve the overall appearance by adding a proper base that is more proportional to the structure. A new grill station will provide a safe and convenient place to prepare and cook food, and a stone fireplace will increase the warmth and ambiance of cool-season events. Green infrastructure techniques will improve drainage and improve water quality.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X

**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View

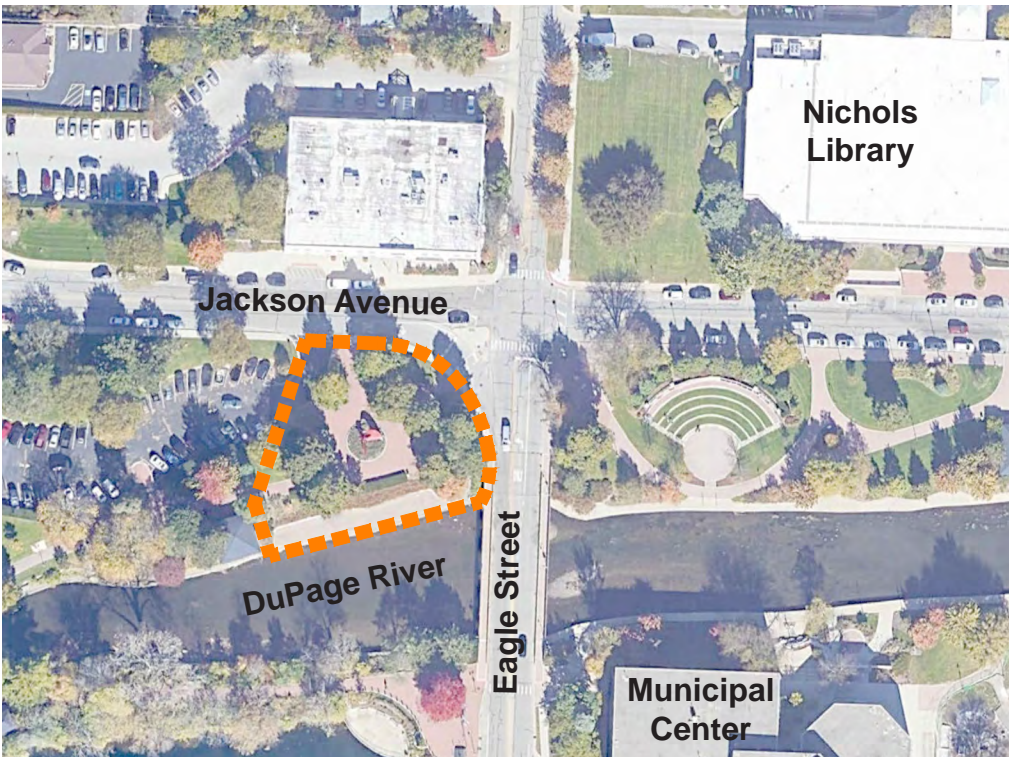
**B**

## Eagle Street Gateway

**Today:** Anchored by the colorful Landforms sculpture, this half-acre segment, constructed in 1982, is one of the most iconic street-level places on the Riverwalk. Ironically, despite its signature amenity, key location, expansive 170-foot river frontage and south-facing exposure, the south riverbank lacks appropriate vertical connectivity and its brutal appearance detracts from the ambiance of the Riverwalk. Specifically, it lacks a barrier-free route connecting the upper and lower-level walks. When the original Main – Eagle segment of the Riverwalk was rehabilitated in 2005 – 2007, the lower level concrete walk was widened and sloped near Main Street to provide a barrier-free connection to the upper level. Fortunately, the bulkhead walk under the Eagle Street bridge, reconstructed in 2003, was a foresighted accommodation to safely connect the two lower level walkways and keep large numbers of pedestrians from tying up traffic at the busy Eagle/Jackson intersection. However, patrons with mobility challenges who traverse the lower level from east to west, discover that they must retrace this 1000-foot-long dead end to reach the upper level. In addition, to meet storm water management requirements, the area immediately west of the bridge was carved out for compensatory storm water storage, leaving an unsightly and seldom-used blemish on the riverbank.

**2031:** When complete, the new Eagle Street Gateway will not only correct existing deficiencies and retain its iconic street-level sculpture, but it will become a new and dramatic Riverwalk attraction that meets every master plan objective and standard. The stark retaining wall will be replaced with a series of broad steps and terraces, ideal for soaking up the views and sun, diagonally bisected by a spacious, gently sloping Riverwalk path gracefully connecting river and street-level paths. The striking views to and from the sculpted riverbank will be enriched with swaths of native and ornamental landscaping, well-scaled stone accents and other signature Riverwalk amenities.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





## Main to Washington Streets Riverwalk

**Today:** A 420-foot Riverwalk connects Main and Washington Streets along the south bank. The narrow, steeply sloped segment includes simple signature pathway improvements at the top of the bank and a river-level concrete walk on the bulkhead wall, which provides safe, albeit utilitarian, barrier-free connections under both the Main and Washington Street bridges. The privately-owned north bank, with its excellent southern exposure, is used for al fresco dining by some of the tenants and for loading and other back-of-the-house functions by others. Despite its prominence and often-discussed potential, the multiple ownership interests, structural challenges and steep grades make a public, north bank Riverwalk improvement complicated. A logical catalyst is the long-awaited reconstruction of the Washington Street bridge, scheduled for 2021.

