













Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan

Naperville, Illinois

September 4, 2020

- This Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan is dedicated to the visionary leaders, generous donors, and tireless volunteers who created the first two blocks of the Naperville Sesquicentennial Riverwalk in 1981, the countless advocates who have advanced the Riverwalk vision, and the future leaders, donors and volunteers who will improve and sustain our beloved Riverwalk for generations to come. -

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Acknowledgements

Naperville

Naperville Riverwalk — For Generations to Come

Naperville Riverwalk Foundation

Naperville Park District

North Central College 1861

Consultants:

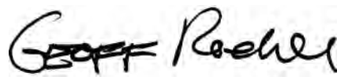
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Message from the Chairman of the Naperville Riverwalk Commission

When I moved to Naperville in 1990 my future boss drove me around Naperville to get me excited about accepting the position and relocating to Naperville. His first stop was a tour of the Naperville Riverwalk. Although this was in the dead of winter I was still very impressed with what I saw! His name is Rick Hitchcock, past Riverwalk Chairman who helped, along with several other visionaries, to mold the vision for this amazing Riverwalk. I'm thrilled to be following in his footsteps to present a new vision for how the Riverwalk will continue to impress. To showcase this vision, we present the following Master Plan 2031, a look into the future of what the Riverwalk will look like when we celebrate the Riverwalk's 50th anniversary! The intent of the Master Plan is to guide how future improvements will make the Riverwalk better. Currently there are gaps in the Riverwalk. The projects presented in the Master Plan 2031 will fill the gaps and broaden and enhance the user's experience.

I want to congratulate the Riverwalk Commissioners, staff, our consultants and all those who provided valuable perspective as this Master Plan was formed. As in any Master Plan, this is not a fixed document but is a working plan to be molded by new opportunities as they surface. We look forward to sharing this vision with all of those who value the Riverwalk as the glue that holds this community together.



Geoffrey Roehll
Chairman of the Naperville Riverwalk Commission

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DuPage River West of Downtown - 1970s


DuPage River North Bank - 1970s


Volunteers Lay Bricks - 1981

Introduction

In 2031, we will celebrate the 200th anniversary of our city's incorporation, the 100th anniversary of Centennial Beach and the 50th anniversary of the Riverwalk. Built by local volunteers to commemorate the city's 150th anniversary in 1981, the original, two block Sesquicentennial Riverwalk galvanized community spirit and shaped Naperville's outstanding national brand. Today, the Riverwalk is heralded as the crown jewel of Naperville, and the City's approaching bicentennial anniversary creates a unique and important opportunity to shape its future.

After considerable public outreach and the thoughtful evaluation of existing resources, stakeholder expectations, and widely recognized best practices, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission prepared this **Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan** to inspire the community and its leaders and to guide Riverwalk policy and resource allocation. This plan defines a compelling bicentennial goal, measurable objectives, exciting projects, and a thoughtful implementation process that when complete, will 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 generations to come."***

Riverwalk Evolution

Naperville has a long and proud history of forward-thinking citizens who have contributed their valuable ideas, time, land, capital and other resources to make an exceptional community.

In the grip of the 1980 recession, community leaders were determined to create the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk in much the same fashion as their depression-era predecessors conceived, funded and constructed Centennial Beach in 1931 – using significant contributions of donated cash, in-kind gifts and volunteer labor. In fact, Sesquicentennial Commission leaders intentionally avoided state and federal funds to allow for greater design and construction flexibility. Instead, some of Naperville's most influential business leaders proclaimed the Riverwalk vision to countless audiences, made generous cash and in-kind contributions, and inspired other private donors to give, generously. Along with the City's contribution of publicly-owned riverfront land and $200,000, 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.

Carefully unveiled at prominent public celebrations, segment after segment of the Riverwalk unrolled like a breathtaking new carpet from White Plaza at Main Street to the Amphitheater at Eagle Street. The new Riverwalk captivated the community, and the efficient, home-spun implementation strategy ignited an unimagined spirit of pride and unity that continues, today.

With widespread community support, and using a combination of public and private funds, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission collaborated with both City and Park District officials to incrementally expand the Riverwalk. In the early years, 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 Dandelion Fountain, Paddleboat Quarry, Rotary Hill, and Landforms Sculpture. Subsequent east and west expansions of the Riverwalk were only made possible by tireless, behind-the-scenes advocacy of Riverwalk Commissioners and the generosity of private property owners like the Fredenhagen family.

Riverwalk Today

Today, the Naperville Riverwalk stretches along 1.75 miles of the DuPage River. It encompasses approximately 100 acres of riverfront park that includes dozens of distinctive features linked by 16,000 feet of signature paver path with its shepherd-crook lighting, comfortable benches and a rich variety of native and ornamental landscapes.

The Naperville Riverwalk has become our unequivocal cultural centerpiece, a treasured urban oasis, and a powerful economic development catalyst. In fact, the Riverwalk is much more than an iconic place, it is the memorable experience most often associated with Naperville's exceptional national brand. Nurturing that brand requires the diligent maintenance and systematic rehabilitation of the Riverwalk's existing assets. Using the annually updated Riverwalk Asset Management Plan, and working through a time-tested Intergovernmental Agreement, the City of Naperville and the Naperville Park District collaborate, with guidance from the Naperville Riverwalk Commission, to maintain and rehabilitate, when appropriate, all of the existing Riverwalk assets.

In addition to maintaining our valuable Riverwalk, we have an exceptional opportunity – and obligation to future generations - to expand on the foresight and generosity of previous generations.

Riverwalk 2031

In 2031, when we simultaneously celebrate the City's bicentennial and the Riverwalk's golden anniversaries, we will continue to be captivated by the Riverwalk's familiar, existing features, and they will delight in exciting new attractions, as well. This Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan describes those new attractions - along with an actionable implementation process that will advance our Bicentennial Goal for the Riverwalk:

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.

After careful consideration of many new attractions, the Riverwalk Commission has identified six **Capital Projects** and six **Enhancement Projects**, which when complete, will fulfill the Bicentennial Goal. To qualify, each of the Capital and Enhancement Projects will:

- Maintain or improve river ecology and habitat
- Complete connectivity gaps within the Riverwalk boundaries
- Expand every day and programed capacity
- Increase visitor safety, accessibility and hospitality
- Enhance appearance while maintaining signature characteristics
- Engage the next generation of Riverwalk advocates and donors

Capital Projects

Each of the six Capital Projects will accomplish every master plan objective, and are defined by their larger scale, greater complexity, substantial construction costs ($300,000 or more), and anticipated catalytic outcomes. Consequently, the Capital Projects will likely require more complex funding, public/private partnerships, and 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 430 South Washington Street, East Bank Riverwalk, and the South Gateway projects are entirely new additions to the Riverwalk.

