

# GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

AN INTERPRETIVE PLAN FOR SAINT PAUL'S  
MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARKLANDS

*February 2015*



Where men have lived there is a story to be told, and it depends chiefly on the story-teller or historian whether that is interesting or not.

—Henry David Thoreau, 1860

**Submitted by:**

106 Group  
370 Selby Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55102

*All images courtesy of the project team unless otherwise noted.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Great River Passage (GRP) Interpretive Plan is one of the first implementations of the City of Saint Paul’s GRP Master Plan. This Interpretive Plan builds on the Master Plan to provide recommendations for interpreting the historical, natural, and cultural resources along the passage.

## Client Project Team

Mike Kimble, City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department  
 Don Ganje, City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department

### Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

Lucy Thompson, City of Saint Paul, Planning and Economic Development Department  
 John Anfinson, National Park Service, Mississippi National River & Recreation Area  
 Anne Hunt, City of Saint Paul, Mayor’s Office  
 Robert Ferguson, Historic Preservation Commission  
 Tim Griffin, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation  
 Patrick Seeb, Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation  
 Larry Peterson, Fort Snelling State Park

## Consultant Team

Anne Ketz, 106 Group, Principal-in-Charge  
 Regine Kennedy, 106 Group, Primary Author and Project Manager  
 Brooke Dirtzu, 106 Group, Outreach Coordinator  
 Sonja Rostad, Graphic Designer  
 Marika Proctor, 106 Group, Assistant Outreach Coordinator  
 Jack Becker, Forecast Public Art  
 Bob Lunning, Forecast Public Art  
 Jeff McMenimen, Hoisington Koegler Group Inc.  
 Sarah Evenson, Hoisington Koegler Group Inc

## Funding

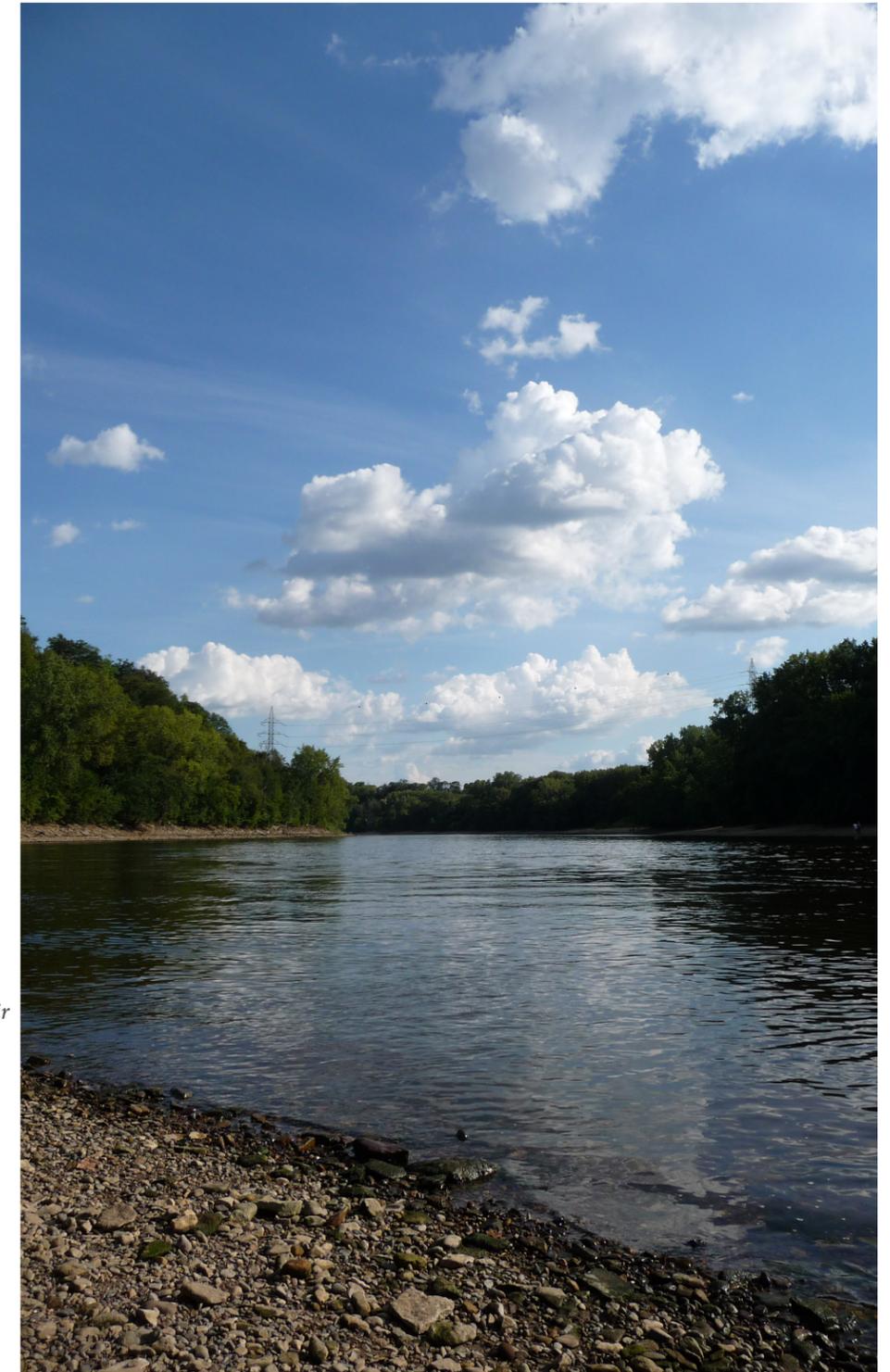
Made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



## Workshop Participants

The following people from across Saint Paul attended the interpretive planning workshops and contributed to the development of this plan. We are grateful for their participation and valuable input.

- |                          |                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Adele Binning</i>     | <i>Peg Guilfoyle</i>     | <i>Barb Rose</i>                      |
| <i>Philip Blackburn</i>  | <i>Soozin Hirschmugl</i> | <i>Drew Rosa</i>                      |
| <i>Gina Bonsignore</i>   | <i>Autumn Hubbell</i>    | <i>Lenny Russo</i>                    |
| <i>Greg Brick</i>        | <i>Seitu Jones</i>       | <i>Iyekiyapiwin Darlene St. Clair</i> |
| <i>Dawne Brown White</i> | <i>Libby Kautner</i>     | <i>Tracy Sides</i>                    |
| <i>Gary Brueggemann</i>  | <i>Betsy Leach</i>       | <i>Mona Smith</i>                     |
| <i>Kelsey Carlson</i>    | <i>Pat Lindgren</i>      | <i>Emily Stover</i>                   |
| <i>Kathy Carruth</i>     | <i>John Marboe</i>       | <i>Rich Straumann</i>                 |
| <i>Sarah Davis</i>       | <i>Liz McMann</i>        | <i>Denny Thompson</i>                 |
| <i>Mark Doneux</i>       | <i>Tonya Nicholie</i>    | <i>Mason Wells</i>                    |
| <i>Bill Dossett</i>      | <i>Kent Petterson</i>    | <i>Ann White Eagle</i>                |
| <i>Dan Dressler</i>      | <i>Lynn Randazzo</i>     | <i>John Yust</i>                      |
| <i>Shirley Erstad</i>    | <i>Jon Reynolds</i>      |                                       |
| <i>Hector Garcia</i>     | <i>Kevin Roggenbuck</i>  |                                       |



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Great River Passage (GRP or Passage) Interpretive Plan builds on Section 5.4 History and Culture and Chapter 6 (interpretive opportunities by reach) of the GRP Master Plan, approved by the Saint Paul City Council on April 10, 2014. This project aligns with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department's mission statement:

To help make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places, and a vital environment.

The recommendations for interpreting the historical, natural, and cultural resources along the Passage are linked to specific sites and resources and align with the principles presented in the GRP Master Plan of “more natural, more urban, more connected.”

This interpretive plan is the result of an in-depth planning process.

- It provides a vision for interpretation of a place and identifies interpretive goals.
- It recommends the most effective, efficient, and practical ways to address those goals.
- It guides the design and development of interpretive elements and is a resource for site and exhibit development, partnership building, and fundraising.
- It structures how to communicate to an audience through appropriate and meaningful experiences.
- It organizes content into relevant and engaging messages and recommends exciting ways for visitors to experience this content.

## Interpretive Planning Process

The GRP Master Plan identified the mission as well as interpretive principles and goals for the Passage (page 80). Interpretation is a key driver in creating a “more connected” river corridor and the GRP Master Plan “seeks to integrate history, culture, and art into all aspects of the Great River Passage.” The master planning process resulted in identifying ten topics to guide the development of interpretation along the GRP. The interpretive planning process used those topics to guide stakeholder identification for workshop participation. Three workshops and subsequent outreach activities resulted in an interpretive theme and supporting subthemes that thematically connect the stories, resources, and sites along the Passage.

Following the workshops, the consultant team, with representatives from the client team and the TAC, toured the site and accessed key locations along the Passage. Prior to the site visit, each site was linked to a specific interpretive topic and key stories. While on-site, the team identified the best place to convey the interpretive message, identified the appropriate interpretive message(s), assessed media options for the story and site, assessed the site for access, and documented the site. Subsequent meetings among the project team and outreach with key stakeholders informed the development of the interpretive recommendations.

## Existing Conditions

The GRP, part of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation park system, is a corridor along Saint Paul’s Mississippi riverfront comprising 17 miles of running river and 26 miles of river frontage. The Passage includes the river as well as more than 3,500 acres of parkland. In addition to parkland, the Passage includes bluffs, lakes, and wetlands as well as active commercial sites and neighborhoods. Rather than viewing these resources as individual parks and sites, the GRP Master Plan envisions a transformation of this valuable collection of parks, natural resources, cultural amenities and neighborhoods, and sites into a single entity—the Great River Passage.

The GRP reflects many changes that have taken place here over time. Some changes have occurred because of the dynamic Mississippi River and the gorge, valley, and wetlands created by its constant flow. Other changes are manmade. Historically, Saint Paul was the northernmost port along the river with active trading and navigation ports. River traffic defined some of the city’s industry, but other industries relied on resources found further away from the river. Still, the river connected Saint Paul to the rest of the country and the world. Today, the Passage continues to connect—people with nature and with each other.

The Passage is a regionally and nationally significant area and landscape with several local, regional, and national interests that overlay the GRP area, in total or in part.

- Mississippi River National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park Service
- Saint Paul Scenic Byway
- Mississippi River Critical Area
- Saint Paul Grand Round
- Great River Road
- Mississippi River Trail

Other development and planning initiatives, through various City departments, including Parks and Recreation, Planning and Economic Development, and Public Works, potentially affect portions of the GRP. Following are known development initiatives and studies currently underway; others may begin at any time along this popular and dynamic corridor.

- Ford site in Highland Park
- Shepard Road
- Victoria Park
- Kellogg Boulevard
- Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary
- Lilydale Regional Park Fossil Beds
- West Side Flats

## DEMOGRAPHICS/VISITORS

The GRP Master Plan identifies Passage user groups: Core Users and Active Users. This Interpretive Plan focuses on the visitor experience of these users groups. Visitor analysis at a future stage is recommended to establish baseline information about the user groups, set goals for visitorship, assess the visitor experience, and inform plans for improvement along the Passage. Information gathering and subsequent analysis will require strategic planning due to the porous borders of the Passage and the open setting.

"Core Users" represent the most frequent and passionate of Great River Passage users. Some live on the river and others travel in from other suburban cities. However, they all likely participate in one or more lifestyle groups that focus on river assets (e.g., trails) and attractions (e.g., wildlife).

"Active Users." These are occasional users who have personally registered for park activities (e.g., a picnic), but may not see the Great River Passage as an integral part of their lives.

At this time, the secondary audience is comprised of residents from the seven-county metro area.

## Key Messages

The interpretive framework was developed during the GRP Master Plan planning process and recorded in the plan in section 5.4 (pages 77 – 83). The framework established an interpretive approach aimed at integrating history and culture into all aspects of GRP development.

A theme is the key message of all interpretation at a site. It may or may not appear in writing, exhibits, and programming, but all interpretive efforts should fall within the scope of the interpretive theme. A theme provides organizational structure and clarity to the main message that visitors encounter when they visit a site. After experiencing a site, visitors should be able to summarize the main point of interpretation in one sentence—this is the interpretive theme. The theme conveys one central message and applies to all interpretive elements throughout the site, and supporting subthemes provide organization to further guide interpretation for the site.

The GRP Master Plan established the interpretive theme:  
*The Mississippi River has influenced the development and sustained cultures of Saint Paul throughout time.*

Subthemes emerged during the Interpretive Planning workshops. These subthemes take the essence of the interpretive topics from the GRP Master Plan and craft them to convey meaningful stories about the GRP.

## CHANGE OVER TIME

The Great River Passage has witnessed many changes in relationships among cultures and attitudes toward nature over time. Some changes, like the seasons, are cyclical, but others, like the river experience, people's relationship to nature, and the people who live in the neighborhoods bordering the river, reflect influences from local and distant forces.

## A SPECIAL PLACE FOR MANY PEOPLE

Traveling along the Great River Passage, you will encounter sites of historical and contemporary importance to diverse cultures. American Indians lived here for centuries before Europeans arrived, and today, the Great River Passage welcomes cultures from all over the world.

## URBAN WILDERNESS

The Great River Passage, with the Mississippi River at its heart, is a dynamic landscape—at once urban and natural. From bustling downtown to quiet, wooded trails, the Great River Passage provides a variety of landscapes, vistas, and experiences.

## MORE CONNECTED

The Great River Passage connects people to nature and to each other. Along 17 miles of riverfront, trails connect neighborhoods to the river, streams define settlement patterns that linked people to the city, and events and activities continue to connect people to the Mississippi River.

## DAKOTA LANDSCAPE

Dakota is written on the Minnesota (Mnisota) landscape. Significant sites along the Great River Passage continue to be honored by Dakota people.

## RIVER OF INDUSTRY

For more than a century, the Mississippi River has been a working river. Along the Great River Passage, remnants of the river's industrial past are evident even as contemporary commercial use continues along this national waterway.

## Interpretive Recommendations

This Interpretive Plan builds on the GRP Master Plan, which identifies locations and suggests interpretive topics by locations. The interpretive recommendations described here expand on those suggestions. The GRP is more than a collection of vistas, trails, historical sites, and educational moments—it is also a segment of a 2,340-mile waterway that has shaped land, ecosystems, and human cultures over thousands of years and up to the present day. These recommendations are envisioned to raise awareness of the GRP's past and present environment, the events that have shaped the corridor, and in turn, the world that it has shaped.

The interpretive recommendations were developed to create stronger and better connections along the GRP—connections between people and Passage resources and stories, connections among people, and connections between GRP locations. Whenever an interpretive recommendation is implemented, the City should encourage efforts that honor all the languages that have evolved along the corridor to reinforce the GRP's desire to serve all kinds of audiences. Implementation should also bring best practices in placemaking to every project and consider the types of experiences people desire. Interpretation should always celebrate what makes a place special. Because of the diversity of landscapes found within the GRP and the guiding words, "more natural, more urban, more connected," interpretive elements should give attention to views of the city and evidence of its industrial past as well as to natural settings.

Interpretation is a communication process—among people and between people and a site's resources, that conveys a site's cultural, historical, and natural significance. Interpretation uses experiences with objects and artifacts, landscapes and vistas, sites and exhibits, and people and programs to reveal meaningful stories and foster stewardship.

## GRP INTERPRETIVE FACILITIES

Gathering and Interpretive Center at Warner Road

The GRP Master Plan suggested collaborative use of the DNR facilities on Warner Road, the Minnesota State Parks Office building, as a gathering place for Passage access, education, and administration. This Interpretive Plan builds on that, recommending a GRP Gathering and Interpretive Center where visitors can meet for guided tours, whether hiking, biking, or by vehicle, and explore interpretive exhibits that introduce them to the GRP and its resources.

## WELCOME CENTER AT KELLOGG BOULEVARD

For many tourists as well as people who work in downtown Saint Paul, the GRP is first experienced along Kellogg Boulevard’s Kellogg Mall Park. As redevelopment along Kellogg Boulevard progresses, a GRP Welcome Center should be created to provide an introduction to the GRP and its resources. The Welcome Center could be a small, stand-alone structure, a kiosk, or a space within a riverside building (similar to the NPS MNRRA Mississippi River Visitor Center in the Science Museum of Minnesota).

## WEBSITE & MOBILE WEBSITE

A website would provide GRP visitors with information about what they will see or experience along the Passage, including an overview of resources, thematic trail routes, and interpretive information. The website could also provide links to other relevant websites along the Passage.

A mobile website is a website specially designed to display appropriately on smartphone and tablet screens, enabling visitors to access interpretive information on their personal devices. The content displayed on a mobile website is often streamlined from that which is displayed on a larger format website. An Internet connection, through either cellular data or on-site Wi-Fi, is required to enable visitors to access content. Like the regular website, a mobile website should include an interactive site map to enable visitors to access interpretive information at different parts of the Passage. Many people visit or experience the GRP in groups and the information accessed on a mobile website could be designed to encourage discussions as well as further exploration of the Passage.

## OVERLOOKS

Overlooks are the quintessential interpretive element along the Passage. The dramatic vistas from bluff-top locations and the broad, expansive views of the valley along the Mississippi River shoreline provide visitors numerous opportunities to experience the GRP.

Three types of overlooks are recommended: *gathering place, vista, and lookout*.

- Gathering place-style overlooks are the larger overlooks are ideal for groups of visitors. Whether for performances, special events, or guided experiences, these areas encourage people to gather along the Passage.
- Vista-style overlooks provide space for comfort and practical amenities along the Passage. These overlooks will provide interpretive and orientation information to encourage visitors to explore more of the GRP.
- Lookout-style overlooks are encountered while people are hiking or biking along one of the GRP trails. Not intended as destinations, these overlooks will be rewarding surprises for visitors who happen upon them and will enhance the visitor experience.

## DESIGN TOOLBOX

The design and configuration of each overlook will vary depending on its particular site constraints and programming needs. Design toolbox components are organized into unifying elements, signature elements, and landmark features. Options within each category support programming opportunities at each overlook site. Each overlook will have a distinct GRP look and feel in the selection of materials and components, yet each will have a unique identity that links it to its place along the Passage.

- Unifying Elements are used across the Passage to support the look, feel, and personality of the Passage as being a collection of places that are more natural, more urban, more connected. Unifying elements include plant materials, site furnishings and amenities and should be consistent throughout the corridor. A standard bench, bollard, trash receptacle, bike rack, and viewing scope are part of this set. These elements will appear frequently throughout the GRP. These elements expand on signage and wayfinding components presented in the GRP Master Plan, section 7.3.
- Signature Elements take seemingly ordinary components and re-imagine them as design opportunities to celebrate the GRP. These components add panache to the design and distinction of a place. These elements could be partially or completely custom-made and should help attract visitors, provide comfortable and enticing spaces for gathering or rest, and add an extra level of interpretation. Each of the overlooks should utilize at least one signature element to create distinctive and inviting environments along the length of the GRP.
- Landmark Features are place-specific and respond to both the landscape and programming needs. They are transformative landscape elements that turn overlooks into destinations. Intended to create beloved and memorable places, landmark features should draw interest from nearby residents and visitors alike.

## WAYSIDES EXHIBITS

Wayside exhibits are a location-specific media. Designed to provide orientation, interpretation, or both, waysides must relate to the location or view to be most effective.

- Kiosks build on the GRP Sign System matrix (see GRP Master Plan, page 175), the kiosks along the GRP should be located at key locations in regional parks where parking and trailheads converge. These four-sided structures feature two orientation panels, which show a GRP corridor map and a site-specific map of the vicinity, and two interpretive panels, which provide site-specific interpretive information.
- Low-profile interpretive panels are used to caption the landscape. Low-profile waysides serve a different purpose from books or magazines in conveying information—they are a graphic-driven medium that relies on bold graphics rather than text.
- Tactile elements give visitors with visual impairments access to ideas and information. They also increase the range of a wayside’s appeal, engage people with differing learning styles, and add emphasis to a story.
- Audio can enhance accessibility and visitor experience. Providing audio description can make waysides accessible to visitors who are blind or have low vision. In addition to audio description, audio may be considered and used for language translation, interpretive narration, or self-guided tours. Audio can be delivered through an on-site audio station or a visitor’s own device, such as a smartphone.

## SELF-GUIDED & GUIDED EXPERIENCES

The GRP is primarily a self-guided experience. Currently, kiosks provide some interpretive information about the history of the Passage, as well as logistical information. To expand self-guided interpretive opportunities, varieties of media are recommended and should be coordinated so visitors have comparable self-guided experiences whether they use printed or downloaded materials, or a mobile app.

Initially, developing guided experiences along the GRP should build on existing guided programs that have been developed and implemented by potential GRP partners, such as the Bdote Field Trip organized by the Minnesota Humanities Center. To engage different GRP audiences, a variety of interpretive programs are recommended for guided experiences. Interpretive programs are regularly scheduled activities such as talks, tours, or workshops that are held frequently—for example, once per week or once per month. Programs would be led by a trained interpreter or guide and developed with a specific theme, and associated goals, objectives, and outcomes in mind. Interpretive programs can be presented in a variety of formats; however, regardless of format, the goal should be visitor inspiration rather than education.

## PUBLIC ART

During the past few decades, the field of public art has greatly expanded, encompassing far more than murals, monuments, and memorials. Artists working in the public realm today are ideally suited to play a vital role—along with interpretive planners, designers, and other professionals—in achieving the goals identified in the GRP Master Plan.

Corridor-wide considerations apply to the entire corridor and are not necessarily place-specific—their focus is on connectivity. In addition to site-specific public art projects and activities that reinforce the context of locations along the Passage, the development and implementation of corridor-wide public art that inspires exploration and provides creative discoveries is recommended. These could be annual events or ritualized ceremonies, summer-long installations using the entire river or its banks, or bold yet transient artistic statements that take advantage of crowds assembled for annual events, such as the Twin Cities Marathon, the Saint Paul Bike Classic, 4th of July, Winter Carnival, etc.

## INTERPRETATION BY LOCATION

The GRP Master Plan identified sites for interpretation and suggested key ideas based on the project team’s on-site research and assessment. As the City implements these interpretive recommendations, it could reserve space for future interpretive art opportunities and balance permanent installations with ephemeral ones. Each location provides an opportunity for integrating the interpretive elements described above.

## GORGE REACH

### Mississippi River Boulevard

- **Historic Meeker Dam**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** and **River of Industry** subthemes.
- *Overlook:* An vista-level overlook would encourage visitors to explore the riverside by bringing them closer to its beauty.
- *Public Art:* Elements along the route to the dam and at the dam site should be both functional and interpretive, reflecting the transitional experience from an urban to a natural setting.

- **Shadow Falls Creek**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **More Connected** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.

- *Overlook:* There are two lookout-style overlooks at this location—one on the south side of the creek valley and one on the north side.
- *Waysides:* Along the paved trail (northern overlook) and adjacent to the parking area (southern overlook), waysides could convey stories year-round.

- **Hartford Avenue**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **A Special Place for Many People** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Overlook:* The two existing overlooks should be improved to align with a lookout overlook style
- *Waysides:* The existing wayside should be updated to adhere to the GRP Guidelines, and a low-profile wayside should be added at the southern overlook.

- **Hidden Falls Regional Park**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **A Special Place for Many People, Change Over Time,** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* For special events, engage artists to create temporary installations using only natural materials along the stream’s path to the river.
- *Overlook:* An improved gathering place-style overlook will preserve and maintain the historical stone wall and create a functional space for performances, and formal and informal gatherings. Infrastructural support (e.g., electricity, water, and lighting) for performances as well as vendors (e.g., food trucks) would help to create a destination gathering place.
- *Waysides:* A four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretive information. A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told through both a graphic panel and audio station.

## VALLEY REACH

### Shepard Road

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Travelers’ awareness as they move along this changing route can be heightened by engaging a team of environmental designers, dance choreographers, theatrical lighting designers, and visual artists to develop a plan for public art that promotes safety, reduces speed, and creates a gateway experience at key locations.
- *Overlooks:* There are four overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP, one existing overlook in need of some improvement and three new, lookout-style overlooks along the Sam H. Morgan Regional Trail.
- *Waysides:* Low-profile waysides along the Sam H. Morgan Trail, one at each overlook, and a low-profile wayside at Fountain Cave.

### Watergate Marina

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Artists could add playful elements to this serviceable, workaday environment of fences, utilitarian structures, and boat slips.
- *Wayside:* A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station.

### Crosby Farm Regional Parks

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time,** **Urban Wilderness,** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Public art can tell the story of what took place at this area, of agriculture and early farming in the region.
- *Waysides:* The existing four-sided kiosk should be updated to adhere to GRP Design Guidelines with revised orientation and interpretive panels. A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both a graphic panel and an audio station. In addition, a series of trailside markers could further convey the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme by providing information about flora and fauna visitors might see along the trails and link this to conservation and stewardship messaging.

**Victoria Park**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** subtheme.
- *Overlook:* A new vista-level overlook by a landscape architect and artistic collaboration.
- *Waysides:* A rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about changes to the river and bluff they see in front of them.

**Lilydale and Cherokee Regional Parks**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time, Dakota Landscape, Urban Wilderness, and A Special Place for Many People** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Public art can play a role in enhancing any built amenities, such as picnic shelters or council rings, and even bathroom facilities. In this setting, fossil imagery should be considered, along with imagery related to the site’s industrial past.
- *Overlook:* There are three overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP, two existing ones in need of improvement and one new, gathering place-style one above the Fossil Beds.
- *Waysides:* At the High Bridge overlook, a rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about changes to the river and downtown—the view seen from this location. At the Parking Lot overlook location, a low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both graphic panels and an audio station. At the Fossil Beds overlook, a four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site.

**Island Station**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Use this site as a multi-platform venue for a variety of art activities, from exhibitions to performance events. Outdoor venues may provide opportunities for temporary sculpture displays with thematic directions reinforcing interpretation goals.

- *Overlook:* A new gathering place-type overlook would provide spectacular views of the valley and downtown. The overlook would be designed to create a functional space for performances and large gatherings.
- *Waysides:* A four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site.

**DOWNTOWN REACH**

**Harriet Island Regional Park**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry, Dakota Landscape, More Connected,** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Cast artifacts, such as items used by bathers and quotes from stories that took place here. Elements could be added at strategic locations that evoke health and healing—sculptural exercise stations, a healing garden or labyrinth at the west end of the island, healthy picnic tips, or an orchard or community garden with artist-designed trellises or hand-painted signage.
- *Overlook:* A low-profile wayside should be added to the existing Levee overlook.
- *Waysides:* A four-sided kiosk near the Wigington Pavilion entrance would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. At the Levee overlook, a rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **More Connected** subtheme by interpreting the view from this location across the river and up Chestnut Street toward the Cathedral of Saint Paul.
- A series of rail-mounted low-profile waysides along the river would interpret the view across the river through the **Change Over Time** subtheme.

**Raspberry Island Regional Park**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape** and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* The site is ideal for a variety of performances telling the Mississippi River’s story in new and inspiring ways. From traditional storytelling to historical narrative theatrical productions, Raspberry Island can tell the river’s history in ways that cannot be done elsewhere.
- *Wayside:* A low-profile wayside, or series of small waysides, would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both graphic panels and audio stations.

**Downtown and Kellogg Boulevard**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **River of Industry** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* As the mall expands through the river balcony concept, existing public art will be built upon through informative and inspiring artistic concepts that encourage exploration of the GRP.
- *Overlook:* There are three overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP. One existing overlook is in need of some minor improvement and two are new, vista-style GRP overlooks.
- *Waysides:* A series of rail-mounted low-profile waysides along the river balcony would interpret the view across the river through the **Change Over Time** subtheme, by conveying stories of settlement, urban development, and ecological changes along the river. Audio could be used to share stories in different languages spoken by settlers.

**West Side**

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time, A Special Place for Many People,** and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Along the Levee Riverwalk, artist-designed seating elements could be made from the remnants of the site’s industrial past and could involve artists working in residence at the iron foundry on the site. In addition, artist-designed story-telling scopes (when visitors look through them, they can hear or see a narrative unfold) could be used to convey the stories of the site. To celebrate and illustrate the working river, a water wheel sculpture could be commissioned to generate power for lighting or some other function.
- *Overlook:* A new, vista-style GRP overlook should be added at the Green Stairs, on the bluff at the end of Hall Street.
- *Wayside:* Located along the Levee Riverwalk, a GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. Audio could be used to convey stories in different languages represented by the settlement stories. A low-profile wayside at the Green Stairs overlook would convey the **More Connected** subtheme by interpreting the view from this location across the river toward downtown.

### Lower Landing Park

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry** subtheme.
- *Public Art:* Artwork at Lower Landing Park can recall early settlers who disembarked in Saint Paul. Provide interpretive sounds or text, possibly embedded in pathways or site furnishings.
- *Overlook:* A new, lookout overlook at a park landform.
- *Waysides:* A low-profile wayside would convey the **River of Industry** subtheme to highlight the site's history as a riverside landing place.

### Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Artwork or artist-designed benches along the path leading to Lowertown would reinforce this important new corridor and engage the talent that lives or works in Lowertown. Each bench or piece of artwork could tell a story or prompt conversation about nature (or Bruce Vento, for whom the sanctuary is named).
- *Waysides:* Located along the trail leading toward Lowertown, a GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site.

### Indian Mounds Park

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape**, **Change Over Time**, and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* The overlook could feature an artfully designed fire pit for nighttime storytelling. A panoramic relief could tell the story of the view here at the widest point in the region's river valley. Art should pay homage to American Indian history and mound making as a symbol of a culture that has lived here for hundreds of years. Dakota artists should be invited to propose contemporary projects that help interpret these ancient mounds in a contemporary context. The old picnic facility could be repurposed as a venue for creating and displaying art, or for performances. All activities and programming should convey the importance of preservation and stewardship of this site.

- *Overlook:* There are two existing overlooks at this part of the GRP: one at the geologic marker and one above Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave). The existing geologic marker overlook should be improved to be a gathering place-type overlook. The existing Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) overlook should be improved to be an vista-type GRP overlook.
- *Waysides:* Add a four-sided kiosk adjacent to the parking area east of the mounds to align with GRP Guidelines. At the Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) overlook, add a four-sided kiosk adjacent to the parking area to align with GRP Guidelines and add rail-mounted, low-profile waysides to expand on this subtheme and interpret the view of the City and the broad river valley.

## FLOODPLAIN / WETLANDS REACH

### Warner Road

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **A Special Place for Many People** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* An artist-designed wall relief in the interpretive center could provide "hide and seek" geocaching exploration of the surrounding landscape. Interpretive art installations should help young and old audiences alike contemplate the vast and diverse life forms found throughout the area, though mostly out of view.
- *Overlooks:* Two new, lookout overlooks, one at Little Pig's Eye and one along the northern segment of the Highwood Bluff Trail.
- *Waysides:* A new four-sided kiosk at the Gathering and Interpretive Center would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the GRP. Audio could be used to convey stories in different languages based on audience needs.

### Pig's Eye Lake and Highwood Bluffs

- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme.
- *Public Art:* To encourage visitors to observe its varied wildlife, commission artist and architect teams to design wildlife viewing blinds. The blinds could have tasteful, unobtrusive interpretive visuals on the interior surfaces. To provide safe access though the wetland areas, boardwalks should be installed. They should be designed with handcrafted carvings that depict natural elements or tracks of wildlife.

- *Overlooks:* Two new, lookout overlooks along the Highwood Bluff Trail.
- *Waysides:* A low-profile wayside at each overlook location could convey the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme by providing information about flora and fauna visitors might see along the trails and linking this to conservation and stewardship messaging.
- Together, these interpretive recommendations will create a cohesive visitor experience across the Passage. From overlooks, whether a gathering place or a lookout location, visitors are connected to spectacular views as well as stories of Saint Paul's natural, cultural, and historical fabric. Linking overlooks and riverside locations through self-guided and guided experiences will encourage visitors to explore more of the Passage, whether they choose to walk, bike, or drive. The City can build community support and foster stewardship for these special places in the heart of Saint Paul by implementing these elements through community partnerships, creating a place that is truly more connected.

**Implementation Plan**

To ensure meaningful implementation that is incremental and achievable, projects need to be prioritized. The highest priorities for implementation are select overlooks and gateway elements. These elements will start defining the GRP in a bold way. Gathering place overlook locations, especially those where a site is currently being developed or undergoing redevelopment, are among the highest priority, as are public art elements along Shepard Road that are intended to slow traffic and create a more inviting environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

The next priority items for implementation are vista and lookout overlooks and wayside locations. These sites will add depth to visitors’ GRP experience by adding a layer beyond the elements developed first. The locations slated for future development are the lowest priority because their timeline is based on several factors outside the purview of this plan. The interpretive elements in these locations should be integral into the site development process.

The interpretive recommendations and approximate cost ranges are summarized below:  
 \$-up to \$50,000  
 \$\$-\$50,001 to \$100,000  
 \$\$\$- \$100,001 to \$200,000  
 \$\$\$\$- \$200,001 and above

**CORRIDOR-WIDE**

- **Website & Mobile Website** ..... \$\$
- **Self-Guided Experience materials** ..... \$\$-\$\$\$
- **Guided Experiences** ..... \$\$-\$\$\$
- **Public Art**..... \$\$-\$\$\$\$

**GORGE REACH**

**Location: Mississippi River Boulevard (Meeker Dam, Shadow Falls Creek, Hartford Avenue)** ..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

- **Overlooks:** Five updated overlooks (3 Lookout, 1 Vista, and 1 Gathering Place)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, amphitheater, focal furnishings

**Location: Hidden Falls Regional Park** ..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

- **Overlook:** One updated overlook (Gathering Place)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, amphitheater, fire pit, council ring, paving, focal furnishings, view binoculars, plantings, selective vegetative clearing, lighting

- Public Art
- Audio

**VALLEY REACH**

**Location: Shepard Road (Sam Morgan Trail, Fountain Cave)**..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

- **Overlooks:** One updated overlook (Gathering Place) and three new overlooks (3 Lookout)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, gateway/framing elements, paving, lighting

- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Watergate Marina**..... \$-\$\$

- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Crosby Farm Regional Park**..... \$\$-\$\$\$

- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, wayfinding kiosk
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Victoria Park**..... \$\$-\$\$\$

- **Overlook:** One new overlook (Vista)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, fire pit, shade elements, view binoculars, paving, lighting, plantings
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Lilydale & Cherokee Regional Parks** ..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

- **Overlooks:** Two updated overlooks (1 Lookout and 1 Vista) and one new overlook (Gathering Place)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, fire pit, focal furnishings, view binoculars, selective vegetative clearing

- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Island Station**..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

- **Overlook:** One new overlook (Gathering Place)
- **Interpretation and design elements:** interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, amphitheater, outdoor classroom, demonstration area or gardens, focal furnishings, selective vegetative clearing, lighting

- Public Art
- Audio

**DOWNTOWN REACH**

**Location: Harriet Island ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Overlook: One updated overlook (Lookout)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, wayfinding kiosk, view binoculars
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Raspberry Island ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Downtown & Kellogg Mall ..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

- Overlooks: One updated overlook (Gathering Place) and two new overlooks (Vista)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, focal furnishings, river balcony, water feature, shade elements, railings, view binoculars, plantings, lighting
- Public Art
- Audio
- Welcome Center

**Location: West Side ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Overlook: One new overlook (Vista)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, bike rack and maintenance station, wayfinding
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Lower Landing Park ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Overlook: One new overlook (Lookout)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, wayfinding kiosk
- Public Art
- Audio

**Location: Indian Mounds Regional Park ..... \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$**

- Overlooks: Two updated overlooks (1 Vista and 1 Gathering Place)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding kiosk, bike rack and maintenance station, fire pit, council ring, focal furnishings, lighting, view binoculars, selective vegetative clearing, shade elements
- Public Art
- Audio

**FLOODPLAINS/WETLANDS REACH**

**Location: Warner Road (DNR facilities) ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Overlooks: Two new overlooks (Lookout)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, wayfinding kiosk
- Public Art
- Audio
- Interpretive Center

**Location: Pig's Eye Lake & Highwood Bluffs ..... \$\$-\$\$\$**

- Overlooks: Two new overlooks (Lookout)
- Interpretation and design elements: interpretive signage, seating, drinking fountain, wayfinding, bike rack and maintenance station,
- Public Art

# CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	<b>1</b>
<b>Sitemap</b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b>INTERPRETIVE PLANNING PROCESS</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>Principles, Missions, and Goals</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>GRP Interpretive Planning Process</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>EXISTING CONDITIONS</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Demographics/Visitors</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>KEY MESSAGES</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Foundations</b> .....	<b>15</b>
<b>Theme, Subthemes, and Storylines</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Interpretive Facilities</b> .....	<b>21</b>
<b>Website</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Overlooks</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Waysides</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Self-Guided and Guided Experiences</b> .....	<b>33</b>
<b>Public Art</b> .....	<b>35</b>
<b>Interpretation by Location</b>	
<i>Gorge Reach</i>	
Mississippi River Boulevard .....	<b>42</b>
Hidden Falls Regional Park .....	<b>45</b>
<i>Valley Reach</i>	
Shepard Road .....	<b>48</b>
Watergate Marina .....	<b>49</b>
Crosby Farm Regional Park .....	<b>49</b>
Victoria Park .....	<b>50</b>
Lilydale and Cherokee Regional Parks .....	<b>51</b>
Island Station Redevelopment .....	<b>52</b>

## *Downtown Reach*

Harriet Island Regional Park .....	<b>54</b>
Raspberry Island Regional Park .....	<b>55</b>
Downtown and Kellogg Boulevard .....	<b>55</b>
West Side .....	<b>57</b>
Lower Landing Park .....	<b>58</b>
Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary .....	<b>59</b>
Indian Mounds Regional Park .....	<b>59</b>

## *Floodplain/Wetlands Reach*

Warner Road (DNR Facilities) .....	<b>62</b>
Pig's Eye Lake and Highwood Bluffs .....	<b>63</b>

## **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN** .....

<b>Implementation Strategy</b> .....	<b>67</b>
<b>Working with Partners</b> .....	<b>75</b>
<b>Potential Partners</b> .....	<b>76</b>

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A: Foundations Report**

**Appendix B: Great River Passage Brand Guidelines (August 2011)**

# INTRODUCTION



**Top:** Owlets along Mississippi River Boulevard  
**Middle:** View of Downtown Saint Paul from Indian Mounds Regional Park  
**Bottom:** Fishing the Mississippi River at Hidden Falls Regional Park

# INTRODUCTION

The Great River Passage (GRP or Passage) Interpretive Plan builds on Section 5.4 History and Culture and Chapter 6 (interpretive opportunities by reach) of the GRP Master Plan, approved by the Saint Paul City Council on April 10, 2014. This project aligns with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department's mission statement:

*To help make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places, and a vital environment.*

The recommendations for interpreting the historical, natural, and cultural resources along the Passage are linked to specific sites and resources and align with the principles presented in the GRP Master Plan of “more natural, more urban, more connected.” In the Master Plan, site interpretation is most strongly linked to Principle 3: More Connected (GRP Master Plan, page 31), bringing together the "More Natural" and "More Urban" principles through its stories.

### What is interpretation?

Interpretation is a communication process. Through interpretation, significance about a site’s cultural, historical, and natural resources are revealed. Interpretation also conveys information about the relationships among people relevant to the site and between those people and the site’s resources. Interpretation uses experiences with objects and artifacts, landscapes and vistas, sites and exhibits, and people and programs to reveal meaningful stories.

### How does interpretation build connections?

Interpretation builds connections between people and places, stories, and each other by answering the question, “So what?” Connections are forged between a resource or place and the audience through interpretation that provides meaning and context to the resource. Interpretation engages people, emotionally or intellectually, with a place or story by presenting information that is meaningful and relevant to them individually and as part of a larger community.

The GRP, Saint Paul’s 17-mile river corridor, includes vibrant neighborhoods, active commercial sites, important transportation corridors, and more than 20 public parks providing thousands of acres of public green space for outdoor recreation, special events, wildlife habitat, and scenic views. These incredible assets have often been viewed as individual parks and development sites. The Great River Passage is the guiding concept transforming this collection of parks, natural resources, cultural amenities, and community sites into a single, connected entity.

### What is an interpretive plan?

An interpretive plan is the resulting product of an in-depth planning process. It provides a vision for interpretation of a place and identifies interpretive goals. It recommends the most effective, efficient, and practical ways to address those goals. The plan guides the design and development of interpretive elements and is a resource for site and exhibit development, partnership building, and fundraising.

An interpretive plan structures how to communicate to an audience through appropriate and meaningful experiences. It organizes content into relevant and engaging messages and recommends exciting ways for visitors to experience this content.

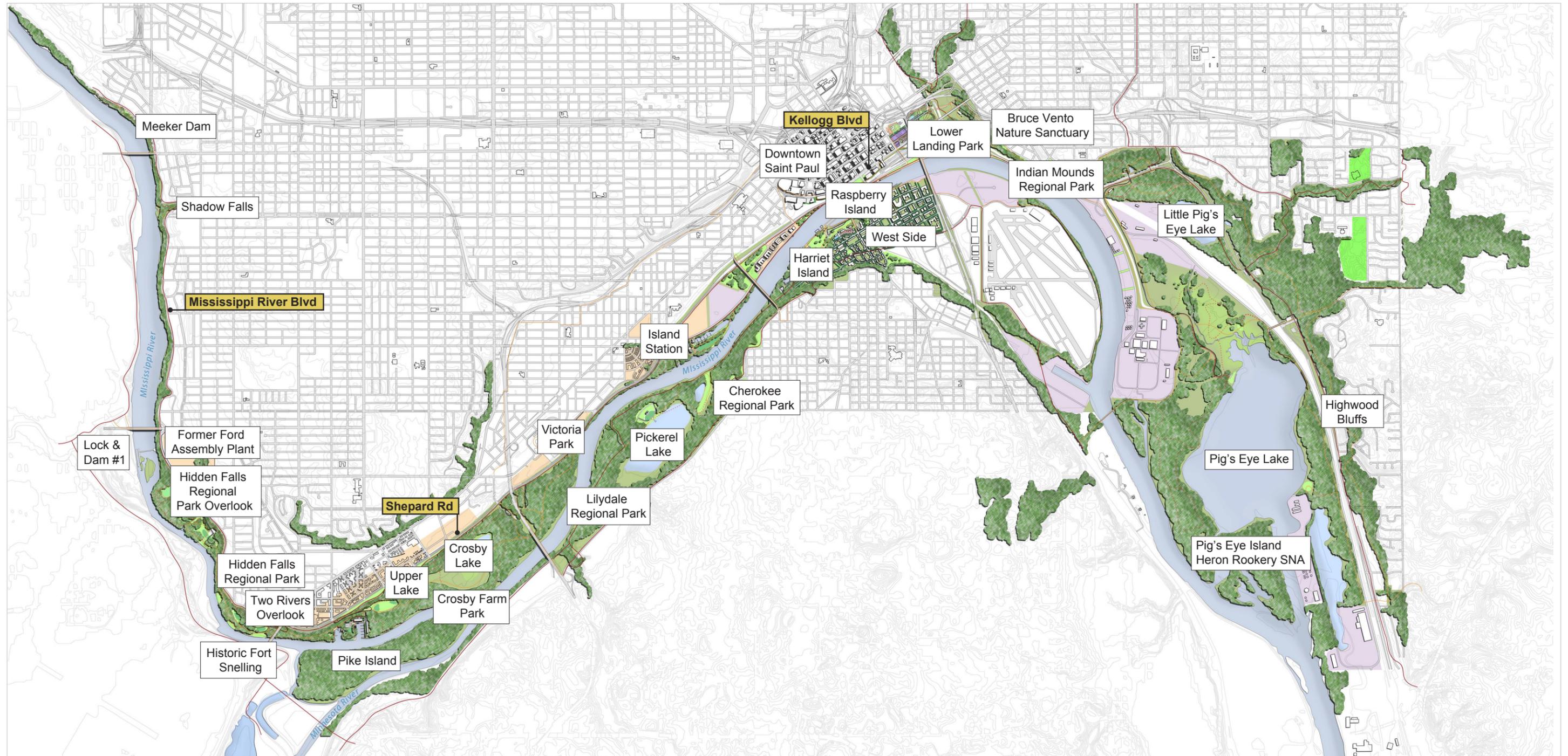
The GRP interpretive planning process began with careful analysis of and research into the unique resources of the Passage. Information was gathered, reviewed, and assessed about current interpretive programs and media. The GRP Master Plan, other relevant site planning documents, and historical and cultural studies were also reviewed. Information gathering continued during site visits.

The planning process culminates with this Interpretive Plan. Involvement by a range of stakeholders, including the TAC and community members, during the planning process ensured opportunities for input and helped identify challenges addressed in this Interpretive Plan early in the process.

This Interpretive Plan:

- Documents the City of Saint Paul’s mission and interpretive goals for the Great River Passage.
- Defines key messages (themes and subthemes).
- Provides recommendations for interpretive programs and media.
- Suggests processes for effective community partnership for implementation.
- Proposes implementation phases and strategies for these recommendations.

### Great River Passage Sitemap Saint Paul, Minnesota



# INTERPRETIVE PLANNING PROCESS

Good interpretive programs “are like complex ecosystems, with many interpenetrating elements. They nourish a wide range of ages and learning styles. Each person feeds at his or her own level—and families get the bonus of exchange among many levels at once. Adults parade like giraffes, sedately grazing on the tree canopy of concepts, factoids, and overarching themes, while their children scurry about below, physically sampling one experience after another to join in. When it comes to meaning making, there’s more than one way to take in nutrition.”

-Peter Samis, “Into the Wild.” From Museum magazine November-December, 2011

## INTERPRETIVE PLANNING PROCESS

The GRP interpretive planning process is based on practices outlined by the National Association for Interpretation (NAI), which describes an interpretive plan as “documentation of a thoughtful decision-making process that blends management needs and resource considerations with visitor [needs] to determine the most effective way to communicate the message to targeted markets.” NAI defines interpretation as, “a mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the interests of the audience and the meanings inherent in the resource.”

Grounded in the interpretive philosophy of Freeman Tilden, this interpretive planning process considers the place-specific historical, cultural, and natural resources to be interpreted and the demographics of the site visitors to develop relevant messages and media that support an organization’s mission. In his seminal book about interpretation and interpretive philosophy, *Interpreting Our Heritage*, Tilden defined interpretation as “an educational activity which aims to reveal meaning and relationships through the use of original objects, by first-hand experience, and by illustrative media, rather than simply to communicate factual information.”

### Tilden’s Principles (*Interpreting Our Heritage*)

- 1) Any interpretation that does not somehow relate what is being displayed or described to something within the personality or experience of the visitor will be sterile.
- 2) Information, as such, is not interpretation. Interpretation is revelation based upon information. But they are entirely different things. However, all interpretation includes information.
- 3) Interpretation is an art, which combines many arts, whether the materials presented are scientific, historical, or architectural. Any art is in some degree teachable.
- 4) The chief aim of interpretation is not instruction, but provocation.
- 5) Interpretation should aim to present a whole rather than a part and must address itself to the whole man rather than any phase.
- 6) Interpretation addressed to children should not be a dilution of the presentation to adults, but should follow a fundamentally different approach. To be at its best it will require a separate program.

