

Business Item 2020-328

Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment

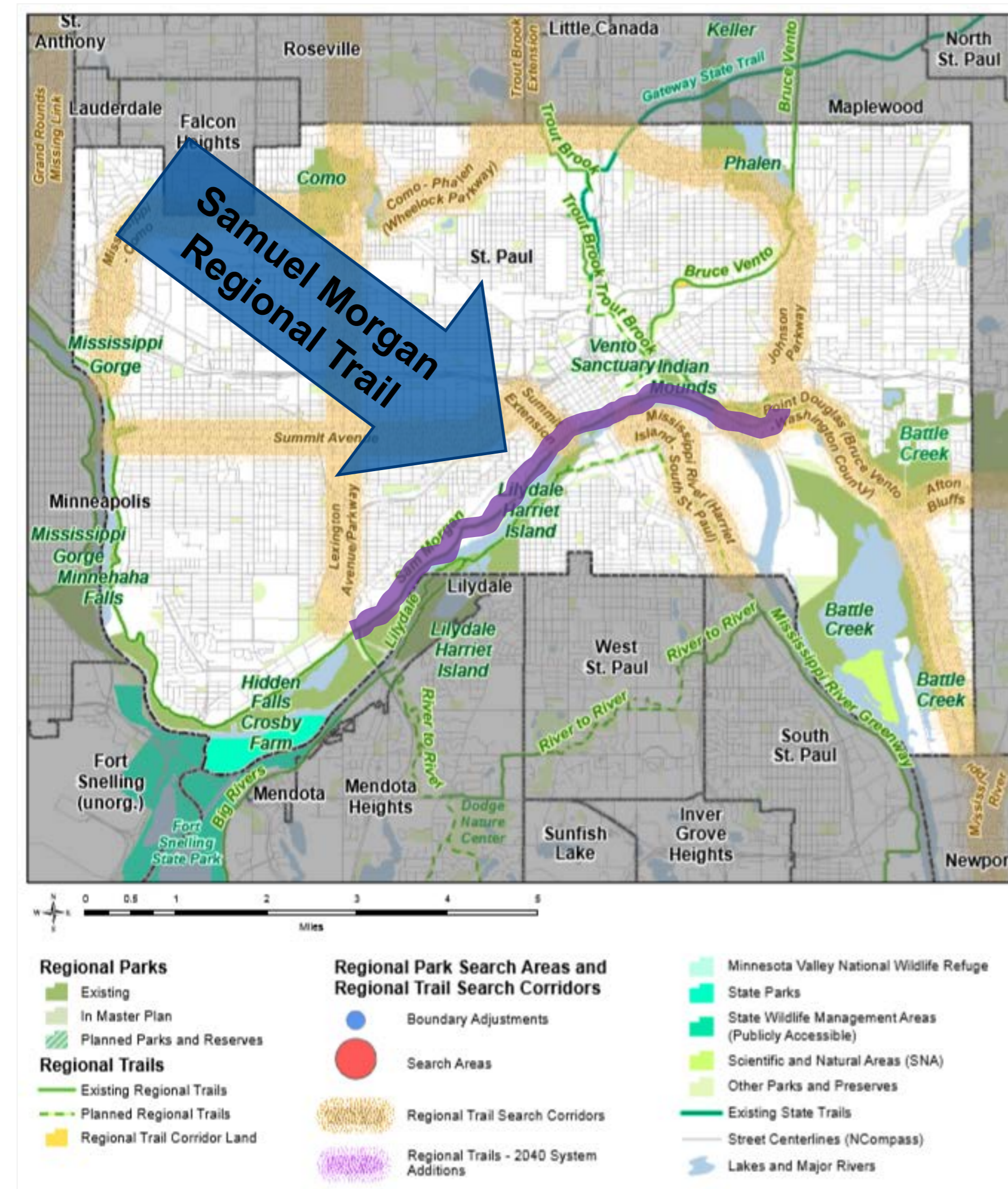
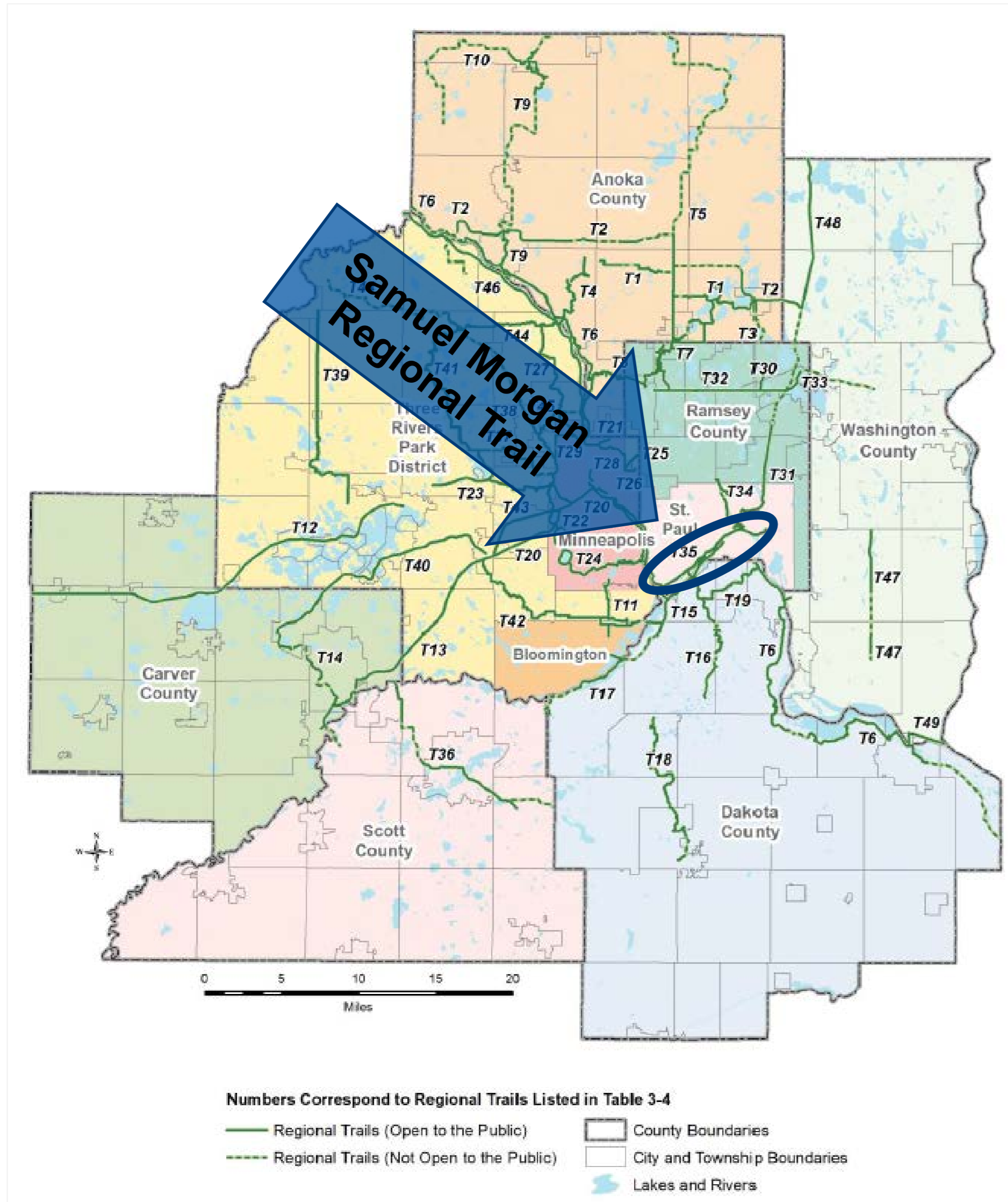
City of Saint Paul