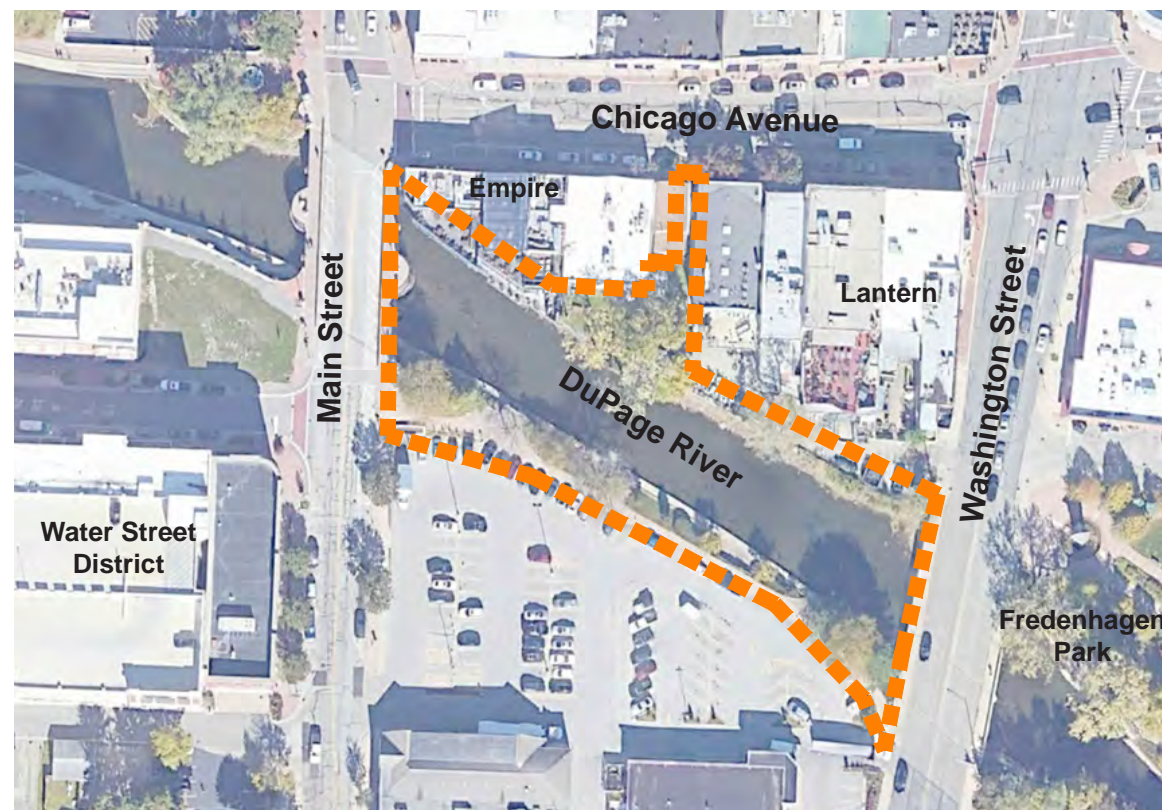
**2031:** When complete, this block-long transformation will dramatically advance the Bicentennial Goal, meet every objective and become a signature downtown attraction. Plans for the new Washington Street bridge include river-level, below grade pedestrian crossings that will greatly improve pedestrian safety and hospitality at this key, three-dimensional Riverwalk gateway. A new, iconic, mid-block pedestrian bridge and arcade connection to Chicago Avenue will amplify pedestrian connectivity. With improved vertical and lateral connections and appropriate cross-access easements in place, a substantial portion of the north bank can be dramatically improved to include a public Riverwalk, private retail/entertainment improvements, and necessary loading and other back-of-house functions. Given parcel ownership and size on both sides of the river, it is reasonable to anticipate that the south side will redevelop, similar to the Water Street District, long before the north side. When redeveloped, the new south bank will logically include significant upper and lower level Riverwalk improvements and special features. The shoreline in this constrained urban segment will be stabilized with a combination of structural and vegetative solutions, and stormwater will be managed through a combination of mechanical and green infrastructures. Public art, and ornamental and native landscaping will animate this segment of Riverwalk.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Perspective View





Location Map



Perspective View

D

430 South Washington Street

**Today:** This triangular property has a very colorful history and was long coveted by Riverwalk advocates because of its prominent Washington Street location, opposite Fredenhagen Park, at the southern entrance to downtown. Fortunately, North Central College purchased the property from a bank in 2011 after would-be developers defaulted on their loan. Since then, in close collaboration with city and Riverwalk officials, the site has been cleaned up and plans have been finalized for construction of significant Riverwalk improvements and college monument signage. State funding was secured, then withdrawn, and has recently been restored. However, construction is delayed until the Washington Street bridge is reconstructed, which is scheduled for 2021.