Enhancement Projects

In addition to the annual rehabilitation of existing assets completed by the Naperville Park District, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission recommends the construction of six Enhancement Projects that reach beyond traditional rehabilitation. Compared to the Capital Projects, the smaller, less complex and less costly (less than $300,000) Enhancement Projects may be near-term funding and construction opportunities. The Prairie Nature Garden, Paddleboat Quarry Overlooks, Netzley Overlook, Riverbank Ecological Restoration, Artists' Overlook, and Hillside Road Gateway each offer distinctive, less costly opportunities to advance the master plan objectives, and engage a wide array of individual and corporate donors.

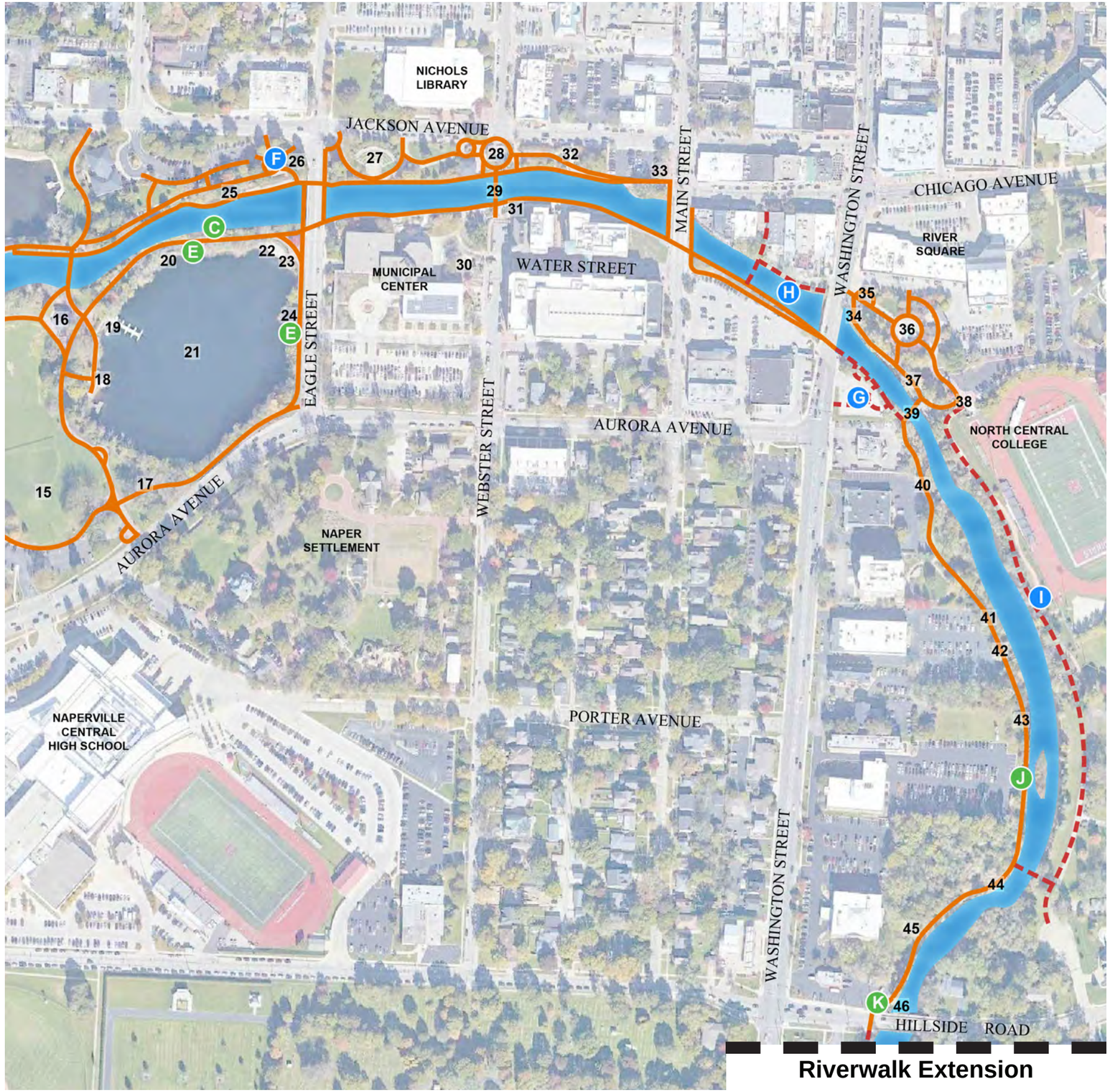
On the following pages, the Capital and Enhancement Projects are summarized, without priority, following the flow of the river; upstream to downstream. For clarity, the **Capital Projects** are titled in blue and the **Enhancement Projects** are titled in green. Regardless of type or scale, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission is committed to completing each outlined project – indeed, all Riverwalk projects, following rigorous planning, design and construction standards that are outlined in Implementation, at the conclusion of this document.



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 Projects

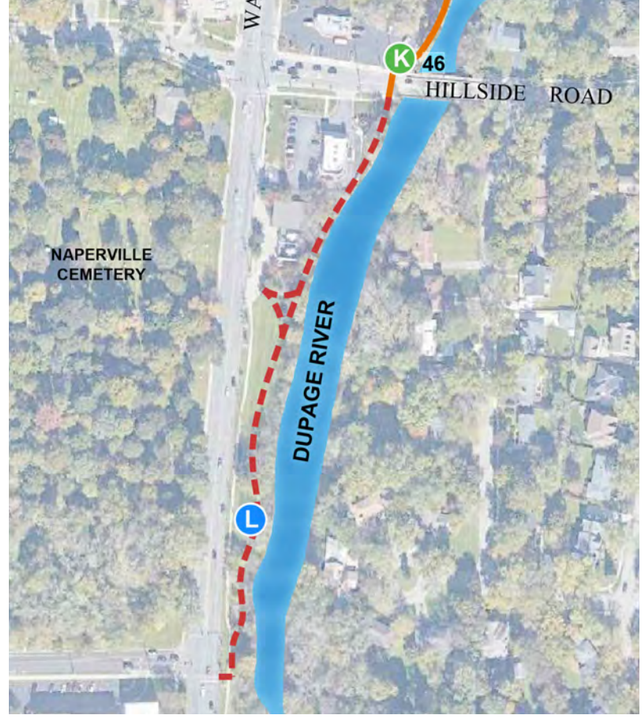
Defined by their larger scale, greater complexity, and substantial construction costs.

