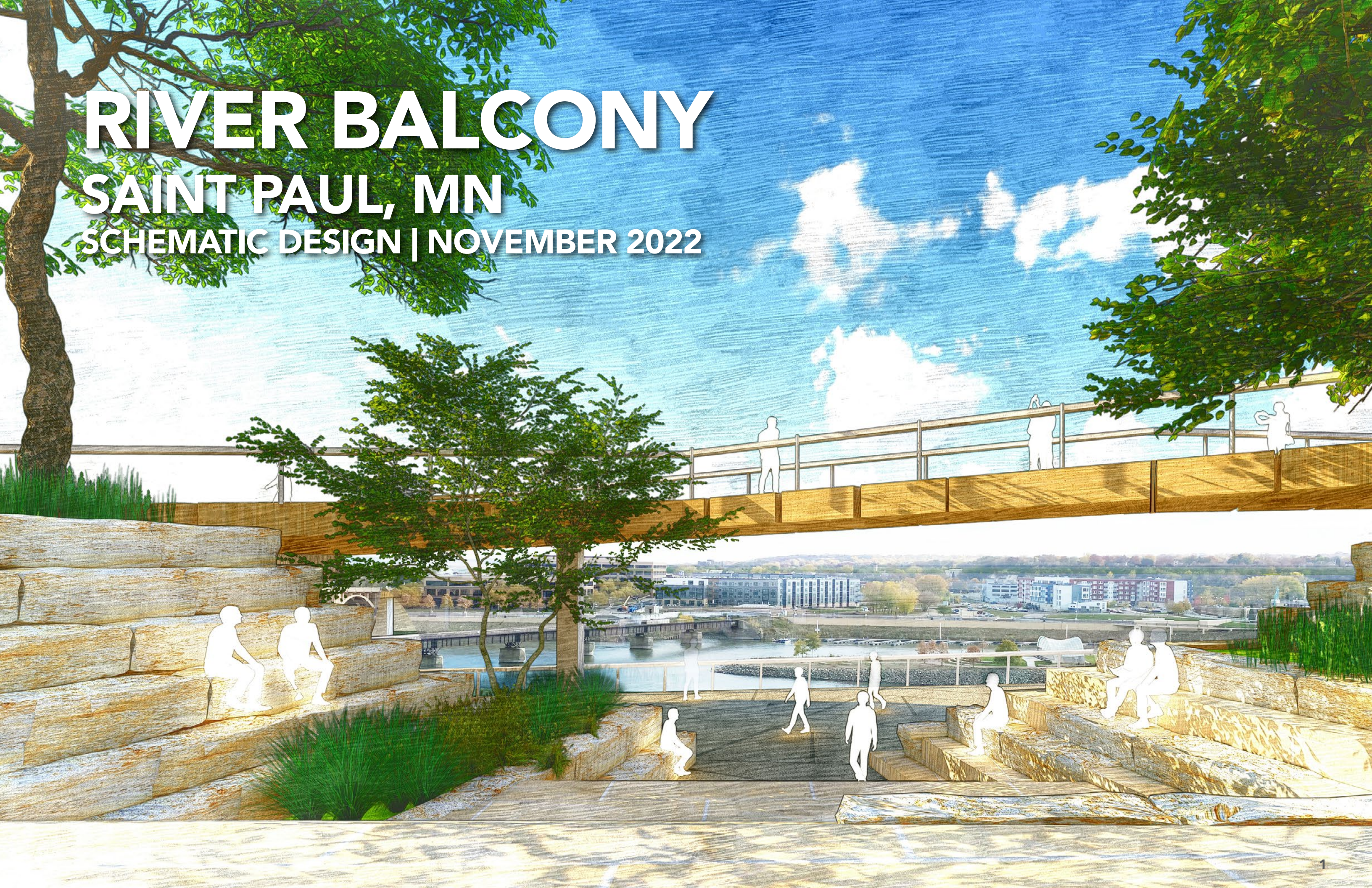


# RIVER BALCONY

SAINT PAUL, MN

SCHEMATIC DESIGN | NOVEMBER 2022





# AGENDA

## 1. Introductions & Remarks

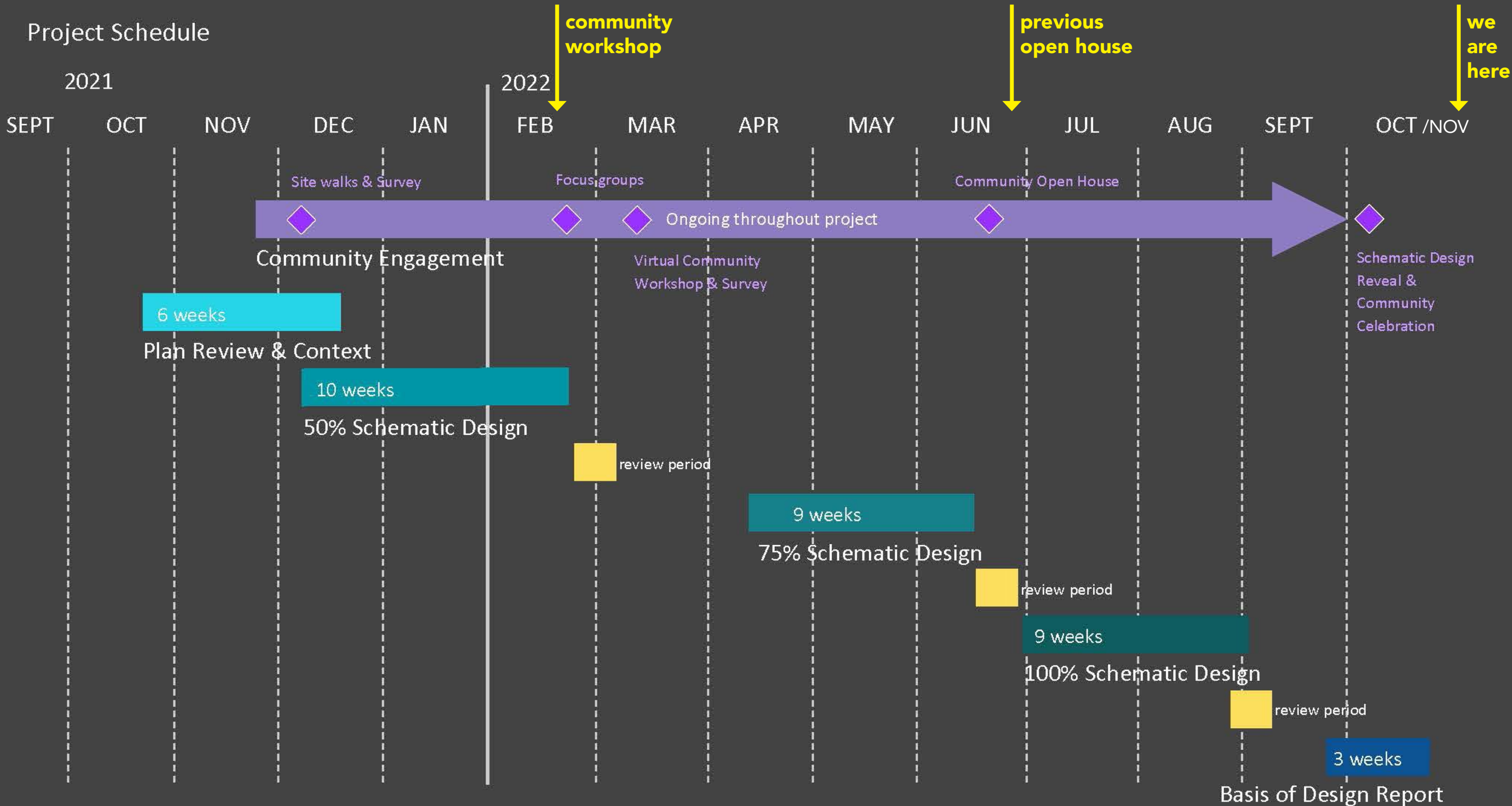
## 2. Design Presentation

- Project Framework
- Outreach & Engagement
- Inspirations & Themes
- River Balcony Sections
- Project Layers

## 3. Next Steps



# TIMELINE OF SCHEMATIC DESIGN





Prepared For:

Great River Passage Conservancy  
& The City of St. Paul

Project Team:

James Corner Field Operations

106 Group

Claim Our Space

Forecast Public Art

HR&A

Dharam Consulting

SEH

Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design



# PROJECT FRAMEWORK



# THE TWIN CITIES

The contrasts and synergies presented by the Twin Cities are a key factor in positioning the River Balcony as an amenity and a destination.

MINNEAPOLIS

- THE CAPITAL OF MINNESOTA
- CHARMING, TRADITIONAL NEIGHBORHOODS
- MORE CITY SHORELINE ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER THAN ANY OTHER CITY
- LOCATED ON THE BLUFF

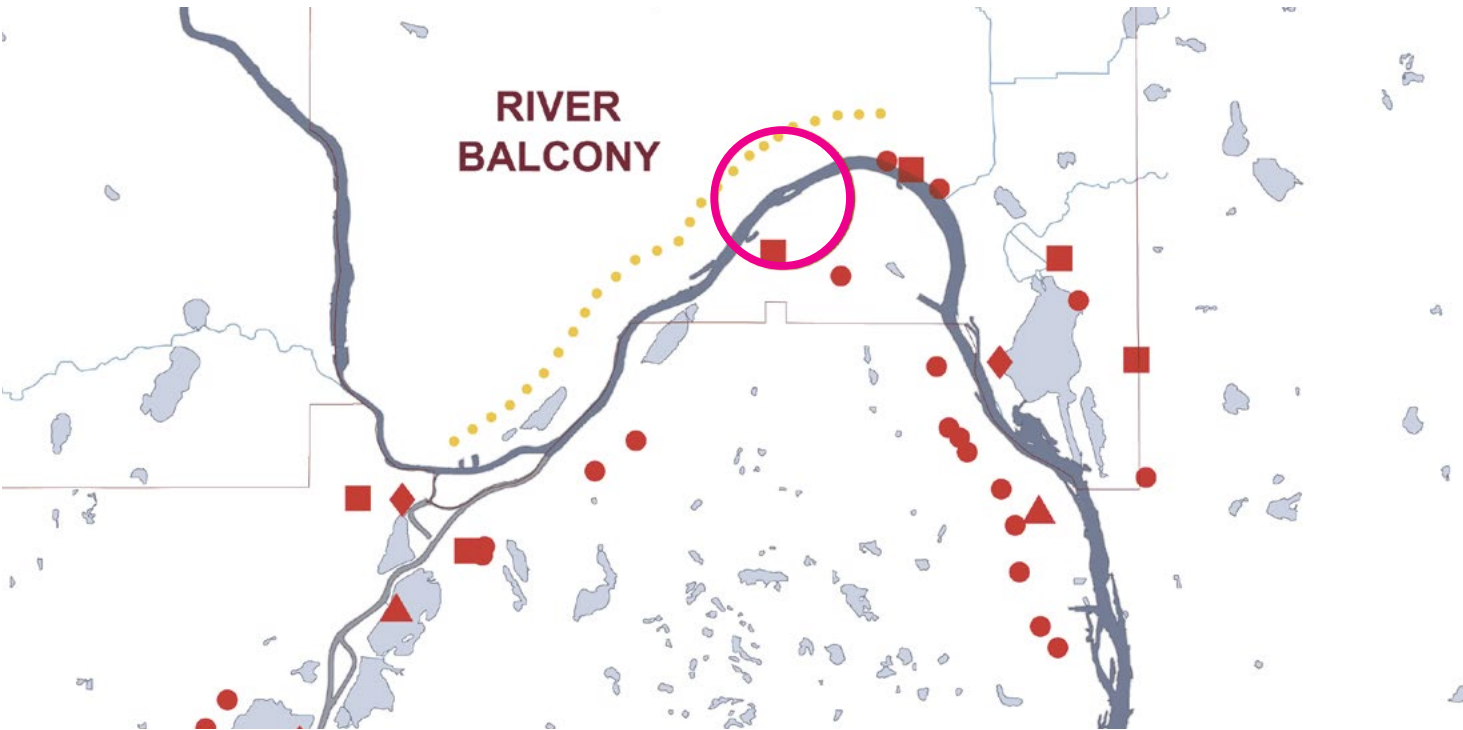
SAINT PAUL

- THE MOST POPULOUS CITY IN MINNESOTA
- THE CITY OF LAKES
- EXCELLENT PARK SYSTEM WITH ABUNDANT NATURAL RESOURCES
- STRONG MUSIC AND PERFORMING ART SCENE