**2031:** When complete, the site will be dramatically sculpted to provide panoramic views to Fredenhagen Park and North Central College. The Riverwalk path, complete with its signature amenities, will connect the river, Washington Street, Fredenhagen Park and the college campus via the Moser Bridge. Two large plazas will showcase college history of offer visitors attractive options for relaxing, studying and socializing. The new park will include both ornamental and native landscaping.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





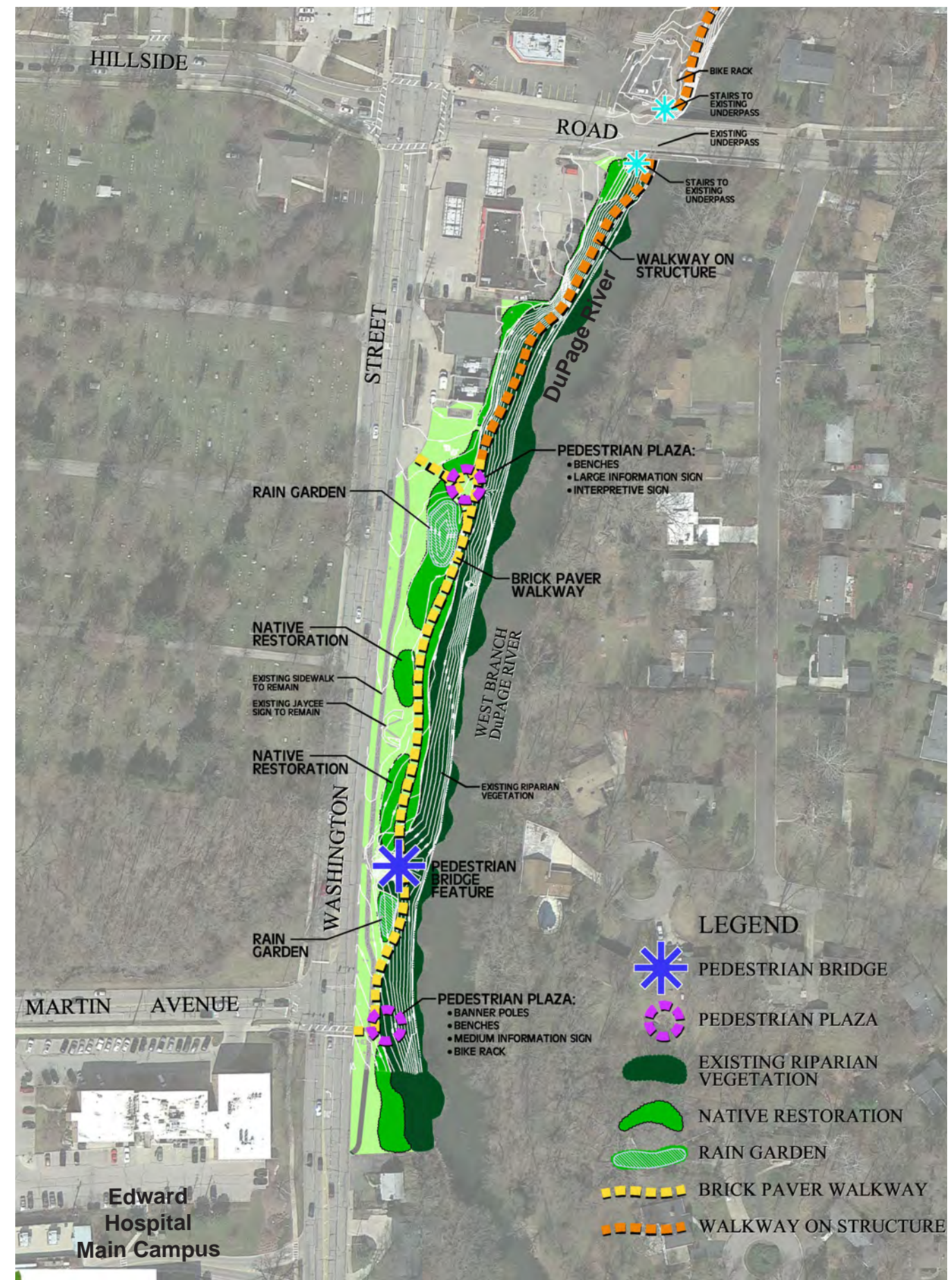
E

## Riverwalk South Extension

**Today:** This 1.8-acre segment includes William Friedrich Memorial Park, a city owned electric substation, and a narrow easement between Dunkin and the river. Except for the handsome city facility, a prominent electronic community information sign, a traditional concrete sidewalk, and unsightly overhead utility lines, the park is unimproved, uninviting and unused. However, because of its extensive river frontage, exposure to Washington Street (36,000 vehicles per day), proximity to the Edward Hospital Campus, Martin Avenue's extensive community assets – and because of the 2013 redevelopment of the corner commercial property (Dunkin) – the city officially expanded the Riverwalk boundary to include this important, but unimproved segment.

