



GRAND RAPIDS, MI UWFP LOCATION UPDATE WEBINAR



MARCH 16 UWFP WEBINAR AGENDA

- 1. Urban Waters Federal Partnership Update**
- 2. Grand River/Grand Rapids, MI Location Update**
 - a. Grand River Revitalization & Rapids Restoration Project
 - b. GR Forward Project Update
- 3. UWFP Federal Agency Involvement in Grand Rapids**
 - a. Department of Interior: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 - b. USDA
 - c. National Park Service
 - d. US Army Corps of Engineers
 - e. FEMA
- 4. Opportunities for Additional Agency or NGO Involvement**
- 5. Open Discussion & Ideas for Engagement**

GRAND RAPIDS - UWFP CALL

Grand Rapids – Update on UW Federal Partnership

March 16, 2016, 10 am

Roy Simon, Staff to the Urban Waters Federal Partnership

USEPA, Office of Water, Simon.Roy@epa.gov

2020-564-3868

OVERALL UPDATES FOR UW FED PARTNERSHIP

- **National Strategic Workplan** draft issued for final review (December 2015)
- **Urban Waters Federal Partnership Handbook**
 - Tools and best practices being used by communities across the country
- **EPA Urban Waters Grants & Public-Private Partnership** (4th year)
 - Funding from EPA, USDA, DOI, CNCS and private sector partners
- **Urban Waters Learning Network**
 - Knowledge transfer & technical assistance, now over 350 members
- **Measures of Performance**
- **Planning for 2016 National Training Workshop** (July 26-28 in Arlington, VA)

EPA URBAN WATERS SMALL GRANTS

Past Grants, Current Cycle

“Where water quality improvement and community improvement intersect”

Past:

Awarded **\$5.2M** nation-wide to **92** organizations across the country and Puerto Rico.

Summer of 2016: More Projects -

- MS4 communities/Stormwater Management
- Drinking Water Source Protection
- Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring



Community member from one of the poorest and most environmentally overburdened communities in San Juan explains the crops growing in her community’s urban farm – a project funded through this grant in an Urban Waters Federal Partnership location.

FIVE STAR & URBAN WATERS RESTORATION NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION

*“Develop community capacity for urban waterway restoration
projects by funding diverse local partnerships”*

EPA Urban Waters contribution:

\$767,000, 95 projects, \$4.518 million in matching funds.

- By July 2015, over 3 years, there were 155 grants across the country with total Federal funds of \$2.83 Million and total private and match funds of \$16 Million
- In 2016, the 4th year, funding for this grant program will likely fund an additional 60 projects with funds from EPA, the US Forest Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Southern Company, FedEx, Alcoa Foundation, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and another anonymous Foundation.



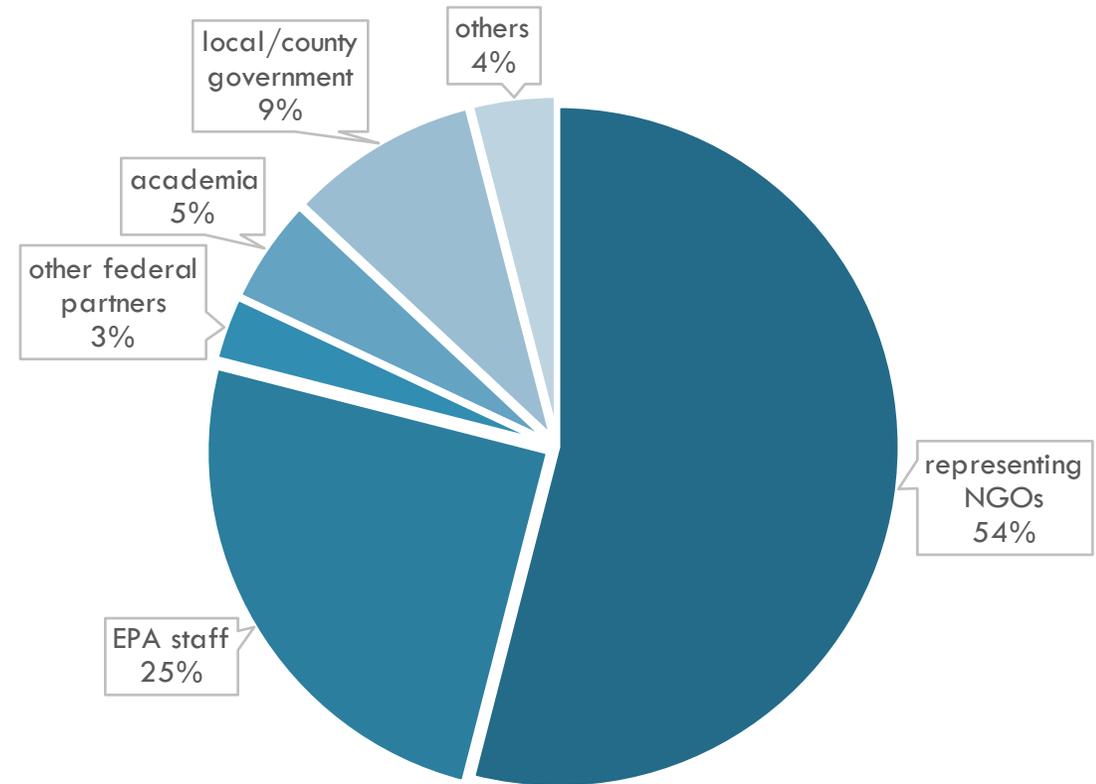
Plaster Creek partners planting in the watershed.

URBAN WATERS LEARNING NETWORK

Groundwork USA + River Network
+EPA

“A peer to peer community where urban waters practitioners share experiences, tools, and resources to support on the ground projects and build local capacity”

- Networking
- Training and knowledge sharing
- Mentoring and coaching
- Boosted effectiveness
- Funding and technical resources



Over 300 members of the Learning Network

URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP

14 Agencies, Mission & Vision

*“The Urban Waters Federal Partnership will help urban and metropolitan areas, particularly those that are **underserved or economically distressed**, connect with their waterways and work to improve them.”*

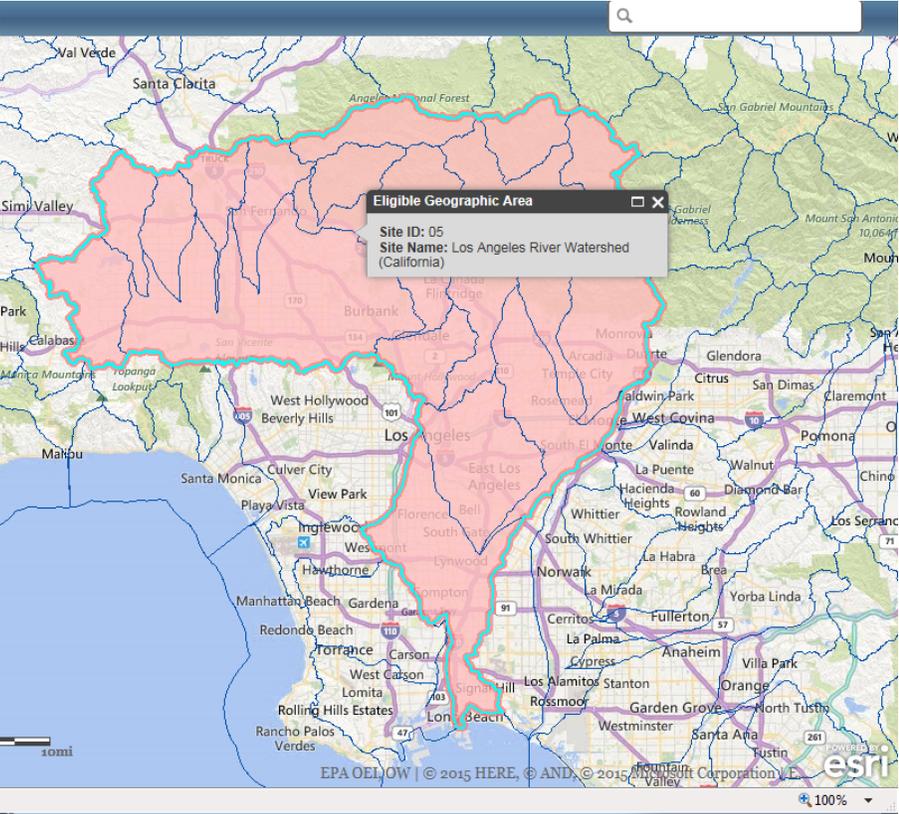
“We will revitalize urban waters and the communities that surround them, transforming overlooked assets into treasured centerpieces and drivers of urban revival.”

And we use the Watershed Approach!



OWOW's Ruth Chemerys volunteering to build DC's East Capitol Urban Farm in Ward 7, an Urban Waters Federal Partnership project led by DOI, EPA, and the University of the District of Columbia.

URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP: 19 PARTNERSHIP LOCATIONS



19 Locations across the country



The Los Angeles River Partnership location

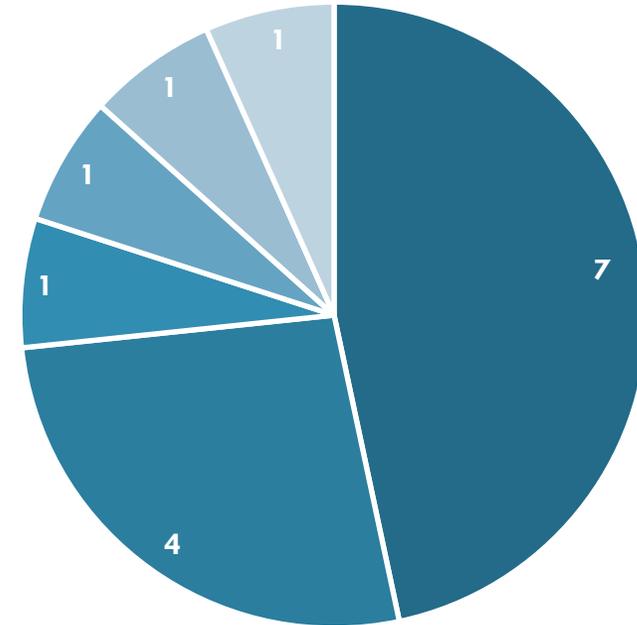
URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP: AMBASSADORS

Who is an Ambassador?

- Coordinator
- Navigator
- Embedded Reporter / Communicator

“Ambassadors serve as a catalyst to successfully complete on-the-ground projects in the short term, and build relationships and capacity to lay a foundation of continued success for decades to come.”

Which agencies sponsor Ambassadors?



■ EPA ■ USDA-FS ■ CDC ■ Local funds ■ EPA/DOI ■ EPA/USACE

URBAN WATERS FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP NATIONAL TRAINING WORKSHOP

National Training Workshop: July 26-28
2016

Opportunity for OWOW to share topics!