### Goals for Interpretation

The GRP Master Plan identified the mission as well as interpretive principles and goals for the Passage (page 80).

Goals are essential for a community to reach a desired end-point. Setting goals involves establishing specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and time-targeted objectives. Goals are an effective tool for establishing a target, identifying the necessary steps, and measuring progress toward achievement.

Goals for interpretation within the Great River Passage are to:

- Educate visitors about the history and heritage of the Great River Passage.
- Provide visitors with engaging and relevant experiences.
- Provide opportunities for people of diverse perspectives and backgrounds to appreciate the site and its history.
- Attract local, regional, and national heritage tourists to the Great River Passage.
- Establish consistent interpretive messages.
- Build a cohesive group of partners and stakeholders who can effectively preserve, manage, and interpret the site.
- Improve visitor orientation and wayfinding.
- Develop and enhance the landscape.
- Develop guided and self-guided tours.
- Connect visitors to other themes-related resources beyond the Passage.
- Provide opportunities for visitors to engage in stewardship.
- Evaluate and report progress.
- Ensure the interpretive experience is not intrusive on the natural environment.

## GRP INTERPRETIVE PLANNING PROCESS

For the GRP, interpretation is a key driver in creating a "more connected" river corridor and the GRP Master Plan "seeks to integrate history, culture, and art into all aspects of the Great River Passage." The master planning process resulted in identifying ten topics to guide the development of interpretation along the GRP: food, river transport, shelter, recreation, commerce and control, economics, ecology, health, native cultures, and immigration. The interpretive planning process used these topics to guide stakeholder identification for workshop participation. Three workshops and subsequent outreach activities resulted in an interpretive theme and supporting subthemes that thematically connect the stories, resources, and sites along the Passage. See the Foundations Report (Appendix A) for workshop details and the Key Messages section for the resulting theme and subthemes.

Following the workshops, the consultant team, with representatives from the client team and the TAC, toured the site and accessed key locations along the Passage. The key locations were selected based on the following criteria:

- Each of the four reaches (gorge, valley, downtown, and wetlands/floodplain) identified in the GRP Master Plan would be visited.
- High and low vantage points would be represented.
- Sites with and without current interpretation would be represented.

Prior to the site visit, each site was linked to a specific interpretive topic and key stories.

While on-site, the team:

- Identified the best place to convey the interpretive message.
- Identified appropriate messages from the place.
- Assessed the media options for the story and site.
- Assessed the site for access.
- Documented the site.

Subsequent meetings among the project team and outreach with key stakeholders informed the development of the interpretive recommendation described in the Interpretive Recommendations section.



**Top:** During three workshops in May and June 2014 participants shared their stories of the GRP  
**Middle:** Stories were viewed through ten topics  
**Bottom:** Participants linked their stories to sites along the GRP and Mississippi River

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Saint Paul  
has more  
miles of  
Mississippi  
River than  
any other  
municipality  
along the  
entire length  
of the river.

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

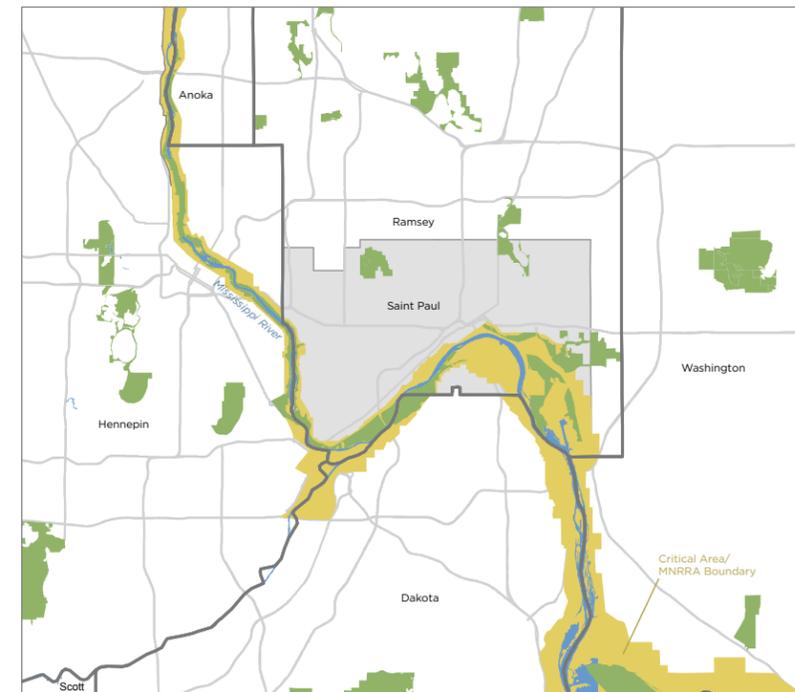
The Great River Passage, part of the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation park system, is a corridor along Saint Paul’s Mississippi riverfront comprising 17 miles of running river and 26 miles of river frontage. The Passage includes the river as well as more than 3,500 acres of parkland for outdoor recreation, enjoyment of scenic views, wildlife habitat, and places for special events. In addition to parkland, the Passage includes bluffs, lakes, and wetlands as well as active commercial sites and neighborhoods. Rather than viewing these resources as individual parks and sites, the GRP Master Plan envisions a transformation of this valuable collection of parks, natural resources, cultural amenities and neighborhoods, and sites into a single entity—the Great River Passage.

The GRP area, from the Mississippi River to the Saint Paul riverfront to the surrounding parks, neighborhoods, and city, reflects many changes that have taken place here over time. Some changes have occurred because of the dynamic Mississippi River and the gorge, valley, and wetlands created by its constant flow. Other changes are manmade. Historically, Saint Paul was the northernmost port along the river with active trading and navigation ports. River traffic defined some of the city’s industry, but other industries relied on resources found further away from the river. Still, the river connected Saint Paul to the rest of the country and the world. Today, the Passage continues to connect—people with nature and with each other.

The Passage is a regionally and nationally significant area and landscape. Several local, regional, and national interests overlay the GRP area, in total or in part, including the following.

- **Mississippi River Critical Area:** The Mississippi River Critical Area Program is a joint local and state program of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that provides coordinated planning and management for 72 miles of the Mississippi River, four miles of the Minnesota River, and 54,000 acres of adjacent corridor lands. The Mississippi River Critical Area Program works in partnership with MNRRA.
- **Mississippi River National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA):** A unit of the National Park Service, MNRRA is a 72-mile-long river park offering quiet stretches for fishing, boating, and canoeing, as well as excellent places for bird watching, bicycling, and hiking. Where MNRRA overlays the GRP, interpretive signage and programming (e.g., Junior Ranger Program, You Are the Lockmaster, and Let’s Move Outside) currently exists and, through collaboration, can contribute to the interpretive experience of the GRP.
- **Mississippi River Trail:** The Mississippi River Trail follows the river from its headwaters in Itasca, Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. The trail encompasses about 3,000 miles of on-road bikeways as well as pedestrian and bicycle pathways for the recreational enjoyment, health, conservation, and tourism development of river communities, river states, and the nation. In Saint Paul, the trail follows Shepard Road and crosses the Wabasha Bridge.

- **Saint Paul Grand Round:** The Saint Paul Grand Round, yet to be completed, was conceived more than one hundred years ago. In the early 1900s, several parkway segments were completed, but by the 1930s, implementation of the remainder of the system stopped. The Saint Paul Bike Plan (October 2014 draft plan) notes that the Grand Round should include a number of other features, including wayfinding, interpretive signage, bike racks, connections to local parks, drinking fountains, appropriate lighting, historical markers and interpretive elements, landscaping, public art, street furniture, scenic overlooks, and other amenities that add to the comfort, safety, and enjoyment of visitors. The Grand Round overlays the GRP along the river’s east side, and some of the interpretive amenities noted above are recommended as part of this plan. (See Section 6.5 of the Saint Paul Bike Plan, October 2014 Draft – <http://www.stpaul.gov/bikeplan>)
- **Saint Paul Scenic Byway:** Not yet a federally designated scenic byway, the Saint Paul Scenic Byway follows a route similar to the Grand Round.
- **Great River Road:** The Great River Road was established in 1938 and travels nearly 3,000 miles through 10 states. In Minnesota, it runs for 575 miles along the Mississippi River, including several miles in Saint Paul along Shepard Road.



River and wetlands areas in the GRP are overlapped by the Mississippi River Critical Area (shown in yellow)



Several sites and potential visitor experiences within the MNRRA corridor overlap the GRP through Saint Paul

### Mississippi River Trail Map

#### BOATING

- ◆ Daymark: Navigation markers that include the river mile and usually a light. As with buoys, green marks the left bank when you travel upstream. The left bank is often called the "west bank," even where the river does not run north to south. Red marks the right bank, often called the "east bank."
- ⚡ Power line: Lines do not pose a danger to boats, but they are helpful navigation landmarks.
- ✂ Wing dam: Rock and brush structure built to focus the river current into the 9-foot channel. Called a closing dam where it blocks a channel or slough. It is often just below the water surface and can damage a boat's hull and propeller.
- ◆ River mile marker and mid-channel sailing line: A point on a map in the 9-foot mid-channel sailing line used for navigation. They mark the distance from the confluence of the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, near Alton, Ill., so the numbers increase as you travel upstream. Each river mile number notes the location of a place on the map (for example, river mile 849.3 W is a point on the west bank).

#### BOATING

- 🚤 Boat ramp
- 🚢 Marina
- 🏠 Canoe access
- 🌳 Stump field
- 🏗 Dam

#### TRANSIT

- 🚇 Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT)
- 🚇 Hiawatha Light Rail Transit (LRT)
- 🚇 Northstar Commuter Rail Line
- 🚌 River-Bound Bus Route & Stop
- 🚂 Freight railroad tracks
- 🚲 Nice Ride Station
- 🚗 HOV3+ Station
- 🅅 Park and Ride
- 🚏 Transit Center

#### POINTS OF INTEREST

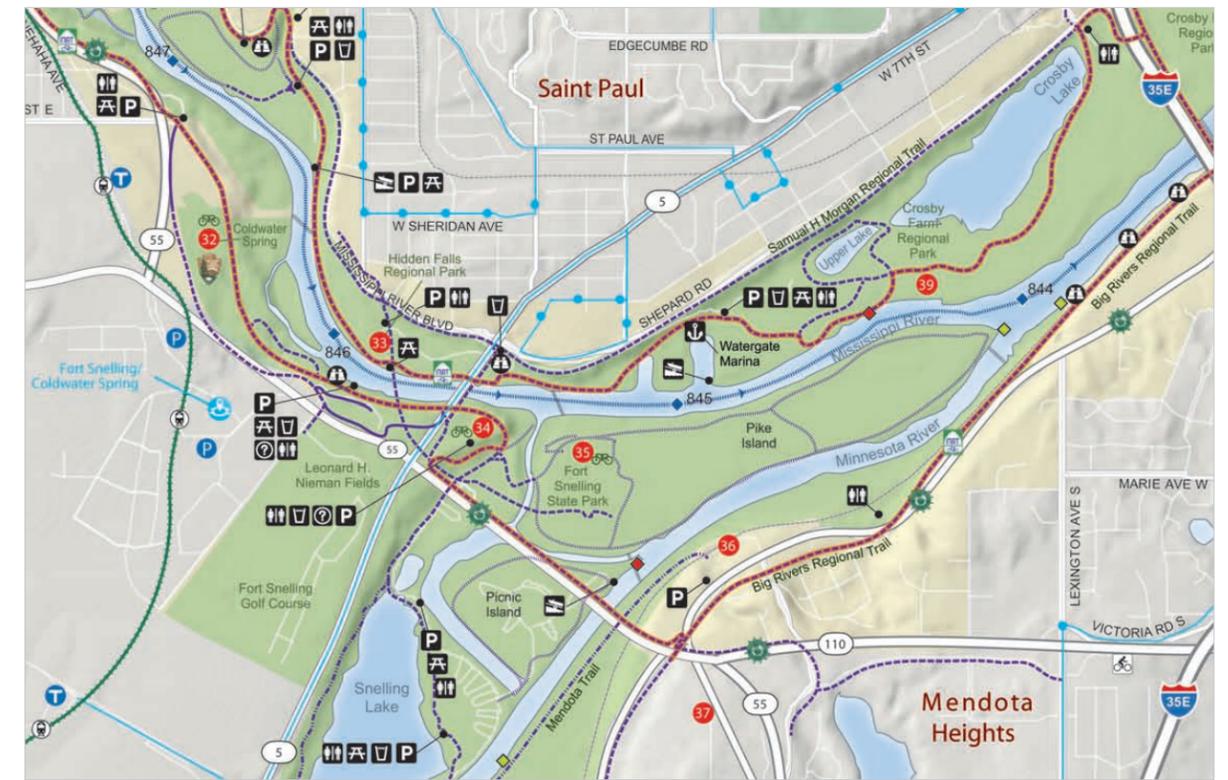
- 📍 Alternative Transportation Node (a location offering access to park destinations without a car)
- 📍 Point of interest
- 📍 Boating shop, club, or rental
- 📍 Scenic overlook
- 📍 Bike shop or rental

#### PARKS & AMENITIES

- 🌳 Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- 🏞 State, Regional or Local Park
- 🅅 Parking
- 🚰 Drinking Water
- 📍 Visitor Center
- 🏠 Picnic Area
- 🎣 Fishing pier
- 🚻 Restrooms
- 🏠 National Park Service Facility

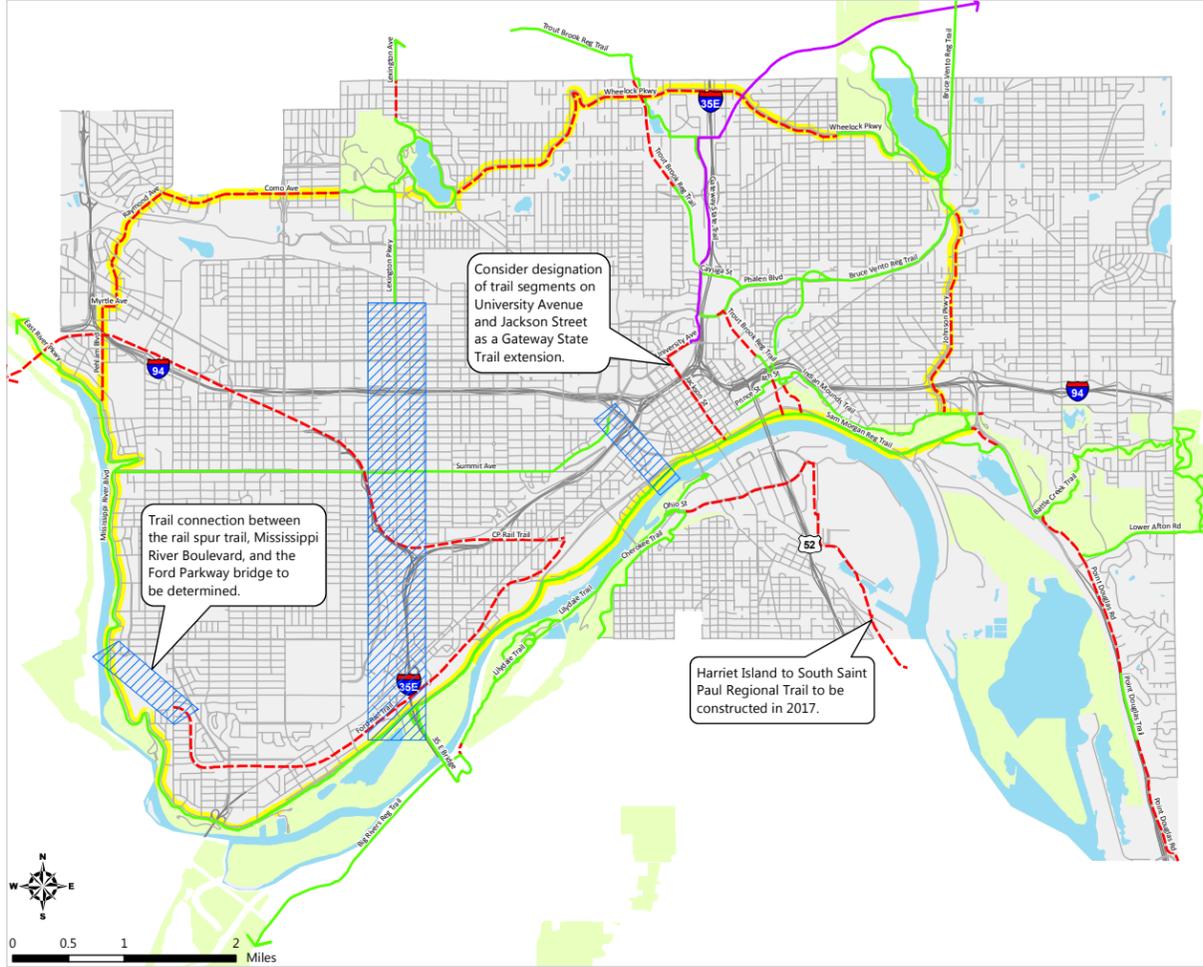
#### TRAILS

- 🚲 On-Road Bike Lane
- 🚲 Bike and Pedestrian Trail (paved)
- 🚲 Bike and Pedestrian Trail Combined (unpaved)
- 🚶 Pedestrian Only (paved)
- 🚶 Pedestrian Only (unpaved)
- 🚶 Mississippi River Trail
- 🏞 Grand Rounds Scenic Byway
- 🏞 Great River Road Scenic Byway



The Mississippi River Trail (MRT) in Saint Paul follows Shepard Road and crosses the Wabasha Bridge

The GRP Master Plan envisions a riverfront that is more natural, more urban, and more connected.



**Above:** The Saint Paul Bicycle Plan Draft (October 2014) shows existing and planned regional and state trails, including the Grand Round (yellow), which



- Legend**
- Gateway State Trail
  - Regional Trail
  - - - Planned Regional Trail
  - Grand Round
  - Regional Parks
  - ▨ Regional Trail Search Corridor



**Metro Mississippi  
Elk River to Hastings**  
(Approx. 75 miles)

From the serene north woods, the Mississippi meanders its way into the heart of the buzzing metro area of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul. Here, amidst fine dining, an outstanding theater scene, museums of all varieties, and world-class shopping, 72 miles of Mississippi riverfront have been designated a National River and Recreation Area by the National Park Service, offering 54,000 acres of parks, open space and historic sites along the river. Visit this Great River Road destination area for a big-city experience, but also to be inspired by nature on the fringe of commerce. Learn how the Mississippi River played a role in the creation of this tale of two cities.



- Great River Road National Park:**  
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
- Great River Road State Park:**  
Fort Snelling State Park, St. Paul
- Historic Sites & Interpretive Centers:**  
Alexander Ramsey House, St. Paul  
Ard Godfrey House, Minneapolis  
Carl Kroening Interpretive Center, Minneapolis  
◆ Historic Fort Snelling, St. Paul  
James J. Hill House, St. Paul  
◆ Mill City Museum, Minneapolis Riverfront  
◆ Minnesota History Center, St. Paul  
◆ National Park Service - Mississippi National River & Recreation Area Visitor Center, St. Paul Riverfront  
Oliver H. Kelley Farm, Elk River  
◆ Science Museum of Minnesota Mississippi River Gallery, St. Paul Riverfront  
Sibley House, St. Paul  
St. Anthony Falls Heritage Trail / Stone Arch Bridge, Minneapolis Riverfront  
◆ National Great River Road Interpretive Centers
- Destination Area Highlights:**  
Boom Island, Minneapolis Riverfront  
Cathedral of Saint Paul, St. Paul  
Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park, Coon Rapids  
Downtown Shopping, Dining & Entertainment, Minneapolis & St. Paul  
Guthrie Theater, Minneapolis Riverfront  
Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway, Minneapolis  
Harriet Island, St. Paul Riverfront
- Mall of America, Bloomington  
Minnehaha Falls & The Longfellow House, Minneapolis  
Minnesota Lynx Basketball (WNBA), Minneapolis  
Minnesota State Capitol, St. Paul  
Minnesota Timberwolves Basketball (NBA), Minneapolis  
Minnesota Twins Baseball (MLB), Minneapolis  
Minnesota Vikings Football (NFL), Minneapolis  
Minnesota Wild Hockey (NHL), St. Paul  
Mississippi Riverboat Excursions, Minneapolis & St. Paul  
Mounds Park, St. Paul  
St. Anthony Falls & U.S. Lock & Dam #1  
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Riverfront



**Right:** The Metro section of the Great River Road in Minnesota overlaps sections of the GRP through Saint Paul

For directions go to [www.MnMississippiRiver.com](http://www.MnMississippiRiver.com)

Other development and planning initiatives, through various City departments, including Parks and Recreation, Planning and Economic Development, and Public Works, potentially affect portions of the GRP. Following are known development initiatives and studies currently underway; others may begin at any time along this popular and dynamic corridor.

- **Ford site in Highland Park:** Although outside of the GRP, the former Ford Twin Cities Assembly Plant site borders Mississippi River Boulevard and is proximate to the GRP at Hidden Falls Park overlook. The City envisions the redevelopment of the 125-acre site as a livable, mixed-use neighborhood that looks to the future with clean technologies and quality design for energy, buildings, and infrastructure.
- **Shepard Road:** The Shepard Road Development Master Plan identifies gateway locations that should complement or align with GRP Design Guidelines. In addition, potential development along Shepard Road at its intersection with State Highway 5 and Davern Street are addressed in the September 2014 update to the Shepard Davern Area Plan. (Shepard Davern Area Plan - <http://www.stpaul.gov/sheparddavern>)
- **Victoria Park:** Victoria Park is a 40.4-acre site one block south of West 7th Street between Montreal Way and Otto Avenue with the Mississippi River as its southern border, divided by the Chicago, Milwaukee, and Saint Paul railroad. The property is being developed as a park following environmental cleanup, and the master plan will provide connections to the Mississippi River, Sam Morgan Regional Trail, and Crosby Regional Park. (Victoria Park Updates - <http://www.stpaul.gov/victoriapark>)
- **Kellogg Boulevard:** Ramsey County commissioners approved a plan on December 2, 2014 to tear down the old West Publishing buildings and the adjacent old county jail, making way for redevelopment along the river.
- **Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary:** The Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary (BVNS or Sanctuary) is a 29-acre park located along the north shore of the Mississippi River east of downtown Saint Paul. After a century of industrial use, the land was vacant and blighted until a coalition of East Side and Lowertown residents, with the help of the City, purchased the land and transformed it into a nature sanctuary. Today, project partners are restoring the land's ecology and working with Dakota people to interpret Carver's Cave/Wakan Tipi, a significant area in a corner of the Sanctuary. At the time of this report, the City is finalizing a study regarding the Lowertown Depot, the abandoned structure at the BVNS, but it is anticipated that the Depot will be replaced by a new structure owned by the City and managed by the Lower Phalen Creek Project. Project partners to-date at BVNS include MNRRA, Trust for Public Land, and the Lower Phalen Creek Project. Currently, interpretive signage near the parking lot interprets birding, reclamation, and the Dakota's connection with the site.
- **Lilydale Regional Park Fossil Beds:** An environmental study related to the landslide of May 2013 is underway, and the final report is anticipated to be submitted to the City by the end

of 2015. The steep Mississippi River bluff area in the 384-acre park is blocked by fencing and concrete barricades, and the future of public access is unclear. Results of the study will guide the City in deciding when and how to reopen the 50-acre fossil grounds for public use. The Lilydale Brickyard Trail (a hiking trail) goes down the bluff to the fossil beds and to Pickerel Lake.

- **West Side Flats:** The West Side Flats offers a unique opportunity to revitalize a large urban riverfront area on the Mississippi River. The site encompasses the entire floodplain area between the river's western edge and its terraces and bluffs, encompassing approximately 120 acres of urban land between Wabasha Street, Plato Boulevard, Lafayette Road/Highway 52, and the Mississippi River. (West Side Flats Master Plan - <http://www.stpaul.gov/westsideflats>)

For more information about the existing conditions of the Passage, see the GRP Master Plan, Chapters 1 and 2.

### Demographics/Visitors

The GRP Master Plan identifies Passage user groups: Core Users and Active Users. This Interpretive Plan focuses on the visitor experience of these user groups. Visitor analysis at a future stage is recommended to establish baseline information about the user groups, set goals for visitorship, assess the visitor experience, and inform plans for improvement along the Passage. Information gathering and subsequent analysis will require strategic planning due to the porous borders of the Passage and the open setting.

From the GRP Master Plan (Recommendation Section, page 171):

*A vibrant river destination will begin with those closest to it.*

The primary target for the Great River Passage are largely those we already know – they, or their networks, are simply under leveraged. The first are “Core Users” who represent the most frequent and passionate of Great River Passage users. Some live on the river and others travel in from other suburban cities. However, they all likely participate in one or more lifestyle groups that focus on river assets (e.g., trails) and attractions (e.g., wildlife).

The other primary audience has been deemed “Active Users.” These are occasional users who have personally registered for park activities (e.g., a picnic), but may not see the Great River Passage as an integral part of their lives.

At this time, the secondary audience is comprised of residents from the seven county metro area. The key will be to create relevant connections with this group, so they engage in activities that ladder them up into the primary audience.



The Mississippi is a working river

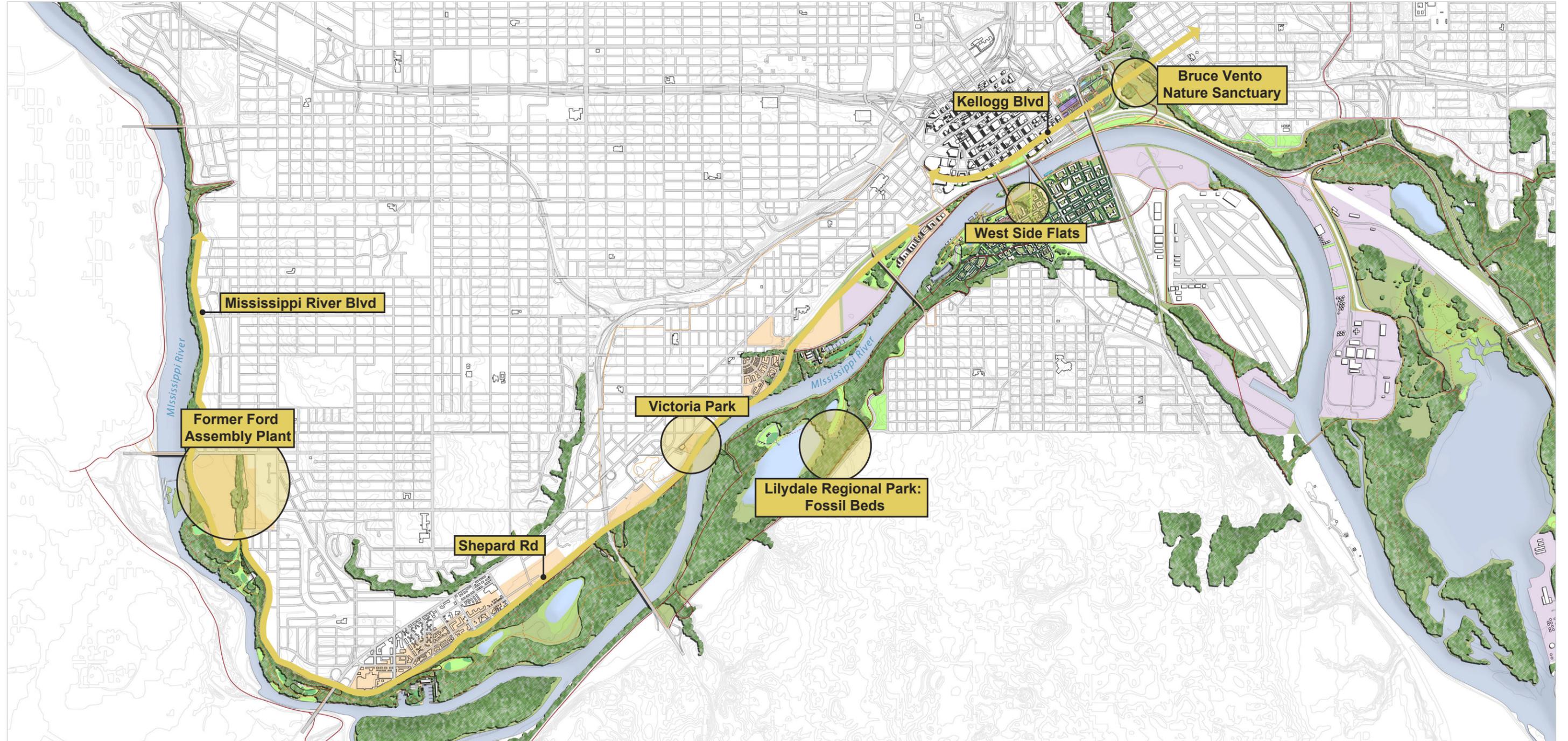


The Mississippi is a recreational river



People use the GRP parks and trails in all seasons

**Great River Passage Existing Conditions Sitemap  
Saint Paul, Minnesota**



# KEY MESSAGES



## FOUNDATIONS

An interpretive plan provides recommendations for interpretive elements and experiences that support an organization’s vision and mission. The recommendations consider the place-specific historical, cultural, and natural resources to be interpreted.

The interpretive framework was developed during the GRP Master Plan planning process and recorded in the plan in section 5.4 (pages 77 – 83). The framework established an interpretive approach aimed at integrating history and culture into all aspects of GRP development. The GRP Master Plan identified objectives for achieving this integration through interpretation.

The Interpretive Plan Foundations Report (Appendix A) provides detailed information about the initial stage of the interpretive planning process and summarizes initial public engagement efforts.

### Mission

The GRP Master Plan established the mission for the Passage:

*The Great River Passage strives to be a regional asset of national significance that is more natural, more urban, and more connected.*

### Principles

The GRP Master Plan established principles to guide interpretation. Interpretation in the GRP will:

- Convey factual information and authentic stories.
- Convey different perspectives on the history of places and resources.
- Foster preservation and restoration of historic resources through education and understanding.
- Foster partnerships among the many local, regional, and national agencies, organizations, and stakeholders.
- Create a cohesive visitor experience linked to the Passage’s theme and subthemes.
- Complement existing interpretation and visitor experiences in Saint Paul.
- Be accessible to the greatest extent possible (e.g., ADA compliant).
- Ensure interpretation is not intrusive to the unique sense of place.
- Inform site development and visitor orientation and wayfinding.

- Foster discovery and contemplation (i.e., encourage visitors to accurately understand the site while also asking questions and provoking visitors to draw their own conclusions).
- Encourage visitors to learn more from the many resources available beyond the places visited.

### Objectives

The GRP Master Plan commits itself to the following objectives specific to preservation and interpretation of the river corridor in Saint Paul. The interpretive plan provides direction for the City to achieve the second objective. The first objective is a separate and extensive undertaking, and the third objective builds on the interpretive plan.

#### Objective 1: Identify, evaluate, designate, preserve, and protect the historic resources within the Great River Passage.

- Implement recommendations of the City’s Preservation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Complete a corridor-wide inventory and assessment of cultural and historical resources within the River corridor.
- Incorporate historic elements into improvements recommended under the master plan.
- Prepare a baseline inventory of all historic resources, including sites and districts already designated, in the Great River Passage.

#### Objective 2: Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan and specific strategies for implementation.

- Develop interpretive themes.
- Develop non-traditional strategies for interpretation and storytelling.
- Protect and interpret historic and cultural resources.

#### Objective 3: Promote interpretation of the corridor’s history, culture, and unique resources.

- Develop partnerships to protect and interpret unique resources within the corridor.
- Link historical and cultural interpretive programs with the City’s existing environmental education program.

## KEY MESSAGES

A theme is the central, or key, message of all interpretation at a site. It may or may not appear in writing, exhibits, and programming, but all interpretive efforts should fall within the scope of the interpretive theme. A theme provides organizational structure and clarity to the main message that visitors encounter when they visit a site. After experiencing a site, visitors should be able to summarize the main point of interpretation in one sentence—this is the interpretive theme.

A theme is different from a topic in that it expresses a complete idea or message. A topic is a broad general category, such as gardens, history, or estates. A theme should answer the question, "So what?" It should tell visitors why a specific topic is important. A theme should:

- Be stated as a short, simple, complete sentence.
- Contain only one main idea, if possible.
- Reveal the overall purpose of the site.
- Be specific.
- Connect tangible resources to universally understood concepts.

The theme conveys one central message and applies to all interpretive elements throughout the site, and supporting subthemes provide organization to further guide interpretation for the site.

### Theme

The GRP Master Plan established the interpretive theme:

*The Mississippi River has influenced the development and sustained cultures of Saint Paul throughout time.*

### Subthemes & Potential Storylines

The subthemes emerged during the Interpretive Planning workshops. These subthemes take the essence of the interpretive topics from the GRP Master Plan and craft them to convey meaningful stories about the GRP. For example, many of the topic-specific stories gathered through the workshops revolved around the idea of change over time. Therefore, we have adapted that into a subtheme that can be expressed through many of the topic lenses. The storylines suggested below are starting points for potential interpretation and combine GRP stories from several planning initiatives, including the GRP Master Plan and the Interpretive Plan workshops.

### CHANGE OVER TIME

The Great River Passage has witnessed many changes in relationships among cultures and attitudes toward nature over time. Some changes, like the seasons, are cyclical, but others, like the river experience, people's relationship to nature, and the people who live in the neighborhoods bordering the river, reflect influences from local and distant forces.

#### Potential storylines:

- Stories about land use changes over time, for example:
  - Crosby Farm Regional Park was once a farm and is now a city park.
  - Industrial sites like Island Station and the Grain Terminal have a future quite different from their industrial past.
  - Infill has changed the look and experience of the river in Saint Paul. Harriet Island was an island before the Army Corps of Engineers filled it in and connected it to the west bank of the river. Before infill, including Warner Road and railroads, people could paddle up to Carver's Cave/Wakan Tipi and streams feeding into the Mississippi.
  - A variety of native plant landscapes and ecotypes are evident along the GRP.
  - The West Side flats area continues to respond to the needs of Saint Paul residents.
- Stories about ecological changes along the river, for example:
  - The rise in river-based and river-adjacent industry led to river pollution, but clean-up and stewardship activities have resulted in the river being clean enough for recreational activities.
  - Seasonal flooding varies annually, and this healthy, natural occurrence can have a negative impact on riverside structures. The levee and flood control gates seek to prevent flooding of the West Side and the Saint Paul Airport. At Upper Landing, the land was filled in and built up to control flooding. Farms along the river benefitted from the nutrients deposited on their fields from spring floods.
  - Locks and dams made the Mississippi more navigable to ensure river transportation for agricultural industries, but these controls had significant impact on the natural flow and character of the river and its varied ecosystems.
  - Invasive species such as invasive carp, buckthorn, and zebra mussels have affected ecosystems along the GRP.
  - Annual cycles of low water are now absent due to management of the river for navigation – with ecological impacts.
- Stories about geological changes, for example:
  - The Mississippi River has distinct structural areas from the narrow gorge above the confluence with the Minnesota River to the broad valley below. Waterway channels influenced settlement and city development.

The GRP Master Plan identified ten topics for interpretation. The theme and subthemes are based on these topics.

### FOOD

The Mississippi has nourished people throughout history.

### RIVER TRANSPORT

The Mississippi has served as the major transportation highway throughout history.

### SHELTER

The Mississippi has defined and shaped our neighborhoods.

### RECREATION

Enjoying the river.

### COMMERCE & CONTROL

For more than a century, man has tried to control and harness the Mississippi to be a working river.

### ECONOMIC

What are the many opportunities that the river has provided throughout history?

### ECOLOGICAL

The river sustains life.

### HEALTH

How has the river contributed to the health of the people throughout history?

### NATIVE CULTURE

What has been and is the experience along the river for the past 12,000 years?

### IMMIGRATION

The immigration experience and the role of the river in that experience.

- Saint Anthony Falls moved upriver to its current location in Minneapolis.
- Carver’s Cave and Fountain Cave were once world famous landmarks and tourist attractions, but were changed or lost as the city grew.

- Stories about changes in transportation, for example:
  - Transportation of goods and people along the river has changed from canoes to steamboats to barges and tugboats. Personal transportation has changed as well from only canoes to include kayaks, sailboats, and motorboats.
  - From the Union Depot, visitors can see a variety of transportation types, which have changed over time: barges on the river, airplanes at Holman Field, trains and buses at Union Depot, and bicycles along the riverside trail.

## A SPECIAL PLACE FOR MANY PEOPLE

Traveling along the Great River Passage, you will encounter sites of historical and contemporary importance to diverse cultures. American Indians lived here for centuries before Europeans arrived, and today, the Great River Passage welcomes cultures from all over the world.

### Potential storylines:

- Stories about indigenous peoples who made their lives along the river.
- Stories about immigrant groups and what drew them to Saint Paul’s riverfront.
- Stories about community celebrations and gatherings, for example:
  - July 4th fireworks and cultural festivals at Harriet Island (e.g., Irish Fair, Hmong Festival).
  - Cinco de Mayo Fiesta on the West Side.
  - Saint Paul Farmers Market and Twin Cities Jazz Festival in Lowertown.
  - Saint Paul Winter Carnival.
- Stories about settlement communities, including houseboats and Pig’s Eye.
  - The remaining “Indian Mounds” tell of a link to a vast trading network associated with the Hopewell Culture, as well as more recent Dakota culture.
- Stories about monuments and memorials along the GRP.

## URBAN WILDERNESS

The Great River Passage, with the Mississippi River at its heart, is a dynamic landscape—at once urban and natural. From bustling downtown to quiet, wooded trails, the Great River Passage provides a variety of landscapes, vistas, and experiences.

### Potential storylines:

- Stories of discovery and exploration, for example:
  - Fossil beds and Echo Cave at Lilydale Regional Park.
- Stories about recreational activities along the GRP such as biking and walking trails, kayaking, etc.
- Stories about migratory pathways for birds and butterflies.
- Stories about natural history along the GRP.
- Stories about the founding of Saint Paul and urban amenities along the GRP.

## MORE CONNECTED

The Great River Passage connects people to nature and to each other. Along 17 miles of riverfront, trails connect neighborhoods to the river, streams define settlement patterns that linked people to the city, and events and activities continue to connect people to the Mississippi River.

### Potential storylines:

- Stories about settlement patterns from river flats to bluffs.
- Stories about river-based events and activities such as Showboat, Paddleford, etc. that connect communities to the river.
- Stories about the Mississippi River as a national waterway and connections to places up and downstream. For example, the Delta Queen used to travel from Saint Paul to New Orleans, and the Mississippi Queen still visits.
- Stories about the river as both the source of drinking water that sustains our own bodies, and as the receptacle of our waste, suggests a complex water engineering system largely hidden from view, but central to our daily lives.

## DAKOTA LANDSCAPE

Dakota is written on the Minnesota (Mnisota) landscape. Significant sites along the Great River Passage continue to be honored by Dakota people.

### Potential storylines:

- Stories about place names and their links to Dakota culture, for example:
  - Mnisota Makoce: Minnesota
  - Haha Wakpa: River of the waterfalls (Mississippi River)
  - Tanka Wakpa: Great River (Mississippi River)
  - Wabasha: Dakota leader and hereditary chief
  - Imniza Ska: white rock (Saint Paul)
  - Wita Tanka (Pike Island)
  - Mni Owe Sni (Coldwater Spring)
  - Mnigaga Wapta Cistinna (Minnehaha Falls and Creek)
  - Oheyawahi (Pilot Knob)
- Stories about Dakota sites along the river and their significance to Dakota people, for example:
  - Caves (Wakan Tipi)
  - Bluffs (Indian Mounds Park overlooking Kapoza)
  - Confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers (Bdote)
  - Mounds (Indian Mounds Park)
  - Villages of about 200 people made seasonal rounds in the area, moving inland in the winter and fall and living near the river in the summer and spring.
- Stories about native plants, such as use by and significance for the Dakota.

## RIVER OF INDUSTRY

For more than a century, the Mississippi River has been a working river. Along the Great River Passage, remnants of the river’s industrial past are evident even as contemporary commercial use continues along this national waterway.

### Potential storylines:

- Stories about the industries along the Mississippi River in the GRP, for example:
  - The Brickyards of Saint Paul (Twin Cities Brick Company) on Lilydale Road.
  - Municipal Grain Elevator (existing interpretation) on the working river.
- Stories of river navigation and the markets and industries it connected.
  - Breweries, barging, and other area specialties.



Principles for interpretation along the Passage:

#### AUDIENCE-CENTERED

Interpretation serves a site's audiences—the visitors and residents, the young and old, those who linger and those who move quickly. Now and far into the future, these are the people who engage with the resources and stories embedded along the Passage.

#### MEANINGFUL

Interpretation must not only express facts—data points—but must also be meaningful to the audience. This requires providing content (facts) in a way that engages various audiences where they are. This relates to the means of telling stories and to universal messages within the stories.

#### AUTHENTIC

The places along the Passage attract people, and sometimes become a destination, because they are authentic, real, and grounded in the dynamic landscape and history of the Passage.

#### CONNECTED

The GRP is a series of related places, providing varied paths and experiences for the visitor. Partnerships along the Passage will make the community stronger and visitors should be encouraged to explore the Passage further so they can better appreciate how places relate to each other rather than existing in isolation.

#### SOCIAL

Most forms of interpretation gain strength because they are social experiences. Along the GRP, interpretation will encourage visitors to interact with each other—to forge connections.

#### EMOTIONAL

The interpretive experiences at the GRP are not stand-alone or one-time experiences. Rather, they are best experienced as a frequent practice and should serve as an inspiration to those who have just begun discovering the multi-faceted Passage—they must engage visitors' emotions.

#### MEMORY

Success lies not in increasing the numbers of visitors, but in visitors' memorable experiences of the Passage.

# INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

**THE PRINCIPLES OF UNIVERSAL DESIGN:**

The design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

**EQUITABLE USE**

The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.

**FLEXIBILITY IN USE**

The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.

**SIMPLE AND INTUITIVE USE**

Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.

**PERCEPTIBLE INFORMATION**

The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.

**TOLERANCE FOR ERROR**

The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.

**LOW PHYSICAL EFFORT**

The design can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimum fatigue.

**SIZE AND SPACE FOR APPROACH & USE**

Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of user's body size, posture, or mobility.

*Reference: The Center for Universal Design, Environments, and Products for All People, at North Carolina State University.*

# INTERPRETIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

This Interpretive Plan builds on the GRP Master Plan, which identifies locations and suggests interpretive topics by locations. The interpretive recommendations described here expand on those suggestions. The Passage is more than a winding segment of the Mississippi River coursing through an urban, upper Midwest environment. To truly appreciate this special 17-mile stretch of the mighty Mississippi River, it helps to get the big picture. It is more than a collection of vistas, trails, historical sites, and educational moments—it is also a segment of a 2,340-mile waterway that has shaped land, ecosystems, and human cultures over thousands of years and up to the present day. These recommendations are envisioned to raise awareness of the GRP's past and present environment, the events that have shaped the corridor, and in turn, the world that it has shaped.

The GRP Master Plan most strongly links site interpretation to Principle 3: More Connected (GRP Master Plan, pg. 31). With that in mind, the interpretive recommendations were developed to create stronger and better connections along the GRP—connections between people and Passage resources and stories, connections among people, and connections between GRP locations. Some of the interpretive recommendations, namely the GRP Executive Director, the GRP Brand and Design Guidelines, and the Website, reiterate recommendations from the GRP Master Plan while focusing on interpretation along the Passage. Other recommendations, such as the Kiosks and Interpretive Signage, build on the GRP Master Plan, providing details for design development and implementation. (See GRP Master Plan, Chapter 7 Delivering the Vision.)

Whenever an interpretive recommendation is implemented, the City should encourage efforts that honor all the languages that have evolved along the corridor to reinforce the GRP's desire to serve all kinds of audiences. Implementation should also bring best practices in placemaking to every project and consider the types of experiences people desire. Interpretation should always celebrate what makes a place special. Because of the diversity of landscapes found within the GRP and the guiding words, “more natural, more urban, more connected,” interpretive elements should give attention to views of the city and evidence of its industrial past as well as to natural settings.

## GRP Interpretive Facilities

### GATHERING AND INTERPRETIVE CENTER AT WARNER ROAD

*for exhibits and group tour meetings*

The GRP Master Plan suggested collaborative use of the DNR facilities on Warner Road, the Minnesota State Parks Office building, as a gathering place for Passage access, education, and administration. This Interpretive Plan builds on that, recommending a GRP Gathering and Interpretive Center where visitors can meet for guided tours, whether hiking, biking, or by vehicle, and explore interpretive exhibits that introduce them to the GRP and its resources. Space should be allocated to Passage staff and partners who are developing and implementing interpretive programming for the GRP.

### WELCOME CENTER AT KELLOGG BOULEVARD

*for orientation and guidance in exploring the GRP*

For many tourists as well as people who work in downtown Saint Paul, the GRP is first experienced along Kellogg Boulevard's Kellogg Mall Park. As redevelopment along Kellogg Boulevard progresses, a GRP Welcome Center should be created to provide an introduction to the GRP and its resources. The Welcome Center could be a small, stand-alone structure, a kiosk, or a space within a riverside building (similar to the NPS MNRRA Mississippi River Visitor Center in the Science Museum of Minnesota). The Welcome Center would provide a meeting place for visitors walking from downtown, for example during lunchtime urban hikes; introduce visitors to the GRP through self-guided tours and the GRP mobile website or app; and encourage residents and tourists alike to go outside and enjoy the many riverside experiences available along the Passage.

Ideally, the Welcome Center would be staffed to provide a personal connection with the GRP and its features, but it could be unstaffed with an engaging multimedia presence and brochure racks.

## Website

for visitor information, orientation, and a virtual experience

A website would provide GRP visitors with information about what they will see or experience along the Passage, including an overview of resources, thematic trail routes, and interpretive information. The website could also provide links to other relevant websites along the Passage, such as MNRRA (<http://www.nps.gov/miss/index.htm>).

For examples of effective websites for linear corridors, see the opening page of the PA Route 6 website with mile markers associated with key sites: <http://www.paroute6.com/> and the Bdote Memory Map: <http://bdotememorymap.org/memory-map/>.

As the interpretive plan is implemented, information and materials about the GRP should be updated to reflect the most current information. A variety of features can be developed, but the site should be easy and quick to navigate through and should follow the design and branding guidelines.

A GRP website should include at least the following:

### What to Do

Shows interpretive opportunities organized in different ways to appeal to a variety of users. For example: Maps of Topic Trails

- A Food Trail could highlight food experiences along the GRP such as the historic location of wild rice beds, demonstration gardens at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the Saint Paul Farmers Market, and fishing piers, among other locations.
- A River Industry Trail could highlight sites related to industries that rely on the river, such as the Saint Paul Municipal Grain Terminal, the Lock and Dam #1 at the Ford site, and Meeker Dam, among other locations.
- A Dakota Heritage Trail could highlight sites of significance to Dakota people such as Indian Mounds, Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave), and Bdote, among other places.