**2031:** When fully improved, the South Gateway will meet every master plan objective and standard. A spacious Riverwalk path will invite pedestrians to walk from Martin Avenue across a new signature pedestrian bridge/gateway feature (at the culvert), through the park, along the river, and under the Hillside Road bridge, where it will safely connect to the enhanced Hillside Road Gateway. In addition to the traditional Riverwalk amenities, the South Gateway will include attractive identity and informative wayfinding graphics, native landscaping, and opportunities for significant sculptural elements.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View

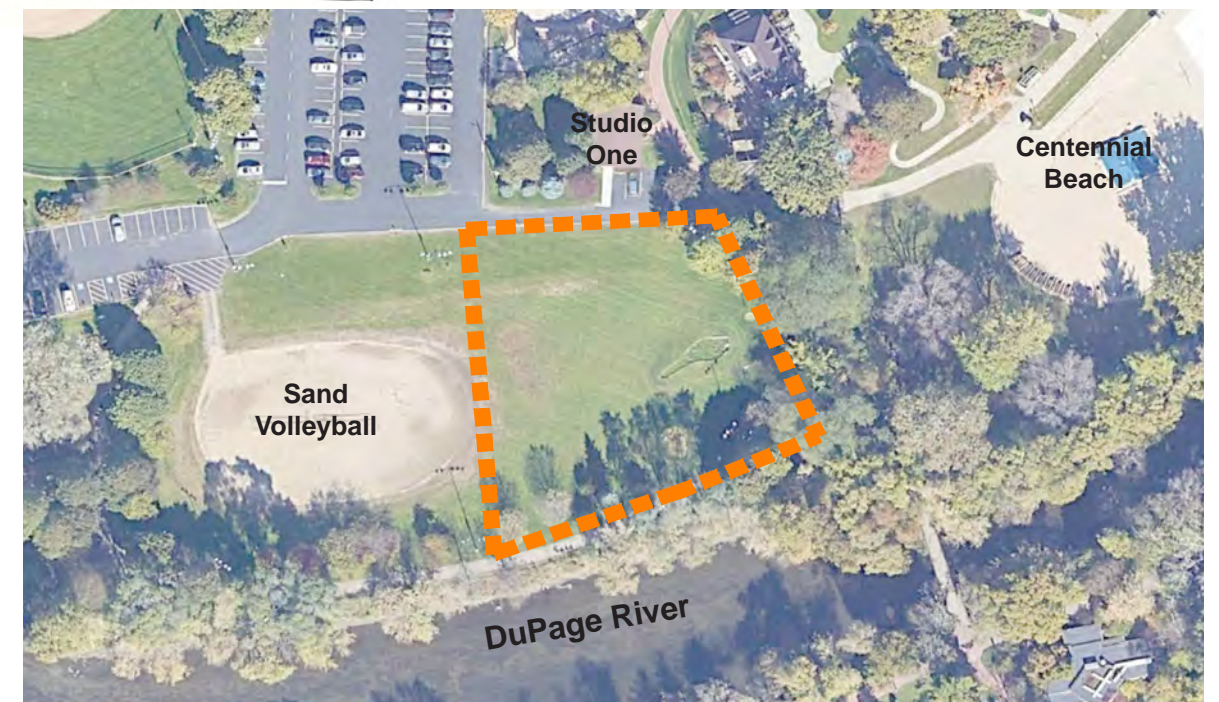


## Prairie Nature Garden

**Today:** Since the mid-nineteen-seventies, this two-acre, tray-shaped site has been used for storm water detention for the Centennial Beach parking lot. During the summer months, the Park District maintains a small sand pit and net for volleyball play, and in the winter, they attempt to flood the bottom and maintain a good surface for ice-skating. Unfortunately, inconsistent and widely variable winter temperatures make ice maintenance very difficult, so the District has discontinued attempts to maintain seasonal ice.

