

Riverfront Crossings Park



RFP
Pre-submittal meeting
December 18, 2015

Welcome!

City of Iowa City

- Department of Neighborhood and Development Services
- Department of Parks and Recreation
- Department of Public Works
- City Manager's Office

Agenda

- Background and Overview of the Project
- Q & A
- Walking Tour



Bird's Eye View of Riverfront Crossings looking East



June 2008

Wake-up Call

Challenges and Opportunities

- Chance to rethink our relationship to the Iowa River and Ralston Creek
- Create a more flood resilient community in response to more frequent and more severe flood events
- Opportunity to create a new riverfront park to celebrate who we are as a community.



Riverfront Crossings

Planning since 2008 Flood

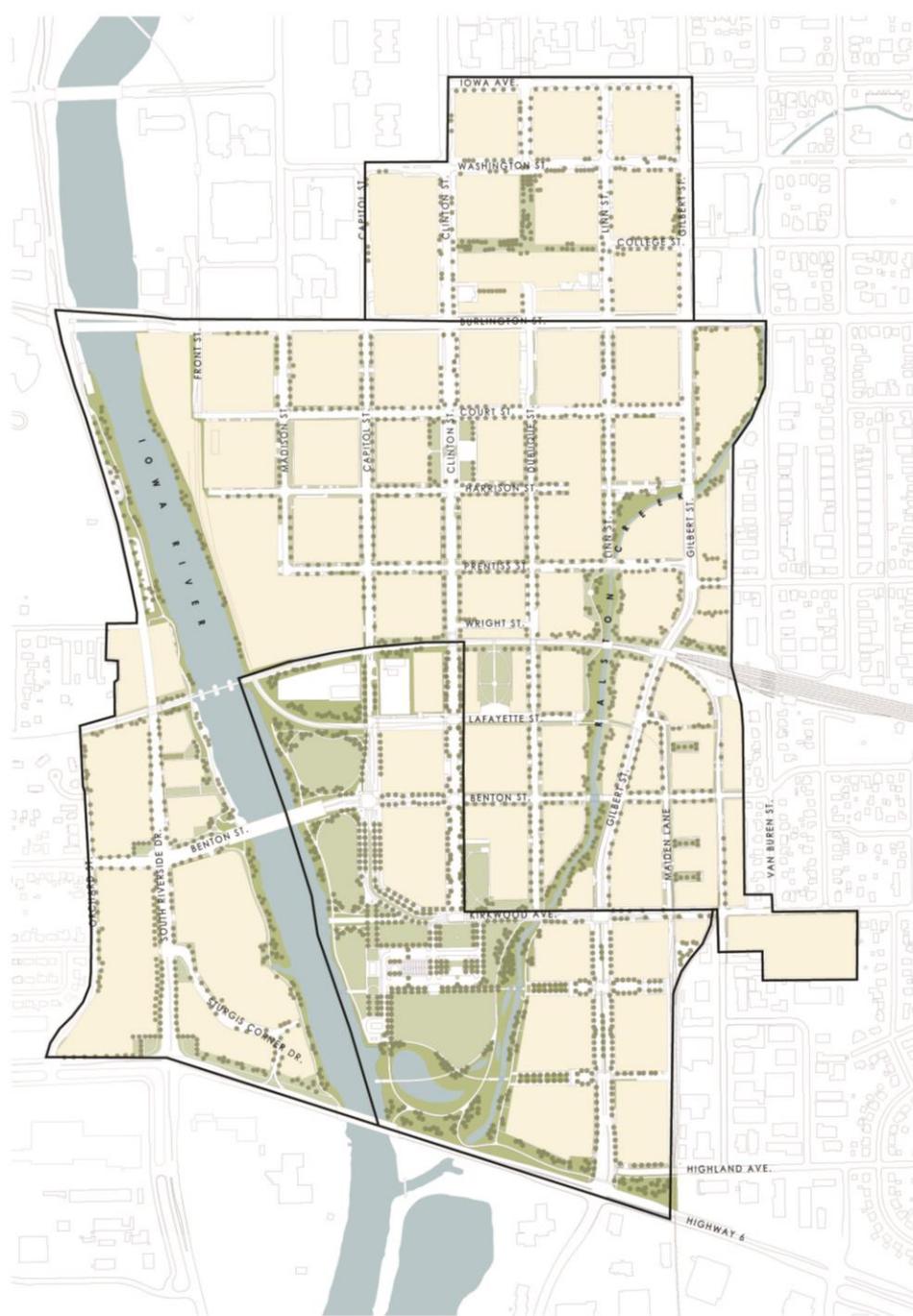
- 2008 Flood
- 2009 EPA technical assistance to promote sustainable redevelopment in flood-damaged Iowa communities
- 2010 – Iowa City one of only 5 communities in the country to be selected by the EPA for their Brownfield Pilot Program (Partnership for Sustainable Communities)
- 2011 – Adoption of Sub-area Plan for Riverfront Crossings
- 2013 – Adoption of the Downtown and Riverfront Crossings Master Plan
- 2014 – Adoption of the form-based zoning code for RFC
- 2015 - Iowa River Restoration Project and Riverfront Crossings Park master planning effort

