

A nighttime photograph of Hamilton, Ohio, featuring a cityscape with a prominent domed building and a bridge over a river. The scene is illuminated by city lights and several large, bright fireworks exploding in the dark sky. The entire image has a blue color cast.

# HAMILTON RIVER PLAN

HAMILTON, OHIO



*To few cities are given riverfront opportunities such as the Great Miami River offers to Hamilton. It is veritably the front yard of the city, yet how shamefully it has been neglected.*

Harland Bartholomew  
The City Plan of Hamilton, Ohio 1920

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# PROJECT HISTORY & GOALS

In 1791, Fort Hamilton was founded along the banks of the Great Miami River. Since then, the river has played a pivotal role in the development of the city of Hamilton. In the 1840s, Hamilton leaders leveraged the river to create a hydraulic water system that powered Hamilton's first golden age of industry. In the 1920s, Henry Ford chose Hamilton to locate a tractor factory here because of a hydroelectric facility on the Great Miami River. Many of our most important business and cultural buildings are located along the river.

However, the 1913 Flood devastated a large portion of Hamilton and instilled a sense of fear about the river. Multiple generations turned their backs to the Great Miami, leaving it underutilized until recently. Over the past few years, downtown Hamilton has experienced a resurgence. The time to capitalize on the Great Miami River to further the community's revitalization is now.

Therefore, the City of Hamilton partnered with a wide variety of community organizations to create this plan. Over the past six months, stakeholders worked together to create a plan that could establish the Great Miami River as a community center that could be a catalyst for development.

Through these efforts, the following goals have been identified for the Hamilton River Plan:

**Make Hamilton's riverfront a destination**

**Increase river crossings**

**Allow for bicycle and pedestrian circulation around the river on both sides**

**Increase river activity**

**Increase activity adjacent to the river, including recreation, housing, entertainment and multi-use**

**Make better connections from inland to the river**

**Increase access to the river**





# A COMMUNITY DRIVEN PROCESS

The planning process was guided by the Steering Committee, which included representatives from neighboring institutions and city agencies.

**Joshua Smith**, City Manager, City of Hamilton

**Liz Hayden**, Director of Planning, City of Hamilton

**Aaron Hufford**, Project Manager, City of Hamilton

**Rob Wile**, City Council member

**Jacob Stone**, Great Miami Riverway, City of Hamilton

**John Guidugli**, Hamilton Community Foundation

**Steve Timmer**, Hamilton Parks Conservancy

**Mike Dingeldein**, CORE Fund

**Sam Beiler**, Spooky Nook Sports

**Janet Bly**, Miami Conservancy District

**Kristina Latta-Landefeld**, Great Miami Rowing Center

**Jim Cohen**, CMC Properties (The Marcum)

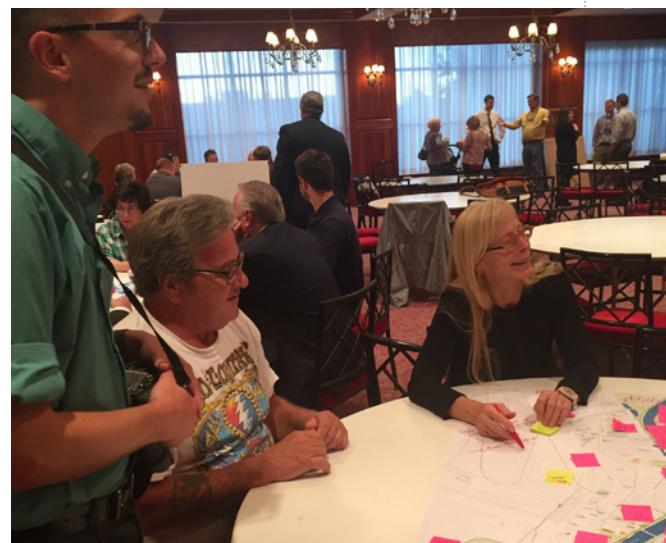
**Pete Haverkos**, Miami Regionals

**Michael Ionna**, AICP

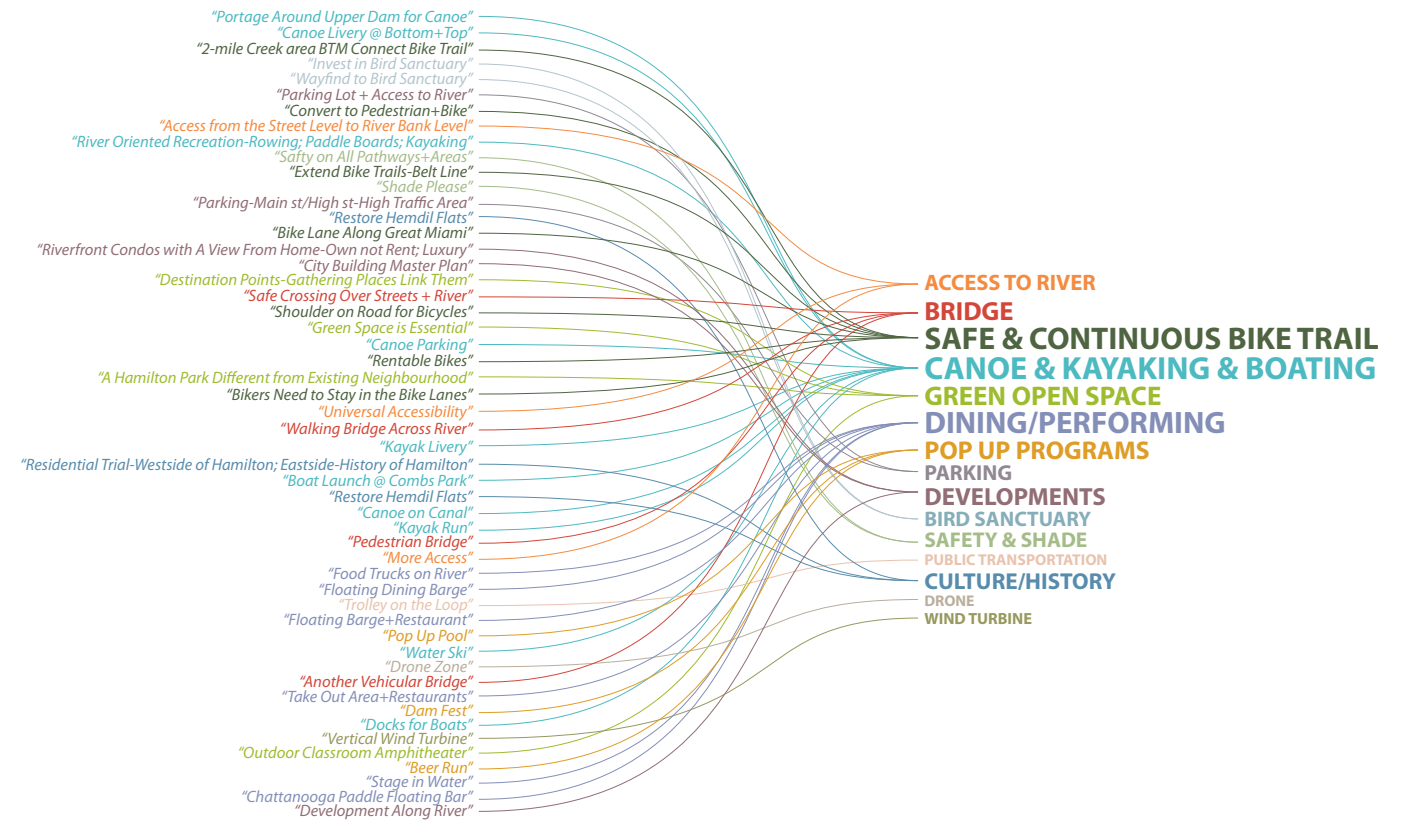
The plan also had a strong community input with several public forums. In conjunction with the Comprehensive Plan for Hamilton currently being undertaken, meetings were held with the general public to understand their goals and desires for the river. Public Forums were held on:

October 2, 2017                      November 29, 2017

October 14, 2017                      February 12, 2018



COMMUNITY MEETING 10/02/2017



WORD CLOUD FROM COMMUNITY MEETING 10/02/2017



# CAPITALIZING ON OUR ASSETS

The Great Miami River is an amazing asset for the City of Hamilton. Having a river run through the heart of the community provides many recreational and development opportunities. There are already many buildings, activities, and organizations that capitalize on the river and amenities are becoming more plentiful as Hamilton experiences a revitalization.

There are seven public parks that fall within the corridor. Marcum Park, Hamilton's premier downtown park, was completed in 2017. The Miami Conservancy District is finishing a plan for Ponds Park, located at the south end of the river corridor. The Hamilton Parks Conservancy just completed a plan for Combs Park, located at the north end of the river corridor. These parks and the planned improvements offer a great opportunity to expand public engagement with the river. The Great Miami River Recreational trail extends the length of the river through Hamilton and continues north and south beyond Hamilton's borders. This is a great opportunity to bring visitors to Hamilton's riverfront and encourage activity along the river.

There are also many cultural, recreational, and economic assets along the river. The RiversEdge Amphitheater overlooks the river at Marcum Park. Concerts at the venue bring thousands of people to the riverfront every summer. The Fitton Center for Creative Arts, a central hub of Hamilton's growing arts scene, overlooks the river. The Great Miami Rowing Center gets people on the river all year long. Miami University Hamilton, a campus with 4,000+ students, and Vora Technology Park, home to a 600-person Barclaycard office, are major centers of activity near the Great Miami River. Pyramid Hill, Foundation Field, Heritage Hall, and the Soldiers and Sailors Monument are also attractions near the river.



PROPOSED SPOOKY NOOK SPORTS CENTER



MARCUM PARK



'CITY OF SCULPTURE'



SOLDIERS AND SAILORS MONUMENT, LOOKING WEST



PYRAMID HILL SCULPTURE PARK



**OUR ASSETS**

- Railways
- Existing Bike Path/Lane
- - - - City Planned Bike Path/Lane
- Great Miami River Recreational Trail
- Attractions
- ▣ Parking with Potential Opportunities



**A SPECIAL MOMENT IN TIME**

The river and riverfront have seen a significant amount of investment in the last few years and amenities along the river are expanding. Downtown Hamilton, which is bisected by the Great Miami River, is undergoing a renaissance. In the past ten years, over \$100 million has been invested in our downtown, including RiversEdge and Marcum Park as well as a number of new mixed use buildings filled with apartments, offices, restaurants, and shops. The historic neighborhoods around the river are being renovated as well, as vacant buildings are being rehabilitated and turned into owner-occupied homes.

The investment around the river is just getting started. The Marcum Apartments and a number of new restaurants and shops will open in 2018.

More people are looking at moving back to downtown and the historic neighborhoods around the river. The biggest project in Hamilton to-date, Spooky Nook Sports, is slated to be under construction near the river this year. Spooky Nook Sports is planning a \$160 million indoor sports and convention center complex at the former Champion Paper Mill facility along the river in downtown Hamilton. It is expected to draw a million visitors to Hamilton every year.

Because of the investment and excitement in Hamilton, there is no better time to capitalize on the Great Miami River and its riverfront than now. We view this plan as our roadmap.

