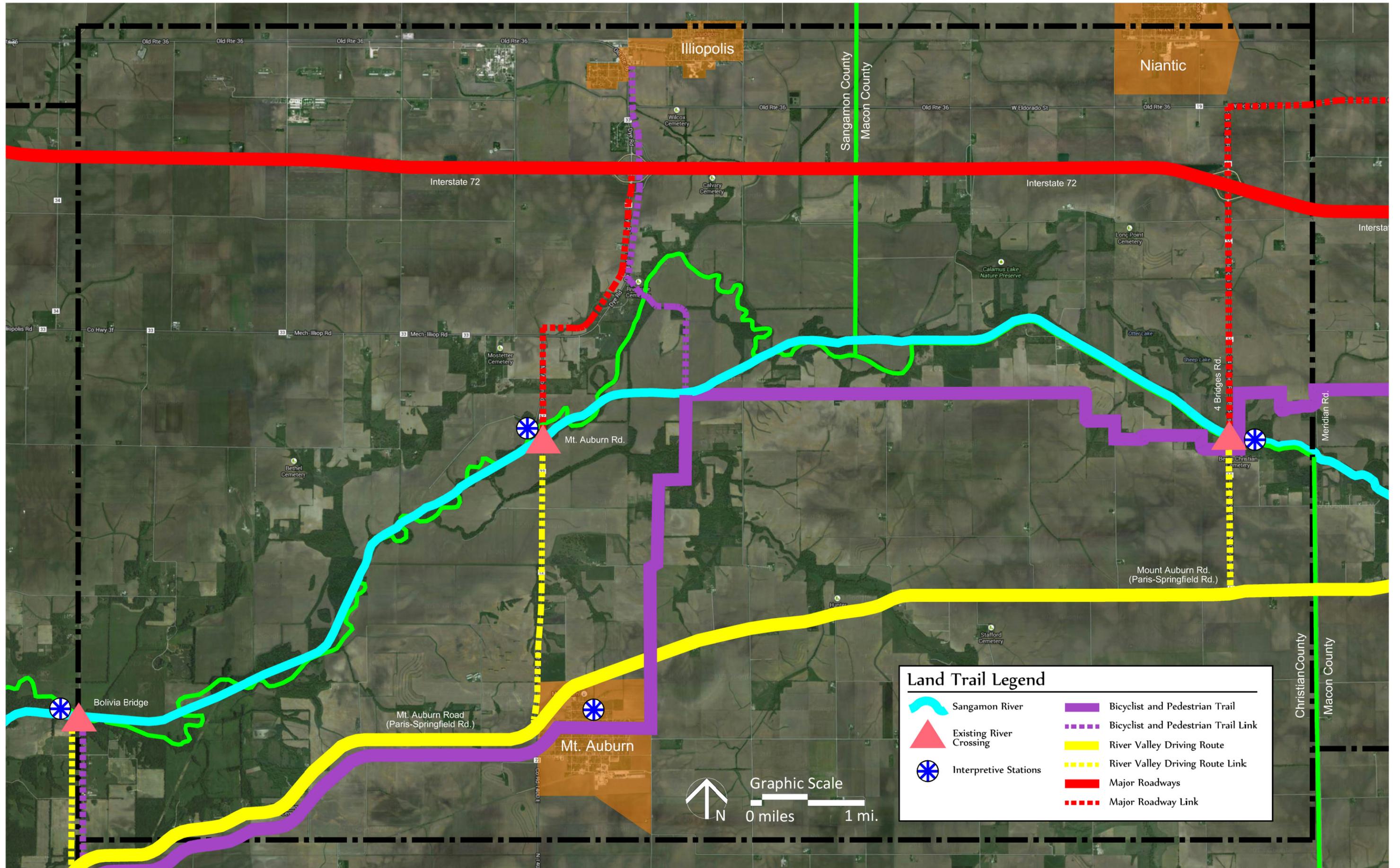


Tri-County Section – Proposed Land Initiatives

1. Acquire land near each of the three bridge crossings to provide better river access and parking.
2. Restore the Bolivia Bridge as an historic structure with interpretive signs to explain early steel bridge fabrication and erection.
3. Designate a bicycle and pedestrian trail on rural roads south of the river from the 4 Bridges Road Bridge access area to the emergency river access location 1550 East Road and 3150 North Road. A proposed trail bridge across the river at this location could allow an alternative route north of the river with connections to Illiopolis. The trail would continue south on shared rural roadways to the town of Mt. Auburn and then west along the Mt. Auburn Road (historic Paris-Springfield Road) to the Bolivia Bridge.
4. Designate a river valley driving route from 4 Bridges Road to the Bolivia Bridge Road using the historic Paris-Springfield Road (Mt. Auburn Road). The scenic route includes links to the three river access points.
5. Install interpretive signs or stations about the Sangamon River and Lincoln’s relationship with the river at the following sites:
 - 4 Bridges Road Bridge Access Area
 - Mt. Auburn Village Park
 - Mt Auburn- Illiopolis Road Bridge Access Area
 - Bolivia Bridge Access Area
6. Post informational signs at major roadway links to the river facilities and attractions along the river. Locations might include:
 - Interstate 72 – Niantic exit (via 4 Bridges Road)
 - Interstate 72 – Illiopolis exit (via Mt. Auburn-Illiopolis Road)
 - User services within the towns of Niantic, Illiopolis, and Mt. Auburn



Land Trail Legend

	Sangamon River		Bicyclist and Pedestrian Trail
	Existing River Crossing		Bicyclist and Pedestrian Trail Link
	Interpretive Stations		River Valley Driving Route
			River Valley Driving Route Link
			Major Roadways
			Major Roadway Link



