

# RIVERFRONT MHK

## VISION PLAN | MANHATTAN, KS

19 AUGUST 2024



An aerial photograph of a city situated along a wide river. The foreground shows a dense forest of green trees. The river flows from the bottom right towards the center. In the background, a city skyline is visible with various buildings and structures. The sky is bright and slightly hazy.

*After the devastating 1951 flood, a levee was built around our fair city for flood protection. An unintended consequence was our estrangement from the beauty and history of the Kansas and Big Blue Rivers, the spectacular 19th century riverboat highway that led to our founding in 1855. Our Kansas River possesses great untapped development potential. Many cities, including Wichita, Omaha, and San Antonio, have successfully developed their riverfront. Our riverfront could also be developed to reflect our history and cultural heritage, and expand recreational and commercial uses.*

Riverfront MHK Mission Statement, [RiverfrontMHK.com](http://RiverfrontMHK.com)

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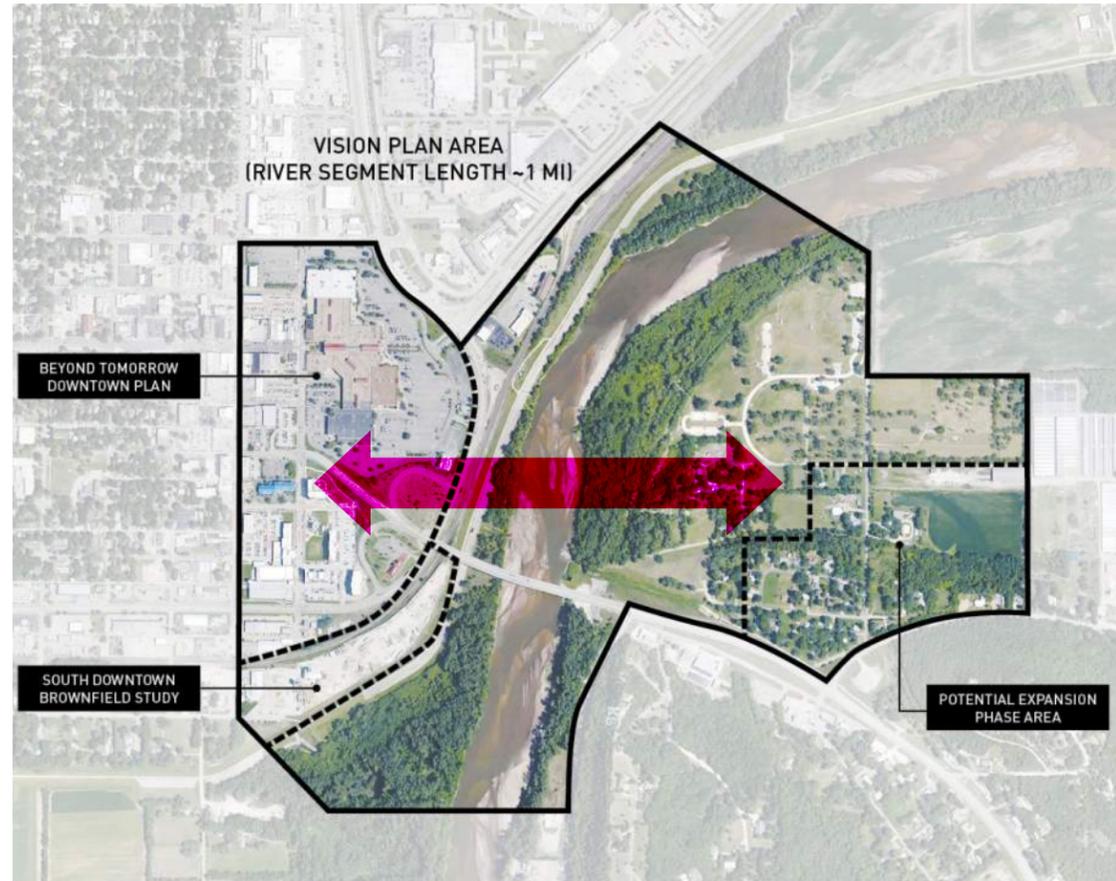
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## PURPOSE STATEMENT

