

# Pecatonica River Water Trail Plan



## Recreation and Restoration for Stephenson County



Developed and produced by volunteers of the Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation with help from the National Park Service *Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program*



Over the years, in canoeing and kayaking thousands of miles of Midwest rivers and creeks (mostly in Illinois and Wisconsin), I have continually found myself on streams that cried out for attention from outdoor enthusiasts, especially from local people who had little or no idea of the natural treasure in their backyard. The list of such neglected waterways is long indeed, including many gorgeous, undeveloped stretches that discourage paddling because of frequent logjams, lack of adequate accesses, private property issues (especially in Illinois), and sometimes the presence of dangerous dams.

For me, the Pecatonica River upstream from Winnebago County (i.e., west of the village of Pecatonica) was always on this list, mostly because of a lack of accesses. Little known, the Stephenson County and Wisconsin portions of the river received little attention from the paddling community for as long as I can remember. This was unfortunate because the "Pec" has a lot to offer in its almost 200-mile course, flowing in classic prairie-river fashion through woods, past occasional farm fields, and beneath bluffs here and there, generally in isolated settings.

As a lifelong canoeing fanatic and promoter of paddlesports, I'm thrilled by what has been happening in Stephenson County in the last few years. It is no exaggeration to say that a dedicated group of local people who love their community and have the foresight to recognize what the river means to it, have developed a national model for maximizing river access and use. A core of hard-working volunteers have dedicated themselves to an impressively organized array of activities that include opening up the whole Stephenson County portion of the river to paddlers (58 miles), clearing obstructive deadfall; sponsoring periodic river clean-ups, paddling lessons, river fests, and other events; creating an excellent web site; publishing an informative monthly newsletter; laying out eight well-mapped and clearly described canoe trips from the Wisconsin border to the village of Pecatonica; and – perhaps most impressively of all – creating numerous canoe landings that are among the finest and easiest-to-use that I have seen anywhere in the United States.

Any community that would like to revitalize a river that flows through it and, in so doing, to enhance the environment and economic potential of that community, would do well to emulate the example of the Friends of the Pecatonica River.

## **Mike Svob**

*Author of Paddling Illinois, Paddling  
Northern Wisconsin, and Paddling  
Southern Wisconsin*

The Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation mission is to preserve, protect, and foster the vitality of the Pecatonica River for the plant, animal and human communities within the Stephenson County, Illinois watershed.

**Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation is on Facebook and the Internet:**

[www.paddlethepec.com](http://www.paddlethepec.com)  
[www.pecriver.webs.com](http://www.pecriver.webs.com)  
[pecriver@hotmail.com](mailto:pecriver@hotmail.com)

FPRE, P.O. Box 74, Ridott, IL 61067

The National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the National Park Service in communities across America.

**Find out more about the National Park Service work with rivers and trails:**

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)

Visit our website to learn how to contact a representative for your region.

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*“As far as a developed paddle goes, I don’t know anything else that comes close in Illinois”*

-Tom Lindblade,  
President of the Illinois  
Paddling Council

# Planning Team Contributors and Project Partners



- Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation
- Lena Community Park District
- Freeport Park District
- Freeport/Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau
- City of Freeport
- Stephenson County
- Fehr-Graham & Associates
- National Park Service
- The Rafters Restaurant



- Roger Schamberger
- Joe Green
- Joe Ginger
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- Wendell Kurr
- Bob Nickels
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- Steve Spyrison
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- Mark Q. Keister
- Dave Busch



*Special thanks to:*

- Freeport Public Library for use of meeting-rooms and equipment
- Busch Photos; [www.buschphotos.com](http://www.buschphotos.com)  
815-369-4510

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# Introduction and Summary

## The Mighty Pec...

*”a resource waiting to happen...”*

As paddlers and members of the Illinois Paddling Council Access Project and the Paddle Illinois program, we have advanced a recommendation to make the Pecatonica River a water trail within Stephenson County. The local community will greatly benefit from a formalized and improved recreational offering in addition to an amenity that will enhance tourism.

A water trail is a series of access sites along a waterway, tied together by signs at each site to form a trail. The signs post rules, identify launch sites, indicate hazards such as a dam, and provide general interest information. Unlike hiking paths, a water trail concentrates construction and planning efforts on safe, accessible launches, and in organizing opportunities to discover the trail through maps, amenities and promotions.

The recreation provided by water trails is fun and healthy outdoor exercise that is family oriented. The direct exposure to nature creates knowledge of nature systems and fosters stewardship of the environment. Because local history is closely tied to the streams of the region, increased stream usage will promote historical interest in the events and locations involved.

