

ORIGINAL

PRAIRIE PARKLANDS PARTNERSHIP

1508 West Acres Rd.
Joliet, IL 60435

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CLERK'S OFFICE

MAR 10 2008

STATE OF ILLINOIS
Pollution Control Board

March 5, 2008

Mr. John Therriault
Assistant Clerk
Illinois Pollution Control Board
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 11-500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

PC#5

Re: Rule Making R08-009 ←
Water Quality Standard Improvement
Lower Des Plaines River

Dear Mr. Therriault:

The Prairie Parklands Partnership, one of 41 ecosystem programs created to enhance and protect watersheds throughout the state, supports the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's proposed tightening of the water quality standards for the lower Des Plaines River.

Our boundaries include 1,477 square miles and contain over 15 watersheds. We are a grassroots coalition of public, private and not-for-profit entities including five different watershed groups. Jackson Creek with its tributary Manhattan Creek, as well as Grant Creek, flow into the lower Des Plaines River and are within our Partnership boundaries. Jackson Creek is a high quality stream which supports diverse and sensitive plant and animal species. Stabilizing and restoring sections of Grant Creek and Jackson Creek are projects being undertaken by the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, which also is within our Partnership boundaries. Improvement of water quality in the lower Des Plaines River would benefit species upstream in the aforementioned watersheds.

As our area becomes increasingly urbanized, the desire for public access to our waterways also increases. People fishing along the Brandon Road Bridge below Brandon Locks, is a common site. A variety of birds can be viewed in this same area. Wading birds, ducks, gulls, terns and the occasional bald eagle and peregrine falcon can be viewed in the shallows below the dam. Improved water quality along the river would benefit both wildlife and the people drawn to its shores.

Our Partnership considers the lower Des Plaines River an important natural resource to be protected, preserved and enhanced for the future.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Renwick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Rita Renwick
President