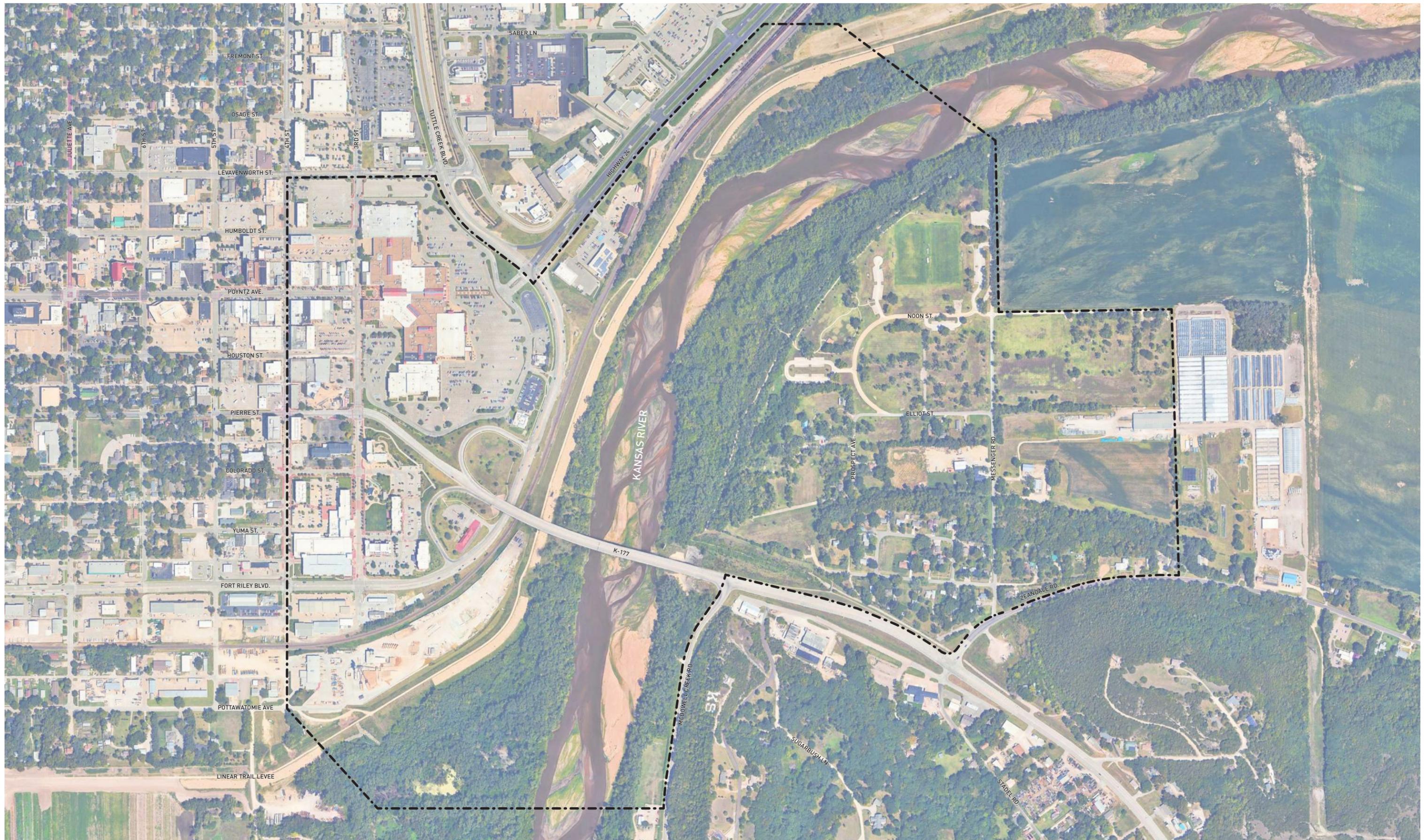


The Riverfront MHK Vision Plan was developed on behalf of the Riverfront MHK coalition as part of their effort to continue the revitalization of the Manhattan, KS Riverfront. Starting in April 2024, Riverfront MHK, MCLV (urban design & landscape architecture consultant), and community stakeholders collaborated to create a Vision Plan that captures the latent redevelopment potential to **activate, access, and engage** the Kansas River.

In addition to the stakeholder input, the Vision Plan synthesizes the following reports provided by Riverfront MHK:

- **Beyond Tomorrow Downtown Plan**, City of Manhattan (2024)
- **South Downtown Brownfield Study**, City of Manhattan, Flint Hills Regional Council (2024)
- **Bike & Pedestrian Systems Plan**, City of Manhattan (2020)
- **Fairmont Park Master Plan**, Riley County, City of Manhattan (1997)
- **On Either Side Of The Levee**, A. Mueller Masters Report (2024)

The Vision Plan study area includes a portion of Downtown Manhattan, the Midwest Concrete Materials property, Southeast Park, Fairmont Park, and several areas adjacent to Manhattan Town Center. The primary goal of the Vision Plan was to generate imagery that inspires the public and sparks a dialogue that leads to positive change for Manhattan.





# Legend

- 1 Town Center Farmers Market
- 2 Gateway Intersection Enhancement
- 3 Linear Trail (Levee)
- 4 Kaw River Pedestrian Bridge
- 5 Treetop Canopy Walk
- 6 Fairmont Park Pavilion + Plaza
- 7 Enhanced Dog Park + Pavilion
- 8 Recreation Fields + Sport Courts
- 9 Parkside Promenade
- 10 River Landing Bandshell + Amphitheater
- 11 Gathering Lawn
- 12 Meadow Playground
- 13 Limestone Garden
- 14 KSU Arboretum + Event Center
- 15 River Bend Trail
- 16 Pump Track + Skate Park
- 17 Camper & Cabins Area
- 18 Existing Fairmont Park Structure
- 19 River Pavilion
- 20 Water's Edge Access Point
- 21 River Access
- 22 Southeast Park
- 23 Spiral Ramp Trail Connector
- 24 Adventure Nature Playground
- 25 Linear Trail Rest Station
- 26 Southeast Park Wetland Boardwalk
- 27 Levee Gateway Tunnel
- 28 S.D.B.S. Redevelopment
- 29 3rd St. Battery Park
- 30 B.T.D.P. Redevelopment
- 31 Pierre St. Trail Connector
- 32 Existing Disc Golf (Reconfigured)
- Vision Plan Study Area
- 👁 Rendering View Point
- P Parking Area: +/- 800 Total Parking Stalls



