

North Mississippi Regional Park Plan



CAC Meeting 06
September 23, 2025

Agenda

Welcome!

Project Schedule & Outreach Update (5 minutes)

Park Frameworks Presentation & Discussion

(30 mins presentation / 60 min small group discussion / 15 min report out)

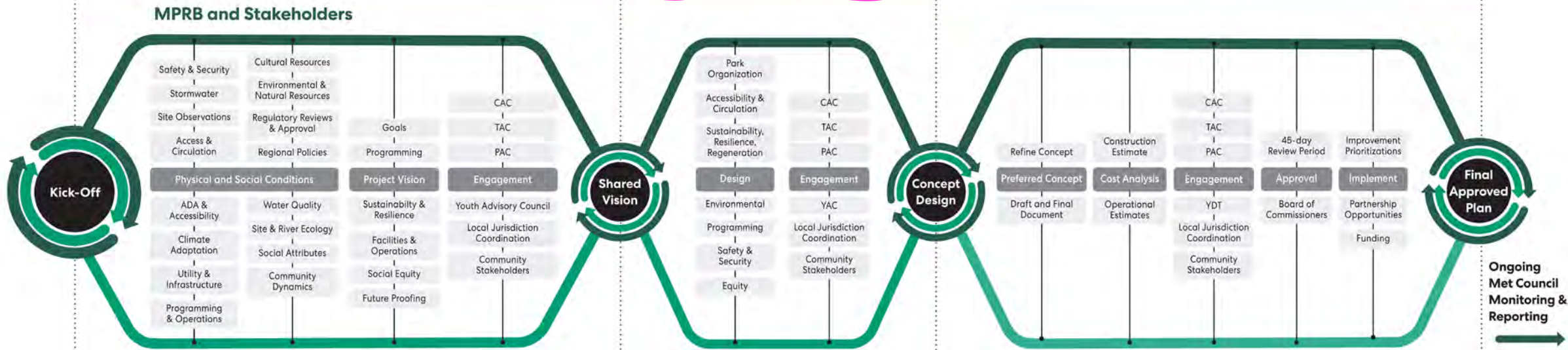
Next Steps (2 minutes)

Public Comment Time

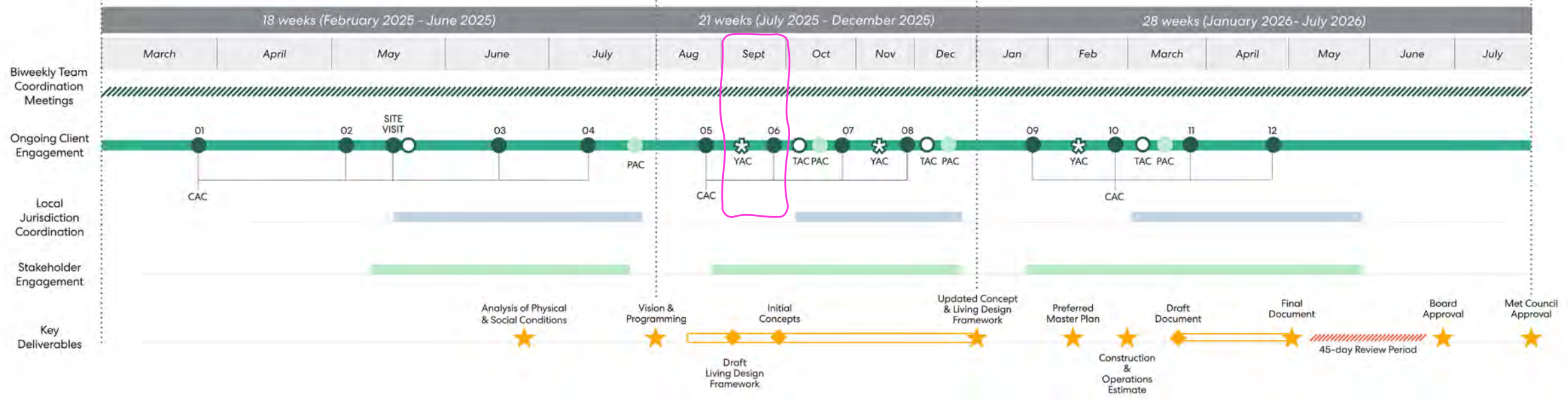
Adjourn

PROJECT UPDATES

Discovery and Assessment **Park Planning and Design** Final Plan and Approval



Perkins&Will Team



VISION STATEMENT & GUIDING PRINCIPLES

North Mississippi Regional Park Vision Statement

North Mississippi Regional Park will be a welcoming and inclusive place that links people to the Mississippi River through nature, culture, and community. The Park will offer safe, engaging spaces that promote health, celebrate local heritage, restore the environment, and connect people to each other.