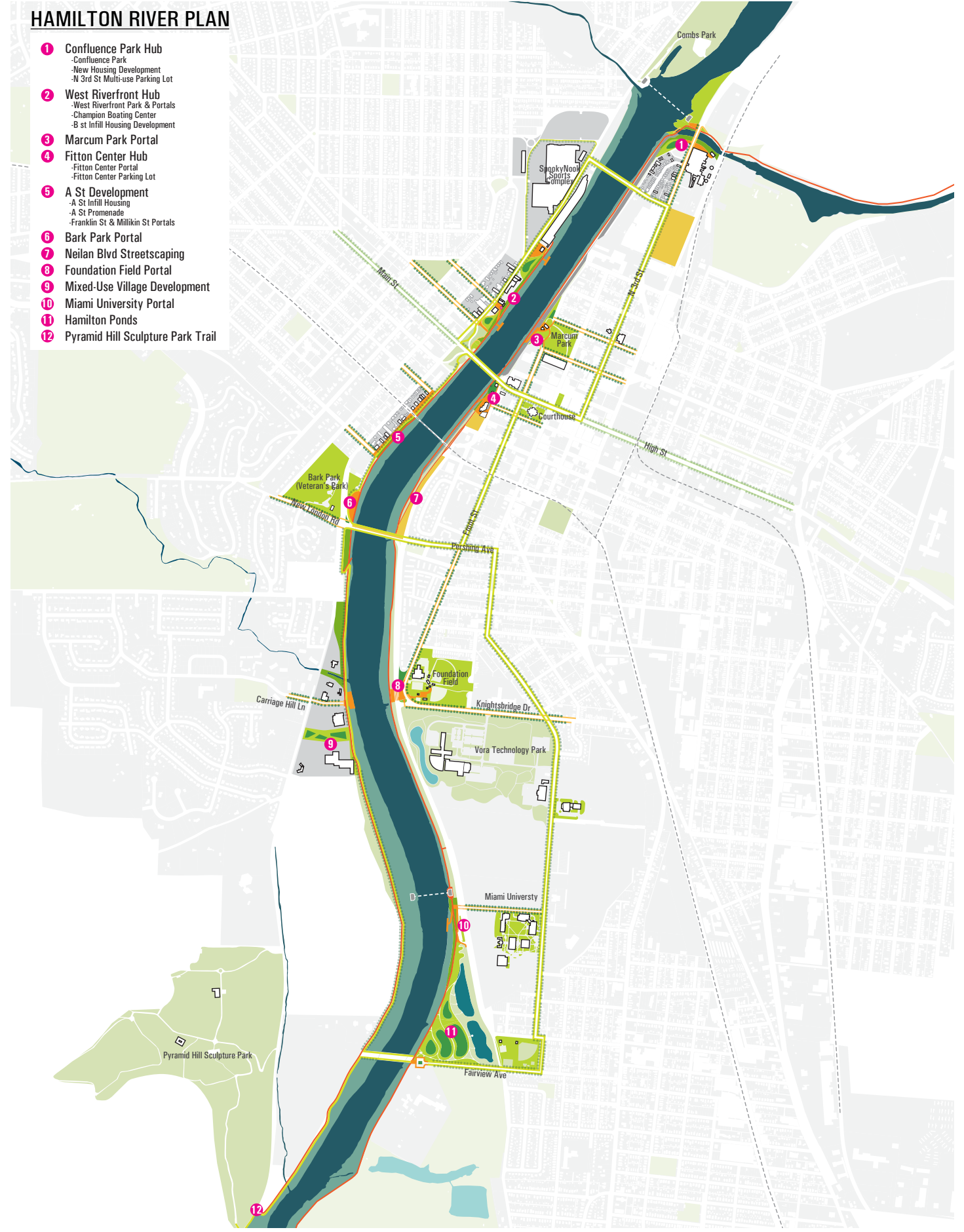


# RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING ACCESS AROUND THE RIVER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING ACTIVITY IN THE RIVER

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING ACTIVITY ALONG THE RIVER





## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING ACCESS AROUND THE RIVER

### THE HAMILTON RIVER TRAIL LOOPS

To link Hamilton’s attractions and to make the river the center of the city, a series of pedestrian and bicycle loops around the river on both sides is recommended. Creating such a “riverwalk” system will provide a network of pathways that will help to create identity for the river and provide an initial way to experience the river.

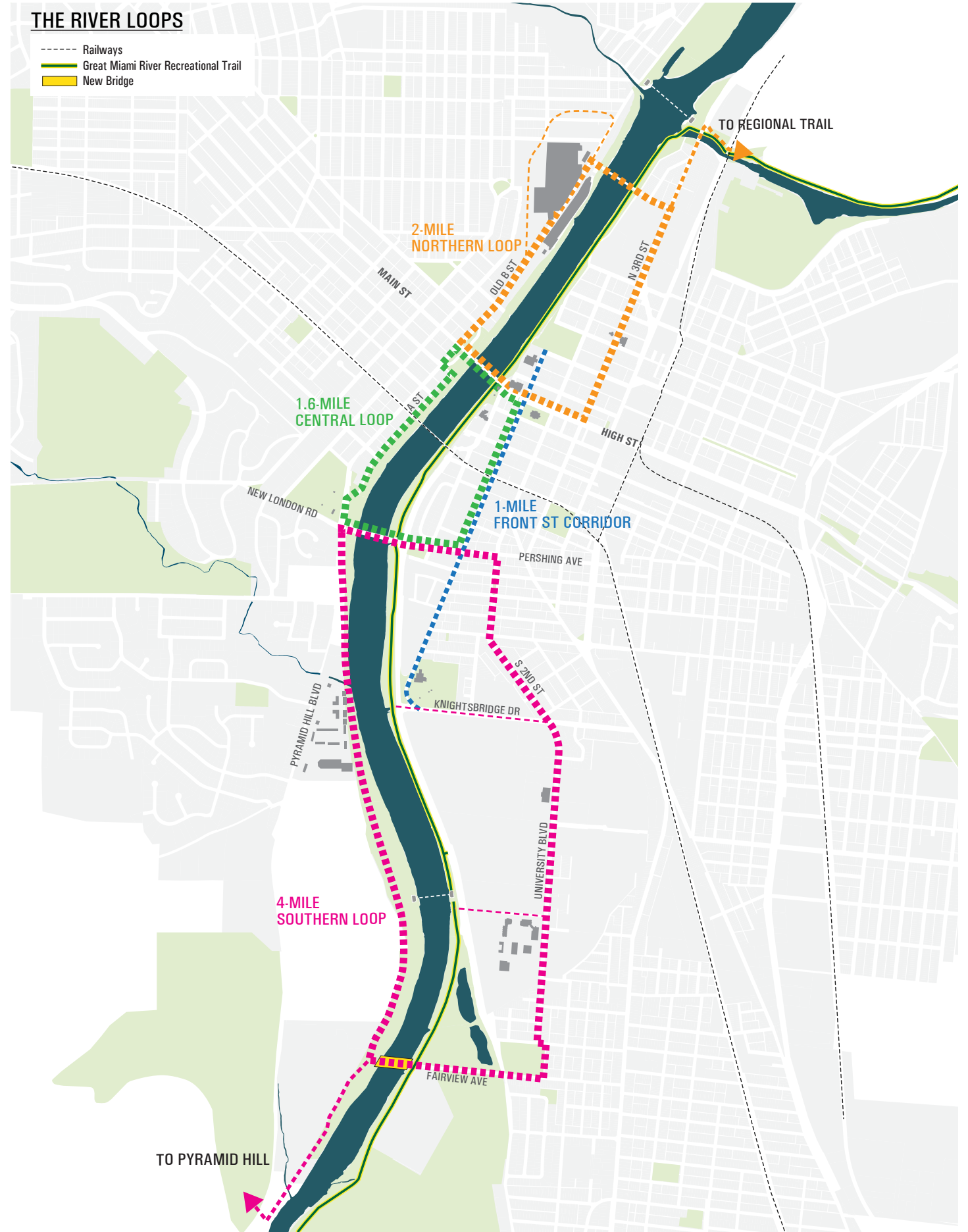
The design will create a safe environment for families, with trails separated from traffic as much as possible. Connectivity to and along the river with quality open spaces and recreation opportunities will open the river to all, benefiting public health and social well being. Ultimately, this riverwalk will promote urban vibrancy and placemaking along the corridors and will lead to community economic development.

Three major loops with sub-loops and corridors comprise the proposed riverwalk system. The loops will encompass parts of the Great Miami Recreational trail that currently exist on the eastern side of the river, as well as new river promenades and improved walkways on existing streets on the east and west sides.

A two mile Northern Loop connects from downtown to German Village north Third Street and across the Black Street Bridge to the future Spooky Nook Sports Facility. From Spooky Nook one can then head south along a refurbished B Street to the Rossville retail district and the High-Main Bridge.

The second Central Loop is the shortest at 1.6 miles and goes from the High Street Bridge to the Columbia Bridge, utilizing a revitalized A Street on the west side of the river. A Street has so little traffic that it can be designed as a shared Street promoting pedestrian use. The design of the street should integrate the top of the levee with the street level. The east side of the river will incorporate the existing trail on the levee and a new revitalized Front Street Corridor, which is an important public way connecting Marcum Park and Foundation Field.

The third and longest Southern Loop starts at the Columbia Bridge and heads south along the river on the west side. Pyramid Hill Boulevard will be analyzed to find space within its width for bike and pedestrian trails. An existing gravel service road on the top of the levee south of the existing boat launch will be repurposed as a paved trail. A new pedestrian bridge is proposed at the extension of Fairview Avenue on the west side, which is at the edge of the Ponds Park and the Riverside Natural Area, and leads across Neilan Boulevard to Officer Bob Gentry Park. University Boulevard, with a bike trail and comfortable sidewalks, will connect north past Miami University and the Vora Technology Center to the Columbia Bridge.





**BEST PRACTICES**

Many cities use similar Heritage Trails or Riverwalks to provide identity and continuity for their waterfronts. Downtown Minneapolis links both sides of the Mississippi River with its Saint Anthony Falls Heritage Trail. Principal Riverwalk in Des Moines Iowa links both sides of the Des Moines River connecting the commercial core with the state capitol. The Three River Heritage Trail in Pittsburgh is a very extensive system at approximately 24 miles, linking both sides of the Ohio and the Monongahela Rivers as they pass through downtown Pittsburgh.



THREE RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL, PITTSBURGH, PA, LENGTH: 24 MILES



SAINT ANTHONY FALLS HERITAGE TRAIL, MINNEAPOLIS, MN, LENGTH: 1.8 MILES



PRINCIPAL RIVERWALK, DES MOINES, IA, LENGTH: 1.25 MILES



**STREETSCAPE PROJECTS**

As part of the River Trail Loop system, several streets should be improved to be more inviting to pedestrian and bicycle activity. These enhancements should include wide sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, street trees, and wayfinding. Bicycle trails separated from vehicular traffic should be created where possible. Streetscape projects are recommended for the following streets:

**N Third Street** — A connection between German Village and Spooky Nook Sports should be established by creating a sidewalk with street trees and wayfinding to lead from Spooky Nook Sports over the Black Street Bridge to German Village via the Third Street Plaza. One of the main parking areas for Spooky Nook Sports complex will be just north of German Village on Third Street. Making an inviting connection into the Hamilton community from the complex and this parking lot will be an important way to encourage visitors to explore downtown Hamilton. Making this area pedestrian-friendly with good street crossings is important.

**Old B Street/New Spooky Nook Sports Complex “Canyon”** — B Street will be relocated as part of the Spooky Nook Sports complex, leaving a great opportunity to make a pedestrian friendly path through the site. The sports complex will be utilizing the buildings on both sides of the former B Street, reactivating this area with a new sense of vibrancy. They have been calling this “the Canyon” and are exploring ways to design it.

