

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

more natural . more urban . more connected

A Master Plan for Saint Paul's 17 Miles of Mississippi River Parklands

Addendum to Saint Paul's
Comprehensive Plan



Adopted April 10, 2013





CITY OF SAINT PAUL
Mayor Christopher B. Coleman

July 2012

The Mississippi River has shaped my life. I grew up on the bluffs carved by its waters, learning the importance of nature and the fun of outdoor recreation. I've raised my family on these same bluffs and have shared with them the values the River taught me - take care of what you have, take part in all it offers, and share it with others.

Saint Paul has been blessed with more riverfront park land than any other major city along the Mississippi River. This rich legacy will be carried into the future with the establishment of the *Great River Passage Master Plan*.

Over the past two years, this master plan has been shaped by one of the most comprehensive community processes Saint Paul has undertaken. Through the creativity and dedication of the City Council members, neighborhood groups, river users, environmental organizations, concerned citizens, city staff and national experts; a vision has been created that will transform Saint Paul in profound ways.

The Master Plan's guiding principles - to be More Natural, More Urban and More Connected - represent a grand vision for unifying the entire length of Saint Paul's riverfront. This plan sets the stage for natural spaces, recreation areas, ecological restoration and economic vitality while connecting the City and its people to Saint Paul's unique Mississippi River resources. It is up to all of us - elected officials, business leaders, the philanthropic community, neighborhood groups and more - to ensure this plan becomes a reality.

Please join me in support of this exciting vision for Saint Paul's riverfront.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Coleman
Mayor, City of Saint Paul

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Great River Passage Master Plan

Saint Paul's 17 mile stretch of the Mississippi River has natural, recreational, scenic, and spiritual qualities that have drawn people to the area for thousands of years. The area's rich resources have sustained the lives of American Indians, including the Dakota people, who first recognized the corridor's spiritual values. Early European settlers used the river as a trading route which led to widespread settlement. Rapid industrialization of the upper Midwest and the development of the Mississippi as a transportation and industrial corridor brought successive waves of immigrants from around the world, creating a thriving economy and the rich ethnic mix that makes Saint Paul the vibrant community that it is today. The decline of industry has provided an opportunity to rediscover the river corridor's natural, recreational, scenic, and spiritual qualities, and has prompted a discussion about new ways of living, working, and playing along the river's edge.

The Great River Passage Master Plan (or master plan) presents recommendations for orienting the City toward the river and integrating new and enhanced parks and natural areas along all 17 miles of the Mississippi River through Saint Paul. Previous planning efforts described a broad vision for the river corridor. The Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework (1997) featured guiding principles to shape the city into the next century, the Mississippi River Corridor Plan (2001) developed four key strategies, and the Great River Park Chapter of the *Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* (2007) offered a vision and principles to guide development of the river corridor. Recognizing the breadth of the planning area and cultural history of the river corridor, the Great River Park in 2011 was renamed the Great River Passage (GRP).

The 2-year long process of developing the Great River Passage Master Plan included several well-attended public meetings and a series of community task force and planning workshops that elicited constructive input from community and stakeholders. The project team, consisting of planners, landscape architects, ecologists, transportation and cultural resource specialists, artists, and economic advisors, synthesized community input into a vision plan for the Great River Passage.

Begun in 2010 and completed in 2012, the Great River Passage master plan uses the vision and the guiding principles established in prior plans as a framework to develop specific goals and recommendations that will provide direction for future land uses and development in the river corridor. The master plan's vision for the corridor represents complex inter-relationships of urban and natural systems, new types of parks, and innovative means by which the natural qualities of the river corridor can be protected and enjoyed.

Master plan strategies are based on the goals and objectives identified by the City of Saint Paul, the design team, and the community during the planning process. Recommendations address improvements for each reach within the corridor and street improvements to provide better neighborhood connections to the River. They describe ways in which an improved Great River Passage can both add value to and be an impetus to new development, and how better connections can be established between new development and the River. The plan also recommends sustainable strategies and management and financing strategies for long-term implementation of improvements within the corridor.

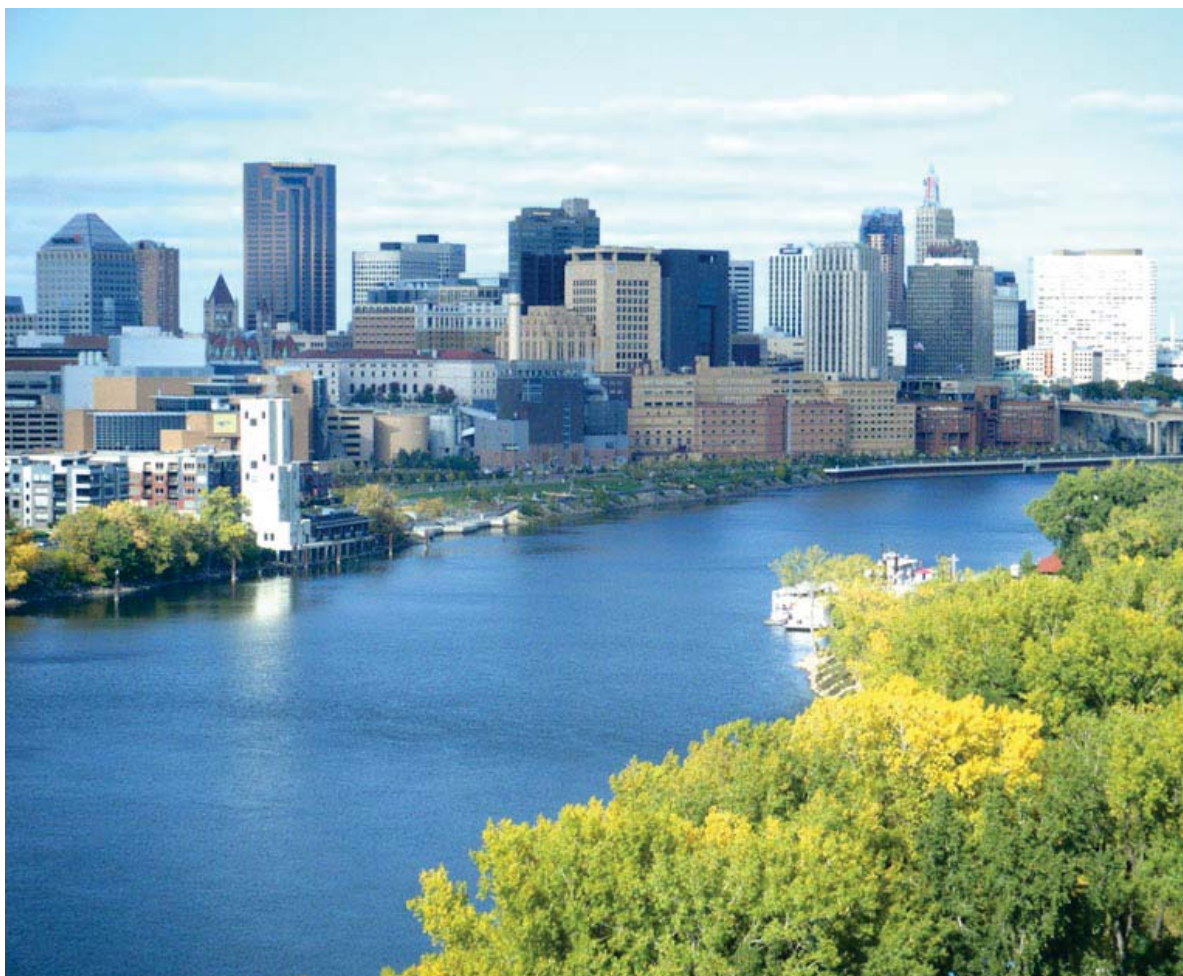
Full implementation of these recommendations will require a comprehensive re-evaluation of ownership and management of the public resources within the river corridor. It also will require the involvement of multiple City, County, State and Federal agencies, cooperation with other public entities, and partnerships with private and not-for-profit organizations. The Great River Passage Master Plan is primarily a parks plan, but it also incorporates community driven goals for neighborhood areas adjacent to the park. These areas are critical to the desired balance of natural areas protection, access to recreation and continued economic development and sustainability. As the area plans are developed they will consider the recommendations of this plan.

Extensive information has been gathered as part of developing the master plan. The Appendix includes documents related to research and community participation, such as the Great River Park Inventory and Assessment Report (2011), which contains an inventory and compilation of existing conditions within the river corridor and a summary of information gathered during the planning process.

The Plan is intended to be a community-based vision with a corridor-wide perspective. It identifies transformative recreation and leisure opportunities along the river and balances them with protection and restoration of natural resources, adding value to adjacent land uses while respecting community and neighborhood desires for better access to the river. It represents an evolution and a refinement of previous efforts, with the addition of specific recommendations that will help Saint Paul work toward enhancing the natural environment and the recreational qualities of the river, as well as the livability and economic vitality of the city.

The Great River Passage Master Plan will be the starting point for further planning of the areas within the corridor and a mechanism for managing and funding its recommendations. All concept and vision plans included in this document are conceptual in nature, and subject to further planning, design and public input as funding becomes available. Until such time as the City purchases any of the sites or areas, or enters into a development agreement for the sites or areas, covered in the vision/concept plans, private property owners may use their properties for any legal use permitted under the current zoning classification, provided that the proposed use meets all applicable conditions and/or standards.





View of Downtown from Cherokee Park

Guiding Principles

The Great River Park Chapter of the *Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* recognized the important links between the river and the city. It advised that the relationship of the river and the City should go beyond the development of parks and the enhancement of the river's ecology to bring nature into the city, and to make the river a part of the community's daily life. The plan described "a new paradigm - the city in a park, a park in the city. It is the fusion of Saint Paul's unique natural systems and recreational resources on the Mississippi River with community and economic development and adjacent neighborhoods."

The Great River Park Chapter of the *Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework* offered three guiding principles for the Great River Park:

1. More Natural

The Great River Park is first and foremost a place of great natural beauty and value. Every action should respect, protect, and enhance the ecology of the river corridor and valley.

2. More Urban

With such high "place value," the Great River Park is an area of great economic/real estate value. New urban development in the National Great River Park should be high quality, sustainable, and strategically located to enhance the natural environment.

3. More Connected

Being connected to the Mississippi River and making the river a part of everyday life are fundamental values in Saint Paul. More physical and visual connections should be created to bring more people to the river, respecting the need to balance increased public access with environmental preservation.

A New Era for Open Space : New Places for Recreation and Leisure

New River Gathering Places

A series of gathering places in Mississippi River Parks, and within existing and proposed neighborhoods, can bring the community to the Mississippi River to relax and socialize in a natural setting. The transformation of existing and proposed parks is an opportunity to provide for nature-based recreation for all ages and levels of ability. Places for community and civic gatherings, events, celebrations and leisure activities, bring a new sense of community that is enhanced by its common bond with the Mississippi River. Active sports, such as mountain biking, climbing, and better access for non-motorized boating, can attract more adventure-oriented recreational users. Opportunities to connect with nature and provide access to age-appropriate activities can enhance the vitality and livability of the City for residents and visitors alike. A unique, universally-accessible play area will help an underserved segment of the population begin to enjoy the many benefits of outdoor recreation within a Mississippi Riverfront setting.

Nature-based Recreation

The wealth of natural resources along the Mississippi River provides an opportunity to create new recreation resources of regional and national significance. In addition there is great potential to make the Mississippi River a more important part of the daily lives of the City's residents, bringing the abundance of natural and cultural resources into the heart of the City, and providing new kinds of recreation and leisure that are not currently available in neighborhood parks and recreation centers. Activities such as canoe and kayak adventures, mountain biking and interpretive trails and riverfront leisure, provide reasons for people to come to the river, enjoy its majesty and make sure that it is cared for. Improved connections between neighborhoods and the river make this environment relevant to the community again, as it has been throughout history. Improved access, combined with expanded recreation opportunities on the river, will help promote healthy lifestyles and encourage new generations of land stewards.

Expanded Landscape Stewardship

This Plan describes unique opportunities to increase the natural resource and aesthetic values associated with preserving, expanding, and enhancing the river valley's ecosystems. For example, the valley's populations of eagles and herons are recognized across the region and the nation and draw many people to the river to see them. Area residents and visitors have expressed great interest in expanding nature-based activities such as wildlife observation, environmental education and interpretation, sport fishing, and just enjoying quiet places in nature. The Plan recommends expanding programs for landscape resource management, habitat enhancement and protection, and environmental education to protect natural resources and encourage broader support for long-term stewardship.

New Approaches for Operations and Management

New Great River Passage operations and management approaches, centered around resource stewardship, will be necessary to fully realize its natural resource potential. Plans for the Passage include adding recreational uses only in redeveloped or previously impacted areas so that sensitive ecologies are not impacted.

Restoration of damaged and ecologically sensitive areas that support the expansion of natural areas will require operating and maintenance strategies that mitigate, restore and interpret resources. Staffing of expanded and enhanced facilities will likely require additional planning, training, staff and funding resources.

Collaborations and Partnerships

The City's limited funding resources, the investment required to recognize the proposed opportunities, indicates that new collaborative models for developing and managing Great River Passage amenities and services should be explored and developed. Innovative public and private partnerships are one way to develop new facilities, such as a kayak course or mountain-biking trail. Recreation facilities can be supported with private vendors and program facilitators, and integrated into public use areas on privately owned sites.

A number of potential partners have been identified, including nonprofit organizations, to protect and interpret important natural, historic, cultural and archaeological sites. Partnerships with other public entities, including the Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA), the State (DNR and MnDOT), Saint Paul Public Works (SPPW), Planning and Economic Development (PED), watershed districts, and neighboring counties and cities, will be vitally important to address environmental and recreation needs and to better connect the Great River Passage to the larger metropolitan area and the region.

Community Driven Planning

The Great River Passage serves both the city and the region, but importantly, it provides local neighborhood amenities and has local impacts. It adds value by providing access to nature, opportunities for exercise and recreation. It provides environmental benefits that make Saint Paul a more livable city. The Plan has been developed by the community and must continue to reflect community needs and desires through ongoing community involvement. The Plan is a long term vision that should be flexible enough to adapt to changing community needs.



Gathering places allows more people to experience the river.



Nature based recreation means playing and learning at the same time.



Outdoor education creates the next generation of stewards.



Outdated industrial sites and changing land uses along the river present unique opportunities to bring in new recreation and leisure uses that support greater economic vitality in Saint Paul.

Revitalizing the City's Economy

The master plan recognizes the transformative potential of parks and riverfront amenities as economic assets for Saint Paul. Numerous U.S. cities have discovered that urban waterfront redevelopment has revitalized their local economies. For example, the Wilmington Riverfront generated nearly \$67 million in fiscal revenues for the city, county, and state from 1996 to 2006, according to an economic impact study by the Riverfront Development Corporation (RDC) of Delaware. RDC noted that public investment was leveraged to attract significant private investment, establishing the riverfront as an economic engine for job growth and tax revenue.

Connections to the Community

Creating better connections between the city's neighborhoods, downtown and the river by developing new parks and public spaces will benefit Saint Paul's economy by attracting private development of housing, restaurants, shops, and commercial office space. The development potential of land areas along the boulevards and parkways that parallel the river, are greatly enhanced by having a "riverfront address." Their physical and visual proximity to the river adds significant value, further generating economic development. Better streets, with improved walking and bicycling opportunities, will provide the community with additional transportation choices and access to a wider range of recreation options.

Unique Identity

Saint Paul's identity as a river city will be enhanced by new urban spaces and gathering places on the riverfront. Development and redevelopment should support the river as its focus. New development should be oriented toward the river, preserving access and views while respecting neighborhood scale and protecting natural resources. Greater use of the river corridor for nature-based recreation will further enhance the city's image as a river-oriented community.

Regional Destination

Building upon its location near the highest navigable shipping port on the Mississippi River, and its wealth of natural amenities and recreation opportunities, the Great River Passage will attract both residents and visitors to Saint Paul's riverfront. Activities supported by festival parks, nature based recreation, institutions for art, education, and culture, natural areas, restaurants, and other leisure-oriented businesses, will help transform the City's riverfront into a destination, supporting community and neighborhood vitality.

A New Era for Open Space

The grand scale of the Great River Passage vision - to integrate 17 miles of enhanced parks and natural areas along the Mississippi River into the City's existing park system - coupled with diminishing city funding sources, provides an exciting opportunity to rethink the role of parks in Saint Paul, and to re-evaluate how the City provides services to its residents and visitors.

Characteristics identified for the next era of Saint Paul's parks emerged during the planning process. They will feature places for leisure and nature-based recreation in sites that celebrate the river corridor and its natural resources. These new parks will:

- Promote ecological health and environmental responsibility
- Focus on the river
- Feature new gathering places for recreation and leisure
- Provide trails, dog parks, and park areas for active living
- Offer opportunities for culture and learning
- Be managed through creative partnerships and funding sources

The Three Principles: A Basis for The Plan

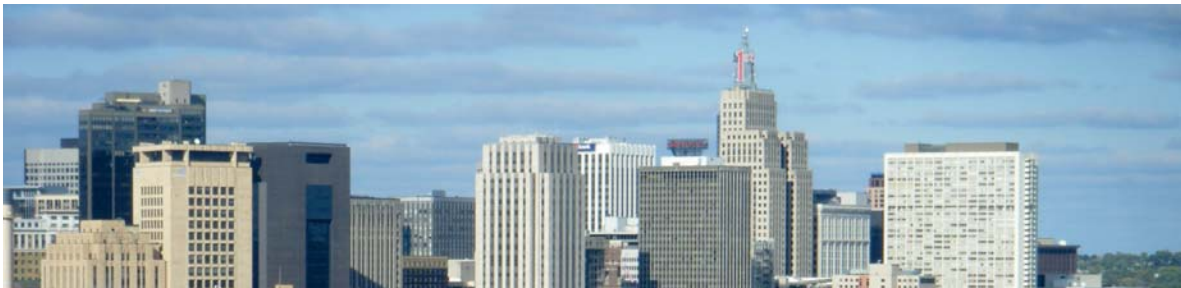
Individual chapters of this report describe in greater detail the following principles:



Principle 1: More Natural

Healthy natural systems, including diverse and thriving native plant and animal communities and clean air and water, are critical to the long-term livability and economic vitality of Saint Paul and the region. This diversity is reflected in the management of natural areas and the location and design of parks. With this in mind, the master plan seeks to accomplish three goals:

- Protect and manage natural resources
- Restore streams and improve urban stormwater quality.
- Preserve and enhance natural areas.
- Expand nature-based recreation uses along the river.



Principle 2: More Urban

Long-term stewardship and preservation of natural areas is possible only if the city maintains a healthy economy and continues to be a desirable place to live and visit. The master plan seeks to:

- Develop the economic potential of the Great River Passage by creating gathering places on the river.
- Expand opportunities for tourism and river-oriented recreation.
- Promote redevelopment that enhances neighborhood livability and the image and accessibility of the river.
- Maintain the “working river” and balance it with the environmental and recreation needs of the community.



Principle 3: More Connected

Long-term implementation of the master plan with greater use of the river corridor will be possible only if the river is linked strongly to the city. The master plan seeks to:

- Link the citywide network of parkways and boulevards to the river.
- Improve local river access.
- Expand opportunities for park access.
- Integrate history, culture and art into all aspects of the Great River Passage.



Principle 1: More Natural

Healthy natural systems, including diverse and thriving native plant and animal communities and clean air and water, are critical to the long-term livability and economic vitality of Saint Paul and the region. This diversity is reflected in the management of natural areas and the location and design of parks. This Chapter establishes goals that make the Great River Passage more natural.

Industrialization has left significant traces of disturbance to the unique natural and water resources of the river corridor. During the last forty years significant progress has been made toward restoring natural systems and water quality to their historic conditions. This plan recommends steps that will greatly advance those efforts to make the corridor “More Natural.”

Water Resources

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Restore Streams and Improve Urban Stormwater Quality

The water resources of the Great River Passage are considered at both local and regional scales. At the regional scale is the vast watershed of the Mississippi River itself, extending from northern and western Minnesota, encompassing much of the state, and extending to the Gulf of Mexico. At the local scale is a series of smaller ravines, creeks and streams in highly urbanized catchment areas, many of which have been diverted into storm sewers and are now entirely underground. Dozens of these local streams and urban watersheds are directly tributary to the Mississippi River within the Great River Passage. Because of the size of the Mississippi River watershed, the river's flow volume, and ongoing use by commercial river traffic, only limited improvements to improve the habitat value of the river shoreline are recommended in this Plan. More significant improvements to the smaller watersheds flowing into the Mississippi should be completed, consistent with the following objectives.

Objective 1: Restore the Natural Qualities and Ecological Functions of Urban Lakes and Streams.

- Daylight larger urban streams in collaboration with watershed districts' policies.
- Daylight base flows and small storm events in local drainage areas.
- Improve water quality in lakes by reducing suspended sediments and nutrient loads.

Objective 2: Mimic Historic Hydrology in Small Tributary Watersheds.

- Require new development in the Great River Passage to restore historic hydrology to the extent feasible.
- Disconnect storm sewers wherever possible and encourage infiltration to replenish groundwater flow and enhance seeps on valley slopes and bluffs.

Objective 3: Improve the Quality of Urban Stormwater Runoff.

- Manage all stormwater runoff that is generated within the parks to mimic historic hydrology.
- Expand wetlands and natural areas that treat polluted runoff to maintain a high level of water quality in rivers, streams, lakes and ponds.
- Identify potential areas for treatment of off-site stormwater within parks where they do not interfere with potential recreation activities.