To support the vision statement these **guiding principles** for the North Mississippi Regional Park were developed:

Design for Radical Welcome

Create vibrant experiences through diverse programs, activities, events, and amenities that draw people into the park.

Connect People & Place

Strengthening physical and visual connections to knit park access into surrounding neighborhoods and regional networks.

Foster Safety & Comfort: Provide inclusive, safe, and comfortable spaces where everyone feels a sense of belonging and security.

Celebrate Culture and Story

Celebrate the history, stories, and cultural richness of the Mississippi River and surrounding communities.

Center Equity & Belonging

Ensure the park evolves with the needs of diverse communities and promotes access for all.

Identity

Foster a strong sense of place by highlighting the park's unique identity, landscapes and community connections.

Elevate Health and Wellness

Support physical, mental, and emotional well-being through outdoor recreation, nature to access, and inclusive programming.

Build Resilience

Design for long-term environmental health and climate adaptability through sustainable practices and recreation.

Nurture Healthy Ecosystems

Protect, restore, and enhance habitats, water quality, and biodiversity.

PARK FRAMEWORKS

Frameworks are flexible guides that help organize ideas, compare options, and make decisions. They create a shared language so the design team, community, and partners stay aligned with the project's goals.

Frameworks also work together. Each brings a different perspective, and when they overlap, they form a complete picture—balancing priorities and shaping the final design concept into a unified vision.



Intertwined River Ecologies

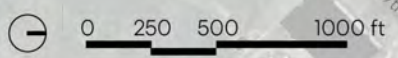
The *Intertwined River Ecologies* approach highlights the park as a mosaic of floodplain, prairie, woodland, and creek systems braided together with community life. Restored riparian edges, biodiverse habitats, and resilient stormwater features strengthen ecological health while telling the story of water as both system and resource. Cultural narratives—Dakota and Ojibwe heritage, industrial legacies, and present-day community life—are layered into gathering spaces, trails, and interpretive features, ensuring people see themselves reflected in the landscape. By weaving ecology, culture, and community, the park becomes a resilient refuge where natural systems and human connections flourish together.

