

March 14, 2008

Peoria Planning Commission
City of Peoria
456 Fulton St., Ste. 402
Peoria, IL 61602



To the Chairman and Members of the Peoria Planning Commission:
RE: Green Edge Plan

The Peoria Audubon Society Board would like to thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review and comment on the Green Edge Plan located on Peoria Riverfront. Peoria Audubon Society is encouraged by the enthusiasm the City is showing for an important resource like the Illinois River.

We believe the pursuit of a public access trail along the river's edge will improve quality of life for Peoria residents and supports conservation and nature based tourism. With the designation of the Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway, we feel that providing for public access to the river's edge demonstrates the value this community places on the Illinois River.

We do have concerns with other portions of the Green Edge Plan. Our understanding is that a portion of publicly owned property would be used for the development of private condominium residences. Trading riverfront public ground for private benefit is a lot to ask of a community. It was mentioned that additional ground would be acquired as a result of the private development, but we have not been made aware of where that acquisition might take place and what size it would be. More information is needed on what the public will get in return for losing public space.

We do see some potential conservation benefits with islands in general, however more information is needed on the design and location before their conservation value can be fully understood. We do not believe that the proposed islands are an adequate trade for the lost public ground.

Again, thank you for providing the Peoria Audubon Society Board with the opportunity to review the Green Edge Plan.

Sincerely,

Pete Fenner, President
Peoria Audubon Board
Peoria Audubon Society
677 East High Point Terrace
Peoria, IL 61614