



Models of Success Profiles

Models of Success

As part of the research for the Interpretive Plan we wanted to learn about successful places, practices and experiences that could help inform the planning for St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone.

That “Models of Success” research includes profiles of places identified as successful urban riverfronts and interviews with people knowledgeable about these places to obtain greater insight into design, operations and experiences. This memo includes the profiles of the models of success and also a list of Waterfront Keys to Success. The information from the interviews with models success representatives is included in a separate memo.

We researched and prepared the attached summary profiles of the following sites:

- » Boston/Cambridge, MA - Charles River
- » Chattanooga, TN – Tennessee River
- » Melbourne, AUS - Yarra River/Birrarung Marr Park
- » Portland, OR – Willamette River
- » Saint Paul, MN – Mississippi River
- » San Antonio, TX – San Antonio River

These sites were chosen as models of success based on the presence of a historic riverfront within an urban setting. In addition, we created summary profiles for the following sites to enhance understanding of places which hold stories of indigenous people:

- » Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park, Australia
- » Chaco Culture National Historical Park, NM

Waterfront - Keys to Success

The following Waterfront - Keys to Success is intended as a touch point and discussion stimulator for the SAFHZ planning and design. The list was prepared based on the work of Project for Public Spaces (PPS) and others. See <http://www.pps.org/waterfronts/> for more on PPS's waterfront resources.

1. Make public goals the primary objective

The best solutions for waterfronts put public goals first, not short-term financial expediency. As long as plans adhere to the notion that the waterfront is an inherently public asset, then many of the following steps can be pursued successfully. Community engagement and, ultimately, local ownership and pride will flow from this basic premise.

2. Create a shared community vision for the waterfront

Unlike a master plan, a vision process does not lock a project into a prescribed solution. It is a citizen-led initiative that outlines a set of goals-ideals to strive for-that set the stage for people to think boldly, make breakthroughs, and achieve new possibilities for their waterfront. Because a vision is adaptable and can be implemented gradually, starting with small actions, it often becomes bolder as public enthusiasm for making changes builds and the transformation of the waterfront gains credibility.

3. Create multiple destinations: The Power of Ten

An effective way to structure a vision process is to set a goal of creating ten great destinations along the entire waterfront, an idea called the "Power of Ten." This focus on destinations, rather than "open space" or parks, enables a genuine community-led process to take root. Once ten destinations have been identified, then nearby residents, businesses, community organizations and other stakeholders begin to define the uses and activities they want to see at each place. Ideally, each destination should provide ten things to do, which creates diverse, layered activity, ensuring that no single use will predominate.

4. Connect the destinations

The next idea to keep in mind is that each of the ten destinations should be incorporated into a vision for the waterfront as a whole. The key is to achieve continuity, especially when it comes to the pedestrian experience. A walkable waterfront with a wide variety of activity along it will successfully connect destinations, allowing each to strengthen the others. Creating these connections is a challenge that entails mixing uses (such as housing, parks, entertainment and retail) and mixing partners (such as public institutions and local business owners). Creating connections also means enticing people to the waterfront on foot, by bike or transit, rather than relying exclusively on the car.

5. Optimize public access

It is essential that the waterfront be accessible for people's use to the greatest extent possible. Once again, the goal of continuity is of paramount importance. Waterfronts with continuous public access are much more desirable than those where the public space is interrupted. Even small stretches where the waterfront is unavailable to the public greatly diminish the experience.

The deeper into the city fabric the presence of the river is felt the more successfully does that city leverage its water assets. The best riverfront planning thinks in terms of perpendiculars to the water, increasing the frequency of great streets, pathways, vistas and green corridors that link the city interior to the river and removing barriers that impede such links.

Access also means that people can actually interact with the water in many ways--from swimming or fishing, dining or picnicking dockside, boarding boats or feeding the ducks. If it is not possible to actually touch the water, people should have access to another type of water nearby--such as a fountain, spray play area or a swimming pool that floats next to the shore.

6. Ensure that new development fits within the community's vision

When the public's vision for the waterfront comes first, new developments can be tailored to meet the community's shared goals and expectations. Waterfronts are too valuable to simply allow developers to dictate the terms of growth and change. This is not to say that private develop-

ment should be unwelcome or discouraged – on the contrary, it is necessary to the future of a healthy waterfront. But whatever is built must contribute to the goals set forth by the community, not detract from them. Buildings should be designed and programmed to engage the public space. Create widely valued civic amenities, as natural expansions of the principal amenity of the water itself. Development should never interfere with pedestrian connections, which makes making large surface parking lots and auto-oriented development out of the question.

7. Encourage mixed uses and a 24/7 activity pattern

Great waterfronts are the sites of festivals, markets, fireworks displays, concerts and other high-energy gatherings. That activity level can be at odds with the residential community that is attracted to the water views yet wants a quiet tranquil private environment. There is need to balance the desirability of residential waterfront views with the programming need for festival and event activities. This translates into a mixed use development pattern and clear expectations about multi-use of the public space.