Goals:

1. **Connect, share, and learn** with other innovators to accelerate our cross-sector work on the ground.
2. **Inspire and strengthen** the urban waters movement to **build** and **sustain** robust effective partnerships across the country.
3. **Strengthen** our skills in working together with underserved communities to address community-based priorities and environmental justice challenges.



Oct. 2012 – The first Urban Waters National Training Workshop. The second was held in Dec. 2014.

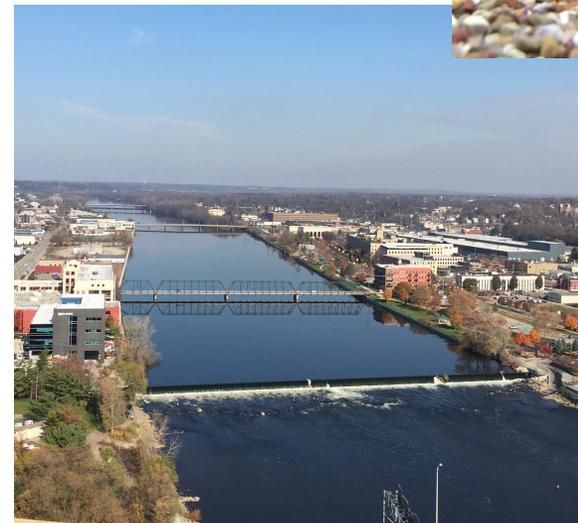
PROJECT GOALS: GRAND RIVER REVITALIZATION & RAPIDS RESTORATION

- Restore the rapids to the Grand River for everyone, with enhanced access and recreational opportunities
- Improve habitat and connectivity, water quality, riparian functions and aesthetics
- Create economic opportunities, enhance underserved communities and instill stewardship ethic



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Remove five aging low-head dams
- Reveal the submerged natural bedrock rapids
- Recreate lower rapids by installing boulders and cobble
- Restore historic spawning areas for state-threatened Lake Sturgeon & improve habitat areas for other aquatic species
- Provide increases accessibility to the river for a variety of recreational users resulting in significant social, economic, and environmental benefits
- Construct a new adjustable structure to prevent non-native sea lamprey from migrating upstream



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Provide Grand Rapids Public School (GRPS) students with hands on environmental educational opportunities by incorporating the Grand Revitalization into GRPS curriculum.
- Improve river conditions for selected threatened and endangered species
- Significant social, economic, and environmental benefits
- The community is turning to face the river as uniting factor connecting East & West neighborhoods



TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT

- Design of adjustable hydraulic barrier structure
- Sea Lamprey Control
- Habitat Conservation Plan; Snuffbox Mussel
- Fish Passage Design
- Design & engineering of recreational elements

Technical Working Groups:

- Aquatic Habitat Group (Mussels)
- Fish Passage Group
- Sea Lamprey Working Group
- Real Estate Working Group
- Fundraising
- Permit Review Team (Critical Path)



PROJECT FUTURE

A significant amount of planning and discussion has already taken place. In an effort to move towards implementation we are:

- Working collaboratively with local, state, and federal permitting agencies
- Working to identify funding opportunities from local, state, & national/federal sources. (Estimated Cost \$34 Million)
- Developing a public/private organizational structure to build, operate, maintain, and sustain all future Grand River improvements
- How can you help?





FORWARD

DOWNTOWN & RIVER ACTION PLAN >>



WHAT'S NEXT

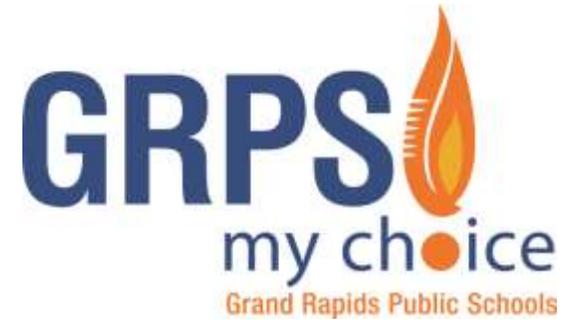
FOR DOWNTOWN GRAND RAPIDS?

AND THE RIVER CORRIDOR?

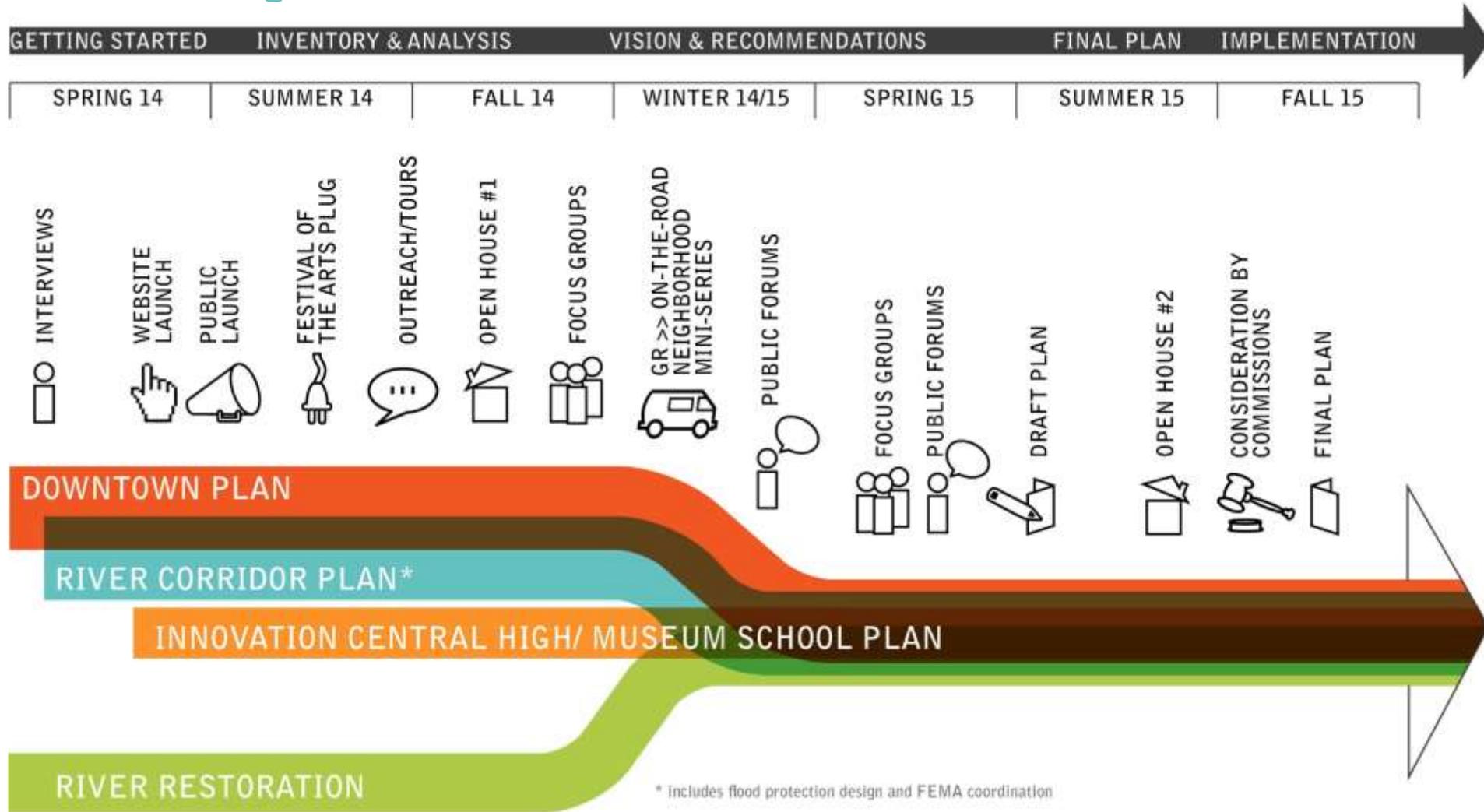
Funders and Partners



Grand Rapids
community foundation™



the process



Over **4,400** people engaged





KEEP MOVING. CR FORWARD.

FORWARD DOWNTOWN & RIVER ACTION PLAN >>

WORKING VISION / GOALS:

Downtown Grand Rapids is the region's downtown and the civic heart of West Michigan. Together with the Grand River, these assets will provide a singular experience and strengthen the City's identity as progressive, healthy and vibrant. GR Forward envisions a future where strategic action will promote job growth, stimulate private investment and provide a city center welcoming to *all* downtown residents, nearby neighbors and visitors. A reinvigorated Downtown and Grand River must be authentic to Grand Rapids and attainable by developing strategies unique to the needs of Grand Rapidians. To accomplish this, we will:

GOAL 1

Restore the River as *the* Draw & Create a Connected and Equitable River Corridor.

GOAL 3

Implement a 21st Century Mobility Strategy.

GOAL 5

Reinvest in Public Space, Culture & Inclusive Programming.

GOAL 2

Create a True Downtown Neighborhood as Home to a Diverse Population.

GOAL 4

Expand Job Opportunities & Ensure Continued Vitality of the Local Economy.

GOAL 6

Retain and Attract Families, Talent, and Job Providers with High Quality Public Schools



