



The Next Generation of Parks

Minneapolis Riverfront

minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com

A competition sponsored by The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and The Minneapolis Parks Foundation, with creative partners The University of Minnesota College of Design and Walker Art Center

Introduction

Where it flows through Minneapolis, the Mississippi River is a critical element in a dynamic urban landscape. Over the past several decades portions of that landscape have seen significant development and redevelopment, while other portions have been little noticed. In response to the most prominent and successful redevelopment of the river and riverfront—especially at and below the St. Anthony Falls and along the downtown core—the community’s attitude toward the river has undergone a historic shift.

With a new and expanded understanding of the Mississippi River and its role in the life of the city, Minneapolis is poised to take on the next phase of redevelopment of this historic urban resource. We propose to examine a 5.5-mile stretch of the river—from the Stone Arch Bridge to the northern city limits—in a comprehensive and integrated manner. In doing so we have the opportunity to reinvest in and reinvigorate the length of the river; to acknowledge the history and shape the future of this dramatic feature of Minneapolis’s natural and built environment. We envision a Mississippi River that not only threads through neighborhoods, city and county, but knits together communities and contributes to the social, economic and environmental success of the region.

The 5.5-mile long area under examination represents the complex characteristics of the river and riverfront, as well as the challenges of redevelopment. These include topographic features, from St. Anthony Falls to the flatlands to the north; a variety of land uses, ranging from residential to industrial; neighborhoods of demographic and cultural diversity; and jurisdictional intersections, including Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board- and City-owned land, National Park status and multiple historic districts. And finally, climate—Minneapolis has four very distinct seasons that directly affect the appearance, function and potential uses of the river and its environs.

It is within this context that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Minneapolis Parks Foundation, with creative partners University of Minnesota College of Design and Walker Art Center, launch Phase II of the Minneapolis Riverfront Design Competition.



MINNEAPOLIS PARKS FOUNDATION

COLLEGE OF
DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

WALKER ART CENTER

PHASE II

Charge

The challenge for the design teams is to create a comprehensive vision for the identified portion of the Mississippi River that addresses current demands, as well as future uses. The successful design proposal will weave together the diverse communities of the river into a unified landscape that *performs*, in the greatest sense of the word. It will operate at the scale of the city but adapt to local, unique sites; explore multiple functions for diverse constituents; transform and revitalize the riverfront; and inspire the community.

Goals

The goals and the scope of the competition, as outlined in the RFQ:

The competition encourages a comprehensive, integrated approach to evaluating the larger river/park system, creating a framework that:

- Establishes parks as the engine for economic development along the river;
- Knits both sides of the riverfront together with their surrounding communities, thereby transforming the river from a barrier to a connector;
- Re-focuses the city toward one of the three great rivers of the world—the Fourth Coast of the U.S.—an extraordinary environmental amenity that defines Minneapolis' civic identity, past, present and future.

Scope

The competition will build on existing assets, not only existing social, economic and environmental features in and around the Mississippi upper riverfront, but also previous plans and proposals for the area as well as past exercises in community engagement. At the same time the competition will investigate new opportunities for connectivity, sustainability, infrastructure and public space along the upper riverfront and extending into the surrounding neighborhoods.

Programmatic Considerations

Design proposals should address the following issues within the context of the larger themes of sustainability, infrastructure, public space and connections:

Scale Consider multiple scales, from broad systems to local sites, and establish connections to reflect unique conditions and multiple identities along the river and in adjacent neighborhoods and areas.

Location Build on existing assets through place-based solutions that consider the geography, history, culture, ecology and economic conditions of Minneapolis and the Mississippi River.

Function Accommodate individual land uses, landscapes and places that perform more than one function and both programmed and un-programmed space.

Time Think about long-term development, flexible solutions that change and mature over time. Consider seed strategies that grow and adapt in ways that are sustainable in the broadest terms. Investigate landscapes that are accessible 24/7 and respond to the changing seasons.

Movement Examine multiple types of movement, to and across the river and neighborhoods, including systems that connect people and the environment.

Outcomes

Designers must provide a comprehensive vision for the site that includes these five elements:

- A multi-layered framework for the full 5.5-mile length of the site that identifies and illustrates a strategy for redevelopment of new or enhanced social, economic and environmental systems and opportunities.
- Identification of critical connections from neighborhoods to, along and across the river, including enhanced green infrastructure, ecological systems, community networks and historical and cultural assets.
- Identification of strategic sites, physical features and catalytic opportunities for design and development.
- Conceptual design of the highest priority strategic site as a development prototype.
- Estimates of the short-term and long-term costs of design features and maintenance

Note: Design proposals should not be limited to the boundaries of parkland but should incorporate any necessary improvements to the surrounding infrastructure and landscape.

