A SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR OF
OUR CAMPUS & GARDENS
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Riverside is a reflection of our community in every respect.

Yes, we do enjoy the East Tower’s beautiful reflection in the peaceful waters of the Kankakee River from our scenic location. More importantly, though, our community has shaped the past, present, and future of Riverside Healthcare. Our modern day health system reflects:

- The original vision of community leaders to fundraise for the opening of Riverside in 1964
- The generous investment of donors and volunteers towards compassionate programs, advanced technology, and scholarships
- The compassionate, sacrifice of physicians, nurses, and team members for patients and families
- The unwavering commitment to continue growing the best care close to home

As a non-profit, mission-driven, community hospital, countless individuals and organizations have contributed and continue to contribute to Riverside HealthCare’s success. Many of those stories are told throughout our campus gardens, trails, and courtyards. We hope you enjoy your walk as a source of inspiration, a moment of meditation, and a celebration of community.

To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow. Riverside HealthCare not only believes in the future and health of this community; we offer our highest thinking, kindest touch, and strongest commitment to excellence towards that tomorrow.

Welcome to Riverside’s campus!

Sincerely,

PHILLIP M. KAMBIC  
President and CEO
Welcome to Riverside Healthcare. Over the years, Riverside has created spaces designed to assist with outdoor exercise, recreation and reflection. We invite you to take a walk through this self-guided tour of our campus trails, gardens, and points of interest.

Pathways loop around our entire Kankakee campus through Riverside’s Reflection Garden (adjacent to the East Tower), along the Kankakee River, behind the north parking garage, and across the Highway 113 crosswalk to the Brandenburg Trail portion of the pathway. Riverside’s paths also connect to the greater Kankakee Valley River Trail system.

Use the map to explore at your leisure.

“Walking is a man’s best medicine.”
- HIPPOCRATES
The Brandenburg Garden was created in 2016 to honor and remember William F. Brandenburg. Mr. Brandenburg was irrefutably a pioneer as evidenced by the following achievements: one of the first licensed pilots in the area, an entrepreneur in financial services, a charter member of the Kankakee Chamber of Commerce, and the largest donor in the first fundraising drive for Riverside. No matter where he led the way, the community of Kankakee was his common interest. In addition to monetary support of Riverside, Mr. Brandenburg also contributed his time and energy as a member of the Foundation Board, Finance Committee, and Major Gifts Committee.

In July 1973, a former surgery site was converted and expanded to an Emergency Room with large canopied entrance. The Board of Trustees named the hospital’s emergency room, for a time, as the William F. Brandenburg Emergency Department. Brandenburg was Riverside’s first Samaritan of the Year in 1974. Since his passing in 1975, William Brandenburg’s philanthropic legacy lives on through his generous estate plans. The Brandenburg Trust has provided annual gifts to local charities, including more than $1 million to Riverside.

The garden is a resting point along the larger Brandenburg Trail stretching around the West side of the hospital campus and is part of a looped walking path that also connects to the Kankakee Riverfront Biking and Walking Trail. Sponsors dedicate trees and pavers along the pathway in celebration, honor, or memory of friends of Riverside.
As Riverside celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2014, the Riverside Healthcare Board of Directors unveiled the Emeritus Garden representing a tangible and lasting monument to recognize the boundless support of our Emeritus Board members. The Board proclaimed twenty-two inaugural Board Emeritus members on December 9, 2013. Then, on May 13, 2014 they held a ceremony to dedicate this space. Connie Ashline, Board Chair for all three of Riverside’s CEOs, lit the eternal flame.

The courtyard’s central feature was custom built in partnership with Glade Plumbing, Grieff’s Monuments, Process Electric, and Tholens’ Landscape & Garden Center. It pairs an eternal flame, to represent the enduring power of volunteers’ passion for quality healthcare, with a fountain, to represent the life-giving flow of their generosity. Each brick surrounding the centerpiece honors a qualifying, retired board member with fifteen years of service or more.

As you venture back inside the Pavilion Lobby, look for the healing hands sculpture, “Communion,” which was created by Gary Lee Price. Recipients of Riverside’s highest honor, the Lifetime Achievement Award, receive a desktop version of this sculpture.
Riverside dedicated the Heart Garden on July 19, 2018 in celebration of the community’s remarkable giving to Riverside Heart & Vascular Institute through the 2017-2018 Lead with Your Heart Campaign.

