

THE RIVER FLOWS THROUGH US

Great River Passage Initiative

BUILDING THE RIVER CAPITAL

Great River Passage is both the 17 miles of Mississippi River that defines Saint Paul and a City-led Initiative whose mission is to enhance, better connect to and steward one of the three great rivers of the world and its surrounding natural and built environments.

DOWNTOWN
SAINT PAUL



RIVER BALCONY

EAST SIDE RIVER
DISTRICT



PIG'S EYE
LAKE



RIVER LEARNING
CENTER

WATERGATE
MARINA

GOALS

- Create greater awareness of and access to the river for a larger, more diverse community.
- Deliver shared experiences that bring people together to enjoy the river landscape.
- Improve community health and well-being and promote a culture of care and respect for the environment.
- Stimulate economic development.

APPROACH

The Great River Passage takes a comprehensive, integrated approach to strategic development. Our work impacts our city – one of only two capital cities on the Mississippi River; our state – the headwaters of the third largest river in the world; and the entire 2,300-mile river – America's Fourth Coast. Saint Paul owns 3,500 acres along the river, but the City and the Initiative do not exist in isolation. Our success lies in partnering with land owners, jurisdictional bodies, and private business owners along the river.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Initiative's strategic plan focuses on:

Capital projects: Transform the riverfront with centers of activity that provide diverse, authentic river landscapes and cultural experiences.

Programs and events: Offer river-oriented programs that fill the current event gaps with year-round activities that become routine and tradition. The activities are based in adventure, recreation, ecology, and storytelling that connect people to the diverse features of the river.

Engagement: Engage the general community and stakeholders early and often to cultivate, connect and orient the community around the river.

Leadership and fundraising: Develop sustainable organizational structures that ensure the long-term success of the Great River Passage. The City of Saint Paul leads and coordinates projects and programming, while the Great River Passage Conservancy leads private fundraising, advocacy and communication. The full spectrum of public and private funding is being cultivated to ensure local and regional ownership of this national asset.

Communications: Create internal and external communications systems that share the river and the Initiative with multiple audiences through a variety of mediums and platforms.



The Saint Paul River Learning Center, with proposed National Park Service Mississippi River Regional Headquarters, will serve as the gateway to the Mississippi River, welcoming residents and visitors to this national feature with four-season programming that honors, promotes stewardship of, and teaches the culture, history, and ecology of the river.

PROJECT GOALS

- Create the next generation of park users and river stewards
- Transform what is now a strategic but isolated edge of Saint Paul to an accessible regional center of activity
- Leverage the Mississippi River, the naturalized urban location, and public and private partnerships to stimulate economic development to improve quality of life for the community and health of the river

STEPS TO DATE

Technical study evaluated:

- Initial programmatic needs for both users
- Interior and exterior spatial requirements and opportunities
- Site analysis
- Regulatory processes and restrictions
- Design and phasing scenarios

Feasibility study provided:

- A menu of revenue generating program options
- Capital and maintenance/operations analysis
- Organizational structure
- Phasing

NEXT STEPS

Work with partners to:

- Continue to cultivate greater awareness of the River Learning Center at the 2019 State Legislature in preparation for 2020 bonding session
- Engage with the Federal General Service Administration to secure National Park Service partner status and commitment to 20 year lease for project to capitalize future rent
- Scope out in greater detail partner roles and responsibilities, project funding strategy, and schematic design process

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Great River Passage Initiative
- Saint Paul Parks and Recreation
- National Park Service
- Mississippi Park Connection
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Capital Region Watershed District
- Wilderness Inquiry

