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.
Acknowledgments

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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

- April 7: Planning Commission releases RBMP for public review
- HPC and Parks Commission review - underway
- May 19: Planning Commission holds public hearing
- June: 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