Media Release  
Riverfront Park Extension Web Survey Released

PEORIA – On Wednesday, November 4, 2015 a group of about two dozen citizens brainstormed ideas for elements that could be incorporated into the proposed extension of Riverfront Park. The ideas generated have been turned into a web-based survey that asks respondents to select their favorite ideas in a number of categories as well as offer their own suggestions. The survey can be taken at www.surveymonkey.com/r/riverfrontparkinput or can be found at www.peoriagov.org/riverfrontpark. Paper copies of the survey are also available by contacting the City Manager’s Office at (309) 494-8524.

The City is hosting an additional in-person public input session on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. in the ballroom of the Gateway Building (200 NE Water Street). This meeting is organized in the same way as Wednesday’s meeting. Citizens only need to attend one of the two meetings but are welcome to attend both.

The City has identified approximately 8 acres of property immediately adjacent to Riverfront Park that will serve as an extension of the park. The proposed new park, a combination of private property and currently unimproved public property, will add an additional 750 linear feet of access to the Illinois River. It will also ensure public ownership of the entire river front from I-74 to Detweiller Marina.

As part of the River Trail project, the City needs to acquire property to convert into recreational open space in order to compensate for the loss of parkland to the development. The City will need the approval of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and National Park Service (NPS) in order to finalize the land swap. A key step in obtaining that approval is submitting a concept plan for how this newly acquired property will be improved into a park. While creating an improvement plan is a critical activity, the City is pursuing the other steps in obtaining the proper approvals that will allow the River Trail project to proceed. The City will host at least one public hearing, separate from the public input sessions, which will allow citizens the opportunity to support, oppose or otherwise comment on the entire conversion. That date has not yet been set.

Questions can be directed to Christopher Setti, Assistant City Manager, at (309) 494-8618 or csetti@peoriagov.org.