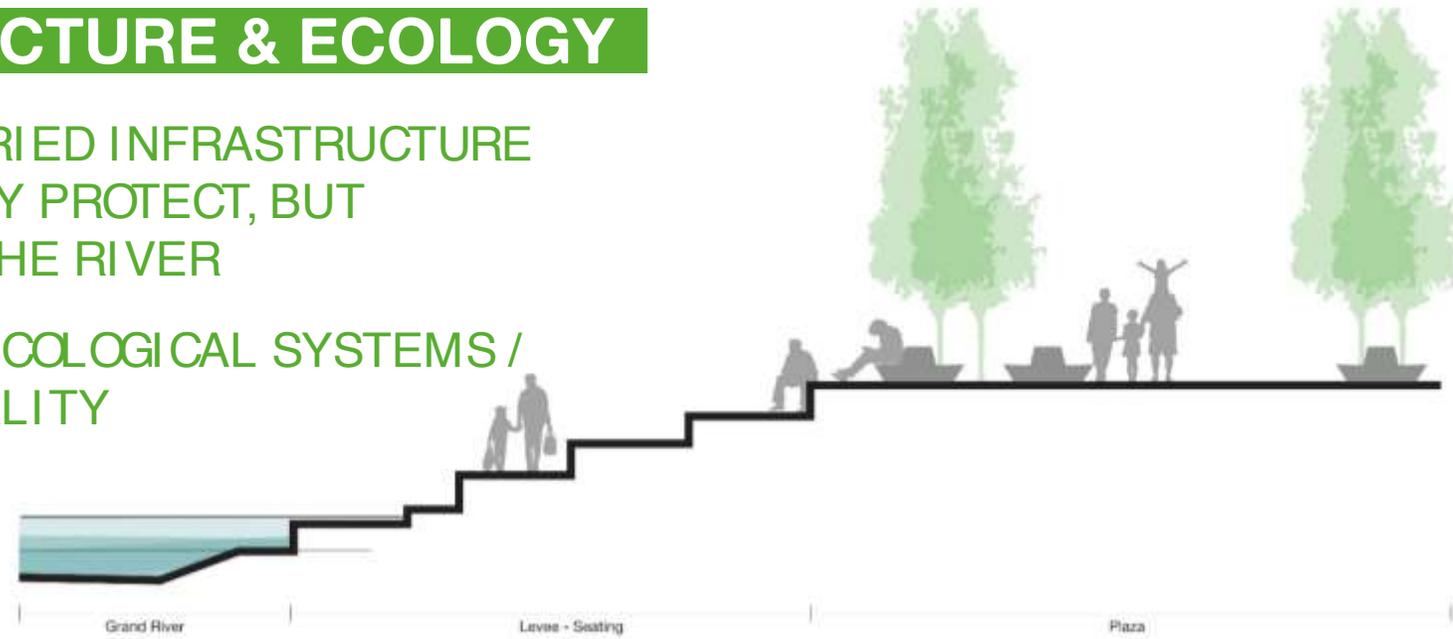
GOAL 1

**RESTORE THE RIVER
AS THE DRAW & CREATE A
CONNECTED AND EQUITABLE
RIVER CORRIDOR**

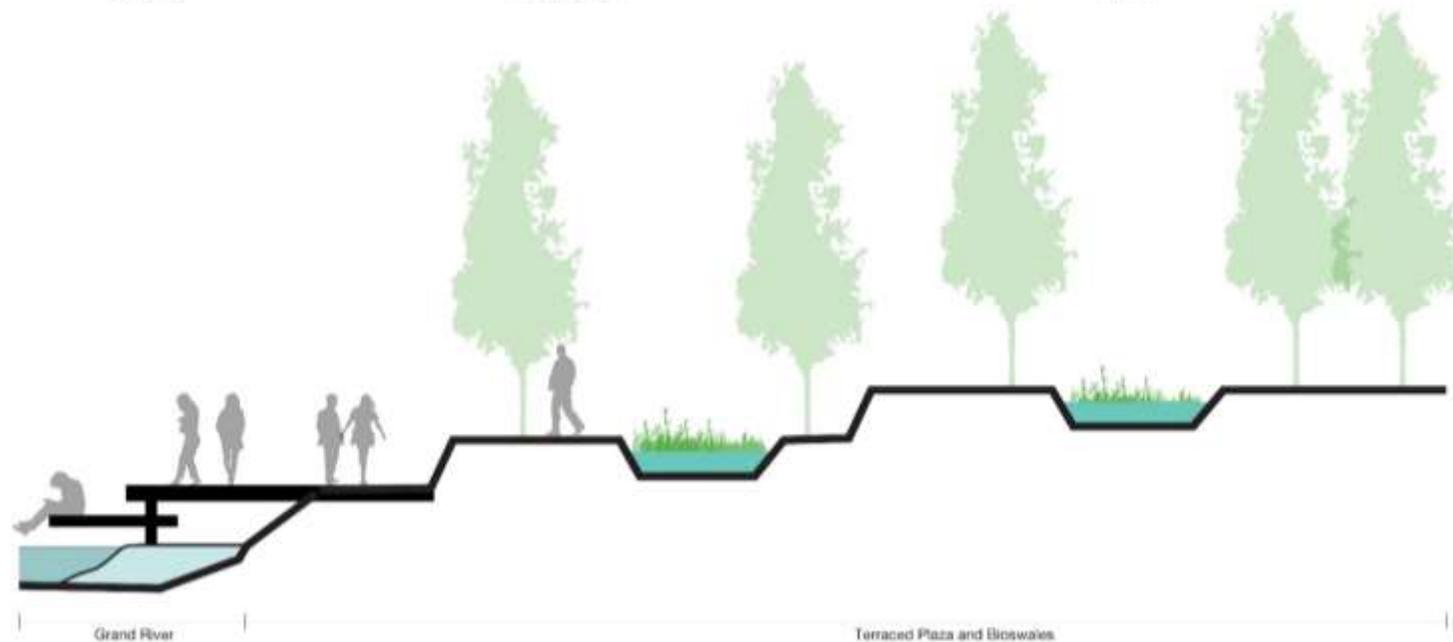
INTEGRATE ART, EDUCATION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ECOLOGY

- CREATE VARIED INFRASTRUCTURE TO NOT ONLY PROTECT, BUT ENHANCE THE RIVER
- ENHANCE ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS / WATER QUALITY

>terraced flood wall



>terraced wetland



ESTABLISH GRAND RAPIDS AS THE HUB IN A REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

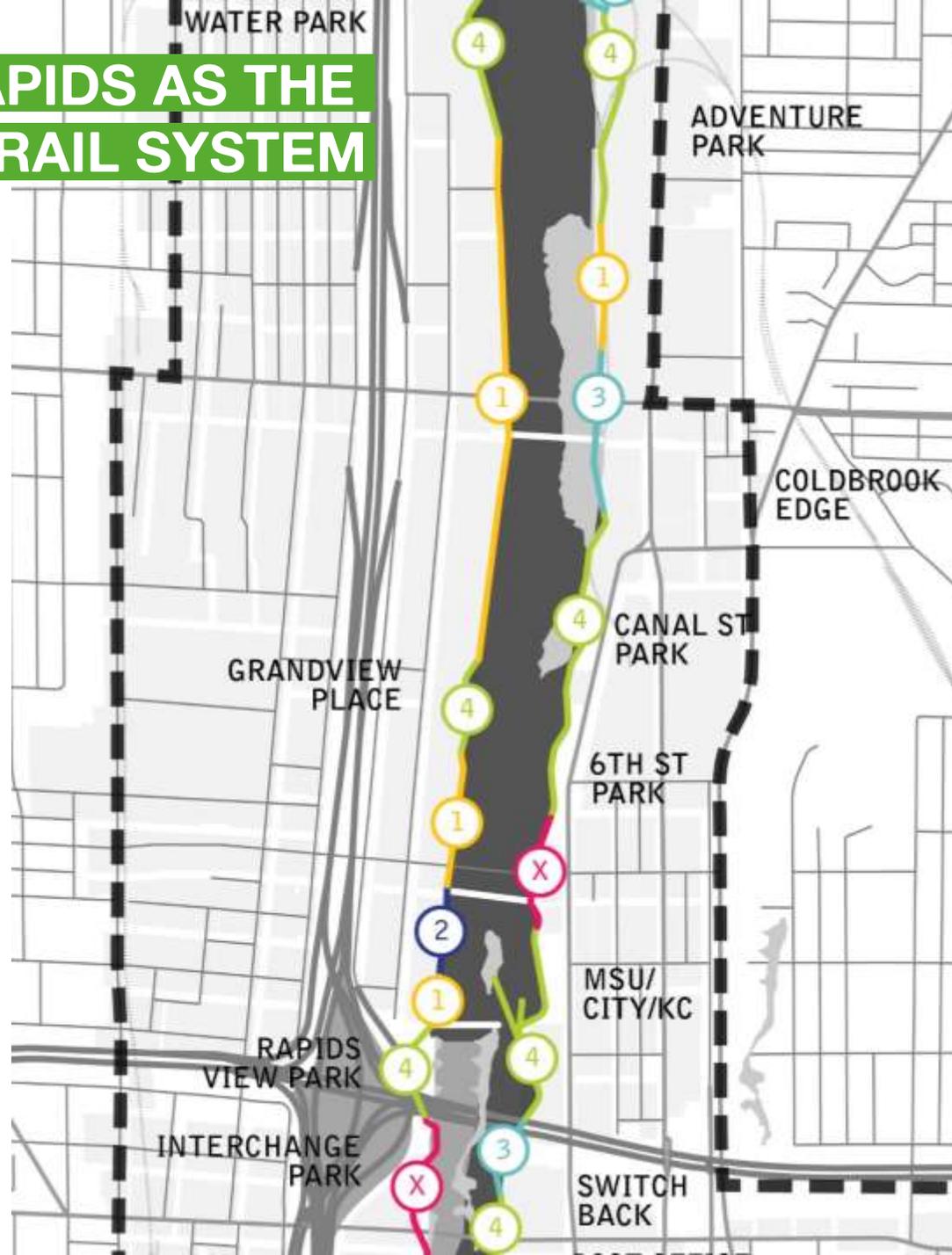
» CREATE A ROBUST TRAIL SYSTEM ON BOTH THE EAST AND WEST SIDES OF THE RIVER

TRAIL TYPES

OPTION 2:

ACCESS WITHIN EASEMENT ON PRIVATE LAND

-  EXISTING TRAIL TO BE RENOVATED - 6.3 MILES
-  NEW TRAIL ON EASEMENT - 5.7 MILES
-  NEW TRAIL ON CANTILEVER - 0.1 MILES
-  NEW TRAIL ON STRUCTURE - 2.0 MILES
-  NEW TRAIL ON SITE - 2.4 MILES







