



Project Name: Harriet Island Regional Park Long Range Plan
Subject: CAC (Community Advisory Committee) Meeting #1
Meeting Date: February 17, 2026
Location: Harriet Island Wigington Pavilion/Virtual Via MS Teams
Attendees: [see last page]

Meeting Goals:

- Meet fellow CAC members & Project Team
- Understand the project scope and schedule
- Understand roles and responsibilities within the Long Range Plan process
- Review findings and engagement conducted to date
- Initiate discussion about issues and opportunities that will shape the Long Range Plan

Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Introductions**
- 2. Project Purpose and Schedule**
 - a. Project Purpose (What is it, Why create one)
 - b. Project Schedule (How are we going to get there)
- 3. Public Outreach and Engagement:**
 - a. Community and Stakeholder Engagement
 - b. CAC Responsibilities (CAC charge)
 - c. Engagement conducted to date
- 4. Engagement Tools & Project Background:**
 - a. Story Map & Community Survey
 - b. Context and Site Analysis Review
- 5. CAC exercise:**
 - a. Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analysis
- 6. Public Comment**
 - a. Opportunity for members of the public to share comments with Project Team and CAC members.
- 7. Next Steps**





- a. CAC homework (visit website, storymap, take online survey, share project activities and events)
- b. Next CAC meeting: Mar. 10th, 2026
 - i. **Purpose: Draft Guiding Principles and Park Program**

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Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Members

CapitolRiver Council	Amy Lee	
City House Lancer Catering	Marques Miller	
City of Saint Paul Youth on Boards	Furo Ejero	
El Burrito Mercado	Milissa Silva-Diaz	Analita Silva
Friends of the Mississippi River	Colleen O'Connor Toberman	
Intercontinental Saint Paul Riverfront	Phillip Sam	
Minnesota Boat Club	Charlie Stockwell	Susan Tiejn or Luke Nilles
Minnesota Latino Museum	Aaron Johnson Ortiz	Larry Lucio Jr.
New Resident & Practitioner of the Healing Arts	Nataly Quintero	
Prairie Island Indian Community	Franky Jackson	
Saint Paul Area Chamber	Kim Chung	
Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Events at Harriet Island	Brittany Williams	
Saint Paul Yacht Club	Bill Tschohl	
West Side Boosters	Robert Cruz	
Local Artists & Residents of F-O-K Studios	Christy Dickenson	Mary Sazenski
West Side Community Organization (WSCO)	Monica Bravo	
Neighborhood House	Shad Klukas	Janet Garcia

Project Staff

City of Saint Paul - Parks and Recreation	Mary Norton
City of Saint Paul - Parks and Recreation	Ellen Stewart
TLÂL-LI Collaborative	Bruce Chamberlin
TLÂL-LI Collaborative	Ana Nelson
TLÂL-LI Collaborative	Addie Hayden-Sofio



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HARRIET ISLAND REGIONAL PARK

Long Range Plan



**Community Advisory Committee (CAC)
Meeting #1**

February 17, 2026

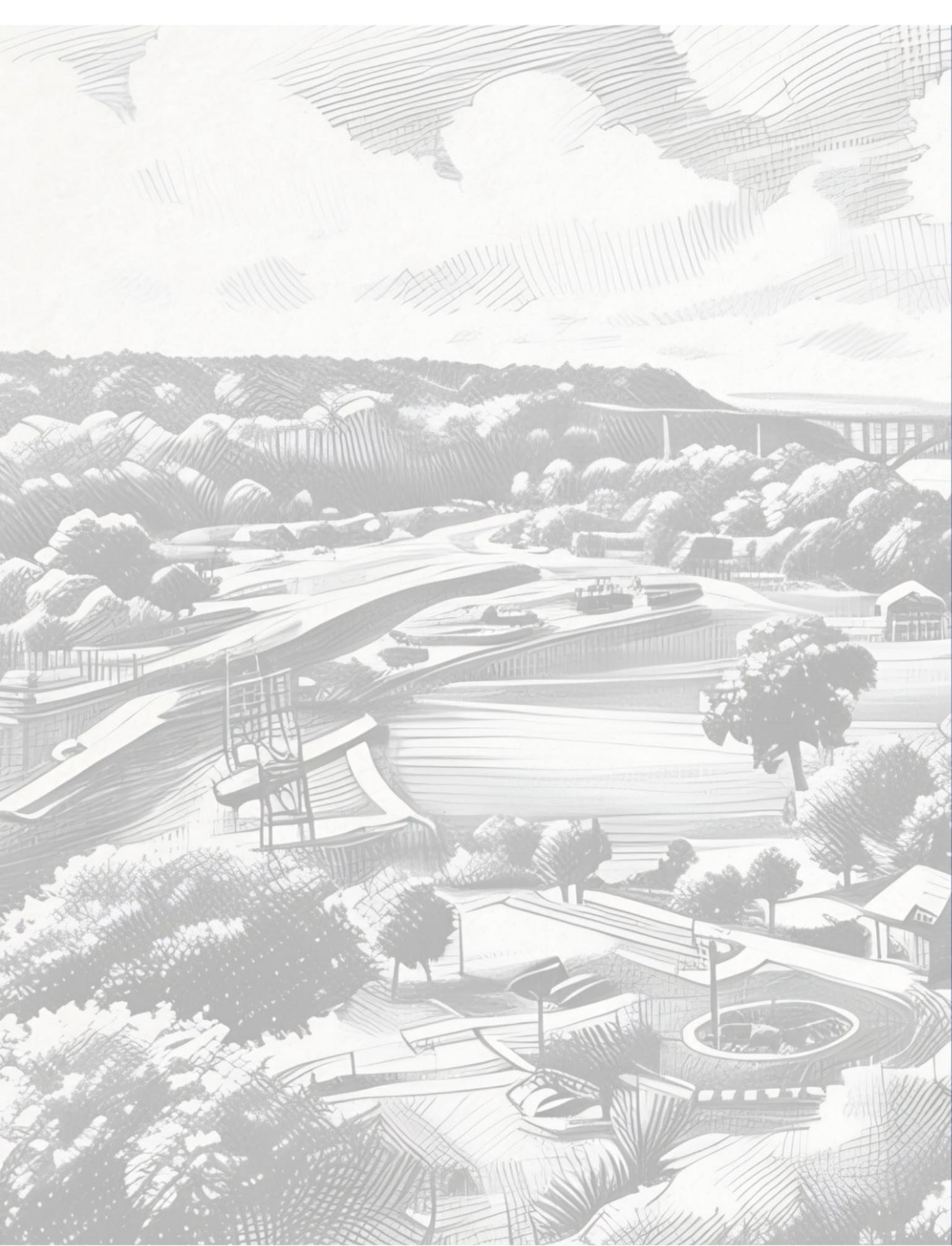


WELCOME!

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5. CAC exercise
6. Public Comment
7. Next Steps



Recognizing Place

This is Dakota land.

This place is currently named "Harriet Island Regional Park" within the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and Metropolitan Council Regional Systems