Enhancement Projects

Defined by their smaller scale and lesser complexity.

- A Grand Pavilion Parking and Plaza
- B Prairie Nature Garden
- C Riverbank Ecological Restoration
- D Netzley Overlook
- E Paddleboat Quarry Overlooks
- F Eagle Street Gateway
- G 430 South Washington Street
- H Main Street to Washington Street Riverwalk
- I East Bank Riverwalk
- J Artists' Overlook
- K Hillside Road Gateway
- L South Gateway

Riverwalk Extension



A



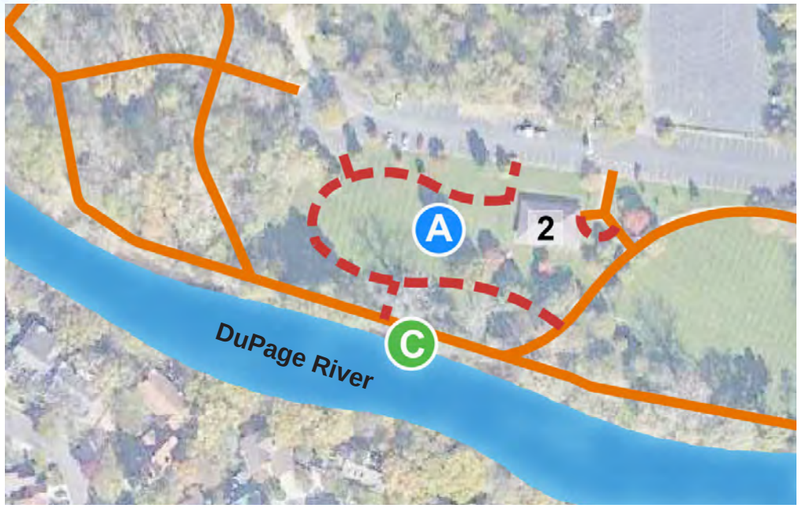
Conceptual Illustration

Grand Pavilion Parking and Plaza

Today
Constructed in 1987, the 3200 square foot Grand Pavilion, which comfortably seats 270 at movable picnic tables, is a favorite spot for family, corporate and philanthropic events. In fact, its ample parking and expansive setting make it so popular that its often challenging to reserve during prime seasonal dates, and its frequent, heavy use takes a toll on the surrounding lawn.

2031
When complete, this multi-dimensional Capital Project will improve the capacity, flexibility, ecology and hospitality of this valuable asset. Incorporating green infrastructure and modular paving, the parking and expanded plaza surfaces can be flexibly programmed to accommodate a multitude of event requirements – from staging to pop-up vendor tents – all while reducing adjacent soil compaction, managing storm water runoff, and increasing runoff water quality. A new podium will provide a permanent, but flexible setting for ceremonial events, awards and entertainment. 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.

Potential Project Cost: $1,840,000 - $2,630,000
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $16,569 - $21,540



Location Map



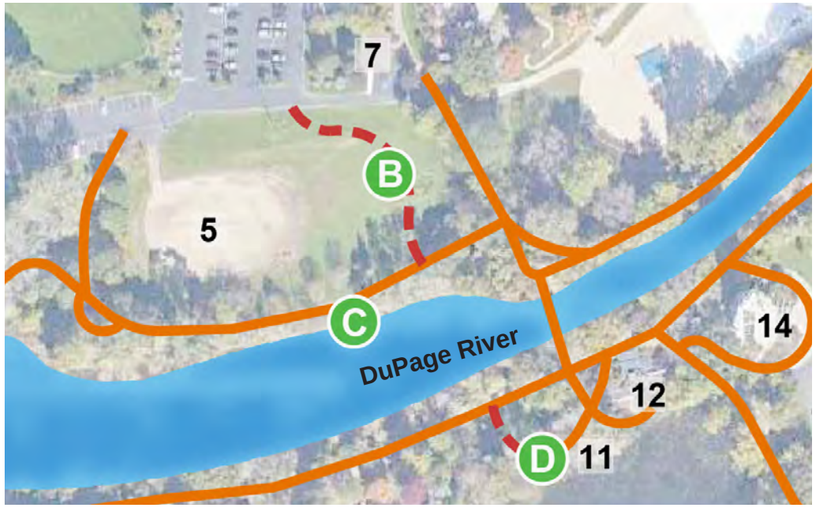
Conceptual Illustration

Prairie Nature Garden

Today
Since the mid-1970s, this two-acre, saucer-shaped site has been used for storm water detention for runoff from 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, when the weather cooperates, they flood the bottom for ice-skating.

2031
While still used for storm water management, seasonal volleyball and ice skating, a large portion of this highly visible area will be transformed into a prairie pollinator garden. The low-tech characteristics will provide great hands-on potential for trained volunteers, and once established, this Enhancement Project will provide a distinctive Riverwalk experience that showcases native ecology and habitat and natural storm water filtration. Educational signage will help visitors understand the purpose and impact of the garden.

Potential Project Cost: $141,500 - $202,200
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $4,410 - $5,730