December 3, 2020

Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission



Samuel Morgan Regional Trail



Lower Landing, Sam Morgan Regional Trail



Community and Partner Engagement

Who was engaged?

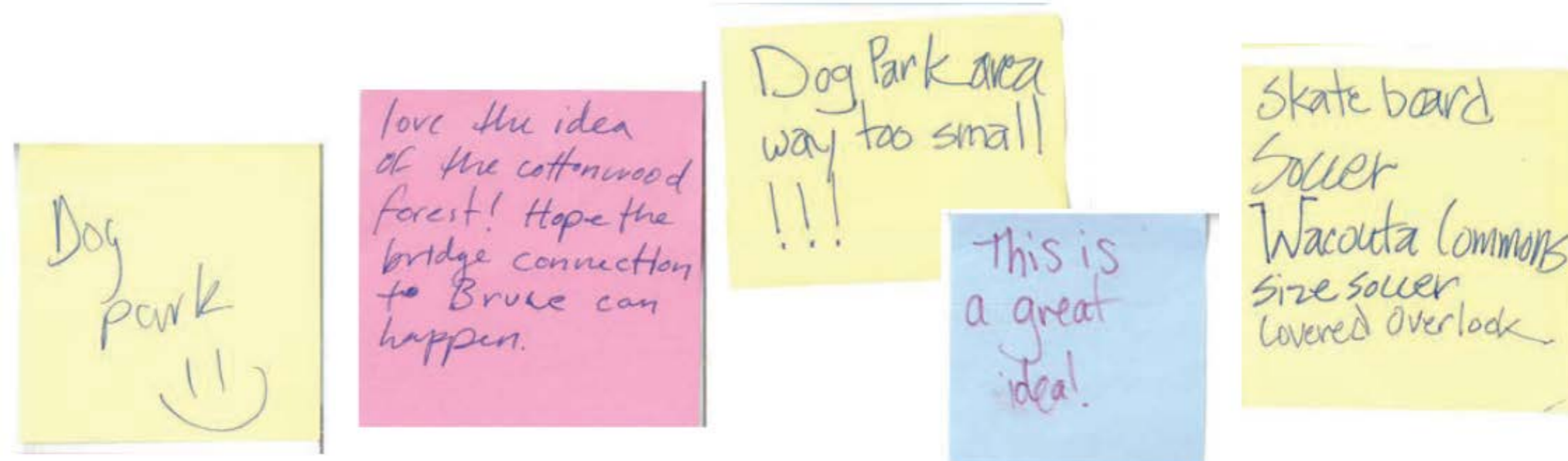
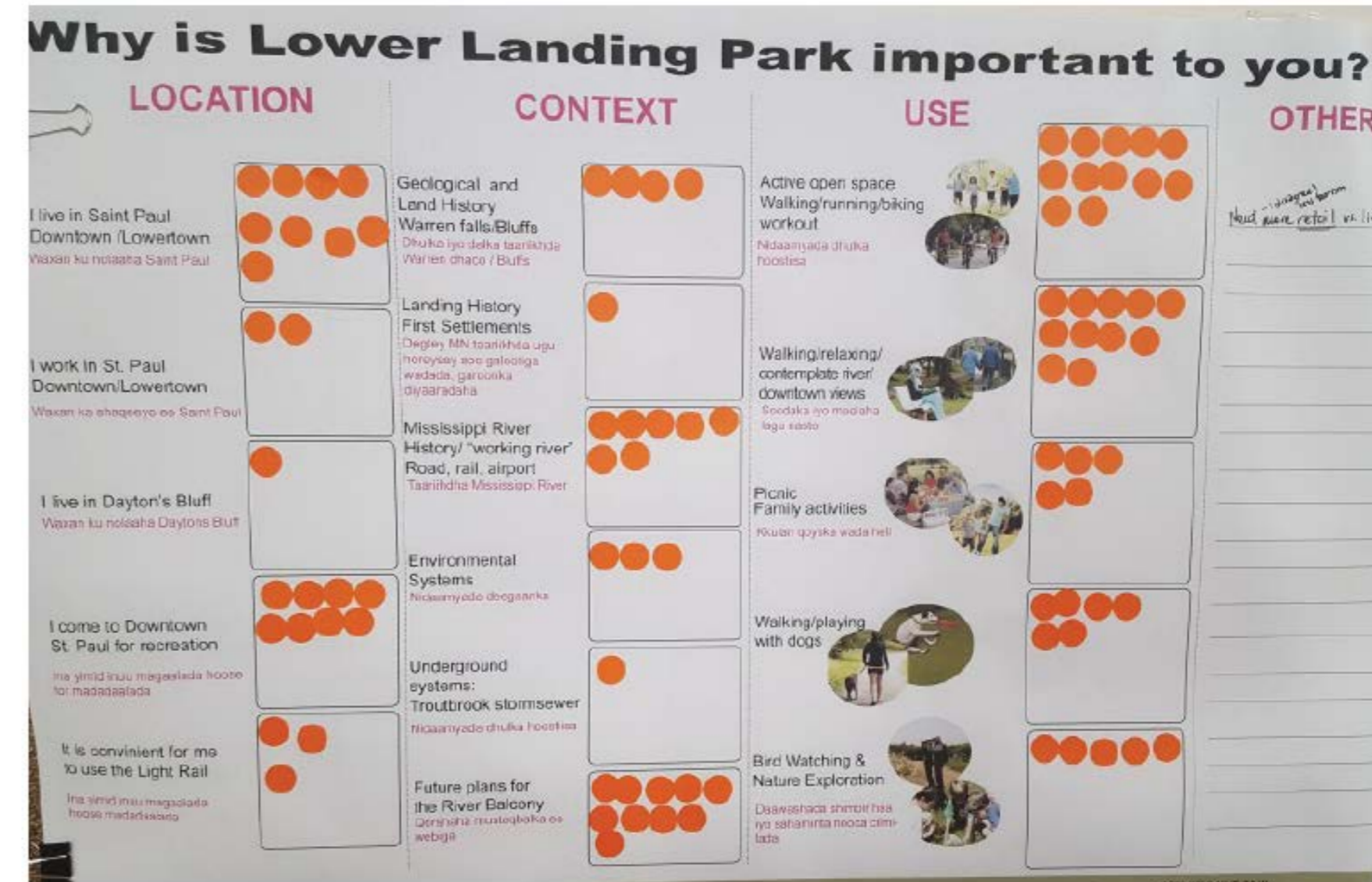
- Residents of Dayton's Bluff and Downtown neighborhoods
- Design Advisory Committee
- CapitolRiver Council
- Lower Phalen Creek Project
- Capitol River Watershed District
- Ramsey County
- Tribal Historic Preservation Offices
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- Mississippi Park Connection
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area



Community and Partner Engagement *continued*

What did participants say?

- New activities and enhanced safety measures would encourage regional trail corridor use
- Add natural surface trails and sitting areas to appreciate river views and nature
- Acknowledge the significance of the area to the Dakota people through the use of signage, public art and interpretation.
- Include environmental education opportunities related to Lower Phalen Creek