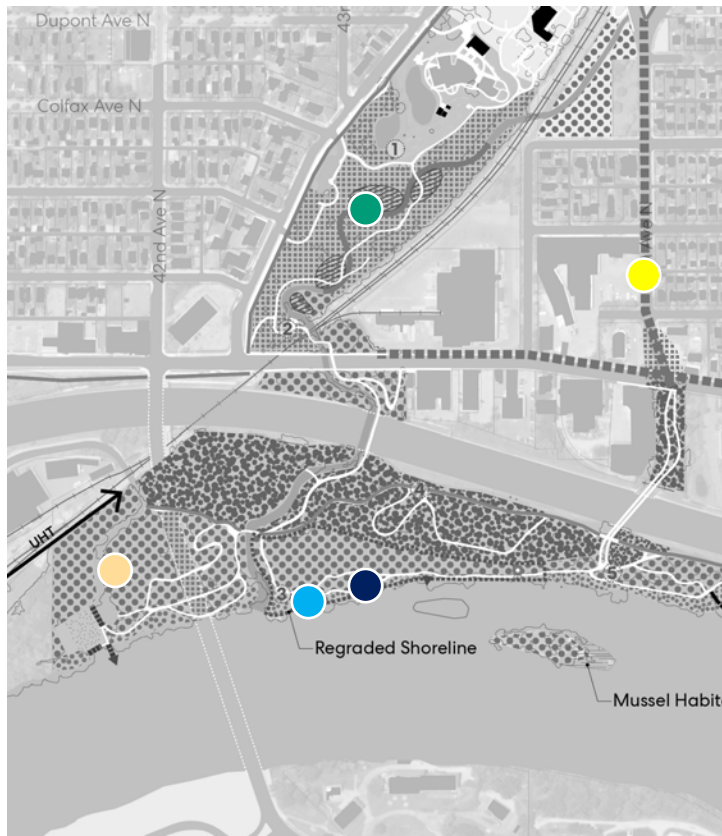
KEY ATTRIBUTES OF *INTERTWINED RIVER ECOLOGIES* FRAMEWORK

- **Ecological restoration** of "compromised" park landscape areas
- **Regrading of shoreline** in key areas to allow improved access and ecological restoration
- Create **visible connections to river** throughout North Mississippi Regional Park
- **New ecology islands** in the river to re-establish native landscapes and create habitat
- "Green" landscaped **connections** from park into adjacent **neighborhoods**
- Creation of **ecology learning nodes**, addition of **bird watching blinds** and improved **overlook areas**
- **Floodplain forest boardwalk**
- Interpretive signage highlighting river ecologies and unique landscapes
- **Meander Shingle Creek**, create stormwater management and habitat improvements adjacent to Webber Park
