HELP US IMAGINE
THE FUTURE RIVER LEARNING CENTER!

April 14, 2022
Community Meeting #1

W Architecture and Landscape Architecture
with 4RMULA + 106 Group + Solution Blue + ETM + CPMI

https://greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-learning-center/
WELCOME!

• Welcome & Friendly Reminders (10 mins)

• Presentation (20 mins)

• Q&A Session (20 mins)

• Call to Action: Take the Online Survey

Tell us what you think and want to see here at the River Learning Center!

https://greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-learning-center/
Friendly Reminders

**RESPECT:** Please maintain a tone of respect during tonight’s conversation. We reserve the right to remove anyone who communicates in a way we perceive to be discriminatory or harmful to other community members in attendance.

**MUTE:** You will have the opportunity to unmute and speak during the full group Q&A after the presentation.

**CHAT:** We will be recording the meeting and saving the Chat. Please be aware that all Chat activity, including private conversations, will show up in the script that the project team will use internally.

**TECH SUPPORT:** If you need tech support, please call/text Chris at 612-440-5186.

**Q&A:** Add questions and feedback to the chat. We will monitor and respond to questions submitted. Please be respectful to the project team or community members who are speaking.

**RAISE HAND:** Please raise your hand during Q&A. A Project team member will call on you in order that hands are raised.

To access the raise hand function from a laptop, use the reactions icon in the toolbar and use the button 'raise hand'.

To access the raise hand function from a mobile phone, click on the three dots labeled more to find the 'raise hand' icon.
WELCOME!

Community Meeting #1 Goals:

- Introduce the River Learning Center project
- On-going community engagement
- Introduce a public survey
Partnership
River Learning Center is part of the Great River Passage
St Paul is the River City. It has more miles along the Mississippi than any other City on the River.
• Promote a culture of care and respect for the environment
• Contribute to the economic vitality of the river
• Build greater awareness of and access to the river across a larger, more diverse community
• Bring people together to enjoy the river landscape
• Improve community health and well-being
River Learning Center is

...A coalition of partners
Collaborative Consultant Team

Barbara Wilks
Lead Designer, Architect, Landscape Architect
W Architecture

Chieh Huang
Project Manager
W Architecture

James Garrett
Architecture
4RM+ULA

Paola Sanchez
Architecture
4RM+ULA

Regine Kennedy
Community Engagement
106 Group

Sam Olbekson
Indigenous Planning
Full Circle Indigenous Planning

John Hink
Civil Engineering
Solution Blue

Rick Voigt
Hydrology
Solution Blue

Tim Marshall
Operations & Maintenance
ETM Associates

Bryan Bertrand
Cost Estimating
CPMI
Project Schedule
Project Schedule

2022
- Finalize Planning
  - Schematic Design
    - 9-12 months

2023
- Fundraising & Design
  - 1 year

2024
- (Tentative) Construction
  - 2 years

2026
- Opening (tentative) & Operations
Experience the land, water and culture of the Mississippi River.

The River Learning Center is a city-led project combining a mixed-use, river-focused space and a National Park Service Headquarters at the Crosby Farm Regional Park, serving as a national gateway to the Mississippi River with year-round river learning and outdoor recreation experiences on and along Saint Paul's river.

Schematic design and engagement timeline

https://greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-learning-center/
River Learning Center is

...An important
Dakota Landscape
This is Dakota Land.
Indigenous Connections to the Mississippi River

Dakota Presence and Influence

Map Source: "Aboriginal Map of North America denoting the Boundaries and Locations of various Indian Tribes", The House of Commons, Britain, 1857.
Regional Indigenous Communities

Mni Sota

Wakpá Mnisota

Bdoté

Wakpá Tháŋka or Haha Wakpa

RIVER LEARNING CENTER SITE

ST. PAUL

MINNEAPOLIS
Bdoté

ST. PAUL

MINNEAPOLIS

KAPOZA (Little Crow’s Village)
Village Chiefs: ČETANWAKANMANI
WAKINYANTANKA (Big Thunder)
TAOYATEDUTA (Little Crow)

Mounds Park

WITA TANKA
(Big Island)

Pig’s Eye Village

MDOTE (Meeting of Waters)

Pike Island (1805 Treaty)

OHEYAWAH'I

Location of the Mendota Treaty Signing (1851)
(Pilot Knob)

TAKUWAKANTIP'I

HAHA MDOTE (Fort Snelling and Dakota Concentration Camp 1862-63)

TNIN SNI
(Cold Water Spring)
Dakota insights:

This is shared sacred community place for gathering. No one owns it.
This is not a single location, but part of a connected system of natural and cultural areas. Everything is related. Restore lost connections.

Minimize footprint of anything built here.

The buildings should not look like colonist structures, recalling farm structures or Fort Snelling.

Go beyond sustainability, be regenerative and restorative.

Portray the authentic history of the area, good and bad.

Provide areas where private ceremonies and storytelling can happen for Indigenous People.

Make sure Native people share in the opportunities created by this project: cultural, economic, and access.
River Learning Center is

...A part of the Hidden Falls Crosby Farms Regional Park
Regional Park
River Learning Center is...

...An Urban Wilderness
Dynamic River Edge

1924 - 2021
Disturbed Habitats
The Floodplain
Disturbed Urban Forest
The Site
The Bluff,
The Floodplain,
The River
The Floodplain
Scale of the Site
River Learning Center is

A place for the community to...?
Feedback we heard from the community to date

• People need to feel like they belong
• RLC needs a welcoming public gathering space
• RLC needs a diverse employee base that reflects the people you want to attract
• RLC needs to feel safe
• RLC needs to be more visible
Community Engagement
Access to the River Community

What We've Heard

- Access to the River
- Community
- Education/experiential learning
- Connect to natural & cultural history
- Welcoming/Inviting
- A St Paul destination
- Recreational/fitness activities
- Deepen relationship with landscape
- National Park presence
- Inclusive & safe
- Partnerships
- Explore
- Unplug from the City
- Sensitive & sustainable design
- Place to gather
- Connect with Bdote
- Bring people outdoors
- Create a new future
- Understand meaning of Minisota Makope
- Gathering for rituals & celebration
What We've Heard

What would you like to see at a new RLC?

- Basic amenities to feel safe, valued, and activities: restrooms, shelter, lights, connection to people by phone or with staff, trash cans, signage
- Picnic with shelter – There is demand for informal and smaller picnic spaces, midsize picnic spaces, and very large areas.
- Orientation – signage and markers
- Water access with staff/equipment
- Fishing & gear.
- Food and water
- Informal hangout spaces – bridges, amphitheater, boardwalks
- Play for kids
- Program and learning areas
- Walking pathways connected to the river
What We've Heard

Topic 2

Describe the Mississippi River in three words.

For example...

- Recreation
- Contemplation
- Wildlife
Tell us what you think and want to see here

Survey is online – it only takes 5 minutes!
Online Survey

Please take the online survey by April 30:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JV9BQXN

Translated surveys are available on the GRPC website: https://greatriverpassage.org/projects/river-learning-center/
Q&A Session

Next Steps

- **4/14** Community Meeting #1: Project Intro
- **6/9** Community Meeting #2: Alternative Schemes
- **7/21** Community Meeting #3: Preferred Scheme
- **Date TBD** Community Meeting #4: Schematic Design Completion & Celebration!

Questions or comments, please contact Project Manager: Anne Gardner- Anne.Gardner@ci.stpaul.mn.us
Thank you for coming!

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