8. Use parks to connect destinations, not as destinations unto themselves

In a similar vein, parks should not serve as the *raison d'être* of the entire waterfront. Too much passive open space puts a damper on the inherent vibrancy of waterfronts, evident in cities such as New York, Vancouver, and Toronto that have relied too heavily on “greening” their waterfronts without mixing uses and activities that draw people for different reasons at different times. The world’s best waterfronts use parks as connective tissue, using them to link major destinations together.

9. Support multiple modes of transportation and limit vehicular access

Waterfronts are dramatically enhanced when they can be accessed by means other than private vehicles, including access and movement by boat. Walking and biking are another important part of the transportation mix, and many of the best waterfronts feature pedestrian promenades and bike lanes. Unimpeded by cars or parking lots, people are more at ease, and the full breadth of waterfront activity can flourish.

10. Integrate seasonal activities into each destination

Rain or cold is no reason for a waterfront to sit empty. Indeed coastal and lakefront places are often known for their chilly winds and gray skies. Waterfront programming should take rainy-day and winter activities into account, and amenities should provide protection from inclement weather. Waterfronts that can thrive in year-round conditions will reap the benefits of greater economic activity and higher attendance at public facilities.

11. Make stand-alone, iconic buildings serve multiple functions

An iconic structure can be a boon to the waterfront, so long as it acts as a multi-use destination. In Stockholm, the busiest building along the waterfront is the City Hall. Surrounded by a plaza, park, and courtyards, the building shares its slice of the waterfront with a major pier where boats offer waterfront tours. Clearly, this City Hall is more than a one-dimensional icon, it is also a good neighbor with a strong sense of place. Iconic signature buildings should strive to achieve the same flexibility and public-spirited presence. Any building on the waterfront should add to the activity of the public spaces around it. High-rise buildings tend to have private activity on the ground floor. High rises and overly wide buildings may also create a wall that physically and psychologically cuts off the waterfront from surrounding neighborhoods.

12. Manage, manage, manage

Ongoing management is essential to maintain waterfronts and sustain a diverse variety of activities and events throughout the year. Waterfronts could adopt the model of the Business Improvement Districts that have been successful in many downtowns. A “waterfront improvement district” could forge partnerships between waterfront businesses and organizations and those in the surrounding district, so that waterfront programming--such as temporary exhibits of local artists or music by local musicians--reflects the community and gives the place a unique character.

BOSTON'S CHARLES RIVER

THE ESPLANADE

History of the Esplanade

The Charles River basin that exists today is entirely man-made. The river was originally a wide expanse of tidal wetlands. As Boston grew the narrow peninsula known as Boston was gradually filled out into the river. In 1880 the Boston Park Commissioners acquired the industrial land on the shorefront and hired the landscape architecture firm of Frederick Law Olmstead to prepare a 9.6 acre park; which he focused entirely on the promenade along the River. The success of this first section of Parkland along the Boston side of the Charles River prompted proposals for additional parks; parks that would become the basis for today's Esplanade.

The Esplanade Today

Within walking distance of more than 300,000 urban residents, the Esplanade is the shared backyard of every resident in metropolitan Boston. Here, two million people a year walk, bird watch, play tennis, jog, bicycle, rollerblade, swing, walk their dogs, sunbathe, meditate, play chess, learn to sail, view fireworks, picnic, admire the scenery, read, hear concerts, play baseball, study, watch movies, and host family reunions. The Esplanade is where Boston celebrates the seasons.

The Esplanade Expanded

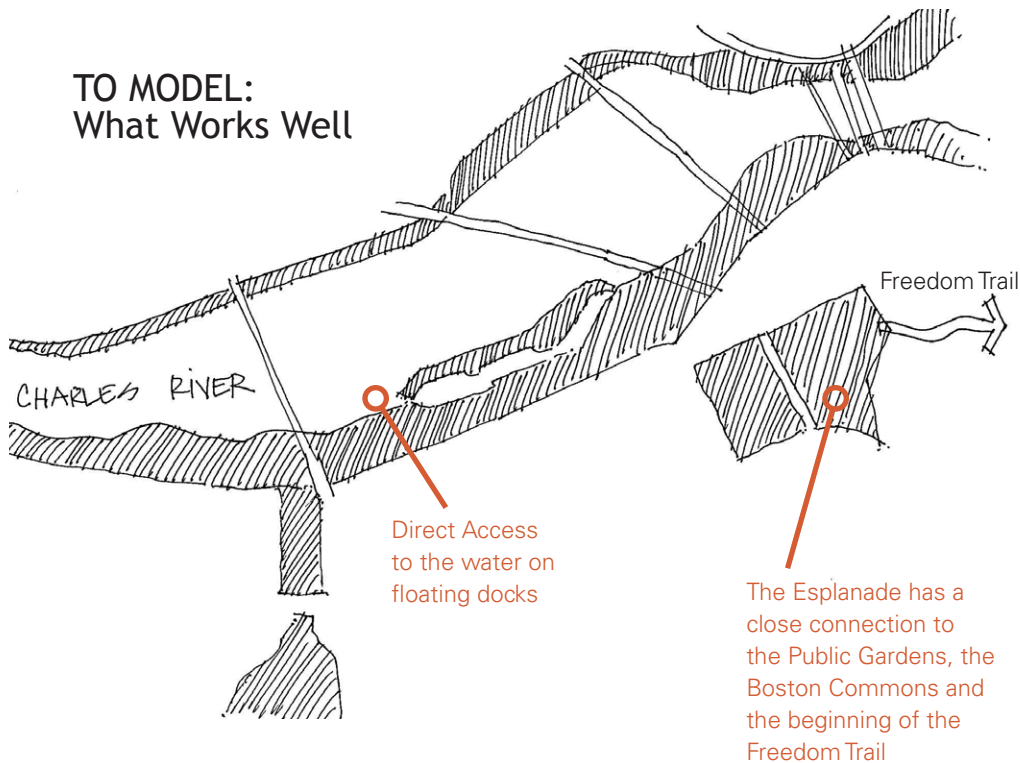
There are a string of small connected parks that connect the Esplanade to Boston Harbor and the Harborwalk, still along the Charles River, referred to as the New Charles River Basin. Often referred to as the "Lost Half Mile" of public open space along the Charles River, the New Charles River Basin Parks comprise a series of parks located on over 40 acres of land in Cambridge and Boston along the banks of the Charles River, stretching from the Museum of Science to the North End and Charlestown. The five parks that comprise the New Charles River Basin and their designer are: North Point Meadows (Carr Lynch), Nashua Street Park (the Halvorson Company), Revere Landing (Carr Lynch), the historic North and South Dam (Pressley Associates), and Lovejoy Wharf (Childs Engineering and Carol R, Johnson Associates).