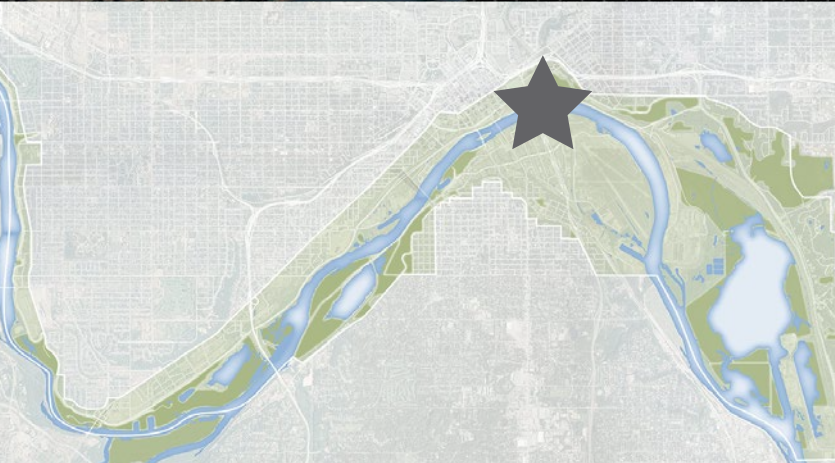
GATEWAY

The **River Learning Center** is both a building and a river-oriented center of activity



PROSPECT

The **River Balcony** is infrastructure to both connect people to the bluff and river, and support existing and proposed economic development.



The River Balcony is a proposed project spanning the full 1.5 miles of downtown Saint Paul's Mississippi river bluff and includes many civic landmarks and amenities. It is envisioned as a publicly accessible bluff-edge experience connecting public spaces and bluff-side redevelopment sites from Eagle Street and the Upper Landing Park along Kellogg Boulevard to Sibley and the Lower Landing Park.

PROJECT GOALS

- Create an authentic, signature project
- Connect the City to and along the bluff and down to the river
- Celebrate and engage the bluff and river
- Stimulate economic development

STEPS TAKEN

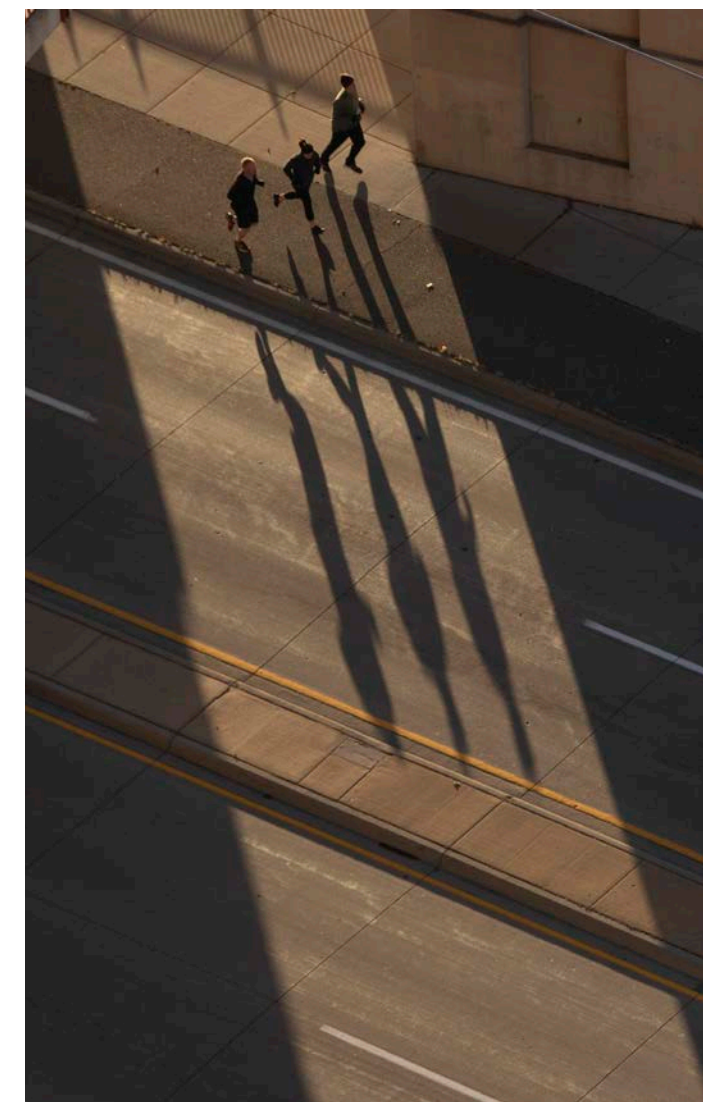
- Convene land owners and jurisdictional bodies to evaluate interest in project
- Secure \$320,000 public funding for schematic design

