



CITY OF RIVER FALLS
**KINNICKINNIC
RIVER
CORRIDOR
PLAN**





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ON JANUARY 22, 2019.**



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01. INTRODUCTION

PLAN PURPOSE

In 2016, the City of River Falls began the planning process for one of the most ambitious, complex, and far-reaching projects in its history. The goal - to prepare a future vision for the Kinnickinnic (Kinni) River Corridor that meets residents' needs and desires, reflects the values of the community, and protects the river for future generations. Central to the planning process was to determine the future of the two hydroelectric dams on the Kinnickinnic River.

Arriving at a decision around this highly divisive issue required a commitment from the City to support an inclusive and creative community engagement process – a process that would bring all voices to the planning table and ensure meaningful consideration of all stakeholder interests. In February, 2018, after considerable community engagement, and extensive analysis examining the feasibility and impacts of dam removal, the City Council approved a resolution to remove the two dams. The City is targeting removal of the Powell Falls dam and associated stream restoration by 2026, and removal of the Junction Falls dam and associated stream restoration between 2035-2040.

In the spring of 2018, the City initiated the preparation of this Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan. The Plan's purpose is to provide a vision and framework for the future of the river corridor, addressing parks and recreation, natural resources and river ecology, access and connectivity, and land use and economic development opportunities. This plan has been prepared as a community-based and action-oriented plan so that planning concepts can begin to be realized in the short-term and achieve more significant ideas in the long term. This plan is also intended to inform the update to the City's Comprehensive Plan, including plans for land use and redevelopment, transportation, parks, trails, and public infrastructure.

The planning process and planning concepts built upon current and past initiatives related to the river corridor, engaged and collaborated with citizens and groups, many who have been engaged in the future of the Kinni for decades. Community engagement was a key component to this planning process, which included regular meetings with City staff and the Kinni Corridor Project Committee, public meetings/workshops, events for the general public, and online surveys.





PLANNING FOUNDATIONS

This plan is informed by prior and current plans and studies, initiated by the City of River Falls and other organizations, related to the Kinni River Corridor. The following planning documents and studies were reviewed for background information and community values.

RIVER FALLS BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN (1995) Schreiber/Anderson Associates

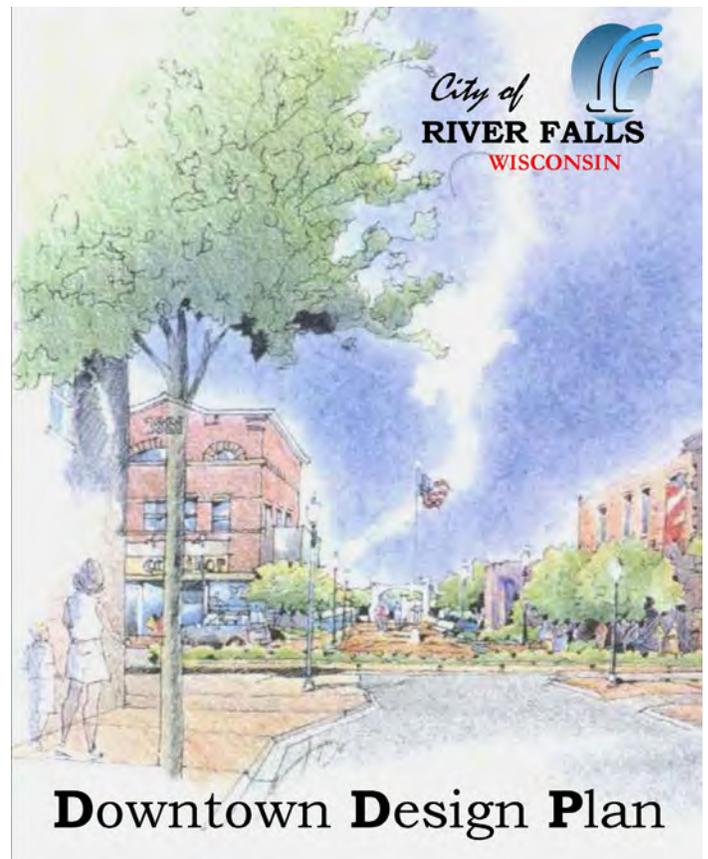
This plan provides planning recommendations for bicycle and pedestrian connectivity in the City of River Falls. Concepts in this plan informed the access and connectivity planning concepts in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan.

CITY OF RIVER FALLS DOWNTOWN DESIGN PLAN (2002), City of River Falls and BRW, Inc.

This plan provides a vision and planning concepts for Downtown River Falls, providing recommendations for downtown's character and development, urban design and implementation strategies. Concepts in this plan informed planning concepts for land use and economic development in the downtown, Main Street, Elm Street, and Riverwalk in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan.

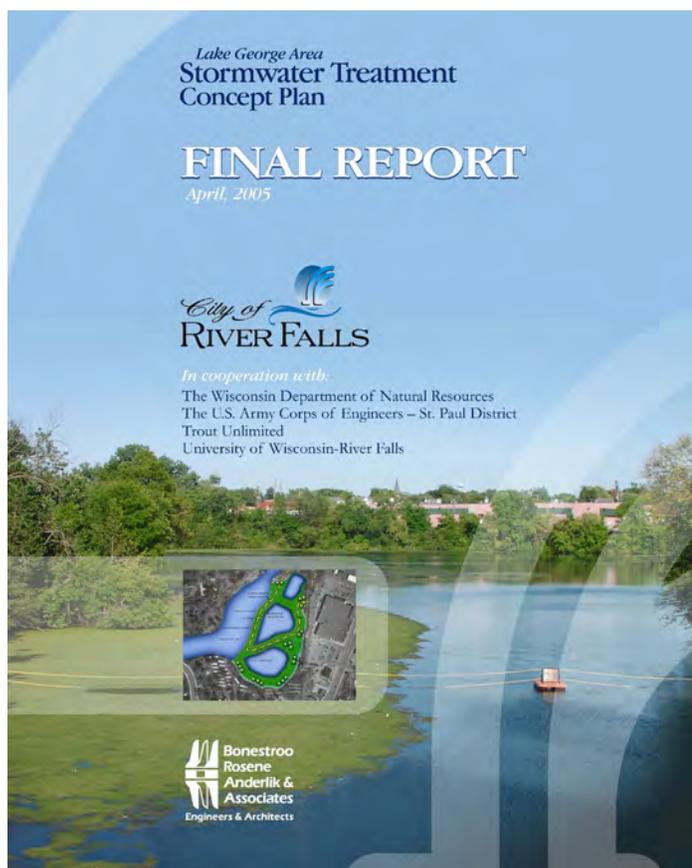
CITY OF RIVER FALLS COMPREHENSIVE PLAN (2005)

The City's Comprehensive Plan provided relevant information regarding future land use, transportation, parks, public facilities, and infrastructure planning.



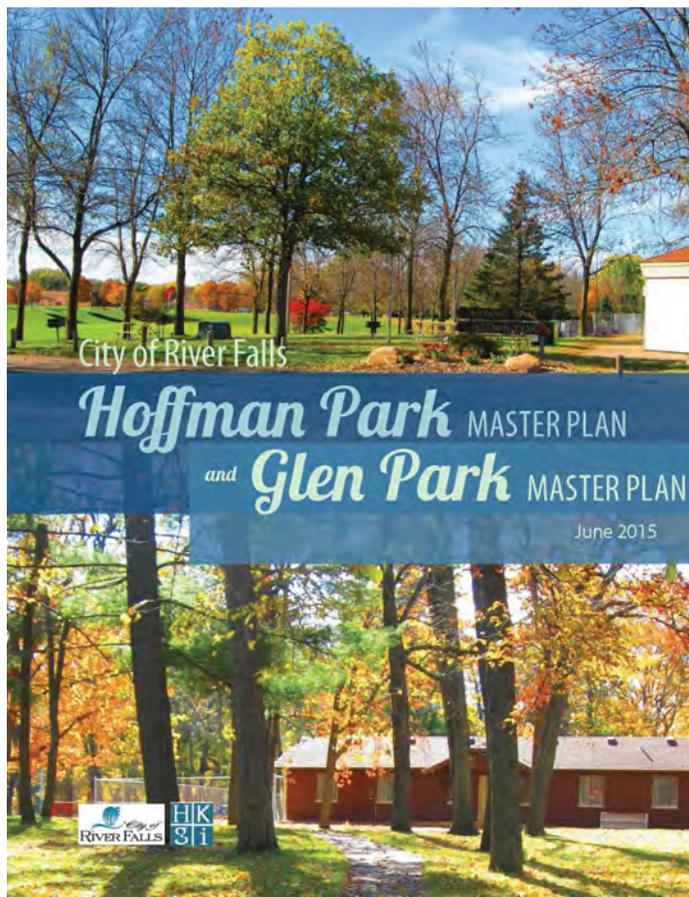
LAKE GEORGE AREA STORMWATER TREATMENT CONCEPT PLAN (2005) Bonestroo, Rosene, Anderlik and Associates

This study, completed in 2005, looks at potential reconfiguration of Lake George with the dam in place, and provides an overall stormwater management strategy for the Upper Dam Minor Watershed of the Kinnickinnic River including downtown River Falls and Lake George. It evaluates Best Management Practices (BMPs) for treating stormwater runoff before it makes its way into the Kinni in the Lake George impoundment area. Information in this plan informed the Kinni Corridor planning concepts for the Middle Kinni area, particularly in the Lake George impoundment area.



CITY OF RIVER FALLS GLEN PARK MASTER PLAN (2015) Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc.

The Glen Park Master Plan, completed in 2015, provides guidance for future park improvements at Glen Park. This plan informed Kinni Corridor planning concepts for parks and recreation, access and connectivity, particularly in the Lake Louise impoundment area.



RIVER FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT 2015 RECREATION USE SURVEY SUMMARY OF FINDINGS (2015), City of River Falls

This study looks at recreational use in the Junction Falls and Powell Falls areas, including Lake George and Lake Louise. It provides information on how people recreate in the area (walking, hiking, running, biking, fishing, and paddling) and when they recreate in the area. Conclusions from the study provided important information on recreational use in the area.

KINNI CORRIDOR OPEN HOUSE 1 SUMMARY (2016), SEH, Inc.

In 2016, shortly after the Kinni Corridor planning project began, the City and their consultant team conducted a community open house. The purpose of this first open house was to provide community members with information about the Kinni Corridor Plan project and to solicit input on community values and priorities in the river corridor. Information received from this open house was used to inform the planning concepts in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan.

LAKE GEORGE AND LAKE LOUISE SEDIMENT ASSESSMENT REPORT (2016), Interfluve

This study looks at existing sediment character, volumes and depths in the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundments, including potential contaminants, and discusses sediment management strategies.

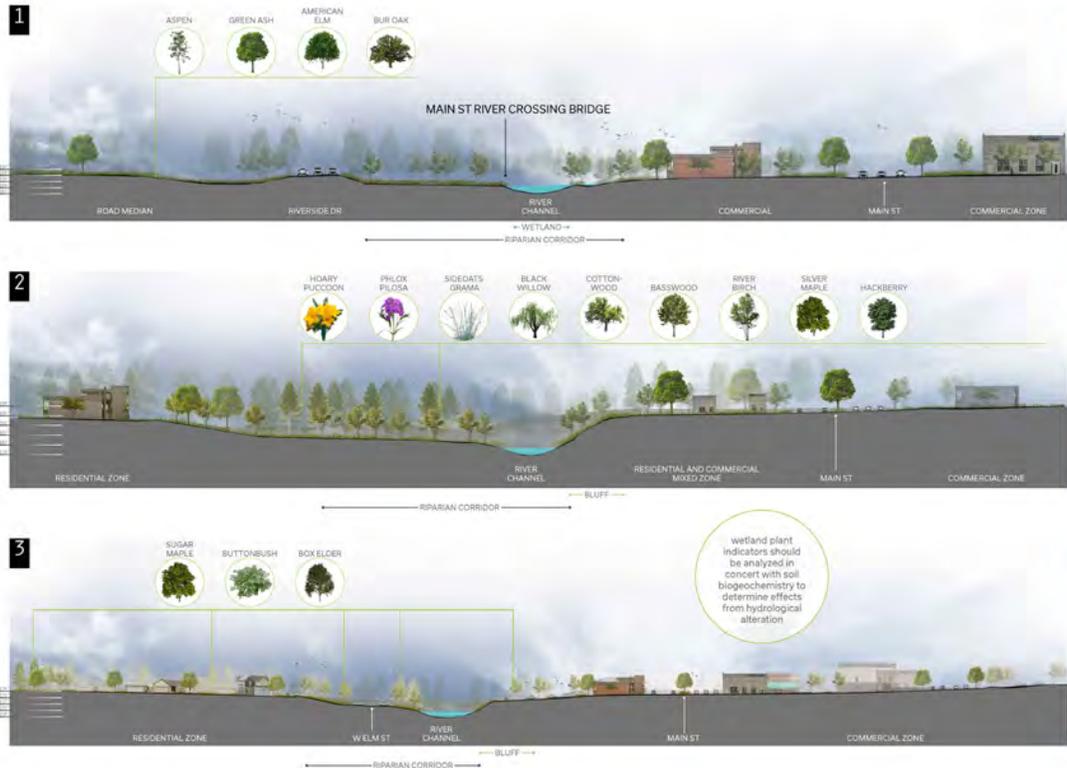
KINNICINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR PROJECT SURVEY (2016-2017), City of River Falls

The City of River Falls conducted a series of surveys seeking information from community participants regarding the future of the Kinnickinnic River and other aspects in the river corridor. Survey questions measured community values and priorities regarding potential dam removal, development in the corridor, access and connectivity, parks and recreation, natural areas, wildlife habitat, natural buffers, paddling and fishing, tourism, relationship to downtown, and the futures of Lake George and Lake Louise among other things. These surveys provide invaluable insights into community values and priorities.

KINNICINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN - DAM REMOVAL SCENARIO: SUMMARY OF ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS (2017), Interfluve

This report provides an assessment of potential ecological effects to trout habitat, downstream mussel populations, and fish passage along the Kinnickinnic River under a dam removal scenario. It also looks at potential impacts to sediment in a dam removal scenario. The study finds that long term changes in the physical habitat following dam removal should result in increased abundance and diversity of riverine fishes and other riverine species in the Kinni.

ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT FLORA ECOTONE INDICATORS



Ecotone:
 An ecotone is a transition area between two biomes where two communities meet and integrate. It may be narrow or wide, and it may be local (the zone between a field and forest) or regional (the transition between forest and grassland ecosystems).

What is an indicator species?
 An indicator species is any biological species that defines a trait or characteristic of the environment. For an example, a species may delineate an eco-region or indicate an environmental condition such as a disease outbreak, pollution, species competition or climate change. Indicator species can be among the most sensitive species in a region, and sometimes act as an early warning to monitoring biologists.

Why are indicator species important?
 Indicator species are important because they reflect a unique set of environmental qualities or characteristics found in a specific place, such as a unique micro-climate.

North ↑

Kinnickinnic River Corridor Project

KINNICINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR FRAMEWORK DIAGRAMS

082517

SEH

RESTORATION OF THE KINNICKINNIC RIVER THROUGH DAM REMOVAL FEASIBILITY REPORT (2017), Interfluve, AECOM, LVBrown Studio

This feasibility study and report considers and evaluates potential construction methods and logistics, water management, sediment management and restoration outcomes for removing the Junction Falls and Powell Falls dams. The dam removal and river restoration feasibility study considers project goals of improvement of water quality, fish habitat, public safety, aesthetics, protection of infrastructure, and historic, cultural and recreational values.

KINNI CORRIDOR PLANNING CHARRETTE SUMMARY (2017), SEH, inc.

This document provides a summary of input received from the community regarding values and priorities in the study area, and ideas and options developed during the design charrette.

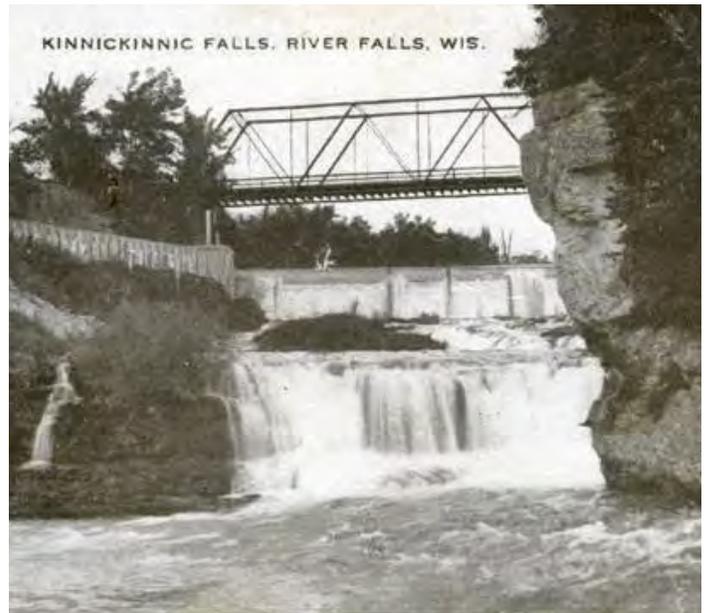


Corridor Planning Charrette
Community Review October 28, 2017



KINNI CORRIDOR PLAN - HYDROLOGIC & HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS SUMMARY (2017), SEH, INC.

This memorandum was prepared to summarize the hydrologic and hydraulic analyses conducted as part of the Kinnickinnic Corridor Plan. Findings from the report indicate that removal of the dams will result in a general lowering of the flood profiles through the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundment areas. It is likely that the regulatory floodway width could be reduced to approximately 200-300 feet wide through each impoundment area. It also indicates that the river bed profile in a dam removal scenario would very likely migrate back toward bedrock elevation, which in the vicinity of Junction Falls is relatively steep.



KINNICKINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL GEOMORPHIC ASSESSMENT (2017), Interfluve and SEH, Inc.

This investigation included a desktop review of infrastructure impacts to channel form, meander limits, soils, and surficial geology, and a field reconnaissance level survey focused on the first two miles upstream of Lake George and downstream of Lake Louise. An evaluation was also conducted to determine the potential geomorphic and ecological impacts of passive sediment release and subsequent impacts to downstream reaches.

KINNI CORRIDOR PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (2017)

HOW WE USE THE LAND EXISTING USES

0 MILES .5 1



River Falls has great outdoor amenities and deep community pride, especially surrounding the Kinnickinnic River Corridor!



COMMUNITY RECREATING WITH NATURE



- Focal Point: Kinnickinnic River Corridor and surrounding open spaces and trails.
- Access: Primarily on west side by foot, Glen Park for non-motorized boats, bridges and shoreline fishing.
- Identity: Naturalistic "wild" lands within the city.
- Uses: Trout fishing, kayaking, canoeing, hiking, birding.

ENTERTAINING - SOCIALIZING - SHOPPING



- Focal Point: Main Street Corridor.
- Attraction: Locally owned & operated businesses and services, taverns, and regional commerce.
- Identity: Historic Downtown.
- Uses: Entertaining, socializing, and shopping.

LEARNING AND SOCIALIZING



- Focal Point: UW River Falls campus, River Falls school district, residential neighborhoods.
- Identity: Local, involved, proud, and close-knit.
- Uses: Education access and community buildings.

RESIDENTIAL ZONE



- Focal Point: Historic core within 1 mile of Downtown and Kinnickinnic corridors.
- Attraction: Steadily rising value and housing stock choices.
- Identity: Mix of "turn of century" and "mid-century" housing.

WHERE WE PLAY PARKS & OPEN SPACE

0 MILES .5 1



Much of the Kinnickinnic Corridor is embraced by conservation and park land

- 11% of the land in River Falls is dedicated for parks, recreation, and conservation.
- 426 acres of dedicated parkland
- 34.2 miles of trailway

What are the best programming uses for Lake George & Lake Louise, if the dams are removed or remain?

VETERANS PARK



- Heritage Park has formal viewing decks along the Kinnickinnic River.
- Town Plaza and pedestrian bridge from Main street across the river.
- 1 acre of parkland.

GLEN PARK



- Glen Park is characterized by beautiful mature shade trees and meandering wooded trails.
- Outdoor public swimming pool in the city.
- Offers recreational access to Lake Louise on the south fork of the Kinnickinnic River.
- 36 acres of parkland.

KINICKINNIC TRAILWAY PARK



- Kinnickinnic Trailway runs parallel along the Kinnickinnic River.
- Provides a naturalistic series of shaded trails.
- 82 acres of trails.

North

Kinnickinnic Corridor Project

08.25.17

SEH

North

Kinnickinnic Corridor Project

08.25.17

SEH

KINNI CORRIDOR PLANNING FRAMEWORKS (2017), SEH, Inc.

This document provides an analysis of existing conditions in the Kinni Corridor study area. It looks at the following existing information about River Falls and the Kinni Corridor:

- » Demographics
- » Land uses
- » Parks and open space
- » Community institutions, goods and services
- » Community activities and events
- » Transportation
- » Utilities
- » Food availability
- » Lighting impacts on night sky
- » Stormwater management systems
- » Watersheds and floodplains
- » Bedrock geology
- » Soils
- » Flora and fauna

FEASIBILITY REPORT FOR HYDRO FACILITY RELICENSING (2018), SEH, Inc.

This report document pulls together many of the abovementioned plans and studies and summarizes the first part of the Kinni Corridor Planning effort. It provides information on the history of the Kinnickinnic River, the dams and licensing process. It also provides a summary of the planning process, public engagement dam decision process, conclusions, recommendations, and next steps.



KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM RELEVANT PLANS AND COMMUNITY INPUT

Source: City of River Falls

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES ON THE KINNI (BASED ON SURVEY RESULTS)

1. Hiking/walking
2. Paddling
3. Relaxing along the shoreline
4. Fishing
5. Picnicking

TOP 5 AREAS OF INTEREST (BASED ON SURVEY RESULTS)

1. Future of the dams
2. River ecology
3. Recreation/tourism
4. Main street's relationship to the river
5. Impacts to corridor neighborhoods



PARKS AND RECREATION

What the community would like to see:

- » More access to fishing areas and improved fish habitat
- » More access for paddling sports
- » Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- » Enhanced walking, hiking and biking opportunities
- » Enhanced birding opportunities
- » More and enhanced park spaces (at dam impoundments)
- » More natural areas
- » More picnic areas
- » More seating and overlooks
- » Camping opportunities



NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIVER ECOLOGY

WHAT WE KNOW:

- » Kinni is designated Class I trout stream
- » The trout fishery and aquatic habitat is threatened by agriculture and urbanization
- » The dams prevent fish passage today
- » The impoundments raise the water temperatures by 4- 5 degrees F in summer months
- » When dams are removed, natural cascades will serve as a barrier to upstream fish migration
- » Removal of the dams will lower the temperatures of the lower Kinni, leading to improved trout and macroinvertebrate habitat
- » Sediment is approximately 5' deep and is relatively clean
- » Dam removal efforts should be done to retain as much sediment as possible

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIVER ECOLOGY

WHAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD LIKE TO SEE:

- » Restore and preserve natural areas
- » Clean river and lakes
- » Reduce runoff/pollution from agriculture and adjacent development
- » Create natural buffers along the river and its tributaries
- » Improve wildlife and fish habitat
- » Better habitat management
- » Provide enhanced stormwater management
- » More native plantings
- » Restore the waterfalls



LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- » Leverage tourism opportunities – paddling sports/fishing
- » Better connect downtown to the riverfront
- » Enhance the River Walk
- » Encourage river-oriented businesses downtown
- » Enhance access to and visibility of the river from Main Street
- » Make fishing more visible in the community
- » Provide better wayfinding in the downtown
- » Enhance streetscapes and lighting in the downtown
- » Integrate more public art downtown
- » Provide more cultural/historical interpretation
- » Convert power plant to new use
- » Create a place for a farmers market downtown



ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

- » Better connect the community with the river
- » Better access to the river
- » Enhance the River Walk
- » Address ADA (accessibility)
- » Address safety concerns
- » Enhance hiking and biking opportunities
- » Enhance paddling opportunities
- » Create more loop trails
- » More trailheads downtown
- » Implement safe roadway crossings
- » Improve on-street bicycle facilities
- » Complete gaps in sidewalk trail connections
- » Provide more off-road ped/bike paths
- » Provide lighted trails (while avoiding light pollution)
- » Provide strategic rest areas along riverfront
- » Include more bike/ped bridges
- » Use railroad grade to develop regional trail
- » Better connect the north and south sides of the City
- » Add more bikeshare kiosks (blue bikes)
- » Provide electric vehicle charging stations
- » Provide parking at river access points



CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

On February 28, 2018, the River Falls City Council voted to approve the relicensing of the hydroelectric dams (for the final time). The resolution included plans for removing first the Powell Falls dam, and then the Junction Falls dam. The City plans to remove the Powell Falls dam and hydroelectric facilities, and complete associated stream restoration by the target date of 2026. The City plans to remove the Junction Falls dam and hydroelectric facilities, and complete associated stream restoration by the target date of 2035-2040.



Junction Falls Dam and Hydroelectric Facility

STUDY AREA

The area included in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan includes the river corridor within the city limits, and portions of adjacent townships just outside of the city limits. See Figure 1.1 Study Area.

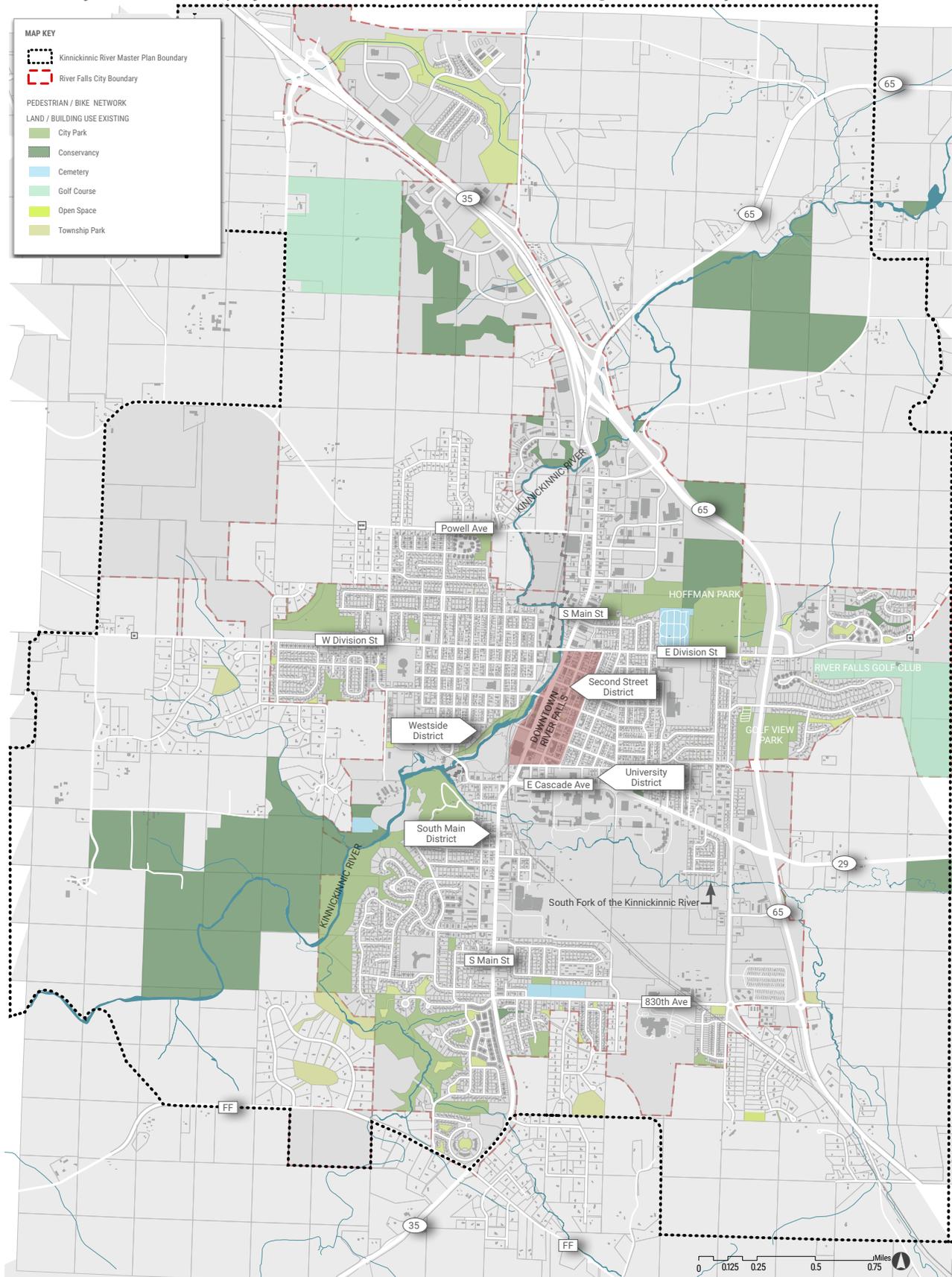


FIGURE 1.1 STUDY AREA

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

The Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan is a guide for the City’s elected officials, commissions/boards, staff, partnering agencies, property owners, residents, business owners, potential developers, and potential funders to pursue improvements in the Kinni Corridor. As a community-based plan, it is intended to provide a guide for what the community’s desires and preferences are for the future of the Kinni Corridor. The concepts contained in this plan are intended to be high level, illustrative rather than prescriptive, flexible, and inviting to interested parties to collaborate on moving forward.

The following is a brief overview of the organization of this Plan:

1

INTRODUCTION

The Plan begins with an introduction regarding the planning study purpose, background and study area.

2

COMMUNITY VISION

This section establishes the Kinni Corridor vision and guiding principles, and outlines the community engagement process.

3

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

This section identifies issues and opportunities within each reach of the Kinni Corridor, based on site observations, Kinni Corridor Project Committee, City staff, and community stakeholder input.

4

PRECEDENT ANALYSIS

This section provides a summary of precedent analysis, looking at example river towns and cities, and best management practices.

5

MASTER PLAN

This section provides recommendations for future improvements related to parks and recreation, natural resources and river ecology, land use and economic development, and access and connectivity in the Kinni Corridor.

6

IMPLEMENTATION

The implementation section of the Plan provides information on the recommended implementation actions across a number of categories, currently planned public investments/ initiatives, priority projects, jumpstart projects, and potential partners.



