



RIVER FOR ALL

FOCUS GROUP - Meeting #1 Activity

BACKGROUND

The Grand River Corridor Implementation Plan and River Trail Design Guidelines (Project) is part of the larger City and Grand Rapids Whitewater initiative to transform the Grand River from a dramatically underutilized corridor into a distinct riverfront amenity. The Project builds upon the community's GR Forward Plan and the Parks and Recreation Strategic Master Plan, which envision transforming the Grand River waterfront into a 7.5-mile river edge recreation trail that reconnects Grand Rapidsians to the riverfront, maintains or increases the level of flood protection, and catalyzes private investment in new mixed-use projects. There are two main components to the project:

DESIGN GUIDELINES: The design guidelines are informed by existing conditions and our collective vision. Since there are vast differences in the context within and surrounding the river corridor from north to south, and east to west, we have created seven character areas each with a unique sense of place and set of programming needs. The design guidelines will reflect the essence of those character areas through a varied palette of pavement materials, site furnishings, and edge prototypes.

Question: Consider the seven character areas....do the boundaries make sense? Is the character and program we described for each reflective of your vision and/or our community's vision?

CONCEPT PLANS FOR FIVE OPPORTUNITY SITES: These are city-owned properties along the river. Some of these sites will be temporary staging areas during the construction of the GR Whitewater project, therefore we have the opportunity to re-conceptualize them and rebuild them according to our community's goals and needs.

Opportunity sites include:

1. Grand Rapids Public Museum
2. North Monroe
3. Coldbrook and Canal Street Boat Launch
4. Leonard to Ann Trail
5. Water Storage Yard Site

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS (feel free to draw on aerial maps provided)

LOCATION	GR Public Museum	North Monroe	Coldbrook/ Canal Boat Launch	Leonard to Ann Trail	Water Storage Yard Site	Entire River Corridor Trail System
TOPIC : ACCESS						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How often should access to the water's edge be available? (high and low trails, overlooks, ramps into the water, steps into the water...) <u>Describe in the columns under each site, and mark on the map.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How can the Westside be more connected? What specific techniques can we use? <u>List locations of connections and mark on the map.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where should more connections occur to neighborhoods/adjacent uses? <u>Draw and describe locations for access on the maps provided.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What type of access do different users need/prefer? Consider fishing, kayaking, boating, wading, swimming, rowing, children, seniors, etc. <u>Draw and describe locations for access on the maps provided.</u> 						

FOCUS GROUP QUESTIONS (feel free to draw on aerial maps provided)

LOCATION	GR Public Museum	North Monroe	Coldbrook/ Canal Boat Launch	Leonard to Ann Trail	Water Storage Yard Site	Entire River Corridor Trail System
TOPIC : PROGRAMMING						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What programmed events do (or should) happen along the river corridor? <u>List events in the applicable column for each opportunity site.</u> - An example might be educational opportunities (outdoor education, living labs, awareness of water quality) 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What un-programmed events happen or should happen? <u>Please list here and mark these on the maps provided.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What seasonal/winter programming should happen? <u>Please list here and mark these on the maps provided.</u> - Cross country skiing, curling, ice trail, snow forts, etc. 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share thoughts you have about Lyon Square and the Fish Ladder with regard to future programming and use. 						

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LOCATION	GR Public Museum	North Monroe	Coldbrook/ Canal Boat Launch	Leonard to Ann Trail	Water Storage Yard Site	Entire River Corridor Trail System
TOPIC : LANDSCAPE TYPES						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each opportunity site, tell us if there are developed areas that should be preserved, enhanced or transition to something else. <u>Draw it on the map and describe what makes it a developed area or how it should change.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For each opportunity site, tell us if there are natural areas that should be preserved, enhanced or transition to something else. <u>Draw it on the map and describe what makes it a natural area and tell us how or why it should change.</u> 						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where is turf desirable? Consider and/or describe the purpose, programming, size, slope. <u>Please place an "x" in the opportunity site that should have turf and draw it on the map.</u> 						