- "Greening" of I-94 corridor
- Expanded habitat restoration in Bohanon Park
- Removal of boat landing to create ecology learning area

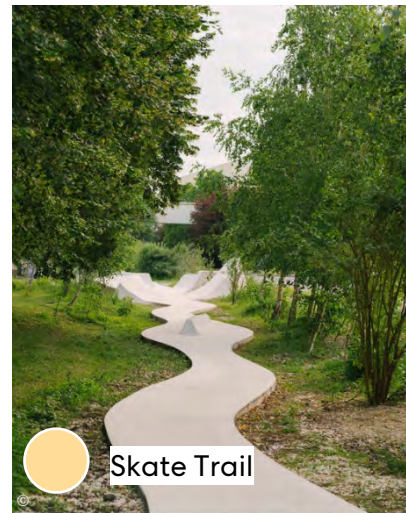


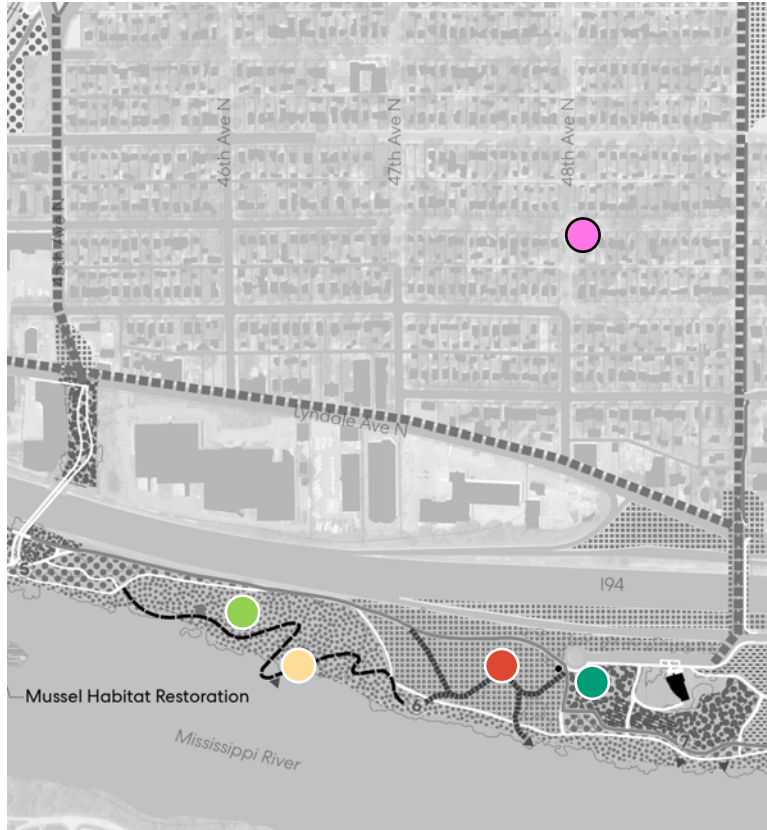
- Existing Buildings/Structures
- Existing Parking/Roads
- Existing Paths
- Existing Bike Paths
- New Paths
- Boardwalk
- Overlook
- Birdblind
- Green Infrastructure into Neighborhood
- Regraded Shoreline
- Floodplain Forest Restoration
- Upland Forest Restoration
- Oak Savanna Restoration
- Prairie Restoration
- Continued Management of Restored Prairie
- Lawn
- Existing Tree Canopy
- Stormwater Detention
- ▼ Water Access
- New Islands
- Nodes
- ① Natural Pool
- ② Creek Fall
- ③ Flood Plain
- ④ Oak Savanna
- ⑤ River Gateway
- ⑥ Prairie
- ⑦ Nature Center