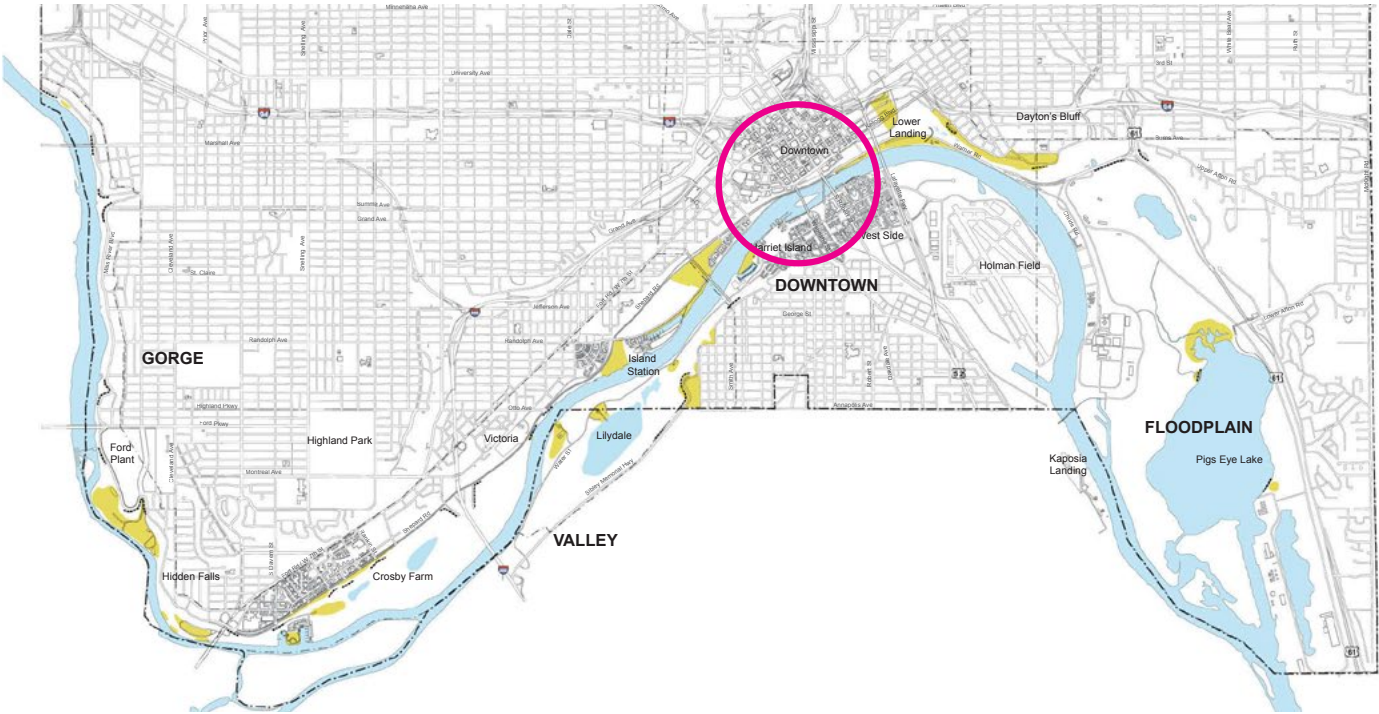


# A MISSING LINK

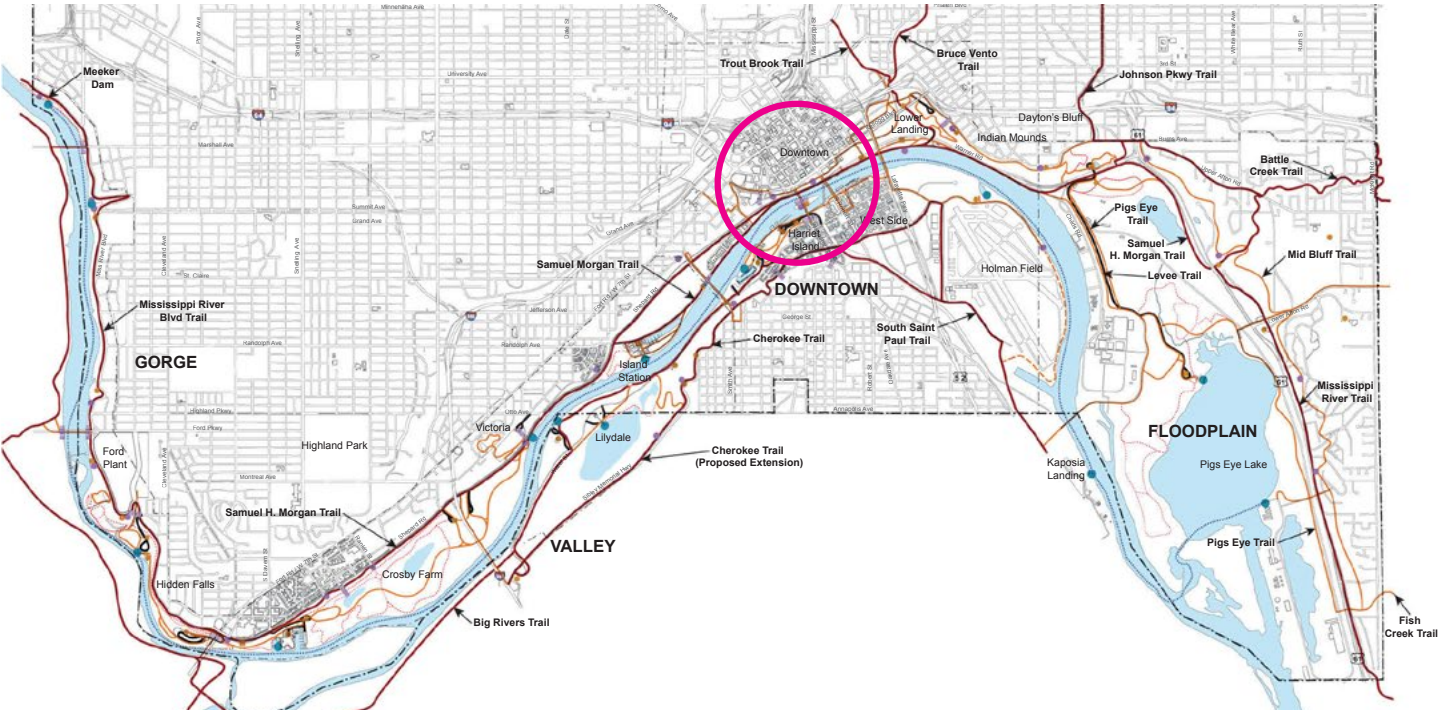
## INDIGENOUS HISTORY & CULTURE



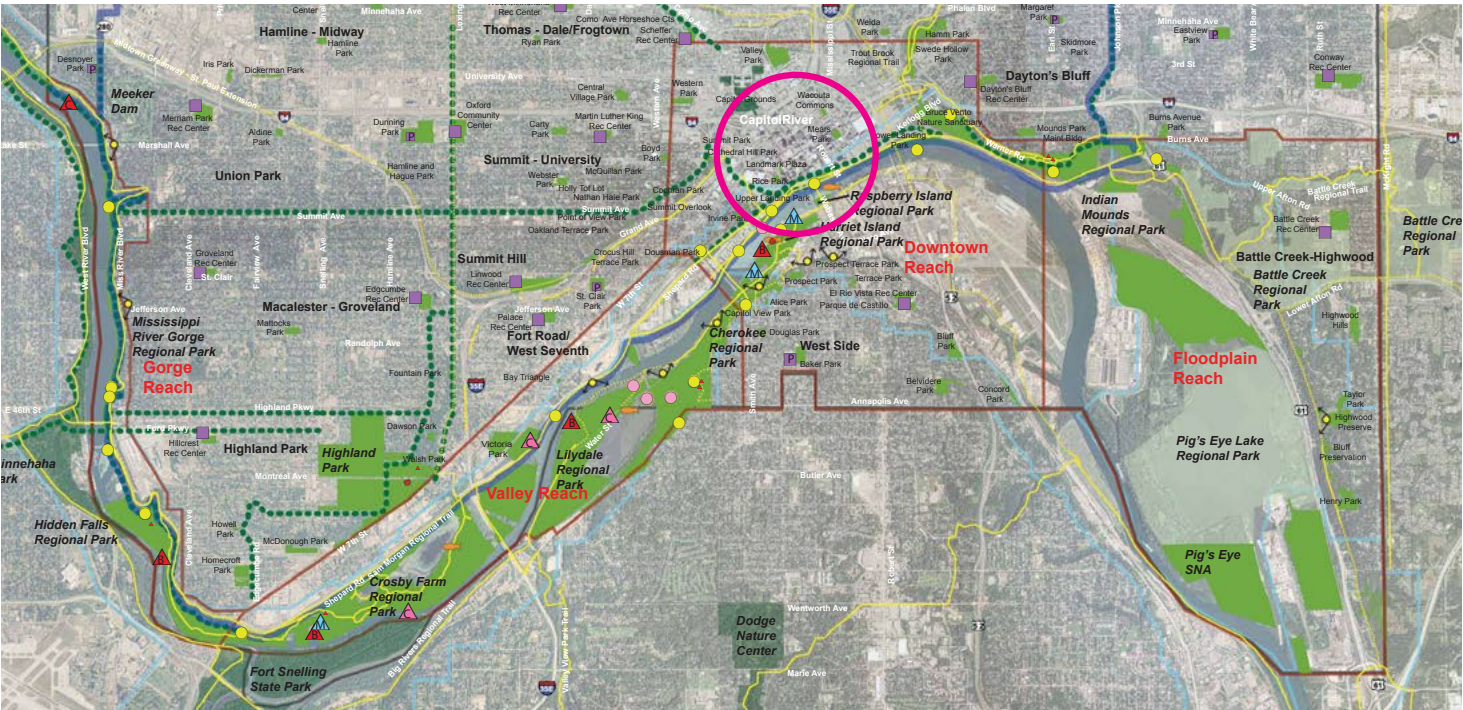
## ACTIVE NATURE BASED RECREATION



## PARK ACCESS & TRAILS

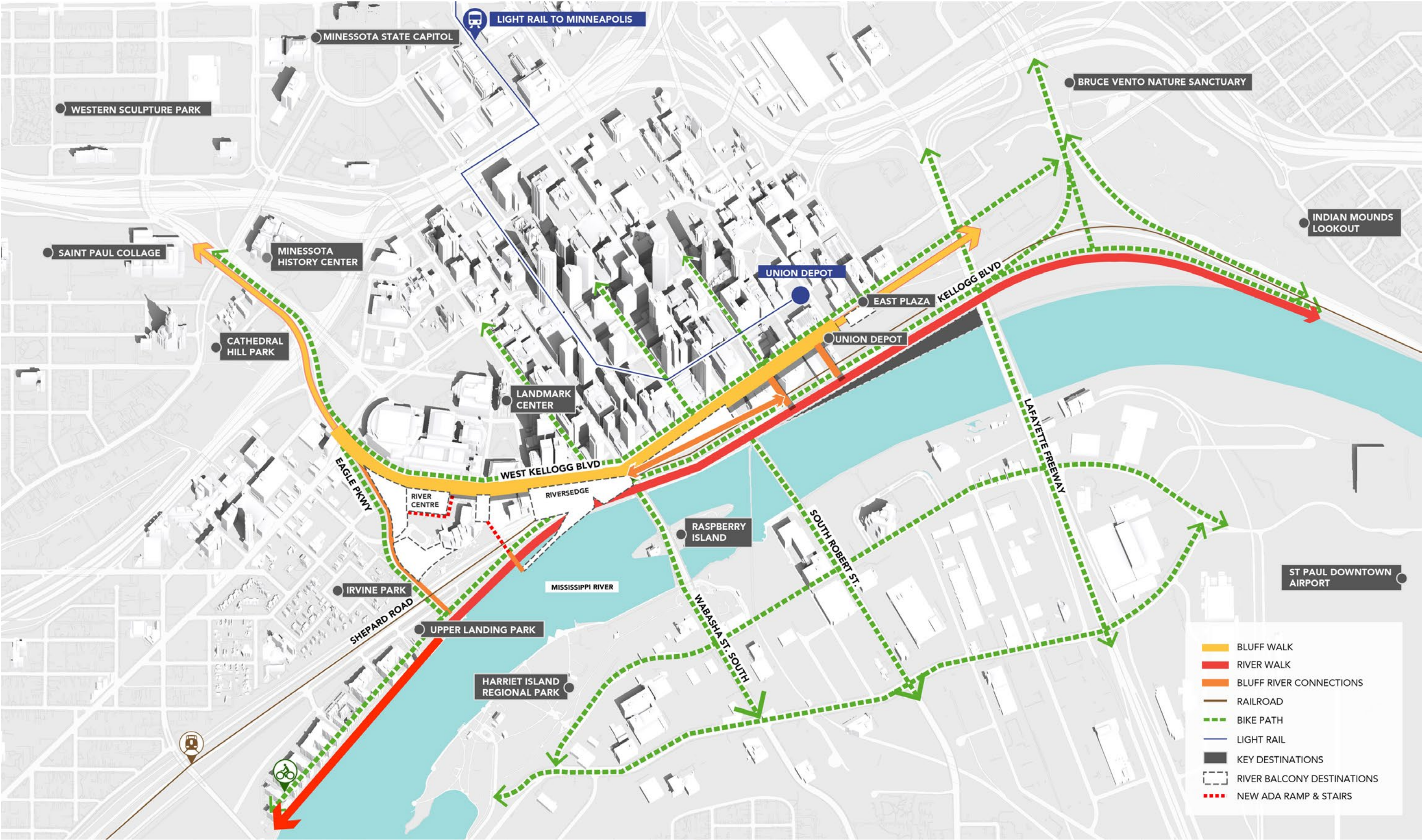


## PARK & RECREATION RESOURCES





# A CRITICAL CONNECTION FOR THE CITY





# FINDING THE SITE





# FINDING THE SITE



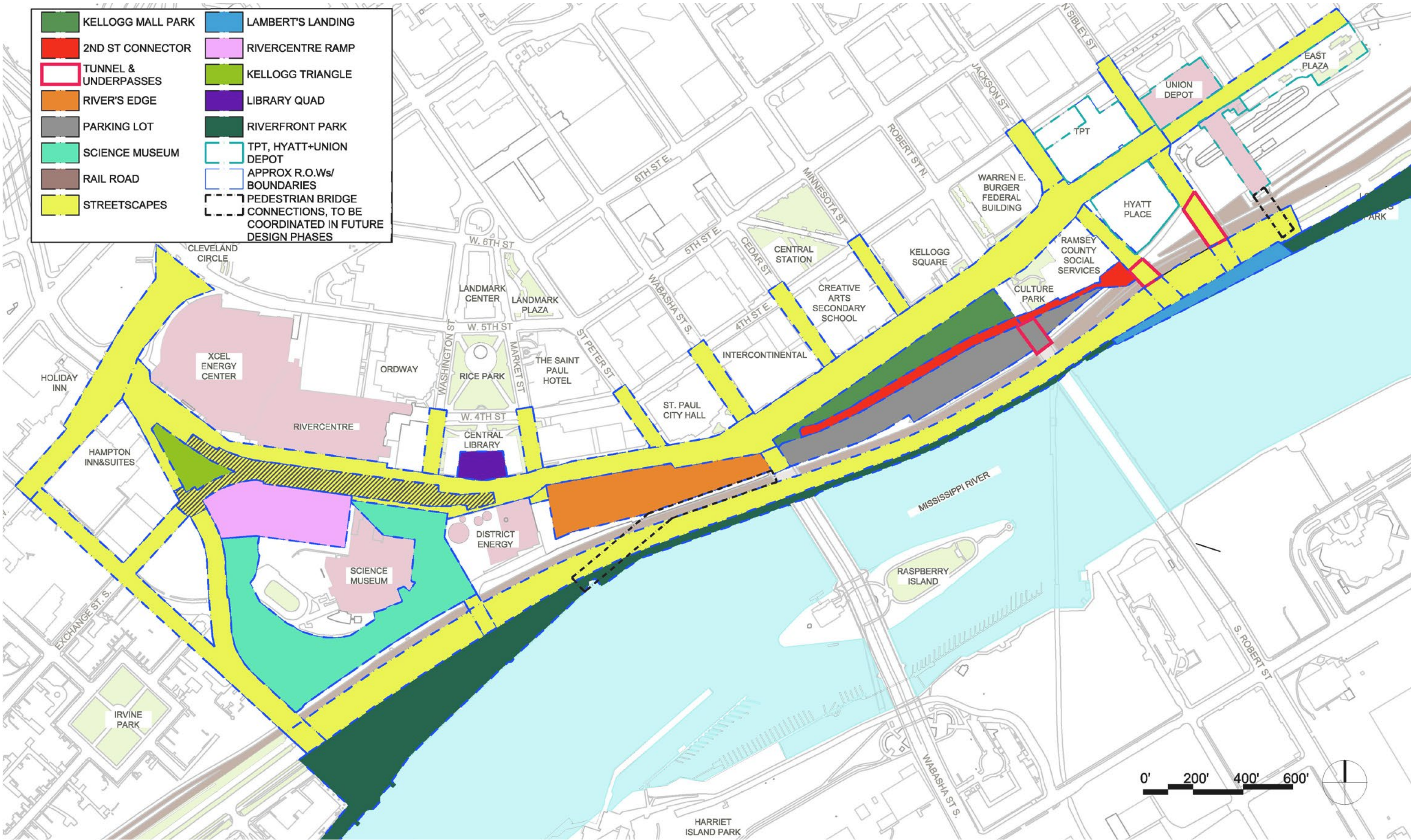


# FINDING THE SITE





# PROJECT FRAMEWORK MAP



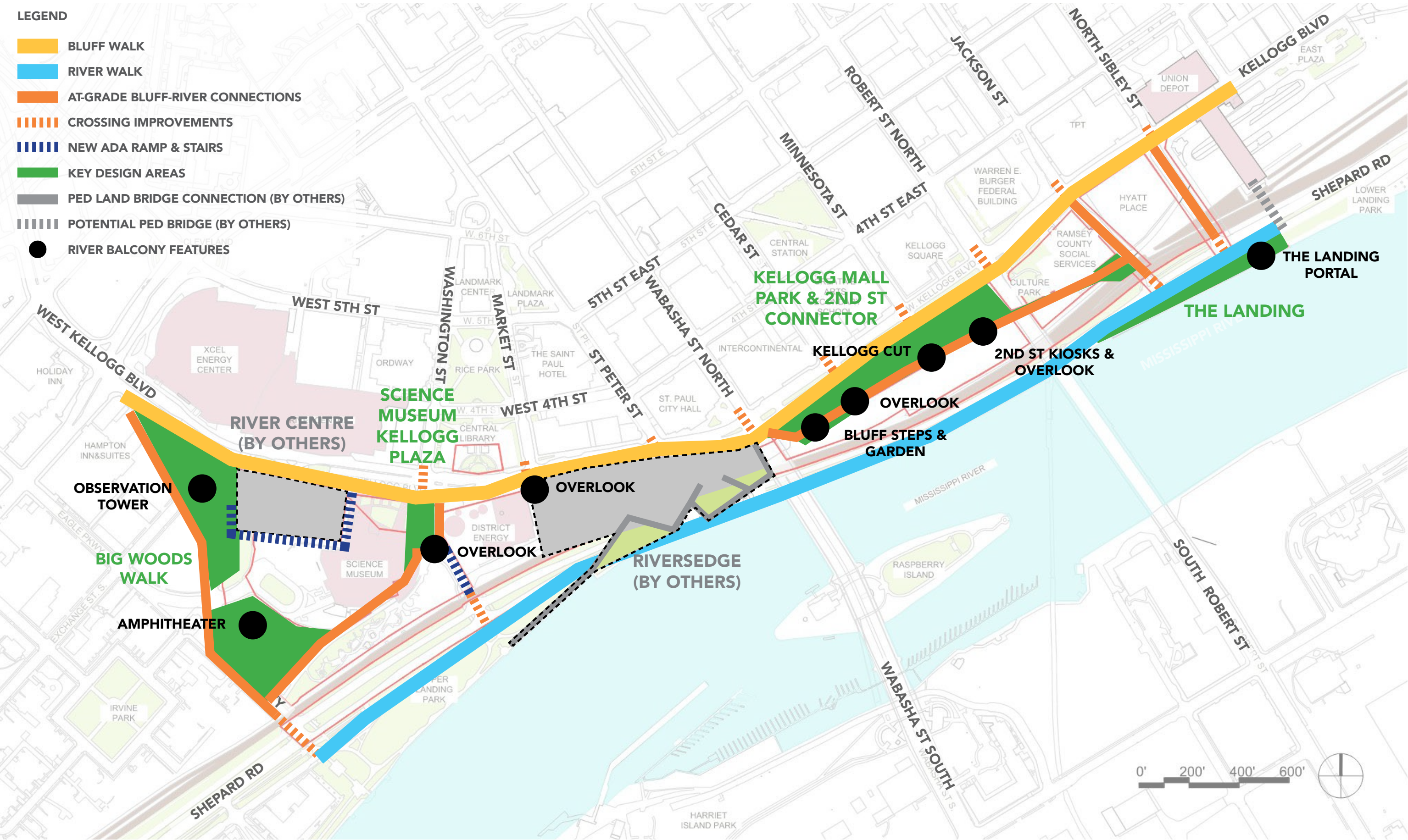


# STAKEHOLDERS

<b>STREETSCAPE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li><li>• XCEL ENERGY CENTER</li><li>• RIVERCENTRE</li><li>• RIVERCENTRE RAMP</li><li>• SCIENCE MUSEUM</li><li>• LIBRARY</li><li>• AMTRAK</li><li>• UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD</li><li>• CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD</li><li>• MNDOT</li><li>• KELLOGG CONDOS</li></ul>	<b>KELLOGG TRIANGLE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• XCEL ENERGY CENTER</li><li>• DISTRICT ENERGY</li></ul>	<b>RIVERCENTRE RAMP</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RIVERCENTRE</li><li>• XCEL ENERGY CENTER</li></ul>	<b>SCIENCE MUSEUM</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• SCIENCE MUSEUM OF MINNESOTA</li><li>• NATIONAL PARK SERVICE</li><li>• DISTRICT ENERGY</li></ul>	<b>LIBRARY QUAD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GEORGE LATIMER CENTRAL LIBRARY</li><li>• FIRST &amp; FIRST CREATIVE REAL ESTATE</li></ul>
<b>RIVER’S EDGE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li><li>• DISTRICT ENERGY</li><li>• AECOM</li></ul>	<b>KELLOGG MALL PARK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• KELLOGG SQUARE DEVELOPMENT</li><li>• DOROTHY DAY CENTER</li><li>• HIGHER GROUND</li><li>• NAOMI FAMILY RESIDENCE</li><li>• THE FAMILY PLACE</li><li>• SALVATION ARMY</li></ul>	<b>2ND ST CONNECTOR</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li><li>• CUSTOM HOUSE</li><li>• UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD</li><li>• CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD</li></ul>	<b>PARKING LOT</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li></ul>	<b>LAMBERT’S LANDING</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li><li>• US ARMY CORPS</li><li>• VIKING RIVER CRUISES</li><li>• VISIT ST PAUL</li></ul>
<b>RIVERFRONT PARK</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li><li>• US ARMY CORPS</li><li>• VISIT ST PAUL</li></ul>	<b>TUNNEL &amp; UNDERPASSES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CITY OF ST. PAUL</li><li>• UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD</li><li>• CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILROAD</li><li>• MNDOT</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li></ul>	<b>UNION DEPOT, HYATT, TPT,CUSTOM HOUSE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• TPT</li><li>• HYATT PLACE HOTEL</li><li>• UNION DEPOT</li><li>• REGIONAL RAIL</li><li>• RAMSEY COUNTY</li></ul>	<b>OTHER STAKEHOLDERS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WEST SIDE COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION</li><li>• EX: ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GROUPS</li><li>• CAPITAL RIVER COUNCIL (DISTRICT 17)</li><li>• OTHERS</li></ul>	

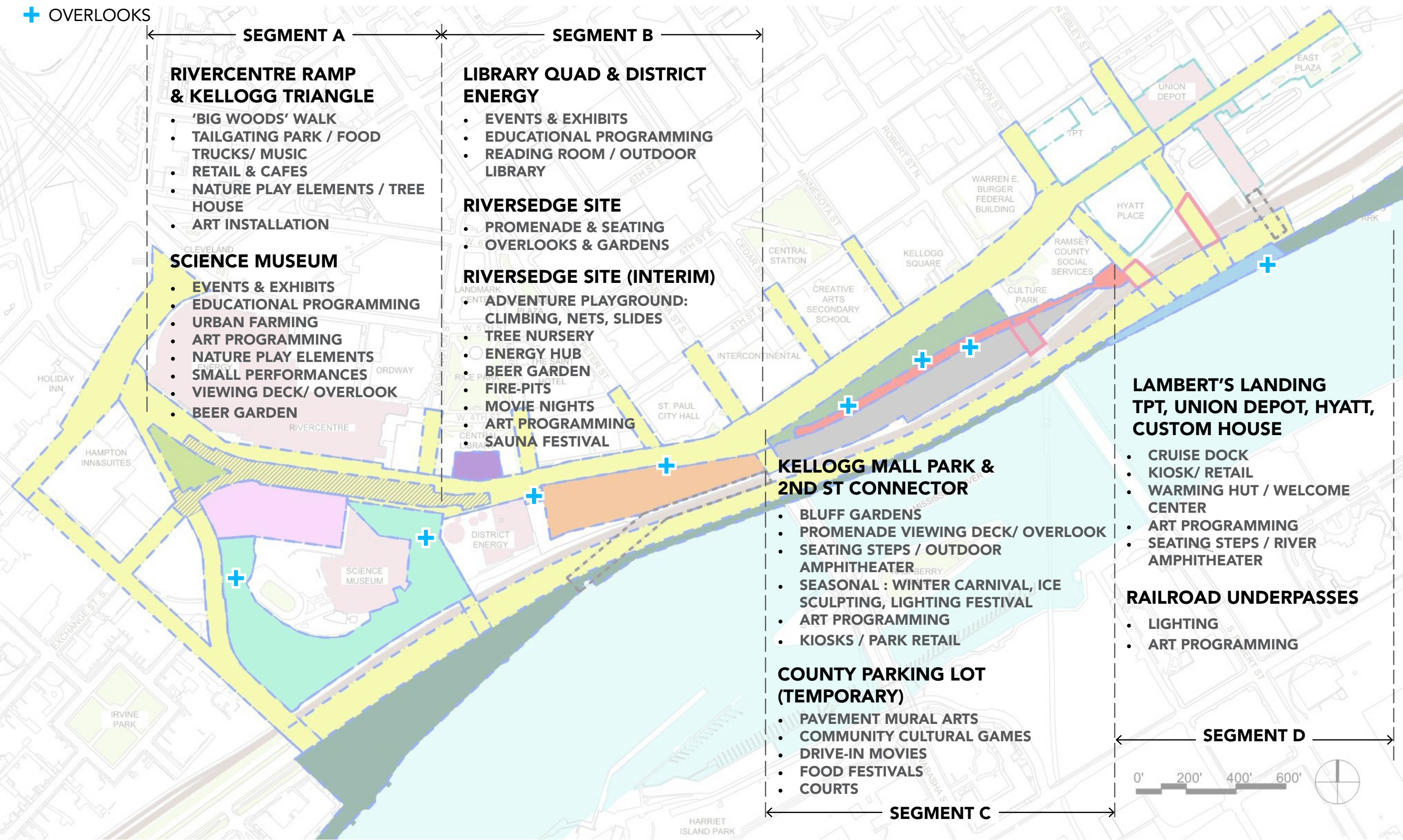


# PROJECT MAP





# PROGRAM FRAMEWORK





# INTERIM USE





WINTER USE



Christmas Market



Winter Sports



Warming Hut



Light Festival



# ARTS & EDUCATION





# PARK ACTIVATION & RETAIL





# OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## ENGAGEMENT TEAM

- 106 Group (Engagement Lead)
- Claim Our Space
- Forecast Public Art
- Sam Olbekson, Full Circle  
Indigenous Planning and Design

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

- Comprehensive Communication Strategies
- Technical, Advisory, and Stakeholder Committees
- Focus Groups with Historically Underserved Populations
- Public Workshops and Events
- Surveys
- In-person and Virtual Engagement



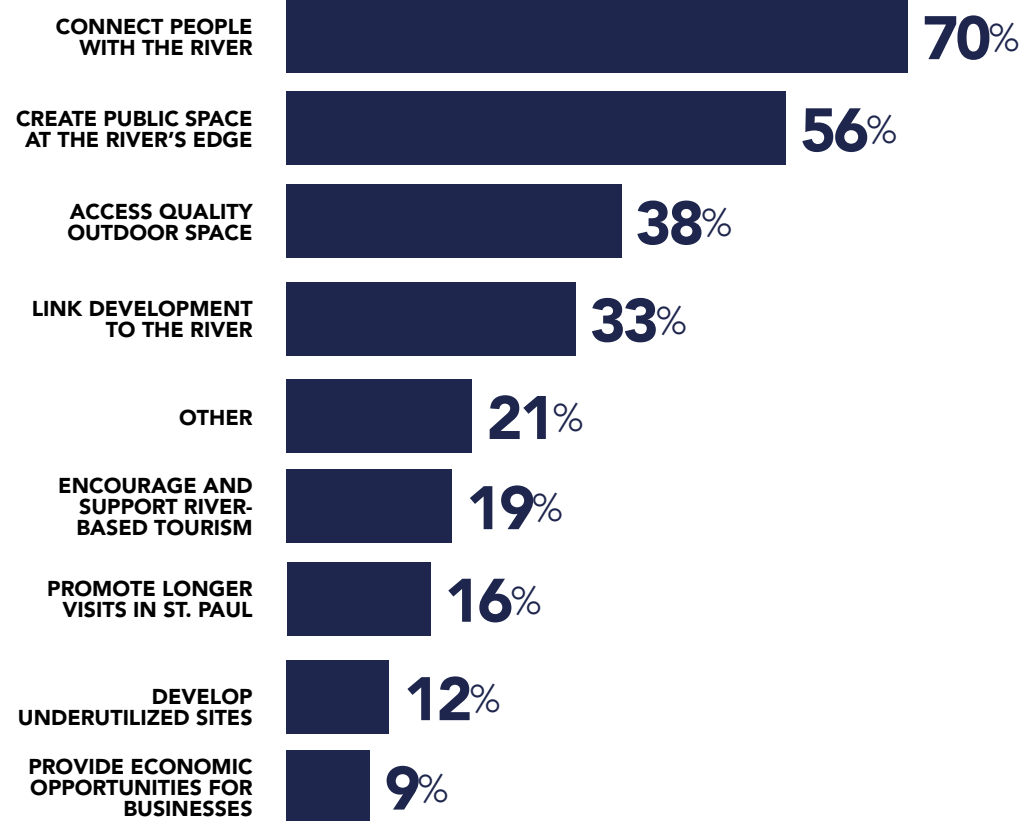
# PUBLIC WORKSHOPS & EVENTS



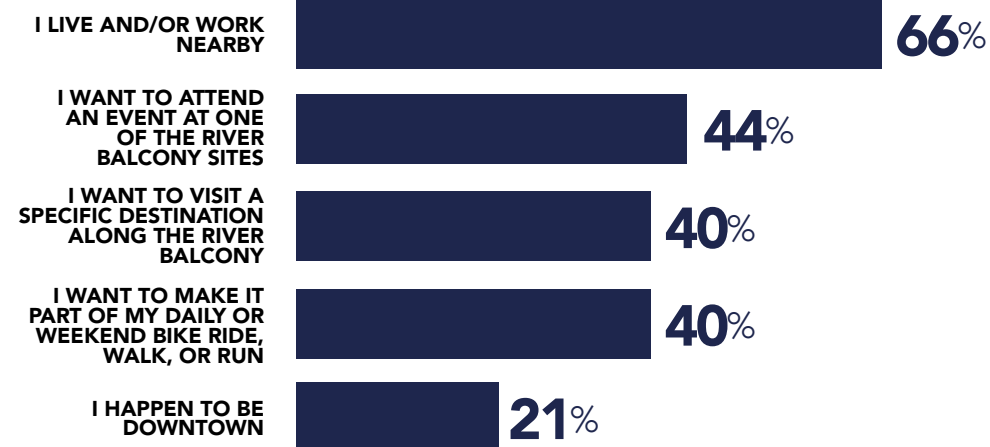


## SURVEYS

## Top 3 Priorities



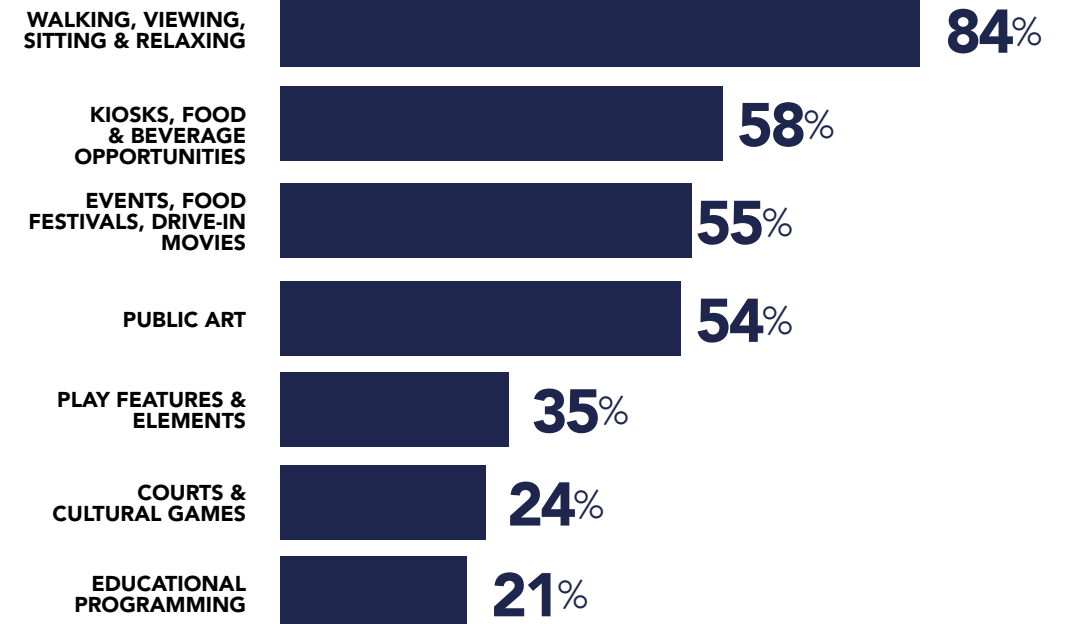
## What will bring you to the River Balcony?



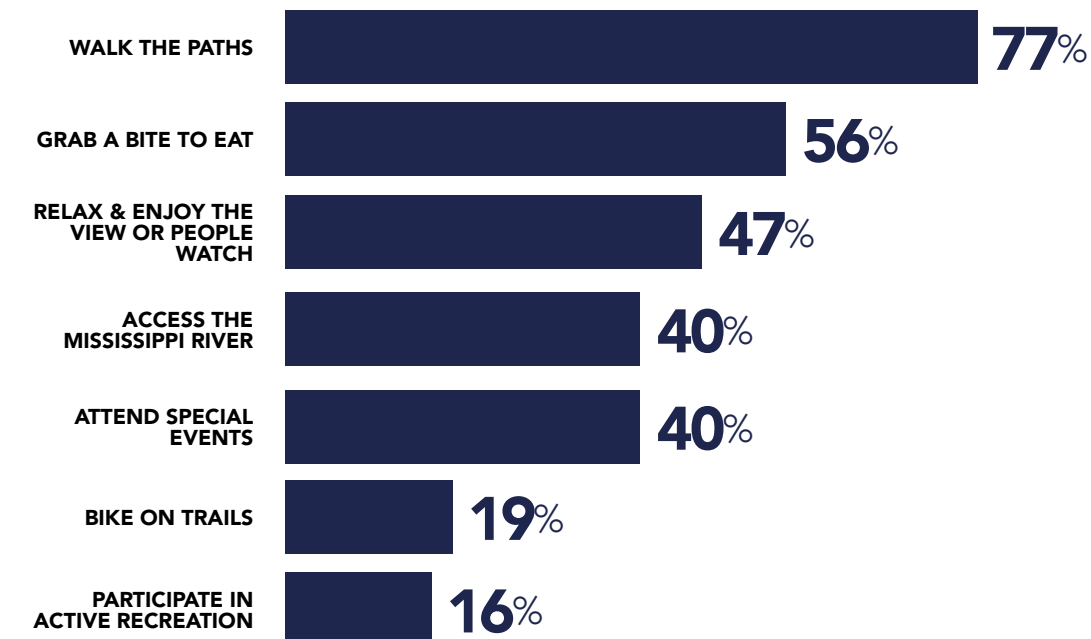
**Looking at the design, do you feel a stronger connection to the River?**



**What aspect of the River Balcony would you use the most and/or would encourage you to extend your visit to downtown Saint Paul?**



### Top 3 Uses



## What is missing?



## What would you like to see more of in the design?





# RIVER STORIES

“The River is our origin story, and the Mississippi River valley in this location is a place of awe and grandeur.”

