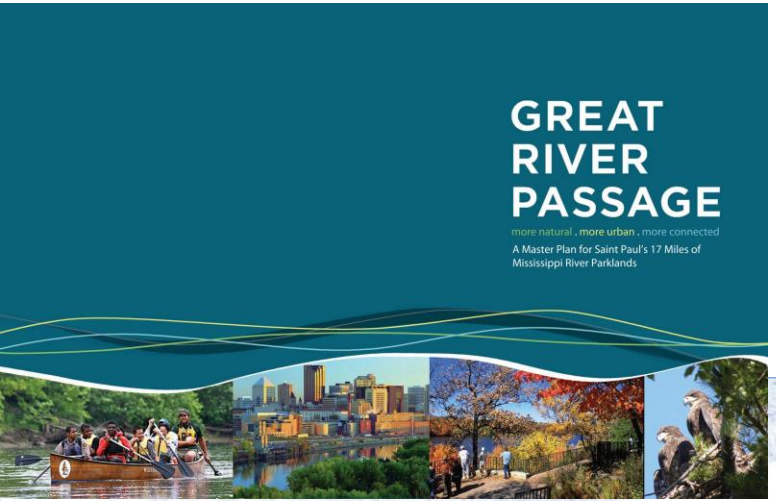
Community Meeting
April 28, 2016

Saint Paul River Balcony Master Plan

Vision : Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework

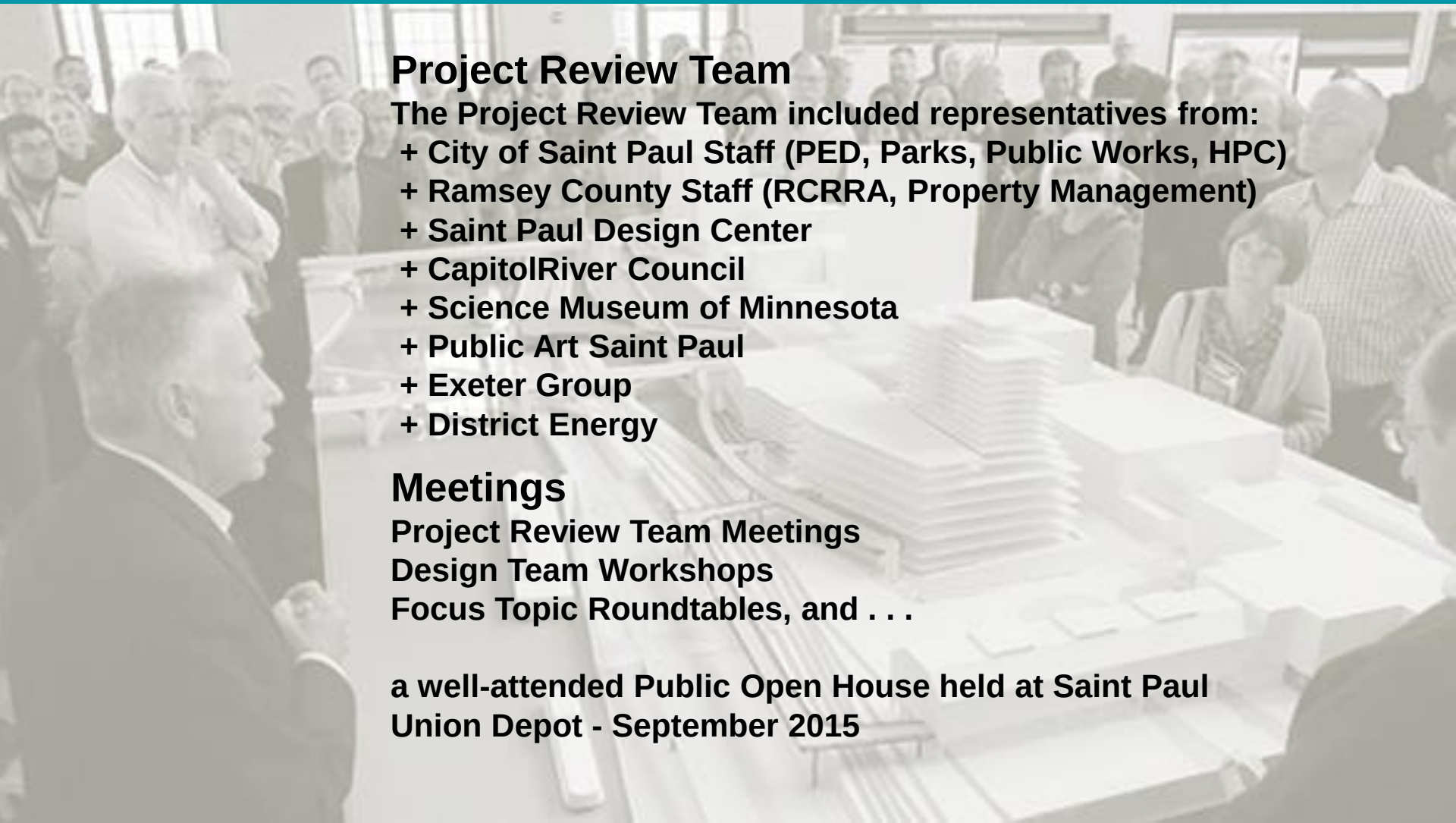
- **River as an amenity, central gathering space**
- **Connect to the Mississippi River**
- **New development within a “Great River Park”**