NEXT STEP

- Raise \$280,000 private funding for schematic design
- Launch schematic design

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Great River Passage Initiative
- Ramsey County
- Metropolitan Council
- RiverCentre
- Visit Saint Paul
- Ever Green Energy





The East Side River District is an historically, culturally, economically, environmentally and recreationally strategic area long disconnected from the surrounding community and larger city and region. This area of the river has many shared uses, including Dakota homeland and sacred sites, industry, parks and recreation, and natural areas that serve as a bird migration route.

To enhance and better connect the area with the rest of the city and region, the Great River Passage is partnering with state, local and tribal governments, businesses, and nonprofits to

create a world-class vision for the East Side River District and a public landscape that everyone can enjoy. The combined vision includes the area bound by the Mississippi River on the south and west and the bluffs to the east and north.

This convergence provides a unique opportunity for organizations and institutions to work collaboratively through a comprehensive, integrated design process to create a River District Vision that will reveal, heal, connect and protect the area.

PROJECT GOALS

- Connect to and throughout the area
- Orient park users
- Create authentic, place specific destinations
- Develop an identity reflecting the complex nature of the district

PARTNERS

- City of Saint Paul
- Great River Passage Initiative
- Metropolitan Council
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Minnesota Indian Affairs Council
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- National Park Service
- Ramsey County
- Lower Phalen Creek Project

STEPS TAKEN

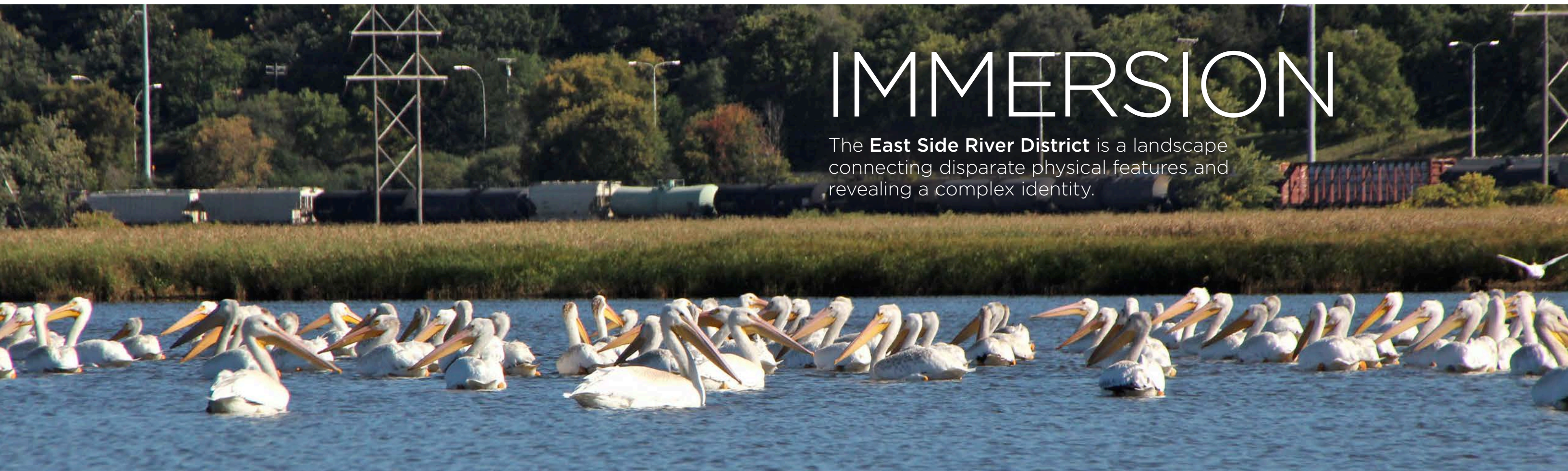
- Convene land owners and jurisdictional bodies to evaluate desire to work together to create a vision
- Cultivate Native American political, cultural and spiritual leadership
- Host the REVEAL symposium/walking tour
- Work with Natural Resources Department to create new public entrance to Pig's Eye and mow new paths throughout the park