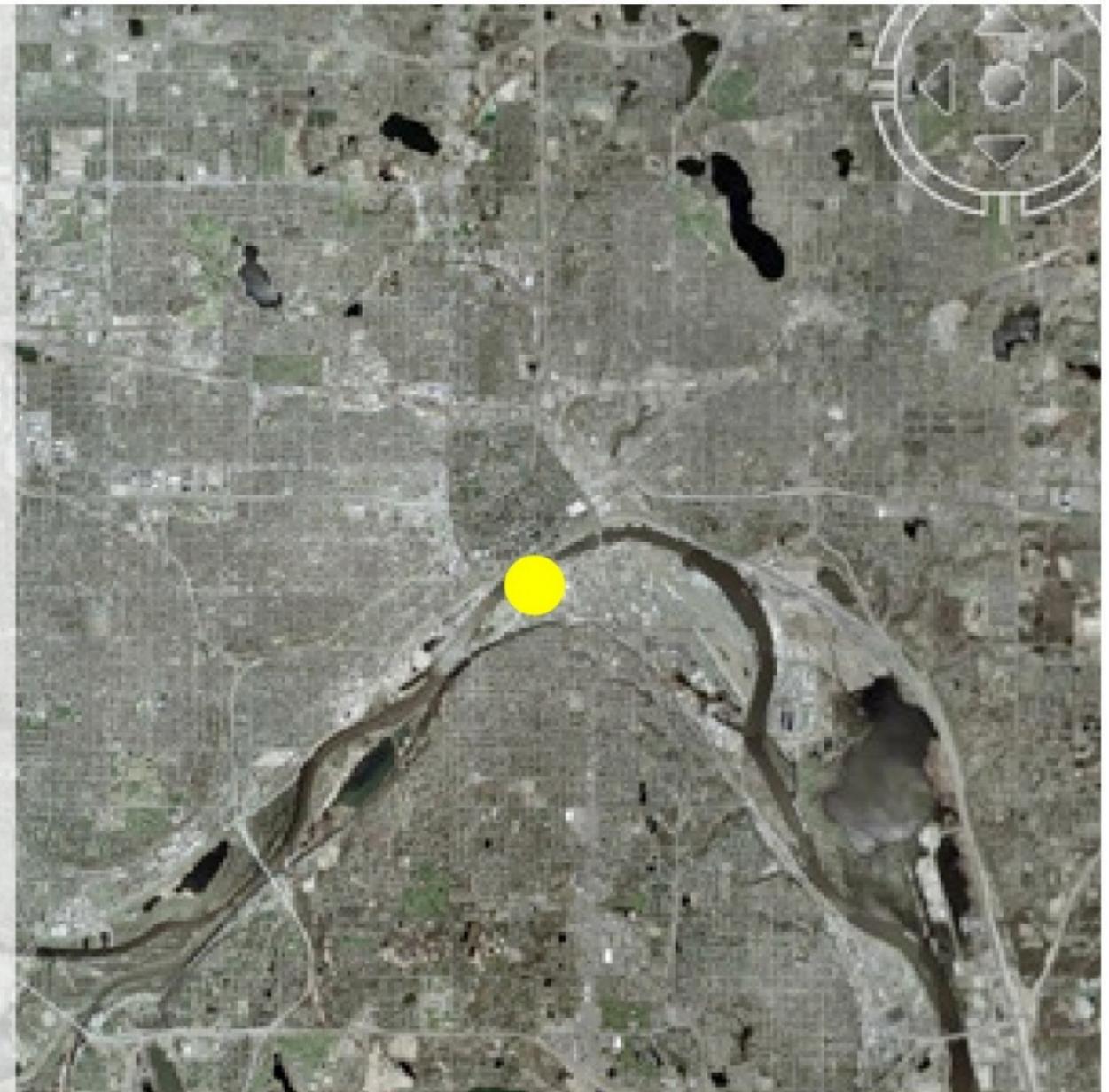


Mnisota Makoce: A Dakota Place

"We were here to greet the pioneers who arrived when our land was taken in a series of treaties with the United States. In the 1860's, we survived imprisonment in concentration camps and forced removal, and continue to know this place as our own. Today, we share our home with people from throughout the world.

The ceremonial sites used long ago are still used today. The places where our ancestors are buried are still honored today. The village sites where we lived and the rivers we navigated; changed though they have been over the last 150 years; keep their place of importance in the hearts of Dakota people."

Excerpt Text from the Bdote Memory Map, Minnesota Humanities Center:
<https://bdotememorymap.org/mnisota/>



Revealing Place

This is Dakota land.

This place is currently named "Harriet Island Regional Park" within the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation and Metropolitan Council Regional Systems

Weave and reveal history within this planning process such that future changes to the landscape can elevate community voices and share stories.

Create an updated Long-range plan for 'Harriet Island Regional Park' in a way that holds space for action and accountability throughout engagement to inform this guide for future decision-making.

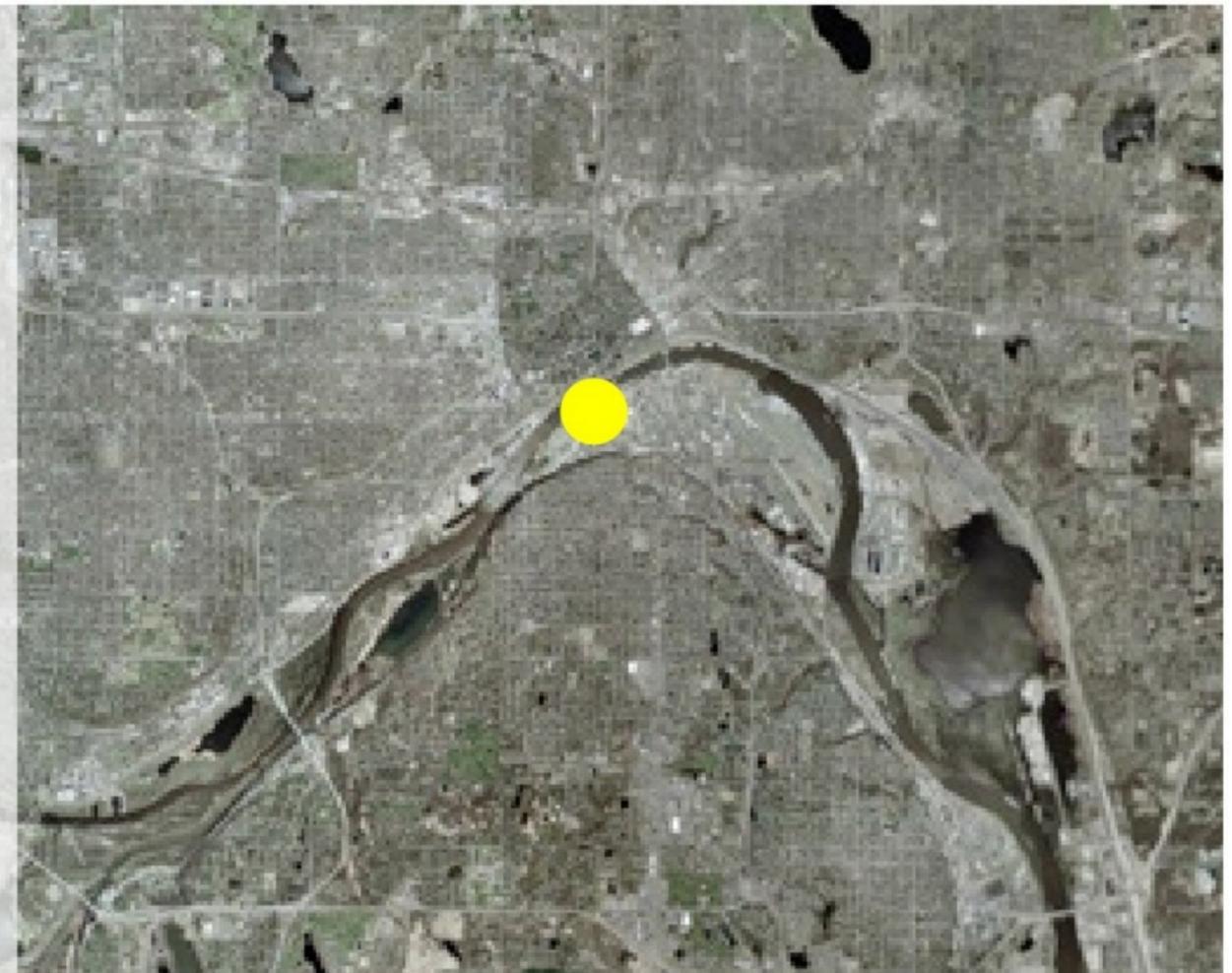
Place-name Evaluation

Focused Engagement Series

Acknowledgment

Saint Paul stands on the ancestral, traditional, and contemporary Dakóta homelands.

As we consider that the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration and settlement that has brought us to current day, we commit to understanding, respecting, supporting and advocating for Indigenous People and for this land. Let this land acknowledgment be more than a reminder. Let it be a marker in time of dedicating ourselves to be better and do better. Through this land acknowledgment, let us lead to make changes which respect history.



Introductions

- Please share one highlight from your self guided tour and/or what you cherish most about Harriet Island Regional Park.



Project Purpose

- The City of Saint Paul will continue to invest money and energy into Harriet Island Park improvements.
- A refreshed long range plan will guide investments across the next few decades.
- Plan recommendations will highlight connections between people and place, honoring the historical significance of the park, the diverse community of neighbors, and the unique setting of the park near the downtown area.
- The last planning study was conducted for Harriet Island Regional Park was in 1991.

Community Advisory Committee

Charter

Purpose & Mission

To serve as a community-led sounding board for shaping a sustainable, inclusive, and forward-thinking, 20 year vision for Harriet Island Regional Park.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
ANDY RODRIGUEZ, CPRP, DIRECTOR

City Hall Annex
25 West 4th Street, Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55102
Tel: 651-266-6400

Harriet Island Regional Park Long Range Plan CAC (Community Advisory Committee) Meeting #1
February 17, 2026
Harriet Island Wigington Pavilion/Virtual Via MS Teams



Harriet Island Regional Park Community Advisory Committee Charter Statement

1. Committee Name

The "Harriet Island Regional Park Long-Range Plan Community Advisory Committee" (CAC).

2. Purpose & Mission

To serve as a community-led sounding board for shaping a sustainable, inclusive, and forward-thinking, 20-year vision for Harriet Island Regional Park. The committee's mission includes:

- Elevate the spectrum of community voices.
- Offer guidance on plan recommendations and priorities.
- Impart local knowledge relevant to the project to the planning team.
- Foster robust, respectful, and transparent dialogue.
- Balance priorities within a draft plan as its developed.

