



## CHAPTER 5

# Vision and Guiding Principles

### Overview and Purpose

The Vision Statement and Guiding Principles set the stage for planning concepts and park improvements. The Community Advisory Committee (CAC), with input from MPRB staff, community stakeholders, and the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), agreed upon an overall vision statement and guiding principles for the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park. The vision states what the park aspires to be in the future twenty to thirty years, while the guiding principles illustrate what park planning needs to focus on to achieve that vision.

### Vision Statement

*Nestled within the only true gorge along the Mississippi River, the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park is a wild, welcoming space that is actively managed and mindfully stewarded to balance and preserve its unique natural, historic and recreational amenities for the wellness and enjoyment of all park visitors.*



## Guiding Principles



### Natural Resources and Ecology: Water, Land and Life

Restore, protect, and preserve the park's natural resources recognizing the river's sensitive ecological systems.

- » Fish, wildlife, and pollinator habitat
- » Water quality and hydrology
- » Soil quality and stability
- » Tree canopy preservation
- » Operation and maintenance
- » Invasive plant species removal and restoration of native plant communities
- » Riverbank stabilization and erosion control
- » The park's existing character as a much cherished natural space in the middle of the city



### Resiliency and Sustainability

Create and implement a long-term plan that will be adaptable in the face of change and provide recreational opportunities that will not compromise environmental quality over time.

- » *Adaptable to periodic environmental, economic or social change, including potential changes in infrastructure on the river*
- » *Provides for informal, un-programmed activities*
- » *Promotes and supports environmental stewardship*
- » *Use of durable, low-maintenance, natural/native materials*
- » *Provides flexible, multi-use park spaces and facilities that are built to last*
- » *Provides opportunities for revenue generation*



## Facilities and Programs

Provide high quality park and recreation facilities and programs suitable to the park's regional designation and unique setting.

- » *Year-round passive and active uses*
- » *River-oriented recreation*
- » *Provide facilities for individuals, families and communities*



## Safety

Provide a safe, secure and welcoming park experience.

- » *Multilingual welcome signage*
- » *Adequate and appropriate lighting*
- » *Wayfinding and trail length information*
- » *Apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles in planning/design*



## Access and Connectivity

Strengthen and enhance accessibility and connectivity to the park and the river.

- » *Multi-modal connections – foot, bike, transit, vehicular, water craft*
- » *Universal access beyond basic ADA*
- » *Signage and wayfinding*
- » *Physical, visual and social connections between neighborhoods, neighborhood parks, and Mississippi Gorge Regional Park*
- » *Access from the park to the river and from the river to the park*



## Placemaking

Create an identifiable sense of place by employing principles and elements that yield a recognizable and unique park identity and visual character.

- » *Community gathering spaces*
- » *Public art, signage, and other elements that tell the story of the Gorge*
- » *Indigenous / native plantings*
- » *Quality of design*
- » *Consistent, high-quality, durable and sustainable materials and facilities*



## Equity and Inclusion

Provide park facilities, programs, and events that reflect evolving community demographics and park user needs.

- » *Multi-generational opportunities that reflect community aspirations, values and needs; explore policy changes if necessary*
- » *Multi-cultural opportunities with on-going community outreach and participation*
- » *Equal access to park facilities, programs, and events*
- » *Multilingual, accessible wayfinding*
- » *Welcoming to all*



## History, Heritage, Arts and Culture

Reflect and interpret the history, heritage and cultural attributes of the Mississippi River Gorge and the regional park.

- » *Natural and cultural history of the land including indigenous stories, pre-European settlement to present*
- » *Park history from HWS Cleveland to present; protect high value historic elements*
- » *Utilize public art to tell the stories of people, events, and the environment*



## Health and Wellness

Promote and support health and wellness opportunities through park programs and facilities.

- » *Address a variety of abilities*
- » *Year round active and passive activities*
- » *Educational opportunities*
- » *Promote the park as a healing space for mind, body and spirit*