The last decade showed a 24% increase in participation in canoeing and kayaking nationwide. This fact translates into an opportunity to attract tourist dollars. In Stephenson County there are over 500 registered canoes and kayaks. In the northwest Illinois block of counties there are over 4,900 canoes and kayaks registered. Current paddlers throughout the region are on the lookout for new routes and opportunities, while future paddlers will be created through this local gem.

*On the Pecatonica River  
near Freeport*

*I have seen boys run  
barefoot in the leaves  
Throwing clubs at the  
walnut trees*

*In the yellow-and-gold  
of autumn,  
And there was a brown  
mash dry on the  
inside of their hands.*

Taken from the poem  
*The Cornhuskers,  
Localities*  
by Carl Sandburg

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Establishing and promoting a water trail is a good blend with the existing Jane Addams Trail and the developing Pecatonica Prairie Path. The proposed launch at Tutty's Crossing ties bicycling and boating together very nicely. We are well positioned to be an attractive destination for boaters from the northeastern region and others normally bound for Wisconsin, Galena and Iowa. Unfortunately for Stephenson County, the boat launch at Winslow, built in 1970, the new proposed boat launch at Freeport and the not widely known and unimproved, site on River Road, near Ridott, will not provide tourists with easily recognized facilities. Additional launch/take-out sites and improvements are necessary.

Because most paddlers do not start and end at the same place, there must be destinations that are within a manageable distance. Each "site" should include a place to park the vehicle used to transport the boat and a manageable path to the water. Launch sites should also be accessible to persons with disabilities, striving towards "universal access," ensuring design open to all people, skills and talents.

The first step toward creating a water trail is to become a "water friendly" community. This means that local governmental bodies recognize and promote water trail usage. Now is the time to organize to implement the objectives of the Freeport and Stephenson County Greenways and Trails Plan. If you stop at the Freeport Stephenson County Convention And Visitors Bureau you will find a brochure on the Pecatonica River Water Trail. The rules, safety tips, and maps in this brochure are the start of a valuable community asset.



The recent adoption of the Water Trail Resolution by the County Board has been a great step forward. The water trail interest shown by the Freeport Park District and the Lena Community Park District are recognition of the potential benefits to this area. Freeport and Waddams Townships preceded the County Board in adopting the water trail resolution. The Lena Community Park District recently developed a boat launch, McNeil's Damascus Landing, where the Pecatonica River crosses Cedarville Road, and is developing McConnell's Bobtown Landing. The Freeport Park District is investigating the possibility of a launch at the Wes Block trail access site of the Jane Addams Trail, and the Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation is developing Atten's Landing on Farwell Bridge Road which links with the Pecatonica Prairie Path.

With your help and support, we can develop this unique resource, and restore access to our river. We invite you to join the paddling conversations happening around the country, and help make the Mighty Pec a recreational asset for Stephenson County.

## The need for a master plan

Through the hard work and vision of the Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation, the Pecatonica River Water Trail in Stephenson County has made great strides towards users being able to enjoy the entire 58-mile stretch of *Illinois Friendliest Paddle*. This initial planning process seeks to inventory their efforts thus far, and provide a tool to communicate their vision of restoring pride in the Pecatonica River and in the community that plays and grows around it.

Completing a master plan, at any stage, allows for communities to provide a structure for the work ahead—it also defines a space for discussions that can target where opportunities exist for connections, partnerships and public participation. At the most basic level, the exercise of creating a master plan will give direction towards work priorities, and offer an avenue for documenting the prior processes and areas of future improvement.

This document, and the updates that follow, attempt to build the partnerships necessary to make this vision a reality. Community support is integral to the success of this opportunity, and the hope is for this plan to act as a ‘living document’ that includes your approval, support and creativity as we paddle ahead towards completing...

*‘Illinois Friendliest Paddle’*

# Guiding Principles

In completing an inventory of work accomplished, and from initial public comment opportunities, four major guiding themes emerged that have defined this project's ultimate goals. Unlike specific objectives and tasks, these guiding principles act as guides through the process. Regardless of the specifics of developing or constructing the water trail, all decisions should ultimately enhance the wider community through:

**Partnerships and Connections**  
*of people, recreation, and economic opportunity*

**Community Pride**  
*in our past, the present and future opportunities*

**Health & Wellness**  
*environmental and physical*

**Education**  
*of recreation, history and the environment*

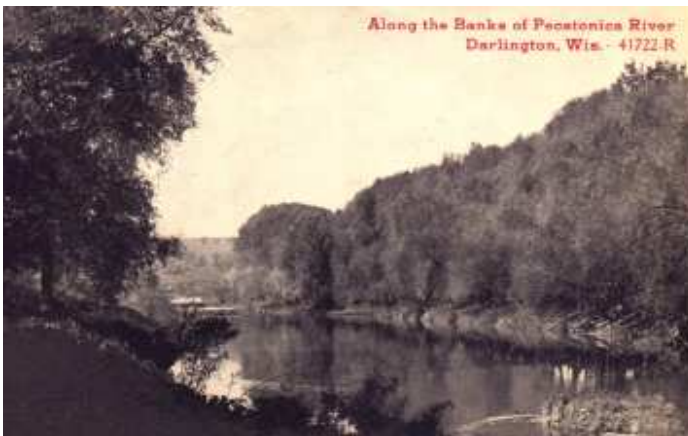


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# History and Development

The Pecatonica River enters Illinois at Stephenson County north of Winslow. The name is believed to be Native American for crooked stream. The Pecatonica River is 58 miles long in Stephenson County and 94 miles in Illinois. The river joins the Rock River at Macktown, near Rockton. The early years saw roads develop all over the county. Many of the roads connected the mills that were in use in the county. Crossing the Pecatonica resulted in several ferries operating in the county. Toll bridges replaced the ferries and would be replaced with public owned bridges. The railroad was a significant influence for the area.

Communities would develop along the river. Winslow, McConnell, Freeport and Ridott survive. Ransomberg, Damascus, Nevada, and Farwell, did not.



It was William Brewster, who established Brewster's Ferry in 1834 and started a settlement in the Winslow area. The land in Winslow was being marketed by the Boston Western Land Company, of Plymouth County, Massachusetts. John Bradford led the group of developers. 1839 another group joined him. The first group built a single factory and the American Hotel. Cyrus Woodman was the

agent sent in 1844 to develop Winslow. The land was surveyed, platted, and laid off. Lots were laid out with a square, avenues, streets, and a wharf.



The inclusion of a wharf might seem strange but 1848 Winslow saw the launching of the William S. Russell, a steamboat eighty feet long with a twenty-four foot beam. It drew fourteen inches of water, and the hold was three and one-half feet deep. The enterprise lasted three years. The hull was beached in Winslow, and the engine reported to have gone to Freeport.

In 1836 John Dennison, a Wisconsin farmer, laid claim to one thousand acres of land along the east bank of the Pecatonica River with plans to build a town. In 1837 John Dennison and his partner, John Van Zant, laid out lots along the line between Sections seven and eight, which were east of the river in Wadams Township. The spring of 1838 found Dennison and Van Zant selling to Robert McConnell. He named the new community McConnell's Grove. McConnell's success brought too much civilization, and he moved leaving the nickname of Bobtown. To attract settlers from

Pennsylvania and Germany, the name was changed to New Pennsylvania. The post office remained McConnell's Grove and would later be shortened to McConnell in 1883.



Dennison and Van Zant had built a sawmill about a quarter mile from the river and three quarter mile from the village's future site. The mill was named McConnell's Mill when McConnell bought the mill with the rest of the land. One year later it was sold to Thomas Jonas. The damage from the logging operation gave the stream the name of Muddy Creek. The sawmills around McConnell supplied sawdust to icehouses. Stores and families were supplied with ice from the Pecatonica River. Ice cutting would last into the early 1930s. Damascus was started when Agrippa Martin accompanied by his wife, two sons and a daughter, purchased two hundred acres of land along Pecatonica River in 1836. Delighted with the purchase, he sent for the son, daughter and son-in-law, Norman Phillips, who is credited with naming the community of Damascus. Many neighbors soon joined the Martins and Phillips. In the fall of 1853 the Illinois Central Railroad extended its line through Harlem Township to Galena. This improved Freeport's position as a market for

farm produce. John H. Stout, son-in-law of James M. Phillips, settled in Damascus in 1855. He contracted to sell wood to the railroad and firewood in Freeport.

The Norman Phillips' home was the site of the first Post Office, established in 1854 and Norman was postmaster. John Folgate opened a general store at Damascus in 1878. The postmaster position went to the "storekeeper" in 1881. The store was sold to William Bechtold in 1880 and Jacob Hutmacher in 1893. George W. Phillips bought the store in 1895. With the purchase of the store, he became postmaster and would hold the position until the post office closed in 1905. He retired in 1956 as the proprietor of one of the last country stores and a community landmark.