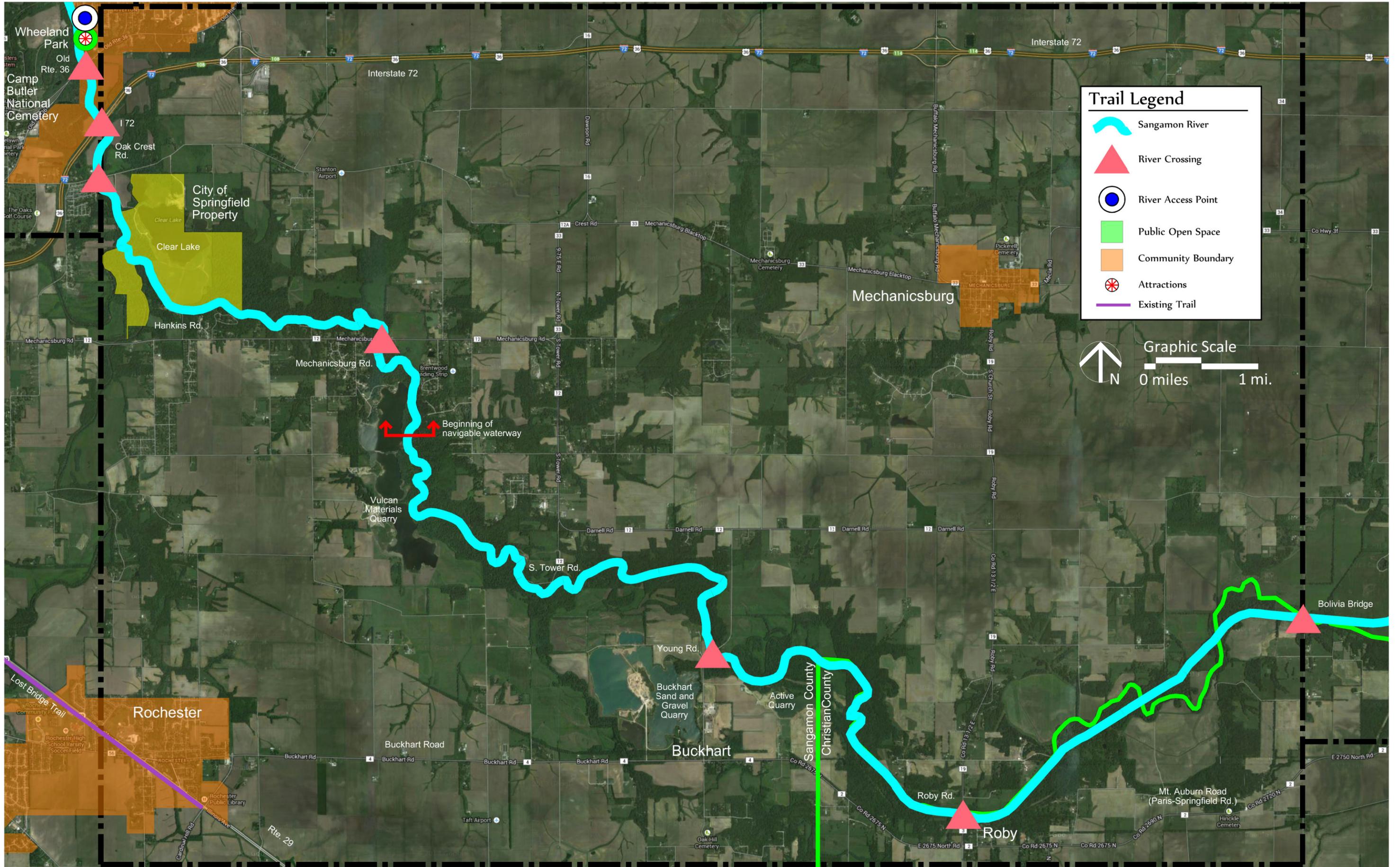
East Sangamon County Section – Analysis

Attributes

1. The river meanders through this section with the lands on both sides mostly forested. Located close to Springfield, scattered residences, rural subdivisions and farmsteads are scattered through the area. The communities of Mechanicsburg, Riverton, and Rochester are nearby.
2. Interstate 72 crosses the river near Riverton with exits to access the river at Mechanicsburg, Riverton and Camp Butler. Rte.29 and the Lost Bridge Trail located nearby in Rochester provide linkages to Springfield.
3. The historic Paris-Springfield Road parallels the river from the Bolivia Bridge Road to Buckhart.
4. The historic steel truss Bolivia Bridge still spans the river.
5. Camp Butler National Cemetery is located west of Riverton near the river.

Concerns

1. The river on the eastern side (upstream from the confluence with Clear Creek) is not a designated "navigable water" so is not recognized for boating use.
2. The river has been straightened between the Bolivia Bridge and the Roby Bridge.
3. Only one public river access point exists at Riverton's Wheeland Park. Some people access the river at bridge crossings of which there are six. Emergency access is very difficult for major lengths of the river.
4. No public lands or trails exist along the river for recreational and resource management except Riverton's Wheeland Park and a restricted tract surrounding Clear Lake. That tract is managed by the city of Springfield as an auxiliary water reservoir for the city.
5. Interpretation about the history and heritage of the area including its connection to Abraham Lincoln is lacking.
6. River-oriented environmental education and recreation programs by public agencies or civic organizations are not apparent. The active Soil and Water Conservation Service programs are oriented primarily for the farm managers. The Friends of Sangamon Valley provides stewardship programs for several floodplain areas near Clear Lake under a contract with Sangamon County.



East Sangamon County Section – Proposed Water Initiatives

1. Acquire land along the river or secure easements or other agreements with private land owners to provide for recreation and conservation. Land acquisition or easements, and their future management, would be done by the unit of government most suitable. Those might include Sangamon County Highway Department, City of Springfield, Town of Riverton, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Department of Transportation.

