







THE RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ACTION PLAN adopted by Mayor and City Council in 2020

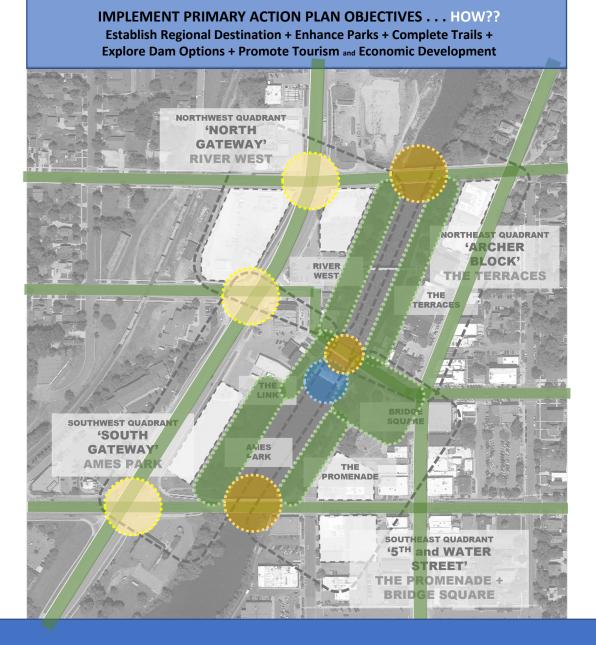


TAKING A CLOSER LOOK AT YOUR CENTRAL RIVERFRONT

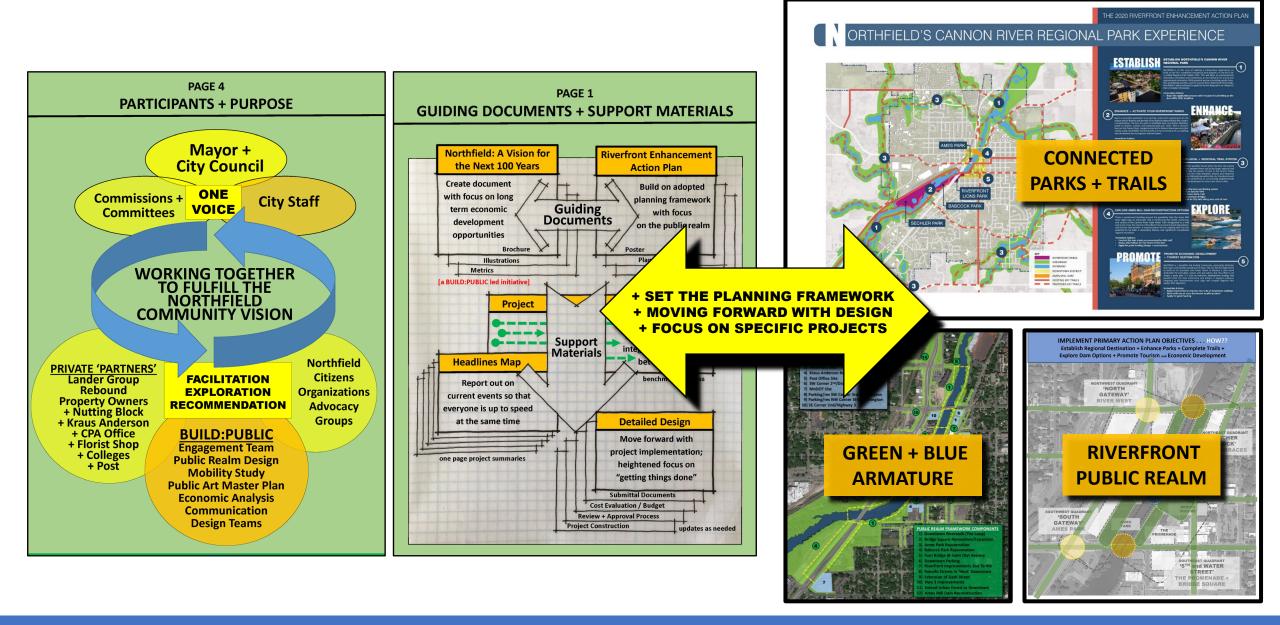
# **EMERGING VISION FRAMEWORK**

**Public Realm + Redevelopment Sites** 











# THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

a city supported outreach process to report progress + gather public input

#### NORTHFIELD COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Outreach List of Groups and Individuals (updated 27 April 2023)