Riverside dedicated the Millirons Garden in 2018 in honor of Dennis C. Milliron, its second President and CEO. His 12-year tenure (1994-2006) was marked with transformative growth for Riverside including the development of the area’s first and only open-heart surgery program. It is fitting that this Garden bear his name.

The “Lead With Your Heart” phrase calls attention to both the generous heart of community donors and Riverside’s daily mission to provide the highest quality, most compassionate care.

Donors to the campaign contributed over $2.5 million towards Heart Institute projects, including advanced technology, innovative procedures, and cardiac education for both clinicians and community.

The central sculpture, “Sacred Heart Double Ribbon Mobius,” was created by sculptor John Searles to honor supporters collectively. Donors of $25,000 and above are recognized by name in this garden, and donors of $5,000 and greater are recognized just inside the Charlton Lobby.
GAZEBO (1): When the Reflection Garden first opened in 2011, the gazebo was generously donated by Connie Busse Ashline, the only board chair to serve with all three CEOs at Riverside. The centerpiece of the Reflection Garden, the gazebo stands 16 feet tall with a double roof and built-in benches made from cedar. The shelter is dedicated as a place of respite for medical staff, employees, and volunteers as well as patients and families.

VETERANS WALL (2): This special area was dedicated at a Memorial Day service on May 23, 2012 to honor men and women of the Armed Forces. At the request of the Honorable Richard J. Durbin, United States Senator, the flag used in the dedication that day flew over the United States Capitol on January 22, 2011 in honor of the 46th anniversary of Riverside Medical Center. Colonel James Kasler delivered the dedication speech as Board Member and a decorated P.O.W. The patriotic bald eagle statue nearby was added by Riverside specifically to honor the late Kasler and broadly, all those serving our country. Emergency Physicians Medical Group sponsored both the Veterans Wall and the second water feature along the garden’s pathway.
CENTER WATER FEATURE (3): Jean Thomas, Trudy Dickinson, Judy and Ron Golembiewski sponsored this fountain in the spirit of community giving that founded Riverside 50 years ago.

“GIRL ON A SWING” (4): This art piece was dedicated to the women of the Riverside Auxiliary as the group sunset in May 2012. Over 50 years of building community support for Riverside, the Auxiliary provided $3.5 million towards hospital initiatives and programs.

“TO BE HELD” (5): Bruce Niemi created this custom statue which was given in honor of Phillip M. Kambic, Riverside President and CEO, by his Vistage CEO group for his leadership of Riverside’s East Tower expansion. It honors his dedication, work and lasting impact to the region.

PHYSICIAN WALL (6): This special wall along the garden’s walkway recognizes physicians. Blocks may be purchased by physicians to show their support for Riverside or by grateful patients to honor the skilled and compassionate care they received from physicians.

LIGHTKEEPERS STATUE (7): Riverside commissioned sculptor Bruce Niemi a second time to create this abstract, custom piece. The form mimics a lighthouse, a symbol of the hope and healing Riverside offers for patients in the community. The sculpture was dedicated May 12, 2016 to recognize Riverside Lightkeepers Circle members who have included Riverside in their estate plans.

GARDEN ARMILLARY (8): Riverside commissioned this armillary piece in celebration of Jean V. Thomas in the spring of 2019. The armillary is a symbol of science and a model of celestial objects. It reminds us of Jean who made her mark on our community as a female leader in science, the co-founder of PENTEX Corporation. Beyond her professional accomplishments, Jean gave generously to countless community causes and was named a Riverside’s Samaritan of the Year in 2008 for her remarkable service and giving.
In 2011, Riverside partnered with Ambius to plant a 62,000-square-foot Vegetative Living Green Roof on a section of the East Tower. This innovative garden saves up to 20 percent on heating and cooling costs, reduces CO₂ emissions, and prevents run off pollution. Beyond environmental stewardship, the greenery creates a bright, serene atmosphere for patients, families, and employees. Research indicates that views of nature can play an important role in health and healing for patients.
Riverside created the Healing Garden in 2003 to represent our commitment to caring for the whole person: body, mind, soul, and spirit. This courtyard adjacent to our central waiting area boasts several features of interest including:

“GENESIS” (1): This sculpture was created by Richard Hunt and dedicated to Celia Berz on April 27, 1987 by husband Joseph Berz, chairman of Riverside Medical Center Foundation. The creator, Richard Hunt, noted that “The overall circular form of it represents continuity in creation.” Hunt, a Chicago-based sculptor, has installations in 100 public spaces around the country including a 2002 sculpture called “Flight Forms” located outside Midway International Airport. His pieces are also found in museums in Austria, Israel, France and Germany.