A mobile version of the website could have "Near You" or "Within a 15-minute walk you can see..." experiences.

### Plan Your Trip

Suggests different itineraries for walkers, bikers, drivers, different age groups, accessibility concerns, and different fitness levels.

### GRP Map

An interactive map would allow visitors to view photos and information about historical, cultural, and natural sites along the Passage.

### Downloadable Files

Visitors could also have the option to download audio and print self-guided tours or route maps. Podcasts are a relatively easy way to provide visitors with detailed information both before and after visiting the GRP, and to convey richer stories that visitors could not access without a guided tour. In addition, special events and programs can be turned into a resource for visitors. Podcasts can also be reused in other media.

### Friends Group

If possible, the City should track website use to evaluate what areas of the site visitors are using and how many are joining the Friends group (see GRP Executive Director section above). It could be particularly useful to correlate visitors to the interpretive sections of the website with those who also join the Friends group through the website. Web-based activities and questionnaires, linked through a website or social media sites, can be used to gather information on cognitive and attitudinal changes in visitors to the website. As interpretive elements for the website are developed, corresponding outcomes should be determined to evaluate the impact of the effort on interpretive goals.

## MOBILE WEBSITE

A mobile website is a website specially designed to display appropriately on smartphone and tablet screens, enabling visitors to access interpretive information on their personal devices. The content displayed on a mobile website is often streamlined from that which is displayed on a larger format website. An Internet connection, through either cellular data or on-site Wi-Fi, is required to enable visitors to access content. Like the regular website, a mobile website should include an interactive site map to enable visitors to access interpretive information at different parts of the Passage. Many people visit or experience the GRP in groups and the information accessed on a mobile website could be designed to encourage discussions as well as further exploration of the Passage.

Examples of effective mobile websites used at interpretive sites include:

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden: [lewisginter.org/m/#home](http://lewisginter.org/m/#home)

National Postal Museum: [npm.si.edu/mobile](http://npm.si.edu/mobile)

Brooklyn Museum: [brooklynmuseum.org/mobile](http://brooklynmuseum.org/mobile)



**Top:** The website should help visitors plan self-guided experiences (Bdote Memory Map)

**Middle:** Websites can show visitors points of interest and encourage them to explore more (PA Route 6)

**Bottom:** Mobile websites should make it easy for visitors to participate in activities (National Postal Museum)



**Top:** Gathering Place overlooks encourage formal and informal gatherings throughout the GRP

**Middle:** Vista overlooks provide a comfortable place to take a break while hiking or biking the GRP

**Bottom:** Lookout overlooks enhance the visitor experience on GRP trails

## Overlooks

Overlooks are the quintessential interpretive element along the Passage. The dramatic vistas from bluff-top locations and the broad, expansive views of the valley along the Mississippi River shoreline provide visitors numerous opportunities to experience the GRP.

Three types of overlooks are recommended: *gathering place*, *vista*, and *lookout*.

### Gathering Place

The larger overlooks are ideal gathering places for groups of visitors. Whether for performances, special events, or guided experiences, these areas encourage people to gather along the Passage. Events and activities, both informal and organized, will create a vibrant atmosphere and help transform the overlook into a corridor destination. Events and activities could include temporary or permanent public art installations or exhibits, music, dancing, yoga classes, art classes, hula-hoop contests, or other community-oriented programs.

- Amenities could include public art, amphitheaters, and any item from the Design Toolbox.

### Vista

These overlooks provide space for comfort and practical amenities along the Passage. These overlooks will provide interpretive and orientation information to encourage visitors to explore more of the GRP.

- Amenities could include public art, waysides (kiosk or low-profile), audio stations, viewing machines (pole-mounted binoculars), benches, and drinking fountains.

### Lookout

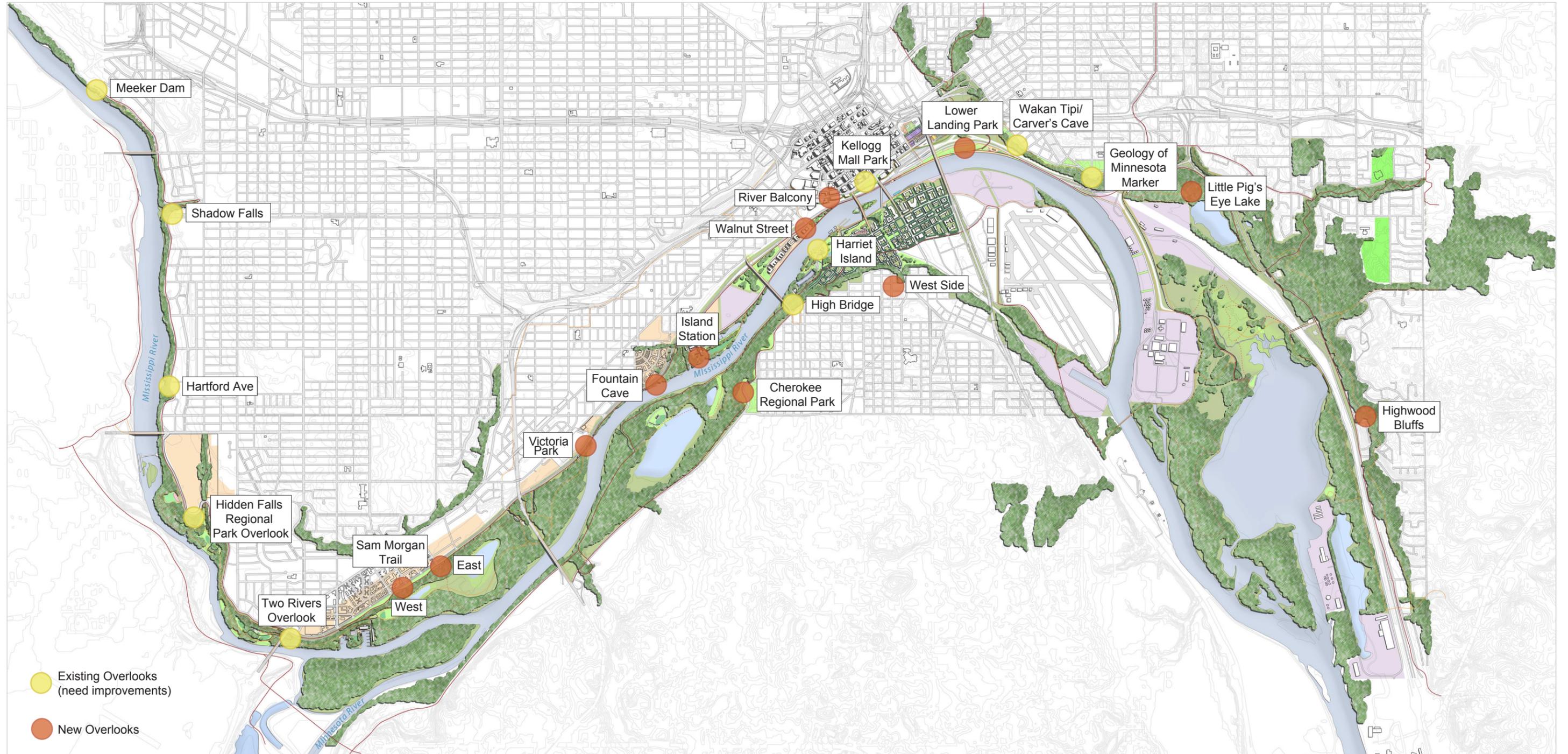
While people are hiking or biking, they will encounter these smaller overlooks along one of the GRP trails. Not intended as destinations, these overlooks will be rewarding surprises for visitors who happen upon them and will enhance the visitor experience.

- Amenities could include waysides, audio stations, benches, and drinking fountains.

## DESIGN TOOLBOX

The design and configuration of each overlook will vary depending on its particular site constraints and programming needs. Despite differences in the layout and use of each overlook, the design of each will employ a similar set of components—materials, furnishings, and interpretive elements—to create visual and aesthetic consistency throughout the Passage. Design toolbox components are organized in the following categories: unifying elements, signature elements, and landmark features. Options are available within each category and are intended to support programming opportunities at each overlook site. Each overlook will have a distinct GRP look and feel in the selection of materials and components, yet each will have a unique identity that links it to its place along the Passage. The design and selection of components and materials should ensure that visitors feel comfortable and safe wherever and whenever they are on the GRP, no matter if they access the Passage by car, bike, or on foot.

### Great River Passage Overlooks Saint Paul, Minnesota



**Unifying Elements**

Unifying Elements are used across the Passage to support the look, feel, and personality of the Passage as being a collection of places that are more natural, more urban, more connected. Unifying elements include plant materials, site furnishings and amenities and should be consistent throughout the corridor. A standard bench, bollard, trash receptacle, bike rack, and viewing scope are part of this set. These elements will appear frequently throughout the GRP, and their primary materials and finishes should feature a common aesthetic, such as wood, weathered steel, brushed aluminum, or another option. Unifying elements should be chosen and specified as a single suite of items so that as existing amenities need to be replaced, the new suite can take their place. These elements expand on signage and wayfinding components presented in the GRP Master Plan, section 7.3.

*Receptacles* for trash and recycling are standardized across the Saint Paul Park System and GRP sites adhere to these standards.

*Basic seating* along the Passage should be simple and strong with a classic, timeless design. To maintain a unified aesthetic and provide comfort for a variety of visitors, basic seating should be benches with optional feature (e.g., backrests, armrests, backless options, various lengths, etc). In terms of materials, wooden slats are attractive, durable, and comfortable to sit on in all seasons. They offer a warm aesthetic to complement the natural scenery along the Passage. As existing seating along the corridor deteriorates, it should be replaced and implemented consistently throughout the GRP.



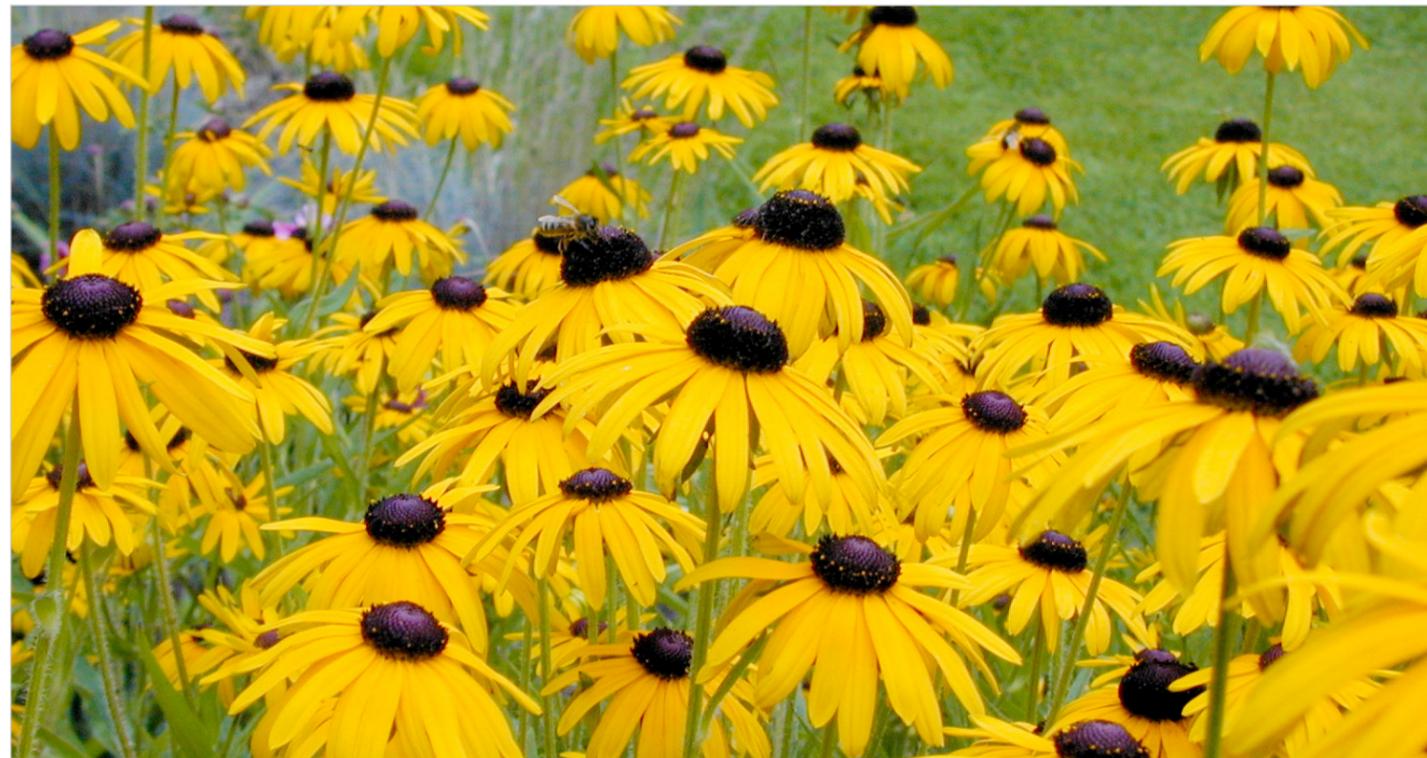
*Bicycle facilities* (racks and maintenance stations) are important at more locations as bicycle-ridership increases. Many of the GRP's overlooks are located within convenient biking distance from each other, so touring a few of the GRP overlooks could be an enjoyable way to spend a lunch hour, introduce visitors to the Passage, or recreate on evenings and weekends. Bike parking should be abundant, functional, and complement the design of the overlook or other GRP location.



*Lighting* can be a powerful tool in creating a sense of place, especially at the overlooks. Although Saint Paul's classic fixtures are well distributed throughout the Passage, and a standard feature for overall parkway lighting, the overlooks may require additional lighting. Selecting fixtures that complement the materials at a specific place can help reinforce the design, and uplighting should be used to showcase vegetation and other key site features. Additionally, path lighting should be used to promote safety.



*Native vegetation* used throughout the Passage will highlight the natural beauty of our indigenous flora. Seasonal interest, textural variety, and sensory characteristics should be emphasized, and vegetation should provide habitat and food for local fauna and promote pollinator health. In addition to contributing to the attractiveness of the GRP, the plantings should be functional—low maintenance, drought tolerant, or beneficial to stormwater treatment.



*Viewing machines* (i.e., binoculars on a stand) are a great way for visitors to connect visually to other places along the Passage. They are a fun and effective tool for seeing more of the GRP.



*Wayfinding* standards for the GRP were established in the GRP Master Plan and are currently being implemented throughout the corridor. Wherever possible, signage and wayfinding should be integrated with the landscape. In addition, universal iconography should be used as much as possible to ease understanding.



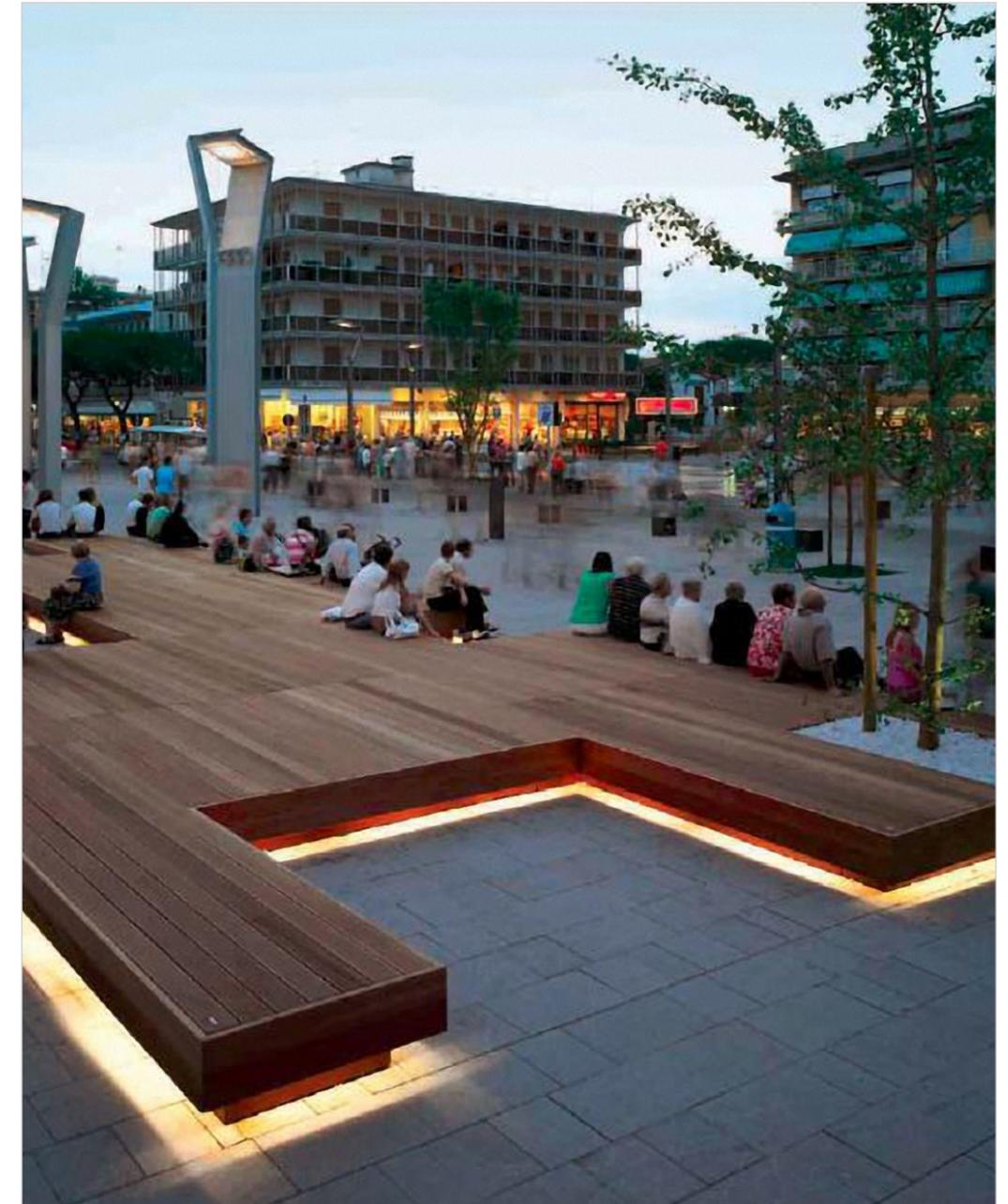
**Signature Elements**

Signature Elements take seemingly ordinary components and re-imagine them as design opportunities to celebrate the GRP. These components add panache to the design and distinction of a place. These elements could be partially or completely custom-made and should help attract visitors, provide comfortable and enticing spaces for gathering or rest, and add an extra level of interpretation. Each of the overlooks should utilize at least one signature element to create distinctive and inviting environments along the length of the GRP. These elements could be developed with involvement from public artists, or could help create spaces for art or performance.

*Drinking fountains* should be included for the comfort and safety of those recreating along the Passage. Ideally, these elements match the aesthetic of the recommended materials package, or are designed to showcase the talents of a local artist. Drinking fountains could be freestanding, or integrated into a site feature. Availability of water for pets should also be considered.



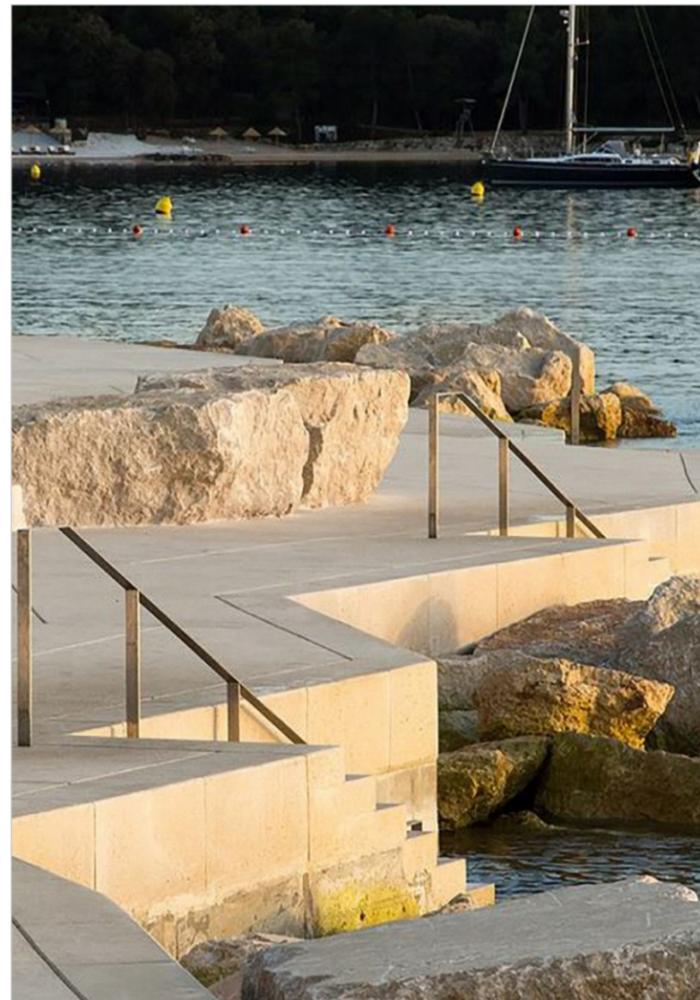
*Focal furnishings* can include seating, but should be space shapers and performance platforms as well. They should complement the basic seating elements chosen and stand out enough to be intriguing and draw people into the space. They could be freestanding and manufactured, or custom and integrated with walls and planters.



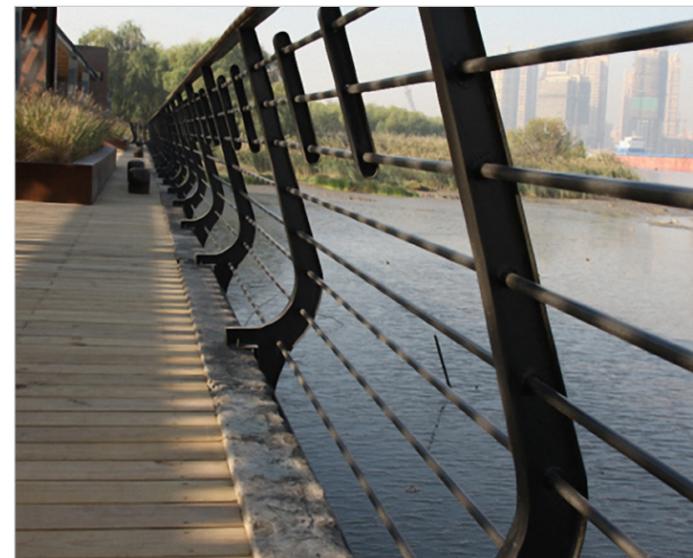
*Interpretive signage* at each overlook, unlike the GRP wayfinding signage, could vary from the established aesthetic (see the GRP Master Plan, page 173) as long as it supports a better visitor experience and understanding of the site. Integrating interpretive signage into the landscape, referencing historic and cultural events, and matching surrounding materials will help ensure a coherent appearance.



*Paving* should be a distinctive part of each overlook. It should respond to the programming and site maintenance needs, and define the geometry of the space. The ground plane, in material, form, and detailing, should complement the site furnishings and materials. Paving patterns could allude to the flow of the river, incorporate wayfinding or interpretive elements, or guide the eye into and beyond the site itself. Paving materials such as stabilized decomposed granite or wood decking can signal a change in environment and let visitors know they are entering a special place. Where appropriate, paving should direct stormwater flow and infiltrate runoff to promote a sustainable site design and support ecological function.



*Railings and walls* are found at many existing overlooks and some may require replacement to enhance a design aesthetic and provide safe viewing. Railings and walls should use materials that complement their surroundings and maximize the viewing experience as much as possible.



*Shade elements* present an attractive opportunity for artist involvement, offering not only shade and shelter, but the possibility of transforming a place into someplace special. Recycled signs are among the innovative materials that have been used to design an overhead lattice, but other fabric and vegetation options abound.



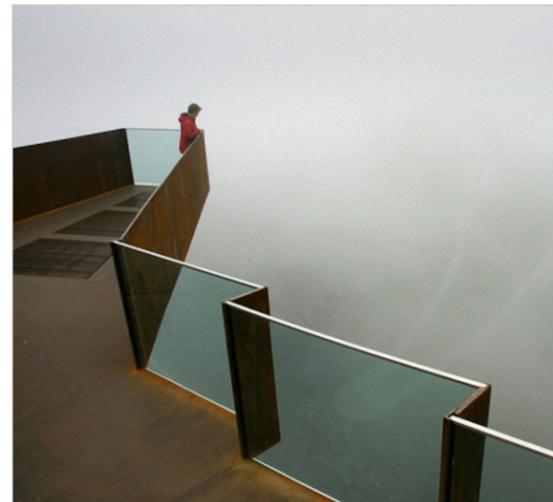
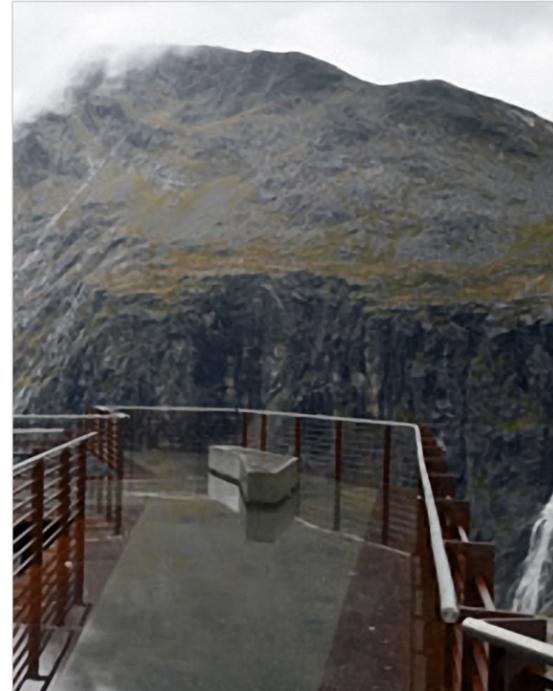
**Landmark Features**

Landmark Features are place-specific and respond to both the landscape and programming needs. They are transformative landscape elements that turn overlooks into destinations. Intended to create beloved and memorable places, landmark features should draw interest from nearby residents and visitors alike. Used primarily at select overlooks, they should be designed specifically as part of the place. Where possible, public artists, local organizations, nearby schools, and community groups should be involved in their selection, design, and intended use. Landmark features should draw people in and play a part in identifying and programming the Passage.

*Amphitheaters* can work with the landform to provide space for outdoor gathering and performance. They lend themselves well to certain overlooks because they focus attention on a central point. Amphitheaters should be designed to work with the existing topography and vegetation, taking care to preserve healthy and suitable trees.



*Balcony or cantilevers* provide spectacular ways to take in a vista. In addition, their location can provide a breathtaking experience. They are also beneficial in areas where the ground surface is sensitive or unstable, such as on a cliff edge, over tree roots, or along a shoreline.



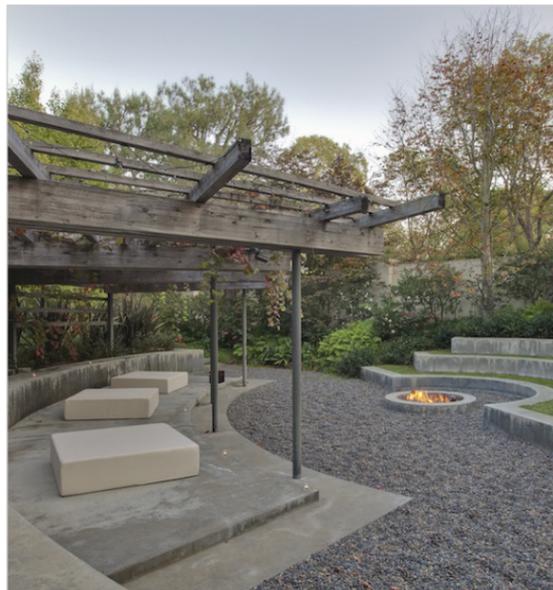
*Bird blinds* at certain areas along the GRP, such as the Pig's Eye Island Heron Rookery Scientific and Natural Area, require special sensitivity in their design. Allowing people to experience quality habitats can induce the kind of awe and wonder that fosters stewardship and environmental awareness; however, care must be taken not to interrupt natural processes. Bird blinds can help bridge the gap between human interaction and ecological function.



*Council rings* have a powerful quality in their circular form, which helps to gather people together. As a component at certain overlooks, council rings should encourage cultural exchange, facilitate discussion, and encourage performance and storytelling. They should be constructed of materials that reinforce the surrounding landscape or incorporated into the landform itself.



*Fire pits* can be a dynamic and dramatic feature in public spaces, and are an ideal addition to specific overlooks along the Passage. Fire is an elemental power that captivates, focuses, and unites us. Fire pits should be designed and built to promote safe use, and should use materials that complement their surroundings. They also can be designed as a functional work of art.



*Framing elements and gateways* would highlight the scenic views from select GRP overlooks. Framing elements are a powerful way to display these views, and gateways can announce entry and draw people into a space.



*Landforms* create interest and can be used to great effect in the design of distinctive places where it shapes space, guides circulation, and reinforces views. When combined with vegetation, landform can make intimate spaces that feel more natural and immersive than they would with vegetation alone.



*Outdoor classroom* space at some GRP sites would encourage partnerships with schools and other entities that could benefit from this amenity. Interpretive tours, performance troupes, nearby schools, the National Park Service, Capitol Region Watershed District, or other entities could use these spaces to explore their topic of interest. Outdoor classrooms should be designed as general gathering or performance spaces that highlight the view or surrounding scenery.



*Water features* can be a wonderful way to highlight the presence of the Mississippi River as well as the many streams that feed into it. New water features can take inspiration from existing water features such as along Saint Paul's Kellogg Boulevard in downtown. Water features have many beneficial qualities in public spaces, including encouraging play, providing a focal point for gathering, moderating micro-climate, and creating a pleasant auditory experience. Water features should be carefully considered as they can be costly to maintain.





**Top:** This low-profile wayside exhibits uses a graphic panel and a tactile element to tell the story

**Middle:** Wayside exhibits can describe a significant historical aspect of a site

**Bottom:** Wayside exhibits caption the landscape and provide greater meaning to what visitors are viewing

## Wayside Exhibits

Waysides are a location-specific media. Designed to provide orientation, interpretation, or both, waysides must relate to the location or view to be most effective.

Effective on-site interpretation is incomplete until it is placed in its rightful environment. Wayside panels should combine compelling graphics, title, and text that will enhance the visitor experience at the site. The design of these panels should be developed around a purpose statement to keep the story, and its supporting graphics and text, focused. In a kiosk, for example, these panels should interpret the kiosk location, conveying relevant stories about the site, its present significance, or stewardship messaging about its future. Content development details such as voice, graphics type and treatment, and audience should follow the GRP Design Guidelines (Appendix B). In addition, the NPS Wayside Exhibits Guide is a good starting point for effective wayside interpretation (see [www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/Wayside-Guide-First-Edition.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/Wayside-Guide-First-Edition.pdf)).

## UPRIGHT WAYSIDES | KIOSKS

Building on the GRP Sign System matrix (see GRP Master Plan, page 175), upright waysides will typically be in kiosks along the GRP that are at key locations in regional parks where parking and trailheads converge. Many kiosks have already been installed following the guidance of the GRP Master Plan. These four-sided structures feature two orientation panels, which show a GRP corridor map and a site-specific map of the vicinity, and two interpretive panels, which provide site-specific interpretive information.

### Orientation

Wayside maps are different from published maps and should follow different map standards. Unlike published maps, wayside maps can only be used on-site and cannot be carried away for future reference. The audience for these maps is a pedestrian or bike-riding audience and the “You Are Here” is the most important feature on these maps. The maps should follow the City’s Map Standards for Wayside Exhibits. If the City does not have Map Standards for Wayside Exhibits, standards should be created; NPS Wayside Exhibits Map Standards are a starting point (see [www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/map-standards.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/map-standards.pdf)).

### GRP Corridor Map

This map should be simplified and updated in an illustrative style. Rather than showing a large part of the city, the GRP Corridor Map should show the Passage, adjacent neighborhoods, and trails, roads, or pathways that bring people to the GRP.

### Vicinity Map

This map should provide only the necessary information to get people from the kiosk to the next kiosk (or two) in either direction. This map should be site specific and focused. It should not include all the information you would see in a photograph or on the ground, but only those elements that are relevant to the map purpose.

## LOW-PROFILE WAYSIDES

These interpretive panels are used to caption the landscape. Low-profile waysides serve a different purpose from books or magazines in conveying information—they are a graphic-driven medium that relies on bold graphics rather than text. To be most effective, consider four key elements: compelling graphics, direction of view, quantity, and illustrations or diagrams.

### Compelling graphics

Waysides are a graphic medium, and the main image should tell the story. A graphic can tell the story by highlighting a particular landscape feature.

### Direction of view

The low angle and position of the wayside should channel the visitor’s attention. The wayside should align the panel and the landscape feature being interpreted.

### Quantity

Too many waysides can dilute focus and compromise the experience, but too few could shortchange the visitor. The best waysides make one point, and one point only, and blend harmoniously with the setting.

### Illustrations and diagrams

Custom graphics can peel back landscape surfaces to reveal what is beneath or behind what we can see, to show how something works or is put together. A bird’s eye view can enlarge the visitor’s perspective, while a micro-view can bring focus to things they might otherwise overlook.

Waysides tell a short, engaging story, and leave the visitor wanting more. Space is limited and the audience is fleeting. The wayside text must connect with, support, and enhance the images and landscape that the visitors see. Following are guidelines for the amount of text to include on a standard, 36-inch-wide by 24-inch-high, interpretive wayside panel.

Type of Information	Purpose	Number of Words
Exhibit Titles	To attract attention To convey the theme or subtheme	1-5
Introduction	To introduce the organization and tone of an exhibit	20-100
Focus	To convey a storyline	20-150
Caption	To interpret individual objects or topics within a storyline	10-50



Upright waysides along the Blue Ridge Parkway provide both orientation and interpretive information



At Rohwer Japanese American Relocation Center, this kiosk includes interpretive panels and audio, and the former camp's guard towers inspired the design

**3-30-3 RULE**

Visitor attention span at a wayside is relatively short. An exhibit has about **three** seconds to grab a visitor’s attention with a compelling graphic or title and then about **30** seconds for them to scan the panel. If the panel looks sufficiently interesting, a visitor may stay up to **three** minutes to delve deeper into the graphics and text.



**Middle:** Tactile elements add depth to a story  
**Bottom:** Bronze is a recommended material for tactile elements installed outdoors because of its durability

The NPS Wayside Exhibits Guide (<http://www.nps.gov/hfc/pdf/waysides/Wayside-Guide-First-Edition.pdf>) provides guidelines for wayside writing that are particularly important for visitors with cognitive and learning disabilities.

- Stay Connected with the View
- The Most Powerful Sentence
- Use the Active Voice
- Number of Words
- Put Text into Hierarchies
- Get Feedback and Edit, Edit, Edit
- The "So-What?" Test

A wayside may include audio or tactile elements.

**TACTILE**

Tactile elements give visitors with visual impairments access to ideas and information. They also increase the range of a wayside’s appeal, engage people with differing learning styles, and add emphasis to a story. Tactile elements can be mounted to a flat panel or they can be stand-alone and separate structures. Because waysides are used outdoors, the material for tactile elements must be able to withstand seasonal weather conditions. Bronze is often used for tactile elements, but other materials are acceptable if they can withstand the elements and hold up over time.

**AUDIO**

Audio can enhance accessibility and visitor experience. Providing audio description can make waysides accessible to visitors who are blind or have low vision. In addition to audio description, audio may be considered and used for language translation, interpretive narration, or self-guided tours.

An on-site audio station, solar-powered or hand-crank, can play a recorded message at the touch of a button. A solar-powered audio post is more accessible than a hand-crank unit because it only requires the visitor to touch a button to hear the audio. These units store power on rechargeable batteries, so they can play after dark, and their batteries will charge in full sun as well as shady conditions. They can play one or two separate audio messages. A hand-crank audio unit is not light dependant, so the audio is always available once the visitor turns the handle a few times. The hand-crank player can play up to eight separate audio messages, providing a broad range of information, whether supplemental interpretation, multiple languages, or audio description. Both audio units can be mounted in-ground, on a base plate, or on a wall.

**Self-Guided & Guided Experiences**

**SELF-GUIDED EXPERIENCES**

The GRP is primarily a self-guided experience. Currently, kiosks provide some interpretive information about the history of the Passage, as well as logistical information. To expand self-guided interpretive opportunities, varieties of media are recommended and should be coordinated so visitors have comparable self-guided experiences whether they use printed or downloaded materials, or a mobile app.

**Printed Materials:**

Printed interpretive materials are helpful resources for those who cannot participate in a guided experience or do not wish to use other media options (for example, a mobile phone tour). Printed materials can enhance visitor orientation, can be a souvenir or reminder of the GRP take-home messages, can be available at select GRP locations, and downloaded and printed from home. All printed materials should be designed according to the GRP Guidelines.

Development of one or more self-guiding brochures that align with the GRP theme and subthemes would enhance the visitor experience. Brochures can be developed more quickly and inexpensively than multimedia tours and can be used by visitors who do not wish to use multimedia devices.

Multiple self-guiding brochures should be developed to offer visitors options for their site experience. For example, one interpretive brochure option might highlight native plants and bloom schedules, while another might highlight historical features along the GRP. Initially, one high-quality brochure that conveys the GRP theme and subthemes and is aimed at a general adult audience could be developed. As time, partnerships, and funding permit, additional self-guiding brochures, targeted at specific audience groups and storylines, could be developed. Below are examples of different brochures that could be developed:

- Seasonal brochures would encourage visitors to return and experience how the Passage changes throughout the season. These brochures could include historical and cultural information to link current activities to historical and seasonal activities along the Mississippi River and throughout the GRP.
- Resource specific brochures would highlight one particular element of the Passage, such as historical structures, significant ecological areas, or other resources. Preservation and conservation should be addressed in any resource-based materials and stewardship messaging, such as leave no trace™, could provide guidance for GRP visitors.
- Tour brochures or site guides would utilize a map graphic to share narratives about points along a designated route through the Passage. Like a guided tour, a self-guided tour brochure would be theme based. The interpretive stops could be linked to landscape features, specially designed markers, or interpretive signage.

- Activity-based brochures, such as a scavenger hunt or questing brochure, could encourage visitors to locate or solve riddles pertaining to certain features within the Passage, such as plants or other landscape features. It could also be used to encourage visitors to explore more of the GRP, such as the restoration and preservation activities, historic structures, and trail features.

**Audio/Visual Materials**

Audio and video tracks could be developed to align with the printed materials described above. These multimedia elements should be tailored for specific audiences (e.g., one for adults and one for children) and should be organized so the visitor can easily access the information most interesting to them to plan their GRP experience. Whenever audio and video elements are developed, a quality script and appropriate voice or acting talent are important to consider. There are different benefits for using local celebrities, experts, community residents, or professional actors, depending on the project and its requirements.

**Mobile Phone Tour**

These types of audio tours allow visitors to call a telephone number and enter a code at each stop on the tour to hear recorded information. Some mobile phones allow video in addition to audio information. Mobile phone tours have relatively low overhead costs because visitors use their own devices, however, a strong mobile phone signal is required to support these types of tours. Also, consider if visitors will have their own devices with them, if they will want to use the minutes or data required, or if this option will limit the number of visitors who can participate. Mobile phone tours can be easily changed and updated. Stops should be developed to be no more than 45 seconds per stop, except in rare instances. Tours narrated by different voices, for example local celebrities such as Garrison Keillor, local artists such as Mona Smith, or someone knowledgeable but irreverent like Kevin Kling, could add interest and a level of familiarity for listeners.

A GRP mobile phone tour could build on an existing program, the Ranger-on-Call Program, which is a partnership of the National Park Service, the Mississippi River Fund, and many community partners. The Ranger-on-Call is a free, mobile phone tour service that serves as a guide to exploring some of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area's most special places. Visitors dial (877) 727-1172 and enter a two-digit number associated with an on-site marker or the downloaded site map. Featured sites include Coldwater Spring, Saint Anthony Falls, Saint Paul Riverfront, and the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers, among others.

**Mobile App:**

A GRP mobile app would be faster and more responsive than a mobile website and would not necessarily require Internet access to use on-site. As with podcasts, an Internet connection is required for the initial download of the app, so visitors would need to know the app is available and download it before arriving or use a cellular data connection once on-site. A mobile app would include interactive and static features designed to provoke further physical and intellectual exploration of the Passage. As with a mobile website, an interactive site map would enable visitors

to access interpretive information at different parts of the site. An annual fee for hosting the app is typical for providers. Advertising for relevant products or services could be considered to help with ongoing maintenance costs.

Examples of mobile apps used at interpretive sites include:

Kew Gardens "Discover what's in bloom at Kew today... uncover hidden gems...and dig deeper into our science and horticulture."

San Diego Zoo "Stay connected to wildlife!"

The GRP could build on geocaching activities in Minnesota State Parks (<http://dnr.state.mn.us/geocaching/index.html>) or partner with the Minnesota Geocaching Association to create geocaching experiences specific to the GRP.

**GUIDED EXPERIENCES**

Initially, developing guided experiences along the GRP should build on existing guided programs that have been developed and implemented by potential GRP partners, such as the Bdote Field Trip organized by the Minnesota Humanities Center. To engage different GRP audiences, a variety of interpretive programs are recommended for guided experiences. Interpretive programs are regularly scheduled activities such as talks, tours, or workshops that are held frequently—for example, once per week or once per month. Programs would be led by a trained interpreter or guide and developed with a specific theme, and associated goals, objectives, and outcomes in mind. Interpretive programs can be presented in a variety of formats; however, regardless of format, the goal should be visitor inspiration rather than education.

**Interpretive Tours**

Interpretive tours are generally mobile experiences that bring visitor groups (for example, school and tourist groups) along a designated route to highlight elements that speak to a particular program topic. For example, an interpretive tour of the GRP could be developed around the sub-theme "River of Industry." Participants would be guided through the Passage, stopping at key locations that tangibly connect visitors with the story. Currently, guided tours along the Passage are conducted by a variety of organizations, providing opportunities for partnerships to develop a cohesive message and experience for visitors. The Minnesota Humanities Center, for example, organized a Bdote Field Trip for teachers to spend the day visiting local sites of significance to Dakota people and learning about them from a Dakota perspective.

**Interpretive Talks**

Interpretive talks differ from interpretive tours in that they are generally stationary experiences, often occurring at a park amphitheater, a particular interpretive feature (e.g., a historic building or a natural viewshed), or other static location. As with all interpretive programs, talks are theme or subtheme based, with defined program goals, objectives, and outcomes. They are generally informal and less academic than formal lectures. As such, they are designed to appeal to a wide variety of visitor interests and age groups.

**LEAVE NO TRACE™ PRINCIPLES FOR KIDS**

- Know Before You Go
- Choose The Right Path
- Trash Your Trash
- Leave What You Find
- Be Careful With Fire
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Kind To Other Visitors



**Middle:** Audio is effective for auditory learners and for nature sounds, like bird calls

**Bottom:** Brochures are effective for self-guided experiences



**Top:** Programming can be tailored to particular audience groups or for special events

**Bottom:** Trained interpreters are skilled at tailoring their program for specific audiences

**Workshops**

Workshop programs are often based upon a particular craft or activity. For example, as part of a Nature Journaling Workshop, participants could learn plant, tree, mammal, and bird identification along with creative writing and sketching. Local naturalists, writers, and artists could facilitate monthly sessions to provide a range of seasonal experiences as well as different creative approaches and tools.

Interpretive programs should be developed for specific audiences. Partnerships with senior community centers and local schools could help inform program content for both adults and children based on the GRP theme and subthemes. Alternatively, different themed programs could be offered on different days or different times during the week to encourage visitors to make a return visit. Over time, the City should evaluate participation in and visitor feedback on various interpretive programs to inform ongoing development of programs.

As interpretive programs are developed, the City should consider establishing a formalized interpreter-training program to ensure programs are developed to a consistently high standard. One example for program development training is the National Association for Interpretation’s (NAI) process for program development (see <http://interprettraining.com/cig-training.php>), taught through NAI’s certified interpretive guide (CIG) program. A City staff member trained as a certified interpretive trainer (CIT) could train other staff and volunteers using NAI’s curriculum for guides. This curriculum provides a solid foundation in basic communications theory and best practices related to the field of interpretation.

**Special Events**

Special events are typically scheduled on an annual or one-time basis. During these events, trained interpreters who specialize in historical, cultural, or environmental topic could lead activities or provide information as needed to event participants. Ideas for activities based on the park’s theme and subthemes include:

- Growing Along the GRP: A mid-summer event could include tours, hikes, and workshops at different places where food and medicinal plants are growing or once grew. The event could have games and storytelling on food topics such as demonstration gardens at the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, the historical wild rice beds along the river, and the Saint Paul Farmer’s Market.
- Trails Day: Trails connect the Passage and link neighborhoods to the Mississippi River. To introduce visitors to the GRP and encourage them to use the trails, the City could host an event on National Trails Day (the first Saturday in June). Activities could include trail clean-ups; workshops about conservation, best management practices for natural resources, and trail stewardship; and games encouraging the observation of trail landscapes.

This is not an all-inclusive list of possible guided interpretive services. City staff should be encouraged to update existing programs or develop additional experiences on a regular basis that fit within the framework of subthemes outlined in this plan. The primary recommendation regarding guided programs is that they need to be focused on conveying to visitors the site’s overall theme and subthemes, and they should be based on specific objectives linked to visitor groups. Developing a range of different program opportunities offers visitors options and encourages return visits.

**Public Art**

During the past few decades, the field of public art has greatly expanded, encompassing far more than murals, monuments, and memorials. Artists working in the public realm today are ideally suited to play a vital role—along with interpretive planners, designers, and other professionals—in achieving the goals identified in the GRP Master Plan.

Artists have the ability to creatively and collaboratively engage communities, to shed light on the big picture, and to consider the GRP within the context of the entire Mississippi River corridor in addition to its 17 miles of Saint Paul riverfront and distinctive sites. By participating on design teams to create new works of visual or performing art, artists can help simplify complex geological systems, use new technologies to visualize data, and create poetic metaphors for the area’s compelling history and dramatic changes. This can increase community understanding, appreciation, and stewardship of the entire corridor, including the ecological and cultural legacies the river has nurtured. Public art, in a variety of forms and practices, can make connections, engage communities, educate youth, beautify eyesores, and celebrate, commemorate, and add value to almost any interpretive element. Sometimes it is enough to simply frame the views, direct a visitor’s gaze, or add an accent on the pathway. Nature itself is the greatest public available to tell its own story, and industrial remains have the inherent poetic ability to remind us of past attempts to tame nature.