CREATE THE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CITY



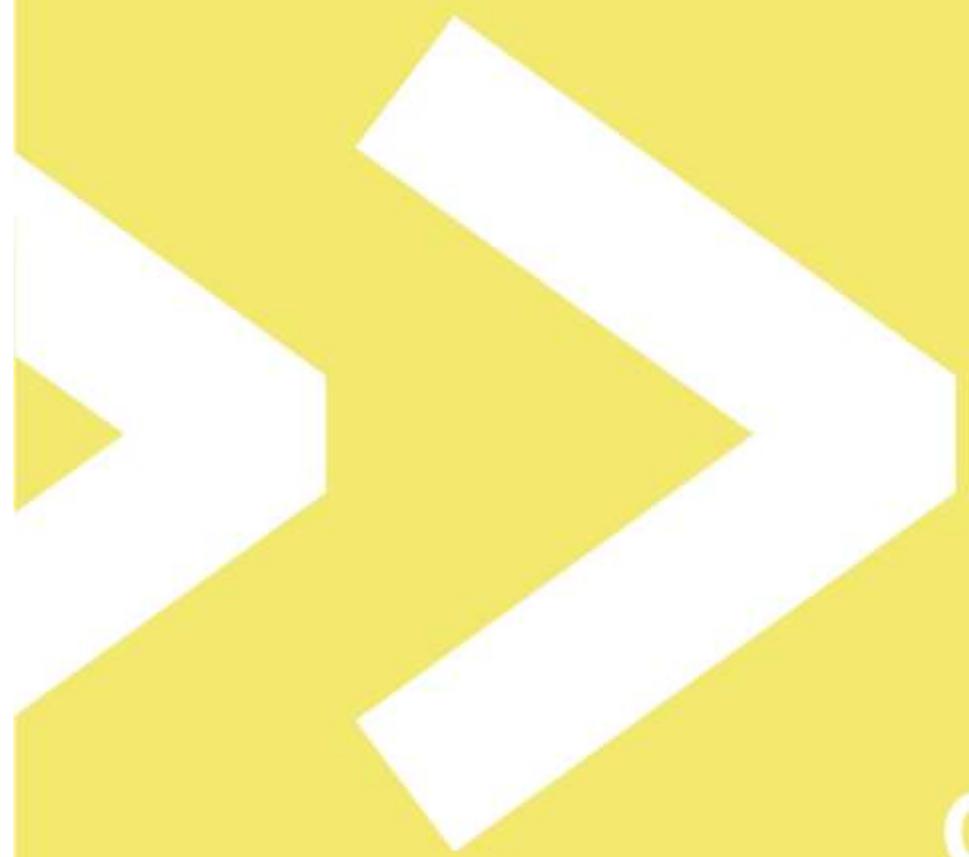
28

OPPORTUNITY SITES ALONG THE RIVER

EACH WITH A DIFFERENT PROGRAM

LYON SQUARE





GOAL 2

**CREATE A TRUE
DOWNTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD
THAT IS HOME TO A DIVERSE
POPULATION**

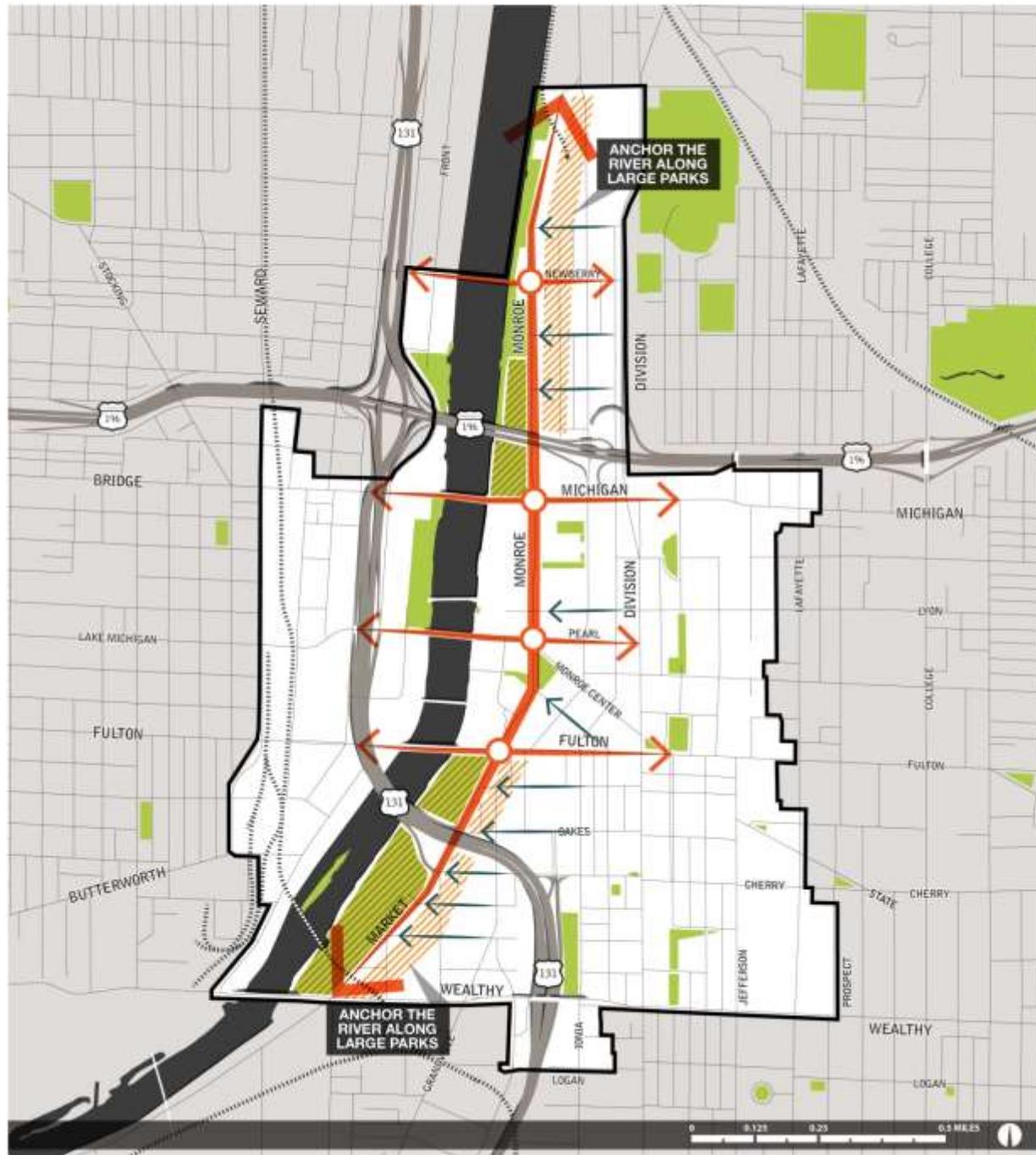
» ENCOURAGE INFILL DEVELOPMENT TO CLOSE THE GAPS BETWEEN NEIGHBORHOODS



10,900-13,000 potential units

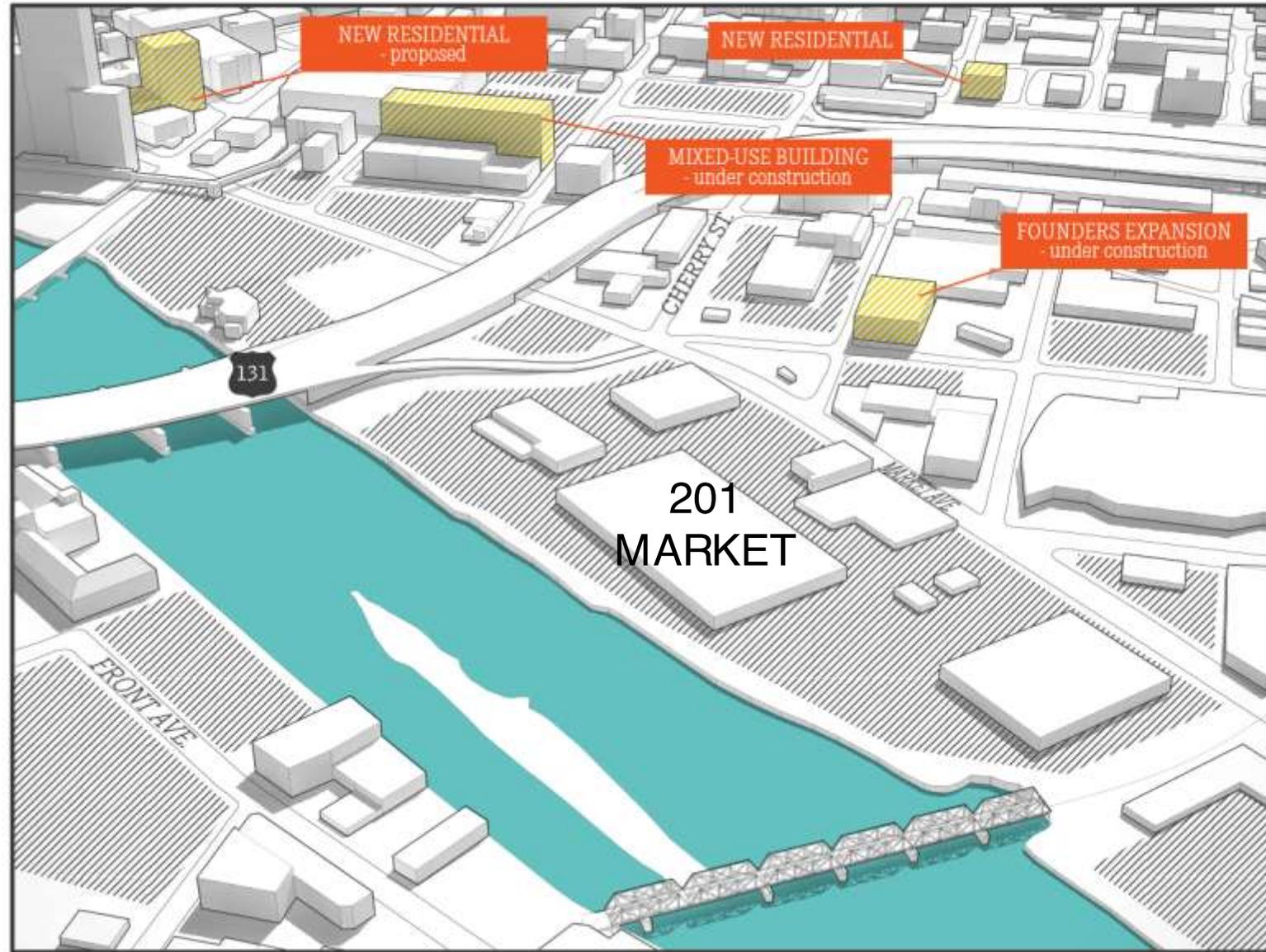
- Planned/Rehabbed Building
- Build Out
- New Park