Objective 4: Improve River Shoreline Habitat.

- Restore the banks of the Mississippi River to promote healthier and more diverse river's edge habitats.
- Provide urban shoreline treatments in developed areas that re-establish vegetation and permit river access.



Using rock vanes to restore and stabilize the shoreline enhances riparian habitat.



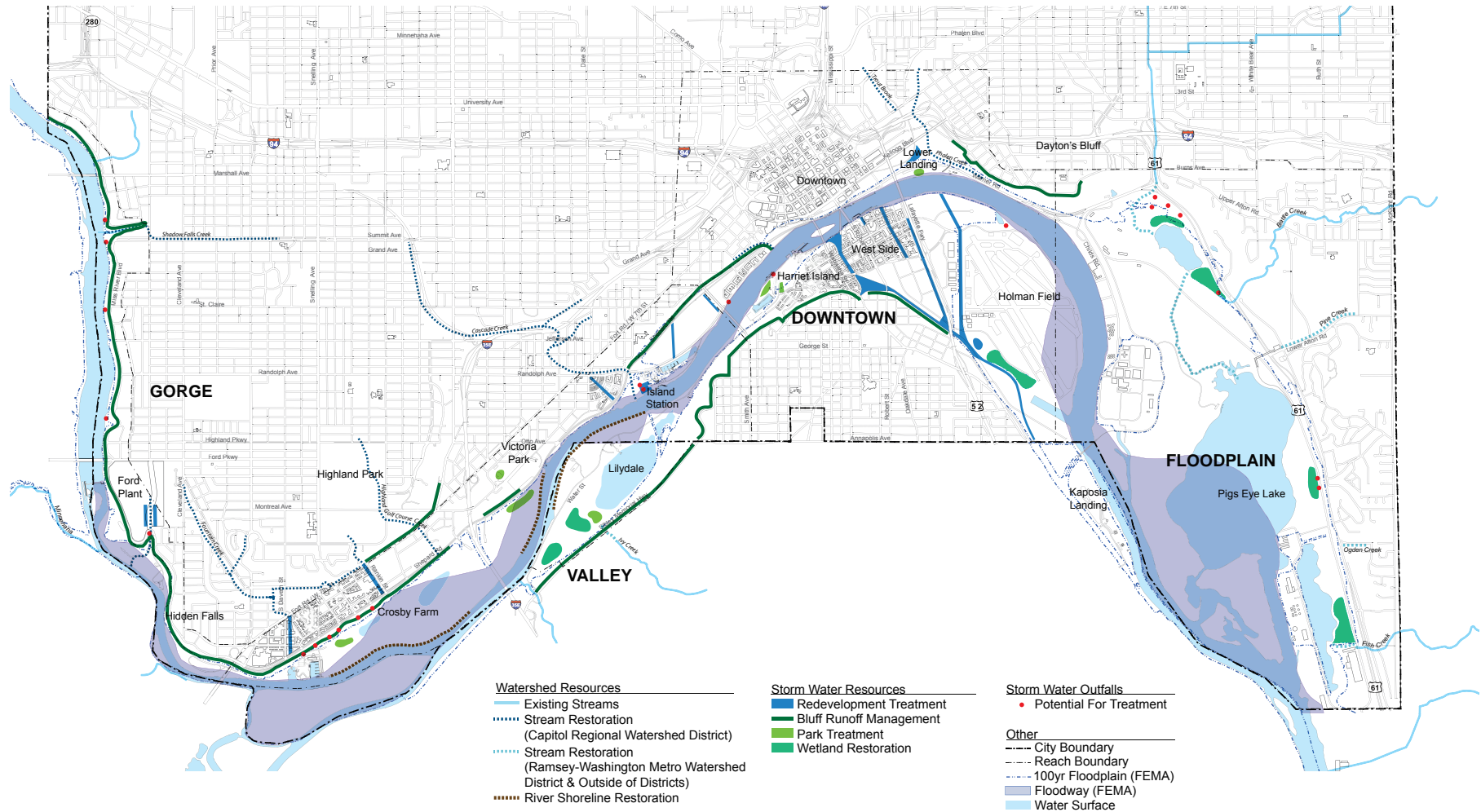
Stormwater treatment areas also provide recreation benefits for the community.



Stream restoration increases safe recreational access to the water.



A high quality riparian habitat supports wildlife diversity.



Enhanced Natural Areas

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Preserve And Enhance Natural Areas

Protection and enhancement of the Mississippi River corridor's native plant and animal communities is one of the master plan's highest priorities. It is imperative that, with limited resources, management of natural resources within the river corridor focus on three priorities: preventing further degradation of resources, managing existing high-quality resources by monitoring and actively protecting and managing ecological functions, and careful planning of all development activities that might impact resources. All development planning should consider the significance of potential impacts, present a minimal-impact design, and include mitigation measures when resource disturbances are unavoidable. Protocols for developments within park areas are described in more detail in the Sustainable Practices chapter of this document.

The following objectives and strategies describe the means by which existing natural areas can be managed to enhance habitat and ecological diversity, and to accommodate appropriate levels of recreation activity.

Objective 1: Acquire or Otherwise Protect Existing Natural Areas to Create a Continuously Connected Network.

- Acquire selected properties to protect the valley edge and bluffs.
- Promote the integrated management of natural areas, and the development of recreation and scenic resources.
- Pursue environmental cleanup and restoration of known Brownfield sites on Parks property consistent with EPA and DNR requirements.

Objective 2: Establish a Landscape Management Program to Protect and Enhance Natural Systems.

- Establish a series of Natural Preserve Areas to protect the most sensitive natural resources.
- Establish resource enhancement areas within natural areas.
- Establish management protocols for Other Natural Areas.

Objective 3: Limit Recreation Access and Use to Preserve Significant Habitats.

- Complete detailed ecological assessments during final planning and design.
- Establish appropriate maintenance and management protocols for recreation improvements before implementing master plan actions.

Objective 4: Create New Open Space Connections in Urban Areas.

- Require green connections as part of redevelopment and green infrastructure as means to establish natural corridors.



Elevated Viewing Platforms allow remote access and minimize disturbance to the most sensitive habitats.



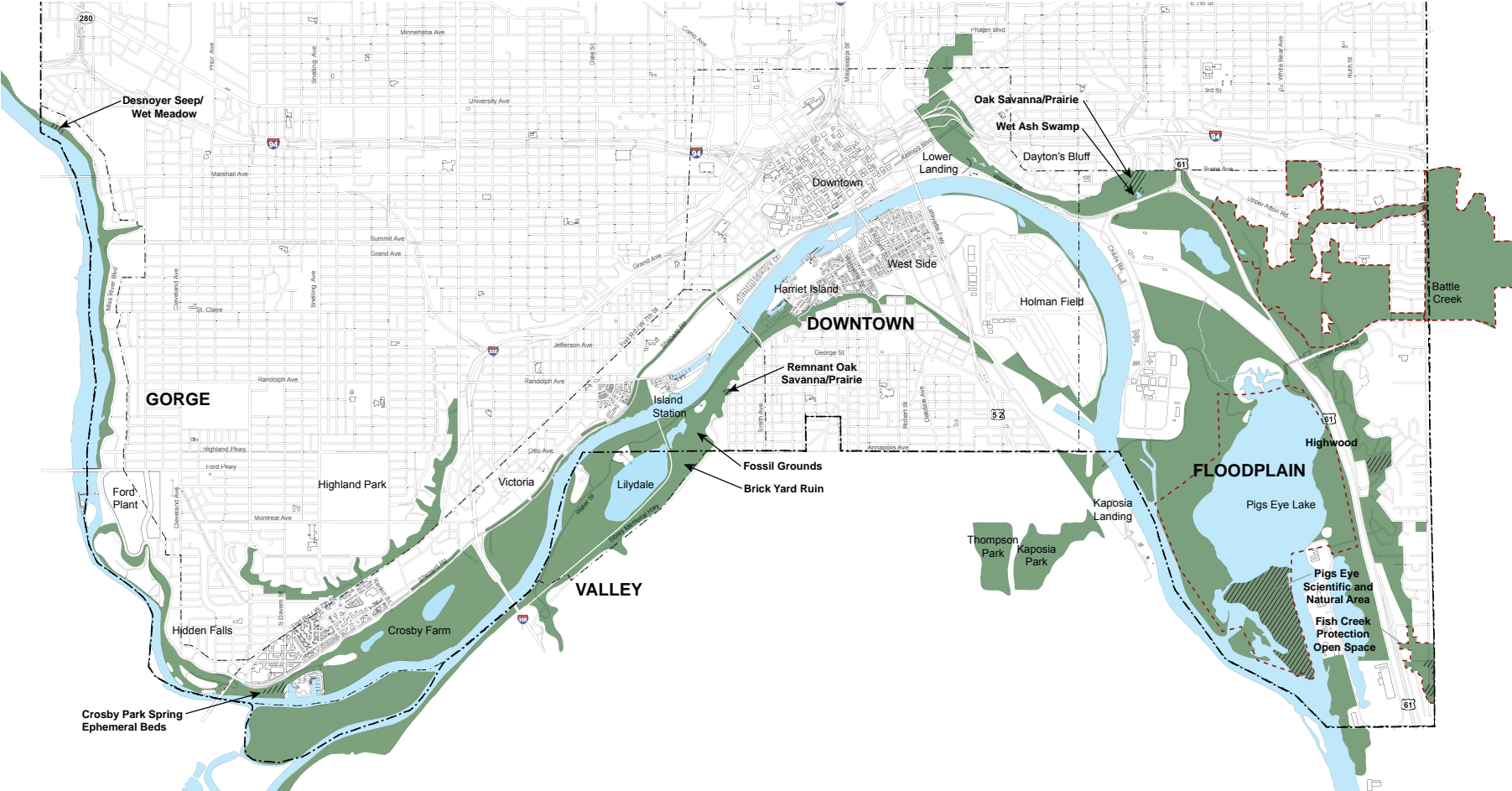
Rustic Trails reduce impact on habitats that can tolerate passive recreational uses.



Boardwalks allow access to wetland and other sensitive environments for interpretation & education.



Controlled Burning reduces invasive vegetation to help maintain a healthy diverse ecology.



- Other
- City Boundary
 - - - Reach Boundary
 - - - Ramsey County Parks Boundary



Active Nature Based Recreation

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Expand Nature-based Recreation Uses Along the River

The master plan strikes a balance between preservation and enhancement of natural areas, and the expansion of access and recreation use in the river corridor. To preserve the natural qualities of the corridor, the expansion of recreation uses and activities has been limited to areas where impacts on natural qualities will be limited. Proposed uses are limited to nature-based recreation activities and improvements, better access to an expanded trail network, and access to more traditional types of parks in developed areas along the corridor.

The following objectives and strategies describe the means by which existing natural areas can be managed to expand nature-based recreation.

Objective 1: Expand the Opportunity for Nature-Based and River-Oriented Recreation Uses.

- Limit new uses primarily to existing and previously impacted park areas.
- Expand recreation uses for all age groups and levels of ability.
- Provide more opportunities for river access, and provide facilities and improvements that encourage recreational use of the river.
- Protect and interpret ecologically and culturally sensitive resources.
- Build upon the intrinsic and natural qualities of the river corridor to create recreation amenities and experiences that are unique to the river valley.

Objective 2: Expand Opportunities to Meet Neighborhood and Community-Wide Recreation Needs Without Compromising the Natural Qualities of the River Corridor.

- Incorporate considerations for green connections, habitat linkages, scenic overlooks, and trail connections into all Great River Passage park master plans.
- Consider the potential impacts of park uses on the scenic and natural qualities of the river corridor.

Objective 3: Enhance Scenic Qualities by Clearing Vistas at Appropriate Entries and Overlooks.

- Selectively manage vegetation on valley slopes and bluffs to open viewing opportunities along the river.
- Selectively manage vegetation along adjacent roadways and at key Great River Passage entry points.
- Design roads, trails and recreation amenities to take advantage of view opportunities.
- Coordinate with natural areas maintenance personnel to control invasive plant understory.



Selective clearing improves visual access to the river



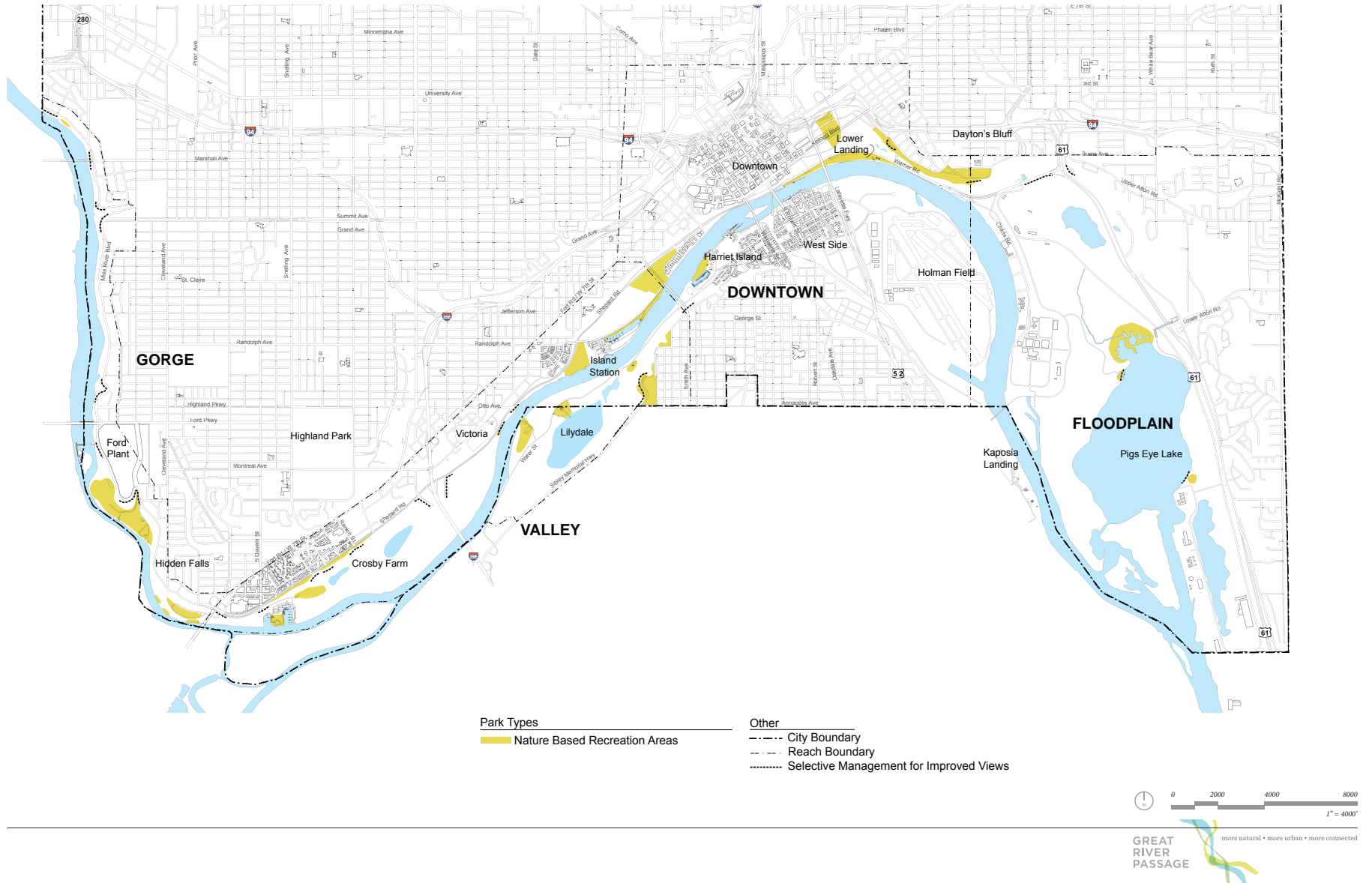
A variety of fishing opportunities encourage outdoor recreation.



Picnicking is among the most popular uses of the river valley.



Group Tent Camping allows urban youth to experience nature close to home.





Principle 2: More Urban

Long-term stewardship and preservation of natural areas is possible only if the city maintains a healthy economy and continues to be a desirable place to live, work and visit.

Saint Paul and the river are and always will be inextricably linked. The river provides livelihood, identity and a sense of place to the City, and with the unique resources it has to offer, provides unparalleled outdoor experiences. Changes in industrial activity along the corridor now allow the City to renew its relationship to the river, remaking it in ways that support livability and economic vitality of the community, while still expanding and enhancing the natural realm.

Gathering Places and Urban Promenade

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Develop the Economic Potential of the Great River Passage by Creating Gathering Places on the River

For the first half of the 20th century, Saint Paul turned its back on the River and sited heavy industrial, polluting uses along its banks. However, since the 1970s, the City has invested billions of dollars in removing noxious uses and converting contaminated sites to award-winning parks, housing, clean industry, commerce and entertainment. With key redevelopment sites still in play along the river corridor, opportunities abound to continue to transform the river's edge and bring new vitality to the city.

Objective 1: Develop a Series of Gathering Places to Bring People to the River.

- Transform vacant river-oriented facilities and sites to promote more leisure activities on the river.
- Develop new uses for underutilized sites and facilities that encourage higher levels of river use.
- Provide for the return of commercial cruise ships to Lambert's Landing.
- Encourage the development of a commercial water taxi to accommodate commuter and tourist activities.

Objective 2: Create an Urban Promenade to Bring the Heart of the City to the River.

- Build on the unique character and opportunities of the Downtown and the West Side to enhance the development potential of each area by linking development to the River.
- Link existing and future development projects along the Downtown and the West Side edges to create a continuous public edge.

Objective 3: Activate Existing Parks in the Downtown.

- Locate youth-oriented regional recreation facilities in underused Downtown parks to meet citywide and regional recreational needs.



As with the Highline in New York City, innovative redevelopment can help bring Downtown to the river's edge.



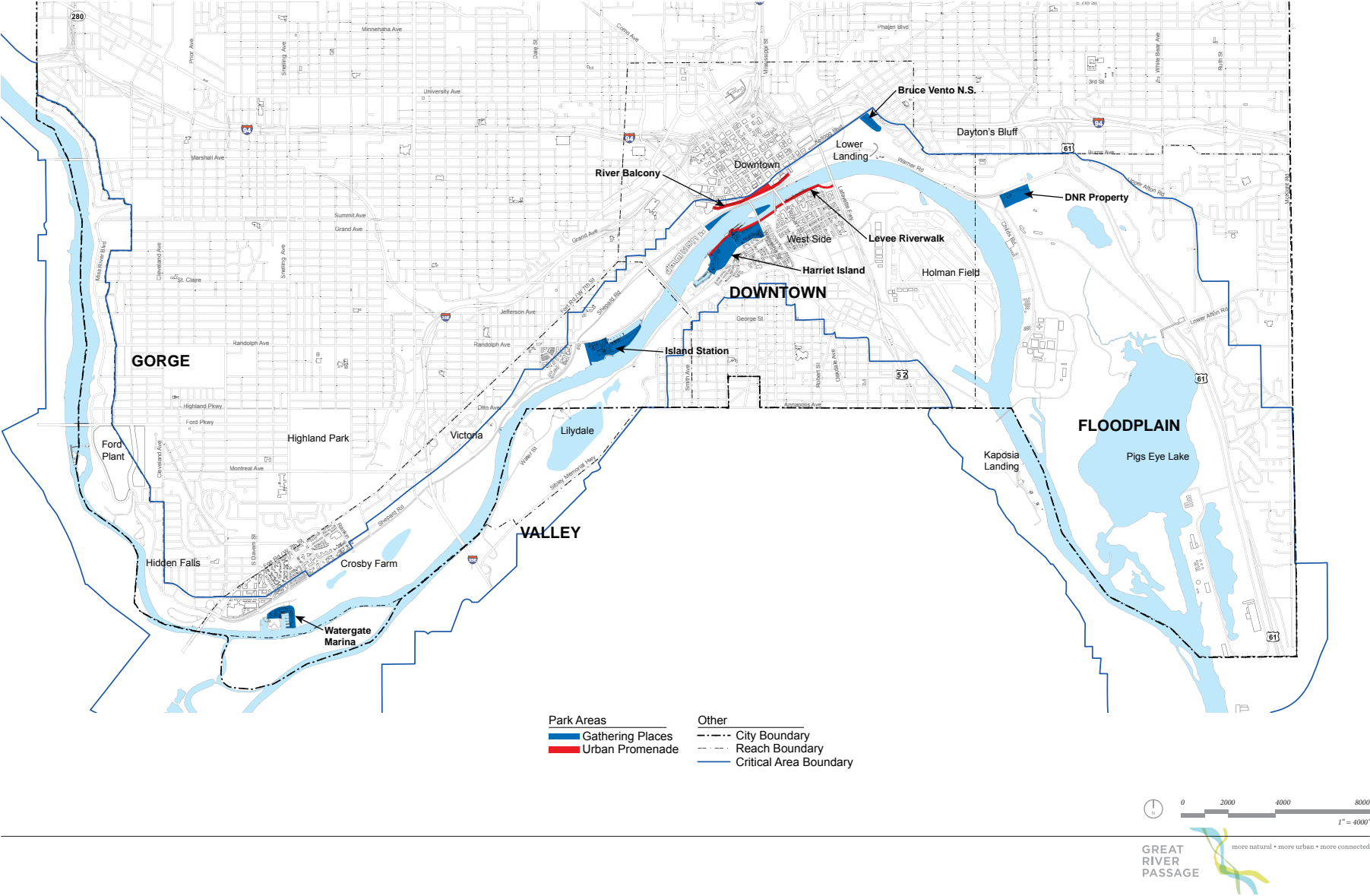
The Riverfront Promenade provides places for leisure on the river.