**CORRIDOR-WIDE CONSIDERATIONS**

These considerations apply to the entire corridor and are not necessarily place-specific—their focus is on connectivity. In addition to site-specific public art projects and activities that reinforce the context of locations along the Passage, the development and implementation of corridor-wide public art that inspires exploration and provides creative discoveries is recommended. These could be annual events or ritualized ceremonies, summer-long installations using the entire river or its banks, or bold yet transient artistic statements that take advantage of crowds assembled for annual events, such as the Twin Cities Marathon, the Saint Paul Bike Classic, 4th of July, Winter Carnival, etc. The following concepts are simply starting points, intended to inspire further planning by the City and river corridor stakeholders in concert with the regional arts community.



Mississippi Watershed mural project, created on Harriet Island as part of the 2013 Eco Arts Festival (photo by Kirstin Wiegmann)



Mosaic walkway in San Francisco (photo courtesy of Public Art Review)



Artist-designed birdhouses at an art park in Pennsylvania



"Red Alert" sculpture by Al Wadzinski, located on University Avenue near Fairview in St. Paul, is made from found objects and refuse salvaged during Mississippi River clean up

**Public Art along the Passage should...**

**STRENGTHEN CONNECTIONS** with the wealth of creative communities in the region. Establish partnerships with artists, and arts and cultural organizations to create projects, develop long-term programs, and integrate the GRP into their work.

**HONOR THE CITY'S PUBLIC ART ORDINANCE**, and adhere to its policies and guidelines. This includes involving artists at the earliest stages of planning, design, and creation of interpretive elements, as well as participation in any related private developments or public improvements along the GRP corridor.

**GIVE PREFERENCE TO SAINT PAUL AND REGIONAL ARTISTS** in this effort, including commissioned art, programming, and other activities.

**PLAN AND DESIGN PUBLIC ART WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF SUSTAINABILITY IN MIND**, and with sensitivity to the context and audiences of each site. In particular, pay attention to the needs of children, students, diverse ethnic cultures, and individuals with disabilities.

**ENCOURAGE ARTISTS** to create temporary events and activities by establishing simplified permitting.

**EMBRACE ALL FOUR SEASONS.** Consider projects that have unique characteristics in winter to reward those who venture outside when it is very cold.

**A Rite of Fire and Water**

Each year on the Fall Solstice, people are invited to gather near the river's edge and celebrate the passage of the season. Working with local and national arts organizations, such as Barebones Productions (Minneapolis) and Waterfire (Providence), a four-hour ceremonial event would draw connections between the dramatic vistas along the GRP and key points along the corridor where visitors can touch the water. The event would feature large bonfires at four or five fire pits at overlook locations, as well as fires "floating" on the river (maintained by volunteers in boats). Audiences would be directed to bridges and other strategic viewing locations, and a map of the GRP would highlight the interpretive features at each site. Tour boats could also be used for special viewing. Daytime workshops and touring activities could be incorporated to encourage further exploration of the corridor on the Solstice.

**As Below, So Above**

In 2008, Forecast Public Art worked with artist Leila Daw to design a skywriting art project to trace the Mississippi River's path through the Twin Cities—10,000 feet in the air! The project was never realized, yet it remains a compelling concept. The ideal time for this project is in the fall, when the air temperature is below 50 degrees. During the Twin Cities Marathon, with thousands of people already outside and near the river, this project would cause quite a buzz, raising regional awareness of the river and generating significant media attention.

**"Big S" Silt Sculpture**

This monumental concept was conceived during the GRP Master Planning process. Forecast Public Art invited national artist Ned Kahn, in collaboration with landscape architect Tom Oslund, to consider designing a project that uses the entire river corridor. Kahn conceived of a massive silt earthwork formed by the water's flow that illustrates nature's power to reshape the land on a grand scale—making tangible a process that is constantly occurring yet visible only after floods.

**OTHER PUBLIC ART CONCEPTS FROM THE GRP MASTER PLAN**

**Concept Book**

The City along with select partners could invite a diverse group of acclaimed artists to visit Saint Paul, review plan documents, and produce sketches and statements describing bold, compelling, and wondrous ideas that address the corridor as a whole, or sites of particular interest to them. This event could involve local collaborators, partners, or potential sponsors.

**River Art School Curriculum**

The City and its partners could work with schools to incorporate ideas and concerns about the river and its effect on our lives into K-12 settings. Designed to support academic goals, this concept could involve field trips, independent art projects in GRP-adjacent neighborhoods, audio/video programming, oral histories, and other information gathering and documenting. Arts-based collaborations would facilitate stronger connections to the Passage among schoolchildren and college students, contributing to pride in a local resource as well as educational outcomes.

**Artists-in-Residence**

The City and its partners could engage diverse groups of artists in demonstrating the river's role in economic development, community building, and placemaking. Free studio space would be offered to artists in exchange for their leadership in developing temporary and permanent projects throughout the community. Playwrights, songwriters, composers, filmmakers, dancers, and others would be welcome.

**Micro-grants for artists and organizations**

The City or its partners could provide incentives for creative teams to work throughout Saint Paul addressing ideas or themes relevant to the river. Micro-grants could encourage local industries to work with artists, provide in-kind goods and services, or even host artists-in-residence to maintain the strong ties that industry has to the GRP. Similarly, micro-grants could encourage new industries to occupy or create programming for sites adjacent to the river. Opportunities abound for positive change brought about by environmental engineers, river cleanup groups, "green" industries, and cultural organizations (such as BareBones Productions).



Parking garage treatment with digital printing at Kansas City Public Library



Street painting during Open Streets day on Minnehaha Avenue, Minneapolis



Playground sculpture by Tom Otterness in New York (photo courtesy of the artist)

PUBLIC ART AND RIVER INTERPRETATION

“Public art is a part of our public history, part of our evolving culture and our collective memory. It reflects and reveals our society and adds meaning to our cities. As artists respond to our times, they reflect their inner vision to the outside world, and they create a chronicle of our public experience.”

Public Art Association, Philadelphia





### Interpretation by Location

Opportunities are presented below for distributing the interpretive elements just described throughout the GRP. The GRP Master Plan identified these sites as particularly ripe for interpretation and suggested key ideas based on the project team’s on-site research and assessment. As the City implements these interpretive recommendations, it could reserve space for future interpretive art opportunities and balance permanent installations with ephemeral ones.

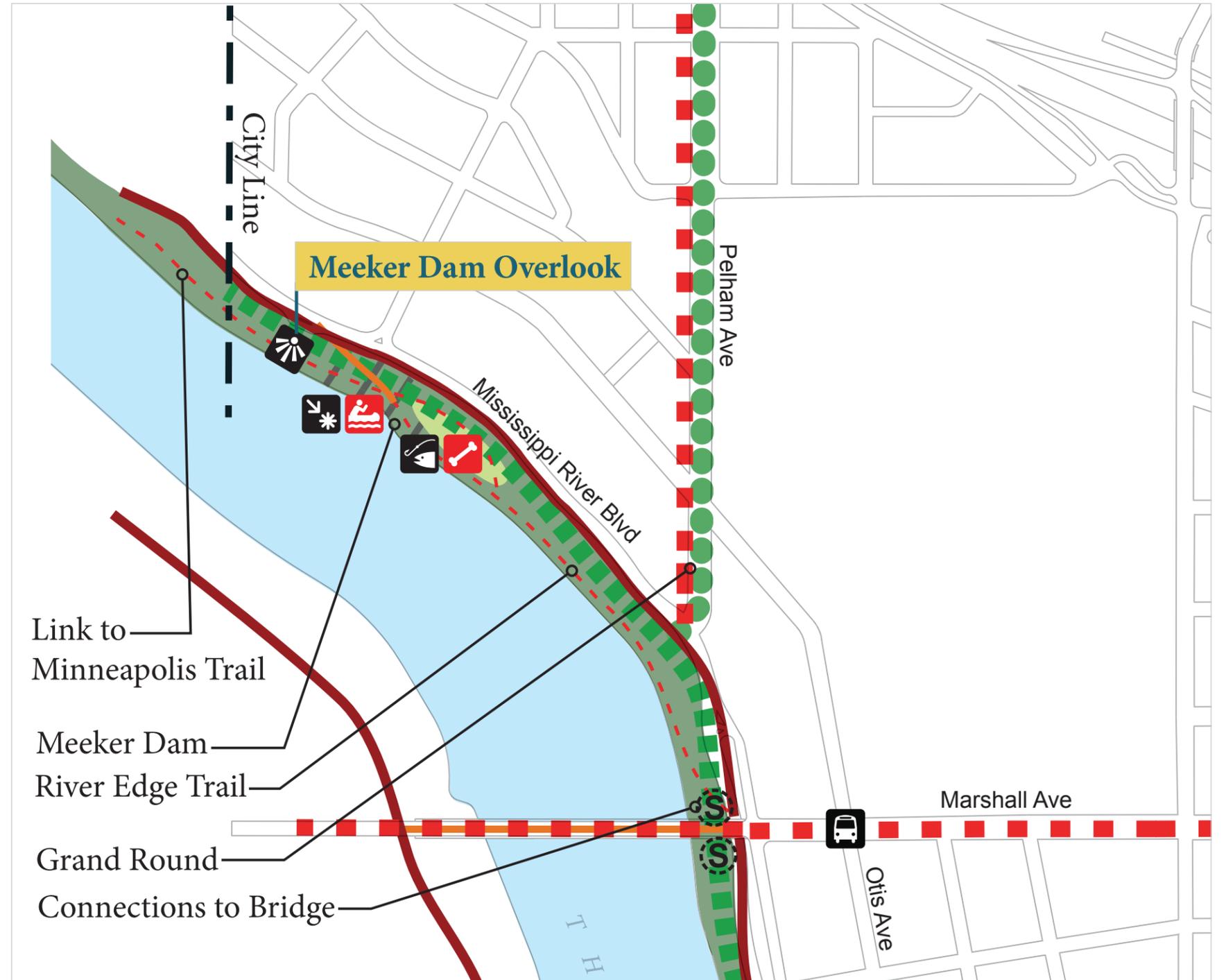
### GORGE REACH

#### Mississippi River Boulevard

The GRP Master Plan identifies the need for new interpretation or improvements to existing elements at key places along Mississippi River Boulevard.

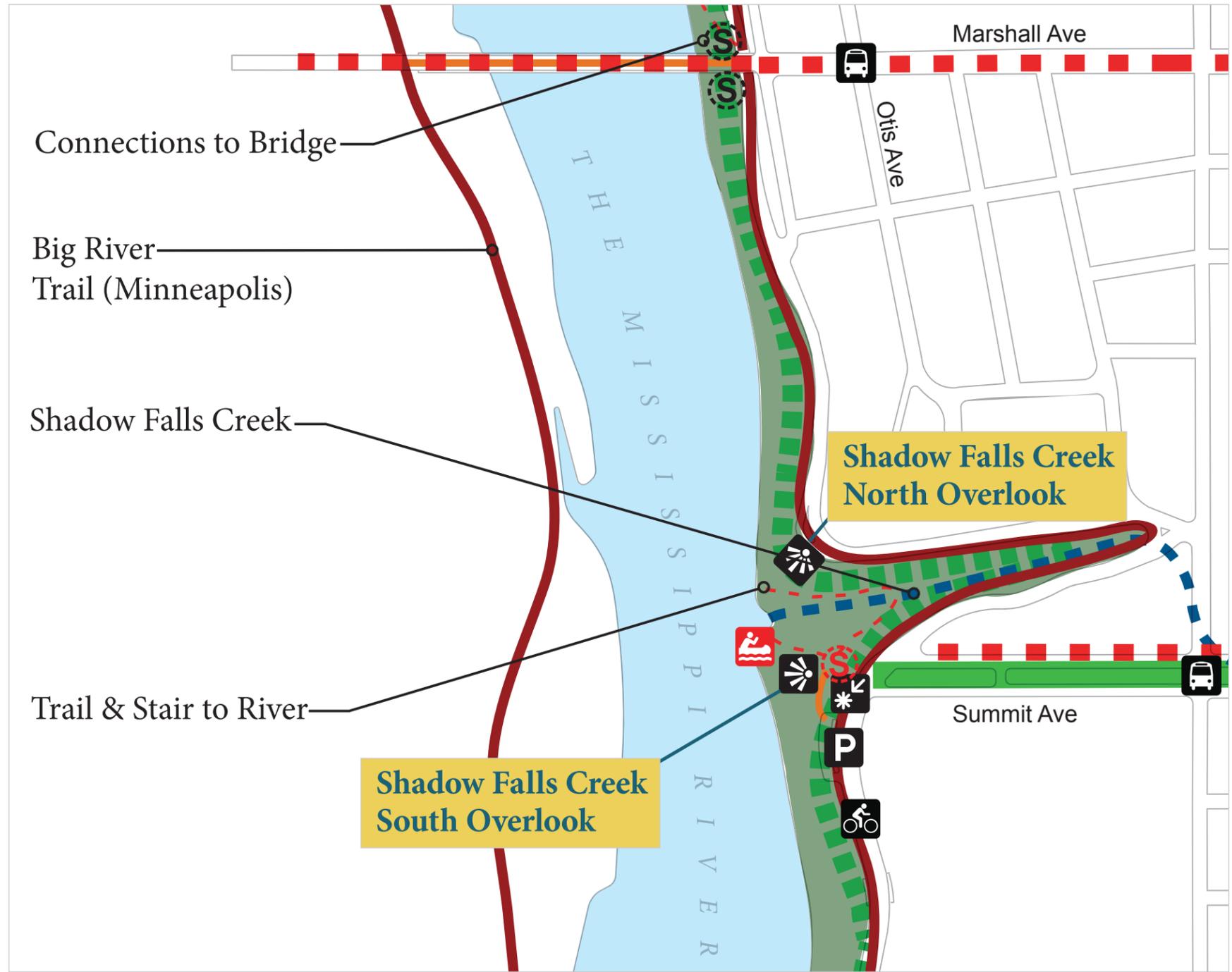
Historic Meeker Dam is a place of discovery, and each visit offers a different experience based on the river’s stage. The historic remnants of the dam are hidden when the river is high but visible when it is low. This is the northernmost stop on the GRP and an ideal opportunity to introduce and orient visitors to the GRP.

- *Design:* From the bluff, visitors receive an orientation to the GRP and are encouraged to descend to the river. As they hike the twisting pathway down to the river, they leave the city behind and enter a more natural setting. Any elements or structures adjacent to the river need to be able to withstand floods and seasonal changes, and a low impact, sensitive touch should be employed at the river’s edge.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** and **River of Industry** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Elements along the route to the dam and at the dam site should be both functional and interpretive, reflecting the transitional experience from an urban to a natural setting. Visitors’ discovery of the historic dam could be enhanced by replacing utilitarian benches and picnic tables with functional yet artistic artifacts that both merge with and emerge from the landscape.
- *Overlook:* An vista-style overlook would encourage visitors to explore the riverside by bringing them closer to its beauty. Amenities could include a kiosk, a low-profile wayside facing the river gorge, a bike maintenance station, and a drinking fountain. Site maintenance will require selective clearing to establish and maintain the view.
- *Wayside:* A kiosk would have four sides—two with GRP maps and two with interpretive information. The primary subtheme here would be **River of Industry**, with stories about the historic dam and its use. The secondary subtheme would be **Urban Wilderness** to convey that although visitors can see the Minneapolis skyline from the bluff, they will retreat into a more natural environment as they make their way down the path to the historic dam site.



#### Meeker Dam | Vista Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Wayfinding & Kiosk on River Road | Receptacles | Bike Racks & Repair Station on River Road | Drinking Fountain



**Shadow Falls Creek - North | Lookout Overlook**  
 Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain

**Shadow Falls Creek - South | Gathering Place Overlook**  
 Interpretation & Design Elements: Amphitheater | Focal Furnishings | Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Wayfinding & Kiosk

The Shadow Falls Creek overlook is a landmark terminus for Summit Avenue, which makes its way from the Cathedral of Saint Paul near downtown to its end here at the Mississippi River. The view of the Minneapolis skyline and the Shadow Falls site merges the past, present, and future.

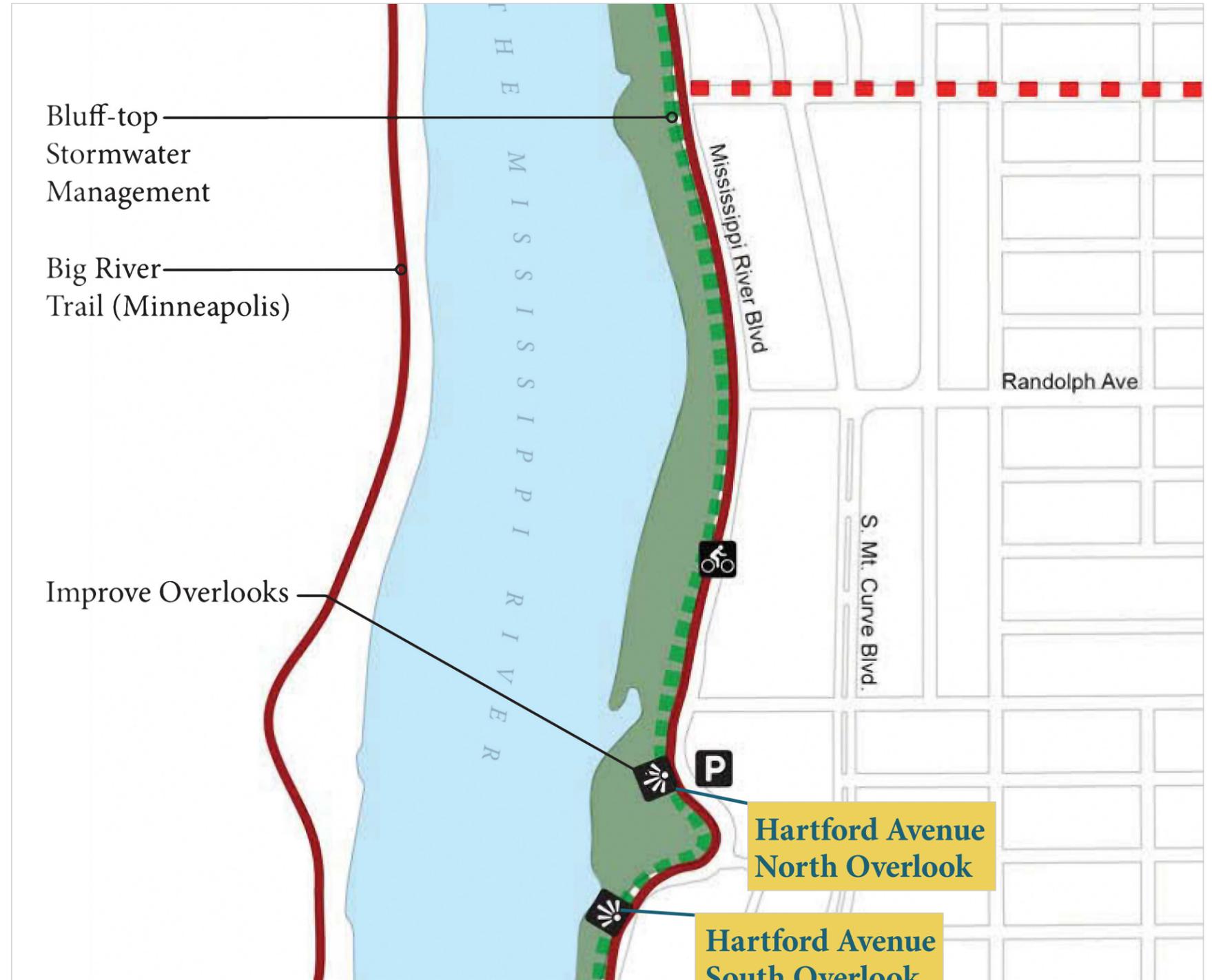
- *Design:* Here, the river meets with Saint Paul’s great residential street, and nature and the history of settlement intersect. Already used as a gathering place, modest improvements to the space between the memorial obelisk and the limestone bluff would encourage opportunities for intimate storytelling and musical performance.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **More Connected** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Overlooks:* There are two lookout-style overlooks at this location—one on the south side of the creek valley and one on the north side. The southern, gathering place-style overlook is at the end of Summit Avenue and is among the river’s most visited spots. The ground plane should be graded and additional seating, perhaps arranged as a small amphitheater, provided to encourage informal gatherings. The northern overlook should be updated to a lookout-style when feasible to include a bench, wayside, and drinking fountain.
- *Waysides:* Along the paved trail (northern overlook) and adjacent to the parking area (southern overlook), waysides could convey stories year-round. The subtheme expressed at the northern overlook would be **More Connected**, with stories about settlement along the river and the intersection of trails, roads, and water that come together at this site. The subtheme expressed at the southern overlook would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about the creek that feeds into the Mississippi River here and how the landscape around it has changed over time.

At Mississippi River Boulevard near Hartford Avenue, there are two existing overlooks identified in the GRP Master Plan. The northern overlook has a low-profile wayside adjacent to a parking area, and the southern overlook has a stone wall topped with a railing that provides a clear view of the river gorge.

- *Design:* As visitors wind along the boulevard and adjacent paved trail, they catch occasional glimpses of the river peeking through the trees. A small parking area lets drivers stop safely to enjoy the view, benches let hikers and bikers take a break, and side streets connect neighborhoods to the flow of the boulevard and the river below. The design of these small but delightful places along this winding residential road reinforce a connection with the river.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **A Special Place for Many People** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Overlooks:* The two existing overlooks should be improved to align with a lookout overlook style and should each include at least a bench, drinking fountain, and low-profile wayside. Site maintenance may require selective clearing to establish and maintain river views.
- *Waysides:* The existing wayside should be updated to adhere to the GRP Guidelines, and a low-profile wayside should be added at the southern overlook. At the northern overlook, a low-profile wayside would convey the **A Special Place for Many People** subtheme through stories about events along the boulevard and about how the river and trails influence people's lifestyle, past and present. At the southern overlook, a rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about the geologic forces that shaped the river gorge visitors experience at this location.

**Ford Lock & Dam #1**

Ford Lock and Dam #1 is a key example of the working river, conveyed in a monumental way by the dam itself. The kiosk panels should be updated to align with the GRP Guidelines, and interpretive panels can convey the **River of Industry** subtheme with photographic documentation of the dam's construction and operations. This would be a good location for an audio station that plays a song about working on the river, whether a traditional song or a contemporary version by a local artist.



**Hartford Avenue North & South | Lookout Overlooks**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain



**Hidden Falls Regional Park | Gathering Place Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Amphitheater | Fire Pit | Council Ring | Focal Furnishings | Interpretive Signage | Paving | Drinking Fountain | Seating | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Wayfinding & Kiosk | View Binoculars | Plantings | Selective Vegetative Clearing | Lighting | Receptacles

**Hidden Falls Regional Park**

Annual performances by BareBones Productions have transformed lower Hidden Falls Regional Park into a Halloween venue drawing audiences from throughout the metro region. This success suggests the possibility of more events at the site, and similar use of the upper bluff and overlook.

- *Design:* Refreshing this overlook location will preserve and interpret the early twentieth century, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-built walls and stairs from the upper bluff down to the falls. In concert with the Ford site redevelopment, the upper part of this park should be designed as a community gathering place for performances, presentations, and events. A re-imagined overlook, with reconfigured pathways and parking, would support these activities and connect the park to the neighborhood.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **A Special Place for Many People**, **Change Over Time**, and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* For special events, engage artists to create temporary installations using only natural materials along the stream's path to the river. Create partnerships with performance troupes or arts organizations to stage performances.
- *Overlook:* An improved gathering place-style overlook will preserve and maintain the historical stone wall and create a functional space for performances and large gatherings, as well as informal gatherings. Infrastructural support (e.g., electricity, water, and lighting) for performances as well as vendors (e.g., food trucks) would help to create a destination gathering place. A simple architectural screen could conceal port-o-potties used during events.
- *Waysides:* A four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretive information. The primary subtheme here would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about the CCC-built stairs and wall. The secondary subtheme would be **A Special Place for Many People** to convey stories about the history of the site and the surrounding neighborhood. A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told through both a graphic panel and audio station. Development of these stories should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists and both Dakota and English languages.

**Ford Plant Redevelopment**

Whatever function and form the redeveloped Ford site adopts, it should connect to the river at Hidden Falls Regional Park as was envisioned in the GRP Master Plan. The stream feeding the falls should be day-lighted within the Ford site, and the selection of pavings, plantings, and functional elements should resemble the elements within the park. In this way, the new inhabitants of the redeveloped area and the neighborhoods beyond can experience a daily connection to the river. Public art can contribute to this experience. Information about the site's redevelopment is available at the City's website: <http://www.stpaul.gov/21stCenturyCommunity>

### Hidden Falls Overlook Example



Information Kiosk and welcome plaza

Parking reconfigured to improve circulation and gathering. Separates cars from overlook.

Overlook Signage

Gateway Birch Grove

Stormwater Features surrounding new lot

Bike Parking

Row of Ornamental Trees guides visitors to Overlook

Garden

Council Ring with Firepit

Overlook Signage

Bike Parking

Bike Repair Station & Drinking Fountain

Stormwater Features surrounding new lot

Picnic Lawns

Row of Ornamental Trees guides visitors to Overlook

Garden

Inclined lawn with seating creates a multi-purpose amphitheatre space. Includes:

- Informal seating around edges of raised lawn
- Formal, high capacity seating on benches
- Intimate, small group seating around fire pit

Hidden Falls Creek

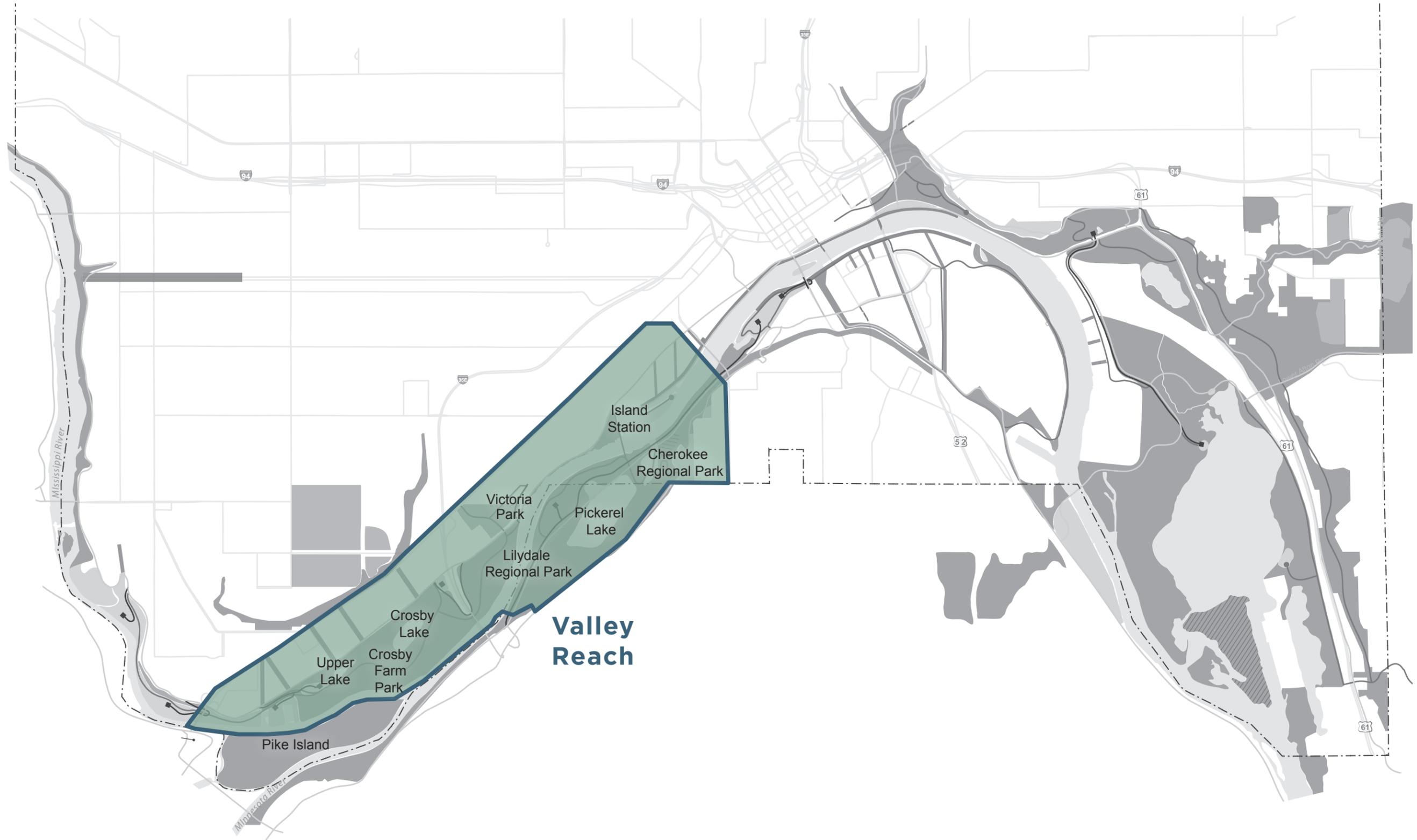
### Hidden Falls Overlook Example GRP Redesign

**Unifying Elements:** Entry Benches | Bike Racks | Overlook Signage | Information Kiosk | View Binoculars | Vegetation | Lighting | Receptacles

**Signature Elements:** Amphitheatre Seating (focal furnishings) | Interpretive Signage | Paving | Drinking Fountain

**Landmark Feature:** Multi-purpose Amphitheatre | Firepit | Council Ring

SCALE: 1" = 20' 0 20 40 50

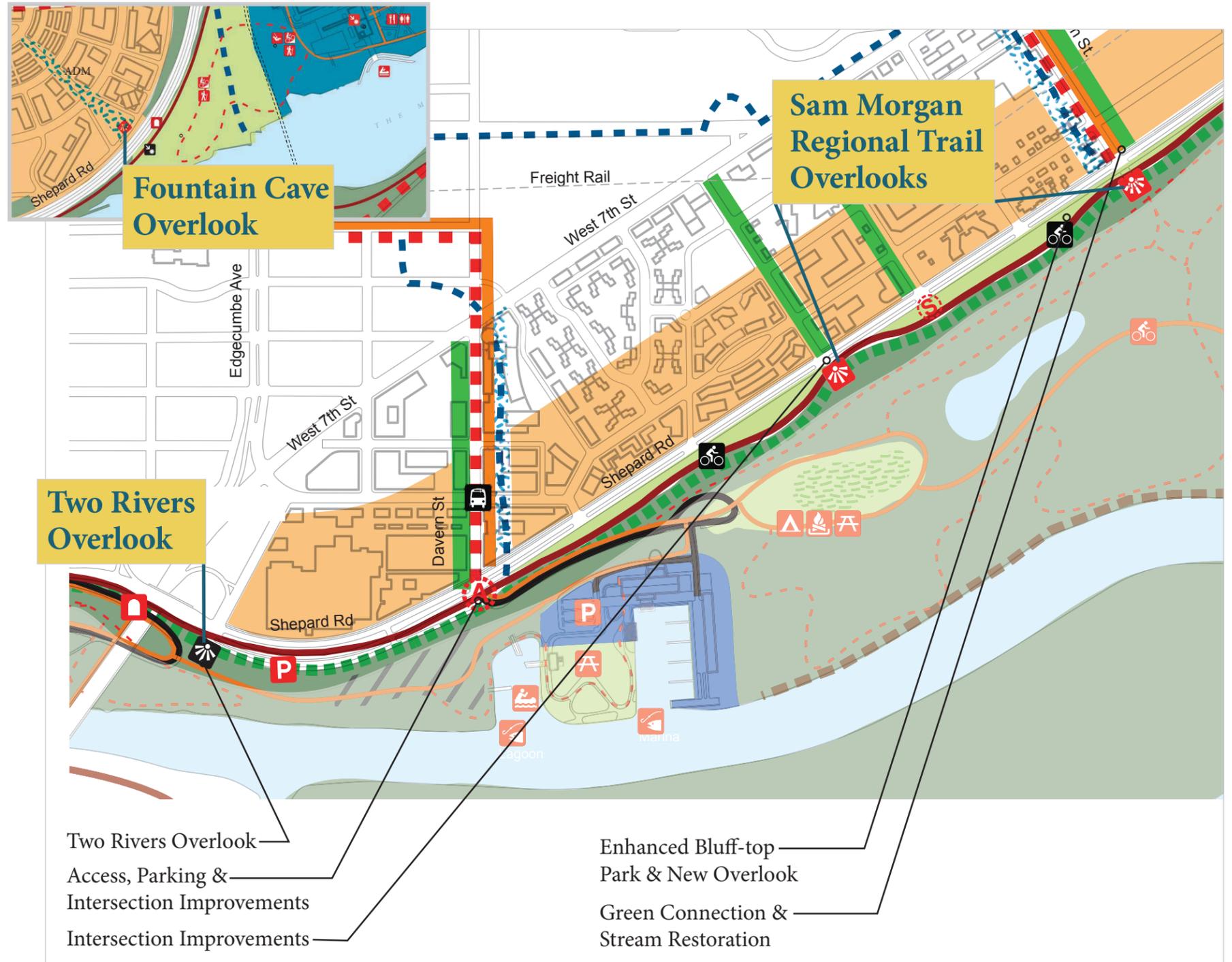


**VALLEY REACH**

**Shepard Road**

As visitors drive, bike, and walk along the Mississippi River, their experience transforms in concert with a changing environment. Although Mississippi River Boulevard, Shepard Road, and Warner Road form an essentially continuous route, the user experience varies greatly moving along the river from one end of the Passage to the other.

- *Design:* The experience of moving alongside the river can be choreographed in subtle yet profound ways that respond to the different contexts of nature and human development, to time of day, and to the seasons.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Travelers' awareness as they move along this changing route can be heightened by engaging a team of environmental designers, dance choreographers, theatrical lighting designers, and visual artists to develop a plan for public art that promotes safety, reduces speed, and creates a gateway experience at key locations (see GRP Master Plan, page 111).
  - An ensemble of places along the Samuel H. Morgan Trail should be created—an active pedestrian, skating, and cycling trail for rest, reflection, and viewing of the changing character of the river as it passes through Saint Paul. Teams of artists and landscape architects would use a shared palette of natural materials and plantings to create “micro-environments,” with forms and detailing related to the surrounding natural, to urban, to working-river contexts. Bike maintenance stations should be integrated into some of these places.
- *Overlooks:* There are four overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP, one existing overlook in need of some improvement and three new overlooks along the Sam H. Morgan Regional Trail.
  - The Two Rivers overlook at Shepard and Gannon roads, should be improved to at least repair the brick ground surface and update the low-profile wayside to adhere to the GRP Guidelines. This overlook provides a spectacular view of Fort Snelling and the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota rivers. Improvements to this overlook and its interpretive programming should align with recommendations for a GRP Gathering Place overlook.
  - Three lookout overlooks are recommended for this segment, two along the Sam H. Morgan Trail (at the end of Rankin and Alton streets) and one at Fountain Cave. These overlooks should include a bench, a wayside, a drinking fountain, and at least two bike maintenance stations among the three overlooks.
- *Waysides:* Low-profile waysides along the Sam H. Morgan Trail, one at each overlook, would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme, with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station, and the **Change Over Time** subtheme, with stories about the changing ecosystems visible from the overlook. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages. A low-profile wayside at the Fountain Cave location would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about the cave and its history as a world famous landmark and tourist attraction that has changed as the city has grown.



**Two Rivers | Vista Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Gateway/ Framing Element | Paving (replace existing) | Interpretive Signage (replace existing) | Seating | Receptacles | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Wayfinding | Lighting

**Sam Morgan Regional Trail West & East | Lookout Overlooks**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Bike Racks & Repair Station

**Fountain Cave | Lookout Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Bike Racks & Repair Station



**Top:** Boating and fishing are popular recreational activities on the Mississippi River

**Middle:** Walking on a trail in one of the GRP natural areas, it is easy to forget the city is nearby

**Bottom:** Cut-out figures can convey information about previous site inhabitants

### Watergate Marina

The marina is a locale for pleasure, recreation, and simply getting out on the river. It serves a functional purpose of getting people into their boats efficiently during its operating season.

- *Design:* The design of interpretive elements should celebrate recreation on the river as well as its significance to the Dakota people. Interpretation should work in tandem with the Environmental Education Center described in the GRP Master Plan (page 114).
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Artists could add playful elements to this serviceable, workaday environment of fences, utilitarian structures, and boat slips. With paint, fabric, and nautical materials, the fun of being on the river can start on shore.
- *Wayside:* A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages.

### Crosby Farm Regional Park

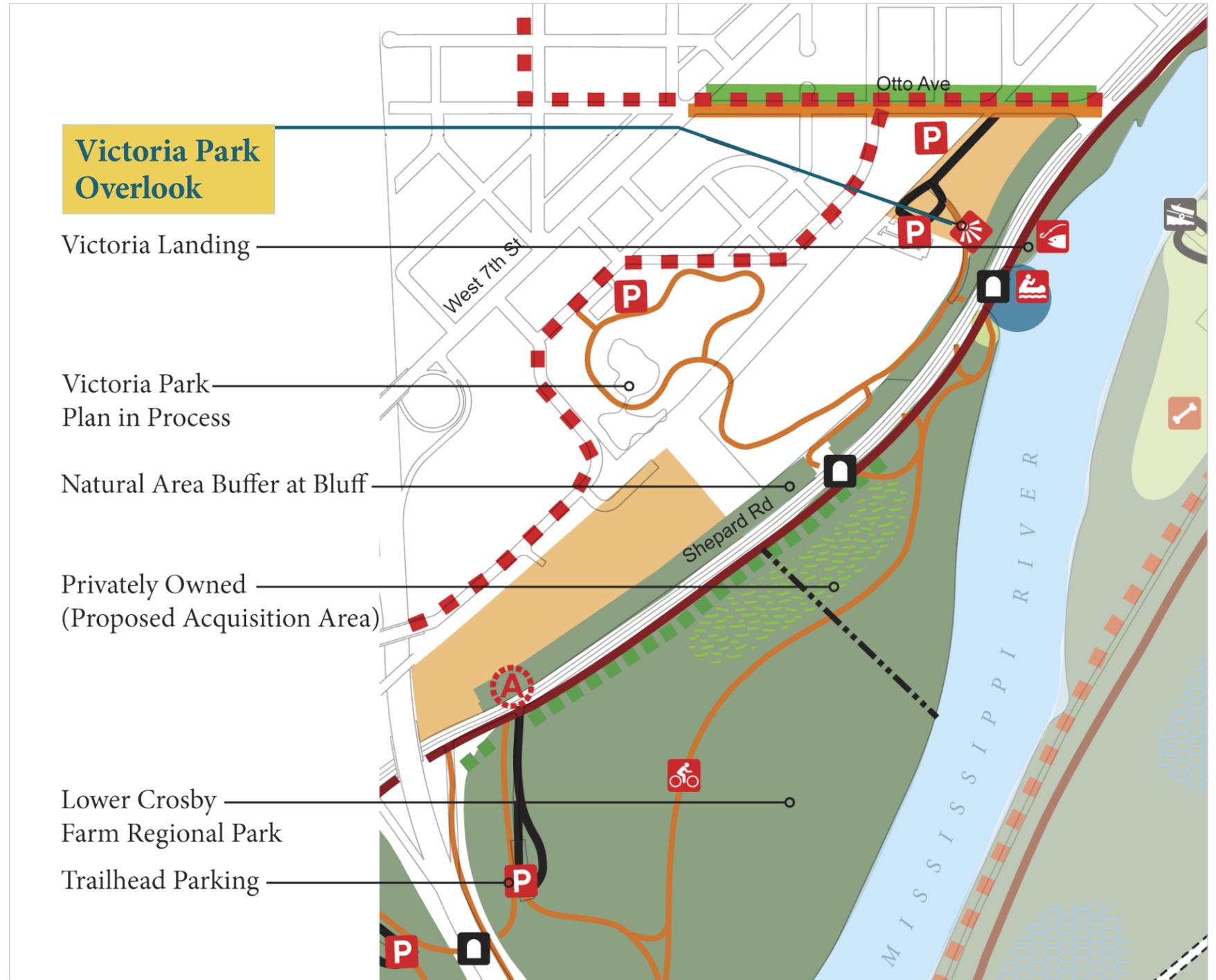
Crosby Farm Regional Park includes about 6.7 miles of paved trails that run along shady, wooded bottomlands next to the Mississippi River, along the marshes of Crosby Lake, and past scenic picnic areas, connecting to Mississippi River Boulevard. Fishing is a popular activity at the park, where people can expect to catch primarily pan fish in Crosby Lake and Upper Lake. This natural landscape provides passive recreational opportunities and wildlife habitat.

- *Design:* This site exemplifies the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme and the visitor experience should celebrate not only the site's history, but also its current importance for recreational opportunities in all seasons.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time, Urban Wilderness, and Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Public art can tell the story of what took place at this area, of agriculture and early farming in the region. It is hard to image how a farm occupied this site, and sculptures and outlines of the historic structures would help bring that past back to life. Similarly, a hand-pump drinking fountain would both enhance the visitor experience by providing a trailhead amenity and evoke the site's history.
  - At the park entrance near I-35E, plantings in the parking circle (live or creative sculptural "plantings") would improve the entry experience. Also in this area, or on railing or bench backs, metal cutouts of farm animals (e.g., chickens) or even a life-sized farmer at work (e.g., Tom and Emma Crosby planting or tilling the soil) could be added.
- *Waysides:* The existing four-sided kiosk should be updated to adhere to GRP Design Guidelines with revised orientation and interpretive panels. The primary subtheme here would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about the farms that once thrived here. The secondary subtheme would be **Urban Wilderness**, to convey stories about the natural history of the site and the recreational opportunities available. A low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both a graphic panel and an audio station. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages. In addition, a series of trailside markers could further convey the Urban Wilderness subtheme by providing information about flora and fauna visitors might see along the trails and link this to conservation and stewardship messaging.

**Victoria Park**

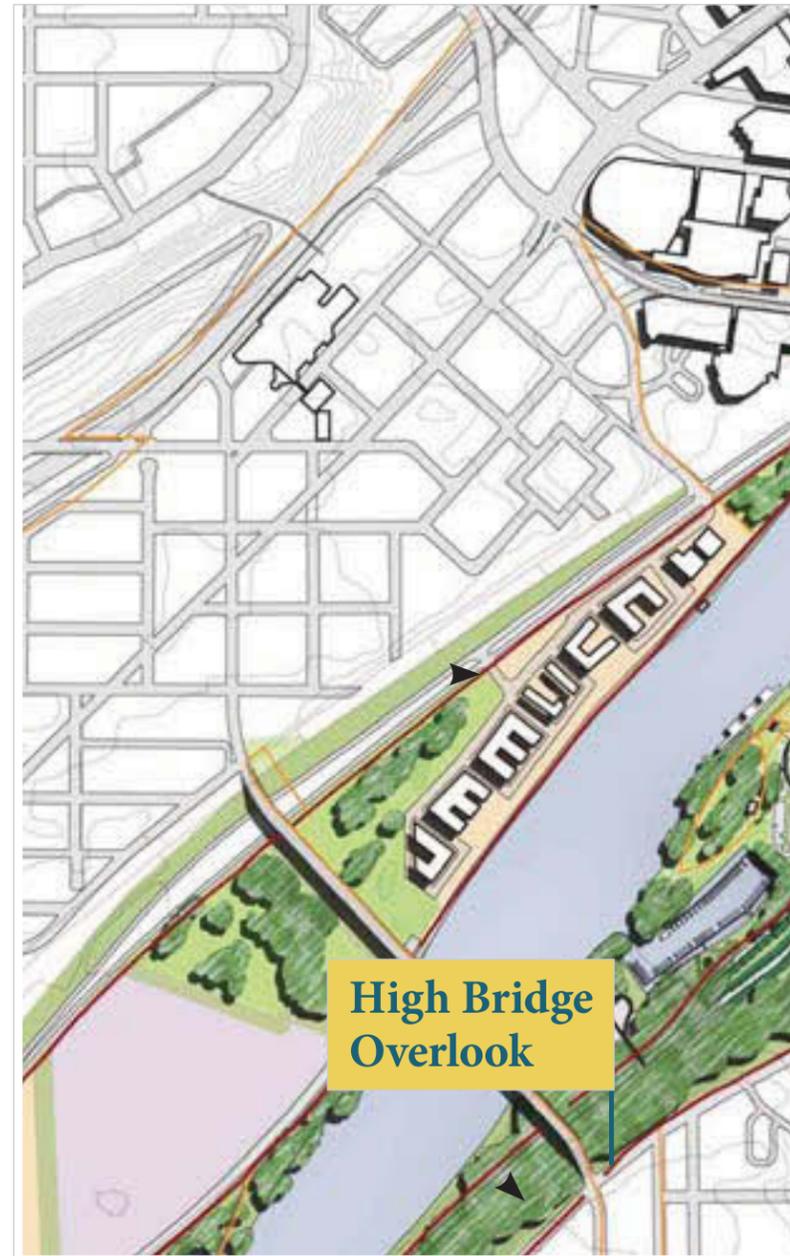
This site provides multiple opportunities for public art, including custom seating or benches, trailside sculpture, and programmed artistic events.

- *Design:* This new park is currently under construction. The interpretive elements at this site and the visitor experience should align with the goals articulated in the Victoria Park Master Plan within the context of the GRP.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** subtheme.
- *Public Art:* Access to the river could inspire kayak choreography. The short expanse of bridge structure supporting Shepard Road provides a secluded “loggia” at the river’s edge—a unique setting for performances and temporary art installations to be viewed from the river as well as from the park, and providing river access for park visitors.
- *Overlook:* A new vista-level overlook could benefit from a landscape architect and artistic collaboration.
- *Waysides:* A rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about changes to the river and bluff they see in front of them.



**Victoria Park | Vista Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Fire Pit | Landform Shade Element(s) | Paving | Railings | Wayfinding & Kiosk | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Receptacles | Lighting | Plantings | View Binoculars | Seating



**Parking Lot | Lookout Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain

**Fossil Beds | Gathering Place Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Fire Pit | Drinking Fountain | Focal Furnishings | View Binoculars | Wayfinding & Kiosk | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Receptacles | Selective Vegetative Clearing | Seating

**High Bridge | Lookout Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Wayfinding | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Receptacles | Seating | View Binoculars | Railings | Interpretive Signage | Paving

**Lilydale and Cherokee Regional Parks**

Cherokee Regional Park includes playgrounds, tennis courts, basketball courts, fire pits, grills, and other amenities spread out across about 100 acres of land. This is one of Saint Paul’s most visited parks, and its popularity is enhanced by two open-air shelters used throughout the season. Cherokee is an active park while Lilydale is planned and designed as a natural area for passive recreational uses.