3. Scope of Work

The CAC will:

- Provide input on assessments of park conditions, usage patterns, and community interests.
- Participate in defining project guiding principles.
- Help vet and refine draft concepts for park improvements, amenities, and programs.
- Review and provide feedback on a draft plan document.

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AN AFFIRMATIVE ACTION &
EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



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- Recommend a draft plan to the Park & Recreation Commission.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

- **Committee Members** will:
 - Attend regular meetings as scheduled.
 - Review materials and bring informed feedback.
 - Serve as liaisons to their networks and constituencies.
- **City Staff & Consultants** will:
 - Coordinate meetings, set agendas in consultation with staff, and ensure inclusive participation.
 - Provide technical expertise, data analysis, facilitation, and coordination support.
 - Ensure CAC recommendations are considered in the final plan.

5. Decision-Making & Deliverables

- The CAC serves as an advisory role as an important aspect of Community Engagement. Final document decisions and plan approval process will be made via Saint Paul Parks & Recreation.
- A written summary of CAC recommendations will be documented.

6. Membership & Tenure

- Volunteers drawn from a diverse cross-section of community stakeholders— neighborhood residents, business owners, park advocates, environmental groups, recreation/arts organizations, culturally specific organizations, and underserved community representatives.

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- Members serve through adoption of the final Long Range Plan or approximately 12-18 months.

7. Meeting Schedule & Logistics

- CAC will meet 7 times throughout the year.
- Meetings are open to all, while discussion will be focused on participating CAC members, including comment periods when appropriate.
- Additional work group sessions may be scheduled as needed.

8. Transparency & Equity

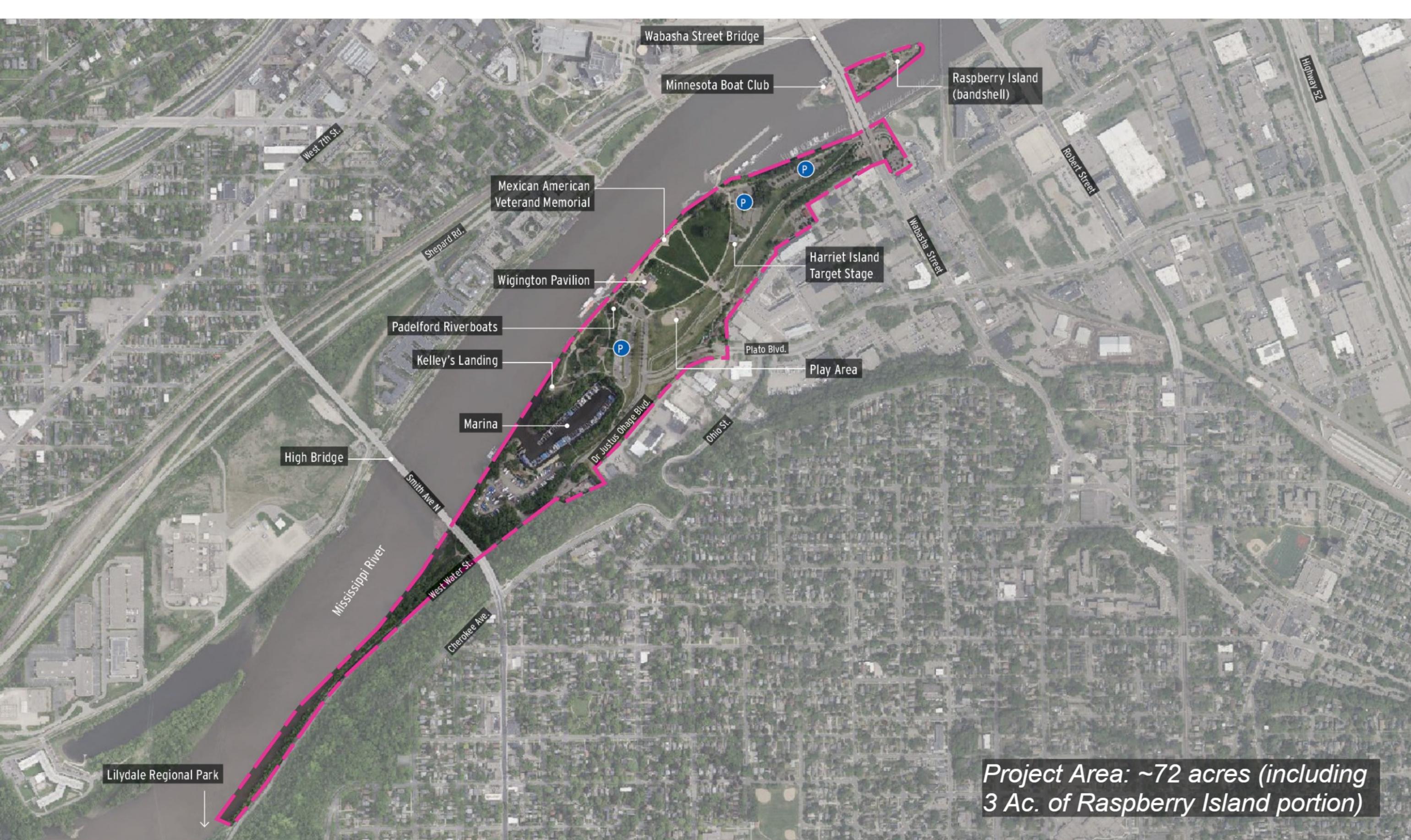
- All materials, meeting agendas, minutes, and summaries will be posted online.
- The CAC commits to equitable outreach, interpretation/translation support, and removing barriers to participation.

9. Success Metrics

The CAC and staff will evaluate success by:

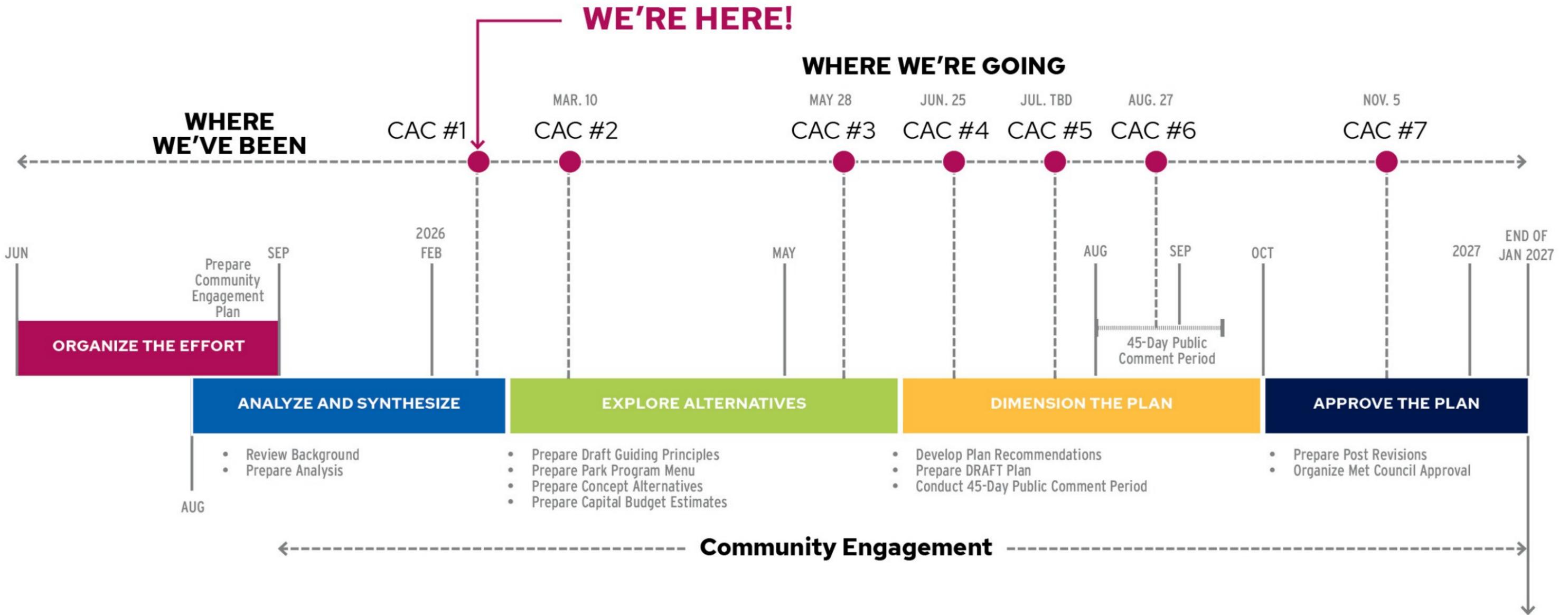
- Representation of diverse user groups in committee and outreach.
- Incorporation of CAC input into the draft and final plan.
- Public awareness and access to the engagement processes.
- Measurable strides toward racial, social, and environmental equity in park planning.

