



Board Workshop / Discussion Agenda

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

July 9, 2024 - 1:30 p.m.

Courthouse Room 220

WORKSHOP

1. The Park at RiversEdge Update

[2024-201](#)

Sponsors: Community & Economic Development



Board Workshop / Discussion

Request for Board Action

15 West Kellogg Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55102
651-266-9200

Item Number: 2024-201

Meeting Date: 7/9/2024

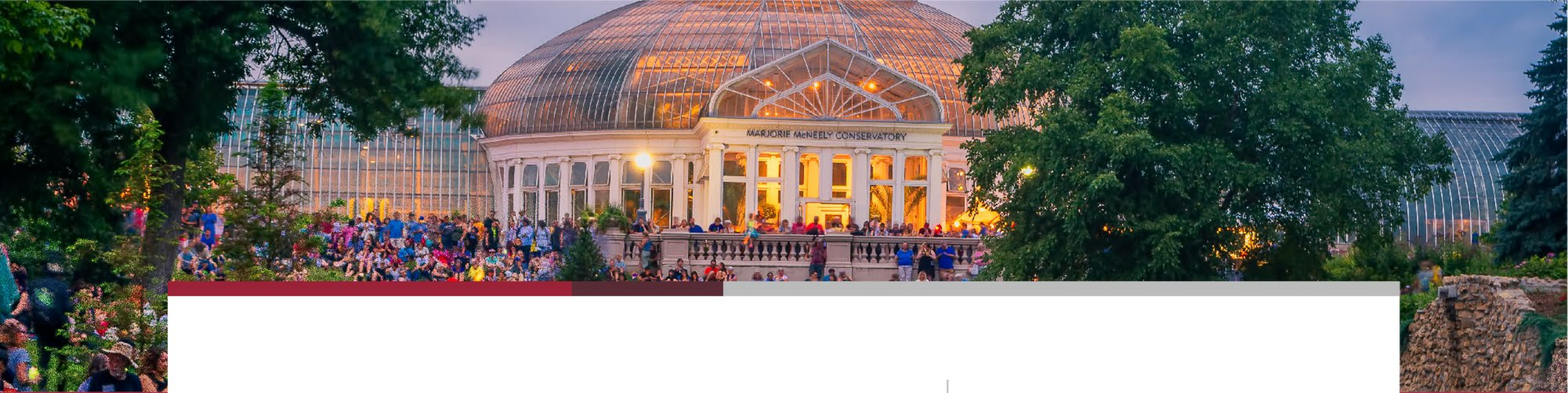
Sponsor: Community & Economic Development

Title

The Park at RiversEdge Update

Attachment

1. Presentation



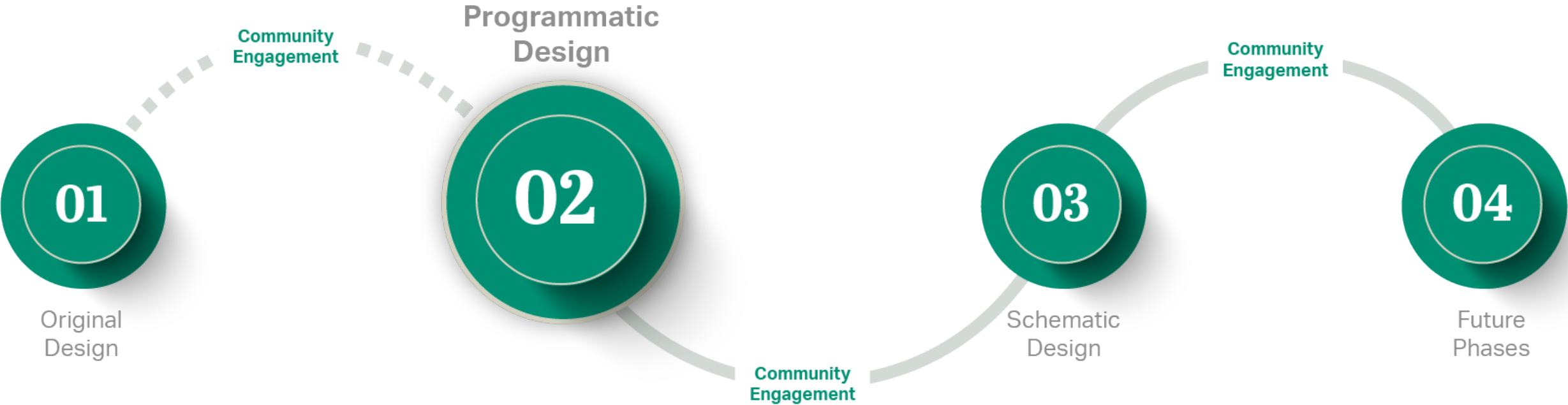
The Park at RiversEdge Update



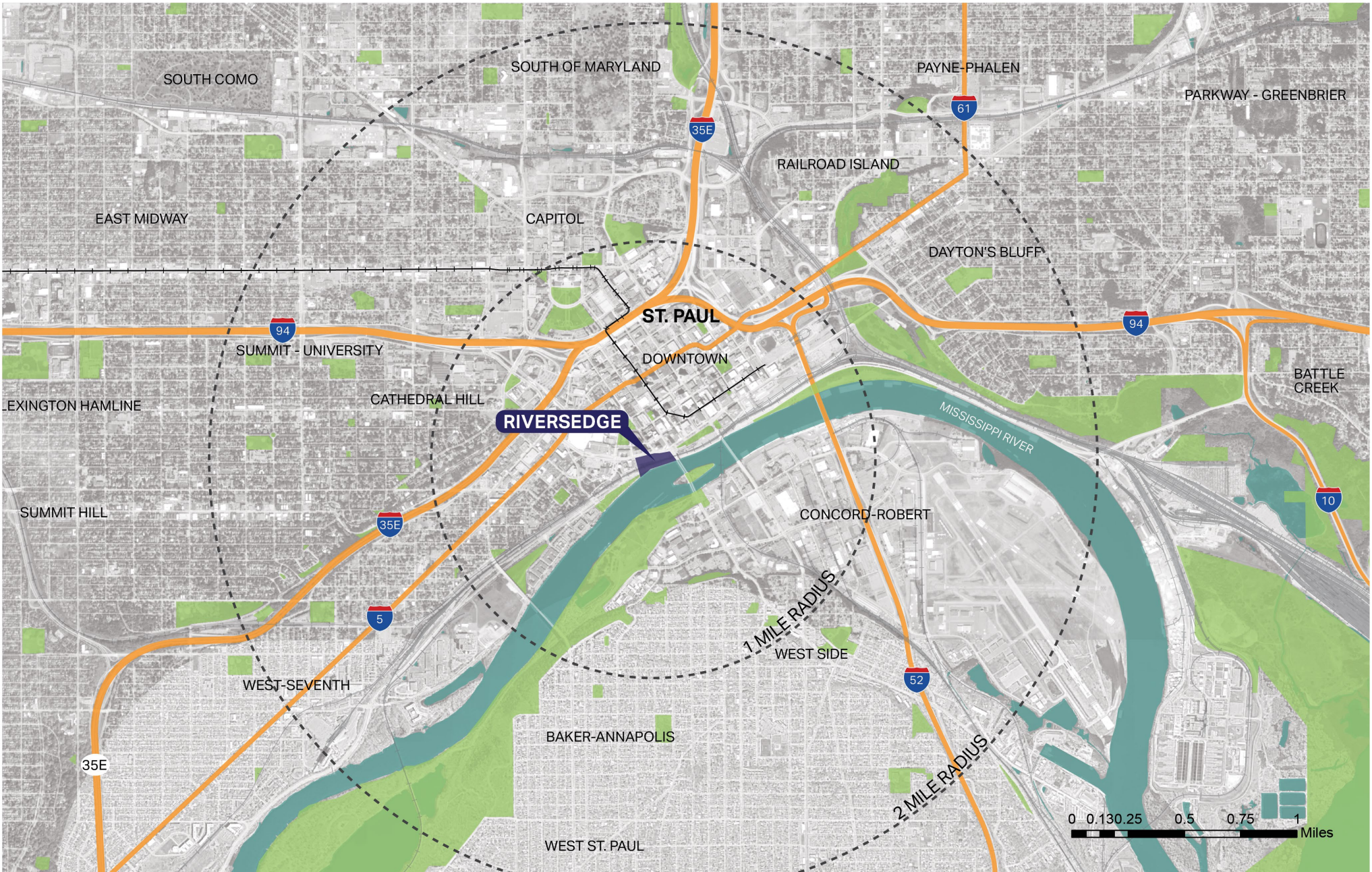
Purpose of this Workshop

- Share current design direction and provide an overview of the process that led to the concepts. (Sonia Jakse Barone, Senior Associate, AECOM)
- Present the findings of engagement work completed to date and share future engagement opportunities. (Sharice McCain, Senior Community Engagement Specialist, NEOO Partners)
- Community and Economic Development (CED) will provide general project updates including railroad negotiations and spending of \$6.22 million. (Josh Olson, Director and Claudia Klinkhammer, Redevelopment Manager)
- CED will discuss the next steps.
- Have discussion and feedback from the board.