NEXT STEP

- Raise \$500,000 for schematic design
- Launch schematic design

IMMERSION

The **East Side River District** is a landscape connecting disparate physical features and revealing a complex identity.



CATALYST

Building a river community and river literacy

Saint Paul starts at the Mississippi

The river knows no neighborhood bounds. It is a shared resource connecting our community to the world. It is the ideal space for intergenerational, multidisciplinary experiences and learning. Reflecting that sentiment, we offer a diverse portfolio of richly partnered programs and events that address gaps and welcome all to deepen relationships with each other and Saint Paul's wilderness.



FAMILY CAMPING AT THE RIVER

An introductory overnight outing for families. The City provides families with all the camping gear to take an incremental approach to camping. Families are introduced to camping with a Winter Camp-In at a recreation center, and then take the skills gained indoors outside for a summer overnight at Fort Snelling State Park. The season ends with a three-day canoe and camping trip along the river for families who wish to deepen their experience.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Saint Paul Recreation Services
- Wilderness Inquiry
- Great River Passage Initiative



VOICES OF THE RIVER

A micro-documentary series featuring the unique places, people and experiences at the river.

FUNDER

- Great River Passage Initiative



MISSISSIPPI RIVER PADDLE SHARE

A new National Park Service recreation and transportation opportunity for people to rent kayaks for a 6.3-mile river paddling experience from Hidden Falls to Harriet Island Regional Park. Bike share programs and public transportation are available near the start and end points, providing easy, multimodal transportation options to return to the start of the route. An additional riverside location at Pickerel Lake in Lilydale is equipped with adaptive paddling gear.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- National Park Service
- Mississippi Park Connection
- Great River Passage Initiative



SAINT PAUL'S GOATS

A strategic, multi-year approach to manage invasive species along the Mississippi River. Since 2017, 37 goats helped reduce overgrowth by eating unwanted vegetation like buckthorn and garlic mustard in Indian Mounds, Crosby Lake, and Hidden Falls regional parks. The grazing is both an ecological maintenance of 33 acres of land and a passive public program that attracts more than 55,000 people annually. The goats will be back in 2020.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Natural Resources Division
- Great River Passage Initiative



RIVER FIELD TRIPS

A field trip program that introduces Saint Paul youth to the river. Through the City's Summer Blast program, more than 150 youth each summer participate in orienteering, eco art, and river-related games.

PARTNERS AND FUNDERS

- Saint Paul Recreation Services
- Great River Passage Initiative



RIVER REVEAL

An artistic program and communications project that developed three local emerging photographers and built an archive of images across the seasons at the river and in 17 regional parks and trails. Local emerging photographers Monica Bryand, Erin D. Carter, and Chris Juhn offered a fresh, compelling approach to photographing the experience of the Mississippi River in Saint Paul. A digital gallery and photography book was published at the culmination of the residency.

FUNDER

- Great River Passage Initiative



GREAT RIVER PASSAGE EVENT CALENDAR

A digital event and programs calendar orienting the public to hundreds of activities taking place at or on the river. The City also conducts an annual program and event analysis, compiling the work of more than 33 partners to understand the assets and gaps in river-related programming and events.