Vision : Great River Passage Master Plan



The Saint Paul 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.”

Saint Paul River Balcony : Master Plan Process



Project Review Team

The Project Review Team included representatives from:

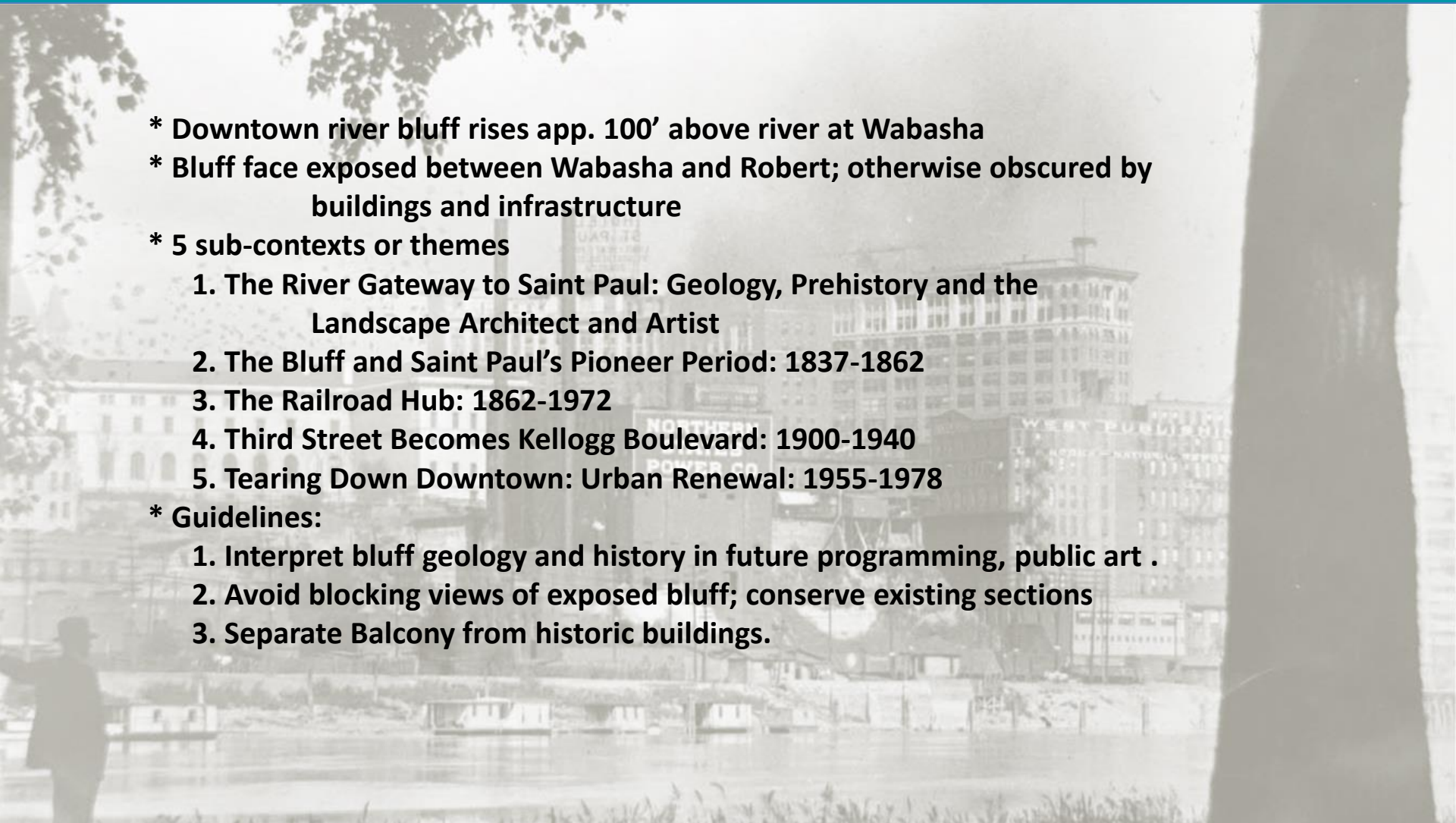
+ City of Saint Paul Staff (PED, Parks, Public Works, HPC)
+ Ramsey County Staff (RCRRA, Property Management)
+ Saint Paul Design Center
+ CapitolRiver Council
+ Science Museum of Minnesota
+ Public Art Saint Paul
+ Exeter Group
+ District Energy