**2031:** While still used by the Park District for storm water management and seasonal volleyball, a large portion of this highly visible area will be transformed into a prairie garden. Once established, the new garden, carefully designed as an alternative, but complementary Riverwalk experience, will showcase and interpret a variety of native plants that will attractively improve soil structure and filter storm water runoff.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View

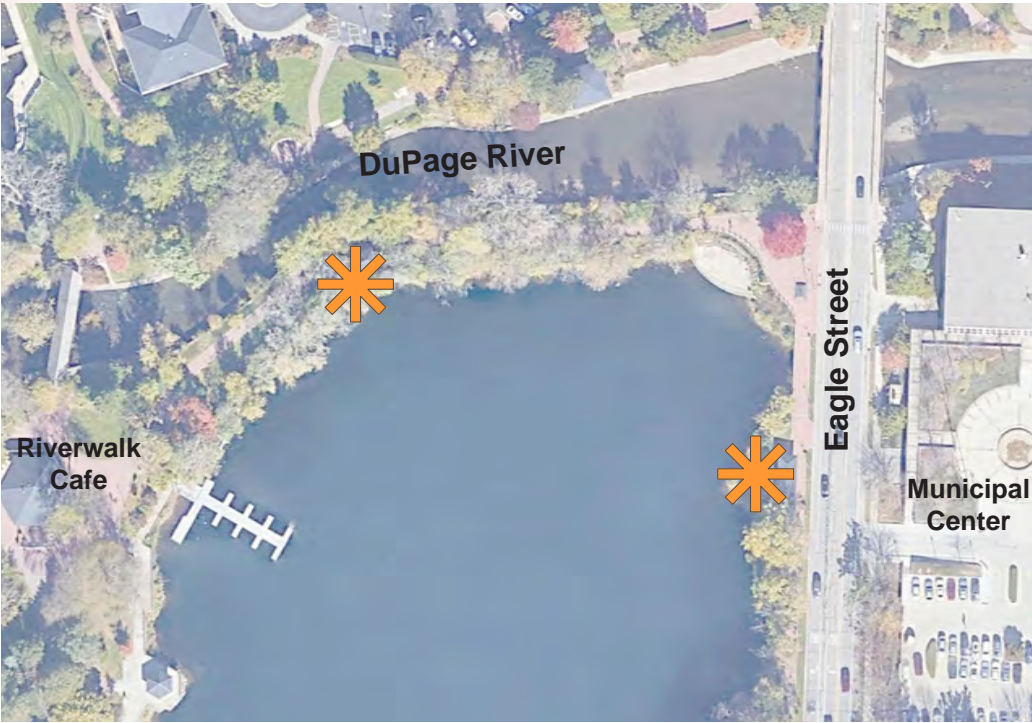
H

## Paddleboat Quarry Overlooks

**Today:** When the downtown Metra platform was remodeled in 198X, city public works officials notified Riverwalk leaders that two pedestrian shelters from the old platform were potentially salvageable for reuse on the upcoming west extension of the Riverwalk. The steel stanchions from each of the shelters were subsequently refurbished and relocated to two, small overlooks adjacent to the Paddleboat Quarry. Nalco Chemical funded one shelter and the other was funded by a group of local healthcare professionals. Despite their choice locations adjacent to the quarry, the vistas from each shelter are severely compromised by overgrown vegetation that helps to stabilize the extreme slopes.

**2031:** Overgrown and invasive vegetation will be removed, and the steep slopes will be stabilized using a combination of structural and vegetative methods. The new landscape will be maintained to provide unobstructed views of the beautiful Paddleboat Quarry.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View