Management/Organization

Since its completion in 1910, the Charles River Basin has been managed by the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC). In 1997 the MDC took the initial steps towards developing a Master Plan for the basin; the Master Plan is the first guide in over sixty years developed to guide management, planning, and design decisions in the Basin. An intensive 2 year public process was conducted and the planning team created the Charles River Basin Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).



TO MODEL: What Works Well



Working closely with the MCD is the Esplanade Association (TEA) - a dynamic nonprofit collaboration of citizens working to protect, restore, and beautify Boston's historic Charles River Esplanade. Since its formation in 2001, TEA has conducted citizen surveys; developed and coordinated a cultural landscape plan and a resource management plan; organized and inspired volunteers; arranged landscape restoration and renewal projects; and brought overall awareness to Boston residents of the benefits of park space.



ESPLANADE FACTS:

- The Esplanade stretches almost three miles along the Boston shore of the Charles River, from the Museum of Science to the Boston University Bridge.
- "The Esplanade" is the popular name for the parkland, first used about 1910. It is a French word meaning promenade along a shore.
- The park is made land, created in several stages from landfill over 90 years ago.
- An estimated two to three million people visit the Esplanade every year.
- The Esplanade is under the control of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), part of the state's Executive Office of Environmental Affairs.
- The Esplanade contains
 - » 6 miles of walkways and bike paths
 - » 5 miles of riverbank
 - » 3 granite landings
 - » 6 wooden docks
 - » 3 boathouses
 - » 1 performance facility (Hatch Shell)
 - » 2 playgrounds
 - » 1 wading pool
 - » 3 softball fields
 - » 1 T-ball field
 - » 5 youth soccer fields
 - » 1 tennis court
 - » 2 concession stands
 - » 10 memorials and statues
 - » 9 pedestrian bridges to take you over Storrow Drive and into the park
 - » 266 park benches
 - » 1900+ trees



Chattanooga's Tennessee River

A 20 Year Plan

During the late 1980s, Chattanoogaans began to evaluate the assets that had been abandoned by factories and foundries along the Tennessee River. A citizen's task group realized that the whole riverfront should be considered and that it should include Moccasin Bend, a former location of the Cherokee Indian tribe encampments, as well as the downtown area. The Tennessee Riverpark master plan created a 20-year commitment to use the river as a catalyst for increasing Chattanooga's livability, improving the area's prospects for new investment, and initiating new riverfront development that would include industry, retail, office space, housing and attractions.

Riverfront Projects

The Tennessee Riverpark is an eleven-mile stretch of greenway with open meadows, picnic facilities, playgrounds, a rowing center, fishing piers, boat docks, a restored antique carousel, an interactive water fountain, and a 105-year old bridge restored as the world's longest pedestrian bridge. The Riverpark is a catalyst for development including new industry, retail, office space, restaurants, museums, galleries, and housing. The Tennessee Riverpark is a focal point for residents, tourists, and businessmen and with the Tennessee Aquarium as its main attraction is indeed bringing people "back to the river." Activities abound within the Riverpark - you can go rowing, view wildlife, climb the Walnut Wall, bicycle, fish along the riverbank or off a pier, walk, rollerblade, and learn about the history of the area as you go.

One of the city's most popular attractions, Coolidge Park, will more than double in size with a 22-acre expansion beneath Market Street into the Tennessee Wetland Park, a preserve with an interpretive boardwalk west of the bridge. The Adventure Playground designed for pre-toddlers to pre-teens and a segment of the Trail of Tears will bring recreation and history to the district. In addition, a new, mixed-use neighborhood of residential and commercial development will mark the beginning of a connec-

tion between downtown and Moccasin Bend.