Location Map

C



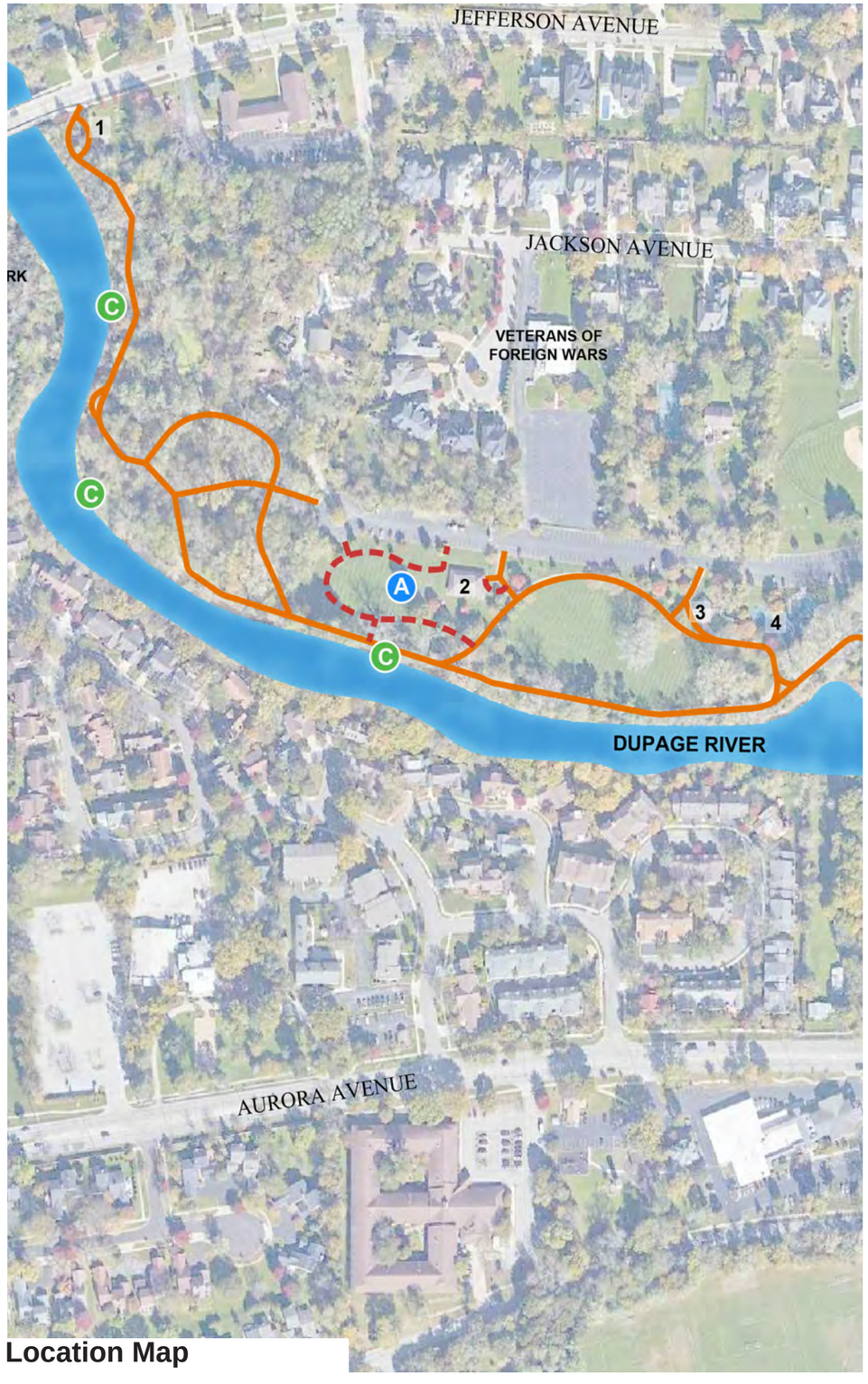
Conceptual Illustration

Riverbank Ecological Restoration

Today
Dating back to the 1930s, much of the downtown Riverwalk is armored with concrete and stone to prevent erosion. The steeply sloped riverbanks upstream and downstream of downtown are stabilized with a combination of walls and ornamental and native plants that each require very different kinds of maintenance. Increased off-trail pedestrian "short cuts" compound maintenance challenges associated with the hybrid ornamental/native landscapes resulting in inconsistent outcomes that compromise operations, safety and appearance.

2031
In high traffic areas, lateral connections between the upper and lower level walkways will be expanded and improved to accommodate easier vertical circulation and reduce erosion. Throughout the Riverwalk, non-native plants will be removed or limited to very restricted applications, and a more resilient landscape will be nurtured that features woody and herbaceous native plants that when fully established, will be naturally attractive, improve habitat and require less intensive day-to-day maintenance. Because of its scale, riverbank restoration is ideally suited for phased implementation.

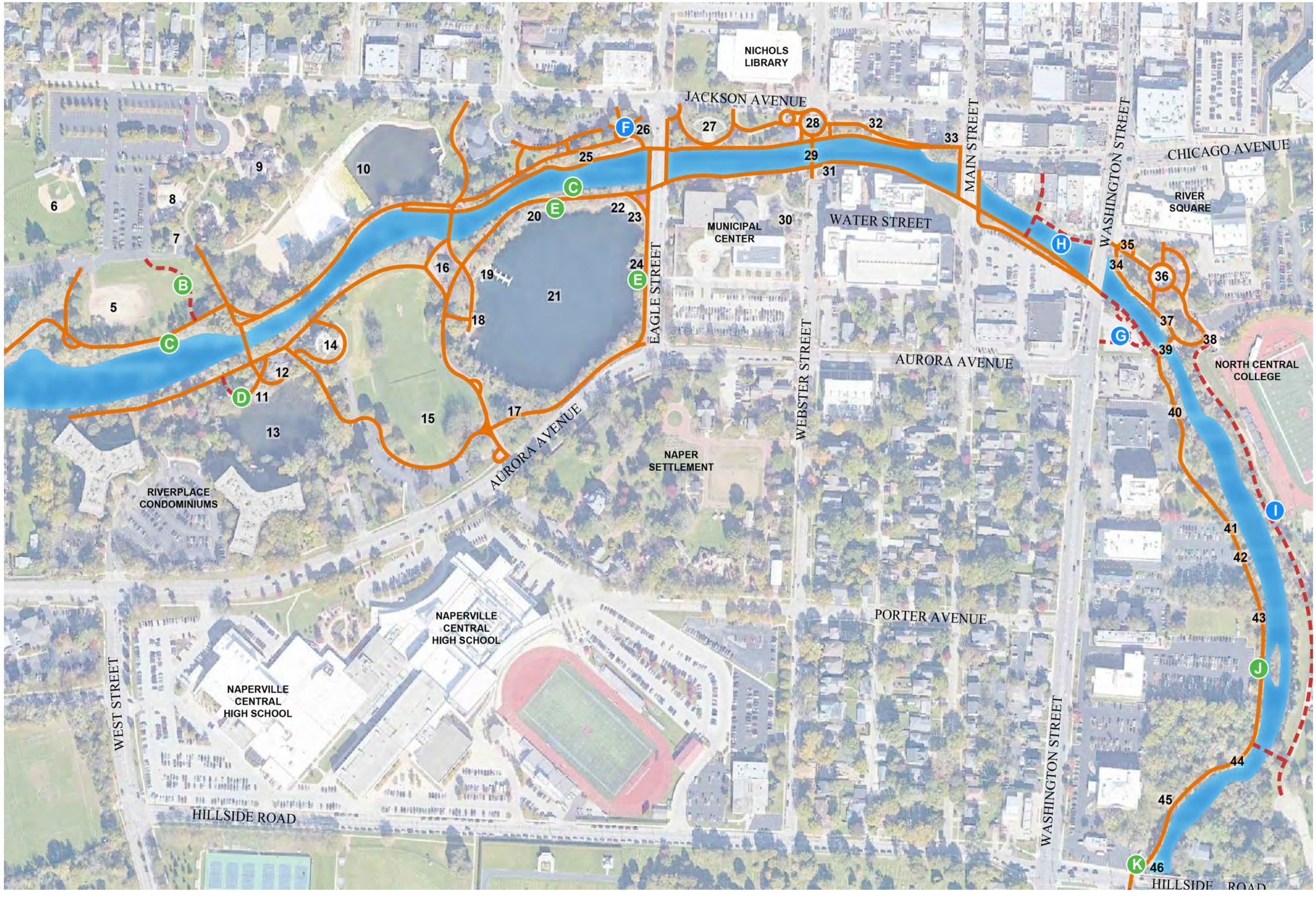
Potential Project Cost: $71,500 - $102,200 per 100' segment
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $500 - $600 per 100' segment