- *Design:* These two parks, though proximate, have distinct characters. Cherokee Park is a lively, bluff-top gathering place with spectacular views of the river valley and downtown Saint Paul. Lilydale, nestled between the river and bluff, is a hidden gem that provides remarkable opportunities for discovery. The design of the spaces and chosen interpretive elements should be tailored to these distinctions. At Cherokee, the design should celebrate connections—the contemporary with the past, the bluff with the city, the neighborhood with the river. At Lilydale, the design should celebrate the sense of discovery—of fossils, of the site’s industrial past, and of the plants and animals that thrive in this landscape. (At the time of this report, the status of the Fossil Beds related to safety, stability of the bluff, and continued public access is being investigated.)
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time, Dakota Landscape, Urban Wilderness, and A Special Place for Many People** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Public art can play a role in enhancing any built amenities, such as picnic shelters or council rings, and even bathroom facilities. In this setting, fossil imagery should be considered, along with imagery related to the site’s industrial past. Artists in residence could work with River’s Edge Academy students to design projects that support soil remediation efforts and foster stewardship of the surrounding community.
- *Overlook:* There are three overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP, two existing ones in need of improvement and one new, gathering place-style one above the Fossil Beds.
  - The overlook at the High Bridge should be improved to a GRP vista-style overlook. Art could be used to convey a sense of discovery, highlighting the urban wilderness visitors experience at the site. Here, visitors will feel the whole city on display. To open up views, replace the railing with glass etched with native fauna (or insert glass sections in the railing). Native plantings and new pavement should be used to improve the aesthetics of this overlook area, and a slightly elevated seating platform would offer a special viewing experience. If possible, use stone from the former High Bridge for seating or an interpretive marker.

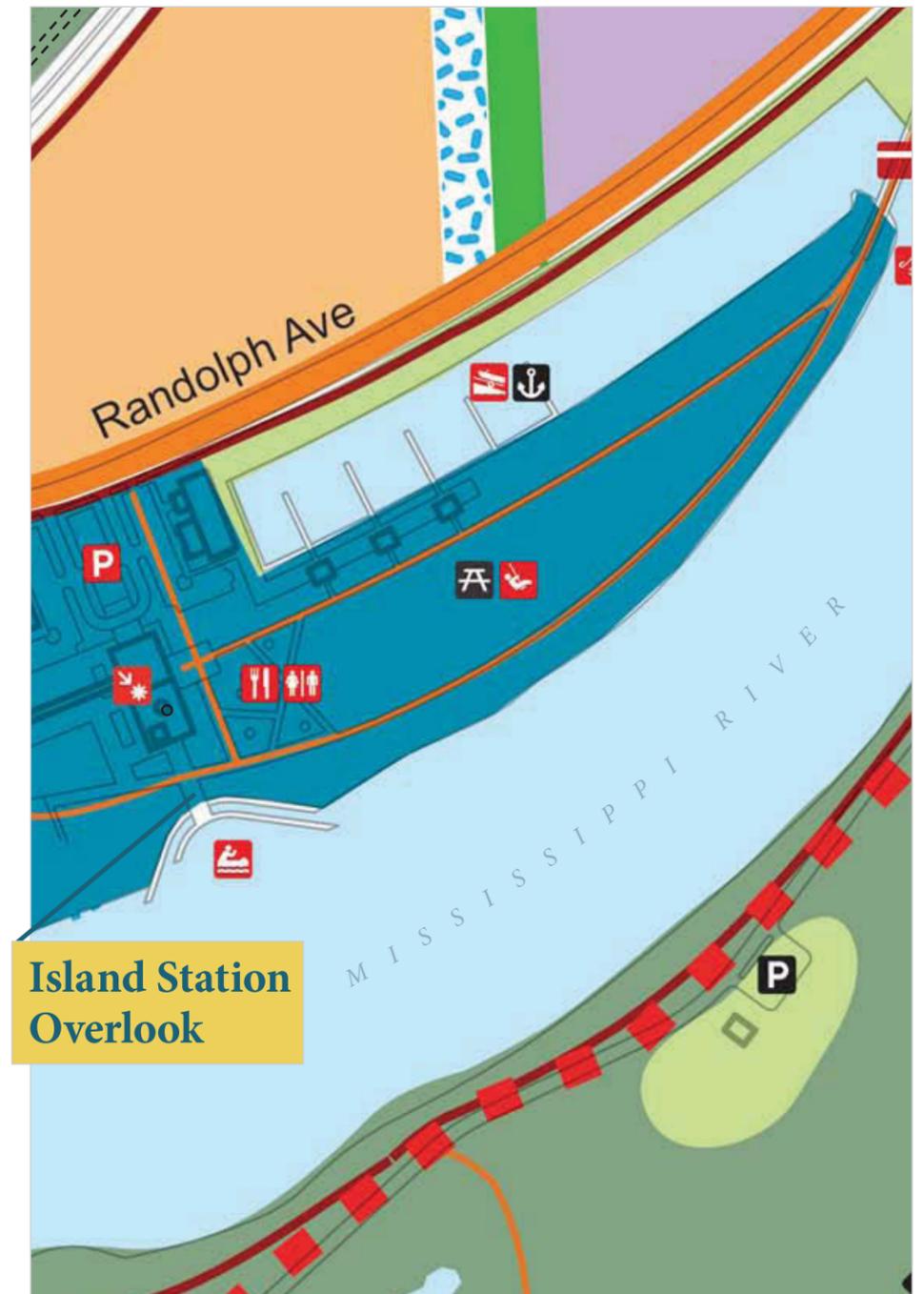
Viewing machines and waysides that interpret the view should be part of the overlook improvements.

- The other existing overlook is adjacent to the park's main parking area. This overlook should be improved as a GRP lookout-type overlook to include a bench, wayside, and drinking fountain.
- The new gathering place-type overlook would be located above the Fossil Beds. The overlook would be designed to preserve quality trees and create a functional space for performances and gatherings. Selective clearing would open up views to the river and opposite shoreline. Infrastructural support (e.g., electricity, water, and lighting) for performances as well as vendors (e.g., food trucks) would help to create a destination gathering place. The gathering space could be designed as an amphitheater or as a council ring with a central fire pit. This overlook could also feature a public art project that frames the view, using materials endemic to the area, such as limestone boulders.
- **Waysides:** At the High Bridge overlook, a rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **Change Over Time** subtheme with stories about changes to the river and downtown—the view seen from this location. At the Parking Lot overlook location, a low-profile wayside would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both graphic panels and an audio station. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages.
- At the Fossil Beds overlook, a GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. The primary subtheme here would be **Urban Wilderness**, with stories about the fossil beds and former brickworks located below the bluff. The secondary subtheme would be **A Special Place for Many People** to convey stories about the surrounding neighborhood and the history of settlement on the bluff.

**Island Station**

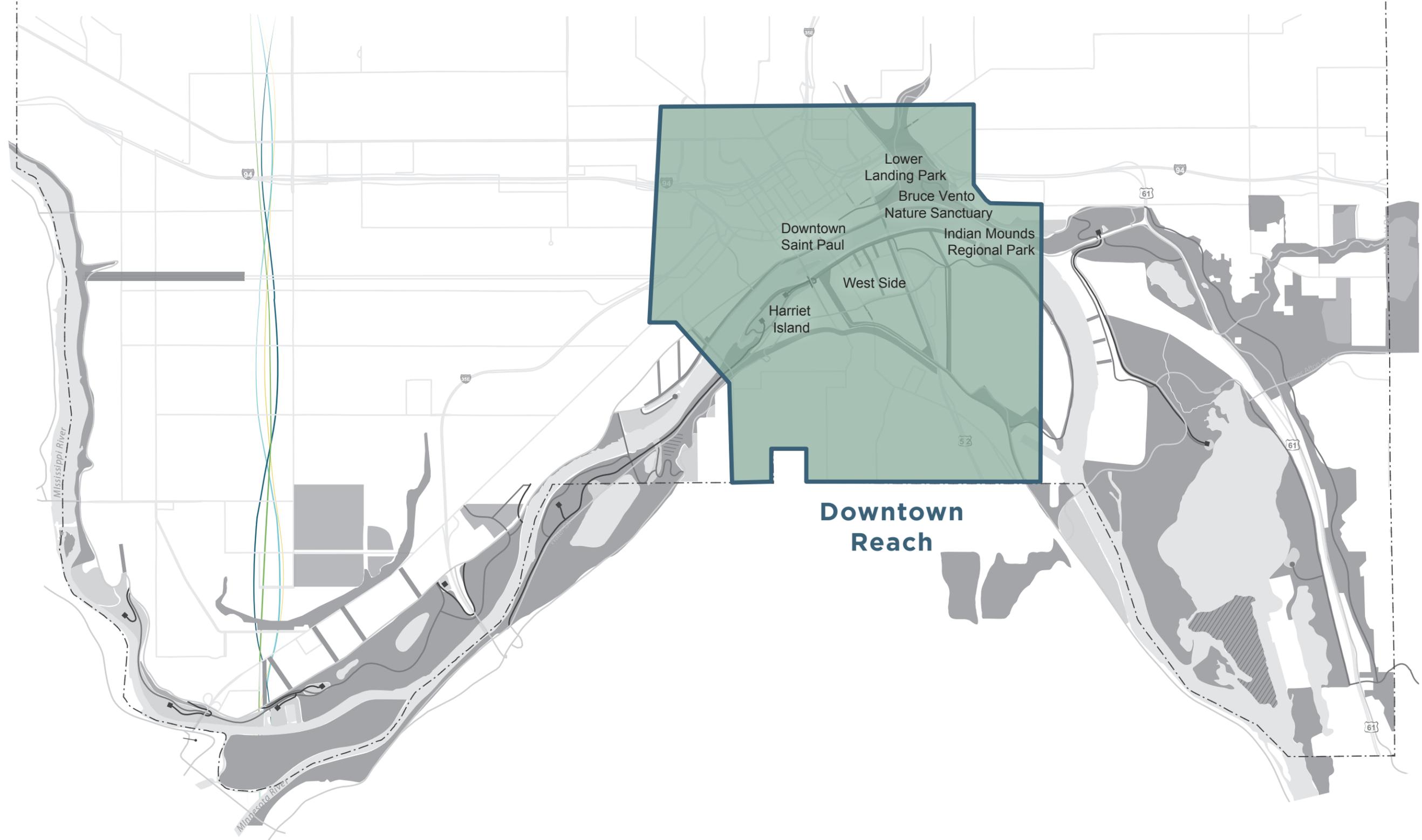
Island Station Power Plant was a coal power plant on the Mississippi River that became obsolete in 1923, before construction was even completed. The plant functioned until 1975, when it was decommissioned and used for storage. Ten years later, portions of the building were converted into studio apartments for local artists and, for a time, a colony of a half-dozen to a dozen houseboat dwellers moored at the plant. In the early 2000s, redevelopment attempts started and stalled, and the entire structure was razed on March 16, 2014.

- **Design:** The redevelopment of the site should consider its context within the GRP and include interpretive experiences that connect this site and its stories with the overall Passage experience.
- **Programming:** Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry** and **Dakota Landscape** subthemes.
- **Public Art:** Use this site as a multi-platform venue for a variety of art activities, from exhibitions to performance events. These could include theatrical productions that tell the story of the GRP and connect learning goals of K-12 classrooms with programming by local arts organizations (e.g., the History Theater). Outdoor venues may provide opportunities for temporary sculpture displays with thematic directions reinforcing interpretation goals.
- **Overlook:** A new gathering place-type overlook would provide spectacular views of the valley and downtown. The overlook would be designed to create a functional space for performances and large gatherings. Infrastructural support (e.g., electricity, water, and lighting) for performances as well as vendors would help to create a destination gathering place.
- **Waysides:** A GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. The primary subtheme here would be **River of Industry**, with stories about the history of the site and power plant that once stood on the site. The secondary subtheme would be **Dakota Landscape**, with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages.



**Island Station | Gathering Place Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Amphitheater | Outdoor Classroom/ Demonstration Areas or Gardens | Interpretive Signage | Focal Furnishings | Wayfinding & Kiosk | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Selective Vegetative Clearing | Lighting | Receptacles | Seating

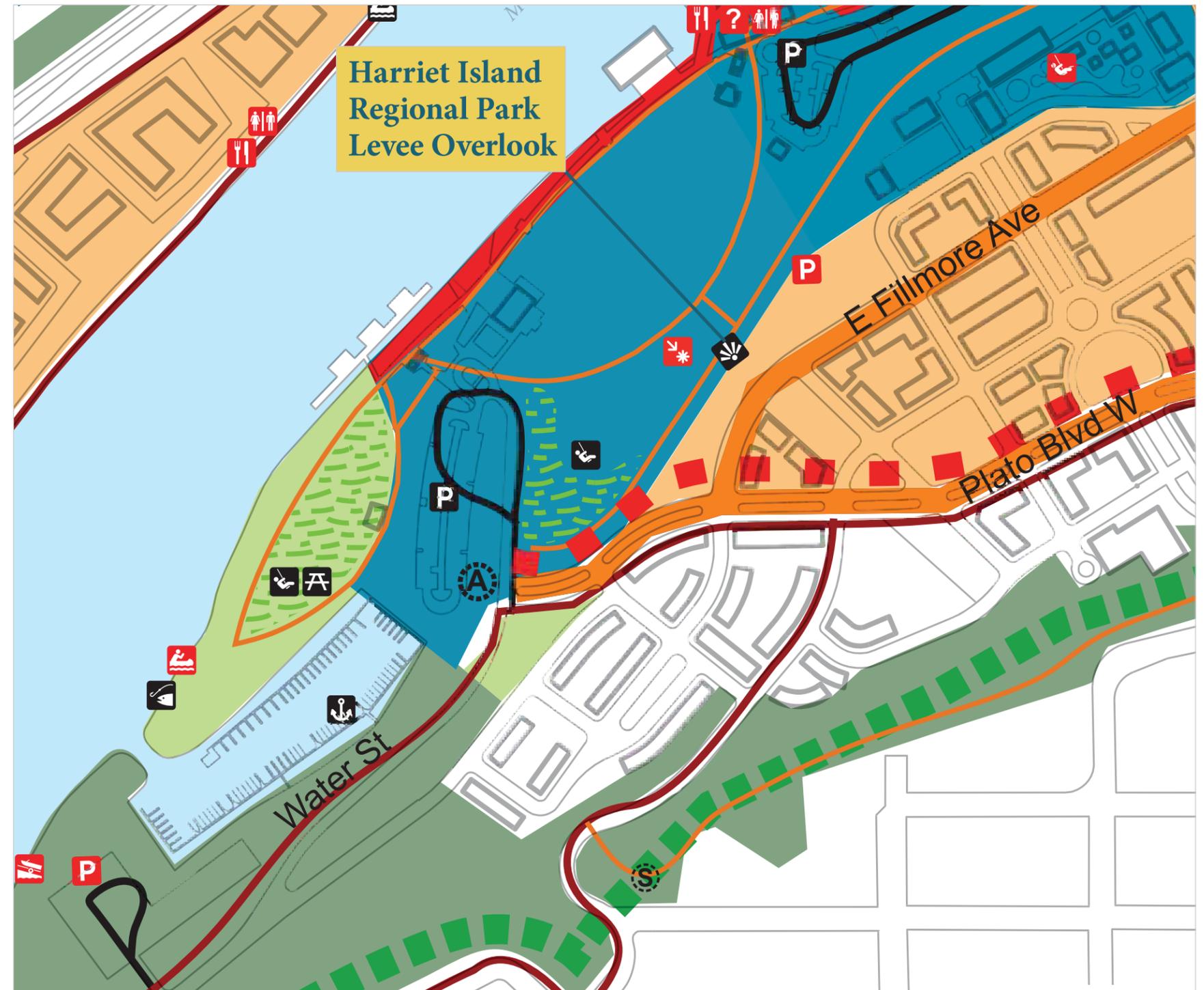


## DOWNTOWN REACH

### Harriet Island Regional Park

Harriet Island is the Great River Gathering Place, hosting all manner of cultural events, art installations, and ceremonies. Although named for the city's first public school teacher, the Park's importance to the city is due to Justus Ohage, who acquired the island and donated it to the city in 1900 on the condition that it be used as a park. Its popularity has waxed and waned with the health of—and interest in—the Mississippi River. Although it was once truly an island, it is an island now in name only, as its back channel was filled in 1950 to connect it to the shore. Today, Harriet Island offers fine views of downtown, walking access to the river, a Bed and Breakfast in a vintage towboat, paddleboats, vast grounds for festivals, a stage, and the refurbished WPA pavilion designed by the pioneering African-American architect Clarence Wigington. There are also trails linking it to Lilydale Regional Park.

- **Design:** Because of the site's history, interpretation at Harriet Island should be told through the lens of health and healing. The site is regularly used for large festivals, and new interpretive elements should enhance the visitor experience rather than impinge on current programming.
- **Programming:** Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry**, **Dakota Landscape**, **More Connected**, and **Change Over Time** subthemes, with creative programming for recreational activities such as yoga, Frisbee, and other group activities aligned with the health and healing lens.
- **Public Art:** Cast artifacts, such as items used by bathers and quotes from stories that took place here, could complement rail-mounted waysides. Elements could be added at strategic locations that evoke, and promote, health and healing—sculptural exercise stations, a healing garden or labyrinth at the west end of the island, healthy picnic tips, or an orchard or community garden with artist-designed trellises or hand-painted signage. Harriet Island also lends itself to the fresh and new—sidewalk chalk murals, questions to ponder; and an artful viewing scope could focus on the City's present and look forward to its future.
- **Overlook:** A low-profile wayside should be added to the existing Levee overlook.
- **Waysides:** A four-sided kiosk near the Wigington Pavilion entrance would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. The primary subtheme here would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about the history of the site, especially those related to health and healing, and place name information. The secondary subtheme would be **Dakota Landscape** with stories told with both a graphic panel and an audio station. When Dakota stories are told, development should engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to tell the story in both Dakota and English languages.
  - At the Levee overlook, a rail-mounted low-profile wayside would convey the **More Connected** subtheme by interpreting the view from this location across the river and up Chestnut Street toward the Cathedral of Saint Paul.
  - A series of rail-mounted low-profile waysides along the river would interpret the view across the river through the **Change Over Time** subtheme by conveying stories of settlement, urban development, and ecological changes along the river.



Harriet Island Regional Park Levee | Lookout Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Viewing Binoculars | Wayfinding Kiosk

Richie Diesterheft



**Top:** The James Carpenter's Schubert Bandshell site will continue to enhance the visitor experience  
**Middle:** Panoramic illustrations  
**Bottom:** Audio narration can complement other interpretive features or describe scenic views

### Raspberry Island Regional Park

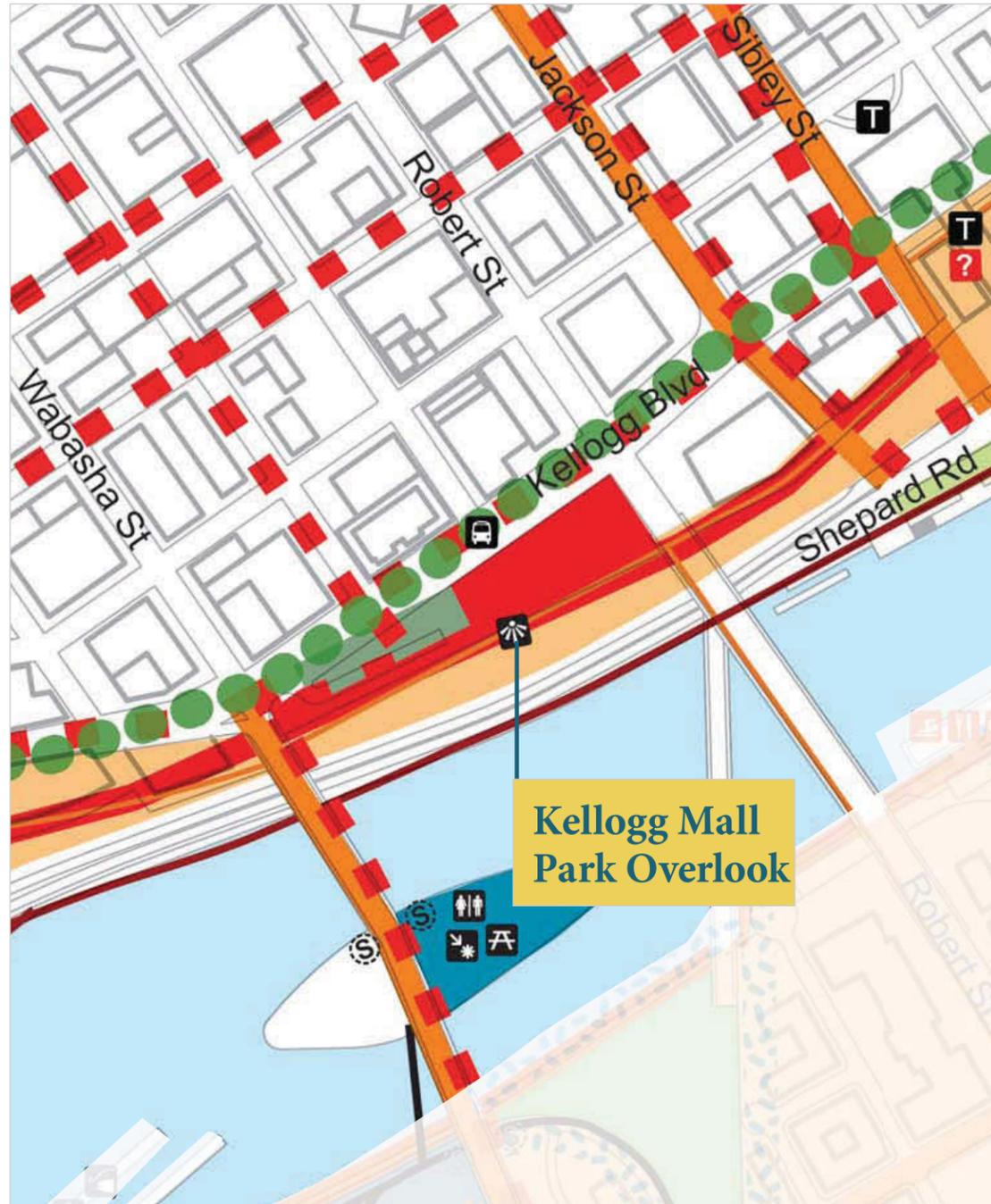
Here is, at once, a locale in the center of activity and a separate place of reflection. Raspberry Island can be seen from downtown's tall buildings, bluffs, and bridges, and it provides one of the few river access points—allowing people to touch the water at the city's heart. Raspberry Island hosts enduring public art projects within its artful and tranquil landscape, including James Carpenter's Schubert Bandshell and a fountain by Craig David. It also serves as a dramatic setting for temporary public art installations and performances.

- *Design:* The site is used regularly for performances, and new interpretive elements should enhance the visitor experience rather than impinge on the current programming.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape** and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* The site is ideal for a variety of performances telling the Mississippi River's story in new and inspiring ways. From traditional storytelling to historical narrative theatrical productions, Raspberry Island can tell the river's history in ways that cannot be done elsewhere.
- *Wayside:* A low-profile wayside, or series of small waysides, would convey the **Dakota Landscape** subtheme with stories told with both graphic panels and audio stations.

### Downtown and Kellogg Boulevard

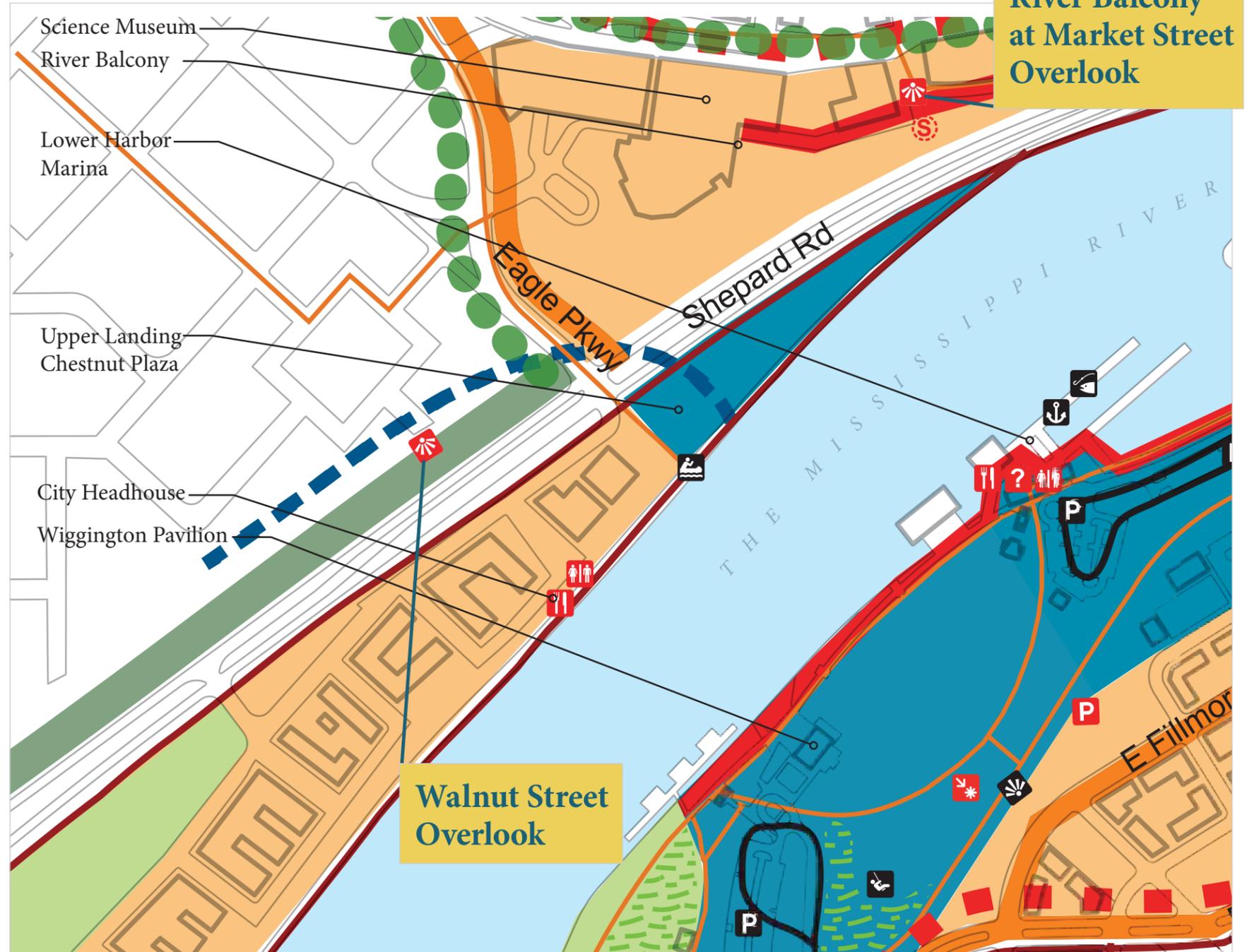
Many Saint Paulites introduce visitors to their city at Kellogg Mall. With the highest number of people visiting, living, or working within walking distance to any overlook in the corridor, it is an ideal introductory starting point for newcomers to the GRP. The GRP Master Plan recommends the expansion of the current river-facing public mall with a river balcony that would extend public access to view the river (See GRP Master Plan, page 139).

- *Design:* Kellogg Mall is home to a quality assemblage of public art projects conveying the settlement story of the city, including a fountain, cast terra cotta reliefs along the railing, and the Saint Paul Cultural Garden, a collaboration among visual artists and poets. The vistas suggest opportunities for panoramic illustrative reliefs that tell the story of the West Side Flats and the city's industrial heritage. The mall has also been used for temporary installations and easily accommodates group events and small performance activities. As new interpretive elements are added, they should complement the existing programming and enhance the visitor experience.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **River of Industry** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* As the mall expands through the river balcony concept, existing public art will be built upon through informative and inspiring artistic concepts that encourage exploration of the GRP.
- *Overlook:* There are three overlooks recommended for this part of the GRP. One existing overlook is in need of some minor improvement and two are new, vista-style GRP overlooks.
  - The existing overlook at Kellogg Mall Park should be improved to include a Welcome Center (i.e., a small structure, kiosk, or space within a riverside building) as described in the GRP Interpretive Facilities recommendation.
  - As the river balcony concept from the GRP Master Plan develops, new, vista-style GRP overlooks should be added at Market and Walnut streets. These overlooks should include at least signature elements for visitor comfort such as focal furnishings, shade elements, and drinking fountains, as well as interpretive signage.
- *Waysides:* A series of rail-mounted low-profile waysides along the river balcony would interpret the view across the river through the **Change Over Time** subtheme, by conveying stories of settlement, urban development, and ecological changes along the river. The **River of Industry** subtheme should be conveyed through stories of river-based industries, past and present. Audio could be used to share stories in different languages spoken by settlers.



**Kellogg Mall Park | Gathering Place Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: River Balcony | Water Feature (work with existing) | Orientation Center | Interpretive Signage | Focal Furnishings | Paving | Drinking Fountain | Shade Element(s) | Railings | Bike Racks & Repair Station | View Binoculars | Receptacles | Plantings | Lighting | Wayfinding

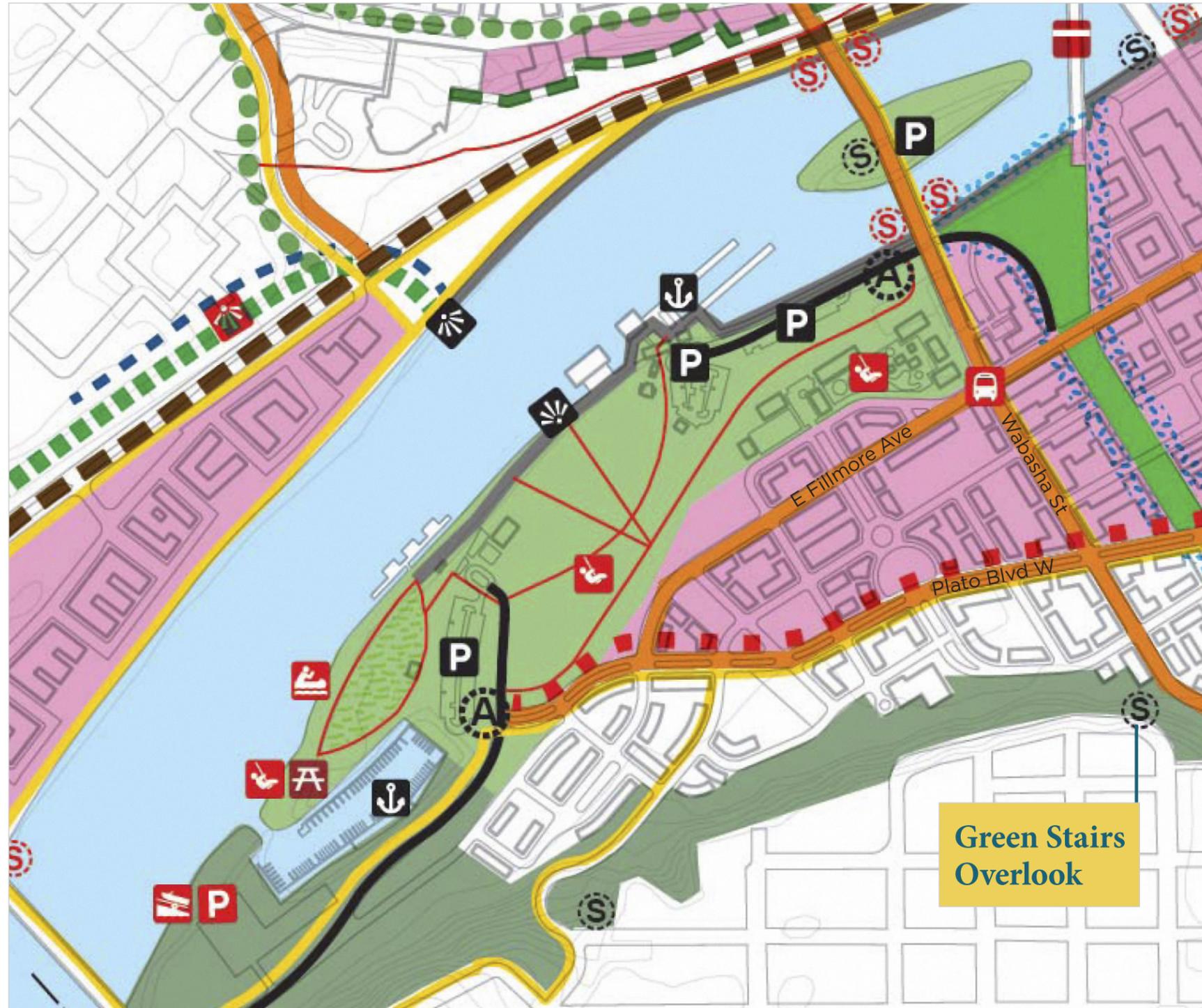


**River Balcony at Market Street | Vista Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Focal Furnishings | Drinking Fountain | Shade Element(s)

**Walnut Street | Vista Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Focal Furnishings | Drinking Fountain | Shade Element(s)



**Green Stairs | Vista Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Bike Racks & Repair Station

**West Side**

The West Side, is located south of downtown Saint Paul and is the only Saint Paul neighborhood on the west bank of the Mississippi River. In the late 1800s, the West Side was occupied by Dakota Indians and later by French-Canadian, Irish, and German immigrants, some of whom farmed the area. The West Side has extensive frontage on the Mississippi River and a system of natural caves formed in the limestone river bluffs. The GRP Master Plan identifies a Levee Riverwalk here (see GRP Master Plan, page 142) and the West Side Flats Master Plan ([www.stpaul.gov/westsideflats](http://www.stpaul.gov/westsideflats)) provides more detail about the development of this area.

- *Design:* As the Levee Riverwalk on the West Side becomes a vibrant, destination promenade, interpretation can convey the history of the working river and its influence on the site. The design here should take its cue from the working river and the water flowing around, and sometimes over, the site. The interpretive elements at this site and the visitor experience should align with the goals articulated in the West Side Flats Master Plan within the context of the GRP.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time, A Special Place for Many People**, and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Along the Levee Riverwalk, artist-designed seating elements could be made from the remnants of the site's industrial past and could involve artists working in residence at the iron foundry on the site. In addition, artist-designed story-telling scopes (when visitors look through them, they can hear or see a narrative unfold) could be used to convey the stories of the site. To celebrate and illustrate the working river, a water wheel sculpture could be commissioned to generate power for lighting or some other function.
- *Overlook:* A new, vista-style GRP overlook should be added at the Green Stairs, located on the bluff at the end of Hall Street. This overlook should include at least a bench, bike maintenance station, drinking fountains, and a wayside.
- *Wayside:* Located along the Levee Riverwalk, a GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. The primary subtheme here would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about changes in the natural history of this flood-prone area. The secondary subtheme would be **A Special Place for Many People** with stories about history of the site, especially settlement. Audio could be used to convey stories in different languages represented by the settlement stories. A low-profile wayside at the Green Stairs overlook would convey the **More Connected** subtheme by interpreting the view from this location across the river toward downtown.

**Lower Landing Park**

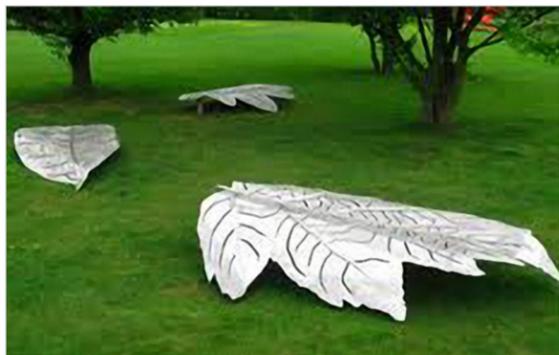
Lower Landing Park is just outside of downtown Saint Paul where the Mississippi River makes its second major bend. The park includes a historic dock that took in hundreds of ships per day during its peak and is still utilized by tows and passenger steamboats.

- *Design:* The design of this space and its interpretive elements should celebrate the legacy of river transportation and commerce, using forms and materials that reinforce this design direction.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **River of Industry** subtheme.
- *Public Art:* Artwork at Lower Landing Park can recall early settlers who disembarked in Saint Paul. Provide interpretive sounds or text, possibly embedded in pathways or site furnishings. Consider using the excursion boat as a metaphor for the history of arriving and leaving at the Landing. A "soundscape" installation of hidden speakers throughout a field or along a section of trail could recreate the sounds of the Landing in its heyday: What did a working river sound like in 1880, in 1920, and later?
- *Overlook:* A new, lookout overlook at a park landform would include at least a bench, drinking fountain, and wayside.
- *Waysides:* A low-profile wayside would convey the **River of Industry** subtheme to highlight the site's history as a riverside landing place.



**Lower Landing Park Landform | Lookout Overlook**

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain



**Top:** Artwork can feature natural materials found on site to support the area wildlife stories  
**Middle:** Artist-created custom benches, such as these by Alan Sonfist in Tampa, Florida, can create a distinctive design aesthetic for a space  
**Bottom:** Interpretive waysides should complement their surroundings in material choice and style

### Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Through community engagement and a shared sensibility about the natural qualities of place, this sanctuary has become a collection of subtle public art. The art has helped raise awareness of the natural beauty of the site and involve youth in cleanup and stewardship projects. There are several structures that have interpretive elements, although some have too much text. There is also a nicely arranged amphitheater to host storytelling, performances, and other gatherings.

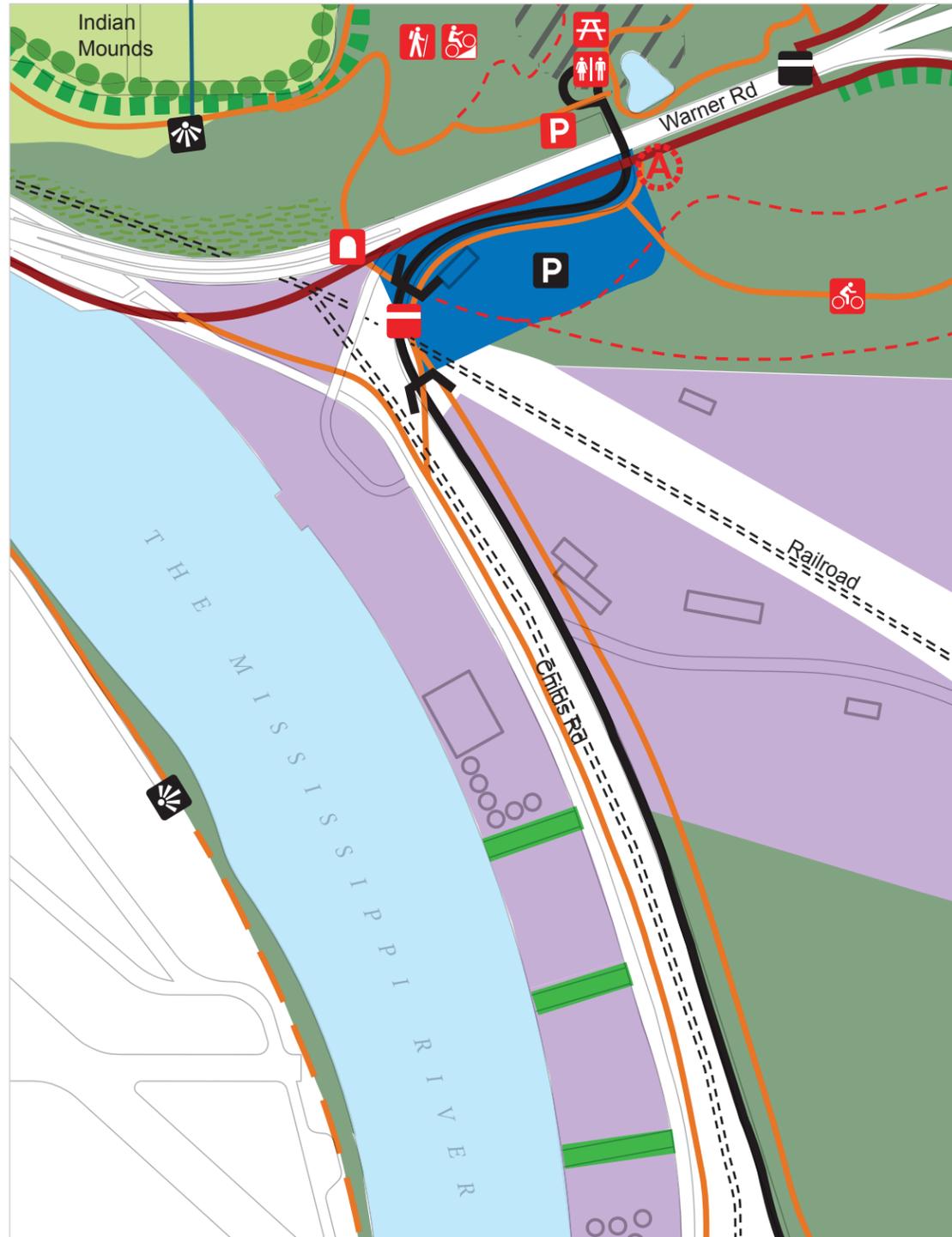
- *Design:* This sanctuary space, carved out of a former industrial site and undergoing a remarkable transformation, exemplifies Saint Paul's history of settlement and how different people and industries have transformed the landscape. This is a significant site for Dakota people, and any interpretation on the site should involve Dakota elders, artists, and other community members. To ensure that Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) is interpreted appropriately, the City should work with Dakota elders and artists to select art and develop meaningful stories about the cave's significance. Although the extant structure will be replaced, remnants could help retain memories of the site's industrial past. A community garden demonstration project could further build on the work that has been done. The continued development of the site should take its design cues from what has already been established—the amphitheater with stone seating, weathered steel signage, and cut-outs of plants and animals relevant to the site and its stories. The interpretive elements and visitor experience should align with the "Urban Oasis" goals of the site within the context of the GRP.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape** and **Change Over Time** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* Artwork or artist-designed benches along the path leading to Lowertown would reinforce this important new corridor and engage the talent that lives or works in Lowertown. Each bench or piece of artwork could tell a story or prompt conversation about nature (or Bruce Vento, for whom the sanctuary is named). The piers supporting the current Kellogg Boulevard Bridge could serve as canvases for murals or mosaics celebrating the plant life in the area, and the future bridge should be artfully conceived to frame views from the Nature Sanctuary and to support the interpretive objectives of the site. Consider hiring summer artists-in-residence to create giant sculptures of the wildlife in the area along the walking trails or in a clearing—using only natural materials found on site, such as willow saplings and dead tree limbs.
- *Waysides:* Located along the trail leading toward Lowertown, a GRP four-sided kiosk would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the site. The primary subtheme here would be **Dakota Landscape**, with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station. The secondary subtheme would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about changes in the natural history of this once industrial area.

### Indian Mounds Regional Park

The Indian Mounds are the most notable sacred site along this stretch of the river. For this reason, public art in their vicinity should be understated and respectful of the site's historic and contemporary significance. Public art and interpretive elements should be developed in close consultation with American Indian elders and leaders. In addition to being a significant site for Dakota people and the Hopewell people before them, this park is an integral part of the neighborhood, where residents frequently gather at the picnic shelter and playground.

- *Design:* The dramatic landscape of ancient mounds and view of the river valley should inspire design at this site. Any interpretation should involve Dakota elders, artists, and other community members to determine what is appropriate in this location, and to develop meaningful stories about the significance of the site.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Dakota Landscape**, **Change Over Time**, and **More Connected** subthemes.
- *Public Art:* The overlook could feature an artfully designed fire pit for nighttime storytelling. A panoramic relief could tell the story of the view here at the widest point in the region's river valley. Art should pay homage to American Indian history and mound making as a symbol of a culture that has lived here for hundreds of years. Dakota artists should be invited to propose contemporary projects that help interpret these ancient mounds in a contemporary context. The old picnic facility could be repurposed as a venue for creating and displaying art, or for performances. This would be an ideal location for an artist-in-residence program that works with neighbors and youth to help transform the shelter annually into an open art project. All activities and programming should convey the importance of preservation and stewardship of this site.
- *Overlook:* There are two existing overlooks at this part of the GRP: one at the geologic marker and one above Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave).
  - The existing geologic marker overlook should be improved to be a gathering place-type overlook. The overlook would be designed to preserve and maintain the stone wall and create a functional space for gatherings, including a council ring with a central fire pit.
  - The existing Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) overlook should be improved to be an vista-type GRP overlook. This location should include at least a kiosk, benches, drinking fountains, shade elements, and waysides.
- *Waysides:* Add a four-sided kiosk adjacent to the parking area east of the mounds to align with GRP Guidelines. The primary subtheme here would be **Dakota Landscape**, with stories told through both a graphic panel and an audio station. The secondary subtheme would be **More Connected**, with stories about settlement on the bluff and in the surrounding neighborhood.
  - Add a four-sided kiosk adjacent to the parking area at the Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) overlook to align with GRP Guidelines. The primary subtheme here would be **Dakota Landscape**, with stories told with both a graphic panel and an audio station. The secondary subtheme would be **Change Over Time** with stories about how the city has changed over time. Complementary rail-mounted low-profile waysides will expand on these subthemes to interpret the view of the City and the broad river valley.

