



# RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NORTHFIELD, MN

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE 10.15.19

# BACKGROUND

The City Council adopted a resolution 2018-115 in November 2018 to create the Riverfront Enhancement Advisory Committee to further the City's strategic priorities, including:

- ▶ "riverfront enhancement";
- ▶ "enhanced tourism"; and
- ▶ "expanded downtown"
- ▶ All of which contribute to "Economic Development: A Community That's Economically Thriving".

# DELIVERABLES

The Council adopted resolution established an expectation that the Committees work would include preparation of a Riverfront Enhancement Action Plan that includes the following:

- ▶ Prioritization to align with the strategic plan; and
- ▶ Concept plans for strategic park improvements; and
- ▶ Identified short term and long term projects and funding sources; and
- ▶ Preservation and conservation of the riverfront; and
- ▶ Identification of stormwater management project priorities; and
- ▶ Strategies for increased active use of the riverfront; and
- ▶ Opportunities for business expansion on the corridor.

# START UP

## COMMITTEE START UP:

Orientation

Assets & Opportunities –  
Complete Initial Inventory

Work Plan

Consider for 2019

# ASSETS & OPPORTUNITIES – EARLY INVENTORY

## Riverfront Enhancement Committee

### ASSETS / POSITIVES

- ◊ City owned East side properties
- ◊ East Cannon River Trail
- ◊ Mill Town Trail & City owned west side properties

- ◊ River as a defining physical & historical feature
- ◊ Part of our community's identity
- ◊ Community gathering place

- ◊ Proximity to downtown
- ◊ Riverwalk architecture downtown
- ◊ Flows through downtown
- ◊ Location to downtown
- ◊ Proximity to local business
- ◊ Character of adjacent built environment (i.e. architectural features)
- ◊ The Riverwalk
- ◊ Restaurant patios

- ◊ River health & wildlife
- ◊ Quality of natural environment (water, land, air, birdlife)
- ◊ Parks / Green Space
- ◊ Nature! (in our town)

- ◊ Depth / flow for Recreation
- ◊ Recreation (kayaking, walking, fishing, etc.)

- ◊ Bridge Square
- ◊ Bridge Square & 4th St. Bridge
- ◊ Dam
- ◊ Downtown Pedestrian Bridge
- ◊ Pedestrian Bridge
- ◊ Bridges

## Riverfront Enhancement Committee

### OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE

- ◊ Underdeveloped landings
- ◊ Northfield "Boat Club" on the 16 current ports of Northfield
- ◊ Kayak flume on the river wall
- ◊ Huge removable tent on the 4th St. bridge (for dances, dinners, events)
- ◊ Lighted gondolas for rent between 2nd & 4th St. bridges
- ◊ Underutilization of River as a water trail
- ◊ Better water use access (dam portage & fishing)
- ◊ Enhance fishing
- ◊ RV Park / Campground

- ◊ Light the dam (Phillips Electric Project)
- ◊ Light all the bridges and the walkways between
- ◊ Lighting dam & bridges
- ◊ Landscaping enhancement
- ◊ Decorative lighting (dam, bridges, buildings)

- ◊ Climate adaptation & carbon sequestration
- ◊ Flooding mitigation
- ◊ Wetland mitigation

- ◊ Access! (get people to the water, landings, signage, increased visibility)
- ◊ Bring recreation trails through downtown to improve economic vitality
- ◊ Connect to Depot & local regional transit options
- ◊ Multi-modal trail connectivity (walk, kayak, bike)
- ◊ Connectivity with sidewalks & trails