An accessible edge allows people to touch the water.



Interactive water features attract people of all ages and provide a safe alternative to swimming in the river.



Riverfront Leisure Activities

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Expand Opportunities for Tourism and River-Oriented Recreation

The wealth of natural, historic, and cultural resources in the Great River Passage are of regional and national significance. Focusing development and programming on these attributes can attract a significant number of visitors to the city. The river itself has unrealized recreational potential that can support river-oriented businesses, such as those that support fishing, canoeing, kayaking, and tour boats.

Higher levels and more diverse types of recreational use on the river, combined with existing commercial river traffic, will require ongoing coordination to maintain adequate levels of safety, to provide for positive experience for recreational boaters, and accommodate ongoing commercial river operations. The following objectives and strategies describe the means by which resources along the river can be used to bring expanded tourism and river-oriented recreation to the City.

Objective 1: Promote Interpretation of the River Corridor's History, Culture, and Natural Resources.

- Develop interpretative programs and historical/cultural events that celebrate the area's history, culture, and natural resources.
- Link history and culture programs to existing and proposed natural-area interpretation and environmental education programs.
- Partner with other public and nonprofit entities to develop comprehensive and integrated educational and interpretive programs.

Objective 2: Expand River-Oriented Recreation and Leisure Activities that Support Local Businesses.

- Increase opportunities for non-motorized boating and recreation tourism.
- Provide more options for day-use destinations, such as restaurants, shops and cultural sites located on the river.
- Develop a recreational boating and commercial River traffic management plan to accommodate and integrate all types of surface water river activities.
- Develop a river trail for canoes and kayaks with regular stops along the river.

Objective 3: Bring downtown to the edge of the river

- Establish stronger links between the river and commercial, cultural, and entertainment venues as part of ongoing redevelopment activities.
- Explore the development of a water taxi to link Gathering Places, commuter origins and destinations and to provide for cross river linkages between cultural and entertainment venues.
- Reestablish commercial cruise boat docking at Lambert's Landing.



River's edge retail supports river-oriented activities.



Leisure activities that include eating and drinking will activate public spaces and businesses along the river.

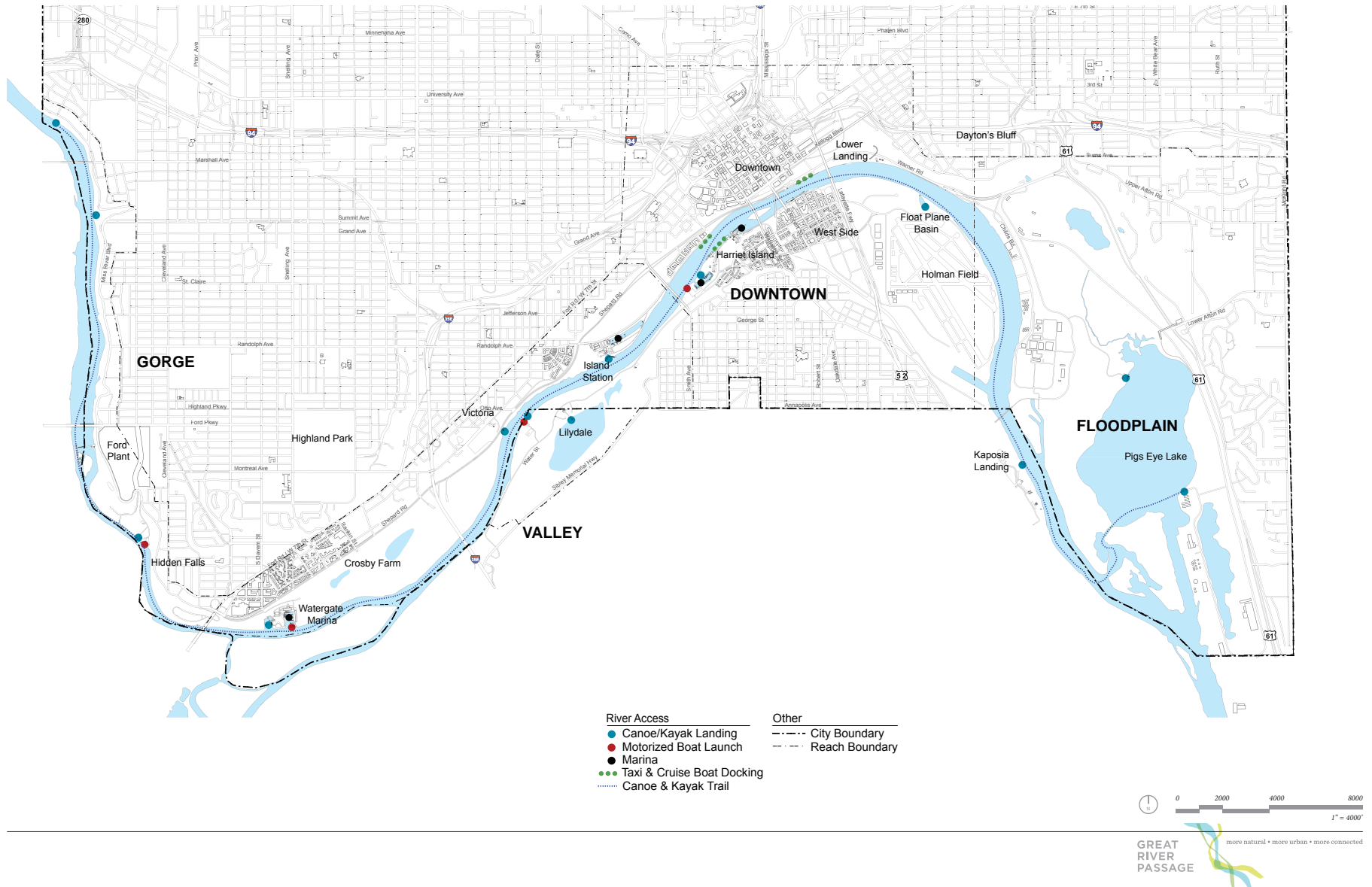


Canoeing and kayaking are increasingly popular ways to experience the river.



Visitors are attracted to the river's edge, and drawn to opportunities for recreation and leisure there.

Riverfront Leisure Activities Plan



River-Oriented Redevelopment Opportunities

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Promote Redevelopment that Enhances Neighborhood Livability and the Image and Accessibility of the River

The industrial past of much of the river valley has left a legacy of relic sites, and has limited access to the river in many locations. Coordinated public and private efforts can transform the image of the corridor and enhance the redevelopment potential of vacant and brownfield sites. Redevelopment efforts should enhance the quality of life of City neighborhoods by providing improved access to natural areas and recreation opportunities along the river.

Objective 1: Transform the Image and Character of Existing Roadways Paralleling the River.

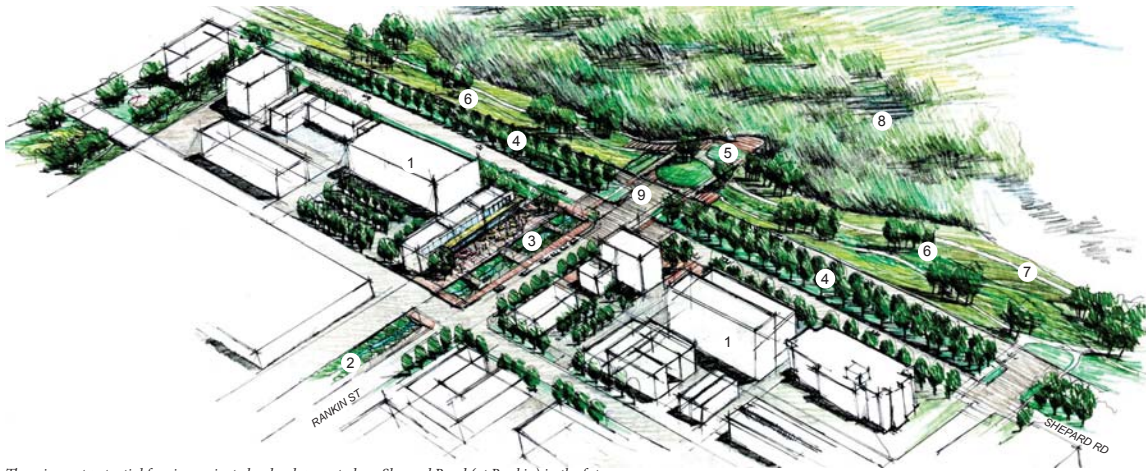
- Improve image and aesthetics of the roadway to promote higher value private development.
- Improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists.

Objective 2: Make the Great River Passage More Visible and Connected to the City.

- Establish a series of green connections linking the river corridor to existing neighborhoods.
- Integrate green connections into all large redevelopment projects.
- Orient new development to the river.

Objective 3: Redevelop Major Sites, as opportunities arise, in the River Corridor in a Way that Maximizes the Value of their Proximity to the River and Better Connects Neighborhoods to the River.

- Evaluate existing Area Plans to promote river-oriented redevelopment.
- Collaborate with public agencies and private landowners to maintain and improve continuous public access to the river's edge, and provide direct connections between the river and new development.
- Establish zoning and design guidelines that emphasize the land's relationship to the river, and its potential impact on the visual character and ecology of the river's edge.



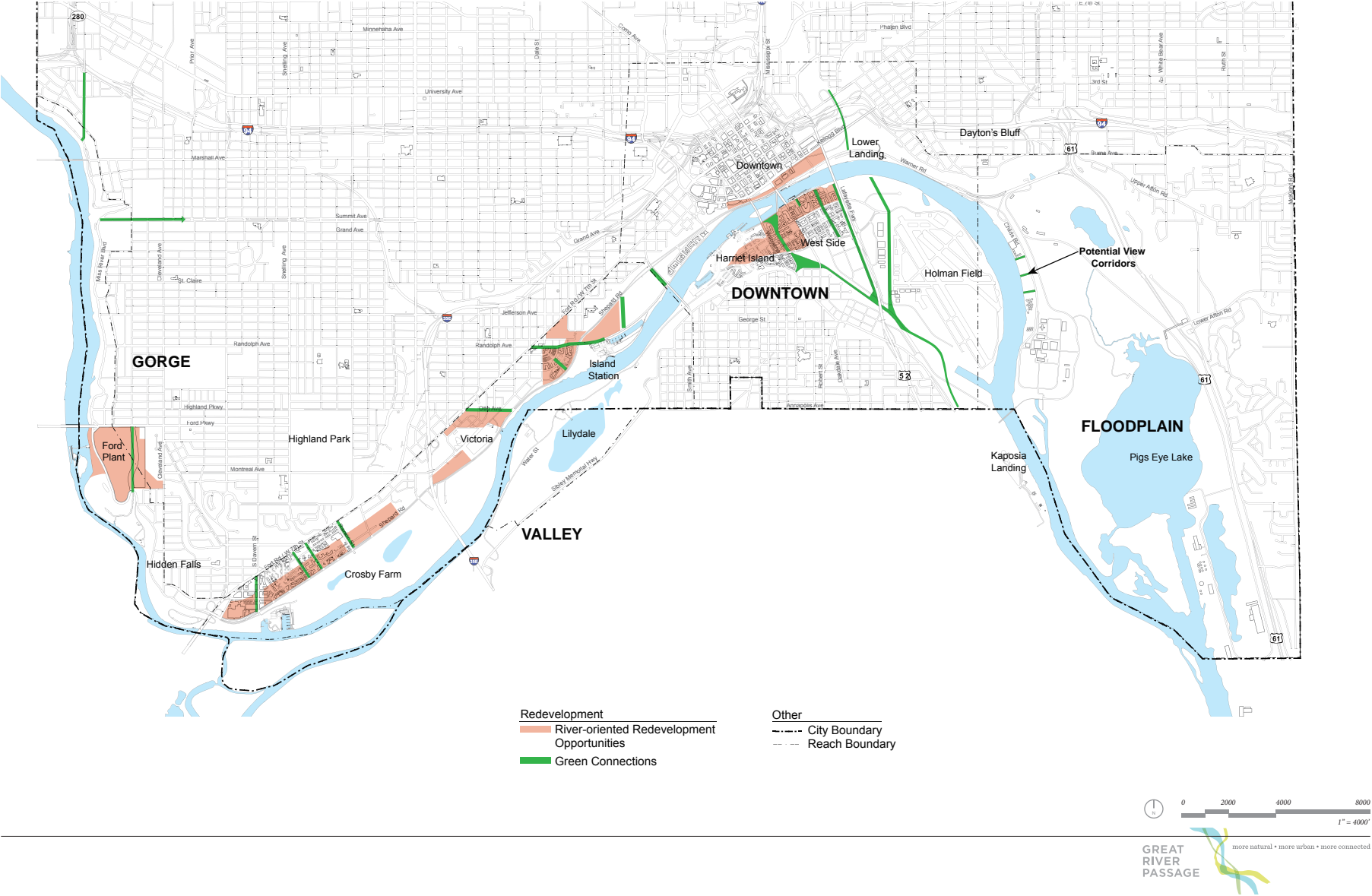
There is great potential for river-oriented redevelopment along Shepard Road (at Rankin) in the future. This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Shepard Road

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Potential Redevelopment | 6. Stormwater Treatment Meadows / Park |
| 2. Green Connection / Stormwater Treatment | Trails / Top of Bluff |
| 3. Green Connection / Cafe / Plaza | 7. Samuel Morgan Regional Trail |
| 4. Shepard Road (Parkway Treatment) | 8. Crosby Farm Park |
| 5. River Outlook | 9. Pedestrian-Oriented Intersection |



Shepard Road at Rankin current condition.



The Working River

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Maintain the Working River and Balance it with the Environmental and Recreation Needs of the Community

Industrial and commercial land uses will continue to be an important part of the City's economic base. Chapter 5 of the City's Comprehensive Plan emphasizes the importance of the Working River to Saint Paul's economic health and vibrancy. Continued accommodation of industrial uses, and the operational requirements of commercial river traffic, have been integrated into the Plan's goals and recommendations for both recreational uses of the river and redevelopment along it.

Objective 1: Support and Accommodate the Operating Requirements for Commercial River Transportation.

- Recognize Saint Paul Harbor as a regional, national and international shipping port.
- Integrate the needs of commercial shipping, barge operations and fleeting, and river-related industry as part of developing river edge recreation opportunities.

Objective 2: Support River-related Industrial and Commercial Uses.

- Consider safety, access and maintenance requirements necessary to support river-related industrial uses within the 300 foot Working River area described in Chapter 5 of the Comprehensive Plan.
- Whenever industrial uses are no longer viable in riverfront locations, evaluate the potential for recreation access and natural area restoration.

Objective 3: Encourage Best Practices that Support Master Plan Goals as Part of Ongoing Operations and Maintenance of Industrial and Commercial Sites.

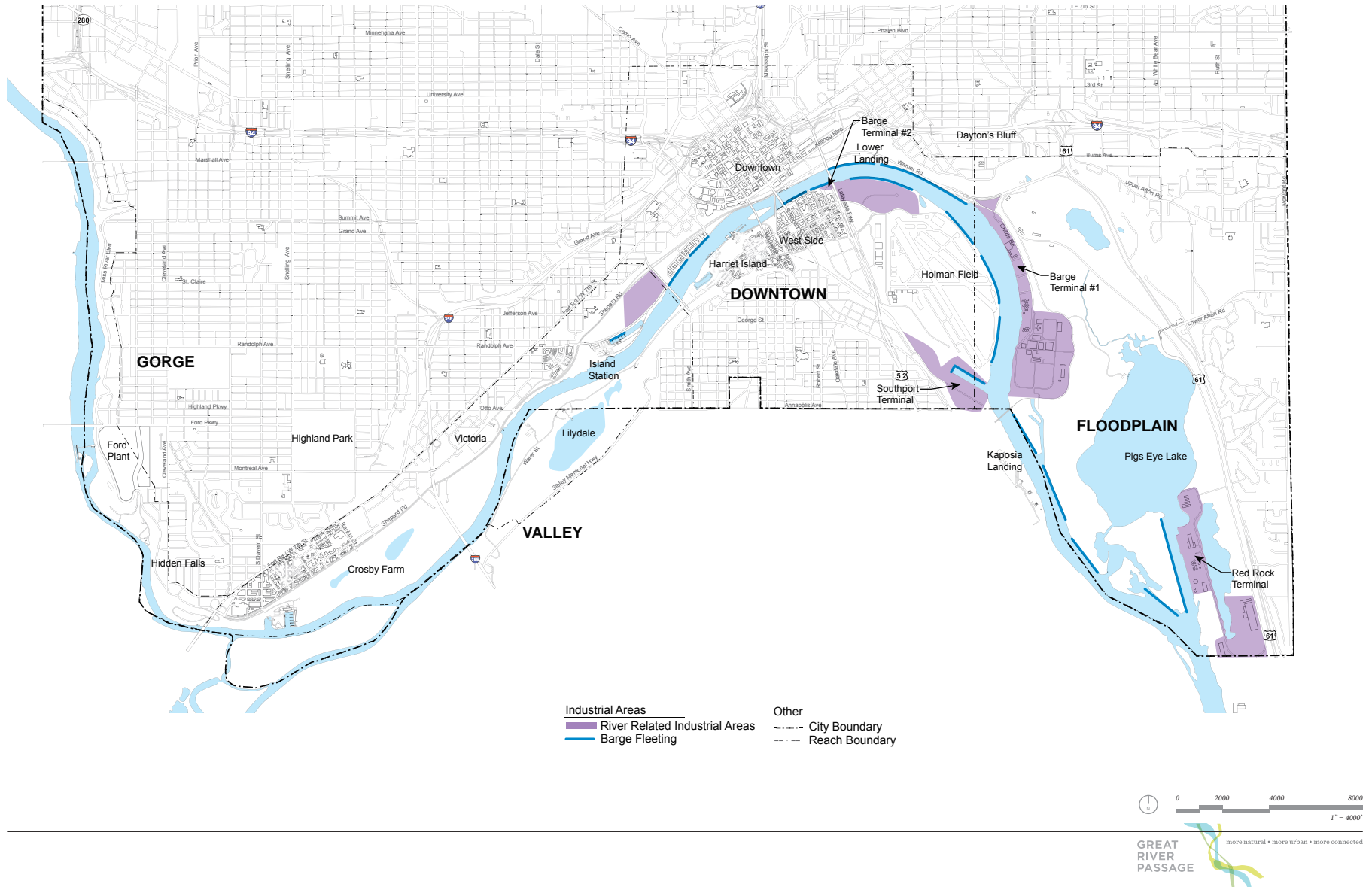
- Support natural areas restoration, water quality enhancement, and sustainable design and management practices.
- Improve the aesthetic qualities of industrial and commercial sites that are adjacent to the river or recreation areas.
- Develop interpretive overlooks and displays that describe industrial activities and their significance.



River taxis connect popular locations along the river



Commercial river operations are an essential part of the river economy





Principle 3: More Connected

Long-term implementation of the Master Plan, and greater recreational use of the river corridor, will only be possible if the River is linked strongly to the City.

New patterns of development along the River are opportunities for the City to strengthen existing connections and explore new ways of connecting neighborhoods to the River. Expanding trails and leveraging new development to provide new connections can improve livability and increase value. A deeper connection to the River is possible by understanding the River through art, and its role in the history and culture of Saint Paul.

Vehicular and Transit Access

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Link The Citywide Network Of Parkways And Boulevards To The River

The City's street network will become an integral part of the River Corridor, expanding and strengthening the historic Grand Round Parkway system, and providing better connections between the community and the River. Streets and roadways both parallel and leading to the River, will continue to serve their existing transportation function of moving cars and trucks, but will simultaneously enhance the quality of public urban space through corridor greening and provision of bicycle and pedestrian accommodations. Key components include:

Objective 1: Improve and Expand the Grand Round.

- Improve the pedestrian and aesthetic qualities of Shepard Road.
- Improve the pedestrian and aesthetic qualities of Warner Road.
- Extend and connect the Grand Round through Downtown.

Objective 2: Enhance Parkway and Boulevard River Connections.

- Modify parkways and boulevards to provide safe access for a variety of modes, including pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles.
- Continue to improve parkway amenities, landscaping, wayfinding and signage.

Objective 3: Improve Access to Parks.

- Identify Park access routes for multimodal access and signage and wayfinding improvements.
- Implement Complete Streets to support multimodal design.
- Provide shared-use parking and shuttles to accommodate activities and special events.

Objective 4: Plan for New Modes of Access.

- Work with the National Park Service to implement the MNRRA Alternative Transportation Plan (ATP).
- Evaluate potential for transit shuttle and pedicab service to activity centers.
- Evaluate opportunities for up-river and cross-river transportation by boat or shuttle.

Objective 5: Improve Links to Transit.

- Promote the use of existing and new Metro Transit routes to access the park.
- Anticipate future transit improvements on the Central corridor.



Link the river corridor to transit, including light rail and commuter rail.

The Central Corridor Light Rail System, with its hub at Downtown's Union Depot, will create alternative choices for visitors to parks along the river. The potential introduction of commuter rail will provide additional options for visitor access. New bus routes, shuttles, and other means of public transportation also will expand access to the river corridor.



Link the parkway and boulevard network to the river corridor.