Format

Design Proposals will be presented in multiple venues to lay people, as well as design professionals. Submissions must be in the form of stand-alone presentations that can be projected in an installation at the Walker Art Center, displayed online and published in print as part of the competition documentation. Submissions must communicate ideas in a clear and compelling manner that expresses the unique character of the design and design team, to a variety of audiences. Communication techniques should be explored that make the presentations very accessible to non-designers.

- For public presentations a variety of formats can be handled including Powerpoint and Keynote.
- Preferred printable document format is PDF.
- Separate images can be JPG or TIFF at a printable resolution (300 dpi).
- If you choose video as a method of presentation, the Walker Art Center prefers:
File Type: QuickTime (.mov)
Compression: H.264 (Highest Quality)
Resolution: 1280 x 720 or Higher
Frame Rate: 30 fps (Progressive or De-Interlaced)
Audio: AAC (Highest Quality) or Linear PCM

Key Dates

8 November 2010 – Competition Brief made available to short-listed teams and public

29 November – 1 December 2010 – Team Visits to Minneapolis

29 November – Meet the Designers, 5:30pm Guthrie Theater

30 November – River Symposium, 9am MPRB

30 November – SiteSeeing, Meet the Students, TBD

21 January 2011 – Design submittal deadline

27 January 2011 – Team presentations to jury and public – 7pm, Walker Art Center

10 February 2011 – Winner Announcement

Public Engagement Requirements

“Meet the Designers” (November 29, 2010)

An opportunity to meet with Minneapolis community leaders, gather information and learn more about public and private projects planned and underway along the river.

“Designer Ask” (December 2010)

This is a set of questions compiled directly from the competing design teams after their three-day visit to Minneapolis Nov. 29-Dec. 1. These questions will be available to all Minneapolis residents and visitors via an online survey and as a printed survey at Minneapolis Parks Recreation Centers. Answers will be provided back to the design teams with minimal filtering from the MR|DC partners.

Youth Engagement (30 November 2010)

Two groups of young people in Minneapolis will engage in a multi-session design process to create their vision for the riverfront, using an innovative curriculum called “SiteSeeing.” Youth will have a chance to meet at least one designer in a working session and finished designs will be shared with the competing design teams as part of the Competition Brief.

Public Presentation (27 January 2011)

The four competing design teams will be in Minneapolis at the end of January to make a public presentation of their proposed designs at the Walker Art Center. The event will be free and open to the public.

Selection Process

The 13-member jury will select the winning design team. The MPRB Superintendent and Commissioners, along with the Metropolitan Council, will determine the site and scope of the commission award, which will go to the winning team chosen by the jury. The budget for the design and construction phase will be set at that time.

Payment

Each short-listed team will receive \$30,000 for design and travel. Payment will be received after concepts are submitted.

Contact

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Resources

Further guidance for the design can be found in the following plans, studies, projects and base information:

District Plans and Information

Central Riverfront Planning: Planning for the revitalization of the central portion of the riverfront near downtown has continuously taken place over the past thirty years and continues today— paying respect to both the Mississippi River as a natural resource and the historic district as a cultural resource.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/riverfront_central.asp

Above the Falls (ATF): Prepared in 1999 and adopted in 2001 by both the Minneapolis City Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, this Master Plan for the Upper River in Minneapolis is subdivided into four parts: a Land Use Plan, a Parks and Urban Design Plan, an Environmental Restoration Plan, and an Implementation Plan. Above the Falls suggests a land use vision for the area and includes Related Policy Issues, Planning Objectives, Constraints and Opportunities, and Recommendations.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/master-plans/above-falls/index.asp>

Above the Falls Policy Review and Implementation Study: Due to concerns related to the potential impact on existing businesses and the long-term supply of industrial land along the Upper River the ATF Policy and Review was conducted to analyze the recommendations of the ATF plan, make appropriate revisions, and rezone the property.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/above_the_falls.asp

Historic Mills District Master Plan and Update: The Historic Mills Master Plan was prepared in 1998 to be used as a guide to create residential density and attract new business to the District. The 2001 Update discusses the Guthrie Development Alternative, the Mills District Design Guidelines, and a summary of the Traffic and Parking Technical Report.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/update_historic_mills.asp

