

RESOLUTION
By Johnson, Hofstede, Samuels, Reich

Supporting the Vision of the Minneapolis Riverfront Development RiverFIRST Initiative; and Engagement in Close Coordination with the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to Update and Implement the Above the Falls Plan So That It Incorporates Key Elements of RiverFIRST and Reflects the Findings of the City's Above the Falls Policy Review and Implementation Study.

Whereas, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has adopted an updated vision for parks and trails along the upper riverfront, called RiverFIRST; and

Whereas this effort has renewed interest in recapturing the City's upper riverfront for public use and to the benefit of nearby neighborhoods and the metropolitan area; and

Whereas, for the RiverFIRST vision to be realized, additional steps must be taken to put it in a form that can be adopted in accord with existing City Policy; and

Whereas, the City's current policy document for the upper riverfront is the Above the Falls (ATF) Plan, approved in June 2000, which provided a comprehensive and integrated vision for public realm improvements, land use changes, and redevelopment that would improve access to the river and add value to the upper riverfront and the city as a whole; and

Whereas, due to questions regarding the viability of some aspects of the ATF Plan, the City Council directed staff to research the feasibility of the redevelopment envisioned in the ATF plan; and

Whereas, the City Council has expressed a desire to update the ATF Plan to address feasibility issues but still improve the area and add value with high quality redevelopment that complements potential park improvements; and

Whereas, City and MPRB leadership and staff have coordinated planning efforts around the upper riverfront;

Now, Therefore, Be It resolved that the City Council of the City of Minneapolis commends the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for refreshing the vision for public parks and trails along the upper riverfront with the RiverFIRST initiative, and for pursuing the proposed improvements.

Be it further resolved that City leadership and staff begin working with MPRB leadership and staff on an update to the Above the Falls plan that incorporates key elements of RiverFIRST and reflects the findings of the City's Above the Falls Policy Review and Implementation Study, including the formation of a policy advisory committee involving elected officials.