



Wilderness Inquiry

Ms. Corita Waters
National Park Service
National Recreation Trail Coordinator

Dear Ms. Waters,

On behalf of Wilderness Inquiry, I am writing to express our support for designation of the Kankakee River Water Trail as 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.

The benefits of the creation of the Kankakee River National Water Trail include increasing community-based recreational opportunities, public access, tourism, economic growth, public health improvements, and environmental education. The Kankakee River is an underutilized natural resource that has great potential for youth and community engagement. Through recreation, paddling, and place-based education, Wilderness Inquiry plans to connect hundreds of youth to this local waterway each year.

Wilderness Inquiry supports the Northwest Indiana Paddling Association and the Illinois and Indiana representatives who are working together to apply for National Water Trail designation.

Sincerely,

Greg Lais
Executive Director
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