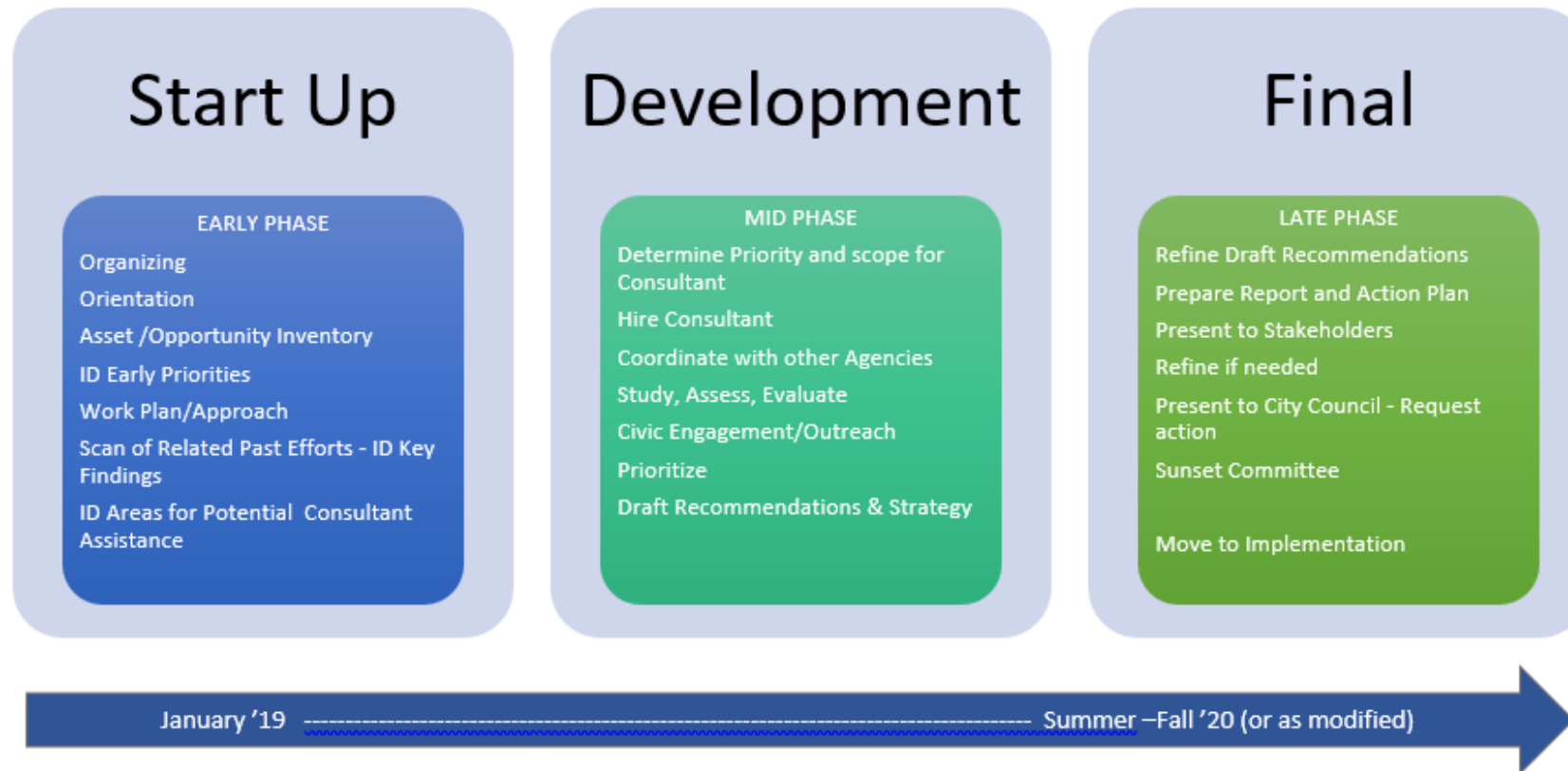
- ◊ Aesthetics (lack of architectural details of bridges, aesthetic lighting, landscaping)
- ◊ Utilize backsides of Division St. buildings & the Riverwalk between 2nd to 5th
- ◊ Introduce floating walkway under the 2nd St. bridge to connect to the Marriott and Tiger Trail
- ◊ Walking bridge by Carlton field
- ◊ Extension of Riverwalk beyond 2nd St.
- ◊ Better integration with Downtown / businesses

- ◊ Bridge Square & Ames Park design connection & enhancement
- ◊ Ames Park (ugly & underutilized)
- ◊ Enhance Ames Park

- ◊ Lack of public awareness of river opportunities

- ◊ Dam removal
- ◊ Dam removal (whitewater)