Meetings

Project Review Team Meetings
Design Team Workshops
Focus Topic Roundtables, and . . .

a well-attended Public Open House held at Saint Paul Union Depot - September 2015

History + Cultural Resources



* Downtown river bluff rises app. 100’ above river at Wabasha
* Bluff face exposed between Wabasha and Robert; otherwise obscured by buildings and infrastructure
* 5 sub-contexts or themes
    1. The River Gateway to Saint Paul: Geology, Prehistory and the Landscape Architect and Artist
    2. The Bluff and Saint Paul’s Pioneer Period: 1837-1862
    3. The Railroad Hub: 1862-1972
    4. Third Street Becomes Kellogg Boulevard: 1900-1940
    5. Tearing Down Downtown: Urban Renewal: 1955-1978
* Guidelines:
    1. Interpret bluff geology and history in future programming, public art .
    2. Avoid blocking views of exposed bluff; conserve existing sections
    3. Separate Balcony from historic buildings.

Precedent Research : Access + Connections

OLYMPIC PARK
SEATTLE, WA
Designer: Weiss/Manfredi

The park consists of a 9-acre outdoor sculpture museum and beach. Envisioned as a new urban model for sculpture parks, this project is located on Seattle's last undeveloped waterfront property – an industrial brownfield site sliced by train tracks and an arterial road. The design connects three separate sites with an uninterrupted Z-shaped "green" platform, descending forty feet from the city to the water, capitalizing on views of the skyline and Elliott Bay, and rising over existing infrastructure to reconnect the urban core to the revitalized waterfront.