St. Anthony Falls Historic District: St. Anthony Falls Historic District is both locally and nationally designated. The website provides a map, design guidelines, and a historic profile.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/landmarks/St_Anthony_Falls.asp

2009 St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone Interpretive Plan: The Plan is based on audience research, consultation with stakeholders, and expertise in landscape architecture. The Plan outlines the existing attractions of the riverfront and calls for introducing new amenities to enhance the area and draw visitors back.

http://www.mnhs.org/places/safhb/about_plan.shtml

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board Research Reports: A collection of reports on topics such as historic preservation, transportation, and art & culture.

http://www.mnhs.org/places/safhb/history_research.shtml

St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone History Resource List

<http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/St.%20Anthony%20Falls%20Heritage%20Zone%20History%20List%20of%20Resources.doc>

The Voice of Nature: Geographic Features and Landscape Change At Saint Anthony Falls: The Voice of Nature, prepared in October of 1989, consists of information related to the changing geographic features at the Falls including early photographs and maps.

<http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/The%20Voice%20of%20Nature-Geographic%20Features%20and%20Landscape%20Change%20at%20Saint%20Anthony%20Falls.pdf>

Small Area and Neighborhood Plans

Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Master Plan: The goals of the Marcy Holmes Neighborhood Master Plan focus on land use, housing, livability, economic development, public realm, social and cultural context, transportation and parking, character and design, and preservation.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/master-plans/marcy-holmes/index.asp>

North Loop Small Area Plan: The Plan summarizes the research conducted including existing conditions, offers recommendations, and describes an implementation plan to help address the opportunities and challenges of the neighborhood.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/north_loop.asp

West Broadway Alive: Approved in 2008, the revitalization plan—for what was once considered the most significant commercial and cultural destination in north Minneapolis—offers Design Guidelines and an Action Agenda for future development and public realm improvements to re-establish West Broadway as a community asset.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/west-broadway.asp>

Lowry Avenue Strategic Plan: The Lowry Avenue Strategic Plan builds on the general vision created in the 2002 Lowry Avenue Corridor Plan which includes recommendations related to streetscape improvements, transit facilities, commercial nodes, green space connections, and phasing. The Strategic Plan offers updates and more detailed development strategies for the corridor.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/lowry_strategic_plan.asp

Grain Belt Development Objectives: *Above the Falls* refers to the Grain Belt Brewery Area as “one of the great architectural and cultural resources of the Upper River and the most significant landmark in Northeast Minneapolis.” Approved by City Council in August of 2000, the Development Objectives emphasizes the historic importance of the site with hopes of expanding a complimentary mixed-use concept in and around the neighborhood.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/AmendedGrainBeltDev.pdf>

Upper Harbor Terminal: The UHT Special Study Caucus discusses the history, economic advantages, and environmental benefits of commercial navigation in Minneapolis, the original use of the Upper Harbor Terminal site until 2010. The UHT Redevelopment Study discusses the viability for land use transformation for the site including several alternatives, the importance of collaboration between the City of Minneapolis and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and the significant up-front investment in core infrastructure and amenities needed for the potential redevelopment project.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/riverfront_upper.asp

See *Upper Harbor Terminal Special Study Caucus – April 2003*

See *Upper Harbor Terminal Redevelopment Study – October 2004*

Lowry Bridge: History, design, and related news coverage for the Lowry Avenue Bridge Replacement Project.

<http://lowryavenuebridge.com/>

Other Plans and Initiatives

The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth (Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan): An update to the 2000 Comprehensive Plan, the Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth was created to address economic and development changes and propose solutions, comply with State law, meet regional planning requirements.
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/CPED/comp_plan_2030.asp

Public Engagement Around Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan: Community outreach and needs assessment results (including questionnaire, town meetings, community leader workshops, focus groups, and phone survey) used to influence priorities and decision making.
http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/public_engagement.zip

Critical Area Plan: The Mississippi River Critical Area Program coordinates planning and management efforts for the designated Mississippi River Critical Area Corridor. A local plan was prepared and adopted to create balance between protection and utilization of river related resources.
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/critical-area-plan.asp>

Industrial Land Use Study and Employment Policy Plan: The purpose of this analysis is to inform current and future policymaking and land use planning related to industrial land use and industrial employment in Minneapolis.
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/industrial-landuse.asp>