Parkways and boulevards provide visual and physical connections to the river and accommodate all modes of travel, including walking and bicycling. They are the primary streets that provide access from adjacent neighborhoods to parks within the river corridor.

Expand Transit Options



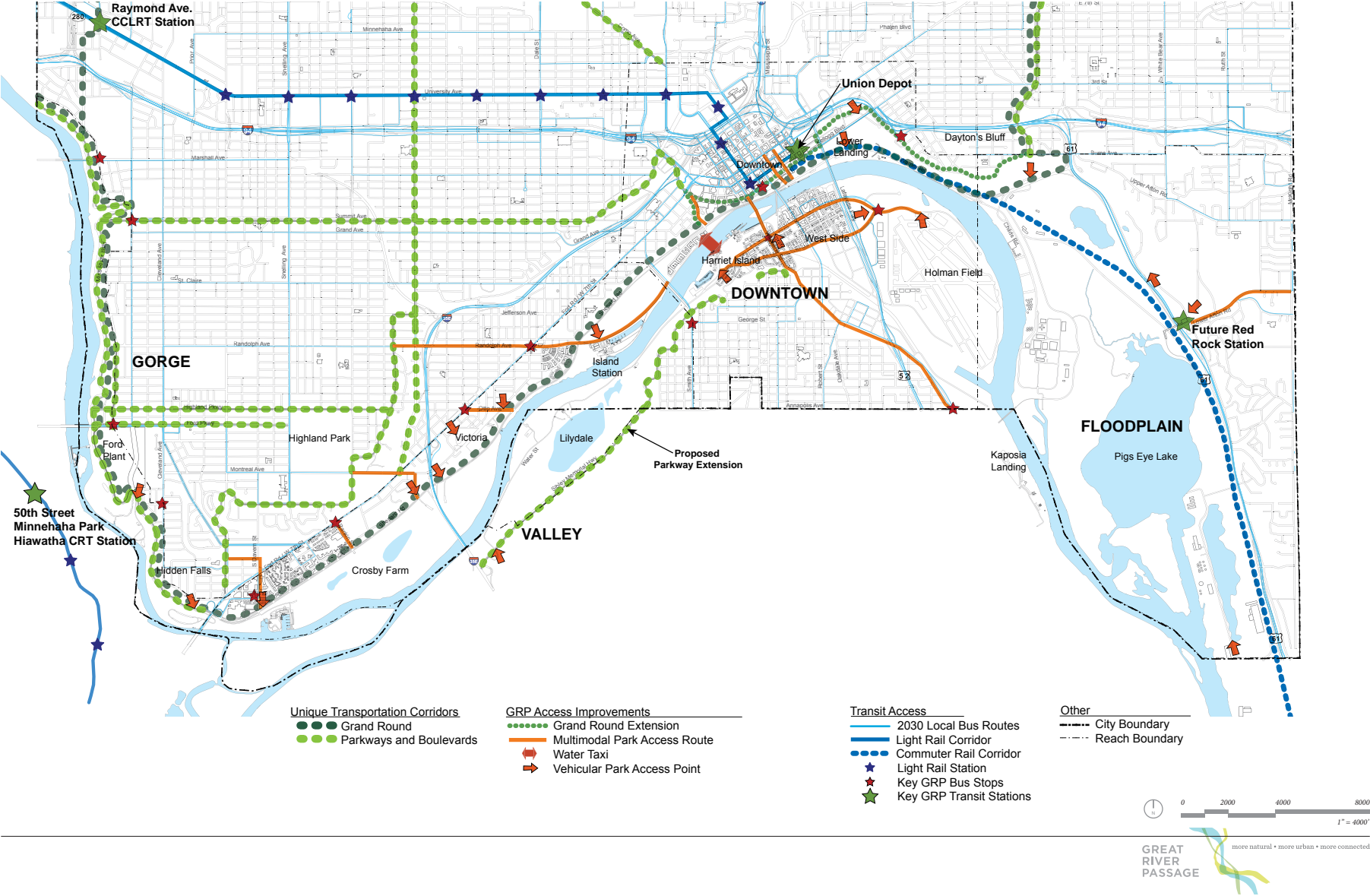
Pedicabs: Short distance trips may be made by commercial bicycle taxis.



Water Taxi: Future transportation across the river by water craft offers potential for private sector entrepreneurs.



Transit Stops: Unique design, branding and marketing of the river-transit interface is recommended.



Bicycle and Pedestrian River Access

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Improve Local River Access

Much of the City of Saint Paul is within walking or bicycling distance of the Mississippi River, yet few people know how to access this community resource, explore its history, and enjoy its scenic beauty. Connecting the system and providing designated walking and bicycling facilities within connecting corridors, will seamlessly link the Great River Passage with the City and to surrounding communities.

Objective 1: Improve Neighborhood Pedestrian Access and Circulation.

- Complete missing street and sidewalk links.
- Provide enhanced streetscapes with continuous, lighted sidewalks on at least one side of all connecting streets.
- Use accepted traffic-calming techniques to provide streets that are safe for pedestrians.
- Encourage pedestrian scale building patterns and streetscape amenities.

Objective 2: Prioritize Completing Bikeway Segments.

- Link existing facilities in the citywide bicycle system.
- Identify new bicycle/pedestrian access structures.

Objective 3: Improve Access for Bicycles Using Bike Lanes, Shared Vehicle/Bicycle Lanes, and/or Off-Street Bike Trails.

- Provide for and promote sharing the road.
- Integrate a variety of design treatments to complete the bicycle route system.

Objective 4: Provide Bicycling Support Facilities.

- Provide bicycle stations at the confluence of major trails and at intermodal centers such as Union Depot.
- Install secure and convenient bicycle parking facilities in all parks.

Objective 5: Integrate Pedestrian and Bicycle Connections and Accommodations with Transit.

- Complete connections for bicycles and pedestrians from transit stops to park access points.
- Develop and improve bicycle and pedestrian accommodations downtown and other locations.



Context Sensitive Design: Mixed use areas with first-floor commercial uses require urban sidewalk design treatments.



Grade-Separated Crossings: Structures are reserved for roadways with high traffic volumes and speeds, where crossing at a signal is not practical.



Bicycle Lanes: Striped lanes on both sides of streets encourage increased levels of bicycling.



Bicycle Boulevards: Cars and bikes can share lanes when traffic volumes and speeds are low.

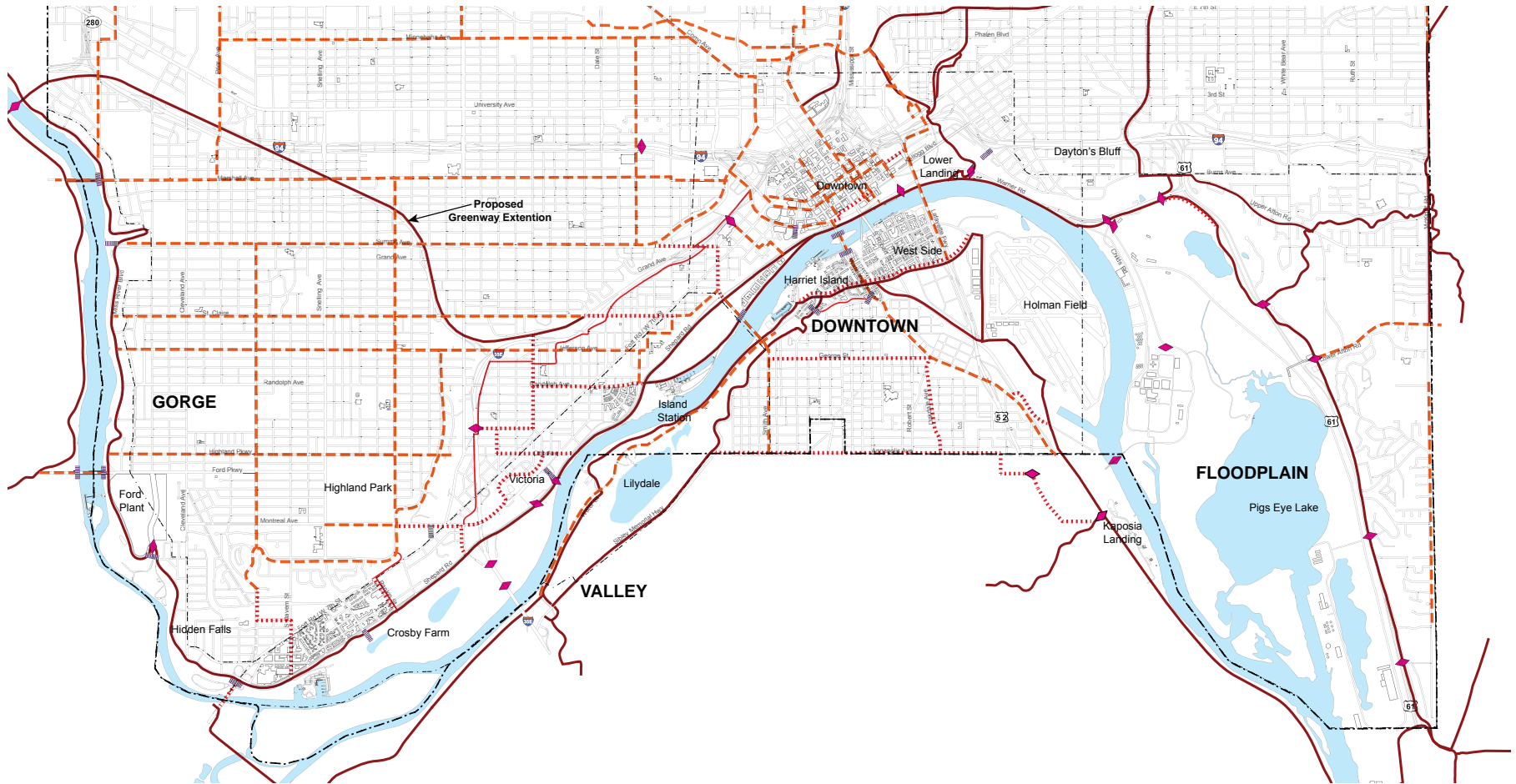


Multi-Use Trails: Parkways and Boulevards may have bike lanes and/or parallel trails.



Support Facilities: Secure and convenient parking allows cyclists to enjoy park destinations.

Bicycle and Pedestrian River Access Plan



Bicycle Access

- Existing On-Road Bikeway System
- Proposed On-Road Bikeways (for park access)

Pedestrian Access

- Trail Underpass/Overpass
- Stairways/Ramps

Trails

- Regional Trail (Hard Surface)
- Local Trail (Hard Surface)

Other

- City Boundary
- Reach Boundary

Note: Rail bridges shown have potential for future trail access and are currently owned by the railroads. Should they decide to discontinue or change rail use, consider the feasibility of trail conversion(s).



GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

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Internal Park Access and Trails

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Expand Opportunities For Park Access

The River and its parks are both a destination and a corridor, serving recreation and transportation needs of the community. Improving park entrances, signage, access roads, parking, trails and river access will accommodate a wide range of users and give them a wider choice of better ways to get to the River. Trails serve both recreation and transportation needs, connecting State and regional trail systems to parks and neighborhoods in the City. Trails accommodate a wide range of users, of all ages and abilities and in all seasons of the year.

Objective 1: Improve Access Within Parks.

- Accommodate access for pedestrians and bicyclists at all primary park vehicular entries.
- Provide additional points of access for pedestrians and bicyclists where constraints are present on park entrance roads.
- Right size parking areas in parks and natural areas.

Objective 2: Create a Hierarchy of Trail Types and Lengths to Provide a Variety of Recreational Challenges and Experiences for all Users.

- Develop a variety of trails appropriate to the type and level of use and users in each park.
- Provide continuous accessible trail loops.
- Protect sensitive ecological areas by using appropriate soft trail treatments, boardwalks and decks.

Objective 3: Complete and Connect to Regional Trail Systems.

- Work with multiple jurisdictions to complete an interconnected regional system.
- Improve connectivity and complete gaps in existing system.

Objective 4: Develop Multiple River Access Points to Support Recreational Boating uses on the River.

- Create a Canoe/Kayak River Trail with landings at key locations along the River.
- Provide signage, access to support facilities and boat storage at canoe/kayak landings.

Objective 5: Create Overlooks to Preserve Scenic Views into the Corridor.

- Coordinate streetscape and trail improvements for neighborhood access.
- Provide pedestrian amenities to provide shade and comfort.
- Provide signage interpreting views and historic significance where appropriate.



Regional Trails serve a variety of users



Rustic Trails allow the experience of nature in the city

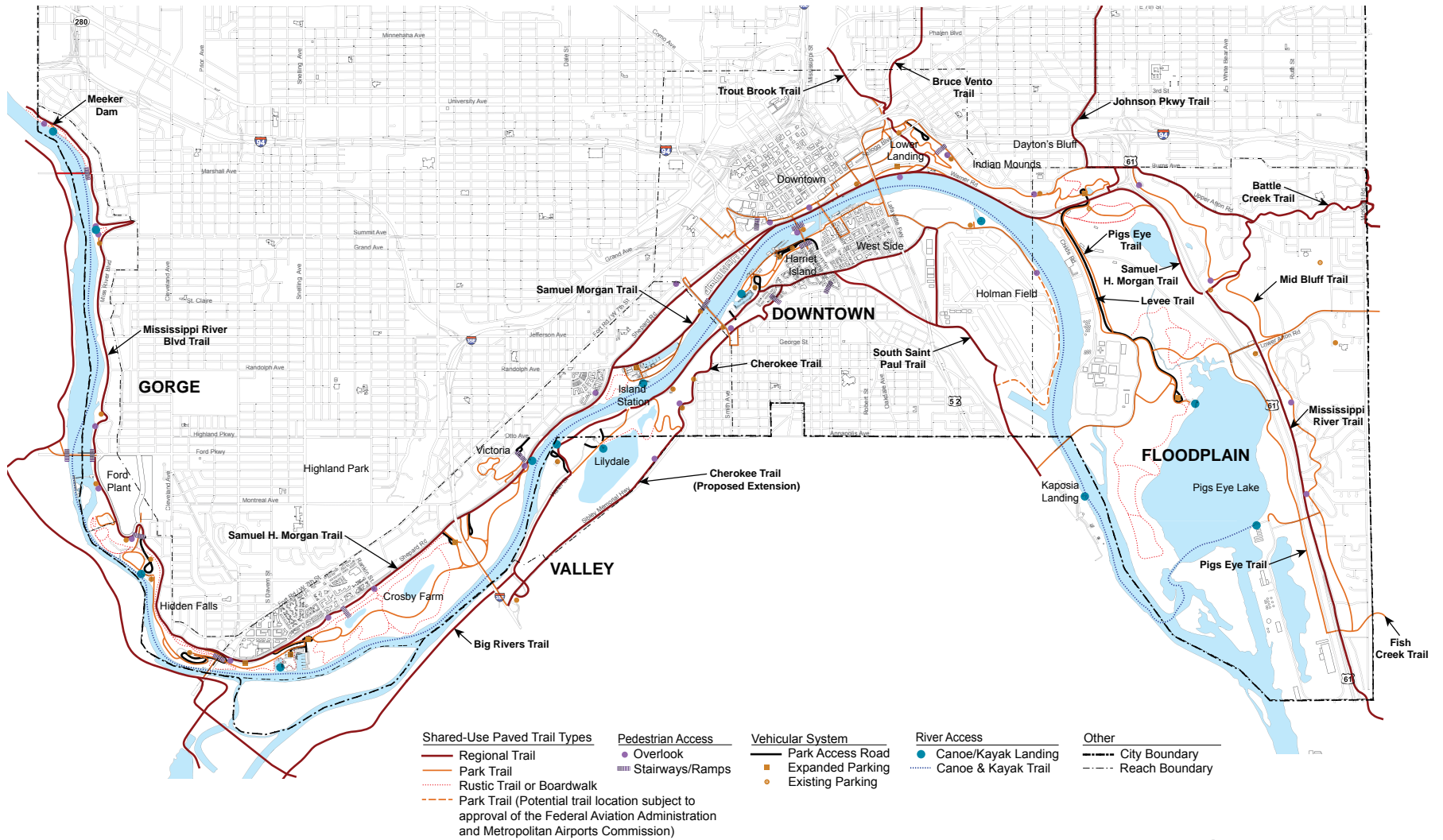


Park Trails provide local access



Boardwalks span sensitive environments

Internal Park Access and Trails Plan



History and Culture

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Integrate History and Culture into all Aspects of Great River Passage Development.

The River corridor is rich in archaeological and historic resources, adding to the value of the expansive natural resources that largely define the character of the Valley. Many resources have been lost or compromised over time because their value as part of the historical record has been unappreciated or ignored.

The Mississippi River, as it passes through Saint Paul, has been home to a succession of cultures that date back thousands of years. Each culture has left its mark on the landscape, creating a rich layering of history, which when preserved and interpreted, can enhance the lives of visitors and residents and strengthen their bond to the river as a meaningful part of their daily lives.

Objective 1: Identify evaluate, designate, preserve and protect 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 nontraditional 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.



Island Station 1924 - Repurposing and Interpreting Historic Industrial Sites



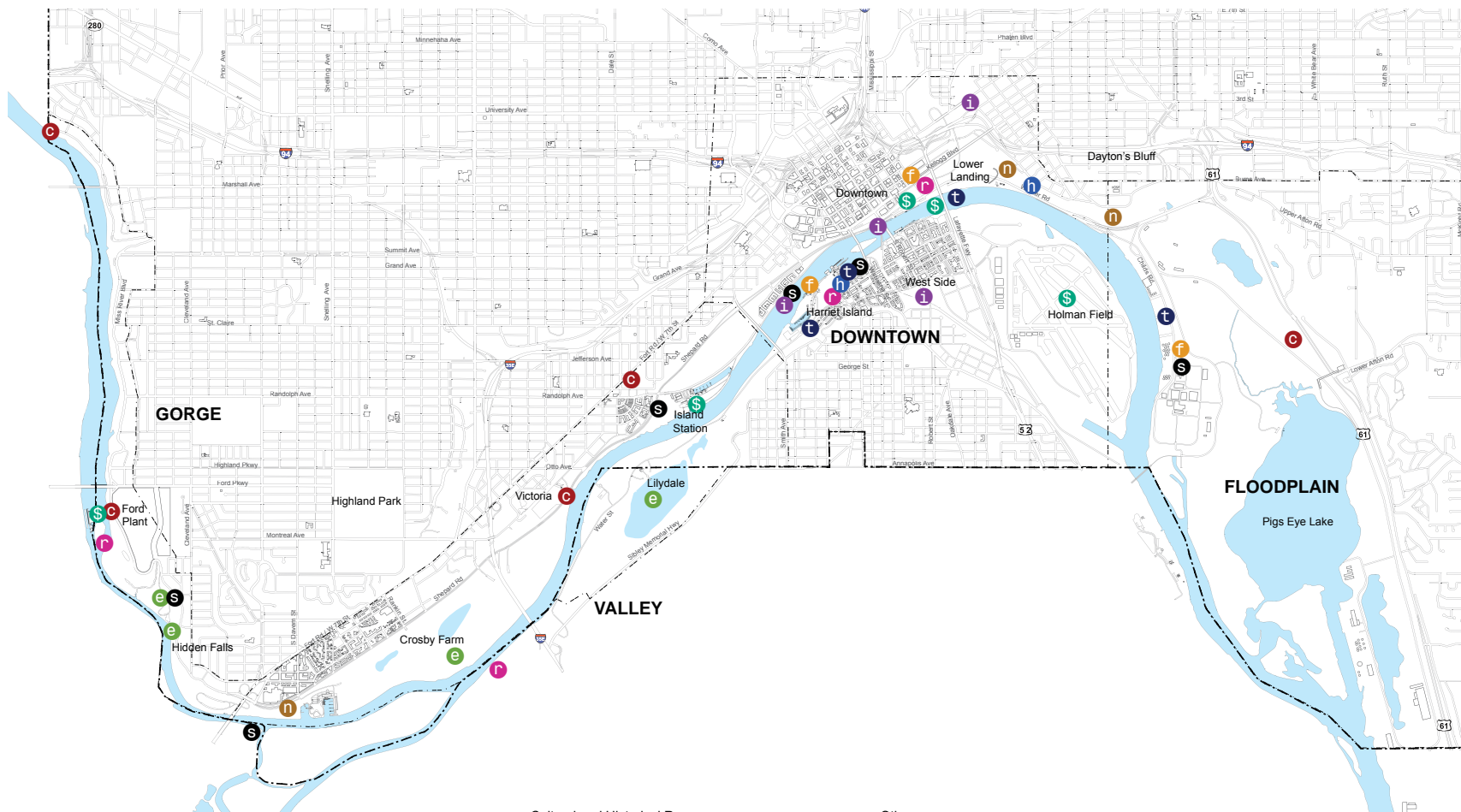
Grain Terminal 1954 - Part of Today's River Promenade



Harriet Island Baths 1904 - Forever a Gathering Place



Kaposia Village 1846 Near Today's Pig's Eye Natural Area



Cultural and Historical Resources

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

Other

- City Boundary
- Reach Boundary



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Public Art

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Integrate Public Art and Community Events into the Great River Passage.

Public art and community events in Saint Paul are important assets that help tell stories, celebrate civic pride, make meaningful places, preserve history and improve the city's quality of life. Public art and community events will enhance Saint Paul's economic vitality by attracting visitors and adding value to public and private development sites. This "value-added" can be used to promote partnerships and sustainable funding for developing and presenting art and events in the city. The community's connection to the river will be enhanced through public art and community events.