Ross's Landing improvements will create better Riverbend Festival grounds while capturing and preserving the site's history as the birthplace of the city. An expansive public green will accommodate seating for large and small crowds, and the reconfiguration of Riverfront Parkway will enlarge and improve the riverside park.

The passage connecting the Tennessee Aquarium to Ross's Landing underneath Riverfront Parkway will commemorate Chattanooga's American Indian heritage and honor Cherokees who were part of the Trail of Tears. Seven ceramic medallions, six to eight feet in diameter, are mounted on the west wall of the passage. The medallions are decorated with symbols that represent 1,000 years of Cherokee art. Each medallion represents a specific aspect of the tribe's history, its religious beliefs and its past struggles with colonial settlers.

A Connected Future

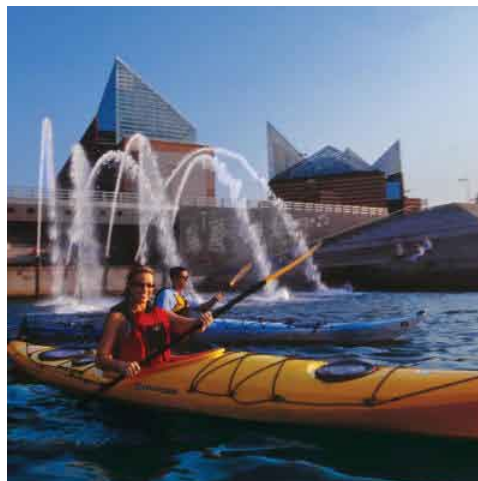
On the south side of the Tennessee River, the 22-mile greenway is 40% complete and will eventually link the Chickamauga Dam with the Tennessee Aquarium. Four other greenways will link the Tennessee Aquarium, parks, and neighborhoods while providing protected trails for people to ride bikes, jog, walk, and commute. With the completed greenways and another 75-100 miles of greenway planned for the future, the community has generated pride and enthusiasm that is considered a benchmark for other communities.

Management/Organization

According to RiverValley Partners, 83 percent of the riverfront and downtown development funding was private. Other funding sources included 6 percent federal, 5 percent from the city, 3 percent each from the county and the state. By agreement, the City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County share the ongoing cost of maintenance, security and programming for these wonderful public places.

To Model

- Tremendous influx of private funds helped to completely turn around a derelict Riverfront.
- A signature iconic use, the Tennessee Aquarium, helped jump start the project and was a catalyst for subsequent investment.
- The initial core revitalization spurred work on additional improvements of the River outside of downtown.



RIVERPARK FACTS:

- As part of the 21st Century Waterfront project:
 - » Over 1,100 trees were planted
 - » Over 2,770 feet of new boat dockage at the waterfront.
 - » Over 39 acres of new park developed in the 21st Century Waterfront
- From concept to full implementation the 21st Century Waterfront was completed in just 35 months.
- The 21st Century Waterfront was financed in a way which required no City of Chattanooga general funding.
- Is home to the longest pedestrian bridge in the world.
- The project includes \$1.2 million for public art.



Celebrating Local Culture

The City of Melbourne's extensive network of parks and gardens contribute to Melbourne's title as one of the world's 'most livable cities'. Ranging from gardens with classic 19th century heritage features and majestic tree avenues, to the 170-hectare Royal Park with its unique bush-land landscape and wetlands habitat, Melbourne offers a variety of open spaces for the 14 million visitors who use its parks each year. The other integral gem of Melbourne, Melbourne's lower Yarra River, is the city's tourism and recreation heart. It hums with activity, on land and water. River boats link the vibrancy of Federation Square, Southgate and Crown Entertainment Complex. Outstanding dining and shopping opportunities blend with museums, leading galleries, an aquarium, concert halls and theatres to create one of the most diverse visitor precincts in the country.

Birrarung Marr Park

In the city's newest park (a 5 - 10 minute walk from downtown), Birrarung Marr, the city's gems (the Yarra River and the city's parks) are aligned via an interpretive walk that celebrates the local culture. The walking tour begins at Enterprize Park where you will follow the river upstream, stopping to discover the significance of sites and land-

marks to the Kulin people and the colonial settlement of Melbourne. The tour concludes at Birrarung Marr and the new 'Common Ground' Aboriginal public art space. This unique walk gives participants a sense of a small, but significant portion of the ancestral lands of the Kulin people. Walkin' Birrarung, as the guide book calls it, is a "journey back through time exploring the dramatic and irrevocable changes of both the people and the place; multiple sensory experience that evokes the memories of a vibrant natural and cultural landscape."