Mayor and City Council – Special Workshops + Regular Meetings

Historic Preservation Commission – Special Workshops + Regular Meetings

Planning Commission – Special Workshops + Regular Meetings

Betsy Buckheit and Tracy Davis Heisler (Planning Commission Members)

Environmental Quality Commission - Special Workshops + Regular Meetings

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board – Regular Meetings

Development Review Committee

Racial Equity Core Team

City Staff + Departments

Youth on Boards

Fire Chief Tom Nelson

Public Art Discussion - Meeting + Site Walk with Molly and Natalie

Radio Station KYMN

Round 1 – Business/Property Owner 'Quadrant Workshops' (four meetings)

Round 1 – Public Open Houses (3 events – Library, Greenvale School, 50 North)

Carleton College

Saint Olaf College

Northfield School Superintendent - Matt Hillman

Baird Jarman - Instructor at Carleton College

Sara Swan McDonald – Instructor at Northfield High School

DJJD Committee and 'Working Group' - Workshops + Site Walks

Riverwalk Marketfest - Meetings + Site Walks

Vintage Band - Meetings + Site Walks

Lions Club – Regular Meeting + Site Walk

Rotary Club

Chamber of Commerce

Roundtable

Open Table

Garden Club

Clean River Partners

Friends of Northfield

Age Friendly Northfield

MnDOT

Splash Pad Group

Michael Lander/Build Public Development Team (5th and Water Street Properties)

Rebound Development Team (Archer Property)

**Futures North Public Art Discussion** 

CHS/Terri O'Conner Mobility (+ parking) Study

Jon Commers Economic Evaluation

Barr Engineering Team - Ames Mill Dam Reconstruction Study

Jayson Bowerman – White Water Specialists

#### Miscellaneous Business Owner + Northfield Citizen Meetings (in no particular order):

Post Consumer Brands

**Nutting Block** 

Dave Hvistendahl (Property Owner)

Dave Ludescher (Property Owner)

Dave Neuger (Property Owner

Rick Estenson and Fred Rogers

Dale Finger (Quarterback Club)

Greg and Brianna (Farmstead Bike Shop)

Lucinda Gonzalez Miron and Angelica (last name please)

Miguel (El Triunfo)

Loon Distillery

Eric Johnson (Bike Advocate)

Devin Johnson (Property Owner)

Norm Oberto (Past Co-Chair of Action Plan Committee)

Brent Dack (Property Owner

#### Ongoing Outreach Focus – the Equity Outreach Plan (see attached draft – 25 April 2023)

Draft Organization and Contact List (where we are heading with further outreach/engagement):

- Human Rights Commission
- Healthy Community Initiative (Jennifer Varrientos)
- Growing Up Healthy (Laura Garcia and Leslie Limon)
- Community Action Center
- Rice County Neighbors United (Mar Valdecantos)
- Emmaus and St. Dominicks Church
- Community Resource Center (Veronica Gambino and Lucy Gonzalez Miron)
- Viking Terrace 'Board' (Jorje and others)
- Northfield Community College
- Northfield Community Education Center (we had a tour; now need to meet with staff)
- Hiawatha Line (begin more detailed discussion about transit improvements)
- What/who else needs to be on this list??

