2013 Above the Falls Plan Update

**Purpose**
The City and Park Board adopted the Above the Falls Plan in 2000. This update builds on the guidance and progress made with:

- New information and analysis on existing conditions and feasibility
- More specific and strategic guidance on implementation
- New approaches to land use change, in light of changes to legal and regulatory framework
- New vision for parks from international design competition and RiverFirst process
- New focus on public health, supporting benefits for local community

**Guiding Principles**
The plan’s guiding principles are consistent with the original plan:

- Public access to the river
- Linkages to neighborhoods and the Grand Rounds parkway system
- Environmental restoration
- Community and economic development
- Design guidelines and standards reflecting riverfront location

**Timeframe**
The update’s substantial timeframe reflects the complexity of the area and need for extensive outreach:

- Late 2010 – project kickoff
- 2011- research and analysis
- 2012 – plan update process
- Early 2013 – plan adoption

**For More Information**
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Project website: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/cped_above_the_falls](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/cped_above_the_falls)
Selected Recommendation Priorities

The focus of implementation is on balance: housing and jobs, vision and feasibility, recreation and environment. Near term priorities are chosen based on viability — what can provide results and positive impacts now? The vision plan preserves longer term elements.

**Land Use**
- Development of Upper Harbor Terminal site with new business park
- Continued development of Grain Belt mixed use activity center
- Zoning changes needed to encourage riverfront compatible redevelopment

**Parks and Trails**
- New signature park and supportive facilities on Scherer Brothers site
- Continued progress on riverfront trail connections and loops
- Farview Park connection to river via 26th Ave N
- New park and parkway on Upper Harbor Terminal site, in coordination with redevelopment

**Environment and Infrastructure**
- Riverfront and natural habitat restoration efforts throughout area
- Environmental cleanup and greening of development sites, new and rehabilitated
- Continued progress on Riverway Streets improvements and connections

**Community and Economic Development**
- Support for diverse range of housing options near and on riverfront
- Support for high quality, non-polluting, job intensive office/light industrial development
- Job training and linkage efforts to support local hiring and retention

**Implementation**
- Phased approach recognizing need to stage transition of area
- Priority and Vision plans reflecting shorter and longer term elements
- Identification of partners, tools, and possible third party development agency