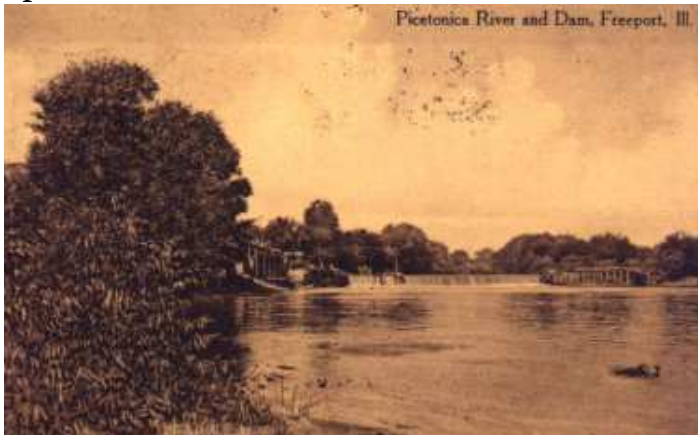
Just about every history of Freeport includes the story of how Tutty Baker's wife named the village Freeport. The Pecatonica River was the major actor in the drama leading to the development of Freeport as a community. John A. Clark built the first wooden bridge at Freeport in 1840.

In 1846 application was made by O. H. Wright, and E. S. Hanchett for incorporation, chartering the Hydraulic and Manufacturing Company of Stephenson County to construct

the dam at Freeport. The dam and millrace would form what would become known as Manufacture's Island. The power to run equipment gave an advantage over communities without waterpower.

At the point where the dam was constructed, the river was reported to be one hundred-twenty feet wide and seven feet deep. It was located directly east of the north end of Adams Street. The millrace was nine hundred feet long, fifty feet wide and six feet deep. The race returned to river just above the Stephenson Street Bridge.

The dam was begun in 1847. E. S. Hanchett carried out construction, but another source lists Jacob Zimmerman as doing the work. The dam was built of small trees and stone. Before the millrace was even completed, Hanchett had constructed a sawmill on the future site of the Goddard flourmills. The sawmill provided "saw lumber" for the local community and adjoining counties, and was operated until sometime in 1848.



The end of the sawmill was the beginning of the flourmill, reportedly being capable of running four sets of stone. Manufacture's Island became home to Goddard's Mill, Webster & Rhodes' Mills, Emmert's manufactory and Stiles & Co. Machine Shop.



On April 17, 1931, the Freeport Journal-Standard announced the demise of the I.N.U. Dam, also known as "Goddard's Dam." The river had been undermining the dam for over a year. The Illinois Northern Utilities Company purchased the land adjoining the dam in 1910 and operated a plant with five generators, of which two were in operation at the time of the dam's failure. The twenty-five feet wide breach resulted in the Pecatonica River dropping thirty inches in twelve hours. The break occurred on the east bank, and it had long been a concern that the wood and stone foundation would fail.

Although named after C. W. Brown, E. S. Hanchett constructed Brown's Mill in 1852. The dam and sawmill was sold in 1857 to C. W. Brown. A grain mill was built at the site, and outlived the sawmill. The mill was closed in 1903, but opened again in 1908 when A. J. Goddard converted it to an electrical plant to power streetcars and the interurban railroad. A fire in 1950 nearly destroyed the structure. It was rescued, and the remains converted to a home. There is still enough of the old dam remaining to stop boat traffic on the Pecatonica unless the river is above six feet at the Stephenson Street river gage.

The Wootan and Wickham ferry crossed the Pecatonica on Cherry Hill Road, west of present day Ridott. After the Galena and Chicago Union Railroad was built in 1853, the town of Nevada was platted. It had a post office by 1854, but was nearly wiped out by the cholera epidemic of 1854. By 1860 the establishment of Cochranville, which would become Ridott, moved the Nevada station to Ridott. The new community grew and prospered. Churches, post office, school, and businesses were started.



In 1837 Eldridge Farwell came to the area and settled on land now known as Farwell's Bridge. Other family members joined him and started the Village of Farwell. It was two miles north of the main road, the Old State Road, and the area was subject to flooding. By the time the Galena railroad went through, in 1853, the Village of Farwell was history. Just north of the Pecatonica River was Turner's mill, established by Thomas J. Turner. With the help of two young companions, Turner built a hut and sawmill at the end of Rock Run Creek and started a contracting business. He began processing lumber immediately and did so until the trees on his claim ran out.

One of his contracts was to build the first courthouse. He reached Freeport, in 1836. He was a justice of the peace in 1837 for



the east side of the county and was admitted to the bar in 1840. The iron bridge was constructed in 1881, replacing the wooden bridge that replaced Farwell's ferry. The road was moved, and a modern bridge built. The road north went past Irish Grove, Salisbury's Mill, Davis Mill (formally Flower's Mill), Epply's Mill (later Epplyana), Blackmore's Mill and on to Walnut Grove and Rock Grove.