02. COMMUNITY VISION

COMMUNITY-BASED PLANNING PROCESS

Community engagement was an essential element in the creation of the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan. A collaborative and community-based planning process was conducted throughout the project to ensure plan recommendations reflect community values and priorities. Public engagement also provided important information to the planning team about river corridor assets, issues and opportunities.

CITY STAFF MEETINGS

The project was coordinated with and guided by staff from the City of River Falls. The planning team met with City staff at key points in the planning process to review and comment on project process and deliverables. Staff was instrumental in coordinating the community engagement process, dam removal studies, planning concepts, and implementation strategies with the planning team.

KINNI CORRIDOR PROJECT COMMITTEE

The Kinni Corridor Project Committee, consisting of residents, property owners, business owners, community advocates, community, environmental, and educational organization representatives, and other community stakeholders met regularly with members of the consultant team to assist in the development and review of plan recommendations and deliverables. The Kinni Corridor Project Committee provided valuable insight, values and priorities that led to plan recommendations.

PUBLIC MEETINGS AND WORKSHOPS

The community input process included several public meetings and workshops conducted at key points in the process designed to provide information about the planning effort and to solicit public input on community values, preferences and priorities. Public meetings included graphic and written materials prepared to communicate planning concepts for the River Corridor, and opportunities for the community to provide input and feedback on plan recommendations and community priorities.





COMMUNITY SURVEYS

At least three “formal” surveys and multiple informal surveys were conducted during the length of the project. The “formal” surveys were conducted in conjunction with a Community Kick-Off event, and each of the Public Meetings/Workshops. The surveys were especially important for residents unable to attend the workshops.



TECH TALKS

The consultant team led by SEH developed, coordinated, and facilitated a series of “Tech Talks” in 2017. The “Tech Talks” addressed technical topics about the river and river corridor. In addition to being presented live at a public venue, the Tech Talks were video-recorded and posted on the project website for community members to review at their convenience throughout the course of the process.



PROJECT WEBSITE

The City of River Falls provided project information and opportunities for the community to provide feedback on planning concepts on the project website throughout the planning process. The project website provided access to current project information, meeting notes, project graphics and public participation opportunities.

VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The community's Vision and Guiding Principles reflect the desired direction toward a restored and ecologically healthy Kinnickinnic River and a vibrant and connected River Corridor. The vision addresses the City's aspirations for the future of the Kinni Corridor, based on the community's decision to restore the ecological stability of the river by removing the dams, balance the desire to protect natural resources with economic opportunities, better connect the community to the river, and provide year-round recreational opportunities. In the context of this plan, the vision serves as a reminder of what River Falls sees for the future of the Kinni Corridor. From time to time, the community will need to review the vision and guiding principles to ensure they continue to support the aspirations and achievements that are expected to occur. The vision sets the stage for establishing goals for the community. Guiding principles support the vision and define values and priorities by acting as an ongoing measurement tool for the appropriateness and effectiveness of future initiatives.

VISION

The Kinni River Corridor will serve as an asset for the City and community of River Falls. The River Corridor provides opportunities for economic vitality, improves and restores ecological stability of the river and its tributaries, connects residents and visitors to nature and year-round recreational opportunities, strengthens the sense of place and community identity, balances the desire for public use with adjacent property rights, preserves and promotes the history and culture of the region through education, and improves the quality of life for future generations.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Strengthen and support the Kinni Corridor's:

1. Heritage, culture and community character
2. Social, environmental and economic sustainability
3. Ecological health, performance and stewardship
4. Inclusiveness and sense of place
5. Economic vitality
6. Mix of uses and activities
7. Physical, visual and social connections
8. Public health and wellness
9. Resiliency
10. Commitment to community engagement

03. ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES

INTRODUCTION

Planning for the future of the Kinnickinnic Corridor requires the identification of issues and opportunities present within the corridor today and those that will be realized after the hydroelectric facilities and dams have been removed and the river restored. The issues and opportunities identified on the following pages were informed through an inventory and analysis of the past and present planning studies mentioned in Chapter 1. They're also informed by community input received through a series of public meetings and surveys conducted by the City of River Falls and the consultant team, input received from City staff and the Kinni Corridor Project Committee, and field observations made through a series of site tours and visits which included hiking, biking, paddling, and fishing along the entire length of the river corridor and the surrounding neighborhoods.

The issues and opportunities presented here are organized into three reaches of the corridor – the Upper, Middle, and Lower reaches of the Kinni Corridor study area. They anticipate future dam removal and associated river restoration. They address parks, recreation, land uses, access, connectivity, river ecology, natural resources, wildlife habitat, stormwater management, water quality, wayfinding, urban design, downtown revitalization, redevelopment and re-use, and an assortment of public realm improvements. The identification of issues and opportunities provides a foundation for future planning concepts and recommendations in the corridor.



View of Main Street



Glen Park Swinging Bridge



Pedestrian Bridge near Riverwalk



Powell Dam



FIGURE 3.1 UPPER KINNI CONTEXT MAP

UPPER KINNI

The Upper Kinni reach includes the section of river corridor from Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area on the north end to Division Street on the south end. This reach is characterized by predominantly agricultural and highway-oriented commercial uses on the north half, and Main Street commercial/light industrial and residential uses on the south half. There are a number of existing conservation easements already established in this reach, and opportunities for more natural buffers/conservation easements given the wide breadth of the floodplain through this area. Future residential and commercial development of existing agricultural properties should be anticipated and planned accordingly to protect the ecological integrity and recreational opportunities of the area.

ISSUES:

- » Agricultural land uses adjacent to riverfront
- » Stormwater runoff from agricultural uses
- » Protecting Kinni from existing and potential future development
- » Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and river ecology of the Upper Kinni
- » Paddling/fishing conflicts
- » Limited river access points
- » Limited to poor wayfinding
- » Limited pedestrian and bicycle facilities – off-road or on-road
- » Highway noise at Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area
- » Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) above STH 35 (WDNR)
- » Limited picnic areas

OPPORTUNITIES:

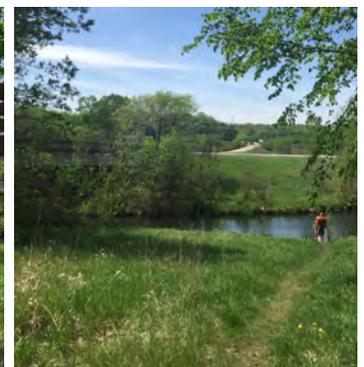
- » Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area—model for low-intensity river access
- » Potential sound/visual vegetative buffer along northern river reach
- » Improve river access and wayfinding
- » Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- » Establish natural buffers between existing agricultural uses and existing and future development areas to mitigate impacts of stormwater runoff
- » Maintain ORW classification
- » Enhance wildlife habitat and river ecology
- » Widen and pave shoulders on County Roads for bike facilities
- » Implement more off-road trails along riverfront

- » Provide enhanced stormwater management along the riverfront

1 SWINGING GATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA



2 DNR PUBLIC FISHING AREA



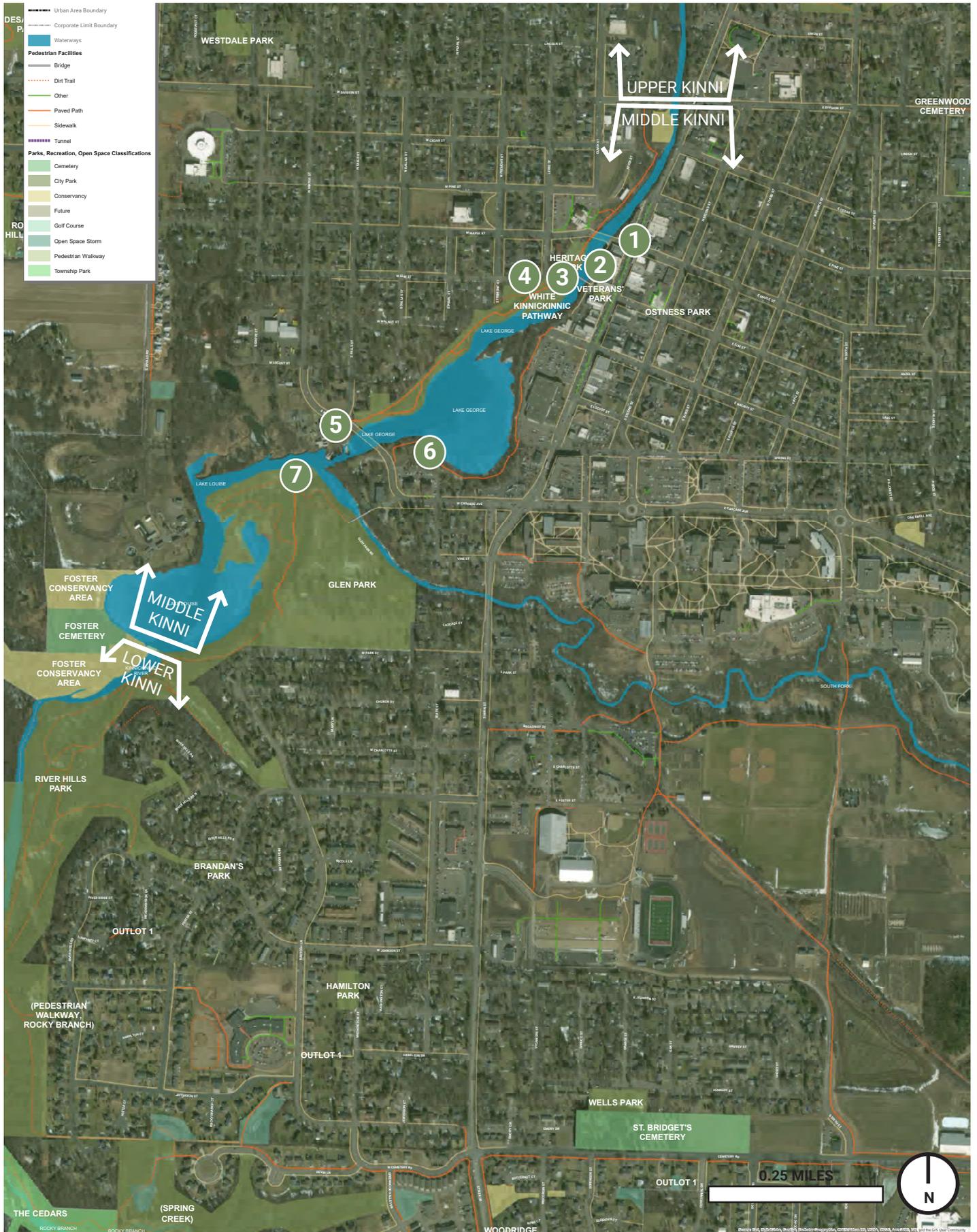


FIGURE 3.2 MIDDLE KINNI CONTEXT MAP

MIDDLE KINNI

The Middle Kinni reach includes the section of river corridor from Division Street on the north end to the Powell Falls Dam on the south end. The Middle Kinni reach includes the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundments, the South Fork of the Kinni tributary, the downtown, the University of Wisconsin at River Falls (UWRF) campus, Riverwalk, City Hall, Glen Park, Heritage Park, White Path, and the historic power plant at Junction Falls Dam. This section of the river presents the area of greatest change in the corridor given the decision to remove the dams and restore the riverbed. Future dam removal and river restoration will greatly change the area, presenting opportunities for new parks and programs, enhanced river ecology, hiking and biking trails, and places to access the river among others. Other considerations in the area include strengthening the connection between downtown and the Kinni, mitigating stormwater runoff from highly developed areas, and planning for future river-oriented development.

ISSUES:

- » High concentration of impervious areas along the riverfront
- » Better connections between downtown and riverfront are needed
- » Vehicle circulation and parking, dumpsters, narrow sidewalk, and overhead power lines detract from the Riverwalk experience
- » Need for streetscape enhancements along Main Street—lighting, pavement, site furnishings, signage, bike racks, etc.
- » Need for design guidelines in the downtown—buildings, signage, lighting, plantings, etc.
- » Inconsistent trail markings and wayfinding in the area
- » Connection to Swinging Bridge is limited for ped/bike from Winter Ave
- » ADA accessibility issues to lakes, river, and pathways
- » Access to Riverwalk Pathway is not attractive/through the back of parking lots
- » No connection between Riverwalk Pathway and Riverwalk behind Main Street
- » Stormwater runoff from downtown parking lots directed toward Lake George/Kinni River
- » Several stormwater outlets along the riverfront
- » Dam removal will create new opportunities, particularly at the dam impoundments
- » Need to restore and re-program dam impoundments (Lake George and Lake Louise) when dams are removed
- » Power plant reuse after dam removal
- » Repurpose old railroad trestle structures
- » Limited picnic areas
- » Replacement of lost renewable energy

OPPORTUNITIES:

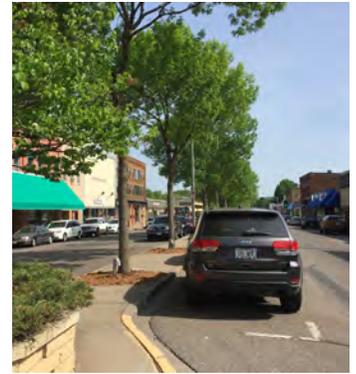
- » Restore/re-program Lake George and Lake Louise after dam removal
 - *Natural and programmed parks and open spaces*
 - *Stormwater treatment*
 - *Demonstration and educational opportunities*
- » Improve the Riverwalk:
 - *River-fronted commercial*
 - *Underground power lines*
 - *Remove parking on Riverwalk*
 - *Limit vehicular movement to service vehicles only*
 - *Resurface pavement – pavers*
 - *Add pedestrian-scaled lighting*
 - *Improve signage and wayfinding*
 - *Selectively clear understory to open views to river*
 - *Add seating, trash receptacles, bike parking*

(MIDDLE KINNI)

(OPPORTUNITIES:)

- » Provide better wayfinding in the downtown and along the riverfront
- » Mitigate surface runoff from parking lots
- » Enhance streetscapes and lighting in the downtown
- » Create downtown design guidelines
- » Integrate more public art downtown
- » Resurface old railroad trestle bridge to connect east-west sides of the river
- » Restore the natural waterfalls when the dams are removed
- » Add more seating, selective cutting for viewing the river
- » Wetland restoration areas in dam impoundments after dam removal
- » More educational/interpretation along river trails
- » Create portages at waterfalls when dams removed
- » Improve connections from downtown to Glen Park/Swinging Bridge
- » Overlook at Junction dam, re-use of existing platform
- » Reuse power plant and site at Junction Dam—potential retail/restaurant/civic uses
- » Retain elements of existing structures and maintain history of the dam
- » Interpret the history of the river and the dam structures
- » Continuation of native planting/restoration along river trails
- » Kiosk/trailhead/wayfinding at trail entrances from Main Street to East Riverwalk Pathway
- » Improve river access
- » Extend Elm Street as a festival street with urban design to Second Street/Ostness Park
- » Path/trail connection from Junction Dam to Lower Glen Flats area
- » Incorporate loop trails
- » Incorporate more picnic areas

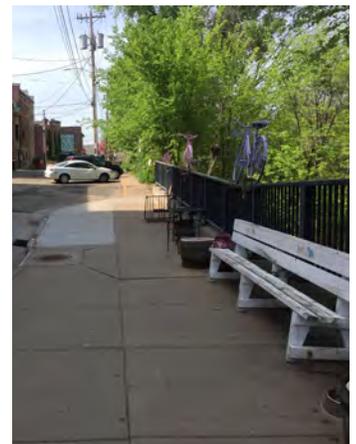
1 MAIN STREET



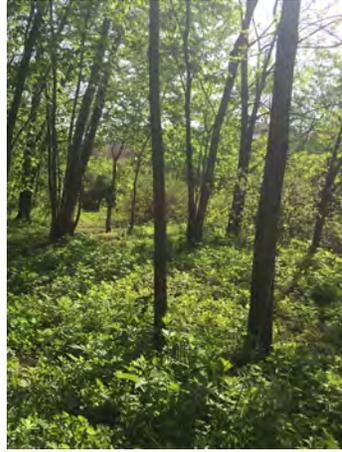
2 VETERANS PARK



3 RIVERWALK + HERITAGE PARK



4 KINNICKINNIC TRAIL / WHITE PATHWAY



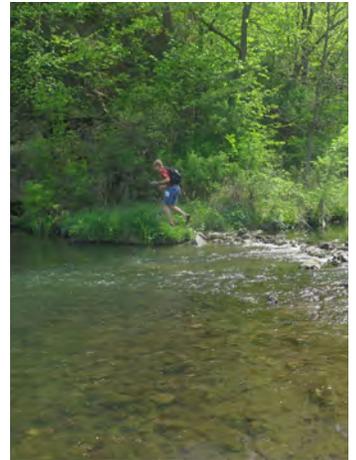
5 JUNCTION MILL



6 RIVERWALK PATHWAY EAST



7 GLEN PARK FLATS



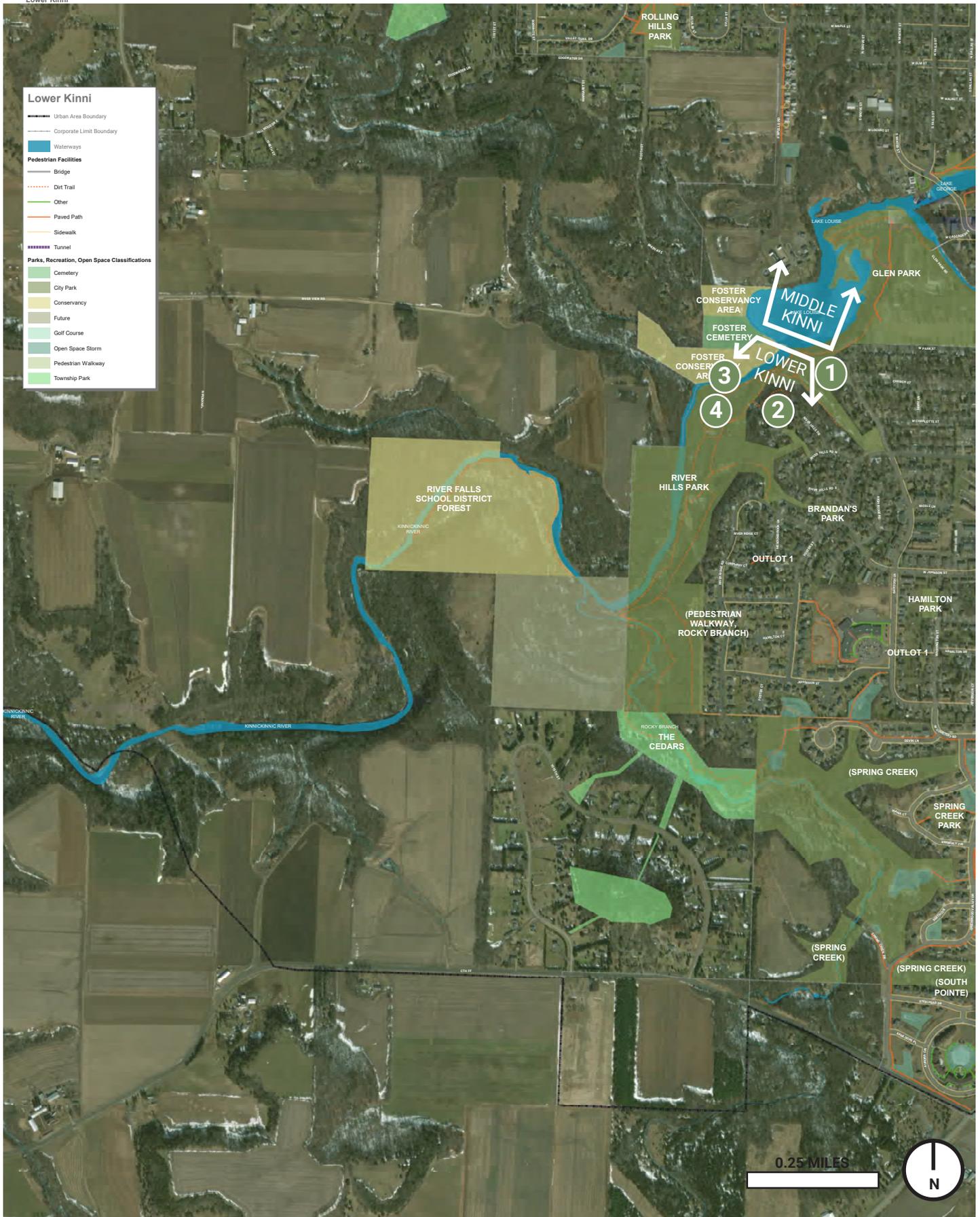


FIGURE 3.3 PLAN

LOWER KINNI

The Lower Kinni reach includes the section of river corridor from the Powell Falls Dam on the north end to the River Falls School District Forest on the south end. This reach is characterized by large areas of agriculture and wooded bluffs on the west side of the river and low density residential neighborhoods mixed with parks, open spaces and trails on the east side of the river. There are a number of existing conservation easements already established in this reach, and opportunities for more natural buffers/conservation easements to protect the river's ecology from existing agricultural runoff, and future development that may occur. The existing river greenway and trail system on the east side of the river offers residents and visitors an opportunity to experience nature in the city.

ISSUES:

- » Paddle access below Powell Dam—difficult access
- » Paddling/fishing conflict at specific areas (drop-in area = prime fishing spot)
Accessibility/steep slopes to trails south of Powell Dam
- » Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and river ecology of lower Kinni
- » Protecting Kinni from existing and potential future development (including agricultural and residential uses)
- » Limited access to the Kinni River
- » Exceptional Resource Water below STH 35 (WDNR)
- » Limited picnic areas

OPPORTUNITIES:

- » Improve river access and wayfinding
- » Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- » Establish natural buffers between existing agricultural uses and existing and future development areas to mitigate impacts of stormwater runoff
- » Interpretation at Lower Glen Park Flats area
- » Portage opportunities between dams (short-term)
- » Trail connection to downtown/main street
- » Maintain ERW classification at a minimum – seek to improve ORW
- » Enhance wildlife habitat and river ecology
- » Provide enhanced stormwater management along the riverfront
- » Provide more seating/overlook areas
- » Incorporate more natural and scenic areas
- » Incorporate designated bird watching areas
- » Incorporate more picnic areas

1 PATH FROM GLEN PARK



2 POWELL DAM



3 DOWNSTREAM FROM POWELL DAM



4 TRAIL



04. PRECEDENT ANALYSIS

RIVER CITIES + TOWNS

The planning process included an analysis of best practices from relevant river cities and towns that show a balance of river-oriented recreation and natural resource management, and exemplify a positive relationship between river ecology needs, and development along their riverfronts. The analysis reviewed towns similar in size to River Falls that are defined by and well connected to their rivers, including towns well known for their fly fishing, paddling and other tourism opportunities.

Other relevant precedents and best practices the team researched included planning strategies and practices related to urban design, park design, conservation easements, green infrastructure, and the economic benefits of parks and open spaces. These precedents and best practices were presented to the community through a series of open houses, receiving a positive reception. Subsequently, they have informed planning concepts included in the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan. The following pages offer more information and key takeaways from the precedent analysis.



Flyfishing in Spearfish, SD



Historic Downtown in Northfield, MN



Kayakers in Durango, CO



Baraboo River Restoration Post-Dam Removal



Winter Recreation in Glenwood Springs, CO



Breckenridge, CO



Public Art in Jackson, WY



Downtown Traverse City, MI

RIVER CITIES AND TOWNS

The precedent analysis included a high level evaluation of comparable river cities and towns across the country. Included were towns in the American West known for their tourism draw due to their river-oriented recreation and cultural opportunities, such as Glenwood Springs, Durango, and Breckenridge in Colorado, and Jackson, Wyoming. The analysis also looked at towns closer to home, located in the Midwest, like Spearfish, South Dakota, Northfield, Minnesota, Traverse City, Michigan, and Baraboo, Wisconsin. Each town or city was looked at for a variety of factors, including its relationship to its river, recreational opportunities, tourism attractions, cultural features, economic industries, and in the case of Baraboo, its river restoration. Lessons learned from the analysis have been applied to planning concepts in this Plan.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- » Build on and protect the city's natural, historic, and built assets – through conservation easements, design guidelines, historic preservation, and other measures
- » Develop a variety of attractions and tourism opportunities to attract visitors throughout the year
- » Capitalize on nearby attractions and destinations – i.e. national or state parks, dramatic landscape features, shopping destinations, etc.
- » Create marketing and branding strategies that promote the city, strengthen community identity, and attract residents, businesses and visitors to the community
- » Provide high quality shopping, dining, and lodging experiences
- » Create strong relationships between the downtown and the riverfront by orienting businesses and public spaces toward the river
- » Enhance connections to and from the riverfront and nearby neighborhoods
- » Pursue partnerships and create incentives to promote riverfront development
- » Partner with non-profit organizations to assist with the protection of natural resources



Riverwalk in Northfield, MN

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

A conservation easement is a restriction placed on a piece of property to protect its ecological or open space values. It is a voluntary, legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place now and in the future.

PURPOSE

Wisconsin statutes authorize conservation easements for the following purposes:

- » Protect natural, scenic or open-space values of real property
- » Assure availability of real property for agricultural, forest, recreational and open space use
- » Protect natural resources
- » Maintain or enhance air and/or water quality
- » Preserve a burial site, as defined by Wisconsin Statute
- » Preserve the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects of real property

CONSIDERATIONS

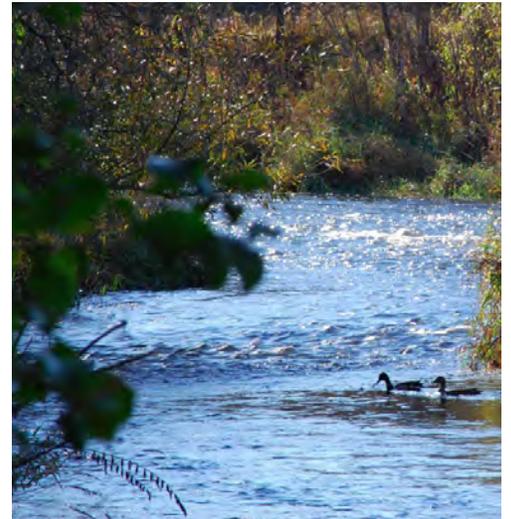
In a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to donate or sell certain rights associated with his or her property, such as the right to subdivide, and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights and serves as the easement holder. The easement holder is responsible for monitoring the property and enforcing the restrictions to ensure that the conservation values are protected, and consequently, that the purpose of the easement is achieved.

As with other easements, the landowner retains ownership of the property in a conservation easement. In many cases, active management (for instance, invasive species removal) of the property is a necessary step to achieving the goals of a conservation easement, and either the land owner or the easement holder needs to have the capacity (staff/volunteers/funding) necessary to perform these tasks. Some landowners may qualify for a tax benefit for an easement donation, if the easement meets federal IRS standards.

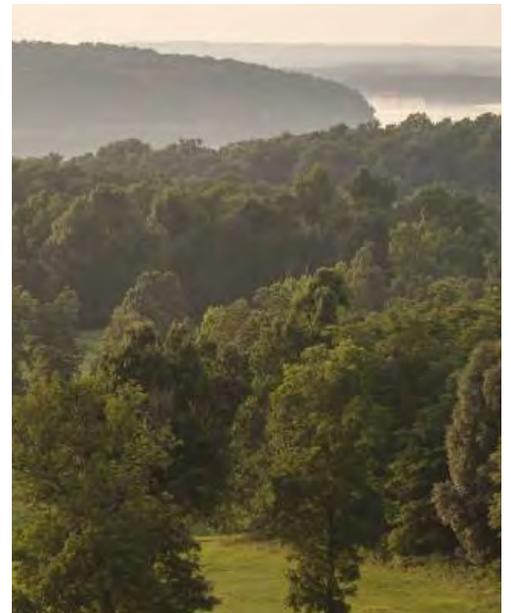


Protected Wetlands

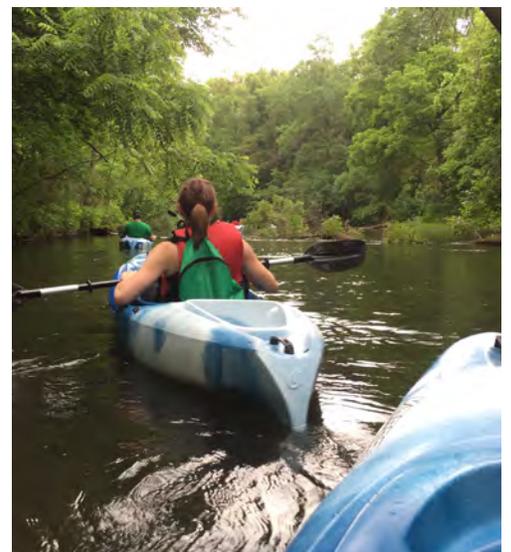
PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



Improve water clarity and wildlife habitat



Protected Woodlands



Kinnickinnic River

PARTNERS/EASEMENT HOLDERS

KINNICKINNIC RIVER LAND TRUST (KRLT):

A community-based land trust dedicated to working with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed. KRLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organizations and accepts donations in the form of membership dues, cash gifts, stock gifts, property, or development rights. Founded in 1993, the KRLT has over 600 members and has protected more than 3,000 acres and over 10 miles along the Kinni River.