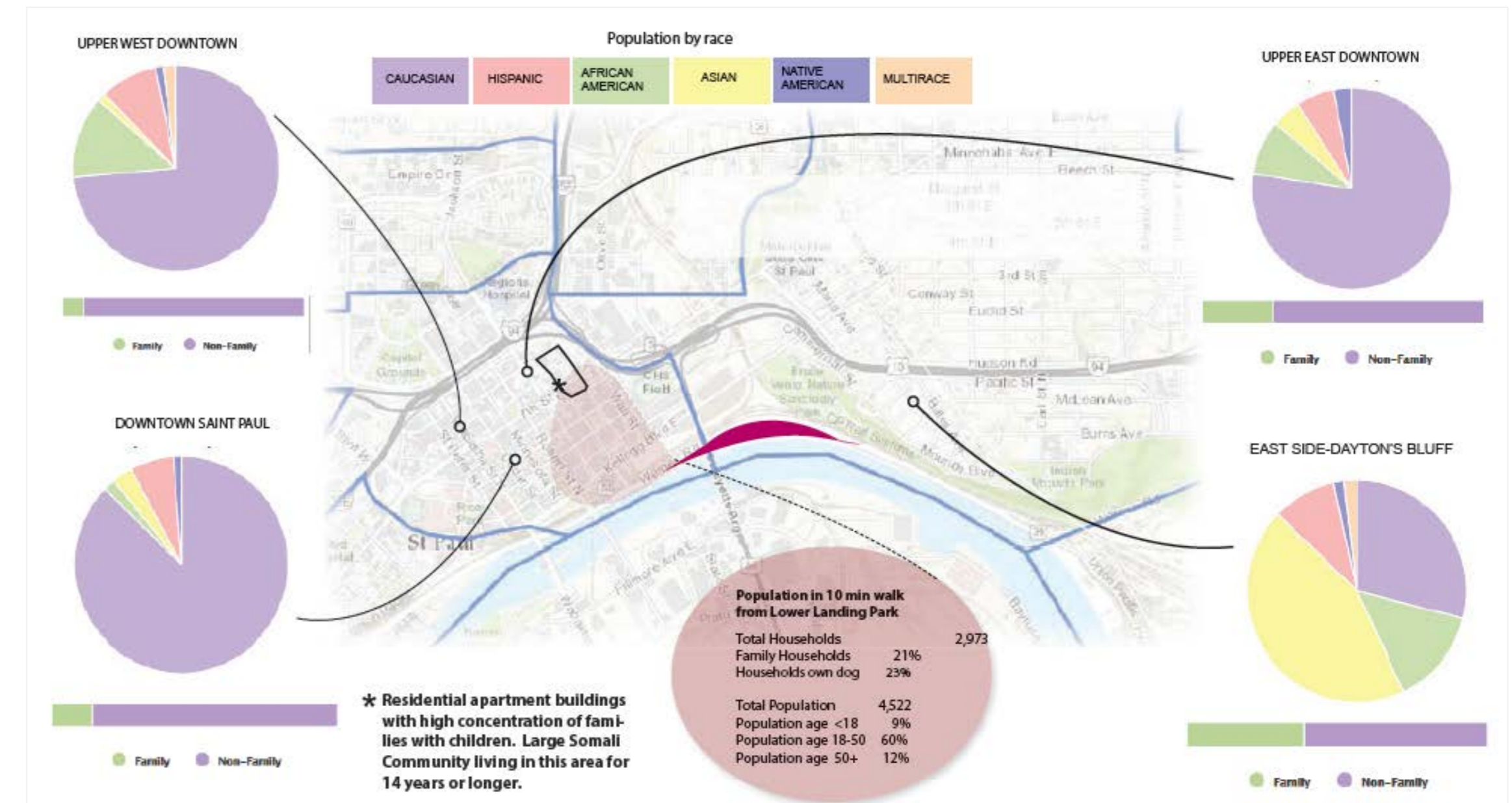
Equity Analysis

Project Data

- Many households with children in Upper East Downtown. Most of these residents are of East African background.
- Adjacent neighborhoods are primarily made up of low-income families with low mobility and limited recreation options.

Public Engagement and Participation

- Many residents have not used the regional trail or Lower Landing due to lack of awareness or safety concerns.
- There is demand for active recreation opportunities to serve youth.
- Because of the close connection to the METRO Green Line, improving Lower Landing would serve residents who don't have direct access to the river.