Public art and cultural activities along the river builds on existing city ordinances. In accordance with the City's public art ordinance, adopted in July 2009, it is important to stress the aesthetic and social values inherent in the city's vision for the future.

Among the intentions of the ordinance are:

- Involve artists at the earliest stages of conceptual planning of public and private developments and continue through project design and implementation;
- Sufficient resources should be committed to sustain an innovative public art and design program that is distinguished by its high quality; and
- Policies and procedures should be administratively developed which will facilitate and support creation and implementation of a public art plan.

Objective 1: Promote Permanent Displays of Art.

- Incorporate functional amenities into Park improvements.
- Support long-term maintenance and conservation of art works.

Objective 2: Encourage More Performances and Participatory Events.

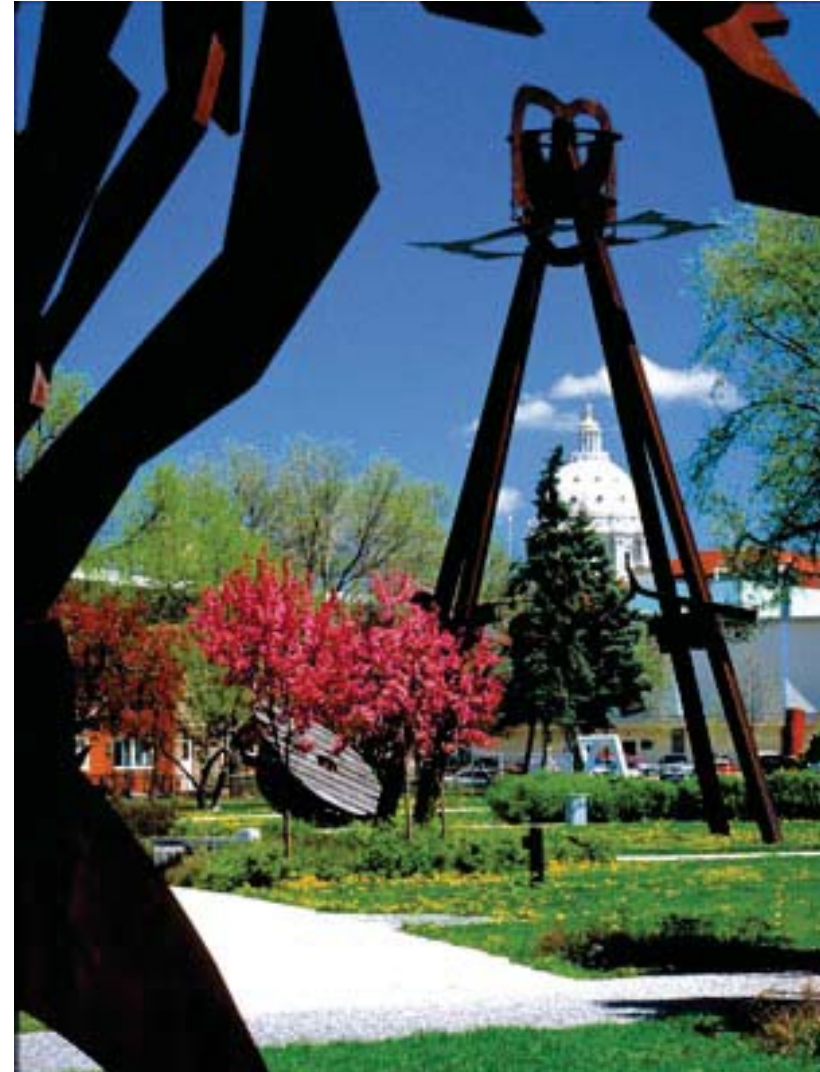
- Work with arts organizations that would potentially use parks to identify facilities needed to stage performances and events.
- Develop a "playbook" for staging temporary events and performances.

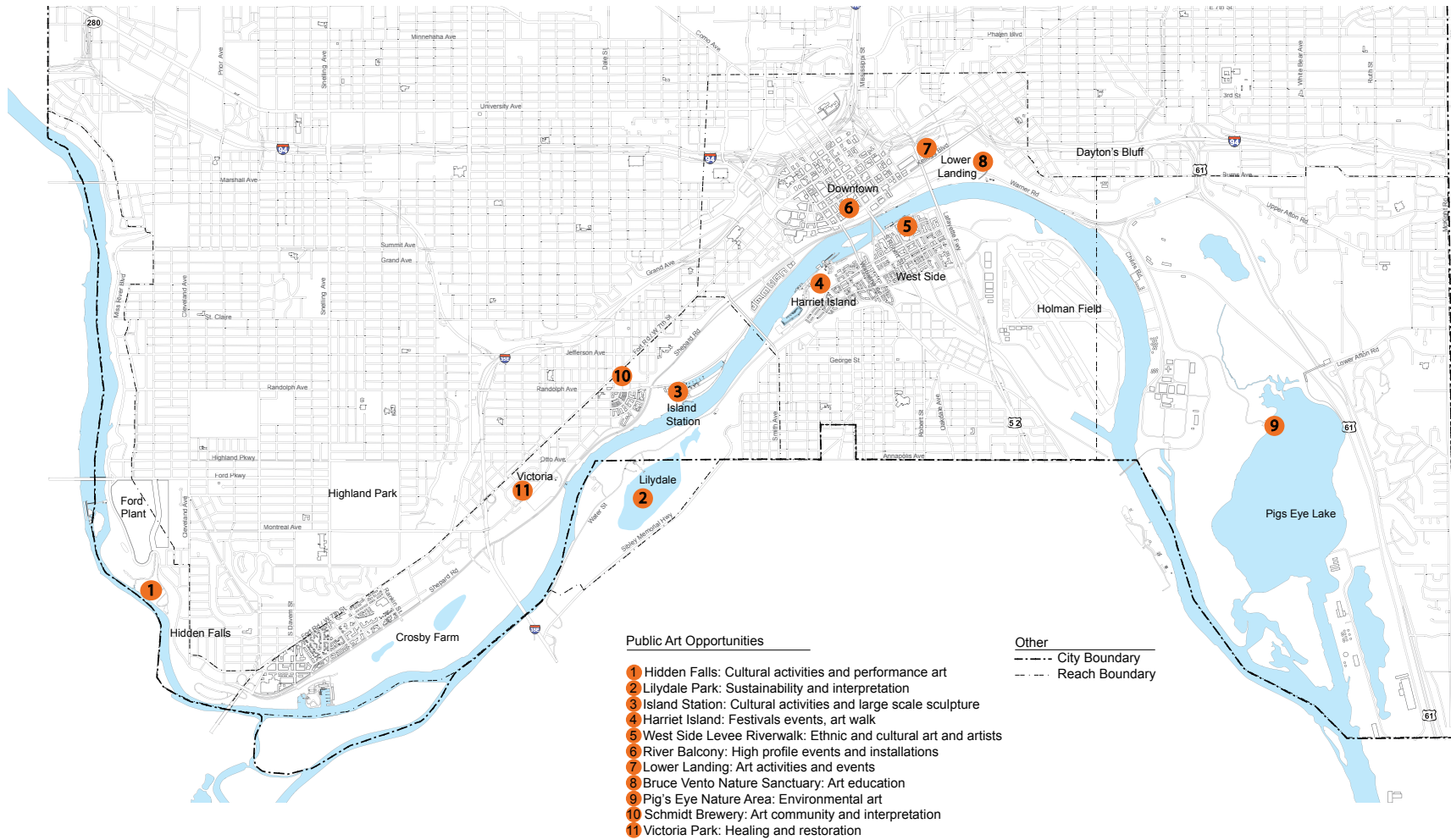
Objective 3: Support and Embrace Sustained Arts Programming.

- Develop partnerships with entities outside of the arts community, such as environmental organizations or funders, to promote multiple benefits for the arts and the environment, and to link art initiatives to long-term funding streams.
- Develop multiple funding mechanisms to foster participation by more local artists.

Objective 4: Pursue New Ideas for Partnerships and Artist Involvement in Ongoing River Corridor Initiatives.

- Partner with the River's Edge Academy, and other public and nonprofit institutions on multiple initiatives.
- Develop new initiatives to encourage artists participation and projects in the River corridor.



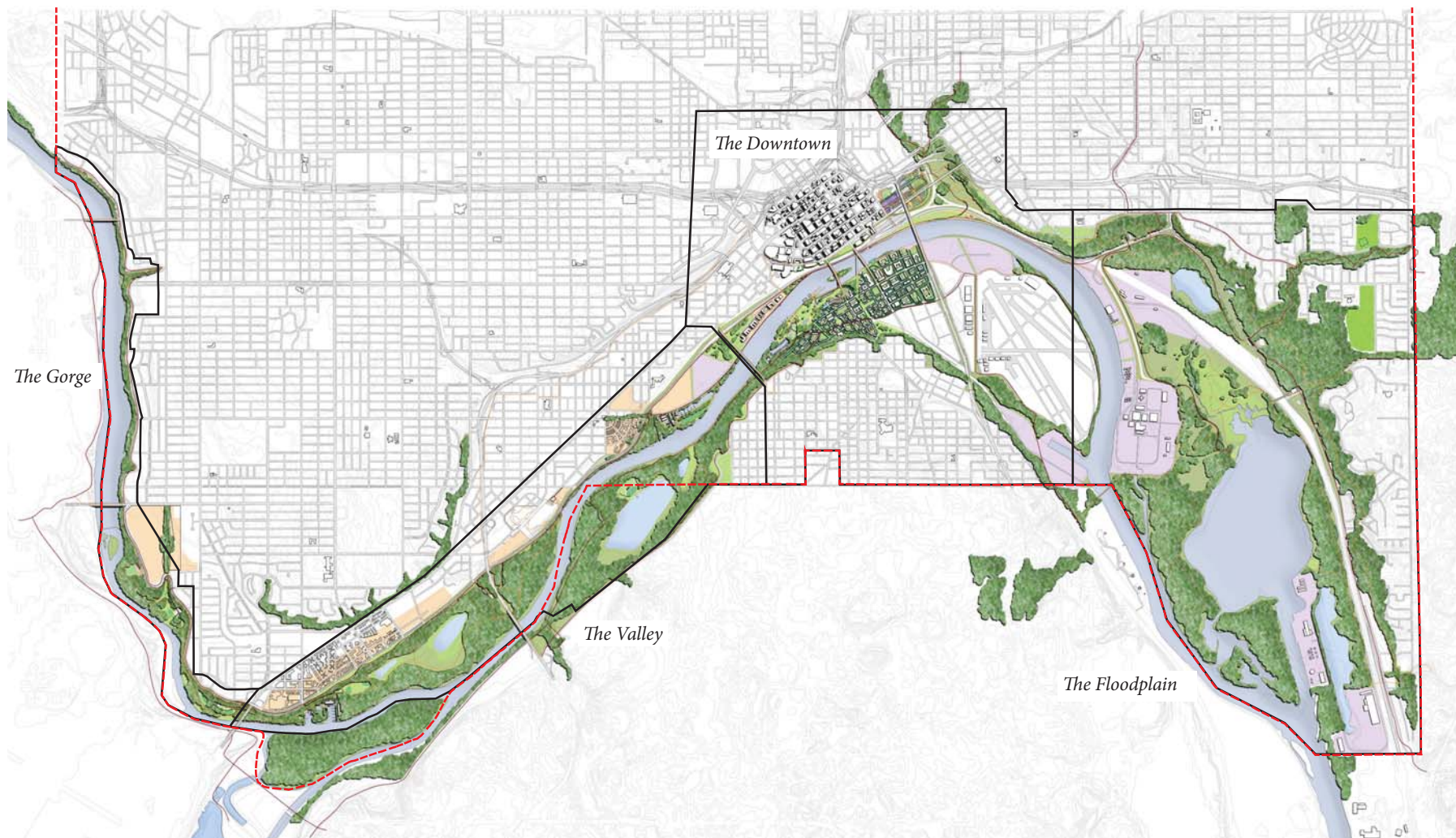




The Four Reaches

The physical character of the river valley changes dramatically as it passes through Saint Paul. Current and historic land uses have affected its condition to varying degrees. The Great River Passage is divided into four subareas, or reaches, formed in response to the physical character and inherent qualities of each. The following recommendations for protection, restoration, development, enhancement and management of Great River Passage assets, are adapted to the unique constraints and potentials of each area. The vision plans that follow for each regional park within the Great River Passage are a starting point for further public discussion. Concepts in each vision plan will be further refined and developed, with additional community involvement, as funding becomes available.

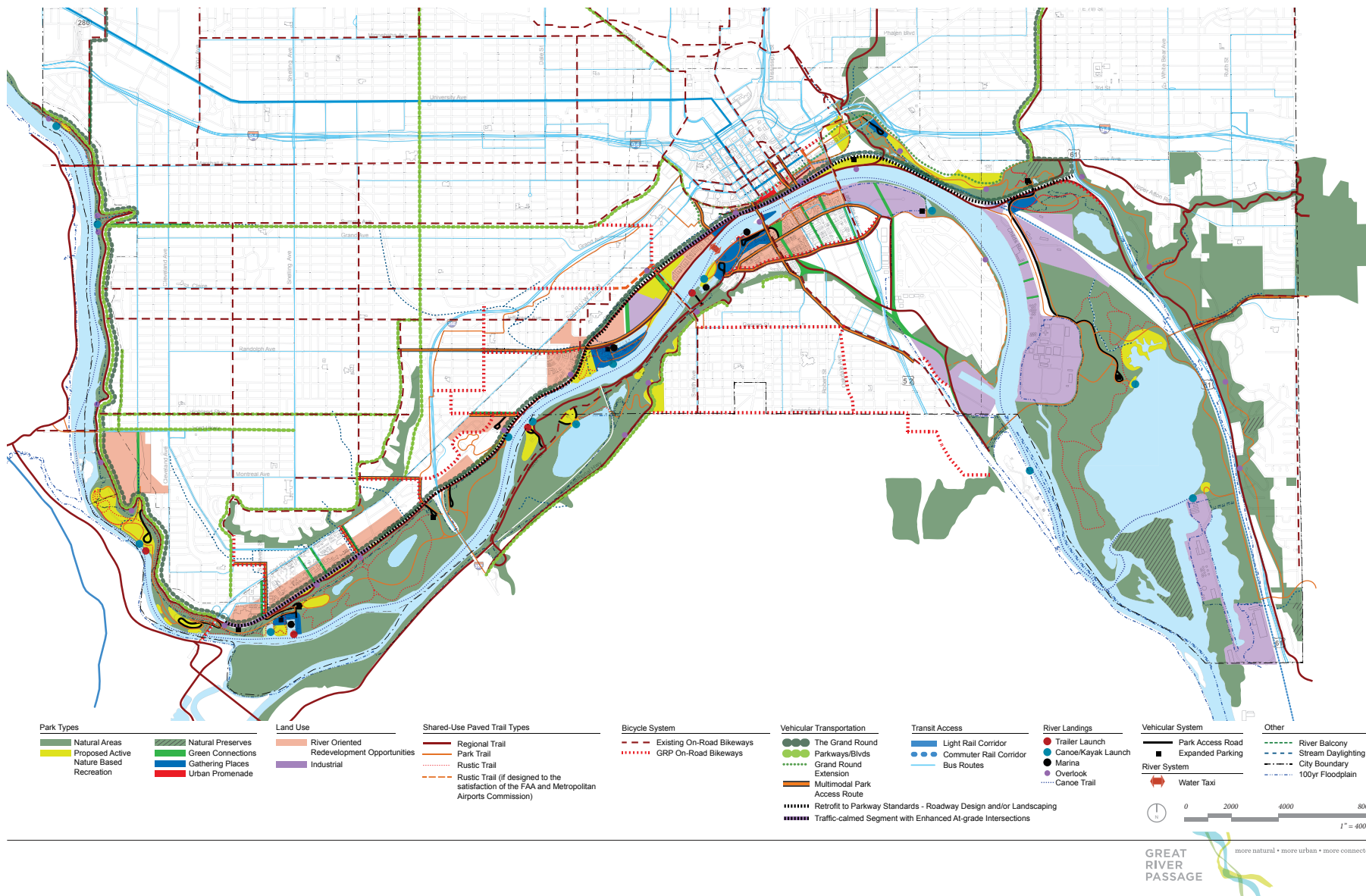
Great River Passage Illustrative Plan



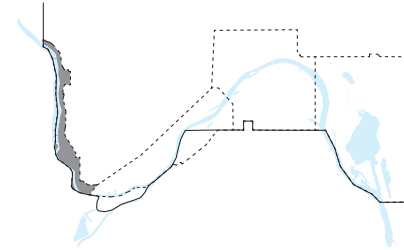
The Great River Passage is divided into four reaches that reflect the varied landscape character of the river valley and the city.



Composite Plan Diagram







The Gorge

The Gorge is a deep river valley located west of downtown that is defined by steep limestone cliffs and heavily wooded slopes that come right to the river's edge. The Gorge Reach extends from the Minneapolis city limits at the upstream end near the historic Meeker Dam, to Fort Road (7th Street West) to the south. With the exception of the Ford Lock and Dam #1, and the occasional bridge crossing high above, river travelers are completely separated from the city that comes right to the top of the bluffs above them. This is a place of great scenic beauty, ecological richness and diversity.

Recommendations for the Gorge Reach focus on protecting natural and cultural resources, providing opportunities for nature-based recreation and improving access to the river.

The Mississippi Gorge Reach

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Preserve and enhance the river experience in the Gorge

Limiting access to the river, restoring and managing natural bluff and shoreline areas and providing interpretation of significant natural and cultural resources along the river, will support this unique opportunity to experience nature in the city, for neighbors, visitors, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts.

Provide active nature-based recreation at Hidden Falls Regional Park

The types of recreation and levels of activity supported will be expanded in the existing active nature-based recreation areas at Hidden Falls. By expanding programs and improving park access and facilities, these river valley areas will be available to a broader range of the city's population and better able to serve the recreation needs of the community.

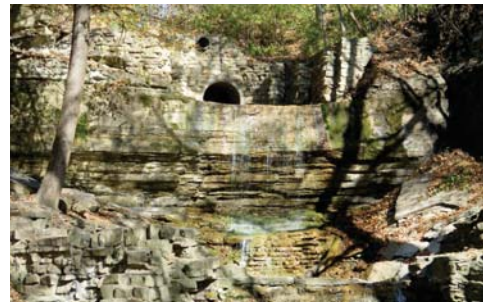
Nature based recreation includes a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities for people of all ages and ability levels. Activities include better trail and river edge access and natural areas that are accessible for outdoor experiences. Recreational uses will only be located outside of sensitive ecological areas.

Improve connections along Mississippi River Boulevard.

Regional trail improvements, better connections from the neighborhoods and better visual access to the river at scenic overlooks will provide a greatly enhanced recreation experience along the top of the bluff. Selective clearing of invasive and overgrown vegetation will allow improved vistas of the river valley and a stronger connection between the city and the river.



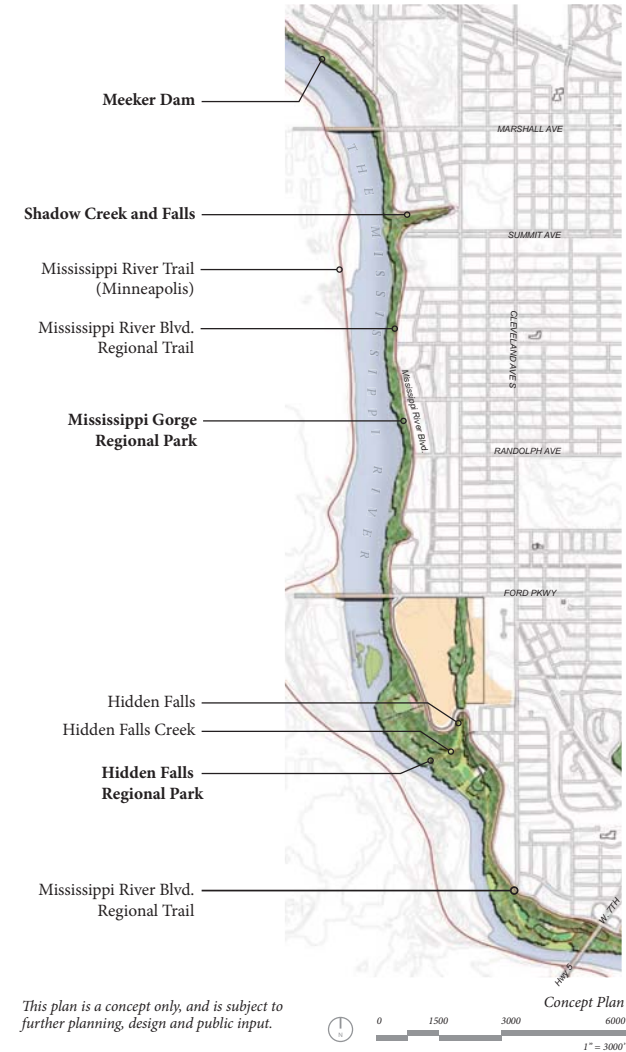
Mississippi River Boulevard extends the Grand Round into Saint Paul



Hidden Falls is an important scenic resource that attracts visitors to the Gorge



Visitors experience the Gorge as nature in the city



Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Concept Plan - North



Concept Plan - South

Restore Shadow Falls Creek

Diversion of daily stream flows from the existing storm-sewer system to the historic stream channel will greatly enhance the valley's scenic and ecological value. When restored, Shadow Falls Creek and other similar tributary streams in the Gorge, have the potential to become valuable recreational and ecological assets.