Riverfront Crossings Plan Map



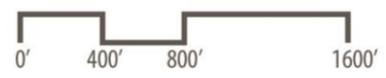
Goals for Riverfront Crossings

- Encourage pedestrian-oriented, mixed-use redevelopment
- Create a resilient riverfront park system
- Enhance Ralston Creek to become a community asset
- Develop a multi-modal transportation network
- Promote sustainable design practices within the district - green building and green infrastructure
- Celebrate Iowa City as a center for art and culture



public realm

- Development Blocks
- Manicured Landscape
- Naturalized Landscape
- Trees
- Existing Waterways
- Study Area Boundaries



Urban Context of the Park - Character Rendering



Park Master Plan

- Park Elements
- Adventure Elements
- Riverfront Connection and Circulation Plan
- Celebration of Arts and Culture Elements





TETRA TECH

complex world

CLEAR SOLUTIONS™

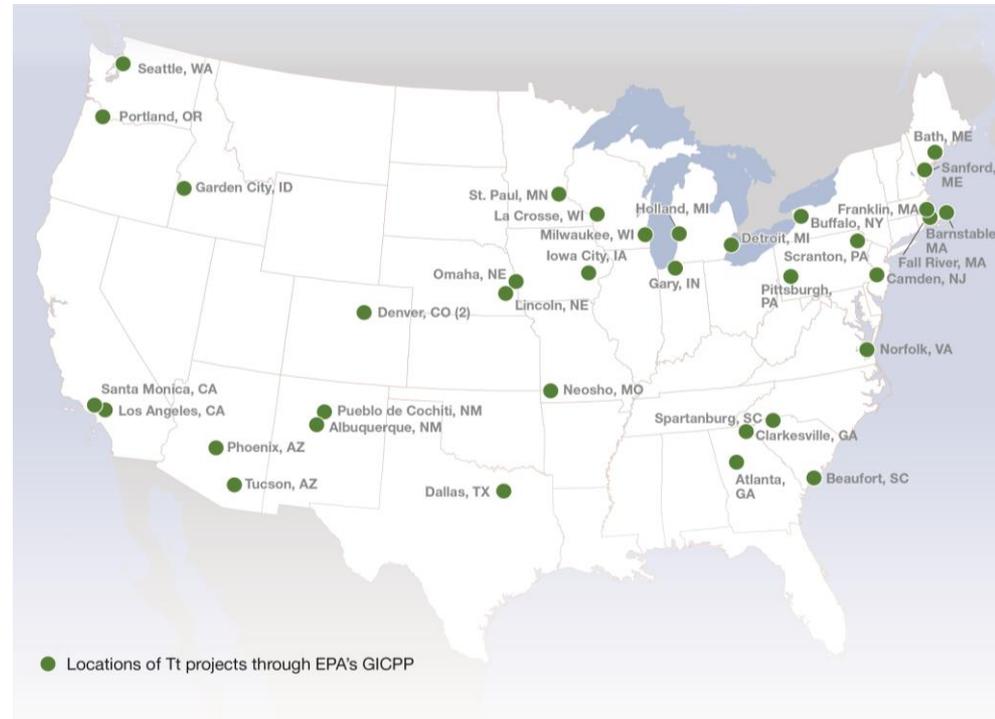
North Wastewater Treatment Plant Restoration