Page 3 of 3



Project Area: ~72 acres (including 3 Ac. of Raspberry Island portion)

Project Schedule



FUTURE | Beyond the Plan
 If approved, parts of the plan will be developed over the next 20-30 years as funding becomes available that aligns with project priorities.

Public Outreach and Engagement

Purpose

- Align on engagement goals and engagement success factors
- Understand public scope of influence on the project to drive engagement questions
- Answer and discuss guiding questions to determine optimal engagement strategies
- Make decisions that will impact the engagement process throughout the project

Audiences

General Public

Talking Circles

Community Advisory Committee

Technical Advisory Committee

Stakeholders

Engagement input to date

- Pop-up Events
- Online Survey
- Other activities city has conducted

Pop-up Event Summary:

Intercept Survey

09/18/2025 @ Harriet Island Regional Park



Park Priorities:

- Gathering Spaces
- Native Plantings & Natural Resources
- Bike & Pedestrian Improvements
- Restroom Availability



West Side Farmers Market Pumpkin Patch Bash

10/18/2025 @ Wabasha St. South (between Isabel St. & Congress St.)

Park Priorities:

- Native Plantings & Natural Resources
- Riverwalk
- Public Art



Union Depot Tree Lighting Ceremony

12/06/2025 @ Union Depot, Downtown St. Paul

Park Priorities:

- Riverwalk
- Playgrounds
- Public Art



Common Themes:

- Live Events & Art
- Restaurant or Gathering Space
- Creative Play Elements & Amenities
- Aging Infrastructure, More Transit Connections
- Native Plantings & Natural Resources
- Restroom Access



Online Survey

<https://zanassoc.mysocialpinpoint.com/harriet-island-regional-park>



Harriet Island Regional Park

The City of Saint Paul is writing a long range plan to guide park investments for the next 20-30 years. Share your feedback.

The City of Saint Paul is writing a long range plan to guide park investments for the next 20-30 years. By sharing your feedback, you will help create a plan that reflects the community's priorities.

Why create a long range plan?

Harriet Island Regional Park's last long range plan was written over thirty years ago. Located in the West Side of Saint Paul, this park holds significant connections and shared histories between people and place. Updating the vision for the park will ensure future investments reflect community desires for this special place along the Mississippi River for future generations.

This project will...

- Gather input on how the park is used and what may bring more people to the park
- Engage community members in a variety of ways to get feedback
- Balance the amenities and programs within the parks to maximize use and enjoyment
- Establish a 20- to 30-year vision for Harriet Island Regional Park

Open

Take the survey

Tell us what you want to see by filling out the project survey. This survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Project timeline

- ★ **Community visioning**
August 2025 - March 2026
- ☆ **Community response to plan updates**
March 2026 - August 2026
- ☆ **Public comment period**
August 2026 - October 2026
- ☆ **Plan submitted for approval**
October 2026

[See less](#)



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Other Activities

City of St. Paul staff has also conducted the following engagement and outreach activities:

- **04/1/25:** Cultural 'Corazon' Community Event for Alebrijes Exhibit & MN Latino Museum at El Rio Vista Community Center
- **10/14/2025:** River Recreation Summit on Living Land and Waters Barge (Photos attached)
- **10/24/2025:** Drop-In for Movies in the park at Harriet Island & Local Business event at Black Market BBQ
- **12/10/25:** Saint Paul Indians in Action (SIA) Meeting Presentation
- **12/12/25:** Tabling at Community Performance Art and Book Event at El Colegio High School



Project Background

Storymap Overview

<https://arcg.is/10ffC03>



Harriet Island Regional Park Long-Range Plan

City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

[ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS](#) [PARK OVERVIEW](#) [PROJECT INTRODUCTION](#) [INDIGENOUS LEGACY](#) [HISTORY](#) [EXISTING CONDITIONS](#) [CURRENT PARK USE](#) [THE FUTURE OF HARRIET ISLAND](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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PARK OVERVIEW

Situated on the southern shore of the Mississippi River directly across from Saint Paul's central business district, Harriet Island has a complex and varied history from spiritual meaning for the Dakota, to recreational and public health uses for newer immigrants to hosting large festivals today. Once an island in the middle of the Mississippi River, Harriet Island was reshaped by cutting back the northern portion of the island and filling in the south side to connect it to the banks. Later, a levee was constructed to control flooding of the Mississippi River to protect industrial uses. Today, this seasonally flooded park sits within the Mississippi Flyway migratory bird route, Great River Passage, and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

The most recent long-range plan for Harriet Island Regional Park (and Lilydale Regional Park) was completed in 1991, with numerous renovations and nearby developments since.



ArcGIS StoryMaps

Harriet Island Regional Park Long-Range Plan

City of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation

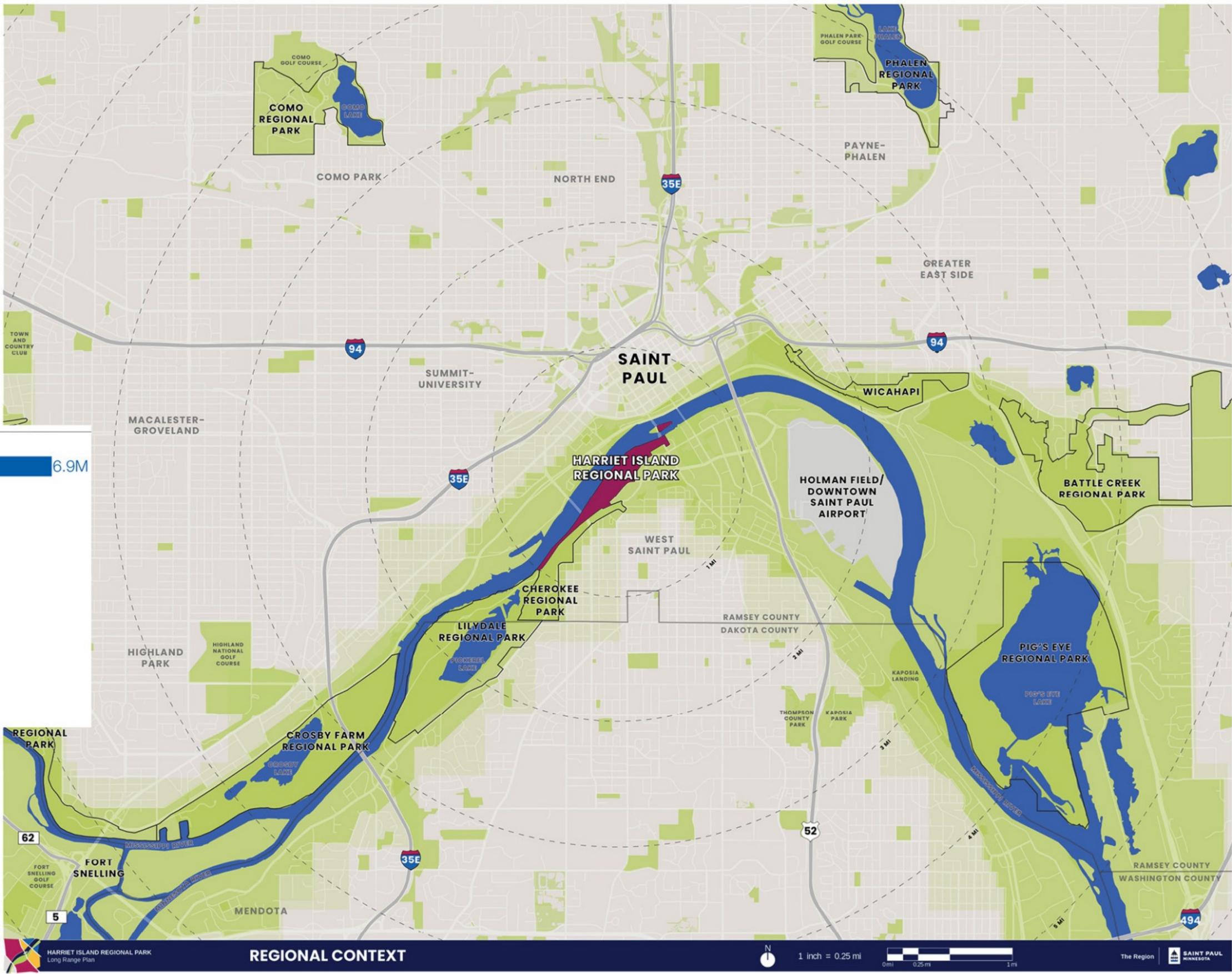
REGIONAL CONTEXT

- Lilydale-Harriet Park among the top 10 most visited Regional Parks in 2024
- 1.1m visits in 2024