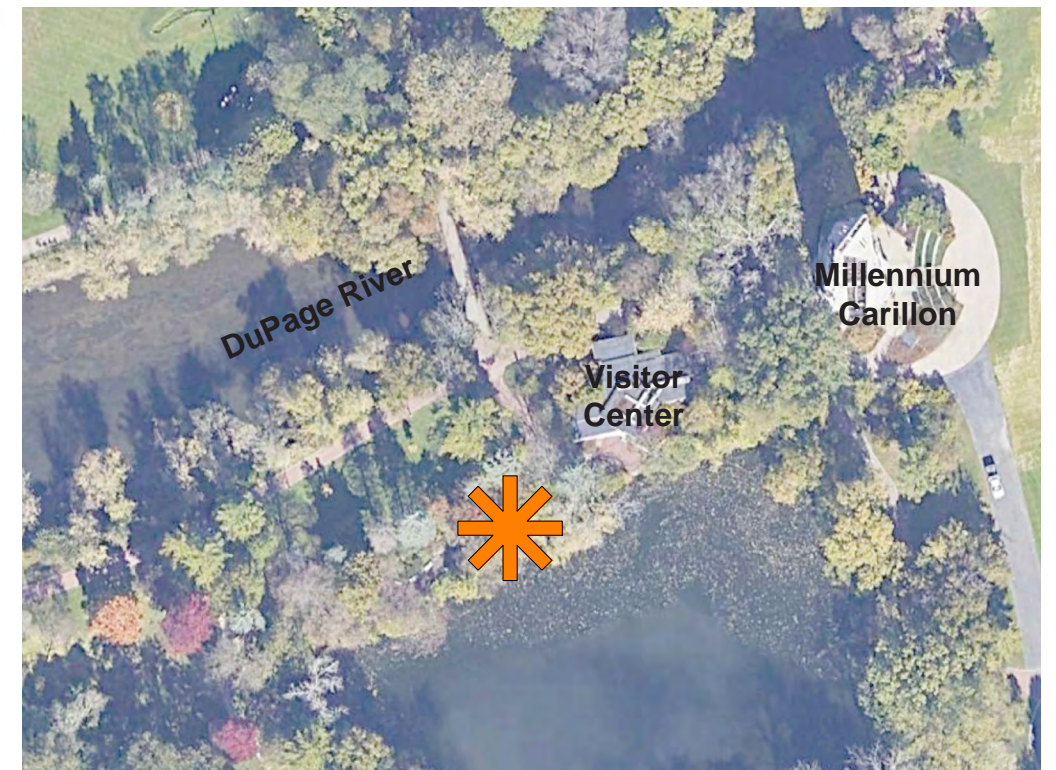
## Netzley Overlook

**Today:** When RiverPlace Condominiums were developed in 199X, the developer deeded the small pond (formerly quarried), a distinctive stone house, a small patio, and the property between the pond and the river to the Park District for incorporation into the Riverwalk. When the development-related Riverwalk improvements were subsequently constructed in 199X, a small plaza, perched alongside the pond, was dedicated in honor of Clyde C. Netzley, the local car dealership owner who built the stone house that is now the Carillon Visitor Center. This existing overlook provides an unusual and attractive vista, but it is uncomfortably small and secluded, with only one route to and from the overlook.

**2031:** The overlook will be slightly expanded and will include a second, lighted ingress/egress route for improved comfort and safety.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X

**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View

J

## Riverbank Restoration

**Today:** This unnamed, 600-foot segment, which includes upper and lower walkways, was originally constructed in 1982 to extend the original, Main - Eagle segment of the Riverwalk toward city-owned properties to the west. This narrow isthmus separates the DuPage River and a small, deep pond that was created when the property was quarried in the 1800's for stone used to construct many nearby buildings. The north-facing riverbank is a mixture of ornamental and native plants that require very different kinds of maintenance, and consequently, is difficult to maintain as either an ornamental landscape or a native landscape. The result is a hodge-podge of plants that detracts from otherwise important vistas to and along the river.

**2031:** Lateral connections between the upper and lower level walkways will be expanded and improved to accommodate easier vertical circulation and reduce erosion created by "off-trail" excursions. Non-native plants will be removed or limited to very restricted applications, and a new landscape will be cultivated that features woody and herbaceous native plants that when fully established, will require less intensive day-to-day maintenance.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View

**K**

## The Artist's Overlook

**Today:** Construction of the “East Extension” of the Riverwalk was started at Washington Street in 2000 to mark the millennial celebration and to rekindle community interest in the (then) 19-year-old Riverwalk. Even though it incorporates the signature paving, lighting and benches, the 1700-foot segment that connects the Moser Bridge to Hillside Road has no lateral connections to adjacent neighborhoods or special features to animate the visitor experience. However, several bends in the river create attractive, naturally landscaped vistas.

**2031:** A carefully chosen vantage point in this relatively bucolic setting will be enhanced to encourage visitors to pause and soak up the scenery. Permanent easels will allow artists of all skill levels to conveniently capture the views.