WISCONSIN DNR

Administers and processes conservation easement requests under the following programs:

- » Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program
 - *Created in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. This program provides grants and services to local units of government as well as non-profit conservation organizations for land acquisition.*
- » Lake and River Protection Program
 - *Provides wetland and shoreland habitat restoration grants intended to provide financial assistance to protect or improve the water quality or natural ecosystem of a lake by restoring adjacent degraded wetlands or tributary to lakes. Shoreline habitat restoration grants are intended to provide financial assistance, including incentive payments to owners of developed lakefront and riverfront lots to re-establish shoreline habitat.*

Example of Conservation Areas
serving as a riverine buffer

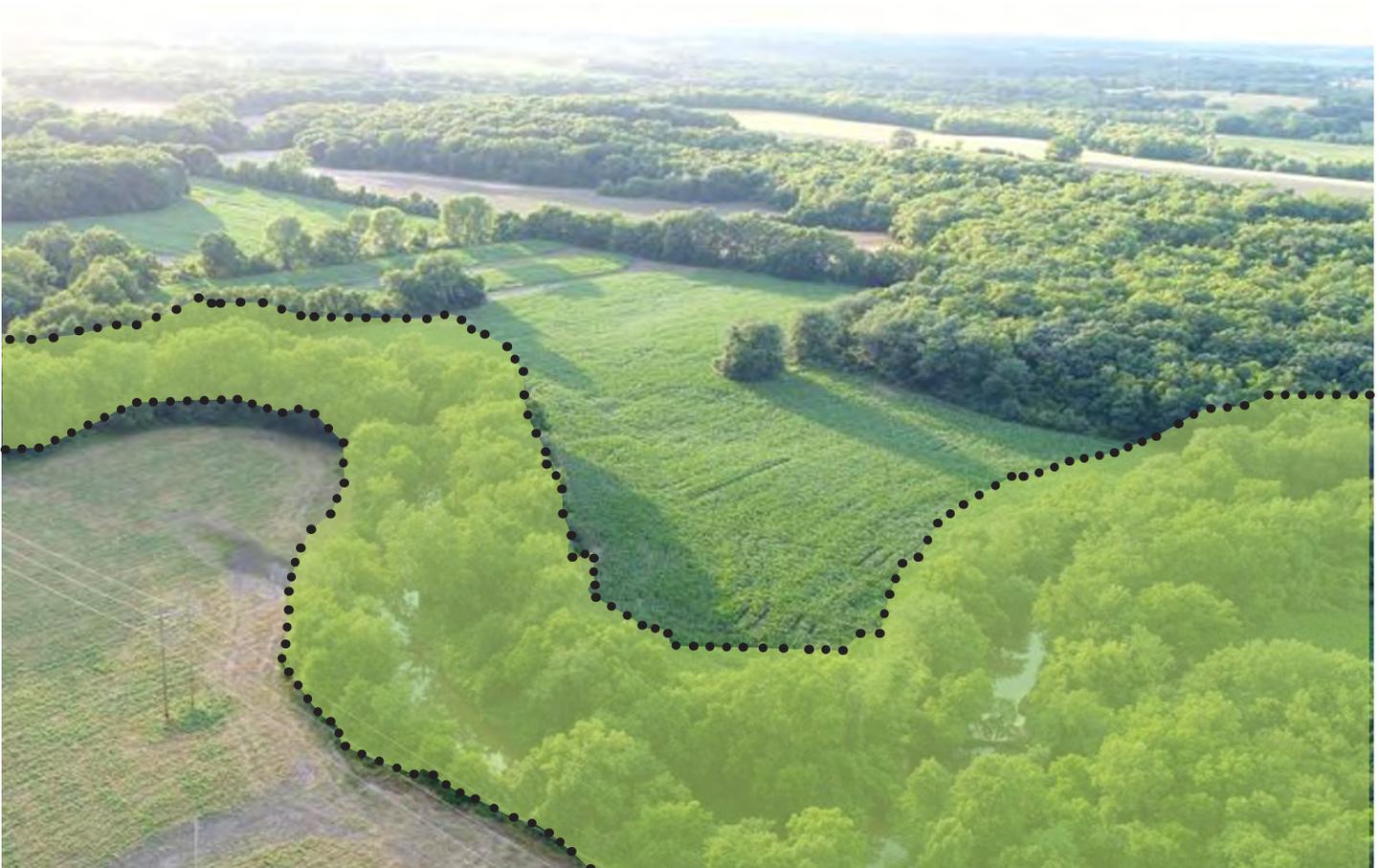


FIGURE 4.1 EXAMPLE

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to managing stormwater that reduces and treats stormwater closer to its source, while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits.

PURPOSE

During rainfall events, water hits the surface of the earth and:

a) Runs off of impermeable surfaces, such as concrete and asphalt, picking up road pollutants, trash, bacteria, and heavy metals and transferring swiftly and into stormwater drain pipes, which discharge directly into water bodies.

--OR--

b) Filters through the ground via permeable surfaces that are vegetated--as in natural, or undeveloped areas--or allow infiltration, such as permeable pavers. In this case, surface water velocity is slowed, and groundwater sources are recharged.

Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and other design elements to mimic the performance of natural, vegetated areas to restore the natural processes required to manage stormwater and create healthy urban environments.

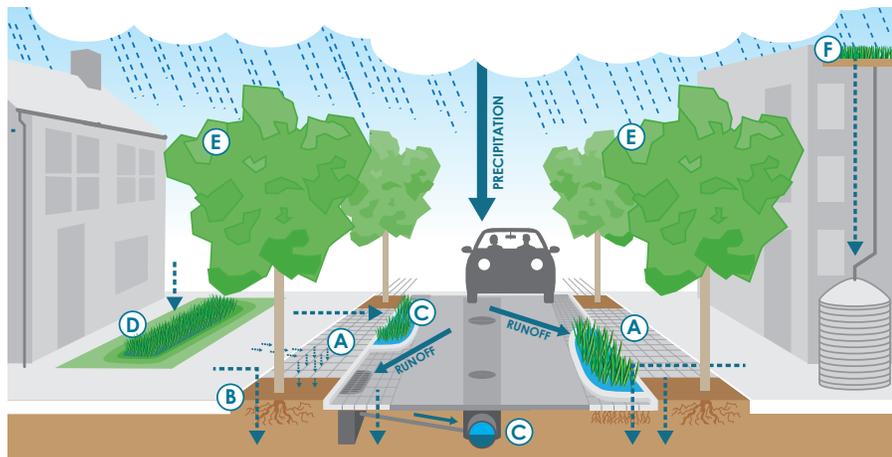


FIGURE 4.2 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

- (A) Permeable Paving
- (B) Planter Boxes
- (C) Green Streets
- (D) Rain Garden
- (E) Urban Tree Canopy
- (F) Green Roof

PRINCIPLES

Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) are other terms that are similar in the approach of Green Infrastructure but vary in scale (regional approaches vs. site-specific detailed engineering).

The underlying principles are the same:

- » treat water as close to the source as possible,
- » integrate natural approaches into the design of streets, sites, and communities
- » create green buffers around bodies of water where stormwater is released

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



Permeable Pavers



Rain Garden



Detention Pond



Water Quality Inlet



Infiltration Basins



Green Parking Lots

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



Bioswales



Urban Tree Canopy



Planter Boxes



Green Streets/Alleys



Land Conservation/Natural Buffers



Green Roofs

SMALL SITES:

- » Permeable Pavers
Allow stormwater runoff to infiltrate the hard surface pavement and enter the soil, removing fine grain pollutants and providing erosion control.
- » Rain Gardens
Also known as bioretention or bio-infiltration, these are shallow, vegetated basins that collect and absorb runoff, and planted with native, drought- and flood-tolerant species.

LARGE SITES:

- » Detention Ponds
Hold stormwater until pollutants settle to the bottom. The water is then released slowly into the river, reducing flooding and pollution in the rest of the system.
- » Water Quality Inlets
Filter sediments, oils, and greases from parking lots prior to discharge into the storm drain or infiltration basin.
- » Infiltration Basins
Capture stormwater and store it until some, or all, of the stormwater filters into the surrounding soil.
- » Green Parking Lots
Integrate filtration, plants, and paving into parking lot design to manage stormwater and enhance pedestrian experience.

STREET DESIGN:

- » Bioswales
Vegetated channels that provide treatment and retention as water is moved from one place to another.
- » Urban Tree Canopy
Trees can reduce and slow stormwater by intercepting precipitation with their leaves and branches.
- » Planter Boxes
Rain gardens that are designed within the urban streetscape in mind. Planter boxes often have curb inlets and overflow into the storm sewer drain.
- » Green Streets/Alleys
Integrated filtration, vegetation, paving and curb design to address stormwater and enhance the pedestrian experience.

REGIONAL DESIGN:

- » Land Conservation / Natural Buffers
Protection of open spaces and sensitive natural areas adjacent to water bodies to provide areas for surface water to naturally infiltrate the soil.

BUILDING DESIGN:

- » Green Roofs
Vegetation on building roofs collect rainwater, as well as improve water quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce noise and air pollution, sequester carbon, and increase urban biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

ECONOMICS OF PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACES

Open green spaces are public parks, open spaces, and conservation areas that provide substantial benefits to River Falls and surrounding community in the form of recreation, access to nature, tourism, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

PURPOSE

As urban areas are developed further and people spend more time in front of computers and indoors, these public parks, open spaces and conservation areas are becoming increasingly valued as places where people can ‘unplug’ and connect to nature. Convenient access to parks and open spaces provide free or low-cost places for residents to partake in physical activity everyday (also known as active living).

IN THE KINNI CORRIDOR

Within the Kinni Corridor study area, there are:

- » 391 acres of parkland
- » 680 acres of conservation land
- » 398 acres of public open space

For a total of 1,469 acres of open green space. These areas include rivers, lakes, recreation areas, neighborhood parks, which provide access to trails, golf courses, playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, as well as provide access to the Kinni River for swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing.



Lower Kinni



Falls at South Fork of the Kinni



Lower Kinni



Upper Kinni



South Fork of the Kinni

BENEFITS WE CAN EXPERIENCE

While the experiential benefits of high quality public parks, open spaces, and conservation areas might be obvious to those who live and work in River Falls, economic benefits to the community are more subtle and difficult to quantify. The following economic benefits to public parks, open spaces and conservation areas have been identified in the Kinnickinic River corridor:



ENHANCED PROPERTY VALUES

Parks, trails, open spaces, and conservation areas increase the value of nearby residential properties because people enjoy living close to these amenities. Higher property values increase the tax base, allowing for more community amenities.



STORMWATER INFILTRATION

Parks, open spaces, and conservation areas capture precipitation, slow runoff, and reduce the volume of water entering the stormwater system. Parks and conservation areas along the Kinni River filter stormwater from surrounding developed areas. These green, pervious areas reduce the amount of infrastructure needed to filter and slow the flow of water, which is a cost-savings to the community.



ATTRACTS BUSINESSES, NEW RESIDENTS

Parks, trails, open spaces and conservation areas contribute to the high quality of life in River Falls and the surrounding area, which all play an important role in attracting business and employees to a city. Park and recreation assets also enhance the recreation economy. According to a study by the Outdoor Industry Association***, hikers spend an average of \$179 per year on equipment, and paddlers spend an average of \$315. In-state day trip hikers spend, on average, \$100 per trip, and out-of-state day trip hikers spend \$191 per trip. With thousands of people coming to the Kinni River corridor every year, there are many ways for the local economy to benefit from outdoor recreation and tourism.



MEDICAL CARE COST SAVINGS

Increased park use translates to increased physical activity, which directly influences community health indicators, and reduces long-term medical costs. In Pierce and St. Croix counties, 22.4% of adults aged 20+ self-reported that they do not participate in any physical activities or exercise such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise*.

More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and stress. Making sure that people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to increase these positive effects on health and quality of life. Mental Health in St. Croix and Pierce counties is a top priority; 23.2% of Pierce county survey respondents** and 29.4% of St. Croix county survey respondents** reported mental health as an important health concern.



TOURISM

Regionally, people travel to River Falls specifically to enjoy the parks, trails, open spaces and conservation areas, and associated recreational facilities. These visitors purchase food, drinks, gear, and lodging accommodations, as well as pay for services while in the area, increasing business and tax revenues.



FILTER AIR POLLUTANTS

Trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers remove air pollutants that endanger human health and damage structures.

05. MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan identifies initiatives intended to support the community's vision and guiding principles for the future of the Kinni Corridor. The plan recommendations have been grouped into the four following categories:

- » **Natural Resources + River Ecology**
- » **Parks + Recreation**
- » **Land Use + Economic Development**
- » **Access + Connectivity**

Corridor-wide recommendations for improving the conditions of the Kinnickinnic River and the surrounding downtown and neighborhood context are addressed in each category. The plan also provides more specific recommendations in the Middle Kinni section of the river corridor, where greater change is expected to occur with dam removal and river restoration improvements. The plan identifies near- and long-term public improvements and potential partnering opportunities with other agencies and organizations. More information on priorities and partnering opportunities can be found in Chapter 6 – Implementation.



South Fork of the Kinnickinnic River



Falls at South Fork of the Kinni

NATURAL RESOURCES + RIVER ECOLOGY

Input received from community stakeholders throughout the planning process indicates that protection and restoration of the river's ecology and natural resources is a high priority. The health and stability of the Kinnickinnic River and its tributaries are of vital importance to the future of the City of River Falls. With the decision to remove the dams and the restore the river, the opportunity to improve the river's ecology and enhance the natural resources in the corridor becomes more feasible. The natural resource and river ecology recommendations listed here are intended to do the following:

- » Improve floodplain area
- » Improve streambank stability
- » Improve water quality
- » Improve/protect the rivers ecology
- » Build long-term project support through community interaction, education, and stewardship

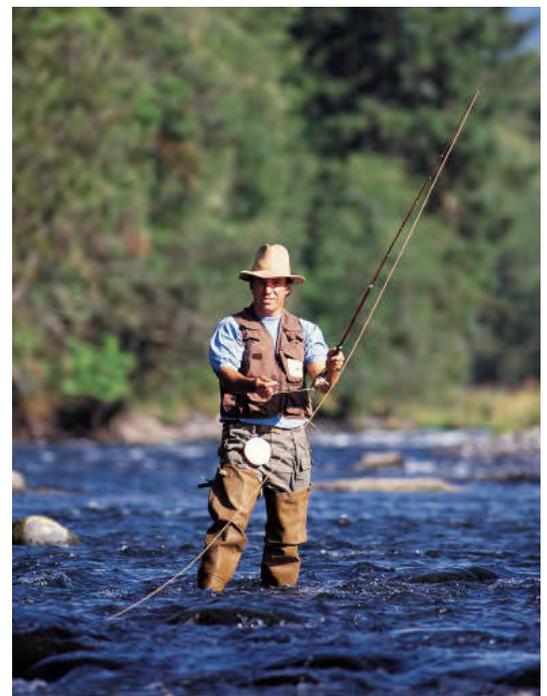
PLANNING CONCEPTS

DAM REMOVAL AND RIVER RESTORATION

- » Prepare dam removal and river restoration design and engineering plans
- » Implement dam removal and river restoration
- » Create and implement long-term management strategy to ensure sustainability of river restoration efforts

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS/NATURAL BUFFERS

- » Establish additional public and/or private conservation easements in the corridor
- » Utilize natural buffers to protect and enhance river ecology and water quality
- » Protect wooded areas and streambanks in the corridor
- » Protect Kinnickinnic River and its tributaries
- » Protect wetlands and floodplain areas in the corridor
- » Review Shoreland ordinance and amend if necessary to ensure long-term performance of natural buffers



GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE/STORMWATER BEST PRACTICES

- » Incorporate green infrastructure/stormwater best management practices, including:
 - *Bioswales*
 - *Rain gardens*
 - *Detention basins*
 - *Treatment wetlands*
 - *Permeable pavement systems*
 - *Green streets and alleys*
 - *Urban tree canopy*
- » Focus green infrastructure in highly developed/impervious areas such as downtown and surrounding neighborhoods – streets and parking lots
- » Infiltrate and filter stormwater runoff at its source to improve water quality and control thermal fluctuations in river
- » Incorporate additional treatment ponds/wetlands in Lake George impoundment after dam removal

NATURE CENTER/ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

- » Design and build a nature center in the Lake Louise impoundment area
- » Event/educational spaces – indoor and outdoor classrooms
- » Outdoor/river programmed activities
- » Interpretive trails
- » River access
- » Bird-watching
- » Guided tours

COMMUNITY GARDENS

- » Design and build community gardens where feasible to encourage access to healthy food
- » Sustainable urban agriculture demonstration/model gardens

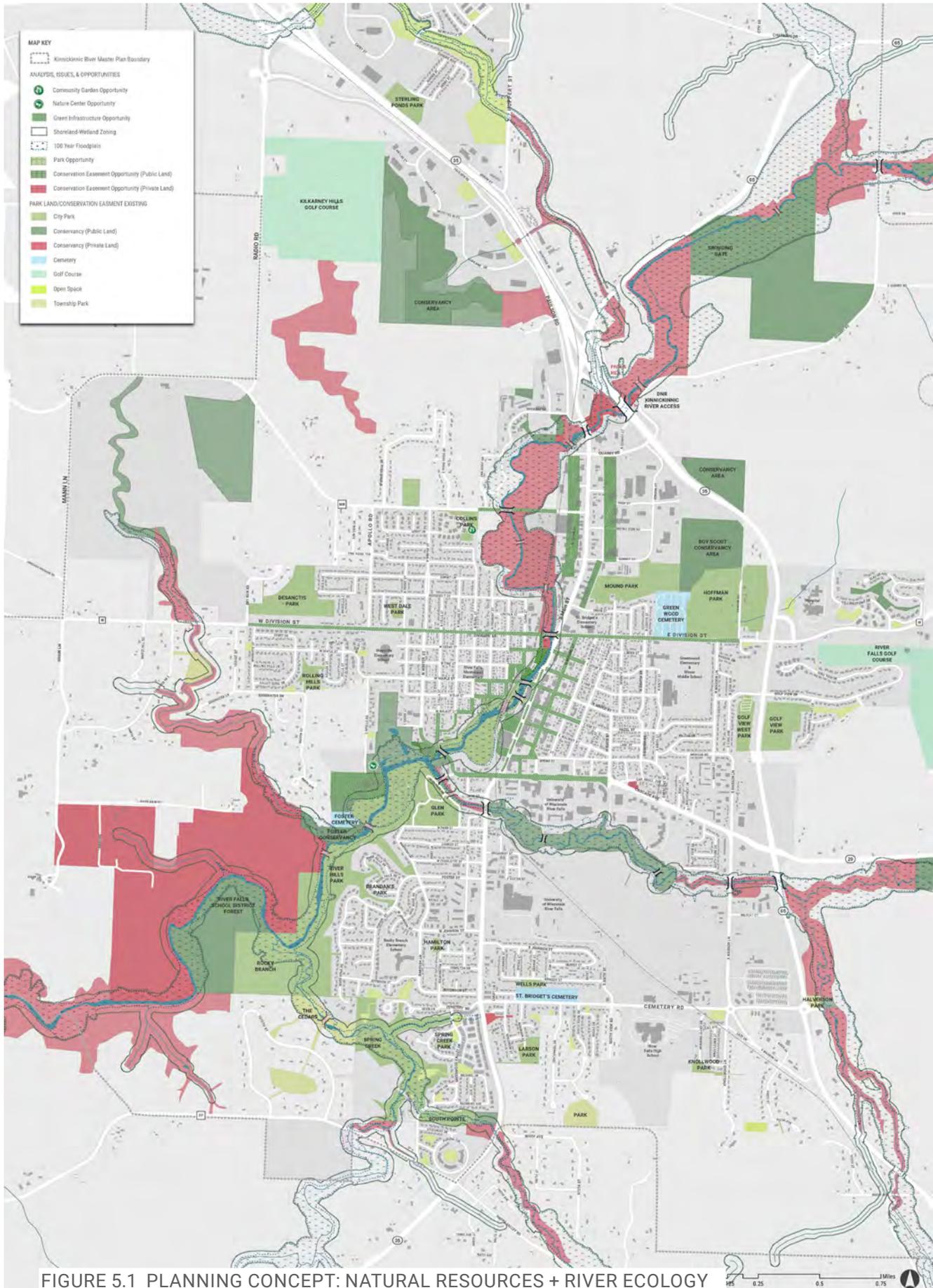
MANAGEMENT

- » Invasive plant species removal and management
- » Native species plantings
- » Riparian restoration
- » Streambank stabilization

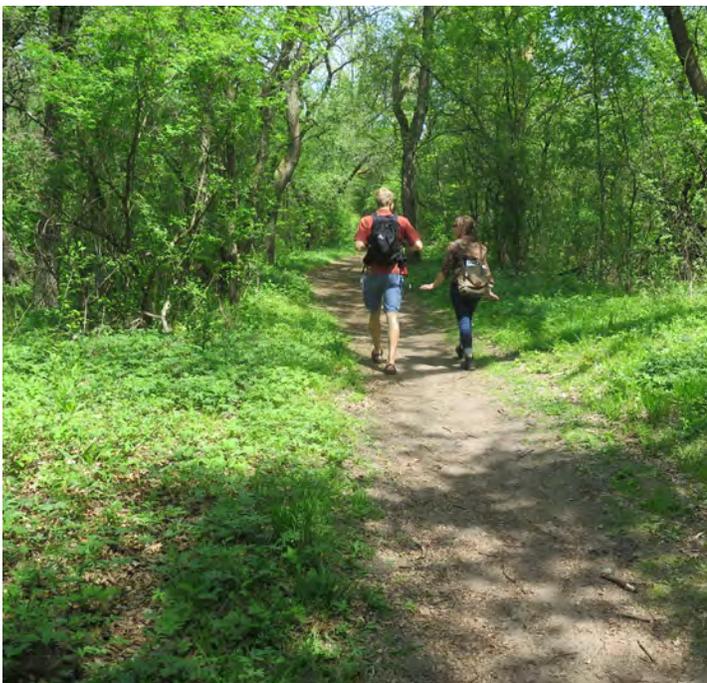
PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



NATURAL RESOURCES + RIVER ECOLOGY



PRECEDENT EXAMPLES





Paddling the Lower Kinni

PARKS + RECREATION

Parks and recreational opportunities are important community features contributing to quality of life in the City of River Falls. They provide places for people to meet their neighbors, recreate, get into nature, and live healthy lifestyles. The City of River Falls already has a robust park and recreation system. With the decision to remove the dams and restore the river, new opportunities will open up for additional park spaces in the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundments. The Lake George impoundment presents an opportunity to better connect the downtown to the river through future park design and programming. The Lake Louise impoundment offers an opportunity to incorporate more natural open spaces, trails and potentially a nature center to promote environmental education and stewardship. Park and recreational improvements community members would like to see include:

- » More and enhanced park spaces (at dam impoundments)
- » More natural areas
- » More picnic areas
- » More access to fishing areas and improved fish habitat
- » More access for paddling sports
- » Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- » Enhanced walking, hiking and biking opportunities
- » Enhanced birding opportunities

PLANNING CONCEPTS

ENHANCE / IMPROVE OPEN SPACE AND FACILITIES:

- » Improved connections to and along the Kinni River
 - *Additional park and conservation easements (public/private)*
 - *Enhanced pedestrian/bike connections and facilities*
- » Increased natural areas
 - *Additional park and conservation easements (public/private)*
- » Additional river access and trailhead locations



Example of a Bird Blind

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES

- » Enhanced and additional overlook and river views
 - *Selective clearing and invasive species removal*
- » Enhanced River Walk
 - *Increase pedestrian-friendly amenities*
 - *Additional seating and overlooks*

ADD PARK FACILITIES AND AMENITIES:

- » Additional park space located in lake impoundments after dam removal
 - *Additional public land acquisition and conservation easement*
 - *Lake George*
 - *Lake Louise*

ENHANCED PUBLIC NATURAL AREAS

- » Land currently in floodplain and riparian vegetation
- » Public art opportunity
 - *Rotational local art displays*
- » Nature center opportunity
 - *Educational/event space*
- » Community garden opportunity
 - *Sustainable model/educational tool*
- » Additional water access
 - *ADA compliant*
- » Additional walking/hiking/biking trails along river edge

ENHANCED PARK SPACE - LAKE GEORGE:

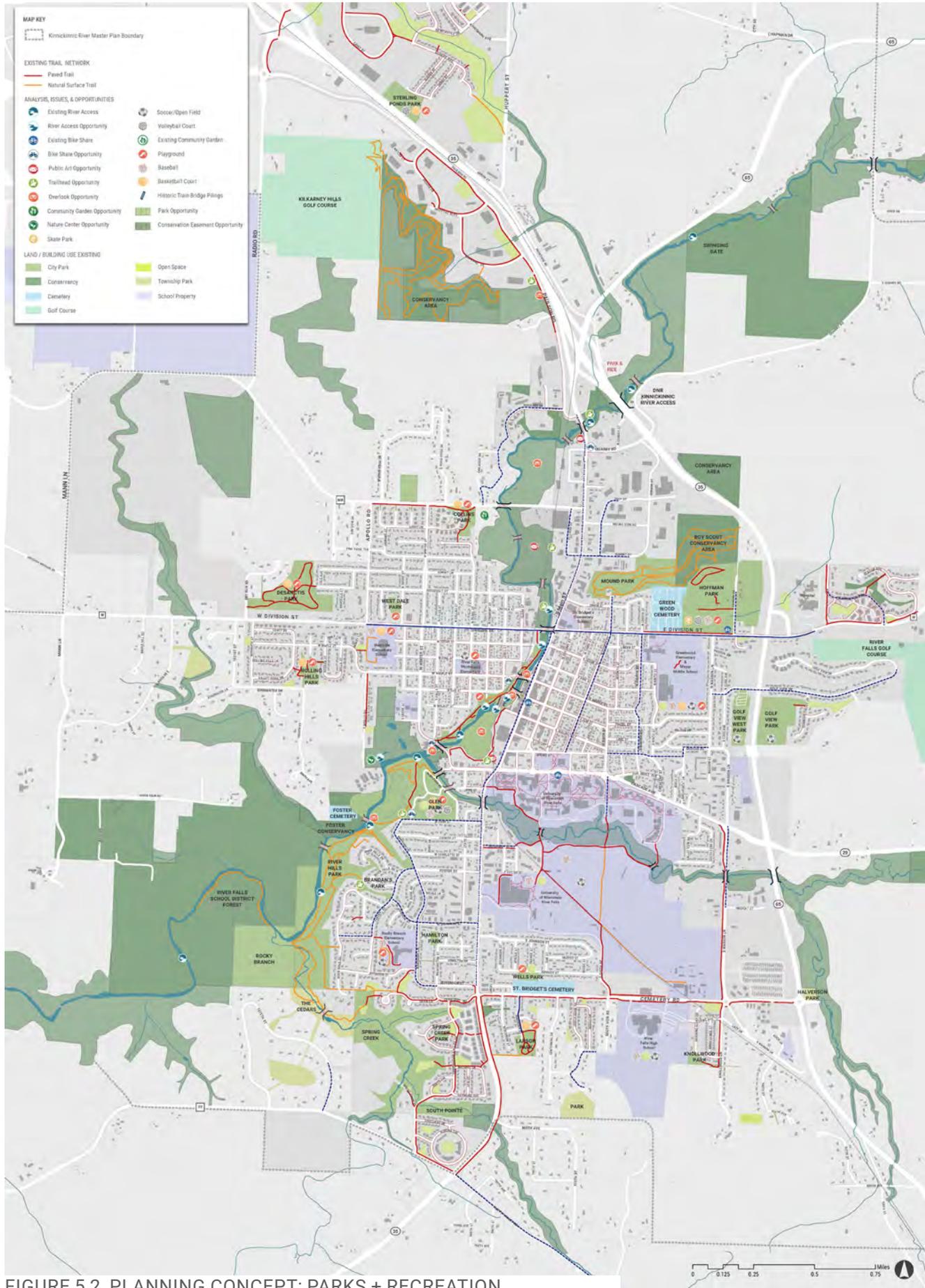
- » Wetland park space (Stormwater treatment)
- » Community gathering/event space
- » Picnic areas
- » Bandshell/Amphitheater Space
- » Additional walking/hiking/biking trails along river edge
- » Nature play area
- » Additional water access locations
- » Connection across river over Historic Rail Pilings
- » Ice skating facility

ENHANCED PARK SPACE - LAKE LOUISE:

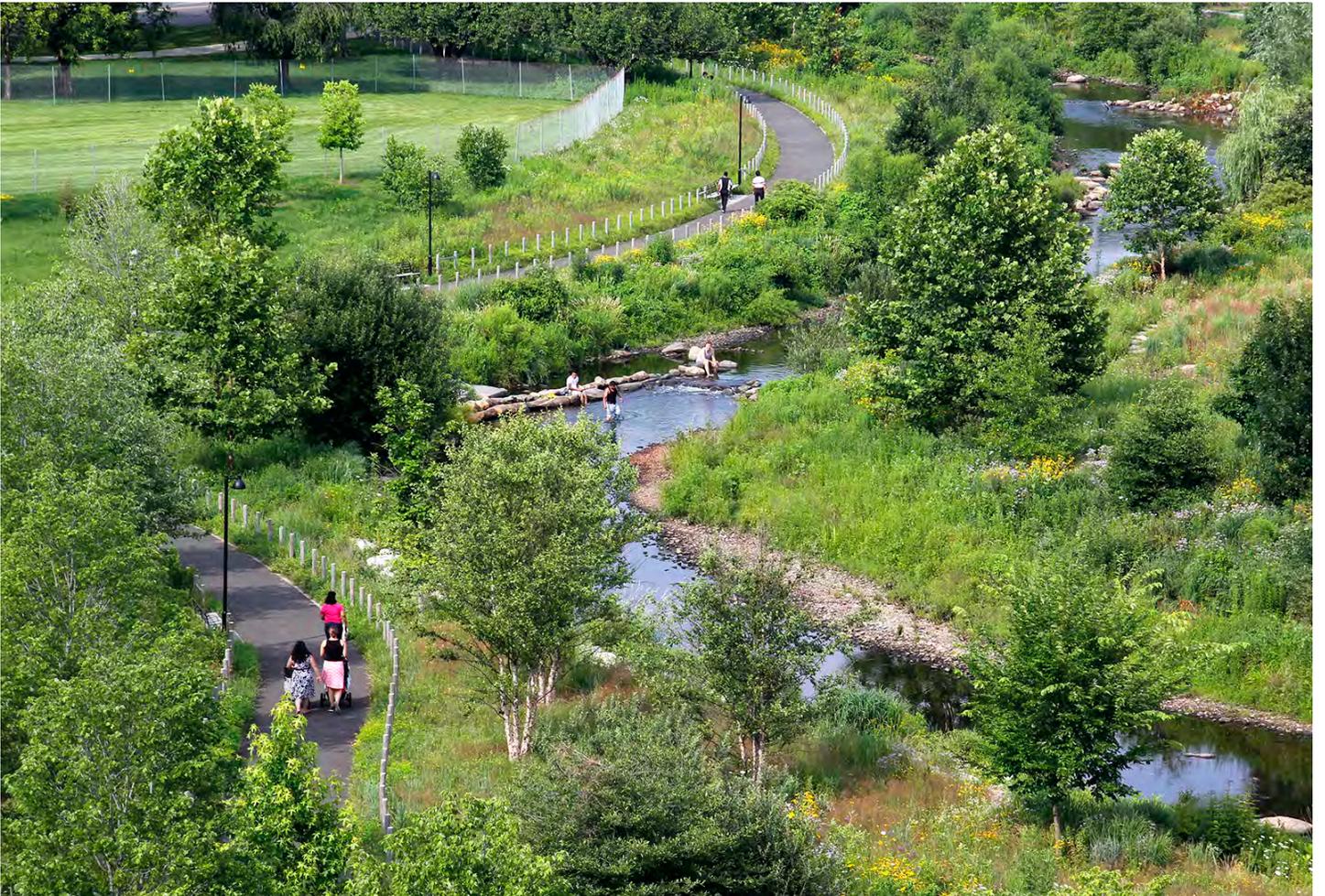
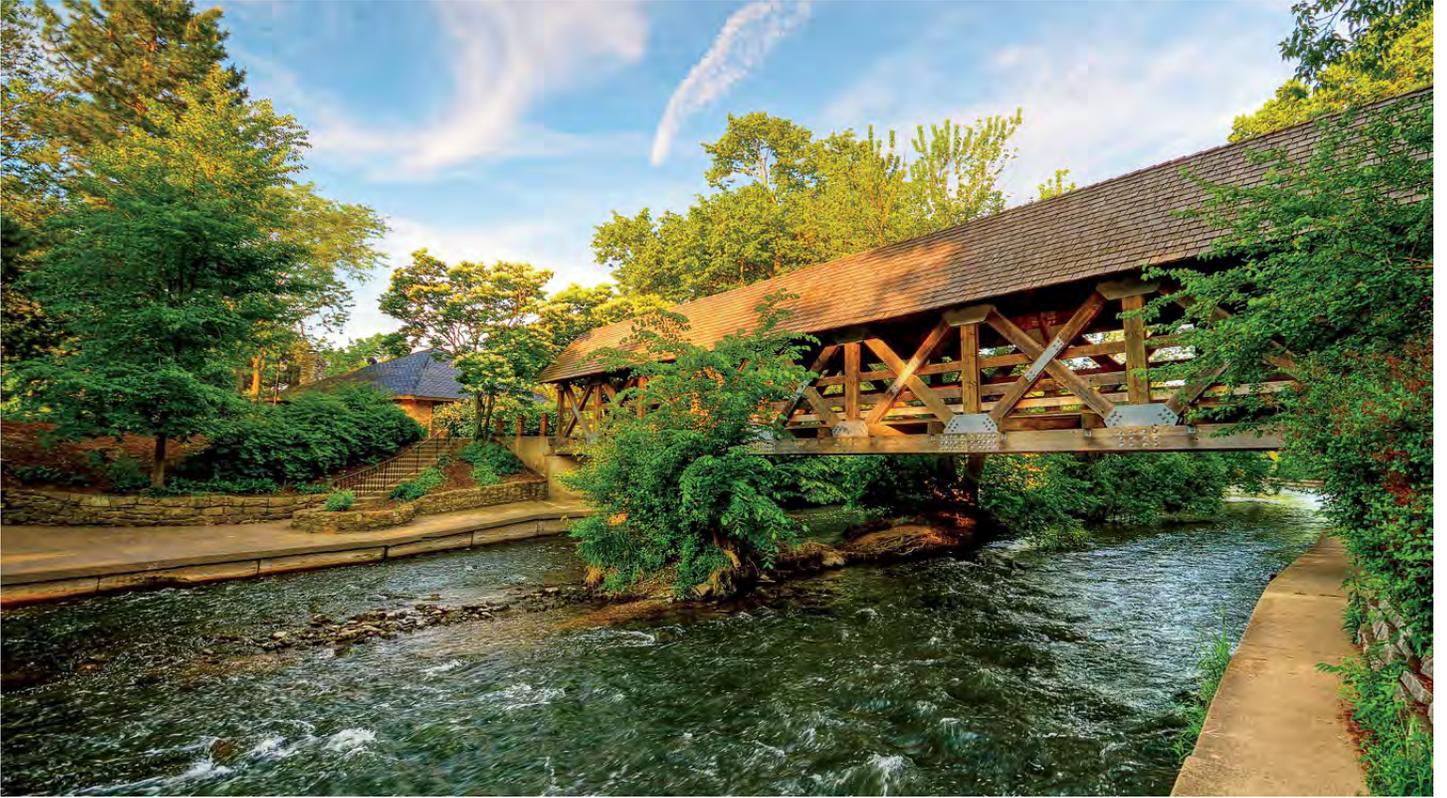
- » Additional walking/hiking trails along river edge
- » Nature Center opportunity
 - *Natural cold water pond as programmable space*
- » Camping opportunity
- » Additional picnic areas
- » Additional water access
 - *ADA compliant*
 - *Additional parking area*
- » Wetland restoration/river edge naturalization
 - *Improved fishing habitat*
 - *Interpretive trails*
 - *Birdwatching*



PARKS + RECREATION



PRECEDENT EXAMPLES





Main Street, River Falls

LAND USE + ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Land uses and economic development opportunities that strengthen the relationship between downtown River Falls and the Kinnickinnic River, and support tourism throughout the year were common themes received from community input and discussed with the Kinni Corridor Project Committee. The City is interested in pursuing strategies that create a more vibrant downtown, a better connected riverfront, and long-term economic viability. The land use and economic development concepts presented here are intended to strengthen those relationships and inform future land use and redevelopment planning efforts in the City that will help achieve those goals.

PLANNING CONCEPTS

IMPROVE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN DOWNTOWN AND THE RIVERFRONT

- » Encourage river-oriented businesses downtown
- » Enhance the Riverwalk pedestrian environment
- » Encourage businesses to front onto the Riverwalk
- » Provide additional places to access the riverfront in and close to the downtown
- » Enhance river visibility from Main Street
- » Provide more and consistent wayfinding in the downtown that connect and identify the river and downtown destinations
- » Create more places for outdoor dining with riverfront views
- » Enhance pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the downtown and along the riverfront



River Walk, Northfield, MN

ENHANCE THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE CORRIDOR

- » Update the City's Downtown Master Plan and Design Guidelines
- » Enhance the streetscape environment downtown, especially along Main Street
- » Provide pedestrian scaled lighting and site furnishings downtown, especially along Main Street and the Riverwalk
- » Plan for Elm Street (between Main Street and 2nd Street) as a pedestrian-friendly community event street (Farmers Market and other community events)
- » Improve alleys in the downtown – green infrastructure, paving, lighting, signage
- » Integrate more public art in the downtown and along the riverfront
- » Consider green infrastructure as a branded identity element in the corridor

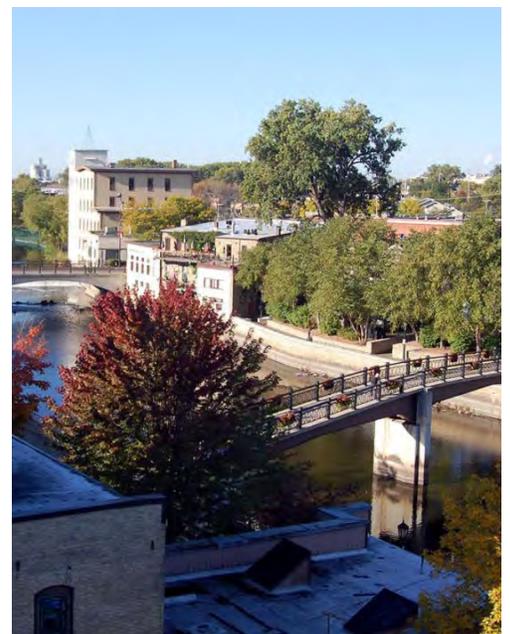
PLAN FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT/REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN THE CORRIDOR

- » Areas in the corridor that have been identified for potential economic development/redevelopment in the corridor are illustrated in Figure 5.3. They include:
 - *Glover Street District*
 - *Second Street District*
 - *West Side District*
 - *University District*
 - *South Main and North Main Districts*
- » Plan for and steward the repurposing of the Junction Dam Power Plant and powerhouse structures, if feasible. The community has asked for a public/private reuse of this facility
- » Investigate potential to replace renewable energy source production (loss of hydropower)
- » Update the City's Comprehensive Plan

PROMOTE TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

- » Promote river-oriented tourism – paddling, fly fishing, bird-watching, hiking, biking, etc.
- » Promote year-round tourism opportunities:
 - *Mountain biking*
 - *Lodging – bed and breakfast*
 - *Arts and culture*
 - *Shopping and dining*
 - *Film and music in the park*
 - *Agriculture – harvest, fruits, wine growing, etc.*
 - *Winter activities – Nordic skiing, ice skating*
 - *Events and festivals*
- » Pursue co-branding opportunities with other organizations – Chamber of Commerce, UWRF, Kinni Land Trust, Trout Unlimited, etc.

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

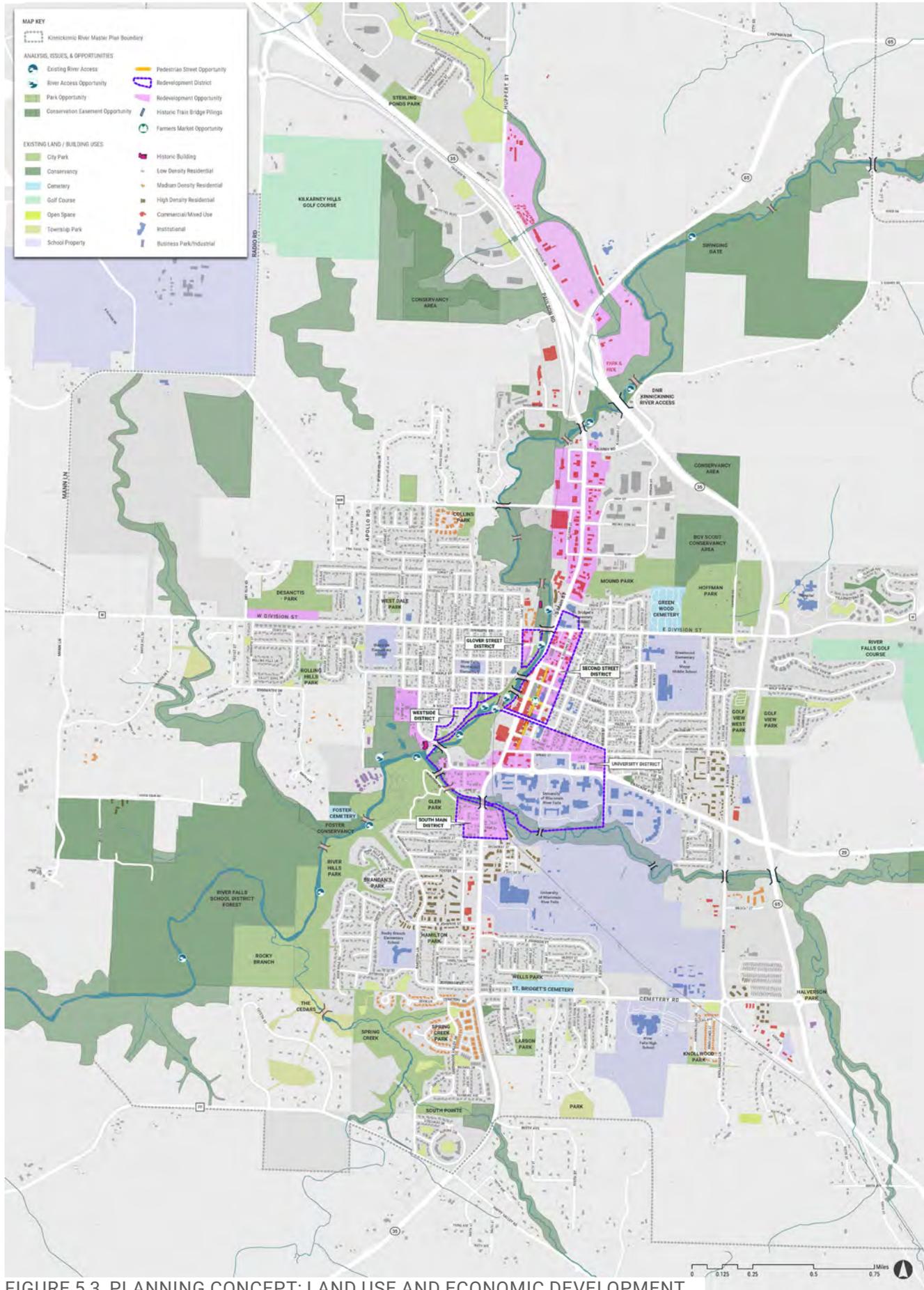


FIGURE 5.3 PLANNING CONCEPT: LAND USE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES





ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

Input received from community stakeholders throughout the planning process indicates a desire for a more connected Kinni Corridor and more places to access the riverfront. Highlights from that input include better and more places to access the river, more hiking and biking trails, safer roadway crossings, ADA accessibility, more trailheads, trail amenities, and loop trails. Recommendations to create a better connected and more accessible Kinnickinnic River Corridor extend beyond the riverfront into surrounding neighborhoods, thereby creating stronger connections between the community and the Kinni. The following planning concepts are intended to strengthen access and connectivity within the corridor.

PLANNING CONCEPTS

IMPROVE/ENHANCE RIVER ACCESS

- » Explore opportunities to connect the community to the river through conservation easements
 - *Create a connected green buffer along the river corridor*
 - *Allow for trail connections through easements (work with land owners to pursue this option)*
- » Enhance existing paddling launch areas – access, parking, seating, signage, waste receptacles, bike parking, etc.
- » Provide more opportunities to safely interact with the river and “touch the water”
- » Consider additional places to access the river, particularly in the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundment areas

IMPROVE/ENHANCE PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE CONNECTIONS

- » Improve and add on-street bicycle facilities – bike lanes, routes, signage, etc.
- » Complete any sidewalk/bikeway/trail gaps between parks, neighborhoods, downtown and the river corridor
- » Provide additional loop trails along the river corridor
- » Better connect north and south River Falls and future growth areas to each other and the river corridor
- » Provide additional off-road ped/bike paths
- » Provide additional bridge connections across the river corridor in key locations identified in Figure 5.4.
- » Provide additional bikeshare facilities in the river corridor

- » Improve street crossings/intersections in the corridor – safe routes to schools, signage, lighting, ped crossing markings, etc.

ENHANCE RIVERWALK

- » Make the Riverwalk a pedestrian place – less parking and service, more pedestrian-friendly
- » Special paving – permeable pavers
- » Underground utilities
- » Site furnishings
- » River-fronted shops and services
- » Wayfinding and signage
- » Plaza spaces with seating, public art, dining opportunities, etc.

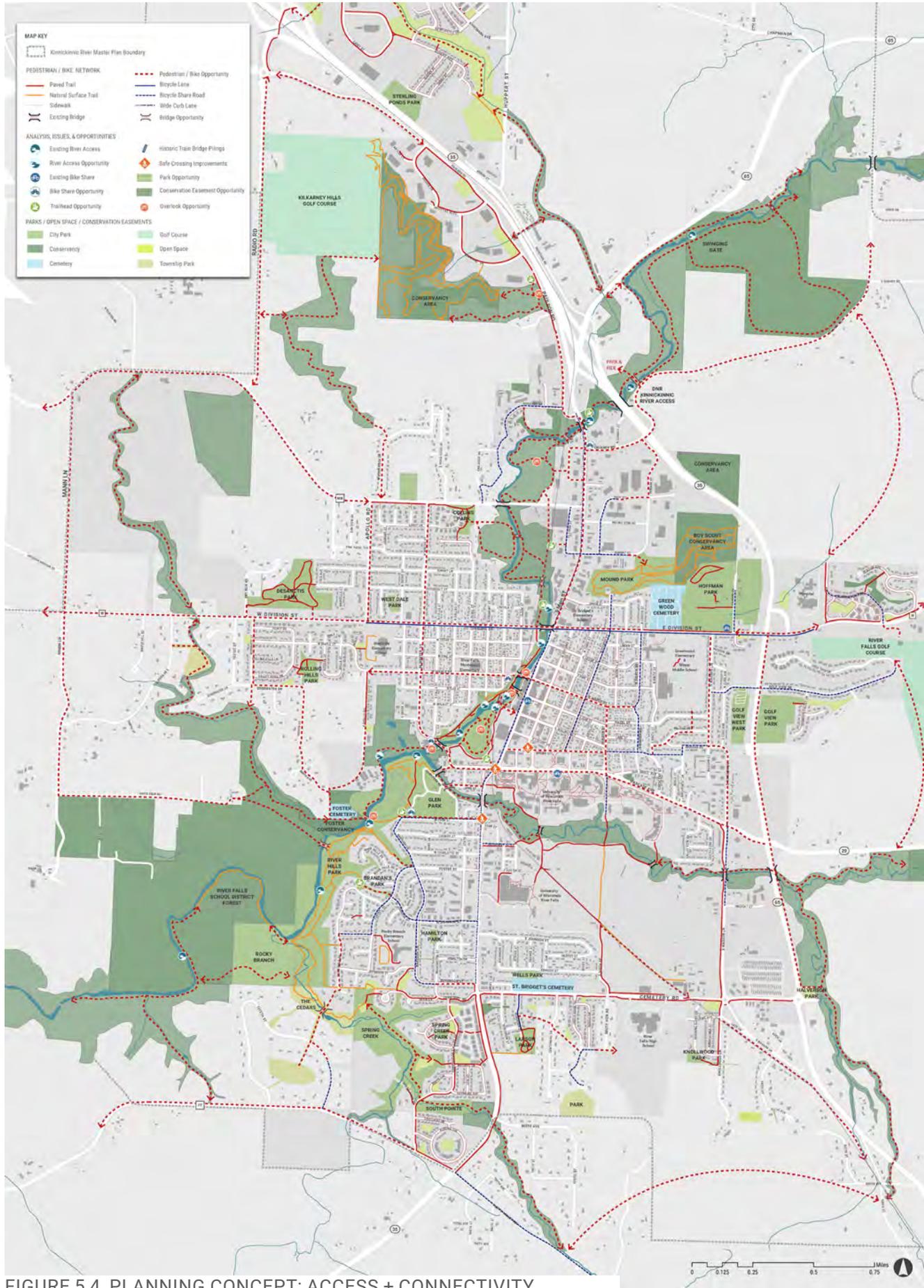
ENHANCE WAYFINDING/SIGNAGE

- » Provide more trailheads at key locations – parking, signage, information kiosk, seating, etc.
- » Enhance wayfinding signage in the downtown to direct people to the riverfront and other destinations/businesses
- » Enhance gateways into the downtown along Main Street
 - Gateway signage
 - Special landscaping
 - Public art opportunity
- » Add educational signage regarding potential conflicts between paddling and fishing on the Kinni and best practices for minimizing potential conflicts

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



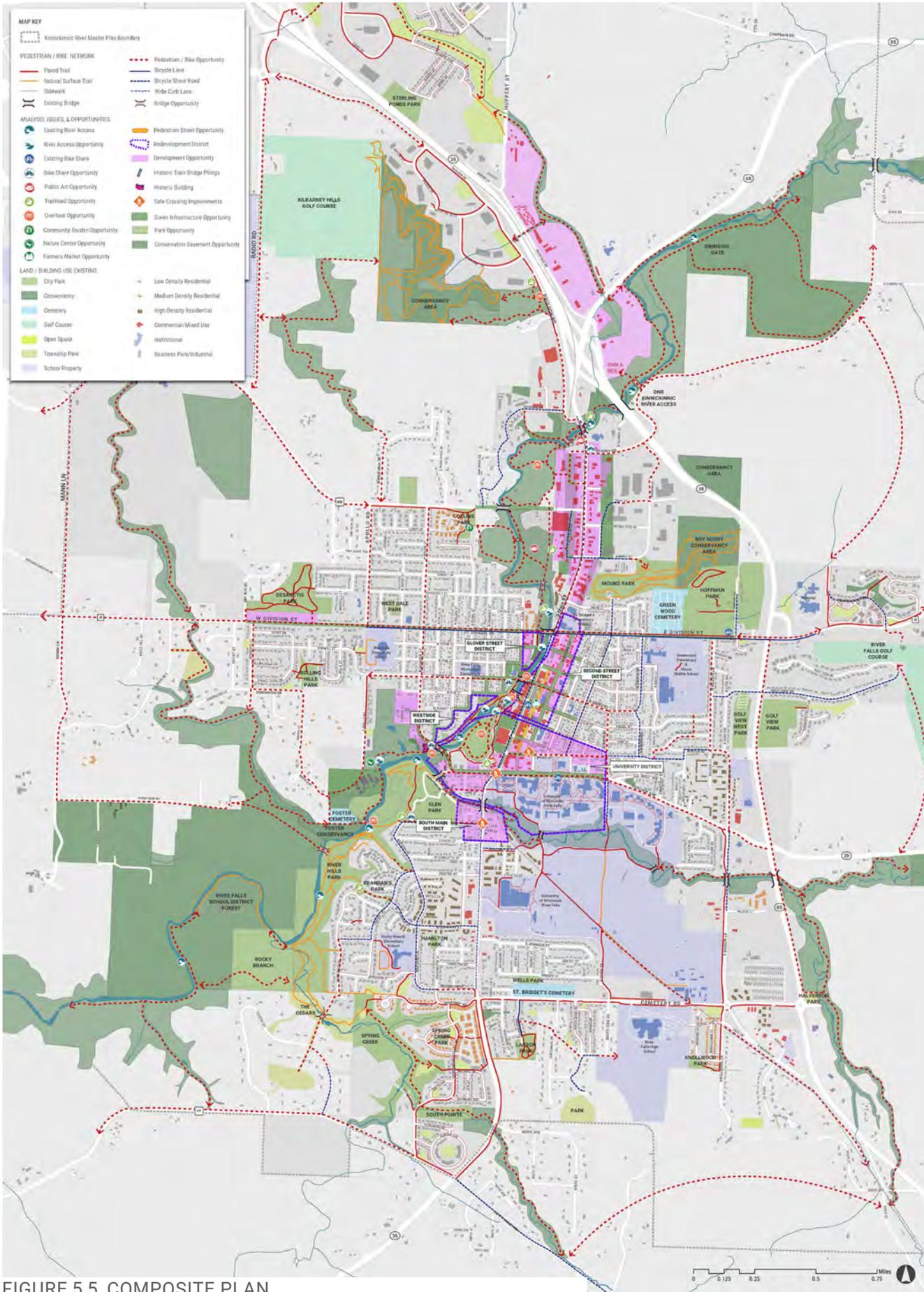
ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY

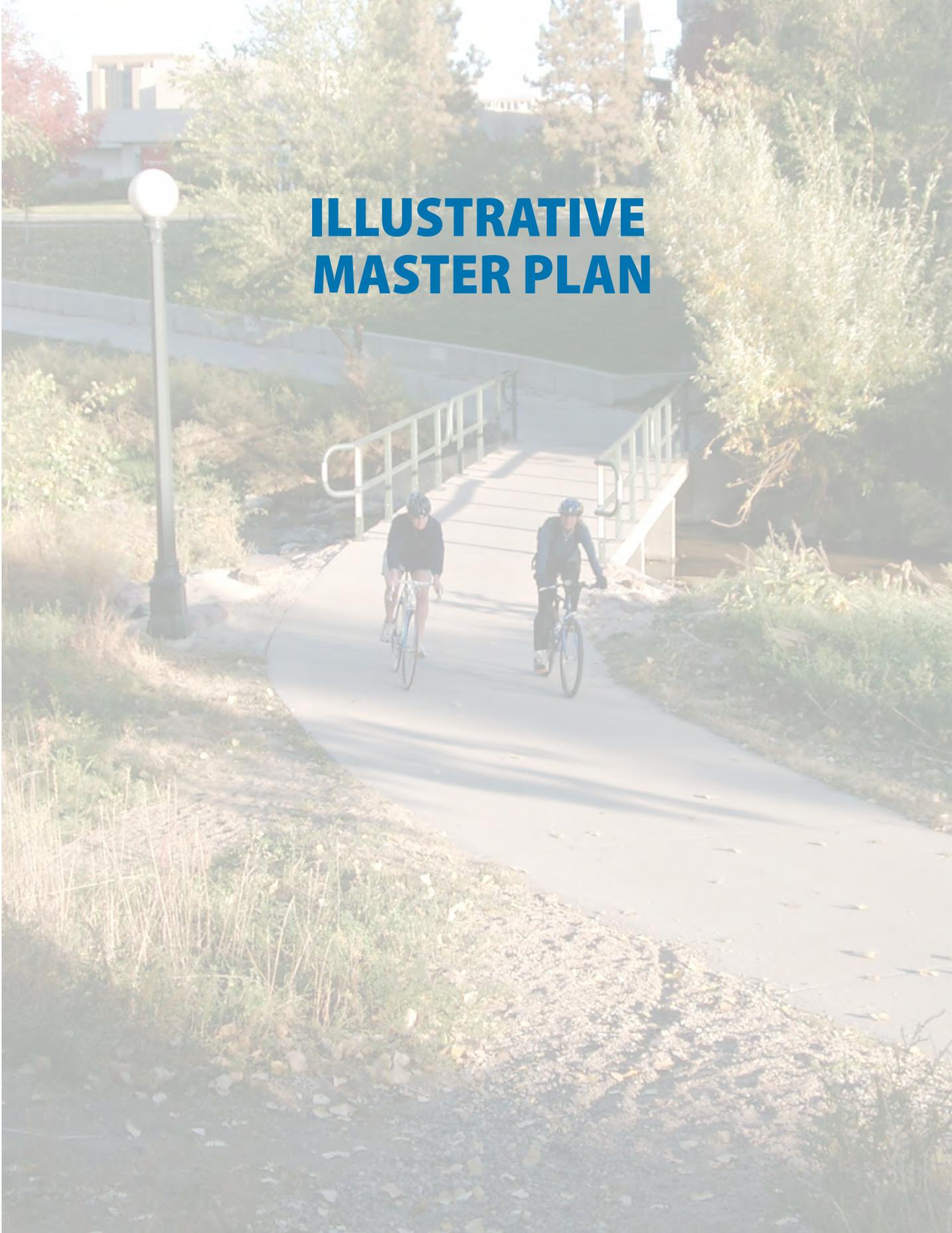


PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



CORRIDOR WIDE PLANNING CONCEPT: COMPOSITE PLAN





ILLUSTRATIVE MASTER PLAN

KINNICKINNIC CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN

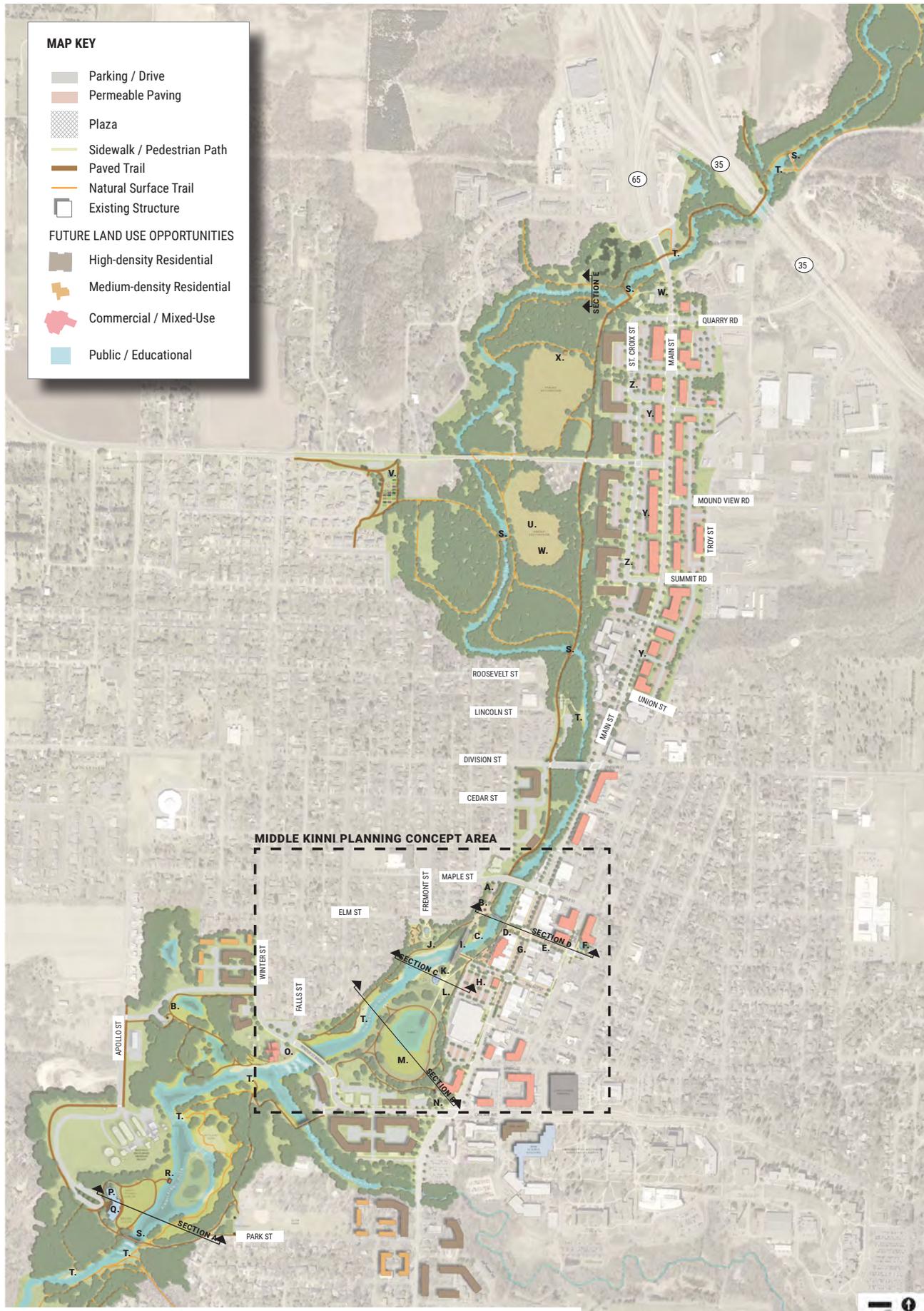


FIGURE 5.6 ILLUSTRATIVE MASTER PLAN - MIDDLE KINNI

KEY

- A. REDUCE SIZE OF PARKING LOT
 - ADD PERMEABLE PAVERS
- B. TRAILHEAD / PLAZA WITH ART
- C. CANOE / KAYAK ACCESS AND STORAGE
- D. ENHANCED RIVER WALK
 - UNDERGROUND UTILITIES
 - SPECIAL PAVING, LIGHTING, FURNISHINGS
 - PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED
- E. ELM STREET IMPROVEMENTS
 - PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED EVENT STREET
 - FARMERS' MARKET
 - SPECIAL PAVING, LIGHTING, FURNISHINGS
- F. PLAZA WITH POP-JET FOUNTAIN
- G. MAIN STREET IMPROVEMENTS
 - PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED
 - SPECIAL PAVING, LIGHTING, FURNISHINGS
 - SAFE PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS
 - CURB EXTENSIONS
- H. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE
 - PERMEABLE PAVING
 - RAIN GARDENS / BIOSWALES /
- I. BRIDGE CONNECTION OVER RAIL TRESTLE
- J. NATURE PLAY AREA
- K. PICNIC AREA / MULTI-USE BUILDING
 - SHELTER, RESTROOMS, STORAGE, STAGE
- L. NATURAL AMPHITHEATER
- M. STORMWATER TREATMENT
 - POND, WETLANDS
- N. FUTURE PLAZA
 - CONNECT UW-RF TO PARK
- O. REPURPOSE POWER PLANT FACILITY
- P. TROUT FISHING CENTER
 - OUTFITTING
 - EDUCATION / CLASSES
- Q. NATURE CENTER
 - ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION
 - EXHIBITS, CLASSES, MEETING ROOMS
 - TRAILS, RESTORED WETLANDS
 - BIRDING, INTERPRETATION
- R. PIER
- S. BRIDGE CONNECTION OPPORTUNITIES
- T. RIVER ACCESS OPPORTUNITIES
- U. PRAIRIE RESTORATION
- V. COMMUNITY GARDEN
- W. PUBLIC ART/GATEWAY ELEMENT
- X. BIRD BLIND
- Y. COMMERCIAL / MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT
- Z. MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