FIGURE 2 – MOST VISITED REGIONAL PARKS IN 2024

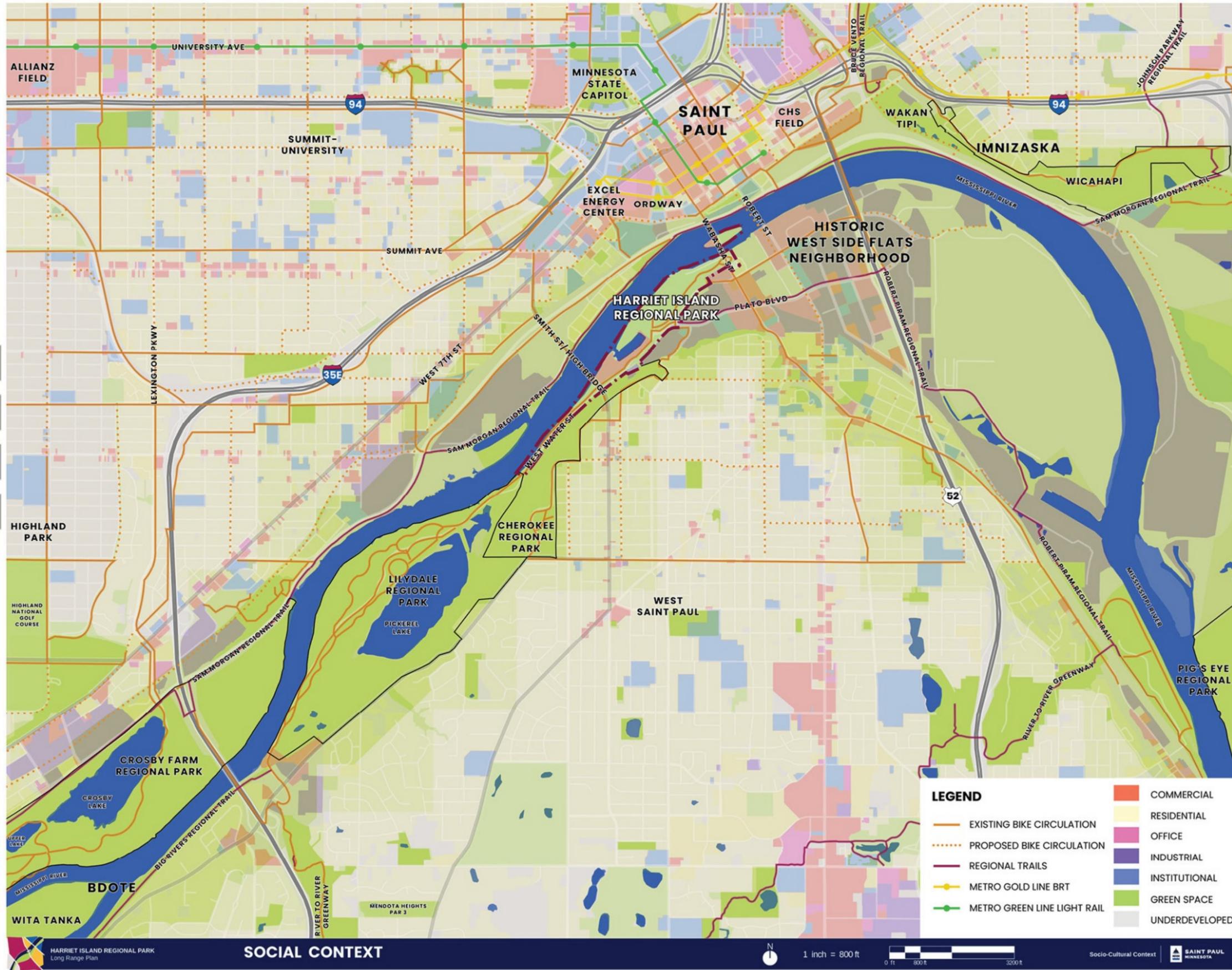
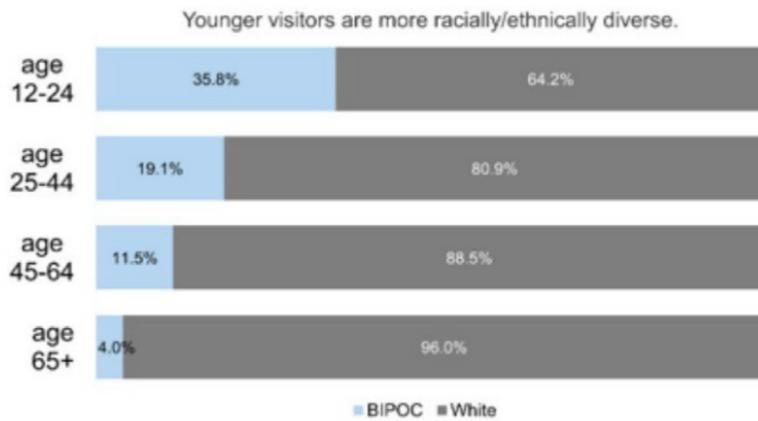


Source: Metropolitan Council's annual park and trail use estimates, 2025.