“Yes I spent my youth fishing this area, it was an important part of developing a love of the outdoors and commitment to conservation.”

“The bluffs are historically known as Imnizaska to my nation, Dakota.”

“The river is a place I love to visit at the various parks in St. Paul, and is someplace I love to go to find peace and relaxation.”

“It is the face of downtown St. Paul.”

“The history of the river and how interconnected the communities, both wildlife and human, are to these spaces are not only incredible, but also essential stories to learn and tell.”

## Does this place have a special meaning to you?

“Yes it is spiritual, water is life and should be respected and honored. It is Indigenous Land!”

“Yes. It is my new home.”

“Yes I love seeing the eagles”

“My favorite memories in St. Paul were usually those where I spent quiet moments along the trails or paths near the River, where I could bike, hike, or walk while admiring the natural beauty of the water, eagles flying overhead, and ducks or even beavers swimming.”

“Currently the city turns its back on its greatest asset and most unique feature, the river bluff. Concentrating on a holistic pedestrian oriented experience would transform the downtown.”

“I have a deep love and respect for the river. I grew up on the river on a boat from age six on. Every single weekend as soon as the river thawed, my family boated anywhere between Harriet Island and Lock & Dam #2.”



“It represents diversity and community.”

“Yes, I was born in St. Paul. The river is like an artery.”

“Yes, grew up in STP, went to Mississippi River camp, spent time on the riverboats with grandparents, at the parks enjoying picnics and sunshine. Limited places to do this safely along the River now.”

“Seeing the bluffs connects me to my family in Wabasha MN. I see the river here in St Paul and know that the same water makes its way to where my family has lived for generations.”

“I grew up in St. Paul, went to high school in downtown St. Paul, and worked as a teenager at the Science Museum. The river has always been at the center of these experiences.”

“Yes, I’m an Indian (Asian) immigrant who used to live in South Korea close to a harbor. Visiting the river bluff and walking with my husband and toddler brought back some sort of familiarity bask from India and from South Korea. It’s been 16 years and we call Saint Paul home now.”

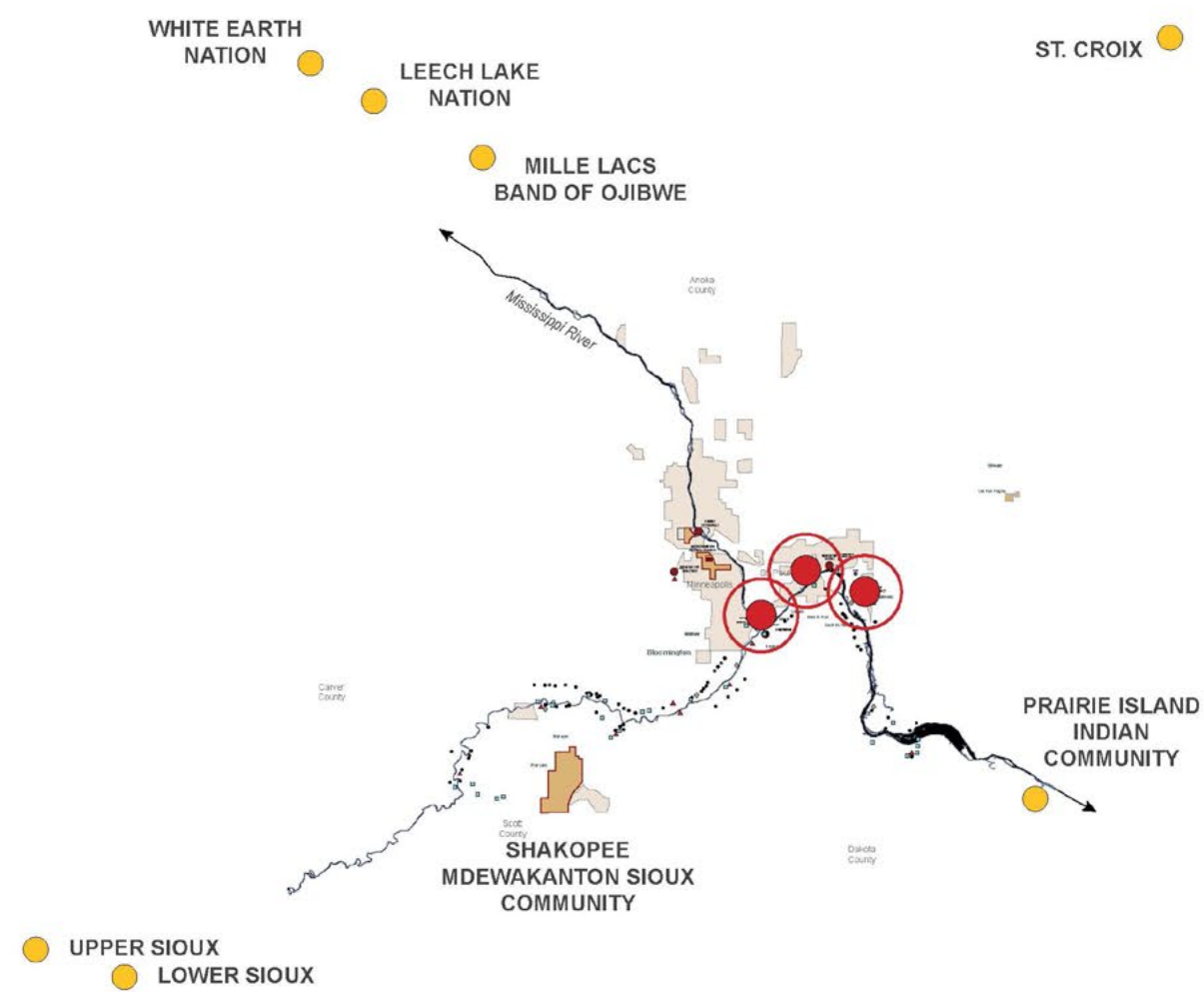


## KEY TAKE-AWAYS

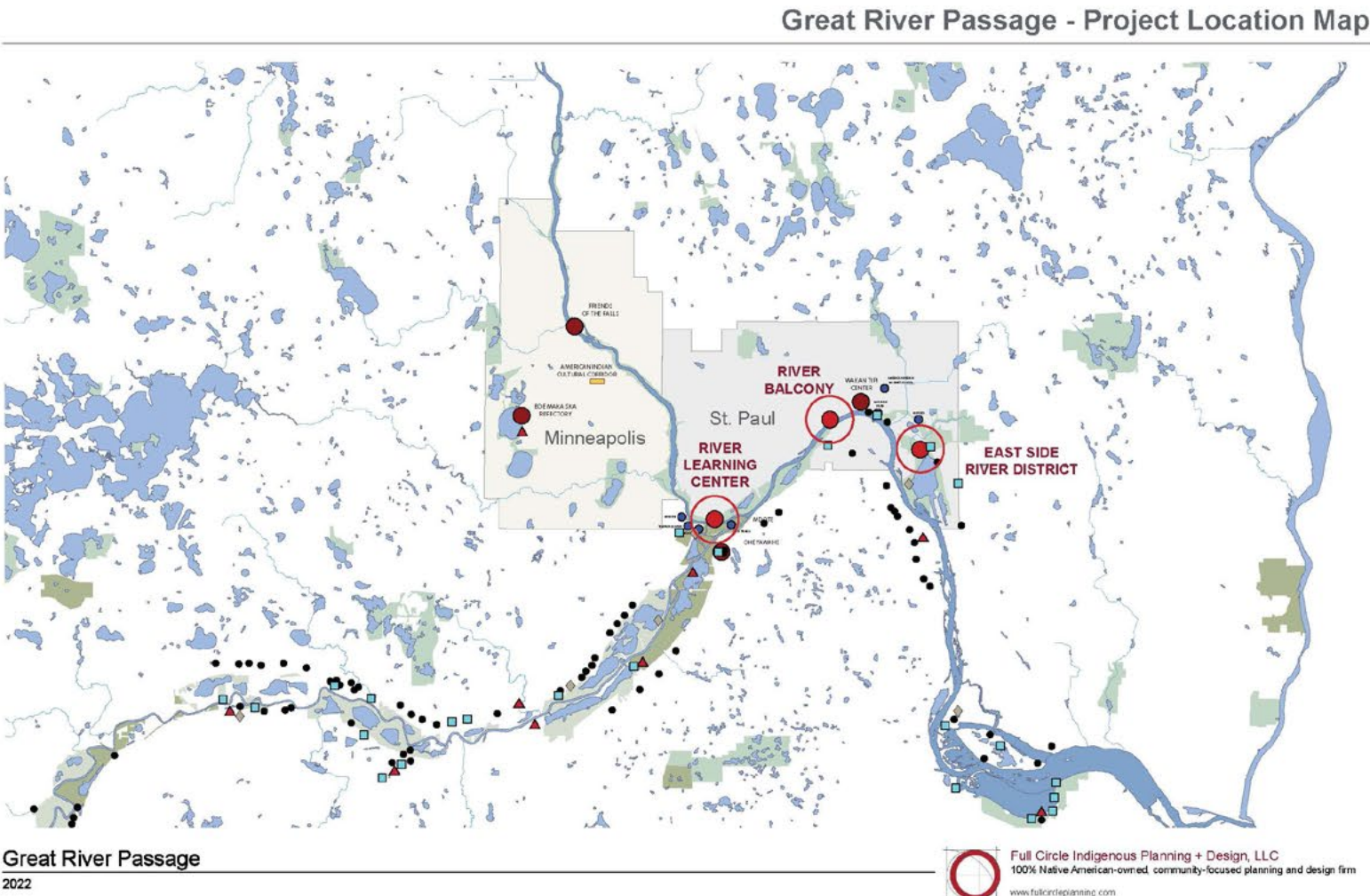
- Community members looking to feel safe and welcome in this space
- General support and excitement for the River Balcony project and design concepts
- Address Shepard Road and railroad as current barrier to the river
- Increase opportunities for activation and programming
- Reinforce City's equity goals
- Show how the River Balcony ties into and strengthens the City's open space, trail, and bike networks
- Provide opportunities for and access to nature and integrate natural materials and elements
- Ensure authentic engagement with historically under-represented populations including Dakota, Hmong, Somali, African American, and Latin/Hispanic communities
- See the diverse and complex history of the neighborhood reflected in programming through cultural events, BIPOC vendors, and permanent public art
- Stakeholders and partners expressed the need to provide a better connection between downtown and the Mississippi River



# DAKOTA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE



Regional Tribal Communities

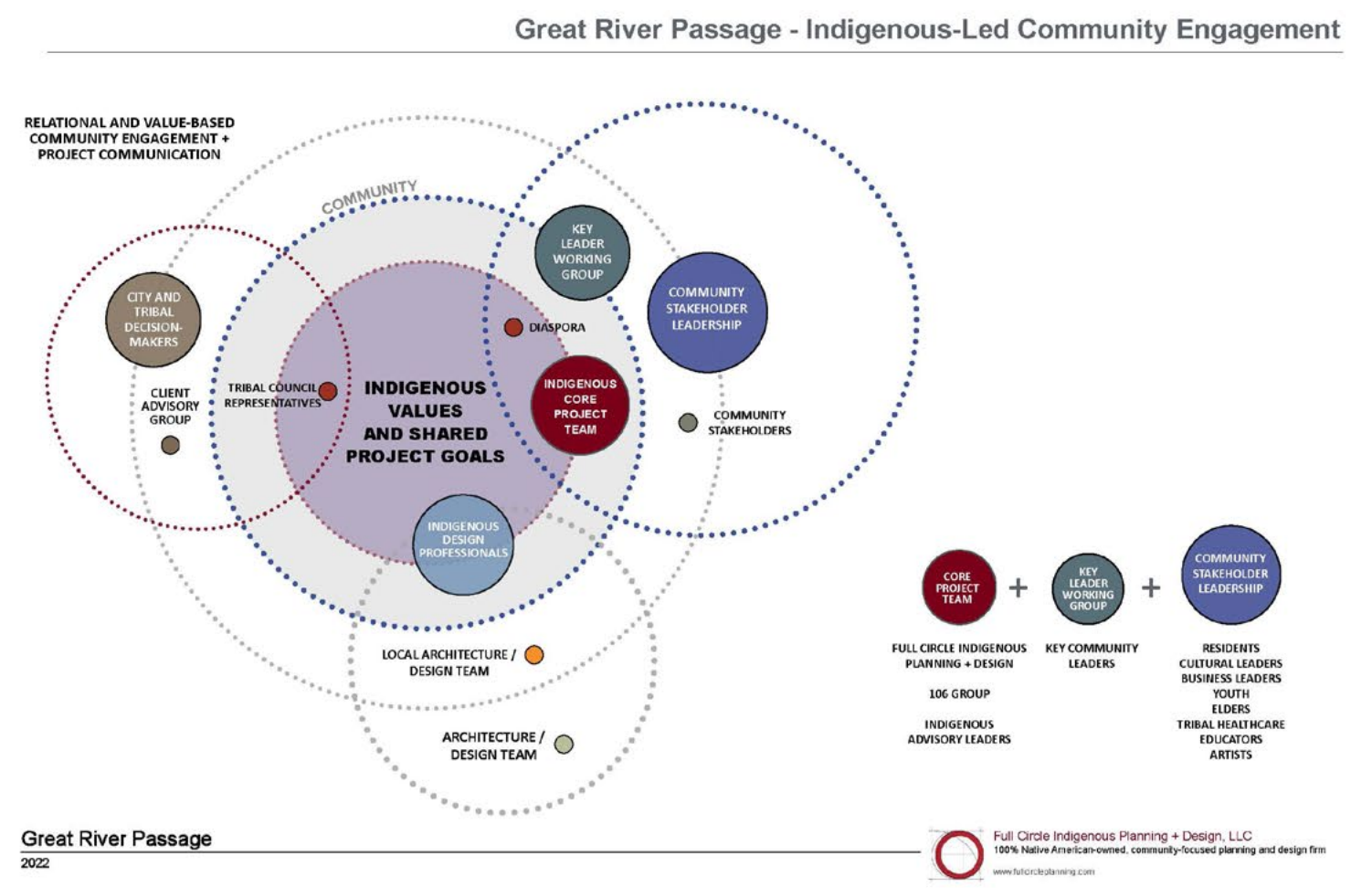
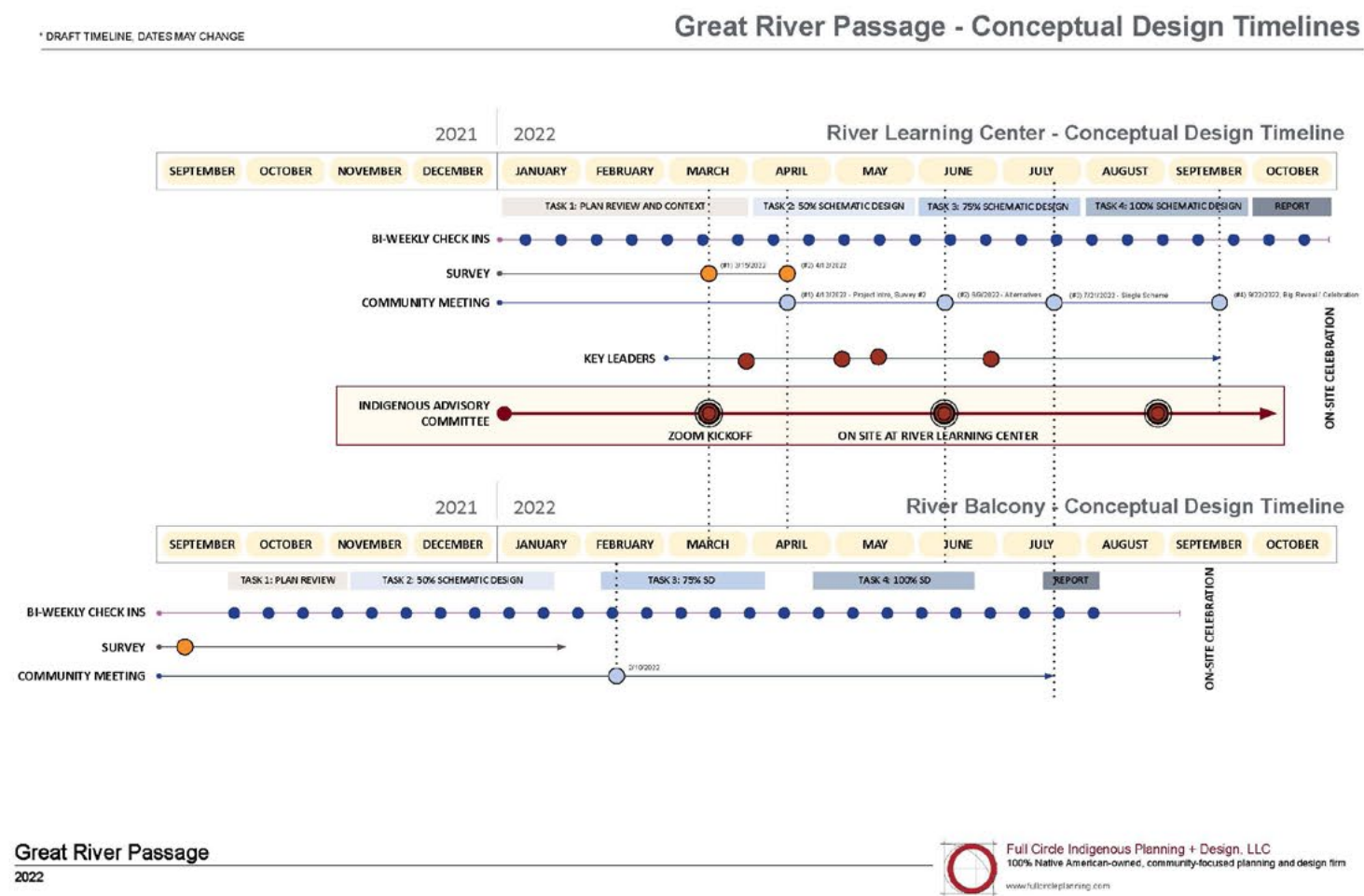


Great River Passage  
2022

Full Circle Indigenous Planning + Design, LLC  
100% Native American-owned, community-focused planning and design firm  
www.fullcircleplanning.com



# DAKOTA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE





# DAKOTA ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

## Great River Passage - Partial List of Invited Indigenous Community Leadership





# INSPIRATIONS & THEMES

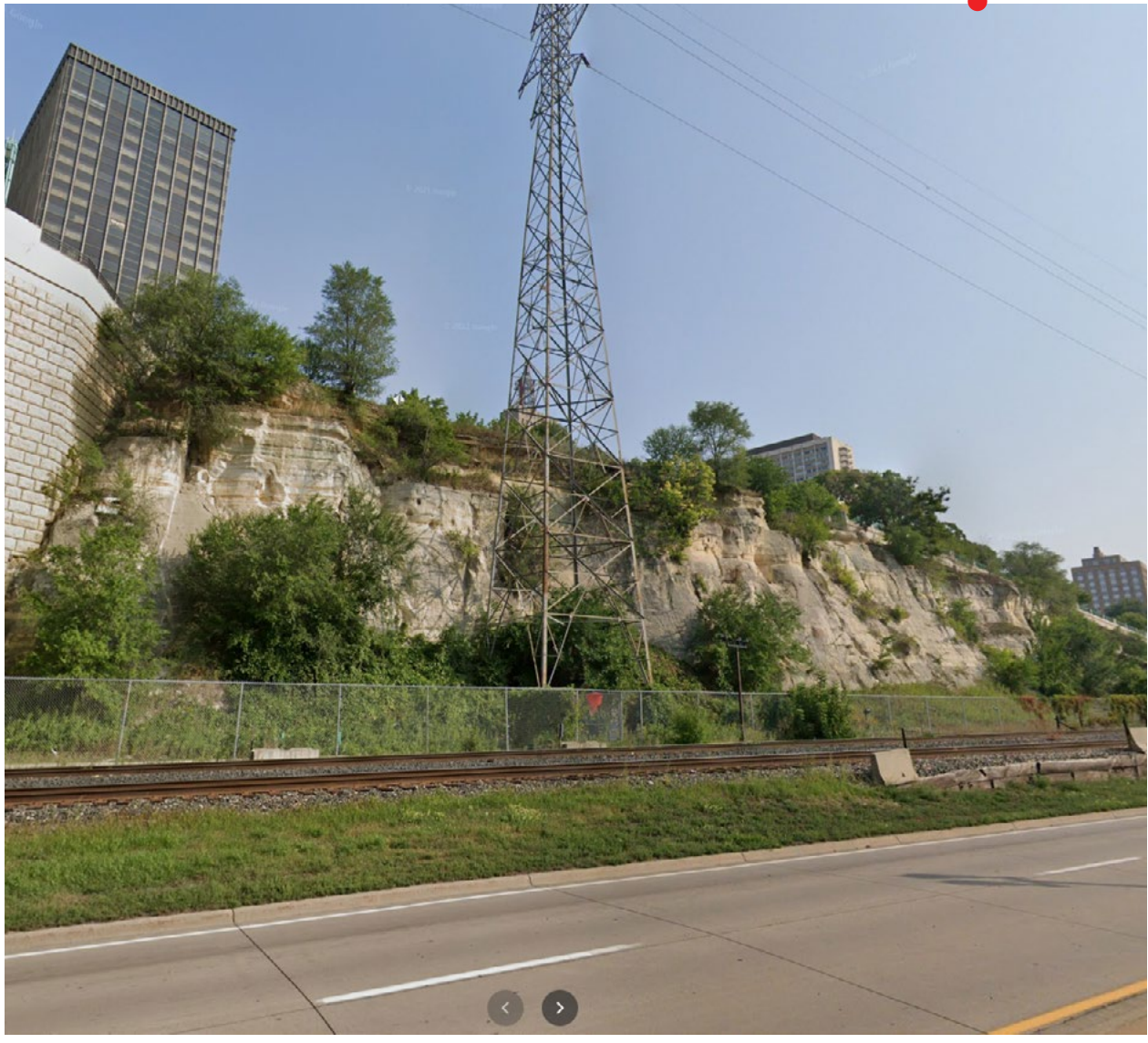
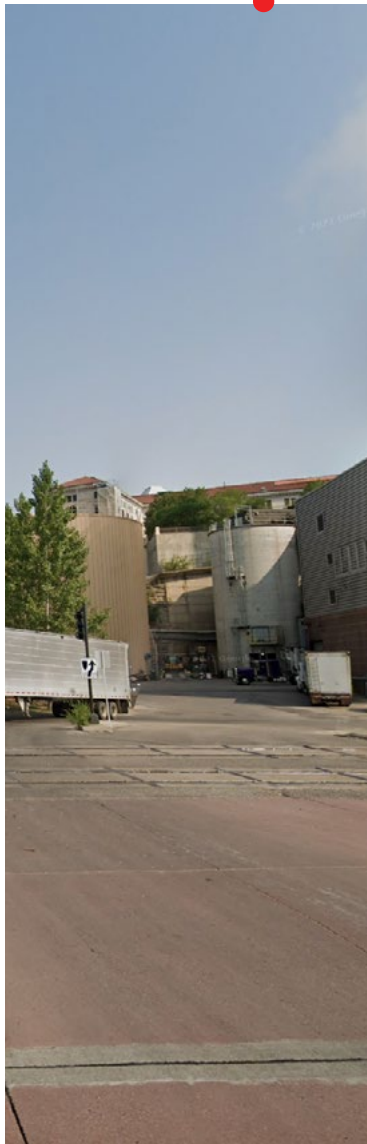
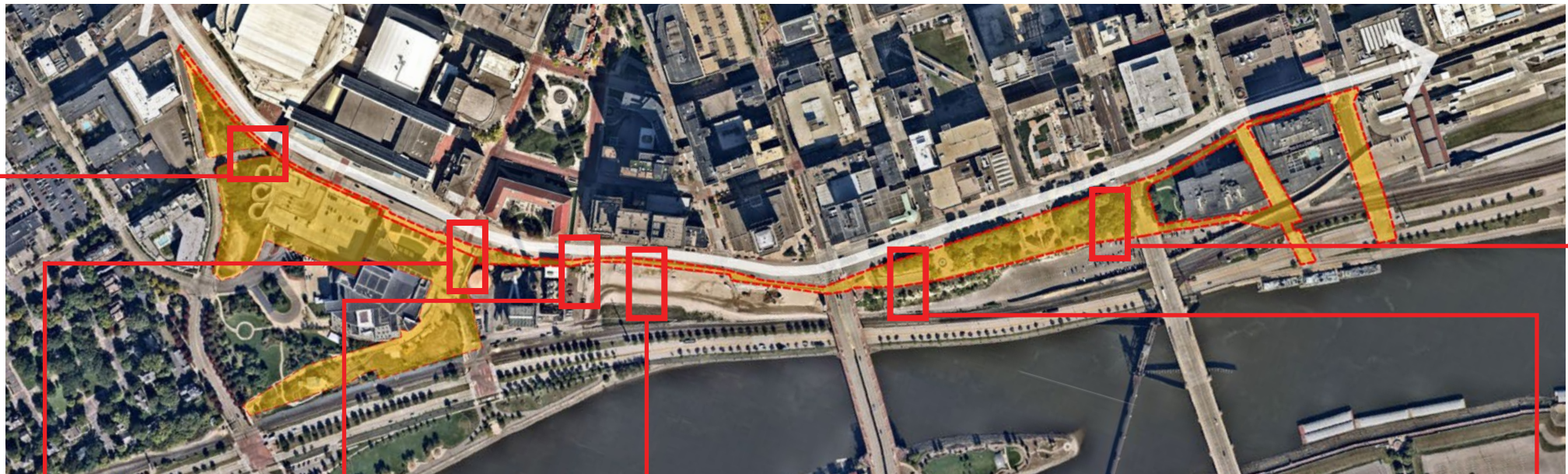


