

## **Heart of Illinois Sierra Club ACTION ALERT: SAVE THE PARK**

***Your Attendance Needed at Riverfront Park Public Hearings!***

**PLEASE HELP: Written Comment Deadline is January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016, by 5 p.m.**

### **Public Hearing on City of Peoria Proposed Replacement Park Property for Sale of Riverfront Park: "Land Swap" Hearing**

**Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**at Peoria City Hall, 419 Fulton St., in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor City Council Chamber**

Please attend this hearing to show your concern about the proposed replacement property which has numerous issues why it is not acceptable:

- Parts of the proposed acquisition area flood. The current Riverfront Park area that is being sold for private luxury apartments does not flood.
- 4.39 acres of the proposed replacement property does not meet the state and federal criteria for Land and Water Conservation Fund replacement property because it is currently public land with the Detweiller Playground group (part has been used by the Peoria Boat Club for decades).
- 1.62 acres of the new park area is already owned by the city and is already public land although it has never been improved for park use.
- A City Combined Sewer Overflow Discharge Point is located at the end of Spring Street. Untreated sewage is discharged from this outfall during rain and snow events with risks of *e coli* and *salmonella* contaminated water potentially washing back over the proposed new park area during floods.

BACKGROUND: Riverfront Park was purchased in the 1980's with federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) money and the land was meant for public open space. To use this property for other purposes, the City is required to find replacement property of equal value. We contend the replacement land is not of equal value. The City is including the river end of Spring Street and giving half of it the value of the adjacent Detweiller Playground property and the other half the higher value of the Simantel 1.27 acres lot.

**MOST IMPORTANT! Public Hearing on Park Sale & Full Project**  
**Wednesday, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m.**

**at Peoria City Hall, 419 Fulton St., in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor City Council Chamber**

This is the public hearing required for LWCF "conversion" proposals. The City of Peoria proposal and replacement land for the existing Riverfront Park property (which is being sold for private luxury apartments) must be approved by the Illinois Department of Conservation (IDNR) and the National Park Service (NPS). The City is to report to IDNR and NPS about issues raised at this hearing.

We continue to maintain that the Riverfront Park should be saved for public open green space. There are many issues of concern with the proposed apartments project:

- Placing high density residential housing between the Illinois River and an active railroad hauling flammables with up to five trains a day that can block public road crossings is not in the best interests of the health and safety and welfare of the people of Peoria.
- Building high density residential housing near two chemical plants that have toxic materials stored on site is a safety and health risk.
- Adding nearly 5.8 acres of paving and roof run-off close to the Illinois River and taking out hundreds of mature trees, a large grass area and an existing prairie is going backwards on progress for reducing City rainfall run-off.
- This is an existing park used by north side residents and is close to Taft Homes and removing this picnic and play area is an Environmental Justice issue discriminating against the local neighborhood.
- Traffic and noise from the expected over 250 cars at the proposed apartments will completely change the peace and serenity of the existing park areas that contain important memorials, including the Dorothy Sinclair Grove, Dan Fogelberg memorial and the Alzheimer memorial.
- The historic railroad turntable at the current park will be destroyed and the historical importance of this area will be further lost and paved over.
- The new dead end street through the park and parking lot labeled "Guest Parking" by the entrance to the apartments but located on remaining public park land will take more green space away from the public and the impacts of these disruptions to the park have not been taken into full account.

(See the proposed apartments site plan on page 3 of this flyer.)

## Written Comments Needed:

Please send written comments on this project and include any use and experiences you have had at the Riverfront Park. List your concerns for turning the largest open space in the park into private luxury apartments.