U. PRAIRIE RESTORATION



D. ENHANCED RIVER WALK



T. RIVER ACCESS



M. STORMWATER TREATMENT



H. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

KINNICKINNIC CORRIDOR MASTER PLAN SITE SECTIONS

SECTION A



SECTION B



SECTION C



MIDDLE KINNI CONCEPT DIAGRAM

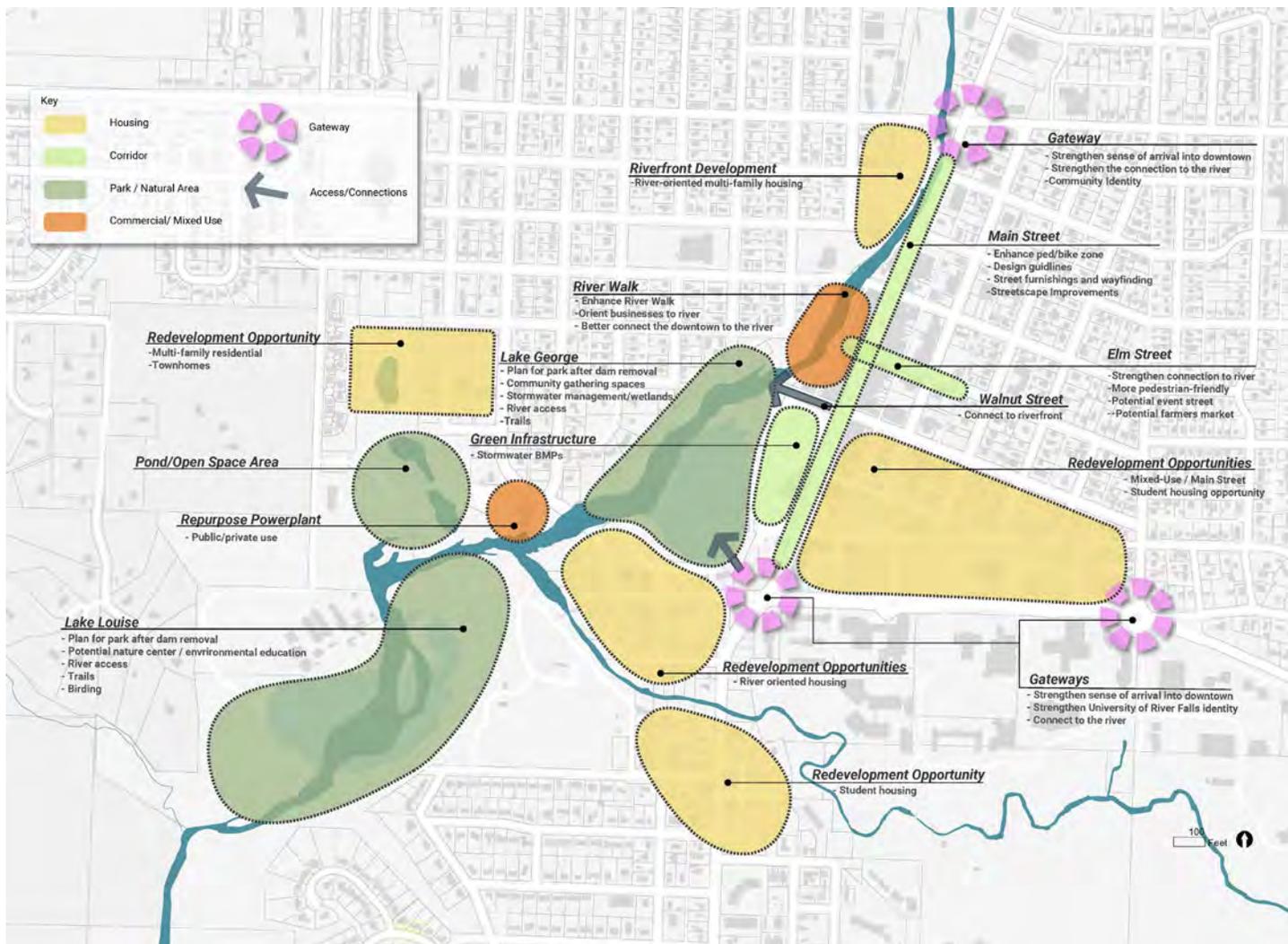


FIGURE 5.8 MIDDLE KINNI CONCEPT DIAGRAM

MIDDLE KINNI RECOMMENDATIONS

The plan provides specific recommendations in the Middle Kinni section of the river corridor, where greater change is expected to occur with dam removal and river restoration improvements. The Lake George and Lake Louise impoundments offer tremendous opportunities to restore the Kinnickinnic River ecology and create new park and recreational amenities after removal of the Junction and Powell Dams. Many of the proposed improvements in this area are intended to improve the natural condition of the rivers ecology (water quality, habitat, etc.) but also intended to improve connections between the downtown and the riverfront and bring more vitality to Downtown River Falls. Improvements proposed in this section of the river corridor include new trails, river access points, bridges, public spaces

and facilities, park features, stormwater treatment facilities, and future redevelopment opportunities. Specific recommendations include the following:

PLANNING CONCEPTS

LAKE GEORGE IMPOUNDMENT AREA

The Lake George area is located adjacent to Downtown River Falls and offers the greatest potential for connecting the downtown to the riverfront and creating more vitality in the downtown. The plan proposes more active uses and programs in this area due to its proximity to downtown. Additionally, due to its proximity and the impermeable nature of development in the downtown, green infrastructure (permeable paving, rain gardens, etc.) and other stormwater management best practices

are important considerations to ensure proper infiltration and filtering of stormwater runoff near the river. Specific recommendations include:

- » Future dam removal and river restoration
- » Reduce size of parking lot at Heritage Park – add permeable pavers and trailhead plaza
- » Canoe/kayak river access/launch and storage area in Heritage Park
- » Improved river access on west side of river north of Winter Street Bridge
- » New bridge over the existing rail trestle bridge foundations, connecting east and west sides of the river
- » Nature play area on the west side of the river at the south end of Fremont Street (land acquisition required)
- » Picnic area on east side of river with tables/seating, shelter and barbeque facilities
- » New multi-purpose building at picnic area – picnic shelter, restroom, storage, community fireplace, etc.
- » Outdoor amphitheater with covered stage area for community events/performances
- » Stormwater treatment improvements including wetlands, pond, and stormwater interceptor pipe
- » Pond – ice skating, fishing pier/boardwalks
- » New and improved trails – shared-use, paved trails, loop trails, trail amenities
- » Environmental, historical and cultural resource interpretation
- » Future plaza/park entry at corner of Cascade and Main Street (land acquisition required)

LAKE LOUISE IMPOUNDMENT AREA

The Lake Louise area is located down river from the Junction Falls dam and offers the potential to incorporate more nature-based park and recreation opportunities. The plan proposes more passive and nature-based uses and programs such as wetland restoration, trails, bird watching facilities and a nature center, intended to provide environmental education and stewardship opportunities. Specific recommendations include:

- » Future dam removal and river restoration
- » Improved trails from Glen Park to riverfront
- » New and restored wetland areas/floodplain park areas
- » New trails – paved and natural surface trails, loop trails, trail amenities, boardwalks
- » Bridge crossing at river near existing Powell Dam

- » Nature Center/Environmental Education Center
- » Extend Apollo Road to Nature Center
- » Bird watching facilities – blinds, interpretation
- » Environmental, historical and cultural resource interpretation
- » New roadway connection between Winter Street and Apollo Road (near compost facility)
- » New wetland park and restored ponds near composting facility (relocate compost facility)
- » Repurposed Junction Falls Power Plant – public/private use
- » Access from Power Plant to river bottom

DOWNTOWN/MAIN STREET

The Downtown and Main Street area is located adjacent to and east of the river and Lake George impoundment. The community has identified a need to better connect the downtown and Main Street to the river and bring more vitality to downtown. The improvements proposed for the downtown and Main Street are focused on public improvements intended to enhance the public realm and better connect downtown to the Kinni, and public and private redevelopment opportunities that offer the potential to create more places for people to live, work and shop in the downtown. Specific recommendations include:

- » Riverwalk improvements:
 - *Underground utilities*
 - *Special paving/permeable paving*
 - *Plaza spaces (possible land acquisition required)*
 - *Site furnishings – seating, waste receptacles, bike racks, etc.*
 - *Pedestrian scaled lighting*
 - *Wayfinding signage*
 - *Interpretation*
 - *River-fronted businesses*
 - *Selective clearing of plantings – river overlooks*
- » Main Street improvements:
 - *Enhanced pedestrian streetscape*
 - *Permeable pavers*
 - *Street trees*
 - *Pedestrian scaled lighting*
 - *Site furnishings – seating, waste receptacles, bike racks, etc.*
 - *Diagonal on-street parking (potential)*
 - *Special paving/permeable paving*

MIDDLE KINNI PLANNING CONCEPT



FIGURE 5.9 MIDDLE KINNI PLANNING CONCEPT



J. NATURE PLAY AREA



M. STORMWATER TREATMENT/WETLAND

(MIDDLE KINNI RECOMMENDATIONS CONTINUED)

- » Elm Street improvements:
 - Community event street – ability to close off for events (i.e. Farmers Market)
 - Pedestrian-friendly features
 - Street trees
 - Special paving/permeable paving
 - Banner poles
 - Pedestrian scaled lighting
- » 2nd Street improvements:
 - Explore potential to add bike lanes on 2nd Street
 - Improved pedestrian streetscape
- » Alley improvements:
 - Special paving/permeable paving
 - Pedestrian scaled lighting
 - Screening
- » Future redevelopment opportunities:
 - Mixed-use/commercial opportunities along Main Street
 - Street-fronted buildings along Main Street and in the downtown
 - Medium to high density residential uses fronting onto the river at the north and south ends of downtown, and along Cascade and Winter Streets
 - Public/private reuse of Junction Falls Power Plant
- » Green infrastructure:
 - Green streets in and near the downtown and surrounding neighborhoods
 - Permeable paving and rain gardens in and near the downtown
 - Permeable paving and rain gardens in privately owned surface parking lots in the downtown

PRECEDENT EXAMPLES



A. PERMEABLE PAVERS
(GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE)



B. TRAILHEAD / PLAZA



C. CANOE / KAYAK ACCESS



D. ENHANCED RIVER WALK



E. ELM STREET



F. PLAZA + POP-JET
FOUNTAIN



H. GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE



I. BRIDGE OVER RAIL TRESTLE



L. NATURAL AMPHITHEATER



K. PICNIC / MULTI-USE BLDG



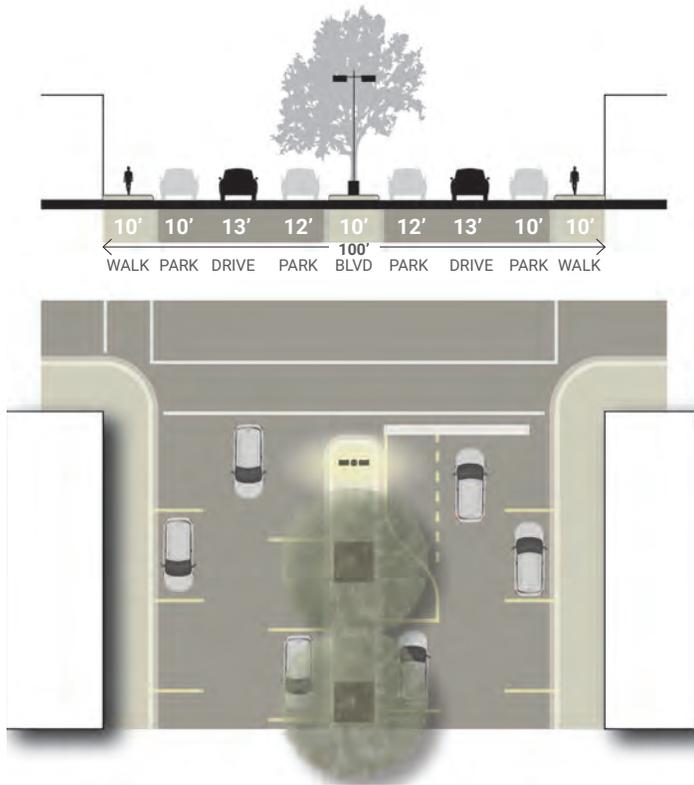
G. MAIN STREET



N. FUTURE PLAZA

MIDDLE KINNI RECOMMENDATIONS MAIN STREET SECTION STUDY

EXISTING MAIN STREET

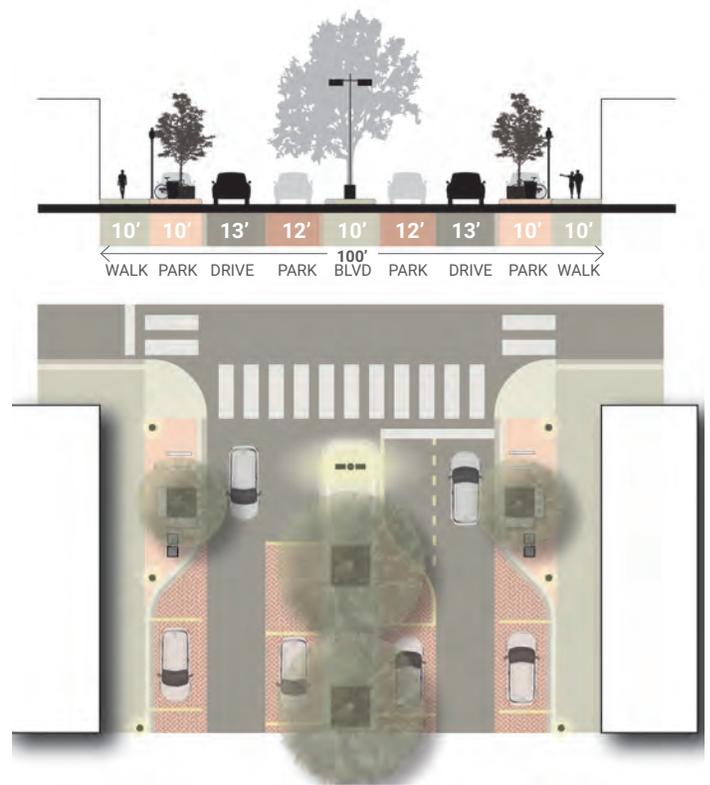


- » Shoebox lights and trees in boulevard
- » Parallel parking along street edges and along boulevard
- » Wide drive and parking lanes
- » Approximately 40 parking stalls per block



FIGURE 5.10 MAIN STREET SECTION STUDY

STUDY A: PAVERS + BUMP-OUTS

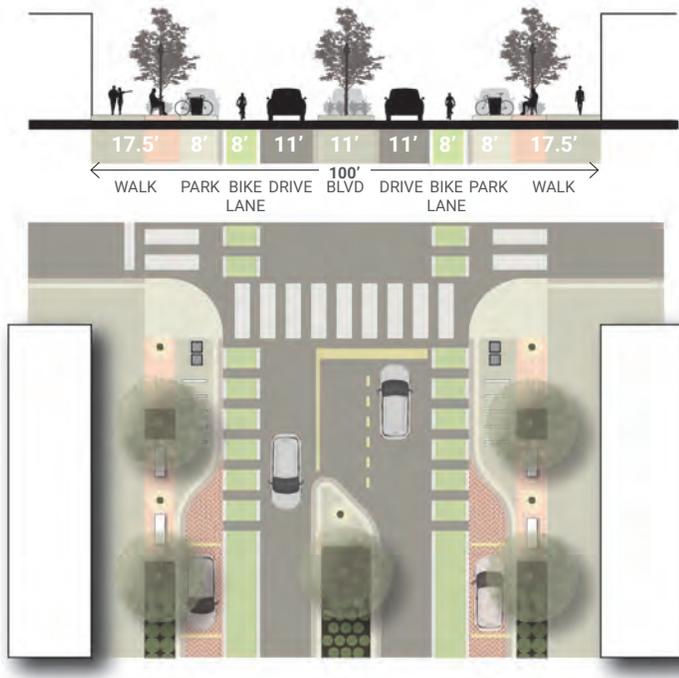


- » Same arrangement as existing Main Street
- » Pedestrian lights added
- » Bump-outs at intersections
- » Street furniture, such as bike racks, trash cans, street trees, benches in bump-out area
- » Permeable pavers installed in parking areas
- » High-visibility crosswalks added
- » Approximately 40 parking stalls per block



Intersection Bumpouts Example

STUDY B: BIKE LANES + BUMP-OUTS



- » Boulevard parking removed
- » Bike lanes added on both sides of the street
- » Pedestrian lights added
- » Bump-outs at intersections
- » Street furniture, such as bike racks, trash cans, benches in bump-out area
- » Permeable pavers installed in parking areas
- » Street trees added
- » High-visibility crosswalks added
- » Approximately 20 parking stalls per block



Complete Street Example

STUDY C: DIAGONAL PARKING + BUMP-OUTS



- » Boulevard parking removed
- » Diagonal parking to replace parallel parking
- » Pedestrian lights added
- » Bump-outs at intersections
- » Street furniture, such as bike racks, trash cans, benches in bump-out area
- » Permeable pavers installed in parking areas
- » Street trees added
- » High-visibility crosswalks added
- » Approximately 40 parking stalls per block



Diagonal Parking on Main Street Example (Chaska, MN)

06. IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCTION

This Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan lays out an ambitious set of initiatives for the future of the Kinni Corridor. Community members have dedicated much of their personal and professional time to this project and have expressed a desire for this plan to be something that will be implemented. In order to realize the vision, goals and concepts of this plan, it is critical to establish an implementation strategy.

Implementation of this plan will likely take 20-30 years ultimately, but many of the proposed improvements can begin happening right away. Momentum has begun already with the decision to remove the Junction Falls and Powell Dams and restore the Kinnickinnic River in the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundment areas. Other efforts taking place already include improvements to Glen Park, planning for the Depot senior housing project, and downtown alley upgrades.

The Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan Implementation Chapter is organized as follows:

- » **Initiatives Already Started**
- » **Potential Implementation Projects**
- » **Priority Projects**
- » **Jumpstart Projects**
- » **Potential Partnerships And Funders**



INITIATIVES ALREADY STARTED

HYDROELECTRIC FACILITY RELICENSING/ DECOMMISSIONING

In February, 2018, the River Falls City Council voted to relicense the hydroelectric dams one last time, with plans to remove the Junction Falls and Powell Dams. The City of River Falls has begun the Integrated Licensing Process and settlement agreement with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to relicense the city's hydroelectric facilities for the final time. The City has identified a time frame of 2026 to remove the Powell Dam and restore the section of river that flows through Lake Louise impoundment. The Junction Falls Dam will be removed and the river through the Lake George impoundment restored somewhere in the 2035-2040 time frame.

GLEN PARK MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The City of River Falls approved a new master plan for Glen Park in 2015. Glen Park improvements and renovation efforts recommended in the master plan will commence in 2018 and be completed in 2019.

COMMUNITY SIGNAGE PROGRAM

The Downtown Design Plan and Committee, the Plan Commission, the "America in Bloom" program, River Falls Chamber of Commerce and the Business improvement District have recommended updating and providing consistent signage in the downtown/Main Street area and throughout the community. The project addresses corporate park signage, City buildings, gateway signage, parks and trails, and wayfinding throughout the City.

NORTH MAIN STREET SIDEWALK INFILL

This pedestrian safety project infills a gap in the sidewalk on the east side of North Main Street and connects pedestrians to a signalized crossing at the intersection with CTH MM.

NORTH INTERCEPTOR SEWER REROUTING AND REHABILITATION

This project will construct a new gravity flow sewer from the St. Croix Street outfall to the existing North Main Street lift station. Preliminary design has been completed and acquisition efforts have begun.

DOWNTOWN ALLEY UPGRADES

This project includes economic development incentives to provide upgraded infrastructure to alleys

in and adjacent to the commercial business district downtown. Pave and upgrade the blocks of the alley between Main Street and 2nd Street, from Elm north to Division. This includes stormwater upgrades too.

DOWNTOWN STREETScape AND FURNISHING

This project includes improvements to the downtown streetscape, including benches and trash receptacles over the next 10 years. The City is also planning to install signage as a part of wayfinding improvements for downtown.

POTENTIAL IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Based on the public improvements and public/private redevelopment opportunities identified in this plan, with input from City staff and community members, a complete list of implementation actions were identified and prioritized. These actions fall into the following categories:

- » Natural Resources and River Ecology
- » Parks and Recreation
- » Economic Development and Land Use
- » Access and Connectivity

PROJECTS		NEAR-TERM (0-5 YRS)	MID-TERM (5-10 YRS)	LONG-TERM (10-20 YRS)	\$-\$\$-\$\$\$
PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN THE RIVER CORRIDOR	Update the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan	✓			\$
	LAKE GEORGE IMPOUNDMENT AREA				
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for Lake George impoundment area as a future city park:		✓		\$-\$\$
	Plazas at Riverwalk, Heritage Park, and Main Street/Cascade Ave		✓		\$\$
	Pedestrian bridge over rail bridge pilings		✓		\$\$\$
	Picnic facilities	✓		✓	\$
	Multi-purpose building/picnic shelter/restrooms			✓	\$\$\$
	Outdoor amphitheater			✓	\$\$
	Nature play area			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	Trails and boardwalks			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	Stormwater facilities/wetlands			✓	\$\$\$
	Interpretation	✓		✓	\$-\$\$
	River access - paddling and fishing	✓		✓	\$
	Canoe/kayak storage	✓		✓	\$
	LAKE LOUISE IMPOUNDMENT AREA				
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for Lake Louise impoundment area as a future city park:	✓			\$-\$\$
	Nature Center, Trout Fishing/Learning Center			✓	\$\$\$
	Restored wetlands/ponds			✓	\$\$\$
	Trails and boardwalks	✓		✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	Interpretation			✓	\$\$
Birding facilities	✓		✓	\$	
River access - paddling and fishing			✓	\$	
Canoe/kayak storage			✓	\$	

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

PROJECTS		NEAR-TERM (0-5 YRS)	MID-TERM (5-10 YRS)	LONG-TERM (10-20 YRS)	\$-\$\$-\$\$\$
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE	MAIN STREET/DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION				
	Update City's Downtown Master Plan and Design Guidelines	✓			\$
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for streetscape improvements		✓		\$\$\$
	Conduct a downtown parking study		✓		\$
	Establish a downtown parking management plan		✓		\$
	Study feasibility of building a public parking ramp		✓		\$
	Expand downtown event programming (4-season)	✓			\$
	Promote, strengthen and expand storefront improvement programs	✓			\$
	Pursue historic designation of eligible properties to enable use of tax credits for building improvements		✓		\$
	Initiate a downtown marketing and branding campaign		✓		\$-\$\$
	RIVERWALK				
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for enhanced Riverwalk	✓			\$\$\$
	Investigate opportunity to acquire Lazy River property		✓		\$\$-\$\$\$
	Incentivize opportunities for businesses to orient to the Riverwalk	✓			\$
	Explore future redevelopment opportunities along Riverwalk			✓	\$\$\$
	ELM STREET				
	Plan/design and seek funding sources to redesign Elm Street as a downtown event street			✓	\$\$\$
	Relocate Farmer's Market to Elm Street			✓	\$-\$\$
	Incorporate new plaza/splash pad through redevelopment opportunities			✓	\$\$\$
	POWER PLANT				
	Study feasibility of repurposing power plant		✓		\$-\$\$
	Provide connections and overlooks from power plant to riverfront			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	Transform city owned property (across Winter Ave) to parking lot to serve repurposed power plant			✓	\$\$
	FUTURE REDEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES				
	Study feasibility of potential redevelopment opportunities along Main Street and near UWRF campus	✓			\$
	Guide future land use in the Downtown Master Plan	✓			\$
	Evaluate shoreline ordinance and determine if it needs amending	✓			\$
	Plan for and implement forms of renewable energy		✓		\$\$\$

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

PROJECTS		NEAR-TERM (0-5 YRS)	MID-TERM (5-10 YRS)	LONG-TERM (10-20 YRS)	\$-\$\$-\$\$\$
ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY	RIVER ACCESS				
	Plan/design and implement new river access locations - paddling and fishing	✓	✓	✓	\$\$
	Enhance existing paddling and fishing access locations	✓	✓	✓	\$
	Provide educational signage addressing potential paddling and fishing conflicts	✓			\$
	Consider access/use regulations in order to reduce potential paddling/fishing conflicts	✓			\$
	PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE CONNECTIONS				
	Update the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan	✓			\$
	Connect sidewalk/bike/trail gaps between the river, parks, neighborhoods, and downtown		✓	✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	Provide improved on-street bicycle facilities along key routes		✓		\$\$-\$\$\$
	Provide additional loop trails along the river corridor		✓		\$\$-\$\$\$
	Provide additional off-road ped/bike trails		✓		\$\$-\$\$\$
	Provide additional bikeshare at key locations within the corridor		✓		\$
	Provide enhanced pedestrian crossings at key intersections in and near the downtown		✓		\$\$
	BRIDGES				
	Study the feasibility of additional bridge crossings:	✓			\$
	From Heritage Park across river over old rail bridge pilings		✓		\$\$\$
	River crossing at Powell Dam (post-dam removal)			✓	\$\$\$
	River crossings between Highway 35 and Division Street			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	River crossings north of Highway 35 near Quarry Road			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	River crossing north of Highway 35 near Swinging Gate			✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
TRAILHEADS					
Provide new trailheads at key locations throughout the corridor		✓	✓	\$\$	
SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING					
Implement wayfinding to river access and trail locations, community facilities and downtown destinations		✓		\$\$	

IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

PROJECTS		NEAR-TERM (0-5 YRS)	MID-TERM (5-10 YRS)	LONG-TERM (10-20 YRS)	\$-\$-\$-\$-\$
NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIVER ECOLOGY	RIVER RESTORATION				
	Initiate a river restoration plan that provides strategies for restoring the Kinni after dam removal	✓			\$
	Design/engineer and seek funding for phased river restoration	✓			\$\$
	Implement phased river restoration in accordance with the River Corridor Plan		✓	✓	\$\$\$
	CONSERVATION EASEMENTS/NATURAL BUFFERS				
	Work with land trust to study the feasibility of acquiring additional public/private conservation easements	✓	✓	✓	\$
	Seek funding sources for future public conservation easements	✓	✓	✓	\$
	Implement new conservaion easement and natural buffers	✓	✓	✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	TROUT FISHING/LEARNING CENTER				
	Plan/design and seek funding sources for future Trout Fishing/Learning Center			✓	\$\$
	GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE				
	Study the feasibility of providing green infrastructure in and near the downtown		✓		\$
	Provide incentive programs and/or require green infrastructure in parking lots near the river in the downtown	✓	✓	✓	\$
	Design/engineer and seek funding sources to implement green infrastructure in and near the downtown	✓	✓	✓	\$\$-\$\$\$
	COMMUNITY GARDEN				
Plan/design and seek funding sources to build a community garden in proposed conservation easement		✓		\$-\$\$	

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Since this plan identifies a great number of ideas and concepts for improving the Kinni Corridor, the following short list of priorities has been identified by the project team and community input. The priority projects include catalyst projects viewed as the most important projects for transforming and enhancing the Kinni Corridor. Working with City staff and community stakeholders, the following priority projects have been identified:

PRIORITY NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIVER ECOLOGY PROJECTS

1. River Restoration
 - *Initiate a river restoration plan that provides strategies for restoring the Kinni after dam removal*
 - *Design/engineer and seek funding for phased restoration*
 - *Implement phased river restoration in accordance with the Kinnickinnic River Restoration Plan*
2. Conservation Easements/Natural Buffers
 - *Work with land trust to study the feasibility of acquiring additional public/private conservation easements*
3. Green Infrastructure
 - *Design/engineer and seek funding sources to implement green infrastructure in and near the downtown*

PRIORITY PARKS AND RECREATION PROJECTS

1. Parks and Recreation Opportunities within the Kinni Corridor
 - *Update the City's Park and Recreation Master Plan*
2. Lake George Impoundment Area
 - *Provide and improve trails and boardwalks*
 - *Enhance river access*
3. Lake Louise Impoundment Area
 - *Provide and improve trails and boardwalks*
 - *Restore wetlands and ponds*

PRIORITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE PROJECTS

1. Main Street/Downtown Revitalization
 - *Update City's Downtown Master Plan and Design Guidelines*
2. Riverwalk
 - *Plan/design and seek funding sources for an enhanced Riverwalk*
3. Power Plant
 - *Study feasibility of repurposing power plant*

PRIORITY ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY PROJECTS

1. River Access
 - *Plan/design and implement new river access locations for paddling and fishing*
 - *Consider access/use regulations intended to reduce potential paddling and fishing user conflicts*
2. Pedestrian and Bike Connections
 - *Connect sidewalk/bikeway/trail gaps between the river, parks, neighborhoods and downtown*
 - *Provide improved on-street bicycle facilities along key routes in the community*

JUMPSTART PROJECTS

Implementing the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan will not rely on a single project or action. Implementation of the vision and goals identified in this plan will rely on a collection of public and private actions that may occur over a period of 20-30 years. Based on the anticipated needs, impacts and feasibility of all of the plan's recommended implementation actions, the following next steps or priorities are identified to jumpstart efforts:

- *Provide educational signage addressing potential paddling and fishing conflicts*
- *Consider access/use regulations in order to reduce potential paddling/fishing conflicts*

NATURAL RESOURCES AND RIVER ECOLOGY

- *Initiate a river restoration planning effort that provides strategies to restore the Kinnickinnic River after dam removal*
- *Design/engineer and seek funding sources for phased river restoration*
- *Implement phased river restoration in accordance with the River Corridor Plan*
- *Study the feasibility of acquiring additional public and private conservation easements along the river corridor*
- *Study the feasibility of incorporating green infrastructure in city-owned streets in the downtown and neighborhoods adjacent to the river*

PARKS AND RECREATION

- *Update the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan*
- *Plan for/design and seek funding sources for Lake George and Lake Louise impoundment areas as a future city parks*

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND LAND USE

- *Update the City's Downtown Master Plan and Design Guidelines*
- *Expand downtown event programming (4-seasons)*
- *Plan for/design and seek funding sources for an enhanced Riverwalk*
- *Update the City's Comprehensive Plan*
- *Review and potentially update the Shoreland Ordinance*

ACCESS AND CONNECTIVITY

- *Update the City's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan*
- *Plan/design and implement new locations to publicly access the river*

KINNICKINNIC CORRIDOR IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

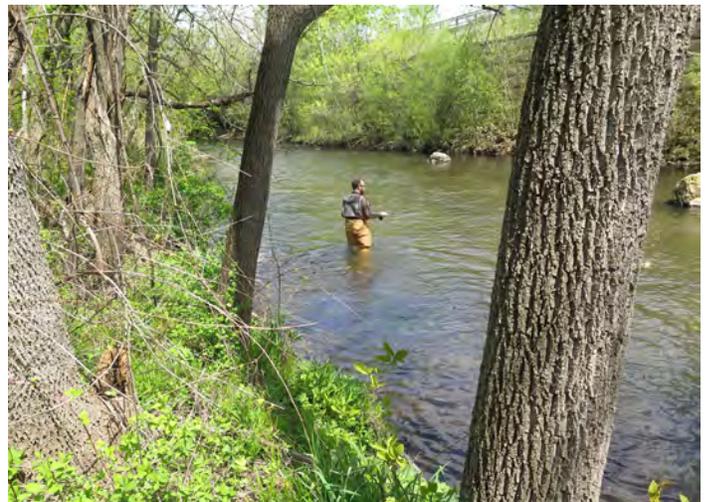
A critical step is to set up an implementation committee focused on the needs and priorities of implementing plan recommendations and stewarding the Kinni Corridor vision into the future. This committee would be involved in coordinating partnerships, implementation projects, funding strategies, and community outreach. Composition of this committee should represent community stakeholders and staff members knowledgeable and passionate about the plan and its goals. This committee is not intended to displace or duplicate services already performed by city departments or other existing agencies.



POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS AND FUNDERS

Implementing the Kinnickinnic River Corridor Plan's vision and goals will require collaboration between the City and other agencies and organizations. The ultimate success of the plan will depend on the City's partnerships with public, private, and non-profit stakeholders to plan and fund implementation projects. Potential partnerships could include the following:

- » Downtown businesses
- » Friends of the Kinni
- » Kinnickinnic Off-Road Cyclists, Inc.
- » Kinnickinnic River Land Trust
- » Pierce County
- » Pierce County Partners in Tourism
- » River Alliance of Wisconsin
- » River Falls Chamber of Commerce and Tourism Bureau
- » River Falls Community Arts Base
- » River Falls Community Foundation
- » River Falls Downtown Business Improvement District
- » River Valley Trails
- » St. Croix County
- » St. Croix River Association
- » Trout Unlimited
- » UW River Falls
- » UW River Falls Foundation
- » Wisconsin Arts Board
- » Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- » Wisconsin Department of Tourism
- » Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation
- » Wisconsin Environmental Education Board



0A. APPENDIX

COMMUNITY INPUT

This is a community-based plan. For over two years, community stakeholders and representatives have committed their time and participated in an open and inclusive process to provide the planning team with their thoughts, values and desires for the future vision of the Kinni Corridor. The Appendix includes summaries of community input and feedback on planning concepts and implementation priorities received from project surveys and public workshops/open houses. It also contains meeting minutes from monthly meetings conducted with the Kinnickinnic Corridor Project Committee on the following pages.

KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM PRIOR WORK COMPLETED BY SEH TEAM

5.23.18

COMMUNITY INPUT (PROJECT SURVEY)

TOP 5 ACTIVITIES ON THE KINNI

1. Hiking/walking
2. Paddling
3. Relaxing along the shoreline
4. Fishing
5. Picnicking

TOP 5 AREAS OF INTEREST

1. Future of the dams
2. River ecology
3. Recreation/tourism
4. Main street's relationship to the river
5. Impacts to corridor neighborhoods

PATHS/TRAILS

1. More trails
2. Better access to the river
3. Enhance the River Walk
4. Love the Glen Park trails
5. Love the White Pathway
6. Need to address ADA (accessibility) on trails
7. Address safety concerns

PARKS/RECREATION/NATURAL SPACE

1. Add camping opportunities
2. Enhance fishing opportunities
3. Enhance paddling opportunities
4. Enhance birding opportunities
5. Enhance hiking opportunities
6. Enhance biking opportunities
7. More and enhanced park spaces
8. More natural areas

CLEANUP/PRESERVE/REMOVE

1. Clean river and lakes
2. Reduce agricultural runoff/pollution
3. Remove sediment
4. Restore and preserve natural areas

RIVER ACCESS

1. Enhance river access for fishing, hiking, biking, paddling
2. Create loop trails
3. ADA access improvements
4. Enhance visibility of river in the community
5. Improve parking

DOWNTOWN

1. Develop River Walk
2. River should be focal point
3. Strengthen connection between downtown and riverfront
4. Encourage river-oriented businesses downtown
5. Enhance access to the river from Main Street
6. Have some businesses face the river
7. Enhance visibility of the river in the downtown
8. Strengthen downtown's identity with the river

WILDLIFE

1. Improve conditions for wildlife
2. Improve fish habitat

3. Do something about the geese

STORMWATER/BUFFERS

1. Create natural buffers along the river and its tributaries
2. Utilize buffers to reduce agricultural runoff into the river
3. Utilize buffers to reduce stormwater runoff from adjacent development into the river

KAYAKS/BOATS

1. Too many boats/kayaks
2. Regulate use/limit commercial use
3. Provide better river access
4. Kayak use conflicts with fishing
5. Kayaking is seen to lessen the fishing experience
6. Kayakers party too much on the river – need to regulate

LAKE GEORGE/LAKE LOUISE

1. Lake George is stagnant/sediment filled
2. Lake George needs cleaning
3. If/when dams are removed, add a park where Lake George is located

FISHING/TOURISM

1. Improve fish habitat
2. More access to fishing areas
3. Make fishing more visible in the community
4. Designate separate fishing and kayaking areas

MANAGEMENT

1. Mosquito control
2. Better habitat management is needed
3. Better management of public resources is needed
4. Control commercial use (paddling)

COMMUNITY INTEGRATION/CELEBRATION

1. Better integrate/connect the community with the river
2. Celebrate the river
3. Connect downtown better to the riverfront
4. Embrace the river
5. The river is the heart of the community

POWERPLANT

1. Reuse the powerplant and incorporate a restaurant overlooking the river

OTHER

1. Incorporate more overlooks along the riverfront
2. Consider a beach somewhere along the riverfront

PLANNING PRINCIPLES (CORRIDOR PLANNING CHARRETTE)

STRENGTHEN AND SUPPORT THE KINNI CORRIDOR'S:

1. Heritage, culture and community character
2. Social, environmental and economic sustainability
3. Ecological health, performance and stewardship
4. Inclusiveness and sense of place
5. Economic vitality
6. Mix of uses and activities
7. Physical, visual and social connections
8. Public health and wellness
9. Resiliency
10. Commitment to community engagement

WHAT WE HEARD (CORRIDOR PLANNING CHARRETTE)

UPPER KINNI

1. Widen and pave shoulders on County roads for biking
2. Connect snowmobile routes
3. Consider putting the Cedar Street Bridge back in
4. Provide parking near Division Street
5. Provide large setbacks/buffers between any development and the river
6. Improve Riverside Drive
7. Provide better wayfinding
8. More public art
9. Include a boardwalk with public art
10. Provide enhanced stormwater management
11. Provide more seating/benches
12. More wild and scenic areas
13. Farmers market connected to City Hall
14. Integrate a sculpture garden
15. Pollinator gardens
16. Community gardens
17. More overlooks

MIDDLE KINNI

1. Consider a downtown trailhead at the grocery store parking lot
2. Provide better wayfinding in the downtown
3. Mitigate surface runoff from parking lots – consider pervious parking near the river

4. Integrate a trolley downtown
5. Consider more parking downtown
6. Widen sidewalks in front of businesses
7. Improve the River Walk
8. Repurpose Heritage Park for large events
9. Enhance streetscapes and lighting
10. Integrate more public art downtown
11. Opportunities to swim
12. Consider a zipline
13. Loop trails
14. Include a boardwalk
15. Opportunities for interpretation
16. Include an event/performance space/bridge on old railroad trestle
17. Native plantings
18. Restore the waterfalls
19. Consider a River Falls History Museum
20. Overlooks

LOWER KINNI

1. Consider a path from Glen Park to the power plant
2. Implement safe roadway crossings from UWRF to Glen Park across Cascade
3. Mountain bike trail
4. Swinging bridge to Powell Falls
5. Oak Savannah
6. Include a pavilion
7. Marsh near wastewater treatment plant
8. Disk golf course
9. Convert power plant to new use (brewery/restaurant)
10. Provide access to Foster Cemetery
11. Provide camping sites
12. Rebuild/protect lime kiln
13. Enhance Rocky Branch
14. Whitewater kayaking
15. Connect to school forest

ENTIRE LENGTH OF KINNI

1. Improved on-street bicycle facilities
2. Complete gaps in sidewalk trail connections
3. Provide more off-road ped/bike paths
4. Provide lighted trails (while avoiding light pollution)
5. Implement permeable pavement systems along river
6. Create trail loops
7. Provide strategic rest areas along riverfront
8. Improve and provide more pedestrian crosswalks

9. Include more bike/ped bridges
10. Use railroad grade to develop regional trail
11. Better connect the north and south sides of the City
12. Add more bikeshare kiosks (blue bikes)
13. Provide electric vehicle charging stations
14. Provide parking at river access points

DOWNTOWN

1. Close off E Elm Street on Saturday mornings and incorporate a farmers market
2. Create a pedestrian plaza
3. Massive shade trees
4. Include more public restrooms
5. Free public wifi
6. More public art
7. Improve lighting
8. Build a parking ramp for downtown
9. Sidewalk dining
10. More fountains and green spaces

KINNI CORRIDOR PROJECT Q & A

RIVER ECOLOGY

1. The Kinni is designated as a Class I trout stream, with high concentrations of Brook Trout above the dams and high concentrations of Brown Trout below the dams.
2. The Kinni is designated as an Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) above STH 35 (WDNR)
3. The Kinni is designated as an Exceptional Resource Water (ERW) below STH 35
4. The Kinni has one of the highest concentrations of brown trout in the state
5. The trout fishery and aquatic habitat is threatened by agriculture and urbanization
6. The dams prevent fish passage today
7. When the dams are removed, the natural cascades will continue to serve as a barrier to upstream fish migration
8. Today, with the dams in place, the impoundments raise the water temperatures by approximately 5 degrees F.
9. Removal of the dams will result in lowering the temperatures of the lower Kinni contributing to the long term viability of the resource
10. The Kinni is not contaminated at present

SEDIMENT

1. Sediment in Lake George is believed to be approx. 5 feet deep

2. When the dams are removed, ideally the amount of sediment removed from either lake would be minimized to reduce cost
3. The sediment could remain within the current footprint of the reservoir, subject to flood plain, wetland, and buffer regulations
4. Dam removal efforts should be done to retain as much sediment as possible
5. A slow release of water should be planned to minimize impacts to river ecology
6. When dams are removed, the river will wash away remaining sediment that overlay the existing bedrock exposing a series of cascades approximately 4-6 feet each
7. Each lake contains approximately 165,000 cy of sediment today
8. Sediments have a high concentration of sand content
9. Sediment is relatively clean, allowing for mechanical removal without special handling
10. Full release of sediment (sand) is inadvisable, and any release should, and likely will be limited by permitting agencies

DAM REMOVAL

1. In February, 2018, the City of River Falls voted to remove the dams under the following timeframes:
 - » Powell Falls dam and hydroelectric facilities, and complete stream restoration by the target date of 2026.
 - » Junction Falls dam and hydro facilities, and complete stream restoration by the target date of 2035-2040.
2. Potential cost of dam removal = \$12m (both dams/2017 \$)
3. Structural and aesthetic modifications to bridge piers will be required at Winter Street, Veterans Bridge at Riverwalk and Maple Street
4. Dam removal will have several ecological benefits including:
 - » Reducing downstream water temps by 4-5 deg F
 - » Improved habitat for macroinvertebrates and coldwater fish, including trout
 - » Restore natural flow of Kinni
 - » Improved wildlife habitat
 - » Improved water quality
 - » Enables the opportunity to construct wetlands and stormwater management features in impoundment areas

STORMWATER CONSIDERATIONS

1. Stormwater Utility Fee – 1998
2. Stormwater Management Ordinance (updated in 2016)
 - » Infiltration of 1.5 inch rainfall event
 - » Require infiltration performance testing/ demonstration
3. Stream Buffer Ordinance
 - » Extension of floodplain and shoreland setback regulations
 - » State requires min 75 feet
 - » City varies from 125-175 feet depending on slope of river banks
 - » Addl 25 foot buffer from wetlands and floodplains
4. Rainwater Garden Demonstration
5. Adopt-a-pond program
6. Rain Barrel Rebate Program
7. Pervious pavement
8. Meet TMDL requirements for lake St. Croix

RECREATION USE SURVEY (2015)

Study area – west of Lake George to Lower Kinni (below Powell Dam)

WALKING/RUNNING/HIKING/BICYCLING

1. Typical Weekday (summer)
 - » Between 30-70 people use trails
2. Typical Weekend (summer)
 - » Over 150 people use trails
 - » 50% of people will recreate along the trails

FISHING

1. Typical Weekday (summer)
 - » 1-6 people access lower Kinni
2. Typical Weekend (summer)
 - » 10-12 people access lower Kinni

PADDLING/BOATING

1. Typical Weekday (summer)
 - » 5-40 people access lower Kinni
2. Typical Weekend (summer)
 - » 75 people access lower Kinni
 - » Group sizes vary from 1-8 people
 - » Avg trip time = 3 hours

CONCLUSIONS

1. Lower Kinni River trail and water access is popular destination for recreation users in region

2. Heaviest use is by people walking, running, hiking and bicycling. This is followed by watercraft use, then fishing
3. Watercraft is served by 3 kayak outfitters with capacity of 85 watercraft/day
4. In addition to commercial outfitters, individual users with personal watercraft access river
5. Watercraft use has grown in recent years
6. Conflicts with recreational uses exist – fishing and paddling

OPEN HOUSE 1 SUMMARY (12.8.16)

CORRIDOR SUMMARY - GENERAL THEMES (NUMBER OF COMMENTS)

1. Recreation (43%)
2. Hydro-electric power facilities/lakes (17%)
3. Preservation of open space (17%)
4. Economic development (9%)
5. Environmental issues (9%)
6. Other (5%)

LOWER KINNI INPUT

1. Recreation sub-topics (43%)
 - » More signage/wayfinding
 - » More trails/connectivity
 - » Trail maintenance
 - » Bridge crossings
 - » Access to Kinni (walking, kayaking, fishing)
 - » Limited canoe/kayak access
 - » Campground facilities
 - » Picnic areas
2. Hydro-Electric Power Facilities sub-topics (23%)
 - » Remove facilities/restore lakes/free the Kinni
3. Preservation of Open Space sub-topics (20%)
 - » Preserve natural open spaces
 - » Wildlife corridors/habitat areas
 - » Concern for existing wildlife
4. Environmental Issues sub-topics (10%)
 - » Water quality concerns
 - » Native plant species
5. Economic Development sub-topics (3%)
 - » Redevelop the vacant power plant

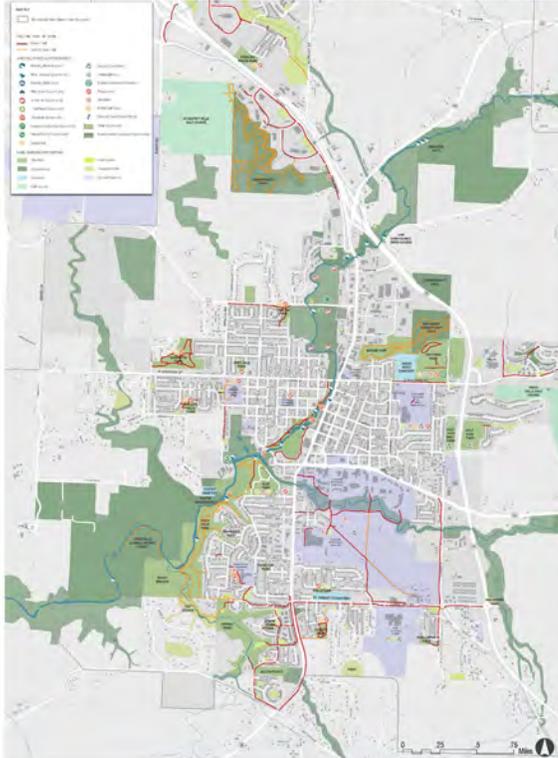
MIDDLE KINNI INPUT

1. Recreation sub-topics (36%)
 - » More signage/wayfinding
 - » More trails/connectivity
 - » Trail maintenance
 - » Bridge crossings
 - » Access to Kinni (walking, kayaking, fishing)
 - » Limited canoe/kayak access
 - » Campground facilities
 - » Picnic area/beach/play area
 - » Improvements to Riverwalk
 2. Hydro-Electric Power Facilities sub-topics (18%)
 - » Remove facilities/restore lakes/free the Kinni
 - » Keep the facilities and lakes/keep river how it is
 3. Economic Development sub-topics (14%)
 - » Redevelop the vacant power plant
 - » Develop high density housing
 - » Traffic concerns along commercial area
 - » Utilize the river in commercial area/orient buildings to Kinni
 4. Preservation of Open Space sub-topics (14%)
 - » Preserve natural open spaces
 - » Wildlife corridors/habitat areas
 - » Work with private landowners for land trusts and conservation easements
 - » Concern for existing wildlife
 5. Environmental Issues sub-topics (11%)
 - » Water quality concerns
 - » Heat pollution
 - » Goose feces
 - » Native plant species
 - » Stormwater management
- » Work with private landowners for land trusts and conservation easements
 - » View-sheds of river
3. Hydro-Electric Power Facilities sub-topics (5%)
 - » Remove facilities/restore lakes/free the Kinni
 - » Keep the facilities and lakes/keep river how it is

UPPER KINNI INPUT

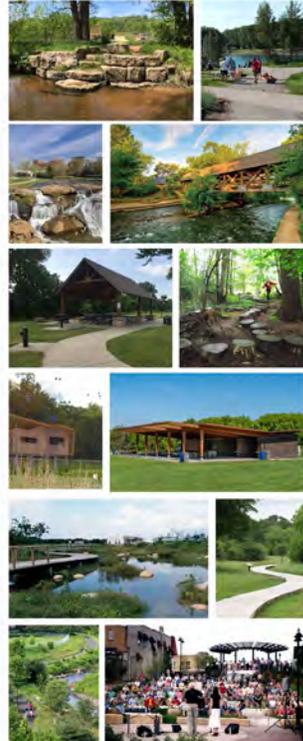
1. Recreation sub-topics (66%)
 - » More signage/wayfinding
 - » More trails/connectivity
 - » Access to Kinni (walking, kayaking, fishing)
2. Preservation of Open Space sub-topics (20%)
 - » Preserve natural open spaces
 - » Wildlife corridors/habitat areas

CORRIDOR WIDE PLANNING CONCEPT: PARKS + RECREATION

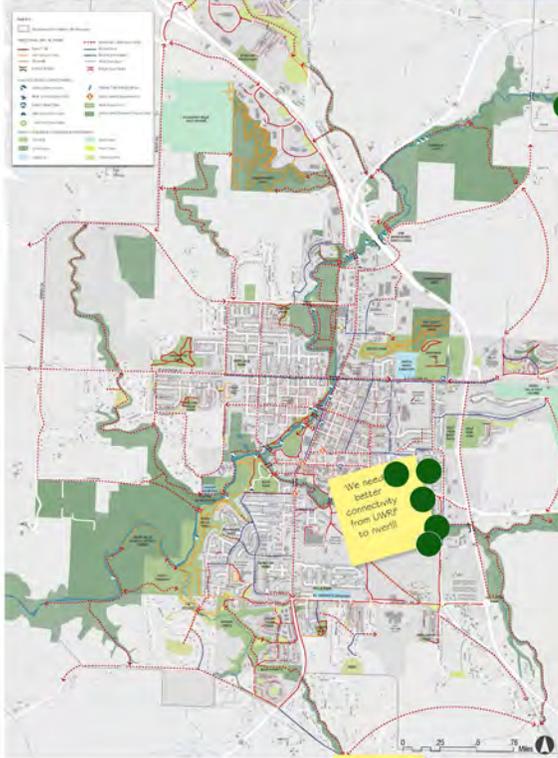


- PLANNING CONCEPTS**
Enhance / Improve Open Space and Facilities:
- Improved connections to and along the Kinnic River
 - Additional park and conservation easements (public/private)
 - Enhanced pedestrian/bike connections and facilities
 - Increased natural areas
 - Additional park and conservation easements (public/private)
 - Additional river access and trailhead locations
 - Enhanced and additional overlook and river views
 - Selective clearing and invasive species removal
 - Enhanced River Walk
 - Increase pedestrian-friendly amenities
 - Additional seating and overlooks
- Add Park Facilities and Amenities:**
- Additional park space located in lake impoundments after dam removal
 - Additional public land acquisition and conservation easement
 - Lake George
 - Lake Louise
- Enhanced Public Natural Areas**
- Land currently in floodplain and riparian vegetation
 - Public art opportunity
 - Rotational local art displays
 - Nature center opportunity
 - Educational/event space
 - Community garden opportunity
 - Sustainable model/educational tool
 - Additional water access
 - ADA compliant
 - Additional walking/hiking/biking trails along river edge
- Enhanced Park Space - Lake George:**
- Wetland park space (Stormwater treatment)
 - Community gathering/event space
 - Picnic areas
 - Bandshell/Amphitheater Space
 - Additional walking/hiking/biking trails along river edge
 - Nature play area
 - Additional water access locations
 - Connection across river over Historic Rail Pillings
 - Ice skating facility
- Enhanced Park Space - Lake Louise:**
- Additional walking/hiking trails along river edge
 - Nature Center opportunity
 - Natural cold water pond as programmable space
 - Camping opportunity
 - Additional picnic areas
 - Additional water access
 - ADA compliant
 - Additional parking area
 - Wetland restoration/river edge naturalization
 - Improved fishing habitat
 - Interpretive trails
 - Birdwatching

PRECEDENT PHOTOS

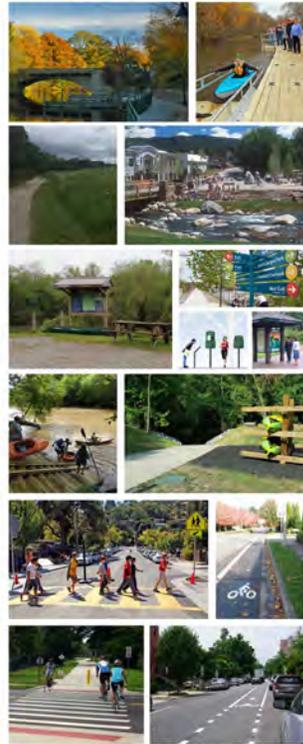


CORRIDOR WIDE PLANNING CONCEPT: ACCESS + CONNECTIVITY



- PLANNING CONCEPTS**
Existing Connections to the river:
- Swinging Gate
 - DNR River Access Point
 - Kinnic River Fish Parking Lot
 - Lake George Access
 - Glen Park Access
- Opportunities to enhance/improve river access and connections:**
- Connect the community to the river through public and private conservation easements
 - Creating a connected green buffer along the river corridor
 - Allowing for trail connections through easements (depending upon land owners and easements)
 - Enhance existing small watercraft launch areas – access, parking, seating, signage, trash receptacles, etc.
 - Provide more opportunities to safely interact with the river and "touch the water". Additional access points:
 - Along Riverside drive as it connects to Main Street
 - Along County Highway MM as it crosses the Kinnic River
 - At the end of West Cedar Street
 - At the end of East Walnut Street
 - At the end of South Apollo Road near the city compost site
 - Enhanced River Walk
 - Connecting the gap between W Walnut St and S Riverwalk
 - Provide ADA accessibility to more parks and river access locations
 - Make the river walk a pedestrian place
 - Provide better identification and wayfinding to key river access locations and trail connections – boating, fishing, entertainment, food and other recreational opportunities
 - Increased and enhanced pedestrian/bike connections
 - Improved on-street bicycle facilities
 - Connecting current sidewalk/bike/trail gaps between parks, neighborhoods, and downtown
 - Additional loop trails along the river corridor
 - Creating a connected "Grand Rounds" pedestrian/bike network
 - Connecting north and south River Falls as well as future growth to the Kinnic River
 - Additional off-road ped/bike paths
 - Additional bridge connections
 - Additional bike share locations
 - Street crossing/intersection improvements
 - Additional bridge connections
 - At the intersection of Quarry Rd and Main St
 - In Heritage Park along W Maple St
 - At the power plant along Winter St as it crosses the Kinnic River
 - In the Southern Entrance to Glen Park
 - Over old railroad trestle foundations
 - Provide trailhead opportunities
 - Locations with designated signage and parking
 - Providing additional opportunities to access the river

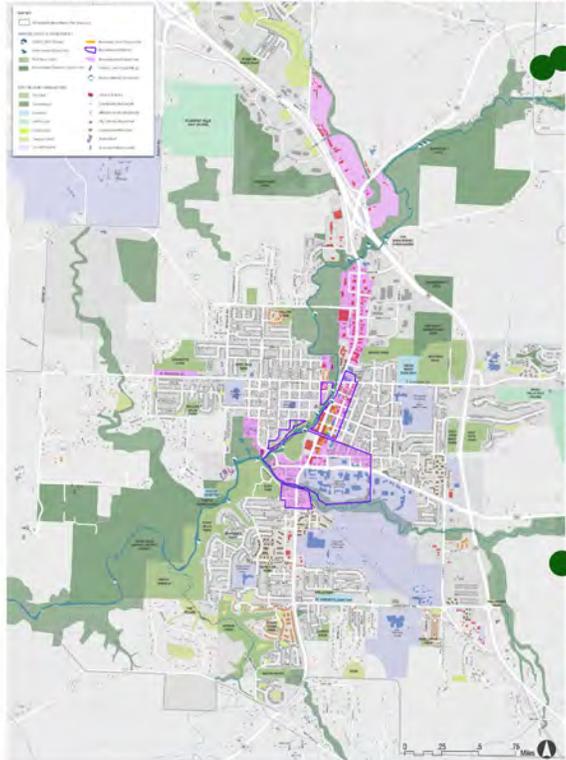
PRECEDENT PHOTOS



We have enough signage and people use their phones



CORRIDOR WIDE PLANNING CONCEPT: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT + LAND USE

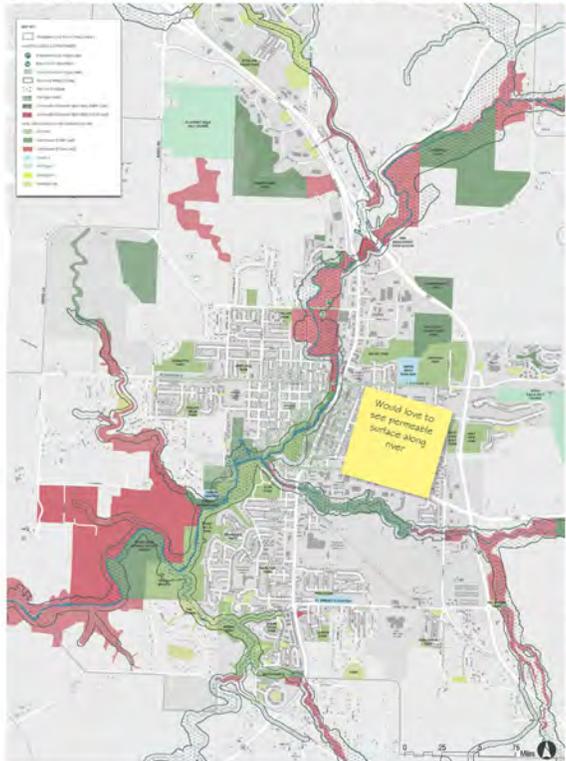


- ### PLANNING CONCEPTS
- Opportunities to enhance/improve economic development and connections to surrounding land uses:*
- Promote Tourism opportunities by connecting downtown to the riverfront
 - Encourage river-oriented businesses downtown
 - Enhanced Riverwalk
 - Encourage river-oriented business (Riverwalk)
 - Additional river access locations in or close to downtown
 - Increase river visibility from Main Street
 - Enhance streetscapes in downtown
 - Pedestrian scale facilities (i.e. lighting)
 - Bike facility improvements
 - Green infrastructure
 - Places for outdoor dining
 - Integrate more public art downtown
 - Provide wayfinding at key intersections/destinations that connect and identify the river and downtown destinations
 - Identifies key redevelopment districts
 - Areas connected with a particular character that have potential for future growth/ redevelopment
 - Glover Street District
 - Second Street District
 - Westside District
 - University District
 - South Main District
 - Identifies development and redevelopment sites
 - Parcels or groups of parcels that have high potential to see future growth due to surrounding land uses and location
 - Pedestrian focused streetscape
 - Elm Street off of Main St
 - Alleyways between Main and Second St
 - Opportunity for farmers market in core downtown
 - Farmers Market on Elm Street off of Main St
 - Provide more cultural/historical interpretation
 - Identifies culturally significant buildings with redevelopment opportunity
 - Convert power plant to new use (brewery/restaurant/event space)