Improve access while protecting natural areas in the River Gorge

Closing and restoring damaged natural areas, caused by unauthorized and unplanned use, will reduce erosion and stabilize the bluff. Providing appropriate river access through a system of managed trails will allow safe access from the bluff to the river, allowing new generations of visitors and recreational users to experience the natural beauty of the Gorge.

Connect the City to the Gorge by restoring streams and trail connections

The potential restoration of several historic stream corridors and ravines that empty into the Mississippi, are opportunities to improve ecological connections, expand open space and provide trails that provide access to riverfront trails.

Connect to the Minneapolis river edge trail

Develop a new accessible trail from the existing bluff-top regional trail along Mississippi River Boulevard connecting to the east side Minneapolis river edge trail at the city line near Meeker Dam.

LEGEND

1. Historic Meeker Dam
2. River Edge Trail
3. Mississippi River Boulevard Regional Trail
4. Shadow Falls Creek
5. River Overlook
6. Ford Lock & Dam



Hidden Falls Regional Park Vision

Integration of the scenic and natural qualities of Hidden Falls with nature based recreation will draw a wider variety of people to the river. A focus for expanding the recreation potential of Hidden Falls Park will be to restore and celebrate the park's existing natural qualities. Hidden Falls Creek will be restored and stabilized, and trail access to it improved, so that it becomes a premier destination in the park. The Ford Plant site redevelopment will create a direct ecological and pedestrian link between the river corridor and the neighborhood.



Weddings, group picnics and other community events are held in the park's meadows



The restored Hidden Falls Creek is complemented by a new Mississippi River Boulevard Bridge



The restored Creek allows visitors to "touch" the water

Hidden Falls Regional Park Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Expand nature-based recreation

A variety of outdoor, river oriented recreational uses and activities will be expanded in River Park areas. Improved access and parking will allow users of all ages to visit the park. Improved access for non-motorized boats, hikers and mountain bikes will attract a wide variety of recreational users. Enhanced natural areas will support nature-based recreation in the river valley.

Through subtle changes in landscape design and management, a variety of intimate areas for passive recreation use and river access would be created. River Parks are created in areas of lower habitat value allowing for a broader range of recreational uses compatible with the area's natural qualities.

Explore restoration of Hidden Falls Creek

Explore the restoration of the historic WPA-era construction of Hidden Falls, the creek and its associated trails, while developing an open space connection as part of the proposed Ford Plant redevelopment. Hidden Falls' historic stonework should be restored and the existing culvert replaced with a bridge that complements it. Restoration also provides a regional attraction for such lifetime events as weddings, reunions and holiday, art and cultural activities. The restored creek will invite the public to enjoy the added passive recreation opportunities in the Valley.

Stormwater treatment on the Ford site will improve water quality and stabilize flows in the Creek. Improved water quality will provide more safe opportunities for interaction between people and the water.

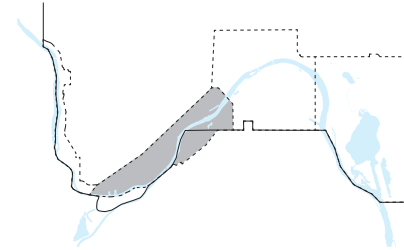
Explore acquisition of part of the Ford Property

Expand Hidden Falls Regional Park by investigating the acquisition of a part of the Ford site west of Mississippi River Boulevard. Park expansion will allow for additional recreation use areas along the river while protecting the bluff ecosystem.

Over the decades the Ford Plant was in operation, waste and other debris was buried on this parcel, forming a large area of fill. A thorough investigation of the contents of this dump site should be carried-out to determine the potential risk of contamination of groundwater and the Mississippi River. The costs and environmental impacts of remediating this site should be estimated so that, if it is determined that some type of action is necessary to protect environmental and public health, a feasible solution is pursued and the parcel improved for potential park use.







The Valley

The vertical bluffs of the Gorge give way to the steeply wooded slopes of the Valley at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers. The Valley Reach extends from the Fort Road Bridge to Downtown. The Valley is a broad floodplain of expansive swamp forests, wetlands, ponds, and lakes. Its features were formed by dynamic natural processes and frequent flood events that inundate much of the area. The Valley is a place of constant change, and most areas within this reach are undeveloped, except for widely scattered high points at the valley's edges.

Recommendations for the Valley Reach focus on protecting and enhancing natural areas, creating gathering places, and improving access by transforming Shepard Road.

The Valley Reach

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Preserve and enhance the natural qualities of the Valley

Preservation of the valley edge natural areas will include developing a systematic approach to natural areas management by clearing invasive plants and opening vistas to the river, by restoring historic streams, improving water quality and providing stormwater treatment areas that reduce polluted runoff to the River. Environmentally and culturally significant sites will be identified and protected by establishing Natural Areas and Preserves. Natural Areas and Preserves provide new ways to protect and interpret the area's natural, agricultural, and industrial legacy.

Create gathering places by expanding and repurposing existing iconic places

As part of a public-private partnership, transform the vacant Island Station power plant into a gathering place that is a magnet for non-profits and environmental organizations, artists, adventure sports enthusiasts, entrepreneurs and nature-based commercial ventures.

Redevelop Watergate Marina to create a gathering place that improves public river access and an environmental education center for the City. The improved marina will include facilities for community recreation, all types of boaters, marina and fishing support shops, and a cafe-type restaurant.

Transform Shepard Road to become a key part of Saint Paul's parkway and boulevard network

By improving Shepard Road to give it a parkway-like character - by limiting traffic speeds, improving landscape, lighting, signage, and making access to the river safer and more convenient for pedestrians and bicyclists - Shepard Road will become an integral part of the historic Grand Round. It will also become an essential part of the larger interconnected parkway and boulevard system that links the City to the River.

Develop a hierarchy of pedestrian trails and trailhead access points

Improved access to parks and trails will be provided through new and improved park access roads, parking areas and trail heads. The improved network of trails along the bluff and in the valley will vastly improve connections between the neighborhoods and the river parks. A new hierarchy of trail types, with boardwalks and wildlife viewing areas in more sensitive areas, will provide for community recreation needs and improve access to bluff top overlooks with river vistas.



Saint Paul is known for its historic caves



Boardwalks provide access to sensitive ecologies



A bike trail provides access to natural areas in the valley

Shepard Road Recommendations

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Enhanced crossings, plantings, and river edge overlook along Shepard Road.

GRP Master Plan: Recommended Roadway Improvements

- Retrofit with parkway - like enhancements - roadway design and/or landscaping
- Traffic-calmed segment with enhanced at-grade intersections
- Gateway/speed zone transition feature
- Proposed Grand Round alternative
- Multimodal Park Access Street

Unique Transportation Corridors

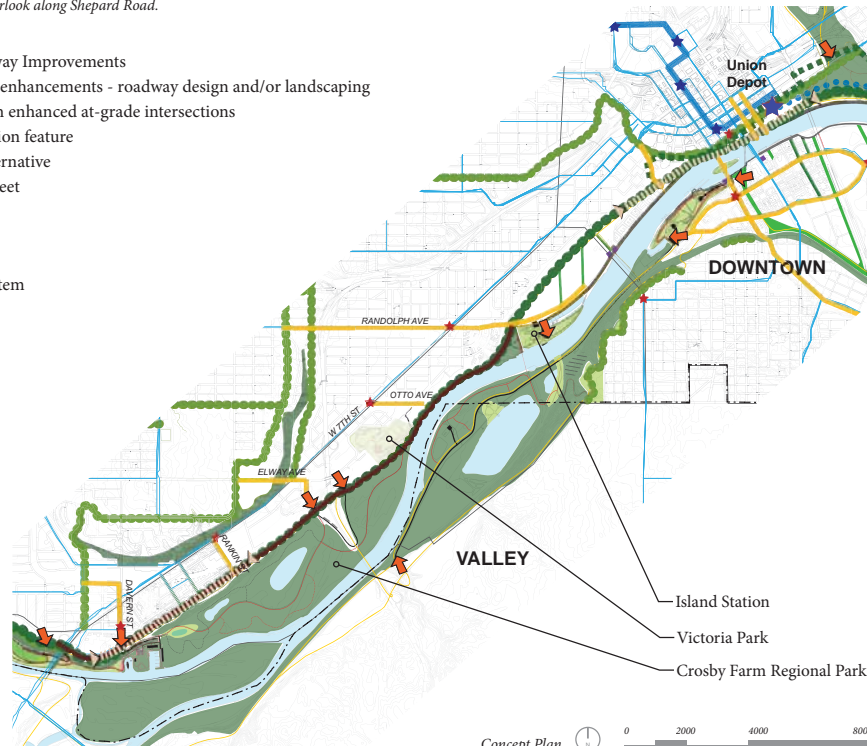
- The Grand Round
- Parkway and Boulevard System

GRP Vehicular Access

- Internal Park Roads
- Park Entrances

Transit Access

- 2030 Local Bus Routes
- Light Rail Corridor
- Commuter Rail Corridor
- Key GRP Bus Stops
- Key GRP Transit Stations
- Transit Stations



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Enhance the parkway-like qualities of Shepard Road

By adding parkway improvements, such as enhanced landscaping, lighting, signs, guard rails, pedestrian walkways and bike lanes, Shepard Road can become the main gateway into Saint Paul, allowing visitors to experience the extraordinary views of the Mississippi River as they approach the City. As part of the historic Grand Round, Shepard Road can continue to support necessary levels of vehicle and commercial traffic, while accommodating transportation alternatives, such as walking and bicycling.

The City's goal is to balance traffic volumes – allowing for potential reductions on West 7th Street and increases on Shepard Road - and keep speeds compatible with surrounding land uses in both corridors.

Vary the design of Shepard Road, through context-sensitive design, to respond to opportunities

A variety of roadway edge conditions, including differing land uses and levels of connectivity with adjacent neighborhoods, require a variety of design responses in different areas of the corridor. Barriers are created by rail lines, steep slopes and a wide road cross-section. Recommendations recognize unique opportunities in each section of Shepard Road, while providing continuity through unified Parkway elements. Enhancements include improved pedestrian and bicycle access, visual and physical links to the River and parkway type landscape amenities. The following pages describe the range of characteristics of an improved Shepard Road corridor.



Open up river vistas at key overlooks, streets along the river, and entries to the City.

Shepard Road Recommendations

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Key Map - Fort Rd. to Homer St.

Redesign streets to improve park access and enhance private development potential

The alignment and cross-section of Shepard Road in this area has significant potential to be modified because of the pending redevelopment projected for the areas to the west.

As part of planning and design of adjacent redevelopment sites, evaluate alternative Shepard Road alignments that remove the existing frontage road, expand potential development and increase park area along the bluff edge. Alternative roadway designs should minimize required roadway width, improve intersections, enhance park aesthetics, expand park land and integrate improved local storm water treatment strategies.

Integrate bluff edge park enhancements

When Shepard Road is realigned, integrate added bluff edge park to support multimodal transportation as well as recreation needs of the corridor. Provide for continuous and connected bicycle and pedestrian systems on both sides of Shepard Road. Integrate local stormwater treatment with landscape enhancements in medians and swales where space allows. Clear overlooks and provide enhanced river vistas from the road and the trails.

Reduce traffic speeds

Reduced roadway speeds will provide a safer environment for pedestrians and bicyclists while accommodating projected volumes of all traffic types including commercial vehicles.



Key Map - Homer St. to Eagle Pkwy.

Provide access across barriers

This portion of Shepard Road extends past existing neighborhoods, industrial sites in transition, and along steep bluffs and railroads that limit access from the city to the river. Where at grade crossings are not feasible, work with the neighborhoods and public agencies to provide grade separated crossings at key locations across bluffs, railroad lines, bridges and other barriers. Where ever possible utilize existing bridges and tunnel crossings. Support the efforts of individual neighborhoods to provide localized access to the park and improve links from neighborhoods to the river.

Promote pedestrian and bicycle access from adjacent neighborhoods

Support Public Works and PED implementation of Multimodal Park Access Streets that will improve neighborhood access to the parks. Complete accessible sidewalks, crosswalks, wayfinding signs and landscape amenities that allow safer and more convenient pedestrian and bicycle access to and across Shepard Road and other existing barriers.

Enhance trail users' experience to promote commuting alternatives

Provide on-street bicycle lanes on Shepard Road to encourage bicycle commuting. Improve regional trails to separate pedestrian and bicycles, and provide a sufficient buffer from Shepard Road in order to enhance the trail user's experience and safety, while accommodating varied speeds.



Key Map - Downtown to Warner Rd.

Develop a unified parkway-like design to improve landscape aesthetics

Establish continuous plantings of street trees, shrubs, lawns and natural areas consistent with city parkway standards and regional best practices. Include parkway type lighting, guard rails, wayfinding and identity signs, markers and park amenities that help beautify Shepard Road and Warner Road as gateways to Saint Paul.

Provide improved pedestrian and bicycle access

Improve at-grade pedestrian and bicycle crossings at all park access streets. Where at grade crossings are not feasible, provide grade separated bridges and underpasses, utilizing existing structures where possible, combined with stream restoration, trail improvements, bridge repurposing and other related infrastructure projects.

Encourage river-oriented redevelopment

A riverfront address is highly sought after. Proximity to views and recreation opportunities adds value to private land in the corridor. Development of denser neighborhoods with pedestrian and bicycle friendly streets and green connections to the river will help pay for improved access and desired park improvements.

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Watergate Marina Vision

Watergate Marina will be a great place to meet on the river and learn about the natural world. It will be the primary location for the City's Environmental Education programs, and will be expanded to provide access for various types of recreational boating. It will be a great place to spend the day picnicking, boating, fishing, or hiking the trails in nearby natural areas.



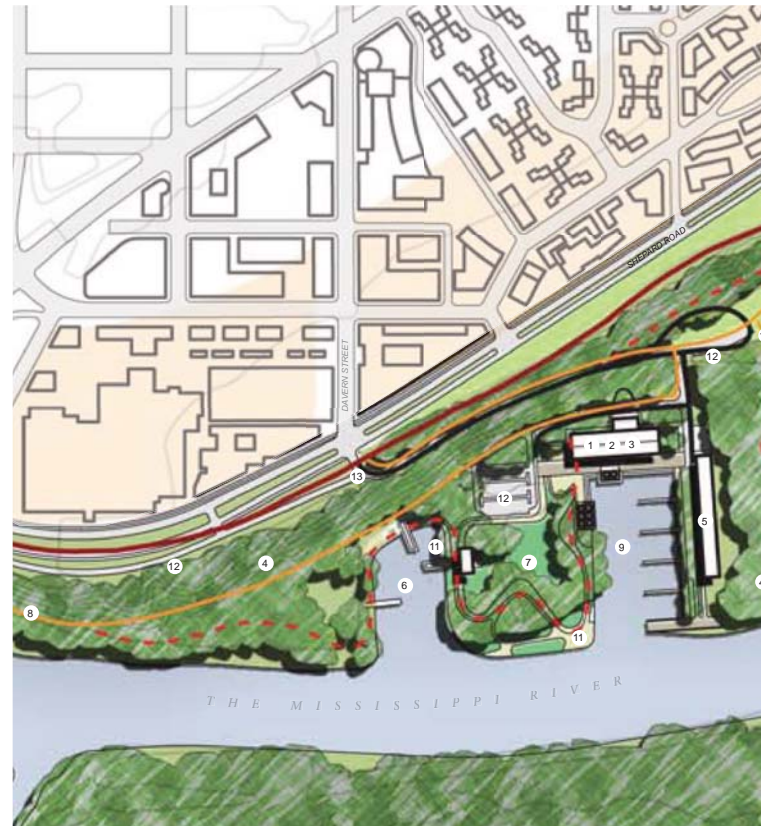
Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Watergate Marina Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

LEGEND

1. Environmental Education Center
2. Marina Shop and Outfitter
3. Cafe
4. Natural Area
5. Marina Boat Storage
6. Restored Lagoon
7. Picnicking / Day Use
8. Trail Connection to Hidden Falls
9. Restored Watergate Marina
10. Trail Connection to Crosby Farm
11. Improved Fishing Access
12. Parking
13. Relocated Park Access - (if feasible)



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Redevelop Watergate Marina as a key river gateway, gathering place and environmental education center

Watergate Marina will be transformed to accommodate not only its current use as a river marina, but to become the center of Saint Paul's environmental and outdoor education programs. By restoring the environmentally degraded marina site and the abandoned lagoon area, the marina will become a hub for paddle sports and river oriented community recreation and a starting point for nature walks into Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls Regional Parks. The design and construction of the new facility will be in keeping with the concept of a natural resource based park and environmental education center. A marina and bait shop, rental facilities for bicycles, skis, and kayaks, and a signature café similar to Sea Salt in Minneapolis' Minnehaha Park, will make it a year-round activity center for all ages. The redeveloped marina and associated structures and facilities will be sensitively designed and scaled to minimize intrusion on the natural characteristics of the park and river.

Improve access to the Great River Passage

The transformation of Watergate Marina will allow significant improvements to park access at Crosby Farm Regional Park. If feasible, the relocation of the Shepard Road park access to a signalized intersection at Davenport Street, would dramatically improve access from the neighborhood. The park access road would be improved to better accommodate pedestrians and bicycles and give park visitors a choice of ways to get to the river.



The Watergate Lagoon will be a major access point for canoes and kayaks and a trailhead for the River Trail.

Community recreation includes picnicking along the river's edge.

Crosby Farm Regional Park Vision

Crosby Farm Regional Park will be a place to learn about the ecology and wildlife of the river valley through programs that will be offered at the new Watergate Environmental Education Center. The ecological diversity and scenic qualities of the park are of great value to the community and to the river ecosystem. The natural resources of these areas will be preserved and enhanced, while limited recreational uses are accommodated.



Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.



LEGEND

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. Restored Meadow / Picnic Areas / Camping | 6. Main Park Trail |
| 2. Expanded Bluff-top Park (w/ Shepard Road Realignment) | 7. Rustic Hiking Trails |
| 3. Managed Natural Areas | 8. Fishing Access |
| 4. Bluff Protection Area | 9. Restored Shelter & Restrooms |
| 5. Improved Access and Parking | 10. Scenic Overlook |
| | 11. Potential Trail/Stair |



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Create a Natural Resource Park that showcases the valley ecology

Preservation and enhancement of the valley edge's natural areas will require establishing protocols to protect and manage ecological value and diversity. Improved natural areas offer opportunities to interpret the area's natural, cultural and agricultural legacy.

Crosby Farm Regional Park could become a botanic garden for natural resources; identifying and encouraging better understanding of native flora, fauna, hydrology and cultural resources in the valley. The park could also include provisions for group camping for Scouts or other urban youth in conjunction with the city's environmental and outdoor programming.

Develop a hierarchy of park access and trails

A hierarchy of park access points and trails will provide better connections between city neighborhoods, Crosby Farm Regional Park, Victoria Park and Hidden Falls Regional Park. Trail improvements include the development of a network of rustic trails, boardwalks, fishing platforms, overlooks, and parking and trailhead improvements at existing and proposed park access points.

Improve connections between the bluffs and the valley bottom

Improve park access roads to better accommodate vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians. Provide frequent, safe crossings of Shepard Road at key neighborhood and park entrances that connect with regional and park trails. Restore the mid-bluff trail below Shepard Road in Crosby Farm Regional Park and, where feasible, restore historic park stairways along the bluff.

Limit recreation improvements to trails, interpretive areas and rustic facilities that support environmental education and interpretation.



Boardwalks have a light environmental footprint.



Organized group camping supports city-wide recreation programs.

Victoria Park & Lower Crosby Farm Regional Park Vision

Victoria Park and Crosby Farm Regional Park are two disconnected park areas that straddle the bluffs and provide recreation opportunities for the community. Victoria Landing provides a new point of access for river recreation and an opportunity to experience and interpret the site's industrial heritage.



Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Victoria Park & Lower Crosby Farm Regional Park Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Concept Plan
0 500 1000 2000
1" = 1000'

LEGEND

1. Managed Natural Areas
2. Bluff Protection Area
3. Improved Access and Parking
4. Main Park Trail
5. Canoe/Kayak Landing
6. Fishing Access
7. Victoria Park
8. Victoria Overlook
9. River Access

Integrate neighborhood park and river access improvements

Victoria Park's location at the edge of the river valley is an opportunity to develop a community park that serves the recreation needs of the adjacent neighborhoods and provides a centrally located place with access to the river. At the edge of Victoria Park, a proposed overlook will enjoy panoramic views of the river valley, the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers and the downtown skyline. A rustic trail and stairway built alongside relics of past industrial uses at the site, will provide access to the river's edge with a small boat landing that will become part of the River Trail.

Improve trail and river connections while preserving sensitive ecological areas

Add new trail connections between Crosby Farm Regional Park and Victoria Park, and provide access to the new overlook and to the river's edge. Victoria Park improvements, currently being planned through a separate process, should protect and restore sensitive bluff areas. Provide access for carry in non-motorized boats, shoreline fishing, and interpretive areas at Victoria Landing below Shepard Road.

Interpret the legacy of Victoria Landing

Abandoned barge docking and fuel off loading facilities along the edge of the river can be preserved, interpreted and repurposed as artful park amenities that are integrated into river's edge improvements. These industrial relics could remain as a legacy of the City's Working River, while providing a unique way to experience the river and an opportunity to engage artists in interpreting the river's rich history.



