



AGENDA ITEM EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Title: Presentation of the Active River Project Concepts and Progress

Presenter: Chris Adesso/John Rabchuk

Please check appropriate box:

	Government Operations	X	Government Services – 01.25.2016
	Planning & Development		City Council
	Public Hearing		

Estimated Cost:	\$0.00 – Information Only	Budgeted:	YES		NO	
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Executive Summary:

A presentation by John Rabchuk on the Active River Project concept and progress to date, followed by discussion with the Committee as recommended by Chairman Turner at the previous Government Services Committee meeting.

Presentation Topics include:

1. Active River Project Concept & Purpose
2. Active River Project Goals & Examples from other Communities
3. Potential Project Components: Riverpark (Dam Modification/Removal), Riverwalk, Trail Connectivity, Public Art, etc.
4. Recent Activity by Active River Task Force
5. Proposed Projects – FY 16/17 & beyond.

Attachments: *(please list)*

Power Point Presentation Slides

Recommendation / Suggested Action *(briefly explain):*

None – For information only

For office use only:

Agenda Item Number: 4.e

St. Charles

Active River Project



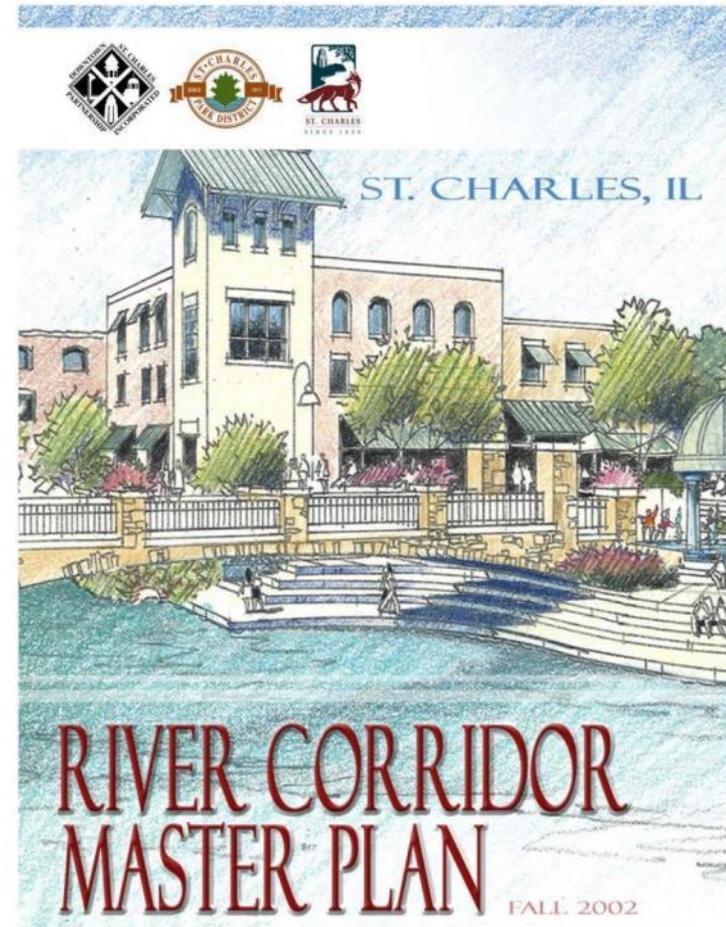


introduction

Project Purpose

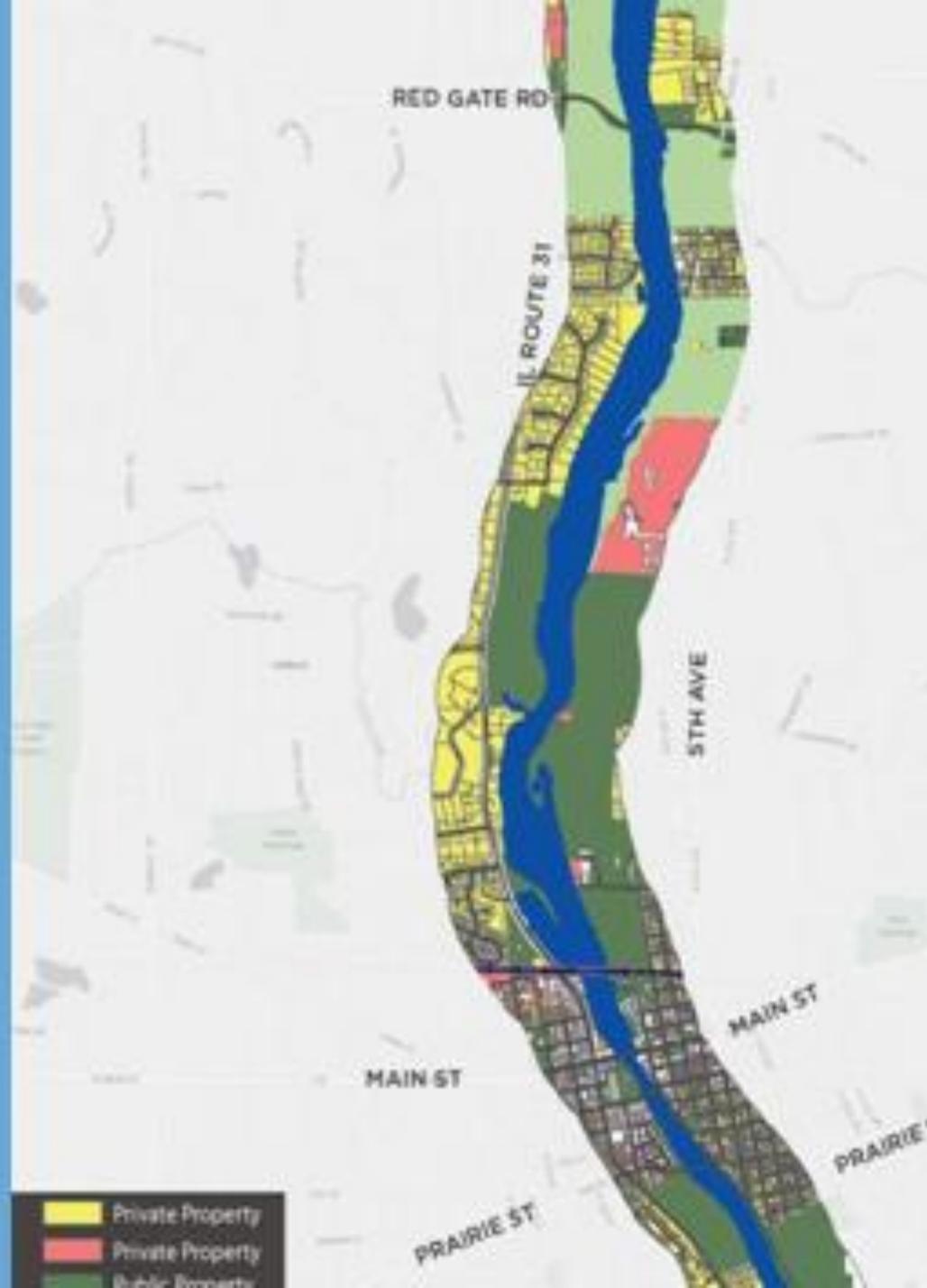
Update 2002 Master Plan
with focus on creating:

- Recreational opportunities
- Ecology and riverfront
- Lifestyle & downtown
- Cycle/Pedestrian Trails



Resources

44% of frontage is public – a unique situation

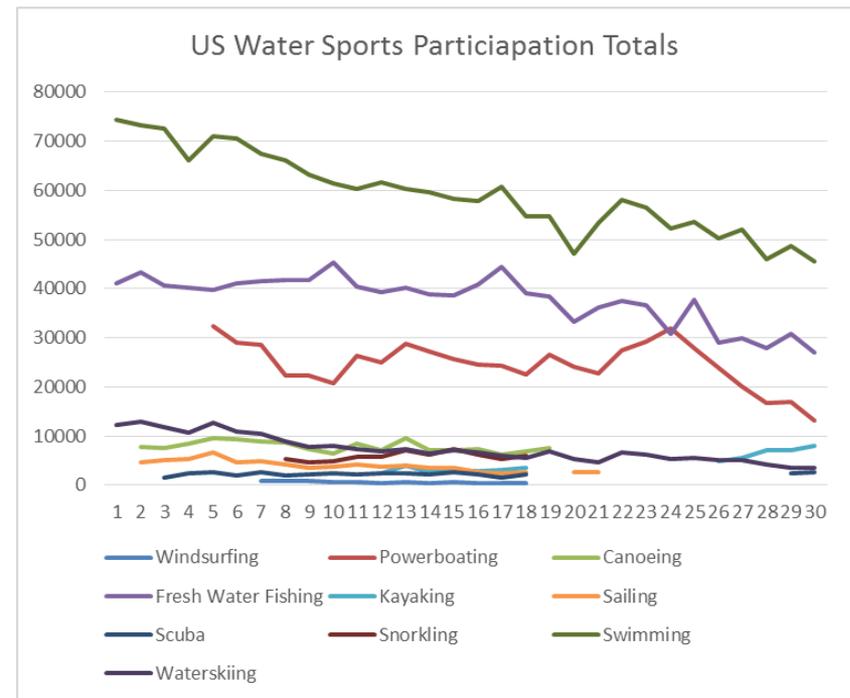
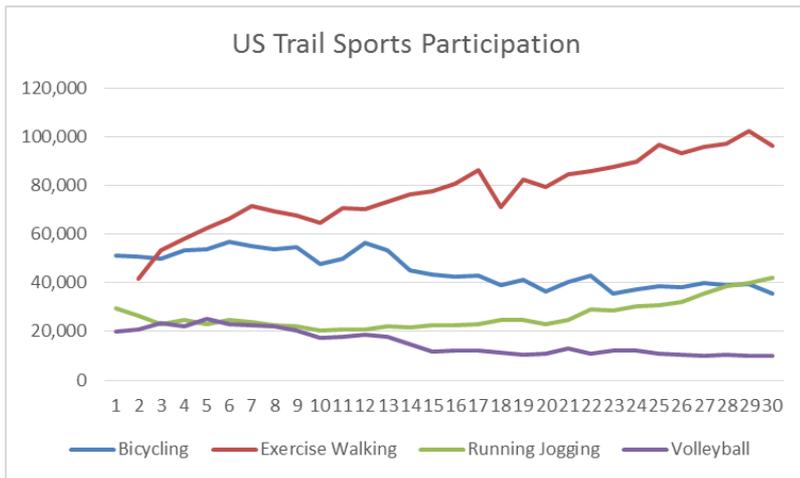


