

Chicago River Canoe & Kayak
2211 Wesley Ave, Evanston, IL 60201;
www.chicagoriverpaddle.com; 847 414-5883

January 12, 2015

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
National Recreation Trail Coordinator

Dear Ms. Waters,

I'm writing in support of the designation of the Kankakee River in Indiana and Illinois as a National Water Trail. My company, Chicago River Canoe & Kayak, has led more than 1,000 people on a stretch of the Kankakee in Indiana over the last several years, bringing them in from Chicago for the trip, and I think this is a sign that this river is of more than merely local significance.

We run these trips as part of a visit to a Sandhill Cranes migration staging area that is near the river. It's a lovely stretch of river in the late Fall, with the contrasts of the maroon swathes of the old stands of oak, the lime green flags of catalpa leaves and the autumnal rattle of silver maple leaves. We've seen eagles soaring overhead, deer swimming and soft shell turtles getting a last bit of sun before the winter sets in.

I would add that the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association is a dynamic group that has helped foster an attitude of stewardship for the river. The Kankakee will only improve as a resource as NWIPA continues to educate people about what the river has to offer.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide for this wonderful river.

Sincerely,

Ryan Chew
Managing Partner