Russ Dudley, PE, LEED AP



EPA Green Infrastructure Program

- EPA Technical Assistance Projects
- Creating green infrastructure **conceptual designs**
- **Quantifying the benefits** of green infrastructure
- Exploring options for green infrastructure **outreach**



Connection to the Park



Source: RDG

- Exposure to multiple ecosystem types
- Public access to Ralston Creek and a variety of vantage points
- Green infrastructure opportunities throughout the park
 - Pervious parking/sidewalks
 - Rain gardens
 - Conservation grading
 - Community gardens
- Educational signage and research

Goals for Riverfront Crossings Park

- Promote better environmental stewardship of our urban waters;
- **Improve public access to the Iowa River for boating, fishing and wildlife viewing;**
- Transform the land from impervious industrial hardscape into a regenerative and flood-resilient riverfront greenspace with a focus on:
 - Native trees and landscapes
 - Improved riparian corridors
 - Wetlands;
 - River and stream bank restoration;
 - Open greens, gardens and plazas
- **Create a variety of active and passive spaces that invite quiet contemplation, play, nature exploration, education, community gathering and celebration;**
- Include features and programming that celebrate Iowa City as a “river town” and as a center of literature, art, and local history and culture;
- **Consider the park a “changeable canvas” that can be adaptable to current and future needs and desires of the community.**

Celebrate who we are...

- City of Literature
 - Appreciation and importance of word/language/literature
 - Role of literature in Iowa City
 - Connecting writers to readers
 - Developing new audiences for literature
- Celebrate Art and Artists
 - Opportunities for public art
 - Using art for wayfinding and to highlight educational components
- Celebrate Iowa City as a “River Town”
 - Connecting Art and Environment
 - Education and Programming

- BOAT RAMP
- RESTROOM / TOOL STORAGE BUILDINGS
- COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS
- DOG PARK
- EAST RIVER TRAIL
- NATIVE PLANTINGS
- ORNAMENTAL GARDEN
- OPEN MEADOW
- TERRACES
- KIRKWOOD PROMENADE

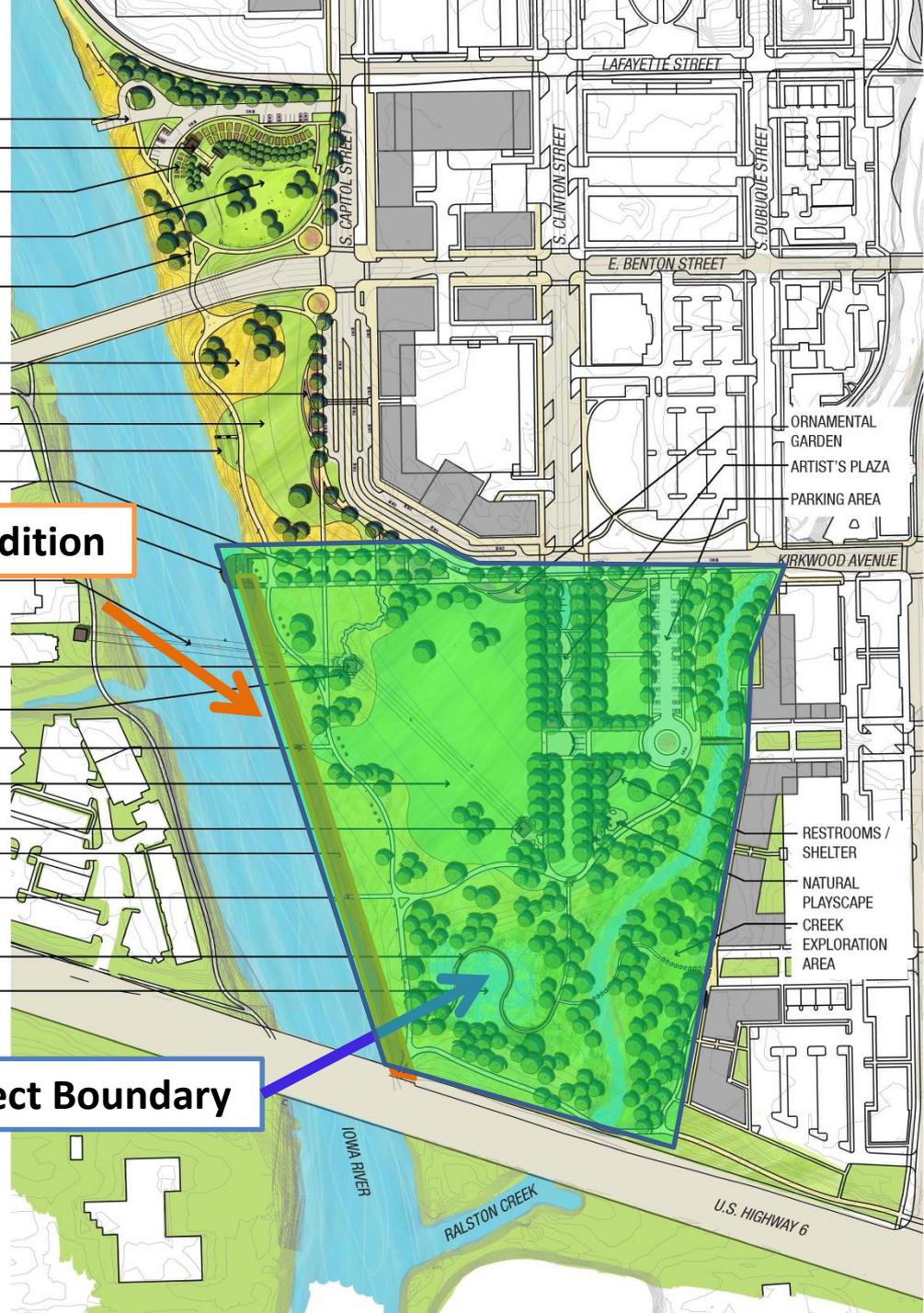
- ORNAMENTAL GARDEN
- ARTIST'S PLAZA
- PARKING AREA