LEVEE

177 HIGHWAY OVERPASS

KANSAS RIVER





**REST STATION**

**SPIRAL RAMP CONNECTOR  
AT LINEAR TRAIL**

**RIVER TRAIL SIGNAGE**

**KAW RIVER  
PEDESTRIAN  
BRIDGE**

**ADVENTURE NATURE PLAYGROUND**

**SOUTHEAST PARK  
GATHERING LAWN**

**WATER'S EDGE ACCESS POINT**

**RIVER ACCESS RAMP**

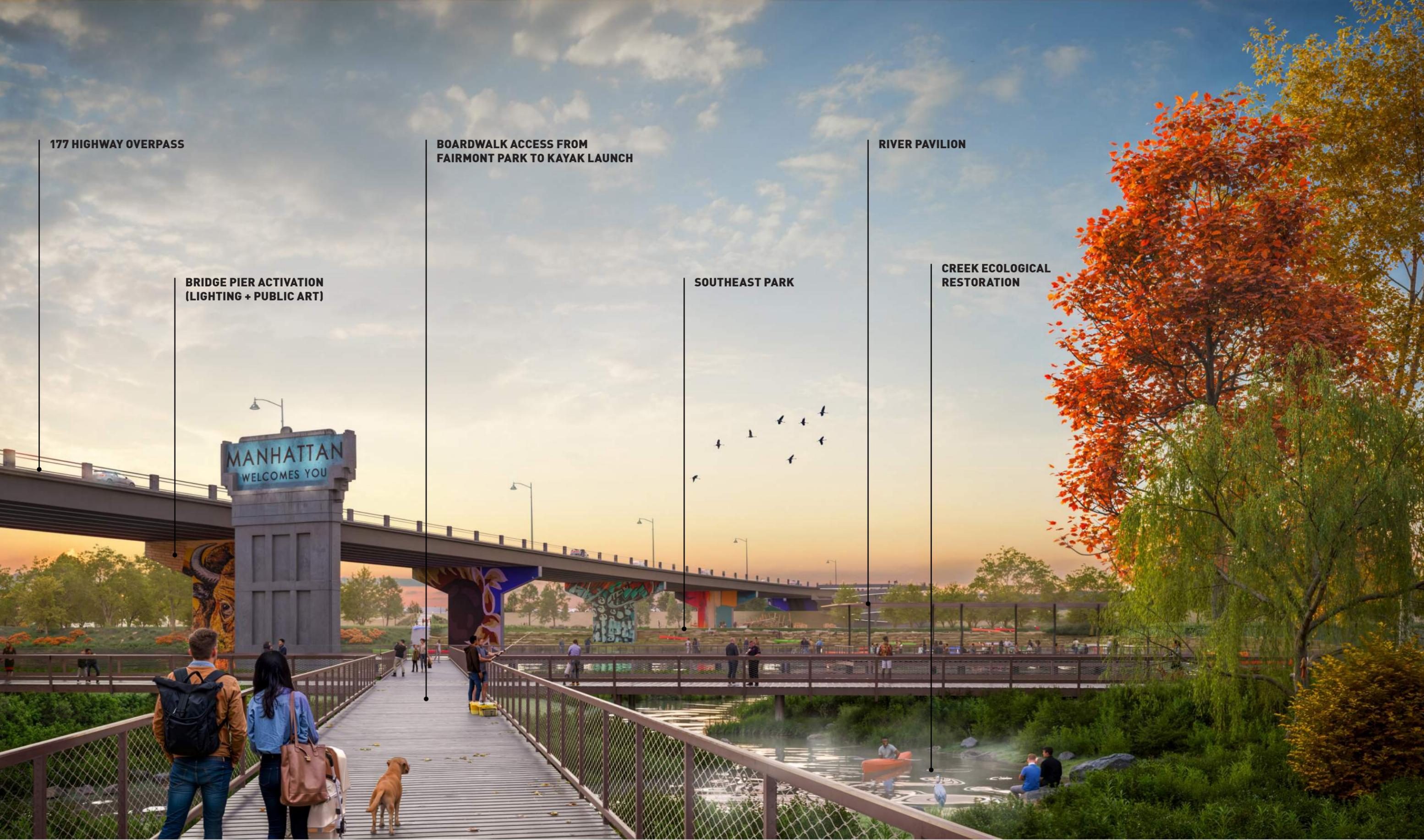


177 HIGHWAY OVERPASS

EXISTING BOAT LAUNCH PARKING

KANSAS RIVER





177 HIGHWAY OVERPASS

BRIDGE PIER ACTIVATION  
(LIGHTING + PUBLIC ART)