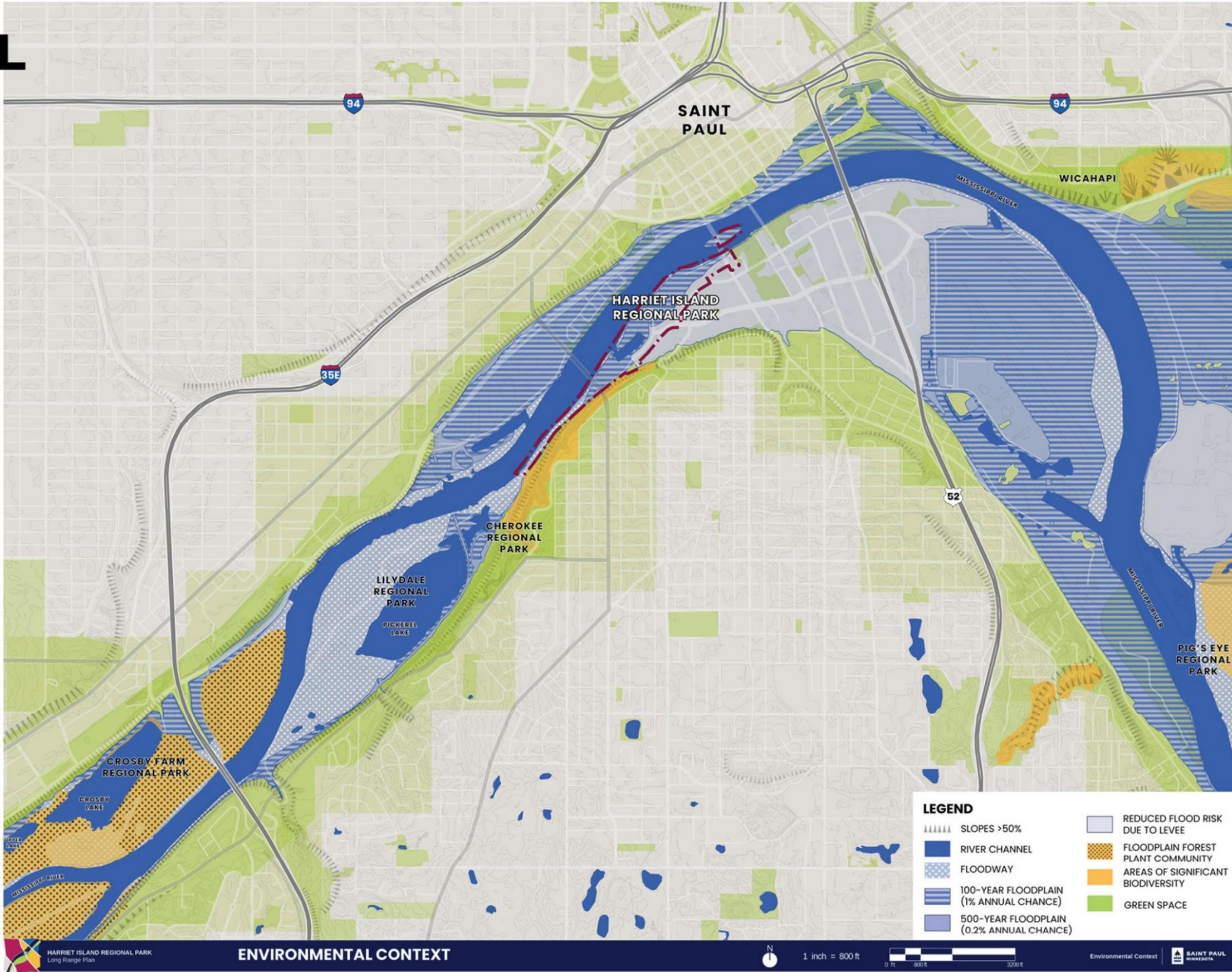
SOCIAL CONTEXT

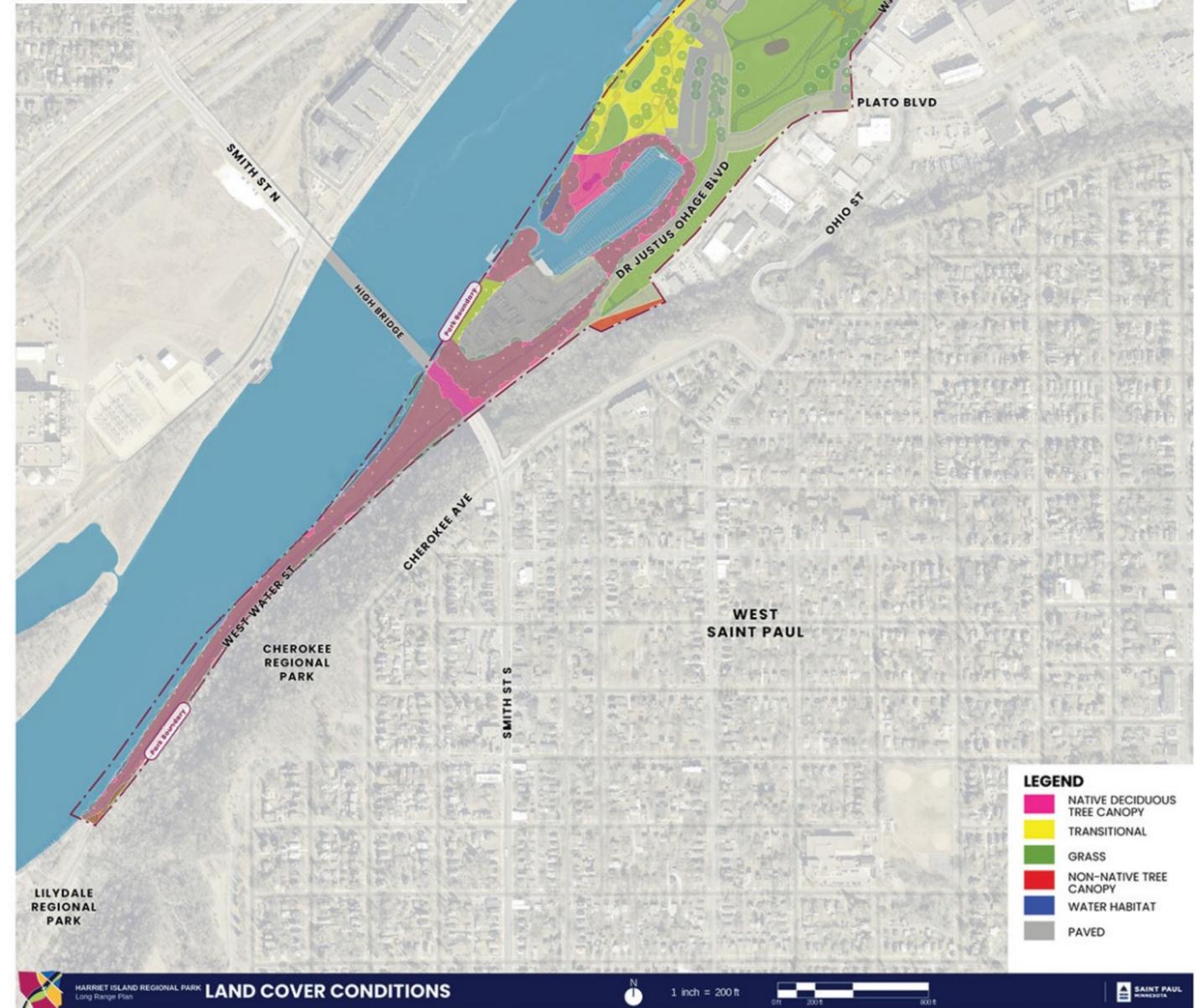
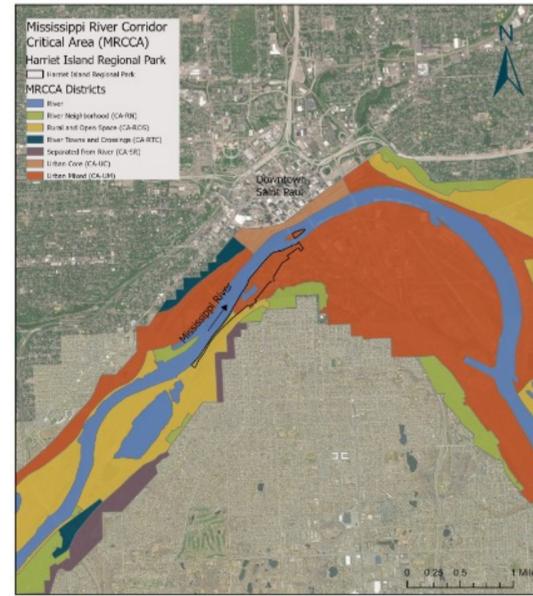
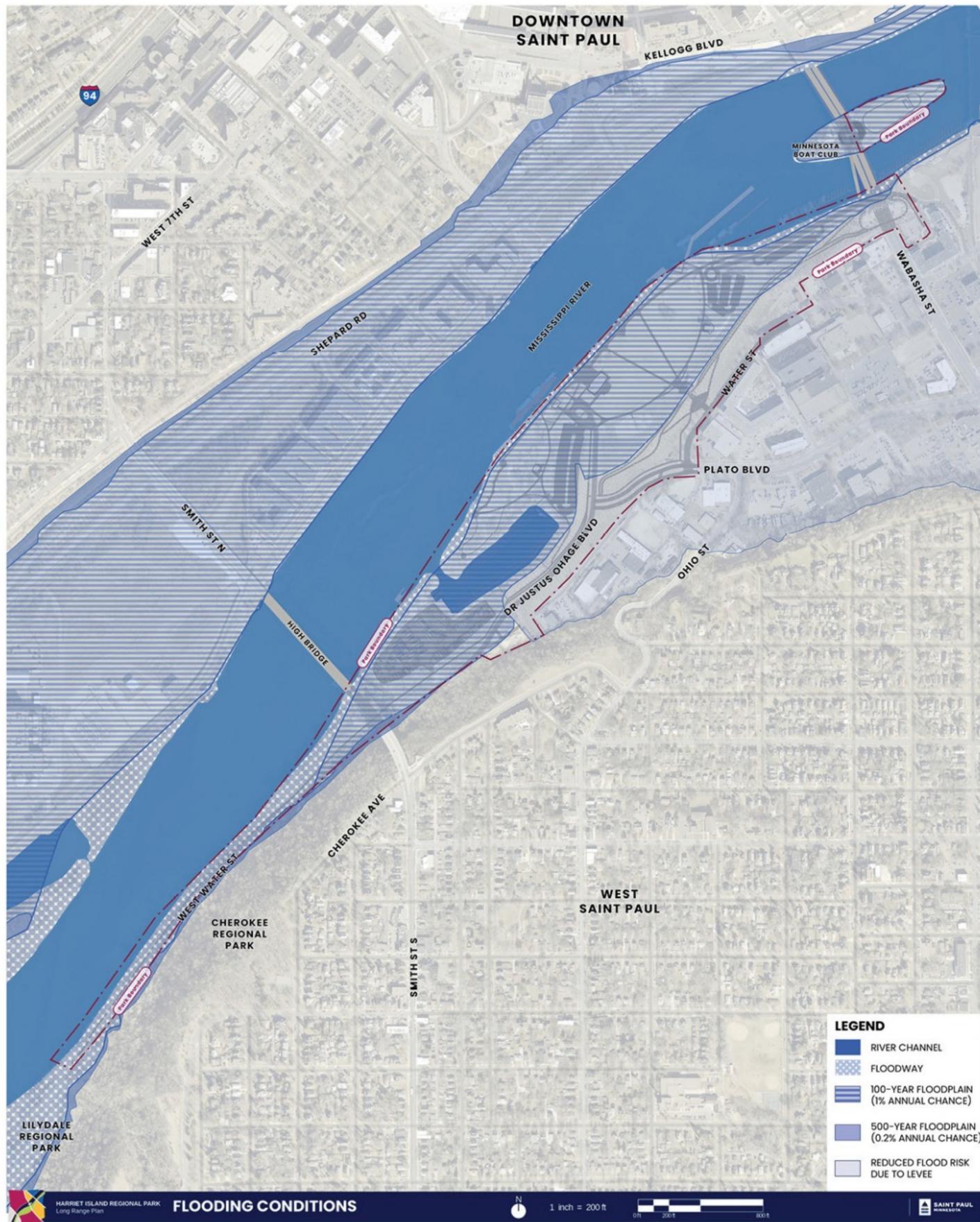
- Age and Race Demographics are Connected