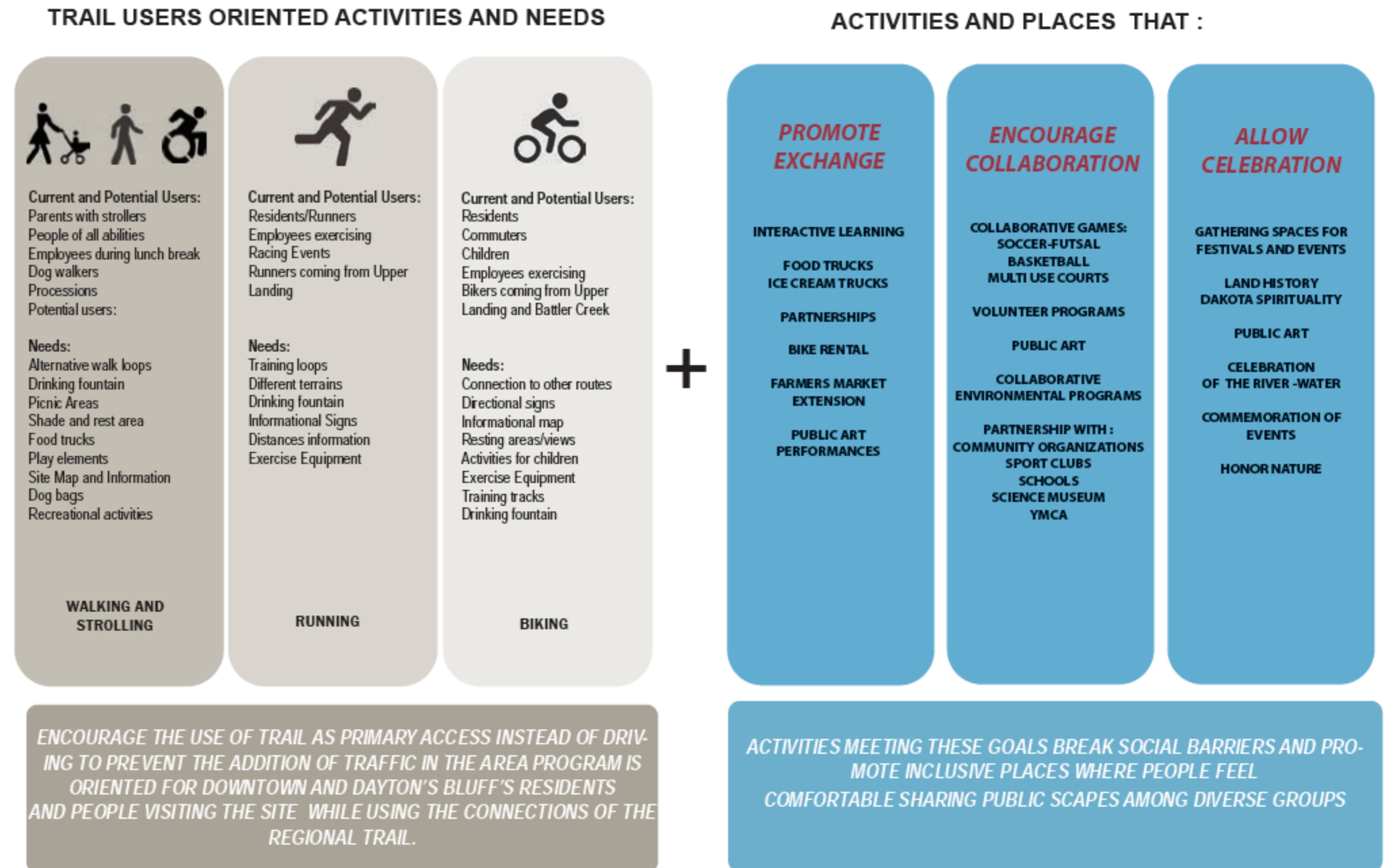


Equity Analysis *continued*

Evaluation Summary

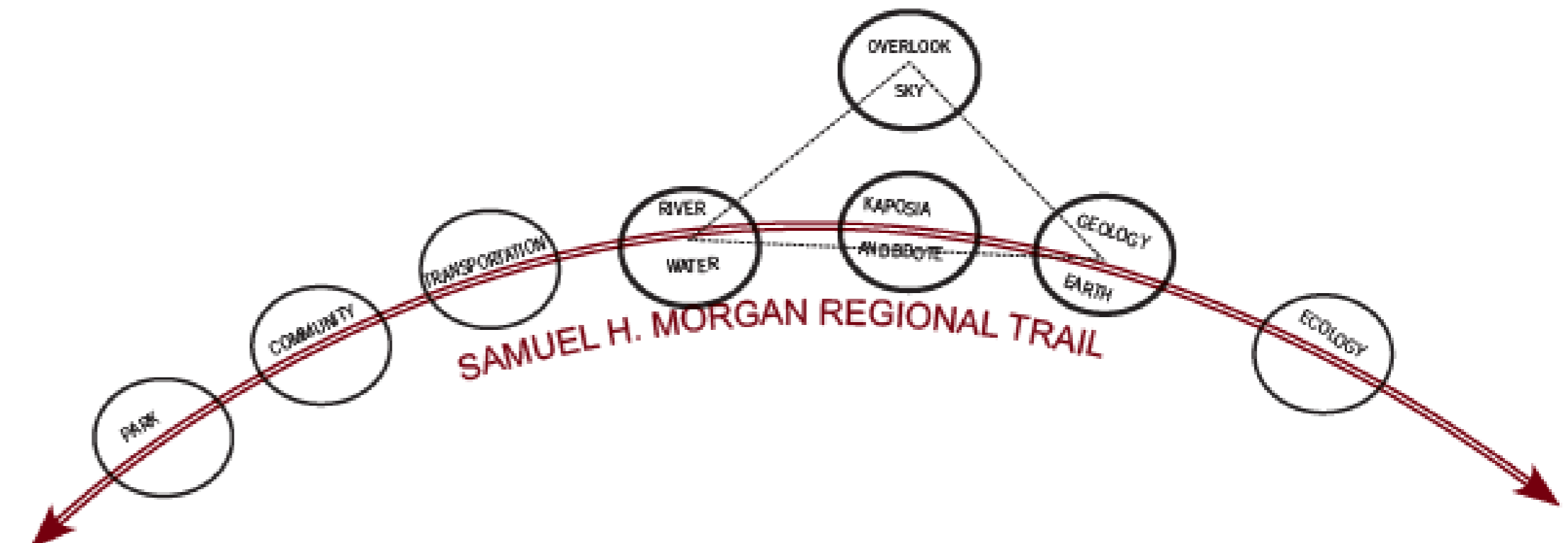
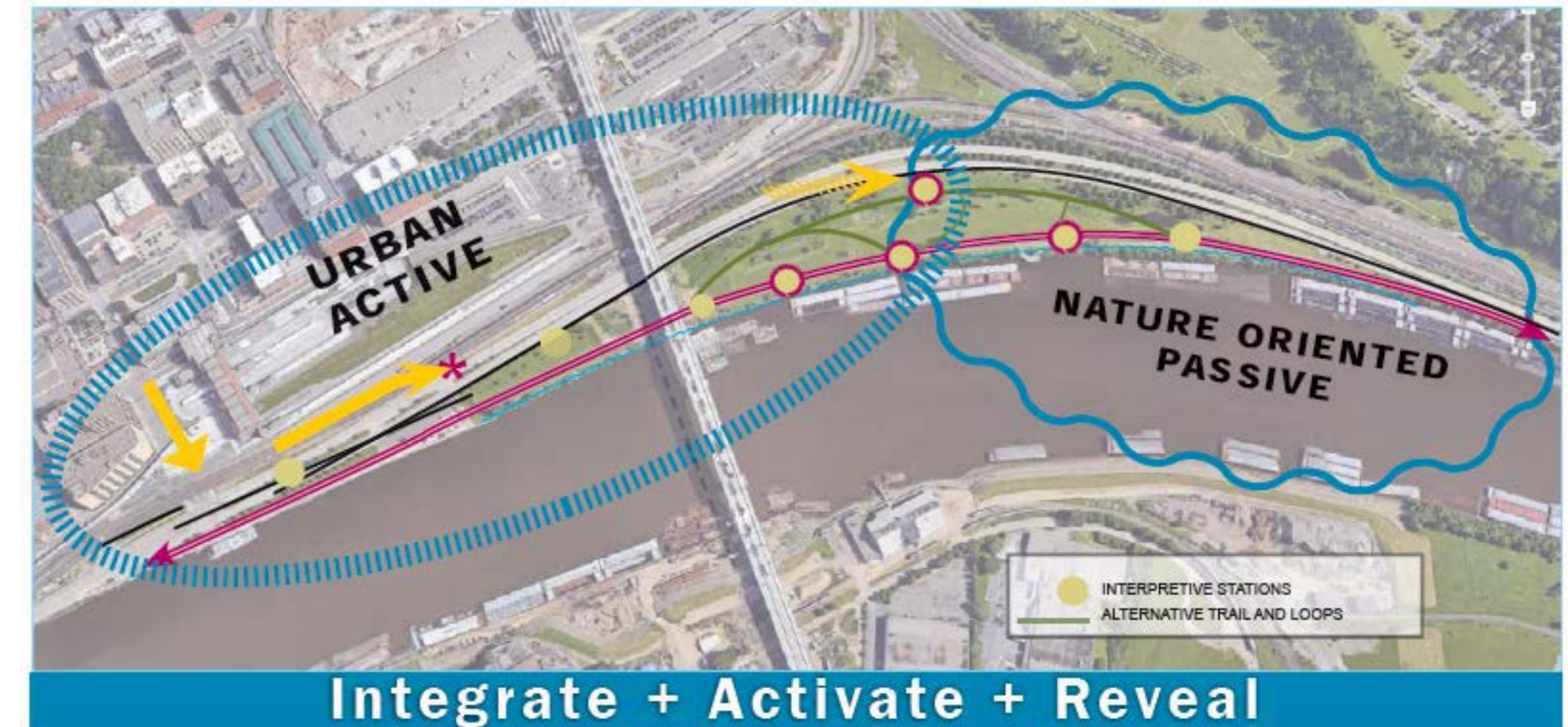
- Participants felt the regional trail corridor and Lower Landing should be more accessible and inclusive.
- The communities who would benefit from improvements are culturally diverse.
- Prior to implementation, the design team will reach out to all who participated to follow up and adapt proposals, if needed.
- The master plan amendment aims to strengthen equitable use of the regional trail and surrounding regional trail corridor land.