BOARDWALK ACCESS FROM  
FAIRMONT PARK TO KAYAK LAUNCH

SOUTHEAST PARK

RIVER PAVILION

CREEK ECOLOGICAL  
RESTORATION



**TOWN CENTER**

**BLUE EARTH PLAZA**

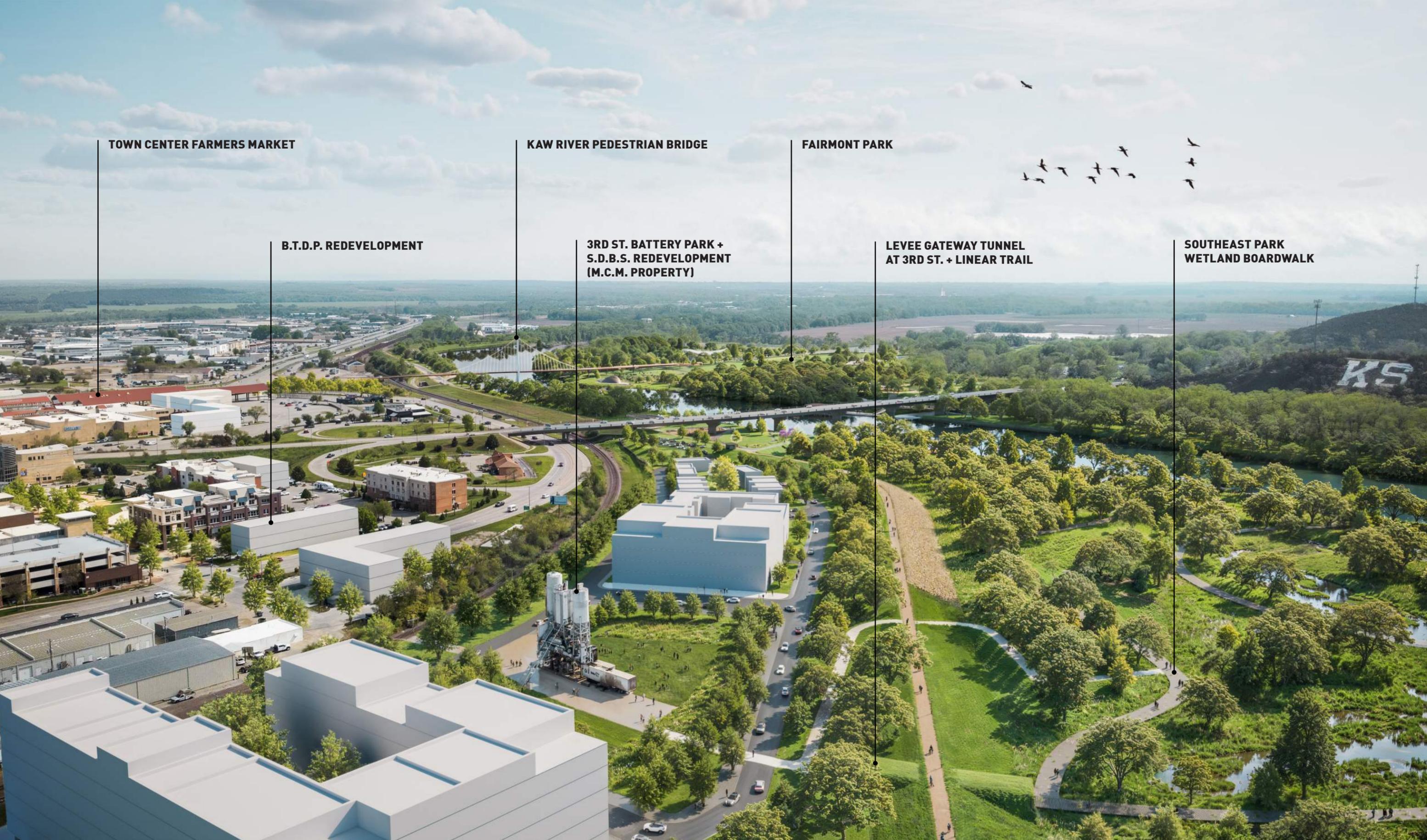
**MIDWEST CONCRETE MATERIALS**

**KANSAS RIVER**

**LINEAR TRAIL**

**177 HIGHWAY OVERPASS**





**TOWN CENTER FARMERS MARKET**

**KAW RIVER PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

**FAIRMONT PARK**

**B.T.D.P. REDEVELOPMENT**

**3RD ST. BATTERY PARK +  
S.D.B.S. REDEVELOPMENT  
(M.C.M. PROPERTY)**

**LEVEE GATEWAY TUNNEL  
AT 3RD ST. + LINEAR TRAIL**

**SOUTHEAST PARK  
WETLAND BOARDWALK**



177 HIGHWAY OVERPASS

FAIRMONT PARK

TOWN CENTER

KANSAS RIVER





**MEADOW PLAYGROUND**

**PUMP TRACK**

**GATHERING LAWN**

**RIVER LANDING BANDSHELL  
+ AMPHITHEATER**

**KAW RIVER  
PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE**

**TREETOP  
CANOPY WALK**

**PARKSIDE  
PROMENADE**

**SOUTHEAST PARK**

**FAIRMONT PARK PAVILION  
+ PLAZA**

**RECREATION FIELDS +  
SPORT COURTS**

**TOWN CENTER  
FARMERS MARKET**

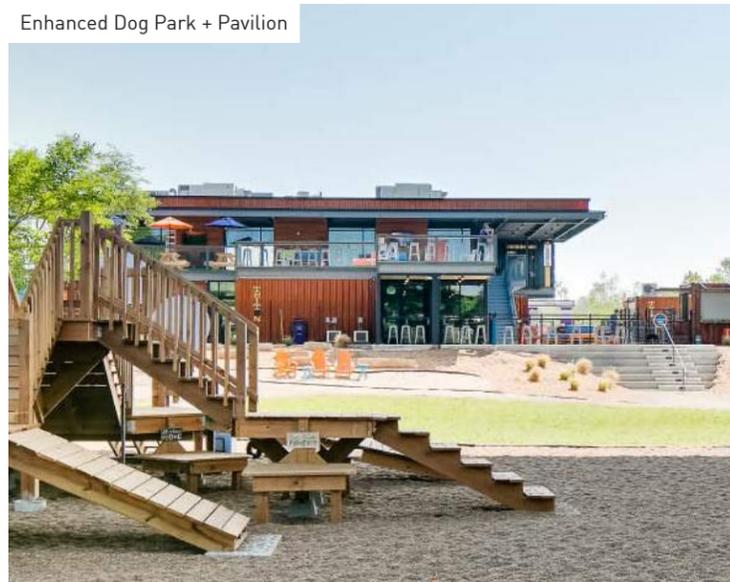
Town Center Farmers Market



Gateway Intersection Enhancement



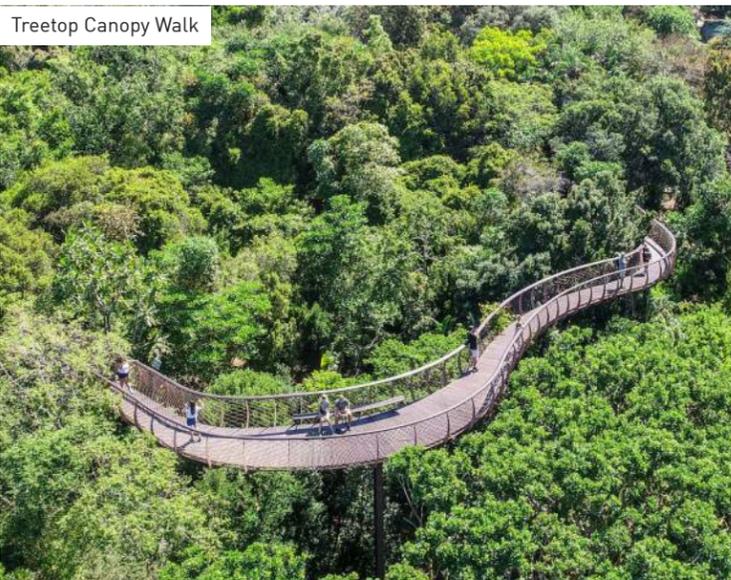
Enhanced Dog Park + Pavilion



Kaw River Pedestrian Bridge



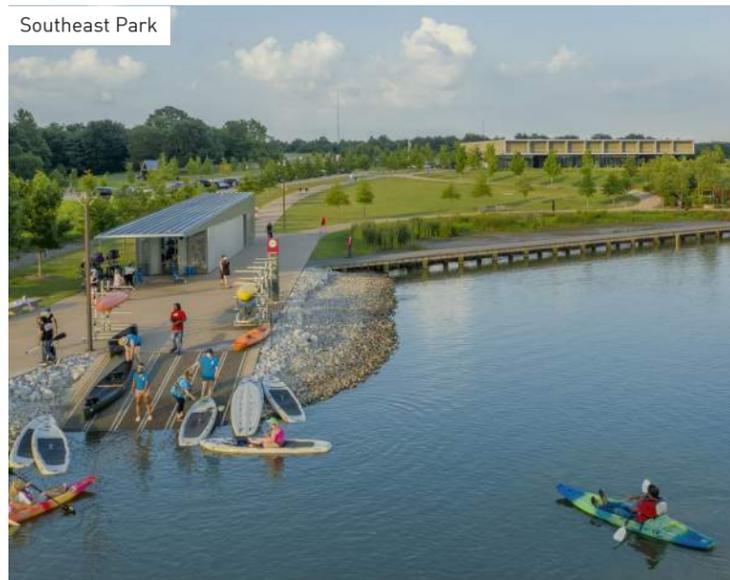
Treetop Canopy Walk



Fairmont Park Pavilion + Plaza



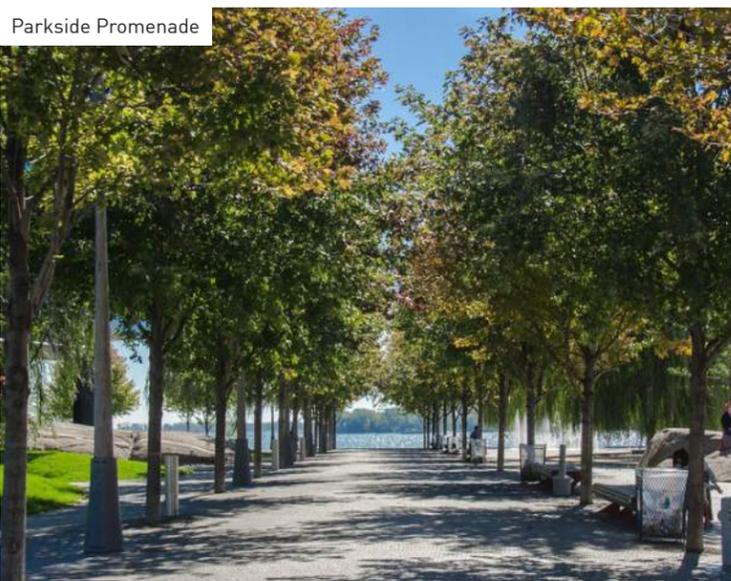
Southeast Park



Recreation Fields + Sport Courts