Bolivia Bridge to Riverton

- New river access at Bolivia Bridge
- New river access at Roby Bridge
- New river access at Buckhart (Young Road) Bridge
- Emergency access location near South Tower Road
- Emergency access location near the Vulcan Materials Quarry
- New river access at Mechanicsburg Road Bridge
- Emergency access from Hankins Road
- New river access at Oak Crest Road Bridge
- Enhanced river access at Riverton's Wheeland Park near the Old Rte. 36 Bridge

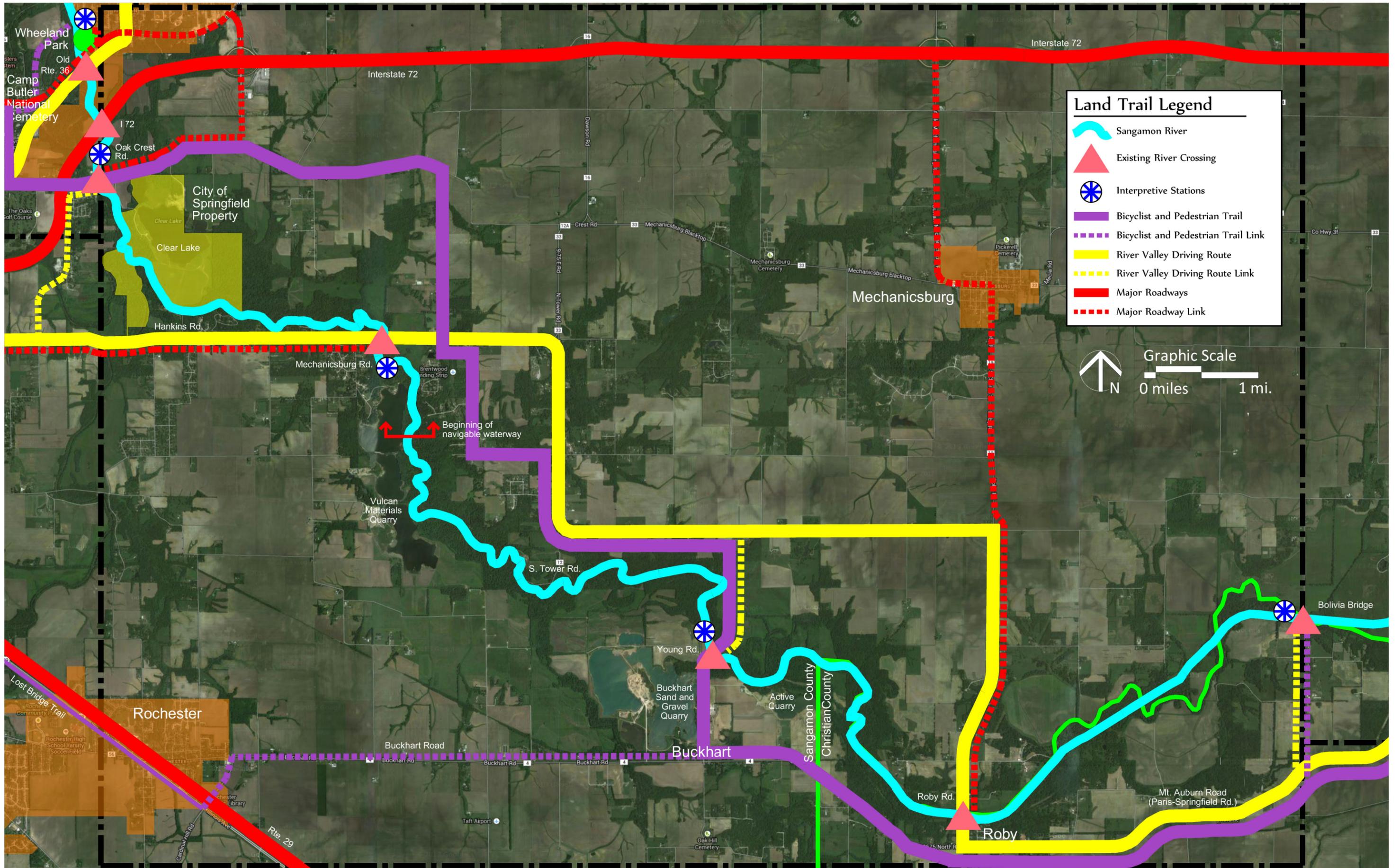
Roby Bridge to Mechanicsburg Road Bridge

- Floodplain areas and inactive quarries along the river for new recreation including hunting and fishing, and for new conservation initiatives related to flood storage and aquifer recharge

2. Form a Sangamon River Alliance consisting of agencies, businesses, civic organizations and concerned peoples to promote river-related events and actions to encourage river corridor preservation.

East Sangamon County Section – Proposed Land Initiatives

1. Acquire land and old quarries to offer archeological and ecological research and learning opportunities for residents of Sangamon County and faculty and students in nearby institutions including Benedictine University, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Lincoln Land Community College.
- 2.. Designate a bicyclist and pedestrian trail as a shared use roadway on the Mt. Auburn Road from Bolivia Bridge to Buckhart (An alternative is the nearby abandoned railroad corridor that parallels this length now in numerous ownerships). The route continues north from Buckhart on shared rural roadways crossing at the Oak Crest Road Bridge and continuing to Camp Butler National Cemetery.
3. Designate a bicyclist and pedestrian link to Lost Bridge Trail as a shared use roadway on the section of the Mt. Auburn Road continuing west from Buckhart to Rochester.
4. Develop a bicyclist and pedestrian link between Camp Butler National Cemetery and Riverton using the abandoned highway section and installing a trail bridge where the highway bridge was removed.
5. Designate a river valley driving route from Bolivia Bridge to Riverton using county highways. The route would intersect with Interstate 72 at the Camp Butler exit.
6. Install interpretive signs or stations to provide information about the river, special events and sources of information, etc. Signs could be located at the following sites.
 - Bolivia Bridge Access Area
 - Buckhart Access Area
 - Mechanicsburg Road Bridge Access Area
 - Oak Crest Road Bridge Access Area
 - Riverton's Wheeland Park
7. Post informational signs at major roadway links to the river facilities and attractions along the river. Locations might include:
 - Route 29 (via Mt. Auburn Road)
 - Interstate 72 - Mechanicsburg, Riverton and Camp Butler exits
 - User services (limited) at Mechanicsburg, Rochester, and Riverton