PRECEDENT PHOTOS



CORRIDOR WIDE PLANNING CONCEPT: NATURAL RESOURCES + RIVER ECOLOGY



- ### PLANNING CONCEPTS
- Increased conservation easements surrounding the Kinni river corridor*
- Public conservation easements
 - Private conservation easements
- Additional conservation easements in existing high priority areas*
- Wooded areas
 - Creek tributaries
 - Wetlands
 - Floodplain
- Nature/Environmental Education Center opportunity*
- Event/educational space
 - Outdoor/river programed activities
 - Fishing, Kayaking, etc.
 - Interpretive trails
 - Bird-watching
- Community garden opportunity*
- Sustainable urban agriculture model
- Green infrastructure opportunities*
- Enhanced water quality from impervious downtown core
 - Additional treatment wetlands
 - Located in Lake George after dam removal
 - Additional interceptor and treatment wetlands to filter and cool runoff
 - Stormwater improvements include
 - Bioswales
 - Rain gardens
 - Buffers
 - Detention basins
 - Treatment wetlands
 - Permeable pavement systems
 - Green streets and alleys
 - Urban tree canopy

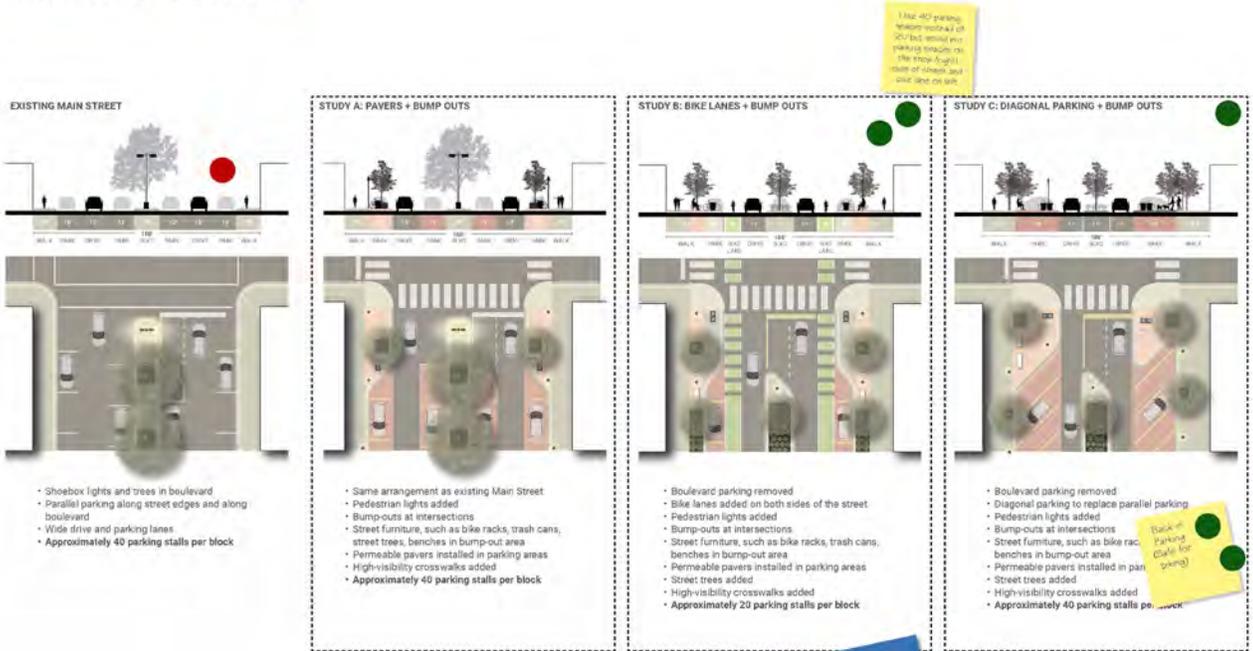
PRECEDENT PHOTOS



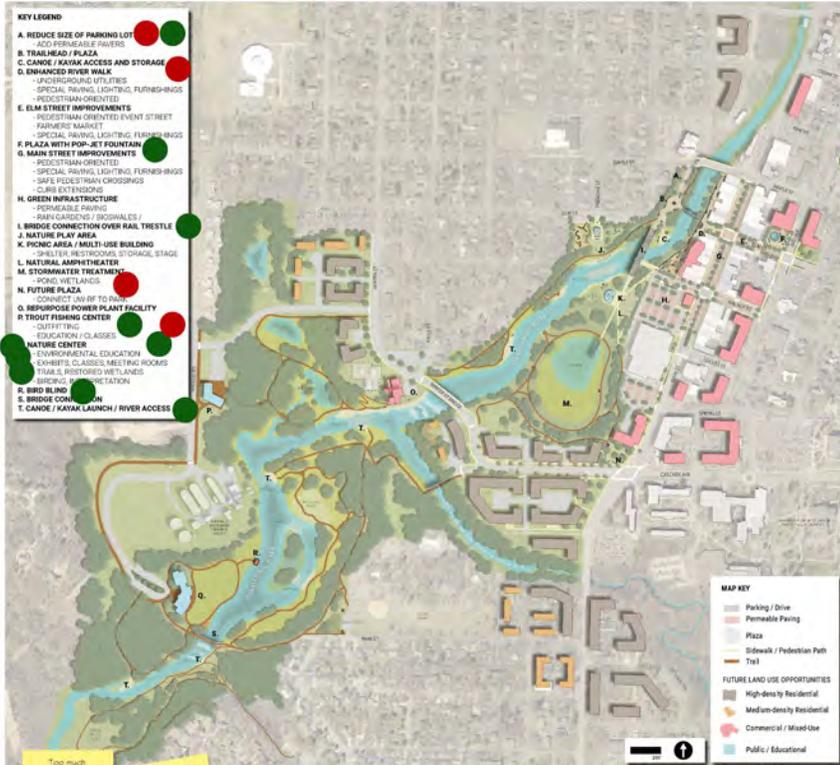
MIDDLE KINNI CONCEPT DIAGRAM



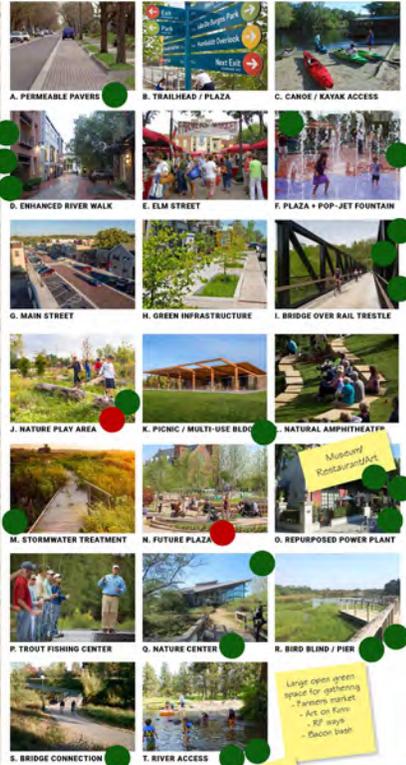
MAIN STREET CONCEPTS



MIDDLE KINNI PLANNING CONCEPT



PRECEDENT IMAGES



Too much development. Lose the green space. Protect our natural environment.

If we are going to have a riparian park at all, we need to have a riparian park at all. We need to have a riparian park at all. We need to have a riparian park at all.



CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION EASEMENT?

A conservation easement is a restriction placed on a piece of property to **protect its ecological or open space values**. It is a **voluntary**, legally binding agreement that limits certain types of uses or prevents development from taking place now and in the future.



PURPOSE

Wisconsin statutes authorize conservation easements for the following purposes:

- Protect natural, scenic or open-space values of real property
- Assure availability of real property for agricultural, forest, recreational and open space use
- Protect natural resources
- Maintain or enhance air and/or water quality
- Preserve a burial site, as defined by Wisconsin Statute
- Preserve the historical, architectural, archaeological or cultural aspects of real property

Think about solar gardens + conservation easements.

CONSIDERATIONS

In a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to donate or sell certain rights associated with his or her property, such as the right to subdivide, and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the landowner's promise not to exercise those rights and serves as the **easement holder**. The easement holder is responsible for monitoring the property and enforcing the restrictions to ensure that the conservation values are protected, and consequently, that the purpose of the easement is achieved.

As with other easements, the landowner retains ownership of the property in a conservation easement. In many cases, **active management** (for instance, invasive species removal) of the property is a necessary step to achieving the goals of a conservation easement, and either the land owner or the easement holder needs to have the capacity (staff/volunteers/funding) necessary to perform these tasks. Some landowners may qualify for a **tax benefit** for an easement donation, if the easement meets federal IRS standards.



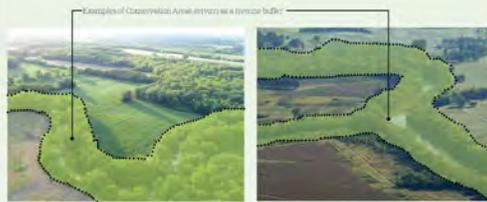
PARTNERS / EASEMENT HOLDERS

Kinnickinnic River Land Trust (KRLT):

A community-based land trust dedicated to working with the community to conserve and protect the beauty and health of the Kinnickinnic River and its watershed. KRLT is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and accepts donations in the form of membership dues, cash gifts, stock gifts, property, or development rights. Founded in 1993, the KRLT has over 600 members and has protected more than 2,800 acres and over 9.5 miles along the Kinni River.

Wisconsin DNR administers and processes conservation easement requests under the following programs:

- **Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program**
Created in 1989 to preserve valuable natural areas and wildlife habitat, protect water quality and fisheries, and expand opportunities for outdoor recreation. This program provides grants and services to local units of government as well as non-profit conservation organizations for land acquisition.
- **Lake and River Protection Program**
Provides wetland and shoreland habitat restoration grants intended to provide financial assistance to protect or improve the water quality or natural ecosystem of a lake by restoring adjacent degraded wetlands or tributary to lakes. Shoreline habitat restoration grants are intended to provide financial assistance, including incentive payments to owners of developed lakefront and riverfront lots to re-establish shoreline habitat.



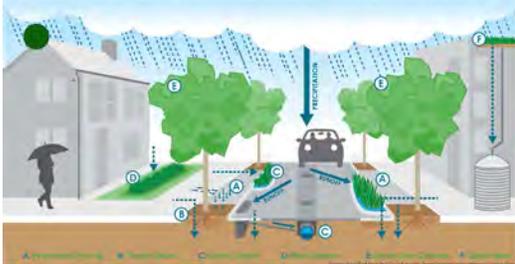
GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

WHAT IS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

Green infrastructure is a cost-effective, resilient approach to **managing stormwater** that reduces and treats stormwater closer to its source, while delivering environmental, social, and economic benefits.

PURPOSE

During rainfall events, water hits the surface of the earth and:
 a) Runs off of impermeable surfaces, such as concrete and asphalt, picking up road pollutants, trash, bacteria, and heavy metals and transferring swiftly and into stormwater drain pipes, which discharge directly into water bodies.
 ---OR---
 b) Filters through the ground via permeable surfaces that are vegetated—as in natural, or undeveloped areas—or allow infiltration, such as permeable pavers. In this case, surface water velocity is slowed, and groundwater sources are recharged.
Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and other design elements to mimic the performance of natural, vegetated areas to restore the natural processes required to manage stormwater and create healthy urban environments.



PRINCIPLES

Low Impact Development (LID) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) are other terms that are similar in the approach of Green Infrastructure but vary in scale (regional approaches vs. site-specific detailed engineering).

- The underlying principles are the same:
- treat water as close to the source as possible,
 - integrate natural approaches into the design of streets, sites, and communities
 - create green buffers around bodies of water where stormwater is released.

EXAMPLES

In Middle Kinni, there is great potential for integrating green infrastructure into the existing street grid and surface parking lots near the parks, and open space adjacent to the river. The following are examples of potential green infrastructure elements that could be employed in the Kinni River Corridor, divided into categories based on scales where the elements are typically employed:

Small Sites: Permeable Pavers Allow stormwater runoff to infiltrate the hard surface pavement and enter the soil, removing fine grain pollutants and providing erosion control.	 Detention Ponds Hold stormwater until pollutants settle to the bottom. The water is then released slowly into the river, reducing flooding and pollution in the rest of the system.	 Water Quality Inlets Filter sediments, oils, and greases from parking lots prior to discharge into the storm drain or infiltration basin.	 Infiltration Basins Capture stormwater and store it until some, or all, of the stormwater filters into the surrounding soil.	 Green Parking Lots Integrate filtration, plants, and paving into parking lot design to manage stormwater and enhance pedestrian experience.
 Rain Gardens Also known as bio-retention or bio-infiltration, these are shallow, vegetated basins that collect and absorb runoff, and planted with native, drought- and flood-tolerant species.	 Street Design: Vegetated channels that provide treatment and retention as water is moved from one place to another.	 Urban Tree Canopy Trees can reduce and slow stormwater by intercepting precipitation with their leaves and branches.	 Planter Boxes Rain gardens that are designed within the urban streetscape in mind. Planter boxes often have cut-inlets and overflow into the storm sewer drain.	 Green Streets/Alleys Integrated filtration, vegetation, paving and curb design to address stormwater and enhance the pedestrian experience.
 Regional Design: Land Conservation / Natural Buffers Protection of open spaces and sensitive natural areas adjacent to water bodies to provide areas for surface water to naturally infiltrate the soil.	 Building Design: Green Roofs Vegetation on building roofs collect rainwater, as well as improve water quality, mitigate the urban heat island effect, reduce noise and air pollution, sequester carbon, and increase urban biodiversity and wildlife habitat.			

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF OPEN / GREEN SPACES

WHAT ARE OPEN GREEN SPACES?

Open green spaces are public parks, open spaces, and conservation areas that **provide substantial benefits** to the River Falls and surrounding community in the form of recreation, access to nature, tourism, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

IN THE KINNI CORRIDOR

Within the Kinni Corridor study area, there are:

- **391 acres** of parkland
- **680 acres** of conservation land
- **398 acres** of public open space

For a total of **1,469 acres** of open green space. These areas include rivers, lakes, recreation areas, neighborhood parks, which provide access to trails, golf courses, playgrounds, picnic areas, sports fields and courts, as well as provide access to the Kinni River for swimming, fishing, kayaking, canoeing.

PURPOSE

As urban areas are developed further and people spend more time in front of computers and indoors, these public parks, open spaces and conservation areas are becoming increasingly valued as places where people can **'unplug' and connect to nature**. Convenient access to parks and open spaces provide **free or low-cost places** for residents to partake in physical activity everyday (also known as **active living**).

BENEFITS WE CAN EXPERIENCE

While the experiential benefits of high quality public parks, open spaces, and conservation areas might be obvious to those who live and work in River Falls, economic benefits to the community are more subtle and difficult to quantify. The following economic benefits to public parks, open spaces and conservation areas have been identified in the Kinni River Corridor:

 Enhanced Property Values Parks, trails, open spaces, and conservation areas increase the value of nearby residential properties because people enjoy living close to these amenities. Higher property values increase the tax base allowing for more community amenities.	 Stormwater Infiltration Parks, open spaces, and conservation areas capture precipitation, slow runoff, and reduce the volume of water entering the stormwater system. Parks and conservation areas along the Kinni River filter stormwater from surrounding developed areas. These green, pervious areas reduce the amount of infrastructure needed to filter and slow the flow of water, which is a cost-savings to the community.	 Attracts Business New Residents Parks, trails, open spaces and conservation areas contribute to the high quality of life in River Falls and the surrounding area, which all play an important role in attracting business and employees to a city. Park and recreation assets also enhance the recreation economy. According to a study by the Outdoor Industry Association ^{**} , hikers spend an average of \$179 per year on equipment, and paddlers spend an average of \$315. In-state day trip hikers spend, on average, \$100 per trip, and out-of-state day trip hikers spend \$191 per trip . With thousands of people coming to the Kinni River corridor every year, there are many ways for the local economy to benefit from outdoor recreation and tourism.	 Medical Care Cost Savings Increased park use translates to increased physical activity, which directly influences community health indicators, and reduces long-term medical costs. In Pierce and St. Croix counties, 22.4% of adults aged 20+ self-reported that they do not participate in any physical activities as exercise such as running, callisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise ^{**} . More time spent in parks and green spaces can help individuals fight against mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and stress. Making use that people have access to parks and outdoor programming is a critical way to maximize these positive effects on health and quality of life. Mental Health in St. Croix and Pierce counties is a top priority. 23.2% of Pierce county survey respondents ^{**} and 29.4% of St. Croix county survey respondents ^{**} reported mental health as an important health concern .	
 Tourism Regionally, people travel to River Falls specifically to enjoy the parks, trails, open spaces and conservation areas, and associated recreational facilities. These visitors purchase food, drinks, gear, and lodging accommodations, as well as pay for services while in the area , increasing business and tax revenues.	 Filter Air Pollutants Trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers remove air pollutants that exchange human health and damage structures.	 Permeable surface trucky along river.	 Adult 25-75 recreation attracts new business & industry.	 Are trout important to the city? How does more river help?

UPPER KINNI: ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES



1 Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area



2 DNR Public Fishing Area



UPPER KINNI – Issues

- Agricultural land uses adjacent to riverfront
- Stormwater runoff from agricultural uses
- Protecting Kinni from existing and potential future development
- Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and river ecology of the Upper Kinni
- Paddleboat/fishing conflicts
- Limited river access points
- Limited to poor wayfinding
- Limited pedestrian and bicycle facilities – off-road or on-road
- Highway noise at Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area
- Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) above STH 35 (WDNR)
- Limited picnic areas

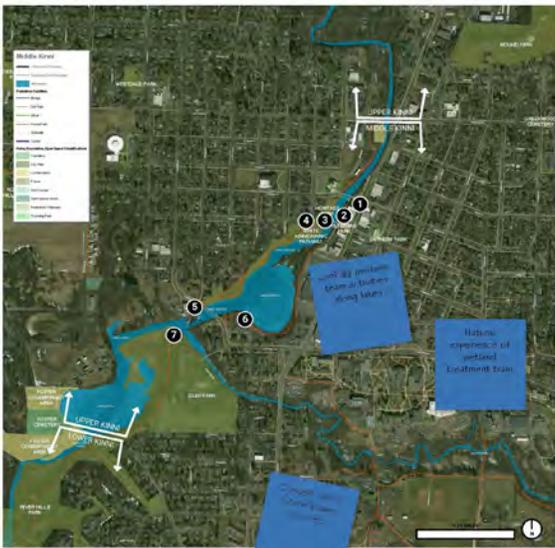
UPPER KINNI – Opportunities

- Swinging Gate Fish and Wildlife Area—model for low-intensity river access
- Potential sound/visual vegetative buffer along northern river reach
- Improve river access and wayfinding
- Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- Establish natural buffers between existing agricultural uses and existing and future development areas to mitigate impacts of stormwater runoff
- Maintain ORW classification
- Enhance wildlife habitat and river ecology
- Widen and pave shoulders on County Roads for bike facilities
- Implement more off-road trails along river
- Provide enhanced stormwater management riverfront

And Riverwalk



MIDDLE KINNI: ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES



1 Main Street



2 Veterans Park



3 Riverwalk + Heritage Park



4 Kinnickinnic Trail / White Pathway



Keep Kinnickinnic trail - natural and wild
Permeable trail pavement?

MIDDLE KINNI – Issues

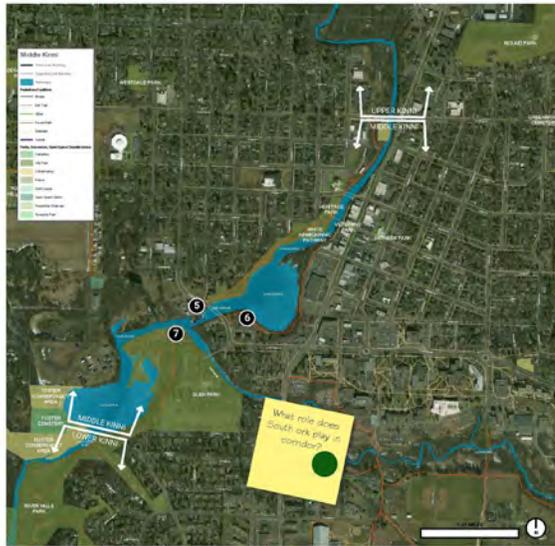
- High concentration of impervious areas along the riverfront
- Better connections between downtown and riverfront are needed
- Vehicle circulation and parking, dumpsters, narrow sidewalk, and overhead power lines detract from the Riverwalk experience
- Need for streetscape enhancements along Main Street—lighting, pavement, site furnishings, signage, bike racks, etc.
- Need for design guidelines in the downtown—buildings, signage, lighting, plantings, etc.
- Inconsistent trail markings and wayfinding in the area
- Connection to Swinging Bridge is limited for ped/ bike from Winter Ave
- ADA accessibility issues to lakes, river, and pathways
- Access to Riverwalk Pathway is not attractive/ through the back of parking lots

- No connection between Riverwalk Pathway and Riverwalk behind Main Street
- Stormwater runoff from downtown parking lots directed toward Lake George/Kinni River
- Several stormwater outlets along the riverfront
- Dam removal will create new opportunities, particularly at the dam impoundments

- Need to rest and re-program dam impoundments (Lake George and Lake Louise) when dams are removed
- Powerplant reuse after dam removal
- Repurpose old railroad trestle structures
- Limited picnic areas



MIDDLE KINNI: ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES



4 Riverwalk Pathway East



7 Glen Park Flats



MIDDLE KINNI – Opportunities

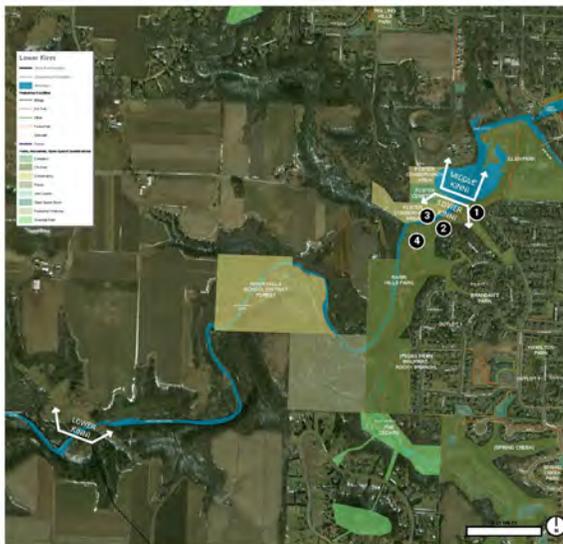
- Restore/re-program Lake George and Lake Louise after dam removal
 - Natural and programmed parks and open spaces
 - Stormwater treatment
 - Demonstration and educational opportunities
- Improve the Riverwalk
 - River-fronted commercial
 - Underground power lines
 - Remove parking on Riverwalk
 - Limit vehicular movement to service vehicles only
 - Resurface pavement – pavers
 - Add pedestrian-scaled lighting
 - Improve signage and wayfinding
 - Selectively clear understorey to open views to river
 - Add seating, trash receptacles, bike parking
- Create downtown design guidelines
- Integrate more public art downtown
- Resurface old railroad trestle bridge to connect east-west sides of the river
- Restore the natural waterfalls when the dams are removed
- Add more seating, selective cutting for viewing the river
- Wetland restoration areas in dam impoundments after dam removal
- More educational/interpretation along river trails
- Create portages at waterfalls when dams removed
- Improve connections from downtown to Glen Park/Swinging Bridge
- Overlook at Junction dam, re-use of existing platform
- Reuse powerplant and site at Junction Dam – potential retail/restaurant/civic uses
- Retain elements of existing structures and maintain history of the dam
- Interpret the history of the river and the dam structures
- Continuation of native planting/restoration along river trails
- Kiosk/trailhead/wayfinding at trail entrances from Main Street to East Riverwalk Pathway
- Improve river access
- Extend Elm Street as a festival street with urban design to Second Street/Oatness Park
- Path/trail connection from Junction Dam to Lower Glen Flats area
- Incorporate loop trails
- Incorporate more picnic areas

Minimize light pollution

3 Junction Mill



LOWER KINNI: ISSUES + OPPORTUNITIES



2 Powell Dam



LOWER KINNI – Issues

- Paddle access below Powell Dam – difficult access
- Paddleboat/fishing conflict at specific areas (drop-in area = prime fishing spot)
- Accessibility/steep slopes to trails south of Powell Dam
- Maintaining and enhancing wildlife habitat and river ecology of lower Kinni
- Protecting Kinni from existing and potential future development (including agricultural and residential uses)
- Limited access to the Kinni River
- Exceptional Resource Water below STH 35 (WDNR)
- Limited picnic areas

3 Downstream from Dam



LOWER KINNI – Opportunities

- Improve river access and wayfinding
- Manage conflicts between paddling and fishing uses
- Establish natural buffers between existing agricultural uses and existing and future development areas to mitigate impacts of stormwater runoff
- Interpretation at Lower Glen Park Flats area
- Portage opportunities between dams (short-term)
- Trail connection to downtown/main street
- Maintain ERW classification at a minimum – seek to improve ORW
- Enhance wildlife habitat and river ecology
- Provide enhanced stormwater management along the riverfront
- Provide more seating/overlook areas
- Incorporate more natural and scenic areas
- Incorporate designated bird watching areas
- Incorporate more picnic areas

1 Path from Glen Park



4 Trail



MEETING MINUTES

The following minutes provide a record of meetings with the Kinni Corridor Project Committee from April, 2018 to October, 2018.

KINNI CORRIDOR PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2018

4:00 -5:30 P.M.

CITY HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on April 19, 2018. Those in attendance included Lisa Moody, Patricia LaRue, Adam Myszewski, Susan Reese, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, Chris Blasius, Mike Stifter, Angie Bond, Jason Egerstrom, Mayor Dan Toland, Buddy Lucero, Dave Fodroczi, Scot Simpson, Mary Zimmermann, and Jeff McMenimen.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. ST. CROIX SUMMIT

Rita Kozak invited all to attend the UWRF St. Croix Summit on Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a community gathering/discussion about the Kinnickinnic watershed.

Dave Fodroczi invited all to attend the Kinni River Clean-up on April 28, 2018. Register online at Kinni River Land Trust. Lunch provided.

2. FINAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION

Buddy Lucero discussed the final Council resolution that passed in support of the Committee's recommendation to relicense the hydroelectric facilities and plan for their future removal. He gave credit to the City Council and the Kinni Corridor Project Committee for their time and efforts with this sensitive project.

3. What is next

Buddy discussed the "Next Steps" letter sent to the community. This letter signed by Buddy and Scot Simpson outlines the process for the future of the Kinni Corridor. The letter outlines three main next steps:

- » Relicensing- A preliminary application will be submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) by the end of August. Kevin Westhuis will be the contact for this process.
- » Planning Process – The City has hired Jeff McMenimen with Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc (HKGI) to assist with this process. The final plan will be completed by the end of 2018. The Committee will continue to work on this process

with Buddy as the contact.

- » Public-Private Partnership – This group will implement the plan the community and the Committee come up with Scot Simpson as the contact.

4. Hoisington Koegler Group, Inc & Kinni Corridor Work Plan

Jeff McMenimen from HKGI was introduced to the Committee. He is the consultant hired to continue the planning process for the Kinni Corridor. The Committee introduced themselves to Jeff as well. Jeff explained his background and his plan for the process. He has been a landscape architect for 30 years, is an urban designer, and an avid fisherman and paddler. Jeff has worked with the City of River Falls on the Hoffman and Glen Park Master plans, the Great River Passage Plan in St. Paul and has experience with many other river corridor projects. Jeff has built a reputation on public involvement and community engagement. His approach to planning is community based, to listen, collaborate and make the community's vision come to life.

Jeff discussed the work plan. His plan is to get caught up on the work that's been done to date, identify issues and opportunities to discuss with the committee in future meetings, and work together toward a development of a river corridor plan. A community workshop to develop ideas will be held in September and an open house in November to present a draft plan. In December-January a final document will be presented with the final plan and sketches. Jeff discussed enhancing connections to the river, and parks and rec opportunities. The plan will include looking at broader areas of the community, including agricultural areas to protect the river from agriculture and development in the future. Jeff stated we will focus on the relationship with the downtown and the river, and fishing/ kayaking opportunities.

Patricia LaRue discussed the importance of keeping the history and heritage of River Falls as part of the plan, and possibility of a museum.

Chris Blasius asked if we are starting over or with the Charrette information be used in the planning. Jeff explained together we will evaluate ideas, old and new. We will not start over but build on the work that's been done.

5. ROLE OF THE COMMITTEE

Buddy discussed our future meetings, to visit the river, start gathering ideas and wish list. Buddy thanked the Committee for an excellent job. A reminder was given to have someone else present for your group if you represent one so we can continue to work as a Committee/group.

Dave Fodroczi asked if the future meeting dates

are solid. Chris asked if July 12 meeting/workshop should be moved due to River Falls Days. Dates will be confirmed. Jeff and Buddy will discuss and the Committee will get updated.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

KINNI CORRIDOR COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 2018

4:30 – 6:00 P.M.