Project Timeline





Regional Context





Access & Connectivity


LEGEND


 Site Boundary


 Bike Trails


 Bike Lanes


 Planned Bike Lanes


 Ped. River Access

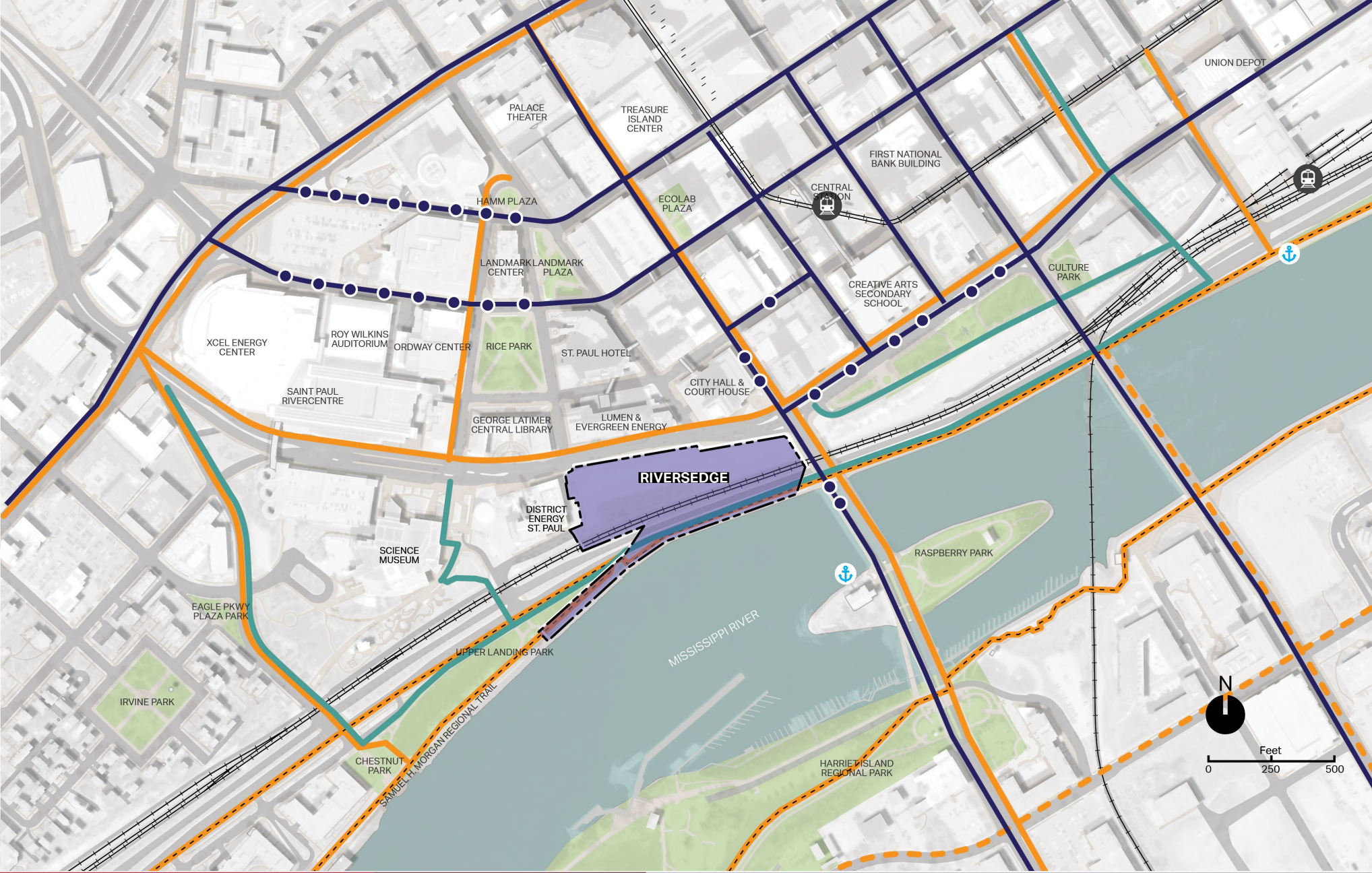
 Bus Routes

 Bus Stops

 Light Rail Station

 Railroad

 Boat Access



Adjacent Projects

LEGEND

Bluff Walk

Samuel H. Morgan Trail

At-Grade Bluff Walk River Connections

Crossing Improvements

New Ada Ramp & Stairs

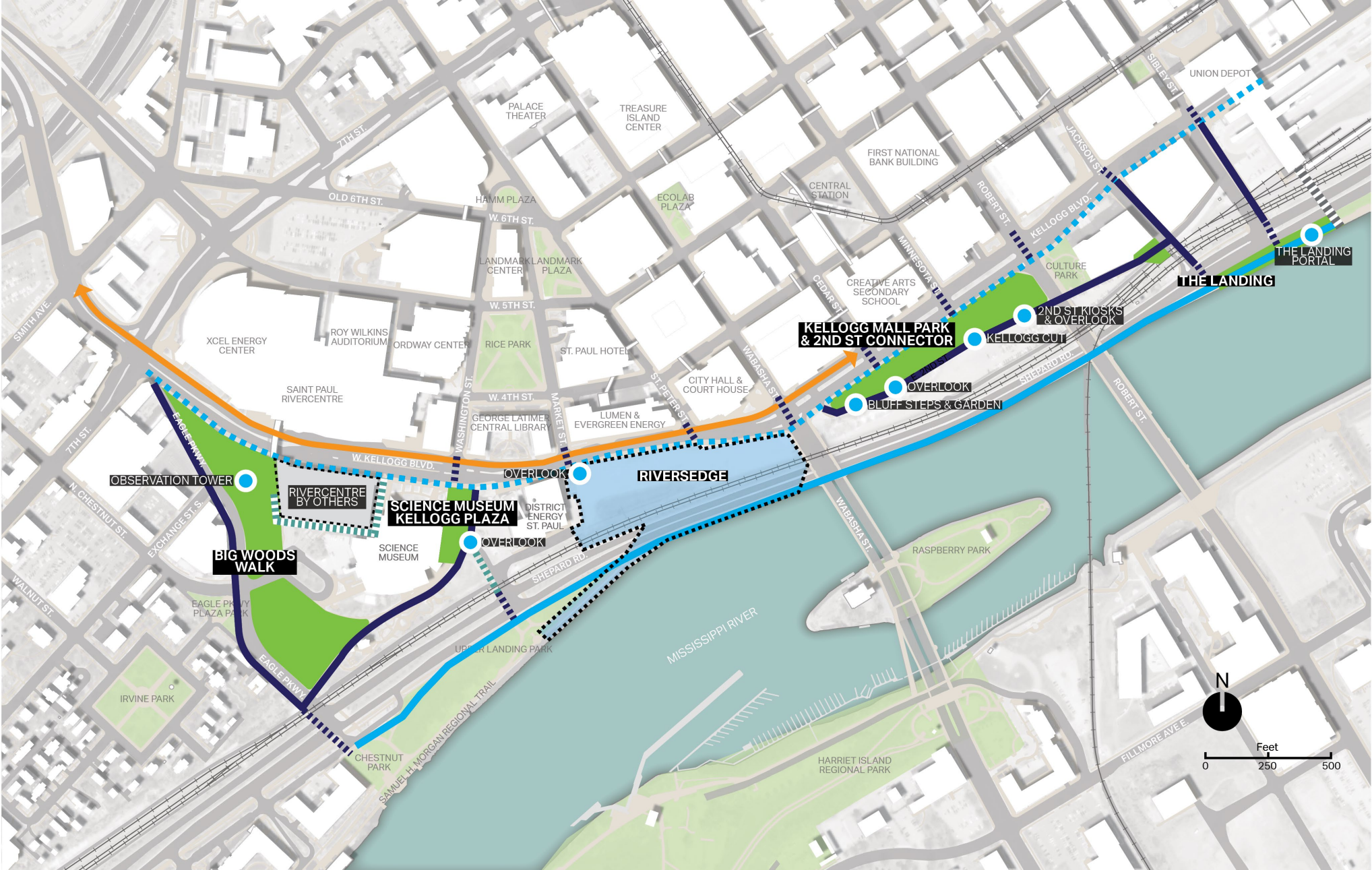
Capitol Bikeway Project

Key Design Areas

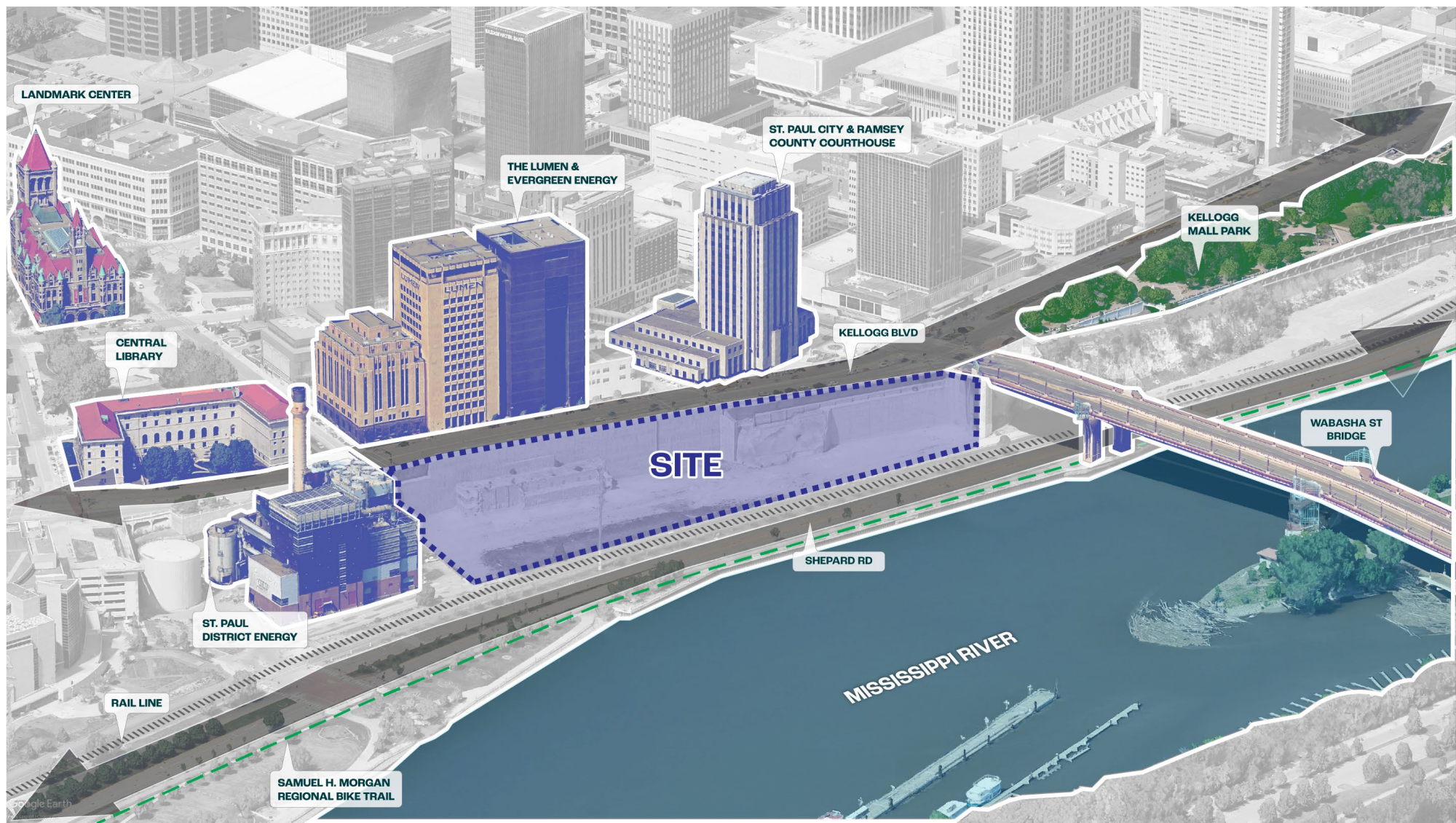
Ped Land Bridge Connection

Potential Ped Bridge

River Balcony Features



Project Site



Viewsheds

LEGEND



Key Views



1 Market St. & Kellogg Blvd

2 St. Peter St. & Kellogg Blvd.

3 Corner of Wabash St. & Kellogg Blvd

4 Westbound On Shepard Rd.

5 Wabasha St. Bridge

6 Mississippi River

7 Eastbound on Samuel H. Morgan Regional Trail

Engagement Overview

- Stakeholder Interviews
 - 11 Interviews
- Pop-ups
 - 2 pop-ups
 - Engagement reach: 600+ participants
 - Locations
 - Central High School Career Fair
 - Capitol City Bazaar Extravaganza, St. Paul Union Depot



Community Engagement



Project Visioning

As part of the conceptual design process for the Park at RiversEdge, stakeholders from Ramsey County and the city of St. Paul met on March 19th, 2024 to participate in a collaborative brainstorming workshop. NEOO attended to represent perspectives gained from the community engagement process. The intended outcome of this workshop was to build consensus around the **overall project goals, design criteria, and programming priorities**, all of which would be the basis for establishing a design framework that would guide the concept development.

Defining Success

- Flexible.
- Experiential.
- Unique but pragmatic.
- Positive energy.