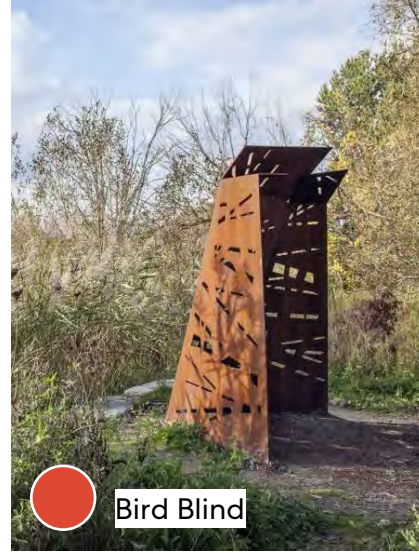


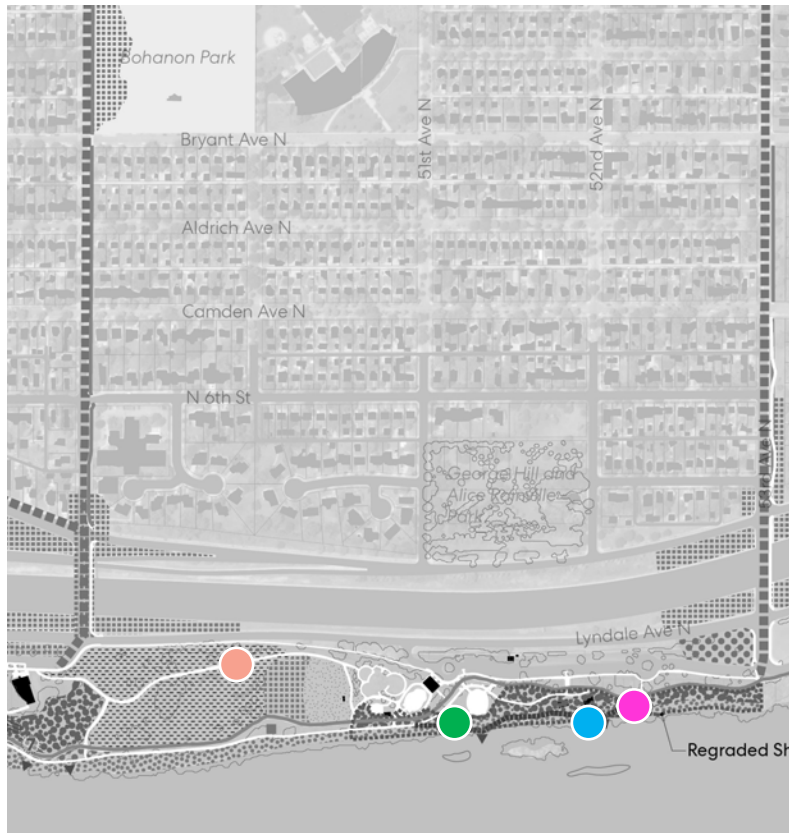
Enlargement Plan - South





Enlargement Plan - Central





Enlargement Plan - North



Regraded Shoreline



Ecology Learning



River Access



Cultural Plant Collection



Connected River

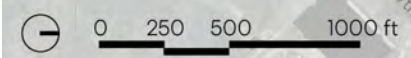
The *Connected River* approach emphasizes making the Mississippi accessible, visible, and central to neighborhood life. Enhanced gateways, safe crossings, and continuous trail loops stitch the park to surrounding communities, while unified signage and interpretation guide visitors from streets to shoreline. New overlooks, docks, and water access points transform the river from backdrop to centerpiece, offering safe and engaging opportunities to touch, explore, and learn. By prioritizing physical connections and interpretive clarity, this approach ensures the river is central to both movement and meaning within the park.