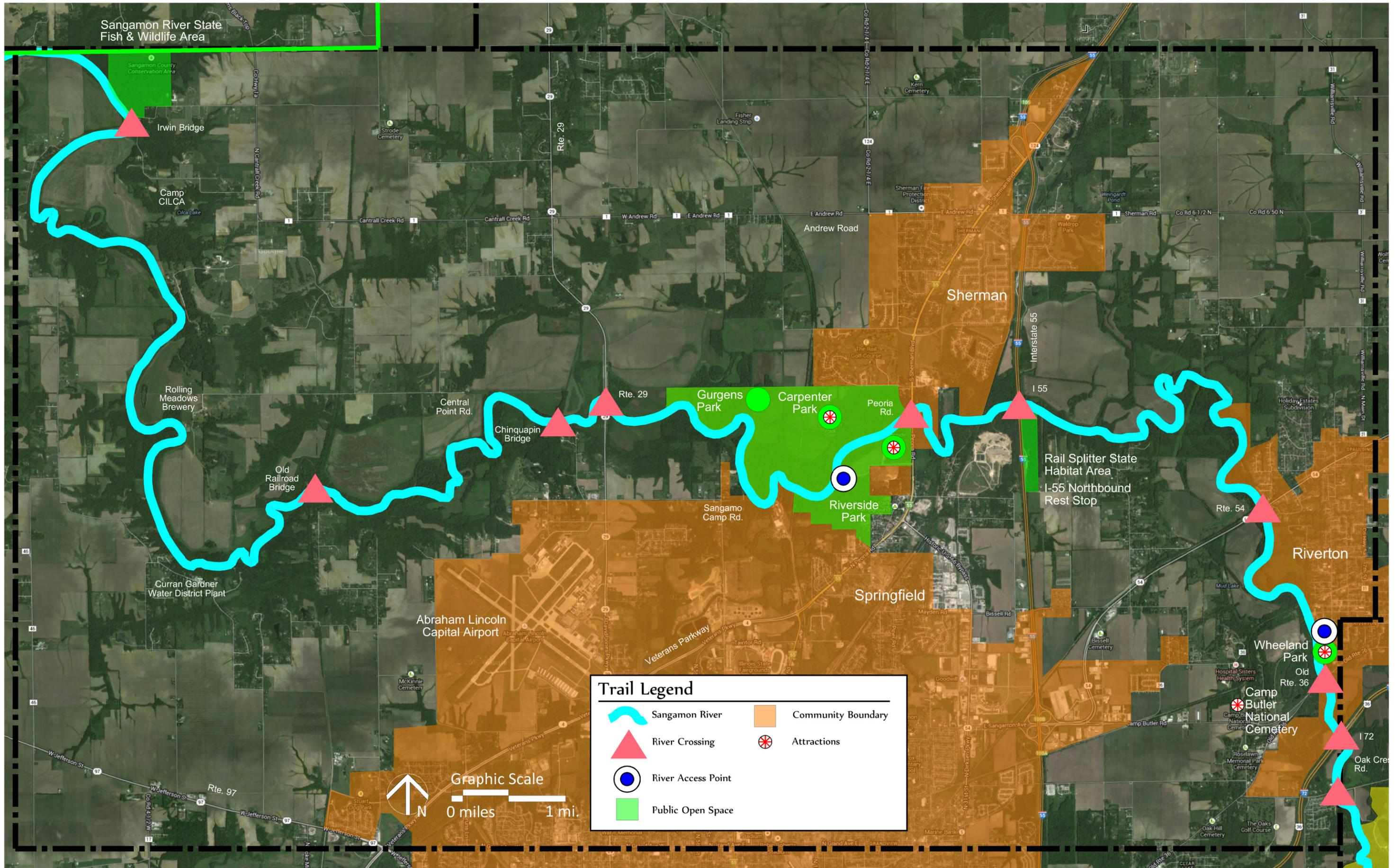
West Sangamon County Section – Analysis

Attributes

1. The river meanders through this section with the land on both sides mostly forested. Located close to Springfield, residences, rural subdivisions and farmsteads are found in the area. The communities of Springfield, Riverton and Sherman are nearby. The entire length of river in this section is classified as “navigable waters”
2. Interstate 55 crosses the river near Sherman providing motorists a brief view of the river. Rest areas are located on each side of the Sangamon River Bridge. Exits at Springfield’s Sangamon Avenue and Sherman provide connections to the river corridor.
3. The historic Route 66 Roadway crosses the river south of Sherman (Peoria Road Bridge).
4. Three abandoned bridges span the river northwest of Springfield that might be used for trail purposes. They include a cast concrete highway bridge adjacent to the newer Rte. 29 Bridge, the steel truss Chinquapin Bridge, and the old railroad bridge slated to be converted for the Sangamon Valley Trail extension.
5. Camp Butler National Cemetery is located near Riverton and numerous Lincoln sites and other visitor attractions are located in Springfield.
6. Several public parks are located near the river including Riverton’s Wheeland Park, Riverside Park, Carpenter Park and Gurgens Park managed by the Springfield Park District, and the Sangamon County Conservation Area managed by the IL Department of Natural Resource.
7. The Sangamon Valley Trail is planned to cross the river northwest of Springfield and the North Inter-Urban Trail is planned to cross near Sherman.

Concerns

1. Public river access exits at Riverton’s Wheeland Park and Springfield’s Riverside Park. People also use four bridge crossings for river access, the most used being at the Irwin Road Bridge. Emergency access is very difficult for major lengths of the river in this section.
2. The only public trails along the river are found at the park sites.
3. Two breeched dams near Riverside Park are considered safety hazards for river users.
4. Three active railroads cross the river in this section generating noise and safety concerns.
5. Unattractive views near the river include a major landfill and a couple industrial sites. Urban concerns of debris, adjacent land use impacts, and storm water pollution also exist.
6. Interpretation is lacking about the history of Lincoln’s travels in this area or information about the river. One exception is a small sign at one of the Interstate 55 rest areas.
7. The site of Sangamo Town where Lincoln constructed his flatboat is privately owned and not accessible to the public.
8. River-related environmental education and recreation programs are not apparent. The exception is the Soil and Water Conservation Service with programs primarily oriented to the agriculture land owners. The Friends of Sangamon Valley implement stewardship programs contractually for Sangamon County and the Springfield Park District for tracts of floodplain.



West Sangamon County Section – Proposed Water Initiatives

1. Acquire land along the river or secure easements or other agreements with private land owners to provide for recreation and conservation. Land acquisition or easements, and their future management, would be done by the unit of government most suitable. Those might include the Sangamon County Highway Department, Towns of Riverton and Sherman, Springfield Park District and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Illinois Department of Transportation.