- Well-programmed.
- Balance as both a daily park and a regional destination.
- An exciting, one-of-a-kind experience that encourages repeat visits.

What are the challenges?

- Connectivity/accessibility/bike/pedestrians.
- Balance between programming, flexibility, and associated operations.
- 4-Season flexibility.
- Active vs. passive programming.
- Getting to the river level.

Project Goals

1 Inclusive



- Create a welcoming atmosphere
- Design programming to prioritize public events
- Design for universal access
- Create programming and spaces that are accessible and attractive to all ages and demographics
- Incorporate elements that honor the indigenous history of the place

2 Connected



- Connect people to the riverfront by navigating the grade change
- Visually connect to the river
- Ensure accessible access via multiple modes of transit
- Design vertical connections to accommodate pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities

3 Playful



- Incorporate unique playful elements, but not playground equipment
- Design for all ages to have fun and enjoy
- Prioritize play elements that are multi-functional
- Include interactive art elements
- Provide recreational opportunities

4 Exciting



- Create a vibrant atmosphere that keeps people wanting to come back for more.
- Design intriguing eye-catching structures
- Activate event spaces to draw people in
- Create a park that is unique from other downtown parks
- Cultivate new traditions
- Expand St. Paul's repertoire of attractions

5 Flexible



- Create flexible spaces that are interesting and engaging whether hosting a program or not
- Design for change and seasonality
- Include multi-purpose structures and event areas
- Plan for temporary installations and events such as markets and food trucks