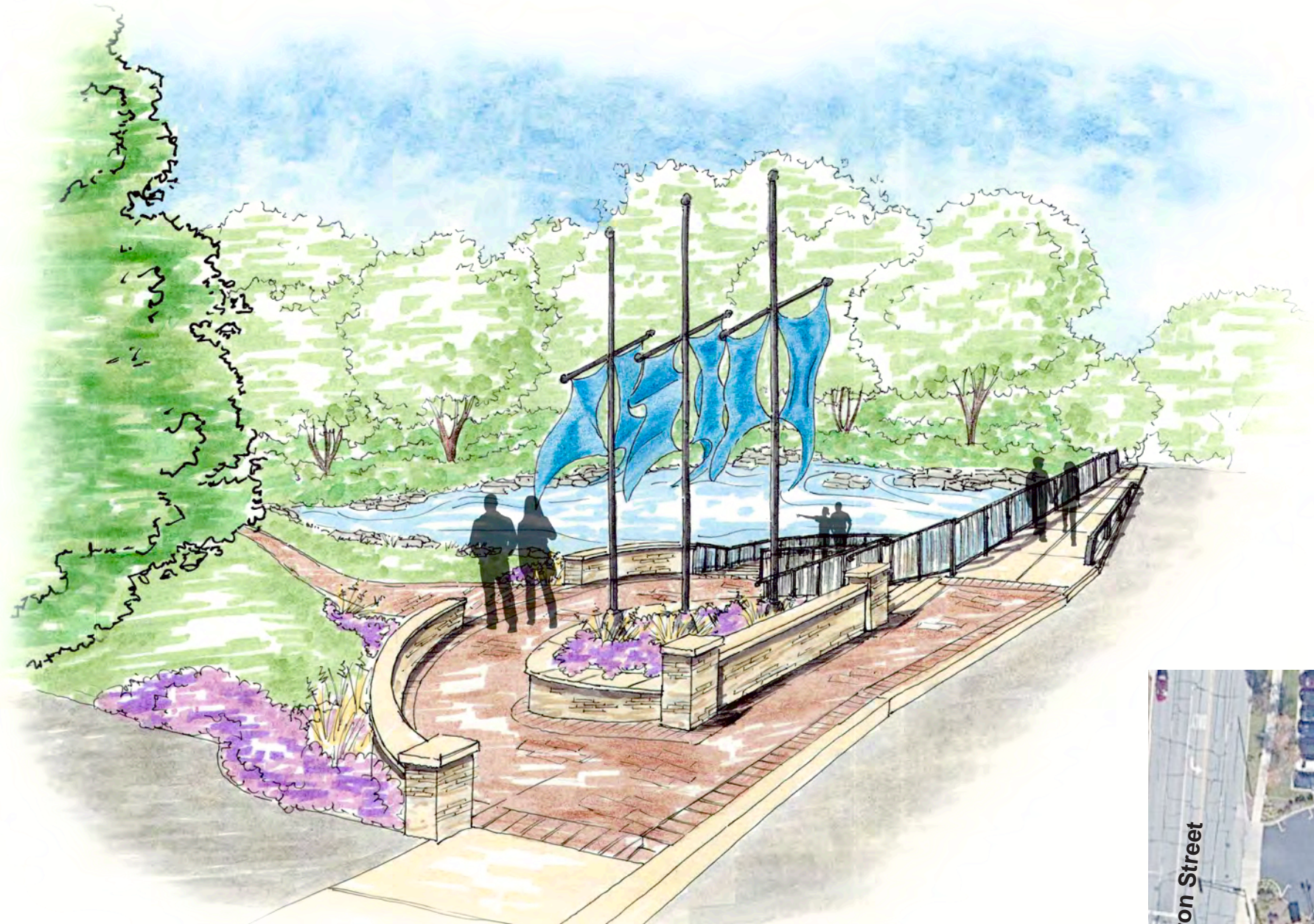
**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X

**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year



Location Map





Perspective View



Location Map

L

## Hillside Road Gateway

**Today:** The Riverwalk currently and awkwardly terminates at Hillside Road. The “trailhead,” which was originally constructed in 2001, is not prominent and does not clearly convey that it is an important Riverwalk gateway. Because of the bridge, Hillside Road carries a significant volume of traffic, and because the existing plaza is 220 feet from the Washington Street intersection, it is tempting, but unsafe for pedestrians to cross the street. Fortunately, when reconstructed in 20XX, the Hillside Road bridge was designed with a river-level, below grade crossing, which has not yet been connected to the existing Riverwalk, north of the bridge.

**2031:** The expanded plaza, complete with stone accents and other signature Riverwalk elements, will properly showcase this important gateway. The plaza will also ramp down to the river-level/under-bridge connection to the South Extension, allowing safe pedestrian passage under Hillside Road.

**Potential Capital Cost:** approximately \$X to \$X  
**Anticipated Maintenance Cost:** \$X per year





## Riverwalk Implementation

The [Riverwalk Evolution](#) describes how the Sesquicentennial Gift captivated the community and inspired decades of incremental riverfront investment. The [Riverwalk Today](#) summarizes how, thanks to systematic investment, the Riverwalk remains a treasured cultural centerpiece that still needs our attention to sustain and improve it. The [Riverwalk 2031](#) describes 5 Capital Projects and 6 Enhancement Projects that will correct deficiencies, seize fertile opportunities, and inspire a new generation of Riverwalk advocates and donors. This [Riverwalk Implementation](#) section describes how the Riverwalk Commission and other community leaders will execute a series of correlated policy, operational and capital actions to accomplish the ambitious Bicentennial Goal and Objectives.

