



## Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

January 6, 2015

Ms. Corita Waters  
National Park Service  
National Recreation Trail Coordinator  
1849 C Street NW, Org. Code 2220  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Waters,

On behalf of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), I'm writing to express support for the designation of the Kankakee River Water Trail as a National Water Trail. IDNR supports the designation of a National Water Trail for the entire 133 miles of the Kankakee River from the headwaters of the Kankakee River in rural St. Joseph County, Indiana, to the Des Plaines River in Illinois.

Kankakee River State Park and the De Plaines Fish and Wildlife Area in Illinois are current access points for canoes and kayaks. The Department is committed in working with water trail partnerships and organizations in promoting the water trail. We believe the 133 mile water trail would be a national asset and catalyst as a tourism and recreation designation for the Kankakee River Corridor.

Based on the benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail, including increasing community-based recreational opportunities, increased public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and the Illinois representatives who are working together to apply for National Water Trail designation.

Sincerely,



Marc Miller  
Director

cc: Dan Plath  
Connie Waggoner