

KIWANIS PARK AND
VON STEUBEN RIVEREDGE

Kiwanis Park and Von Steuben Riveredge provide an excellent model of good riverside habitat and show how the public can be provided with safe access to enjoy the river. Unlike most areas, where the river resides in a steep, inaccessible channel, here the land is sloped more gently. Behind Von Steuben High School, there's a recreational path that descends gradually to a couple of terraced steps down to the river. The steps provide a place where a kayak can launch or land, though low water levels can make it difficult. In 2002, the area around the river banks was regraded and planted with native grasses and wildflowers like little bluestem, nodding wild rye and vervain. Ornamental beds contain roses, daylilies and purple coneflower.

A foot bridge crosses the river here, and on the downstream side of the river, riffles are present. The shallow water runs more rapidly here than elsewhere, which aerates the water. The shallow depth provides a place where herons can fish.

Solar-powered lamps atop tall poles light the river path at night.

Students at Von Steuben High School collect water samples for science classes and provide stewardship, making the presence of the natural river's edge an educational asset.



Kiwanis Park and Von Steuben Riveredge



ADDRESS 5039 N Kimball Ave
 OWNER Chicago Park District,
 Chicago Public Schools
 ACREAGE 0.74

HABITATS
 1 2 Riparian / Water Edge

DIRECTIONS Off Kimball, turn east on Carmen into the parking lot. Walk east or south to the river.