KEY ATTRIBUTES OF **CONNECTED RIVER** FRAMEWORK

- Improved trail connections throughout the park (through natural areas and to the edge of the river)
- New **land bridge** over I-94 connecting Alice Rainville Park to North Mississippi Regional Park
- Improve park connections under I-94 with public art, lighting, and crossings into neighborhood
- Over **water access** to connect to new and existing river **islands**
- Creation of **connected learning nodes** and **improved overlook areas**
- Floodplain forest **boardwalk**
- New neighborhood loop access from Webber park along 42nd Avenue to North Mississippi
- Improved intersections and public realm areas (sidewalks and streetscapes) at park entrances
- Conversion of Interstate frontage road to two-way traffic
- Improved **visual connections** to the River
- New connection to Upper Harbor Terminal Park

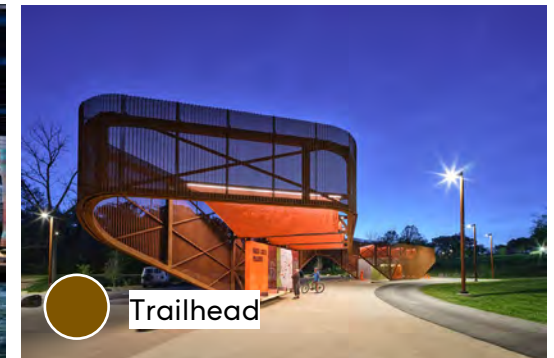
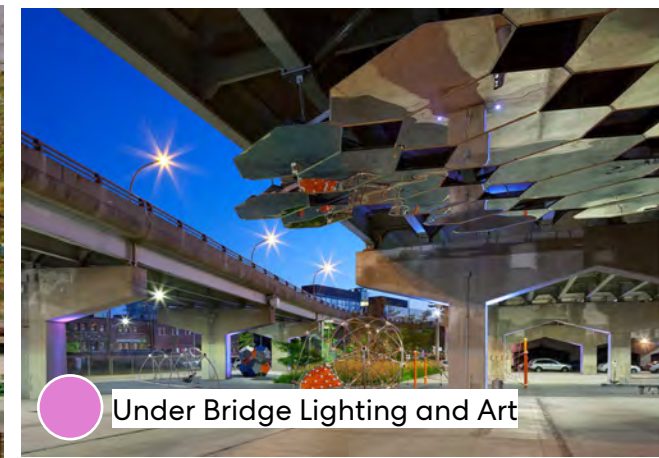


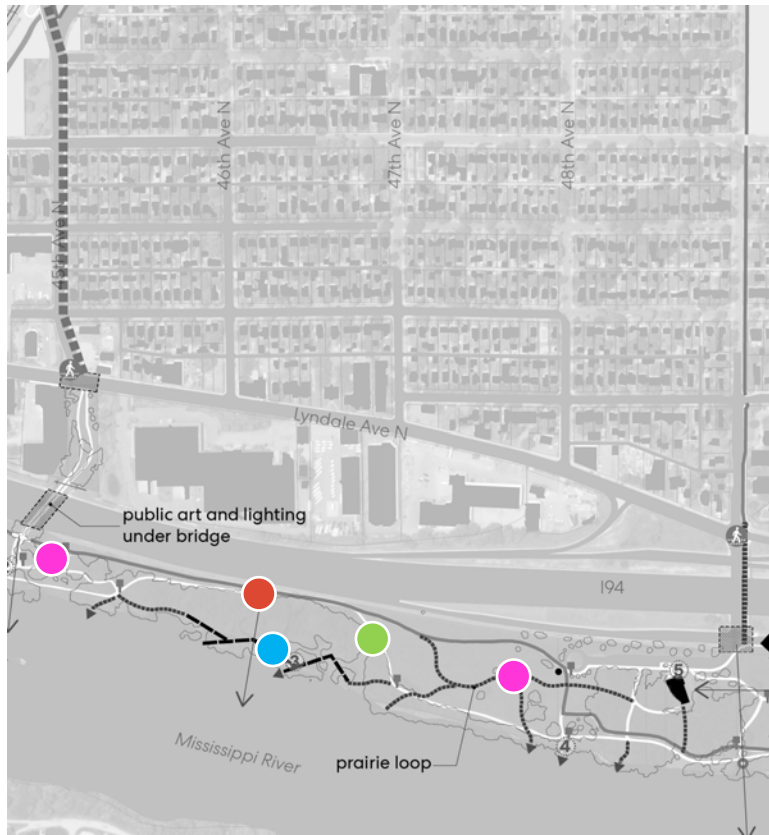
- Existing Buildings/Structures
 - Existing Parking/Roads
 - Existing Paths
 - Existing Bike Paths
 - New Paths
 - Boardwalk
 - Vehicular Connection
 - Overlook
 - Improved Entry Points/ Neighborhood Connections
 - Intersection Improvement
 - ↑ New Signage/Wayfinding
 - Green Infrastructure into Neighborhood
 - Existing Tree Canopy
 - ▼ Water Access
 - Visual Connection
 - New Islands
- # Nodes
- ① Creek Crossing
 - ② Community Gateway
 - ③ Floodplain Boardwalk
 - ④ Riverfront Learning Lab
 - ⑤ Nature Center
 - ⑥ Event Lawn
 - ⑦ Picnic and Play
 - ⑧ Land Bridge