“LEGACY TREE” (2): This tree preceded the building of the hospital. The first CEO, Robert Miller, and his family share memories early in the hospital’s history of pushing the lawn mower through the hospital to mow around the tree and garden courtyard.

“SERENITY” (3): This piece was created by professional sculptor, W. Stanley “Sandy” Proctor. Proctor was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2006 in recognition of his national reputation and work. He is best known for monumental and portrait bronzes.

Down the hall from the Spiritual Healing Garden, the All Faiths Chapel provides a peaceful space for patients, visitors, and employees to meditate and pray.
In June 2003, Riverside broke ground for the Betty Burch Bridgewater Center for Radiation Therapy. Dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Bridgewater, the Center was funded in part by a gift from the Bridgewater family—the largest single gift in Riverside's history. In 2013, Jim Bridgewater, Sr. made a second gift to expand radiation therapy services. At the open house celebration that September, his business partners surprised Bridgewater with a new garden directly behind the center.

The Bridgewater Healing Garden was a tribute gift to Jim's legacy of giving to cancer care. Inside, Riverside Cancer Institute has expanded to unite both medical oncology and radiation therapy under one roof. Floor to ceiling windows in the patient treatment bays overlook the peaceful garden and fountain elements. Outside, pavers in the walkway may be sponsored in honor of a special person. Trees, benches, and water features are also available for personalization.

In 2013, Riverside broke ground on the 78,000-square-foot Bourbonnais Assisted Living and Memory Care. It opened in summer of 2014 to fill the region's need for a safe and secure environment for seniors over the age of 55 with daily living assistance needs and/or memory related disorders.
While indoor spaces are thoughtfully designed for safety, independence, and engagement, a variety of unique courtyard gardens extend those aesthetics outside.

ARETI GARDEN: The Areti Courtyard honors Areti Staudohar, former Executive Director of Riverside Senior Life Communities. The fountain, purple ribbon sculpture by Jon Allen, and purple blooms pay tribute to Alzheimer’s Care, a cause to which Areti dedicated her life.

MUSIC GARDEN: Woven among walkways, landscaping, and benches, this garden includes interactive musical stations ranging from drums to xylophones. Residents reap the health benefits of movement and fine motor skills while stimulating the creative mind. This space also creates opportunities for intergenerational activities for residents to enjoy with visiting families and grandkids.

VETERANS COURTYARD: A lighted American flag anchors this courtyard along with a service flag for each branch of the military. Around the courtyard sidewalk, a local Eagle scout built plaques honoring residents who served in each branch. The space is a sister site to the Reflection Garden’s Veterans Wall, which is designated to honor our military veterans.

A public, looped walking path surrounds the campuses mentioned and encompasses Riverside’s Medical Plaza and Health Fitness Center.
Riverside Senior Living Center was established in 1989 when a ten-acre parcel of land was approved for development of independent living for senior adults. During the 1990s, Riverside added Miller Rehabilitation Center, assisted living apartments, and even independent estate homes.

Outdoor spaces are key in cultivating the patient centered, uplifting environment for over 250 residents at Riverside Senior Life Communities in Kankakee. The Kankakee Senior Life campus walking path loops around a central pond feature with picnic areas and benches along the way.

At the northwest end of the path, guests can visit Sharon’s Garden, a courtyard inside Miller Rehabilitation Center. In 1994, Miller Healthcare was dedicated in honor of Bob Miller, Riverside’s founding President and CEO. This courtyard was named for Sharon Corzine-Sills who joined Miller to become the second employee in Riverside’s history. Following the dedication of this facility and courtyard, Sharon continued to serve its second president and CEO, Dennis Milliron, until her retirement in 2001.

INDEPENDENT LIVING 100 Westwood Oaks Court, Kankakee, IL 60901
ASSISTED LIVING & MEMORY CARE 1485 Butterfield Trail, Kankakee, IL 60901
MILLER REHABILITATION 1601 Butterfield Trail, Kankakee, IL 60901
Are you personally interested in sponsoring a garden feature? Pavers, benches, sculptures, and more are available for sponsorship and recognition across many of our garden areas.

Sponsorship options start from $150 and greater.

Visit www.riversidehealthcare.org/gardens or call the Foundation at 815-933-7799 to discuss your interest or to receive information by mail.

“Plant your gift, grow our garden.”