CULTURAL DIVERSITY APPROACH



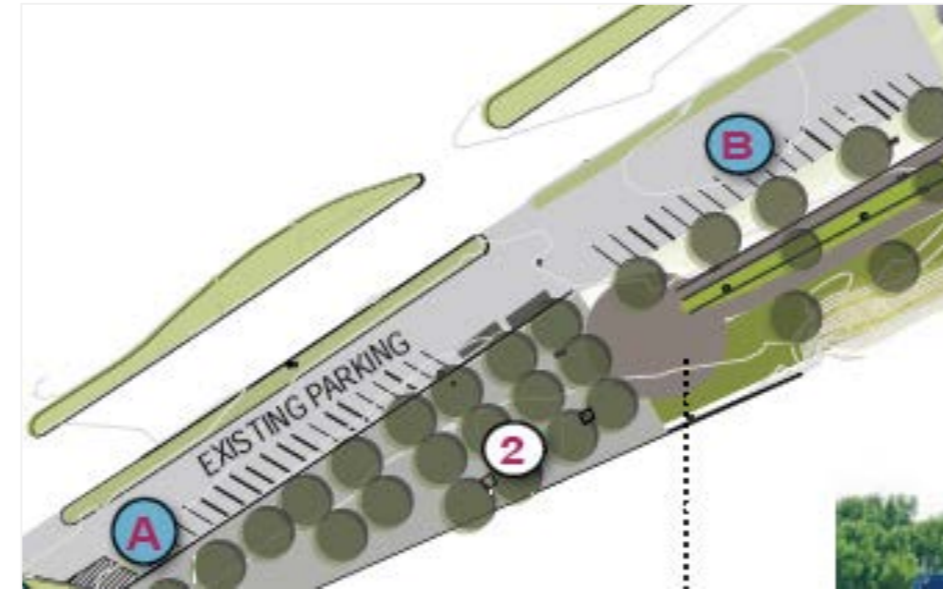
Development Concept

- Any new facilities in Lower Landing and the regional trail corridor will be developed in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Three main goals were identified to guide site organization and programming:
 1. **Integrate** the regional trail with the adjacent context, spatially and socially, to improve and provide connections
 2. **Activate** the trail corridor through the addition of trail-oriented activities while respecting and keeping the tranquil natural settings along the river
 3. **Reveal** the history of the area by taking advantage of trail's location and its connection to historic sites and river