The river provided opportunity and the area prospered. Recreation flourished in the 1880s – late 1920s and can again.

# Water Trail Future Vision

## Launch Site Placement and Potential

The process used to identify potential launch sites involved locating public lands, including areas like Brewsters Landing and the intersection of Rock City Rd. and River Rd. , and bridges, such as on Farwell Road. The main problem in determining and developing adequate launches is finding space for users to park. The more parking the better, and for canoeing or kayaking the minimum would be four to six vehicles. This would allow for a group paddle to use a car shuttle, where a return vehicle is positioned at the paddling trip take-out location.

A leisurely paddle is about three miles per hour, and a good rule-of-thumb is to have launch sites no more than 4-6 miles apart. Paddling segments, and amenities such as restroom facilities and drinking water, should be developed for the beginning paddler, ideally with beginning family-friendly experiences in mind. The trip from Brewsters Landing to McConnell's Bobtown Landing is about 2 hours and an additional 2.5 hours to the Cedarville Road at McNeil's Damascus Landing. Our current goal is to develop enough sites to reach Freeport, in one trip, starting at Wes Block, or by combining two trips, starting at McNeil's Landing. It is 58.2 miles from Brewsters Landing to the Winnebago County Fairground.

With the recent developments by the Lena Community Park District sites at McConnell's Bobtown Landing and McNeil's Damascus Landing, a segment described by The Illinois Paddling Council as *Illinois' Friendliest Paddle*, our overall aim is to duplicate the successes realized here. Consistent, inviting, and well constructed facilities along the length of our water trail will assist our aim to make the Pecatonica River Water Trail a memorable attraction for Stephenson County and Illinois.

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# Winslow

*Challenge:*

The Brewster’s Launch facility was originally built in the early 1970’s and is subject to serious neglect by the county. The ramp is in fast moving water and is 90 degrees to the river. The parking lot is small and muddy. The shelter is slowly falling into disrepair and the picnic table is missing all seats and table top. The electrical power has been terminated.

*Possible Solution:*

The FPRF gave a presentation to Winslow Township Officials, interested residents and Village trustees on two different occasions. The practical solution would be to build a new landing in the downtown area of Winslow. A great location is being considered near the bridge. The land owner has been approached and may donate 2.5 acres+ to the Village of Winslow for project development.

FPRF assisted with detailed site plan development and has offered negotiation input to possibly secure property in the near future. FPRF will prepare an IDNR-BAAD Grant at no cost to the Village for landing development. Other improvements needed: ADA floating dock, ADA fishing pier with roof, parking lot, electricity, picnic tables, signage and landscaping.

**Winslow (Upgraded Access Needed)**



**Site Ownership:**

Current Brewster's Site owned by Stephenson County

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

- Paradise Cove
- Artisian Well
- Mitek Corporation

**Recreation**

**Connections:**

Winslow Campground

Winslow Township Park District

Great Walleye and Northern Fishing

Lafayette County Wisconsin Paddling



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# McConnell's Bobtown

## *Completed Amenities:*

Clearing of over 200 trees, brush and junk. Installed 180' x 65' upper parking lot, installed 100' x 75' lower parking lot, installed 200 amp electrical service from McConnell Road to lower parking lot including (5) overhead lights, installed interpretive signage, literature rack and local history signage, installed lighted entrance sign and mapping, installed ADA floating dock with EZ dock canoe/kayak launch, portable toilet, 9 concrete picnic table pads with burn rings and elevated charcoal grills and connecting paths, installed bat houses, bird houses, installed steel-concrete staircase from upper parking to proposed boat launch area. Installed landscaping, large decorative limestone boulders and flag pole. This was accomplished by significant donations of labor, equipment, in-kind donations and capital. Items recently installed: (2) 12' x 12' elevated and roofed ADA fishing piers, (2) picnic tables for above, (4) wood duck houses, continued site earthwork and debris removal, and a soda and water machine.

## *Other improvements needed:*

Pit toilets, blacktop roadways and parking, well with pressure tank system and signage are needed. An Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Boat Access Area Development Grant was reapplied for on 10/09 for \$180,000.00. This grant would fund the concrete boat ramp, EZ dock system including aluminum ramp way, lower driveway upgrades and upper parking lot expansion.