# WORKPLAN FRAMEWORK



# Consider for 2019

- ▶ Watercraft Takeout Location
  - ▶ Riverside
  - ▶ Babcock
- ▶ Lighting – Bridges & River-Walk
  - ▶ Philips Lighting Presentation



Concept by Philips Lighting

# National Park Service – T.A.

- ▶ Professional Services
- ▶ Review & Organize Plans & Resources
- ▶ Identifying Geographic “Districts”
- ▶ Cataloguing Ideas
- ▶ Facilitating – Trimming & Refining

## 22 Plans, Guides, Resources Reviewed

List of Plans, Guidelines & Resources Containing City of Northfield Adopted Actions Pertaining to Improvements that Impact the River District(s) Shown

Tag	Source	Year	Tag	Source	Year
A	City of Northfield Pedestrian, Bike & Trail System	2019	L	Downtown Streetscape Plan	2008
B	3rd St. Arts Corridor Preferred Concept Plan	2019	M	Greenway Corridor Plan	2008
C	Northfield Strategic Plan	2018	N	Northfield Economic Development Plan	2008
D	Mill Towns Trail Northfield Alignment Concept	2017	O	O-Block Final Framework Plan	2008
E	Chapter 519 Wild and Scenic River District	2015	P	Mill Towns State Trail Master Plan	2005
F	Framework Planning in Northfield	2014	Q	Natural Resources Inventory	2005
G	Future Vision for Bridge Square	2014	R	Northfield Downtown Preservation Guidelines	2004
H	Northfield Corridor Improvement Plan	2012	S	Northfield Downtown Strategies	2003
I	Comprehensive Plan	2008	T	West River Development Guidelines	1999
J	Parks, Open Space and Trail Plan	2008	U	Present and Future Design Workshop	1998
K	Comprehensive Surface Water Management Plan	2007	V	Shaping the Future Strategic Plan	1994

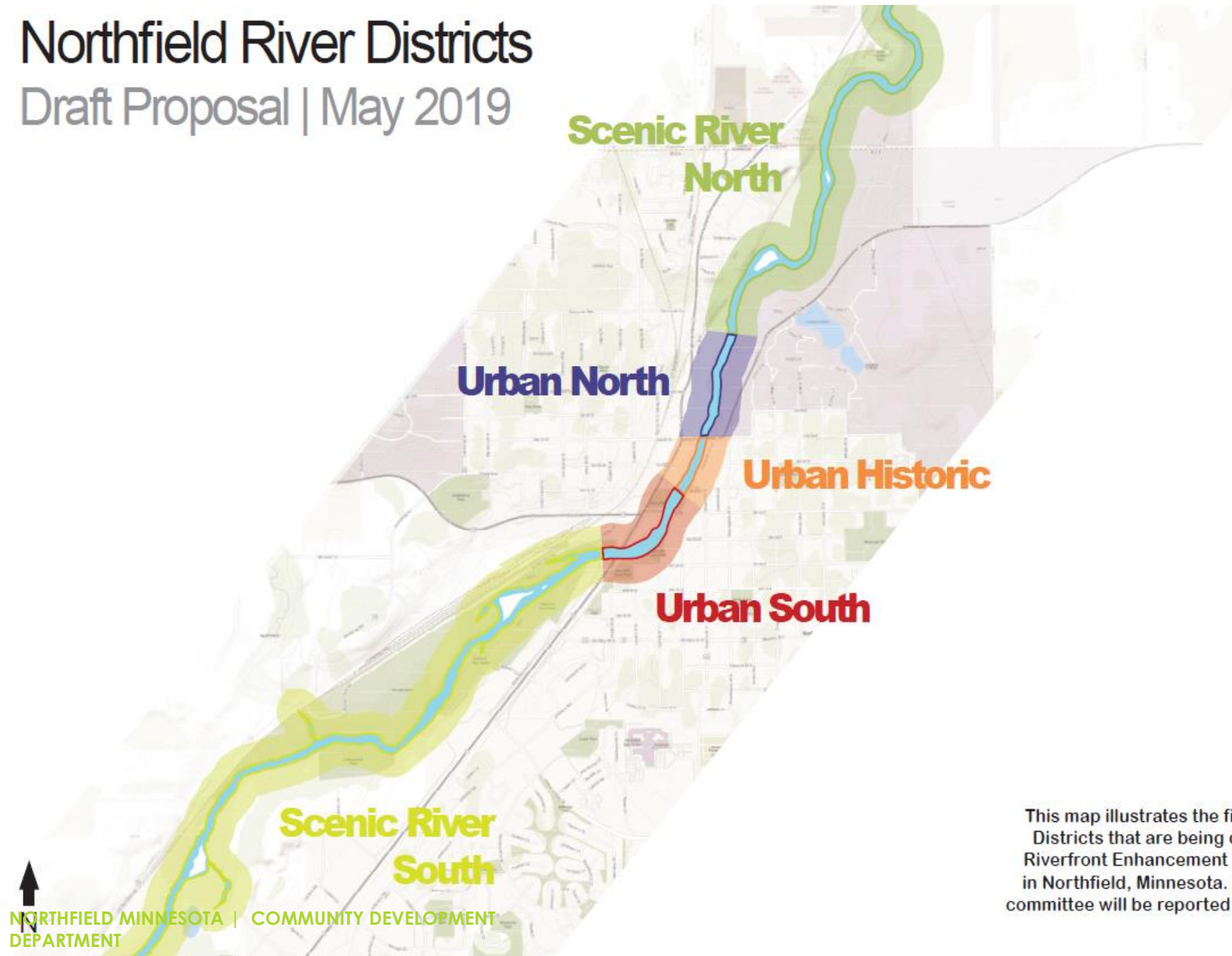
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Documents from 1994-2019



