



July 9, 2014

Jessica Mounts  
Kansas Dept of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism  
6232 E 29<sup>th</sup> ST N  
Wichita KS 67220

Dear Ms. Mounts:

The City of Derby fully supports designating the Arkansas River as a National Water Trail.

Over the past decade, Derby has made significant progress in increasing public access to the Arkansas River. In 2007, we participated in creating the Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan. Then, we relocated our Public Works yard from its four-acre site on the river, demolished the old buildings, and performed soils testing to determine needed remediation.

We held a public engagement process that ended with the City Council deciding to invest in a new public park at this site to provide kayak access to the river, a shelter building overlooking the river for family and community events, an adventure play area, an ideal location for overnight and other scouting events, and a superior venue for bird watching. Native limestone is being planned as is planting of trees and vegetation native to this area of Kansas.

Due to their historic family connection to the river and to scouting, the Ray and Virginia Warren family committed financially to helping the city make a really nice park. Design is currently underway with WDM Architects, and construction is planned for 2016. While some funding is planned in the City budget, donations and grant funding are actively being pursued to make a signature park accessible to visitors and residents alike. With the City's multi-million-dollar investment, this park will **open to the public in late 2016 and will remain so in perpetuity.**

It is so good to hear of KWPT's commitment to this river and of the National Park Service's interest in it. During our park planning process, the most common concern from the public has been the look and feel of the river itself, so designation in the National Water Trails System would surely alleviate that concern and help residents trust that the state and federal governments are as interested as they are in improving access to the river.

Please let Robert Mendoza, Director of Public Works, [RobertMendoza@derbyweb.com](mailto:RobertMendoza@derbyweb.com), or me know if we may be of further assistance with this important project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen B. Sexton', is written over the typed name.

Kathleen B. Sexton  
City Manager

**City of Derby**  
**City Manager's Office**

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