## McConnell's Bobtown Landing



**Site Ownership:**

Lena Community Park District  
Purchased 3/10/2008  
Developed 2009

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

JR's Place Bar and Grill

McConnell Museum and Historical Society

**Recreation Connections:**

Closest landing to Lake LeAquaNa State Park



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# McNeil's Damascus

## *Completed Amenities:*

The Lena Community Park District started negotiations with the owner in late Fall of 2005. 1.4 acres was purchased in February of 2006 for \$20,000.00. Work on the site began in Spring 2006. Site improvements to date: Clearing of over 160 trees, brush and junk. Installed 130' x 95' upper parking lot, installed 120' x 85' lower parking lot, installed 200 amp electrical service from Cedarville Road to lower parking lot including (6) overhead lights, installed interpretive signage, literature rack and local history signage, lighted entrance sign and mapping, ADA floating dock with EZ dock canoe/kayak launch, portable toilet, 6 picnic table pads with bum rings and elevated charcoal grills. Improved picnic areas, installed gravel & concrete paths, bat houses, bird houses, landscaping, large decorative limestone boulders and flag pole. This was accomplished by significant donations of labor, equipment, in-kind donations and capital. An Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Boat Access Area Development Grant was received April 2007 for \$133,000.00. This grant covered the concrete ramp, EZ dock system including aluminum ramp way, lower driveway upgrades and lower parking lot expansion of 45' x 120'. The concrete ramp is 45 degrees to the river. Soda machine and paved driveway were installed in 2010.

## *Other improvements needed:*

Pit toilets, blacktop roadways and parking, well with pressure tank system and signage.



# McNeil's Damascus Landing



**Site Ownership:**

Lena Community Park District

Purchased 2/14/2006

Developed 2009

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Macomber Farms

Village of Lena

Rafters Restaurant

**Recreation Connections:**

Lena Community Park District

Lena Water Park



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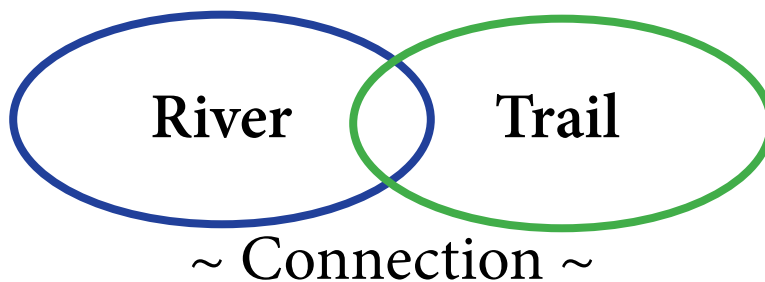
## Wes Block

### *Challenge:*

This site was donated to the Freeport Park District (FPD) as a canoe/kayak access site in 2008. The problems are river access on an outside corner of river with swift current and steep muddy banks. The site is around 1 acre and needs to include an easement for farm machinery access. Pit toilets and parking are nearby at the Jane Addams Trailhead. This site is a diamond in the rough, and is a priority to construct.

### *Possible Solution:*

The (FPD) is interested in improving this site in time. The Wes Block Trail Access parking lot would need to be expanded to include boat trailer. An IDNR-BAAD Grant for motor powered watercraft may help them with a practical solution.



**Wes Block (Upgraded Access Needed)**



**Site Ownership:**

Freeport Park District

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Large Parking Lot & Restroom Facility

The Rafter's Restaurant

Hwy 20

City of Freeport

**Recreation**

**Connections:**

Jane Addams Trail Head



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# Tutty's Crossing

## *Challenge:*

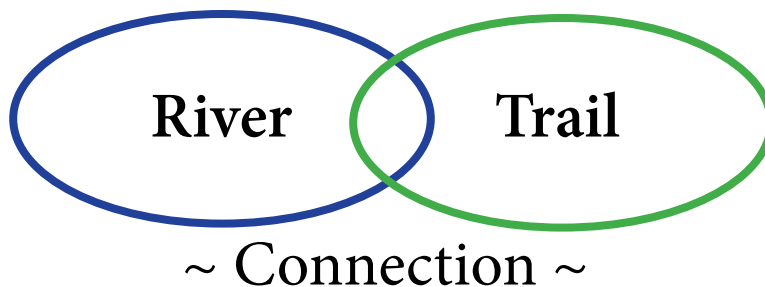
This site has been determined a "Brownfield" and has undergone numerous steps towards improvements and development. Each project requiring excavation is under the scrutiny of the IEPA and is at a large expense to the Owner.

## *Possible Solution:*

An Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Boat Access Area Development Grant was reapplied for on 10/08 for \$80,000.00 +/- . This grant has been awarded, but must include IEPA Grant funds to help with excavated material disposal.