Small boat storage for river access



Existing abandoned barge docking facility



With artists' help the large docking structures can be repurposed as a park amenity at Victoria Landing

Lilydale and Cherokee Regional Parks Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Implement the Lilydale Master Plan

Implement the community driven master plan that includes road and trail improvements, upgraded parking and boat launch facilities, environmental restoration and areas for passive recreation around Pickerel Lake.

Connect the park by improving trails

Improve existing regional trail connections from the Big River Trail to the west to Harriet Island, and better connect Cherokee and Lilydale Parks with an improved trail connection from the neighborhoods at the top of the bluff. Add a boardwalk along the lake that provides access while protecting sensitive natural resources.

Protect sensitive ecological and cultural resources

Establish a partnership or conservancy that is responsible to protect, provide access to and interpret the fossil beds, the brick yard and other elements of the site's former uses. Develop interpretive programs that reflect Lilydale's legacy. Focus efforts on improving the water quality at Pickerel Lake by treating storm runoff from nearby developed areas.



Control access to the fossil beds area to limit the removal of fossils and interpret the site as one of the more unique resources in the corridor.



Wetlands provide water quality treatment and opportunities for education.

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Island Station Vision

Island Station will become a year-round active use destination. The historic, iconic and vacant power plant will be repurposed to bring the arts, environmental and recreation communities together, supported by commercial and residential uses developed by public and private partners. Upon its transformation, Island Station will become an activity center that links neighborhoods to the river and establishes Randolph Avenue as a key connection from the West 7th neighborhood and the larger community of Saint Paul.



Summer activities include festivals and outdoor art exhibits connected with studios in the renovated building. An outdoor café overlooks a climbing wall, mountain-bike skills course and a performance lawn.



Winter activities include cross country skiing, pond skating and ice climbing.

Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

LEGEND

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Marina | 9. Rustic & Mountain Bike Trails |
| 2. Peninsula Festival Lawn | 10. Potential Pedestrian / Bike Bridge |
| 3. Infill Development | 11. Fishing Access |
| 4. Canoe / Kayak Launch / Small Craft Dock | 12. Fountain Cave Investigation |
| 5. Renovated Island Station Building / Outdoor Cafe | 13. Randolph Station Area |
| 6. Climbing Wall / Ice Wall | 14. Samuel H. Morgan Regional Trail |
| 7. Performance Lawn / Pond Hockey | 15. Shepard Road Regional Trail |
| 8. Mountain Bike Skills Course | |



Concept Plan
0 250 500 1000
1" = 500'

This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.



Inset Plan - High Bridge Park

Redevelop Island Station to become a center for river-oriented arts and leisure activities

The peninsula on which the old Island Station power plant is located will be transformed, through a public-private partnership, into a mixed-use center for adventure, recreation, visitor services, residences, offices, and a community park with public access to the River. The repurposed building can become a center for not-for-profit environmental and art organizations, including the National Park Service regional offices, hotel, restaurants, shops and cafés. Offices can occupy upper floors, while industrial-scale artist's studios, river-oriented cottage industries and adventure sports activities can occupy the lower and ground levels, attracting people year round.

Utilize redevelopment to link the West 7th Street corridor to the river

Redevelopment of Island Station and the ADM site will provide a major missing piece to provide public access to and along the river between downtown and the Valley reach. Green connections between the peninsula and Shepard Road extend to the neighborhoods and to the West 7th Street business district. Enhanced streetscapes support redevelopment opportunities and pedestrian friendly neighborhood expansion along Randolph Avenue.



Ice Climbing attracts outdoor enthusiasts in the winter.



Outdoor Cafés support economic development and provide a desirable leisure activity.

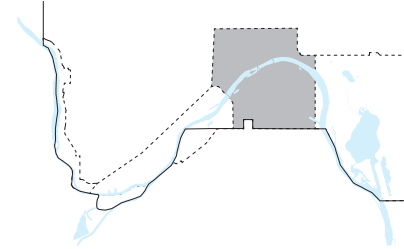


Ropes Courses are one type of adventure sport that appeals to all ages.



Mountain Bike Skills Courses reduce environmental impact by educating riders





The Downtown

The more natural landscapes of the Gorge and the Valley give way to dramatic urban forms of Downtown on the bluffs and the structured river edges on the east bank. On the west side, the geometric lines and engineered flood control levees, along with marinas and smaller-scale commercial buildings bisected by bridges, presents a very different urban river edge character.

Recommendations for the Downtown Reach focus on bringing downtown and the West Side close to the river's edge, creating an urban promenade - a River Balcony and a Levee Riverwalk - that will activate the riverfront and link it to the redeveloping neighborhoods in the river corridor.

The Downtown Reach

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Bring Downtown and the West Side to the river's edge.

A continuous publicly accessible edge, on both sides of the river, will be established as part of the anticipated redevelopment of key downtown and West Side properties. Each edge of the river will have a distinctly different character that reinforces the identity of each district, and is supported by complementary mixed-use development. Connections between the river, adjacent neighborhoods and business districts will provide a variety of options for walking, jogging and bicycling circuits along the riverfront.

Enhance Harriet Island Regional Park, Kellogg, Upper and Lower Landing parks as destinations for regional and neighborhood recreation and leisure.

Expanding youth-oriented recreation and leisure attractions at Harriet Island will activate the park daily and year-round, while providing much needed regional recreation facilities.

Kellogg Park will be programmed to encourage greater lunch time and early evening activities that take advantage of its dramatic views of the River.

Lower Landing Park will be enhanced to meet the needs of a growing Lowertown neighborhood. A signature bridge connection, linking Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary to Lower Landing, will form a gateway into the Downtown from Warner Road and connect regional trails from Trout Brook and Phalen Valley to the river.

Extending the Grand Round into downtown, from Dayton's Bluff, along 4th Street to Kellogg Boulevard, by improving streetscape and signage, will allow this iconic and historic feature to be more connected, visible and integrated into the City's Park and Parkway system.

Lower Landing Park

Indian Mounds
Regional Park

Raspberry Island

Upper Landing

Harriet Island Regional Park

Cherokee Regional Park



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.



Major bridge crossings are an essential part of the City's identity.



The river's edge is always a popular gathering place.



The river's edge must balance commerce, transportation and redevelopment with recreation and open space.



Saint Paul's urban riverfront is an important hub for both commercial and recreational boating.

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Harriet Island Regional Park Vision

Harriet Island will be the primary gathering place for Downtown. Providing a riverfront experience that is unique to Saint Paul, this regional park will be expanded to provide year round activities for all ages. At the beginning of the public Levee Riverwalk, with its riverboat restaurants, entertainment venues and marinas, an interactive fountain water feature allows people to touch the water while relaxing or participating in community activities against the dramatic backdrop of the downtown skyline.



A fountain splash pool will help activate Harriet Island Regional Park throughout the summer. The fountain will accommodate large crowds during festivals and events.

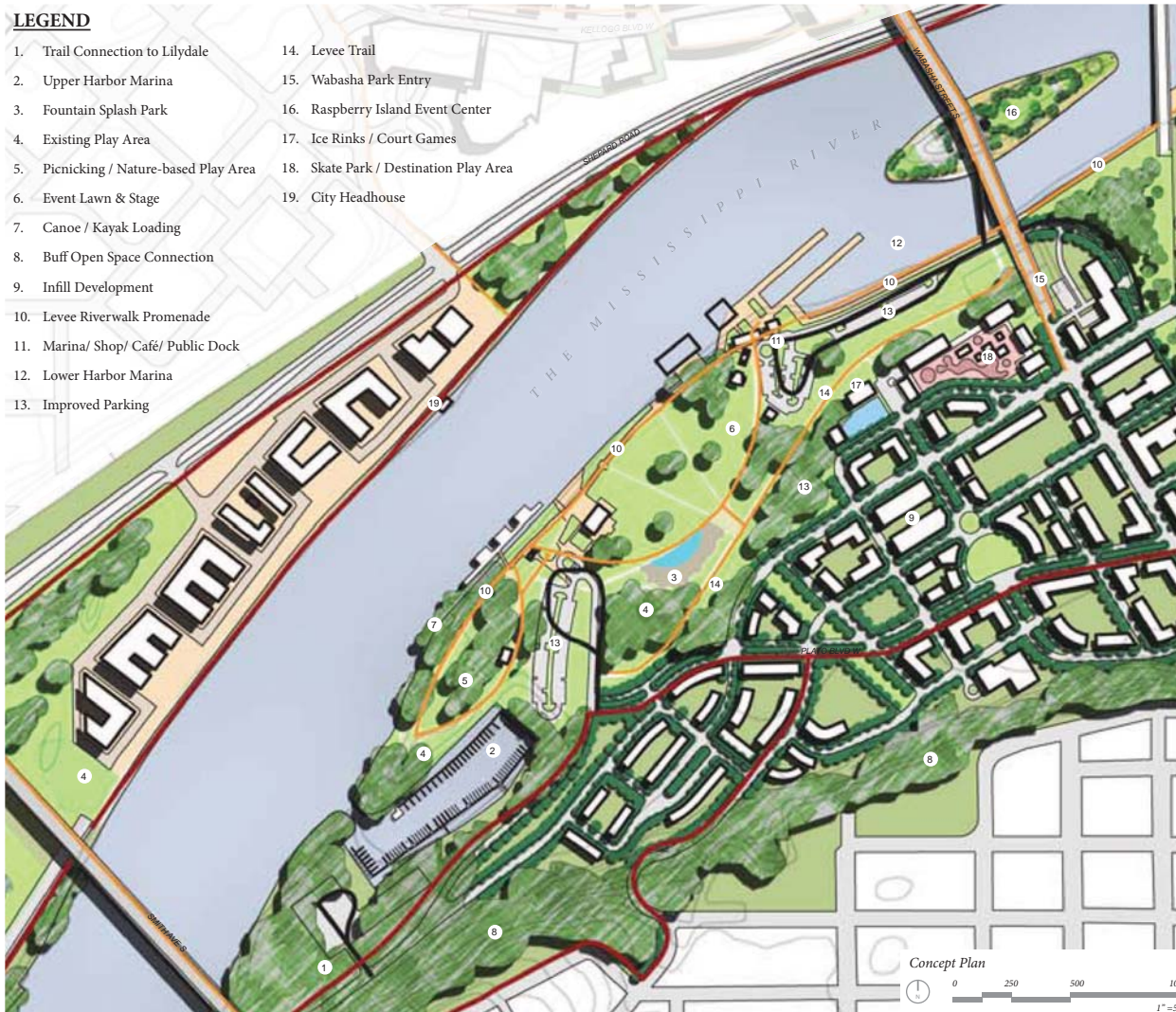
Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Harriet and Raspberry Island Regional Park Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

LEGEND

1. Trail Connection to Lilydale
2. Upper Harbor Marina
3. Fountain Splash Park
4. Existing Play Area
5. Picnicking / Nature-based Play Area
6. Event Lawn & Stage
7. Canoe / Kayak Loading
8. Buff Open Space Connection
9. Infill Development
10. Levee Riverwalk Promenade
11. Marina/ Shop/ Café/ Public Dock
12. Lower Harbor Marina
13. Improved Parking
14. Levee Trail
15. Wabasha Park Entry
16. Raspberry Island Event Center
17. Ice Rinks / Court Games
18. Skate Park / Destination Play Area
19. City Headhouse



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

Activate Harriet Island Regional Park by integrating youth-oriented regional recreation facilities.

As a Gathering Place, Harriet Island Regional Park will remain one of the City's premier locations for year-round recreation, events and access to the River. The addition of the Urban Promenade and a softer river edge, will enhance public access by providing cafés and places where residents and visitors can go to socialize, be entertained, or just "hang out".

The park's current use as a venue for large festivals will be supplemented to encourage more daily use for youth and family-oriented activities. A fountain and splash pool near the existing playground will become a major destination for families to cool off in the summer. An expansion of the park will provide a stronger connection to Wabasha Street and an area to develop a regional skateboard and court sports facility. Other youth-oriented activities might include all-season tournament rinks for ice and roller hockey, and facilities for other sports activities.



The fountain and splash pool connects people to the river



Ice skating activates the park in the winter



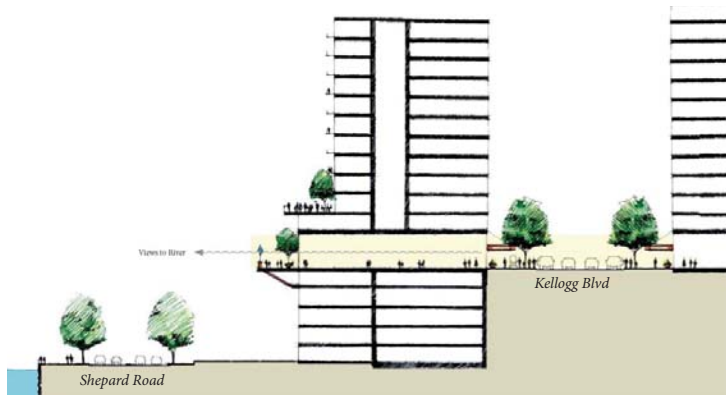
Natural quantities can be an integral part of the promenade edge.

Downtown and Kellogg Boulevard Vision

Downtown Saint Paul's proximity to the river provides a unique opportunity to create a strong link between the City and the River. The River Balcony will contribute to the economic vitality of Downtown and extend community life to the edge of the River. It will be comprised of a series of parks, linked by continuous broad pedestrian walkways that bring the City to the top of the bluff and the edge of the River.



The River Balcony, proposed as a condition of the redevelopment of buildings along the bluff between the Science Museum and Union Depot, will create a dramatic public promenade linking key Downtown destinations. The balcony's restaurants, offices, shops, and gathering places will overlook the river.

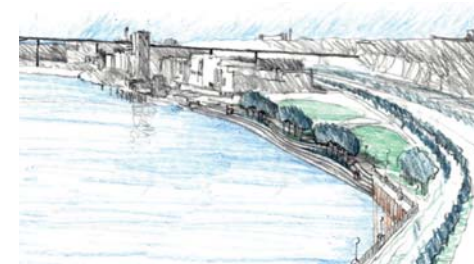


Section View - Downtown River Balcony along the Kellogg bluff west of St. Peter Street.

Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.



East side River edge at upper landing now: Rip rap banks provide necessary armoring against flooding and commercial River traffic.



East side River edge in the future: Over time, replace riprap as part of ongoing maintenance operations with terraced stone or large concrete blocks to allow River access and infill plantings protected from River scour.

Downtown and Kellogg Boulevard Vision Plan

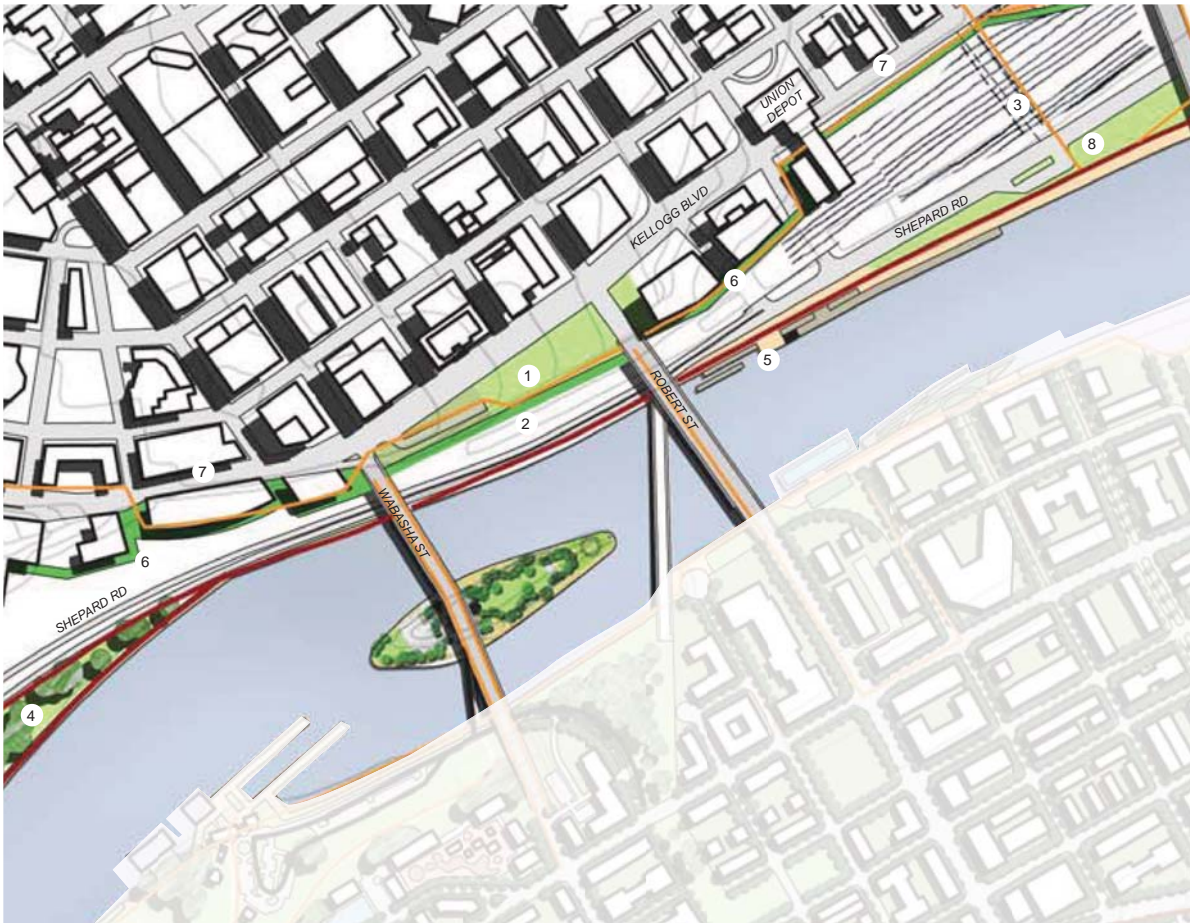
GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Create a River Balcony along the Downtown edge

Downtown, the urban promenade takes the form of a continuous River Balcony that links bluffside redevelopment sites between West 7th Street and Lowertown. Redevelopment of vacant and underutilized buildings, such as the former County Detention Center and County buildings, will allow for the creation of a dramatic public riverfront edge with Kellogg Mall Park at its center. Along the edge of Downtown, physical and visual connections to the river will be dramatically improved by incorporating overlooks, and public stairs and elevators at buildings and bridges along the bluff. With panoramic views from a series of "outdoor rooms," the River Balcony will provide a great year-round destination for shopping, lunch or to relax with friends after a concert or sporting event.

Improve Kellogg Boulevard and Kellogg Mall Park to provide stronger connections to Downtown.

Improving the urban design of Kellogg Boulevard as an extension of the Grand Round, will support access to Kellogg Mall Park and the River Balcony. By improving the streetscape and intersections to be more pedestrian and bicycle friendly, Kellogg Boulevard will allow safer and easier access from Downtown, and attract weekday workers as well as visitors and tourists to the river overlooks. Seasonal outdoor cafés, such as restaurant trucks, and lunchtime and evening entertainment, will draw people to the park on a daily basis and year round.



LEGEND

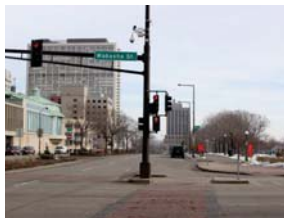
- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kellogg Mall Park | 4. Upper Landing | 7. The Grand Round Extension |
| 2. Balcony Overlook | 5. Lambert's Landing | 8. Lower Landing |
| 3. Broadway / Lowertown Access | 6. River Balcony | |

Concept Plan



0 250 500 1000
1" = 500'

This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.



Kellogg Boulevard currently forms a barrier between the river and Downtown.



Paving and crosswalks similar to the pedestrian zone at Rice Park can enhance Kellogg's streetscape.

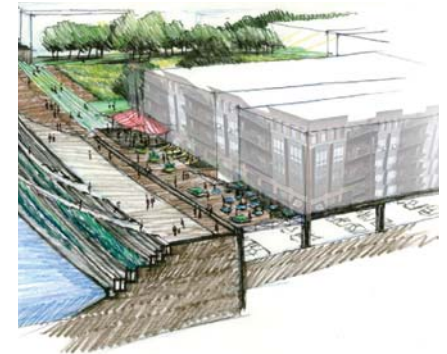
West Side Levee Riverwalk Vision

The Levee Riverwalk will bring the West Side to the River. Redevelopment of neighborhoods along the levee will embrace a pedestrian urban promenade that extends from Harriet Island Regional Park to the Lafayette Bridge. Like other great waterfronts around the world, broad walkways with riverside cafes will provide views of the river and the downtown skyline year round. Connected to Downtown by streets and bridges, the Levee Riverwalk will become an integral part of a vibrant riverfront community.



The barge pool and river's edge improvements are shown conceptually as a long-term vision and will be subject to further review with respect to Port Authority needs, barge operations, redevelopment opportunities, and access and parking requirements.

Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.



Work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to maintain full access to the levee by connecting proposed buildings with a removable semi-public outdoor terrace area connecting to the Levee Riverwalk.

Improve the River's edge to connect new development

The levee along the West Side riverfront will become an urban promenade that encourages public access to the edges of the Mississippi River. A broad Levee Riverwalk, extending from Harriet Island to the Lafayette Bridge, will help establish this area as a riverfront destination. Collaboration between agencies, including the Port Authority and the Army Corps of Engineers, can result in a continuous bridged connection between the levee and new development that allows the promenade to connect adjacent neighborhood redevelopment to the River, while retaining access for the maintenance needs of the levee.