Assess Riverbank condition

- ZIP LINE OVER RIVER (OPTION)
- ZIP LINE TOWER
- BOULDERING COURSE
- RIVER OVERLOOK
- OPEN MEADOW
- ZIP LINE TOWER
- TERRACES
- RIVER OVERLOOK
- WETLAND BOARDWALK
- WETLAND / FLOOD PLAIN RESTORATION

- RESTROOMS / SHELTER
- NATURAL PLAYSCAPE
- CREEK EXPLORATION AREA

Project Boundary



IOWA RIVER

RALSTON CREEK

U.S. HIGHWAY 6

LAFAYETTE STREET

E. BENTON STREET

KIRKWOOD AVENUE

S. CAPITOL STREET

S. CLINTON STREET

S. DUBUQUE STREET

Project Objectives

Preliminary & Final Design

- Restoration of Ralston Creek
- Constructed, off-channel wetlands

Preliminary Design + ?

- Creek exploration area, stream crossings, wetland boardwalk, and trail connections to IRC trail, and east and west banks of Ralston Creek



Project Objectives

Functional Design for:

- Entryway Plaza
 - Optional: City of Literature elements and primary entranceway feature
- Park shelter/restrooms
- Natural playscape
- Parking area
- Riverfront trails
- River overlooks



Project Objectives

- General Landscaping Plan for the project area
- Assess the need for riverbank stabilization/ restoration and develop plan for restoration work, as necessary
- Assess RR bridge over Ralston Creek for potential repurposing for pedestrian use
- Work with Mid-American Energy to develop a plan for removal / relocation of overhead electric lines and a plan for providing utility connections to serve the needs of the park



Artful Rainwater Design

- Objective of the Riverfront Crossings Plan to promote stormwater BMPs
- Take these practices one step further within Riverfront Crossings Park – add amenity value.
- “Landscape amenity that celebrates rain, encouraging visitors to learn about, be entertained by, or otherwise enjoy the rainwater-focused landscape”

-Artful Rainwater Design

Stuart Ecols and Eliza Pennypacker



Additional Information

- Wastewater Treatment Plant - post demolition drawings
- Draft grading plan that coincides with park concept plan
- Environmental Assessment was completed for the demolition and as part of the conceptual master planning for the park
 - Wetland delineation – no wetlands present
 - Cultural Resources
 - No further archeological investigations were recommended
- **Further study may be needed:**
 - Endangered bat habitat assessment
 - Mussel reconnaissance
- Section 404 permit from the USACE
- Additional soil testing
- Review of EA reports and update as necessary

Questions?



www.icgov.org/riverfrontcrossings