Downtown Minneapolis Park Space Initiative: The report provides an inventory of open spaces downtown Minneapolis along with related existing conditions for comparison, examines four successful downtown parks in other U.S. cities, and discusses the financial component of creating and maintaining a high-profile downtown park.
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/DT_Mpls_Park_Space_Initiative.asp

Bike Master Plan: The Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan offers history, policies, objectives, existing conditions, a needs analysis, a description of proposed projects, and research on funding/ implementation that will assist in improving the safety and mobility for bicyclists as well as increase the number of riders.
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/bicycle-plans.asp>

Pedestrian Master Plan: As one of six components that make up the City's transportation action plan, the Pedestrian Master Plan aims to make Minneapolis a great walking city where "...people choose to walk for transportation, recreation, and health."
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/pedestrian-masterplan.asp>

Fuji Ya Redevelopment

<http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/Fuji%20Ya%20Redevelopment.pdf>

Maps and Property Based Information

City projects: A map of major development projects in Minneapolis as of July 1, 2010.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/minneapolis_map.pdf

Zoning and land use: Follow the instructions to determine the zoning classification of a particular property.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/zoning/maps/>

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/01_Land_Use_100209.pdf

Vacant Land: Existing Land Use Maps are located on pages 1-33 through 1-38.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/01_Land_Use_100209.pdf

Public Lands: Above the Falls Ownership map on page 23.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/ATF_Phase1A_Final_Report_041210.pdf

Land Value Ratio: Above the Falls Ratio of Building Value to Land Value map on page 28.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/ATF_Phase1A_Final_Report_041210.pdf

Neighborhood Boundaries: City of Minneapolis Planning Sectors map illustrates sectors, neighborhoods, and planner assignments.

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/planning_sector_map.pdf

Demographics: This site provides trend information and maps to profile Minneapolis neighborhoods based on census data from 1980, 1990, and 2000.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/neighborhoods/>

Primary Transit Network (see map): xxx

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/docs/02_Transportation_100209.pdf

Historic Features and Districts: Maps and information related to Minneapolis Landmarks and Historic Districts including dates of construction, neighborhood, and architectural significance.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/landmarks/>

Brownfield Sites: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency sponsors *What's in My Neighborhood*, an environmental view of a community— generated after entering information related to a specific site.

<http://cf.pca.state.mn.us/wimn/search.cfm>

Storm and Surface Water Management: The goal of this site is to increase awareness, provide information, and encourage community involvement properly managing storm and surface water.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/stormwater/>

Surficial Geology Atlas of Hennepin County

ftp://mgssun6.mngs.umn.edu/map_catalog/pdf/umn22236.pdf

Bedrock Geology Atlas of Hennepin County

ftp://mgssun6.mngs.umn.edu/map_catalog/pdf/umn22249.pdf

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) Information

MPRB: The MPRB website provides information related to the City's Parks & Lakes, Recreation Centers, and Gardens & Historical Sites including events and programs.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/home.asp>

Boom Island: Maps, photos, improvement updates, program and amenity information.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=4&parkid=264>

Mill Ruins Park: Maps, photos, improvement updates, program and amenity information.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=4&parkid=413>

Current Projects: Updated information on MPRB current projects including timelines, news releases, and Board activity.

<http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=33>

Minnehaha Falls Trails: bike and pedestrian trails

http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/parks/maps/Minnehaha_Falls_Park_Trail_Map.pdf

Cycling in Minneapolis: bike trails in the City

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/about/maps/GBSTrails24x36.pdf>

Park System Highlights: including base map of parks and streets

http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/parks/system_map.pdf

2010 Riverfront Design Competition Base Maps

http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/MPRB_base_maps.zip

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) Information

Historic Resources Study: A study that focuses on archeological and historic resources along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

http://www.nps.gov/miss/historyculture/historic_resources.htm

Comprehensive Management Plan: The Comprehensive Management Plan was established and issued in 1995. It serves as the general management plan for the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The plan provides guidance for managing this area for 10-15 years.

<http://www.nps.gov/miss/parkmgmt/cmp.htm>

Strategic Plan: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area staff worked with the Mississippi River Fund and Cincinnatus, Inc, a consulting firm, to develop a strategic plan that clarifies the goals, visions, and values of the park.

<http://www.nps.gov/miss/parkmgmt/straplan.htm>

MNRRA Alternative Transportation Plan (ATP): The Plan's objective is "to get people to, on, and along" the Mississippi River's 72 mile long corridor without creating additional congestion and while protecting the resource.

http://www.nps.gov/miss/parknews/alternative_trans_plan.htm

Mississippi River Companion: A guide to recreation opportunities along the Mississippi River including boat and trail access.