CITY HALL – TRAINING ROOM

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on June 7th, 2018. Those in attendance included Committee Members: Adam Myszewski, Rick Bowen, Chris Blasius, Jason Egerstrom, Lisa Moody, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, Susan Reese, Dave Fodroczi, and Patricia LaRue. City Staff: Buddy Lucero. Consultants Jeff McMenimen, Jody Rader, and Andrew Papke-Larson from HKGi.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – APRIL 19, 2018

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. OPEN COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC

An update was provided by Kevin Westhuis regarding FERC re-licensing. The timeline approved by City Council to remove the Powell and Junction Dams in the future does not align with FERC schedules. Generally, the dams are licensed with 30-year terms. Kevin is currently negotiating with FERC to amend the timelines to meet the goals of the Committee.

Regarding Public/Private Partnerships: This fall, the City is looking to start a committee to help with public/private partnership opportunities related to the Kinni Corridor. City Staff will help to facilitate this committee and hopes to eventually create an organization which functions similar to a land trust to work with property owners, etc. for the future development along the Kinni Corridor.

3. REVIEW/CONFIRM KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

Jeff McMenimen provided a presentation of Key Takeaways that have been gathered from prior work completed by other consultants for the Master Plan process, as well as key takeaways gathered from site and background analysis performed. Four themes have emerged to categorize work moving forward:

- » Parks and Recreation
- » Access and Connectivity

- » Land Use and Economic Development
- » Natural Resources and River Ecology

In addition to the observations presented by the consultants, the committee provided the following comments regarding key takeaways:

- » Educational opportunities, as well as looking for potential museum (heritage or history center) sites. Create a 'teaching place' along the River. Work with the local elementary school, environmental center. Think about future places with outdoor classrooms, potentially near Powell Dam.
- » Community gathering places
- » Business and/or development opportunities along the Kinni where Lake George is currently located:
 - *Creating a riverfront business area (taxable resource)*
 - *It was noted that this area will likely be a wetland with the future closing and removal of Junction Dam.*
- » In the final master plan, the committee would like to see more details of future design/styles of recommendations.

4. IDENTIFY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Jeff McMenimen continued the presentation to outline issues and opportunities identified within each of the three reaches of the Kinni Corridor.

The Committee provided the following comments regarding issues and opportunities:

Middle Kinni Comments:

- » Potential for planning a trail along the entire stretch of the river to serve multi-use (bike/ped)
- » Multi-use trail use along the river as it flows through town
 - *Multi-use trail and/or a pedestrian only trail in some locations*
 - *There are very few areas to bicycle along the river today*
- » The following publicly-owned properties may be opportunities for future development:
 - *Heritage Park site*
 - *Yard Waste site*
 - *Wastewater plant*
 - *Site near City Hall*
- » Regarding shared streets/paseos/woonerfs, there was some concern that there might be preferential treatment given to business owners along these future streets
- » Need to make better connections to UW-River Falls
- » Light Industrial sites along the River today may serve as opportunities for re-use, such as:
 - *Moose Lodge*

- Bus garage
 - Compost site
 - These locations need to be identified/verified by city staff at a later date
- » Signage and wayfinding efforts are already underway in coordination with the City

Lower Kinni Comments:

- » Add connections to UW-River Falls as an opportunity
 - » Discussion about what a future picnic area around the Lower Kinni might look like. The committee provided an example in the past of a church which held an annual picnic along the Lower Kinni, near the Rocky Branch.
 - » Discussion about whether public restrooms are needed along the entire corridor.
 - » Clarification that Outstanding Resource Water (ORW) is of higher quality than an Exceptional Resource Water (ERW)
5. DISCUSS POTENTIAL FUTURES FOR THE KINNI RIVER CORRIDOR

Discussion on potential futures of the Kinni River Corridor was facilitated by the consultant team. The Committee provided the following ideas regarding Parks and Recreation (due to lack of time, it was acknowledged that future Corridor Committee meetings will cover the other three themes):

- » Canoe and kayak access is a major missing piece of the current park system along the Kinni Corridor. Better places to drop in need to be established, besides the current spot at Glen Park.
 - *It was mentioned that up to 300 kayakers per day have been documented using the River. There is a large conflict with fishing enthusiasts, as well as others using the Glen Park and Powell Dam area with so many kayakers.*
 - *Parking is also an issue. Today, many kayakers are parking in the surrounding neighborhoods.*
 - *If addressing additional angler access, look at Jackson Preserve as an example of increased distance from parking to the water access. This hinders kayak use at the same location.*
 - *Potential idea to negotiate hours/seasonal times for kayakers and anglers.*
 - *The Lower Kinni is more popular for kayakers and anglers.*
 - *For anglers, the Lower Kinni is a 'place of solitude'*
 - *Due to the natural feel of vegetation and natural buffers between river and adjacent land use.*
 - *Look for ways to engage conversations between stakeholders involved in this issue.*

- *Education may also be a key, especially if the local outfitters can be involved.*
 - *Need to engage land owners, especially those near the drop-in sites*
 - *It was acknowledged that kayaking is very important to tourism and economic development in River Falls. This should not be overlooked when looking for solutions to recreational use conflicts.*
 - *Look at "Red Cabin" off of River Road, a DNR-purchased site, good for fishing and kayakers.*
 - *This is due to the natural rapids feature and creating a fishing hole and adventurous kayaking conditions.*
- » Regarding the future impoundment areas, after dam removals:
- *By 2026, the lower impoundment will be running 'free'; by 2035, the upper impoundment will be 'free'*
 - *The Committee was not happy with the amusement park-theme presented in prior planning efforts surrounding Lake George.*
 - *Educational opportunities presented in prior planning efforts surrounding Lake Louise were welcomed*
 - *It was agreed that the Downtown area should be a place of future development, and the Riverwalk and trestle bridge would be good places to start.*

6. NEXT STEPS

- » Paddle Tour – Friday, June 15
 - *Meet at 4pm*
- » Committee Meeting/Workshop – Thursday, July 12
 - *Homework: The Committee should come prepared to share precedent images or information of other River cities and design examples that demonstrate ideas applicable to the future Kinni Corridor.*
- » Committee Meeting/Workshop – Thursday, July 26
- » Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 16
- » Community Workshop – Thursday, September 13
- » Future Committee meetings will begin at 4:00pm

7. ADJOURN

**KINNI CORRIDOR COMMITTEE MEETING/
WORKSHOP**

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 2018

4:00 – 5:30 P.M.

CITY HALL – TRAINING ROOM

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on July 12th, 2018. Those in attendance included Rick Bowen,

Jason Egerstrom, Lisa Moody, Rita Kozak, Susan Reese, Dave Fodroczi, Patricia LaRue and Mayor Dan Toland. City staff Buddy Lucero, Angie Bond, Mary Zimmermann, Amy Peterson, Kevin Westhuis, and Mike Stifter.

Consultants Jeff McMenimen, and Andrew Papke-Larson from HKGi.

Public: Dave Drewiske

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 7, 2018
2. REVIEW/DISCUSS PRECEDENT ANALYSIS

Jeff McMenimen provided a brief overview presentation of precedent analysis. Precedent river cities/towns included Glenwood Springs (CO), Durango (CO), Breckenridge (CO), Jackson (WY), Spearfish (SD), Northfield (MN). Key takeaways from the precedent analysis included

- » Build on and protect the city's natural, historic, and built assets (Conservation easements, design guidelines, historic preservation, etc.)
- » Develop a variety of attractions/tourism opportunities to attract visitors throughout the year (4 season)
- » Program for events and festivals throughout the year
- » Capitalize on nearby attractions/destinations
- » Create marketing/branding strategies to attract residents, businesses, and visitors
- » Provide high quality shopping, dining and lodging experiences
- » Create strong relationship between downtown and riverfront
- » Pursue partnerships to promote riverfront development
- » Partner with non-profit organizations to assist with protection of resources

Included in the presentation was an overview and precedent study of conservation easements, stormwater BMPs, parks in floodplains, and riverwalks. Additional riverwalk precedents included Wichita (KS) Greenville (SC), Naperville (IL), Northfield (MN), Oklahoma City (OK), and San Antonio (TX). Additional stormwater precedent images were provided by Patricia LaRue (Wichita)

In addition to the observations presented by the consultants, the committee provided the following comments regarding key takeaways:

- » Some of Northfield's attractions, such as wineries,

resonated well with one committee member. More so than the active recreation attractions noted in the western example river cities.

- » Stormwater BMPs could be a great addition to Main Street
- » River Falls City Hall is a precedent for other locations as it includes both permeable pavers and stormwater management practices (bio swales) in the parking lot.
 - *It was noted that pavers can be challenging to maintain (especially during winter months)*
 - *Stormwater BMPs can be used as amenities, attracting to the river or downtown area.*
- » There was a question about the potential to develop within the existing impoundments after dam removal. Previous plans have shown that the area that is now Lake George will not be within the floodway after dam removal.
 - *The 2005 stormwater treatment concept plan calls for a series of stormwater ponds within the current impoundment for Lake George*
 - *While it is possible to develop within the floodplain, it can be costly*
 - *Further clarification is needed to determine if the impoundments are within the floodplain after dam removal*
- » Precedent analysis should also address river restoration projects and Midwestern communities. Examples cited by Committee members:
 - *Baraboo (WI), Traverse City (Mi), Valparaiso (IN), and Hudson (WI).*
- » What is our project goal? Do we want a place to attract visitors and make them want to drive to downtown? If so we need to add new amenities to draw people in.
 - *Possible ice rink/farmers market space or adventure play*
 - *Making the river a central feature, i.e. places to touch the water*
 - *Walnut street as a possible new access point*
 - *New river viewing overlooks or decks*
 - *Making the river an attractive and accessible feature (to all)*

3. DISCUSS POTENTIAL FUTURES FOR THE KINNI RIVER CORRIDOR

- » Parks and Recreation
- » Natural Resources and River Ecology
- » Land Use and Economic Development
- » Access and Connectivity

Small group discussion, facilitated by the consultant team was then focused on identifying issues and opportunities associated with parks and recreation, natural resources and river ecology, land use and

economic development, and access and connectivity along the Kinni Corridor. The Committee provided insights, ideas, challenges, and opportunities that were recorded on trace paper over mapping of the City of River Falls and the Kinni River. The Committee will meet in 2 weeks to continue the workshop discussion – future of the Kinni Corridor.

4. NEXT STEPS

- » Committee Meeting/Workshop – Thursday, July 26
- » Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 16
- » Community Workshop – Thursday, September 13, a new date is being looked at for later in the month.

5. ADJOURN

KINNI CORRIDOR COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018

4:00 – 5:30 P.M.

CITY HALL – TRAINING ROOM

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on July 26th, 2018. Those in attendance included Committee Members: Mayor Dan Toland, Adam Myszewski, Chris Blasius, Jason Egerstrom, Lisa Moody, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, and Susan Reese. City Staff: Buddy Lucero, Kevin Westhuis, Crystal Raleigh, Zach Regnier, Mary Zimmermann, Amy Peterson, Reid Wronski, Mike Stifter, Angie Bond. Consultants Jeff McMenimen, and Andrew Papke-Larson from HKGi.

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JULY 12, 2018

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. OPEN COMMENTS FROM GENERAL PUBLIC

An update was provided by Kevin Westhuis regarding FERC re-licensing August 31st deadline.

The City and their dam removal consultant recently discussed the Project with FERC staff. Discussions focused on ways to achieve the target dates for dam removal consistent with the overall spirit of the City Resolution within the bounds of FERC's regulatory authority. Options discussed and considered included relicensing, license extension, and license surrender and decommissioning with a delayed effective date. FERC staff views relicensing as the only viable option available to the City.

Options provided to FERC for re-licensing were re-license and surrender later (integrated license 30-year license) or an extended license (15-year license).

FERC preferred the integrated license and would like to discuss the agreement again closer to dam removal.

Comments regarding FERC re-licensing: Committee members would like to better understand the process associated with an integrated license and how it might be possible to cement the City Council's current agreement to remove the dams in a contract with FERC. The general response to this statement was a need for the stakeholders to be clear with their response, the settlement agreement and the City Council's statements.

3. REVIEW/CONFIRM KEY TAKEAWAYS FROM WORK COMPLETED TO DATE

Jeff McMenimen provided an update of work that has been completed since the July 12th meeting. River corridor maps that were used during the July 12th workshop have been updated with the following information:

- » River Falls Bike and Ped Plan recommendations for trails, sidewalks and bikeways
- » Priority Conservation Areas and Conserved Lands Map (maps provided by Kinnickinnic River Land Trust)
- » SEH concepts (material that was approved from the previous meetings with the committee members)
- » Potential conservation areas, park improvements/ areas, and bike/pedestrian connections as noted by HKGi
- » Comments received from the Kinni Corridor Committee at the July 12th meeting. Additionally, the precedent analysis presentation was updated to include river restoration focused projects; Baraboo, WI (Baraboo River), Traverse City, MI (Boardman River)

Adam Myszewski provided an update from his recent trip to Breckenridge/Blue River and how it might inform planning for the Kinnickinnic River. Notable takeaways included:

- » Signage along the river
- » Multi-use paths that connected to and across the river
- » Accessibility to the river (overlooks, and locations to touch the river) Not all locations were handicap accessible

4. IDENTIFY ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES WORKSHOP

The Committee was then gathered around several large maps providing existing conditions, issues, and opportunities along the river corridor. Jeff McMenimen outlined work that had been completed on the maps. Current mapping included:

- » Existing conditions

- » Green infrastructure opportunities
- » New park opportunities (primarily located in current lake impoundments)
- » Existing pedestrian/bike connections and potential pedestrian/bike connection opportunities
- » Existing and opportunity areas for green buffers/conservation areas
- » Opportunity intersections for enhanced pedestrian crossings
- » Opportunity sites for potential redevelopment along the river corridor
- » Existing river access and opportunities for new river access points
- » Opportunities for additional public art
- » Opportunities for community gardens
- » Opportunities for improving the connection between downtown and the riverfront

There was discussion about the River Corridor Plan and what it will address, including:

- » The river corridor plan is a master plan that focuses on the entire river corridor and select focus areas (i.e. Lake George and Lake Louise).
- » It will serve as a blue print for future policy decision making and investments in the river corridor, addressing parks and recreation, natural resources and river ecology, access and connectivity, and land use and economic development
- » It is not a river restoration plan, however, it will likely recommend future river restoration planning (including dam removal and hydrological engineering) be conducted in the Implementation Chapter of the Master Plan
- » Until the engineering planning is conducted in the next phase of the work, we'll have to work with what preliminary engineering studies have been conducted to date to inform the master plan. Future engineering studies will provide more definitive impacts and resultant features within the impoundments
- » The master plan may need to provide near- and long-term recommendations for the Lake George and Lake Louise impoundment areas and be flexible to adapt to final river restoration engineering plans

The Committee provided the following comments and suggestions regarding issues and opportunity mapping:

- » "Does the current mapping for the corridor master plan reflect the current River Falls Comprehensive Plan?"
 - *Yes, the plan is generally consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan.*

- *The Kinni River Corridor Plan, if and when it is adopted, will inform future amendments to the City's Comprehensive Plan*
- » Conservation Easement Mapping:
 - *Currently there is no differentiation between public and private conservation easements. It will be helpful to differentiate between the two on the maps.*
 - *Easements, depending upon the easement contract and landowners wishes may allow for public passage on private land.*
 - *Current easement mappings are consistent with previous task force mapping and land trust mapping.*
 - *Review the current shoreline ordinance to ensure compliance with the river corridor plan.*
- » Green Infrastructure
 - *As the master plan moves forward and there is development on the timeline of dam removal, green infrastructure could be a priority and near-term improvement.*
 - *Previous plans (Stantec and Interfluve plans) show an interceptor pipe and stormwater treatment ponds in Lake George area to treat stormwater runoff before making its way into the Kinni.*
 - *Is it realistic to move stormwater treatment (mentioned in Lake George area post dam removal) to Lake Louise area allowing for more active uses on Lake George impoundment after dam removal? Probably not, given the topography challenges.*
 - *Moving stormwater from downtown to Lake Louise would be a challenging engineering, high cost, and heavy infrastructure solution.*
 - *Interceptor and treatment ponds/wetland would treat small storm events (90% of current weather events) and could function as a beautiful park/gathering space.*
 - *Review City's Stormwater Plan for more information regarding green infrastructure.*

Upper Kinni

- » Swinging Gate (North Section of Corridor)
 - *Largely seen as a more passive area and should plan to remain this way*
 - *Improvements could be made to enhance the quality of the natural area*
 - *North Quarry Road is currently uncomfortable to bike along*
 - *Long-term focus to make it more bike-friendly (widen roadway/pave shoulders?)*
 - *Is currently a good connection to Hudson and could be improved*

- Quarry Road improvements are relatively recent. This is a Township road but in the future could become a City roadway
 - Is it an arterial? If so, it may require an off-road path
 - Path/trail along river connecting to North Quarry Road would be an improvement and could provide a loop trail
- » Section of River from Hwy35 to Division St
- A large area is currently undeveloped and within the flood zone
 - This area should be considered for a conservation easement and create trails/paths and connections to the river
 - Current plan (taken from SEH) suggests too much public art and possibly too many paths
 - This area could be a good location for a nature/educational center due to easy access to river and central location to downtown
 - Good potential location for a community garden – demonstration garden/organic with low impact farming techniques used.
 - Rail Depot is currently land locked and not accessible.

Middle Kinni

- » Downtown River Falls (Division St to E Cascade Ave)
- Green infrastructure in this area focuses on downtown impervious pavement and ways to slow down stormwater runoff and filter pollution through the use of rain gardens and permeable pavers in parking lots and along downtown and neighborhood streets
 - Additional priority areas identified in stormwater plan that might be better areas to focus green infrastructure. Location may not be associated with river. Review City's stormwater plan.
 - Rain gardens on east side of River Falls work to slow stormwater. Rain gardens need more maintenance from homeowners.
 - Permeable pavers are a better solution than pervious pavement – too many maintenance problems with the latter.
 - Several redevelopment opportunities were identified and mapped by committee members
 - Areas will be mapped and verified by staff
 - Create a pedestrian focused streetscape on E Elm St (between Main St and 2nd St). Possible location for future farmers market?
 - Look at the riprap area along the east side of the river, north of Maple St. as a place to provide stepping stone access to the river.
 - Consider the following uses at the Lake George

impoundment area post dam removal:

- Places to touch the water
- Large green community gathering space
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Picnic areas/shelter
- Canoe/Kayak launch
- More trails

Lower Kinni

- Opportunity for environmental education/nature center along the river (located in the area of the WWTP)
- Pond next to current composting location could be spring fed. This area used to also include a fish hatchery. Consider cleaning this area up, including the pond, and incorporate a trout fish stocking pond and fly fishing learning center.
- Conservation areas follow current land trust and conservation mapping.
- Additional conservation areas that were mapped did not pose problems or comments from committee members.

5. NEXT STEPS

- » Develop Preliminary River Corridor Concepts (HKGi)
- HKGi will incorporate comments received during the workshop and will develop preliminary corridor concepts
- » Committee Meeting – Thursday, August 16
- » Community Workshop – Thursday, September 27

6. ADJOURN

KINNI CORRIDOR PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 2018

4:00 – 6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL – TRAINING ROOM

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on August 16th, 2018. Those in attendance included Committee Members: Dave Fodroczi, Adam Myszewski, Jason Egerstrom, Patricia LaRue, Lisa Moody, Gary Horvath, Rita Kozak, and Susan Reese. City Staff: Buddy Lucero, Mary Zimmermann, Julie Bergstrom, Kevin Westhuis, Angie Bond, Mike Stifter, and Amy Peterson. Consultants Jeff McMenimen and Jody Rader from HKGi.

Absent Committee Members: Dan Toland, Rick Bowen and Chris Blasius

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – JULY 26, 2018

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. REVIEW/CONFIRM ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES MAPPING FOR THE FUTURE KINNI RIVER CORRIDOR

Jeff McMenimen provided an overview of the issues and opportunities maps, which have been categorized into themes with planning concepts and accompanying precedent imagery:

- » Parks and Recreation
- » Natural Resources and River Ecology
- » Land Use and Economic Development
- » Access and Connectivity

An additional set of maps show all of the planning concepts combined at the

- » full study area scale and at
- » the downtown area scale.

Per discussion at the 7/26 meeting, a set of educational boards were created to demonstrate some of the bigger planning themes:

- » Conservation Areas
- » Economic Benefits of Open Spaces
- » Green Infrastructure

After the boards were presented, the committee was given a chance to take a closer look and comment on any changes that should be made. The following comments were mentioned:

- » Proposed conservation area just south of MM should be shown as privately-owned conservation area (not public), per Lisa Moody
 - *This has since been confirmed with records and amended in the maps*
- » Add more precedent imagery to Parks and Recreation boards demonstrating nature-based playgrounds
- » Question: “Will we prioritize vision actions?”
 - *Answer: Yes—the implementation plan will determine phasing, implementation strategies, potential funding sources, etc.*
- » Add green roofs to Green Infrastructure educational board

3. REVIEW/DISCUSS PRELIMINARY CONCEPTS FOR THE MIDDLE KINNI FOCUS AREAS

The Committee was then gathered around several large concept sketches of preliminary concepts for the Middle Kinni, beginning with a framework diagram, then a more detailed concept for the Middle Kinni, and then a large-scale area of the Riverwalk/Main Street area. Jeff McMenimen outlined work that had been completed on the maps. The following is a list of reactions and discussion items on the concept

sketches:

- » Potential for parking structure in the University-area development could serve both the University and the downtown area
- » Catholic church on Main Street is a potential rehab site; discussed the merits of the prairie-style architecture
- » Strong support for a nature-based playground in the location shown on the concept drawing (southwest of the Heritage Park parking area)
 - *Interest in showing a ‘natural playground’, not just a nature-themed playground*
 - *HKGi to show more precedent images on the Parks and Recreation Issues/Opportunities boards*
- » Potential redevelopment of the power plant should include more history and interpretive elements (in addition to a restaurant/brewery)
- » Show riffles, direct access to the water in the Glen Park/Power Plant area at the river
- » Existing city-owned compost site and adjacent bus barn: could potentially be moved to the university/campus
 - *People love this site*
 - *Could potentially be future medium/high density housing*
- » Look for place to hold winter events, ice castles/ice skating
- » Trout fishing educational area—add to concept drawing
- » Show permanent restrooms at park/gathering areas
- » Transmission lines/station is a concern
- » Look at potential amphitheater next to existing Dairy Queen site
- » Locate a ‘village square’ or open lawn, place to install a holiday tree
- » At Riverwalk/Walnut Street:
 - *Areas for food trucks, events, food vendors, beer garden*
 - *Potentially show option with restaurant kept (as-is) and trail worked around*
- » Along Main Street, interest in showing green roofs, solar PV
 - *It was noted that this is a little beyond the reach of the Corridor Plan*
- » Parking lot at Heritage Park could be re-purposed as town green or green infrastructure, filter strip demonstration project
- » Show seating, other street-level amenities along Main Street
 - *Interest in widening sidewalk, adding areas for outdoor café seating*

- *Interest in exploring street sections on Main Street to increase sidewalk, add bike lane, experiment with angled parking, etc.*
 - » Find potential location for a parking structure
 - *Parking study is needed*
 - » Look for precedents for river-facing businesses along Main Street/River Walk
 - » Discussion of TID (Tax-Increment District) that was created when the grocery store was built
 - *This could pay for streetscape amenities along Main Street*
4. DISCUSS OPEN HOUSE FORMAT AND MATERIALS

The City will host an Open House for the Kinni Corridor Plan on September 27th from 6:30-8pm in the lower level of the Public Library. The group discussed the format of the Open House:

- » Boards presented at this Corridor Committee meeting will be updated and refined for showing at the Open House
- » Additional boards will be created with the Middle Kinni/River Walk concepts illustrated with planning concepts
- » HKGi will format the materials for showing on the city website, as well as have a variety of ways that open house visitors can comment on the ideas presented
- » HKGi will give a brief presentation (20 minutes) around 7pm during the Open House, to orient visitors to the materials
- » The intention of the Open House is to share progress of the concepts and the plan with the community
- » Look for ways to get younger people involved/participating at the Open House

5. NEXT STEPS

- » Develop/refine Preliminary River Corridor Concepts (HKGi)
- » City Staff Review of Preliminary Concepts (9/17/18)
- » Community Open House 9/27/18 6:30-8pm at the Library

6. ADJOURN

KINNI CORRIDOR PROJECT COMMITTEE MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2018

4:00 – 6:30 P.M.

CITY HALL – TRAINING ROOM

The Kinni Corridor Committee met on October 18th, 2018. Those in attendance included Committee Members: Dave Fodroczi, Rick Bowen, Patricia LaRue, Lisa Moody, Rita Kozak, Chris Blasius, and Susan Reese. City Staff: Buddy Lucero, Scott Simson,

Amy Peterson, Angie Bond, and Mary Zimmerman. Consultants Jeff McMenimen, Jody Rader, and Aimee Hackett from HKGi.

Absent Committee Members: Adam Myszewski, Gary Hovath, Jason Egerstrom and Dan Toland

Buddy Lucero called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES – AUGUST 16, 2018

Meeting minutes were approved.

2. WI APA (WISCONSIN AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION) CONFERENCE

- » Buddy Lucero announced award given to the Committee and Planning Staff for the Kinni River Corridor Planning

- » Charlene Brooks, the new Executive Director for the Kinni River Land Trust, was introduced to the Committee

3. REVIEW COMMUNITY INPUT RECEIVED FROM SEPTEMBER 27TH OPEN HOUSE AND ONLINE INPUT

Jeff McMenimen discussed the success of the open house event, with active engagement and large turnout.

- » The Committee agrees, with a comment from Rick Bowen that the “mood has gone from contentious to very positive” since the beginning of the planning process.

Jeff reviewed the open house materials, including the comments received from participants. Overall, feedback was positive and supportive from the community regarding ideas presented.

- » Question: what action will be taken regarding red dots (items that folks did not like) placed on open house materials?

- *Answer: Red dots will be considered, however there does not seem to be enough consistently displayed to drastically change the ideas. Committee members suggest that some red dots were a result of a few concerns over future costs of any amenities, as well as the loss of revenue from closing the dams.*

4. REVIEW/DISCUSS KINNI CORRIDOR COMMITTEE COMMENTS ON PLANNING CONCEPTS

Jeff presented a list of common themes gathered through community engagement at the open house. All items echoed what has been heard from the community over the course of the planning process. Also, a draft list of implementation projects was presented. Feedback from the committee on the themes and implementation projects are as follow:

- » The concept of re-purposing the powerplant to a brewery is concerning to some committee members, it is suggested that a program that is more inclusive to residents of all ages be proposed instead.
 - *Conclusion: show the powerplant re-purposed as a public/private partnership opportunity*
 - » Concern regarding regaining renewable energy lost by the removal of the hydros leads to discussion of possible solar and wind sites in the concept plan.
 - *HKGI is to add this concept to the implementation matrix under the Economic Development category. HKGI will not add these sites to the master plan concept maps and graphics.*
 - » Concern regarding proposed community spaces and the capability to hold the many town events and celebrations is expressed.
 - *HKGI staff talk about the flexibility of these spaces to hold a number of community events. Buddy Lucero talks about the task of needing to work with road and business closures during the execution of any town event.*
 - *HKGI staff to show a generalized plan for the effects of these spaces on community events in the narrative, as well as the implementation matrix.*
 - » Committee members ask for an expanded explanation on finding resolve for fishing/paddling user conflicts. Conversation surrounding regulations for user groups and businesses in regards to the use of the river sparks the need for case studies from other river cities around the regulations of their waters, and how education of users can lead to the creation of etiquette and social norms on the river.
 - *The committee requests that HKGI staff members propose solutions in a matrix or list and include them in the draft document.*
 - *Agreement that one of the ways to ease the conflict may be to limit the size of group allowed to kayak at once. Committee does not want to see the Kinni River as the new 'Apple River' experience.*
 - *Agreement that an established or structured dialog between all stakeholders (paddlers, fishers, outfitters, riparian land owners, visitors/tourists, outdoor enthusiasts) may be a good route for addressing the conflict*
 - » Committee members request that the shoreland ordinances/ zoning be added to the implementation matrix and suggest that HKGI staff further study the river ordinance for river-front development.
 - » Suggestion to rank-order list the implementation projects to better understand community priorities.
 - » Suggestion to print open house boards and display at the public library for the public to view.
5. PRESENT, REVIEW AND DISCUSS ADDITIONAL PLANNING CONCEPT MATERIALS
- HKGI presented a large-format expanded planning concept drawing for the Kinni Corridor. This illustrative plan expanded on the Middle Kinni area presented at the open house and shows more areas to the north and south of downtown. A set of illustrative cross sections were also presented. Comments and discussion on these new items are as follow:
- » Discussion on need for separate nature center and trout fishing center.
 - *Conclusion, combine the programs of these buildings under one roof and show where the nature center is located*
 - » HKGI to confirm shoreline ordinance and buffer areas are represented in the planning concepts
 - » City staff to share current development concepts for a number of buildings represented in redevelopment areas
 - *HKGI to update drawing to reflect this information*
 - » Discussion regarding representation of bedrock and river depth, post-dam removal
 - *HKGI to confirm levels as outlined in the bedrock report (SEH) and other background documents*
 - » Community garden to be moved to existing parkland just to the west of where this was shown on the draft plan
 - » Discussion on how the plan connects to other recreational destinations outside of the corridor, such as the mountain bike trails and Holman Park
 - » HKGI to show new commercial areas along Main Street as larger, consolidated building footprints
 - » HKGI to show new residential areas to the west of Main Street as orienting towards the river/floodplain
 - » HKGI to explore how to emphasize the ability for visitors and residents to 'touch' the water, not just access the water for kayak launch or fishing
 - » Re-examine trailhead opportunity at north main street, show in accordance with current wayfinding plan
 - *Show this area as a gateway element, not as a trailhead*
6. NEXT STEPS
- Meet with City staff to discuss implementation strategies – TBD
- Community Open House – Wednesday, November

14th

Prepare Draft Corridor Plan – November/December

City Council Worksession – December 11th

Kinni Committee Closure Get-Together – Early
January, 2019

City Council Public Hearing – Late January/Early
February, 2019

7. ADJOURN



KINNICKINNIC RIVER CORRIDOR PLAN