Located below Federation Square alongside the Yarra River, Birrarung Marr Park provides dramatic open spaces, sculptured terraces and a unique state-of-the-art playground. The Birrarung Wilam (meaning 'River Camp') installation celebrates the diversity of Victoria's indigenous culture by interpreting stories from local communities through public artworks. A winding, textured pathway acknowledges the significance of the eel as a traditional food source for groups camped by the river. Large rocks incised with animal drawings enclose a performance space, and closer to the river a semi-circle of metal shields represents each of the five groups of the Kulin Nation. On the outside wall of the ArtPlay building are silver touch panels featuring audio recordings of indigenous people telling



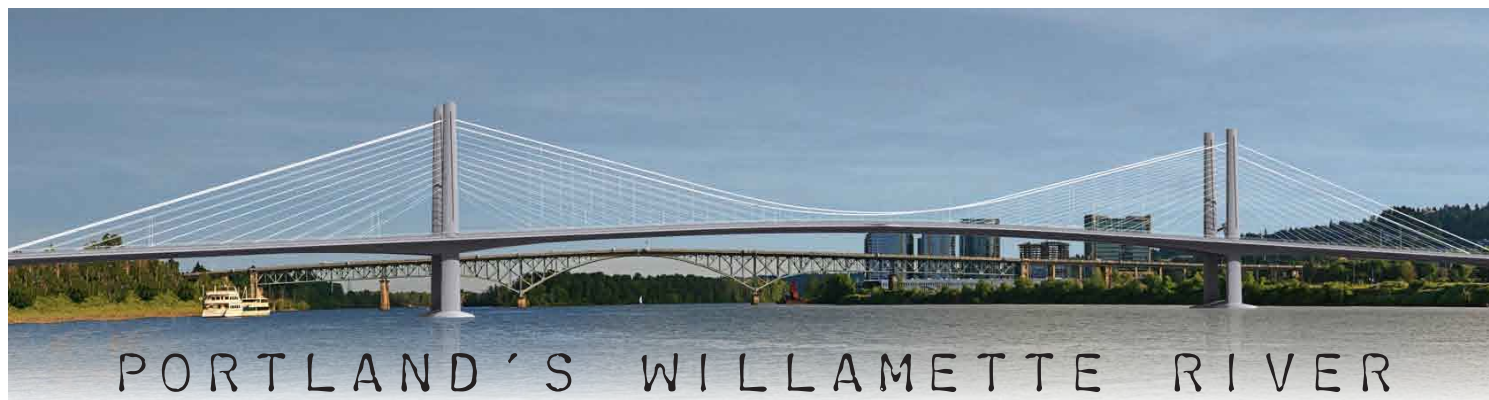


their personal stories. The park is the city's primary event space. The terraced design of the park reflects the River bluff and functions well for people-watching. While the park generally functions well for events, the decision to use turf in such a high traffic environment has led to on-going maintenance problems.



PARK FACTS:

- Melbourne's newest park by the river
- 20 Acre Park
- The design was influenced by the site's natural and industrial heritage:
 - » The shaping of the terraces and the drainage channels between them evoke the billabongs once found on the site
 - » Linear paths and bridge structures suggest the railways that dominated the site through much of Melbourne's history.
- The Park forms a link in the Capital City Trail - a shared use path for cyclists and pedestrians which circles the Melbourne city centre
- Birrarung means 'river of mists' in the language of the original wurundjeri people.
- Birrarung Marr's open spaces and sculptured terraces also host some of the city's best events and festivals
- Construction of Birrarung Marr began in 2000.
- The project was a joint venture by the City of Melbourne, which provided AUD \$15.6 million to design and build the park, and the State Government of Victoria, which funded the railway rationalization and clearance of the site.



The Previous Plan

The idea for Waterfront Park came at the turn of the century when Frederick Law Olmsted reported the need for a greenway on the river. And although the 1912 Bennett Plan again showed a need for more parks and river greenways, the city built sea walls and roads and did not connect back to the river until the 1970's. The Willamette Greenway Plan was adopted in 1987. The goal of the Willamette Greenway Plan was to protect, conserve, maintain, and enhance the scenic, natural, historical, economic, and recreational qualities of lands along the Willamette River. Early city planners included the vision for the Eastbank Esplanade in the 1988 Central City Plan. The City formed a citizen Eastbank Riverfront Project Advisory Committee (PAC) to provide project oversight to City staff.

The River Today

The Willamette River runs through the city, bisecting the central business district from its western portion. The decline of industry and the presence of national interstates along its banks made development a priority for the city in recent decades and currently.

Portland's *Eastbank Esplanade* is a well-used riverfront park and trail that provides an innovative form of access and connectivity along and across the Willamette River, despite the presence of the massive Interstate 5 freeway just yards to the East. The Esplanade facilitates North-South movement along the East bank of the river, extends the Willamette Greenway trail that covers both sides of the Willamette for the entirety of downtown Portland, and provides public spaces for recreational activities and community events. Bicyclists, runners, commuters and fishers can be observed enjoying the space year-round. Along the way historic interpretive signs tell the history of Portland's first settlements along the river and also act as means of way finding for the nearby neighborhood residents. There are 13 urban markers at key locations along the Esplanade that mark the eastside city street grid. There are also 22 interpretive panels that are attached to the markers. The

panels provide information about the river and the rich history of the area - from the building of Portland's bridges to the development of Portland's eastside. Each marker also includes unique lighting to illuminate the walkway at night.

