

RESOLUTION #12-05
Great River Passage Master Plan

WHEREAS, the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission (“Commission”) is an appointed body established to advise the Mayor and City Council on long-range and city-wide matters related to the Department of Parks and Recreation; and

WHEREAS, the Great River Passage Master Plan, over two years in the making, was developed by a consulting team of professionals including; landscape architects, architects, planners, transportation consultants, environmental engineers, natural resource specialists, cultural heritage specialists, public art consultants, marketing consultants, and management and funding consultants, which were led by Wenk Associates, a national planning and design firm based in Denver, Colorado; a City staff working group made up of individuals from Planning and Economic Development, Public Works, and Department of Safety and Inspections; and a 56 member task force/technical advisory group including representatives from District Councils, City Council offices, National Park Service, MN Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Ramsey County Parks and Recreation, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority, Friends of Ramsey County Parks and Trails, Friends of the Mississippi River, Capitol Region and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed Districts, Saint Paul Port Authority, Metropolitan Airports Commission, City of Saint Paul Departments of Public Works and Planning and Economic Development, and the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation; and

WHEREAS, the Great River Passage Master Plan was developed with hundreds of hours of citizen input received at 29 public input sessions, including focus groups, community task force meetings, and open houses; and

WHEREAS, the Great River Passage Master Plan builds upon several previous planning efforts that have been adopted by the Mayor and City Council. These include the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework (1997), the Mississippi River Corridor Plan (2001- also adopted as part of the Comp Plan), the Great River Park chapter of the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework (2007), and various District Council plans; and

WHEREAS, a central goal of the master plan is to strike a balance between the protection and enhancement of the river corridor’s natural qualities, and high quality urban development; and

WHEREAS, this plan has been developed and recommendations were made in the context of viewing the river corridor as an interconnected system of parks and trails; and

WHEREAS, the Plan is a 30- to 50-year vision, yet also includes specific short, medium, and long-term recommendations to provide guidance for policy makers, City departments, and budgeting processes; and



WHEREAS, the Great River Passage Master Plan will, in the years to come, set the stage for sustainable parks and open spaces, ecological restoration and economic development, and connection of the city, its neighborhoods, and people to Saint Paul's unique Mississippi River resources; and

WHEREAS, the Master Plan was released for public review and comment on January 3, 2012, and on February 29, 2012, after an eight-week public review period, the Parks and Recreation Commission held the first of three scheduled public hearing opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Commission extended the period to receive additional written comments from the public until March 5, 2012, and

WHEREAS, a staff report was prepared (dated May 23, 2012) summarizing the main issues identified from the public comments received and which included three separate attachments; Attachment A- a comment matrix addressing each comment received, Attachment B- a list of recommended changes to the Master Plan document, and Attachment C- a list of Great River Passage Master Plan sections suitable for adoption as part of Saint Paul's Comprehensive Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission concurs with the staff request to approve the changes to the Plan as recommended in Attachment B; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission recommends the Great River Passage Master Plan be forwarded to the Planning Commission and City Council for final approval; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Commission requests that the Planning Commission recommend to the City Council adoption of appropriate sections of the Great River Passage Master Plan as part of the Saint Paul Comprehensive Plan as per Attachment C; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Commission requests the City Council adopt the entire Great River Passage Master Plan as official City policy to guide public and private investment within the Great River Passage..

Adopted by the Saint Paul Parks and Recreation Commission on June 20, 2012:

Approved: Yeas _____
 Nays _____
 Absent: _____

Resolution 12-05

Attested to by:

Staff to the Parks and Recreation Commission



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