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## ROCK RIVER TRAIL INITIATIVE

### *Imagine...*

... canoeing hundreds of miles of meandering streams and rivers ... biking glacier-sculpted landscapes of prairie-covered sand dunes and towering limestone dells ... learning about the Adena and Hopewell mound builders and the lost sites of Woodland Indian villages ... bird watching at the internationally recognized wetland and bird sanctuary at the Horicon Marsh ... marveling at Waupun's End of the Trail sculpture and sculpture park ... gathering along the award-winning riverfront in Beloit for music and recreation ... driving through rich farm country and small towns ... enjoying cultural events in the vibrant urban center of Rockford ... bringing art and agriculture together at The Fields Project in Oregon ... hiking to the Black Hawk Monument, Lorado Taft's tribute to Native American cultures ... camping along the river among the glacial drumlins of Dodge County ... visiting Grand Detour's blacksmith shop of John Deere's pioneering steel plow ... retracing the early steps of Abraham Lincoln and Ronald Reagan.

### *The Visions ...*

A beautiful Rock River recreation trail that meanders down a gentle gradient to carry the water traveler and recreational enthusiast alike over 300 miles, from headwaters in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin, to the mighty Mississippi River at the Quad Cities of Illinois and Iowa.

A Rock River scenic trail along public highways through the river corridor to convey the motorist, cyclist and pedestrian to the scenic natural beauty of the Rock River basin and to connect with other scenic trails including the Grand Illinois Trail and Hennepin Canal State Trail in Illinois and the Glacial Drumlin State Trail and Ice Age National Scenic Trail in Wisconsin.

The heritage of human development along the river corridor memorialized in a Rock River historic trail, enticing the traveler to pause, learn and reflect on the rich panorama of human history in the river valley. From the aboriginal peoples, explorers and early settlers to the industrialists, agriculturalists, statesmen and visionaries of more recent times, unique and significant contributions to the evolution of America have originated in the Rock River valley.

A commonality of interests and respect for the Rock River, conservation of natural resources in the river corridor and wise application of human talents will lead to revitalization of river communities and sustainable economic development for the benefit of present and future generations.