ANCHOR THE RIVER



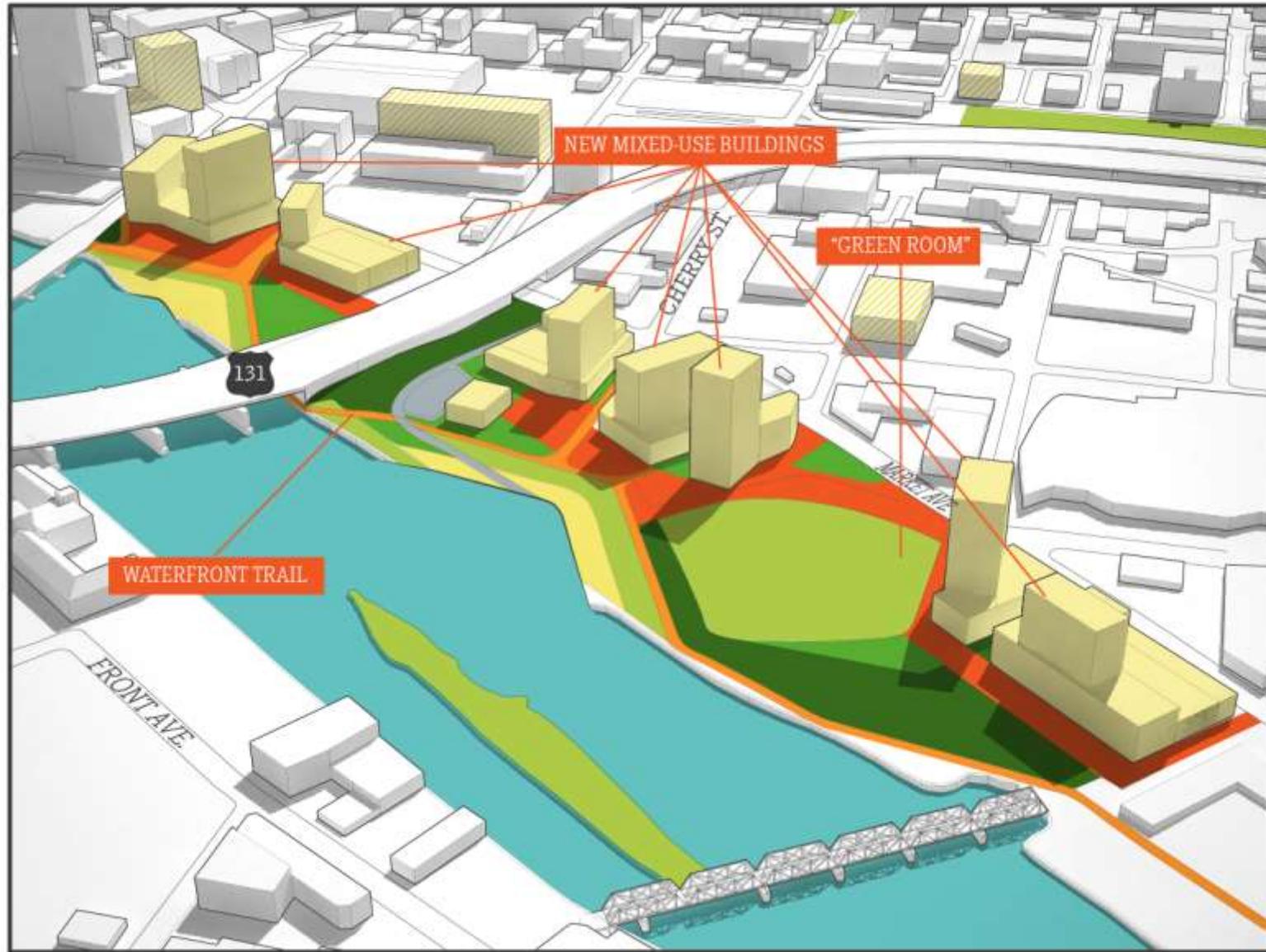
- ↔ MAJOR CONNECTION
- ←→ SECONDARY CONNECTION
- POTENTIAL PARK SPACE / DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY
- DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Existing Riverfront Development



 NEW DEVELOPMENT

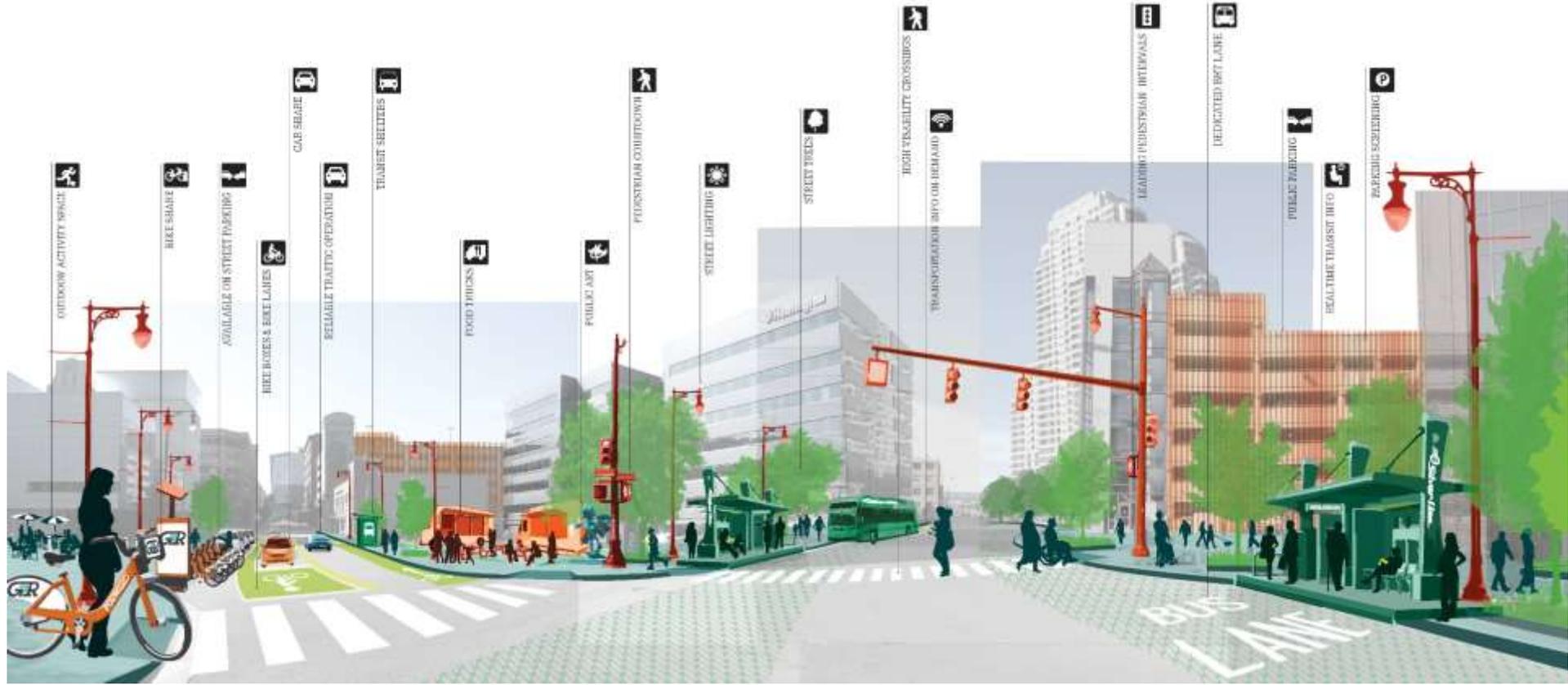
New Riverfront Development and Park Space