6 Green



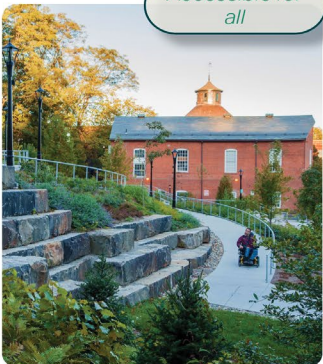
- Integrate sustainable technologies and green infrastructure
- Design native and informal gardens
- Select local materials
- Create garden seating areas
- Increase urban canopy tree coverage
- Blend soft and hard scape

Visioning Session Key Findings

Inclusive

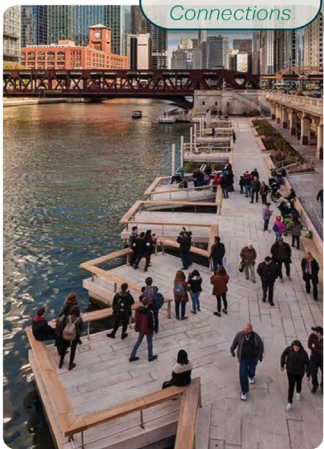


Accessible for all



Community Oriented

River Connections



Playful



Play in the Landscape



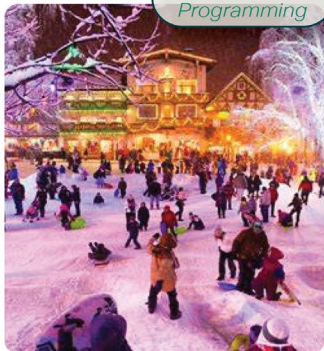
Community Events



Flexible



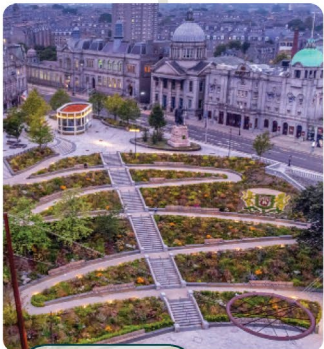
Seasonal Programming



Blend of Hard & Soft Scape



Vertical Circulation

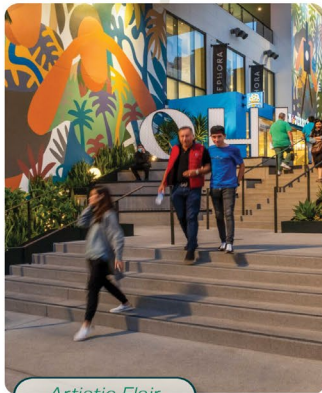


Connected

Unique Play



Artistic Flair



Exciting

Multi-purpose Structures



Informal Gardens



Green

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Existing Site Cross-Section



Existing Condition - Design Driver

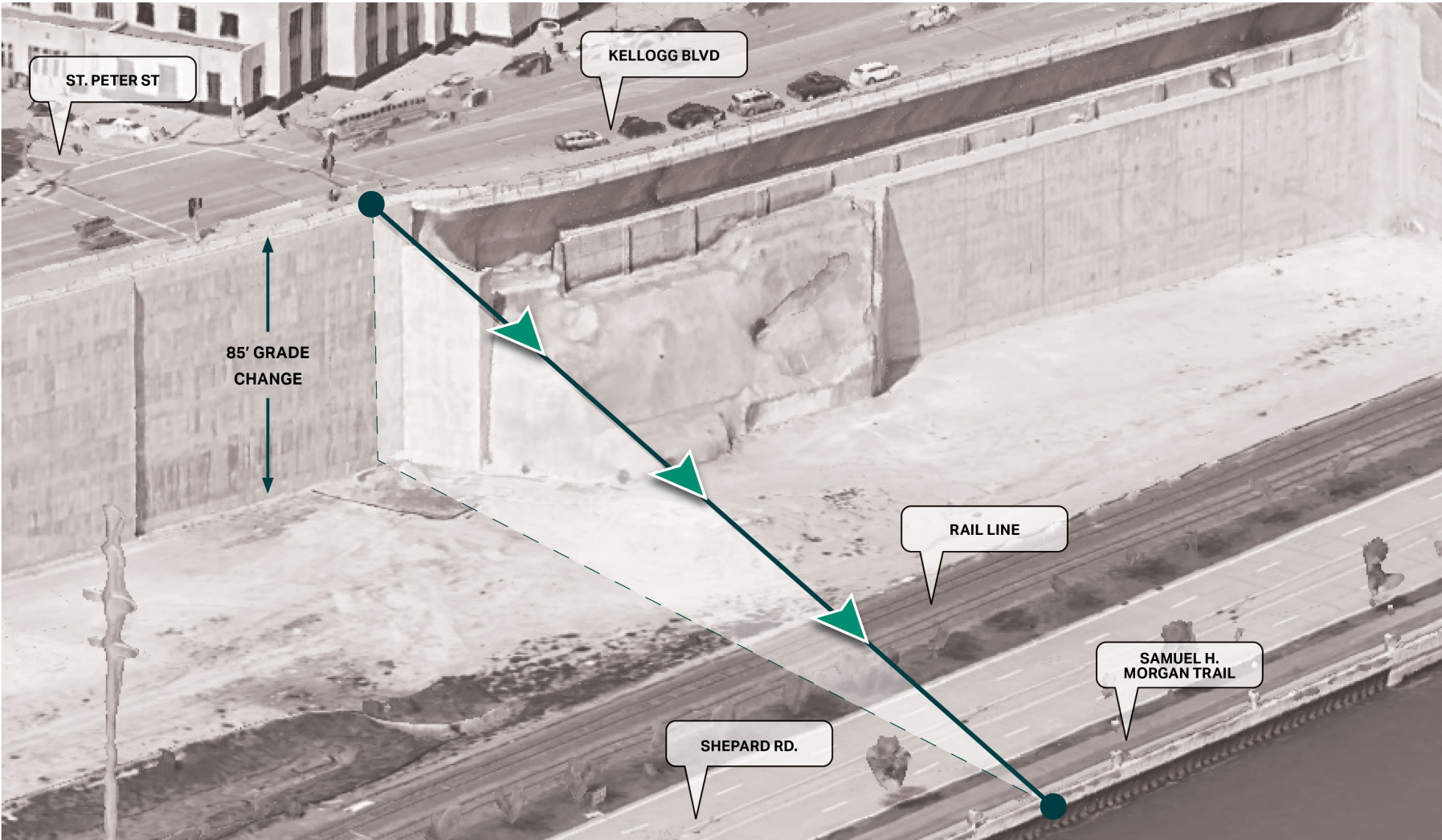
How do you
Traverse an 85'
Grade Change?