Location Map

Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS



D



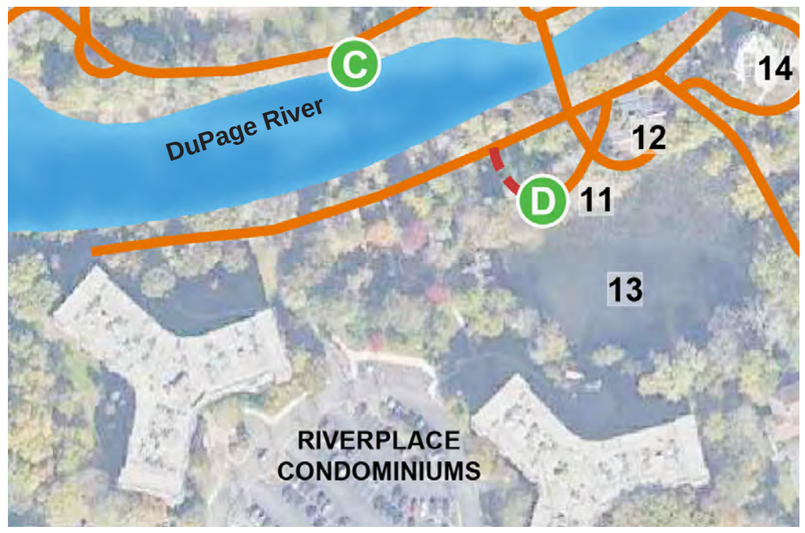
Conceptual Illustration

Netzley Overlook

Today
When RiverPlace Condominiums were developed in 1988, the developer deeded the distinctive stone house (now the Carillon Visitor Center), a water body created by past quarry operations (the Small Quarry), and the property between the pond and the river to the Park District. When the Riverwalk improvements were subsequently constructed, a small plaza, perched alongside the Small Quarry, was dedicated in honor of Clyde C. Netzley, the former property owner and local businessman. The existing overlook provides an unusual and attractive vista, but it is uncomfortably small and secluded.

2031
The overlook will be slightly expanded to provide increased capacity, and a second, lighted ingress/egress route will be added for improved hospitality and safety.

Potential Project Cost: $52,400 - $74,900
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $1,290 - $1,675



Location Map



Conceptual Illustration

Paddleboat Quarry Overlooks

Today
One of three former stone quarries along the river, the water at the Paddleboat Quarry is enjoyed by thousands of paddleboat enthusiasts. Two small shelters, which incorporate stanchions repurposed from the downtown Metra platform, were funded by local businesses and built in 1982 to overlook the water. Despite their choice locations, the vistas from each shelter have been compromised by overgrown vegetation.

2031
To substantially improve the bucolic views, 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, curated views of the Paddleboat Quarry.

Potential Project Cost: $42,600 - $60,830
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $500 - $600 each



Location Map



Conceptual Illustration

Eagle Street Gateway

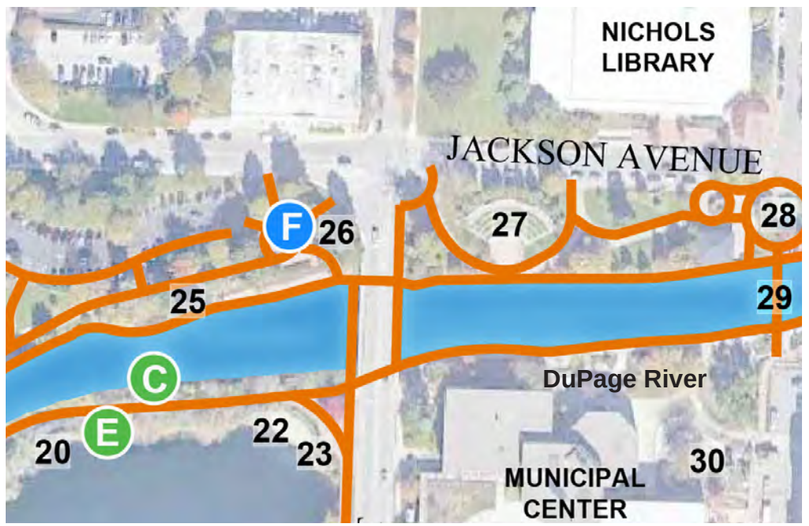
Today

Anchored by the colorful Landforms sculpture, this half-acre segment, constructed in 1982, is one of the most iconic street-level locations on the Riverwalk. Despite its signature feature, prime location, expansive 170-foot river frontage and south-facing exposure, the south riverbank lacks barrier-free street/river level connectivity and its stark appearance detracts from the ambiance of the Riverwalk. Sadly, patrons with mobility challenges who traverse the lower bulkhead walk from east to west, discover that they must retrace this 1000-foot-long dead end to return to street level.

2031

When complete, the new Eagle Street Gateway will not only correct circulation shortcomings, but it will become a dramatic new Riverwalk attraction that retains its iconic sculpture and exemplifies the master planned connectivity, capacity, hospitality, and appearance objectives. 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 Project Cost: $1,272,800 - $1,818,400
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $6,223 - $8,090



Location Map



Conceptual Illustration

430 South Washington Street

Today

This triangular property, along the east side of Washington Street across the river from Fredenhagen Park, was purchased by North Central College in 2011 to create a campus gateway. Since then, in close collaboration with City and Riverwalk officials, the site has been cleaned and plans have been finalized for construction of significant Riverwalk improvements and college monument signage. State funding has been secured and construction of the Riverwalk improvement is planned after the Washington Street bridge is reconstructed.

2031

When complete, this stunning new Riverwalk attraction will serve as a gateway to both downtown and North Central College. The elegantly sculpted riverbank, stabilized with structural and vegetative techniques, will provide panoramic views to Fredenhagen Park and the adjacent college campus. The Riverwalk path, complete with its signature amenities, will connect the river, Washington Street, Fredenhagen Park and the campus via the Moser Bridge. Complete with ornamental and native landscaping, two large plazas will showcase college history and offer visitors attractive options for relaxing, studying and socializing.