Parkside Promenade



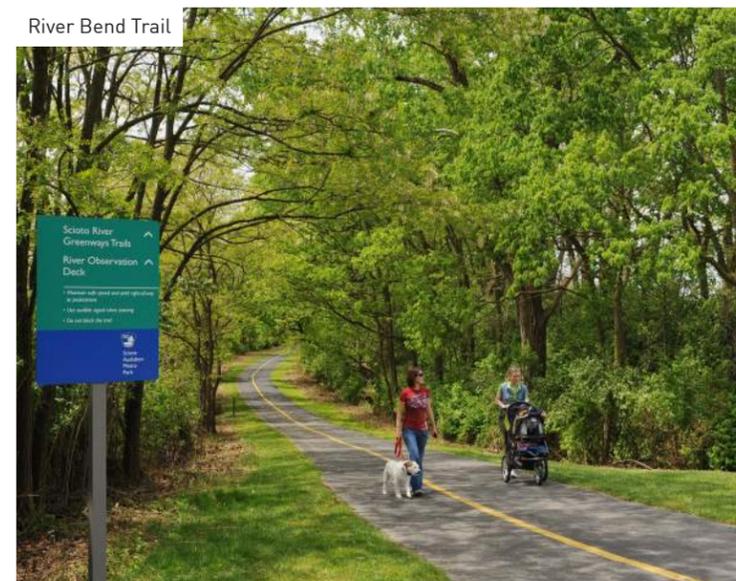
River Landing Bandshell + Amphitheater



Meadow Playground



River Bend Trail



Limestone Garden



Linear Trail Rest Station



River Paddle Access



Pump Track + Skate Park



Camper & Cabins Area



Southeast Park Wetland Boardwalk



River Pavilion



Water's Edge Access Point



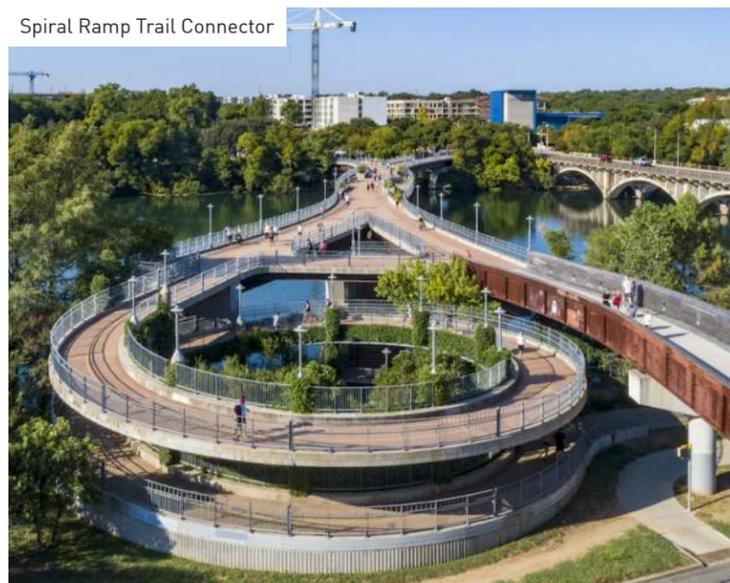
3rd St. Battery Park



Levee Gateway Tunnel

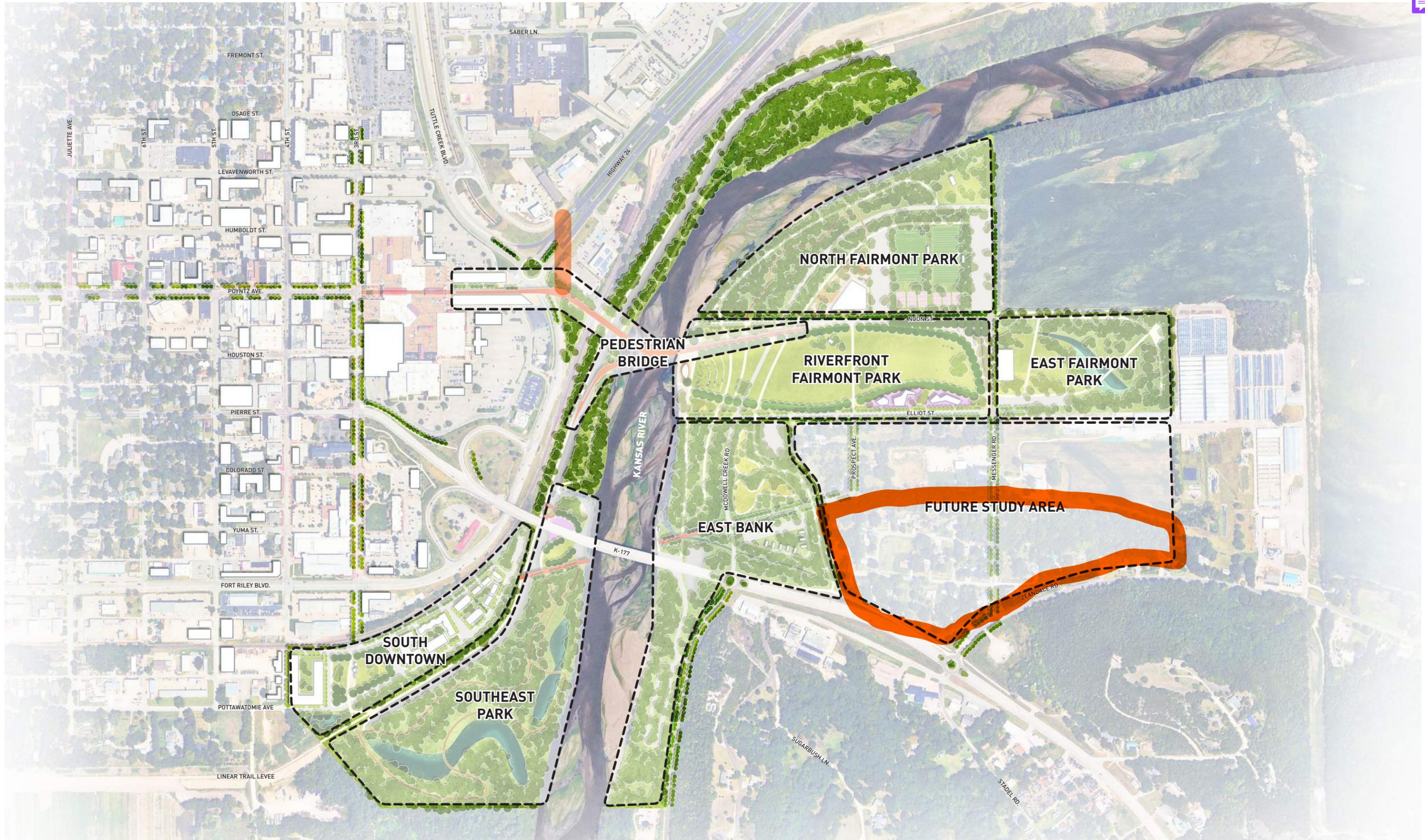


Spiral Ramp Trail Connector



Adventure Nature Playground





# **APPENDIX**

## MASTER SCHEDULE

PROJECT **RIVERFRONT MHK VISION PLAN**  
 PROJECT NO **2402**

**LEGEND**  
**M** MEETING  
**S** SUBMISSION  
**H** HOLIDAY

TASK	SUBTASK	MONTH DATE WEEK NO.	APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		NOTES							
			1	2	3 4/26/24	4	5 5/13/24	6	7 6/7/24	8	9	10 6/28/24		11	12	13	14	15	16 8/9/24	17 8/16/24
VISION PLAN	Pre-Project Initiation (Project Kickoff Workshop)		M																	
	Initial Vision Plan Concepts (Meeting 1)				M															Preliminary render locations, concepts
	Vision Plan Refinement Period (Meeting 2)						M/S													75% Completion with draft renders
	Client Review Period							CLIENT FEEDBACK												
	Holiday Break									H										
	Vision Plan Refinement Period (Meeting 3)										S									95% Completion for minor comments
	Final Vision Plan Submission																	S		100% Submission