### Engage

The City's Bicentennial celebration in 2031 presents an exceptional opportunity to create and sustain widespread community support for the Riverwalk and this master plan. The Riverwalk Commission, in collaboration with the Riverwalk Foundation, will lead the Bicentennial initiative to engage the public, community leaders, and the next generation of Riverwalk advocates by actively promoting the Riverwalk and this master plan. The Riverwalk Commission will publish and promote the master plan through all relevant communication channels:

1. Print copies distributed to libraries and other publi facilities
2. Online; linked to City, Park District, Foundation, Downtown, NDP, Chamber and other relevant websitesMulti-dimensional
3. In-person presentations to the Riverwalk Foundation, City and Park District leaders, Downtown Advisory Commission, Downtown Naperville Alliance, NDP, Chamber, North Central College, Edward Hospital, CUSD 203, local state and federal legislators, service and neighborhood organizations and adjacent property owners.
4. Video presentations tailored for broadcast and streaming
5. Periodic press releases

The Riverwalk Commission will actively publicize master plan progress and celebrate noteworthy project accomplishments. It will also seek ways, through policy and operations, to keep past Riverwalk Commissioners and other valuable Riverwalk advocates productively engaged in this initiative.

### Adopt and Endorse

This master plan was created and adopted by the Naperville Riverwalk Commission. Since public policy guides decision making, resource allocation and revenue requirements, both the Naperville City Council and the Naperville Park District Board of Commissioners should formally adopt The Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan as policy.

The master plan should also be publicly endorsed by the Riverwalk Foundation, Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Advisory Commission, Downtown Naperville Alliance, Naperville Development Partnership, and other advocacy and service organizations.

### Fund

In 1981, most of the funding for the original Main – Eagle Riverwalk came from private sector donations of cash and in-kind services. Since then, capital projects have been funded largely by the City of Naperville. By comparison, the Water Street District Riverwalk, constructed in 2017, was constructed by a private developer, Marquette Companies, primarily using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) related to its Water Street District development project. Some Water Street Riverwalk enhancements were privately funded. The completed Riverwalk was subsequently deeded to the City of Naperville and officially became a Riverwalk asset.

The Capital and Enhancement Projects described in this master plan will be constructed using a combination of public and private sector funds.

The Capital Projects because of their larger scale, complexity and cost will likely require substantial levels of public funding from city, TIF, state and federal sources. However, it is worth remembering that state and federal funding generally comes with more complexity and is far less flexible than local sources.

Because of their smaller scale, relative simplicity and lower cost, the Enhancement Projects will be funded primarily by private sector philanthropy, channeled through the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation. However, the Riverwalk Foundation's role should not be limited to funding only the Enhancement Projects.

Recently, many of the most significant new riverfronts and parks in the country, have been largely (sometimes exclusively) funded by individual, corporate and institutional donors, which like the early Naperville Riverwalk funding, provides increased creative flexibility and return on investment. Similarly, the Riverwalk Foundation is ideally positioned to receive large and small-scale charitable contributions to fund both Capital and Enhancement Projects. In fact, with the same spirit and determination that captivated the community during the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk campaign, and in close collaboration with the Riverwalk Commission, the Riverwalk Foundation is perfectly positioned to initiate a significant, Bicentennial Capital Campaign to fund all of the Enhancement Projects and significant portions of the Capital Projects.

Just as important as funding the new Capital and Enhancement Projects, maintenance and periodic rehabilitation of existing Riverwalk improvements is a cornerstone of the Bicentennial Goal and Objectives. To that end, and as they have done since 1981, the City and Park District will collaborate, through their Intergovernmental Agreement, to maintain the Riverwalk. Using the annually updated Asset Management Plan, the Park District will identify Riverwalk assets that need rehabilitation that goes beyond routine maintenance and exceeds the designated maintenance cost threshold.



## Construct

Part of the Riverwalk's success stems from the simple fact that it was always in the news because it was constructed (and more recently, reconstructed) over many years. It had consistent momentum – generated through a series of incremental, right-sized projects that each had a distinctive personality and well publicized purpose. Similarly, the Riverwalk Commission, in close collaboration with City and Park District leaders should construct the Capital and Enhancement Projects systematically and incrementally, until complete. They should start select Capital Projects, because of their scale, funding and regulatory complexity, quickly, even though progress will be slow and less publicity-worthy. Design, engineering and permitting delays now, will compromise momentum and may jeopardize funding opportunities that may arise, from time to time, driven by unforeseen public and private sector circumstances. Some Capital Projects, like the south bank of the Main – Washington Riverwalk, will be directly corelated with redevelopment of the adjacent property, and consequently, must wait for the right opportunity. And when it comes along, the Riverwalk Commission and City leaders must act decisively to engage the property owner/developer and facilitate the Riverwalk objectives and standards outlined in this master plan.

By comparison, the Riverwalk Commission and Foundation should quickly advance the design of the Enhancement projects to promote, fund and construct as many of them as possible, as quickly as possible to generate valuable momentum that will help propel the bigger, more complex Capital Projects.

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