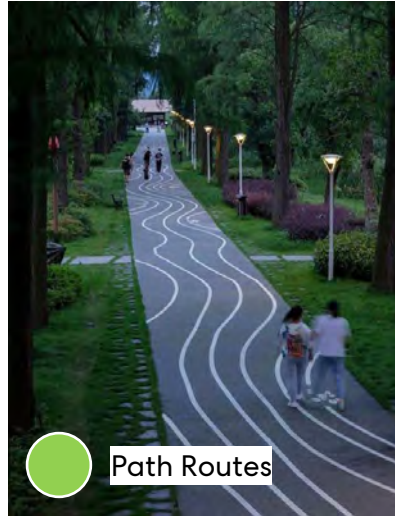


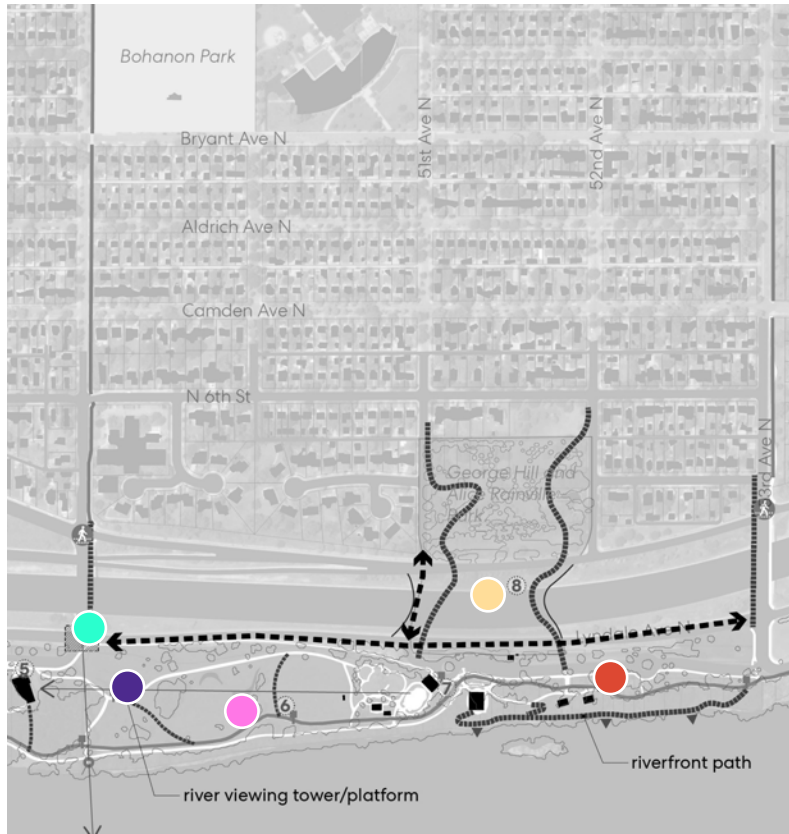
Enlargement Plan - South





Enlargement Plan - Central





Enlargement Plan - North



Land Bridge



Viewing Tower



Art Programming



Park Gateways



Expanded Play Features

Activated Landscape

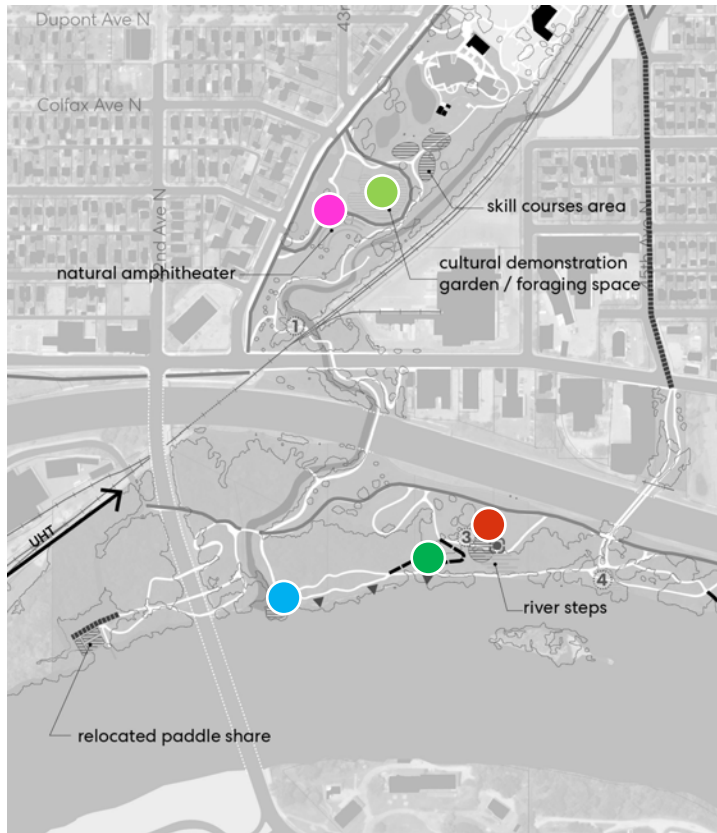
The *Activated Landscapes* approach expands the mission of the Kroening Nature Center by turning the entire park into a living classroom. Outdoor education hubs and flexible gathering spaces support programs that reach into neighborhoods, while culturally diverse demonstration gardens connect ecological resilience with community heritage. Multilingual interpretation and inclusive design make the landscape accessible to all, fostering belonging through both cultural relevance and ecological engagement. This approach animates the park with year-round activity, ensuring it is alive with programs, stories, and shared stewardship.



KEY ATTRIBUTES OF **ACTIVATED LANDSCAPE** FRAMEWORK

- **Expanded Kroening Nature Center**
- Improved trail connections throughout the park (through natural areas and to the edge of the river)
- **Expanded programming areas** adjacent to Kroening Nature Center (including a forest rope course)
- New land bridge over I-94 connecting Alice Rainville Park to North Mississippi Regional Park
- Improved **recreational amenities and programming in Alice Rainville Park**
- Creation of connected **programming nodes**
- Improved **water access and fishing nodes**
- Floodplain forest boardwalk with programming node
- Removal of boat landing to create programming area and **new location for paddle share**
- New **picnic shelters**
- Creation of **a natural amphitheater, cultural demonstration / gathering garden, and skills course** in area adjacent to Webber Park