THE 2 NATURES



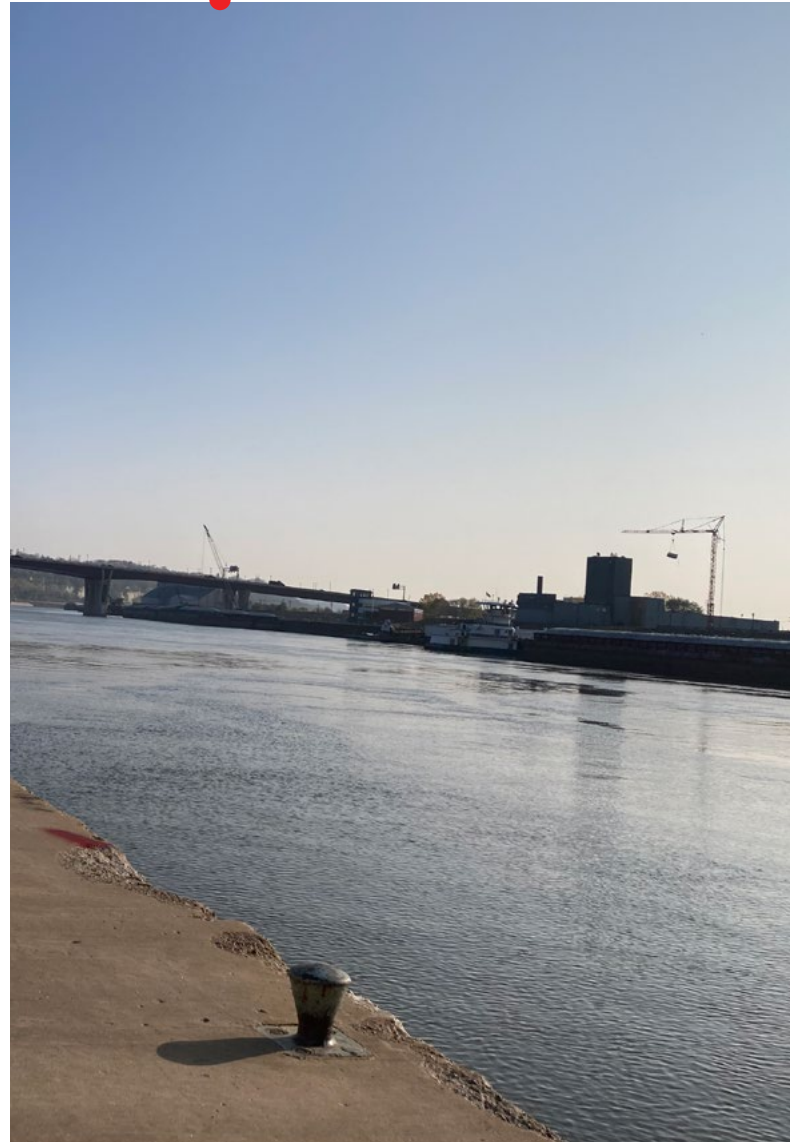


# THE BLUFF IN DOWNTOWN ST PAUL



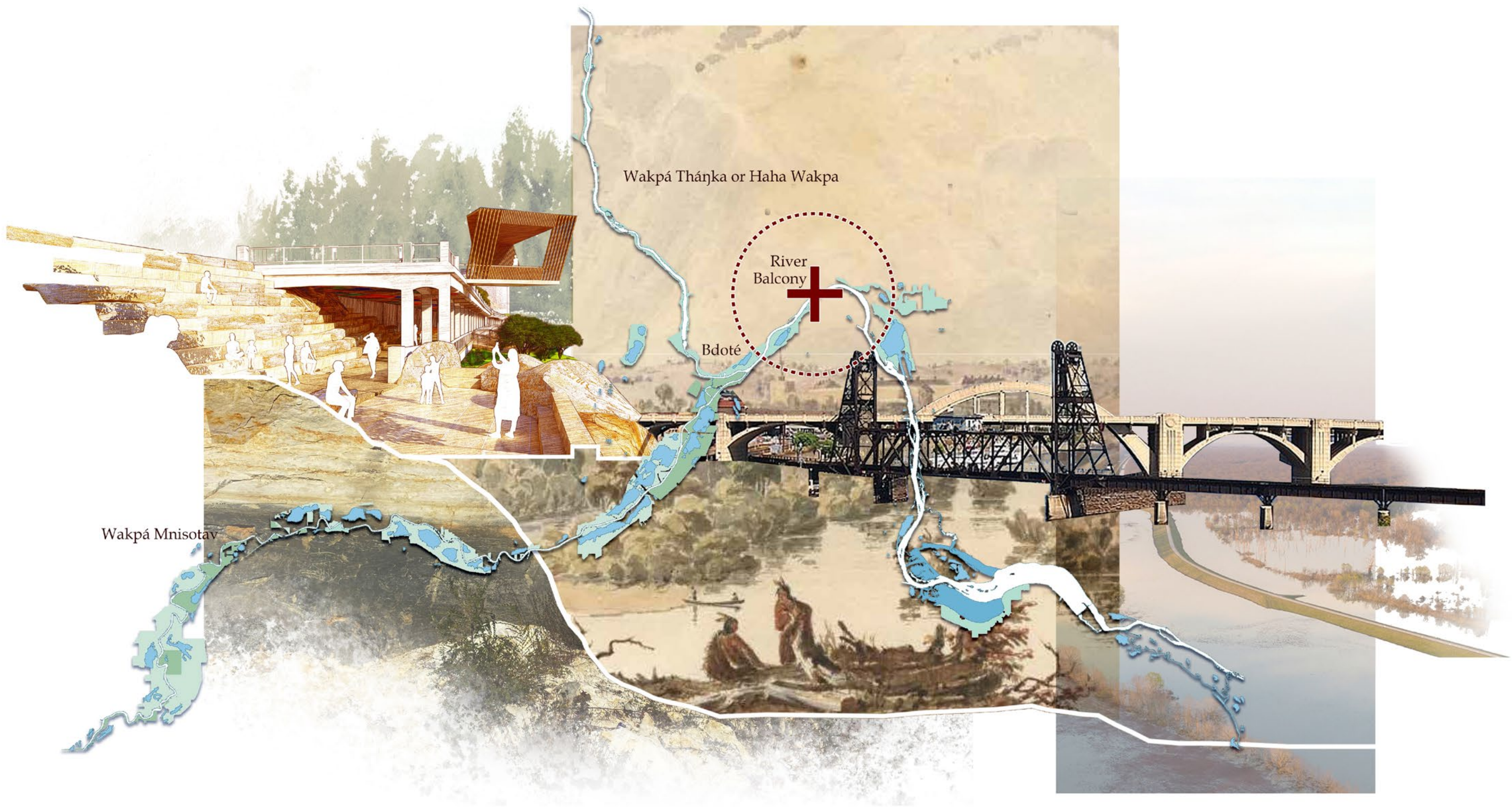


# THE MISSISSIPPI IN DOWNTOWN ST PAUL





A LAYERED SITE







**MISSISSIPPI**



**RIVER LORE**



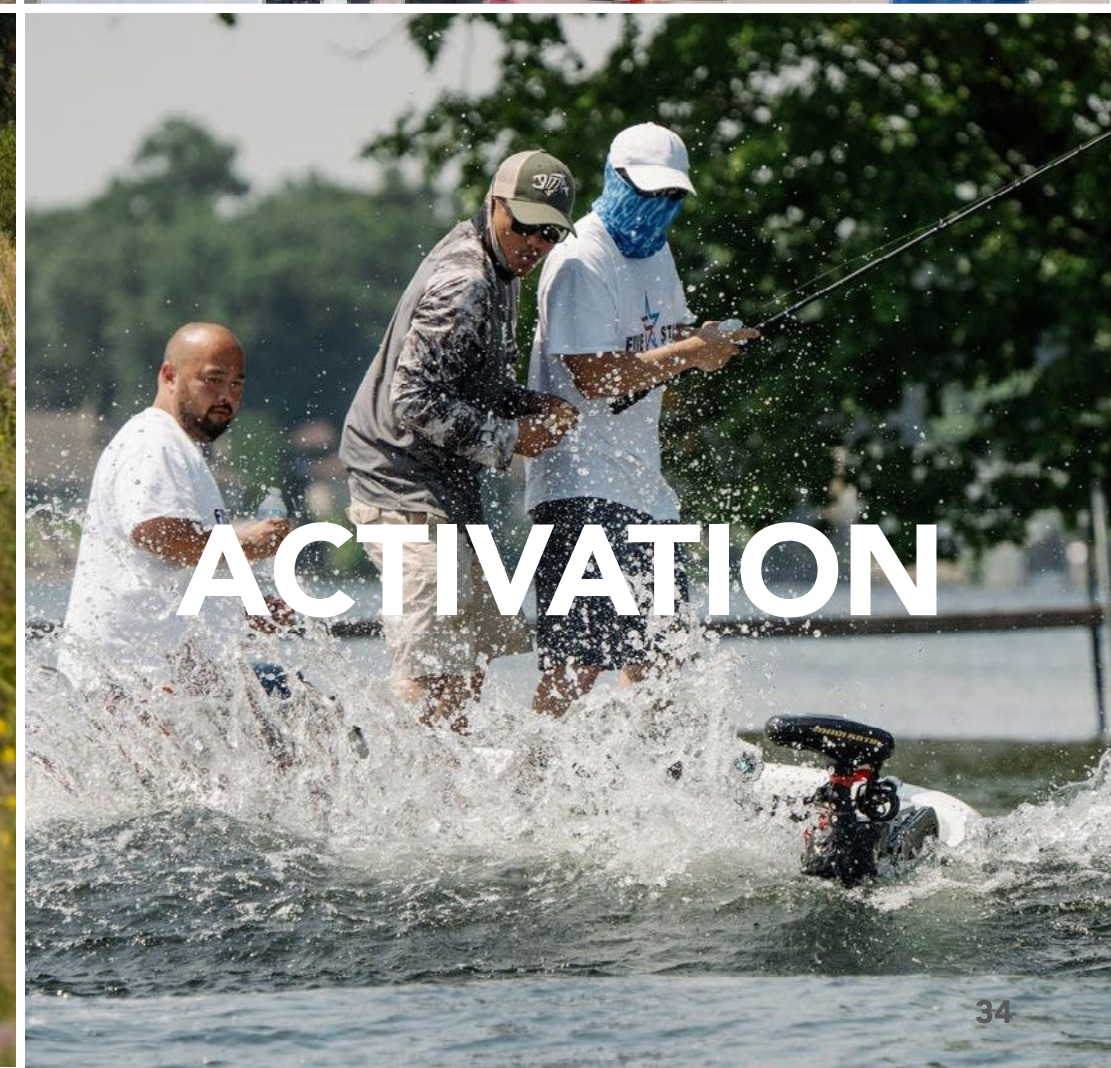
**COMMUNITY**



**BLUFF**



**ECOREGIONS**



**ACTIVATION**



# PROJECT PRINCIPLES

- Build on what is already here
- Establish critical connections
- Create discrete and distinctive elements
- Prolong and extend the stay
- Foster programmatic extensions and synergies
- Cultivate connection to place and a sense of belonging
- Build excitement and activate through interim use
- Meet the needs of local communities and residents and attract the larger St. Paul community



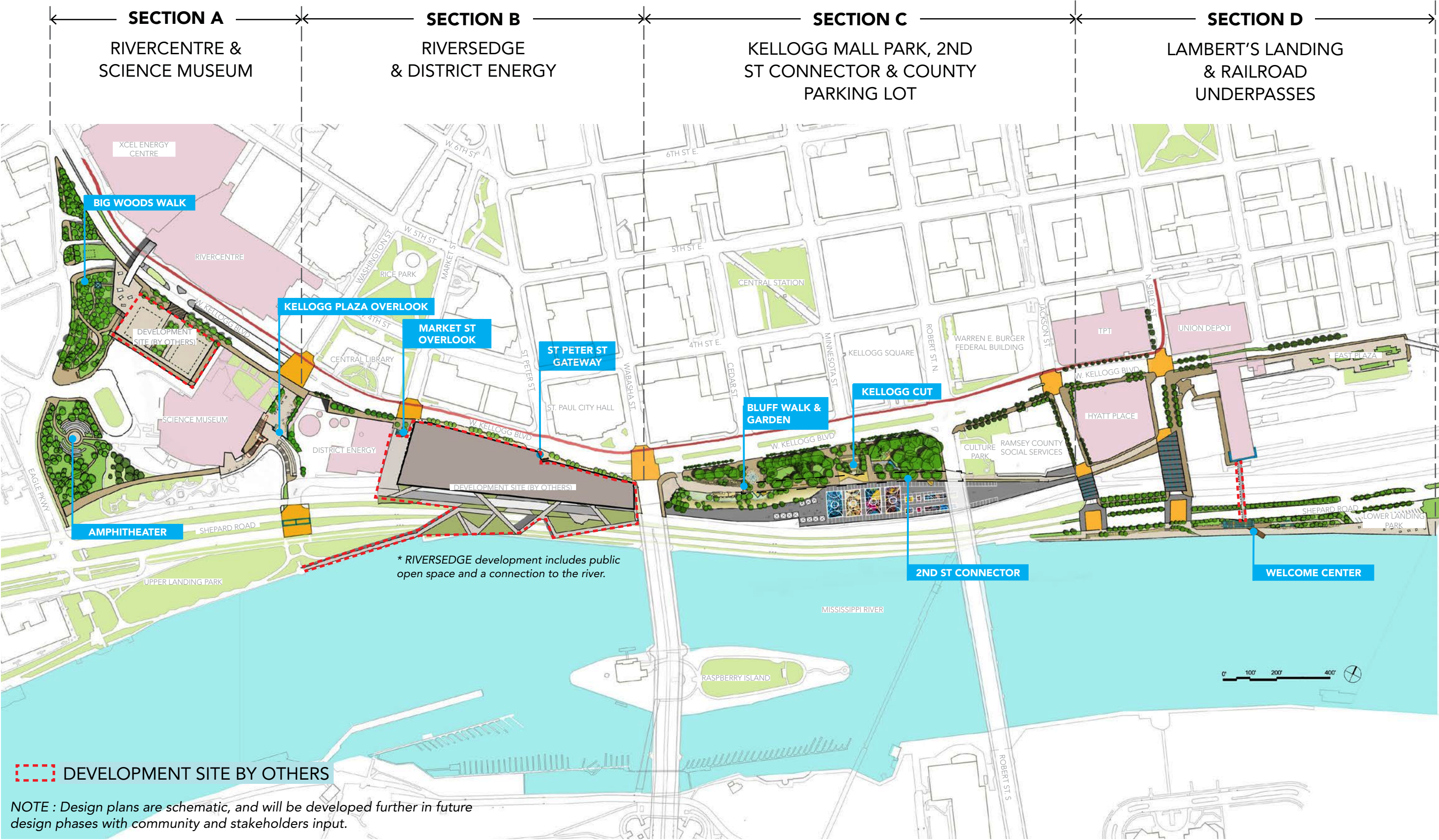
# TRANSFORMATIVE POTENTIAL OF THE RIVER BALCONY

- **ACCESS:** increase, enhance and strengthen access to the river
- **ACTIVATION:** activate the downtown and riverfront
- **ARMATURE:** connect civic landmarks, public spaces, trails, and development

- **IDENTITY & RIVER LORE:**  
tell stories, develop and expand St. Paul's narrative around the river and bring the river to the center of public life