Riverton to Irwin Road Bridge

- Enhanced river access at Riverton’s Wheeland Park near the Old Rte. 36 Bridge
- New river access at Spaulding Bridge (Rte. 54)
- New river access at Interstate 55 North Bound Rest Area
- New river access at Interstate 55 South Bound Rest Area in conjunction with the proposed North Inter-Urban Trail river crossing
- Enhanced river access crossing at Riverside Park
- Emergency access location from Solomon Color Plant or Sangamo Camp Road
- New river access at Rte. 29 Bridge
- Emergency access from Central Point Road.
- New river access next to the old railroad bridge (planned Sangamon Valley Trail extension)
- Emergency access from Curran Gardner Water District Plant
- Emergency access or controlled access from Rolling Meadows Brewery
- Emergency access from Camp CILCA
- New river access at Irwin Road Bridge

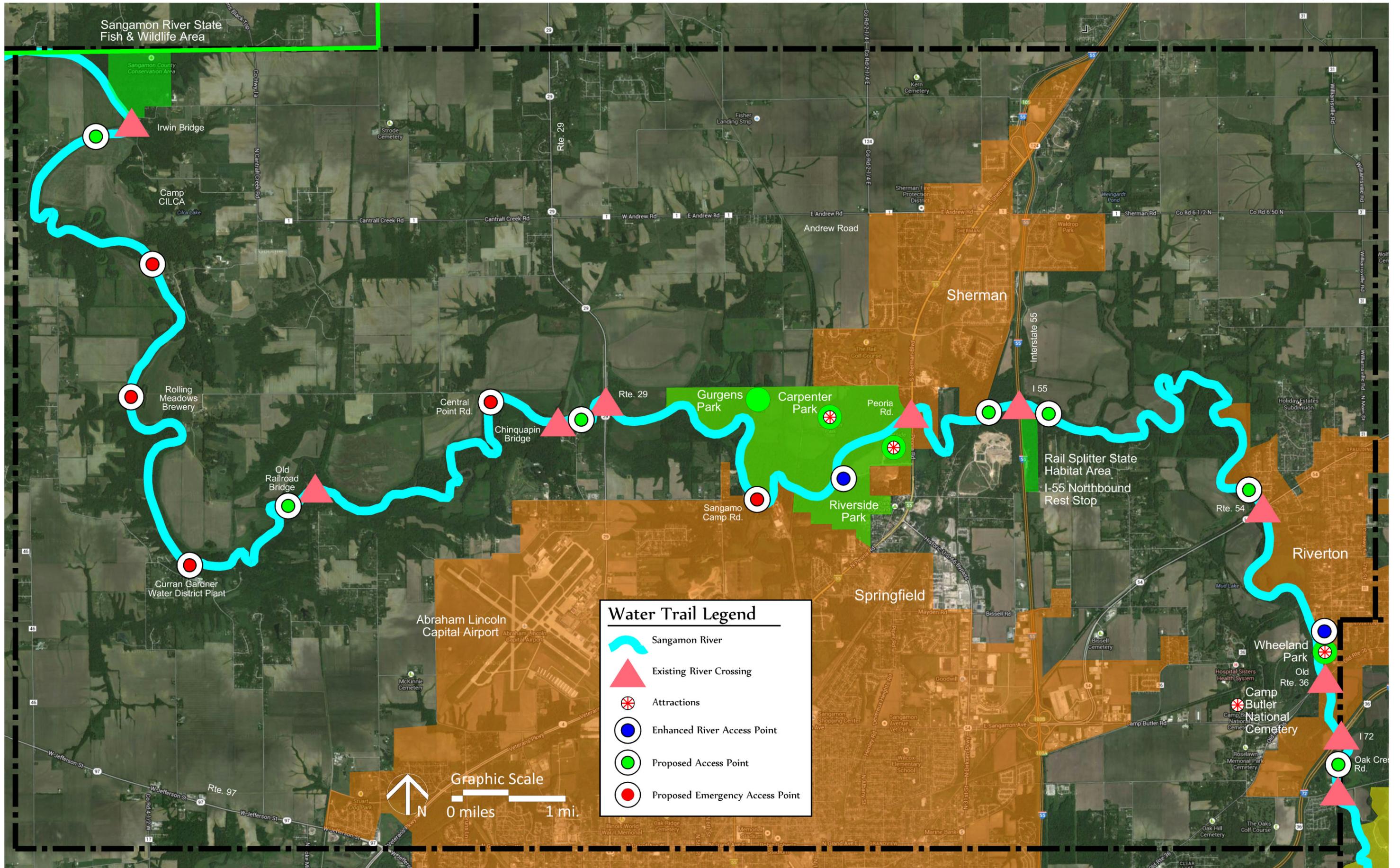
Near Riverside Park

- Dam removals

Riverton to Irwin Road Bridge

- Flood storage and ground water recharge

2. Form Sangamon River Alliance consisting of agencies, businesses, civic organizations and others interested to promote river-related events and actions to encourage river corridor preservation.