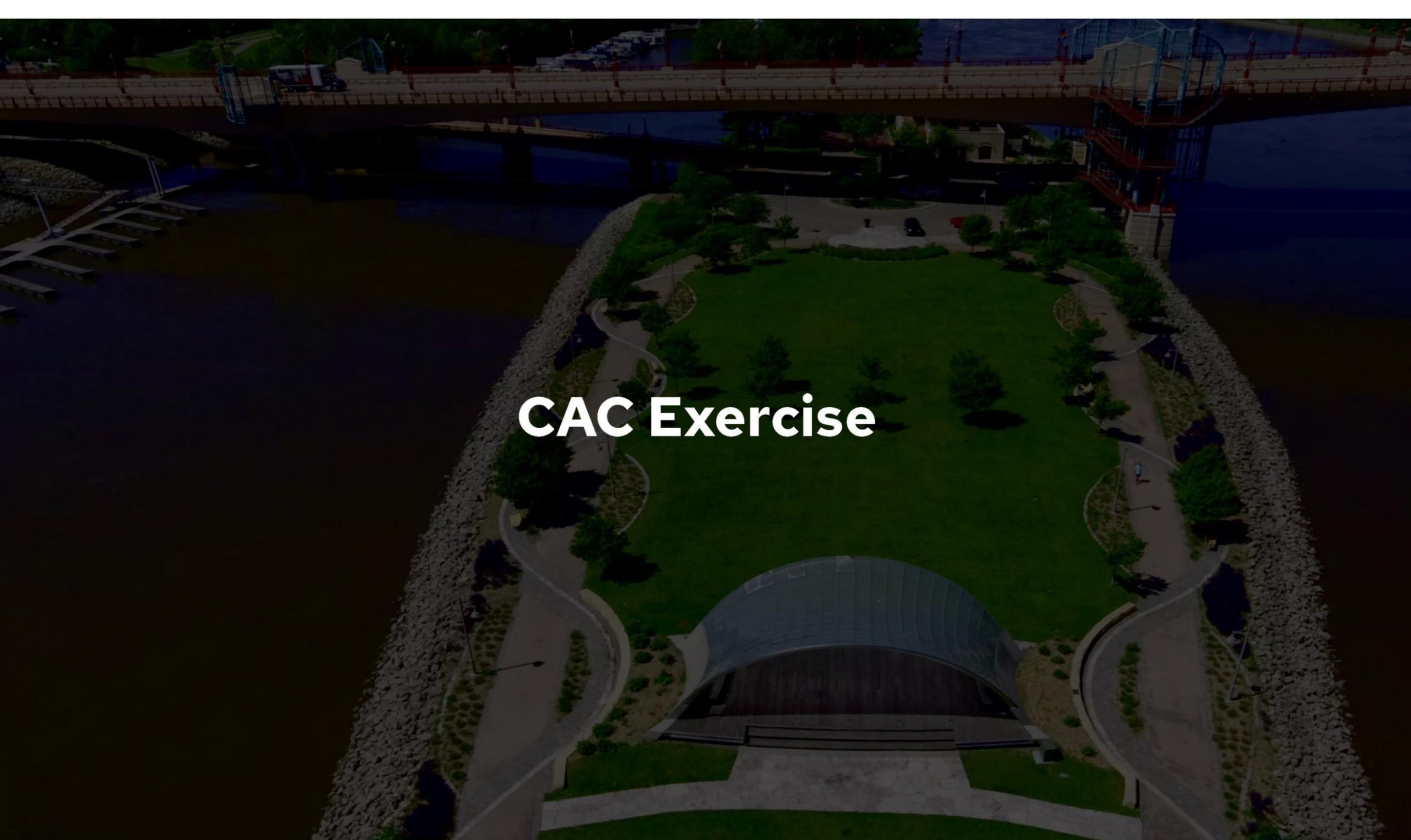


ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT

- Mississippi River is prone to flooding, as flow overtops its banks and water spreads across the floodplain
- Almost all of Harriet Island and Raspberry Island is within the 100-yr floodplain
- The existing levee reduces the flood risk







CAC Exercise

SWOT Discussion

Discuss and identify Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses, and Threats at Harriet Island Regional Park

Strengths:

- Amount of greenspace, good for picnics, quiet, hidden gem
- Holds festivals well, a lot of space. Remains green after
- Ample parking - helpful for parking and the marina
- Large pavillion - good for hosting events even during non-ideal weather
- Great location - close to city/downtown and proximity to river
- Skyline views

Weaknesses:

- Improve knowledge and awareness; opportunities for rental on island and events
- Access to transit
- Good lighting for road, better pedestrian lighting throughout the rest of the park
- Could use better signage, better signage to direct to park
- Parking lot names? Wayfinding map?
- Used to have more of a winter presence, now it feels more warm weather focused
- Don't find reasons to visit from other side of river? Disconnect from downtown?
- Stairs down from bridge

Opportunities:

- More bathrooms (hard to know when they'll be open)
- Temporary boat docking for people going up/down river
- Showboat theater, Paddleford Boats - River cruises bring people to the park
- Partner more with conventions in non-winter months; walking tours, history tours, work with hotels and convention center
- Kids structures are a big draw
- Food venue (like Minneapolis parks); destination venue
- Bike & running paths - promote those connections
- Connect to entertainment district at Fort Rd/W 7th - upper Landing

Threats:

- Flooding - all times of year
- Road construction makes access challenging
- Cost to keep up and maintain parks
- Mississippi River Corridor projects - what does that relationship look like?

Issues/Other:

- Slight belief that parts are not always the safest (Raspberry Island - maybe pop-up event helped change perception)
- Lake Phalen seems really busy - what do they have? access? activities
- Exploration for sport courts? Balance programming and flexibility of space
- What are park hours?
- Cherokee - a lot of picnics/family reunions

SWOT Discussion

Discuss and identify Strengths, Opportunities, Weaknesses, and Threats at Harriet Island Regional Park.

Strengths:

Opportunities:

Issues/Other:

Weaknesses:

Threats:

Group Share

Harriet Island Regional Park

Public Comment



Next Steps:

1. CAC homework (visit website, storymap, participate in online survey, share project activities and events)
2. Next CAC meeting (#2): March, 10th, 4:30–6:00pm, Wigington Pavilion/
Virtual (Hybrid)

- **Purpose: Draft Guiding Principles and Park Program**

THANK YOU!



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HARRIET ISLAND REGIONAL PARK
Long Range Plan

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collaborative





Harriet Island Regional Park Long Range Plan CAC (Community Advisory Committee) Meeting #1

February 17, 2026

Harriet Island Wigington Pavilion/Virtual Via MS Teams



<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization/Representative</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Amy Lee	Capitol River Council	[x] online
Monica Bravo	West Side Community Organization	[x]
Marques Miller	Lancer Catering/City House	[x] online
Analita Silva	El Burrito Mercado	[x]
Phillip Sam	Intercontinental St. Paul	[x]
Mary Sazenski	F-O-K Studios	[x]
Aaron Johnson Ortiz	Minnesota Latino Museum	[x]
Janet Gracia	Neighborhood House	[x]
Shad Klukas	Neighborhood House	[x] online
Charlie Stockwell	Minnesota Boat Club	[x]
Christy Dickinson	F-O-K Studios	[x]
Bill Tschohl	St. Paul Yacht Club	[x]
Mike Shimshock	St. Paul Yacht Club	[x]
Colleen O'Connor Toberman	Friends of the Mississippi River	[x]
Kim Chung	Saint Paul Area Chamber	[x] online
Brittany Williams	City of St. Paul/ Harriet Island Events	[x]
Mary Norton	City of St. Paul	[x]
Ellen Stewart	City of St. Paul	[x]
Ana Nelson	Tlalli Collaborative	[x]
Bruce Chamberlain	Tlalli Collaborative	[x]
Addie Hayden-Sofio	Tlalli Collaborative	[x] online
Chad Schultz	Tlalli Collaborative	[x] online

***Note:** Content shared and attendance of this meeting is considered public information. Names listed and photographs taken during this event may be included in future meeting notes or as additional content as part of the long range plan document.





Project Name: Harriet Island Regional Park Long Range Plan
Subject: CAC (Community Advisory Committee) Meeting #1
Meeting Date: February 17, 2026
Location: Hybrid at Wigington Pavilion & via MS Teams
Attendees: See sign-up sheet

Meeting Goals:

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- Understand the project scope and schedule
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- Review findings and engagement conducted to date
- Initiate discussion about issues and opportunities that will shape the Long Range Plan

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Project Purpose and Schedule
3. Public Outreach and Engagement
4. Engagement Tools & Project Background
5. CAC Exercise -Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT) Analysis
6. Public Comment
7. Next Steps

Meeting Notes:

- Started with introductions
- Reviewed Meeting Goals
- Reviewed Agenda for the meeting
- Place recognition – This is Dakota land. “Revealing Place” acknowledgment of place-naming evaluation and further consideration of how to celebrate the indigenous history of the site through the renaming process.
- Review of the project purpose and acknowledgment of the last time this happened for Harriet Island Regional Park (1991).
- Reviewed the Community Advisory Committee Charter (Purpose & Mission for CAC Meetings)
- Overview of the project site & its boundaries
- Glimpse at the project schedule and upcoming meetings, a total of 7. There will be two larger events suitable for larger groups. Dates and locations TBD.
- Reviewed summary of engagement types and feedback solicited. Brief overview of the online survey – which is still active, CAC members are encouraged to participate and share. St. Paul Parks staff shared engagement the city has done.
- Brief overview of the Storymap and how to use it, as well as the types of information it includes. CAC members are encouraged to review, provide feedback, and add to it as a general resource for the project’s context and history.
- Brief overview of analysis maps that have been done. These will be shared with CAC members, along with other meeting materials, after the meeting for further review.