# OVERALL SITE PLAN

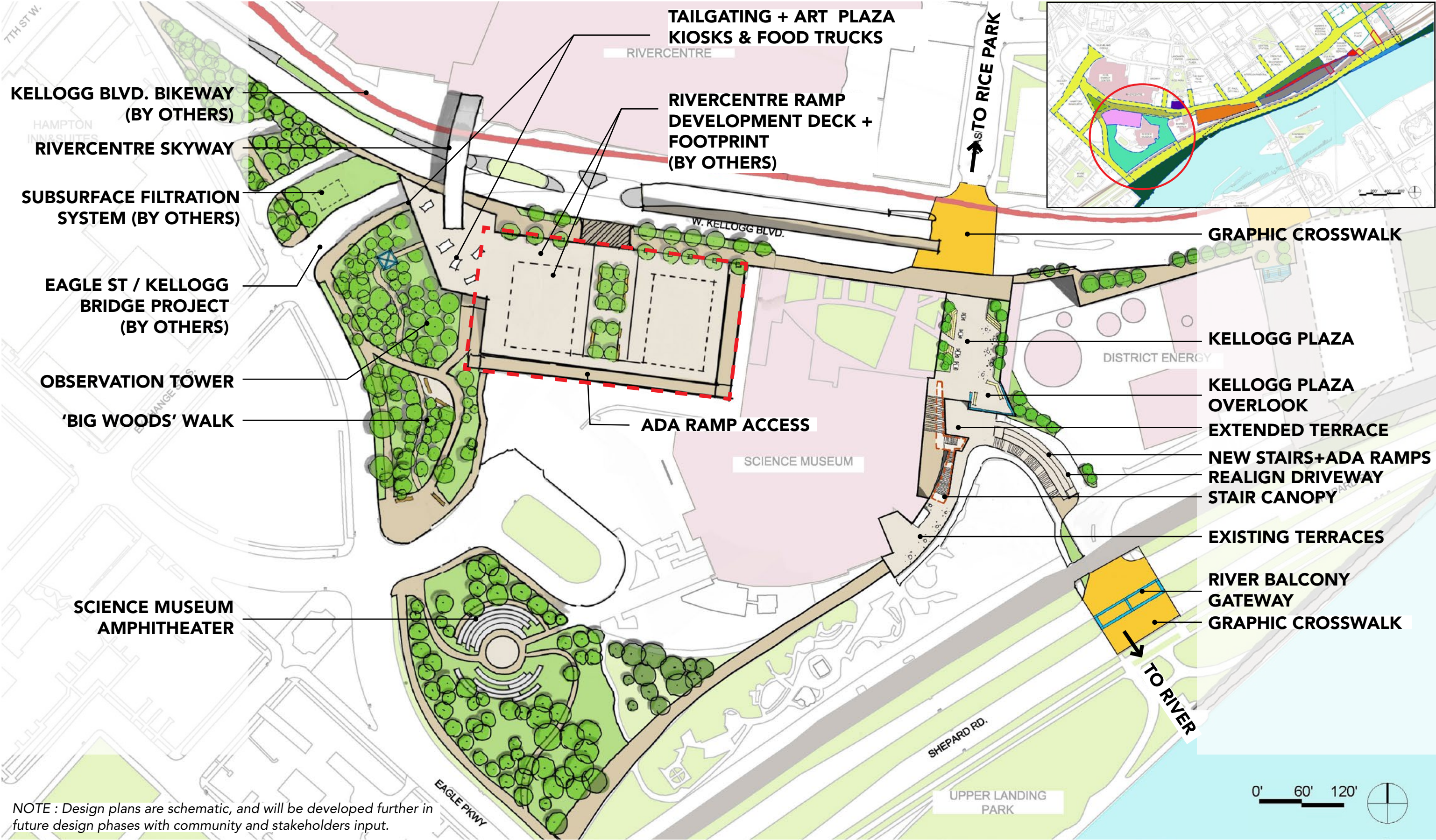




# RIVER BALCONY SECTIONS

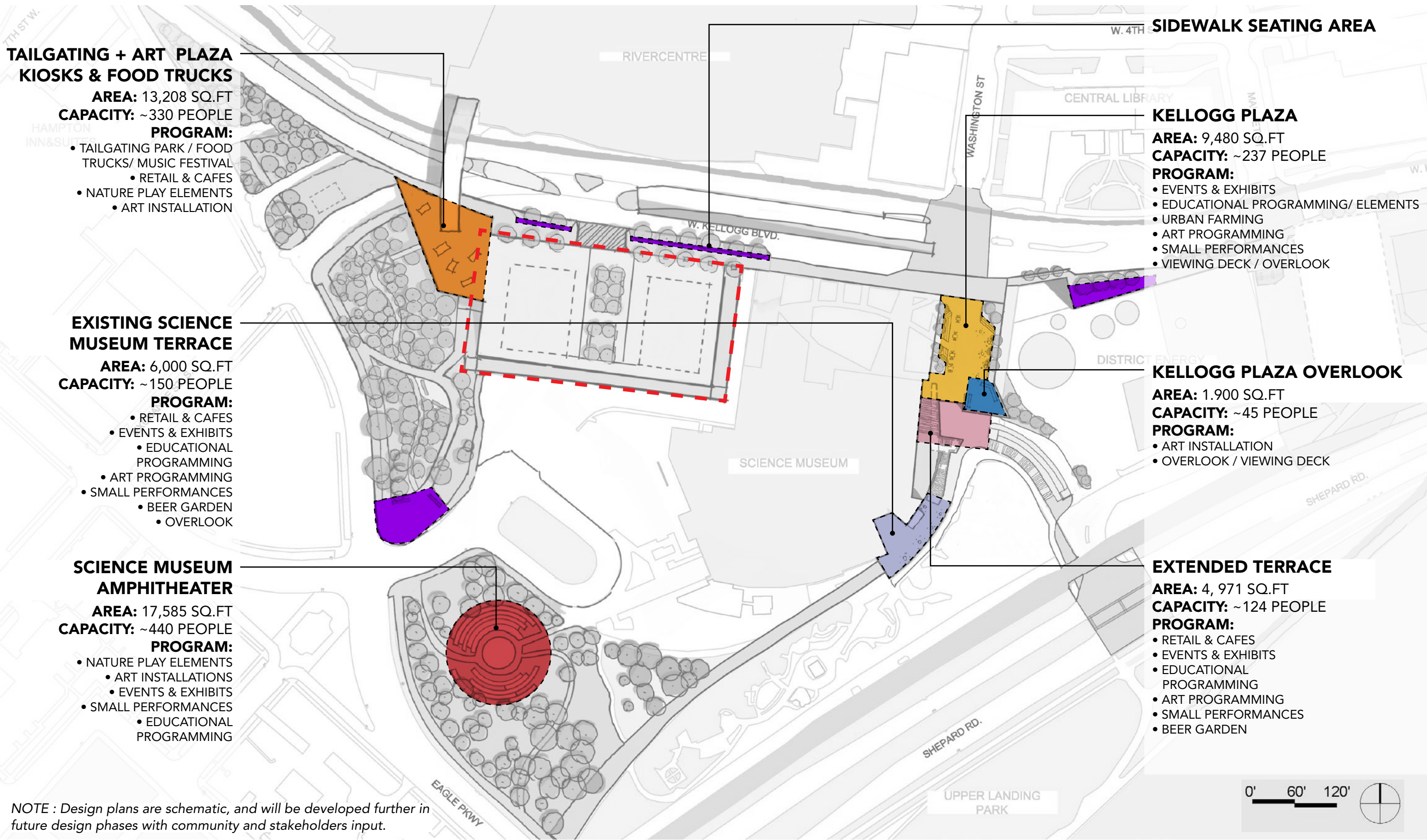


# SITE PLAN



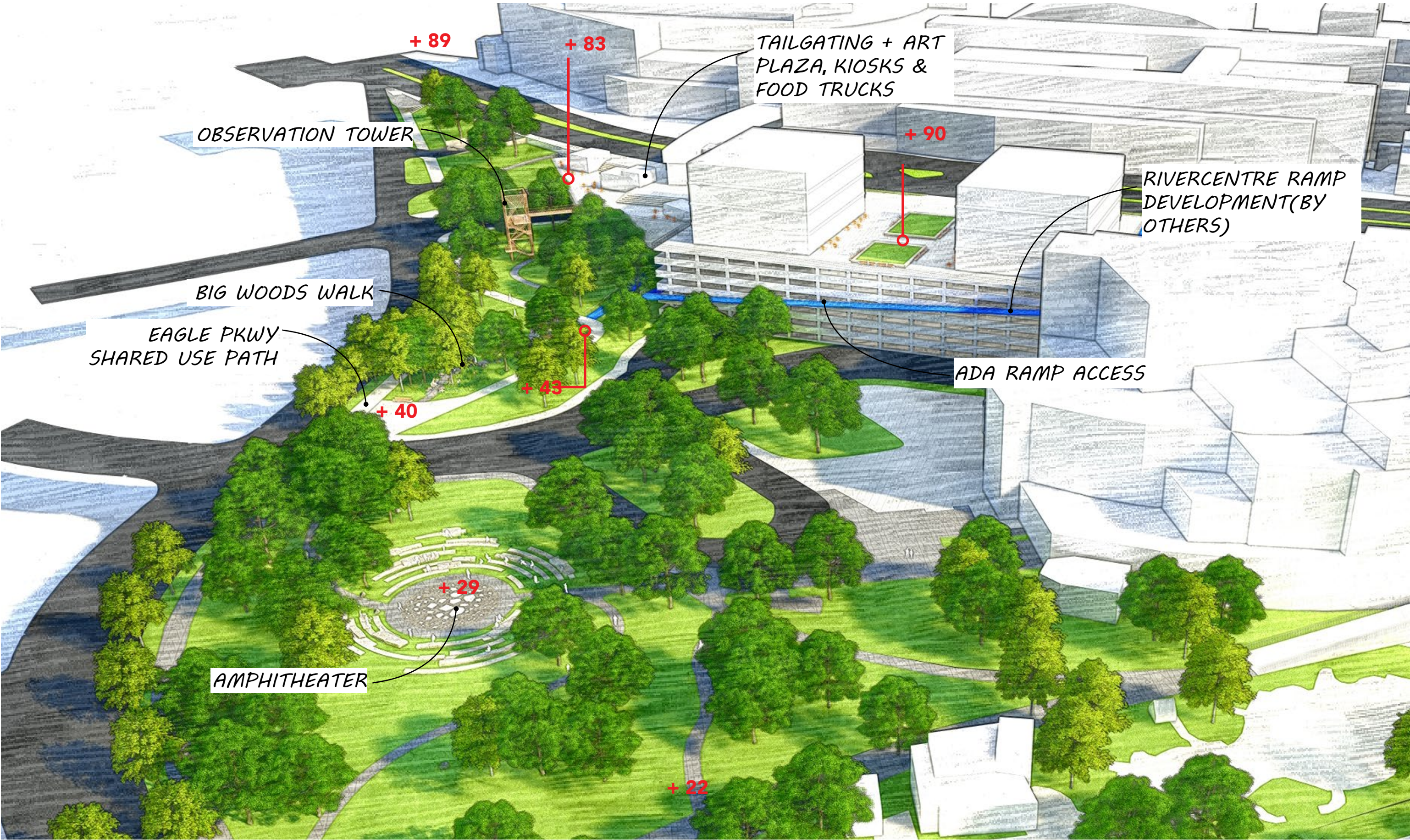


# PROGRAM DIAGRAM





# BIG WOODS WALK & AMPHITHEATER





VIEW FROM OBSERVATION TOWER





# BIG WOODS WALK



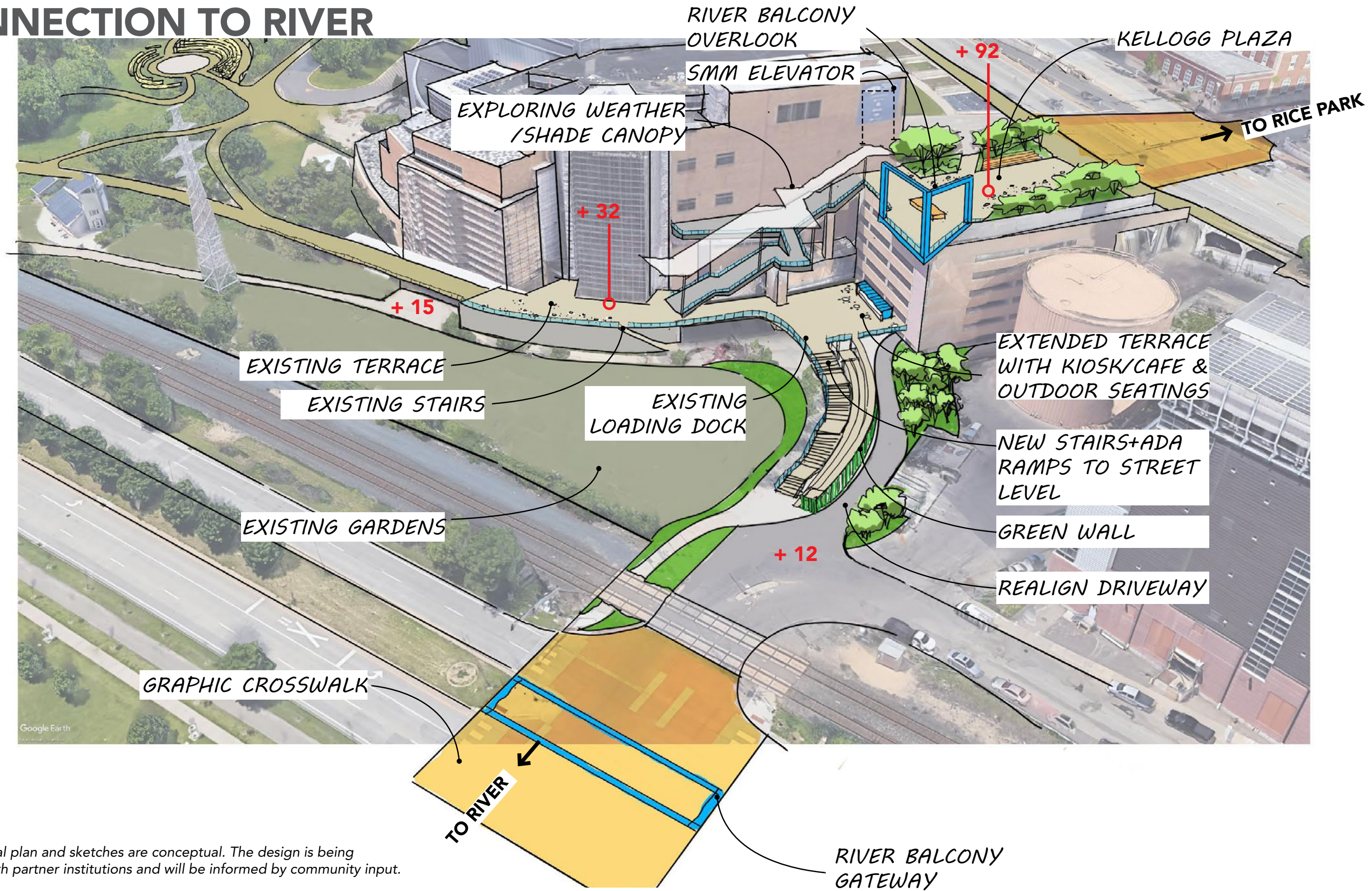


# SMM AMPHITHEATER





# PROPOSED SCIENCE MUSEUM CONNECTION TO RIVER



NOTE : Initial plan and sketches are conceptual. The design is being explored with partner institutions and will be informed by community input.

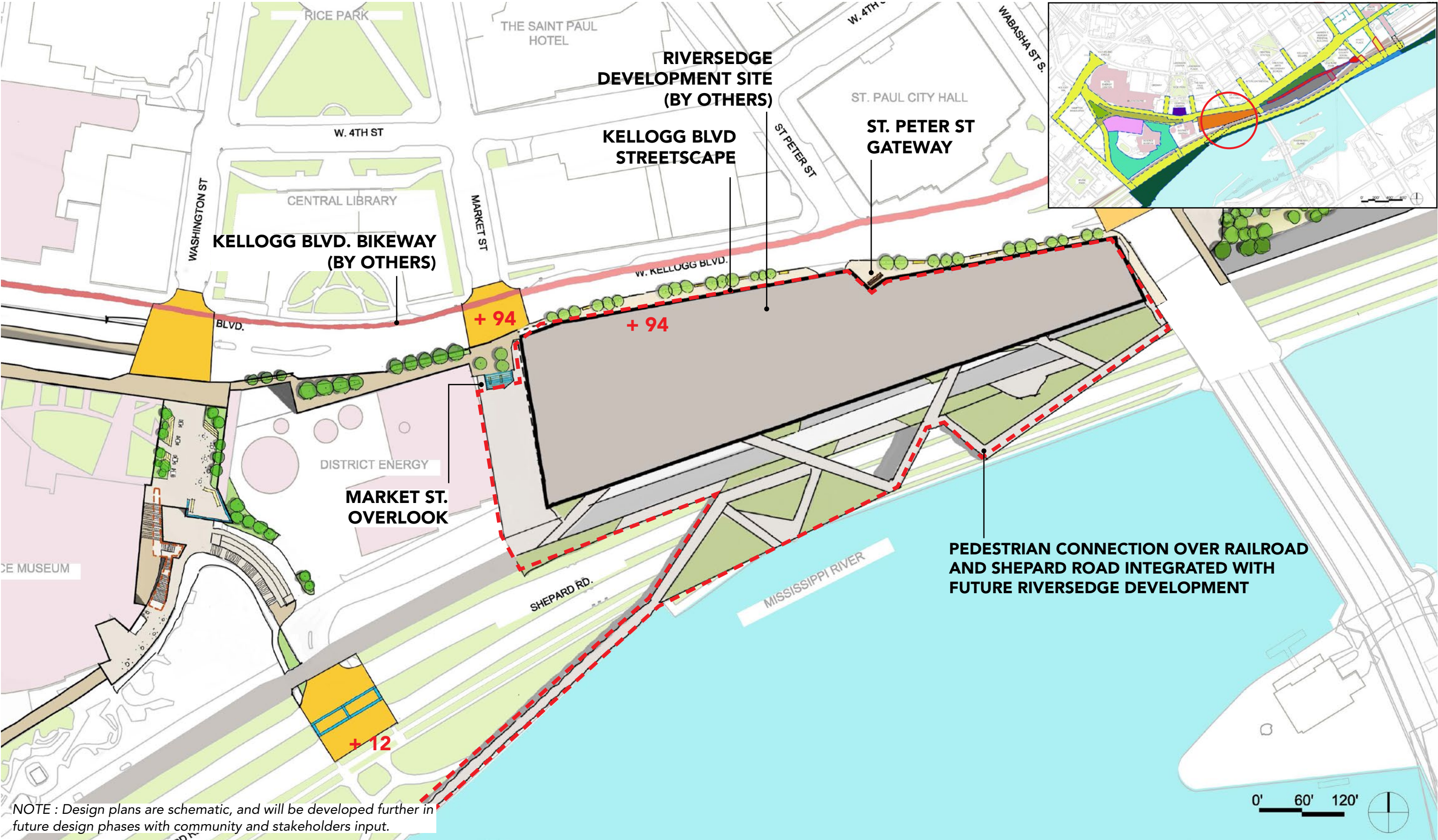


# KELLOGG PLAZA OVERLOOK



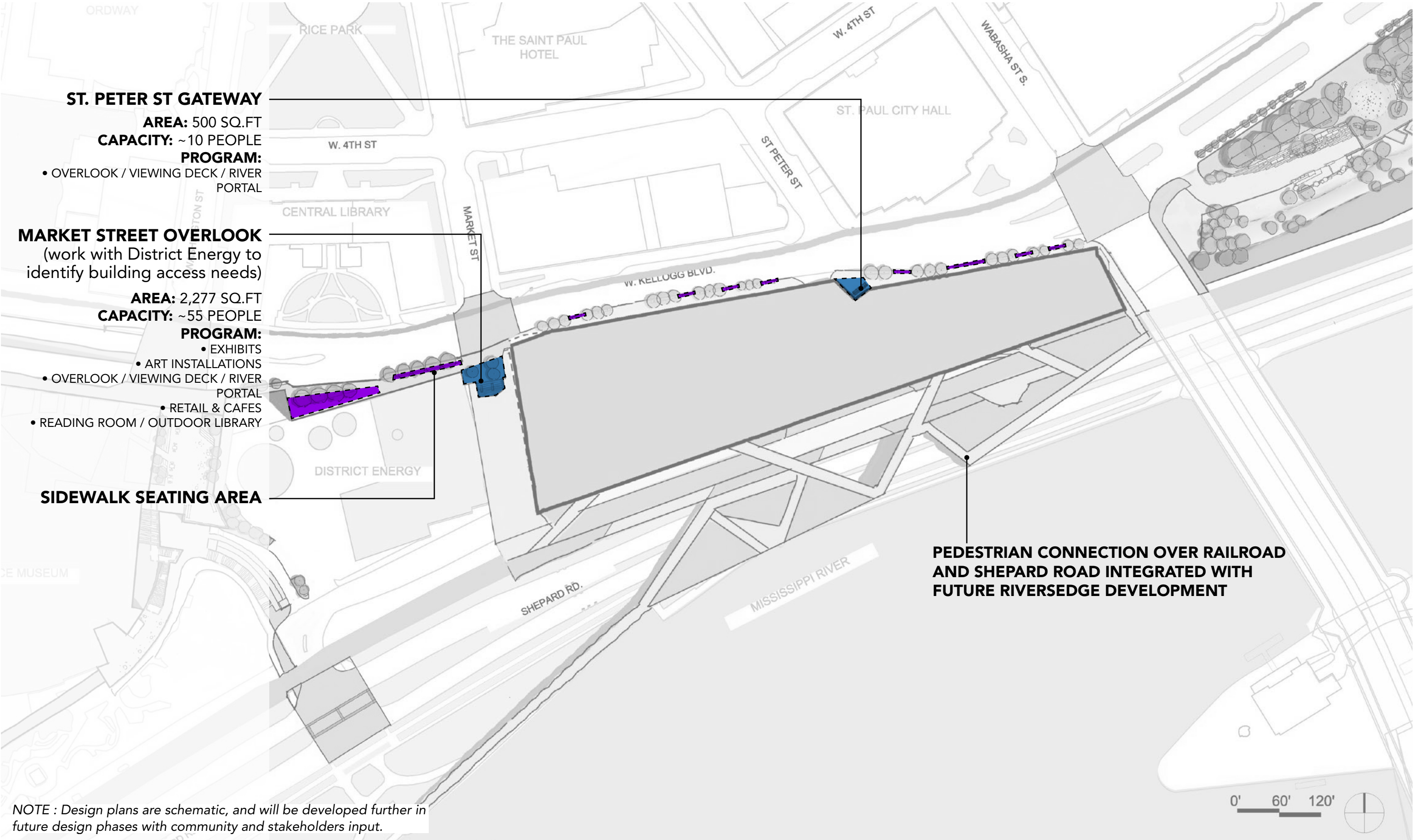


# SITE PLAN





# PROGRAM DIAGRAM





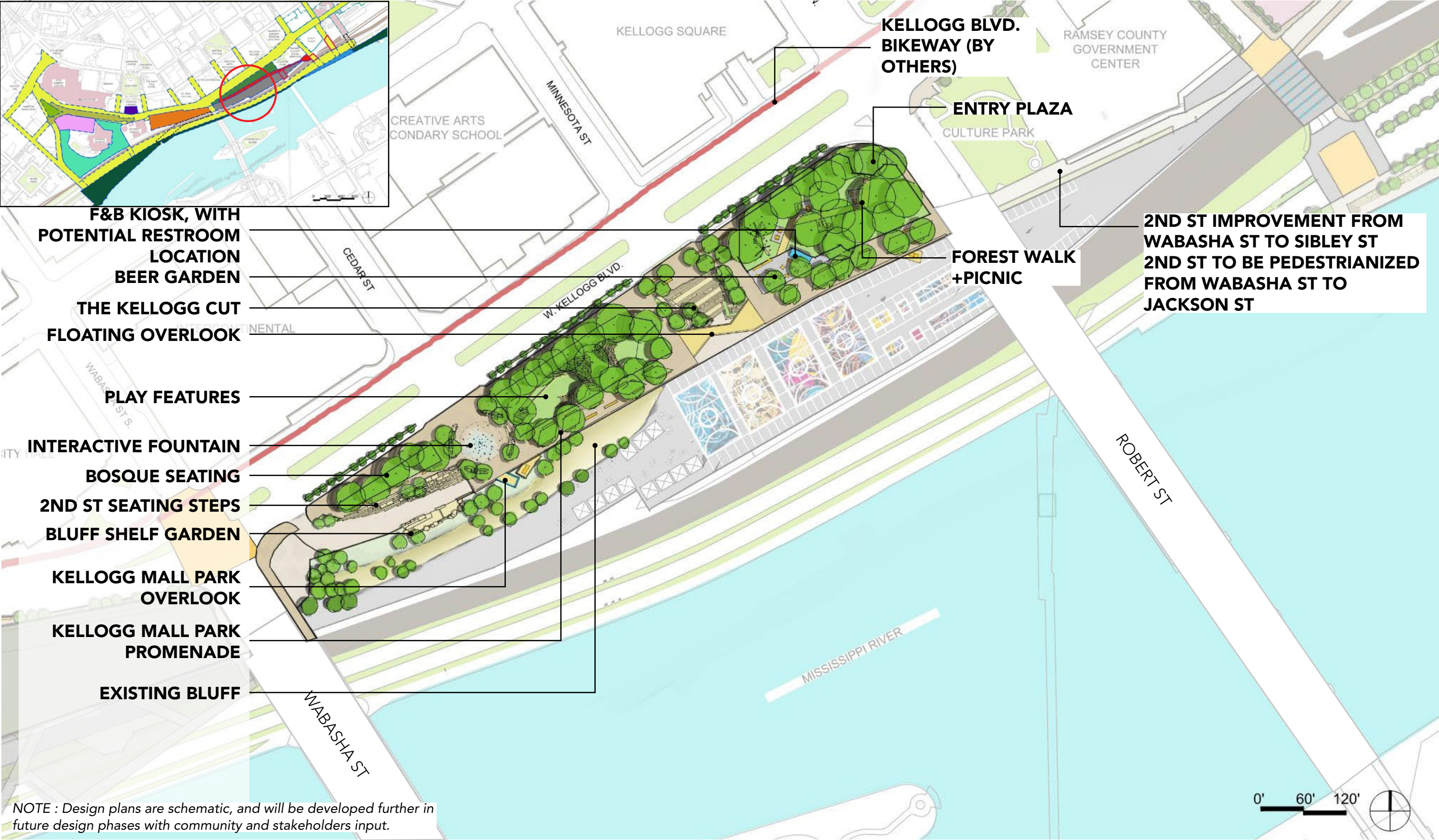
# MARKET ST. OVERLOOK





# SITE PLAN

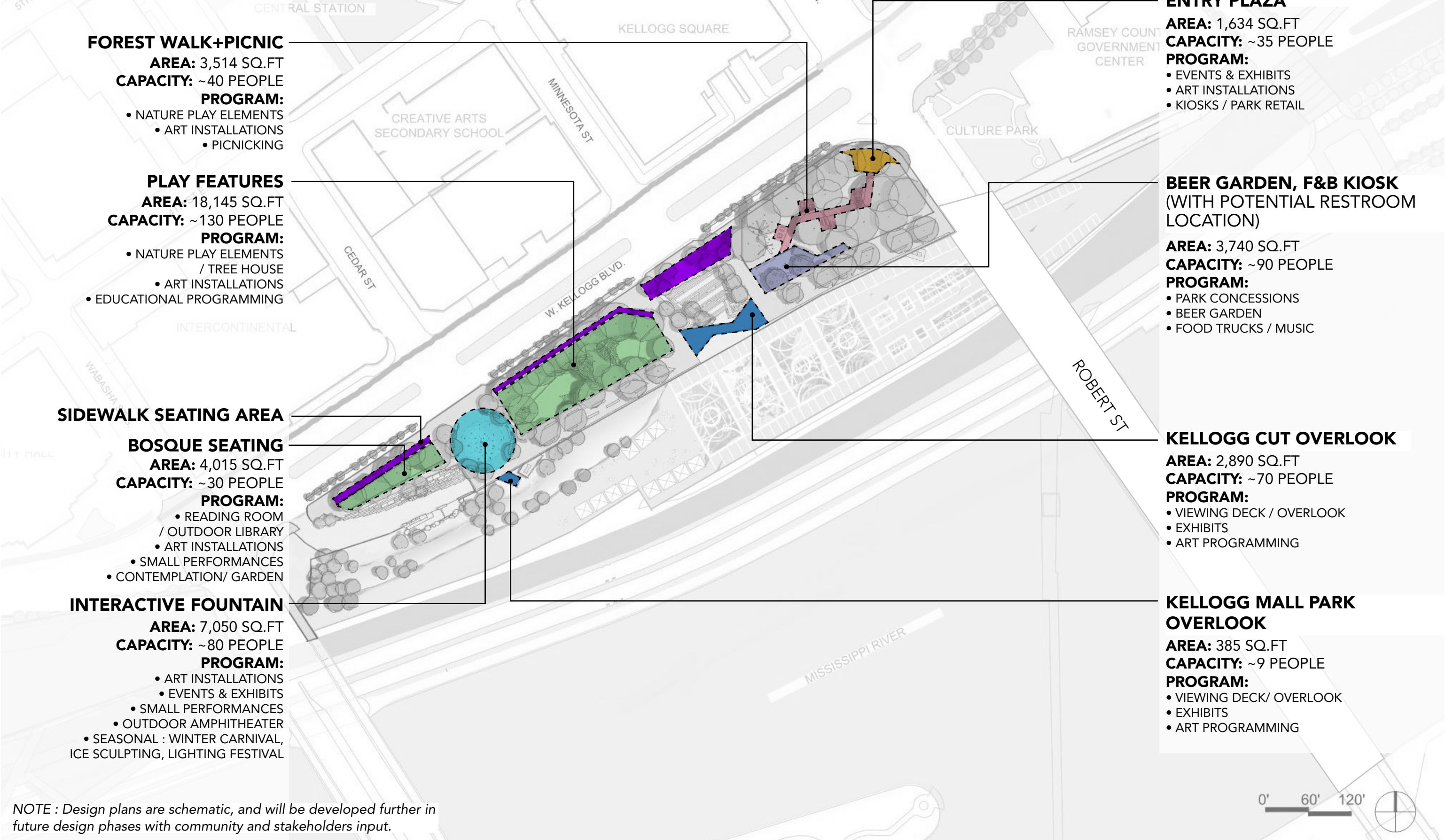
## KELLOGG MALL PARK (PARK UPPER LEVEL)





# PROGRAM DIAGRAM

## KELLOGG MALL PARK (PARK UPPER LEVEL)





BLUFF SEATING STEPS

INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN  
KELLOGG MALL PARK OVERLOOK

