



RIVER BEND PARK CANOE & KAYAK LAUNCH

Project Purpose

River Bend Park was acquired in 1992 by Kent Parks & Recreation to provide outdoor recreation and public access to the Cuyahoga River north of the Main Street Bridge. The original Master Plan for the Park is outdated and in need of improvement. The Concept Plan for the Park is being updated and presented for public comments and input into the updated concept plan, design of the improvements, as well as, any additional facilities to be considered in the River Bend Park improvements.

Proposed Concept Plan and Improvements

At the present time there is no public parking or access to the park and river at this location. The addition of a paved access roadway, parking and launching area will enable the public to park their vehicles and have improved access to the park and river for outdoor activities.

In addition, the construction of the access road and ramp will provide safety and emergency services easier access to the park and river if needed. The parking area would include low level security lighting, safety kiosk, and other park enhancements for public enjoyment.



RIVER ACCESS & DAM PORTAGE

Project Purpose

With the completion of the Kent Dam Bypass project, it is difficult to navigate safely around the Dam with channel conditions and during high river flows. Providing access points upstream and downstream of the bridge and Dam will provide the public a safer and easier portage around the Dam.

Proposed Concept Plan and Improvements

The improvements will include a new access “take out” locations upstream and downstream of the Main Street Bridge and Dam. The new access points will be connected to the existing trail and boardwalk with new ramps and stairs.

For boaters portaging around the bridge and Dam, a launching area and new set of upstream stairs and canoe glide will be constructed leading up to the existing trail under the bridge. Further downstream of the Dam a second set of new stairs, canoe glide, and ramp to a launching area will be constructed to the river.

Improvements will be made to the existing wooden boardwalk and steps around the Heritage Park area to facilitate portaging around the Dam. This will include removing the existing railing on three sets of stairs and retrofitting a canoe glide onto the railing. A small section of the wooden boardwalk will be widened and replaced.

