



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Reclaiming a Community Treasure in North Adams

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The Hoosic River Revival, an organization dedicated to the restoration of the Hoosic River in North Adams, is honored to announce that Joanna Gabler, a well-known Berkshire County artist has invited the River Revival to share North Adams Downstreet Art exhibit space with her starting July 30.

Ms. Gabler, whose primary subject area is the Hoosic River, manipulates her photographs of the Hoosic River into strikingly beautiful mandala-like creations. They will be displayed in the large open spaces in Gallery C, on the corner of Main and Marshall Street. In explaining why she invited the River Revival, Ms. Gabler noted: *"I have been impressed with the River Revival's work since its beginning in 2008, and now that their dream for a revitalized, accessible river is at the design stage, I decided it would be interesting and exciting to share their plans for the Hoosic along with my photographs of the same river"*.

The River Revival exhibit in Gallery C is titled "Our River: Discovering our Past/Imagining our Future". With a large map of the downtown in 1942 as a reference, participants will be able to pin point locations of favorite stores, or their homes, or where their grandparents lived. "The Future" will feature the design of the River Revival's pilot project on the South Branch of the Hoosic River along Noel Field. In the new design, the river will meander within the athletic fields, which have been slightly reconfigured to embrace the river so that on the inside of the meander, people will be able to get into the river or they might use the sand bar as a landing point for paddling up or down river. River Revival members will answer questions and provide visual examples of other successful river restoration projects.

Judith Grinnell, President of the Hoosic River Revival, noted that the River Revival exhibit was largely the creation of Ellie Wachtel, a student intern from Williams College who has done extensive research on the history of the River, its relationship to the city, and the goals of the River Revival to transform the river from an eyesore into an asset. She was aided by Annie Valk and Lauren Abman, both of whom are employed by Williams.

The Hoosic River Revival's pilot project design and the Joanna Gabler photographs will be on display in North Adams at Gallery C, corner of Main and Marshall Streets, Wednesdays – Sundays from July 30 through August 23, 2015. #