1789 LF
(Sidewalks at 4.75%)

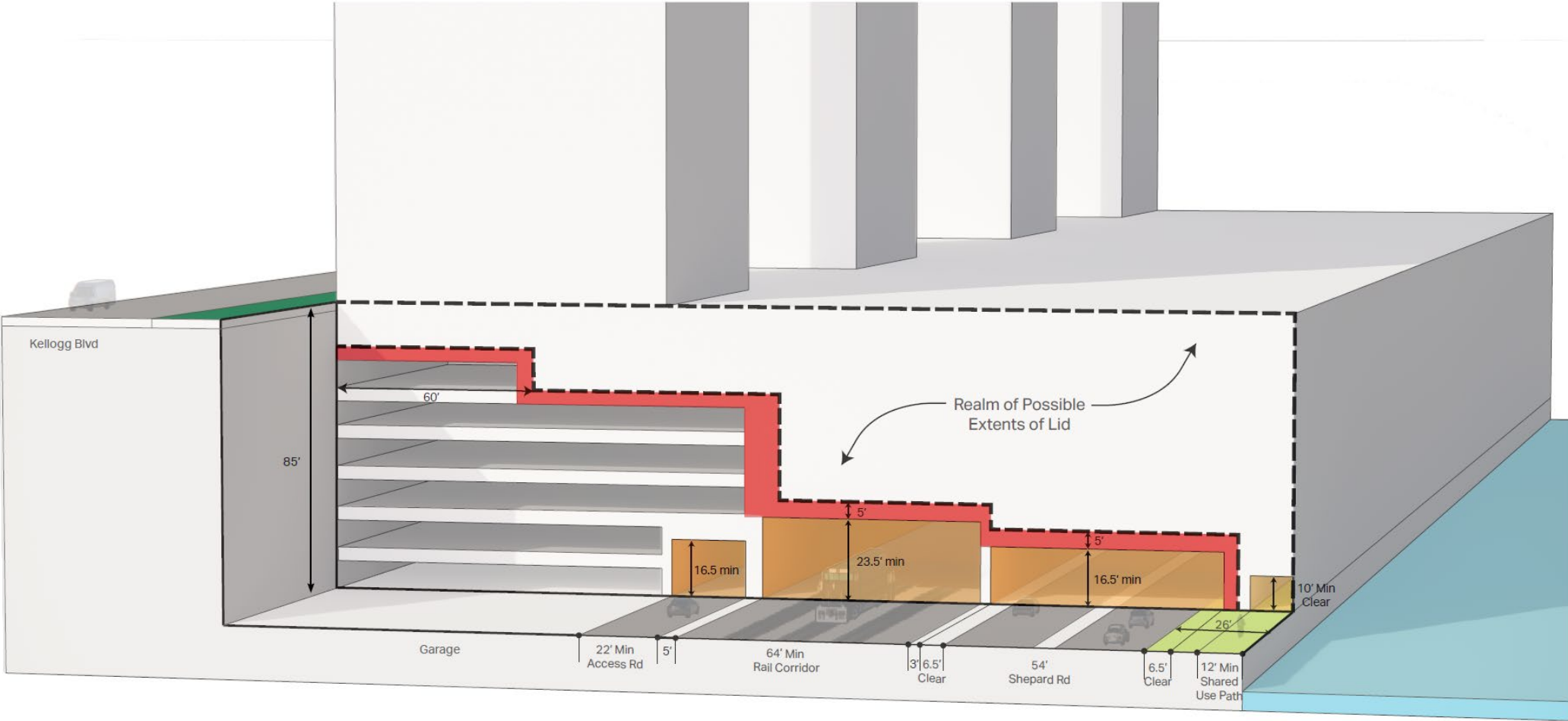
170 Steps
(Stairs with 6" risers)

1,185 LF
(Ramps at 8%)

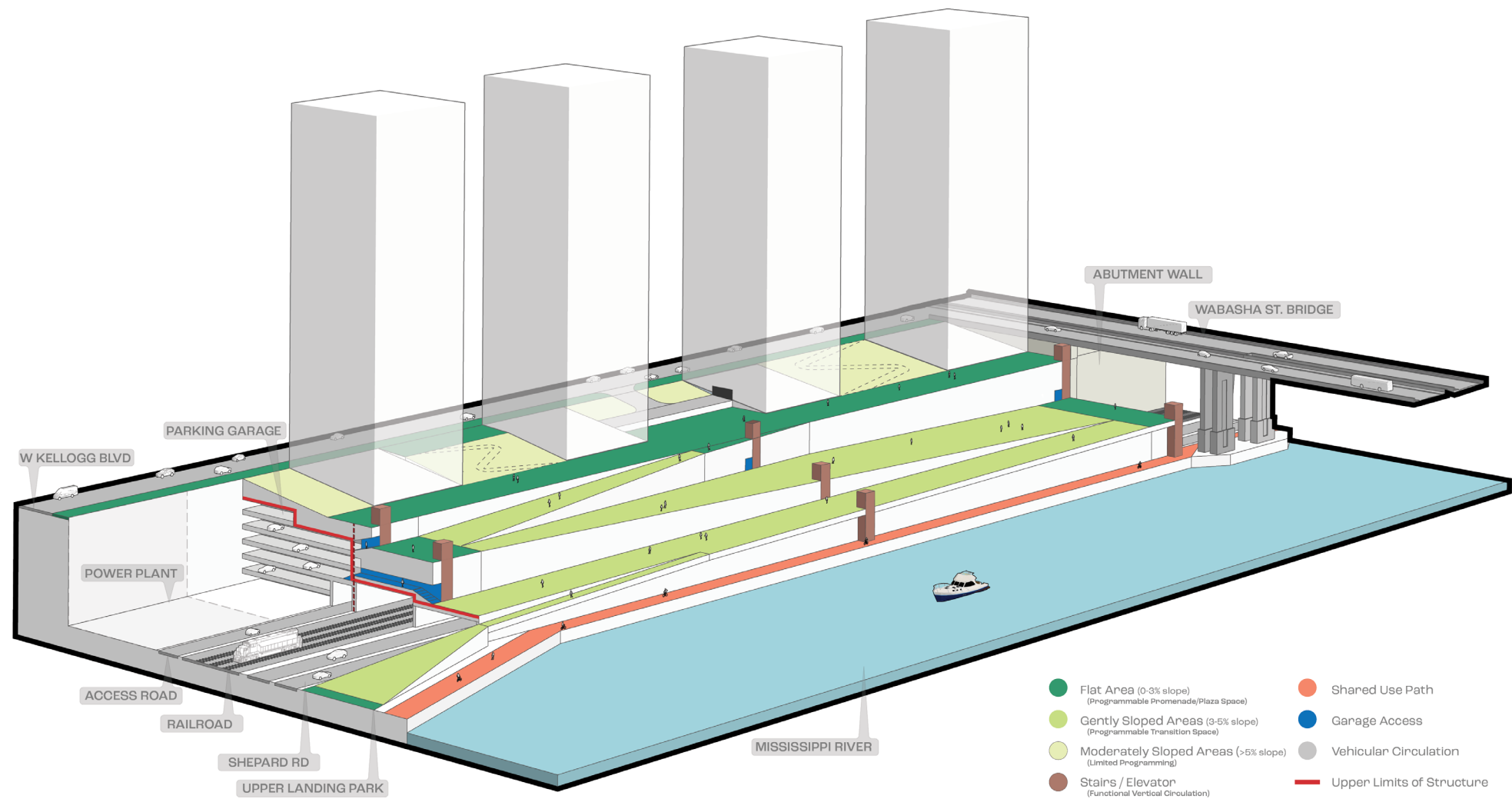
7 Floors
(Elevator stops based on 12' stories)