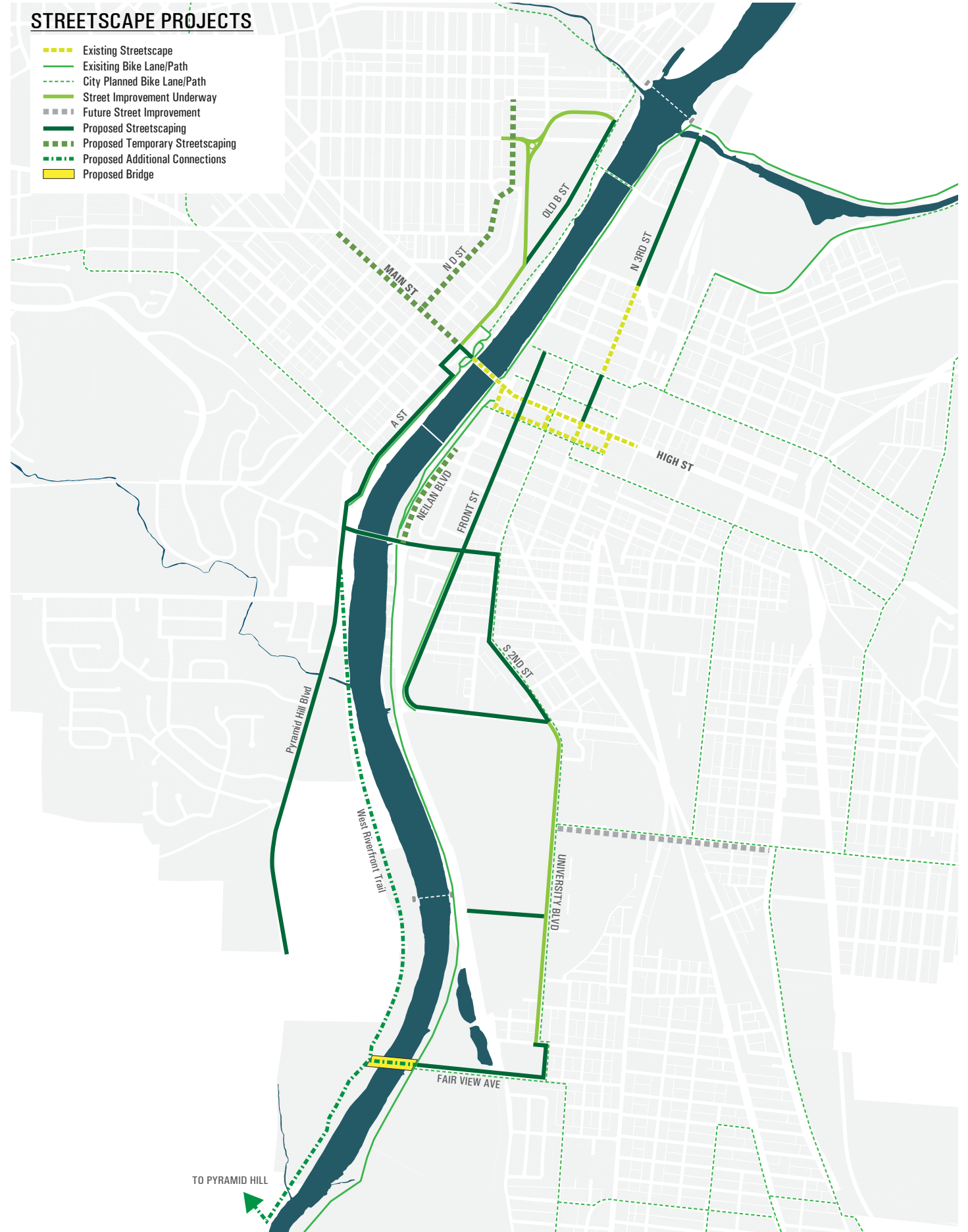
**Front Street** — Front Street provides an excellent opportunity to connect two of Hamilton’s great parks – Marcum Park and Foundation Field. We recommend upgrading the street with a focus on enhancing its connection with landscaping, lighting, amenities and a protected bike trail.

**S Second Street and University Boulevard** — A protected bike lane is planned to help connect the students of Miami University and the workers at Vora Technology Center with the downtown. We recommend making sidewalk improvements to ensure continuity.

**Fairview Avenue** — Fairview Avenue could be a strong connection from the Lindenwald community and Miami University Hamilton Campus to the Great Miami River and the Great Miami Regional Trail. A streetscape project that would include street trees and enhanced pedestrian and cyclist connections would be beneficial.

**A Street** — A Street has one of the best views in Hamilton. However, it remains underutilized. We recommend creating a shared street for pedestrians and cars and evaluating opportunities to eliminate the grade difference between the levee and the street.

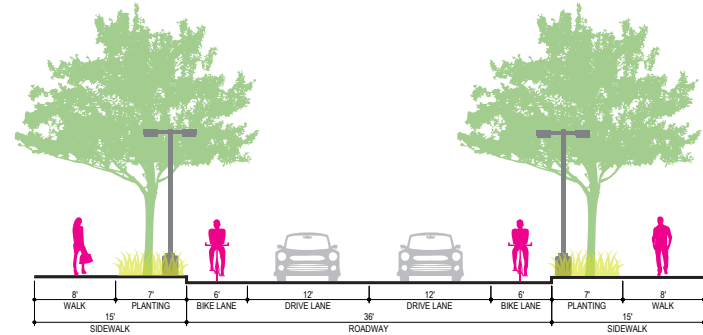
**Pyramid Hill Boulevard** — Within the City limits, Pyramid Hill Boulevard is wider than needed. It creates an opportunity to create more space for pedestrians and a protected bicycle trail on both sides. This will allow the surrounding neighborhoods to connect better to the river, and also to the downtown.



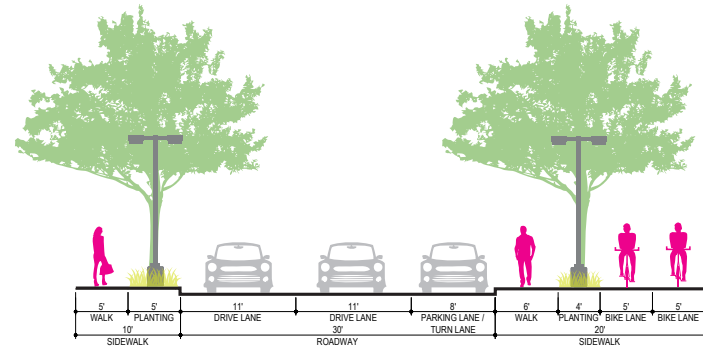




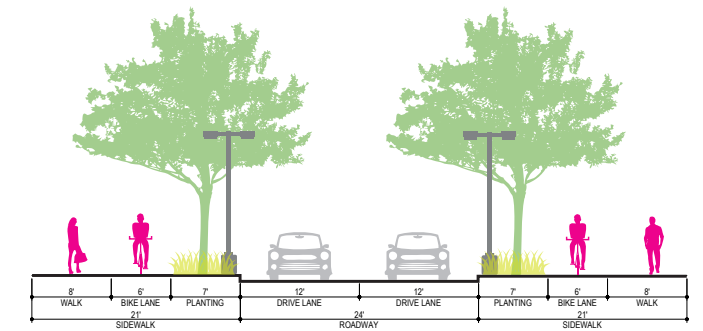
BIKE LANE ON ROAD



SEPARATED BIKE LANE



BIKE LANE NEXT TO WALKWAY



FRONT ST, BEFORE



FRONT ST, AFTER



**TEMPORARY STREETSCAPING**

Temporary streetscaping should be considered to allow for more space for pedestrian and bicycle crossings. We recommend that a traffic study be undertaken to evaluate where additional space could be created for sidewalks, bike lanes, and planting buffers by closing one lane to vehicular traffic or narrowing all lanes.

**ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS**

**Pyramid Hill** — At the southwest end of the South Loop, a connection to Pyramid Hill should be considered. This would add a direct connection to a major regional attraction to Hamilton’s River Trail System. This is a large scale project because property would need to be purchased to build a trail. The City could pursue grants for this project from The Trust for Public Land, the “Clean Ohio” Green Space Fund, or other organizations.

**West Riverfront trail** — To further extend trail opportunities, an asphalt trail could be added to the top of the levee on the existing gravel service road from Columbia Bridge south to the end of the Miami Conservancy District (MCD) property. This could be an initiative led by MCD.

**Fairview Avenue Bridge** — This long term, big picture goal would add a pedestrian bridge to allow for a 4-mile recreational trail loop that connects both sides of the river. It may make sense to consider this in tandem with dam modifications.



WALKING AND BIKING TRAIL EXAMPLE



TEMPORARY STREETSCAPING, MARKET ST BRIDGE, PHILADELPHIA



TEMPORARY STREETSCAPING, COVINGTON'S PARKLET, COVINGTON, KY



TEMPORARY STREETSCAPING, COVINGTON'S PARKLET, COVINGTON, KY

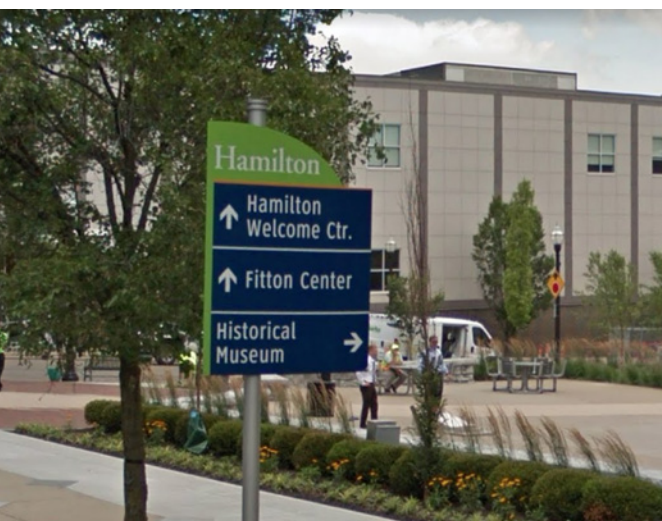


**WAYFINDING PROJECT**

Wayfinding is an important part of creating identity for the river walk as well as helping people find their way. A complete pedestrian wayfinding system should be a part of the Hamilton River Trail. The wayfinding system should include orientation as well as wayfinding, historical and cultural information on the city and river. Maps with the loops clearly marked as well as the local landmarks and other destinations should be included in the system. Markers to help people find their way are another key part. These markers could also have historical text with information about the flood and the levee, the ecology, or other information about Hamilton's history. A professional environmental graphics designer can help program and design such a system.



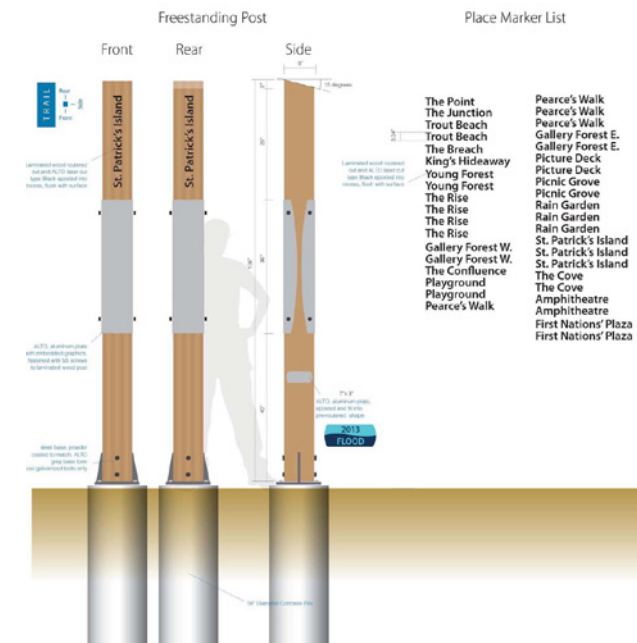
WAYFINDING SIGNAGE, ST PATRICK'S ISLAND, CALGARY



BUTLER COUNTY VISITOR'S BUREAU WAYFINDING



WAYFINDING SIGNAGE, ST PATRICK'S ISLAND, CALGARY



WAYFINDING SIGNAGE, ST PATRICK'S ISLAND, CALGARY





## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING ACTIVITY IN THE RIVER

The Regional Trail is a first step in creating recreational space along the river, but the height of the levee and limited access points inhibit a strong connection to the city. Due to the levees surrounding the river, access points to the river are not easily visible to the passerby and once found, the existing access is often very steep. Currently, only few ramps currently exist to the river and several narrow, steep sets of stairs. More access points to the river must be created to maximize the river's potential.

