



# KANKAKEE RIVER BASIN COMMISSION

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## Drainage in the Kankakee

The Kankakee River in northern Indiana is a man made river dredged in the early 1900's to create farmland which today generates more than \$300,000,000 annually in agricultural production. Because of the flatness of the 1.9 million acre Basin, drainage is extremely important to the continuing production values. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimate that least 450,000 acres of land is directly threatened by the deterioration of man made drainage. Flooding is serious with spring rains and snow melt contributing to flooding potential. Spoil bank levees serve as the chief means of flood protection while tributary ditches provide most of the drainage for the surrounding agricultural lands. Sedimentation buildup in the existing channel, log jams, and eroding banks contribute to poor drainage and flooding.

When the 240 mile long Kankakee was dredged into a 90 mile channel, each of seven counties along the Kankakee River was given drainage authority to maintain the river condition.

The Kankakee River Basin Commission (KRBC) was created by the Indiana General Assembly in 1977 to coordinate water resource management in the Kankakee Basin. The Commission is a 24 member board consisting of an appointed representative of the County Commissioners, a supervisor of the County Soil and Water Conservation District Board, and the County Surveyor or his employed designee from each of the eight main counties in the basin (Jasper, Lake, LaPorte, Marshall, Newton, Porter, St. Joseph and Starke Counties). The KRBC works with each of the 8 counties and with the Indiana General Assembly to provide funding for river maintenance of the Kankakee River. Recreation needs free flowing streams; the economy of the Kankakee Basin needs free flowing streams even more.

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