LEADERSHIP

The **Great River Passage Conservancy** represents the next generation of civic and philanthropic leadership.



The Great River Passage Conservancy advocates for projects and guide private fundraising efforts for projects along the Mississippi River. The Conservancy will be an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit that works in partnership with the City of Saint Paul.

FUNDING PARTNERS

F. R. Bigelow Foundation
Saint Paul Foundation

Great River Passage Conservancy founding board members (left to right) Joe Nayquonabe, Jr., John I. Marshall, Eric J. Jolly, Ph.D., Shelley Buck, and Mike Hahm (Director of Saint Paul Parks and Recreation). Conservancy board member Jake Reint is not pictured.

FOUNDING BOARD MEMBERS

Eric J. Jolly, Ph.D. (Board Chair)

President and CEO, Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations

As President and CEO of the Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundations, Eric J. Jolly, Ph.D., educates, elevates, and gives voice to people in his communities. Managing \$1.5 billion in assets and 2,000 charitable funds, the Foundations also support the work of F. R. Bigelow Foundation and Mardag Foundation.

Shelley Buck

President, Prairie Island Indian Community

President Shelley Buck is serving her fourth term on the Prairie Island Tribal Council and second term as President. Prior to being elected Tribal Council President, Buck held other positions within the Prairie Island Indian Community government, including Tribal Council Secretary and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

John I. Marshall

Director of Community Relations, Xcel Energy

As Director of Community Relations, John Marshall manages strategic relationships within roughly 700 Minnesota communities served by Xcel Energy, playing a critical role in areas of operations, energy policy, emergency response, economic development, and business retention and expansion.

Joe Nayquonabe, Jr.

CEO, Mille Lacs Corporate Ventures

Joe Nayquonabe, Jr. is an American Indian business professional who has spent his career reimagining and reinventing how American Indian tribal economies grow and prosper. He spent more than a decade as a marketing executive growing the Grand Casino brand before ascending to CEO of the Mille Lacs Band's Corporate Commission.

Jake Reint

Managing Director, Public Affairs, Koch Companies Public Sector/Flint Hills Resources

Jake Reint oversees communications and public affairs for Flint Hills Resources, a leading oil refining, pipeline, biofuels and petrochemical company based in Wichita, Kansas. He specializes in strategic communications, crisis management, media relations, and political and issues advocacy.