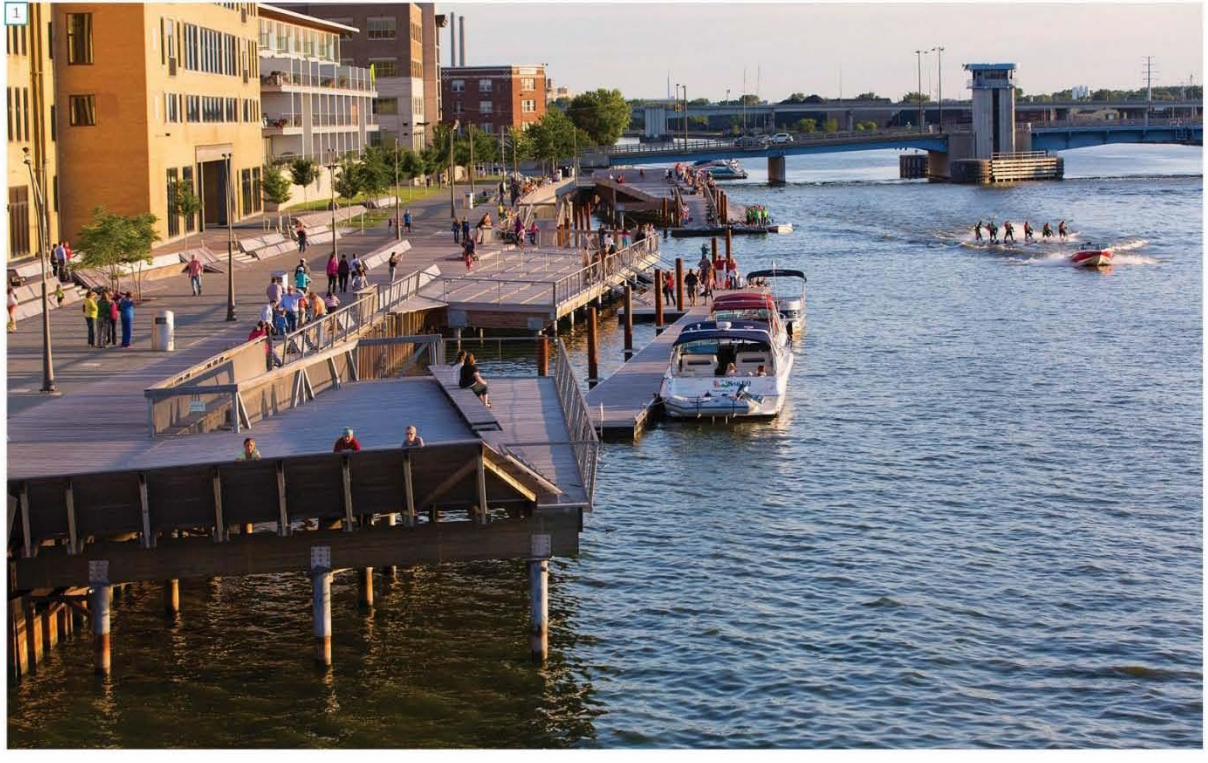
1. Moseley Path Entrance
2. The Valley
3. Gates Amphitheater
4. Mimi Gardner Gates Bridge