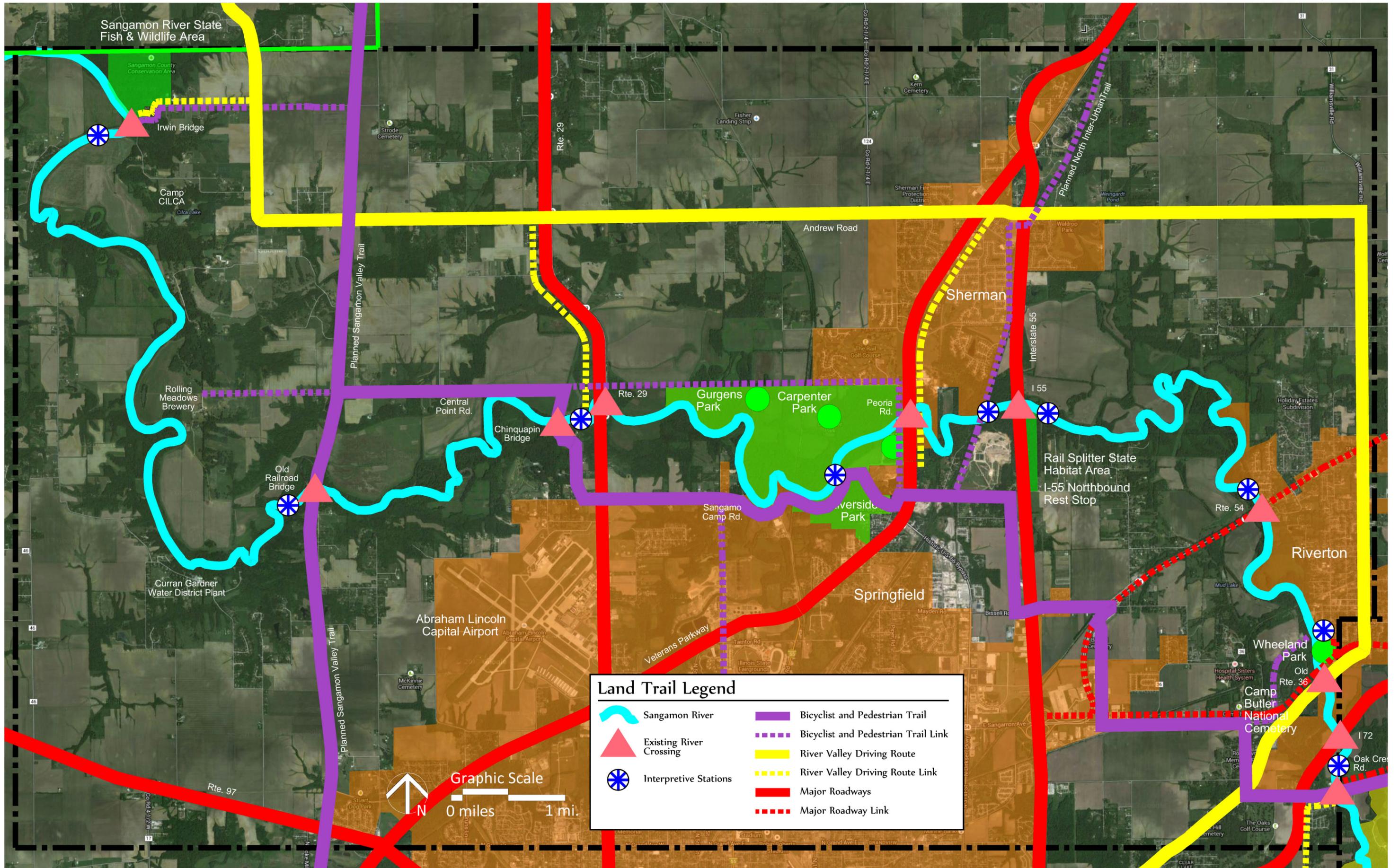


West Sangamon County Section – Proposed Land Initiatives

1. Acquire floodplain land to offer archaeological protection and ecological research/observation for the residents of Sangamon County and faculty and students of nearby institutions including Benedictine University, University of Illinois at Springfield, and Lincoln Land Community College.
2. Designate a bicyclist and pedestrian trail from Camp Butler National Cemetery to Riverside Park on shared rural roadways. The trail intersects with the planned North Inter-Urban Trail linking Sherman/Williamsville to Springfield.
3. Designate a new bicycle and pedestrian trail through Riverside Park to the Rte. 29 Access Area. A new trail along the south edge of the river from Riverside Park to North 8th Street can continue as a shared use roadway on Camp Sangamo Road to the Rte. 29 Bridge Access Area. 8th Street provides a direct link south to the Illinois State Fairgrounds and Springfield. An alternate trail route from Riverside Park to Rte. 29 Bridge Access Area could be to cross the river by the Peoria Road Bridge and create a new trail across the northern edge of both Carpenter Park and Gurgens Park to a levee that would connect to Rte. 29.
4. Acquire land to develop a Rte. 29 River Access Area incorporating both of the nearby historic bridges and levees for trail use. Floodplain forests and backwater areas can be managed for wildlife habitat and flood storage.
5. Designate a bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting Rte. 29 Access Area to Athens. Part of the trail can be developed by designating and posting Central Point Road as a shared use roadway to the planned extension of the Sangamon Valley Trail. The Sangamon Valley Trail can provide continuation north into Menard County and a link south across the river to sites on the west edge of Springfield.
6. Develop access and site improvements for visitor use at the Sangamon River State Fish and Wildlife Area.
7. Designate a river valley driving route from Riverton to Athens using county highways through Riverton, Spaulding, Sherman, Andrew to Athens. Links to river access areas would include Peoria Road, Rte. 29, and Irwin Bridge Road.
8. Install interpretive stations about the river's dynamics and Lincoln's river legacy at:
 - Riverton's Wheeland Park
 - Spaulding Rte. 54 Access Area
 - Rail Splitter State Habitat Area / Interstate 55 Rest Areas (hubs)
 - Riverside Park / Carpenter Park Access Area
 - Rte. 29 Access Area
 - Sangamon Valley Trail Bridge Access Area
 - Sangamon River State Fish and Wildlife Area / Irwin Road Bridge
9. Post major roadway links to the river corridor's trails, attractions, and locations for user services.
 - Old Route 36 at Camp Butler National Cemetery and Riverton
 - Rte. 54 at Spaulding
 - Interstate 55 – Springfield's Sangamon Avenue and Sherman exits
 - Peoria Road (Historic Rte. 66 Road)
 - Route 29 and Rte. 97 via Veterans' Parkway
 - User services found at Riverton, Sherman, Andrew Corner and nearby at Springfield's Sangamon Ave., Peoria Road and J.D. Jones Parkway.