A number of groups are currently utilizing the river, including the Great Miami Rowing Center, which uses it for rowing practice, and fisherman. Enhancements to the river are intended to benefit these groups that are currently using the Great Miami River, but also to significantly increase the number of people interacting with the river.

Increased activity in the river will allow for more people to use the river, learn about the river, and experience its many aspects. This will lead to greater stewardship of the river, more development near the river, and an incorporation of the river into the life of the city.

### PORTALS TO THE RIVER

Providing safe and convenient access to the river is quintessential to its viability as a destination for city residents and visitors. There are currently ten access points to the Great Miami River within the City of Hamilton. The existing condition of each river access is shown on page 28. Some access points are inviting and well utilized while others could benefit from significant improvements.

To improve access to the river, this plan proposes a series of "Portals to the River." Portals are intended to be areas that are called out for significant improvements to make them more visible and accessible, connecting the community to the river.

The Portals are intended to become a part of Hamilton's identity, signaling the importance of the river to the people. Each of the identified areas are more than access points, they also become gathering places where people can view and enjoy the river. Amenities that should typically be associated with a Portal area are as follows:

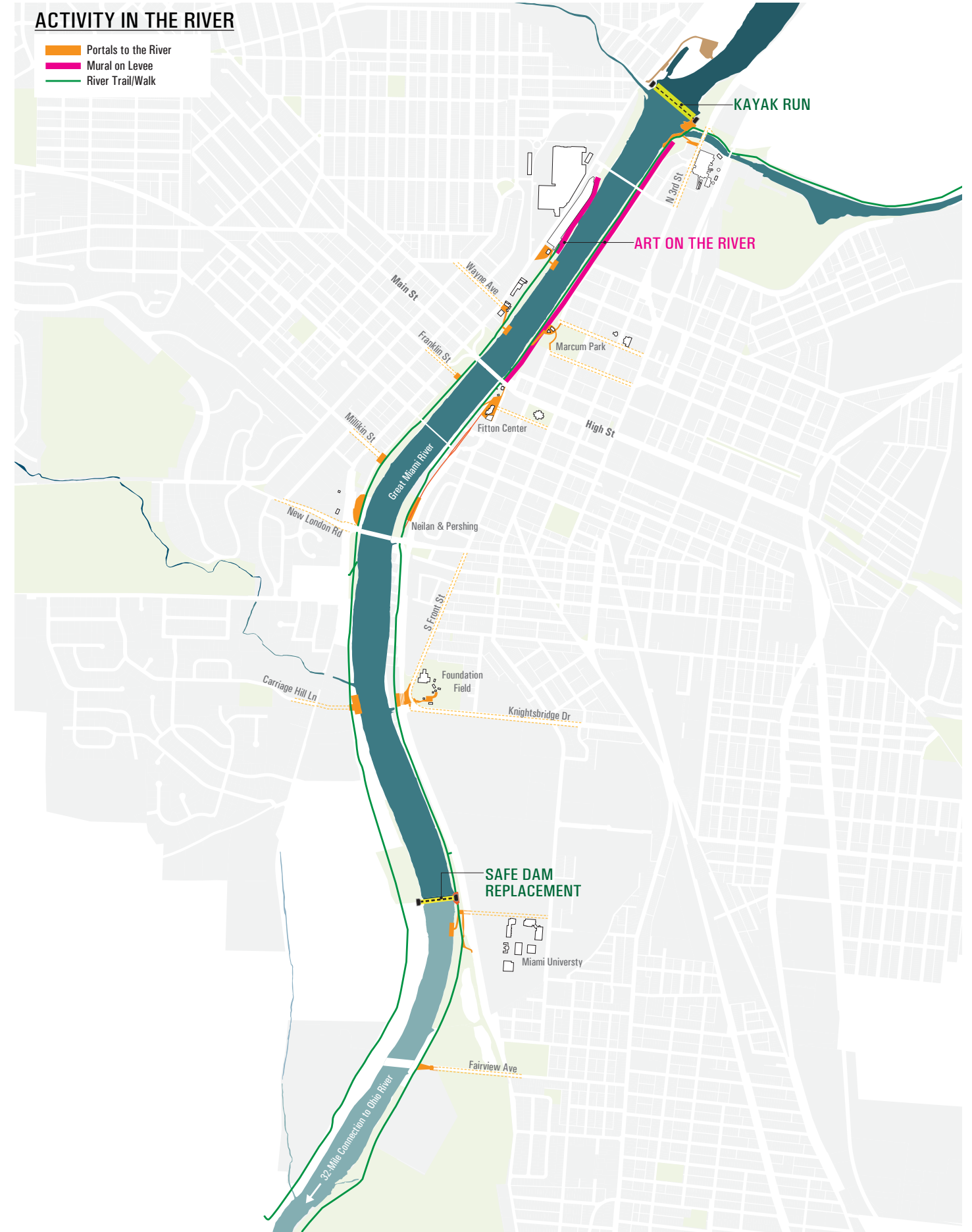
- Shade structures to allow for a place to rest on the trail and also to provide visibility to the access point.
- Safe road crossings and broad steps will lead up to the levee (if required) and the approach will be

- regraded to provide an accessible slope up.
- Steps down, possibly incorporating seating steps as well.
- Plantings and landscaping should be incorporated where permitted.
- Provision of boat ramps at convenient locations.
- Modifying the grading at the top of the levee to establish a better visual connection to the river.

These recommended access points typically extend from existing streets. The goal is to make pedestrian and bicycle access easier and more convenient, in addition to increasing access for persons carrying boats.

**Portal Improvements** — The River Plan identifies six access points to the river that should be upgraded to a Portal. The exact improvements made to each Portal should be done through an input process during implementation. This plan does identify strategic improvements for each Portal. They are listed below:

- **Neilan & Knightsbridge Portal** - This is an important community gateway to the river, connecting the Booker T Washington Community Center and Foundation Field to the river. A better defined crosswalk and a more inviting entrance to







the riverfront are recommended. The narrow stairs should be replaced with seating steps and a pavilion should be considered.

• **University Portal** - A better connection from Miami University Hamilton to the river should be established. A road or path could be created from the campus to connect to an already strong portal near the low head dam. A parking lot with landscaping, sculptures, and a water fountain already exists, but a new pavilion and seating steps would enhance this area.

• **Fitton Center Portal** - The park between the Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the Fitton Center for Creative Arts is already a primary entrance to the Great Miami River Recreational Trail and home to Hamilton's historic log cabin. It could be enhanced with a pavilion, seating steps, a promenade, and a ramp. Modifying the approach to the levee would improve the connection to the river here as well.

• **Fairview Portal** - Fairview is another strong portal that could benefit from a number of improvements. It connects to the trail, the Riverside Natural Area, and it already has a parking lot. The Miami Conservancy District has recently completed a plan for the Two Ponds area adjacent to the portal as well. Wayfinding and parking lot improvements could encourage more people to utilize this portal, especially from the Lindenwald neighborhood. A long term objective would be to add a pedestrian and bike bridge and overlook, establishing a connection across the river to Pyramid Hill Sculpture Park.

• **Wayne Avenue** - This portal is envisioned as a new park and is described in more detail on page 38 as "West Riverfront Park."

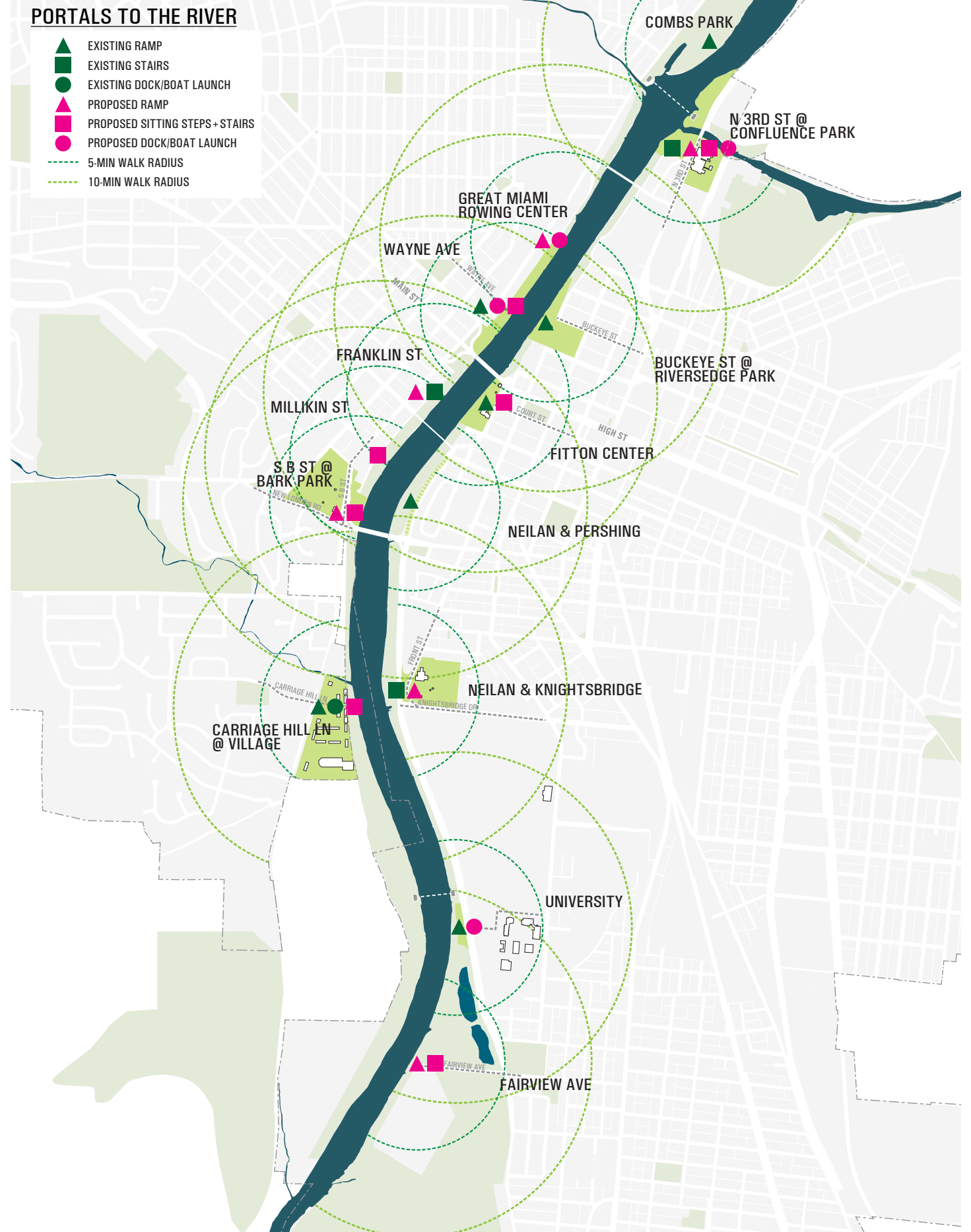
• **Combs Park** - The Hamilton Parks Conservancy has recently completed a plan for Combs Park improvements. The River Plan recommends the implementation of this plan as an important park near the Spooky Nook Sports Complex.