WHERE WE'VE BEEN . . . AND WHERE WE'RE GOING







4 BUSINESS + PROPERTY OWNER WORKSHOPS
[DIVIDED INTO 4 QUADRANTS PER DIAGRAM]



# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**









3 PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES
[FACILITATED IN 3 DIFFERENT LOCATIONS AROUND NORTHFIELD]



# **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS**

a city supported outreach process to report progress + gather public input







Dedestrian walk

Space for fishing

Space for fishing

Street

First

Fi



Flyers + meetings with property owners adjacent to Bridge Square

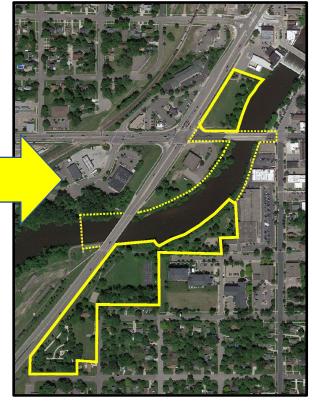
Meetings with DJJD to explore ideas + options to support their yearly event – making sure that everything fit in the new plan

Meetings to explore highest and best use of Ames Park – probable future relocation of the DJJD Carnival







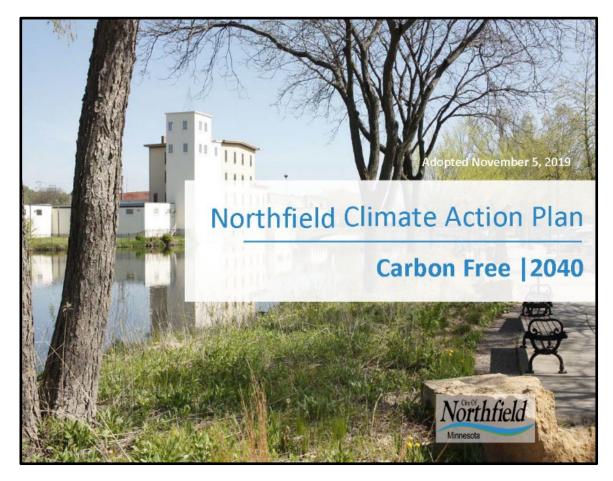


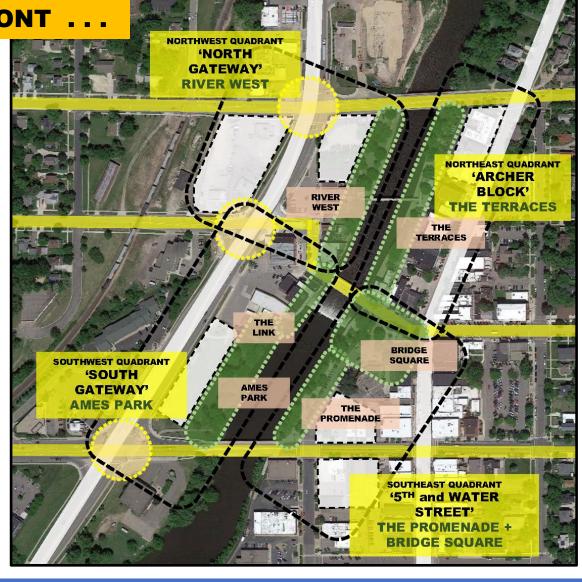
Meeting + site walk with Lions Club to hear ideas about park program and concerns about proposed Splash Pad Action Plan – 'ENGAGING NEIGHBORHOOD AMENITY' More than any of the other parks, Riverside Lions Park is embedded in the neighborhood context; meeting needs of a varied constituency with a variety of smaller venues.

Set the stage to proceed with Concept Design Process for both Riverside Lions and Ames Park



# DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH THE NEW DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES ALONG THE CENTRAL RIVERFRONT ...

