MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARK AND COMMUNITY CENTER
Minneapolis MN

Pre-1850's Oak Savannah and Dakota Land
1912 Early Sawmill Activity and Hall's Island Bath House
1988 Expanded Mill and Island Annexation
2024 Graco Park and Hall's Island Restoration

SITE TRANSFORMATION

ORIGINS
Pre 1850 Site home to Dakota people and blanketed in Oak Forest
1851 In Treaty with the Sioux, Dakota cede lands including modern day Minneapolis to US Government; over next decade, Dakota people were forcibly removed from region
1855 Town of St. Anthony incorporated on the East Bank to the Mississippi River, merged with Minneapolis 15 years later
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1930 Scherer Bros. fills in channel separating Hall's Island from East Bank
2010 Minneapolis Park Board purchases land from Scherer Bros. and raises Lumber Buildings
2017 Hall's Island reconstructed
2021 Park Board builds first Spark'd Studio – a technology makers space for teens – at Powderhorn Park
2024 Planned Grand Opening of Graco Park, which seeks to integrate recreation, opportunity incubation and restoration of habitat

INDUSTRIALIZATION
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RESTORATION
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PARK PROGRAM

GATHERING AND EDUCATION
1. Community Center
2. Porch / Proscenium
3. Amphitheatre
4. Entry Plaza
5. Future Shade Pavilion
6. Picnic Area

HABITAT AND RESTORATION
7. Great Bee Lawn
8. Prairie / Geothermal Ground Loop
9. Wet Meadow
10. Riverwalk
11. Gravel Beach

ACCESS AND CONNECTION
12. Tunnel Connection to Regional Bike Trail
13. Regional Bike Trail Extension
14. Hall’s Island Promenade
15. Intersection Improvements
16. Accessible Parking

HABITAT SYSTEMS
The Park is structured by Habitat Systems that relate groupings of plant species, tree types, and ground cover to key species who reside and migrate through the Mississippi River Corridor.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FLYWAY

MINNESOTA CRITICAL BIRD HABITAT

A LINK IN THE CHAIN
The Park is connected to Continental, State, and Local Habitat Networks, and maximizes the park system's potential as a Habitat Corridor.

MISSISSIPPI PARK SYSTEM

ORACO PARK

NORTH METRO MISSISSIPPI RIVER IBA

MINNESOTA
COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAM

COMMUNITY GATHERING
1 Commons
2 Reception
3 Small Conference Room
4 Multipurpose Room
5 Porch / Proscenium

SPARK'D STUDIO
6 Spark’d Studio
7 Recording Studio
8 Studio Storage

SUPPORT
9 Office
10 All Gender Restroom
11 Janitor’s Closet
12 Storage
13 Maintenance Garage
14 Mechanical
15 Electrical

PARK AS OPPORTUNITY INCUBATOR
Spark’d Studios are creative technology spaces being built within the park system to support self-expression, interest-driven activities, and self-actualization for young people. Programming includes:

1 E-SPORTS
2 VIDEO PRODUCTION
3 WEB DEVELOPMENT
4 MUSIC PRODUCTION
5 DIGITAL FABRICATION
6 PHOTOGRAPHY
7 PODCAST PRODUCTION
8 ENTREPRENEURSHIP
9 STORYTELLING
10 ART AND MIXED MEDIA

Spark’d Studio Locations
Poverty Rate > 30%
NET ZERO OPERATIONAL ENERGY

The building’s minimal loads are fully offset by a roof-mounted photovoltaic array. Additional PV Capacity feeds a small snow melt system in the park.
On its west end, the building’s wood rainscreen slips past the thermal envelope, creating an open air Porch & Proscenium for social gathering and performance.
A MULTIPURPOSE COMMUNITY HUB

The Multipurpose Room, provides an expanded footprint for space intensive Spark’d Studio activities and a venue for community-wide events. On precious good weather days, a pocketing glass door opens to the amphitheater and river beyond.
The building is planned on a strict module system based on standard panel sizes and thermally efficient 24" stud spacing, minimizing waste and reducing cost and embodied carbon.

Embodied Carbon Reduction Measures

1. Double-Wythe Stud Wall
   Double-Wythe Stud Walls use conventional wood framing to provide more space for insulation and a thermal break between wythes. Panelized detailing and Advanced Framing techniques bolster economy and thermal performance, respectively.

2. Wood Trusses
   Wood Trusses are a conventional and low-carbon means of roof framing that uses small, rapidly grown sections of lumber.

3. Dense-Pack Cellulose
   Double-wythe stud walls and Wood Trusses are infilled with economic, moisture-tolerant, and low-embodied carbon Dense Pack Cellulose insulation.

4. Plywood Interior
   Birch Plywood Interior finish provides material warmth, durability and low embodied carbon use.

Embodied Carbon Use

Total: 176 kgCO2e/m2