KANSAS RIVER EAST BANK - LOOKING NORTH



KANSAS RIVER WATER TRAIL SIGNAGE



MIDWEST CONCRETE MATERIALS PROPERTY



KANSAS RIVER EAST BANK - LOOKING SOUTH



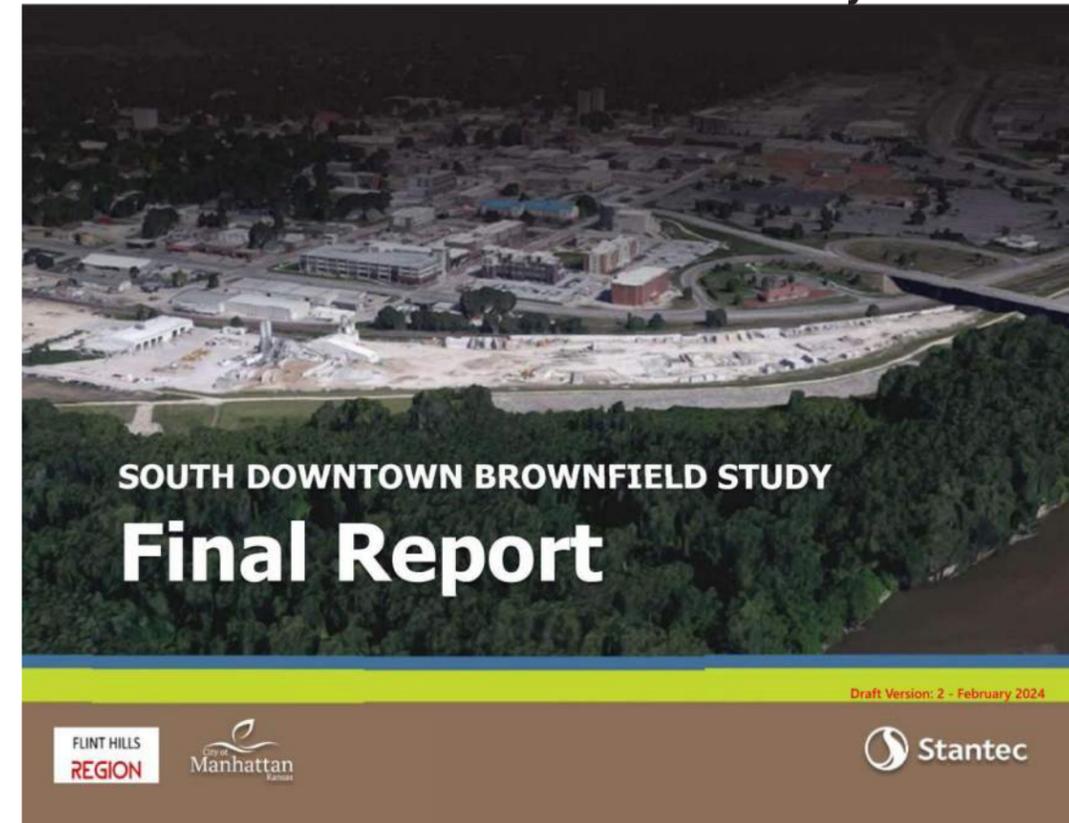
LINEAR TRAIL UNDERPASS - LOOKING EAST



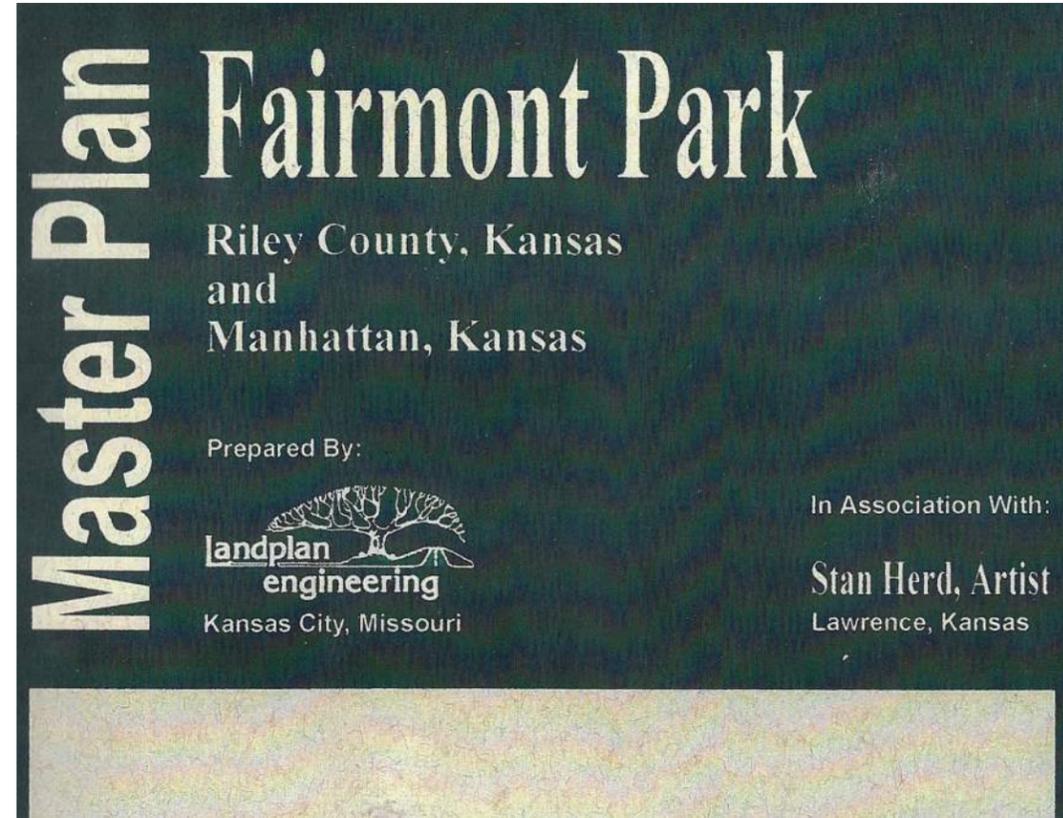
Beyond Tomorrow Downtown Plan (2024)



South Downtown Brownfield Study (2024)