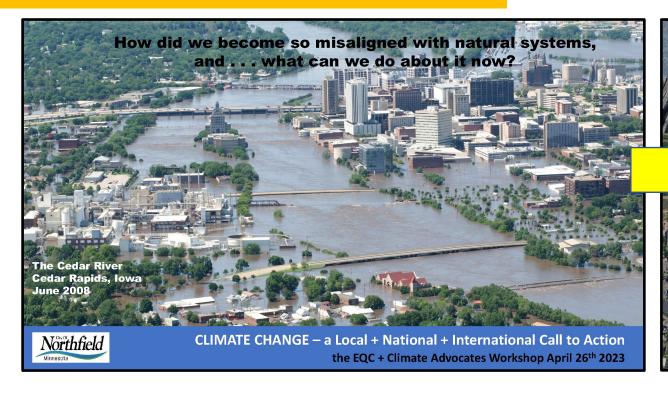


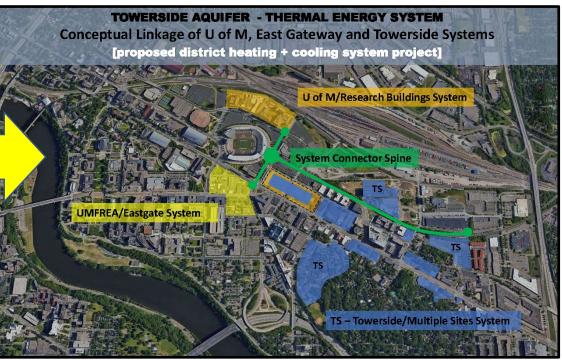




**EXAMPLE 2 – IMPLEMENT THE NORTHFIELD CLIMATE ACTION PLAN** 

**Directive: Influence Planning and Design + Inform Project Review and Approval Process** 





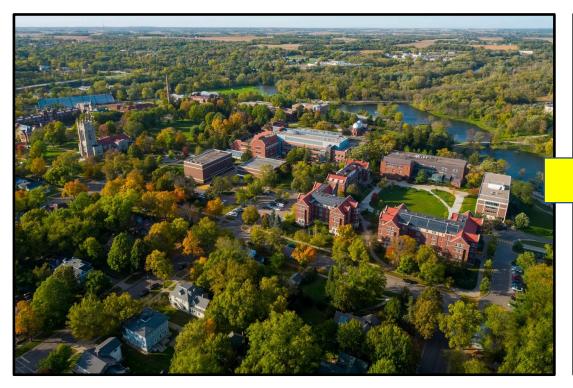
# **Facilitated EQC + Climate Advocates Workshop**

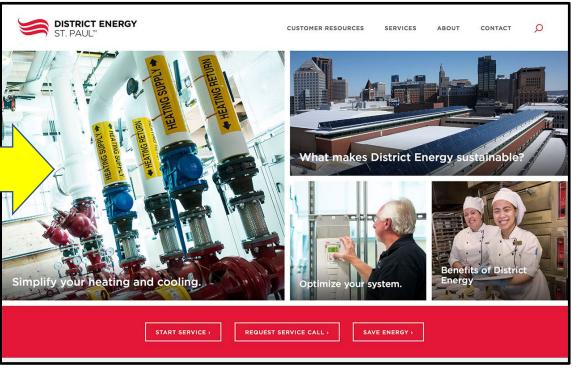
- + Establish 'Work Groups' to focus on Action Plan Topic Areas
- + Recommendations related to Central Riverfront redevelopment
- + Prepare one-page summary of Climate Action Plan objectives

'District System' approach to Central Riverfront infrastructure – initial exploration of similar projects (who, what, where, how?)



# **EXAMPLE 2 – IMPLEMENT THE NORTHFIELD CLIMATE ACTION PLAN**





Explore opportunities to link with/expand the existing (recently installed) geothermal heating and cooling system at Carleton College

Received a proposal to evaluate district energy system FEASIBILITY focused on the Central Riverfront and other potential system users



**EXAMPLE 2 – IMPLEMENT THE N**HFIELD CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

**Directive: Influence Planning and Design + Inform Project Review and Approval Process** 

# DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH A COMMENT HEARD IN THE JOINT PC + HPC WORKSHOP – "WHO IS THIS FOR?" . . .

# Northfield Racial Equity Action Plan – adopted 2020

**Background:** Being a welcoming community and one that embraces a diverse population is important to the City of Northfield. In December 2016 the City Council adopted a policy regarding "employee conduct regarding immigration status". The purpose was for Northfield to be a vibrant city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted city.