Priorities to Start Activating Lower Landing

1. Access and park entryway plaza improvement
2. Parking lot expansion
3. Natural surface trail
4. Off-leash dog area



Other high (h) and medium-high (m-h) priority master plan projects include:

- Resurfacing the existing regional trail from the parking lot to east side entrance (h)
- Replacing the lighting along the trail (h)
- Improve and provide open multiuse lawns (m-h)
- Provide additional drinking foundations and potentially a mister water feature (m-h)
- Restore wetlands: Enhance with wetland species and remove invasive species (m-h)
- Rehabilitate or replace riprap along the river's edge (m-h)
- Add signage and interpretive artistic features to nodes along the trail (m-h)

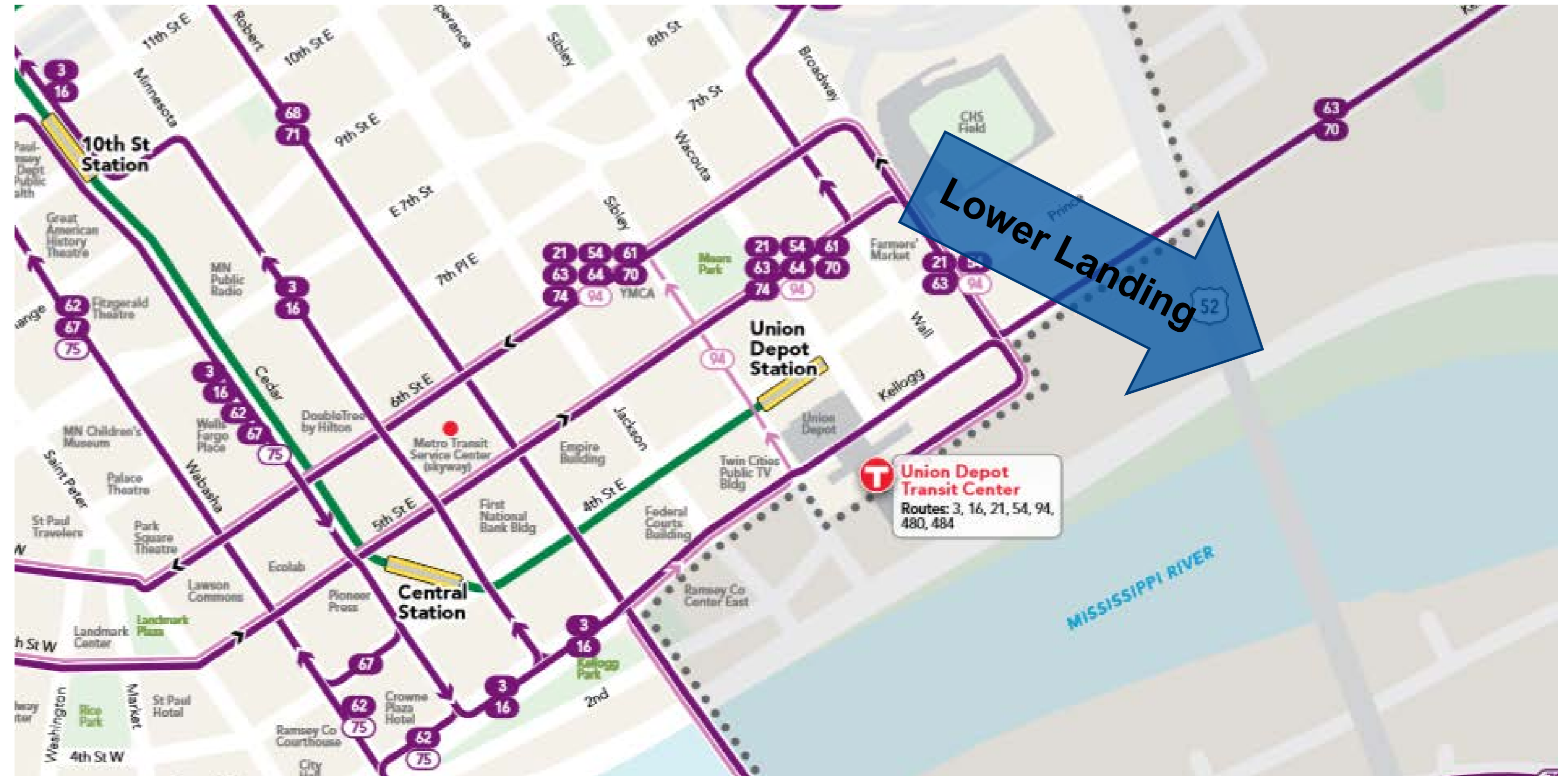
Proposed “Non-Traditional” Recreational Activities

- Pickup game courts: Futsal, half basketball
 - Inclusive social games for all genders and races, ages and abilities
- Pump track / bike skills course
 - Floodplain design requirements would be taken into consideration
- Open multipurpose lawns: Community events, native lacrosse field
 - Share the significance of the game and its cultural connection with the indigenous community
- Master plan amendment and memo address the requirements of Recreation Activities and Facilities Policy