Enlargement Plan - South



River Steps



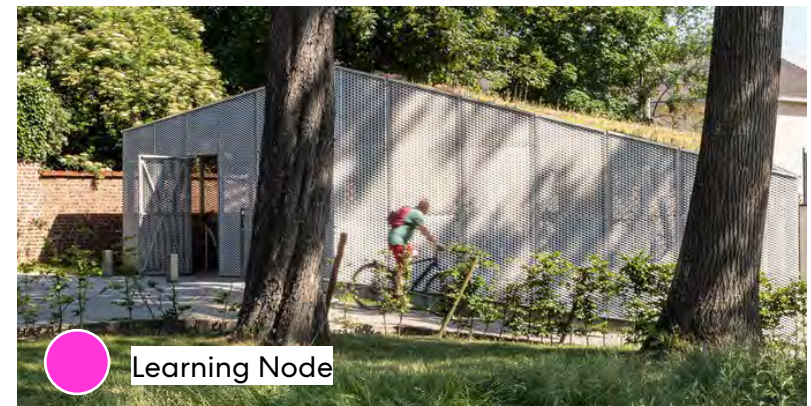
Prairie to River Connection



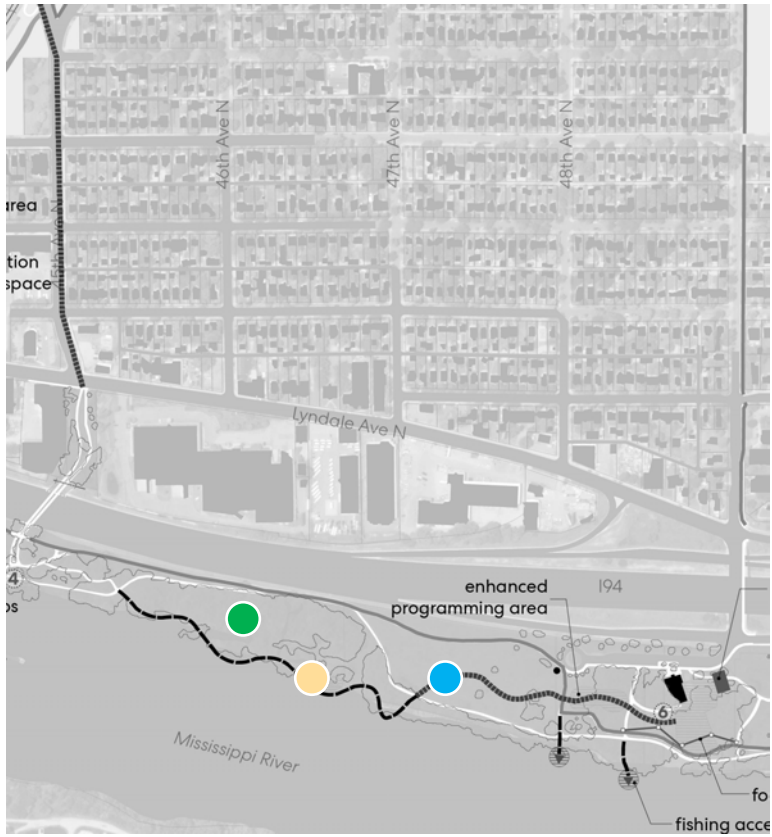
Learning Node



Gathering Garden



Learning Node



Enlargement Plan - Central



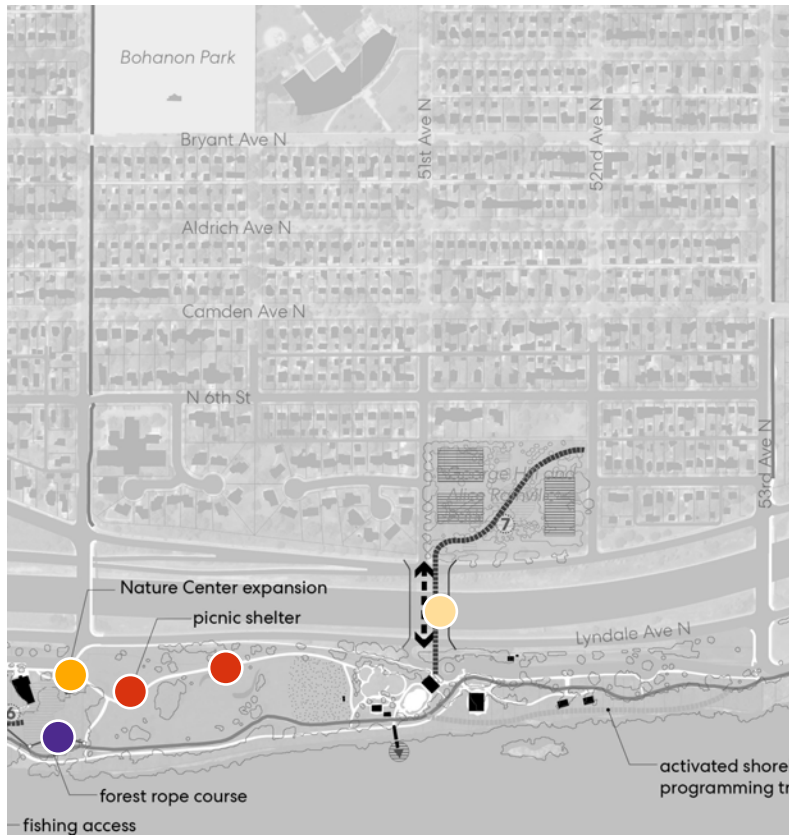
Boardwalk Classroom



Forest Bathing



Signage & Learning Points



Enlargement Plan - North



New Pedestrian Park Bridge



Picnic Shelters



Kroening Nature Center Expansion



Outdoor Classroom

DISCUSSION PROMPTS

Question 01:

***What ideas do you like
in each park framework plan?***

Question 02:

***What is missing in each
park framework plan?***

Question 03:

***Is each park framework plan
representative of the
Vision Statement and
Guiding Principles?***

PUBLIC COMMENT TIME

QUESTIONS / COMMENTS

10 Minutes