In the 2018-2020 Strategic Plan for the City, the topic of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (A Community that Welcomes Everyone) was one of the six priority areas. Development of this Racial Equity Action Plan came about as City staff participated in the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE).

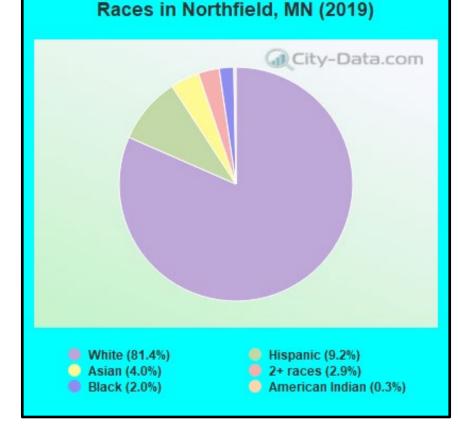
Racial Equity Statement: The City of Northfield values all members of our community and recognizes the demographic makeup of our citizens will continue to change. Therefore, the City of Northfield strives to improve outreach and engagement to increase racial equity in the Northfield community. In addition, the City wants to build upon existing policies and procedures to ensure they are equitable for the Northfield community.

Need: The City of Northfield has developed this plan because:

- It is a way to be intentional about institutional culture change.
- It will help us to design strategies to focus improvements. Developing racial equity plans/tools with all departments will help us better
  include racial equity as a factor in delivery of services and budgeting.
- Institutional racism is something ingrained into the fabric of many institutions in the United States,. For the City, racial equity is about exploring our practices, service delivery and policies to help find ways to make our institution more racially equitable.
- Having a racial equity action plan will keep this work a priority for the City as we carry out our work and create our budgets.

Results – These are community level conditions of well-being we intend to improve. The actions and outcomes in this plan will help to move us towards these results.

- City of Northfield services are accessible and accessed by all community members.
  - Forms, informational materials and public safety information are easily accessible in the languages used in our community.
  - · Translation services are provided for in-person and phone interactions with staff.
  - Improve service delivery and application processes to be simple, convenient and easy to understand.
  - Expand broadband/internet access by working with utility service providers.
  - City Departments, Boards & Commissions take equity into account when evaluating and deciding on projects.
  - City buildings, staff and public meetings are welcoming places where all feel comfortable seeking services and participating in local government.



... and a recurring statement in various meetings that "some Northfield citizens don't feel welcome downtown"



# INITIAL LIMITED MEETING ATTENDANCE LED TO . . .

### THE EQUITY OUTREACH PLAN

Based on a "Trusted Advocates Approach" – directive from City Staff Meeting 3/29/2023 Draft outline – 25 April 2023

#### OVERVIEW + PURPOSE

[Extracted from the Northfield Equity Action Plan - adopted July 2020]

"Being a welcoming community and one that embraces a diverse population is important to the City of Northfield. The purpose was for Northfield to be a vibrant city where our immigrant and refugee residents can fully participate in and be integrated into the social, civic, and economic fabric of their adopted city."

[The Equity Action Plan also included the following Racial Equity Statement]

"The City of Northfield values all members of our community and recognizes the demographic makeup of our citizens will continue to change. Therefore, the City of Northfield strives to improve outreach and engagement to increase racial equity in the Northfield community. In addition, the City wants to build upon existing policies and procedures to ensure they are equitable for the Northfield community."

#### WORK PLAN INTRODUCTION

In alignment with overall objectives for Community-Wide Engagement Process currently underway, we recognize the need for additional outreach in order to connect with various groups and individuals not typically included (for whatever reason) in ongoing city discussion and decision-making.

Toward that end, the City of Northfield has requested, and fully supports, the following Equity Outreach Work Plan as a critical next step to specifically address and help implement the list of actions and outcomes outlined in their Equity Action Plan.