Stretching the length of downtown, *Waterfront Park* is a 29-acre green corridor with a wide, paved walkway for strolling, biking, people watching or just relaxing on one of the many park benches looking over the water. Downtown office workers take lunch walks here, while joggers, couples and families with baby carriages flock to the park on weekends. Salmon Street Springs, a fountain at the end of Southwest Salmon Street, is a highlight of the park, especially in the summer when children come to splash in the dancing jets of water. Waterfront Park is also a busy event site, beginning with the huge Cinco de Mayo fiesta in May and the city's signature Rose Festival in early June. Wine, food and art festivals take turns throughout the warm months, leading up to a free outdoor Oregon Symphony concert each year in late summer. There are many other waterfront development projects that are geared at creating active uses and aiding in linking Portland's diverse neighborhoods and districts back to the rivers.

The Eastbank Esplanade and Waterfront Park connect via the *Steel Bridge RiverWalk*, a pedestrian and bicycle bridge erected as a separate span of the railroad and vehicle double-decker Steel Bridge. In addition to connecting the eastside and westside, the bridge offers bird's-eye vistas of the river. Riverwalk is on the lower (freight train) level of this steel bridge. The Steel Bridge carries heavy rail (passenger and freight), light rail, buses, cars, and trucks. A cantilevered walkway was added to allow bicyclists and pedestrians to cross as well, thus forming a 1.5 mile loop around the downtown stretch of the Willamette River, connecting linear trails on each bank and the bike/ped-friendly Hawthorne Bridge to the south. The Esplanade bike friendly bridge plus the comprehensive bikeway network have greatly increased bike use in Portland.



The River's Future

The River Plan/North Reach proposal, a 2009 update to the Willamette Greenway Plan, is today's comprehensive multi-objective plan for the land along the Willamette River. The width of the planning area varies from place to place but generally includes all land within approximately ¼ mile of the river.

Management and Organization

The River Renaissance, operated through the city's planning department, is geared at planning and development for all things related to the Willamette River. River Renaissance was launched in the fall of 2000, with a series of interactive workshops that resulted in a community vision for a revitalized Willamette River.

The Portland City Council enthusiastically endorsed the River Renaissance Vision in March 2001. The waterfront is viewed not as a discrete development project, but as an ongoing, layered approach to making the most of one of the city's finest assets. The initiative promotes and celebrates the Willamette River as their chief environmental, economic and urban asset.

RIVERPARK FACTS:

- Waterfront Park is a 29-acre green corridor
- 1200 feet in length, the esplanade boasts the country's longest floating walkway, bringing people right down to the water.
- Eastbank Esplanade was completed in 2001
- Eastbank Esplanade is 1.5 miles long
- 280 trees and 43,695 shrubs were planted along the Esplanade
- The Steel Bridge RiverWalk is 30 feet above the Willamette River
- 4 pieces of public art, created by group of local artists, are featured along the Eastbank Esplanade
- The fountain at Waterfront Park recycles 4,924 gallons of water per minute through as many as 137 jets at once
- Waterfront Park was completed and dedicated in 1978





SAINT PAUL'S MISSISSIPPI RIVER

The City

The City of Saint Paul is not only located on the great Mississippi River, it is also located within a national park – the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area – with nationally significant cultural, natural, recreational, economic, scenic, and ecological resources. The downtown riverfront revival includes parks, walkways, entertainment facilities and the lively Harriet Island Park.

The Plans

The Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework is the product of a three-year process to draft a vision for Saint Paul involving thousands of people from all sectors of the community. The Framework is intended to provide a level of confidence that will foster and guide reinvestment. It is a vision built on tenets of city building and guiding principle that celebrate Saint Paul's unique sense of place.

The Great River Park Master Plan is a joint effort of the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation (SPRC) and the City of Saint Paul (Planning and Economic Development and Parks & Recreation). The plan includes developing parks, improving public infrastructure, and promoting economic development along the Mississippi River. The four tenets

of future river corridor development are: more urban, more green, connect to the neighborhoods, and celebrate the river as a regional / national asset.

Management and Organization

The Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation is a private non-profit that provides leadership for the implementation of the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework, the city's vision and redevelopment agenda for its downtown. It is governed by a board of directors from all sectors of Saint Paul's diverse community including business and government leaders. Its operating funds are provided by Twin Cities foundations and corporations. The principal partners of the Riverfront Corporation are the City of Saint Paul, Saint Paul Port Authority and Capital City Partnership. The mission of the Saint Paul Riverfront Corporation is to reconnect the city of Saint Paul and its people, places, and neighborhoods to the Mississippi River in ways that are consistent with the Saint Paul on the Mississippi Development Framework.



PARK FACTS:

- At 17 miles, Saint Paul has more miles of Mississippi River Valley than any other municipality along the entire length of the river.
- The Saint Paul river valley includes 6 public parks providing over 3,500 acres of flood plain and bluff tops for wildlife habitat, scenic views, outdoor recreation, and special events.
- Saint Paul has successfully transformed an underutilized industrial riverfront area into a mixed use zone with world class River parks.
- The location of the Science Museum and relocation of Shepard Road were important actions to help foster riverfront development.
- A new Park Conservancy group is being formed to assist with fund raising.
- Downtown riverfront parkland acquisitions and development started in 1985 and is largely complete with the completion of Phase II of Harriet Island and construction of Raspberry Island Park.