### Geology of Minnesota Marker Overlook

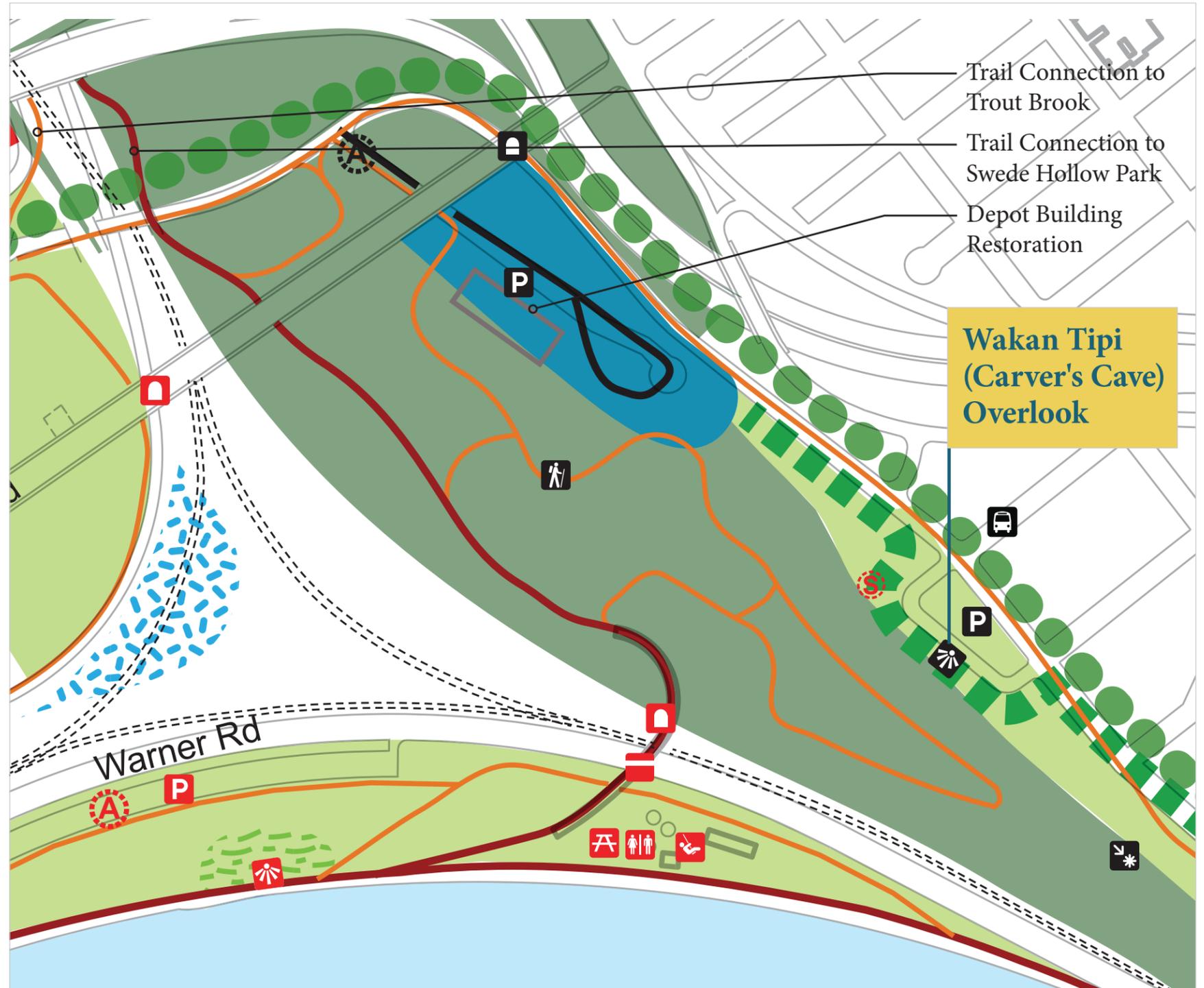


#### Geology of Minnesota Marker | Gathering Place Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Fire Pit/ Council Ring (work within the existing space) | Interpretive Signage | Paving | Drinking Fountain | Focal Furnishings | Bike Racks & Repair Station | Lighting | Receptacles | Wayfinding & Kiosk | View Binoculars | Selective Vegetative Clearing | Seating

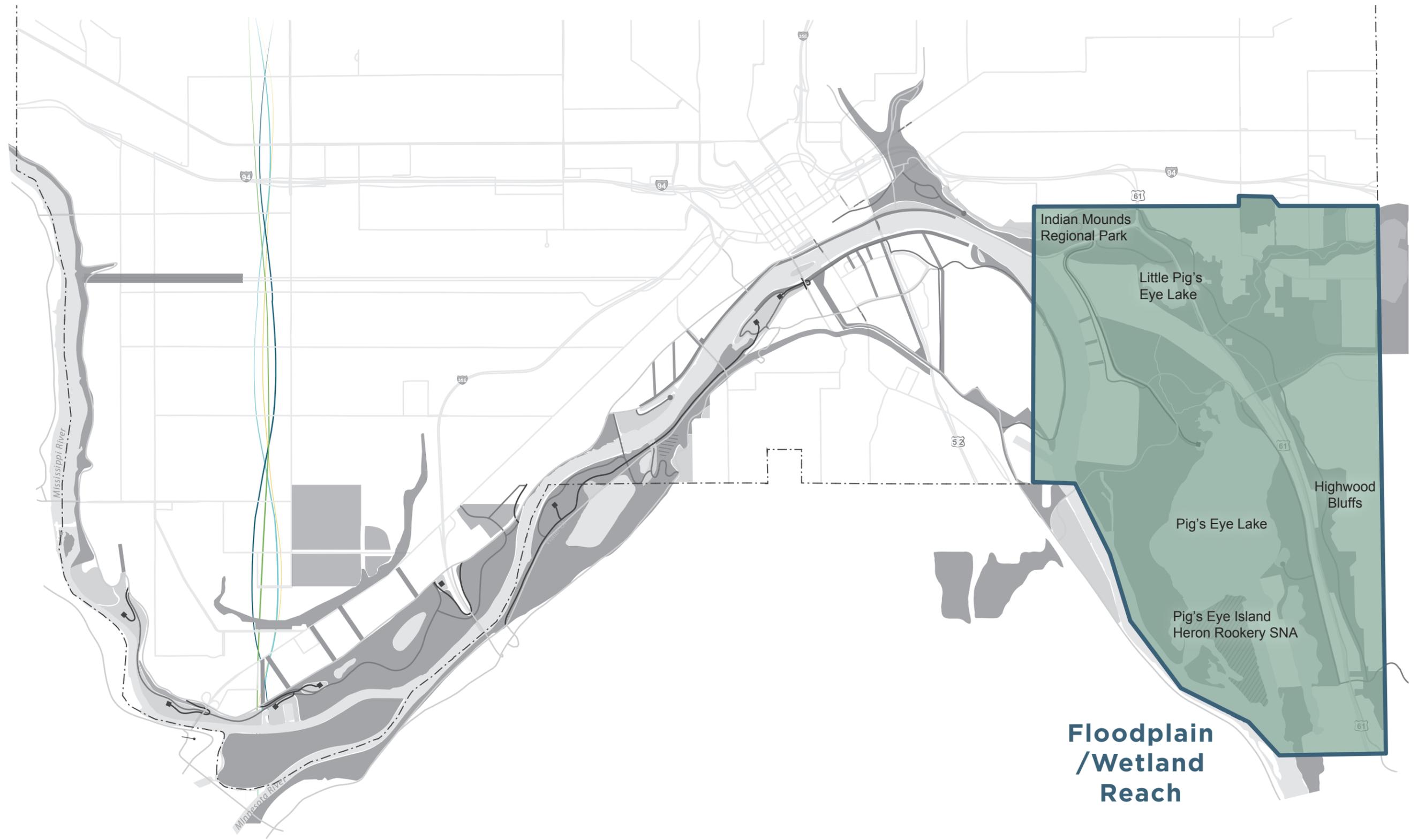
- Trail Connection to Trout Brook
- Trail Connection to Swede Hollow Park
- Depot Building Restoration

### Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) Overlook



#### Wakan Tipi (Carver's Cave) | Vista Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Shade Element(s) | Wayfinding & Kiosk

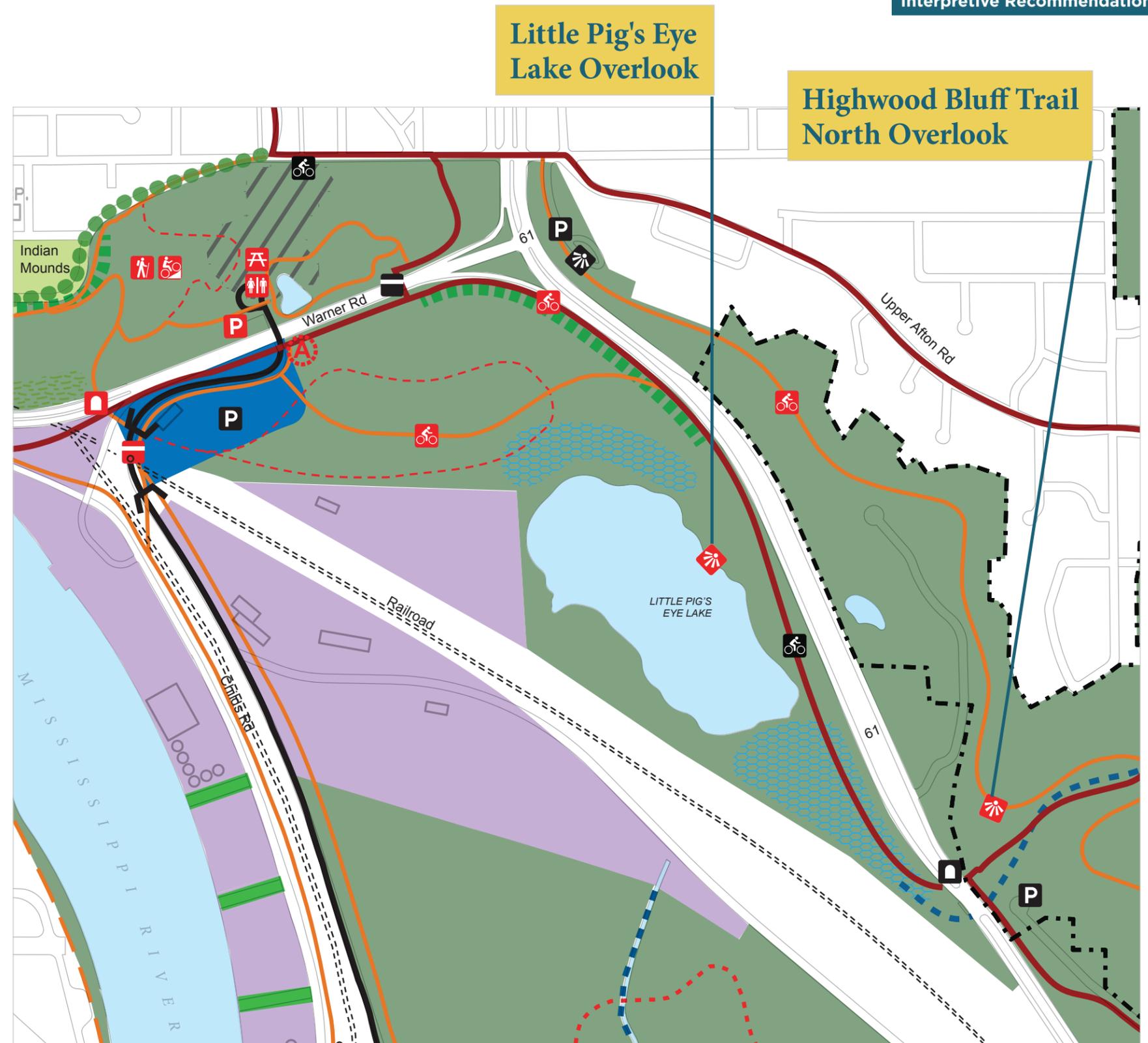


## FLOODPLAIN/WETLANDS REACH

### Warner Road (DNR facilities)

The DNR building could include a Gathering and Interpretive Center as described in the GRP Interpretive Facilities recommendation above. Recommended as a gathering and meeting place for guided experiences along the GRP, the facility should include visitor comfort amenities and a bike maintenance station.

- **Design:** Sustainability and stewardship are the design inspiration throughout the floodplain/wetlands reach. Materials used should be from sustainable sources and interpretation should promote and encourage stewardship activities. Here, the GRP mantra—more natural, more urban, more connected—is readily apparent. Visitors can see and experience urban elements like downtown and industry, natural spaces, and the connection between and among them—rail lines, trails, road, and the river. Fostering stewardship for all aspects of the GRP will ensure that its stories are understood for generations to come.
- **Programming:** Interpretive elements should align with the **Change Over Time** and **A Special Place for Many People** subthemes.
- **Public Art:** An artist-designed wall relief in the interpretive center could provide “hide and seek” geocaching exploration of the surrounding landscape—opening a hinged rock makes a water snake appear, and moving a lily pad uncovers fish swimming below. Interpretive art installations should help young and old audiences alike contemplate the vast and diverse life forms found throughout the area, though mostly out of view. Connect the human industry of this part of the river with the energy of the natural world.
- **Overlooks:** Two new, lookout overlooks, one at Little Pig’s Eye and one along the northern segment of the Highwood Bluff Trail, should include at least a bench, drinking fountain, and wayside.
- **Waysides:** A new four-sided kiosk at the Gathering and Interpretive Center would have two panels with GRP maps and two with interpretation about the GRP. The primary subtheme here would be **Change Over Time**, with stories about changes in the natural history of the area. The secondary subtheme would be **A Special Place for Many People**, with stories about different types of recreational opportunities available throughout the Passage. Audio could be used to convey stories in different languages based on audience needs.

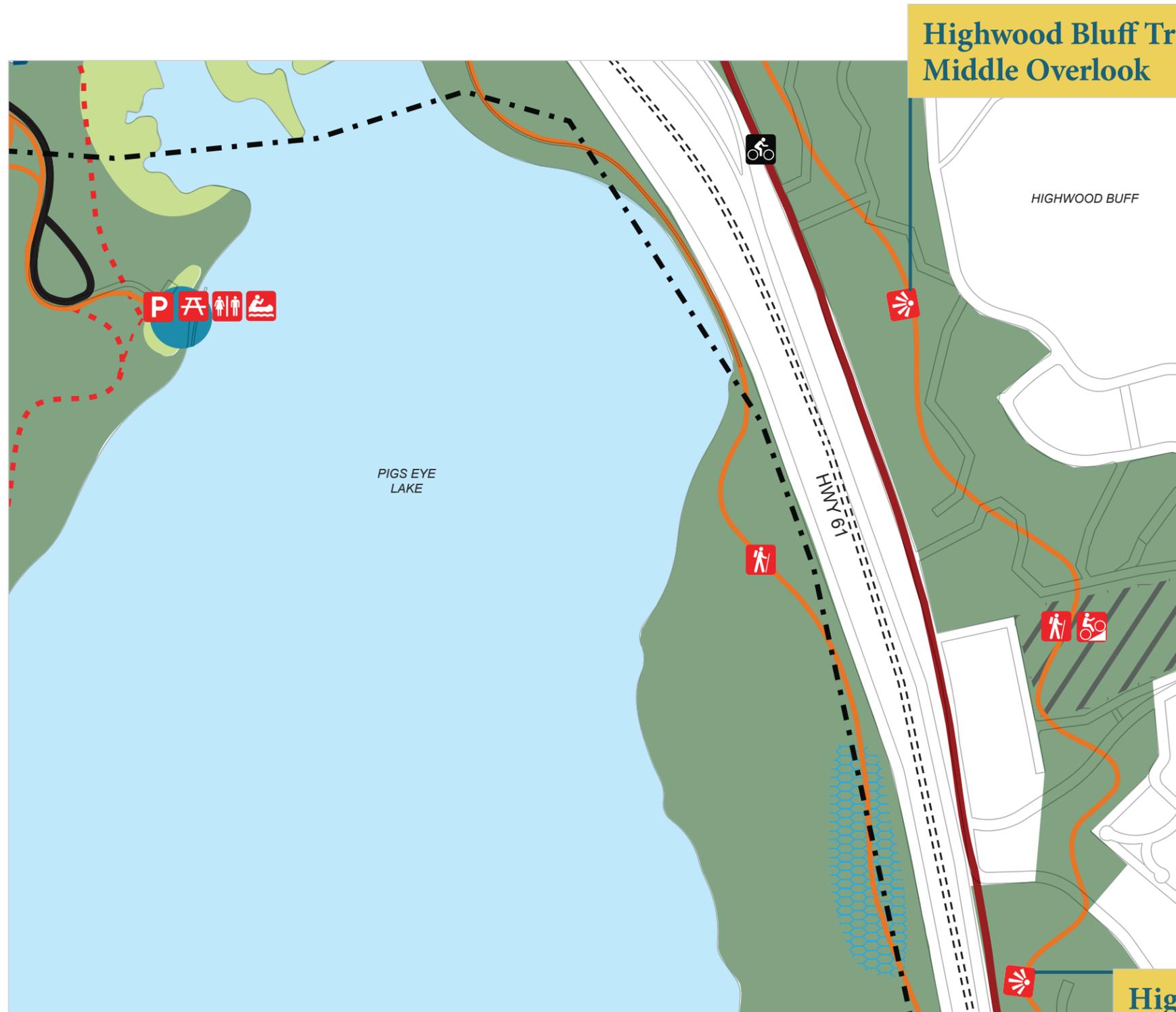


### Little Pig's Eye Lake | Lookout Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain

### Highwood Bluff Trail North | Lookout Overlook

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain



### Highwood Bluff Trail Middle Overlook

### Highwood Bluff Trail South Overlook

#### Pig's Eye Lake and Highwood Bluffs

This site has spectacular views from the river bluffs of downtown and Pigs Eye Lake—home to a large heron rookery. Hiking and biking trails wind along streams and bluffs, providing recreational opportunities in all seasons.

- *Design:* As noted above, sustainability and stewardship are the design inspiration throughout the floodplain/wetlands reach. Materials used should be from sustainable sources, and interpretation should promote and encourage stewardship activities. Design elements in the more remote areas of the reach should take their cue from the natural materials and elements that are distinctive of this wetlands setting.
- *Programming:* Interpretive elements should align with the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme.
- *Public Art:* To encourage visitors to observe its varied wildlife, commission artist and architect teams to design wildlife viewing blinds. The blinds could have tasteful, unobtrusive interpretive visuals on the interior surfaces. The wildlife viewing experience would be enhanced with a periscope-type sculpture that provides a unique view of the habitat from a 20-foot elevation. To provide safe access though the wetland areas, boardwalks should be installed. They should be designed with handcrafted carvings that depict natural elements or tracks of wildlife. These could depict the life cycle of a frog, the wingspan of a crane, or beaver tracks along the edge.
- *Overlooks:* Two new, lookout-style overlooks along the Highwood Bluff Trail would include at least a bench, drinking fountain, and wayside, and one overlook could include a bike maintenance station.
- *Waysides:* A low-profile wayside at each overlook location could convey the **Urban Wilderness** subtheme by providing information about flora and fauna visitors might see along the trails and linking this to conservation and stewardship messaging.

Together, these interpretive recommendations will create a cohesive visitor experience across the Passage. From overlooks, whether a gathering place or a lookout location, visitors are connected to spectacular views as well as stories of Saint Paul's natural, cultural, and historical fabric. Linking overlooks and riverside locations through self-guided and guided experiences will encourage visitors to explore more of the Passage, whether they choose to walk, bike, or drive. The City can build community support and foster stewardship for these special places in the heart of Saint Paul by implementing these elements through community partnerships, creating a place that is truly more connected.

#### Highwood Bluff Trail Middle & South| Lookout Overlooks

Interpretation & Design Elements: Interpretive Signage | Seating | Drinking Fountain | Bike Racks & Repair Station



Wildlife viewing blinds put people in nature and shield their presence from wildlife as much as possible



**Above:** Native plant species are recommended throughout the GRP to promote ecosystem health, create a dynamic setting, and foster stewardship

# IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

## IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

After months of planning and meetings, research and conversations, this document establishes the Interpretive Plan for the Great River Passage. Now the real work begins.

The most immediate next step is to establish a GRP Executive Director as a Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department staff position (see the GRP Master Plan, which provides guidance for creating a dedicated staff person in section 7.1 and in its Delivering the Vision section on page 167). The importance of a single point of contact to oversee the redevelopment and planning implementation efforts along the corridor is critical to success. This role is critical for the current and on-going GRP interpretation initiatives as well as for ongoing outreach and development initiatives. This person would be the liaison between and among the stakeholders and partners who are involved in implementing the GRP plans—both the Master Plan and this Interpretive Plan—and in promoting the goals and objectives of the Passage.

Responsibilities for this position relating to interpretive planning would include:

- Gather all applicable primary sources into a digital database from which subsequent work would follow and build from. The website could provide public access to the database, which could also be used to develop visuals showing the development of the river over time (see the Seattle Waterlines Project [http://www.burkemuseum.org/waterlines/project\\_map.html](http://www.burkemuseum.org/waterlines/project_map.html) as an example). This type of database resource would be invaluable for the development of interpretation at overlooks, and in brochures and other media. A 3D model over time, perhaps starting during the glacial period and coming up to the present, would also be useful. These types of resources could be developed and maintained with partners such as River Life at the University of Minnesota.
- Steward the goals and objectives of the GRP Master and Interpretive plans and manage the implementation of specific GRP Master Plan and Interpretive Plan recommendations.

- Communicate regularly with agencies or entities whose interest overlay the GRP boundary. For example, Saint Paul Scenic Byway, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), and the Saint Paul Grand Round bike trail all could have interpretive or wayfinding elements within the GRP that should coordinate with the look and feel of GRP interpretation.
- Create and maintain a database of community groups and stakeholders who could partner with the City to develop interpretive elements, participate in design reviews, and provide overall guidance on developing and maintaining the identifying elements of the GRP.
- Coordinate reviews of interpretive elements as they are being developed. Implementation of interpretive elements along the GRP may be undertaken by the City or by community partners. Elements, especially those developed by community groups, will need oversight to ensure they are adhering to the GRP design guidelines and will create a consistent and unified look among elements across the Passage.
- Establish or coordinate with an existing Friends group. Ideally, for the GRP, rather than establishing a new Friends group, the City could establish a partnership with an existing organization whose mission aligns with the goals for the GRP. Some potential partners for a GRP Friends organizations are Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, Friends of the Mississippi River, or the Mississippi River Fund.

The next critical step will be to determine who will take which roles within the highest priority items. Funding will need to be raised, people mobilized, and plans formed. Each component will need to develop its own goal and audience statement before proceeding. Each component will require additional research and planning and direction, yet each must be conscious of the whole and should continually reference back to the foundations set in this process. In addition, Metropolitan Council mandates, included in the Thrive MSP 2040 Plan and the Regional Parks Policy Plan 2040, for equity and multi-modal access to regional parks and trails within the metro area, will need to be considered for all forms of communication, awareness, and access, including interpretive messaging.

### Funding

This implementation plan recommends that the City take on the responsibility of developing the overlooks and the website. The development of the other interpretive elements, which could also be directed by the City, provide opportunities for partnerships. Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage Grants (Legacy grants) are a potential source of funding for many elements and potential partners such as community groups, friends organizations, district councils, and other entities may have access to alternative funding streams.

### Priorities for Implementation

To ensure meaningful implementation that is incremental and achievable, projects need to be prioritized. The highest priorities for implementation are select overlooks and gateway elements. These elements will start defining the GRP in a bold way. Gathering place overlook locations, especially those where a site is currently being developed or undergoing redevelopment, are among the highest priority, as are public art elements along Shepard Road that are intended to slow traffic and create a more inviting environment for pedestrians and cyclists.

The next priority items for implementation are vista and lookout overlooks and wayside locations. These sites will add depth to visitors' GRP experience by adding a layer beyond the elements developed first. The locations slated for future development are the lowest priority because their timeline is based on several factors outside the purview of this plan. The interpretive elements in these locations should be integral into the site development process.



The Mississippi River near Hidden Falls Regional Park



Photo courtesy of Forecast Public Art



Photo courtesy of Public Art Review

**Top:** During WaterFire event in Providence, RI, more than 80 braziers are lit up through downtown

**Bottom:** Art embedded in a paving can encourage movement, such as this piece in Seattle, WA called "Dance Instructions", part of a series by Jack Mackie

### Implementation Matrix Key

Priority	
1	Highest priority items should be undertaken as soon as possible and completed in the next one to three years.
2	Mid-priority items should be undertaken and scheduled for implementation in three to five years.
3	Lowest priority items should be undertaken and scheduled for implementation in five to eight years. Low priority items are not unimportant, but are those items that should be undertaken after higher priority items are completed or underway, or as funding allows.

Level of Effort	
low	These items require a relatively low level of effort for the City to implement. For example, either an implementation partner would be identified to develop and fund the project or the City would identify funding and hire a consultant to develop the element(s). In addition, little is required of the City in terms of site preparation. For example, a site may need to be graded and a wayside installed, but no utility or significant landscaping is required. In terms of community outreach, the anticipated outreach for development would be targeted to a few key stakeholder groups.
medium	These items require a relatively higher level of effort for the City to implement. For example, multiple implementation partners would be identified to develop and fund the project or the City would identify funding and hire a consultant to develop the element(s). In addition, a moderate amount of effort is required of the City in terms of site preparation. For example, in addition to grading, a site may need several elements installed, significant landscaping, or existing utilities may need to be adapted for the recommended use. In terms of community outreach, the anticipated outreach for development would be targeted to several key stakeholder groups with limited community engagement.
high	These items require the highest level of effort for the City to implement. For example, multiple implementation partners would be identified to develop and fund the project or the City would identify significant funding and hire a consultant to develop the element(s). In addition, a high amount of effort is required of the City in terms of site preparation. For example, a site may need significant landscaping and new utilities for the recommended use. In terms of community outreach, the anticipated outreach for development would be targeted to several key stakeholder groups with extensive community engagement. Also, if the site is on public land and/or receiving federal funding or permitting the project may have to comply with state and federal preservation laws.

Cost
Cost ranges are estimates based on design and fabrication/installation of the elements described. Costs could vary once a final design and specific elements are selected. Costs could also be decreased somewhat if multiple related items are completed at once. Costs do not include utility work or similar infrastructure costs that are the purview of the City.

**Implementation Matrix**

Implementation Components	Priority 1 - High 2 - Mid 3 - Low	Level of Effort	Cost \$ - up to \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,001 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,001 to \$200,000 \$\$\$\$ - \$200,001 and above	Notes
<b>CORRIDOR-WIDE</b>				
GRP Executive Director	1	low	To be determined by the City	
Website	2	low	\$\$	
Mobile Website	2		(included with Website cost above)	
<b>Self-Guided Experiences</b>	2	medium		
Printed Materials			\$	Development of one brochure and a single printing
Audio/Visual Materials			\$-\$	Development of one, or a small set, of audio or video tracks. Costs vary considerably by length, detail, and content
Mobile Phone Tour			\$	Five to ten stops, depending on the number and length of stops, as well as the type of content
Mobile App			\$-\$	Cost varies depending on the complexity of the app
<b>Guided Experiences</b>	3	medium		
Interpretive Tours			\$\$	Tour design and guide training from specialized professionals
Interpretive Talks			\$ (but ongoing)	Different speakers will have different fees
Workshops			\$ (but ongoing)	Different presenters will have different fees
Special Events			\$\$-\$\$\$	
<b>Public Art</b>	2	medium		
Rite of Fire & Water			\$\$-\$\$\$	
As Below, So Above			\$\$	
Big "S" Silt Sculpture			\$\$\$\$	
Concept Book			\$	
River Art School Curriculum			\$	
Artists-in-Residence			\$-\$	
Micro-grants			\$	

Implementation Components	Priority 1 - High 2 - Mid 3 - Low	Level of Effort	Cost \$ - up to \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,001 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,001 to \$200,000 \$\$\$\$ - \$200,001 and above	Notes
<b>GORGE REACH</b>				
<b>Mississippi River Blvd</b>				
Meeker Dam - Overlook	1	medium	\$\$	Vista overlook
Meeker Dam - Public Art	2	medium	\$	
Meeker Dam - Wayside Kiosk	1	medium	\$	
Shadow Falls Creek - North Overlook	2	low	\$	Lookout overlook
Shadow Falls Creek - South Overlook	1	medium	\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
Shadow Falls Creek - Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Hartford Ave - North Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Hartford Ave - South Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Hartford Ave - Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
<b>Hidden Falls Regional Park</b>				
Overlook	1	medium	\$\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
Wayside - Kiosk	1	medium	\$	
Wayside	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	1	medium	\$-\$	
<b>VALLEY REACH</b>				
<b>Shepard Road</b>				
Two Rivers Overlook	1	low	\$\$	Improvements to gathering place overlook
Sam Morgan Trail - West Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Sam Morgan Trail - East Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Fountain Cave Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Two Rivers Waysides	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
SM Trail Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Fountain Cave Wayside	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	1	medium	\$\$\$	

Implementation Components	Priority 1 - High 2 - Mid 3 - Low	Level of Effort	Cost \$ - up to \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,001 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,001 to \$200,000 \$\$\$\$ - \$200,001 and above	Notes
<b>Watergate Marina</b>				
<i>Priority, site needs, and cost are dependent on Marina redevelopment</i>				
Public Art	3	medium	\$	
Wayside	3	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	3	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
<b>Crosby Farm Regional Park</b>				
Wayside Kiosk	2	medium	\$	
Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$\$	
<b>Victoria Park</b>				
<i>Site needs and cost are dependent on Park development</i>				
Overlook	1	medium	\$\$	Vista overlook
Wayside	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	1	medium	\$	
<b>Lilydale &amp; Cherokee Regional Parks</b>				
High Bridge - Overlook	1	medium	\$\$	Vista overlook
Parking Lot - Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Fossil Beds - Overlook	1	high	\$\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
Waysides	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	1	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	1	medium	\$\$	
<b>Island Station</b>				
<i>Priority, site needs, and cost are dependent on site redevelopment</i>				
Overlook	3	high	\$\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
Wayside - Kiosk	3	medium	\$	
Audio	3	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	3	medium	\$\$	

Implementation Components	Priority 1 - High 2 - Mid 3 - Low	Level of Effort	Cost \$ - up to \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,001 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,001 to \$200,000 \$\$\$\$ - \$200,001 and above	Notes
<b>DOWNTOWN REACH</b>				
<b>Harriet Island</b>				
Overlook at Levee (existing)	3	low	\$	Lookout overlook
Wayside - Kiosk	1	medium	\$	
Waysides	1	medium	\$\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	1	medium	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$\$	
<b>Raspberry Island</b>				
Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	low	\$	
<b>Downtown and Kellogg Blvd</b>				
<i>Priority, site needs, and cost are dependent on site redevelopment</i>				
Kellogg Mall Park - Overlook	3	high	\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
River Balcony at Market Street - Overlook	3	high	\$\$	Vista overlook
Walnut Street - Overlook	3	high	\$\$	Vista overlook
Waysides	3	medium	\$\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	3	medium	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	3	medium	\$\$\$	
Welcome Center	1	high	\$\$\$\$	
<b>West Side</b>				
Green Stairs Overlook	1	medium	\$\$	Vista overlook
Wayside - Kiosk at Levee Riverwalk	2	medium	\$	
Wayside	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$\$	
<b>Lower Landing Park</b>				
Landform Overlook	2	high	\$	Lookout overlook
Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$	

Implementation Components	Priority 1 - High 2 - Mid 3 - Low	Level of Effort	Cost \$ - up to \$50,000 \$\$ - \$50,001 to \$100,000 \$\$\$ - \$100,001 to \$200,000 \$\$\$\$ - \$200,001 and above	Notes
<b>Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary</b>				
Wayside - Kiosk at trail to Lowertown	2	medium	\$	
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$\$	
<b>Indian Mounds Park</b>				
Geologic Marker - Overlook	1	high	\$\$\$	Gathering place overlook
Wakan Tipi / Carver's Cave - Overlook	1	high	\$\$	Vista overlook
Wayside - Kiosks	1	medium	\$	
Wayside	1	medium	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Audio	1	medium	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	1	medium	\$\$	
<b>FLOODPLAIN/ WETLANDS REACH</b>				
<b>Warner Road / DNR facilities</b>				
<i>Priority and site needs are dependent on site and trail development</i>				
Little Pig's Eye - Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Highwood Bluffs - North Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Wayside - Kiosk	2	medium	\$	
Audio	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$	
Interpretive Center	2	high	\$\$\$\$	
<b>Pig's Eye Lake and Highwood Bluffs</b>				
<i>Priority and site needs are dependent on site and trail development</i>				
Highwood Bluffs - Middle Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Highwood Bluffs - South Overlook	2	medium	\$	Lookout overlook
Waysides	2	low	\$	\$5,000 - \$10,000 each
Public Art	2	medium	\$	



Photo courtesy of the artist

**Top:** Cast artifacts can be inspiring public art  
**Middle:** A whimsical artist-designed drinking fountain, such as this frog fountain in Paris, France, combines function with fun to create a memorable amenity  
**Bottom:** An embedded design, such as this terrazzo floor detail by Barbara Keith for an event center in Bemidji, MN, attracts attention and can support an interpretive story

### Working With Partners

The GRP Master Plan set the stage for sustainable parks and open space, ecological restoration and economic development, and connecting the city, its neighborhoods and people, to Saint Paul’s unique Mississippi River resources. This Interpretive Plan provides a holistic approach to realizing the master plan’s vision for interpretation along the Great River Passage corridor, including creating and strengthening community connections. The importance of fostering meaningful partnerships among the many local, regional, and national stakeholders, including agencies and organizations, cannot be overemphasized. Partners need a shared vision and strategy to preserve, manage, and interpret the sites along the corridor. Interpretation can and should be developed by many organizations and agencies, dependent upon compatible missions and availability of resources. The key is that anyone who develops and implements an interpretive element, program, or exhibit project within the Passage does so within the framework of the GRP Interpretive Plan.

There are many organizations and agencies with interest in, and jurisdiction over, the Passage. Therefore, the City needs a process for building strong partnerships among individuals, groups, agencies, and organizations with shared interests, who will collaborate on implementing interpretive strategies throughout the GRP.

The GRP Master Plan defines strategies for cultivating strategic partnerships (page 171) and this Interpretive Plan begins developing those strategies by identifying potential partners to take on implementation opportunities and refining City procedures for collaborating with partners during the implementation process.

#### Working with Native American groups

To implement interpretive recommendations aligned with the Dakota Landscape subtheme or Dakota stories, the City and its partner should seek out and engage Dakota artists, storytellers, and sound artists to help strengthen the presence of Dakota heritage in the landscape.

### EXISTING COLLABORATION DOCUMENTS

The Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department has developed several documents that outline and describe the cultivation and inclusion of partners in developing and implementing projects. Based on a review and analysis of those City-provided documents, a Partner Collaboration Checklist (below) has been developed to help guide the implementation of the interpretive recommendations.

The City’s Design Project Communication Plan document details internal communications and opportunities for non-city staff participants to be involved in projects from design to implementation. The Design Advisory Committee (DAC) aims for a total of ten non-city staff participants; previous non-city staff participants could be identified as potential partners for future projects and future non-city staff participants could come from GRP interpretive projects partners. The Partner Collaboration Checklist is primarily based on this City-provided document.

The City’s Community Engagement Matrix should be updated frequently with innovative forms of community engagement. The GRP Executive Director should use the Matrix when working with project partners to identify potential stakeholders and develop a strategy for engagement. The City’s Meeting Evaluation Form should be used to evaluate community engagement strategies listed on the Matrix.

## POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Potential partners are identified from GRP workshop attendees, project team recommendations, TAC recommendations, and the GRP Master Plan (Community Participation A.4, page A64).

Potential partners are categorized by three attributes: financial support, advocacy or program support (see GRP Master Plan, page 171). This list should be maintained by the GRP Executive Director and updated as needed.

### Financial Support

Mississippi River Fund

The McKnight Foundation: Mississippi River Grant Program

The PeopleForBikes Community Grant Program

US Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Education (EE) Grants- Region 5

Trust for Public Land

Metropolitan Council

Capitol Region Watershed District

### Advocacy

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

Friends of the Mississippi River

### Program Support

Minnesota Geocaching Association (MnGCA)

All My Relations

American Composers Forum

Artscraps

Barebones Productions

Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary

Body Cartography Project

Capitol Region Watershed District

Capitol River Council

Century College

Chicano Latino Affairs Council

Citizen Science Programs

College and University art programs

COMPAS Community Art

The Confederation of Somali Communities in Minnesota

Dakota County Parks

Desnoyer Park Association

District Councils

DNR's Adopt-a-River Program (and sculpture project)

Festivals (Cinco de Mayo, Winter Carnival Wishes for the Sky, Children's Festival, Flutag, etc.)

Forecast Public Art

Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County

Great River Greening

Growing West Side

Heartland Restaurant & Farm Direct Market

Highland District Council

Historic Fort Snelling

Historic St. Paul

History Theatre

Intermedia Arts

Juxtaposition Arts

KFAI Radio

Kulture Klub Collaborative

The Loft Literary Center

MacNally Smith College of Music

MAW (Art on Wheels)

Minnesota Children's Museum

Minnesota Composers Forum

Minnesota History Center

Minnesota Humanities Center

Minnesota Literacy Council (Journeys and Civic Engagement)

Minnesota Museum of American Art

Minnesota Public Radio

Minnesota Society of Sculptors

Mn Artists

Mississippi Market

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS)

Mississippi River Parkway Commission- Minnesota

Mu Performing Arts

NEDA (Neighborhood Dev. Agency)

Neighborhood House

Nice Ride

Northern Lights

Ordway Center for the Performing Arts

Outward Bound School

Penumbra Theatre

Project Wet (Water Education for Teachers)

Public Art Saint Paul

Ramsey County Conservation District

Ramsey County Rail Authority

River's Edge Academy

Saint Paul Almanac (and the Storymobile)

Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation

Science Museum of Minnesota

Shubert Club

Skewed Vision

Springboard for the Arts

St. Paul Arts Collective

St. Paul Chamber Orchestra

St. Paul Heritage Preservation Commission

St. Paul NAACP

St. Paul Public Library

St. Paul Public Schools

TPT Public Television

UMN Showboat,

Urban Oasis

Urban Roots

West 7th Street/ Fort Road Federation

West End Arts

Works Progress

WSCO (West Side Community Organization)

Youth Farm Project

As suggested in the GRP Master Plan (page 171), to grow the list of potential partners the GRP Executive Director should integrate contacts from partner databases into the master Saint Paul Parks and Recreation database and/or execute an opt-in campaign through partner communication channels (e.g., email, newsletter, social networks).

**PROCEDURES FOR COLLABORATING**

These procedures build on the City’s Design Project Communication Plan. The GRP Master Plan identifies the need for a “Partner Toolkit” (page 171), and this checklist could be part of that toolkit to enable potential partners to easily understand how the process for partnership with the City works.

Partner Collaboration Checklist		
<b>Pre-Project Start</b>		
✓	<b>TASK</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
	Identify a project for implementation	City
	Identify potential partners from the GRP Potential Partners list	City
	Identify any potential funding streams that will be used to implement the project	City and Partner
	Define the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project scope of work</li> <li>• The roles and responsibilities of the partner and City in the project development process</li> <li>• The benefit of partnership on this project for both the partner and the City? (Benefits could include the following: matching funds, meeting space, community recognition, etc.)</li> </ul>	City
<b>Project Start</b>		
✓	<b>TASK</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Options for potential partners outreach. There are different approaches for reaching perspective partners, speak with your supervisor to discuss the best method of outreach for a specific project.</li> <li>• Option 1: Targeted outreach to individuals from the community living close to the project site or with an interest or expertise in the interpretive element being implemented. If specific individuals or groups are not known, working through the District Council could narrow the search for appropriate potential partners.</li> <li>• Option 2: Broad outreach could include posting a request for proposals for City-funded projects or sending a “Call for partners” email, such as the following, to the relevant potential partners or organizations.</li> </ul> <p>Subject: CALL for PARTNERS: name of project Great River Passage is seeking potential partners for Name of project in Address, Ward, District. The scope of work for the project includes list work to be included in the scope of the project . The budget for the project is \$XXXX with an anticipated timeframe of Month Year to Month Year.</p> <p>Potential roles for partners include: list role of partners. Participating partners will receive this support from City.</p> <p>Please call me at XXX-XXX-XXXX or email me at EMAIL with questions by [date].</p> <p>Thank you.</p>	City

Partner Collaboration Checklist		
	The GRP Coordinator will send an email acknowledgement within 24 hours and respond to questions within 48 hours, unless a different timeline for response is established.	City
	Set up meetings with partner(s) identified by the City and those who approach the City. Notify partners selected and those who were not selected.	City
	Include selected partners on email requesting recommendations for the Design Advisory Committee (DAC) and give not-selected partner the option to “opt-in” to be on the DAC. Follow the DAC Community Process document for instructions on setting-up a DAC.	City
	Conduct a project start-up call or meeting. The agenda should include at least the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish communication protocols between the City and Partner (e.g., primary contact people at the City and Partner organization; regular project status reports; etc.)</li> <li>• Review GRP Brand and Design Guidelines carefully to understand how they affect the development of the project.</li> <li>• Define the interpretive story for the project and which Subthemes align with the story.</li> <li>• Develop a project timeline (including an anticipated meeting and public outreach schedule)</li> <li>• Clarify roles of partner and City (including available resources and how decisions will be made)</li> <li>• Establish how information will be made available to the public (web posting, open houses, presentations, etc.) and how input from the public will be addressed. Consult the Community Engagement Matrix to identify strategies to engage communities depending on project needs.</li> </ul>	City and Partner
<b>Design Phase Construction Documents and Construction</b>		
✓	<b>TASK</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
	Follow the City process established in the Design Project Communication Plan from Design Phase through project completion.	City and Partner
<b>Final</b>		
✓	<b>TASK</b>	<b>RESPONSIBILITY</b>
	Evaluate the collaboration process by seeking feedback from project partners. There are different approaches to obtaining feedback such as, online surveys and informal meetings. The project team should discuss and determine the best method of evaluation.	City and Partner
	Analyze the feedback from the final evaluation and meeting evaluation forms. Refine the Partner Collaboration Checklist to reflect suggested improvements.	City



Summer blooms at Raspberry Island



Two Rivers Overlook

# APPENDIX A: FOUNDATIONS REPORT



106GROUP

# FOUNDATIONS REPORT: GREAT RIVER PASSAGE INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Submitted To: City of Saint Paul, Department of Parks and Recreation  
August 20, 2014



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**OVERVIEW..... 1**  
**SITE MAP..... 3**  
**INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK..... 4**  
**WORKSHOPS..... 7**  
**NEXT STEPS..... 11**

**APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER LIST**

**APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP ACTIVITY CHART**

**APPENDIX C: LEMONADE STAND ACTIVITY GUIDE**

**APPENDIX D: WORKSHOP RESULTS**

**Submitted By:**

106 Group  
370 Selby Ave  
St. Paul, MN 55102

**CONSULTANT TEAM:**

Anne Ketz, 106 Group, Principal-in-Charge  
Regine Kennedy, 106 Group, Project Manager  
Brooke Dirtzu, 106 Group, Outreach Coordinator  
Marika Proctor, 106 Group, Assistant Outreach Coordinator  
Jack Becker, Forecast Public Art

**FUNDING:**

Made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund  
through the vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008.  
Administered by the Minnesota Historical Society.



*Cover images courtesy of Sonja Rostad, 106 Group*

## OVERVIEW

The Great River Passage (GRP) Interpretive Plan is one of the first implementations of the GRP Master Plan. The Interpretive Plan will provide information about the historical, natural, and cultural resources along the Passage and recommendations for interpreting the stories and resources of the Mississippi River and Passage. Through the interpretive planning process, the project team will identify and engage with stakeholders and will actively seek ways to include the many cultures and communities who have knowledge and stories to share.

This Foundations Report summarizes initial public engagement efforts. From these foundations, the project team will develop the Interpretive Plan.

## Acknowledgements

### CLIENT PROJECT TEAM

Mike Kimble, *City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department*

Don Ganje, *City of Saint Paul, Parks and Recreation Department*

### TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC):

John Anfinson, *National Park Service, Mississippi National River & Recreation Area*

Robert Ferguson, *Saint Paul Heritage Preservation Commission*

Tim Griffin, *Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation*

Anne Hunt, *City of Saint Paul, Mayor's Office*

Larry Peterson, *Fort Snelling State Park*

Patrick Seeb, *Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation*

Lucy Thompson, *City of Saint Paul, Planning and Economic Development Department*

## Project Summary to Date

This interpretive planning project is one of the first steps in the implementation of the GRP Master Plan, approved by the Saint Paul City Council on April 10, 2013. This project aligns with the City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Department's mission statement:

*To help make Saint Paul the most livable city in America, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation will facilitate the creation of active lifestyles, vibrant places, and a vital environment.*

The GRP project team invited individuals to participate as members of a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) based on their ability to assist with identifying stakeholders; to provide continuity with previous GRP planning; to provide knowledge and expertise on resources and stories of the river; and to participate in select project activities.

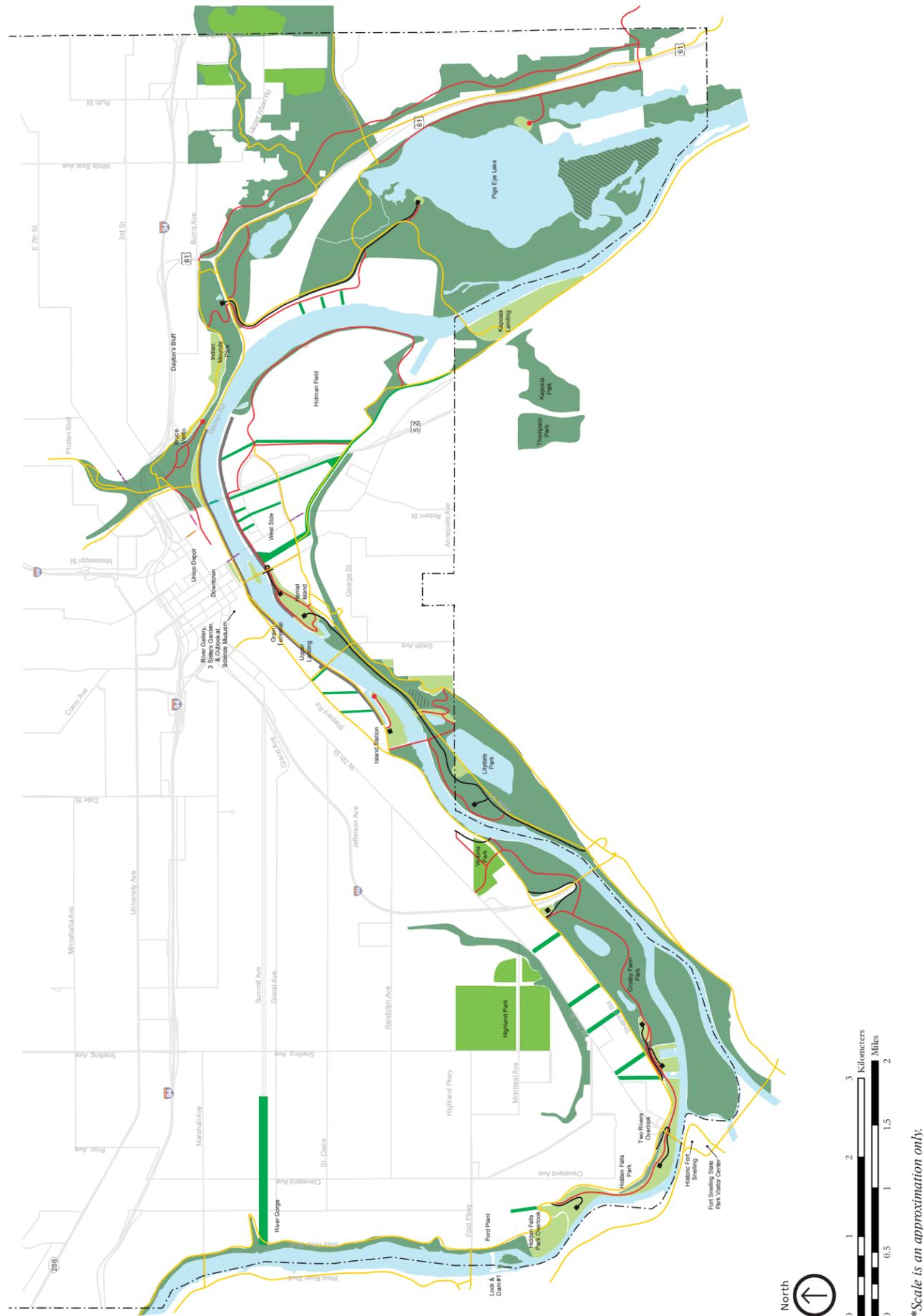
Due to time constraints and topic overlap, the City agreed to combine topics identified in the GRP Master Plan as follows:

- Commerce & Control, Economic, and River Transport
- Ecological, Native Culture, Immigration, and Home & Shelter
- Food, Health, and Recreation

The project team met with the TAC on Friday, May 2, 2014 (10:00 am-11:00 am) at Saint Paul City Hall, Room 42. During the meeting, participants clarified the TAC members' roles and expectations; discussed criteria for stakeholders; and scheduled workshop dates, times, and locations. The TAC members later provided suggestions for stakeholders to invite to the workshops by topic.

