



To: Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie

From: Cpt. Michael Filipiak #483

Date: 04/17/2026

Subject: Conditions on the Kishwaukee River

Northwest Zone Commander Michael Filipiak and District 1 Acting Sergeant Lt. Audrey Hoftender advise that high water levels, swift current, floating debris, submerged structures, and piers have created conditions significantly hazardous to navigation on the Kishwaukee River from the Jim Gang Memorial Bypass Business Route 20 bridge near Cherry Valley, Winnebago County, south to Beltline Rd. @ Kishwaukee River Rd. where the Kishwaukee flows into the Rock River near Woodcrest, IL in Winnebago County. The conditions are also treacherous for emergency service personnel who are called upon to rescue people involved in boating mishaps. Local law enforcement and emergency management officials concur with the assessment.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has authorization to designate Restricted Boating Areas when navigation is significantly dangerous.

**Section 2030.80 Hazardous Navigation Conditions - Designated Restricted Boating Areas**

In the event that the Department of Natural Resources determines the presence of conditions that make navigation of a body of water significantly dangerous to the public, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources may, in coordination with the federal government, designate Restricted Boating Areas on any affected body of water within the jurisdiction of the State of Illinois. This designation shall be made by public announcement in local media and by posting at local public boat launches and marinas, and the restricted area shall be physically marked by buoys, signs, manned watercraft or yellow police tape. This designation will remain in effect until the Director of the Department of Natural Resources determines that navigation is no longer significantly dangerous to the public, but in no case shall the designation remain in effect longer than 90 days. Recision of the Restricted Boating Area designation shall be publicly announced in local media and posted at local public boat launches and marinas and any markings shall be removed.

(Source: Added at 29 Ill. Reg. 15550, effective September 27, 2005)

Based on the current conditions, I recommend extending the Restricted Boating Area on the Kishwaukee River from the Jim Gang Memorial Bypass Business Rt. 20 bridge near Cherry Valley, Winnebago County, south to Beltline Rd. @ Kishwaukee River Rd., where the Kishwaukee flows into the Rock River near Woodcrest, IL, Winnebago County, until such time as water levels and navigation conditions return to a safe and manageable state. This restricted boating area would take effect at 1:00 pm on 04/17/2026. If you approve, please sign below, and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the implementation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the United States Coast Guard and local authorities.

Approved By Director Natalie Phelps Finnie

04/17/2026

Date