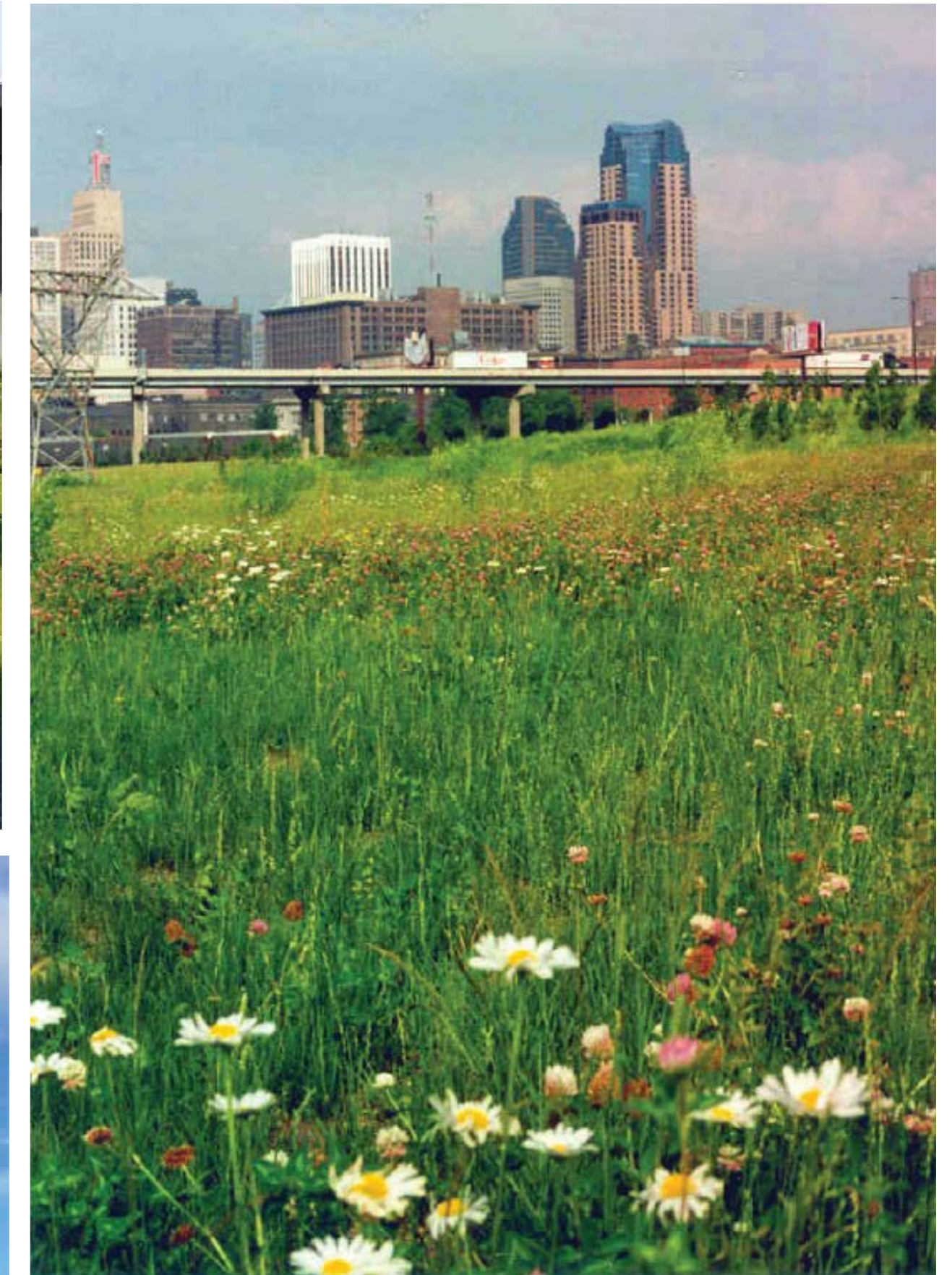
Transit Connections

- Green Line LRT
 - Only area in regional trail corridor that has close access to the LRT
 - 5-minute walk from Union Depot
- Metro Transit routes 3, 16, 21, 54, 63, 64, 70, 74, 94, 480, and 484



Estimated Project Costs

- No acquisitions necessary
- Development cost estimates include:
 - resurfacing trail with bituminous
 - replacing lighting along the trail
 - adding wayfinding signage
 - adding interpretive resting nodes
 - improving multiuse lawns
 - adding pump track
 - adding half-basketball and futsal courts
 - planting trees, prairie species
 - restoring wetlands
- \$9,260,000 total cost estimate
- Approval of master plan does not commit the Council to any funding at this time.



Rationale for Proposed Action

- The Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment is consistent with the requirements of the:
 - *2040 Regional Parks Policy Plan*
 - Planning Strategy 1
 - Recreation Activities and Facilities strategies 1-3
 - Other Council policies



Proposed Action

That the Metropolitan Council:

1. Approve the City of Saint Paul's Samuel Morgan Regional Trail Corridor Master Plan Amendment, including the supplemental information provided in the submittal memorandum dated October 26, 2020.
2. Require the City of Saint Paul, prior to initiating any new development of the regional trail corridor, to send preliminary plans to the Environmental Services Assistant Manager at the Metropolitan Council's Environmental Services Division.