Over time, as the existing rip rap erosion control is replaced as part of regular maintenance operations, terraced stone, repurposed concrete block, and native planting pockets can be incorporated to provide a more attractive, accessible and natural shoreline condition. In the most publicly accessible areas, such as the Levee Riverwalk, the levee can incorporate pedestrian improvements and landscaping that allow the river's edge to become a public amenity, while still respecting its essential flood control function.

Create neighborhoods connected to the River

Eventual redevelopment of West Side Flats and Riverview Business District will provide opportunities to connect existing and new neighborhoods more directly to the river. Incorporation of continuous public open space along the entire river's edge with a series of Green Connections that extend into development areas, will allow the West Side to be recognized as a true riverfront community, and a valued and attractive destination for residents, workers and visitors.

The City plans to update the West Side Flats and Riverview Business District master plans in the near future. Updates will include green connections to the river, and the appropriate mix of land uses, open space and connections between West Side developments and the Levee Riverwalk.

Establish Green Connections to the River

Green Connections are linear open spaces that link neighborhoods to the river, creating multiple benefits for the City and its residents. They create much needed open space with trails and views to the river and serve as green infrastructure, conveying and treating the stormwater runoff generated by development, before it reaches the river. By updating the West Side area plans to incorporate Green Connections, the West Side will be more connected to the River.

Explore the intensification and diversification of land uses in the Riverview Industrial Park

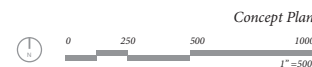
As part of the update of the West Side Flats Master Plan and Development Guidelines, the Riverview Industrial Park should be studied for increased density and land use diversity, recognizing that industrial uses are an important job source for the community and an important contributor to the city's tax base. Link all proposed development to the improved Levee Riverwalk by integrating Green Connections and providing a continuous public edge along the River.

LEGEND

1. Swimming Pool Barge
(location to be determined)
2. Levee Riverwalk
3. Port Authority Working Docks
4. Barge Fleeting Area
5. Lafayette Bridge Trail
6. Mixed Use Redevelopment
7. Green Connections
8. Riverwalk Park



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.



Lower Landing Park

Lower Landing Park will become the riverfront destination for the Lowertown neighborhood. Connected by enhanced crossings of Warner Road at Sibley and Broadway, the riverfront park will be developed to include recreation facilities that meet community needs for active nature based recreation. Park improvements will integrate landform changes to provide views to the river and create a variety of designed spaces, activities and landscape improvements that reflect its unique location at the confluence of the Mississippi River and Phalen valleys.



Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Lower Landing Park, Bruce Vento N.S. and Indian Mounds Regional Park Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Improve Lower Landing Park as a community park for the Lowertown neighborhood

Lower Landing Park will become an important community asset serving Downtown, Lowertown and Dayton's Bluff. A series of sculpted landforms and natural gardens along Warner Road will mark the transition to Downtown. Overlooks from the top of the landforms will give panoramic views of Downtown and the Working River, and an opportunity to interpret the legacy of river transportation and commerce. A redesigned entry plaza at Broadway, a dog park and a playground and picnic area, will provide amenities to serve the Lowertown neighborhood.



Artist concept provided by Saint Paul Parks & Recreation

Extend the Grand Round into Downtown

4th Street, as it connects Mounds Parkway to Kellogg Boulevard, will be improved to create a continuous parkway-like connection from Indian Mounds Regional Park, through Downtown, reconnecting to the Grand Round at Eagle Parkway and Upper Landing. The Grand Round extension will link existing and new urban parks in Downtown to the City's historic Parkway system.

Link Downtown and Phalen Valley to the River

Improved pedestrian and bicycle connections on Sibley and Broadway from Lowertown will provide safe access to the riverfront for park users. Expanded parking and signage will improve public access to Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary, Trout Brook, Phalen Valley and the Samuel H. Morgan regional trail systems. The signature bridge connection from Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary to Lower Landing will provide regional trail access, and become a gateway into Downtown from the south and east.



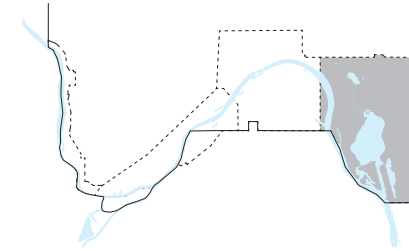
Concept Plan



LEGEND

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Bridge Park Connection | 7. Native Gardens & Water Quality Wetlands | 12. Bruce Vento Regional Trail |
| 2. Lafayette Bridge Trail | 8. Signature Bridge / Gateway | 13. Play and Picnic Area |
| 3. Indian Mounds Boulevard Trail | 9. Grand Round Extension | 14. Samuel H. Morgan Regional Trail |
| 4. Landform / Overlooks | 10. Troutbrook Regional Trail Connection to Union Depot | |
| 5. Dog Park | 11. Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary | |
| 6. Parking | | |

This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.



The Floodplain

The Floodplain Reach is a landscape of contrasts. The vast open spaces of lakes, wetlands, and floodplain forests of the Pig's Eye area are a counterpoint to the heavily wooded and steeply sloping Highwood bluffs that define the eastern edge of the valley. Heavy industrial uses at both ends of the reach are connected by a high-speed highway and heavily used rail lines, which form a major barrier between the bluffs and floodplain landscapes. The industrial uses and major transportation infrastructure contrast with the less densely developed and heavily wooded neighborhoods to the east.

Recommendations for the Floodplain Reach include expanding park access, establishing buffers for natural areas, and improving connections to the lakes and river.

The Floodplain Reach

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Establish a protective buffer of natural areas and preserves

To protect natural areas, a park buffer will be established that allows limited access in areas designated as natural areas or preserves. Rehabilitated creeks, wetlands and water-quality treatment areas will be created for secondary watersheds, such as Battle Creek and Fish Creek, as part of the buffer areas.

Incorporate the Highwood Bluffs into the City's open space system

Park land will be acquired to protect the scenic and ecological value of the bluffs along the east side of Highway 61. Natural areas will be expanded to provide a continuous open-space corridor connection extending from Indian Mounds Regional Park to Fish Creek and beyond. Trails, scenic overlooks and passive recreational uses will be included to better connect the east side to the City and to the region.

Improve connections between Pig's Eye Regional Park and nearby city and regional parks

New and expanded trails will improve connections to Pig's Eye Regional Park from the east side, Indian Mounds Regional Park, Battle Creek Regional Park and Highwood Bluff. Several grade separated trail connections from the bluffs, across Highway 61, will improve access to Pig's Eye. A network of park and rustic trails that connect to the regional system will be developed within Pig's Eye Regional Park. In the long term, the potential for improved recreational access within industrial areas, such as along Childs Road and Red Rock Road, should be re-evaluated as land uses evolve.

Integrate recreational uses in the Pig's Eye area.

The current State DNR facility can become a gathering place, a trailhead and interpretive center serving the Pig's Eye Lake area. Vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian access will be improved from Warner Road at Pig's Eye Road, and a trailhead established near Pig's Eye Lake. Improved access across existing rail lines will benefit river-related industries while allowing public access to a variety of outdoor recreation uses around the lake. Nature based recreation activities include boating, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

Improve the aesthetic quality of Warner Road and Highway 61.

The native landscape along Warner Road, especially at the intersection of Highway 61 will be restored with Oak Savanna plantings, parkway-like amenities and signage. Warner Road will take on more of a parkway-like character that helps identify it as an integral part of the Grand Round.



The floodplain supports a rich and dynamic ecosystem.



Trails provide assessable connections to natural areas in the city.



The Pig's Eye ecosystem provides habitat for fish and wildlife as well as flood control and water quality.



Concept Plan



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

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Warner Road Area Vision



Existing view of Warner Road looking southwest at Highway 61: There is currently nothing that would indicate its significance as part of the City's Grand Round.



Highway 61 looking west along Warner Road: Restoration of the oak savanna that once existed at the intersection, along with native stone walls, and the restoration of panoramic views of the River Valley will identify the intersection as a gateway into the City and a part of the historic Grand Round.

Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Warner Area Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Enhance the image of Warner Road.

Enhance the image of Warner Road from its intersection with Highway 61, west to the river and Downtown. Improve landscape, street lighting and signage to create a parkway-like character along Warner Road and its intersections. Selectively clear adjacent woodland understory of invasive weed species on the downhill side, to restore historic vistas of the river valley and the city skyline.

Warner Road at Highway 61 will become one of the main gateways to the Great River Passage. Its landscape, lighting and amenities will extend the Grand Round character from Downtown, better integrating it as an important part of the Great River Passage. Further studies will be required to determine the limits and feasibility of landscape enhancements at Highway 61, with respect to highway sight lines and setback requirements.

Develop Fish Hatchery Trailhead improvements.

Improvements at the Fish Hatchery site will allow for convenient parking access to a network of local, park and rustic trails at Indian Mounds Regional Park and the upper parts of Pig's Eye. A signalized intersection at Pig's Eye Road including improved access, signing and parking, will support expansion of trail use and facilitate recreational access throughout the area.

Improve public access to Pig's Eye Regional Park.

Partner with the railroads, the Port Authority, Ramsey County, the State Department of Natural Resources and commercial industry and businesses, to improve access to natural areas at Pig's Eye Regional Park. A new road and bridge that provides improved access for trucks, cars, bicycles and pedestrians, must accommodate the needs of industrial as well as recreational uses. Streetscape improvements on Pig's Eye and Childs Roads will help support safe recreational access.

Work with the Port Authority and river industry tenants to find opportunities that provide safe public access (visual or physical) to the river and lake edges. Provide landscape buffers adjacent to the more unsightly industrial uses.



LEGEND

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| 1. Fish Hatchery Trailhead | 6. DNR Regional Office | 11. New Park Access Road |
| 2. Regional Trail | 7. Industrial Area | 12. Warner Road Gateway |
| 3. Nature Trail | 8. Potential River Edge Trail ¹ | 13. Green Connections provide visual access to the river |
| 4. Levee Trail | 9. Battle Creek Restoration | 14. Trailhead Park ² |
| 5. Park Access Bridge | 10. Parkway Improvements | |

Concept Plan
2000
1"=1000'

This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

¹ Potential trail location subject to approval of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Metropolitan Airport Commission.

² Potential acquisition & park development subject to change in existing commercial uses and Port Authority approval.

Pig's Eye and Highwood Bluffs Vision

The 1200 acres of open lakes, wetlands, prairie landscapes and woodlands at Pig's Eye Regional Park represent approximately one third of the Great River Passage. Impacted by past and current industrial uses, sliced by railroads and roadways, and home to some of the region's most unique wildlife, the area is nearly inaccessible. A careful balance of natural areas protection and restoration that also allows an appropriate level of recreational access, will greatly expand the potential for public awareness and, ultimately stewardship, of this valuable resource.



Plans are conceptual in nature and subject to further planning, design and public input.

Upper Pig's Eye and Highwood Bluffs Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



This plan is a concept only, and is subject to further planning, design and public input.

LEGEND

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|----------------------|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Trailhead Parking | 3. Park Trail | 5. Long Term Potential Conversion of Existing Rail Line to Regional Trail | 6. Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant | 8. Future Red Rock Rail Station | 10. Park Access Overpass |
| 2. Observation Blind | 4. Rustic Trail | 7. Canoe / Kayak Landing | 9. Levee Trail | 11. Regional Trail | |

Protect and restore the natural resources of Pig's Eye Regional Park

Identify sensitive ecologies such as wetlands, marshes and wildlife habitat, and develop a resource management plan that provides strategies and resources for preservation, mitigation and restoration of sensitive landscapes and riparian areas. Include environmental interpretation, education and interface opportunities for limited public use as appropriate.

Expand open space at Highwood Bluffs

This open space corridor will provide trail connections to adjacent neighborhoods, overlooks and scenic vistas; and interpretation of the river valley, while protecting sensitive bluff landscapes and enhancing wildlife habitat. Create a continuous mid-bluff recreational trail above, and parallel to, Highway 61.

Acquire land along the bluff, with a priority for that which is identified as high value habitat, non-buildable and/or available as open space.

Provide opportunities for nature based recreation and passive day use

Provide rustic improvements that allow for the expansion of limited day use recreational activities in the Pig's Eye area. Primary uses will focus on enjoyment of the outdoors and stewardship of the area's natural resources. Recreation enhancements will include providing trails for hiking, overlooks and blinds near wildlife areas, and learning opportunities related to the resources of the floodplain, and the industrial legacy of the "Working River".

Improve recreational access to Pig's Eye Lake

Provide development of a trailhead parking area and connection to an enhanced system of walking trails. Limited lake access could be provided at a canoe and kayak landing area. Trail improvements include grade separated crossings of the railroad and highway to connect the lake area to the Mississippi River Trail and Highwood Bluff. Coordinate trail improvements with the Wastewater treatment plan to allow access from the Childs Road levee and recreational trail connections around the plant.

Lower Pig's Eye Vision Plan

GOALS & OBJECTIVES



Utilize existing partnerships to provide resource management

Collaborate with Ramsey County, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Transportation (MnDOT), the National Park Service (MNRRA), Friends of the Mississippi River, the Mississippi River Fund, the Audubon Society and other environmental organizations, to create a resource management plan for the Pig's Eye area. The plan should consider appropriate levels of public access, safety, and the management and restoration of natural resource areas, including stream corridors, wetlands and water treatment areas.

Balance access with resource protection

Carefully integrate a system of rustic trails, including boardwalks in sensitive wetland environments, to balance the need for public access with the protection of natural resources. Provide wildlife observation areas, blinds and signing to improve visual access and understanding of floodplain ecology. Access improvements will facilitate monitoring and management of resources by the various agencies that are responsible for stewardship of this vast natural and Working River area.

Work with the Port Authority and river industry tenants to find opportunities that provide safe public access (visual or physical) to the river and lake edges. Provide landscape buffers adjacent to the more unsightly industrial uses.

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GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

This section is not intended to be prescriptive, but provides a tool for Parks and Recreation, and other agencies, to implement measurable sustainability goals that are consistent with citywide goals and policies. The intent is to promote stewardship of resources in the corridor that, over a period of time, will substantially improve their quality. Sustainability goals are generally organized into six broad categories:

- Manage Park landscapes to protect and enhance native vegetation and manage invasive species
- Expand natural areas to create continuously connected and synergistic systems
- Preserve threatened and endangered species and their habitats
- Reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire
- Maximize ecosystem services both in the Park and in surrounding areas

Sustainability Goals:

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Sustainability Goals:

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- The diagram illustrates a circular economy for energy and water. At the center is a building labeled 'Campground Family electricity' and 'Bridges'. Surrounding this are various energy and water management components: 'Solar' (solar panels), 'Wind' (wind turbines), 'Hydro' (hydroelectric dam), 'Biomass' (biomass plant), 'The Sea' (sailboat), 'Lakeside and Hometowns waste water treatment plant', 'Oversewage', 'Fiber treatment', 'Lake Mead National Recreation Area', 'Lagoons combined heating and power plant', and 'Hammarby Thermal powerstation'. Arrows indicate the flow of energy and water between these components, forming a circular loop.

Take a comprehensive approach to application of principles.

9.0 Culture, History and Art

Sustainability Goals:

- Preserve and interpret Cultural and Historic resources
- Plan and program Parks for diverse users

10.0 Scenic Resources

Sustainability Goals:

- Create and manage accessible viewpoints that accent attractive views and screen unattractive views (SITES 6.7)
- Create and support the creation of attractive urban features (SITES 6.7)
- Address and manage attractive/unattractive auditory and olfactory impacts

Improve the Built Environment of the GRP

11.0 Buildings, Energy, Lighting and Maintenance

Sustainability Goals:

- Reduce the urban heat island effect by minimizing development footprint of park facilities
- Reduce operating energy use in all Park buildings, structures and landscape
- Maximize the use of renewable energy
- Use vegetation to reduce building heating and cooling requirements
- Reduce light pollution by limiting glare, trespass and sky glow
- Reduce energy consumption for operations and maintenance

12.0 Materials

Sustainability Goals:

- Reduce embodied energy use, GHG emissions and other environmental impacts associated with building, infrastructure and landscape materials.
- Decrease damage to the environment caused by materials harvesting, production, installation and use. Increase longevity and ease of maintenance.

Provide Transportation Options

13.0 Transportation and Mobility

Sustainability Goals:

- Make the GRP more physically and visually connected to the city and its neighborhoods.
- Provide for optimum accessibility, safety and wayfinding
- Create transportation infrastructure that better balances mobility choices between walking, biking, vehicles and transit.
- Reduce average vehicle miles driven by persons visiting or passing through the GRP
- Increase average walking and biking miles per year for persons using the GRP
- Reduce energy use and GHG emissions related to motor vehicle use and reduce the human health effects of air pollution

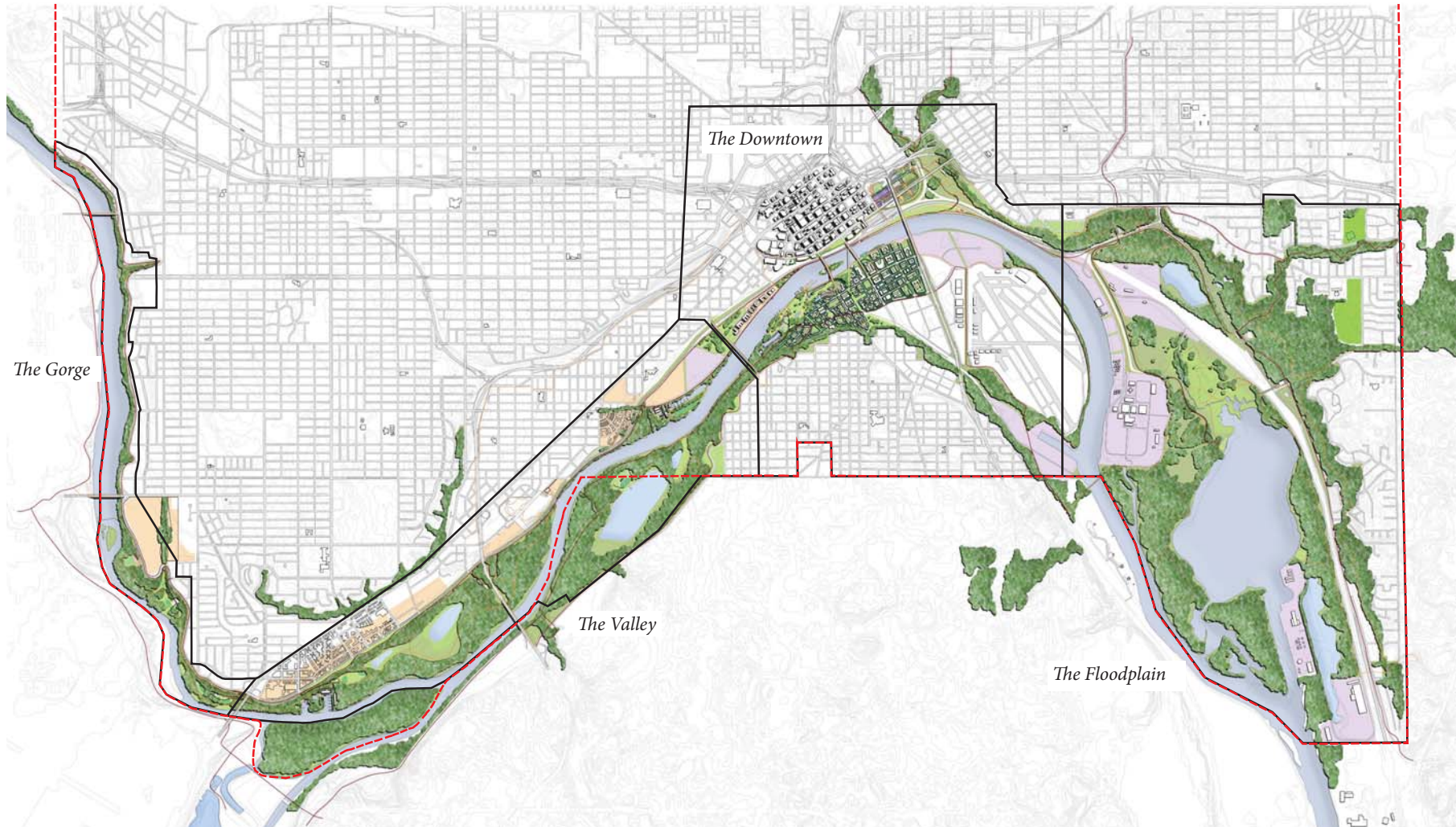


Constructed wetlands improve water quality, erosion control and habitat.



Upland areas incorporate local materials and native plantings.

Great River Passage Illustrative Plan



Delivering the Vision

Consolidated operating budgets, a dedicated stewardship structure, and strong intergovernmental leadership will be central to the implementation of the Great River Passage Plan. The larger Great River Passage Master Plan, also adopted by the City Council, contains greater detail on:

- Establishing an operating budget for the park commensurate with the project's goals of becoming a unified system that is more natural, more urban, and more connected;
- Devoting the organizational resources necessary to ensure appropriate stewardship of riverfront lands, and to leverage ongoing support from the private sector; and
- Developing a leadership mechanism for capital and legislative delivery of the plan, including intergovernmental collaboration, negotiations with property owners, and raising capital from the private sector.

Ultimately, while the plan will take decades to complete in full, these systems establish the working framework for shepherding the plan through multiple budgetary cycles, administrations, and changes in leadership.



www.greatriverpassage.org

more natural . more urban . more connected