NATURE PLAY

2ND ST. CONNECTOR

KELLOGG CUT OVERLOOK

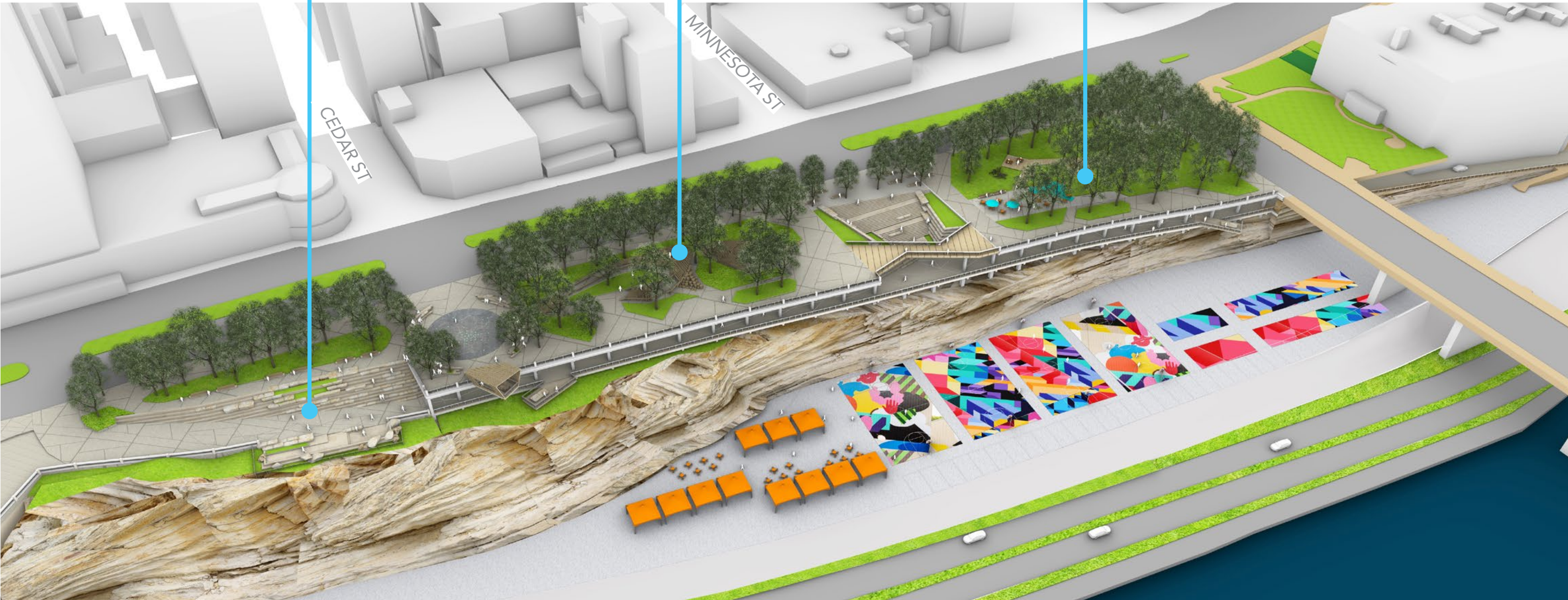
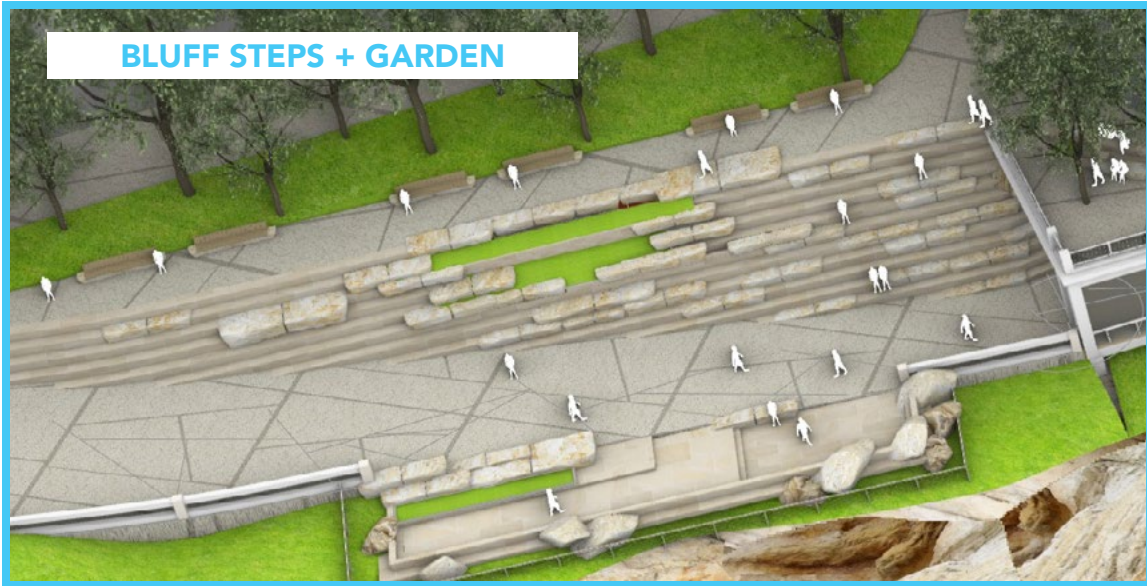
BEER GARDEN  
FOREST WALK & PICNIC

COUNTY PARKING LOT MARKET & COURTS

BLUFF GARDEN



# PARK FEATURES





# INTERACTIVE FOUNTAIN AT CEDAR ST





# KELLOGG CUT AT MINNESOTA ST





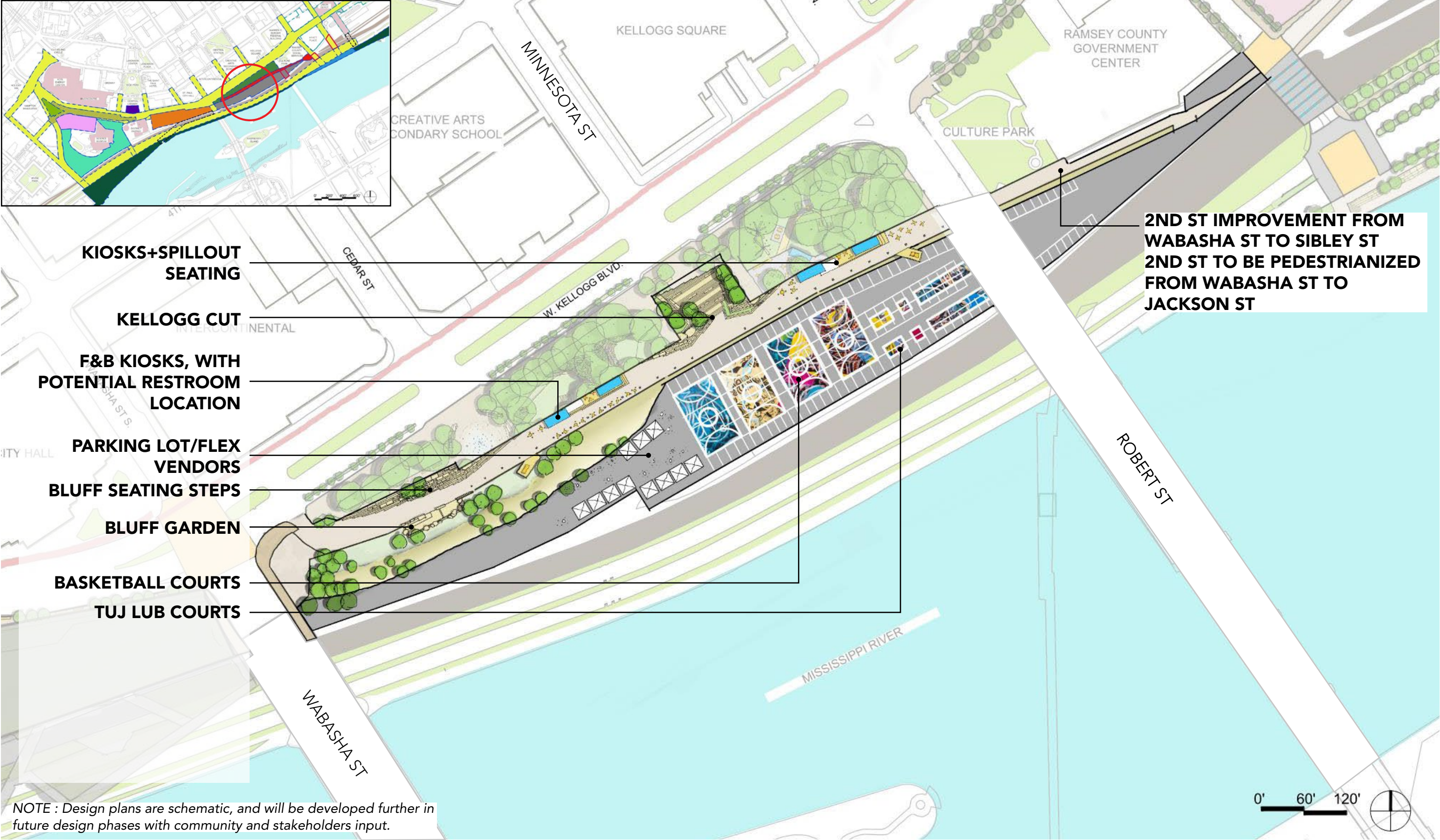
# FOREST WALK+PICNIC





# SITE PLAN

## 2ND STREET CONNECTOR & COUNTY PARKING LOT (PARK LOWER LEVEL)

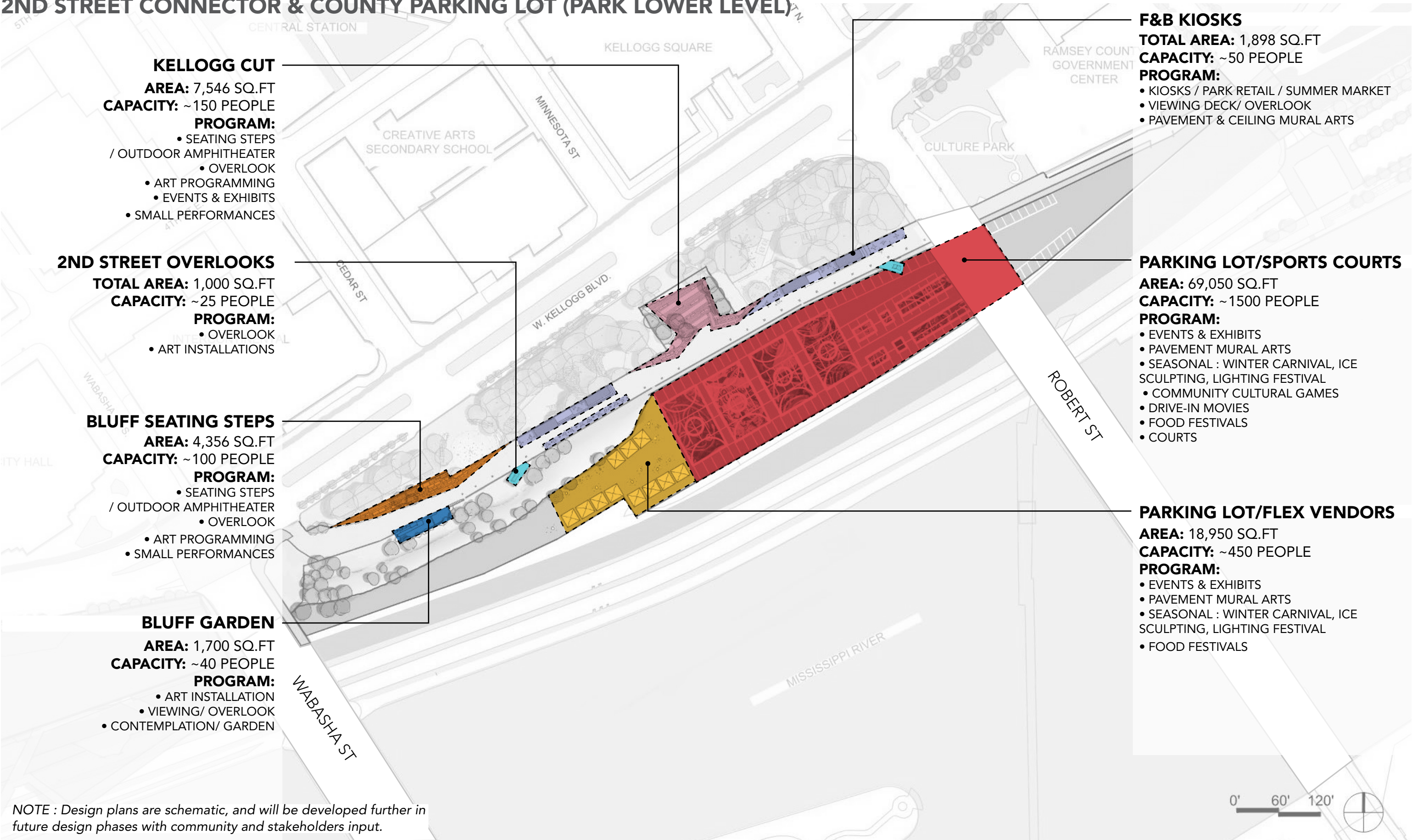




# PROGRAM DIAGRAM

## 2ND STREET CONNECTOR & COUNTY PARKING LOT (PARK LOWER LEVEL)<sup>TM</sup>

SECTION C: KELLOGG MALL PARK , 2ND ST CONNECTOR & COUNTY PARKING LOT



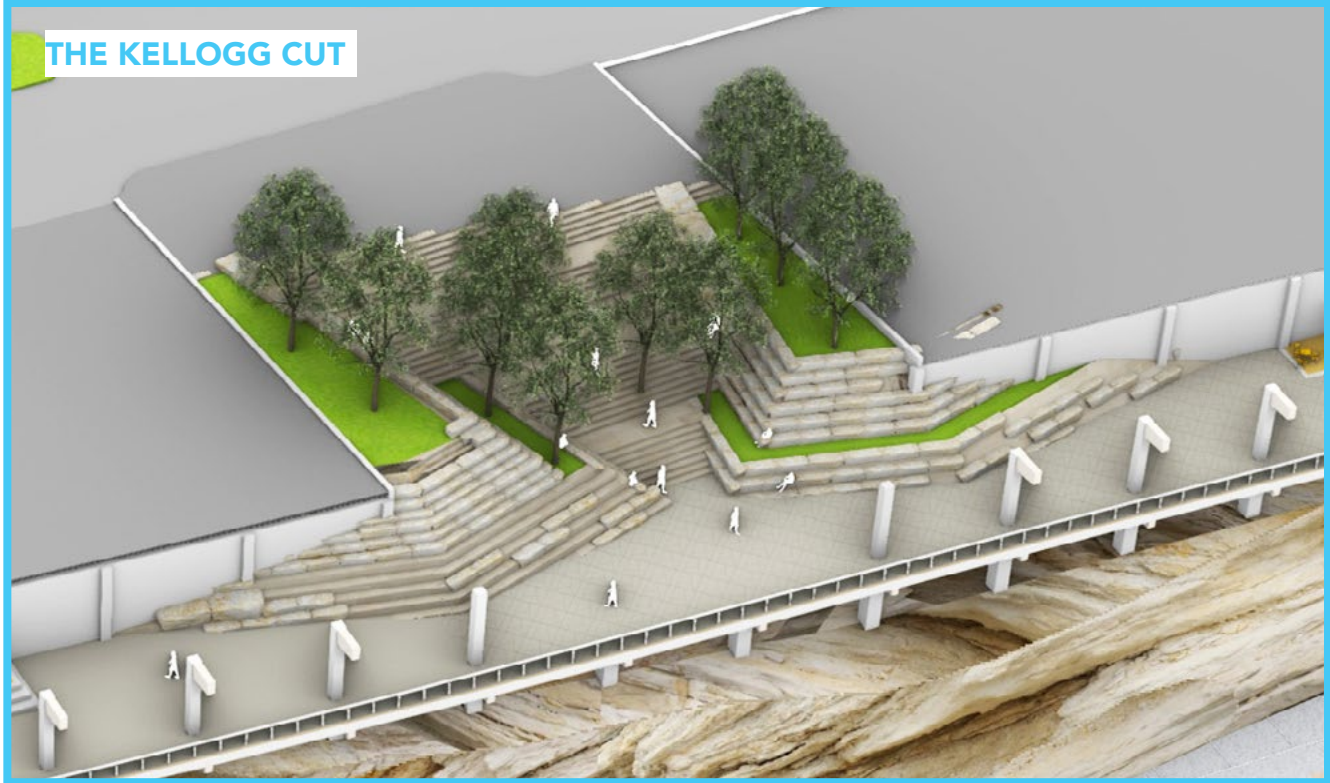


# 2ND ST CONNECTOR FEATURES

CONNECTOR CONCESSIONS & GARDEN OVERLOOK



THE KELLOGG CUT





# BLUFF WALK & GARDEN





# KELLOGG CUT @ E 2ND ST LEVEL



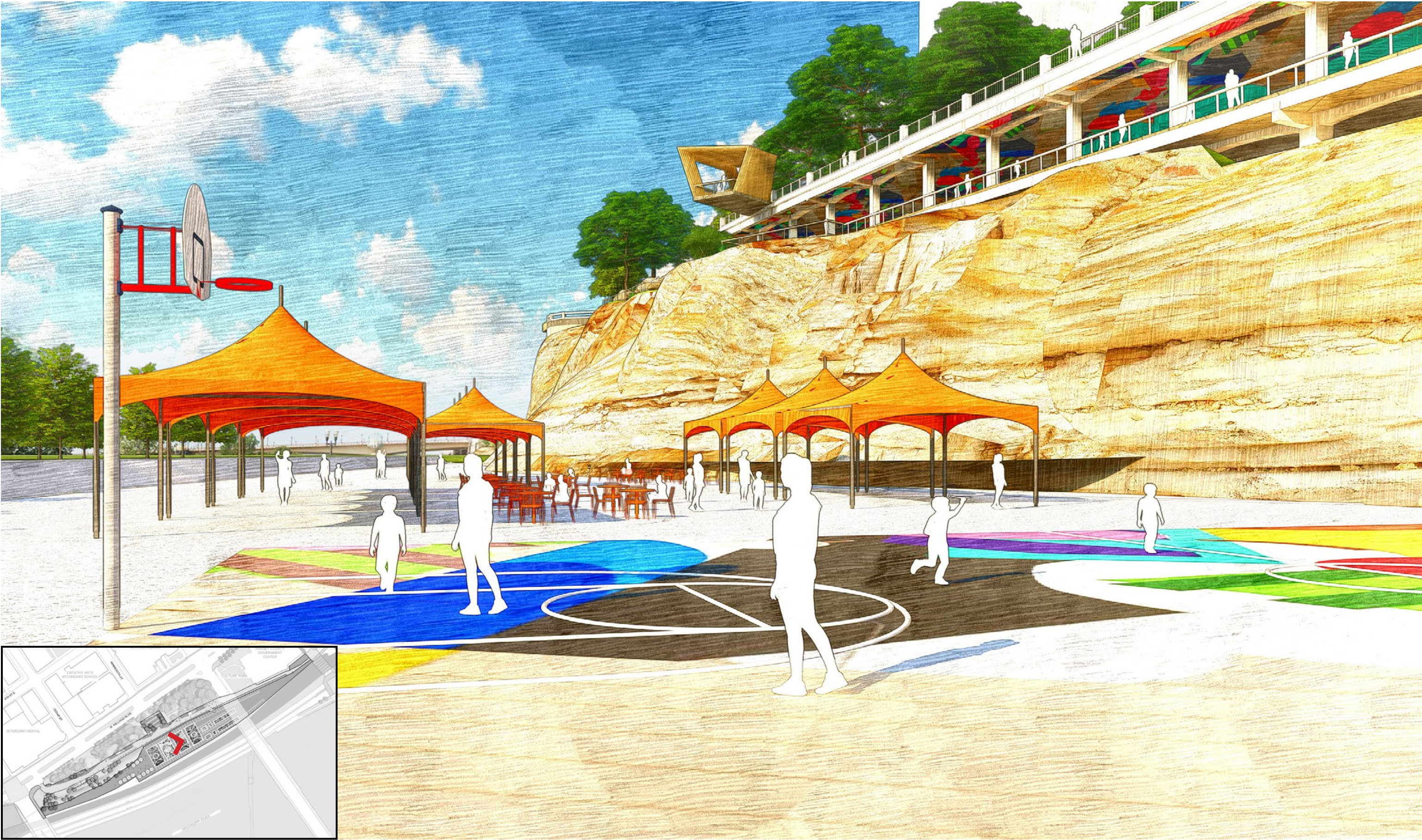


# THE CONNECTOR





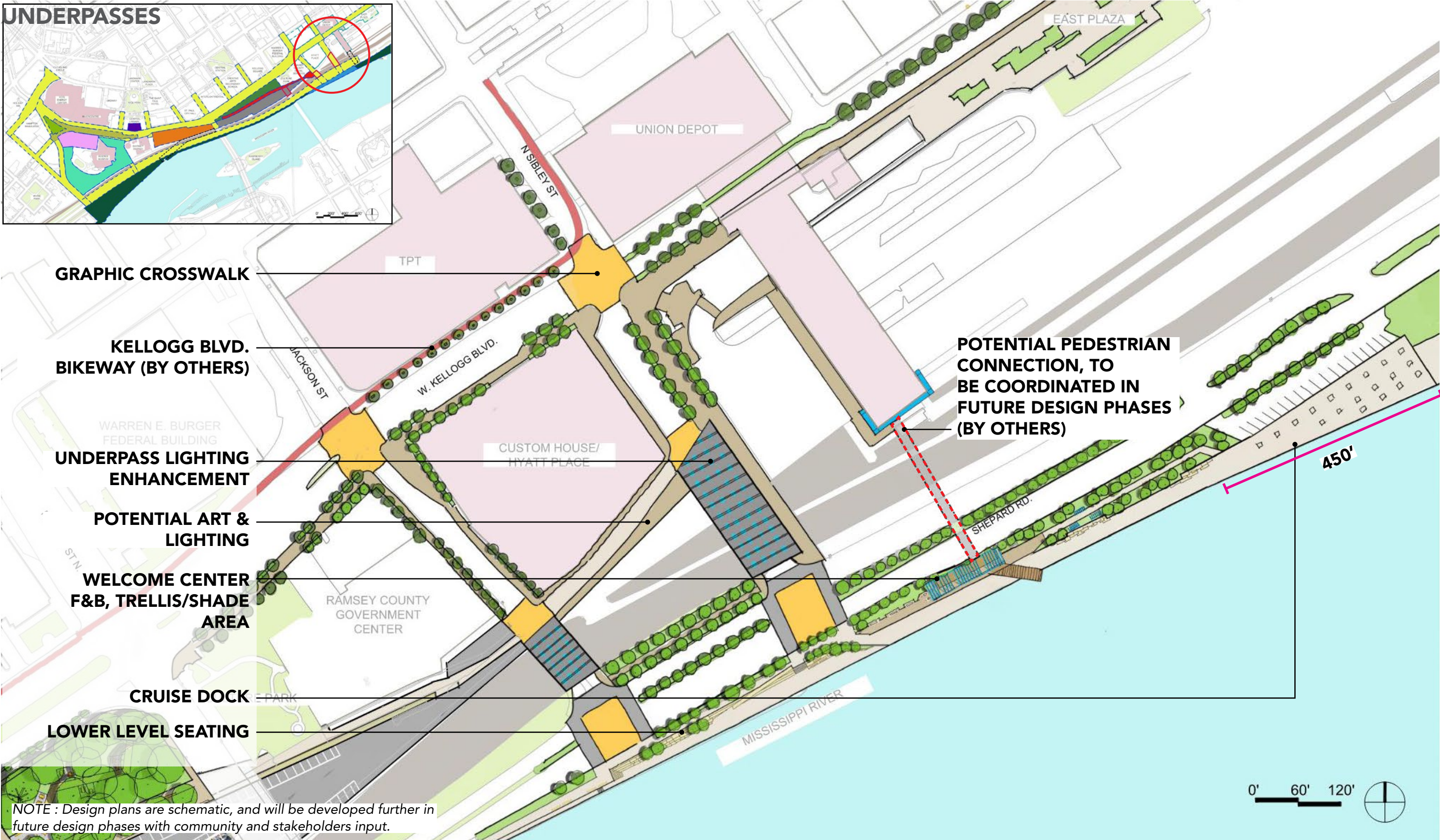
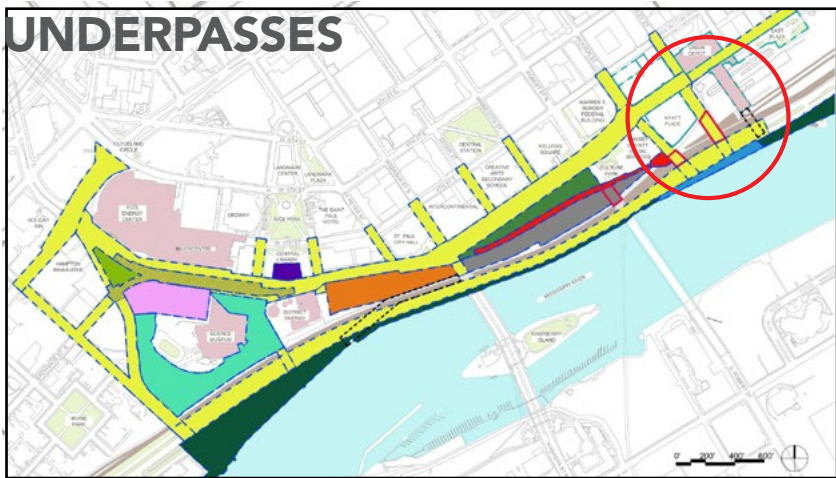
# COUNTY PARKING LOT