Potential Project Cost: $1,400,000
Funded by City of Naperville, Donations, and North Central College
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $13,210 - $17,175



Location Map

Main Street to Washington Street Riverwalk

Today
A 420-foot Riverwalk connects Main Street and Washington Street along the south bank. The narrow, steeply sloped segment includes simple signature pathway improvements at the top of the bank and a concrete, river-level bulkhead walk, which provides safe, utilitarian, barrier-free connections under both the Main Street and Washington Street bridges. The privately-owned north bank, with its excellent southern exposure, is used for seasonal restaurant seating, loading and other back-of-the-house functions. Despite its prominence and often-discussed potential, the multiple ownership interests, structural challenges and steep grades make a public, north bank Riverwalk improvement complicated.

2031
When complete, this block-long transformation will dramatically exemplify every master plan 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, mid-block pedestrian bridge and arcade connection to Chicago Avenue will amplify pedestrian connectivity. A substantial portion of the north bank will be significantly improved to include a public Riverwalk while accommodating necessary loading and other back-of-house functions. When redeveloped, the new south bank, much like its Water Street neighbor, will logically include significant upper and lower level Riverwalk improvements and special features. Both shorelines 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 Project Cost: $1,840,000 - $2,630,000
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $10,362 - $13,470



Conceptual Illustration





Conceptual Illustration from Chicago Avenue



Location Map

I



Conceptual Illustration

East Bank Riverwalk

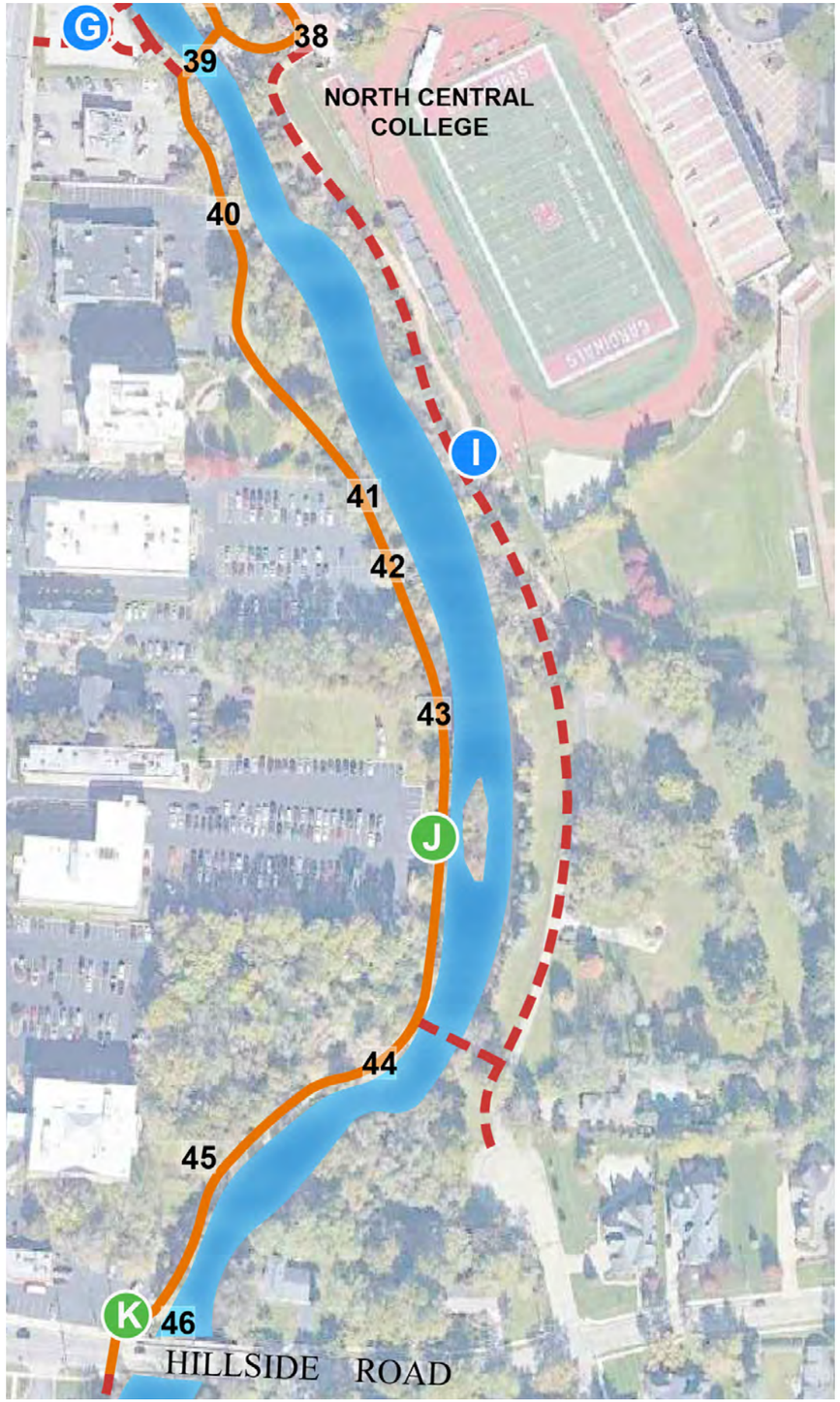
Today

Constructed between 2000 and 2001 along the west bank of the river, the 1700-foot “East Extension” of the Riverwalk that connects the Moser Bridge to Hillside Road has no lateral connections to adjacent neighborhoods or properties. In 2012, North Central College, which owns shoreline adjacent to and south of its stadium, constructed a simple gravel path to connect its south campus gateway at Fredenhagen Park to a short cul-de-sac, Riverview Drive, near Hillside Road.

2031

This new 1400-foot segment will meet every master plan objective. When complete, it will showcase and improve exceptional natural assets, it will include traditional Riverwalk infrastructure and signature amenities, and it will feature a separate, parallel, 10-foot wide asphalt path for cyclists. The bike path will safely extend the popular DuPage River Trail from Hillside Road to North Central College and Fredenhagen Park offering a first-of-its-kind experience for cyclists along the Riverwalk. A new pedestrian bridge slightly north of the cul-de-sac will provide important lateral connectivity across the river and highlight a particularly attractive vista.

Potential Project Cost: $1,095,000 - $1,562,000
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $14,175 - $18,430



Location Map

J



Conceptual Illustration

Artists' Overlook

Today
By comparison to the downtown segments, the "East Extension" of the Riverwalk focuses on the natural beauty of the river and its wooded shoreline with few architectural features to animate the visitor experience.