#### STEP ONE - COMMUNICATE + CONNECT . . .

- ... meet with individual community leaders
- + Create and confirm list of neighborhood contacts
- + Schedule informal meetings with identified community leaders
- + Prepare brief questionnaire to spark discussion

Deliverable: summary meeting notes + confirm specific actions/next steps

#### STEP TWO - UNDERSTAND PRIORITY ISSUES + IDEAS . . .

- . . . convene small Focus Group discussion meetings
- + Convene 'Community Leader' Focus Group meeting(s) based on Step One contacts
- + Facilitate discussion toward a comprehensive list of their 'priority issues and ideas'
- + Publish and submit Focus Group meeting results to participants for review/revision
- + Focus Group presentation of initial findings to City Leadership/City Staff

Deliverable: summary meeting notes + confirm specific actions/next steps

#### STEP THREE - BROADEN PARTICIPATION . . .

- . . . meet with existing organizations and advocacy groups
- + Create and confirm list of neighborhood organizations and advocacy groups
- + Schedule and facilitate a series of meetings with identified organizations
- + Use questionnaire + Focus Group initial findings as the basis for discussion
- + Publish and submit meeting results to participants for review/revision
- + Facilitate 'Equity Outreach Workshop' meeting bringing together all participants
- + Publish and submit summary Workshop results to all participants

Deliverable: summary meeting notes + confirm specific actions/next steps

#### STEP FOUR - BUILD ONGOING 'CARING + SHARING' PLATFORM . . .

- ... help organize, support, participate in a variety of neighborhood-based events (music, food, art, performance, activities... ideas sharing + input gathering)
- + Convene Equity Outreach Workshop participants to outline a series of public events
- + Support Community Leader efforts to schedule and coordinate public events [Identify specific City roles and responsibilities resources, personnel, translator, etc.]
- + Participate/present information at scheduled public events
- Deliverable: summary meeting notes + confirm specific actions/next steps

ADDITIONAL MEETINGS (beyond what has been included and described above)

As we've experienced over the past year, the overall Community Engagement Process can be very fluid and at times unpredictable. We expect there will be opportunities to meet with other yet to be identified groups or individuals who appear as the process unfolds.

The intent is to build trust, and encourage City/Community Leaders to take on a greater role to connect and communicate with a growing base of neighborhood participants who feel confident that their voices matter. Ideally, over time, this 'Platform' for sharing issues and ideas with city leadership will solidify their equitable place at the table — leading to specific actions and outcomes that deliver measurable benefits and improve day-to-day quality of life.

#### PROPOSED SCHEDULE

This Equity Outreach process has already begun and is expected to continue through the end of this year. Expected outcomes/deliverable listed under each Step will help define next steps and ongoing efforts into 2024.

NOTE: WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE FOR THIS OUTREACH EFFORT? WE KNOW WE'RE REACHING OUT TO THE LATINX COMMUNITY . . . ALSO YOUTH, SENIORS (although we're getting a lot of youth and senior participation already in other forums): WHO ELSE DO WE WANT TO INCLUDE . . . BIPOC, NEW IMMIGRANT — WHAT OTHER GROUPS ARE GENERALLY NOT WELL REPRESENTED OR HEARD FROM ?





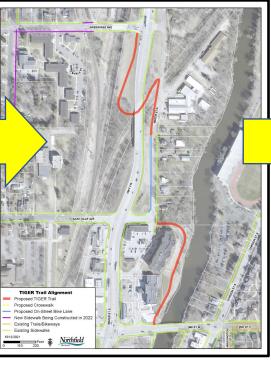








Initial discussion + exploring options for transportation improvements



Initial discussion +
exploring options for
neighborhood trail
connections



Initial discussion + exploring options for additional north side/west of Highway 3 neighborhood amenities



Directive: answer the question – "WHO IS THIS FOR?" – it's for everyone!!

# DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH A GROWING EXCITEMENT ABOUT RE-IMAGINING YOUR CENTRAL RIVERFRONT . . .







# WHICH LED TO PUBLISHING THE CENTRAL RIVERFRONT DESIGN PRINCIPLES . . .

# The riverfront is for everyone

Develop places and activities that create an inclusive, welcoming environment for all people, including ages, genders, physical abilities, ethnic and religious backgrounds.