# SITE PLAN

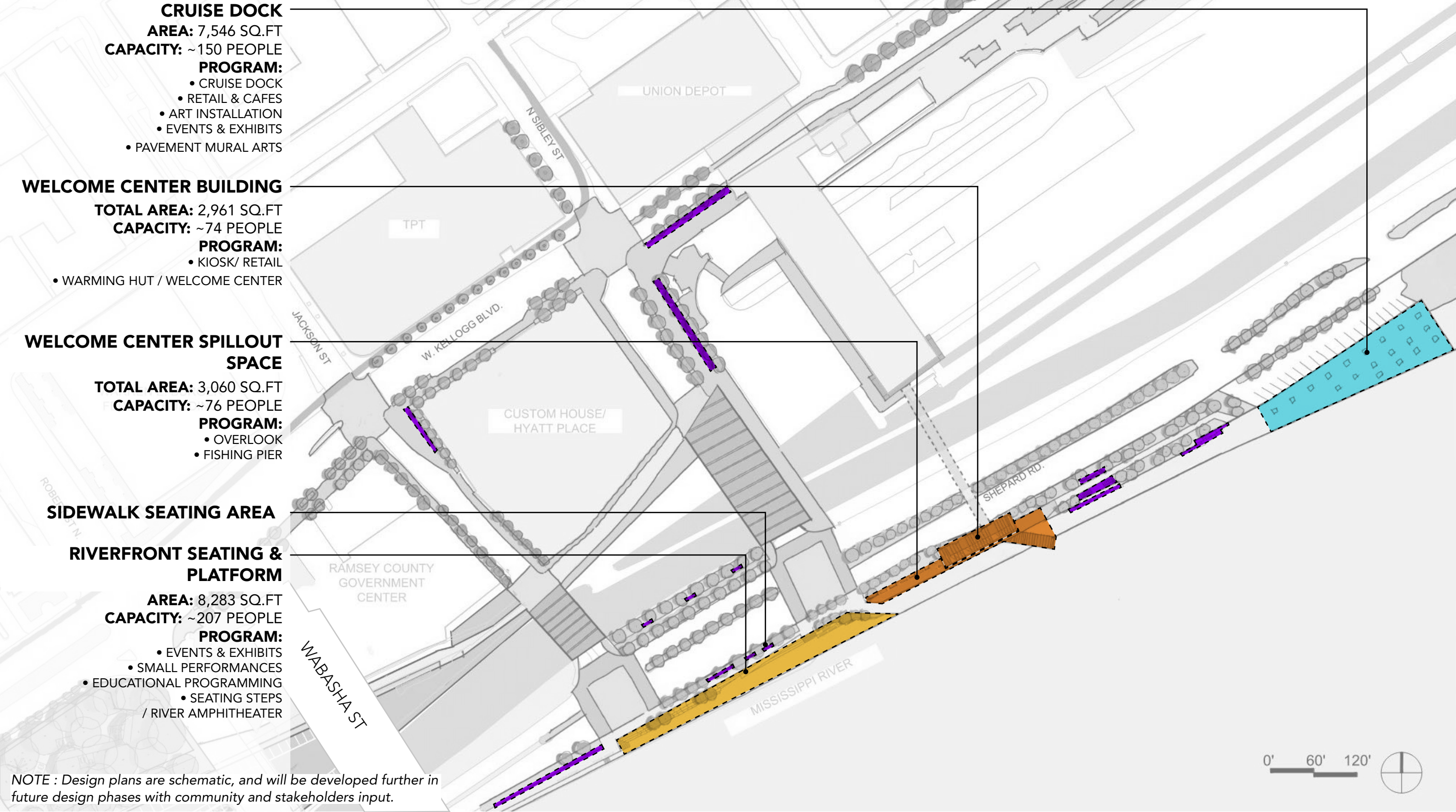
## LAMBERT'S LANDING & RAILROAD UNDERPASSES





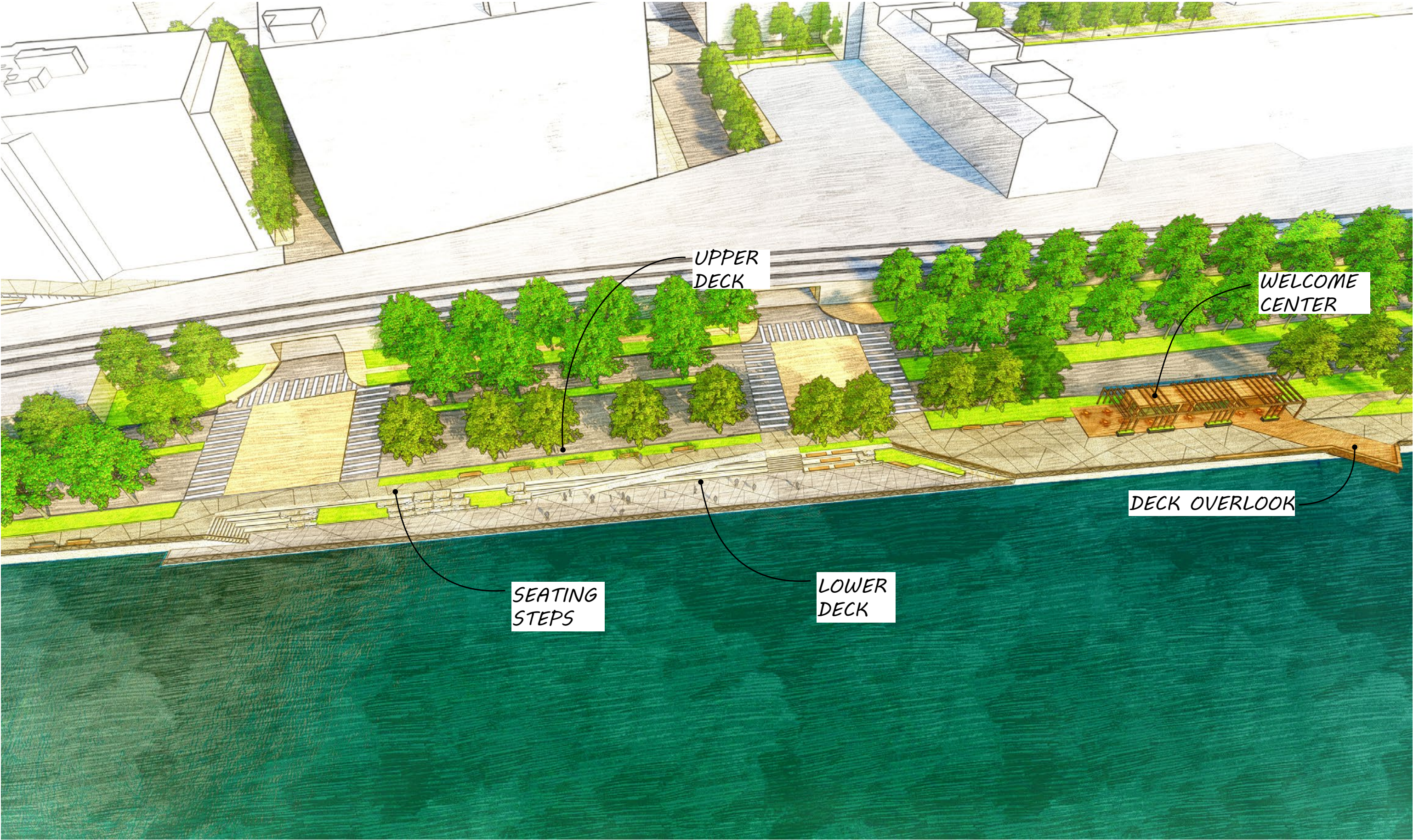
# PROGRAM DIAGRAM

## LAMBERT'S LANDING & RAILROAD UNDERPASSES





# LAMBERT'S LANDING



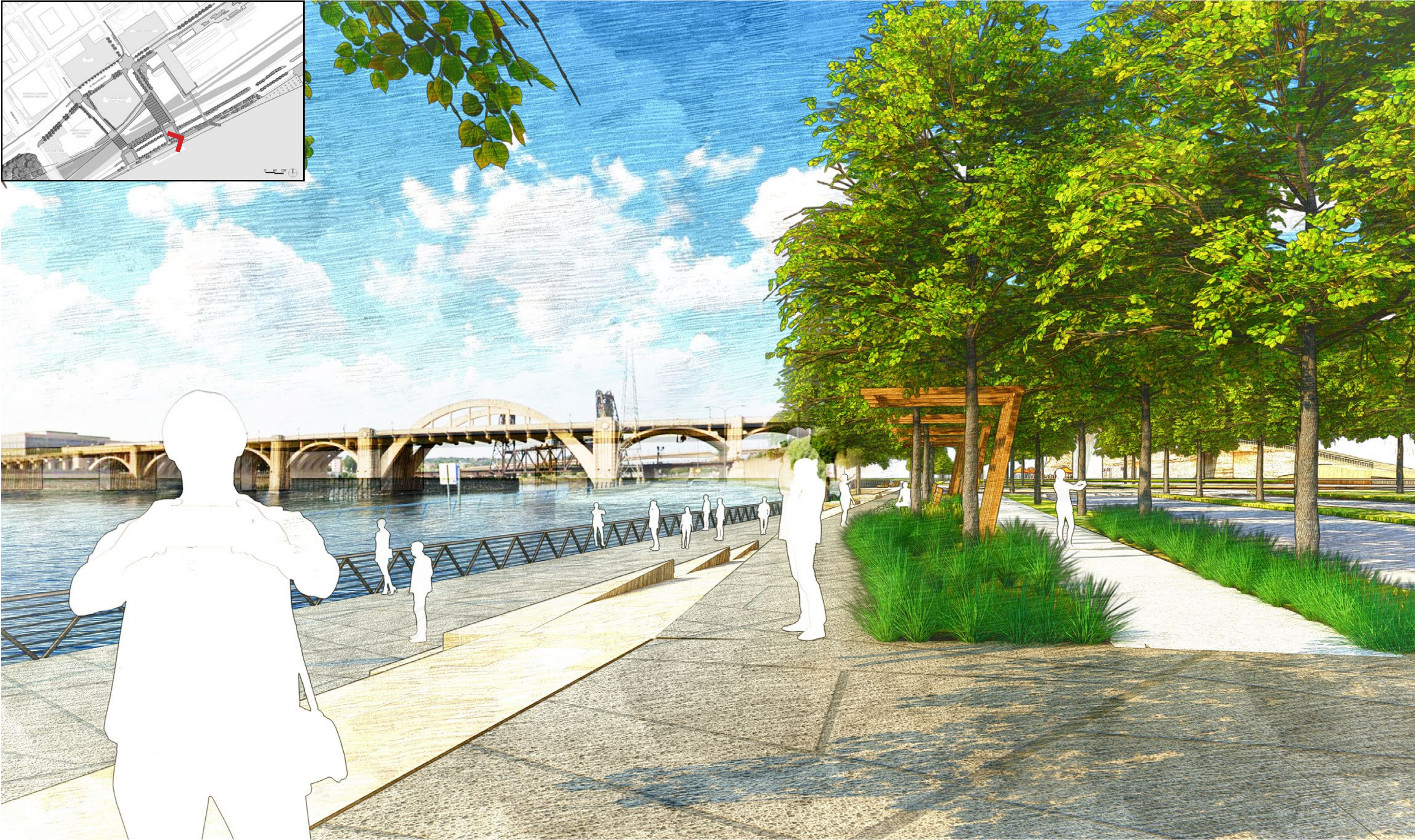


# LOWER DECK LEVEL





# UPPER DECK & MORGAN REGIONAL TRAIL





# WELCOME CENTER & DECK OVERLOOK





# PROJECT LAYERS

**MATERIALITY**

**FEATURES**

**ART**

**STORMWATER MGMT**



**MATERIALITY**

"nature of the bluff"



**CONCRETE PAVING**



**SANDSTONE PAVING**



**DISTINCTIVE PAVING**



**STRUCTURAL TIMBER**



**SANDSTONE FURNISHING**



**STONE EDGE**



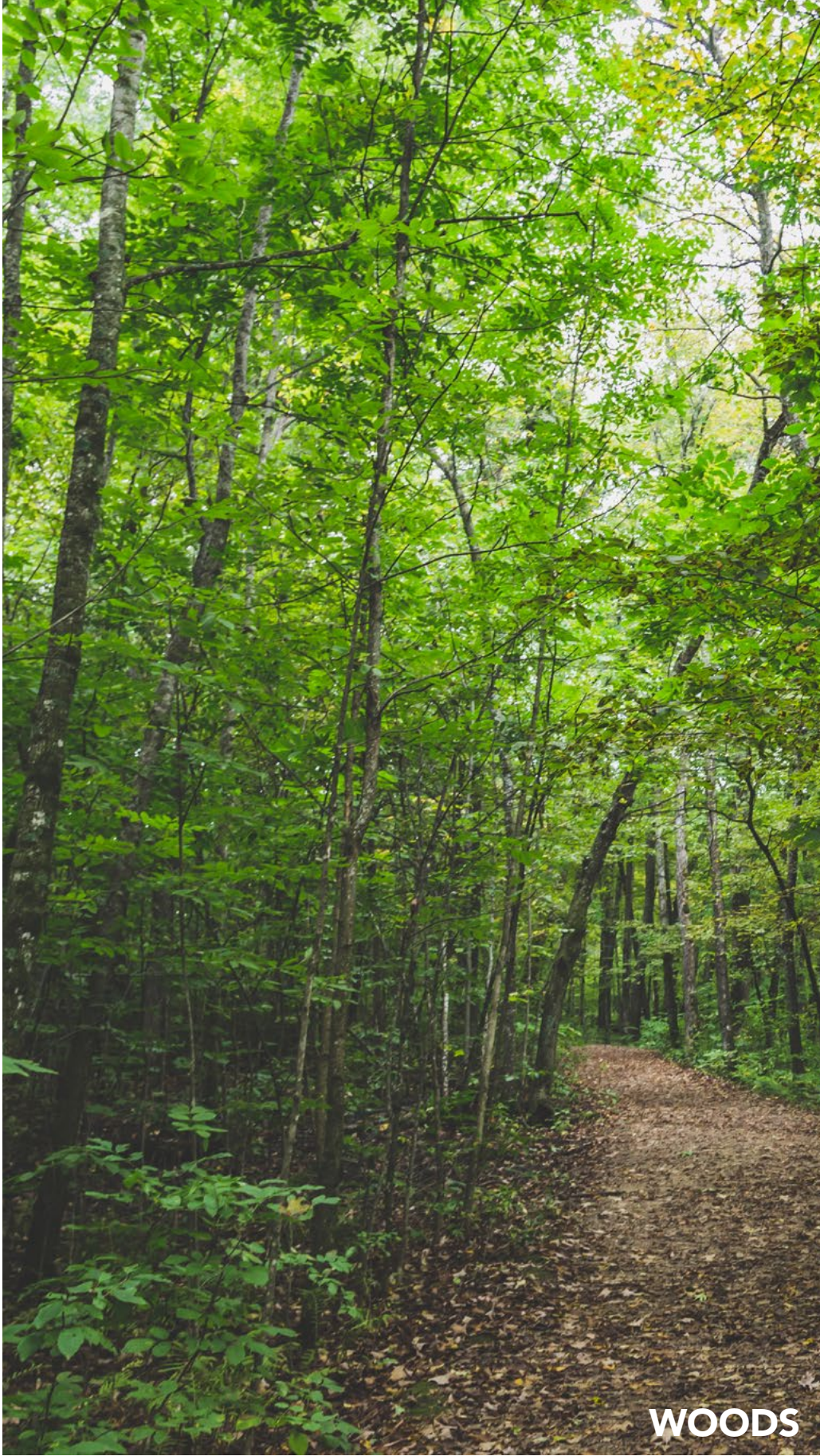
MATERIALITY



PRAIRIE



BLUFFLANDS



WOODS



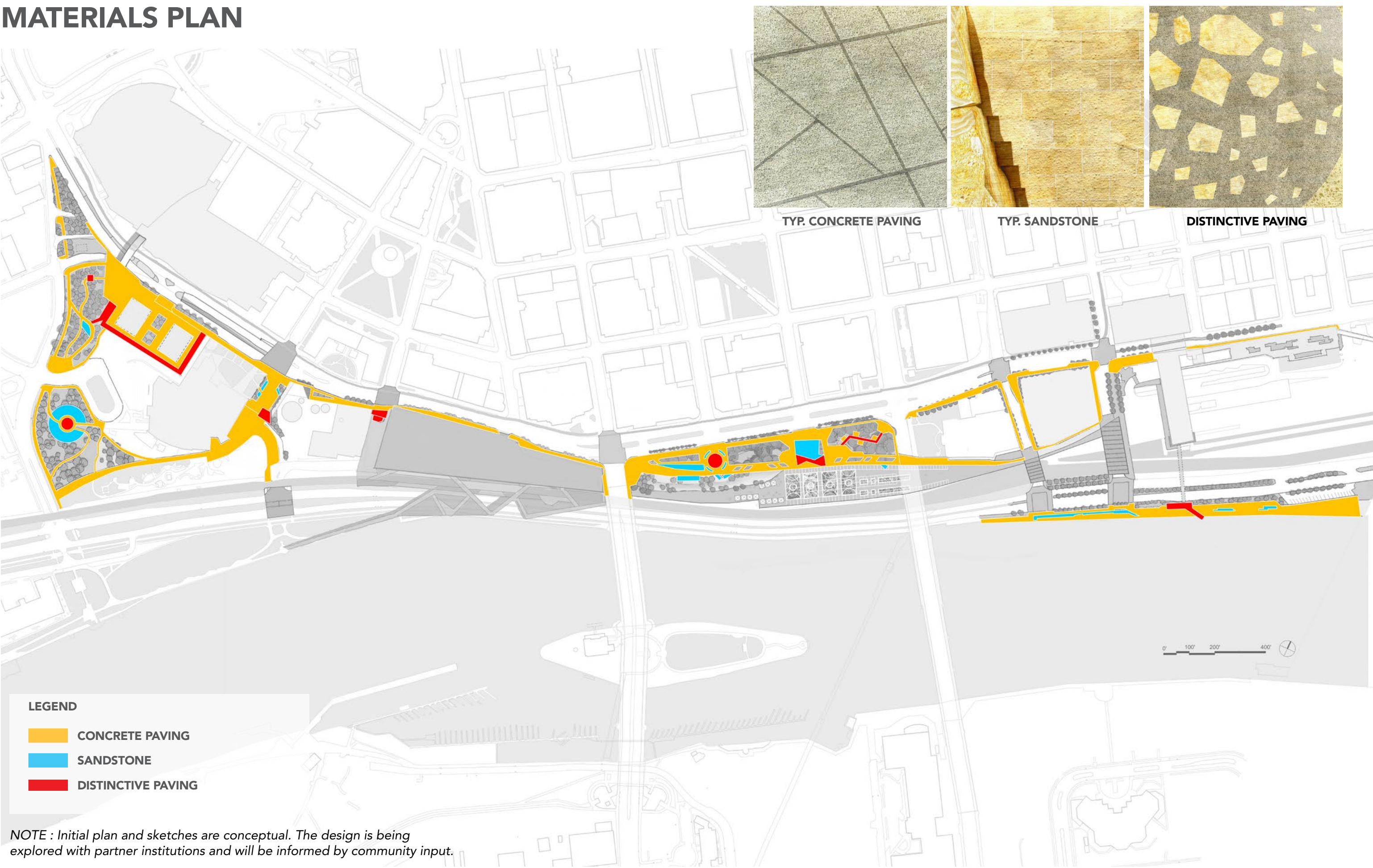
PLAINS



NATIVE PLANTING



# MATERIALS PLAN





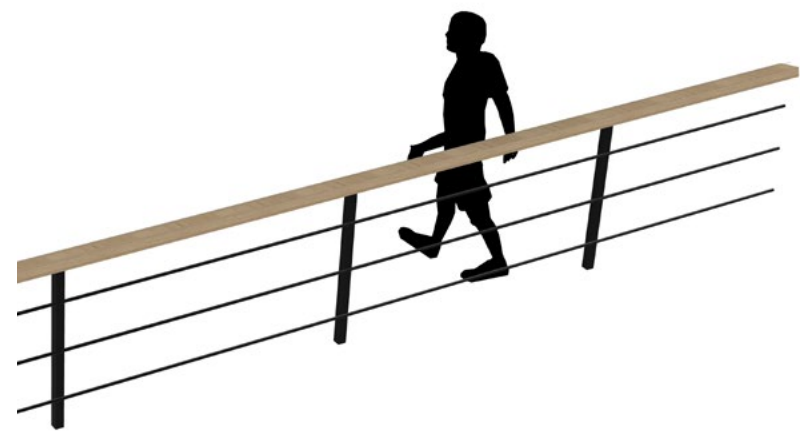
FEATURES : FURNISHING ELEMENTS



• TYP BENCH (SANDSTONE)



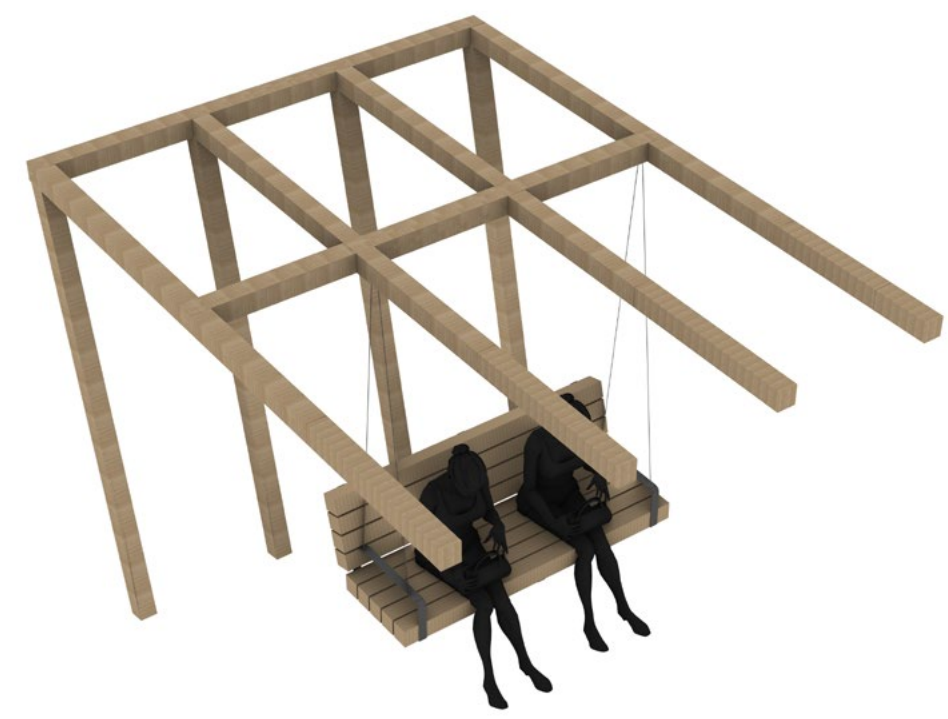
• TYP DOUBLE SIDE BENCH



• TYP GUARDRAIL WITH LEAN BAR



• TYP BENCH WITH BACK



• TYP SWING SEATING



• TYP SANDSTONE SEATING STEPS



FEATURES : OVERLOOKS

HARRIET ISLAND OVERLOOK



2

ST. PETER ST GATEWAY



4

RASPBERRY ISLAND OVERLOOK



5

MISSISSIPPI LOWER RIVER BEND OVERLOOK



8

BIG WOODS OVERLOOK



1

MISSISSIPPI UPPER RIVER BEND OVERLOOK



3

KELLOGG CUT OVERLOOK



6

UNION PACIFIC RAIL BRIDGE OVERLOOK



7

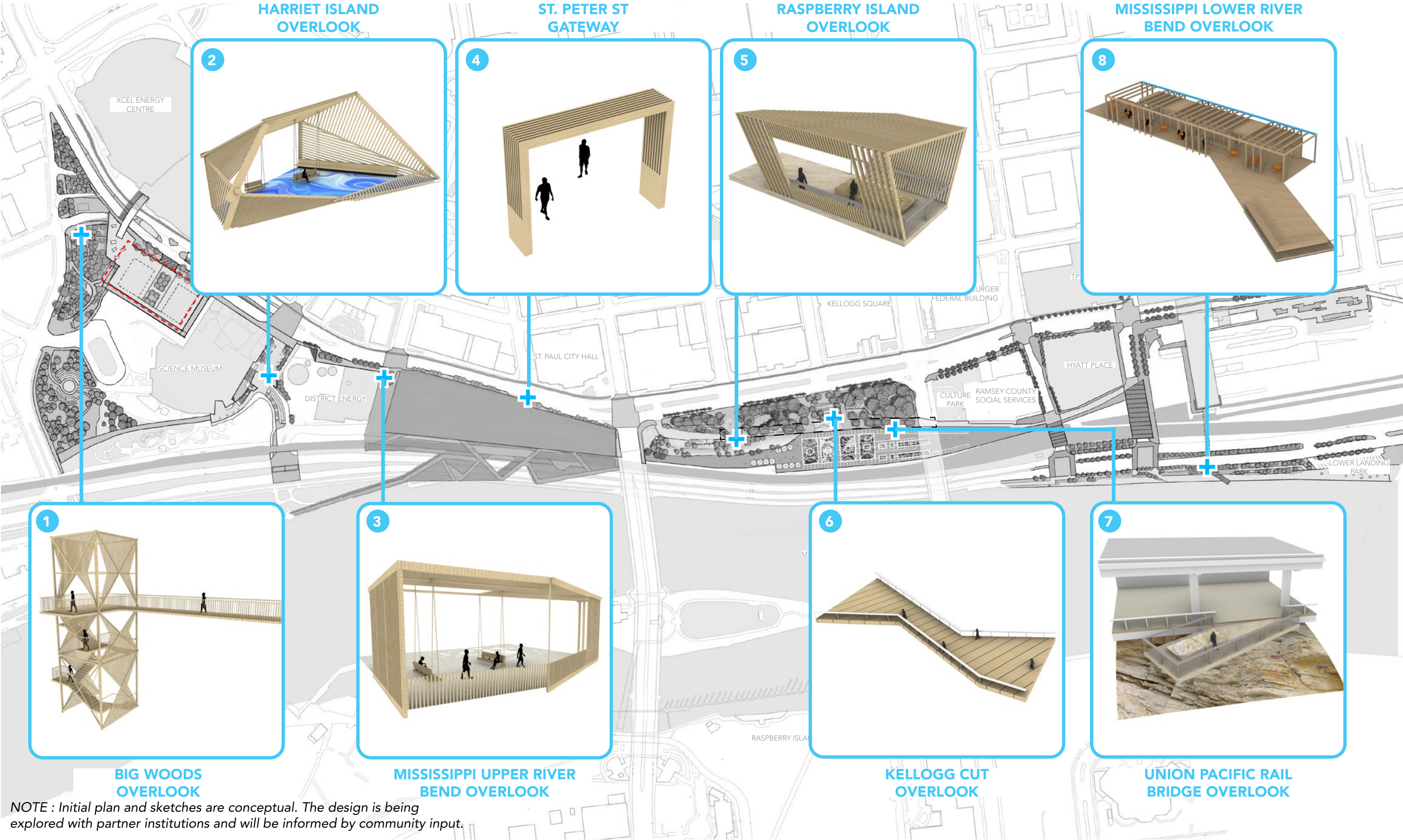


Map labels include: XCEL ENERGY CENTRE, SCIENCE MUSEUM, DISTRICT ENERGY, ST. PAUL CITY HALL, KELLOGG SQUARE, FEDERAL BUILDING, HYATT PLACE, RAMSEY COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES, CULTURE PARK, LOWER LANDING PARK, RASPBERRY ISLAND.