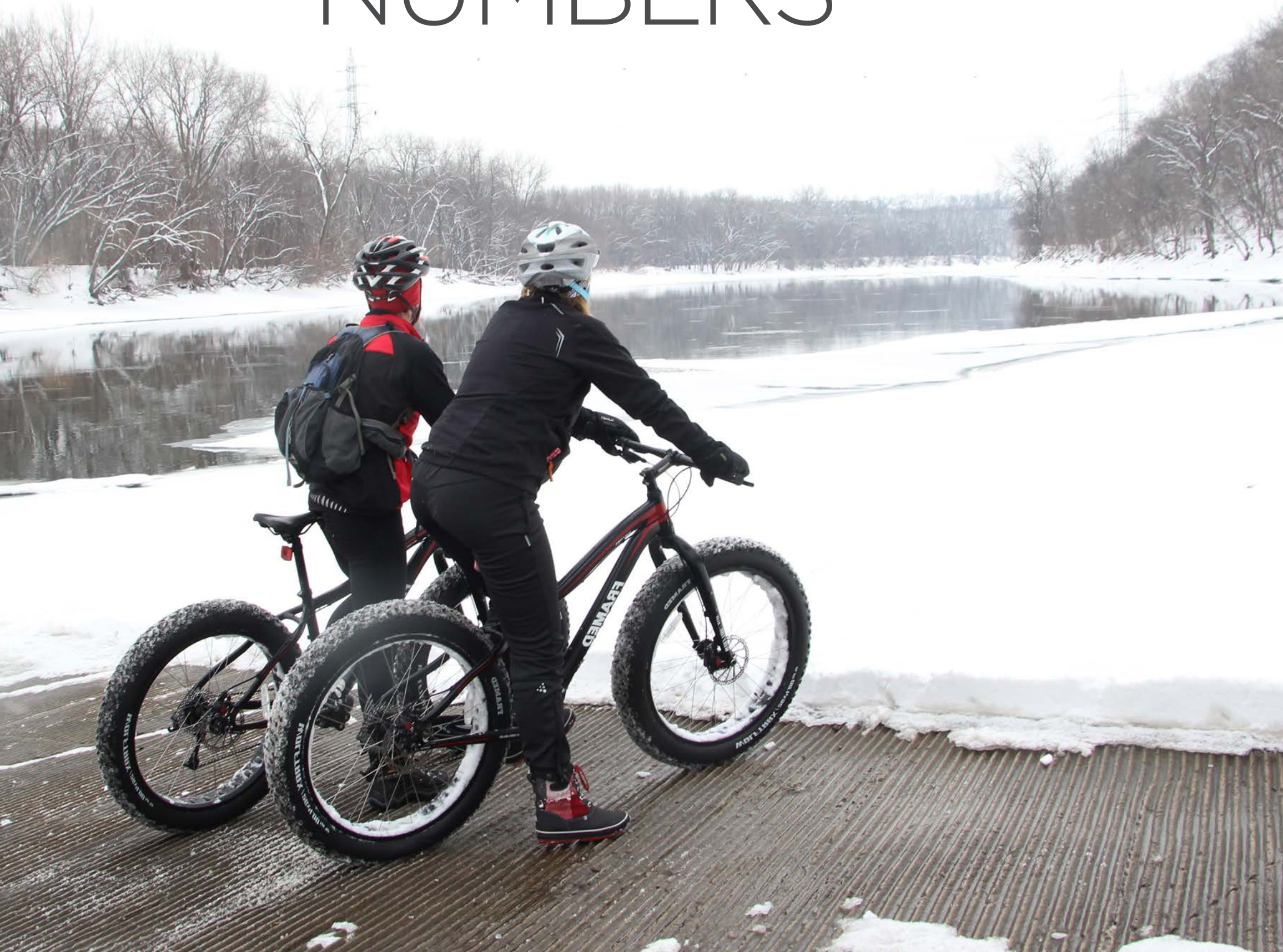
Jim Stolpestad (Advisor)

Founder and Senior Principal, Exeter Group LLC

Jim Stolpestad founded the Exeter real estate business in 1991 and is currently Senior Principal with the company and its legacy affiliates. He previously was a commercial real estate attorney in private practice with a national law firm based in the Twin Cities, following positions as Special Assistant Minnesota Attorney General and Attorney with the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development.



BY THE NUMBERS



Saint Paul is one of only two capital cities along the 2,300 miles of river and the city with the largest amount of river and riverfront.

- 17 miles of river
- 26 miles of shoreline
- 3,500 acres of riverside parkland
- 17 river-adjacent parks
- 6 major trails
- 5 historic and preserved sites
- 4 lakes

The Mississippi River is the largest, most complex flood plain river ecosystem in the northern hemisphere.

- 4th largest watershed in the world
- Largest U.S. drainage basin, draining 41% of country's rivers
- 40% waterfowl migrate along the river route
- 60% birds use the river as flyway
- 50 mammal species
- 145 amphibian and reptile species
- 127 species of fish
- 30 species of mussels

Saint Paul River terminals are the northern most ports on the Mississippi River.

- Four terminals owned and managed by the Saint Paul Port Authority are home to 30 businesses and nearly 750 jobs
- Approximately 5 million tons of commodities pass through Saint Paul's river terminals each year





For more information about the Great River Passage:
GreatRiverPassage.org or contact@GreatRiverPassage.org