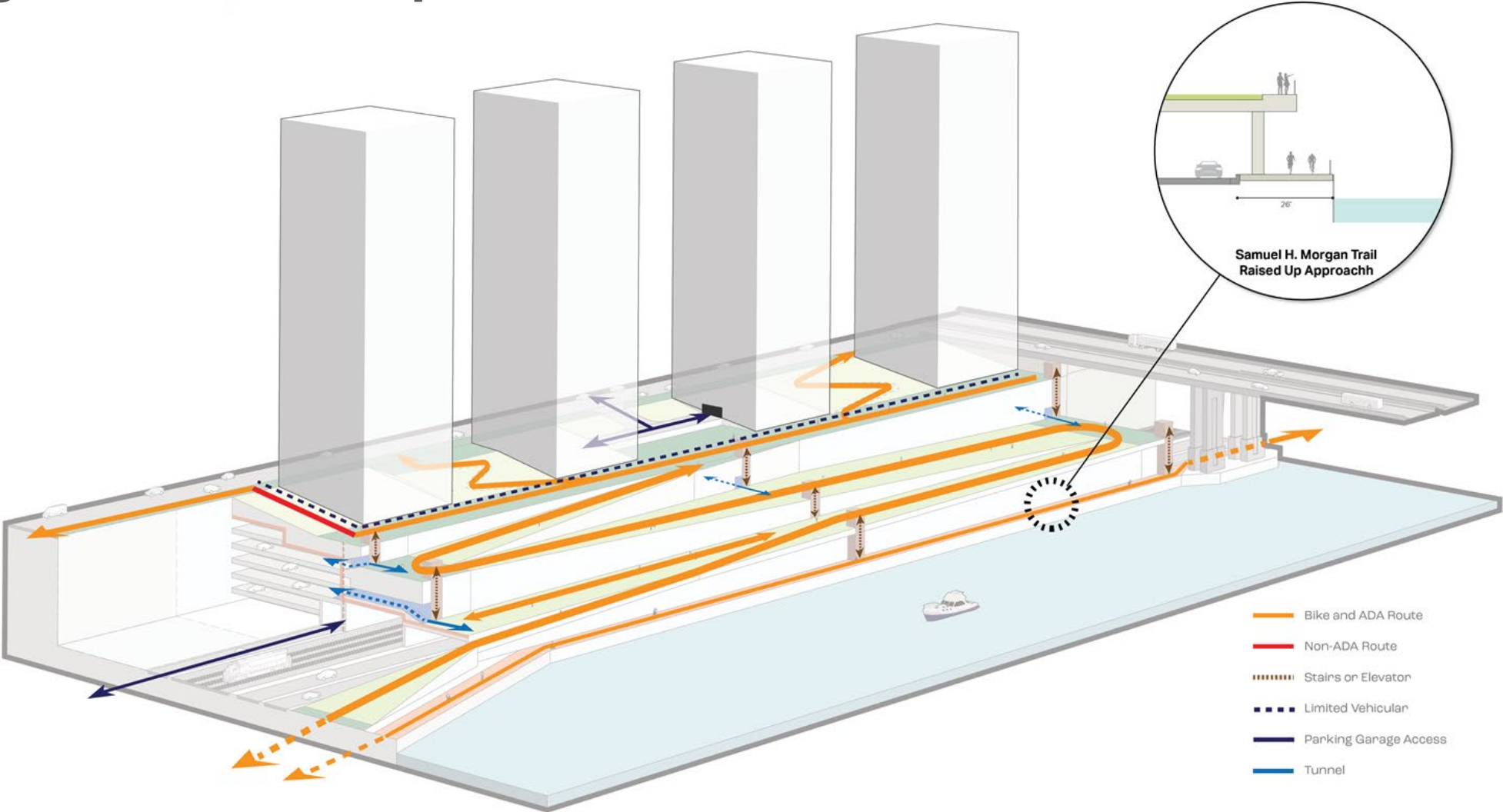
Establishing the Framework for Design



Sloping Planes Concept



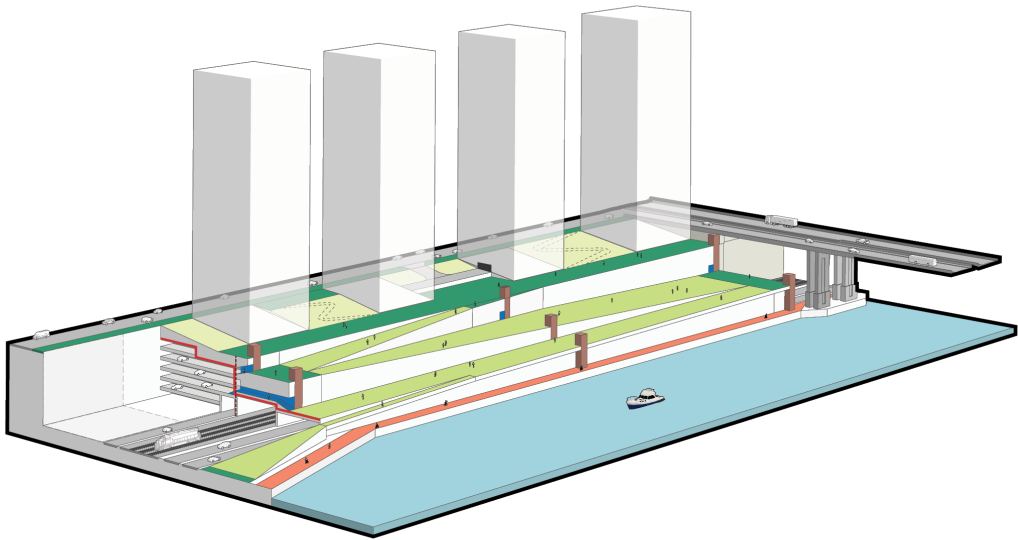
Sloping Planes Concept



Sloping Planes Concept - Successful Examples



Sloping Planes Concept – Goal Alignment



Inclusive

- Both primary and secondary access ways are fully accessible
- Everyone shares the same points of access



Connected

- Clear path to navigate grade change to river
- Unobstructed views to the river
- Easily accessible for maintenance vehicles



Playful

- Flexible design allows for playful elements to be incorporated in detailed design



Exciting

- Flexible design allows for exciting elements to be incorporated in detailed design



Flexible

- Design permits activities of all kinds on the esplanade and select activities along the sloping planes
- Most areas of the site can host events, while serving an important circulation role day-to-day