Budget: $85 million
Date: 2007

Precedent Research : Parks + Trails + Open Space

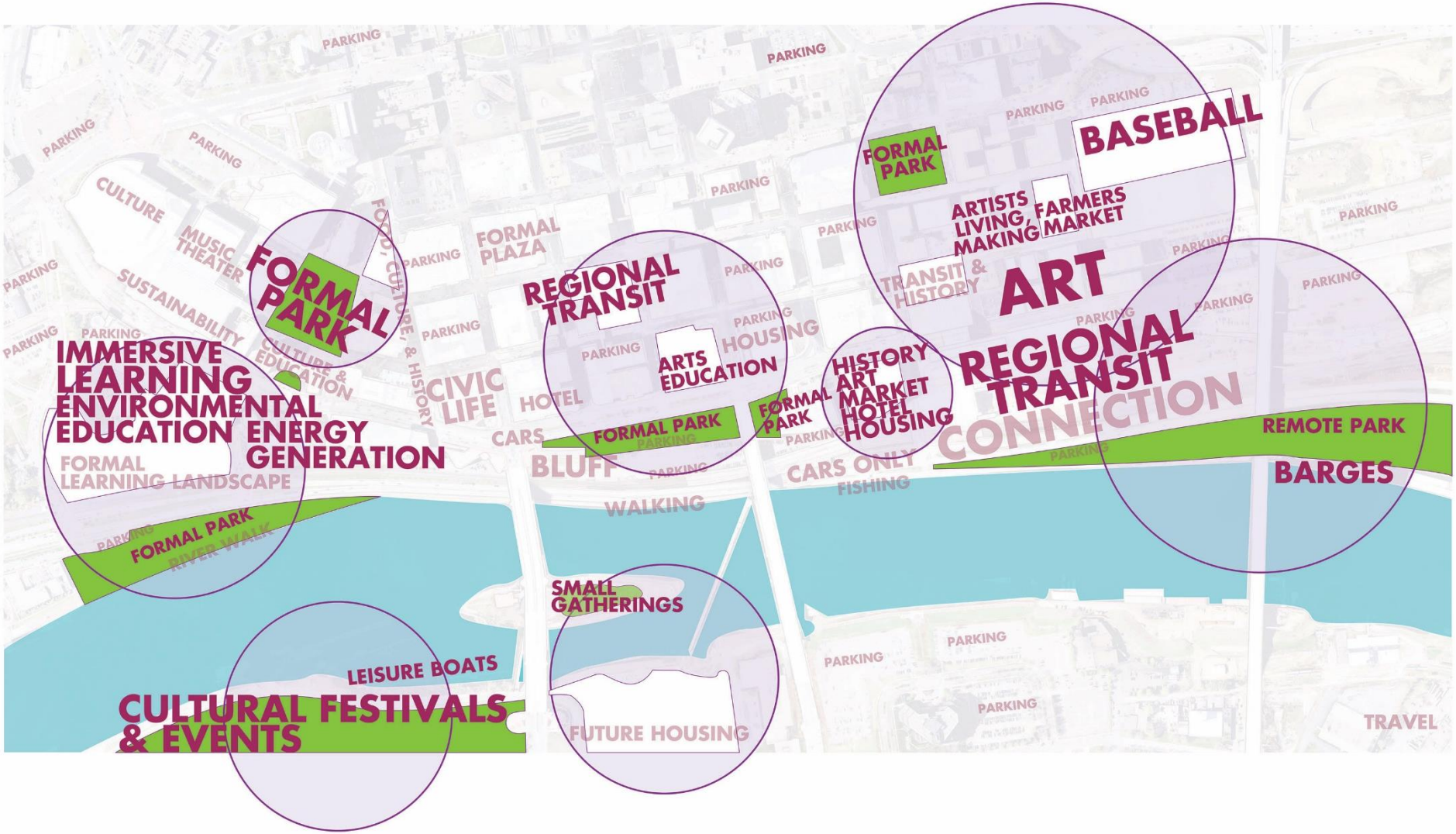
THE CITYDECK
GREEN BAY, WI
Designer: STOSS

1 Shopko Landing Extending toward Walnut Street
2 CityDeck Riverfront Boardwalk
3 Open Programming Runs Consistently Throughout the Site



