Reconnecting to a Forgotten River | St. Cloud MN
St. Cloud to Minneapolis: 67 Miles (1 hr 15 mins)
St. Cloud to Fargo: 170 Miles (2 hrs 45 mins)

Proposed Extension of Lake Wobegon Regional Trail

Mississippi River

site context

Northstar Link

Downtown District

Proposed Building Removal

Historic Ravine

Eastman Park

Hope Park

Barden Park

St. Cloud Park

Wilson Park

Hester Park

Open space systems

St. Cloud State University District

Beaver Island Trail

Westwood Trail

Historic District

Trail Distance = 2.65 Miles

City Parks = 1,272 Acres

Parks Shown = 119 Acres

Amtrak Station

Empire Builder - Passenger Train

Future Northstar Commuter Rail

I-94

Hwy 10

Hwy 23

Hwy 15

Sartell

Sauk Rapids

St. Cloud

Minnepolis

Fargo

Lake Itasca
Historically St. Cloud was historically developed around 3 small villages:

- Upper Town
- Middle Town
- Lower Town

Main issues:

- Poor ecological conditions
  - Little green space
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Little habitat diversity
  - Urban runoff

- Disconnected from the river
  - Built away from the river corridor
  - Poor access to river
  - One boat landing
  - No river destinations
  - Lack of river amenities

- Lacking social & cultural identity
  - Disconnection from downtown to St. Cloud State University
  - Lack of riverfront trails & connection to existing trails
  - Underutilized historic districts
  - Lack of cultural heritage

- Poor stormwater management
  - Erosion

- Little green space
  - Habitat fragmentation
  - Little habitat diversity
  - Urban runoff
This river corridor will look to provide river access for watercrafts, interaction with the water, green open space, increase habitat diversity, and public trails to create an unified eco-system.

This river corridor will look to provide a strong connection to downtown and the Mississippi River, with overlooks, event areas, small plazas, and public destinations for pedestrians and riverboats.

This river corridor will look to provide a vital social and cultural identity while protecting sensitive habitats. It is essential to create a strong connection between St. Cloud State University and downtown.

turning issues into opportunities

ecological renewal

connecting to the riverfront

linking social & cultural facilities
Lower town is home to one of St. Cloud’s historic districts. It is important to create a public path that doesn’t interfere with the local residents.

Linking social & cultural facilities

Lower town is one to home of St. Cloud’s neighborhood historic districts. It is important to create a public path that doesn’t interfere with the local residents.

Elements
1. South Side Neighborhood District
2. Bike Path Structure
3. Bank Stabilization
4. Access to Rivers Edge
Middle town is St. Cloud's commercial district with the steepest riverbanks which creates the need of retaining wall structures.

- Civic Center
- Mix-use Infrastructure
- Plaza Space
- Retaining Wall
- Bike Path
- Existing Seawall

Connecting to the riverfront
Majority of upper town has the lowest incline of slope and the greatest setback of buildings which will make this area effective for revitalization, slope stabilization, and stormwater filtration.

- Ecological renewal
- Root Wad
- Bike Path
- Filtration Swale
- Open Area
educational conservation
linking social & cultural facilities
The city of St. Cloud has declared this historical ravine to be undeveloped because of a native silver-haired bat that is currently under MN DNR species of special concern list. Natural bat habitats are diminishing such as caves and old growth forest. As a result, bridges are becoming bat havens of last resort.

### Elements

1. Bike Trail
2. Pedestrian Bat Bridge
3. Native Plantings
4. Mix-use Infrastructure
5. Re-use Infrastructure
6. Existing Infrastructure

### Original Ideas

- Night Rest Timbers
- Wire Mesh Exit Cones
- 1” by 12” Deep Vertical Crevices
- Plywood Entry Panel

### Master Plan

- Pedestrian Bat Bridge
reconnecting to the riverfront urban riverfront hub
Civic Center | Underground Parking

Restaurant | Living

Public Events
Civic Center Events
Informational Kiosks
Exhibit Display

characteristics
urban riverfront hub section

Key
Kiosk
Light Post
Bus Shelter
Amphitheater
Bike Trail
Terraced Lawn Seating
Water Feature
Plaza
Interpretive Stormwater Management
Mix-use Infrastructure

Master plan
reconnecting to the riverfront

birds-eye

elements
1. Bus Shelter
2. Amphitheater
3. Bike Trail
4. Terraced Lawn Seating
5. Plaza
6. Water Feature
7. Interpretive Stormwater Management
8. Mix-use Infrastructure

urban riverfront hub

0'
200'
100'

elevation 1020
elevation 982

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- private vs public spaces
- educational stormwater management
- natural water feature

Urban riverfront hub | reconnecting to the riverfront elements
- Mix-use Infrastructure
reconnecting to the riverfront
urban riverfront hub

- stormwater grates
- informational kiosks
- aesthetically pleasing views

overlooking the mississippi river

elements
urban riverfront hub walkthrough

reconnecting to the riverfront
Mississippi River
Division St
1st St N
Civic Center
3
eco beach
ecological renewal
stand up paddle boarding through recreational waters