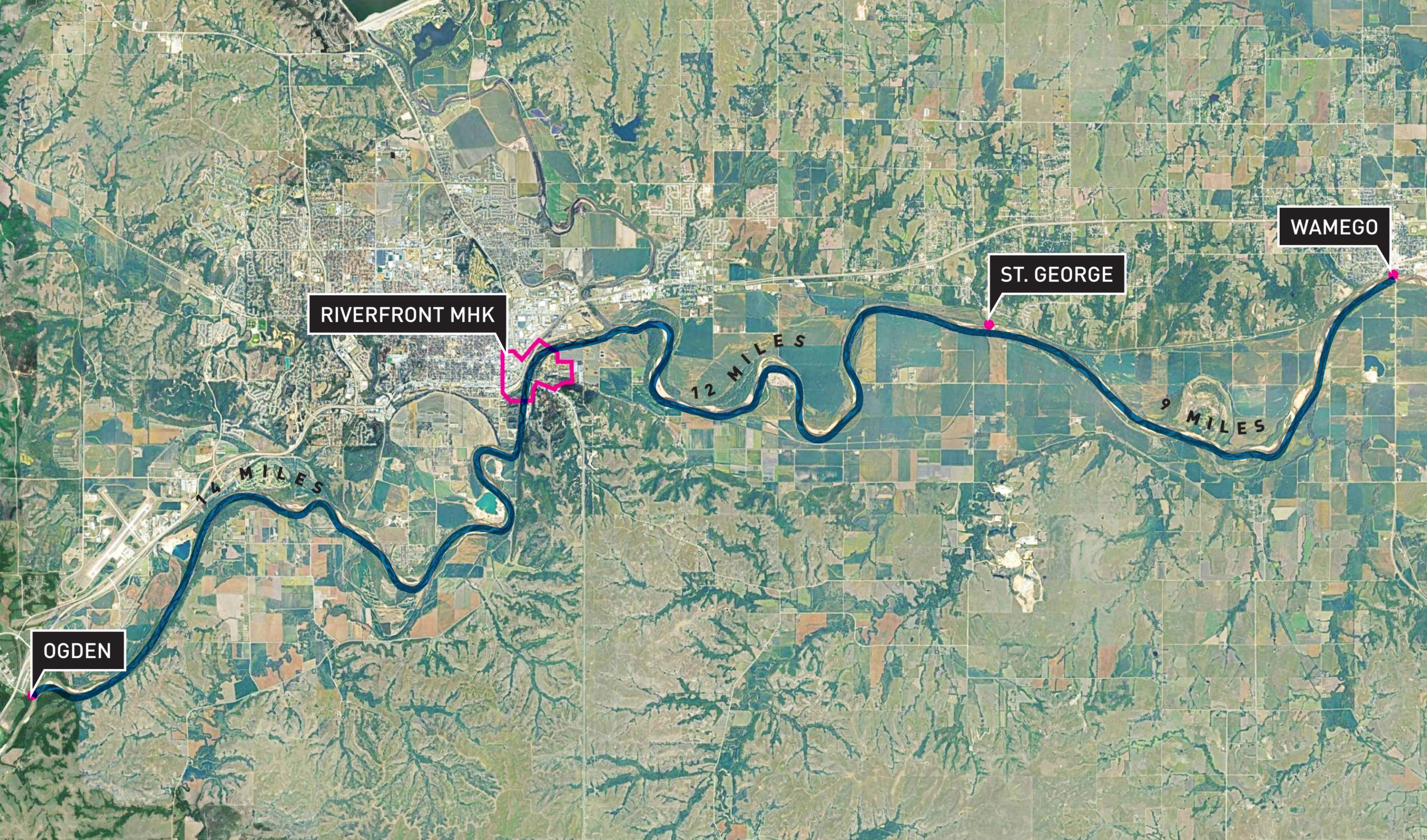


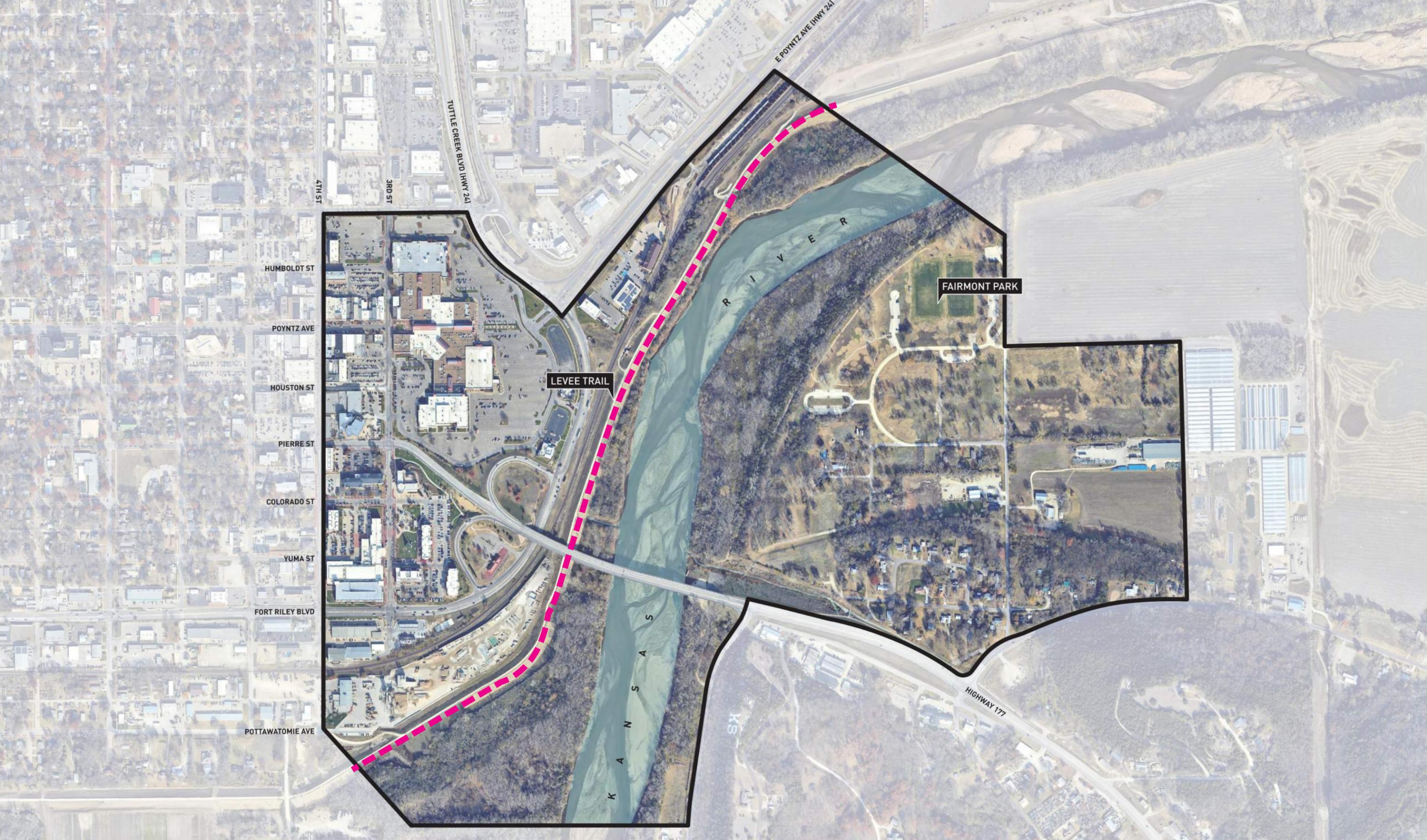
Fairmont Park Master Plan (1998)