NEW DEVELOPMENT



GOAL 3
**IMPLEMENT A 21ST
CENTURY MOBILITY
STRATEGY**



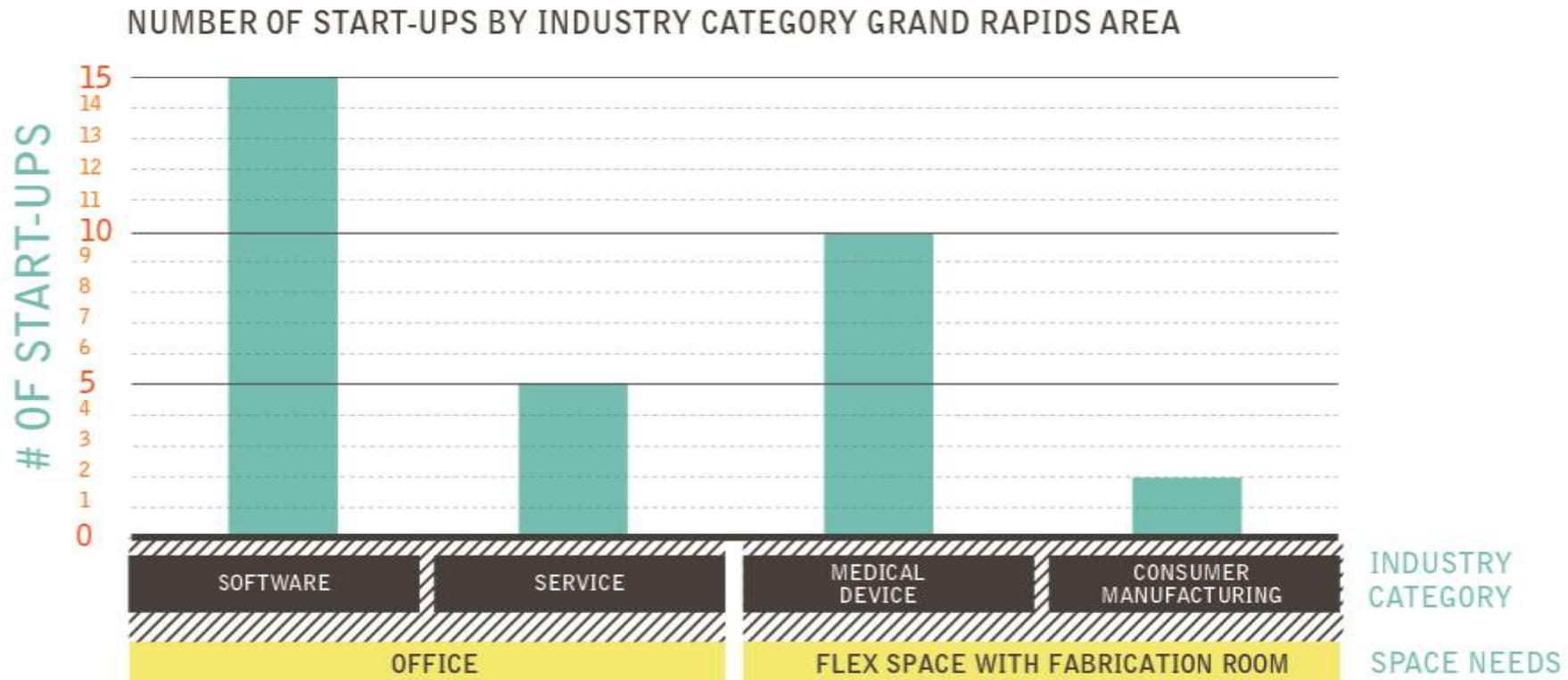


GOAL 4

**EXPAND JOB
OPPORTUNITIES & ENSURE
CONTINUED VITALITY OF
THE LOCAL ECONOMY**

PRESERVE AND CREATE SPACE JOB CREATION & ECONOMIC GROWTH

➤ PRESERVE OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLEXIBLE,
INEXPENSIVE WORK SPACE CLOSE TO DOWNTOWN



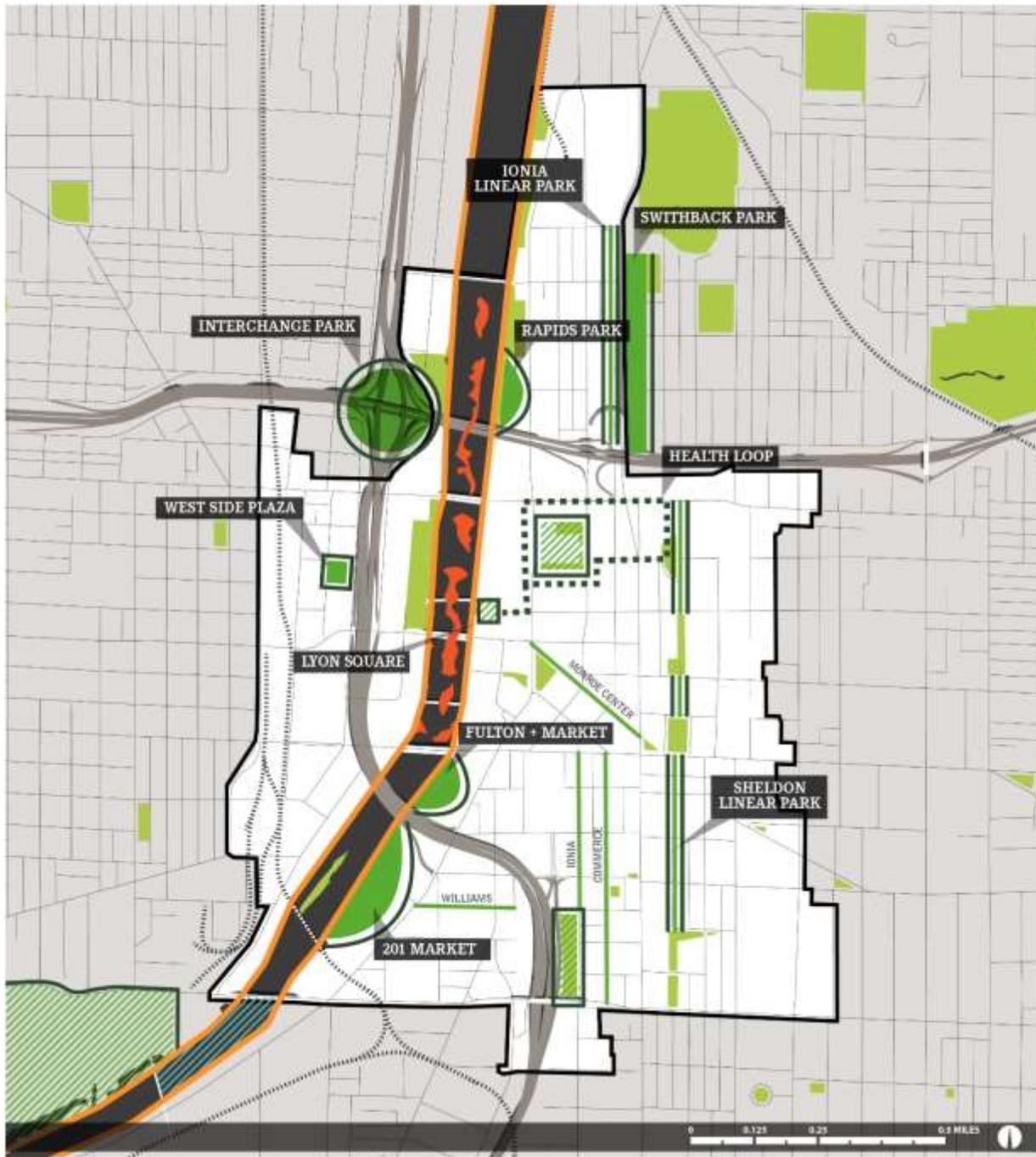
NOTE: several businesses are not located in Grand Rapids



GOAL 5

**REINVEST IN PUBLIC
SPACE, CULTURE
& INCLUSIVE
PROGRAMMING**

RAISE THE PROFILE OF DOWNTOWN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES



- RIVER TRAIL
- ←-→ HEALTH LOOP
- NEW PARK
- ▨ IMPROVED PARK
- OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT
- == LINEAR PARK
- RIVER ISLANDS
- ▨ RIVER DREDGE / BOAT ACCESS



GOAL 6

**RETAIN AND ATTRACT
FAMILIES, TALENT, AND
JOB PROVIDERS WITH HIGH
QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**



- 1 MONTESSORI STAFF PARKING
- 2 VISITORS / EVENT PARKING
- 3 PLAZA / STAGE
- 4 PRE-SCHOOL PLAYGROUND
- 5 INFILTRATION SCAPES
- 6 PLAY-SCAPES
- 7 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM
- 8 GREEN / SOLAR ROOF
- 9 SILVICULTURE
- 10 FARM
- 11 GREENHOUSE
- 12 SOLAR ROOF
- 13 COMPOST AREA
- 14 VISITOR PARKING
- 15 INNOVATION CENTRAL, STAFF PARKING





APPROVAL PROCESS:

- **November 3, 2015: Downtown and River Corridor Steering Committees**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)
- **November 9, 2015: DGRI Board of Advisors**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)
- **November 11, 2015: DDA Board**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)
- **November 11, 2015: MNTIFA Board**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)
- **November 12, 2015: Planning Commission and Public Hearing**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)
- **December 15, 2015: City Commission**
(UNANIMOUS APPROVAL)



UWFP FEDERAL AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

- Department of Interior:
 - USFW
 - NPS
 - USGS
- US Army Corps of Engineers
- USDA
- FEMA



DOI: U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

Supporting Role

- UWFP Agency Co-Lead
- Technical Assistance for lamprey control and permitting related to freshwater mussels
- Fish Passage technical and financial assistance grant
- Great Lakes Fishery Trust

Other Resources

- Fish and Wildlife habitat grants

Partners

- City, GRWW, GVMC, GLFC, USACE, USGS MDNR, MDEQ



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE; INVOLVEMENT ON RIVER RESTORATION STEERING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS WORK GROUP



Barbara Nelson-Jameson
National Park Service
Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program
Michigan Program Coordinator

- Eric DeLong, City of Grand Rapids
- Steve Faber, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Rachel Hood/Elaine Isely, WMEAC
- Kris Larson, DGRI
- David Marquardt, City of Grand Rapids
- Chris Muller, Grand Rapids Whitewater
- Barbara Nelson Jameson, National Park Service
- Kalie Nye, Grand Rapids Whitewater
- Wendy Ogilvie, Grand Valley Metro Council
- Suzanne Schulz, City of Grand Rapids
- Jay Steffen, City of Grand Rapids
- Mark Van Putten, representing the Wege Foundation

ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS WORK PLAN

- Identify likely functions & tasks
- Identify and review relevant examples
- Identify and assess existing capacities
- Identify options & prepare recommendation



MASTER LIST OF KEY FUNCTIONS/TASKS

- Visioning, Strategic Planning & Branding
- Capital Planning Operations & Maintenance
- Programming
- Sustainable Financing



INTERVIEWS

Detroit Riverfront Conservancy

Atlanta — Proctor Creek (UWFP Project)

Pittsburgh — River of Steel (Nat'l Heritage Area)

Cleveland -- Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition (Nat'l Heritage Area)

Memphis Riverfront Development Corporation

LIAA — Recreational Authorities under Michigan Law

- Ottawa County Parks & Recreation Commission
- Traverse City/Garfield Township Recreational Authority

National Land/Park Conservancies

- Trust for Public Land
- Conservation Fund



LESSONS LEARNED

Continuous (Visioning) Outreach and Ongoing Public Engagement is Essential *“the Grand River belongs to everyone” and must be restored in a way from which all benefit.”*

A Dedicated Public-Private Partnership Organization ...*provides a coherent “face” for and “go to” group for these large scale restoration initiatives*

Sustainable funding is an ongoing challenge for all of the examples examined, especially for operations and maintenance.... *NGO organizations depend on a combination of public and private funding – and require ongoing fundraising both for capital projects and, especially, for operations and maintenance.*

Limits of Relevance of Models Examined.... *there is no one organizational model from those examined suitable to perform satisfactorily all of the tasks identified by the Work Group*



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Supporting Role:

- Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) request evaluation
- Technical Assistance for lamprey control
- Corps Engineer Research and Development Center

Other Resources:

- GLFER Program

Potential Local Partners:

- Grand Rapids Whitewater
- Grand Valley Metro Council
- City of Grand Rapids



USDA: Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS)

- NRCS is an agency committed to “helping people help the land”—our mission is to provide resources to farmers and landowners to aid them with conservation.
- We are involved with activities that help benefit soil, water, plants, air, and animals.
- We help to cultivate productive lands and healthy ecosystems.
- NRCS succeeds through its partnerships, working closely with individual farmers and ranchers, landowners, local conservation districts, government agencies, Tribes, Earth Team volunteers and many other people and groups.



NRCS Participation

Contributed by having Field, Area and State Office staff provide time, ideas and technical knowledge:

- Local federal point of contact for the Urban Waters Federal Partnership.
- Local advisor for stakeholder group meetings, River Restoration Steering Committee and Water Quality Sub Group Committee.
- Provided input and assured coordination among potential projects, committees and plans.
- Collaborated to imbed water quality issues such as livestock and cropland pathogen pollutants into the whole restoration project and Urban Waters Designation Area.



NRCS Participation

Promotion of NRCS Programs as a potential funding source for wetland restoration, conservation buffers, and upstream nutrient management BMPs:

- EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- RCPP- Regional Conservation Partnership Program
- CStP-Conservation Stewardship Program

Increase upstream agricultural conservation awareness at the local level without funding:

- CTA- Conservation Technical Assistance



NRCS Participation

Ongoing educational support and partnership building:

- Educating farmers and landowners on resource concerns and conservation practices.
- Educating students on the connection of farms to water sources.
- Educating new and existing partners on programs and partnership opportunities.
- Encouraging new partnerships through Urban Waters Federal Partnership.