**Written comments must be received at Peoria City Hall no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>.**

**Comments can be emailed to [riverfront@peoriagov.org](mailto:riverfront@peoriagov.org) or mailed to: River Trail Project Comments, City of Peoria, 419 Fulton #207, Peoria, IL 61602**

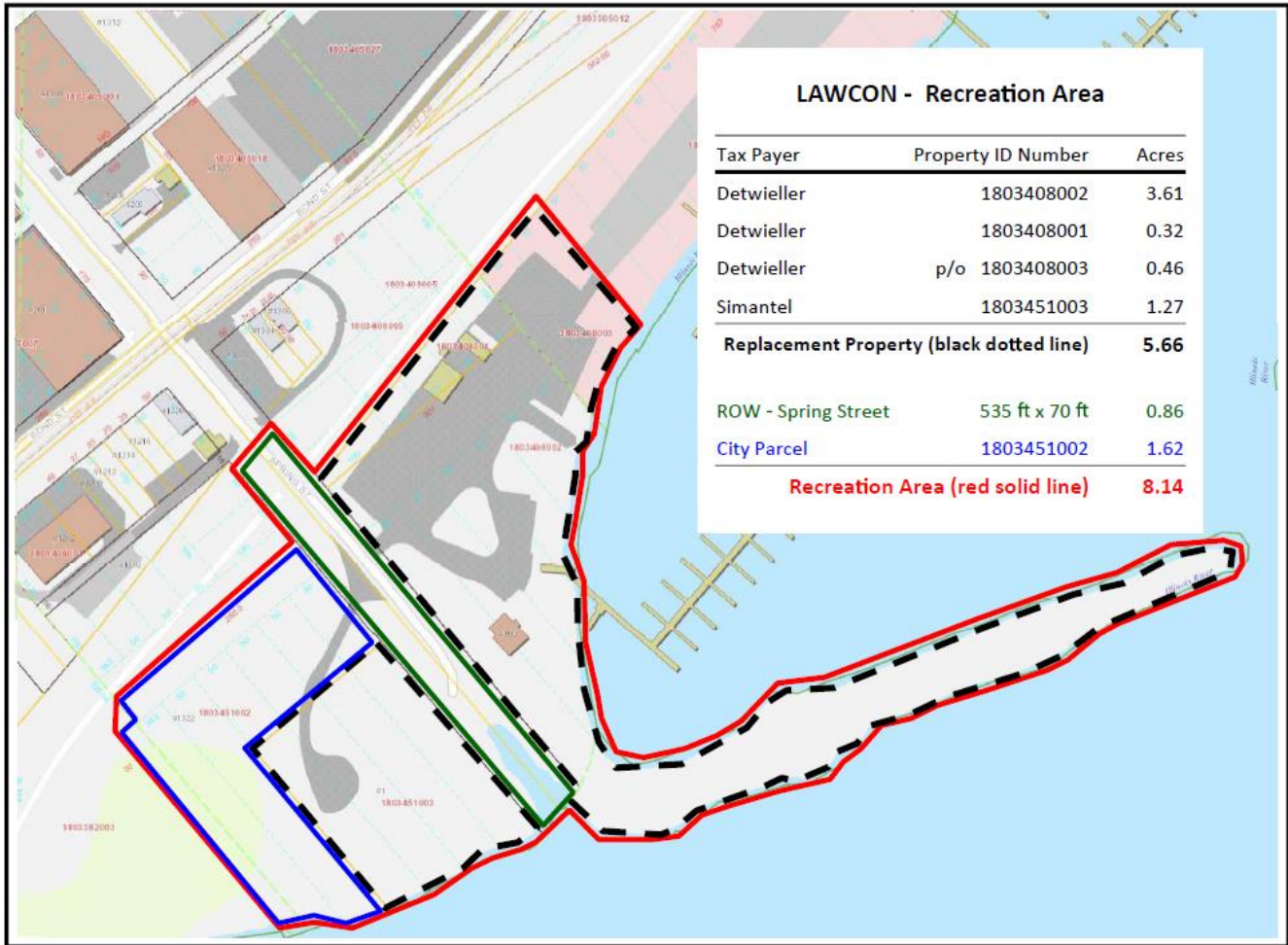
For more information contact Joyce Blumenshine, HOI, 309-678-1011 [joblumen@yahoo.com](mailto:joblumen@yahoo.com)

### AERIAL MAP River Trail Development Site & Spring Street Parcels Site



# SPRING STREET PARCELS SITE - PROPERTY MAP

## River Trail Development Project - Replacement Property



Source: City of Peoria,, Peoria County GIS Map 12/14/2015