**A New Portal**

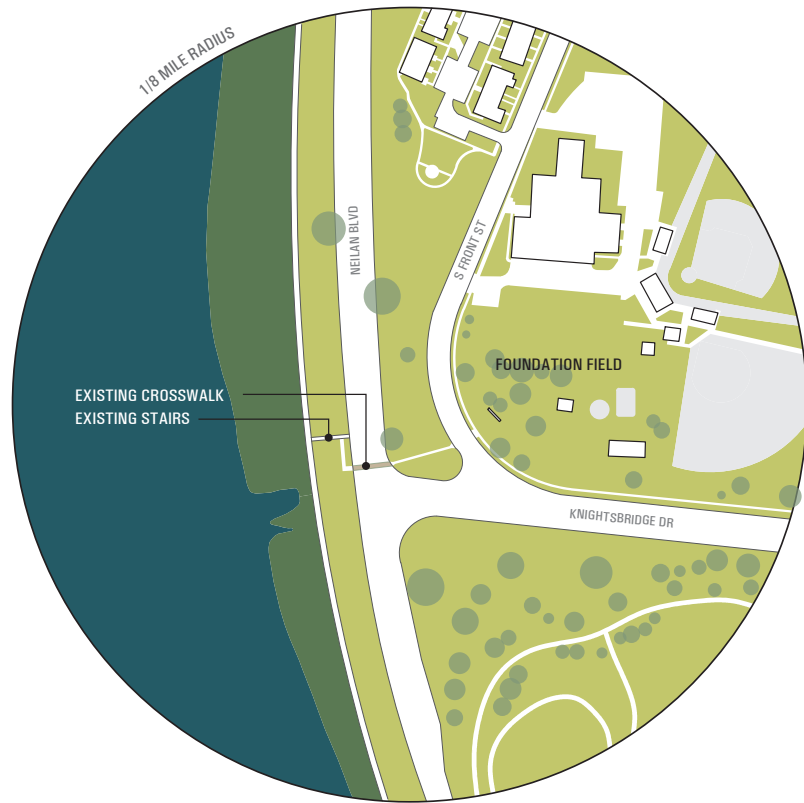
• **Confluence Park** - The River Plan identifies Confluence Park as an ideal location for a new park and access point to the river. It is discussed in more detail on page 38.

**Other Potential Portals**

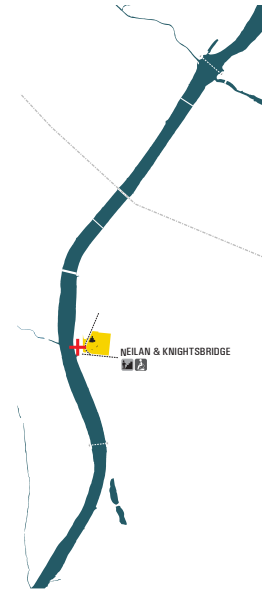
- *Great Miami Rowing Center Portal*
- *Franklin St Portal*
- *Millikin St Portal*
- *S B St@Bark Park Portal*
- *The Mixed-use Village Portal*



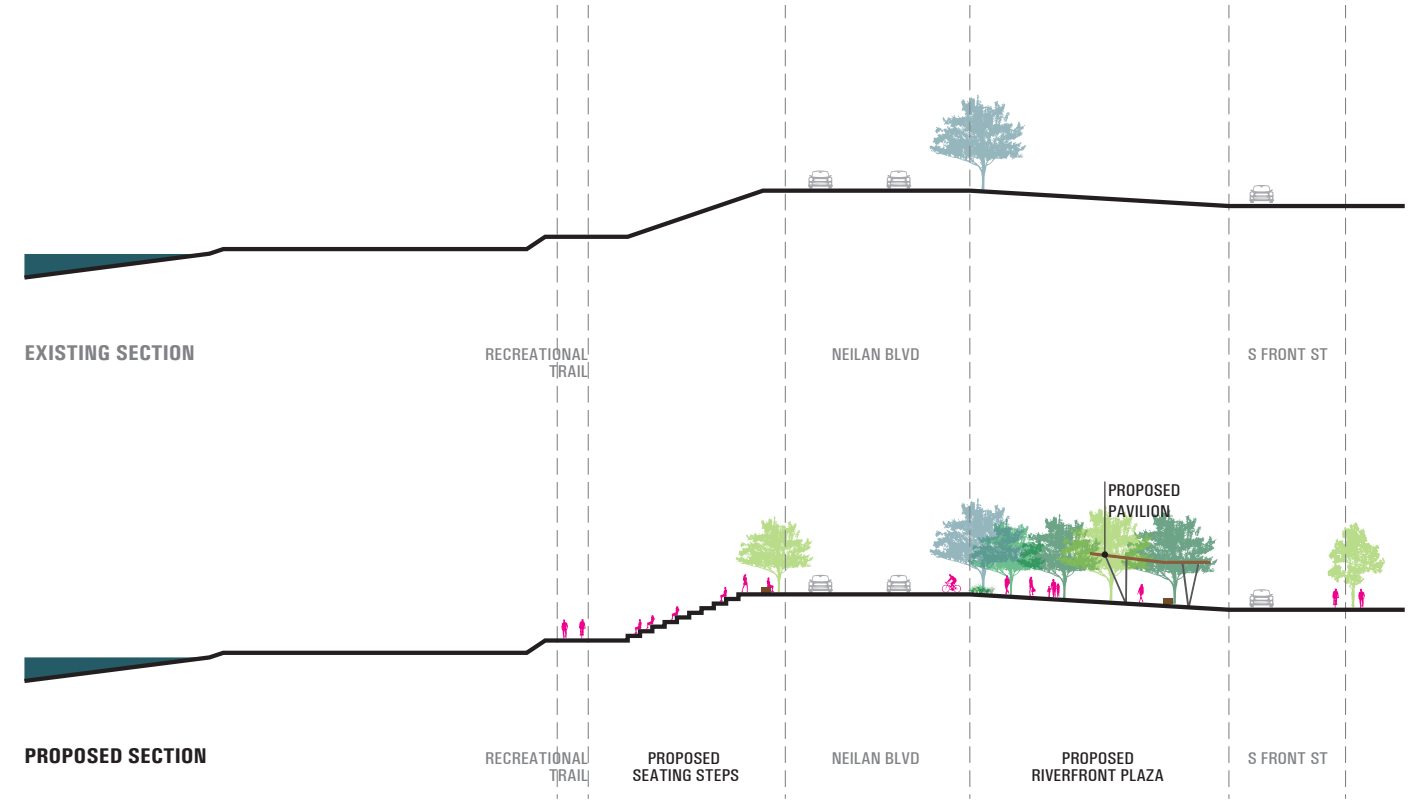




NEILAN & KNIGHTSBRIDGE PORTAL, EXISTING



NEILAN & KNIGHTSBRIDGE PORTAL, PROPOSED



NEILAN & KNIGHTSBRIDGE PORTAL, EXISTING & PROPOSED SECTIONS

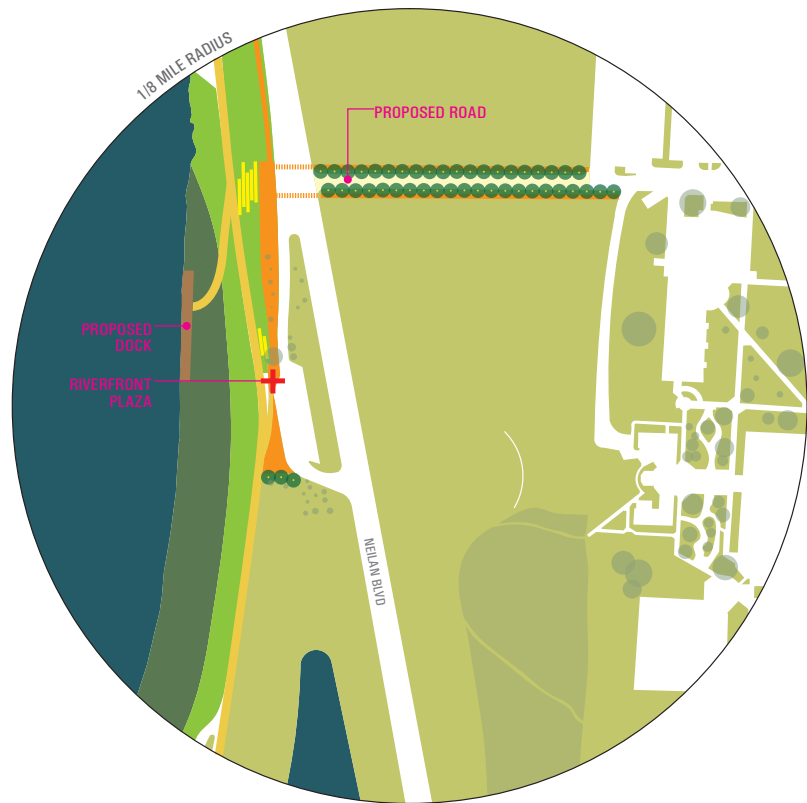
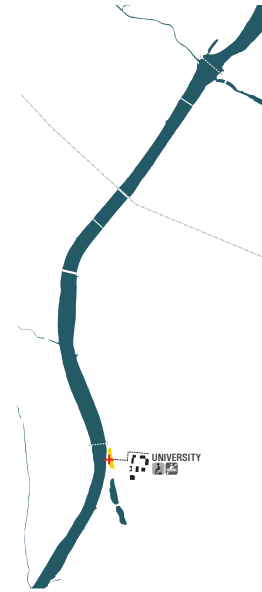