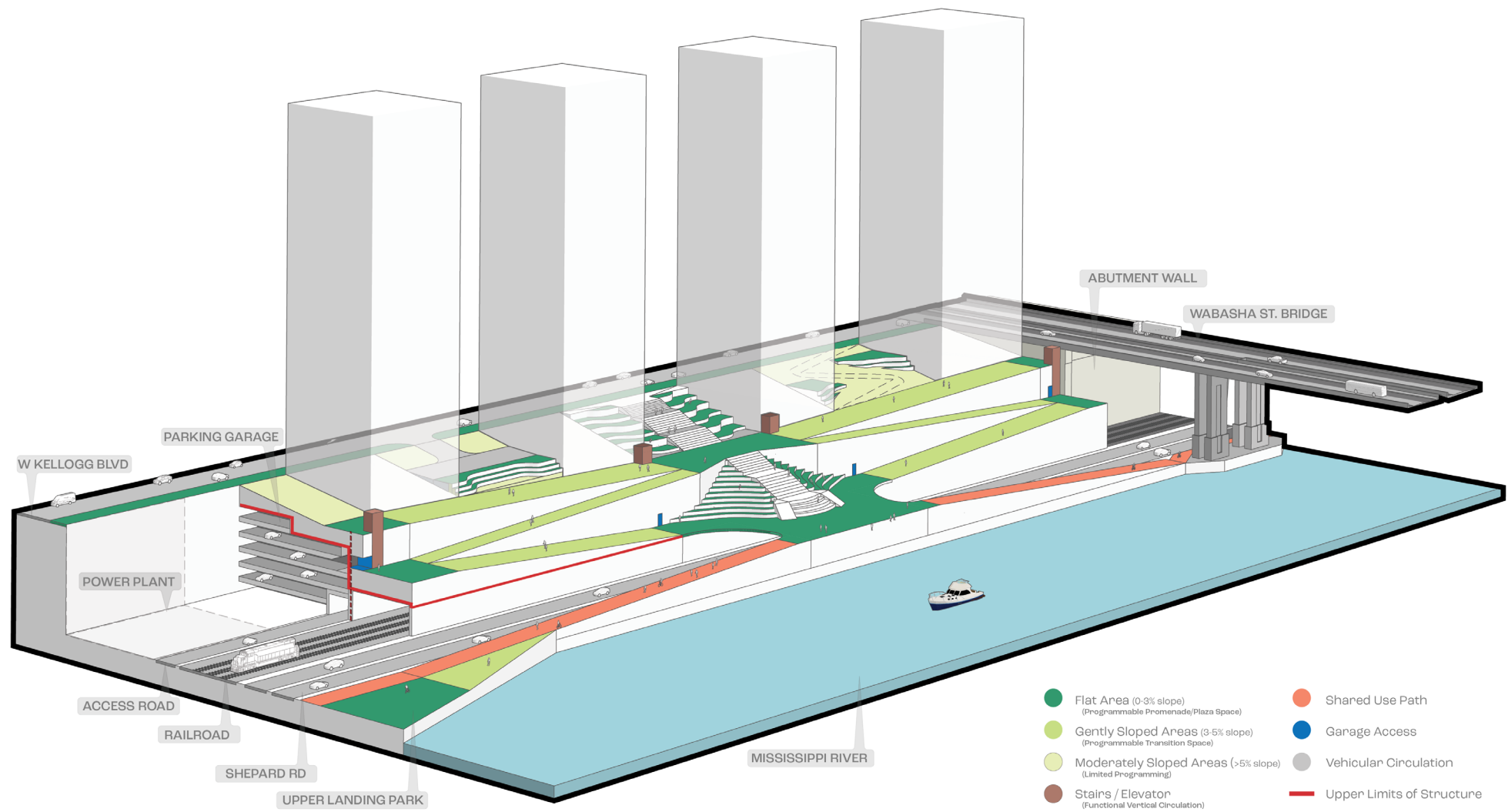


Green

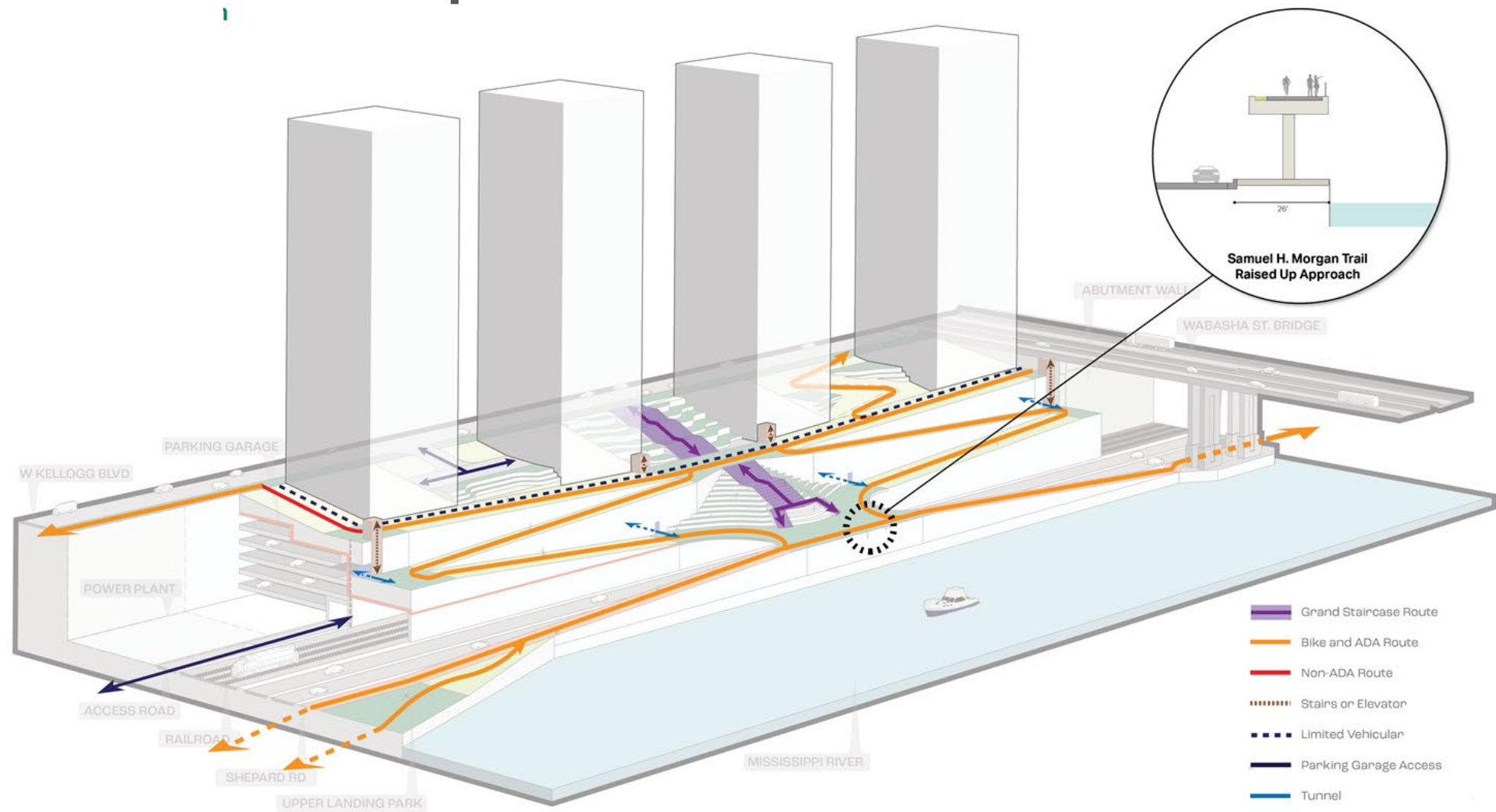
- Abundant future space for native vegetation
- Flexible opportunities for tree canopy
- Abundant space available for green infrastructure



Grand Staircase Concept



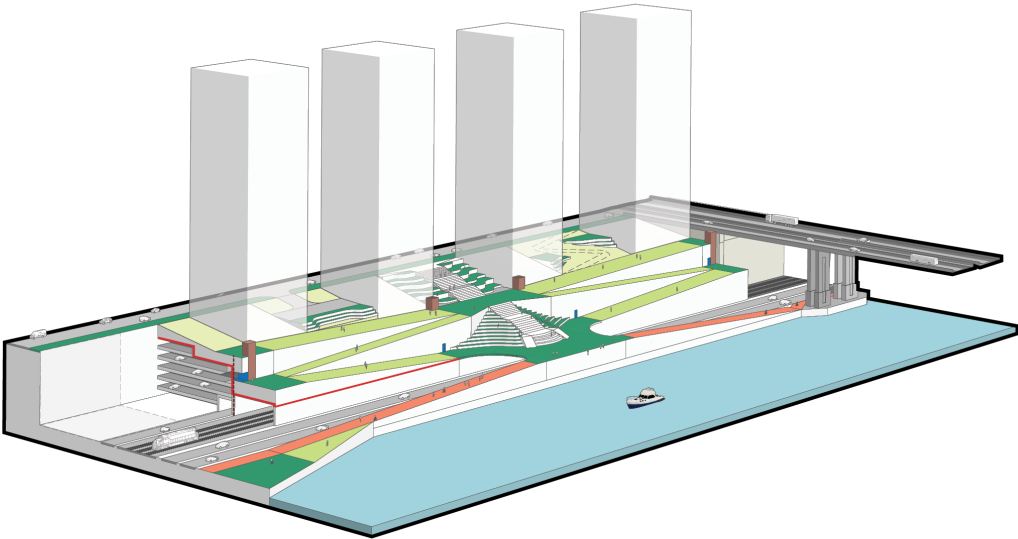
Grand Staircase Concept



Grand Staircase Concept – Successful Examples



Grand Staircase - Goal Alignment



Inclusive

- Accessible route is separate from primary circulation
- Central stair creates gateway opportunity at street level



Connected

- Central stair at St Peter's intersection creates a strong connection to street grid for pedestrians
- Views to the river are unobstructed
- Garage entrance is not at an existing traffic signal



Playful

- Sculpted and terraced grade creates a playful landform into and onto which playful elements can be incorporated



Exciting

- Creates a breath-taking descent towards the river
- Offers multiple routes to the river
- Clearly defined and prominent event locations



Flexible

- Terraced areas can be designed for multiple uses
- Open areas at stair landings can host events, while serving an important circulation role day-to-day activating the space