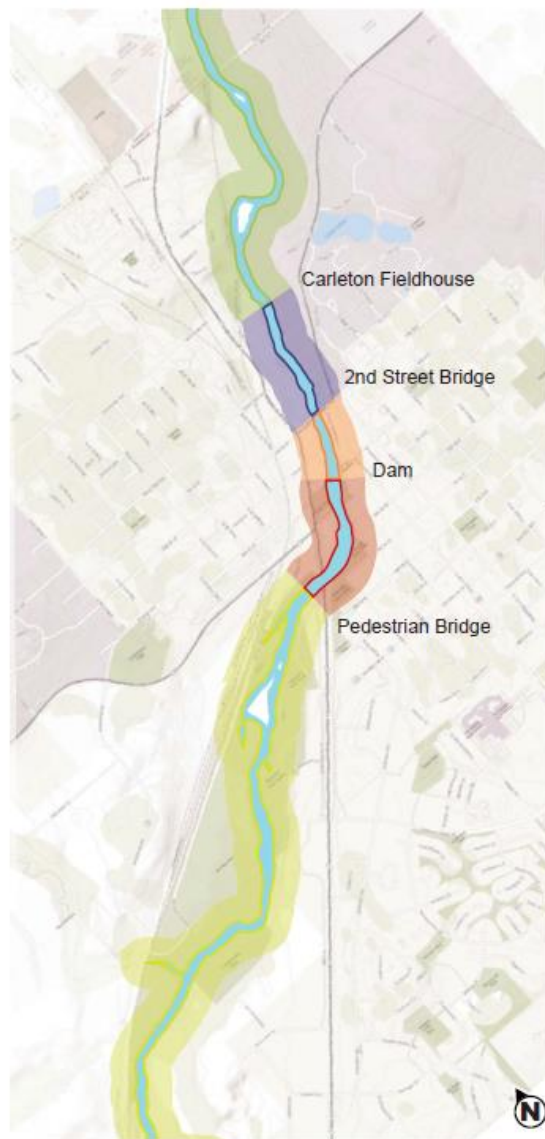
# Northfield River Districts

## Draft Proposal | May 2019



This map illustrates the five Cannon River Districts that are being developed by the Riverfront Enhancement Work Committee in Northfield, Minnesota. The work of this committee will be reported to the Northfield City Council.

## Scenic River South



Adopted Actions are gathered from 22 documents created for the city between 1994 and 2019. Adopted Actions that can apply in all five proposed river districts but were not called out with specific on-the-ground locations are listed here. Gaps and opportunities are examined in more detail on each of the river district maps on the following pages.