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

Potential Project Cost: $121,600 - $173,700
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $1,975 - $2,570



Location Map



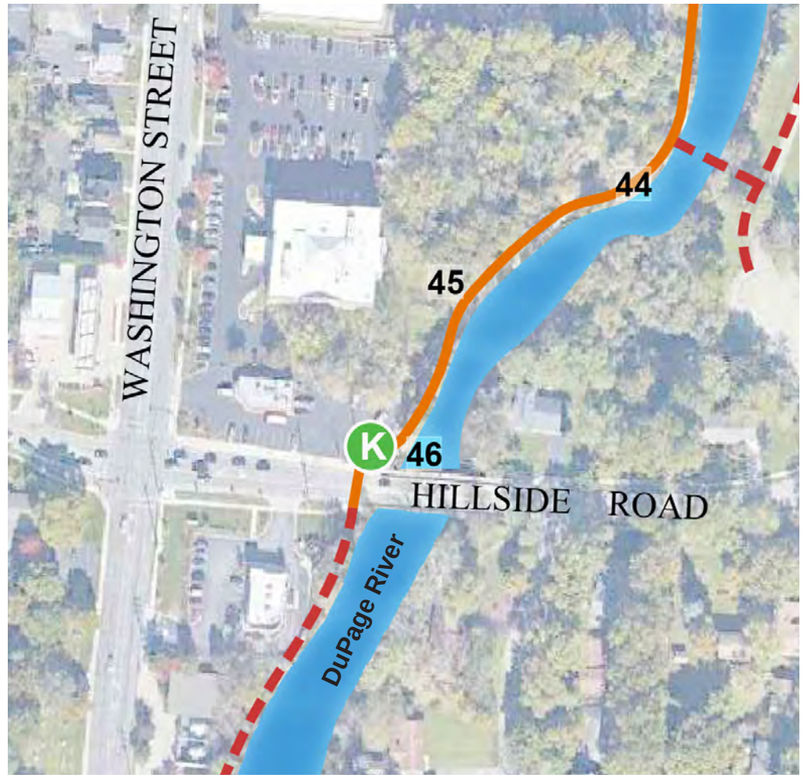
Conceptual Illustration

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 entrance. Fortunately, when the City of Naperville reconstructed the Hillside Road Bridge in 2001, they incorporated a river-level, below grade crossing, which has not yet been connected to the existing Riverwalk.

2031
The new and expanded plaza, complete with stone accents, native landscaping and other signature Riverwalk elements, will properly showcase this important gateway and provide a prominent, comfortable spot to rest and socialize. The plaza will also ramp down to the river-level/under-bridge connection to the South Gateway, facilitating safe pedestrian passage under Hillside Road.

Potential Project Cost: $200,150 - $285,900
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $5,230 - $6,800



Location Map



Conceptual Illustration

South Gateway

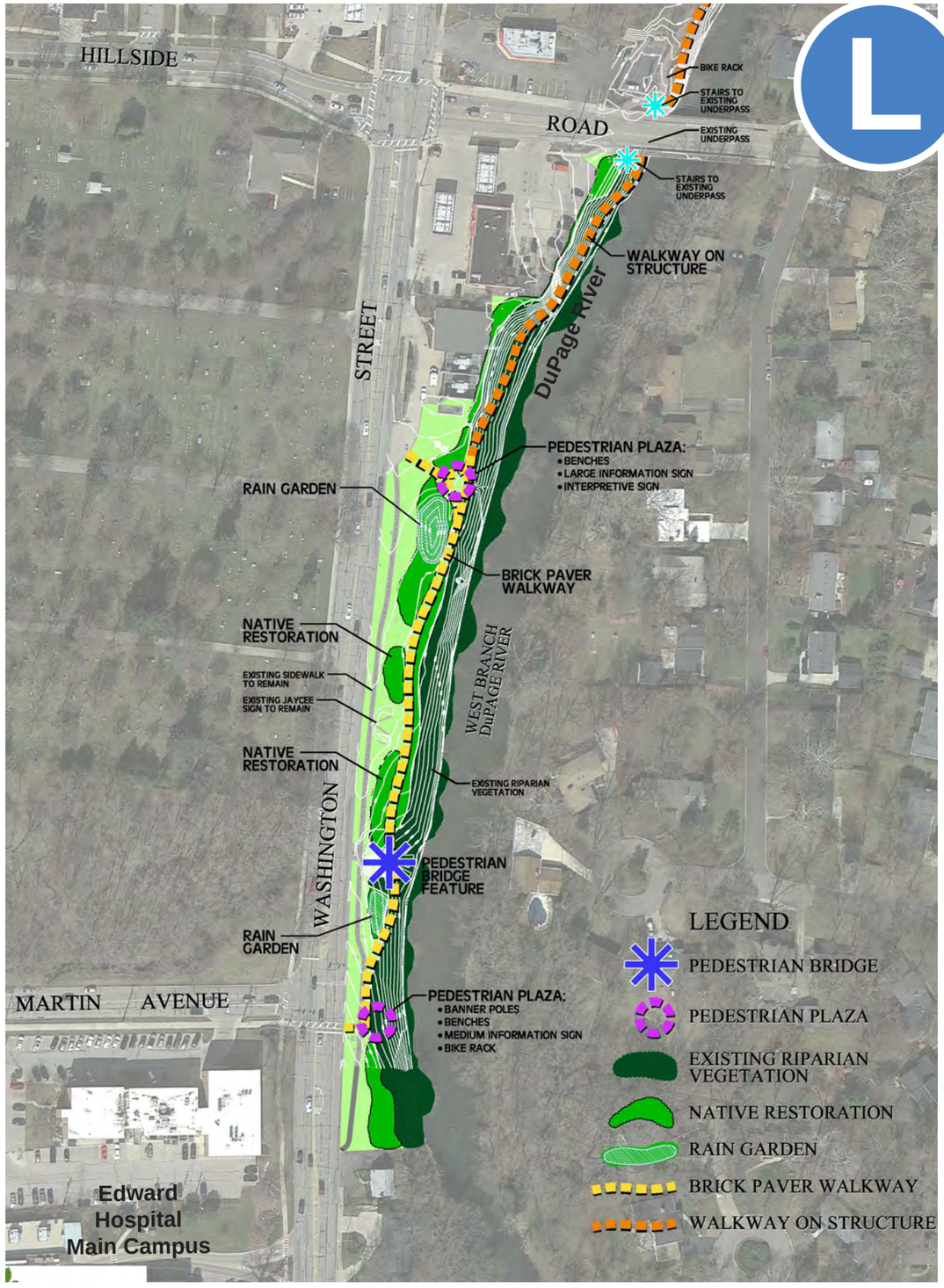
Today

This 1.8-acre segment includes William Friedrich Memorial Park, a City owned electric substation, and a narrow easement between the Dunkin restaurant and the river. Except for a community event sign and a narrow sidewalk, uncomfortably close to the busy street, 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, and the opportunity to connect to significant Park District assets along Martin Avenue, the City officially expanded the Riverwalk boundary in 2014 to include this important riverfront.