The GRP project team made particular effort to attract diversity among the stakeholders. The team identified specific individuals and groups, some of whom do not typically attend public meetings and workshops, who would likely have an interest in the interpretive planning process for the GRP. When specific individuals were not able to attend, the team asked that they send a qualified representative in their place. In cases when a potential stakeholder was interested in multiple or all topics, they were free to choose a workshop or workshops in which to participate. Workshop participants were also asked to host outreach activities aimed at gathering information from their communities or the communities they serve.

106 Group staff coordinated with the client project team and the TAC to develop three stakeholder workshops, adjusting the topic groupings and activities in response to stakeholder feedback.



## INTERPRETIVE FRAMEWORK

Interpretive planning recommends interpretive elements and experiences that support an organization’s vision and mission. The interpretive framework considers place-specific historical, cultural, and natural resources to be interpreted.

The interpretive framework presented here was developed during the GRP Master Plan planning process and recorded in the plan in section 5.4 (pages 77 – 83). This framework establishes an interpretive approach aimed at integrating history and culture into all aspects of GRP development. The GRP Master Plan identified objectives for achieving this integration through interpretation. This section of the plan also included a mission, principles to guide interpretation, interpretive goals and objectives, and an interpretive theme and topics.

### Objectives

The GRP Master Plan commits itself to the following objectives specific to preservation and interpretation of the river corridor in Saint Paul. The interpretive plan will provide direction for the City to achieve the second objective. The first objective is a separate and extensive undertaking, and the third objective builds on the interpretive plan.

#### Objective 1: Identify, evaluate, designate, preserve, and protect the historic resources within the Great River Passage.

- Implement recommendations of the City's Preservation Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Complete a corridor-wide inventory and assessment of cultural and historical resources within the River corridor.
- Incorporate historic elements into improvements recommended under the master plan.
- Prepare a baseline inventory of all historic resources, including sites and districts already designated, in the Great River Passage.

#### Objective 2: Develop a comprehensive interpretive plan and specific strategies for implementation.

- Develop interpretive themes.
- Develop non-traditional strategies for interpretation and storytelling.
- Protect and interpret historic and cultural resources.

#### Objective 3: Promote interpretation of the corridor's history, culture, and unique resources.

- Develop partnerships to protect and interpret unique resources within the corridor.
- Link historical and cultural interpretive programs with the City's existing environmental education program.

## Mission

The GRP Master Plan established the mission for the Passage:

*The Great River Passage strives to be a regional asset of national significance that is more natural, more urban, and more connected.*

## Principles

The GRP Master Plan established principles to guide interpretation:

Interpretation in the GRP will:

- Convey factual information and authentic stories
- Convey different perspectives on the history of places and resources
- Foster preservation and restoration of historic resources through education and understanding
- Foster partnerships among the many local, regional, and national agencies, organizations, and stakeholders
- Create a cohesive visitor experience linked to the Passage's theme and subthemes
- Complement additional interpretation and visitor experiences in Saint Paul
- Be accessible to the greatest extent possible (e.g., ADA compliant)
- Ensure interpretation is not intrusive to the unique sense of place
- Inform site development and visitor orientation and wayfinding
- Foster discovery and contemplation (i.e., encourage visitors to accurately understand the site while also asking questions and provoking visitors to draw their own conclusions)
- Encourage visitors to learn more from the many resources available beyond the places visited

## Goals and Objectives

The GRP Master Plan defined interpretive goals and objectives. Interpretation within the GRP will:

- Educate visitors about the history and heritage of the Great River Passage
- Provide visitors with engaging and relevant experiences
- Provide opportunities for people of diverse perspectives and backgrounds to appreciate the site and its history
- Attract local, regional, and national heritage tourists to the Great River Passage
- Establish consistent interpretive messages
- Build a cohesive group of partners and stakeholders who can effectively preserve, manage, and interpret the site
- Improve visitor orientation and wayfinding
- Develop and enhance the landscape
- Develop guided and self-guided tours
- Connect visitors to other themes-related resources beyond the Passage
- Provide opportunities for visitors to engage in stewardship
- Evaluate and report progress toward objectives
- Ensure the interpretive experience is not intrusive on the natural environment

## Theme

The GRP Master Plan established the interpretive theme and topics, which expand on the theme. These elements guided the development and facilitation of workshops:

*The Mississippi has influenced the development and sustained cultures of Saint Paul throughout time.*

## Topics

**Food:** The Mississippi has nourished people throughout history.

**River Transport:** The Mississippi has served as the major transportation highway throughout history.

**Shelter:** The Mississippi has defined and shaped our neighborhoods.

**Recreation:** Enjoying the river.

**Commerce & Control:** For more than a century, man has tried to control and harness the Mississippi to be a working river.

**Economic:** What are the many opportunities that the river has provided throughout history?

**Ecological:** The river sustains life.

**Health:** How has the river contributed to the health of the people throughout history?

**Native Culture:** What has been and is the experience along the river for the past 12,000 years?

**Immigration:** The immigration experience and the role of the river in that experience.

# WORKSHOPS

## Overview

The GRP project team, with input provided by TAC members, identified key stakeholders for workshop participation based on the following criteria:

- Their ability to make a valuable contribution to the planning process through their knowledge of and interest in river resources and stories
- Their expertise with one of the ten interpretive topics developed during the GRP master planning process
- Their potential interest in building partnerships with different groups along the corridor
- Their ability to promote inclusion with diverse or underserved populations within the GRP area

The City invited specific individuals and community groups to participate based on topics relevant to their interest and expertise. Below is a summary of the workshop logistics, topics, and attendance. All workshops were held from 3:30pm-7:00pm at the Wellstone Center in room 212.

### Workshop 1: May 19, 2014

- Focus topics: Food, Health and Recreation
- Attendees: 25 stakeholders and 6 TAC members
- Project Team:
  - City of Saint Paul: Mike Kimble and Don Ganje
  - Consultants: (106 Group) Regine Kennedy, Anne Ketz, Brooke Dirtzu, and Chris Johnson; (Forecast Public Art) Jack Becker and Bob Lunning

### Workshop 2: May 29, 2014

- Focus topics: Ecological Resources, Native Culture, Immigration and Home & Shelter
- Attendees: 15 stakeholders and 4 TAC members
- Project Team:
  - City of Saint Paul: Mike Kimble and Don Ganje
  - Consultants: (106 Group) Regine Kennedy, Anne Ketz, Brooke Dirtzu, and Chris Johnson; (Forecast Public Art) Bob Lunning

### Workshop 3: June 5, 2014

- Focus topics: (All topics) Commerce & Control, Economic, River Transport, Ecological Resources, Native Culture, Immigration, Home & Shelter, Food, Health, and Recreation.
- Attendees: 12 stakeholders and 2 TAC members
- Project Team:
  - City of Saint Paul: Mike Kimble and Don Ganje
  - Consultants: (106 Group) Regine Kennedy, Anne Ketz, Brooke Dirtzu, Sonja Rostad, and Marika Proctor; (Forecast Public Art) Scott Wende

## Process

The goals for these workshops were:

- To discover stories
- To reveal resources
- To make connections

Each workshop consisted of two breakout sessions that included a mix of individual, small group, and large group activities. Consultant team facilitators, led by 106 Group, guided participants through a series of activities aimed toward achieving the workshop goals.

Break-Out Session One began with an ice-breaker word association exercise as a way to foster a storytelling environment. Facilitators asked participants to share a word to describe the Mississippi River. A scribe wrote the words from the activity on a flip-chart.

Following the ice-breaker, facilitators asked participants to begin sharing and recording their stories of the GRP. This consisted of a brainstorming session in which participants shared who they last visited the river with and where along the Passage they chose to go. Next, the facilitators asked participants to respond individually and then engage with a partner to think through and fill-in an Activity Chart (see Appendix B). The chart was designed to assist participants in classifying and communicating their ideas effectively with guiding questions about the *who*, *what*, and *where* of their experience. The project team started by suggesting several categories for the *who*: out-of-town visitor, a millennial (young adult), an 8-year-old, and an 80-year-old.

Individuals worked on the chart independently, then shared their stories with a partner, and then amongst their small groups where reactions and discussions were encouraged. A scribe captured the small group discussion on a flip-chart with the title "story response." This collaborative discussion was designed to allow participants time to process their thoughts, as well as time to discuss with a partner, in order to maximize participation in the large group discussion. The outcomes of each activity are presented in the Outcomes section below. Finally, participants came together in a large group where each small group shared a summary of their collective stories.

Break-Out Session Two was a facilitated process that involved placing resources and stories onto a map of the GRP to determine patterns and connections between the stories. Starting with the Activity Charts and Story Response discussion, facilitators directed participants to write stories onto color-coded post-its that correlated to the original ten topics (Commerce & Control, Economic, River Transport, Ecological, Native Culture, Immigration, Home & Shelter, Food, Health, and Recreation) and place the post-its on the map. As the discussion evolved, participants continued to share further experiences, stories, and their knowledge of resources along the river. Using the map as a visual aid, the small groups discussed connections, patterns, and gaps. The discussions were recorded on a flip chart and the summaries of these findings were then shared in a large-group setting.

The workshop ended with a presentation of Next Steps, which noted future engagement opportunities, namely the community outreach lemonade stands, future workshops (as applicable), and the opportunity to attend the final plan presentation.

## Outcomes

After each workshop, 106 Group staff tracked the stories, places, and discussions for combined analysis, then completed an exploratory data analysis, which included reviewing the data set for the main characteristics of stakeholder responses, mapping out the data set in a chart, and summarizing the findings. The summarized results reported below combine input from the three workshops.

### **Summarized Results for Break-Out Session One Activities:**

During the word association activity, the most frequently used words were:

- Birds
- Connections
- Deep
- Extreme
- Historic
- National
- Natural
- Play
- Power
- Travel

From the three workshops, we collected 59 Activity Charts that included 205 stories. In addition to participants responding to the targeted 10 topics, 21 new topics emerged from the stories. Each emerging topic that was referenced in a story was recorded and analyzed for frequency. The top three emerging topics were:

1. Change over time (cycles, transformation, and restoration): 86 references
2. Sense of historical importance (the historical importance of the GRP from glacial formation to the founding of Saint Paul to modern accomplishments): 64 references
3. Urban wilderness (exploring wilderness in an urban area): 58 references

From the Activity Chart, we compiled a list of named destinations in the GRP and charted the frequency. 65 different destinations were named; the top five locations were:

1. Hidden Falls: 16 references
2. Harriet Island: 15 references
3. Indian Mounds Park: 15 references
4. Lilydale Park and Trails: 14 references
5. Along the River (general location on the land): 12 references

To encourage personal connections to the site, facilitators asked participants to imagine whom they would take to the GRP. In the 205 stories, there were eight categories of people named: out-of-town visitor, millennial (young adult), family, youth (5-15), toddler, 80-year-old (senior), adult, and all ages. The three most frequently imagined visitors were from the following categories:

1. Out-of-town visitor: 61 references
2. Millennial: 56 references
3. Youth (5-15): 55 references

We collected 172 statements during the Story Response activity (each statement recorded on the flipchart is considered to be a single data point), then linked each reference to one of the 21 topics that emerged from the Activity Charts and analyzed it for frequency. The top three emerging topics were:

1. The GRP is fun (many opportunities for recreation and fun, including biking, canoeing, partying, public events, and exercise): 30 references
2. Access to the river (need to get "down to the river," or know how to get to the water, ADA issues, and barrier issues): 26 references
3. Urban wilderness (exploring wilderness in an urban area): 21 references

### **Summarized Results for Break-Out Session Two Activities:**

We collected 40 statements during discussions of connections, patterns and gaps (each statement recorded on the flipchart was a single data point) and then associated each reference to one of the seven top emerging topics from the Activity Charts and analyzed it for frequency.

The top two emerging topics were:

1. Change over time (cycles, transformation, and restoration): 9 references
2. The GRP is fun (opportunities for recreation and fun, including biking, canoeing, partying, public events, and exercise): 8 references

## NEXT STEPS

This document establishes the foundations of the GRP Interpretive Plan. With this in place, we move forward to further analyze the results of the workshops and coordinate local community outreach activities (lemonade stands). Analysis of the workshop and outreach activities' outcomes will inform locations for the site visit and development of the interpretive plan.

### Community Outreach – Lemonade Stands

A series of lemonade stand events will take place during July to reach a wider stakeholder base and gather further community input. Lemonade stand materials will be provided by the 106 Group and the stands will be facilitated by workshop participants who expressed interest in hosting a lemonade stand event. 106 Group staff will coordinate with these individual organizers to set-up an outreach event. The organizers will submit their event results to the 106 Group and we will use it to inform the selection criteria for the site visit. See Appendix C for the Lemonade Stand Activity Guide.

### Site Visit

Our core project team and TAC members (as they are able) will attend an eight-hour site visit. The locations for the site visit will be informed by further analysis of the workshop data and may be informed by information gathered during lemonade stand events.

The sites to be visited are to be determined, but will include:

- vista and flats (i.e., a good view into or out of the river valley)
- at least one site with existing interpretation
- at least one site currently without interpretation
- at least one site with multiple media/outputs options (all visited sites will be assessed for interpretive potential)

Other criteria will be considered with City and TAC input during the site visit planning and after review of this Foundations Report and lemonade stand outcomes.

### Plan

106 Group will produce an interpretive plan that accomplishes the tasks outlined in the RFP. Our interpretive planners, Anne Ketz and Regine Kennedy, will lead this effort, bringing in specific team members to develop and refine the recommendations based on input gathered in workshops and community outreach efforts, and during the site visit. The Plan will be developed in two phases:

#### Draft Plan

The Draft Plan will be presented to the City and TAC during a two-hour meeting; initial review comments will be gathered at that time. Following a 28-day review period, the City's project lead will provide consolidated written comments to Regine Kennedy, the 106 Group project manager; a conference call will follow to clarify comments.

#### Final Plan

Following the review of the Draft Plan, 106 Group will revise the document as needed and submit it to the City and TAC for final review and approval. Following a two-week review period, the City's project lead will provide consolidated written comments to Regine Kennedy, the 106 Group project manager. Following final revision, 106 Group will present the Final Plan during a two-hour public open house.

### Project Schedule

The following schedule has been determined in cooperation with the City's project lead and may be adjusted as presentation dates are determined.

GRP Interpretive Plan	Work Days	Review Days	Project Deadline	Day of week	Notes
Foundations Report			Jun 26, 2014	Thu	
Review		14	Jul 10, 2014	Thu	
Community Outreach	30		July		<i>Dates TBD</i>
Site Visit			Aug 5, 2014	Tue	
Draft Plan	52		Sep 26, 2014	Fri	
Presentation to City/TAC					<i>Date TBD</i>
Review		28	Oct 24, 2014	Fri	
Conference Call			Oct 24, 2014	Fri	
Final Plan	21		Nov 14, 2014	Fri	
Presentation to City/TAC					<i>Date TBD</i>
Review		14	Nov 28, 2014	Fri	
Public Presentation					<i>Date TBD</i>
Closeout Package	14		Dec 12, 2014	Fri	
End Date			Dec 31, 2014	Wed	<i>Contract End Date: March 2, 2015</i>

## **APPENDIX A: STAKEHOLDER LIST**

Representatives from the following organizations participated in the workshops.

*Bare Bones Productions*  
*Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary*  
*Capitol Region Watershed District*  
*Century College*  
*Chicano Latino Affairs Council*  
*City of Saint Paul*  
*Community Programs in the Arts (COMPAS)*  
*Dakota County Parks Administration*  
*Desnoyer Park Association*  
*District 1 Council*  
*Friends of the Parks and Trails of Saint Paul and Ramsey County, MN*  
*Growing West Side*  
*Heartland*  
*Highland District Council*  
*Minneapolis Rowing Club*  
*Mississippi Market*  
*MLMP (Monarchs) Citizen Science*  
*MN Composers Forum*  
*MN Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*  
*Nice Ride*  
*NPS Visitor Center*  
*Outward Bound School*  
*Ramsey County Conservation District*  
*Ramsey County Rail Authority*  
*Saint Paul City Ward 4*  
*St. Cloud State*  
*Saint Paul NAACP*  
*Minnesota Centennial Showboat*  
*University of Minnesota*  
*Urban Oasis/Bravely Be*  
*Ward 2- City of Saint Paul*  
*West 7th Street/Fort Road Federation*  
*West Seventh Enhancement Coalition*  
*West Seventh Resident*  
*WSCO*

# APPENDIX B: WORKSHOP ACTIVITY CHART

## IMAGINE YOU ARE SHOWING SOMEONE THE GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

Examples for Your People: College friend visiting from out-of-town; your 80-year-old grandmother; your 8-year-old nephew; a foreign exchange student; and/ or a Millennial (ages 14 - 34)

Step 1: Independent				Step 2: Pairs	
Your People	Where would you take them?	What story would you tell them?	What would they want to know?	What would surprise them?	Notes: Does your partner have a different perspective about this place or story?

# APPENDIX C: LEMONADE STAND ACTIVITY GUIDE



**Purpose:**

To collect stories of the Great River Passage to inform the Interpretive Plan for the park.

**What type of activity is this?**

A story sharing activity

**What will the outcome be?**

A visual display of many stories of the Great River Passage

**How many people?**

As many as possible

**Where should I do this activity?**

Preferably where there are people gathered

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	What YOU will need
	Easel or wall space
	Table
	Something to stir the lemonade
	Container for lemonade
	Water
	Ice
	Tape

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	What WE will provide
	Map
	Post-its
	Lemonade mix
	Cups
	Markers/pens
	Pre-stamped packet to send stories back to us



**Tip** This activity is meant to engage people walking by or at an event. Asking people to share a story should only take a few moments. Displaying people's stories on the map on a wall adds to the excitement and interest. Stories can be anonymous as to encourage people to share freely.

**Directions for Facilitators:**

Hang the map on a wall before a gathering in a high traffic area. Place the markers and post-its on a table next to the map. Write a story about the Great River Passage on a post-it and place it on the map as an example. As people walk by or into the event ask them to write down a story and place it on the map. Encourage people to think about favorite places, seasonal events, who they go with to the passage, and why. Thank people for sharing their stories!

**After the event:**

When the event is over, take a photo of the map and fold up the map carefully with the post-its still on it. Put the marker, post-its, and folded map in the pre-stamped and addressed packet. Then put the packet in the mailbox. Call Brooke at 651-403-8757 and tell me how it went or send an email to brookedirtzu@106group.com. If you prefer to drop off the completed activity materials in person, we are located at 370 Selby Ave, Suite 206, in St. Paul (five blocks east of the Cathedral).

**Directions for participants:**

On any color post-it, write down a story or a favorite place you go along the Great River Passage. Have your friends, family, neighbors, and other people gathered or using the public space write down their stories. Then look at other stories and places that people wrote about. If you are inspired you can write another story on a different post-it and place it on the map.



## APPENDIX D: WORKSHOP RESULTS

### Activity-Word Association

Date	Comment
19-May	Play
19-May	Change
19-May	Travel
19-May	Natural drama
19-May	Rowing
19-May	Views
19-May	Connections
19-May	Power
19-May	Surprise
19-May	Life
19-May	Home
19-May	Universality
19-May	Greatest River
19-May	Misi-Ziibi
19-May	Birds
19-May	Extremes
19-May	Play
19-May	Divide
19-May	Founding
19-May	Artery
19-May	Scenic
19-May	secret
19-May	sandy
19-May	national
19-May	lifeblood
19-May	blue
19-May	immigration
19-May	traveling
19-May	birds
19-May	landing
19-May	people
19-May	source
29-May	Sparkling
29-May	Extreme
29-May	History
29-May	Current
29-May	Sacred
29-May	Deep
29-May	Barges
29-May	Explorers
29-May	National
5-Jun	Historic
5-Jun	Beautiful
5-Jun	Life-filled
5-Jun	Powerful
5-Jun	National

Activity-Word Association

Date	Comment
5-Jun	Amazing
5-Jun	Connections
5-Jun	Unrealized potential
5-Jun	Travel
5-Jun	American
5-Jun	Undeveloped
5-Jun	Homeland
5-Jun	Deep
5-Jun	Wide
5-Jun	Natural

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May	1	Out of town	Mounds Park	Bounty of the Mississippi River below: Hope well, Wild rice, water fowl	Who used the resources & how.	How much the landscape has changed.	Restoration story, Pigs Eye treatment plant as seen from upper look out.
19-May	1	80 year old	Meeker Is. Lock & Dam	Excursion boats, grain shipping	Where people came from. Why the river couldn't compete with railroads.	That it was complete in 1907 & destroyed in 1912.	
19-May	1	Child 8	Beach at Hidden Falls	How kid's used to wade into the river. How clean it was.	That it could be very shallow	How clean it was.	
19-May	1	Millennial	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Breweries- how St. Paul became a leading brewery town & why, Jacob Schmidt	Types of beer why they stored it below in caves	Dakota Sacred site	Narratives of despoliation and restoration.
19-May	1	Other					Knowledge & experience from a boat v. Land
19-May	1	Other					Stories conflict with each other
19-May	1	Other					Birds not urban species found along the river, Pileated woodpeckers.
19-May	2	Out of town	Harriet Island	Pigs Eye and founding the city	How was the River been used over time.	How you can dip your foot in the river	
19-May	2	Child 8	Canoeing in Gorge	River as historical highway- Spring! When it opens up		How wild it is.	
19-May	2	Millennial	On the bike paths	How people over time have loved the river	Can I have fun on the river?	How much fun it can be.	
19-May	2	Someone from Russia	An overlook showing swoop of the river	Importance of River in US History	Where did Tom Sawyer live? What about Mark Twain?	The vast size of the river	
19-May	3	Out of town	St. Paul Culture Garden	The story of (?)	Who created	Artists & poets created	
19-May	3	80 year old	St. Paul Culture Garden	The story of who came before	Who it honors	Artists & poets interpretation	
19-May	3	Child 8	Harriet Island	The world's greatest river closeness to water	where are the fish	Great lawn	
19-May	3	Millennial	Wabasha & River CR, Pigs Eye Lake	Wilderness in the city	A space to check out the river	The great bluffs	No Wake Café
19-May	3	Other					How to get to the water? Accessibility, emotionally know what D Turn it's back on river. Most of us live on Bluff.
19-May	3	Other		A couple of months ago took my dogs there. Learned that my new dog likes to swim. Also found this new part of the city.			
19-May	4	Out of town	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Talk about my older dog getting the courage to come there.	What's happening with the building? Point out where Island Station was- tell them about how I have a brick from it.	The abandoned building- it's eerie & fascinating	
19-May	4	Millennial	Dog Park Under the high bridge				
19-May	4	Friend (20 something)	Hidden Falls Park- show them the falls, the beach, the limestone	I would tell them about the smiley face killer & about making horror movies in the park as a teenager	Tell them about the medallion hunt.	The fact that this is there- so close to the city and so hidden	
19-May	4	Other	Crosby Park				

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May	5	Out of town	Fountain Cave Site	How important this site was to early settlers to Minnesota	That this was a very sacred place to the Native Americans	How we have been so insensitive to such a magical site	
19-May	5	80 year old	The Victoria Park overlook on the bluff above the river	How we want to establish a public bread and pizza oven at this site	That they might be able to get bread dough from the Mississippi Market	They would think baking bread in a public bread oven would be very cool.	
19-May	5	Child 8	To Island Station Site	How the city did not support the great river passage plan with regard to reuse	What a missed opportunity. What is happening to Schmidt brewery should have happen to island station	How the city could be so lacking in foresight.	
19-May	5	Millennial	River Bike Paths	How many connections to the river we have lost	That we should be more innovative in re-establishing these connections	How much we have lost in the last 35 years. Actions speak louder than words.	
19-May	6	Out of town	Sam Morgan Trail	Can go for miles along the river & see everyone out & being active.	How far? Loops? Races?	# of people out on a daily basis	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Morrel Hunting
19-May	6	80 year old	Crosby Farm Park, where Miss and MN Rivers meet	Crosby Farm used to be a working farm along the river. Where the rivers meet is important for understanding glacial history.	What was grown? Who was Crosby? Why not a farm now?	The eagles that live there. Cat tails are edible (soot & stalk)	Bird-watching
19-May	6	Child 8	Lilydale Park	This is where we can dig for fossils! They used to make bricks here too.	How old are the fossils? What creatures? Why don't they make bricks anymore? Where are bricks made now?	You can find bricks & even the old ovens there.	Shadow Falls *Paleoigical survey by NPS
19-May	6	Millennial	Yoga in the Park, Raspberry Island				Hidden Falls
19-May	6	Other					Signs throughout city: you are X miles from the River fun!
19-May	7	Out of town	Along the gorge- either walk on path, ride bike or trail run path below street	how nice it is to live by a gorge on Mississippi	Why is the river so small? Why are there two cities here		
19-May	7	80 year old	Riverfront below St. Paul	same history- St. Paul as head of navigable river by all the events	Can you hit the rive with a rock?	That there are so many fossils to see?	
19-May	7	Child 8	Hidden Falls and Shadow Falls	Fossil stories- geology history of Meeker, purpose of Lock & Dam		how fast the water is moving.	
19-May	7	Millennial	Meeker Is. Lock & Dam- launch a canoe	Native American Wild rice	the extent of the beds harvest	Settlements	
19-May	8	Out of town	Pigs eye lake by boat [higher water]	Bottom farmers ? ?	Farmers and eating establishments if they could swim	Menu on historic meals and local food.	
19-May	8	80 year old	Paddleford Ride	Establishments Crosby		Yes. You can swim.	
19-May	8	Child 8	Hidden Falls by canoe	Ghost stories			
		Millennial [Son and Daughter in law]	Axels, Lucky 13 by boat @ Mendota Beach	About the people & proprietors. Probably brewing too.	Settlement History and dining establishments	Boats used to beach there.	
19-May	8	law]					

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May	9	Out of town [My Brother]	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Tales about the ecosystem: Water, wildlife, Bird, migrations	Native plant species and wildlife	The diversity	
19-May	9	80 year old [My wife's Grandmother]	The Union Depot	Tales of the Railways & how St. Paul was once a food hub for the upper Midwest	Curretn & future plans for reconnecting to other towns and markets	The beauty of the restored Depot & the vistas from the platforms	Connection to ? Rochester (Mayo Clinic) Healthy & Recreation
19-May	9	Child 8	The Farmer's Market	Stories about all of the different local foods & the cultures that produce them.	Names & flavos of unusual fruits and vegetables	Tasting flavor not previously experienced.	
19-May	9	Millennial [Niece and Nephew]	The Bluffs overlooking the river from the west end of Summit Ave. & River Rd	The origin of Native American & European farm settlements is centered around Fort Snelling	The History of the conflicts & eventual peace & cooperation between natives & farmer settlers	That St. Paul was originally the bigger of two cities	
19-May	10	Out of town	Boys Totem Town	The gardening that has gone on & is now happening	The are was farmed until relatively recently- City kids in a "Rural area"	Changes to the city in recent times	Demographic changes; Land use changes
19-May	10	80 year old	Mounds Park	How people desecrated the mounds by farming & picnicing on them	How old the mounds are, if there are any remains left, where the people lived who are buried there.	How many there used to be the relation between current recreation & past sacred places	What kinds of foods the native people had prior to agriculture & the instability that climate had on native agriculture (short seasons for corm- where were fields etc)
19-May	10	Child 8	Fish Hatchery	Eagles eating fish that are raised	Can learn to fish, eagles coming back	How close to people the eagles are & how smart they are to the locate there	
19-May	10	Millennial	Warner/Shepard Rd		Places to run	How many different things to see along the stretch thru downtown	Rail, Boats/barges, house boats, homeless camps
19-May	11	Out of town [Traveler from Spain]	From the airport ot the mega mall but also the river to dip their feet in the great Mississippi	The city was up on the river, turned its back and now is back	About the river	That it isn't polluted	World class destination, preserve the essence. It is what it is- scenic
19-May	11	80 year old [Resident of ?]	I would ask them of their experience & go to their choice in the hope that the river edge is accessible	founding	Can I get there?	We want the to be able to get there.	
19-May	11	Child 8 [My grandson Oliver]		I would like to take him fishing to ensure he is not the lost child in the fast river	Experience nature	The river starts in MN but goes to the Gulf	
19-May	11	Millennial	To the caves	The history of Ft. Rood?	What happened	That it could come back	
19-May	12	Gabriele	Lilydale Park	The brickyard	What happened to it?	How transitory some things are	
19-May	12	choice	Harriet Island	The houseboat community, the 2 restaurant boats	What happened to it?		Elemental physical contact
19-May	12	choice	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Wakan Tipi, the breweries			
19-May	12	choice	Bluff edge		Can I get there (elevator) ?		The view: Elemental or just scenic?
19-May	13	80 year old	Downtown St. Paul, Harriet Island, picnic/ Reflective City View	What story would they tell me?		How their stories reflect in the scene they'll see how it has changed	

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May 13	Child 8		On the river by canoe! Lilydale	How the river helped form the city - why the twin cities formed where they did b/c the river	that before roads, trains, etc. This major method of travel was the river	to see the city from that vantage point ( to see familiar places from that angle)	
19-May 14	Teachers of youth workers	Mississippi- Coon Rapids to Boom Island	River as a metaphor for their journey as educators	Experience nature as classroom and teacher	Is the water safe? Will I fall in? What is that refuse processing plant? Birds? Fish? Youth on trips?	Accessibility and recreation	
19-May 14	7th Graders @ Creative Arts School	Harriet Island		Trying to paddle through the locks and dams...unsuccessfully and asian carp	Swim/paddle... Is this for me? Urban youth	They enjoy it	
19-May 14	My friend Kurt	Paddleboarding		Falling through the ice last Decemember	How much does it cost to use and where can they access?	women are better at paddleboarding than men. Center of gravity	
19-May 14	Sister Anna	Minnehaha Falls		Waves of immigrants, geology meets industry	Where they can climb/play	Public art	
19-May 15	Out of town	Swede Hollow		Scenic beauty, native history	How did they live? Why did they leave?	Natural feature. Railroad tunnel, caves, proximity to work	St. Anthony Falls
19-May 15	Out of town	Battle Creek		Glacial formations	Who was here? Heron rookery	Intimacy to near urban area	
19-May 15	Out of town	Mounds Park		Pigs Eye river and rails arrivals so close to each other	Burial mounds and connections to others	View of river	
19-May 15	80 year old	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary		Fossil beds	Multiple inhabitants	Concentration of activity through history	
19-May 15	Child 8	Lilydale Park		Clean water for brewing	That was underwater	No Wake Café and ?	
19-May 15	Millennial	Swede Hollow/ Bruce Vento		For a big picture view	Gaugher life?		
19-May 16	Out of town	Mounds Park		The story of navigation on the river. How clean the water is today.	More about the river's place in American history	How undeveloped the river is upstream from downtown	
19-May 16	80 year old	Harriet Island for a Paddleford boat		The story of the watershed and the water connection to the rest of the world	How to get to the water	How "green" and undeveloped the river is between JF & Harriet Island	
19-May 16	Child 8	Pike Island		Connection ? To learning American Indian history			
19-May 16	Millennial	Hidden Falls to paddle to Harriet Island		Origins of their economies			
19-May 17	Out of town	Falls/lock and Dam		Zebulon Pike 1805 Treaty Indian Settlements along the river	How we are indebted to Dakota tribes for our homes here in St. Paul	How discouraged this beginning of the Twin Cities was	
19-May 17	80 year old	U of M Mpls Camps?		Kaposia	Community Events	Park on River...	
19-May 17	Child 8	Ft Snelling		Harriet Island			
19-May 17	Millennial	Downtown Mpls and Downtown St. Paul		Native American and North American	Past and present places		
19-May 17	Millennial	Historic Fort Snelling and Fort Snelling State Park, Bdoté Confluence Historic and Current					
19-May 18	Out of town	Downtown St. Paul					
19-May 19	Out of town	Indian Mounds Park					
19-May 19	80 year old						

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May 19	Child 8		Science Museum of MN Depot	Exhibits and NPS Center	Science v/& nature	Hands-on experiences	
19-May 19	Millennial		Bike Road tour with stops at Fort Snelling to Indian Mounds Park	St. Paul Changes	Transportation options	multi-modal at Union Depot	
19-May 19	choice		Boat trip up the river	Talk about landmarks		The wild life- eagles	
19-May 20	80 year old		Raspberry Island			What a lovely (quiet) place it is right in the middle of everything	
19-May 20	Child 8		Brick yards looking for fossils	Fossils and Caves		The sand stone that be can carved	
19-May 20	Millennial		Brick yards ruins	Past industrial object		How wild it is and far away	
19-May 21	Out of town		Downtown/Harriet Island	ADA access to river			Wayfinding with interpretation
19-May 21	80 year old		Crosby Farm	Story of farmland settlers and the use of the lake in the farming & how much dryer the land was then	Impact of the river on wild life & settlers & how water that falls off our house reaches the river	eagle next & beaver food lodge/den, that the cottonwoods are less than 60 years old and are huge already	
19-May 21	Child 8		winter snow shoeing @ Crosby/Victoria	The change of the ice sheet & the reshaping of the land during our spring flooding		the beaver eating the ?	Barebones river is part of the play.
19-May 21	Millennial		Harriet Island Eddies Concert	? Tradition on Memorial Day: Picnic BBQ and music	sandstone	Cottonwood, the changing nature of the ice sheet @ the bend in the river	Druid examples, industrial remains, etched eagle @ river bluff @ boat landing.
19-May 22	80 year old		Lilydale trail from Cherokee Park to Brick Yards	The story of the brickyard and brick factory, the story of the waterfalls		?	
19-May 22	Child 8		Lilydale Bike trails to Mendota Bridge	Show them the eagles nest	fossils in the rocks/whats ? In the streams/ birds, wildlife, deer	the ruins of the brick furnace the fossils	
19-May 22	Millennial			I would ask their stories about the river, what they remember or thought important	What other bike trails connect is there a good place to eat/drink	how close can get to river on trail	
19-May 23	80 year old		On the paddleford boat for a ride along the Mississippi	How great it is the see the city in the world of arts	What ? Had changed what the new buildings and spaces were. What had happened to the old things they remembered	the new spaces, the new buildings	What nature changes over time, the shifts in the way the river moves regarding the (elementals) of the seasons and the way the seasons change with ice
19-May 23	Child 8		Harriet Island, Eco Arts Fest	How great it is the see the city in the world of arts	When they could ride the boats		combined with wilderness and urban - (groomed parks, that there is a great combination ? And that the history of what has been here and what has not, what goes away over time.

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May	23	Millennial	Hidden Falls Park	I would tell them about the time Barebones had a show and invited the audience of 1000 people to stand on the river's edge and call out their hopes for the future while a huge barge drove by and shined their light on the crowd and honked	Why we did the show at this place? And we would say the show is about the elements and and of? In the show we spread this on the river.	That so many people would come to that place. That the barge would? Home?	
19-May	24	Out of town	Brickyards, Hidden Falls, St. Paul Boat Club & Minneapolis Boat Club	Animals on the river, turtles, beaver, eagles, egrets, herons, fox, deer, lost dogs, coyote	Like the history of the Indian Mounds, caves, and fossils	How the city turns its back on the river- working river in St. Paul	Barge traffic, river water trips, canoe, rowing shell
19-May	24	80 year old	Hidden Falls, St. Paul Boat Club and Minneapolis Boat Club	Shared stories of my grandparents on the river, Rowing? On the river	Length of the season	How much cleaner the water is. How I saw two coyotes trotting past Raspberry Island on the ice during the winter	How the river has changed, how we love Raspberry Island
19-May	24	Child 8	Hidden Falls to find fossils and throw rocks	Lost dog rescue from the drain	What kind of fish are in the water	How strong the river is	Seeing wildlife, Fireworks on the fourth of July
19-May	24	Millennial	On the river in a rowing shell	About people I see living on the edge of the river in temporary housing- The barge wake	How the river is similar or different from other rivers like the Charles in Boston	How dangerous other boats are	Scary cave experiences, like its wild aspect.
19-May	25	Out of town	St. Paul Trail Marathon (Rice Park to Riverfront to Battle Creek)	I'm so proud of the effort of local organizations to highlight and share the trails and views along the river- totally unique to have the wilds/river/urban interface that we do	How many miles of trails? Where can you go on them?	How far you can travel on trails along the river as a pedestrian or bicyclist	
19-May	25	Family with children	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Stories: Natural hx, Dakota hx, original St. Paul, Railroad commissory (Great Northern Pacific)	Who's doing what and how they work together		
19-May	25	Millennial	Union Depot & Farmers Market & Restaurants	History of farmers market and local foods resurgence; Heartland; Golden's Deli; my organization work with farmers; Urban Oasis			
19-May	26	Out of town	Paddle down the river by canoe being sure to go through Lock and Dam	I would tell them that I used to be scared to paddle the river until I did it once.	Does the river divide Mpls & St. Paul?	How low-tech the signaling at the lock is. How far down you go when you lock down. That a big lock & dam will accommodate a little canoe.	
19-May	26	80 year old	Mill City Museum- The Flour Tower object Theater	I would ask them. Do you remember this town/riverfront when you were little?			
19-May	26	Child 8	Biking on the Lilydale trail	About monarchs, birds, other creature who use the river for their journeys	What lives here?		

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
19-May	27	Out of town	Top of the Smith Ave Highbridge	The development of settlements in St. Paul along the bluffs and the history of the bridge and its role as a connector		The beauty of the city and the closeness of the river	
19-May	27	Child 8	Crosby Lake and Hidden Falls Park	The natural beauty of the Mississippi		The way they feel separate and unique from the city; a world away	
19-May	27	Millennial	West Side Flats	The flats role as an "Ellis Island" for St. Paul		The diversity of St. Paul Communities; The long history	
19-May	28	Out of town	SMM Overlook	Our work to connect DT to the Sam Morgan Regional Trail	how does someone actually get down to the river where does the Sam Morgan trail go to?	That they could get on the bike trail and ride for hundreds of miles	
19-May	28	80 year old	Head House/Sac house	History of the first food co-op in the country	Years of operation significance of the site	The fact that there use to be 10 grain silos where there is now housing	
19-May	28	Child 8	Harriet Island Regional Park	The flood of 1965 and I'd share them the ht of floodwater markings in the ? Pavilion/ beach that used to be there- swimming	how could kids swim in the dirty fast water?	that people used to bathe/swim in the river as a way to achieve "public health"	
19-May	28	Millennial	Sam Morgan Trail & Lower Landing	How far they can rollerblade along the trails	see a map	the extent of the trail system to Duluth!	
19-May	29	Out of town	Crosby Park	Combine view of river with the hike/walk through woods	How was it inhabited (if ever)	How there are trails, ? Spots and a shelter created. Close to the River	Farmed actively at one point
19-May	29	80 year old	Drive High Bridge to Cherokee Rd/Park	Fireworks on the 4th of July	Who live on the West Side row the outdoor interpretive center view activities	Varied	Fantastic View of whole world
19-May	29	Child 8	Science Museum of MN	How science and the river interact		How large the Center is and that there is an IMAX theater	
19-May	29	Millennial	River Road walk from St. Clair in either direction	The history of the homes along the River Road			Horace Cleveland kept it accessible for all.
29-May	30	New neighbor	River Area	How the neighborhood developed			None of the cabin sites are marked and now no one would suspect what once stood there
29-May	30	School kids	Mendota to Mounds Park	The story of the Indian and the fort?			How rich the local history is.
29-May	31	Millennial	Meeker Island	How different the river used to be physically and ecologically.			The age and? Of the old neighborhoods
29-May	31	8-year old	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	About what the land used to be like with the railroads			How far back in time local history goes.
							That it was abandoned 5 years after completion
							What birds & bugs now lived there

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
29-May	31	80-year old	Mounds Park	About Hopewell culture	What happened to the Indians of the Hopewell Culture.	Hmong?	
29-May	31	College Friend	Pike Island	The story of the Glacial River Warren & the story of Zebulon Pike	How the glacial rive formed the valley below the confluence	That the City considers building the sewage treatment plant on the island.	
29-May	32		Ivy Falls			The most invisible	
29-May	32	Young person	Indian Mounds Park	The Indian mounds	What people built these?	The view how the river carved out	
29-May	32	Longtime Resident	Coldwater Spring	Water travelling underground		That this natural phenomenon exists in the midst of the city.	
29-May	32	Out of town person	Minnehaha Falls	How the falls got there		That this waterfall has traveled- has not always been right here.	
29-May	33	Walking buddies	Lilydale Park Trail	History of Lilydale, desire of neighbors to keep it wild, home to wild animals, birds, flowers	Story of the human elements (ruins) that are still there	How wild it is in the middle of the city	Usually they start out laughing at my characterization of it as wild, but realize it as they get further in.
29-May	33	Grand Children	Mounds Park	About the Native Americans burial traditions- also point out the barges	Children have a thousand questions and they always surprise me.	That Native Americans lived here that goods move in lots of ways besides trucks	Undoubtedly, but I don't usually find out for a decade or more. Would be nice to know more about geology.
29-May	33	Me	Would love to go on a cave tour w. David Christofferson	I'm hoping David would tell me a story	What the caves were used for		
29-May	34	Jeanne 50+ historian colleague	St. Michael's (Torres de S. Miguel)	Arrival by water the creek, the bridge, several different communities	How do the waterways affect the distribution of places of worship?	It is a high place when you approach it from below	and of early settlement in general
29-May	34	Sophia, 8 great niece	Shadow Falls	It's still here(it hasn't been buried)	Can we go down to the river?	Yes.	The system of the tributary waterways
29-May	34	Dalibor, 80+ teacher	Prospect Park, The Green Stairs	The sacred landscaped and the ?/sacred city			Long history of the Dannube: The sacred landscape.
29-May	35	My preschool aged children	Lilydale	geology and fossils	More about fossils	How prolific fossils are there and that they are marine	
29-May	35	Out of town friends	Mounds Park	Mound builder and historic transportation	More about the Mounds	How distant downtown Minneapolis is from downtown Saint Paul	
29-May	35	Local birding friends	The river around Pigs Eye in the Fall	Mississippi flyway and migration (ecological resources)	Where to find amazing birding in St. Paul	Fantastically amazing birding mixed ith navigation facilities	
29-May	36	Host mom/family from Norway	Overlook @ Summit and MS River Blvd, Hidden Falls, Harriet Island, High Bridge, Science Museum Access	How St. Paul began with Pig's Eye and the caves- looking across to Fort Snelling and that history	Where does it begin? Where does it end? Does it freeze over? Do people fish it? Swim in it? Can you get out on it in a boat?	How fast it runs. The wildlife/birds that live there, right in the city.	

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
29-May	36	Daughter's boyfriend from near Lake Superior	Same as above, [Overlook @ Summit and MS River Blvd, Hidden Falls, Harriet Island, High Bridge, Science Museum Access] plus Caves, more walking paths, farther down by Pig's Eye not as much in the city			Tha our family doesn't spend more time there.	
29-May	37	Grandson	Put in @ Mendota canoe to Downtown St. Paul, to St. Paul Yacht club	Sibley, Faribault, Indians, Fort Snelling	Fur trade, Early settlement, William Harding and Henry Crossing, Fountain Cave, Island Station Sites (missed opportunity)	There are no places to stop and eat. Places like: Psycho Susi's or Sea Salt	
29-May	37	Out of town guest	Irvine Park, Walnut overlook, The newly purchased Prendergast house	Immigration, historic Irvine Park, The fountain, The gazebo, oak trees ?	How important history is to St. Paul redevelopment	No direct connection to the head house from Irvine Park - Summit -35E-Walnut-Irvine Park- no bridge -Head house	
29-May	37	Meeting someone for a work session	Caribou Coffee Shepard/Chestnut	No connection to the river	missed opportunity		
29-May	38	Norwegian Grandfather and Grandmother	The place where people arrived because they emigrated too	How it happened	How was it similar	That is was same or different	recent immigrants, Dakota
29-May	38	My daughter	To the ? Spot for food/drink	About foods that could be foraged	Where is the best restaurant	How much wild food is not there	Where is that spot? Is foraging ok?
29-May	38	My Grandchildren	To see the birds, flowers, river edge	About people that made a life via the river	If they could go again and where and safety	How wild the river is in some parts or the city	
29-May	39	Out of town relative's	Crosby/Victoria Park Informal/Natural Part of the Park or Lilydale	They are a forester & natural food educator. So the farm story of Crosby& instructure, past nature of the river	Age of trees? Is the lake stocked? Where does this tunnel come from? (under Shepard)	How isolated the park feels yet you hear the constant drone of 35E and Shepard Rd. Sand Caves. Beaver activity	
29-May	39	Richard/Molly	Of Limited mobility Harriet Island	She's my mother so I would have to listen more that tell. She remembers Little Italy as a child		The change to rec from industrial	
29-May	39	Mother		Showboat fire! River traffic, Barge traffic	about paddleboats from New Orleans	Ford Dam & plant	Food: garlic mustard/Burdock eat ?
29-May	40	Parents	Paddleford or Showboat	About bringing nana & baba here in the 2001 flood	about the animals	Everything. Nothing. No idea	
29-May	40	Nieces and nephew	Harriet Island Playground	The caves, gangsters, sand mining (?), landslides	About the ruins and debris	Pickrel lake, rail trestle, waterfalls	
29-May	40	Out of town friend	Lilydale Brickyards				

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
29-May	41	International visitor or young person	Pigs Eye/ Battle Creek Park (History of overlook)	The history of the formation of St. Paul and relations with the Dakota, Pigs Eye Parrant by also Kaposia/ Little Crow, military presence	Where Dakota lived and how they lived/moved across the landscape how they and the whites got back and forth across the river (canoes & ferries) how the folks worked together and also in conflict	Battles along the creek to Kaposia with Ojibway, how the relation among Indians and whites changed over time; the importance of black people in the early history	Whiskey-relations to history and locations- moving the Indian west of the river
29-May	41	Student (college, elementary, or high school)	Mounds Park (and along the gorge)	How the river formed: Glacial history, ancient native history w/mounds	how old the river valley is, how old the mounds are, how long ago native peoples were here, why the valley in different at Mounds vs. in the gorge	Length of time- how ancient the rocks are	
29-May	41	International visitor + youth especially	to see Fort Snelling across the river	History of the fort- again the relations of whites and Indians- Taliaferro emp			
29-May	42	Friends	Bike to Crosby Park on Trails; Walk down past old power plant Downtown and back	Anchor Hospital and the TB Ward for Kids. The old meat packing plant, immigrants worked, The boat community docked	What happened? Why gone?	How unknown these stories are to Euro-Americans	
29-May	42	Groups All Ages	Bdote	Creation Burial Suppcaning(?) Concentration Camp US Dakota War, Walk of Mothers		Origins of MN as state connected to forced removal and genocide fo first people	
29-May	43	Girl Scouts	Mounds Park- trash pickup	Park for everyone	Who lived here- how old are these houses?	That this area is 120 years old	
29-May	43	Student visitors adults	Shepard Rd and Holman Field	Flooded in 2000 or 2001, water closed road	How deep is the water?	How long it took to recede and what left behind	
29-May	43	Older person	Showboat	The theatre is alive and well on the river	The history of the boat	How long it's been in operation (old!)	
29-May	44	8 year old	Lilydale or end of Summit, Fossil hunting	Story of the riverbed over time and the fossils that show the height/depth of river	How could the river be this large	difficult to imagine how the river has existed for millenia	
29-May	44	foreign exchange	Locations of Native American communities, Kaposia and Mounds Park, Fort Snelling	Story of Native American settlements and re-settlements, white settlements	how important Native Americans wer to settlement of and pre-white settlement history	the layers maybe pre-conceived ideas of native history (as from other culture/country)	
29-May	45	Friends	Pike Island Crosby	The Confluence of the River- The story of Fort Snelling- Crosby Farm	History, plants, animals	The things that have happened & what we have seen	
29-May	45	Children Scout Groups	Hidden Falls, show them the landing- sandstone/skip rocks/ nature	How the water can flood and go back how the flood plain		How much there is to do & see	
29-May	45	Tour de Highland	Lilydale Regional Park & Crosby & Sam Morgan	See how beautiful our City is!		Lilydale is part of St. Paul- how great our bike trails are	
29-May	45		Kayaking	The current of the river			
29-May	45		Boating	Barges- stops on the river		The view when your actually in the River.	