See existing authorities to which grow the city into an and town.

Tag	Source	Year	Tag	Source	Year
A	City of Northford Prostate, Bike & Trail System	2018	L	Downtown Development Plan	2008
B	3rd St. Arts Council Preferred Concept Plan	2018	M	General Comdor Plan	2008
C	Northfield Strategic Plan	2019	N	Northfield Economic Development Plan	2008
D	Mill Trails Trail Northfield Alignment Concept	2017	O	Q-Block First Framework Plan	2008
E	Chapen 519 Wild and Scenic River District	2015	P	North State State Trail Master Plan	2005
F	Northfield Planning Commission	2014	Q	General Resources Inventory	2008
G	Future Vision for Bridge Square	2014	R	Northfield Downtown Preservation Guidelines	2004
H	Northfield Community Improvement Plan	2012	S	Northfield Downtown Strategies	2003
I	Comprehensive Plan	2008	T	West River Development Guidelines	1999
J	Open Space and Trail Plan	2007	U	Present and Future Design Workshops	2006
K	Comprehensive Surface Urban Management Plan	2008	V	Reaching the Future State 2030	2006

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# Work in Progress

## Current & Upcoming Tasks

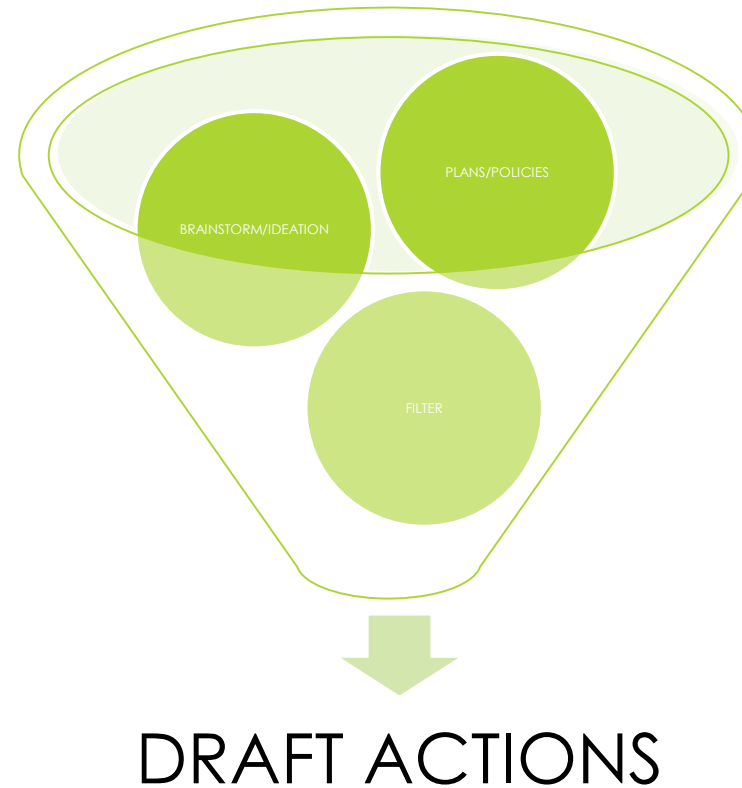
- ▶ Review – Plans & Strategies
- ▶ Compiling & Organizing Ideas
- ▶ Sorting Ideas

## Other- Related Topics

- ▶ Floodplain
- ▶ Flood mitigation or management
- ▶ Dam & River Ecology
  
- ▶ Scope & Scope Management

# Next Steps

- ▶ **182 IDEAS**
- ▶ Filter & Refine
- ▶ **Closer Look at Parks**
- ▶ Draft Actions
- ▶ Prioritize
- ▶ Prepare Draft Plan



# Looking Ahead

## Engagement

- ▶ Past Plans & Efforts = Significant Input
- ▶ Committee – Representatives
- ▶ Park Board & Stakeholders- Closer Look at Parks
- ▶ Public – Draft Plan

## Action Plan

- ▶ Actionable
- ▶ Feasible
- ▶ ID Potential Funding Options
- ▶ Short Term Actions
- ▶ Long Term Actions
- ▶ Implementation – Will Depend on Dedicated Resources