SAINT PAUL RIVER BALCONY

MASTER PLAN

Draft for public review
March 3, 2017
• Contribute to the economic vitality of downtown, extend community life to the river.
• Series of parks, linked by continuous broad pedestrian walkways.
• Bring the city to the top of the bluff and the edge of the river.
Vision
The River Balcony is envisioned as a publicly-accessible pathway connecting public spaces and bluff-side redevelopment sites from the Science Museum to Union Depot. It will be designed to accommodate walking, outdoor seating, gathering and related public activities; and to be a catalyst for economic development.

Goals
The River Balcony will:
- reconnect downtown to the Mississippi River visually and physically;
- provide a public linear path along the downtown river bluff with occasional vertical connections to the river’s edge;
- activate private development on the Ramsey County West/Adult Detention Center, Ramsey County East and Custom House sites; and
- connect public spaces and private development sites along the river’s edge in downtown.
General Design Principles

1. The River Balcony is a **public space, accessible to all**, at all times of the day and during all seasons.

2. The main purpose of the River Balcony is to provide **visual and physical connections** between downtown and the Mississippi River.

3. The River Balcony is an **integral part of a larger public realm network** comprising the Capital City Bikeway, City and regional parks and trails, streets, plazas and skyways.

4. The River Balcony is **both a horizontal (linear) and vertical** (from upper bluff to river’s edge) system of movement.

5. The River Balcony will be a **fundamental feature of new development** on private property along the bluff, including Custom House and the Ramsey County riverfront properties.

6. The River Balcony will be designed to **add value** to adjacent private development.

7. The River Balcony will be **built with high-quality, durable materials**.

8. The River Balcony will be designed as a **coherent series of public spaces**, with overall continuity of design, but allowing for site- or district-specific expressions of place.

9. The River Balcony will be designed to **be a “light touch”** on the bluff landscape.

10. The River Balcony will incorporate **natural features** as much as possible, recognizing that some areas will be more predominantly hard-surfaced.
River Balcony Design Guidelines

- Identity
- Connected pedestrian amenities
- Balcony structure
- Materials
- Landscaping
- District (utility) systems
- Furnishings
- Retaining walls

- Paving
- Railings
- Wayfinding signage
- Lighting
- Vertical circulation towers
- Historic resources
- Public art
Private Development Guidelines

- Site development
- Building form and façade
- Landscaping
- Historic preservation
- Sustainability and district systems
- Furnishings
Next Steps

- May 19: Planning Commission public hearing
- May 30 – Comprehensive Planning Committee reviews public testimony, forwards to Commission
- June 2: Planning Commission recommends RBMP to City Council as amendment to *Great River Passage Master Plan*
- Transition from planning to schematic design, fundraising, construction, ownership and management structure – PED to Parks GRP Division