



To: Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie
From: Cpt. Michael Filipiak #483
Date: 04/24/2026
Subject: Conditions on the Kishwaukee River

Northwest Zone Commander Michael Filipiak and District 1 Acting Sergeant Audrey Hoftender advise that water levels on the Kishwaukee River from the Jim Gang Memorial Bypass Business Route. 20 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 have receded and are projected to recede further over the coming days.

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. Rescission 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 rescinding the Restricted Boating Area on the Kishwaukee River from the Jim Gang Memorial Bypass Business Rt. 20 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. If you approve, please sign below and the Office of Law Enforcement will coordinate the cancellation of the Restricted Boating Area designation with the United States Coast Guard and local authorities.


Approved By Director Natalie Phelps Finnie 04/24/2026
Date