Green

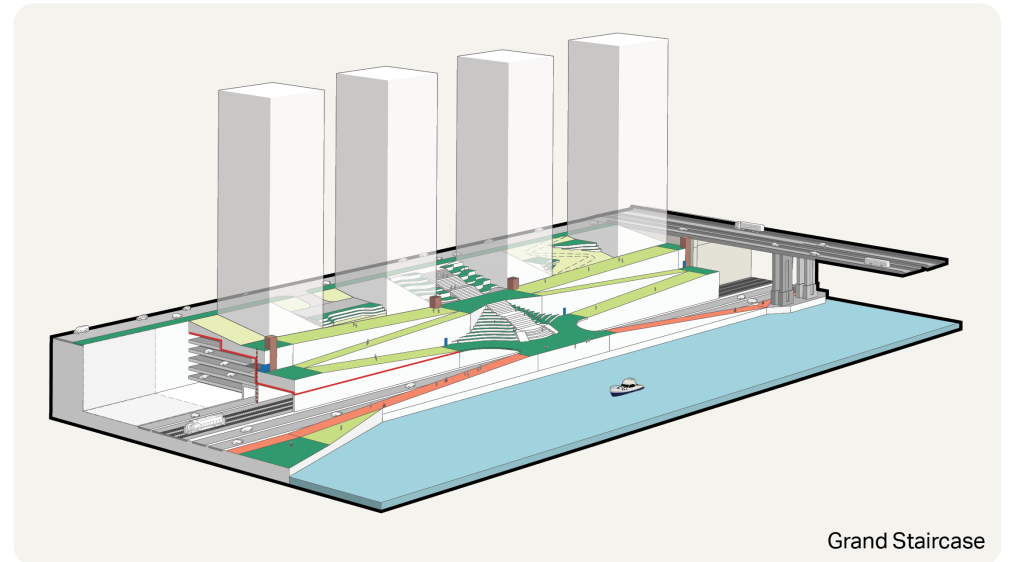
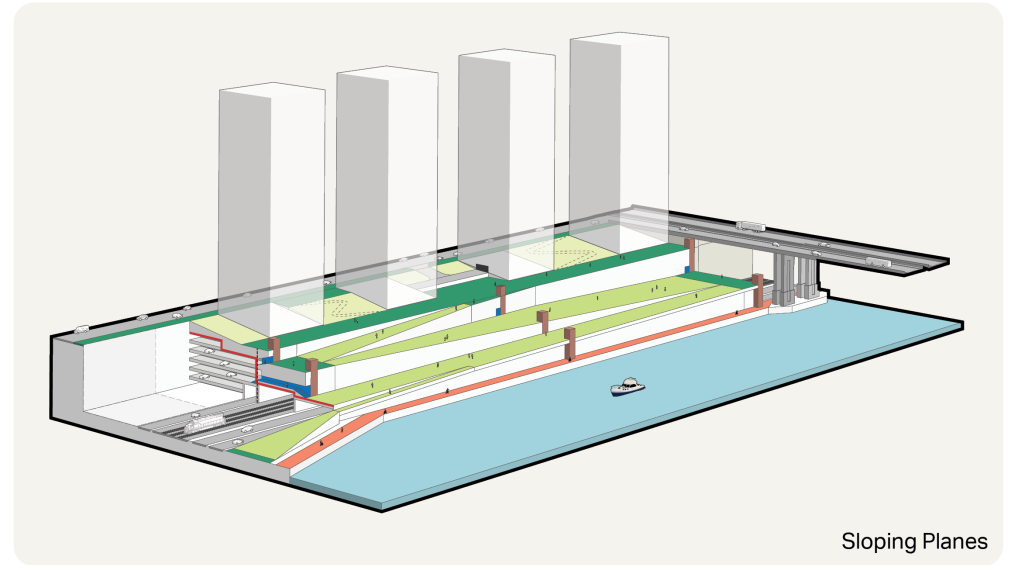
- Moderate availability for native vegetation
- Limited space for tree canopy
- Limited space for green infrastructure



Next Steps

Combine the best characteristics of both designs:

- Maximized and integrated green space for flexible activities
- Graceful transitions between levels
- Strong connections to the urban grid
- Direct routes to the river integrated with the Sam Morgan Trail
- Distinct overlook location



Community Engagement Themes

- Site activation
- Community
- Management of Park
- Wayfinding





Phase 2 Recommendations

- With the guidance from Phase I Engagement, future engagement will shape the creation of intentional spaces for the public and community and provide opportunities to get excited and learn about the new park.
- Things to consider during Phase II:
 - Focus groups capturing community members missed in Phase I.
 - Survey Implementation and Analysis
 - Public interest and stake in park activation/programming.

Upcoming Engagement

Engagement Activity	Timeline
Stakeholder Engagement	July - Winter 2024
Pop-Up Events	July - Winter 2024
Open Houses	July - Fall 2024
Focus Groups	Early Fall 2024

- Engagement will happen in tandem with design and prioritize relevant design updates.
- Focus on activation and programming.
- Continuous feedback mechanism (online portal/survey/email) for stakeholders to provide input throughout the project lifecycle.



Current Status

- State funds spending update
 - \$6.22 awarded in 2023
 - Tracking to spend the full balance by mid-2025
- Ramsey County funds spending update
- Railroad negotiations
 - Strategy around the Ask
 - Impacts of RiversEdge on surrounding County-led projects
- Xcel power line relocation

Design Timeline

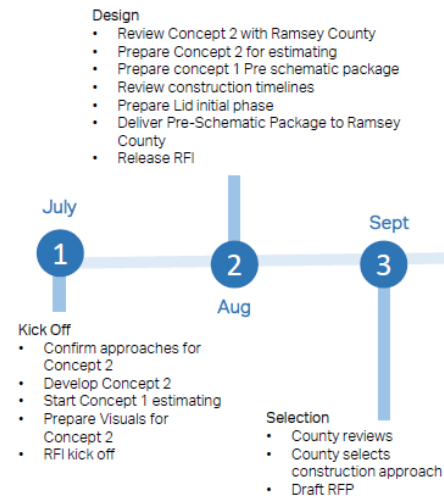
Design Phase	Start	Duration	End Date
Phase 1: Predesign / Planning	January 2024	5 months	July 2024
Phase 2: Pre-Schematic / Schematic Design	August 2024	8 months	March 2025
Phase 3: Design Development	April 2025	6 months	September 2025
Phase 4: Construction Documents	October 2025	5 months	February 2026

Phase 2 Timeline

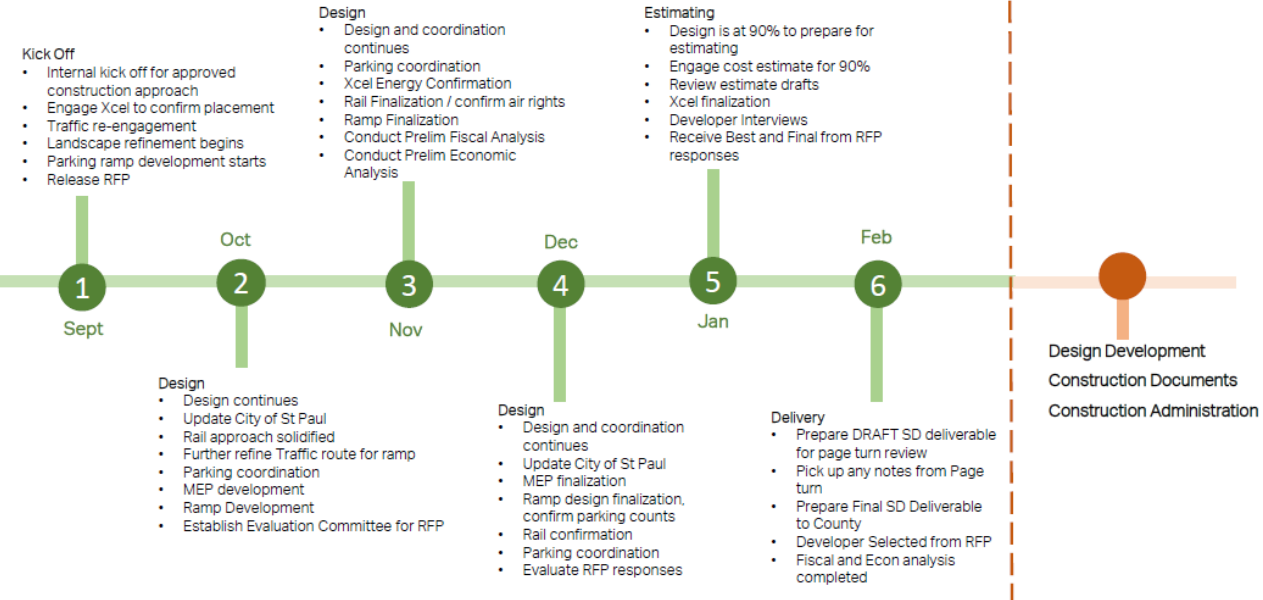
EXHIBIT A Phase 2 Timeline

AECOM

Pre-Schematic



Schematic Design





Next Steps

- Initiate Phase 2 Park Design
 - Pre-schematic
 - Schematic design
- Initiate Tower Solicitation
 - Task 1: Request for Information
 - Task 2: Request for Proposals
 - Task 3: Evaluation and Selection

Questions & Discussion