Budget: $14 million
Date: 2012

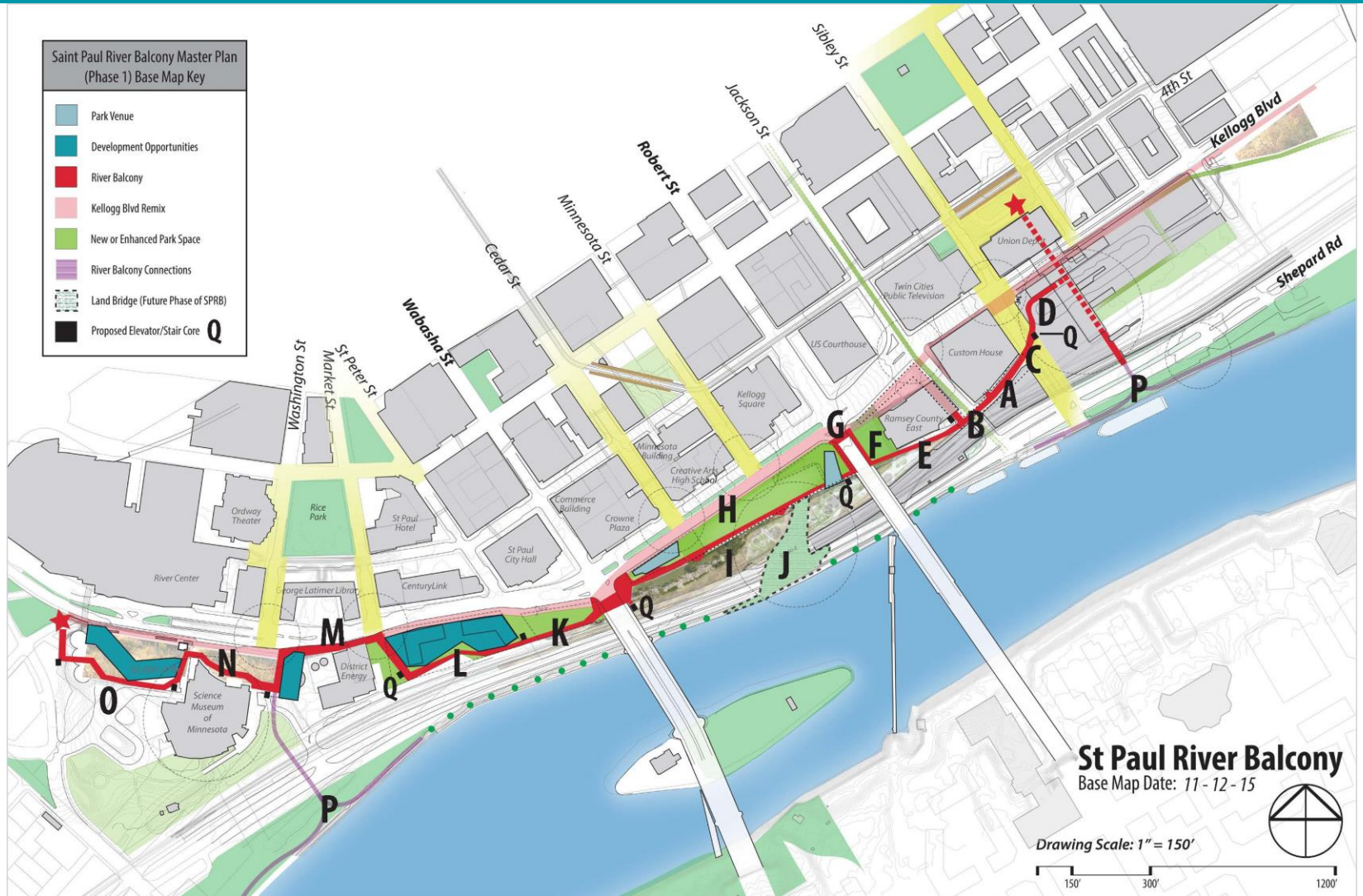
Study Area : Assets + Destinations



River Balcony Master Plan : General Design Principles

1. **Public space, accessible to all**
2. **Visual and physical connections**
3. **Integral part of a larger public realm network**
4. **Horizontal and vertical movement system**
5. **Fundamental feature of new development**
6. **Adds value**
7. **High-quality, durable materials**
8. **Coherent series of public spaces**
9. **“Light touch”**
10. **Natural features**

