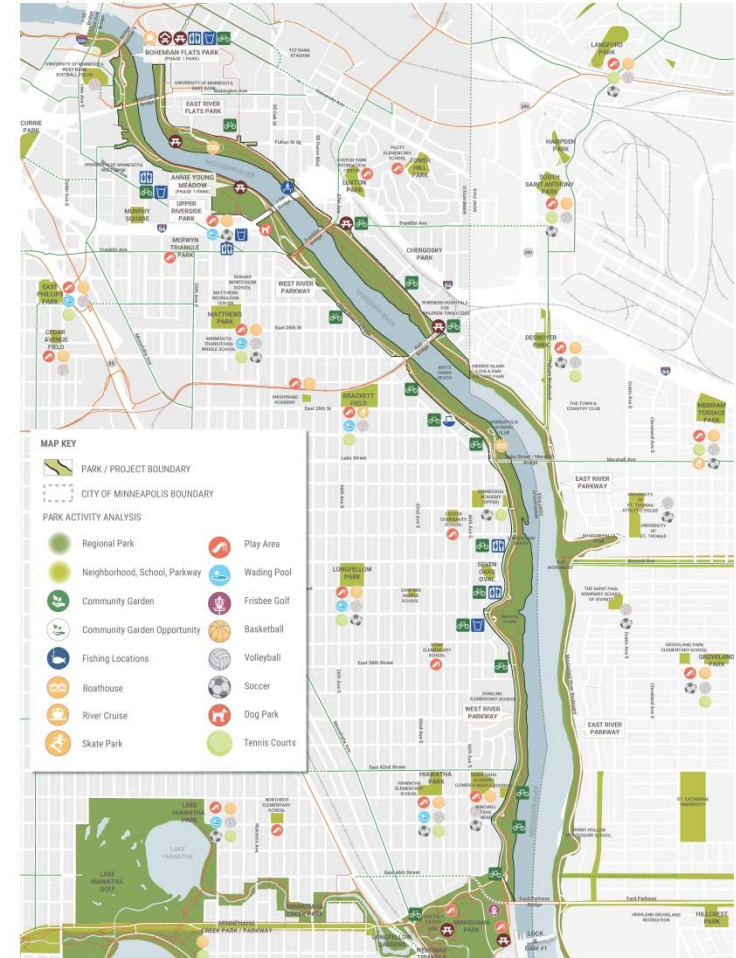


TRAILS ASSESSMENT

EXISTING TRAILS

- **Approximately 15 miles paved trails**
 - East and West River Parkways
 - Bohemian Flats Park
 - Riverside Park
 - East River Flats
 - Franklin Flats
 - Winchell Trail (south end)
- **5-10 miles natural surface trails**
 - Winchell Trail
 - Longfellow Flats
 - Franklin Flats
 - Annie Young Meadow to Riverside Park
 - Oak Savanna
 - Other
- **Vertical circulation**
 - Stairways and ramps

PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACES



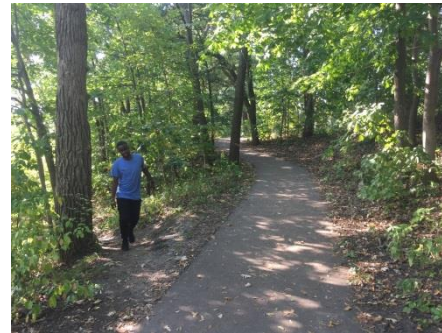
PAVED TRAILS

- Multi-use and bike trails, sidewalks
- Located on parkway level of the gorge
- Located in the flats and parks
 - Franklin Flats
 - East River Flats Park
 - Riverside Park
 - Bohemian Flats Park
- Uses include walking, running, biking, commuting, rollerblading, roller skiing, dog walking, etc.
- Connected to City sidewalk system and other trails (i.e. Midtown Greenway, Minnehaha Creek, Bridge No. 9, GRP, etc.)
- Connected to bridges (Franklin Ave., Lake St., Ford Pkwy)
- Bridge section of trail connects East River Flats to Franklin Flats
- Provide river access



NATURAL SURFACE TRAILS

- Located mostly below the parkway level, midway down the hillside or on the river flats (i.e. Winchell Trail, Franklin Flats, Longfellow Flats, etc.)
- Some are designated (Winchell Trail)
- Many are undesignated trails
- Many trails are not sustainable
 - Too steep (located on fall line)
 - Badly eroded
 - Consist of sand
 - Not safe
- Uses include hiking, biking, snowshoeing, nordic skiing, etc.
- Many provide access to beaches, floodplain forests, and other riverfront destinations
- Connected to paved trails



VERTICAL CIRCULATION

- Ramps and stairways
- Provide access from parkway/upper levels of the gorge to river flats (East River Flats, Franklin Flats, Longfellow Flats)
- Provide access from parkway level to Winchell Trail
- Provide access from Riverside Park to Annie Young Meadow
- Provide river access
- Provide access to stormwater treatment facilities
- Some stairways are historic (WPA)
- Some stairways are in need of replacement or repair



TRAIL AMENITIES

- Existing trail amenities include:
 - Wayfinding and signage
 - Lighting
 - Site furnishings (seating, trash, bike racks)
 - Drinking fountains
 - Restrooms
 - Overlooks
 - Interpretive elements
 - Walls, guardrails, and fencing
- Many amenities are in need of replacement or repair
- Lack of consistency in materials and design of amenities
- Community has requested additional amenities:
 - Restrooms
 - Drinking fountains
 - Seating



TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- **Create loop trails**
 - Utilize existing bridges
 - Provide connections from trails to bridges
 - Include maps/color coding/trail markers
 - Partner with Saint Paul Parks
- **Consider potential trail extension of Midtown Greenway across the river**
- **Consider a marsupial bridge under Franklin Ave Bridge**
- **Create trails that are easily accessible to all types of trail users**
- **Provide off-road trail experiences for adventure recreation**
- **Provide access to desirable places outside the park**
- **Consider the potential for trails to serve as stand-alone event venues**
- **Consider multi-functional/seasonal aspect of trail use**



TRAIL OPPORTUNITIES

- Enhance natural surface recreational trails
- Balance trail use with sensitive landscapes/river ecology needs
- Abandon and restore landscapes on trails that are not sustainable
- Incorporate trail materials and design strategies that reduce erosion
- Provide more/better wayfinding and signage and interpretive elements
- Create identifiable trail entries/trailheads
 - Signage and mapping
 - Site furnishings (seating, trash, bike racks)
 - Lighting
- Address trail safety issues
- Consider trail distance markers
- Consider fence removal and or replacement along Winchell Trail in strategic locations
- Incorporate consistent and high quality amenities/materials