West Sangamon County Section - Proposed Land Initiatives

June 2014



Land Trail Legend

	Sangamon River		Bicyclist and Pedestrian Trail
	Existing River Crossing		Bicyclist and Pedestrian Trail Link
	Interpretive Stations		River Valley Driving Route
			River Valley Driving Route Link
			Major Roadways
			Major Roadway Link



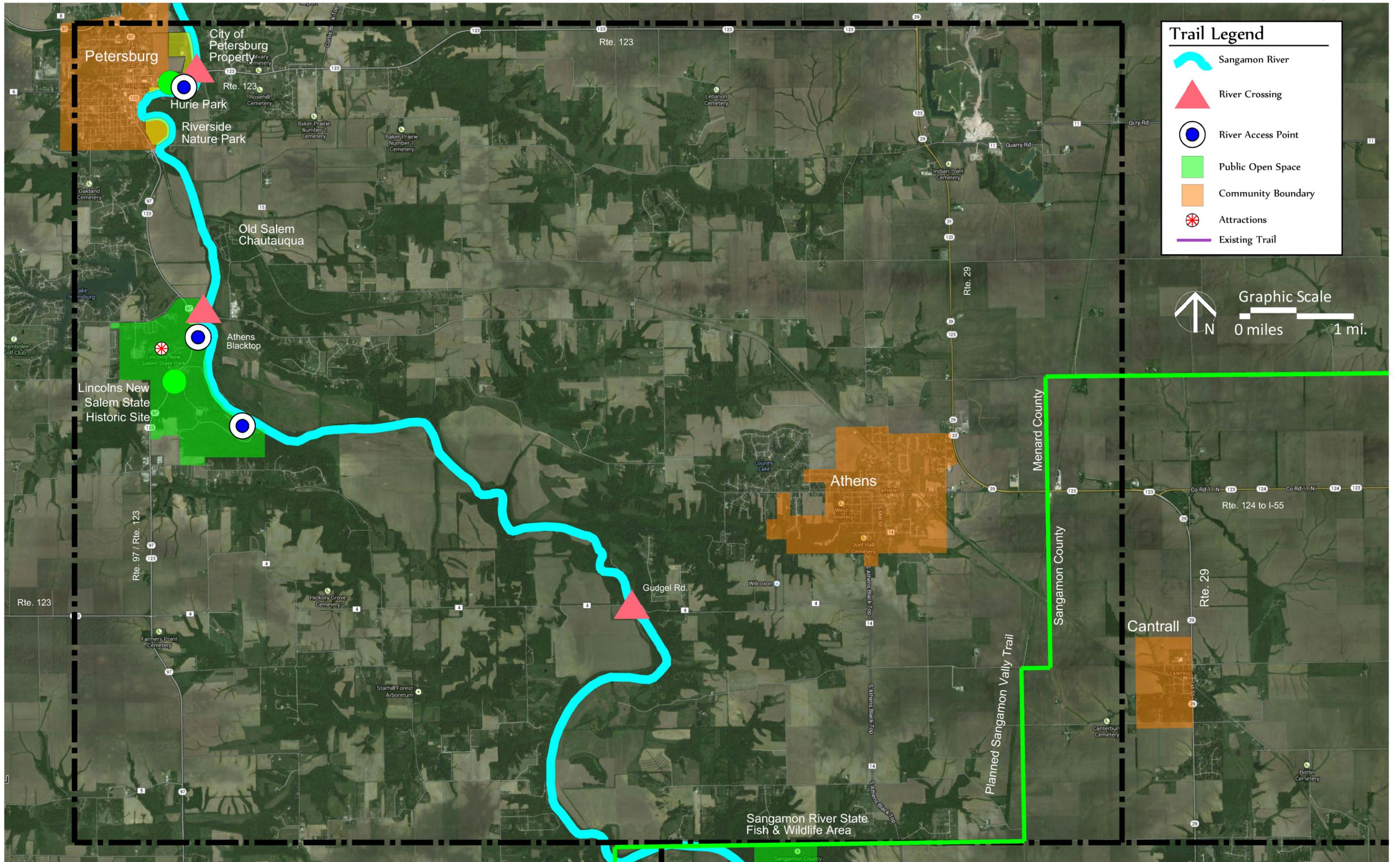
Menard County Section – Analysis

Attributes

1. The river meanders through this section with the land on both sides mostly forested. Located close to Springfield, residences, rural subdivisions and farmsteads are found in the area. The communities of Cantrall, Athens, and Petersburg are nearby. The entire length of river in this section is classified as “navigable waters”
2. Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site is the most visited state historic site with over 400,000 visitors each year. The historic village is staffed with interpreters and the Visitors Center has a museum and auditorium. The site’s 700 acres also included a campground, picnic areas, numerous trails and a boat ramp on the river. The reconstructed grist mill and flat boat are located near the river.
3. The historic Old Salem Chautauqua site is located north of New Salem on the east side of the river. A few of the original structures remain.
4. Three other public parks are located along the river. The Sangamon County Conservation Area, managed by IL Department of Natural Resources, is near the Irwin Road Bridge. Riverside Nature Park being improved as a boat access area. Hurie Park has a boat ramp and is a popular kayaking location.
5. There are several active organizations in the county promoting environmental education, conservation programs, trail development, and outdoor events. Several races are held on the grounds at Lincoln’s New Salem Historic Site and surrounding areas.

Concerns

1. River access is limited in this section with only two public ramps and three bridge crossings. Emergency access is very difficult for major lengths of the river.
2. Illegal dumping of debris is a concern at the isolated and remote bridge crossings.
3. The only public trails along the river are at park sites. Many of the rural roadways are narrow and have curves and hills in this area making it challenging and hazardous for bicyclists.
4. The breeched dam at Petersburg’s Hurie Park is considered by many to be a safety hazard.
5. An active railroad crosses the river and runs along the river’s edge through Petersburg separating the river from the community and generating noise and safety concerns.
6. Interpretation is lacking about the history of Lincoln’s travels in this area or information about the river except for a small exhibit at New Salem Visitors Center and a sign at the grist mill.