Resources

City identity and
downtown
centered
on the riverfront.



Active recreation/urban lifestyle trend



Utilize the river to create a *unique active lifestyle* in an urban area that will draw new businesses and residents to St. Charles.

Goal:

Create a lively riverfront environment that is the centerpiece of the community.

Lifestyle Success Stories:

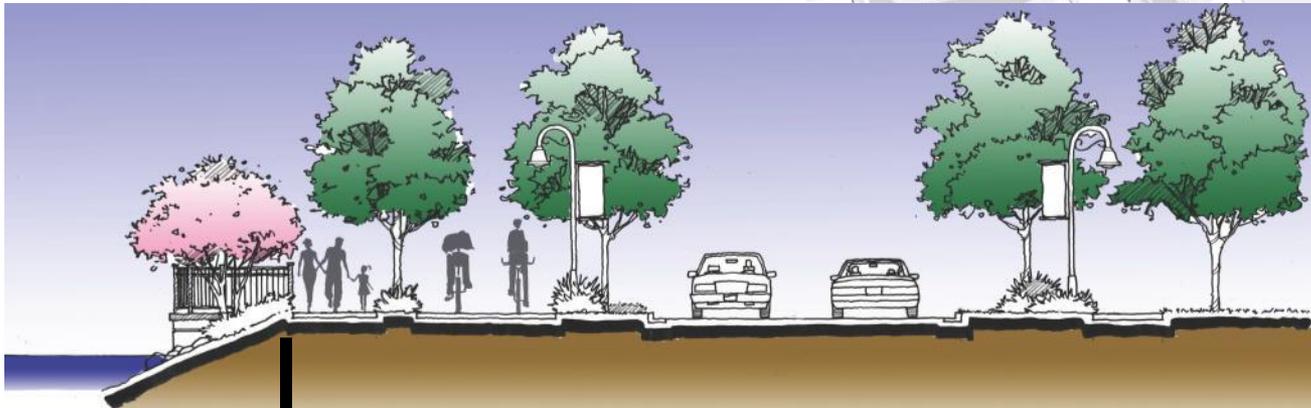
- **Manchester, IA – white water course, cycle trail**
 - **Cost \$1.2M**
 - **\$2.0M new investment in less than 1 year**
- **Greenville, SC - city waterfront park**
 - **Cost \$13M**
 - **\$100M new investment in 1st two years**
 - **50% increase in 21-35 year old demographic in downtown area**

Lifestyle Success Stories:

- **Columbus, GA – white water park, trails**
 - **Cost \$23M**
 - **\$42M annual return (CSU study)**
 - **Completely revitalized entire downtown**
 - **Lifestyle**
- **Denver, CO – Confluence Park (white water, cycle, pedestrian and art)**
 - **Cost \$40M**
 - **\$2.5 BILLION in new investment generated**