Analysis and Mapping Plan

Grand Rapids Pilot LAMP Project

City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

1/14/2016

Final



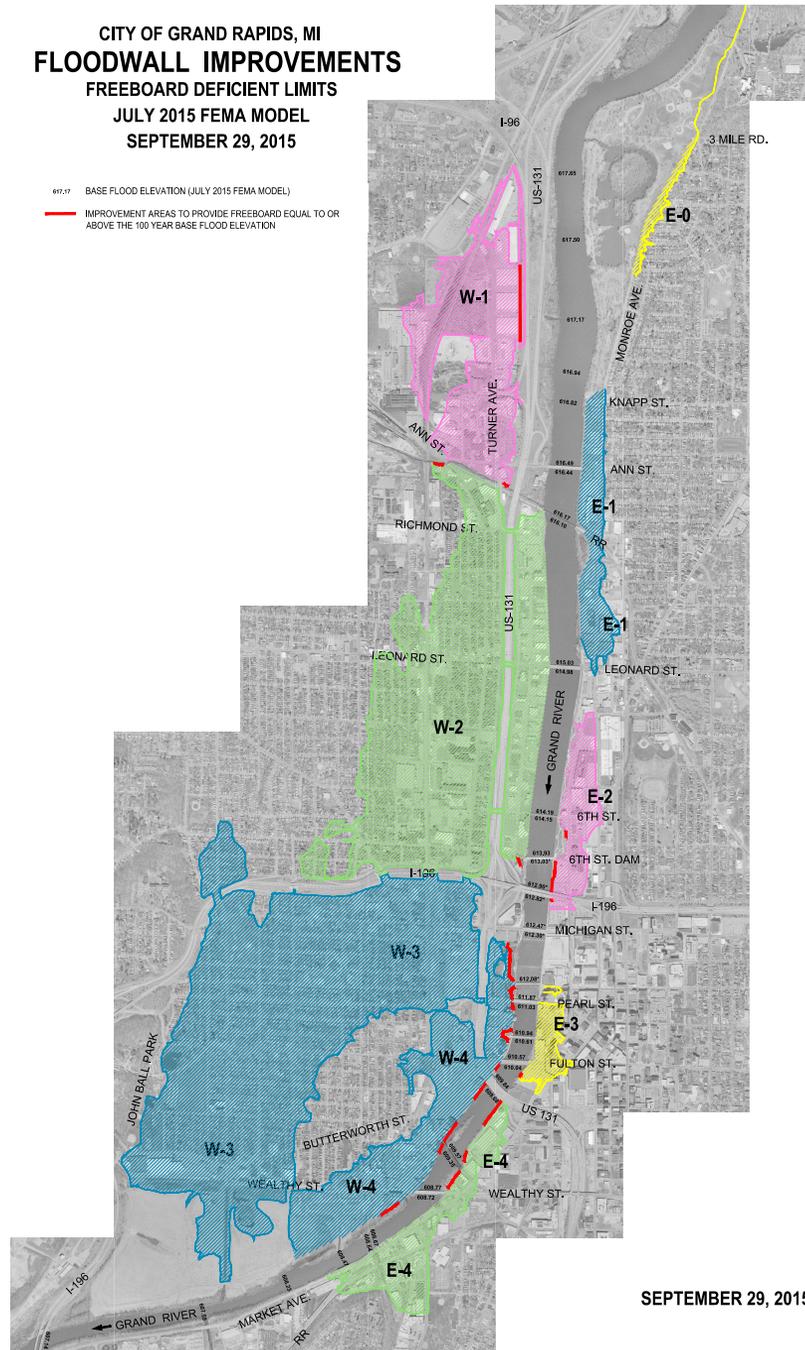
RiskMAP
Increasing Resilience Together

2016 Floodwall Improvements City of Grand Rapids/FEMA



CITY OF GRAND RAPIDS, MI
FLOODWALL IMPROVEMENTS
 FREEBOARD DEFICIENT LIMITS
 JULY 2015 FEMA MODEL
 SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

697.17 BASE FLOOD ELEVATION (JULY 2015 FEMA MODEL)
 — IMPROVEMENT AREAS TO PROVIDE FREEBOARD EQUAL TO OR ABOVE THE 100 YEAR BASE FLOOD ELEVATION



SEPTEMBER 29, 2015

Grand Rapids Pilot LAMP Project Schedules & Path Forward

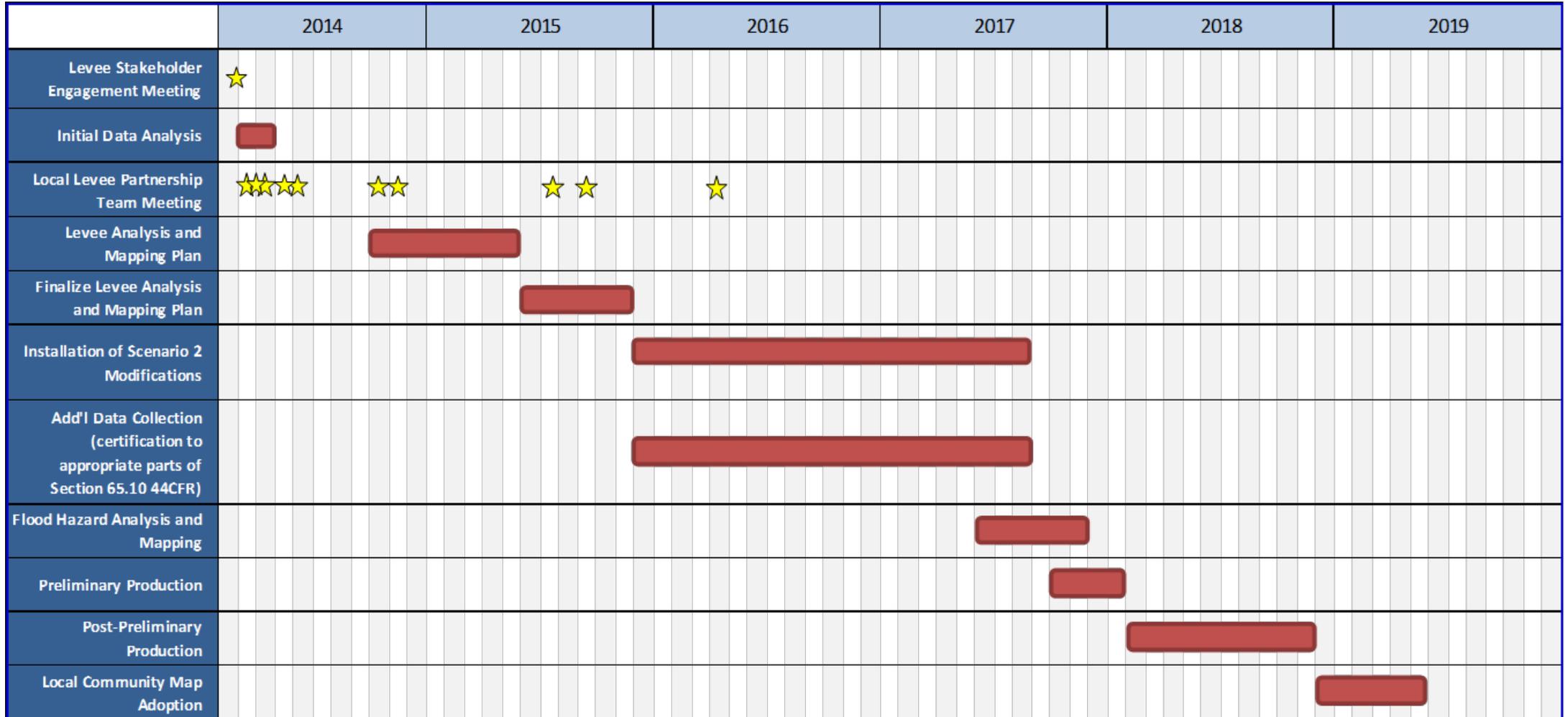


Figure 1: Project Path Forward

EPA

Potential Resources:

- Financial Grants: Small Grants, 5 Star, CWA 319
- Trash Free Waters Program
- Technical Resources, Green Infrastructure
- Sustainable Communities Building Blocks - Technical Assistance Grant
- UW Learning Network
- Environmental Justice Resources:
 - EJ Grants- Small grant program, 1-year, \$5k-\$30k
 - EJ Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program, 2-year, \$120k
 - EJ- Technical Assistance Services to Communities (TASC)
 - Environmental Workforce Development and Job training Grant Program
 - EJ Screen Tool, EJ Blog, EJ Grant

Potential Partners:

- City of Grand Rapids, Grand Rapids Urban League, West Side Neighborhoods, WMEAC, LGROW and watershed groups



HUD

Supporting Role:

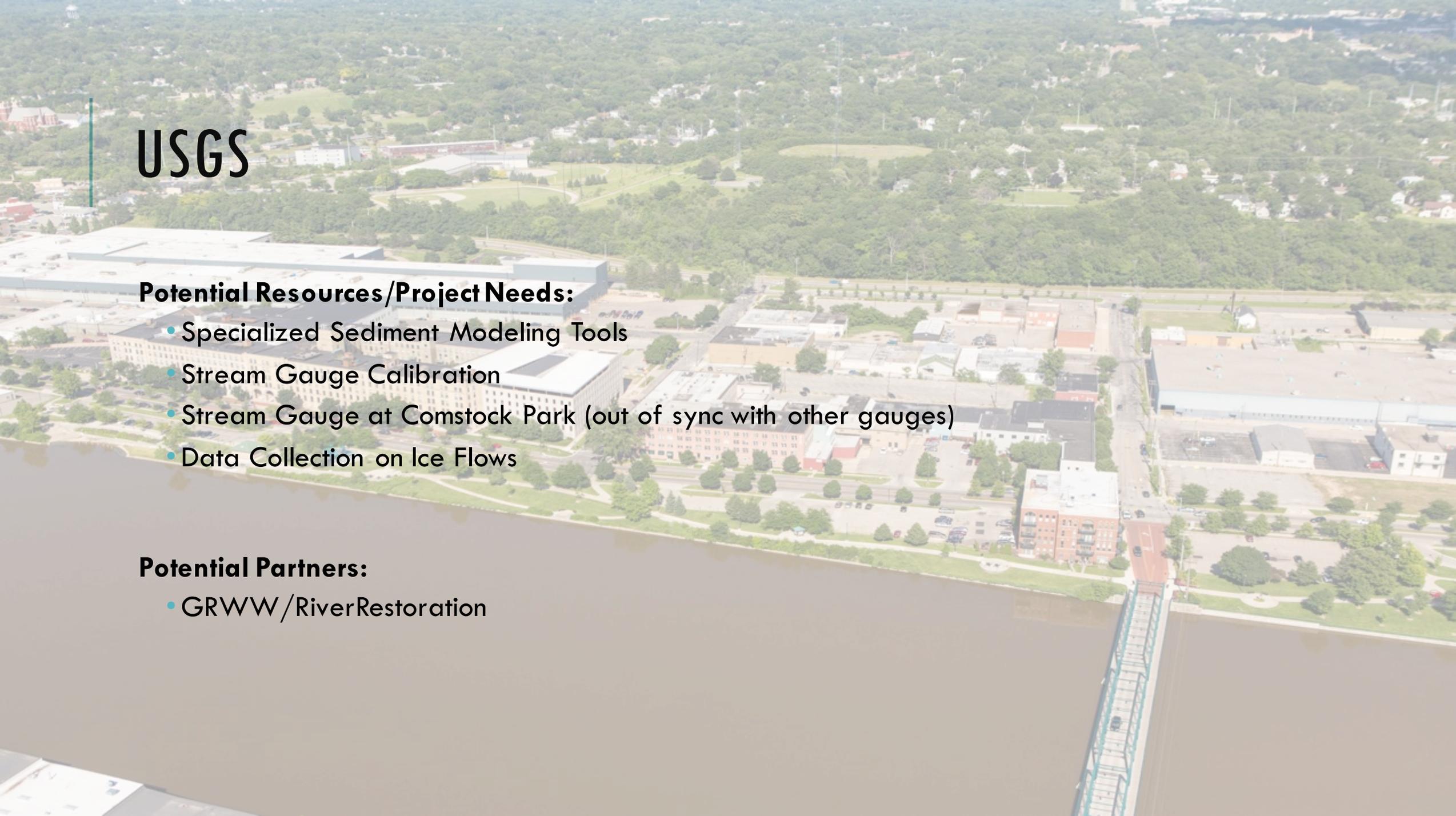
- National Disaster Resilience Competition
- Michigan Street Corridor Project
- Have a Preferred sustainability status designation in grant scoring (emphasize, partners, plans, social infrastructure in place)

Potential Resources:

- [TechnicalResourcesNetwork.org](https://www.technicalresourcesnetwork.org/)
- Community Assessment
- Healthy Communities Assessment Tool
- Environmental Justice

Potential Partners:

- City of Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids Urban League
- West Side Neighborhood Community Groups
- WMEAC

An aerial photograph of a city area, likely St. Louis, Missouri, showing a river (the Mississippi River) in the foreground, a bridge crossing it, and various buildings and green spaces in the background. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

USGS

Potential Resources/Project Needs:

- Specialized Sediment Modeling Tools
- Stream Gauge Calibration
- Stream Gauge at Comstock Park (out of sync with other gauges)
- Data Collection on Ice Flows

Potential Partners:

- GRWW/RiverRestoration

ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR UWFP AGENCY OR NGO INVOLVEMENT

Why Engage in the Grand Rapids, MI Urban Waters Federal Partnership?