# The riverfront should be active

Focus on creating "people places" that activate the riverfront, including venues for music, festivals and casual conversation in addition to strolling and jogging along the Riverwalk.

# The riverfront should be beautiful and memorable

New spaces should become iconic places, well-designed to respect and enhance their historic context while introducing new ideas about placemaking to the riverfront. Opportunities to integrate public art into all facets of the riverfront should be realized.

# Rethink service and parking

A first step in transforming the riverfront is to "make the back door a front door." Parking and service are extremely important, but the paradigm needs to shift to accommodate these needs using new ideas and technologies.

# **Promote health and wellness**

The riverfront should be a place to relax and enjoy the day as well an active place to enjoy exercising. Design should reflect an awareness of human <u>and</u> environmental health (urban forest, etc.).

# Integrate resilient design

Successful design will accommodate the increasing variations and intensity of natural events, including periodic flooding, extended dry periods, intense winter conditions, etc. Stormwater should be seamlessly and artfully treated before entering the Cannon River.

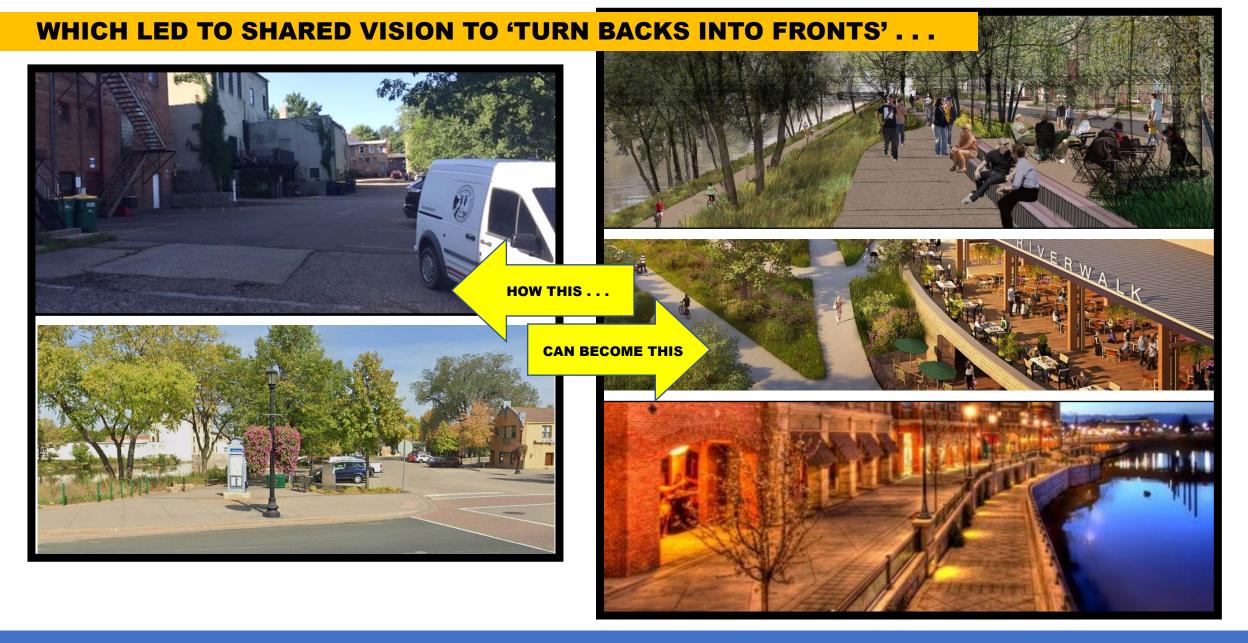
## **Enhance Connections**

Complete a two-tiered, continuous Riverwalk in the downtown core to further enhance the riverfront experience year 'round; provide multiple, safe connections into the neighborhoods to the east and west will attract people to the core and further activate the waterfront.

# **Focus on Northfield**

The Northfield riverfront should be, first and foremost, a place for the local community to gather, celebrate, exercise, reflect, and simply enjoy the Cannon River. A successful local draw will always attract visitors.