2031

When fully improved, this prominent segment will become the new South Gateway and showcase master planned ecology, connectivity, capacity, hospitality and appearance objectives. A spacious Riverwalk path will invite pedestrians to comfortably stroll from the Edward Hospital campus near Martin Avenue across a new signature pedestrian bridge/gateway feature over the existing drainage channel, 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 a spacious setting for significant sculptural elements.

Potential Project Cost: $1,433,000 - $2,048,000
Anticipated Annual Maintenance Cost: $31,280 - $40,660



Location Map







Implementation

Riverwalk Evolution describes how the Sesquicentennial Riverwalk captivated the community and inspired decades of incremental riverfront investment. **Riverwalk Today** summarizes how, thanks to systematic investment, the Naperville Riverwalk remains a treasured cultural centerpiece that requires our attention to sustain and improve it. **Riverwalk 2031** describes five Capital Projects and six Enhancement Projects that will correct deficiencies, seize fertile opportunities, and inspire a new generation of Riverwalk advocates and donors. This **Implementation** section describes how the Naperville Riverwalk Commission and other community leaders will execute a series of correlated engagement, endorsement, funding and construction initiatives to accomplish the ambitious *Bicentennial Goal*.

Engage

The Naperville Riverwalk Commission, in collaboration with the Riverwalk Foundation, will engage public officials, community leaders, and the next generation of Riverwalk advocates by publishing and actively promoting this Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan through all relevant communication channels:

- Print copies distributed to libraries and other public facilities
- Online; linked to City of Naperville, Naperville Park District, Naperville Riverwalk Foundation, Downtown Naperville Alliance, Naperville Development Partnership, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce and other relevant websites
- In-person presentations to the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation, Naperville City Council and Naperville Park District Board of Commissioners, Downtown Advisory Commission, Downtown Naperville Alliance, Naperville Development Partnership, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, North Central College, Edward Hospital, Community Unit School Districts 203 and 204, local state and federal legislators, service and neighborhood organizations and adjacent property owners.
- Video presentations tailored for broadcast and streaming
- Periodic press releases

The Naperville Riverwalk Commission will actively publicize 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, which recommends that both the Naperville City Council and the Naperville Park District Board of Commissioners formally endorse The Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan.

The Naperville Riverwalk Commission will also actively seek public endorsement of the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan by the Downtown Advisory Commission, Downtown Naperville Alliance, Naperville Development Partnership, Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce, North Central College, Edward Hospital, Community Unit School Districts 203 and 204, local state and federal legislators, service and neighborhood organizations and adjacent property owners.

Fund

In 1981, most of the funding for the design and construction of the original (Main Street to Eagle Street) Riverwalk came from private sector donations of cash and in-kind services. Since then, Riverwalk funding has come from Naperville taxpayers and from private sector donors, channeled through the Naperville Riverwalk Foundation, an independent 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation. The Water Street segment, constructed in 2017, was built by a private developer using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and enhanced through generous private sector contributions. Future Capital and Enhancement Projects can be funded through a creative combination of public appropriations, state and federal grants, and the same kind of private sector philanthropy that underscored the early success of the Riverwalk.

Recently, many of the most significant new riverfronts and parks in the United States, have been largely (sometimes exclusively) funded by individual, corporate and institutional donors, which like the early Naperville Riverwalk, provides increased creative flexibility and returns on investment. Similarly, the new Capital and Enhancement Projects are ideal candidates for private philanthropy, and the Riverwalk Foundation is ideally positioned to be the conduit for both large and small-scale charitable contributions.

Regardless of the funding source, goal alignment and project readiness are crucial factors when soliciting both public and private sector funds. Funding partners are far more likely to support so called “shovel ready” projects that meet their individual or organizational interests because they create and help sustain momentum for all parties.

Construct

Part of the Naperville Riverwalk’s early success stemmed from the simple fact that it had consistent momentum – generated through a series of incremental construction projects that each had a distinctive personality and well publicized purpose. Similarly, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission will actively promote construction of the both the Capital and Enhancement Projects systematically and incrementally, until complete.

Project readiness and demonstrable accomplishments will increase the potential for both private and public sector funding. To generate valuable momentum, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission will systematically advance the design and engineering of the Enhancement

projects to promote, fund and construct as many of them as possible, as quickly as possible. Simultaneously, to increase exposure and funding opportunities, they will initiate the design of Capital Projects, as these more complex projects will often take considerable time to fund, design, engineer and permit.

Some Capital Projects, like the south bank of the Main Street to Washington Street Riverwalk, will be directly corelated with redevelopment of the adjacent property, and consequently, must wait for the right opportunity. And when that opportunity arises, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission will actively encourage City leaders to act decisively to engage the property owner/developer and accomplish the objectives and standards outlined in this Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan.

Regardless of the timing, type or scale of the project, the Naperville Riverwalk Commission will follow rigorous planning, design and construction standards that are:

- *Collaborative* (includes adjacent property owners, other stakeholders and organizations in the planning, design and construction and funding process)
- *Respectful* (of natural, structural and fiscal resources, and diverse stakeholders)
- *Fiscally prudent* (considers construction and maintenance costs including asset useful life)
- *Healthy* (comfortable, clean and safe, promotes positive physical and mental well-being)
- *Attractive* (engaging, stimulating, properly maintained)
- *Distinctive* (differentiated from other riverwalks)
- *Barrier-free* (accessible by all)
- *Sustainable* (environmentally, economically, culturally)

Emphasis on new Capital and Enhancement Projects will not be at the expense of existing assets. The Naperville Riverwalk Commission will collaborate with the City of Naperville and the Naperville Park District, through their intergovernmental agreement, to continue to maintain and rehabilitate, when necessary, the existing Riverwalk assets, consistent with the Riverwalk Asset Management Plan.

Update

These implementation initiatives are not intended to be rigidly linear or sequential. In fact, Riverwalk leaders should periodically review progress, update the Riverwalk 2031 Master Plan, and be prepared to adjust to unforeseen opportunities and challenges, just as they have done, throughout the history of the Riverwalk.

