TLS / KVA matx

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The TLS/KVA **RIVERFIRST** Project establishes a design framework to address four challenges for the 21st century: WATER, HEALTH, MOBILITY and GREEN ECONOMY. RIVERFIRST design initiatives function at multiple scales to link larger natural, social, civic and economic ecologies and raise citizen awareness about the impacts of consumer choices on the Upper Mississippi River.

WATER: Through landscape design, green products and public education initiatives, the RIVERFIRST Park offers new ways for people to recreate and socialize along the river and builds public consensus for the gradual transformation of the Mississippi USAF Pool to a more natural, living River.

HEALTH: RIVERFIRST leverages Park land to improve the health of the river, the city and its neighborhoods. New opportunities are created to increase urban agriculture, provide food security and expand neighborhood access to healthy foods in ways that build community and local businesses.

MOBILITY: RIVERFIRST offers a multi-modal, sustainable public transportation system for commuting and recreation with continuous pedestrian and bike/ski riverfront trails and a new Prairie Loop clean bus shuttle that connects North and Northeast neighborhoods to existing and proposed LRT lines.

GREEN ECONOMY: RIVERFIRST proposes to consider the Park as a catalyst to accelerate the transition from smokestack industry to a 21st century Green Economy based on logistical transportation advantages, smart and clean technology innovation.

RIVERFIRST offers a comprehensive remediation of the city's storm water management system and its conceptual transformation into a system of 'tributaries' that are naturally cleaned with planted bio-filtration landscapes and returned to the river. The topography of the RIVERFIRST design is guided by the dynamics of the river. Where water carves and erodes, subtractive design principles are used to create water remediation ravines and terrace overlooks. Where the river deposits new material, accretive principles of design are used to mold and shape land berms for the new Park.

The recovery of **Northside Wetlands**, and the design of storm water remediation 'ravines' on the North East bluffs integrate public Park land with municipal eco-infrastructure and a wide range of recreation activities. The TLS/KVA design uses site topography to reconnect the Northside's historic **Farview Park** with the River, urban agriculture and new skilled jobs in a proposed **River City Innovation District**. The site's sloped cross-section provides for a compact footprint for a **Green Port** and **Green Economy Industries**. Sculpted landforms enable pedestrian and bike/ski **River Shore Trails** to rise above existing barge terminals allowing for immediate, continuous public Riverfront access. The RIVERFIRST design for **Scherer Park** restores **Hall's Island** with public swim/skate and kayak launching facility and provides for sustainable **Housing, Live/Work Studios** and an **Arts Center**. At Scherer Park, the river produces its own dynamic landscape of sand bars and shallow pools that shift according to winter melts, patterns of sediment deposition and river flows.

Real time water monitoring from the Minnesota USGS website is made public with energy efficient, smart illumination along **Knot Bridges** which link the creative energy of the **NE Arts District** with the **River City Innovation District** and Downtown. Floating **Biohaven Islands** made of recycled water bottles anchored to existing bridge piers provide seven acres of protected riparian habitat for migrating birds and endangered wildlife. The **River Talk** mobile phone app and solar powered **Park WiFi Network** create unprecedented opportunities for local and national public education about river ecology attracting world class institutional, corporate and organizational partners to the Minneapolis Parks.