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
5-Jun	46	18 year old daughter (recent high school grad) and her friends	Hidden Falls	I'd like to sit with them by the water, looking up and down the river and imagine different scenarios	How is it different today than it was when they were born? When I was born? When their grandparents were born?	That I'd want to sit by the water and just chat	
5-Jun	46	10 year old niece	Harriet Island	How the river has been viewed and changed over the years	What kind of river travel there is today and what there used to be. She'd be curious about the old river boats.	That it used to be very polluted	
5-Jun	46	Myself	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	That I need to get out and enjoy natural beauty more often	I'd want to explore and walk around. Also, just sit quietly and listen	That I had the time to just do it.	
5-Jun	47	Meeting a friend/Facility manager at downtown St. Paul City block	The Kellogg Balcony Park for lunch	We would share our week and stories about up north, hunting, family, exciting new developments	anything and everything	Future: A restaurant, a band shell, terraces where you could order food, coffee, beer, etc.	
5-Jun	47	Meeting another friend	The overlook park on Smith at the top of the High Bridge	I would tell them about Cass Gilbert, urban planning, His connections and linkages, vistas, City Beautiful movement	They would want to know about city beautiful buildings like the State Capitol, the train stations, Great connections in a great city.	How much got done, how much more could be done.	
5-Jun	47	Meeting another friend	Head House at upper landing	How it should have been connected to Irvine Park	In theory this could connect from the river to Summit Avenue walking and biking	How long the planning has been in place to make these connections	
5-Jun	48	Tourists	River by St. Paul and Mpls downtown	Trade grain lumber	When did it start where were these shipped	distance	Yes, esp. if from other country
5-Jun	48	Grandchildren	Pig's Eye Lake	Mark Twain	Twain's life anecdotes	diff in width	They live in New Orleans
5-Jun	48	Students	Dayton's Bluff	immigrants at St. Paul	arrival different nationalities	community harmony	Current fragmentation
5-Jun	49	Thalia 18-24 months	Close to water but in natural area- Battle Creek Park	Something very small- plants, sand, water in creek, sounds- the natural world	What things were, how they felt, what they sound like	Space to run, small bridges over the creek, the feel of sand from St. Peter SS	Fishing- an opportunity to do cross-cultural interpretation- different cultures words of fishing and perspective of fish.
5-Jun	49		Overlook at Mounds Park and Highwood Preserve.	I would let them listen and look	Directions, how the places came to be (farmland, use of land, prehistory, geologic history)	The wilderness of Highwood Preserve and the lack of connection between the Indian's use of Mound Park area and its current use	shortcutting leads to bypassing what is ? For more convenience leads to loss of...
5-Jun	49	Young adult hiker	Fish Creek (Maplewood & SP connection)	How the park came to be- community activism	How long it took, how much \$ was raised, how people became involved.	The opportunities for exploration and development.	Creating destinations
5-Jun	49	My husband	Drive along Shepard & Warner Rd.	That the Great River Park exists	Since when, who manages it, how can we explore it.	He didn't have any idea that there was a National Park in the area.	How can someone who has lived here no know.
5-Jun	49	My 30 something son	The bike trail through Battle Creek along the river past downtown	Nature, commerce, history of SP, from Indian to the RRs to politicians	How they can easily get there from his home in Midway and his work in Sun Ray	How hard it is to get there from the Midway neighborhood- how much a barrier the RR is along the river	Oral kiosks at locations to recite stories from different cultures about the same place or idea

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
5-Jun	50	Wife	Requires easy access: Restaurant, overlook, park bench, and place to park a car	The fabulous natural valley & how it was settled. How we turned away from the river in St. Paul and then sought to return to it.	How was that accomplished? 1. City asking the question 2. People responding and paying attention	How difficult it is/was to gain interest	Food truck
5-Jun	51	Friends	Bike to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary	Carver's Cave, Brewery Cave, Restoration of Natural Area, Railroad history, Migration flyway	Why this was the birthplace of St. Paul. The power of Mother Nature to restore devastated land if helped	What an important destination Carver's cave was to early explorers & settlers	How to make people aware of the amount of change that has happened.
5-Jun	51	Church Youth Group	Bike down Big Rivers Trail to Harriet Island	Railroad history, RR lift bridge. Flooding that destroyed Lillydale often	How the river has comeback from a polluted drainageway to the relatively natural area	The public health object of the Harriet Is. Bathes	Story of transformation
5-Jun	52	Millenials: Daughter and Son in law	Pig's Eye Lake on kayaks	How native american once used this area & also canoed here	Why is no one down here in this beautiful place	Incredible views of downtown surrounded by industry but so quiet	Quiet, but good for heron, rookary/birds etc.
5-Jun	52	12 year old grandson	Upper gorge on water/canoe	How river boats, barges, etc and river to transport people and goods.	Why was that large fort there?	How wild this place seems and away from it all	
5-Jun	52	Wife & Brother in law	Raspberry Island	Tell them how river has changed over time to accommodate barge river boat	Where did Raspberry Island come from ie what was here before city was built up.	How fun it is to sit and watch all the barge traffic & rowers & boaters	
5-Jun	53	Charlie Magagne	Bike from House past Island Station, power plant, wall of fish to Fountain plaza	Boat community, 2 rivers- Bdote, Power Plant, Little Italy, Upper Town, Eagles, barges	Eagles, When icecream?	Size of Ropes, High bridge, Ppl swam	Take access for granted
5-Jun	54	My husband	Bike along river	He usually has the stories about all the parties he went to and the caves		He survived	
5-Jun	54	Oregonians or Jury Duty Friends	Upper landing in the Fall	How it all starts in Itaska	The history of Grain building	How few people use the walk paths etc.	Grain Elevator and Sack house
5-Jun	54	Nephews and nieces	Canoe down	how much I used to kayak and canoe	Everything	Living streets	
5-Jun	55	High School students	Fish Hatchery	DNR Fish Hath, Dump site, RR history, Native AM (Mounds Pk), Natural Resources: Birds, plants, animals, Tamarack	How did the hatchery work/look like? Where does the trail go?	Walleye, other fish still grown, amount of wildlife on site	
5-Jun	55	Family Friend	Miss River Road/Blvd, Summit Ave Monument	Connected trails- All the way to Downtown how it was preserved	Self explanatory	# of miles of connected trails, Hidden Falls Crosby Park	
5-Jun	56	Friends from out of town	Historic Ft. Snelling and Minnehaha Park	History of the fort and the falls	Where do the trails go? What happened at the ft. Snelling that was important?	The size of the ft Snelling property and the park.	
5-Jun	56	Family	Big Rivers Trail	Origin of the Minnesota River, where I grew up	History of the city of Mendota. What do the trails connect to?	The confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.	

Activity-Individual Charts

DATE	#	Your People	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Notes
5-Jun	56	Transportation colleagues	Union Depot and the riverfront Downtown	History of Union Depot and its reconstruction, talk about the river as a transportation corridor for rail & barges	How do city residents use the river?	How busy and vital the Union Depot was and how it is being reused. The volume of barge traffic in this part of the river.	
5-Jun	57	Partner	Breakfast on the river	About a working river	What different activities take place	how busy this place is	
5-Jun	57	Office Interns	Tour downtown and river outlooks	about Lowertown River		Views of the river	
5-Jun	57	Joint ? Partner (visiting)	Along Shepard Road and East River Road	Geography, settlement patterns, Fort Snelling, Up river to Mpls		That this environment exists in the middle of the metro area	
5-Jun	58	Kids	Canoe paddle	How early explorers described the water quality.	What's in the water	How shallow the river used to be	Linear experience vs. specific place - exploring
5-Jun	58	Millenial	Pike Island	Mixing of the Minnesota and Miss. River and agricultural pollution	Who is responsible and how do we fix it.	There are no regulations or laws addressing farm runoff	
5-Jun	58	Foreign Exchange Student	Mounds Park	Glacial River Warren	Who were the first people ot see this river.	That St. Anthony Falls began in St. Paul	
5-Jun	58	Friend from out of town	Lock & Dam No. 1	What the gorge use to be like	Why the government built the dam.	Congress just voted to close Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock, which ends commercials navigation at Lock #1	
5-Jun	58	80 year old	Headhouse and Sack house	Why we have both a headhouse and a sackhouse	How and why the structure was abandoned and is now a city park facility.	How it is nationally significant. Last structure on the Mississippi here tied to historic port city story.	
5-Jun	58		The River	Travel trips	Places and stories all or most travelers tell.	The number of travelers who have left accounts of trips written, photographic, painting	How stories of place relate to big themes in American history.
5-Jun	59	Robyn- co-worker who just moved here (millenial)	Bike from Midway to E. River Rd. follow it south around Highland Park, ending at the Union Depot	Minneapolis is one of the "most bike friendly" cities in America...St. Paul is probably close behind. Good for commuting/recreation/health community	Can you bike in winter? Are the paths cleaned? Is there a sense of community here? Is the new Green Line bike-friendly?	The Green Line is just about to open. (There used to be rail care on University as well)	Linear vs. Place/placemaking: Exploring , immersed in nature with in urban context, connecting points for bikes/pedestrians, A connected place is... a place to grow up

Activity-Story Response

Date	Comment
19-May	Wild side of River- Kids
19-May	Wild side of River- Bike to work
19-May	Wild side of River-quiet, close but faraway feel
19-May	Wild side of River-caving
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Hidden Falls
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-1000 people shout out hopes- barge lights shine on
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Halloween-grief
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-send feelings/messages down river
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-orchards
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-wedding and canoes going by
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-seasonal cycles
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-performance
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-arts festival
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-school kids
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-7 yr. old throw rocks in river
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-bike Crosby- snowshoeing
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-eagles nest
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Ice melting, fissuring, cracking, causes
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-elemental
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Root system and river level
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Paved ADA, un-paved
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-stairs
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-80 yr old- their memories vs. now
19-May	Bare Bone Prod-Lilydale- bldg remains
19-May	Zebulon Pike Island Confluence
19-May	Neg. treaty w/Native Americans 2/7 tribes signed, \$200K-\$2000 gifts
19-May	Promises broken
19-May	Trails-Ft. Snelling-M'haha
19-May	Views
19-May	Native Amer. History
19-May	Swede Hollow
19-May	other cultures
19-May	Connections- Rice Creek- Miss River
19-May	Future connections
19-May	Horrible Wayfinding with interpretation
19-May	Trail System-marathon
19-May	Trail System-Wildlife
19-May	Trail System-Exploration
19-May	Trail System-Means of connecting
19-May	Trail System-Synergy
19-May	Trail System-Part of Network
19-May	Trail System-Beer gardens along
19-May	Trail System- shelters needed
19-May	Trail System- Hidden gems
19-May	Trail System- community gatherings
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- History

Activity-Story Response

Date	Comment
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- Personal level
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- Visitor from Macao
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- Fun on the river
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- Power of river vs. Amenities
19-May	Imagine who you'd bring- Touch the river
19-May	Naming places
19-May	We're crossing the Missouri- There is such a thing? Minnesota Mississippi
19-May	Access to Pig's Eye Lake Across 61
19-May	Bike Trails
19-May	Connections by transport mode- bike, walk paths
19-May	Connections by transport mode- bus access
19-May	Connections by transport mode- are cars rec?
19-May	Connections by transport mode- link to other trail systems
19-May	Trails have health and rec. links- improve wayfinding
19-May	Stronger & safer connections= healthier community
19-May	How can the river be accessible?
19-May	Barriers: Roads, railroads, bluffs (which are also visual access points)
19-May	Caves
19-May	1992 Tibetan Mandala
19-May	Wabasha Street Bridge
19-May	Paddle with Educators- Coon Rapids to N. Mpls
19-May	Nature as Teacher
19-May	Danger: Pollution eddies
19-May	We create garbage & are always affecting the River
19-May	The teacher poured paint down the storm sewer!
19-May	The River was the place/mode of travel for earlier times
19-May	Need to be on the River-But I would start at the Farmer's Market to get food
19-May	Sculpture Garden Robert St. & Kellogg- Tells the stories: River is a sacred space, center of the world, Bdote
19-May	Difficult to get to/on water
19-May	Paddleboards
19-May	Difficult to find launch sites
19-May	Accessibility Concrete experience
19-May	The Mighty River itself is intimidating
19-May	The view is also concrete
19-May	Never get to Pig's Eye Lake
19-May	Harvesting carp sent to Asia
19-May	River of Pain/River of Shame
19-May	Escaped slave came up the river sold down the river- follow creeks down to the River
19-May	Build boats
19-May	Swede Hollow/BVNS
19-May	Places you can get to quickly
19-May	No Wake Café
19-May	Connection to the rest of the Continent
19-May	Migration of falls
19-May	Yoga in Park @ Raspberry Island

Activity-Story Response

Date	Comment
19-May	Dog Park
19-May	Hard time talking about sites (Native American) due to sensitivity
19-May	Union Depot as center of food industry
19-May	Market in St. Paul
19-May	Take to Victoria Park- Bread ovens- also could be in Lowertown
19-May	Take to Fountain Cave- Sacred Place to Native Americans- surprise not acknowledged
19-May	Take to Crosby- surprised ie we take for granted
19-May	surprise that houses only one side of Miss River blvd and that community had foresight
19-May	Mounds Park- Bounty of Food here- Hopewell culture
19-May	Where can I walk down to river- surprise as no accessibility
19-May	Take to Science Museum
19-May	Did not know Meeker Dam existed (1st dam in St. Paul)
19-May	Fist Hatchery- see eagles gather food have why kids also fish
19-May	Gorge- only one on Mississippi- River shape driven by food
19-May	"Experiences" of getting to know river
19-May	top of high bridge and grand view of how river developed
19-May	Sam Morgan Trail and how it connect to miles of trails
19-May	Wigington Pavilion & the flood elevations
19-May	Story of why restuarants added in Mendota
19-May	Health Mid 70s-80s separation sanitary sewers and storm sewers- cleaned up river- used to be dirty
19-May	Health River Clean up
19-May	Pig's Eye lake was superfund site- surprised by clean up
19-May	Animal Health- Eagle testing- lead high at Pig's Eye
19-May	Sam Morgan Trail - symbol of health
19-May	Gorge- students ride all winter
19-May	Fossil hunting- Shadow Falls/Hidden Falls
19-May	Ice climbing- Lilydale/Shadow Falls
19-May	Beaver around swimming if bring watercraft in morning
19-May	Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing by river
19-May	Paddle boarding- Sandy afternoon
19-May	Kayak
19-May	Rowing club
19-May	Fishing- Ford Dam- Trophy walleye fishing
19-May	Morel Hunting
19-May	Birding- not only urban species in GRP
19-May	Flyway in GRP
29-May	Food carts that could grow into more permanent establishments
29-May	Since Food is currently not readily available what is safe to forrage along the river?
29-May	Citizens Tour - The Hidden Falls are <u>very</u> hidden. There is a "piped river" below the city (Bruce Ventro)
29-May	Connections: Creeks-watershed-connections with St. Paul's neighborhoods (even neighborhoods that are away form the river)
29-May	Gangster Stories

Activity-Story Response

Date	Comment
29-May	Names (additional notes) - There are names like "Hidden Falls" that are used in multiple places. Names can give meaning to a place. Names can help people navigate through a place.
29-May	Being able to evoke the stories from visitors
29-May	Key places to tell specific Natural Resource stories - trees at Crosby farm
29-May	Paths of commerce down the creeks flowing into pigs eye
29-May	Ferrys across the river
29-May	Fossils and how a preschooler might react to them
29-May	Tailor our experience to what <u>we</u> know
29-May	Access for elderly and differently abled
29-May	Lack of places to eat
29-May	Places of immigration: old, new
29-May	Kayaking - husband - on the river different world - small we are - big the barges, wildlife, birds, and fish - see old train bridege - starts stories - surprise view - see St. Paul grow - lock and dam
29-May	Coldwater Spring (Hennepin City) / Island in Saint Paul, GRP - anyone willing to go - talk about original people and stoires - clean clear water for natives --> taken over by Ft. Snelling - Creation Story --> life began here - Dakota Sacred Place - used to have Bureau of Mines Building --> Climb fence trespass - Tobacco packets hanging --> place used for prayer - can walk there now but the stories aren't there
29-May	Badote --> Covers all the area
29-May	Teacher (80) --> Looking at Badote, told him about his work on Danube - transitway, sacred site important part - juxtaposition of sacred/ancient, of site vs. modern city
29-May	Walking with Friends in Lilydale and like it because it is wild - surprised because start at boats on Harriet Island then Railroad and gradually start seeing wildlife and more landscape
29-May	Indian Mounds Park - Seems like a mystery - who are these people here the marks they made on landscape
29-May	Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary (BVNS) - Millenial working on RR yard - Resored to nature and carried out contaminated soil and new soil - water that comes out of caves - last week talk to Dakota men and Ojibwa women - conversion of sacred site to Brewery --> alcoholism - gathering of tribes and immigrants pushed them out - Hmong youth helped restore as new immigrants - make of shanty workers at Brewery - ppl live in Wakan Tipi during depression
29-May	Girl Scout Troop - look out over at River - think about that the river was wider and deeper
29-May	Lillydale --> for kids hands on experience - growing up in St. Paul and impact and finding fossil - sensory expereince - history over time on river
29-May	Local History - school kids --> site of pioneers, beginning of St. Paul, Farm sites, story of early settlers, site of old chapel - Native American - delicate topics - sacred sites - complicated histories
5-Jun	Family Bike Trip - returning w daughters to bike Big Rivers Trail to Harriet Island. The confluence of MN and Miss. Rivers. History of the city of Mendota. Trail Connections. Wild Fowl. Protected bluffs, scenic, natural.

Activity-Story Response

Date	Comment
5-Jun	Business Visitor - Joint-venture partner from out of state. Shepherd Rd, conversation, astounded, summer day. Willdness in a metro area. First impressions and seeing through new eyes. Esay to take our every day for granted. Huge accomplishments - recall before and after.
5-Jun	International Co-worker - Bike friendly city, one of the friendliest in the US. Midway down around downtown, get sense of environment, lovely stops, personal and recreational health, ACCESS and AWARENESS.
5-Jun	Biking with Daughter Exploring - down to water, up to caves, off beaten path. Poking around old power plant. Power - river- tangible components. A place to grow up, a place to live. Prohibited access in recent past, unfriendly to access. Still use MORE: stair to high bridge, icecream, more dvelopments across form science museum.
5-Jun	Jury Duty January - upper landing, exploring with friends, fresh takes on a place with rich historic context, layers of meaning, <u>feels</u> significant, biking Shepherd Rd.
5-Jun	Where I'd take an 80 yr old - upper landing, head and sack houses, unique story abandoned and saved, National Implications, American narrative, Port History (only remaining in STP)
5-Jun	Friends Biking - Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary (BVNS), caves, RR history, migration fly-away, to know birthplace of STP, topography's impact, mother nature's restorative power, vibrant natural setting, nature reigns (a transformation)
5-Jun	Millenials Kayaking - Pig's Eye Lake, story of history, native culture and life in that beautiful place, incredible views of downtown, urban skyline, natural waving grass, heron, birds, quiet, pristine, so very unused, largest open space, hidden gem in busy area, solitude - surprising.
5-Jun	Food- Share lunch w a friend, 1890s resaurant off trolley line (nice place to meet someone) - not developed as destination, great place for lunch, see high bridge
5-Jun	Food - Bruce Vento, sacred community
5-Jun	Hidden Falls with daughter - Thinking how things were different in the apst and will be for future generations, just sit quietly - place to think
5-Jun	Thinking about wife (hard time getting around) take her to restaurant, park bench, tell stories at edge of river, both for physically abled and non-physically abled
5-Jun	18 month old, take to Battle Creek Park - more focused on river's edge, husband had no idea there was a state park in St. Paul (ppl who live here are not familiar)
5-Jun	Students, children of recent immigrants - talk about sense of community
5-Jun	Kiosks at locations all river that have stroies from ppl from different cultures - unifying cultures along the river, audio in differnet langues or dialects
5-Jun	QR code on sign w short stories long story on signs
5-Jun	Competition to get these stories - website, riverfront did this ago (writings, recordnigns), work progress - also collecting stories
5-Jun	Accessibility (make sure river is accessible to all)
5-Jun	Refelction (nice place to be quiet by yourself)

Activity-T-chart

Date	Patterns	Connections
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Ice Cream	Connections-Yellow Food- Food stories in immigrant tradition
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Crosby	Connections-Yellow Food- Food to table
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Breweries	Connections-Yellow Food-River Distr.
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Caves	Connections-Yellow Food- Food preservation-caves
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Community Gardens	Connections-Yellow Food- Even distribution of recreation sites along river
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Various restuarants, cafes, diners	Connections-Yellow Food- Food & health
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Food gathering, production process, harvest, distribution	Connections-Yellow Food- Sewer Separation-healthier river
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food- Fish, hunt	
19-May	Patterns-Yellow Food-Exercise	
29-May	Ecological efforts to control nature	Immigrant Communities and Home/Shelter
29-May	Changes of man's relationship with nature - species come back	Flow of the river and streams linked to Home and Shelter
29-May	Changing relationship with American Indians	Job and Home/Shelter
29-May	Restoration - culture - nature	VISTAS: High Bridge, Mounds Park, Summit, Victoria Park, Shepard (under bridge), Two Rivers Overlook, Hwy 61 (MN DOT) overlook, Highland Preserve
29-May	Living on bluff and work at flats (living on flats too) - Breweries (at westside)	RIVER LEVEL: Harriet Island, Crosby Farm, Lilydale, Lower Landing, Raspberry Island, Hidden Falls, Pigseye heron rookery, Island Station
29-May	absence of historic fabric along the GRP	Interpretive barge moving up and down the river or steamboat
29-May	There are several LEVELS where you can get a view of the river	Ghost settlements along the River (Swede Hollow, Kaposia, Little Italy)
29-May	These stories can't be told from just one place	
29-May	Constant connections between past, present, future	
5-Jun	Food: River and Land	Health and Recreation --> Enhancing health of community
5-Jun	Transportation in Valley, tensions b/t commerce and environment	Ecology and Recreation --> restoration
5-Jun	Lack of connection/resources	Habitat and Restoriation --> byway, birding, Bruce Vento, Eagle Nest
5-Jun	Conflicts along river	Seasonal Experiences --> diversity of experience

Activity-T-chart

Date	Patterns	Connections
5-Jun	Changing values - attitudes toward river	Creeks - connecting beyond river
5-Jun	Discover and Exploration --> solitude, historic	Bridge - connecting across river, connecting architects
5-Jun	Contradition b/t established understanding and pattern of life w new discovery	Fishing - cross cultural stories, where fish, how fish identified
5-Jun	Tensions	How do kids from other cultures and other times respond to the river
5-Jun	Gathering and Celebrations	Art and artists
5-Jun	Interweaving Discovery	
5-Jun	What are signs of healthy river - healthy environment refelcts healthy social environment, biodiverse environment is healthy environment, culturally diverse environment is healthy society	
5-Jun	Restoration	

Activity Chart- Frequency of Place Names

Place	Times Mentioned	Out of Town Visitor	Millenial	Family	Youth (5-15)	Toddler	80 Year Old/Senior	Adult	All Ages
Hidden Falls	16	3	4		5		1		
Harriet Island	15	2	2		8		3		
(Indian) Mounds Park & Trails	15	4	2		5		3	1	
Lilydale Park and Trails	14	3	1		6	1		3	
Along River (land)	11	3	2		2		2	3	
Along River (water)	10	2	1	1	2		2	2	
Bruce Vento	9	3	2	1	1		1	2	
Crosby Park	9	2	1		2		1	3	
Pig's Eye Lake	9	3	3		1	1		1	
Fort Snelling	6	3	1		2				
High Bridge	6	2	2				1	1	
Lock and Dam #1	6	3	1				2		
Science Museum	6	2	2		2				
Shepherd Road / Warner Rd.	6	1	2					3	
Brick Yards	5	2	1		2				
Downtown St. Paul	5	1	2				2		
Union Depot	5		3				1	1	
Battle Creek Park	4	2			1	1			
East River Road / MissRivBlvd	4	1	2					1	
Gorge	4	1	1		2				
Raspberry Island	4		2				1	1	
Summit Ave Monument/Overlook	4	1	2					1	
Upper Landing	4	1			1			2	
Confluence/ Bdote	3	1					1		1
Grain Terminal (Head House/Sack House)	3						2	1	
Meeker Island	3		2				1		
Pike Island	3		1		1			1	
Sam Morgan Trail	3	1	1					1	
St. Paul Yacht Club	3	1			2		1		
Victoria Park	3	1	1				1		
Big Rivers Trail	2			1	1				
Cherokee Park	2				1		1		
Farmers Market	2		1		1				
Fish Hatchery	2				2				
Holman Field	2		1					1	
Minneapolis Rowing Club	2	1					1		

Activity Chart- Frequency of Place Names

Place	Times Mentioned	Out of Town Visitor	Millennial	Family	Youth (5-15)	Toddler	80 Year Old/Senior	Adult	All Ages
Hidden Falls	16	3	4		5		1		
Harriet Island	15	2	2		8		3		
(Indian) Mounds Park & Trails	15	4	2		5		3	1	
Lilydale Park and Trails	14	3	1		6	1		3	
Along River (land)	11	3	2		2		2	3	
Along River (water)	10	2	1	1	2		2	2	
Bruce Vento	9	3	2	1	1		1	2	
Crosby Park	9	2	1		2		1	3	
Pig's Eye Lake	9	3	3		1	1		1	
Fort Snelling	6	3	1		2				
High Bridge	6	2	2				1	1	
Lock and Dam #1	6	3	1				2		
Science Museum	6	2	2		2				
Shepherd Road / Warner Rd.	6	1	2					3	
Brick Yards	5	2	1		2				
Downtown St. Paul	5	1	2				2		
Union Depot	5		3				1	1	
Battle Creek Park	4	2			1	1			
East River Road / MissRivBlvd	4	1	2					1	
Gorge	4	1	1		2				
Raspberry Island	4		2				1	1	
Summit Ave Monument/Overlook	4	1	2					1	
Upper Landing	4	1			1			2	
Confluence/ Bdote	3	1					1		1
Grain Terminal (Head House/Sack House)	3						2	1	
Meeker Island	3		2				1		
Pike Island	3		1		1			1	
Sam Morgan Trail	3	1	1					1	
St. Paul Yacht Club	3	1			2		1		
Victoria Park	3	1	1				1		
Big Rivers Trail	2			1	1				
Cherokee Park	2				1		1		
Farmers Market	2		1		1				
Fish Hatchery	2				2				
Holman Field	2		1					1	
Minneapolis Rowing Club	2	1					1		



# APPENDIX B: GRP BRAND GUIDELINES

# GREAT RIVER PASSAGE



Brand Guidelines

last updated August 17, 2011

## GREAT RIVER PASSAGE



Table of Contents

- 2 THE GREAT RIVER  
PASSAGE BRAND
- 3 NAME & HIERARCHY
- 4 COPY TONE
- 5 VISUAL IDENTITY
- 6 WORDMARK
- 8 CURRENTS
- 9 LOCKUP
- 10 TYPOGRAPHY
- 11 COLOR PALETTE
- 12 PATTERNS
- 13 DESIGN EXAMPLES

This Brand Guidelines book outlines all of the elements that comprise the *Great River Passage* brand — from positioning, to tone of messaging, to a complete visual identity system. Collectively, this builds the identity framework for *Great River Passage*, providing proper guidance for the creation of communication materials. Overall, it serves to define and build equity in Saint Paul's most treasured natural resource.

## ABOUT GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

Seventeen of the 2,320 miles of the Mississippi River flows through the City of Saint Paul — an area whose riverfront is enveloped in an ambitious decades-long revitalization project. When complete, this area — known as *Great River Passage* — will enhance the Mississippi’s natural, scenic and cultural significance, providing recreation, connecting communities and attracting tourism.

## BRAND POSITIONING

The Great River is the lifeblood of Saint Paul, connecting and sustaining communities across cultures and generations.

## BRAND PERSONALITY

Capturing the history of Saint Paul and the sentiment of its people, the brand identity presents an authentic, timeless and unified expression of the Great River: one that is epic, yet intimate; nurturing; spiritual; vibrant; inviting; fluid, yet constant.

## NAME

*Great River Passage* speaks to the spirit of exploration, leveraging the equity of the former name, *Great River Park*, while elevating it beyond the idea of simply being a park. The name also unifies parks and points of interest along the 17-mile stretch into a clear and singular system.

## NAME HIERARCHY

When formally identifying a particular park within the *Great River Passage*, you can opt to connect it to the larger system. Simply, add the phrase, “on the *Great River Passage*,” after the park’s name.

Example: *Crosby Farm Regional Park on the Great River Passage*.

This treatment is especially effective in signage and advertising. In most cases, the name application should only be used once per piece.

## COPY TONE

Use words and phrases that capture a sense of experience, adventure and exploration. Be mindful that this rich natural resource attracts people of all ages and walks of life, so copy should have mass appeal. Make it inviting and accessible. Descriptive, actionable language will keep it interesting.

Example: *“Great River Passage isn’t a place as much as it is an experience. Join us for a lively cruise down this 17-mile stretch where imagination and inspiration runs deep.”*

## VISUAL IDENTITY SYSTEM

The visual identity system encompasses critical elements of the *Great River Passage* brand, including wordmark, logo, colors, pattern assets and their combined uses. This helps to distinguish the brand and support its overall strategic brand personality.

Consistency is critical. Please follow the guidelines defined here to enhance the execution of *Great River Passage* pieces.

There are two versions of the *Great River Passage* wordmark: stacked and horizontal. The stacked version is generally preferred, though the selection is ultimately determined by layout and space limitations.

Stacked Wordmark

**GREAT  
RIVER  
PASSAGE**

**GREAT  
RIVER  
PASSAGE**

Horizontal Wordmark

**GREAT RIVER PASSAGE**

**GREAT RIVER PASSAGE**

### CLEAR SPACE

A minimum amount of clear space must always surround the *Great River Passage* wordmark to separate it from other elements, such as headlines, text and imagery, as well as the outside edge of printed, electronic and three-dimensional materials. Proper use of clear space ensures visual impact and legibility of the logo.

When calculating the minimum amount of clear space, please follow the guidelines shown. Additional clear space is preferred whenever possible.

Stacked Wordmark



Horizontal Wordmark



### WORDMARK SIZE RESTRICTIONS

For print applications, the minimum size for the stacked wordmark is .5" wide. For web applications, the minimum size for the stacked wordmark is 45 pixels wide.

For print applications, the minimum size for the horizontal wordmark is 1.25" wide. For web applications, the minimum size for the horizontal wordmark is 120 pixels wide.

(print)  
| 0.5" |

**GREAT  
RIVER  
PASSAGE**

(web)  
| 45 pixels |

**GREAT  
RIVER  
PASSAGE**

(print)  
| 1.25" |

**GREAT RIVER PASSAGE**

(web)  
| 120 pixels |

**GREAT RIVER PASSAGE**

The *Great River Passage* wordmark is complemented by an organic stream of colored lines known as Currents—representing the ever-changing currents of the Mississippi River. Always appearing in groups of three, the Currents should be represented in all communication pieces.

When possible, the Currents should bleed off the top of the layout. They may also bleed off the bottom right. The natural flow should move downward and to the right.

These can be configured in many ways:

- » They may appear in a lockup with the wordmark.
- » Their shapes may change as long as the downward-right movement is followed.
- » The scale within the layout may change.
- » They may be shown positive or reversed out.



Although flexibility is an important part of the *Great River Passage* visual identity, there is a preferred lockup when the currents can't bleed off the layout, as shown here.

# GREAT RIVER PASSAGE



### PRIMARY FOUR-COLOR LOGO

The four-color stacked logo is the preferred application.

### ONE-COLOR — GREY LOGO

The stacked logo is the preferred application when one-color printing is the only option.

### HORIZONTAL LOGO

The horizontal logo should be used only if there are vertical space limitations. The horizontal version can be used in either four color or grey options.

Primary Four-Color Currents Lockup—Stacked

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

Four-Color Currents Lockup—Horizontal

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

One-Color Logo—Currents Lockup—Stacked

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

One-Color Currents Lockup—Horizontal

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

### PRIMARY TYPEFACE

The primary typeface for *Great River Passage* is the Gotham family. (Not all weights shown.)

Gotham Book

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789

Gotham Bold

**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**  
**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**  
**0123456789**

### SECONDARY TYPEFACE

The secondary typeface for *Great River Passage* is the Sentinel family. (Not all weights shown.)

Sentinel Book

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789

Sentinel Book

**ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ**  
**abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz**  
**0123456789**

### ALTERNATE TYPEFACE

There may be times when a more condensed font is necessary. In such cases, the Interstate family may be used. (Not all weights shown.) See page 14 for signing examples.

Interstate Regular Condensed

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789

### ALTERNATE WEB TYPEFACE

The Arial family should be used for web applications and when Gotham is unavailable for print applications. (Not all weights shown.)

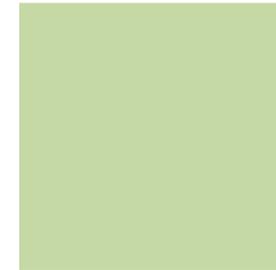
Arial

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ  
abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz  
0123456789

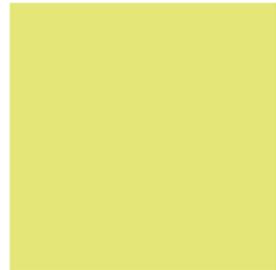
Use the chosen color palette for various configurations of Currents and patterns. Note: CMYK, RGB and WEB formulas.



**PANTONE 629 C**  
C:34 M:0 Y:9 K:0  
R:161 G:216 B:224  
WEB: A1 D8 E0



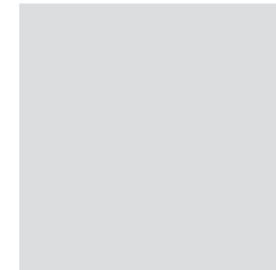
**PANTONE 578 C**  
C:20 M:0 Y:40 K:6  
R:184 G:207 B:149  
WEB: B8 CF 95



**PANTONE 585 C**  
C:11 M:0 Y:66 K:2  
R:218 G:223 B:113  
WEB: DA DF 71



**PANTONE 424 C**  
C:0 M:0 Y:0 K:61  
R:108 G:111 B:112  
WEB: 6C 6F 70



**PANTONE 420 C**  
C:0 M:0 Y:0 K:15  
R:206 G:207 B:203  
WEB: CE CF CB

The colors reproduced in this brand guide have not been evaluated by Pantone, Inc. for accuracy and may not match the PANTONE Color Standards.

PANTONE® is a registered trademark of Pantone, Inc.

The four primary geographic areas of the *Great River Passage* are identified using the primary logo colors.

### THE GORGE

Pantone 629 C is the primary color used to identify "THE GORGE."

### THE VALLEY

Pantone 578 C is the primary color used to identify "THE VALLEY."

### THE CITY

Pantone 420 C is the primary color used to identify "THE CITY."

### THE WETLANDS

Pantone 585 C is the primary color used to identify "THE WETLANDS."

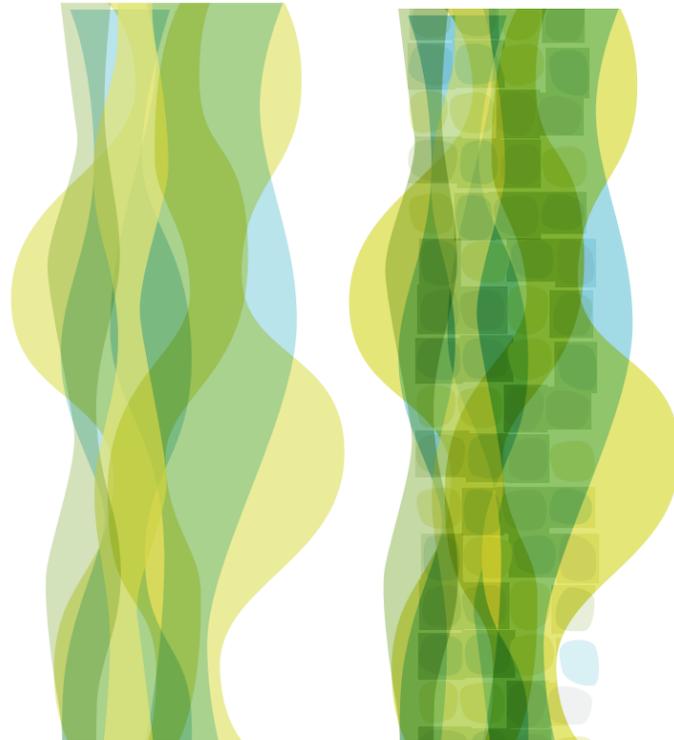
THE GORGE

THE VALLEY

THE CITY

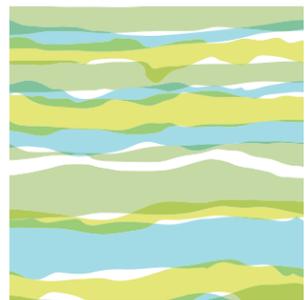
THE WETLANDS

The *Great River Passage* Currents and color palette may be expanded to create complementary patterns, as shown here.

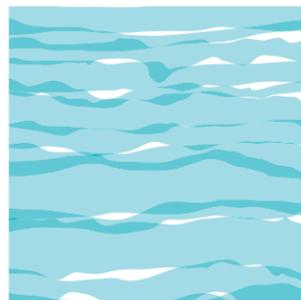


Great River Passage\_pattern\_9.ai

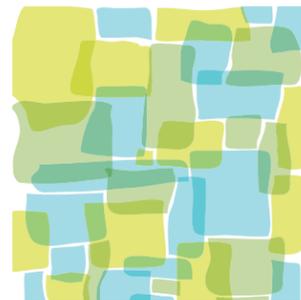
Great River Passage\_pattern\_10.ai



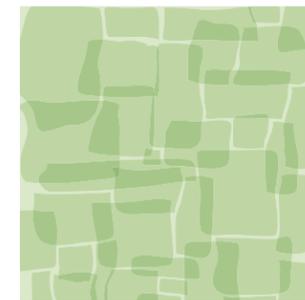
Great River Passage\_pattern\_1.ai



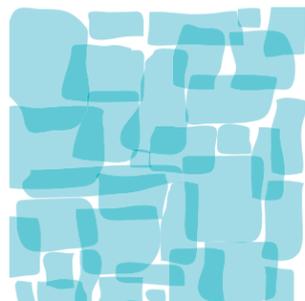
Great River Passage\_pattern\_2.ai



Great River Passage\_pattern\_3.ai



Great River Passage\_pattern\_4.ai



Great River Passage\_pattern\_5.ai



Great River Passage\_pattern\_6.ai



Great River Passage\_pattern\_7.ai



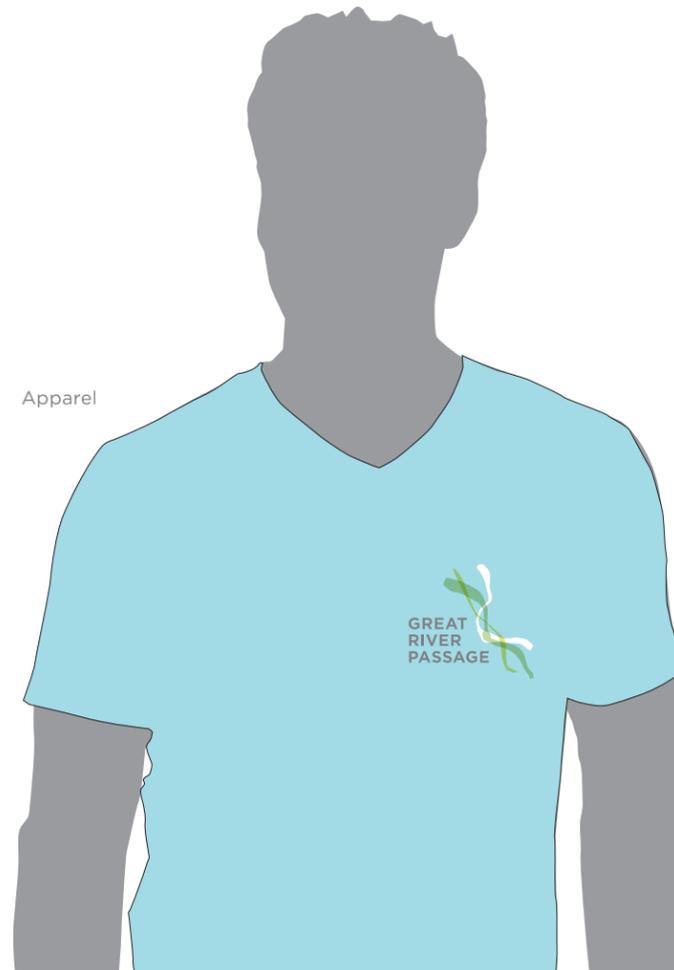
Great River Passage\_pattern\_8.ai

The following are examples of *Great River Passage* branded communication pieces that follow the brand guidelines. These examples should be viewed collectively as a way to bring the identity to life; a unified brand with flexibility and variety.



Letterhead & Business Card

Apparel

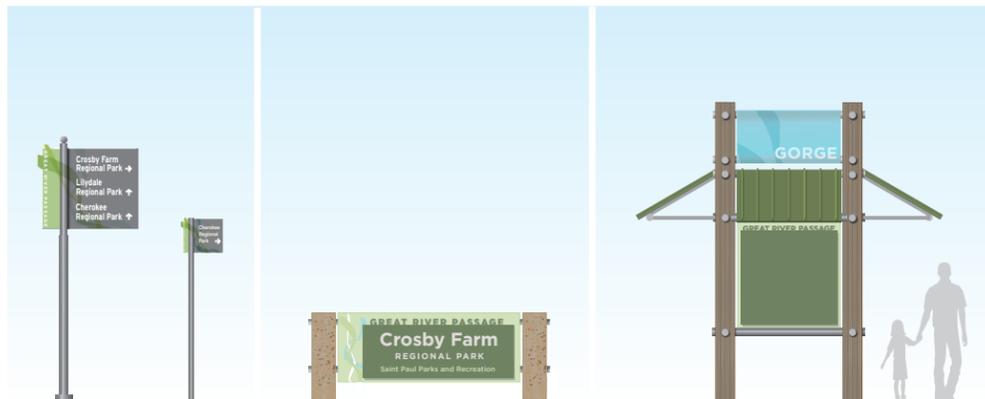




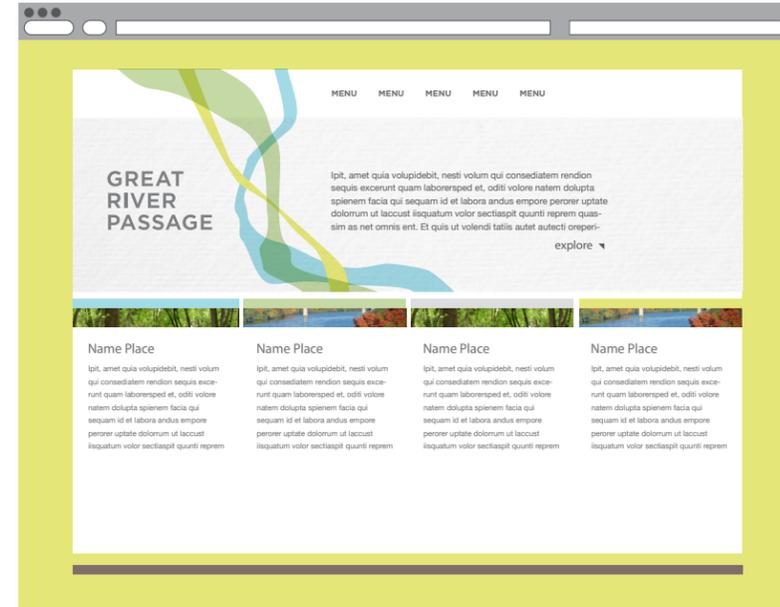
Promotional Poster



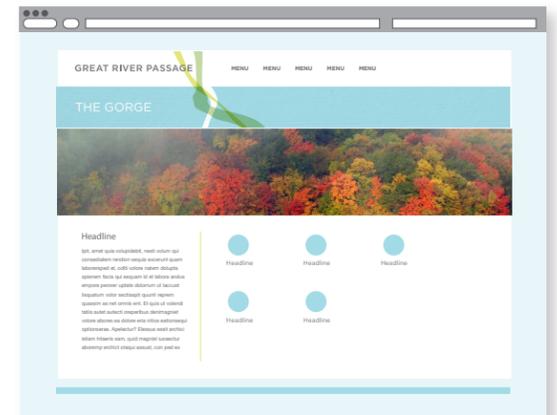
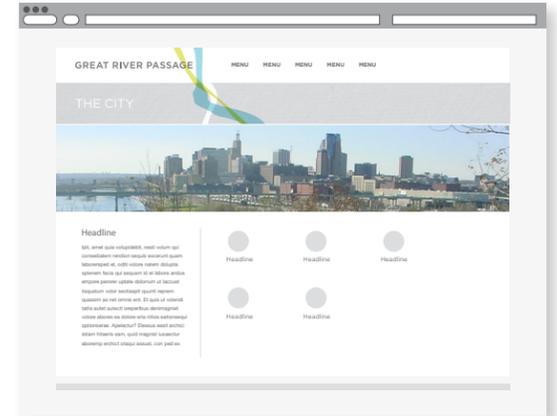
Event Signing



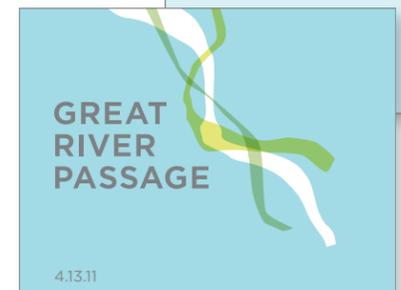
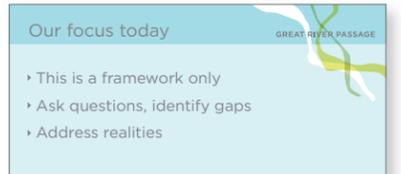
Wayfinding



Web Page



Animated Banner



PowerPoint