San Antonio's River Walk

The River's Story

The original River Walk began as flood control. In 1924, the San Antonio Conservation Society battled to keep the river afloat and backed a design proposed by Robert H.H. Hugman in 1929—the River Walk. Civic leaders urged clean-up and beautification of the river and soon thereafter establish the San Antonio River Authority. The first major redevelopment project began 1939 and was completed in 1941. A river carnival and night parade were held to celebrate new walkways, stairways to street level, footbridge, rock walls lining the banks, and various other restorations.

In 1957 park rangers were assigned to the river and by 1961 a new plan was developed suggesting that all buildings that back up to the river be designed in an early-Texas or Mexican-colonial style, and that, when possible, open onto the River Walk level to accommodate retail and entertainment facilities. These plans lead to a future of frequent public festival along the river.

In 1962 the Chamber of Commerce and City of San Antonio establish the River Walk District and a seven-member River Walk Advisory Commission. The Paseo del Rio Association was formed in 1964. This association is primarily responsible for programming and promotion of the River Walk today.

The River Today

The San Antonio River Walk (also known as Paseo del Río) is a network of walkways along the banks of the San Antonio River, one story beneath downtown San Antonio, Texas. Lined by bars, shops and restaurants, the River Walk is an important part of the city's urban fabric; and along with the Alamo, one of the top two attractions in the state. The River Walk is the unique attraction of San Antonio. More than 2.5 miles of the San Antonio River, flowing through the heart of downtown, has been converted into a beautifully landscaped riparian canyon. Its banks are lined with trees, tropical flowers, waterfalls and meander-

ing walkways. Numerous picturesque bridges traverse it, and tour boats constantly travel through its placid waters. Residents and tourists alike flock to the River Walk to visit the restaurants, bars, nightclubs, shops, hotels, and shopping malls. On weekends, the River Walk is jumping with music, entertainment and activity.

The Future of the River

A comprehensive, multi-year project is underway to restore and enhance 13 miles of the San Antonio River both north and south of downtown. The River Walk's new addition, with more miles of shops, galleries, and restaurants, connects to the San Antonio Museum of Art and culminates at the 125-year-old Pearl Brewery, a vibrant urban village. New public art installations line the banks and integrate sound, waterfalls, architecture, light, and movement. The lush landscapes, quaint pathways, outdoor art and relaxing outdoor patios evoke the renowned public spaces of Europe.

Management/Organization

The River Walk is maintained and operated as a park by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. A concerted community effort to revitalize the river began in 1998 when Bexar County, the City of San Antonio and the San Antonio River Authority created the San Antonio River Oversight Committee. The 22 civic and neighborhood leaders appointed to the committee were given the responsibility of overseeing the planning, design, project management, construction and funding necessary to complete the project. In addition, the committee was charged with providing an open public forum for citizen input into the project's development. The Oversight Committee meets monthly and is co-chaired by former mayor Lila Cockrell and architect Irby Hightower.



To Model

- The new addition of the River Walk successfully incorporates public art installations that highlight the experiential qualities of the region and request observers to use all of their senses. Located primarily on bridges and overpasses, these art installations serve as gateways - offering identity and way-finding to the River and its' greater context.
- The project has great web documentation where all of the plans can be seen online: <http://www.sanantonioriver.org/overview.html>
- The project also has a website that highlights the project's progress through maps, videos, and photos: <http://www.sanantonioriver.org/museumreach.php>

RIVER WALK FACTS:

- San Antonio's top outdoor attraction
- Millions of visitors each year
- In just a few years the River Walk will expand from 2 miles to 13 miles.
- The source of the river's headwaters are natural springs that are part of a vast underground lake called the Edwards Aquifer, also a source of drinking water for much of the Hill Country and San Antonio.
- The headwaters of the San Antonio River are just outside of downtown, thus explaining the rather diminutive size of the river.



Australia's Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park

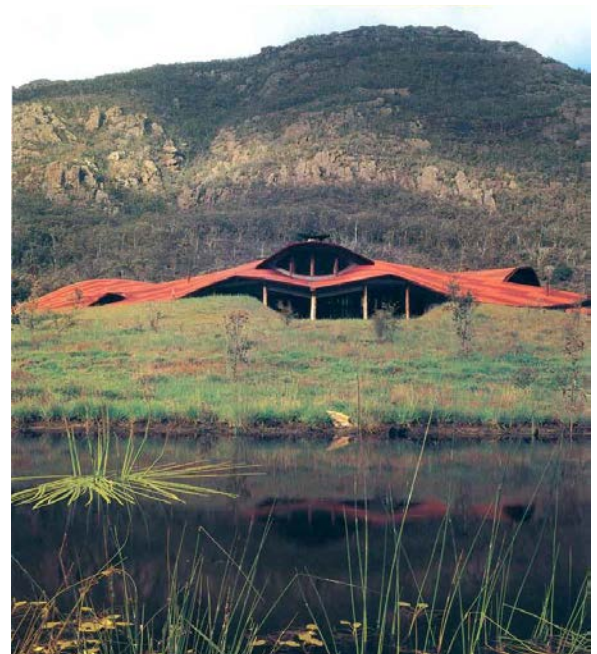
Nature & Culture

The Park's Story

Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park is a world-class visitor destination and a key part of Australia's iconic Red Centre. This living cultural landscape is the physical and metaphoric heart of Australia, and was one of the first areas to be identified as a National Landscape. Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park was inscribed on the World Heritage List in two stages, initially for its outstanding universal natural values in 1987 and then for its outstanding universal cultural values in 1994. A number of walks allow you to explore the base of Uluru and Kata Tjuta National Park, but first you should visit the Cultural Center