Riverwalk

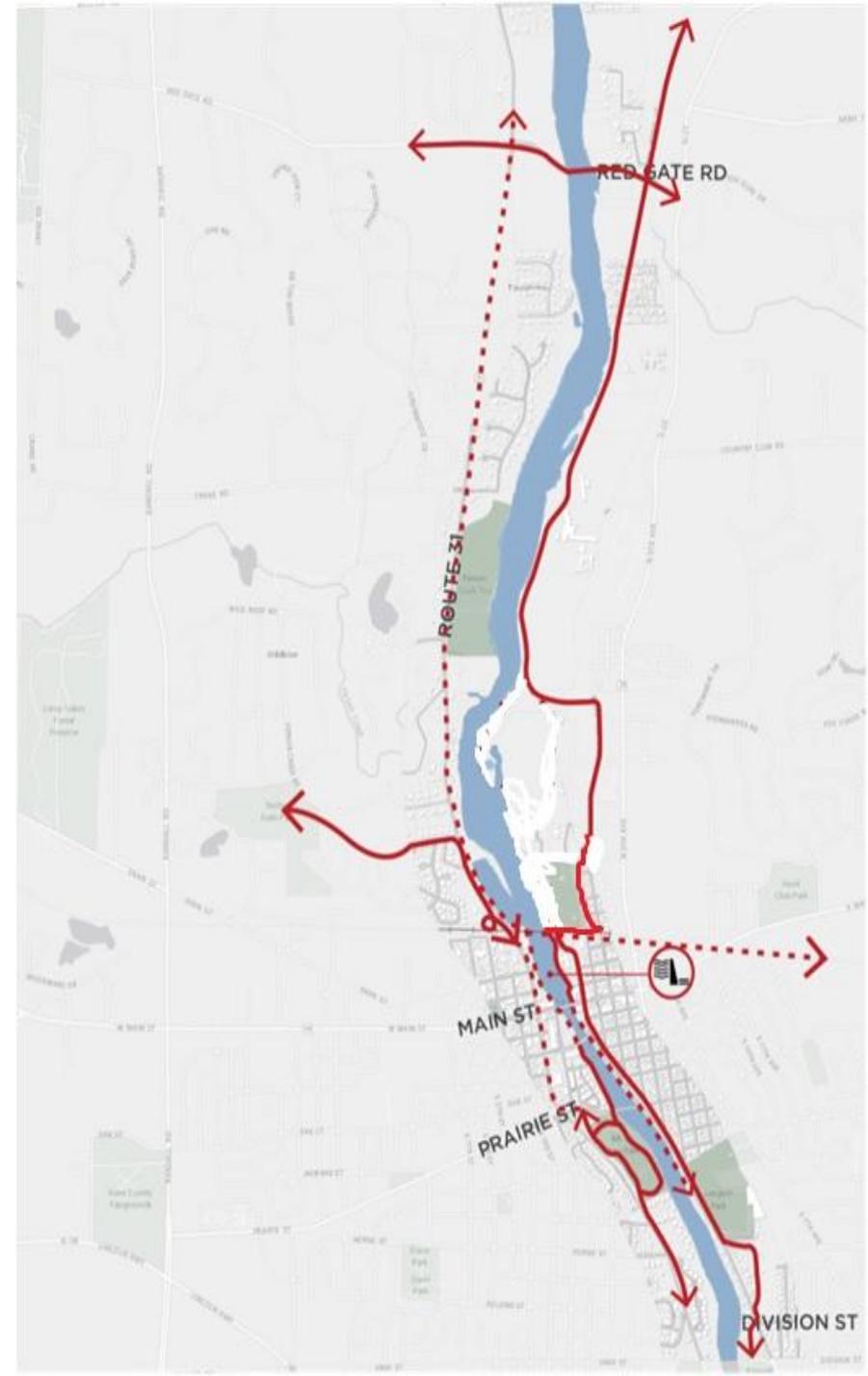
- Shoreline improvements
- Segregated bike/ped
- Improved at-grade crossings
- Pocket Parks
- Art and meeting places
- Fishing





Extend Trails

- Fox River Trail
- Great Western Trail



River Park



Existing



Proposed

River Park



River Park

- Dam modification
- Maintain upstream pool w/hydraulic control under RR viaduct and return river to natural channel
- Variety of rapids and flat water areas
- Observation and presentation areas
- Children's play stream w/access for disabled
- Pedestrian bridge
- Downstream surf wave
- Cycle/pedestrian trails under Main Street bridge





Proposed art work donation





Boy Scout Island

- Re-establish as an island
- Improved water quality
- Habitat restoration
- Bird nesting
- Pedestrian bridge
- Improved boat launch



Goal

Create a lively riverfront environment that is the centerpiece of the community.



Momentum:

Advocate the strategy:

- Create specific project list to aid coordination of organizations & identify short term successes.
- Obtain funding for RiverPark engineering and hydraulics
 - Prove feasibility, define water quality impact, prove no change to upstream pool or downstream impact
 - Provide cost estimates and timeline
 - Define third party funding opportunities
 - EPA, Corps of Engineers, DNR, CMAP, private foundations, philanthropic match

Momentum:

Advocate the strategy (cont.):

- Identify short term projects (via regular permit process)
 - Bob Leonard Walk completion
 - Sculpture donation for Charlemagne Island
 - High school science class water testing & storm water education
 - Design work: Boy Scout Island, northern cycle routes
 - Identify/design pocket park areas in downtown
 - East riverbank south of Prairie Street
 - Bio-swale for storm water handling
 - Fishing piers, widen path, landscaping

St. Charles, IL

A unique and vibrant active urban lifestyle community for residents and business.