NEILAN & KNIGHTSBRIDGE PORTAL, PROPOSED

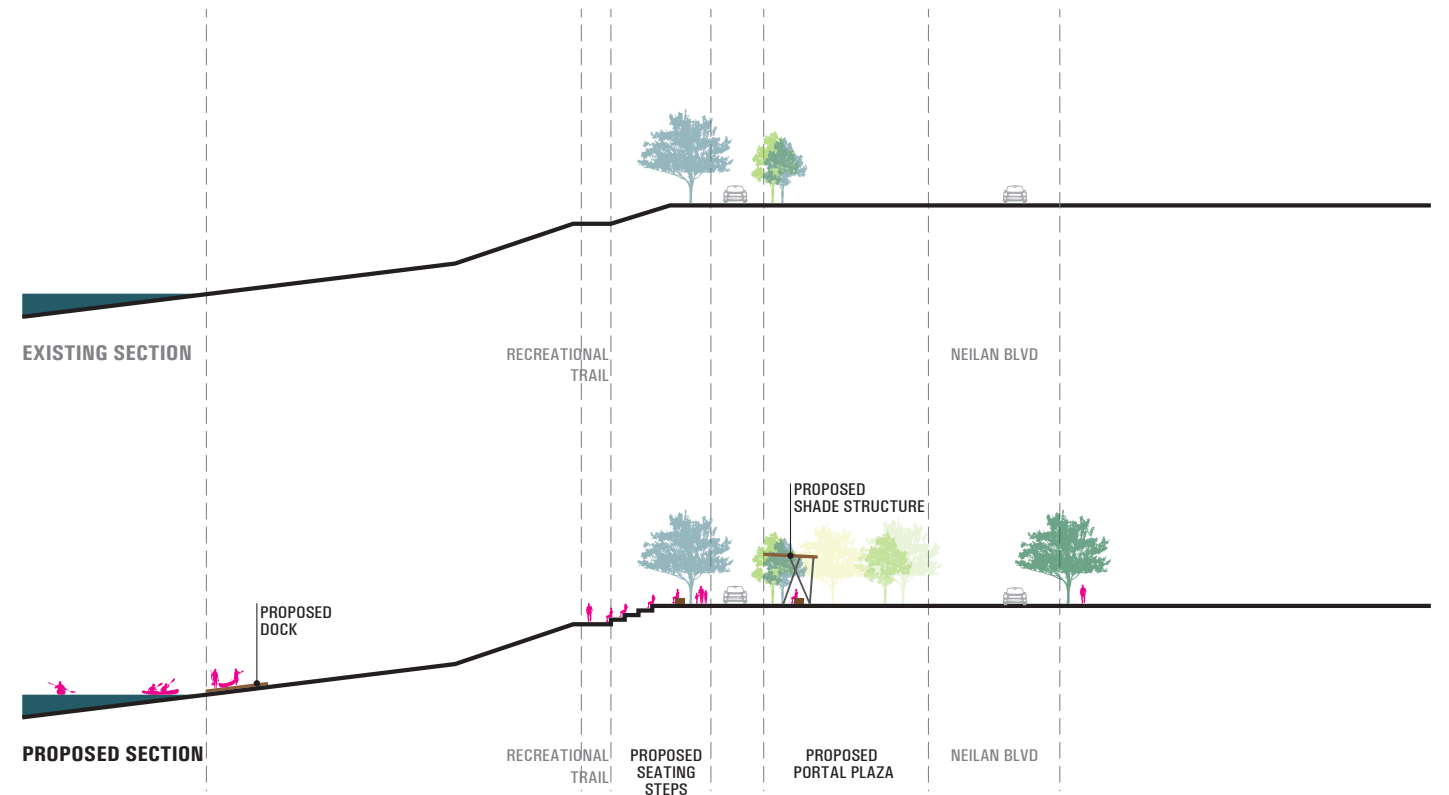




UNIVERSITY PORTAL, EXISTING



UNIVERSITY PORTAL, PROPOSED

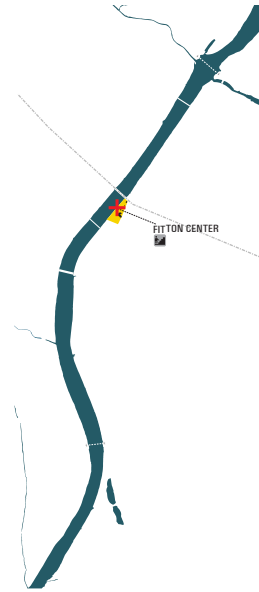
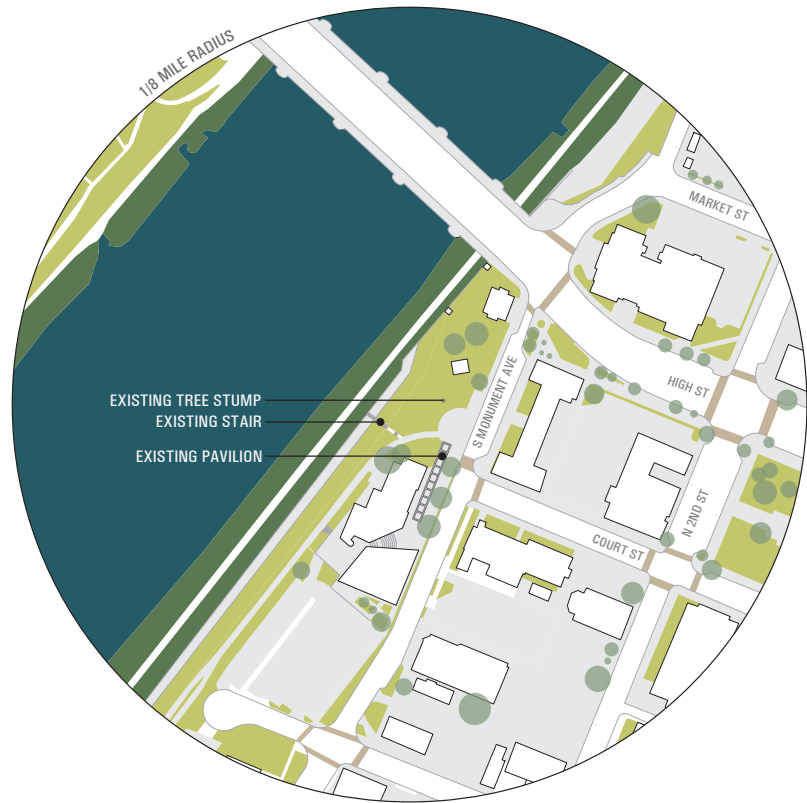


UNIVERSITY PORTAL, EXISTING & PROPOSED SECTIONS

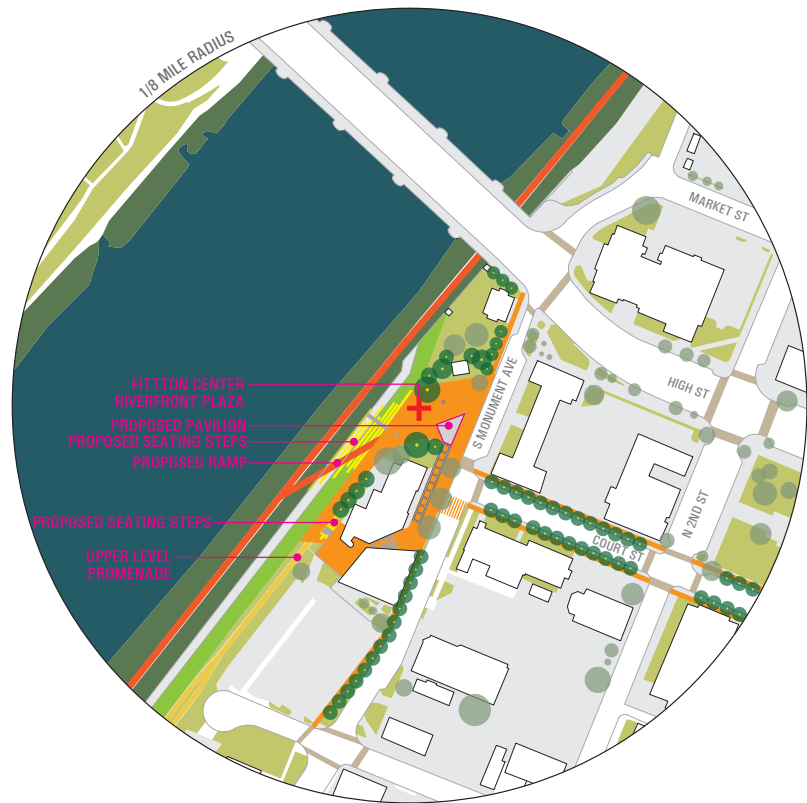


UNIVERSITY PORTAL, PROPOSED

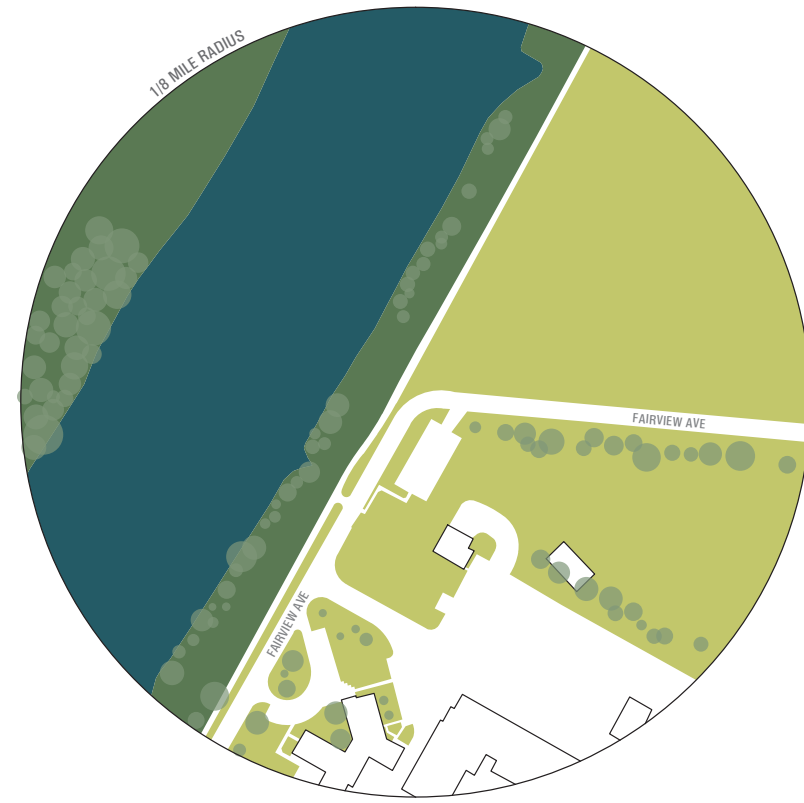




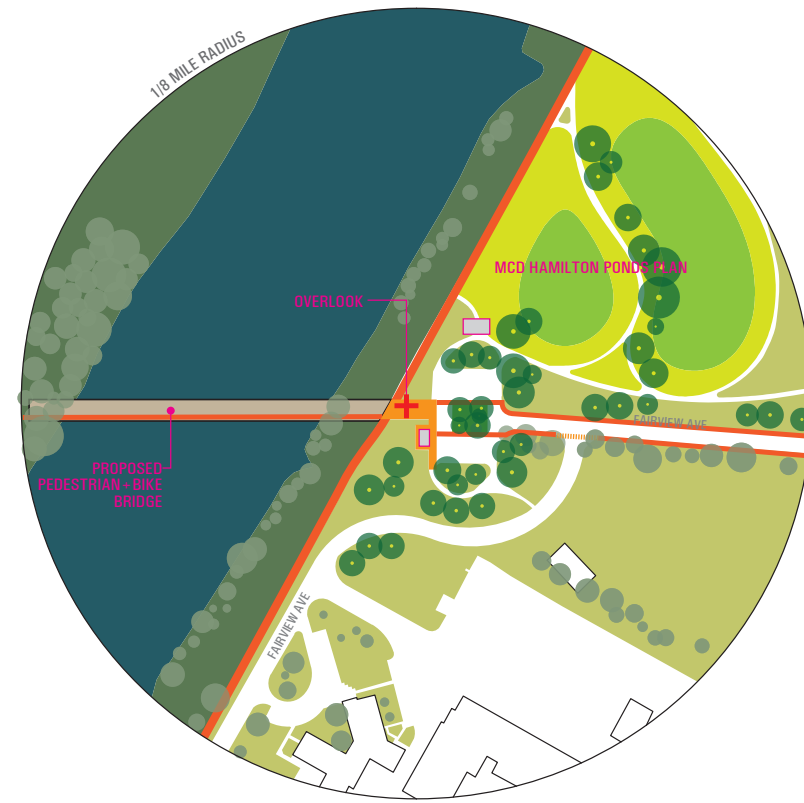
FITTON CENTER PORTAL, EXISTING



FITTON CENTER PORTAL, PROPOSED



FAIRVIEW AVE PORTAL, EXISTING



FAIRVIEW AVE PORTAL, PROPOSED





SCULLING ROWING

**INCREASE BOATING ACTIVITY**

Encouraging more boating activity is an important way to get more people into the river. During public input meetings, residents reacted very positively to the idea of promoting human powered craft, such as rowing, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding.