<http://www.nps.gov/miss/planyourvisit/missrivercomp.htm>

Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) Information

Reservoir: Digital Atlas of the Middle Mississippi River Watershed (2005)

Contents:

Summary/ History

Watershed Boundary Maps

Curriculum Aids

Habitat Maps & Photos

Land Use Maps

Historical Pictures

Literature

Monitoring Data

Historical Maps

Bassett Creek & Shingle Creek

Maps & Plans

History of Sewers

Upper Mississippi

River maps of:

- Geology

- Habitat

- Land Use

- Agriculture

Maps and Data

- Geology & Soils

- Hydrology

Reports and Plans for the MWMO

USGS Air Photos

- 1940

- 1969

- 2000

- 1993 Downtown Panoramas

Topographic USGS Maps

- 1896-1902

- 1954-1955

- 1993

USGS Air Photos

- 1991-1993

- Sandy Lake

- Silver Lake

The watershed management list will be sent to the teams in the mail via physical CDs

Other Contributing Organization Information

Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation

"Minneapolis Riverfront Corporation is a nonprofit corporation established to support and encourage continued riverfront revitalization in Minneapolis." A collection of comprehensive plans, topical plans, small area plans, and park plans related to the communities around the riverfront can be found on their website.

<http://www.mplsriverfrontcorp.org/plans.asp>

Preservation Alliance of Minnesota

The Still Mighty Mississippi (article): A brief history describing how the once predominantly industrial riverfront still influences the more urban land use today.

http://www.masla.org/component/option,com_docman/task,cat_view/gid,93/Itemid,92/

(See *_SCAPE Fall 06 Topic: Business* dated 09.01.2006)

River Life Partnership, Institute on the Environment (IonE)

River Atlas: The River Atlas is one of the three programs provided by the River Life Partnership that offers river information related to science, design, sustainable river management, and more.

http://environment.umn.edu/riverlife/river_atlas.html

Minnesota Historical Society

http://www.mnhs.org/places/safhb/about_plan.shtml

University of Minnesota

College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Design Center for American Urban Landscape

http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/Mississippi_River_Newsletters.zip

Mississippi River Newsletters: A Case Study Integrating Urban Design and Ecology (1994-95)

Vol. 2, No. 1: Redefining the River Corridor as a River Community

Vol. 2, No. 2: Corridors, Networks and Watersheds

Vol. 2, No. 3: The Sand Plain and Terrace Reach: Extending and Protecting Systems

Vol. 2, No. 4: The Falls and Canyon Reach: Reinvesting and Connecting

Vol. 2, No. 5: The Valley and Prairie Plain Reach: Preserving and Enhancing Assets

Vol. 2, No. 6: Building a Mississippi River Community

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Below are links to information on the channel areas that we dredge and the placement sites for this material. The dredging in this area is all by mechanical means and material is not hydraulically pumped like some areas further downstream of the Twin Cities. Cranes on barges excavate the material onto barges and the material is barged to designated placement sites where it is unloaded. Most of the material is used for road sanding or construction backfill. The City of Minneapolis is responsible for providing the dredged material placement sites and is responsible for the use and disposition of the material after it is placed at the site by the Corps of Engineers. The lock and dams at Upper St. Anthony Falls and Lower St. Anthony Falls are unique on the Mississippi River in that they have a local sponsor, in this case the City of Minneapolis. When the locks were built the City was responsible for acquiring the real estate and taking care of other local responsibilities like utility relocations and easements. Upon completion of construction the Corps assumed the cost of annual maintenance and operation of the projects while the City remained responsible for the real estate. The Corps owns the real estate at the lock facilities and the City owns, or has rights to, the real estate where the dredged material is placed.

Dredge Cuts in Mississippi River - Minneapolis and St. Paul:

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/nav/channel/Plan/Tab_8_Tiles_4_9.pdf

Dredged Material Placement Sites (note that the two sites shown in the lower gorge area are emergency placement sites and are not for routine channel maintenance use):

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/nav/channel/Plan/tab_10.pdf

Dredging Summaries for channel areas. (On the linked table the channel above the falls is referred to as "USAF" pool):

http://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/docs/nav/channel/Plan/Tab_4_1.pdf

http://minneapolisriverfrontdesigncompetition.com/resources/Navigation_map.pdf