NOTE : Initial plan and sketches are conceptual. The design is being explored with partner institutions and will be informed by community input.







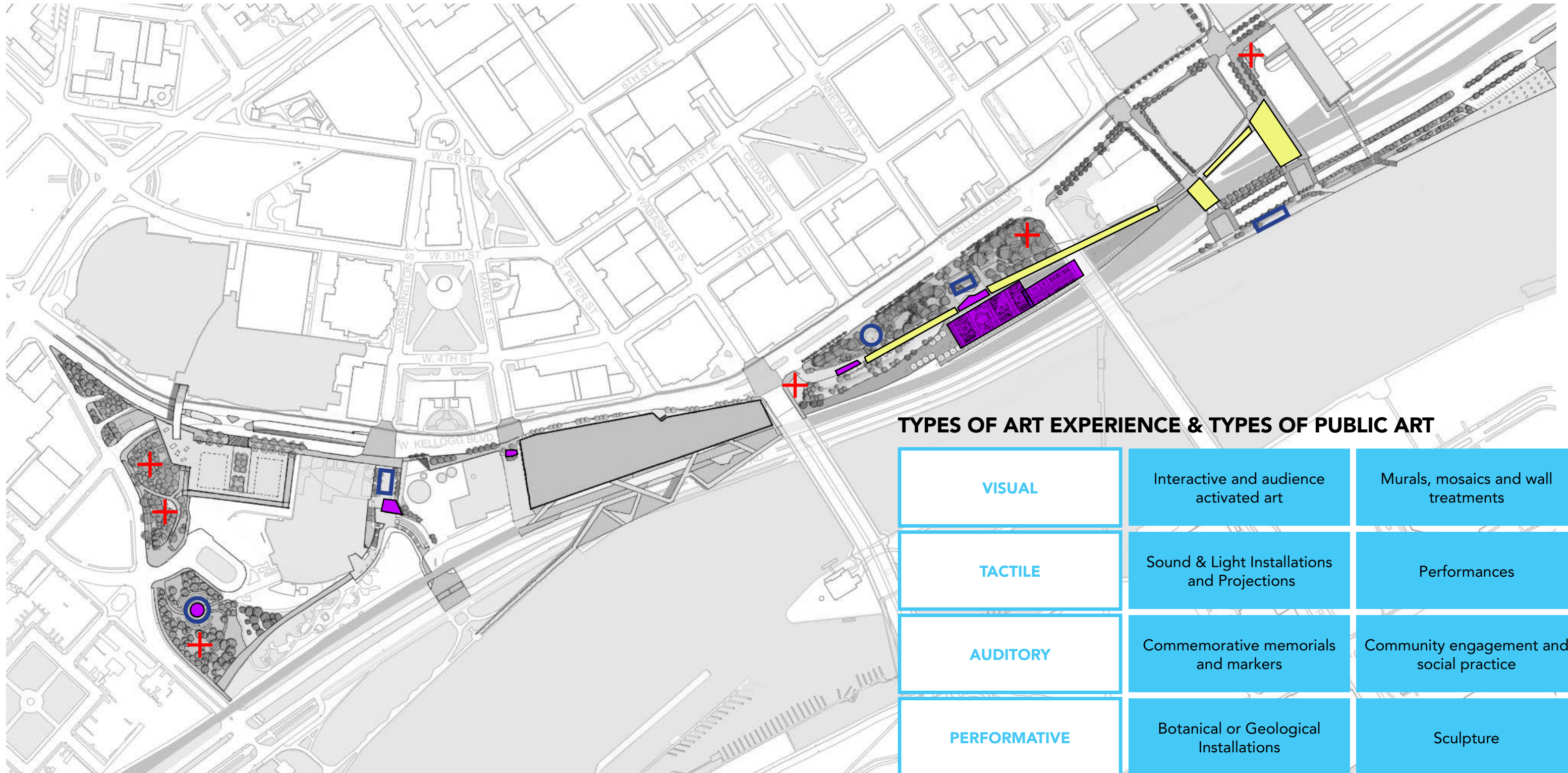
# FEATURES : OVERLOOKS





# PUBLIC ART PLAN SITING

-  **SCULPTURE / INSTALLATION**
  -  **ART 'CARPET' INSTALLATION (MOSAIC OR MURAL)**
  -  **TUNNEL/ UNDERPASS INSTALLATION**
  -  **EVENT / PERFORMANCE SITES**



VISUAL	Interactive and audience activated art	Murals, mosaics and wall treatments
TACTILE	Sound & Light Installations and Projections	Performances
AUDITORY	Commemorative memorials and markers	Community engagement and social practice
PERFORMATIVE	Botanical or Geological Installations	Sculpture



REFERENCE IMAGES - TUNNEL/ UNDERPASS INSTALLATION



Sensing WATER, Silicon Valley, San Jose



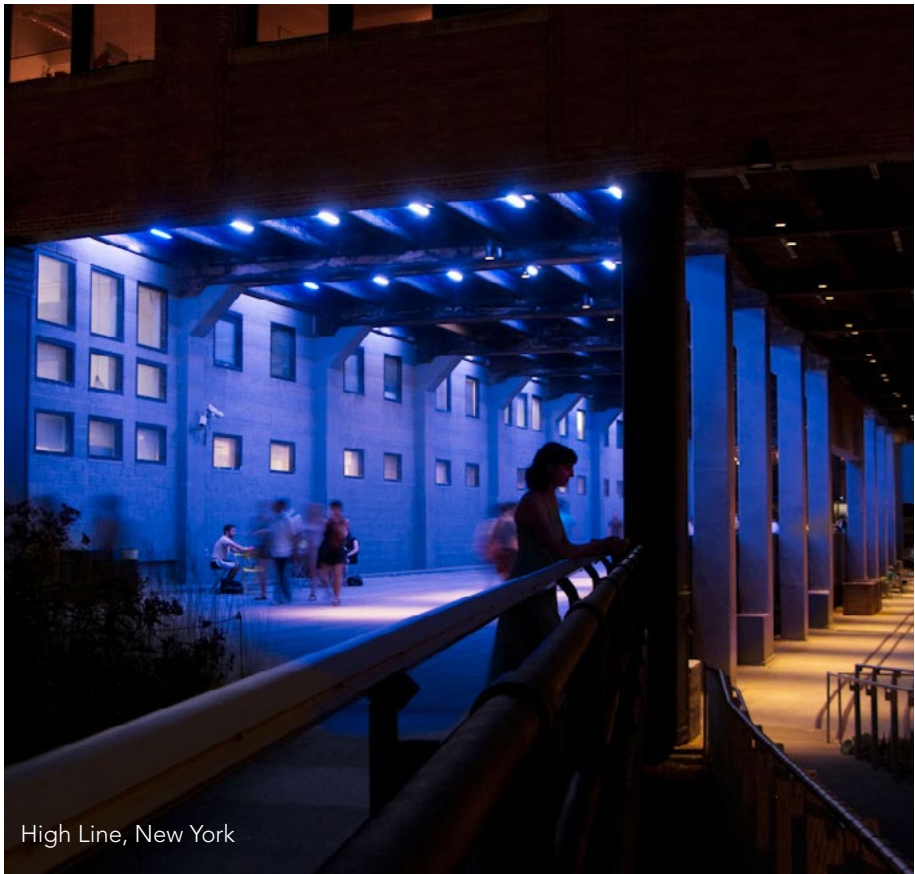
Columbia Ave I-95 Underpass, Philadelphia



Race St Pier I-95 Overpass, Philadelphia



Prismatic\_NYC, New York



High Line, New York



REFERENCE IMAGES - 'ART CARPET' INSTALLATION



The Reverberations Crosswalks #2, Baltimore, MD



The Asphalt Art Initiative





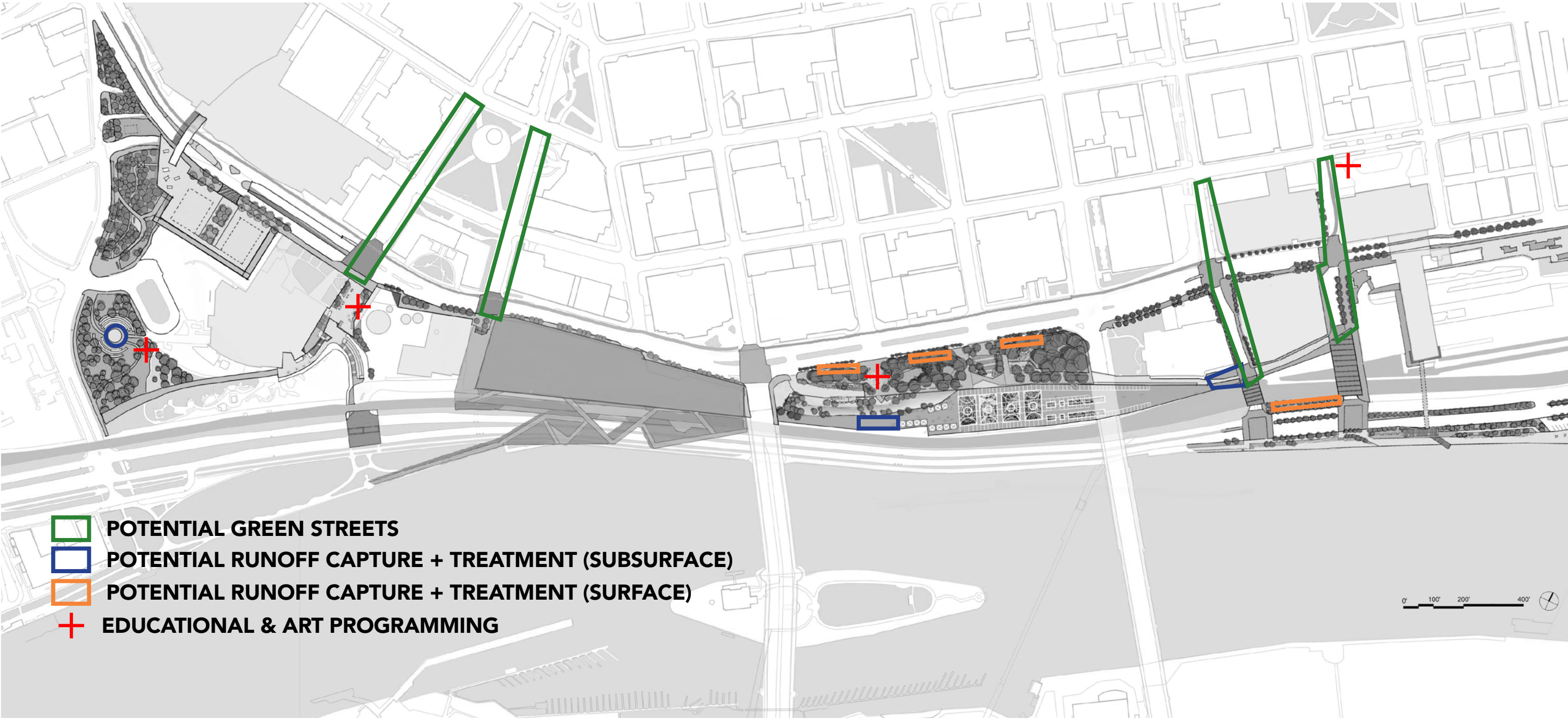
REFERENCE IMAGES - COMMUNITY MURAL





# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT APPROACH

- Identify points of storm-water runoff collection and treatment and potentially re-use for irrigation and other park uses
- Identify locations that exhibit and showcase storm-water management best practices, in coordination with CRWD and other stakeholders.
- Identify 'Green Street' segments in the framework plan where stormwater management infrastructure can be incorporated.
- Provide a generously scaled dock for Viking Cruises and public realm at Lambert's Landing



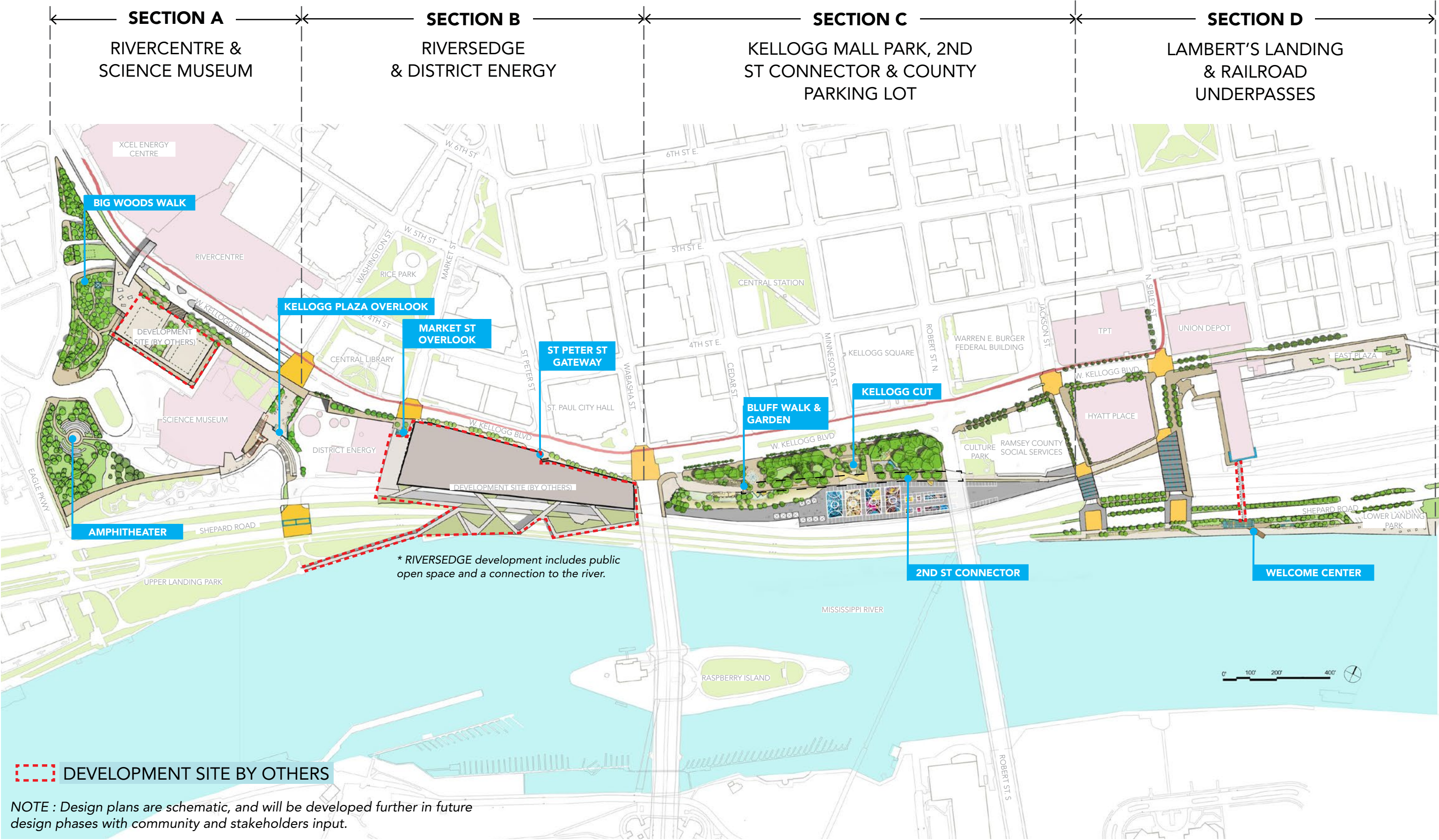


# STORMWATER MANAGEMENT APPROACH





# OVERALL SITE PLAN





# RIVER BALCONY SCHEMATIC PLAN

1. BIG WOODS WALK



2. AMPHITHEATER



3. KELLOGG PLAZA OVERLOOK



4. BLUFF STEPS & GARDEN



5. KELLOGG CUT



6. COUNTY PARKING LOT



7. 2ND ST. CONNECTOR



8. LAMBERT'S LANDING

 DEVELOPMENT SITE BY OTHERS

NOTE : Design plans are schematic, and will be developed further in future design phases with community and stakeholders input.



# NEXT STEPS



# **PRIORITY ITEMS FOR NEXT PHASE OF DESIGN**

- 1. Design & Programming coordination with other development projects along River Balcony**
- 2. Progressing strategies for traffic calming along the downtown stretch of Shepard Rd.**
- 3. Coordination with streetscape projects in downtown St. Paul to ensure cohesive design**



**\* Pending coordination with COUNTY & CITY PUBLIC WORKS**

**\* Overarching goals**

- Enable safer pedestrian and bike friendly at-grade crossings along Shepard Road
- Create more riverfront park space along the Mississippi
- Allow for more generous landing spots for future bridge crossing(s) from the River Balcony
- Provide a generously scaled dock for Viking Cruises and public realm at Lambert's Landing

**Map Callouts:**

- Bulb-outs at intersections / Adding ped. refuge areas
- Road Diet / Lane reduction
- Graphic Intersections

**LEGEND**

- 6-LANE ZONE
- 5-LANE ZONE
- 4 LANE ZONE
- SHEPARD RD. CROSSING

**Scale:** 0' 200' 400' 600'

## \* Overarching goals

- 
- Enable safer pedestrian and bike friendly at-grade crossings along Shepard Road
  - Create more riverfront park space along the Mississippi
  - Allow for more generous landing spots for future bridge crossing(s) from the River Balcony
  - Provide a generously scaled dock for Viking Cruises and public realm at Lambert's Landing

## Graphic Intersections

Bulb-outs at intersections / Adding ped. refuge areas

## Road Diet / Lane reduction

## Road Diet / Lane reduction

## Graphic Intersections

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## Graphic Intersections

## Graphic Intersections

### LEGEND

 6-LANE ZONE 5-LANE ZONE 4 LANE ZONE

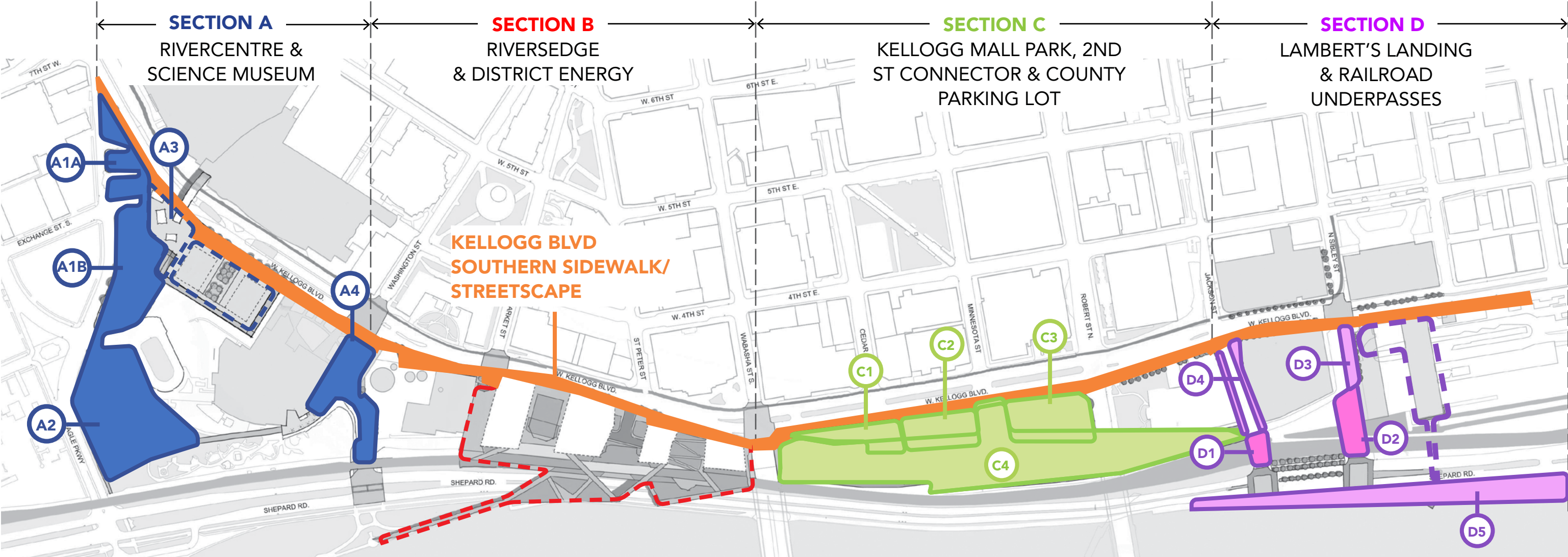
.....> **SHEPARD RD. CROSSING**

0' 200' 400' 600'



# RECOMMENDED PARAMETERS FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN

- Open space associated with Rlver Center Ramp development to be integrated as a part of River Balcony, for programming and amenity planning.
  - Direct, year round / all season ADA access to the Big Woods overlook and to thewalkway at grade to be required as a part of the development.
  - Project A3 to be constructed as a part of the Rlver Center Ramp developmen
  - Potential maintenance partnership for Projects A1A & A1B can be considered as a prt of the development agreement
- Open space associated with RiversEdge development to be integrated as a part of River Balcony, for programming and amenity planning.
  - Replacement of any River Balcony elements/ improvements due to construction of future development, along Kellogg Blvd Southern Sidewalk and to be required via instrument such as M.O.U or similar
  - Overlook and Gateway features proposed at Market St and St.Peter St. to be retained and incorporated into design as development/ park gateways
  - Visual corridors to be maintained at Market St and St.Peter St.
- Continued use of the County Parking lot as a flexible use open space that can be used for temporary events and programs to maintain public views and experience of the only remnant of downtown St.Pauls 'bluff'
- Any public crossing across Shepard Road, originating at Union Depot should be ADA, year round/ all season and also considered to have direct access from the street.





# **NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT**

## **1. Basis of Design Report & Planning**

### **Commission Approval**

## **2. 6-month transition period:**

- **Create governance structure**
- **Define partner roles and responsibilities**
- **Develop finance strategy**
- **Evaluate phasing timeline**



# ACTIVITIES

- 1. Enjoy Riffs, Rails & Cocktails at Station 81 downstairs**
- 2. Tell us your river stories and what this place means to you (on paper or video)**
- 3. Engage with the project team**
- 4. Contact Brett Hussong with additional questions & comments:  
[brett.hussong@ci.stpaul.mn.us](mailto:brett.hussong@ci.stpaul.mn.us)**