The river between the dams is ideal for this type of boating. Special events that promote rowing, kayaking, and stand up paddle boarding should be encouraged. Currently, the Great Miami Rowing Center uses the river for rowing practice and has held rowing competitions. Additionally, they have hosted an annual dragon boat race, which gets new people on the river in a fun way.

The new access ramp to the river at Marcum Park and RiversEdge Amphitheater should be leveraged for more engagement with the river. For example, offering kayaking during the RiversEdge Concert Series would offer a fun way for people to utilize the river.

There is also a tremendous opportunity for watercraft below the southern dam. Hamilton’s southern dam is the last dam in the Great Miami River system, so it is a clear run of 32 miles to the Ohio River. Hamilton should capitalize on this and provide a launch below the dam that would allow this activity to be a part of the Hamilton river experience and encourage visitors to the community.

Additionally, a kayak run is recommended for the northern dam. Kayak runs have been successfully engineered in many urban streams to increase recreational opportunities. As more activity occurs on the river, coordination between the uses is required to keep everyone safe.

**TEMPORARY USES ON THE RIVER**

Hamilton has a real strength when it comes to creating great festivals, thanks in large part due to passionate and creative volunteers. Festivals centered on the river can promote recreation (boating and biking), ecology, and seasonal festivities. Festivals and other temporary uses on the broad flat expanses exposed in the summertime along the river provide “summer parkland” and are another way to promote activity and use. These festivals can promote “Paddle Days,” “The Great Fish Count,” or many other ideas as the community will develop. Through public input, we heard excitement in regards to creating festivals along the river. A summer use permit for such uses is possible from the MCD.



GREAT FISH COUNT

**ART ON THE RIVER**

There are concrete walls along the river that are part of the levee system that can be beautified with art. As more people utilize the river and the Portals, beautifying this area becomes more important. The City of Hamilton and the Fitton Center for Creative Arts have partnered to create a mural program called StreetSpark. StreetSpark should evaluate the possibility of painting murals on the levees, starting across from the Spooky Nook Sports Complex. Close coordination is required with MCD, as paintings in the river can be damaged by flooding and MCD needs to be able to clearly view the concrete revetments to inspect for damages or necessary repairs.

**SAFETY AND DAM REPLACEMENT/MODIFICATION**

Safety is an important aspect of river use. Currently the two low head dams on the river are unsafe due to their configuration and their capability to produce dangerous recirculating currents, large hydraulic forces, and other hazardous conditions sufficient to trap people in the backwash. The southern low head dam was put into the river to help control water levels. It is recommended to reconfigure the southern low head dam with a new profile to eliminate the backwash and provide a passageway for fish. Hydrologic and others studies will be required to design a new profile which is safe for people and insures no impact on the river flooding and movement. This is perhaps the most important improvement to make in implementing the plan.

The older northern low head dam currently helps to collect sediments and keep them from flowing downstream. It is recommended that this dam be removed and replaced with a kayak run. This will eliminate the hazardous conditions and provide recreational opportunities. Hydrologic studies and careful redesign of the river will be required for enjoyment by paddlers as well as for sediment collection.



SAFE TRANSITION OF DAM



MURAL ON THE LEVEE



MURAL ON VERTICAL RETAINING WALL



ENGINEERED KAYAK RUN



## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INCREASING ACTIVITY ALONG THE RIVER

The riverfront is one of Hamilton’s most important assets. Cities around the world are finding ways to capitalize on their riverfronts by adding river walks, housing, parks, restaurants, and other activities to allow residents to engage with their rivers. Hamilton should be no different. The Great Miami River Recreational Trail provides a great regional connection to Hamilton’s riverfront. It is well trafficked by both pedestrians and bicyclists. However, more could be done to connect people to the trail and the riverfront more broadly.

Aside from the trail, the riverfront is not intensely utilized. Some of the buildings located along the river are in poor condition. Existing uses are mostly commercial or industrial uses not dependent on the river, with their “backside” to the river. Housing that currently exists in German Village and on A Street could be expanded. Creating additional opportunities for recreation and housing on currently underutilized parcels should be explored.

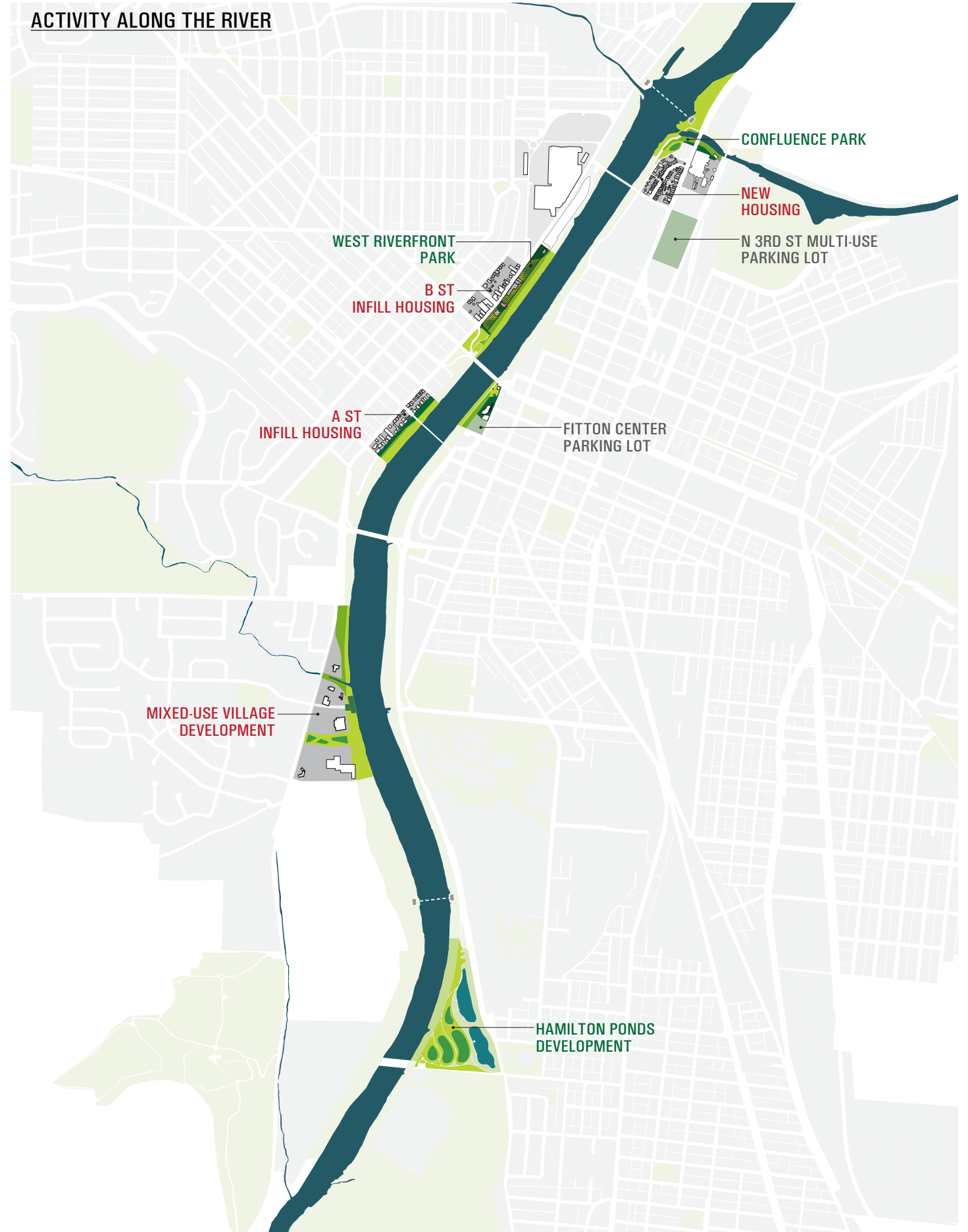
### RECOMMENDED PROJECTS

**West Riverfront Park** — Currently most of the park space on the river is on the east side of the Great Miami River. North of the High Street Bridge, the City owns a great deal of the land up to the Spooky Nook Sports Complex. The West Riverfront Park is an opportunity to expand park space on the west side of the river, south of Spooky Nook, increasing recreational opportunities and make the most out of the wonderful views to the downtown, the Soldiers and Sailors monument, and the High-Main Bridge. A ramp for boat access to the river for the Great Miami River Center should be explored.

By partially rebuilding the levee and moving it further west, more usable space would be available with views to and over the river. This plan will require careful study and coordination with MCD as a part of their levee maintenance program.

The goal is to create usable open space for people inside the levee and continuing the pedestrian trail on top of the levee.

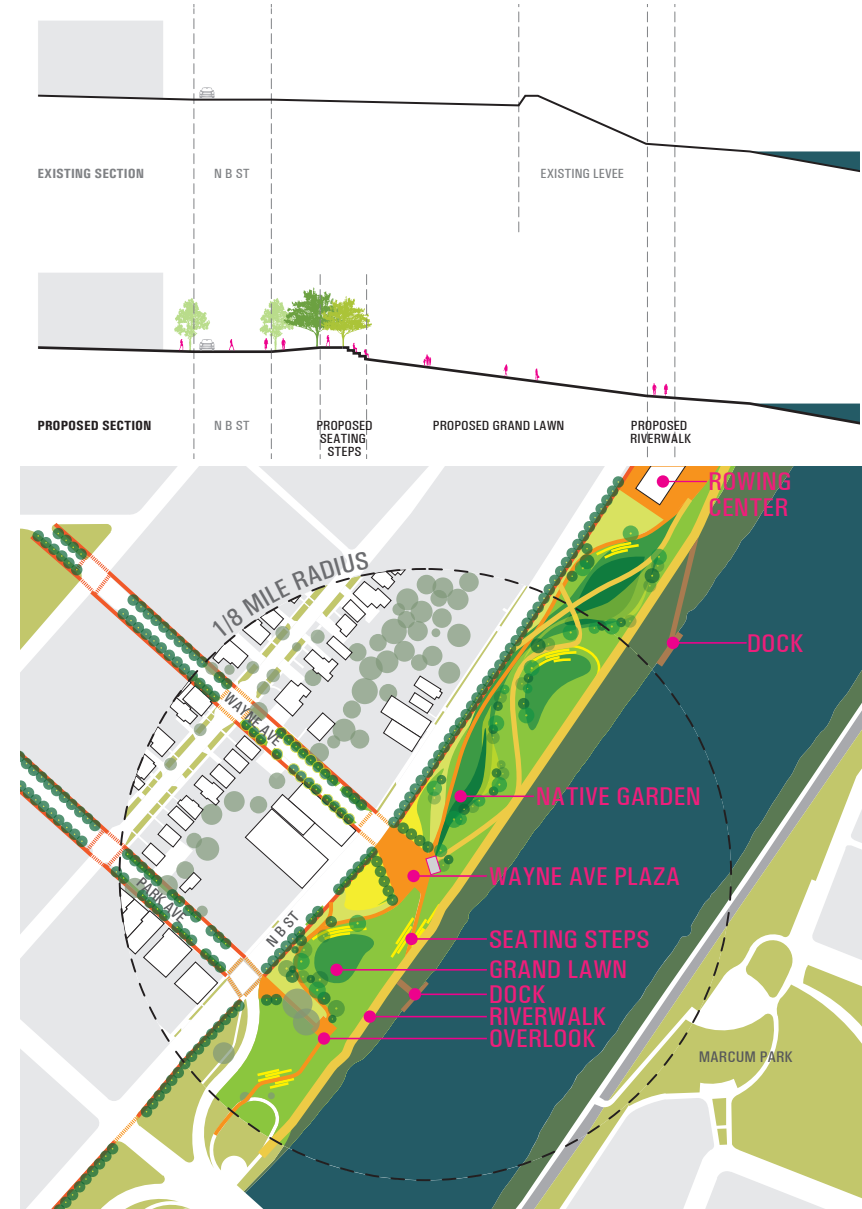
**Confluence Park** — Another potential new park space is on the east side of the Great Miami River, at the confluence with the old hydraulic canal. Currently, the Great Miami River Recreational Trail runs through this area and it is one of the most attractive areas along the trail. A park here could work in conjunction with the kayak run, providing a place to pull out.