River Balcony Master Plan



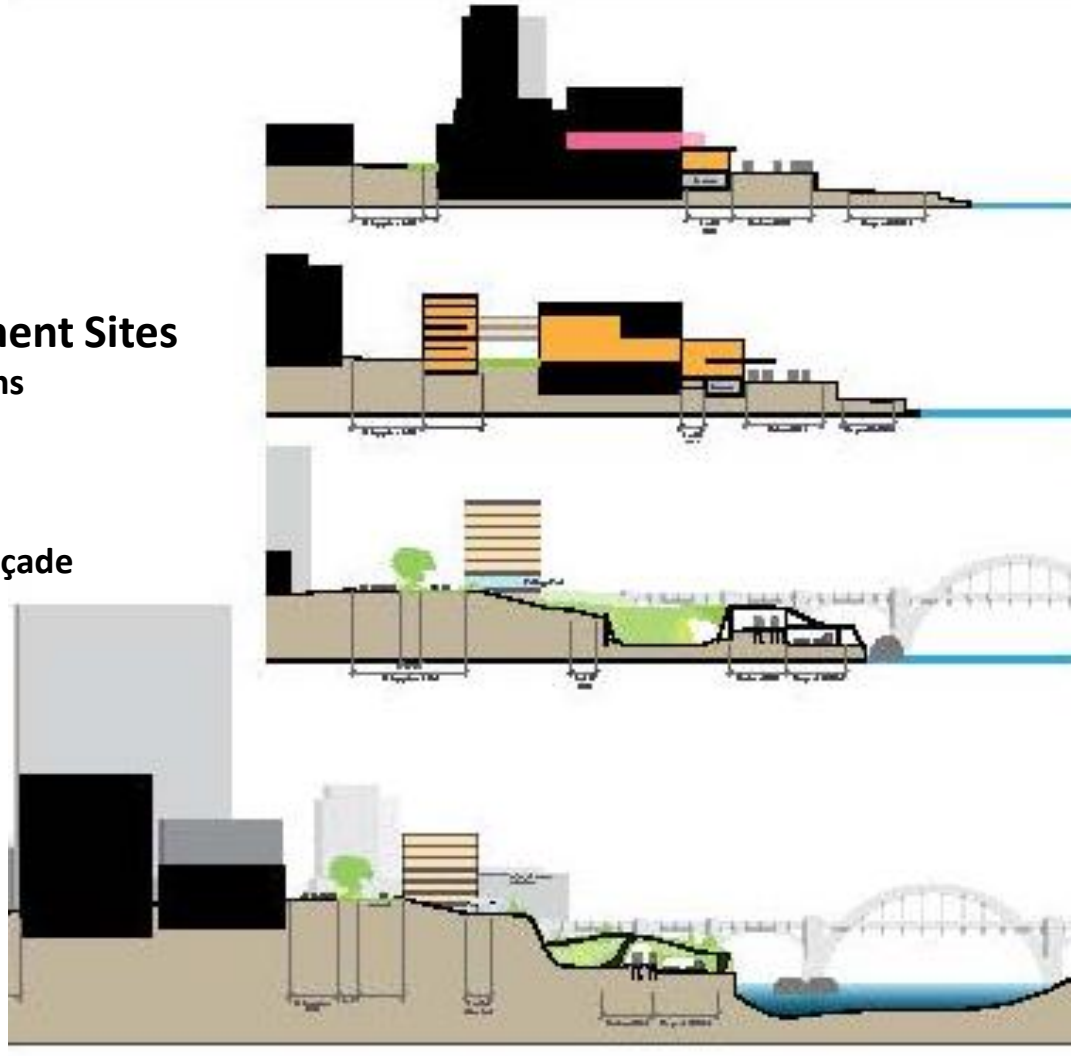
Design Guidelines

Public Realm

* Identity
* Materials
* Pedestrian Amenities
* Landscaping

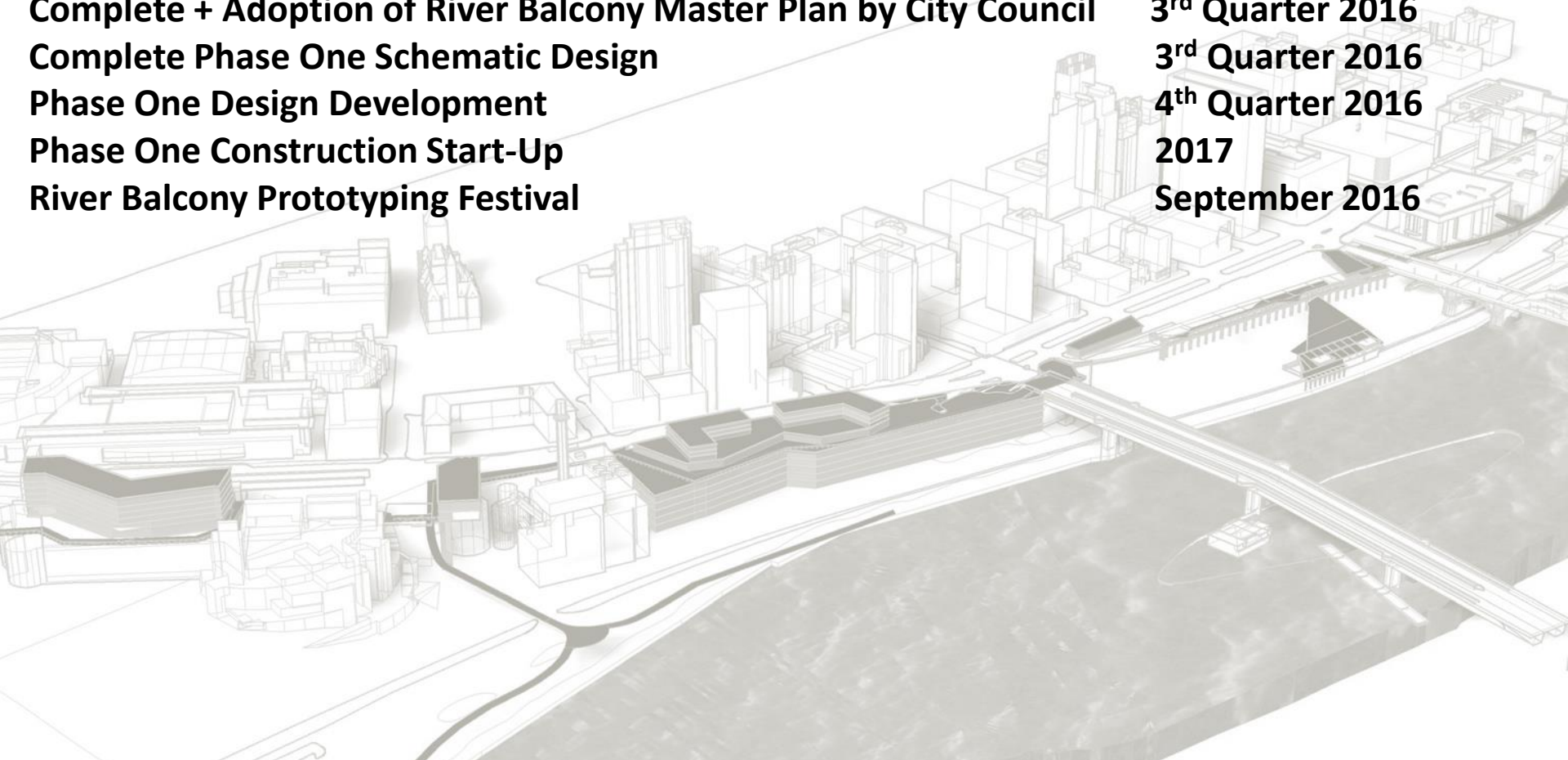
Adjacent Private Development Sites

* Sustainability and District Systems
* Site Development
* Landscaping
* Lighting
* Building Form, Placement and Façade
* Historic Preservation
* Furnishings
* Views



Saint Paul River Balcony : Next Steps

Complete + Adoption of River Balcony Master Plan by City Council	**3rd Quarter 2016**
Complete Phase One Schematic Design	**3rd Quarter 2016**
Phase One Design Development	**4th Quarter 2016**
Phase One Construction Start-Up	**2017**
River Balcony Prototyping Festival	**September 2016**



Saint Paul River Balcony : Contact Information

www.stpaul.gov/RiverBalcony

Review copies of the Draft Master Plan will be available in May 2016.

Lucy Thompson
Principal City Planner
lucy.thompson@ci.stpaul.mn.us
651-266-6578