The IDNR grant will fund the concrete boat ramp, EZ dock system including aluminum ramp way. Fischer Excavating was the apparent low bidder at \$209,000.00 +/- . The ramp will be 60 degrees to the river.

In addition, the Pecatonica Prairie Path bridge spanning the Pecatonica River was installed in 2010 by Moring Construction. The site will be an aesthetically pleasing recreational feature for the city of Freeport.



**Tutty's Crossing**  
(Launch Construction Needed)



**Site Ownership:**

City of Freeport

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Alber's Ice Cream Parlor

Lincoln/Douglas  
Debate Square

Freeport Public Library

Little Cubs Field

70 restaurants and  
7 Hotels/Motels within  
3 miles of downtown  
Freeport

**Recreation  
Connections:**

Read Park & Krape Park

Pecatonica Prairie Path

Jane Addams Trail

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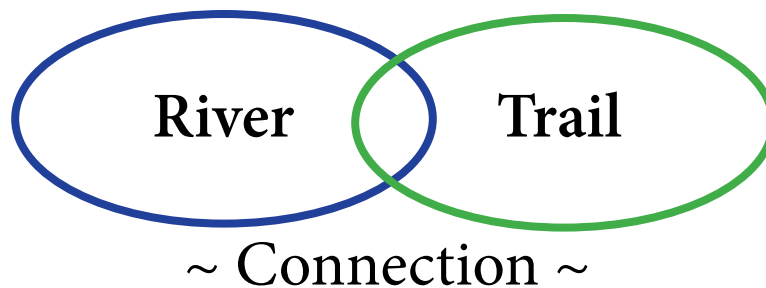
## Ridott Area

### *Challenge:*

There is a site originally gifted to the County and can be only used as a fishing site or possible river access. There is no off-road improved parking at this site.

### *Possible Solution:*

The FPRF gave a presentation to Ridott Village Trustees because of their interest in river access. The practical solution would be to build a new landing in the downtown area on the north side of town near the existing park. This would be nearly 1 mile south of Fisherman's Park and on the Pecatonica Prairie Path. The land owner has not yet been approached for discussion. FPRF will assist with a detailed site plan development and will offer negotiation input to secure this property upon direction from the Village. FPRF will prepare an IDNR-BAAD Grant at no cost to the Village for landing development. Other improvements needed include an ADA floating dock, ADA fishing pier with roof, parking lot, electricity, picnic tables, signage and landscaping.



**Ridott Area (Access Needed)**



**Site Ownership:**

N/A

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Lincoln Park

Fisherman's Park

**Recreation**

**Connections:**

Possible connection with Pecatonica Prairie Path

Grand Illinois Trail



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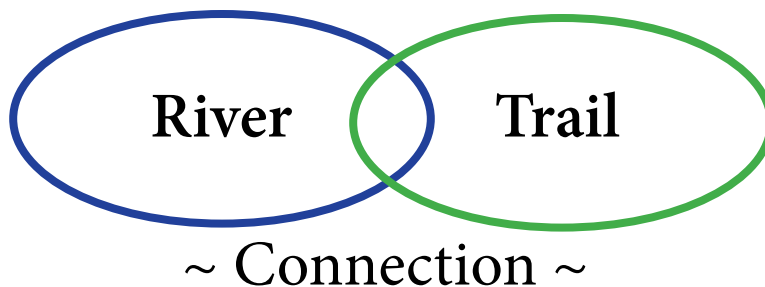
## Convention and Visitor's Bureau Area

**Challenge:**

Possible sites currently have no public access. This area would be great for shorter paddles from Freeport. Riverfront properties are under private ownership. It has nearby residential neighbors.

**Possible Solution:**

The FPRF would be interested in improving a site in time. An IDNR-OSLAD Grant for purchase and an IDNR-BAAD Grant Canoe/Kayak access would help with a practical solution. A site in this area would be beneficial towards keeping within the 5-7 mile range between access launches.



**Convention and Visitor's Bureau Area  
(Access Needed)**



**Site Ownership:**  
N/A

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Freeport/Stephenson  
County Convention &  
Visitors Bureau

Hwy 20

**Recreation  
Connections:**  
N/A



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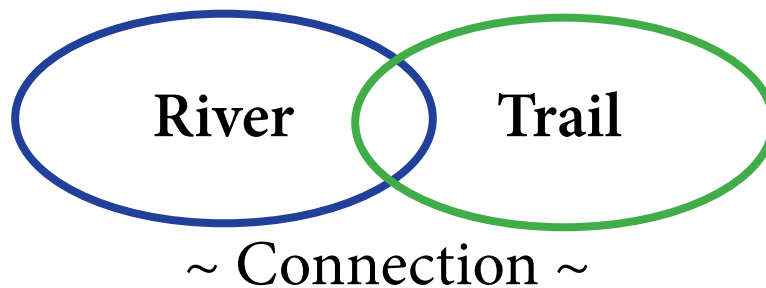
# Atten's Landing