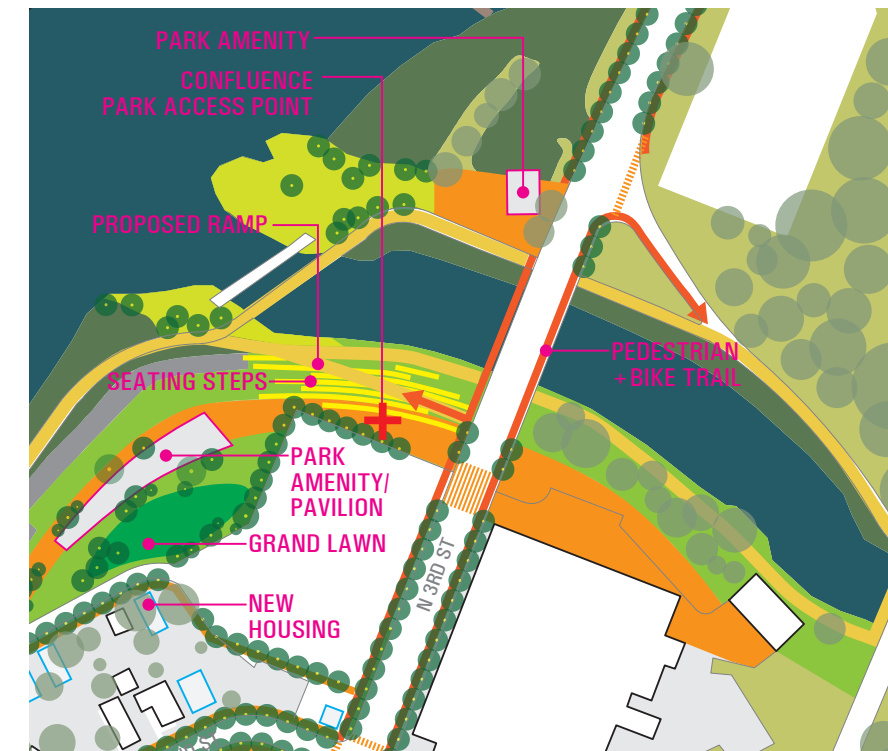
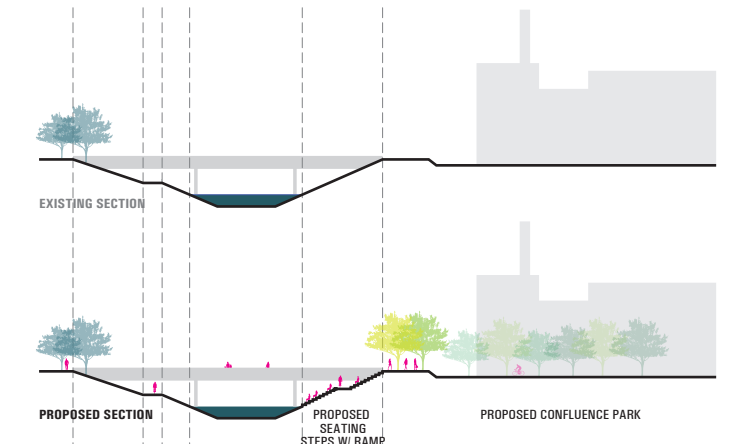
WEST RIVERFRONT PARK







CONFLUENCE PARK





**HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES**

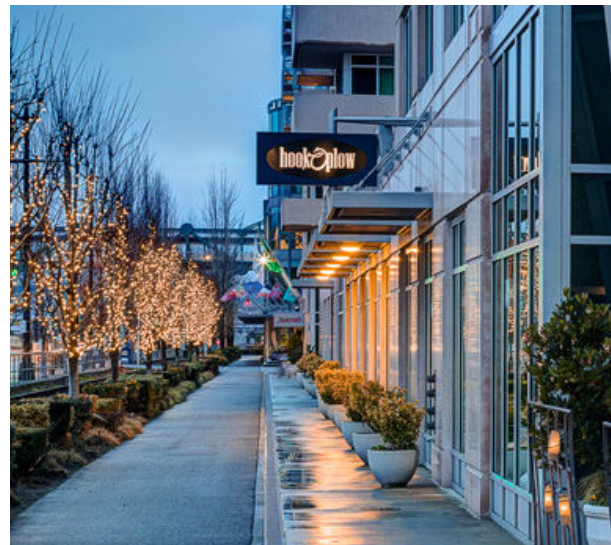
Currently there is little housing capitalizing on the beautiful views to the river. German Village is one exception and the new Marcum Apartments project is employing the views of river to attract new residents to the downtown. Finding places along the river to build new housing or to promote renovation and restoration of existing housing will strengthen downtown Hamilton and Hamilton as a whole. Some of the new projects may be most appropriate to host a mix of uses, which will allow Hamilton to expand restaurant and shopping options. The following are some options to study further for possible housing.

**West side of the river, south of the Columbia Bridge, along Pyramid Hill Boulevard** — Several deep parcels presently are large scale single-use structures with lots of underused parking. There is an opportunity to diversify the uses, integrating housing with the existing recreational and commercial uses. This could be done on a parcel by parcel basis, with the city helping to coordinate. The overall plan should include public access to the river, potentially in alignment with Carriage Hill Ln, and public access along the river. Housing that maximizes the edges and views facing the river, i.e. “U” shapes, is encouraged.

**A Street** — A mix of housing, commercial buildings, and vacant lots face A Street. Improving A Street as a place will encourage infill housing in this area as well as rehabilitation of existing housing.

**B Street** — On the west side of B Street, across from the proposed West Riverside Park, exists a mix of commercial buildings and housing. With the new B Street, infill housing can be encouraged on vacant parcels, facing the park.

**North of Black St Bridge, east side** — This neighborhood currently faces inward. Housing that takes more advantage of the river setting is a possibility that should be explored.



LOCAL RESTAURANTS AND BARS



NEW MIXED USE HOUSING



INFILL HOUSING



**OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: PARKING LOTS**

The City Hamilton has many surface lots within its urban core, many of which are located adjacent to the river. For a walkable riverfront, this may not be the highest and best use. Pedestrians desire constant stimulation that a surface parking lot fails to provide. Moreover, these surface lots are often hidden from view by even the shortest of buildings, limiting the effectiveness of their sole purpose of providing easy access for motorists. Reconsidering these parking areas will allow for greater public space along the river. Because surface lots separate people from amenities that they demand access to, strategies must be developed to bridge the gap and provide vibrancy.

**Elevated Public Space** — One solution is to provide a deck over parking lots that would provide the elevation needed to view the river over the levee. The parking would stay intact, but a public space could be created on top of the deck. Sculptures, lookout points, or other amenities could be added to the deck to provide a new gathering space. This opportunity is relatively expensive, however, it would help create a more vibrant and varied walkable environment.

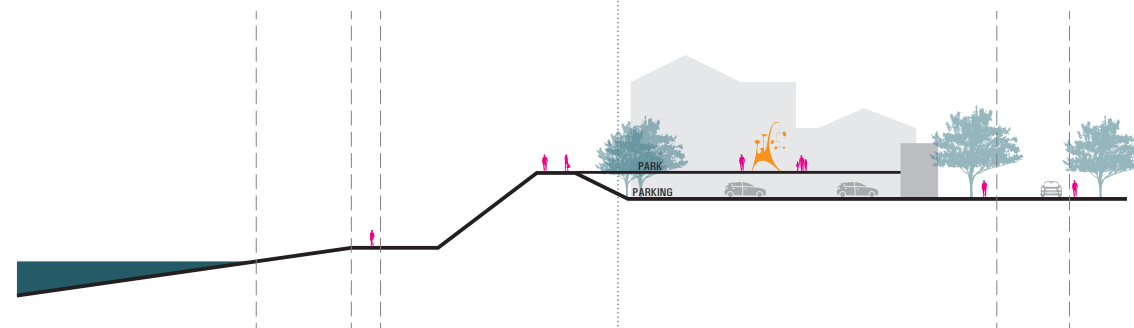
**Event Space** — Another opportunity is to use parking lots as event space in large areas that have low-demand parking days. Parking lots could be rented for concerts, festivals, and other events. Lots adjacent to the river are the perfect staging area for river activities and events, providing easy access for tents and food trucks. These events will bring a much needed vibrancy to surface lots that currently are underutilized.



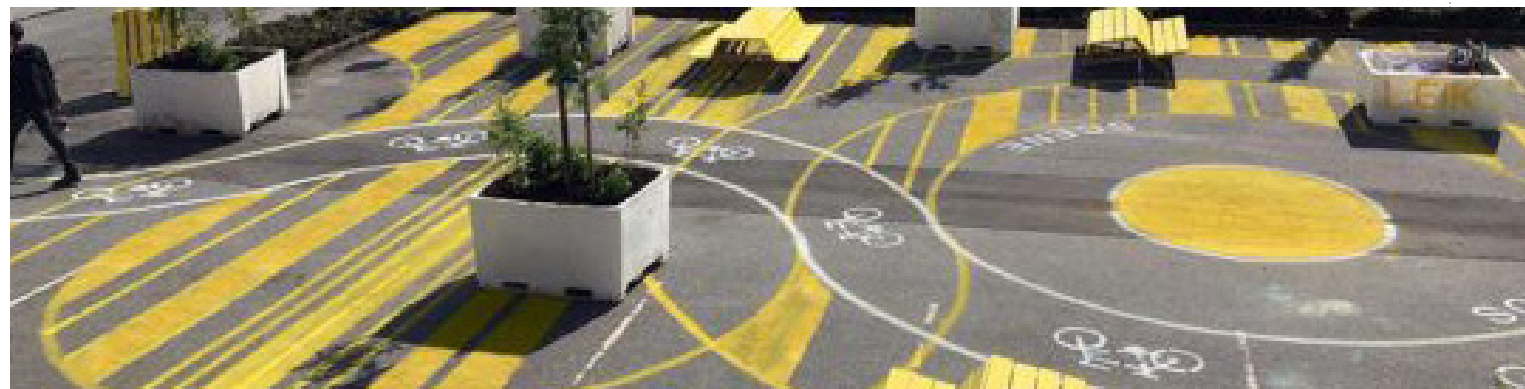
TEMPORARY PARKING LOT TRANSFORMATION - EVENT SPACE



PARKING LOT TRANSFORMATION - SEATING



ELEVATED PUBLIC SPACE - POTENTIAL FITTON CENTER PARKING LOT TRANSFORMATION



PARKING LOT TRANSFORMATION, PAINTING PATTERN & BIKE LANE



ELEVATED PUBLIC SPACE - SCULPTURE PARK ON TOP OF PARKING, LEEUM, SEOUL





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