- Opportunity for agency's contribution in a high profile way through a community lead project
- Project momentum/synergy
- Diverse array of social, economic, and environmental project benefits
- Project component that matches your agencies priorities
- Leveraged support of the philanthropic community support and funding
- Many partners working collaboratively towards a common goal



RIVER RALLY 2017

GRAND RAPIDS, MI

Hosted by River Network
May 8-11, 2017 | Grand Rapids, MI

River Rally, hosted annually by River Network, is a national conference that focuses on education, inspiration and celebration within the river and watershed community.

Unique in its focus on connecting peers, providing practical education, inspiring courage, and celebrating achievements, River Rally draws hundreds of people together every year from across the United States and the world.

Join NGO staff, academics, agency and foundation representatives, industry innovators, and concerned citizens for the biggest (and most fun) event of the year!



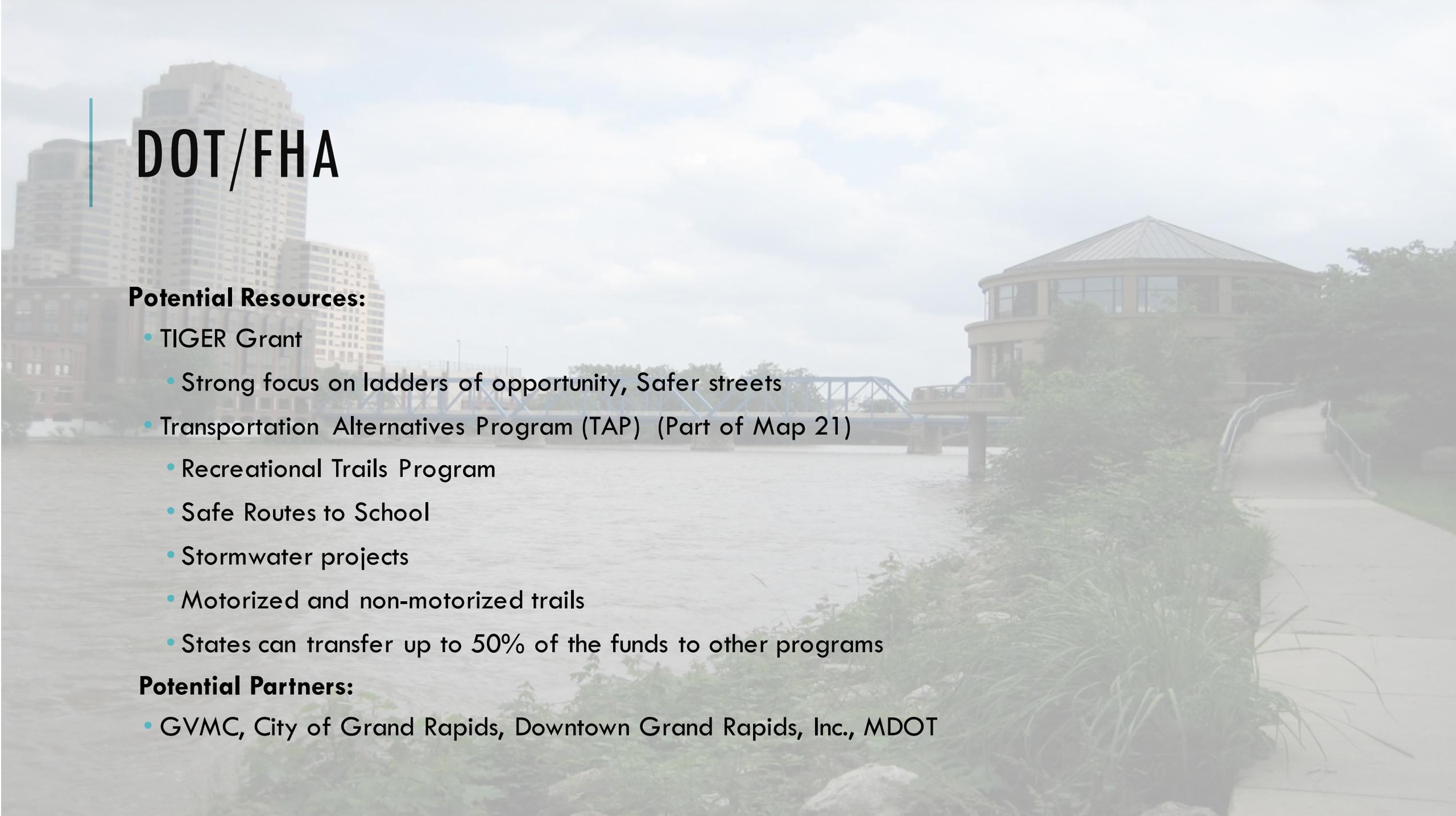
CORPS FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Potential Resources:

- AmeriCorps and Senior Corps
- Train youth and unemployed citizens for green jobs
- Support successful science-based conservation strategies

Potential Partners:

- City of Grand Rapids
- Grand Rapids Whitewater
- LGROW
- Grand Rapids Urban League
- Neighborhood Associations



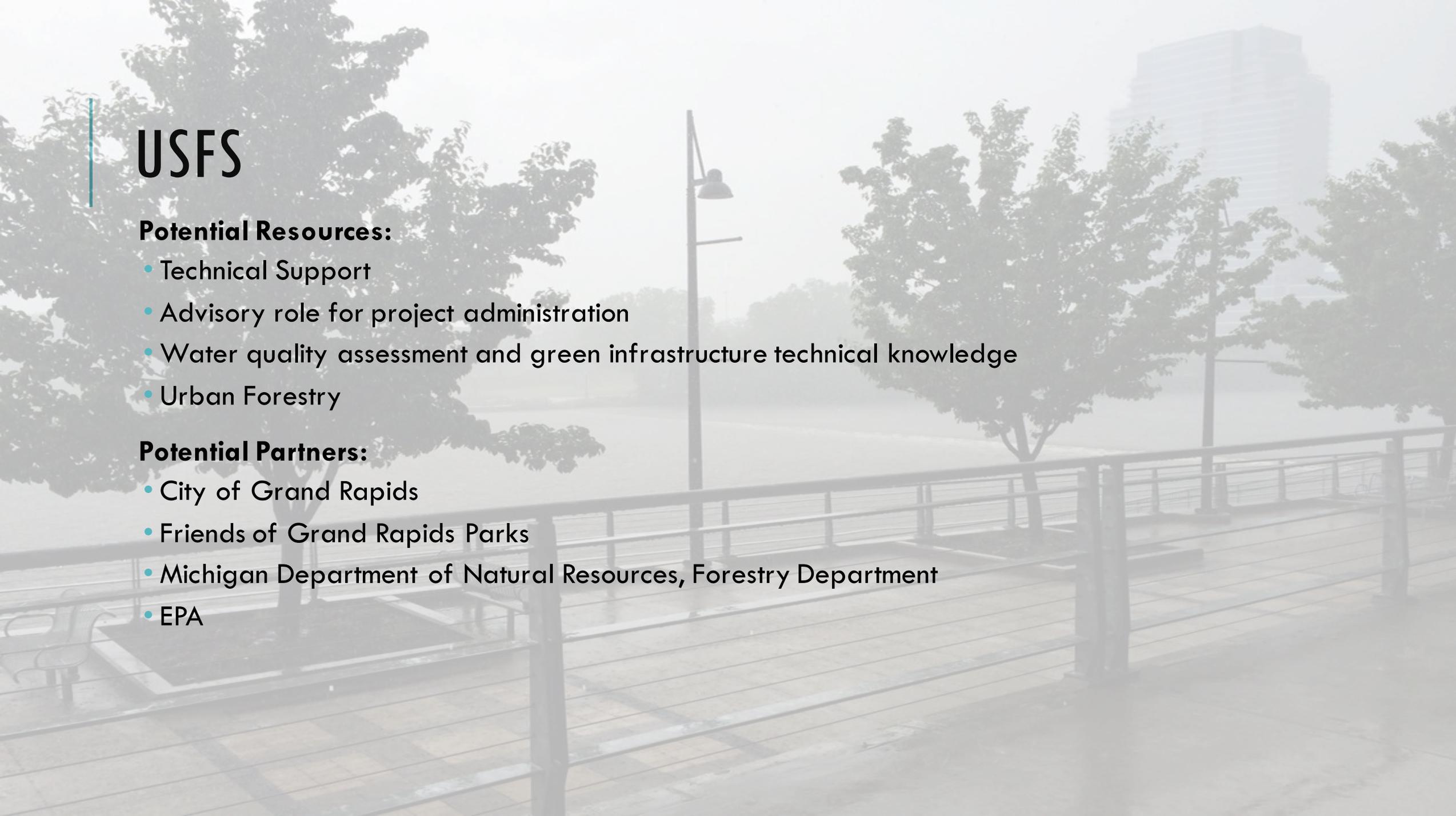
DOT/FHA

Potential Resources:

- TIGER Grant
 - Strong focus on ladders of opportunity, Safer streets
- Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) (Part of Map 21)
 - Recreational Trails Program
 - Safe Routes to School
 - Stormwater projects
 - Motorized and non-motorized trails
 - States can transfer up to 50% of the funds to other programs

Potential Partners:

- GVMC, City of Grand Rapids, Downtown Grand Rapids, Inc., MDOT



USFS

Potential Resources:

- Technical Support
- Advisory role for project administration
- Water quality assessment and green infrastructure technical knowledge
- Urban Forestry

Potential Partners:

- City of Grand Rapids
- Friends of Grand Rapids Parks
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Forestry Department
- EPA

MATCHING COMMUNITY GOALS TO FEDERAL RESOURCES

We have listed potential needs; help us understand:

- Agency's process
- Correct person to connect with
- Agency's expertise, programs, resources, grants/funding process, etc.

“to reconnect communities to their local urban waters and to use these waterways to revitalize distressed and underserved communities.”



GRAND RAPIDS/GRAND RIVER UWFP CONTACT INFORMATION

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Matt Chapman; Grand Rapids WhiteWater
Location Ambassador
(616) 710-1753
matt@grandrapidswhitewater.org





THANK YOU!