EXAMPLE 4 – THE CENTRAL RIVERFRONT 'MASTER PLAN'
Directive: demonstrate IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL 3 ACTION PLANS

# WHICH LED TO INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ABOUT HOW TO IMPROVE HIGHWAY 3...

**HOW THIS...** 







# WHICH LED TO EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR AMES PARK + AMES MILL DAM . . .















EXAMPLE 4 – THE CENTRAL RIVERFRONT 'MASTER PLAN'
Directive: demonstrate IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL 3 ACTION PLANS







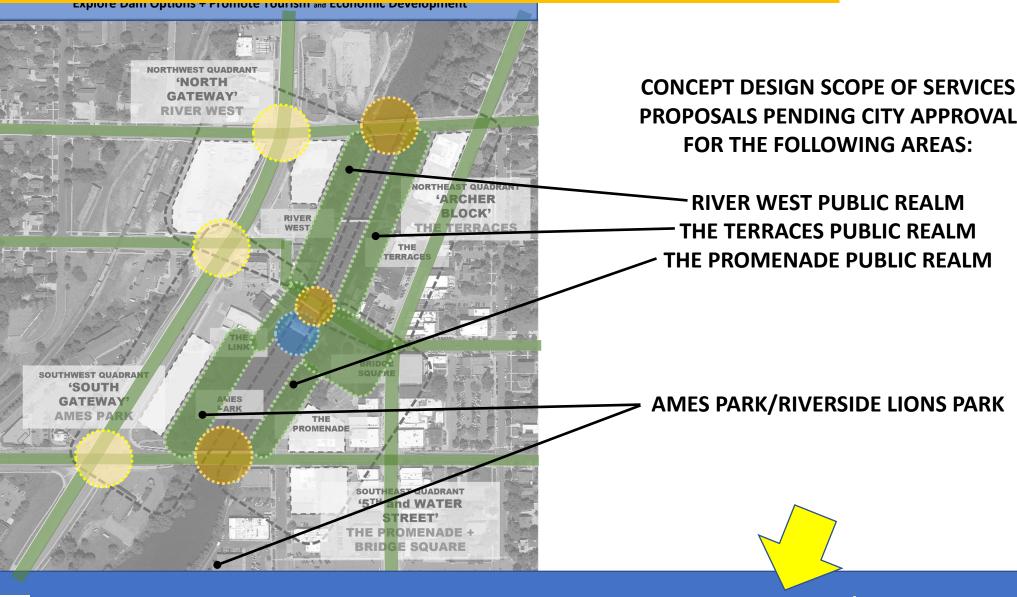






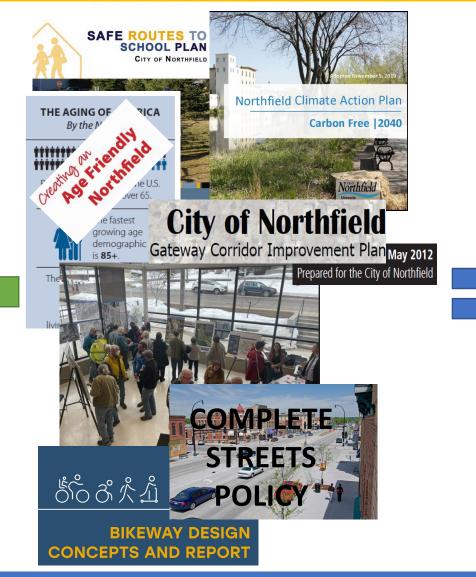
EXAMPLE 4 – THE CENTRAL RIVERFRONT 'MASTER PLAN'
Directive: demonstrate IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL 3 ACTION PLANS

# WHICH LED TO MOVING FORWARD WITH CONCEPT DESIGN WORK . . .





# CAPITALIZE ON PRECEDING WORK AND EXPAND APPROACH CITYWIDE . . .





rce: Missing Middle Housing term created by Daniel Parolek/Image © Opticos Design, Inc./For more info visit www



RELATIONSHIP TO THE NORTHFIELD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN process update + next steps