The Cultural Center

An award-winning cultural center, the Uluru-Kata Tjuta Cultural Centre is packed with multilingual displays, videos, and exhibitions. It contains excellent information and resources of the surrounding area's geology and history. The cultural center helps visitors understand Anangu culture and the very special cultural and natural environment. At the Cultural Centre you can get an introduction to Tjukurpa (law, knowledge, religion, philosophy), Anangu art, Anangu way of life (traditional and current), history, languages, wildlife and joint management of the Park. The displays feature photo collages, oral history sound panels, Pitjantjatjara language learning interactives, soundscapes, videos and artifacts. There are bush tucker sessions, plants walks and cultural sessions for visitors to experience. Cultural Centre notes are provided in Pitjantjatjara, English, Italian, Japanese, German and French. A touch wall for visually impaired people ensures that the messages are accessible to everyone.





Management/Organization

In 1985 the Park was granted as Aboriginal land and began to be jointly managed by Anangu and the Commonwealth. It was agreed between Anangu would lease the Park to the Government for 99 years and that Anangu would receive an annual rent and share of Park revenue. The Uluru-Kata Tjuta Board of Management was established under the National Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act 1975 on 10 December 1985 and held its first meeting on 22 April 1986. The Board of Management continues under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. Of the 12 members of the Board of Management, eight Aboriginal members are nominated by the Anangu traditional owners, one member is nominated by the federal minister responsible for tourism and approved by Anangu, one member is nominated by the federal minister responsible for the environment and approved by Anangu, one member is nominated by the Northern Territory Government and approved by Anangu, and one member is the Director of National Parks. A recent programming change brought about the utilization of aboriginal tour guides and brings a stronger connection to the local culture and history.

PARK FACTS:

- Uluru is Australia's most recognizable natural icon.
- In 1987, Uluru National Park was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage natural property.
- The Park is ranked as one of the most significant arid land ecosystems in the world.
- Anangu are the traditional Aboriginal owners of Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park.





Chaco Culture National Historic Park

Overview

Chaco Culture National Historical Park is a United States National Historical Park and it is a portion of a UNESCO World Heritage Site hosting the densest and most exceptional concentration of pueblos in the American Southwest. For 300 years the Anasazi Chacoan villages - most based on a single walled enclosure with hundreds of inter-linked rooms known as a great house, were at the centre of a network of roads and outlying settlements that extended 100 miles to the south, west and north.

Management and Organization

Chaco Culture National Historical Park is managed by the National Park Service, a federal agency within the Department of the Interior; neighboring federal lands hosting Chacoan roads are under the control of the Bureau of Land Management. In the 2002–2003 fiscal year, the park's total annual operating budget was US \$1,434,000. Located in the arid and inhospitable Four Corners region, the Chacoan cultural sites are fragile; fears of erosion caused by tourists have led to the closure of Fajada Butte to the public. The sites are considered sacred ancestral homelands of the Hopi and Pueblo people, who continue to maintain oral traditions recounting their historical migration from Chaco and their spiritual relationship to the land.[6][7] Though park preservation efforts can conflict with native religious beliefs, tribal representatives work closely with the National Park Service to share their knowledge and respect the heritage of the Chacoan culture.

To Model

Visitors Guide book downloadable from web

2007 Foundation Plan for Operations and Management

<http://www.nps.gov/chcu/parkmgmt/upload/CHCU%20Foundation%20Plan.pdf>

Interpretive Themes:

A - Chaco's monumental architecture.

B — Present-day Indigenous communities (Pueblos, Hopi, Navajo, and others).

C — Remote location offers opportunities to ponder the relationships between people and complex natural environments and cultural landscapes.

D — Focal point for understanding continuing controversies that surround the study of ancient cultural sites.



Each topic area of the Plan includes information and recommendations on the following:

- » Fundamental Resource / Value
- » Other Important Resource / Value
- » Importance
- » Concerns and Opportunities
- » Trends
- » Stakeholder Interest
- » Relevant Laws and Regulations
- » Desired Conditions (general law and policy guidance)
- » Strategy (management direction within law and guidance)
- » Existing Planning Guidance
- » Planning Needs
- » Data and Analysis Needs

The input of a Chaco Consultation Committee was used to help define interpretive themes and actions.

World Heritage Site Report:

Submission for WHO status -

<http://www.nps.gov/chcu/parkmgmt/upload/Chaco%20WH%20periodic%20report%203-23%20final%20edit.doc>

Teachers Field Guide:

Guide for educators and student field trips -

<http://www.nps.gov/chcu/forteachers/index.htm>

PARK FACTS:

- In 1987, the park was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