## *Challenge:*

The site originally used was privately owned and had a grassy/muddy site. This site offered limited parking and dangerous river access on an outside corner. This site offered no other improvements. The Lena Community Park District was extremely lucky to have the Chuck and Marion Atten Family recognize our earlier efforts at McNeil's Damascus Landing. The Atten's donated 5.35 acres on December 30, 2009.

## *Solution/Site improvements being considered:*

Clearing of over 180 junk trees and brush. Install 200 amp electrical service from North Farwell Bridge Road to proposed dock and ramp site, including overhead lights, install interpretive signage, literature rack and local history signage, install lighted entrance sign and mapping, installed ADA floating dock with EZ dock canoe/kayak launch, portable toilet, concrete picnic table pads with burn rings and elevated charcoal grills and connecting paths, install bat houses, bird houses. Install landscaping, large decorative limestone boulders and flag pole. An Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Boat Access Area Development Grant may be applied for in the future for a concrete boat ramp, and EZ dock system including aluminum ramp way. Other improvements needed include pit toilets, blacktop roadways and parking, well with pressure tank system and signage.



**Atten's Landing**  
**(Launch Construction Needed)**



**Site Ownership:**

Lena Community Park District

Site improvement and management by *Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation*

**Nearby Interests and Amenities:**

Ridott Corners Tavern

Sumner Park

Winnebago County Fairgrounds

**Recreation Connections:**

Winnebago County Illinois Paddling

Grand Illinois Trail



# Support & Promotional Calendar

January	February	March <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoecopia (Madison, WI)</li> </ul>	April
May	June <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Trails Day</li> <li>• Illinois Paddle Sports Festival</li> <li>• Summer Flotilla</li> </ul>	July <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pecatonica River Races (IPC Sanctioned)</li> <li>• Pec River Fest</li> <li>• Pec River Clean-up</li> <li>• Stephenson County Fair</li> </ul>	August <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winslow River Days</li> </ul>
September <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Public Lands Day</li> </ul>	October <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fall Flotilla</li> </ul>	November	December

Discover Paddling Clinics - Various during paddling season

Freeport-Stephenson County Visitor's Bureau - Year round

Illinois Paddling Council - Year round

FPRF Meetings - Second Thursday monthly at The Rafters Restaurant



# Publications and Presentation Available

## Publications

### Brochures and News

FPRF Membership and Information  
Pecatonica River Water Trail Map  
Pecatonica River Water Trail Plan (This document)  
Monthly Newsletter (PDF Available on website)

### Internet Resources

[www.paddlethepec.com](http://www.paddlethepec.com)  
[www.pecriver.webs.com](http://www.pecriver.webs.com)  
Facebook - ("Friends of the Pecatonica River Foundation")

## Presentations

*Community benefits of paddling* (Powerpoint Lecture)  
*Freeport riverwalk opportunitites* (Powerpoint Lecture)  
*Post-card History of Stephenson County* (Powerpoint Lecture)  
Video: *The Friendliest Paddle in Illinois* (Accessible on YouTube)  
Video: *Then and Now, A Tale of Two Paddles* (Accessible on YouTube)  
*A virtual trip down the Pec* (Web-Based / Google Earth)



# Appendix

## Press & Editorial Support

- A Genuine Attraction For All*, Editorial Board, Journal-Standard May 19, 2009  
*A Resource Waiting to Happen*, Harriett Gustason, Journal-Standard, March 1, 2010  
*Paddling the Pec is Now Easier*, Jason Carson Wilson, Journal-Standard  
*River of Opportunity*, Jeff Montgomery, Journal-Standard, May 16, 2009  
*Paddle the Pec*, Mike Svob, Silent Sports, May 2007

## Community Letters of Support

- Freeport/Stephenson County Convention & Visitors Bureau
  - City Council of Freeport
- Stephenson County Historical Society
  - Stephenson-Pecatonica Prairie Path Commission
- Jane Addams Trail Commission
  - Freeport Park District
- Stephenson County Health Department
  - Stephenson County
- Freeport Downtown Development Foundation
  - Lena Lions Club
- Lena Community Park District
  - Village of Winslow
- Bussian Insurance Agency
- Cedarville Fire Protection District
  - Stephenson Soil and Water Conservation District