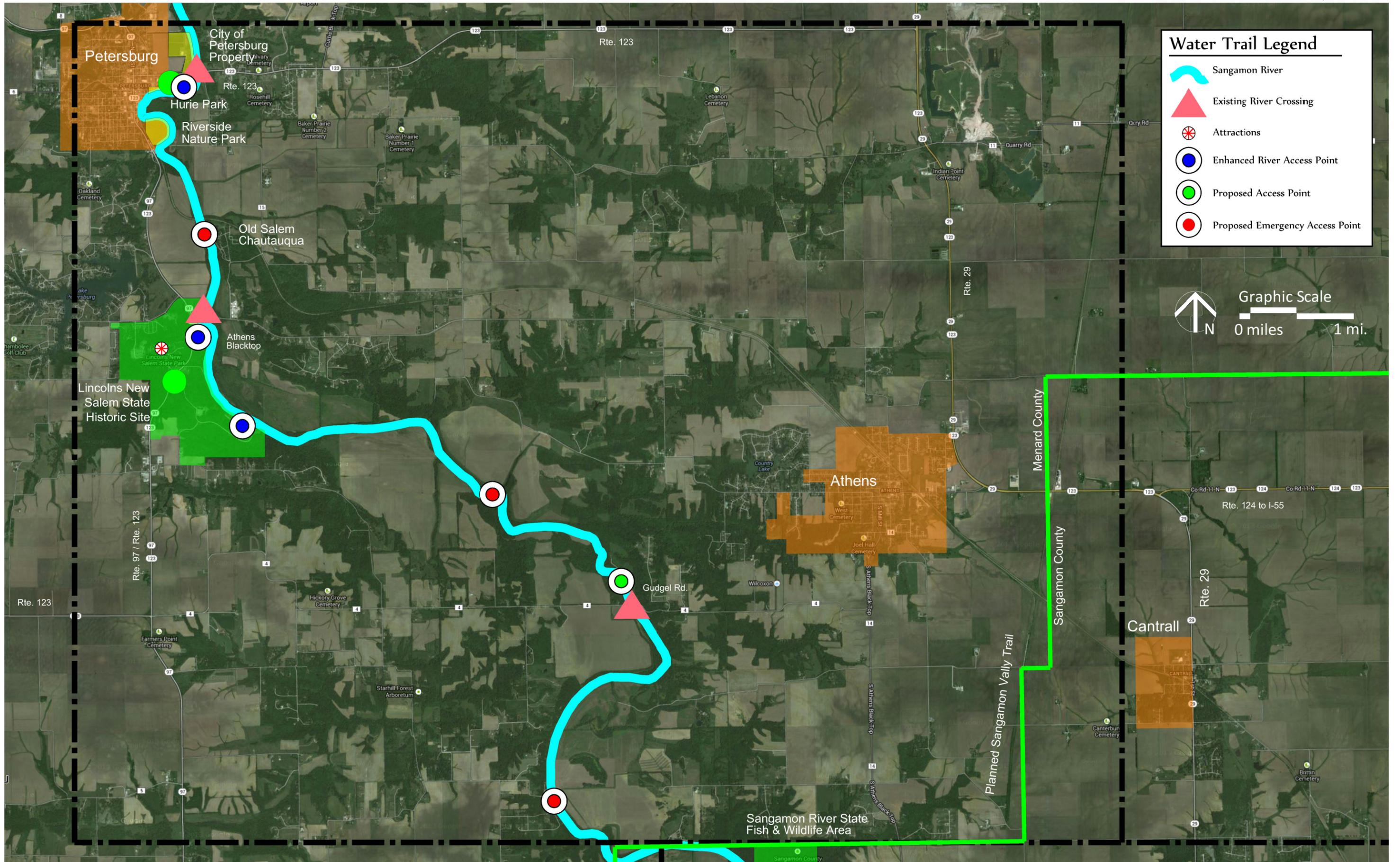


Menard County Section – Proposed Water Initiatives

1. Acquire land along the river or secure easements or other agreements with private land owners to provide for recreation and conservation. Land acquisition or easements, and their future management, would be done by the unit of government most suitable. Those might include the Menard County Highway Department, City of Petersburg, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the Illinois Department of Transportation.
 - Enhanced river access at Irwin Road Bridge
 - Emergency access between Irwin Road Bridge and Gudgel Road Bridge
 - New river access at Gudgel Road Bridge.
 - Emergency access between Gudgel Road Bridge and Lincoln’s New Salem
 - New or enhanced river accesses at Lincoln’s New Salem
 - Emergency access at Old Salem Chautauqua
 - Enhanced accesses at Petersburg’s Riverside Nature Park and Hurie Park
2. Acquire land, easements or land owner agreements for dam removal or dam repairs in Petersburg.
3. Acquire land, easements or land owner agreements for floodplain areas adjacent to Lincoln’s New Salem and Old Salem Chautauqua for expanding public recreation and conservation initiatives related to flood storage and wildlife habitat.
4. Form a Sangamon River Alliance consisting of agencies, businesses, civic organizations and concerned peoples to promote river-related events and to encourage river corridor preservation.

Menard County Section - Proposed Water Initiatives

June 2014



Menard County Section – Proposed Land Initiatives

1. Acquire floodplain land, easements or land owner agreements as mentioned previously to offer archaeological and ecological research/observation for residents of Menard County and faculty and students of nearby institutions including Benedictine University, University of Illinois at Springfield, Lincoln Land Community College, Illinois College and MacMurray College.
2. Develop the Sangamon Valley Trail extension from Springfield to Athens.
3. Designate a bicycle and pedestrian route from Athens to Lincoln’s New Salem on shared rural roadways crossing the river at the Athens Road Bridge.
4. Complete the new bicycle and pedestrian pathway from Lincoln’s New Salem to Petersburg.
5. Improve Petersburg’s Riverside Nature Park and Hurie Park with a canoe landing area, trails, and potentially a canoe/kayak river course.
6. Designate a river valley driving route from Sangamon County through Athens to Lincoln’s New Salem using county highways. Links to river access areas would include Irwin Road and Gudgel Road
7. Install interpretive stations about the river’s dynamics and Lincoln’s river legacy at:
 - Irwin Road Bridge Access Area
 - Gudgel Road Bridge Access Area
 - Long Nine Museum in Athens
 - Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site (hub)
 - Riverside Nature Park in Petersburg
 - Hurie Park in Petersburg
8. Post major roadway links to the river corridor’s trails, attractions, and locations for user services.
 - IL Route 97
 - IL Route 29 with connection to Interstate 55 Williamsville exit
 - IL Route 123
 - User services found at Athens and Petersburg with some services near Lincoln’s New Salem State Historic Site

Menard County Section - Proposed Land Initiatives

June 2014