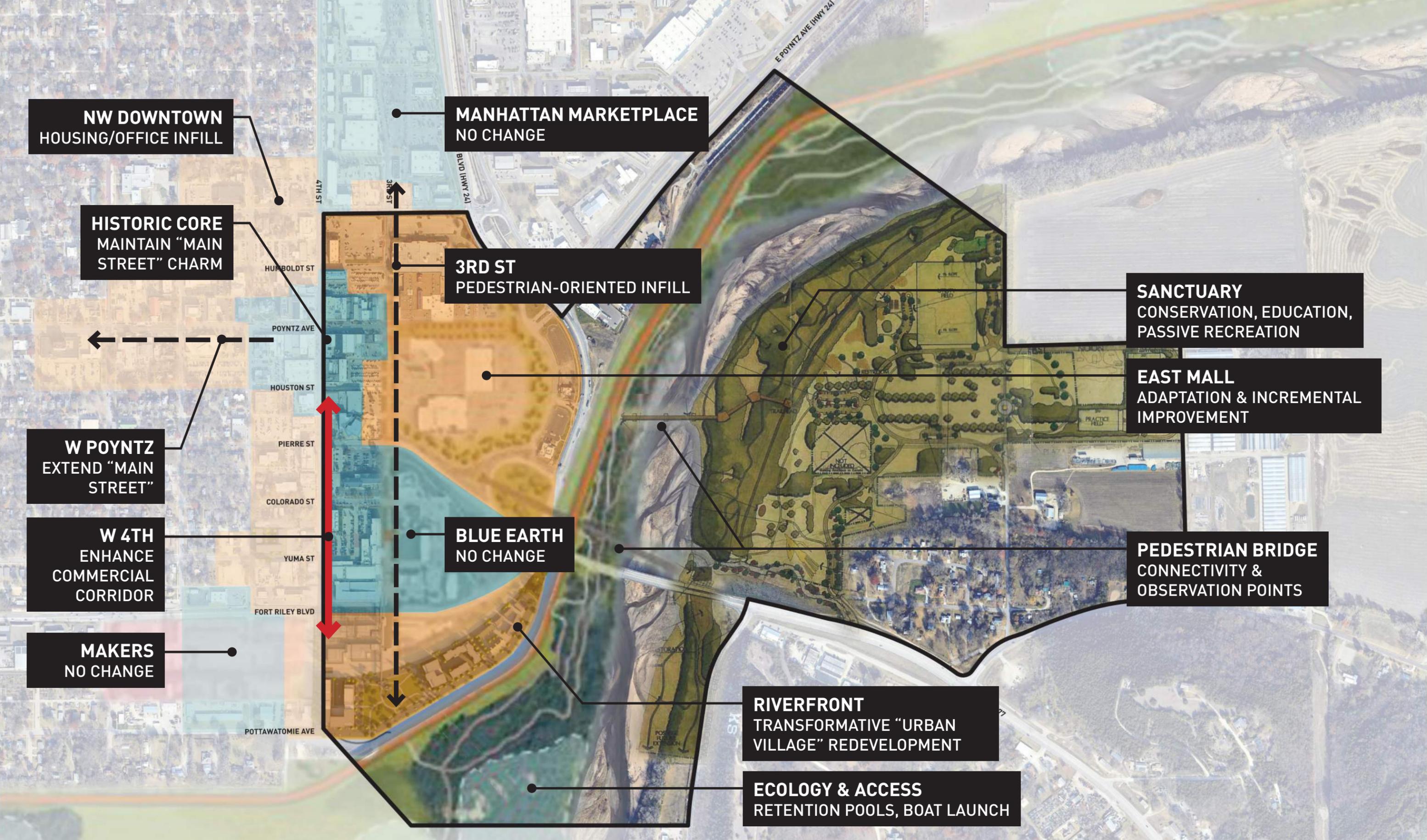


A. Mueller Master's Report (2024)









**NW DOWNTOWN  
HOUSING/OFFICE INFILL**

**MANHATTAN MARKETPLACE  
NO CHANGE**

**HISTORIC CORE  
MAINTAIN "MAIN  
STREET" CHARM**

**3RD ST  
PEDESTRIAN-ORIENTED INFILL**

**SANCTUARY  
CONSERVATION, EDUCATION,  
PASSIVE RECREATION**

**EAST MALL  
ADAPTATION & INCREMENTAL  
IMPROVEMENT**

**W POYNTZ  
EXTEND "MAIN  
STREET"**

**BLUE EARTH  
NO CHANGE**

**PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE  
CONNECTIVITY &  
OBSERVATION POINTS**

**W 4TH  
ENHANCE  
COMMERCIAL  
CORRIDOR**

**MAKERS  
NO CHANGE**

**RIVERFRONT  
TRANSFORMATIVE "URBAN  
VILLAGE" REDEVELOPMENT**

**ECOLOGY & ACCESS  
RETENTION POOLS, BOAT LAUNCH**

## LACK OF ACCESS & INFO

**72%**

CONSIDER LACK OF ACCESS POINTS AND LACK OF INFORMATION THE BIGGEST OBSTACLES TO RIVER INTERACTION

## COMMUNITY BENEFIT

**85%**

AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE THAT ACCESS TO THE RIVER WOULD BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY

## HYBRID APPROACH

**82%**

INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD BE SOMEWHAT OR VERY LIKELY TO VISIT THE RIVERFRONT IN A HYBRID DEVELOPMENT SCENARIO (NATIVE RESTORATION, FLOOD PROTECTION, PROGRAMMING, RIVERFRONT ACCESS)

\*\*FINDINGS FROM ABIGAIL MUELLER MASTER'S REPORT, 2024



MHK Riverfront Meeting Check-In

4-26-24

Group	Name	Signature
	Tracy Anderson	<i>TJA</i>
	Ed Klimek	
	Stephanie Pierce	<i>Stephanie Pierce</i>
	Scott Sowell	
	Callie Marks	
	Abby Mueller	<i>Abby Mueller</i>
	Dave Colburn	
	TJ Vilkanskas	<i>TJ Vilkanskas</i>
	Marcia Rozell	<i>Marcia Rozell</i>
	Nancy Burton	<i>Nancy Burton</i>
	John Verssue	<i>John Verssue</i>
	Brett Jones	<i>Brett Jones</i>
	Jackie Hartman	
	Ross Metheny	<i>Ross Metheny</i>
	Phil Anderson	<i>Phil Anderson</i>
	Tom Hawk	<i>Tom Hawk</i>
	Jayme Minton	<i>Jayme Minton</i>
	Vern Henricks	<i>Vern Henricks</i>

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