SWOT Exercise (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats). CAC members were teamed into 4 groups to identify SWOT topics. Feedback is provided below:

Group 1: Janet Gracia, Bill Tschohl, Analita Silva

- **Strengths**
 - Location on the water
 - Accessible place – parking & multi-use, open space
 - Wide variety of activities – can there be an activity built in?
 - More integrated
- **Weaknesses**
 - Visibility – have to know how to get to it
 - Restroom access b/d it's so spread out
 - Only visit for an event/need destination – place “names” and locations w/in the park Ohage
 - Need more spaces for care giving – visibility; need for contained play area(s)
 - Much bigger area than what we are exploring
 - No parking on West Water Street
- **Opportunities**
 - Signage – interpretive elements
 - Bigger/specific type of play (skateboarding?)
 - Music events/series
 - More activity the better, can discourage unwanted behavior (Alebriges exhibit!)
 - Food trucks/restaurant
 - Winter programming – ice skating/warming house, rental space
 - Picnic pavilion
- **Threats**
 - Accessibility across the park – flooding and constant maintenance
 - How to balance open restroom and public safety
 - Flooding – cannot plan
 - Safety & security – Raspberry Island & Wabasha Street Bridge

Group 2: Colleen O'Conner-Toberman, Monica Bravo, Aaron Johnson-Ortiz, Brittany Williams, Christy Dickinson

- **Strengths**
 - Pavilion is affordable, accessible to a wide range of events
 - Boat access (canoes, motorized, rowing)
 - Proximity to downtown
 - Sunset views
 - Only place nearby to touch the water
 - Water accessible with stairs, boats
 - River
- **Weaknesses**
 - Limited programming
 - Limited bathroom access
 - Could be year-round programming
 - Ice sculpting?
 - Public safety
 - Zero recognition of cultural history
 - Zero wildlife interpretation
 - The park architect
 - Sound quality



- Disconnect to downtown
- Disconnect to west side neighborhoods
- Road/car circulation is very confusing
- Lack of natural areas, wildlife habitat – would need to protect during events
- So worn out – trails, bathrooms, picnic shelter, feels shabby
- **Opportunities**
 - Dakota People. Honoring history
 - Paddle share
 - Activate Raspberry Island more
 - Make “picnic jail” less depressing (reservable picnic space)
 - Story of history of first peoples, multicultural accessibility to story and history
 - Community programming
 - Ice skating
 - Fishing
 - Trail & water access
 - Free/low-cost programming – not just festivals
 - Family accessibility
 - Opportunity to amplify downtown & west side neighborhoods
 - Neighborhood connections, stories (land/environment), wayfinding
 - River, nature, art, history, community, stories
 - Latino Museum – linking parks & museums/cultural centers together
- **Threats**
 - Large festivals are really disruptive to neighbors (access, parking, noise, visitors don't engage with neighborhood)
 - Increasing floods with climate change
 - Growing population on the park

Group 3: Charlie Stockwell, Phillip Sam, Mary Sazenski

- **Strengths**
 - Development – coordinated
 - Diversity of stakeholders
 - Defined area
 - Uniqueness of the island
- **Weaknesses**
 - Community consensus challenging (diverse views)
 - Public parking
 - Economic feasibility
- **Opportunities**
 - Improve sense of security
 - Starting from high bar, well maintained
 - Community partnerships
 - Event growth opportunities
 - Vibrant downtown, positive influence
- **Threats**
 - Flood frequency
 - Asian Carp/invasive species
 - Funding
 - Dam Lock 1 & 2 removal

Group 4 (Online): Amy Lee, Marques Miller, Shad Klukas, Kim Chung



-
- **Strengths**
 - Amount of greenspace – good for picnics, quiet, hidden gem
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 - Large pavilion – good for hosting events even during non-ideal weather
 - Great location – close to city/downtown and proximity to the river
 - Skyline views
 - **Weaknesses**
 - Lack of knowledge and awareness: opportunities for rental on island for events
 - Access to transit
 - Good lighting for road/cars; could use better lighting throughout the rest of the park
 - Could use better signage, better direction to the park
 - Parking lot names? Wayfinding maps?
 - Used to have more of a winter presence, now it feels more warm weather focused
 - Don't find reasons to visit from other side of the river, feels disconnected from downtown
 - Stairs down from bridge are cumbersome
 - **Opportunities**
 - More bathrooms (hard to know when they'll be open)
 - Showboat theater, Paddleford Boats (river cruises bring people to the park)
 - Temporary boat docking for people going up/down river
 - Partner more with conventions in non-winter months; walking tours, work with hotels and convention center
 - Kids structures are a big draw
 - Food venue (like Minneapolis parks); destination venue
 - Bike & running paths – promote those connections
 - Markers – tell distance from certain landmarks/areas around downtown/city as a way to promote people to walk there
 - Is there a dog park? Could be a destination to draw people
 - More year-round options
 - Connect to entertainment district at Ford Road/West 7th, Upper Landing
 - **Threats**
 - Flooding – all times of year
 - Road construction makes access challenging
 - Cost to keep up and maintain parks
 - Mississippi Corridor projects – what does that relationship look like?
 - **Issues / Other**
 - Slight belief that parks are not always the safest (Raspberry Island, maybe pop-up event helped change that perception)
 - Lake Phalen seems really busy – what do they have? Access? Activities?
 - What are park hours?
 - Exploration of sport courts? Balance programming and flexibility of space
 - Cherokee Regional Park has a lot of picnics/family reunions
 - Engagement with nearby apartments? West Side Flats
 - After the SWOT exercise, each group presented a generalization of their thoughts on strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats:
 - **Group 1:** The group shared their summary emphasizing safety and accessibility: need to improve accessibility to restrooms and parking. Need for more programming, safer and accessible programming, safety in general, and also having protocols about park usage. Recognized how important and unique it is to have this wide breadth of accessible public space at the river's edge for people to use and communities to gather.



- **Group 2:** The group shared a wide range of items: the need to recognize cultural history and wildlife, amplifying stories, improvements in public safety, more access to restrooms and picnic areas, the need to better activate Raspberry Island, the park is a great place to get closer to the water, but also balancing population/growth with park usage
- **Group 3:** The group addressed the recurring flooding issues, the need for funding, and the allocation of resources similar to the conversion of the Ford Dam project. They also discussed the number of invasive species. It was shared that the group didn't feel the need to expand/acquire land for additional park space. They stressed the need to encourage visitors/people to be cognizant of the neighboring community (respect for the people that live nearby). They mentioned that it is difficult to find parking during medium- to large-sized events. There are very strong partnerships that should be leveraged for continuous support, but the diversity of voices also makes it challenging to achieve consensus.
- **Group 4 (online):** The group acknowledged development(s) shaping the community (designing for the future), and the need to evolve/add destinations such as more food vendors. They shared that it is easy to get lost (need for improved wayfinding). They also mentioned the need to address safety/security concerns; for example, Raspberry Island can be perceived as unsafe.

A moment to welcome any public comment, no additional comments received. Moved into questions from CAC members:

- How can engagement be improved? Can CAC dates be added to the website?
 - There will be two larger events in the summer designed for more people to attend and provide feedback on the Long Range Plan
- 1-1/2 hours seemed to be a good time frame for people who attended, longer didn't necessarily see desirable
- CAC members requested more information on the end goal – both the process, the final intent, and examples of other Long Range Plans.
 - Plans will be shared for them to review
 - Goals are generally to make sure the park physically aligns with community goals and needs, as well as to be a funding mechanism through Met Council to meet those goals

Next Steps

- The presentation, links to the storymap, will be shared with the CAC members for more in-depth review and to solicit additional feedback
- **CAC Homework:**
 - Participate/take online survey
 - Visit the story map. Provide feedback
 - Visit the project website
 - Share with neighbors and community members about the project at meetings and events to help build awareness and collect representative feedback.
- Next CAC Meeting (#2): March 10th, 4:30 – 6:00 pm, Wigington Pavilion/Virtual (hybrid)
 - Purpose: Draft Guiding Principles and Park Program

