



MINNEAPOLIS
PARKS
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Our Mission

The Minneapolis Parks Foundation transforms human lives through parks and public spaces by aligning philanthropic investment and community vision.



@MplsParksFndtn
@ThomasjEvers

Tom Evers – Executive Director
tevers@mplsparksfoundation.org

Horace Cleveland's Plan



Horace Cleveland's initial plan for the city envisioned the Grand Rounds as an interconnected park system linked by a parkway.

The Mississippi River from the Northern border to downtown was left unfinished.

When complete, RiverFirst will link North and Northeast Minneapolis to the River through parks and trails for the first time in the city's history.

Water Works Stories: Mill District Water Power



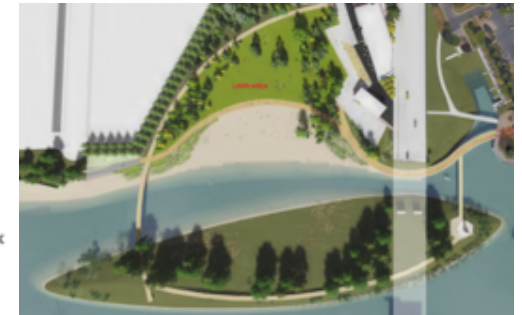
Upper Riverfront - aerial view looking south



Mississippi River to Grand Rounds



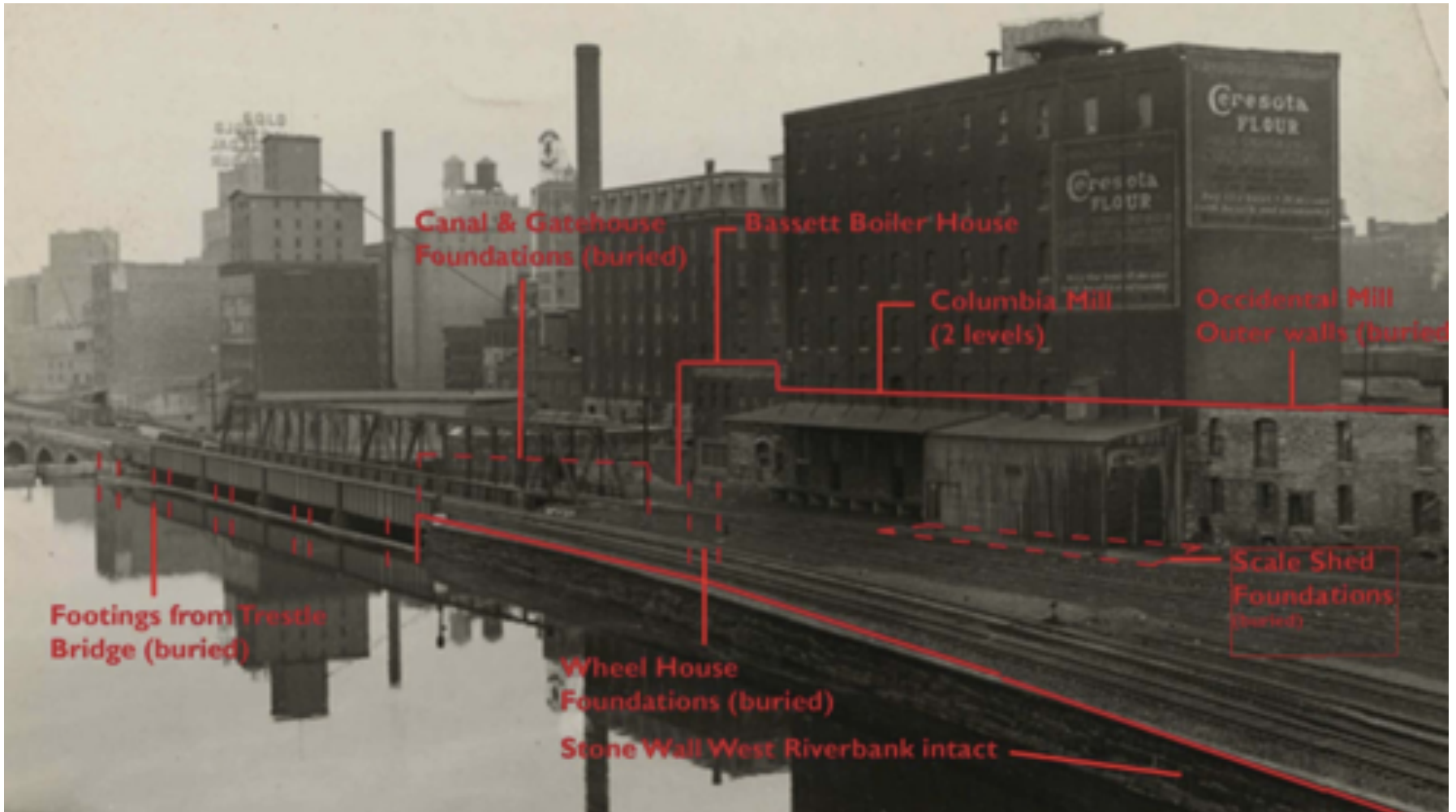
RiverFirst Signature Projects



Mississippi River Central Riverfront – Water Works



Historic Mill District ca. 1933

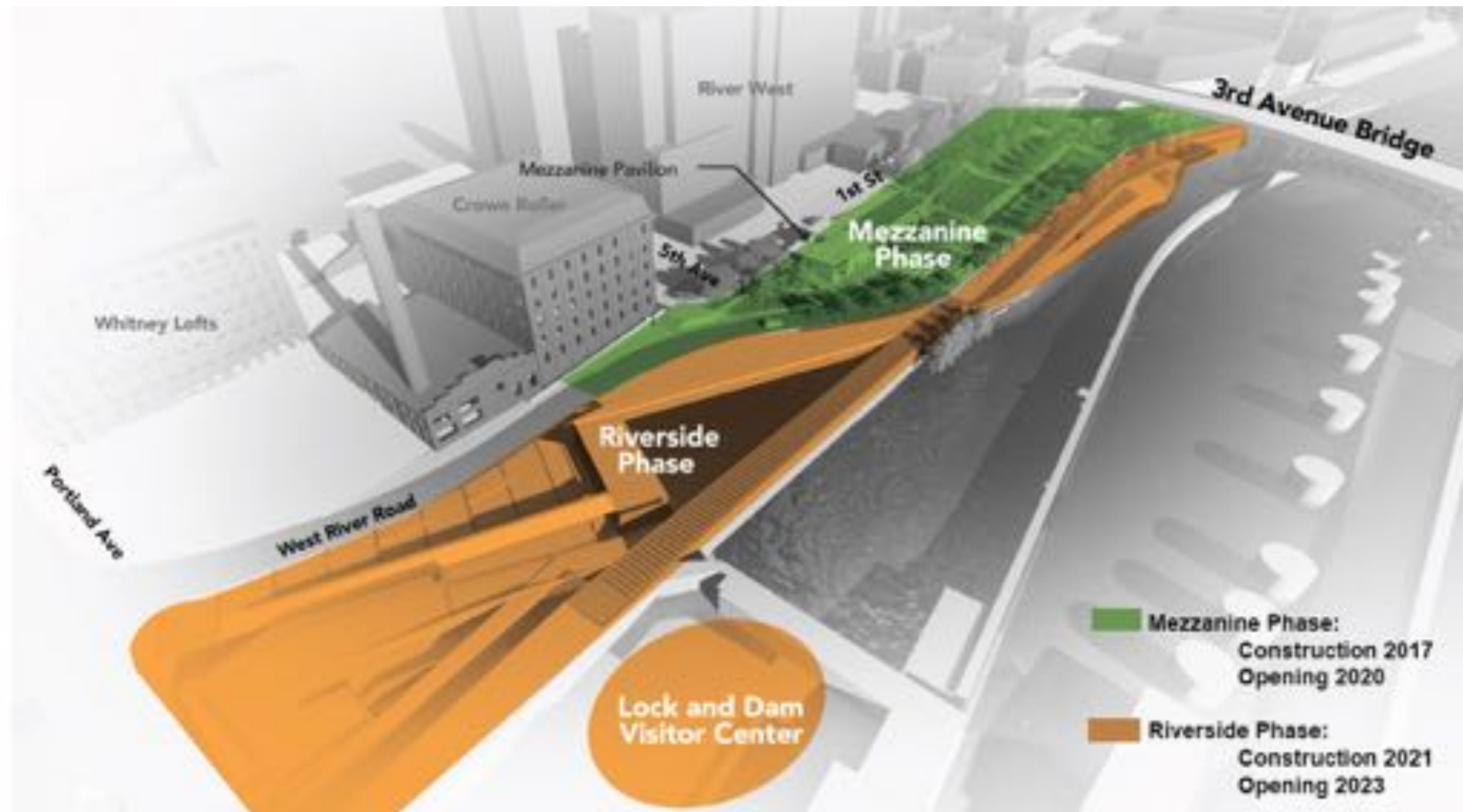




Columbia Mill Ruins



Water Works - phasing strategy



Water Works Overview



Water Works - Pavilion Plaza



Water Works – restaurant interior



Water Works – Mezzanine Lawn & City Steps



Water Works Pavilion



Water Works – construction



Photos Courtesy of Doug Verdier



Upper Harbor Terminal

Riverfront Trails

Great Northern Greenway River Link

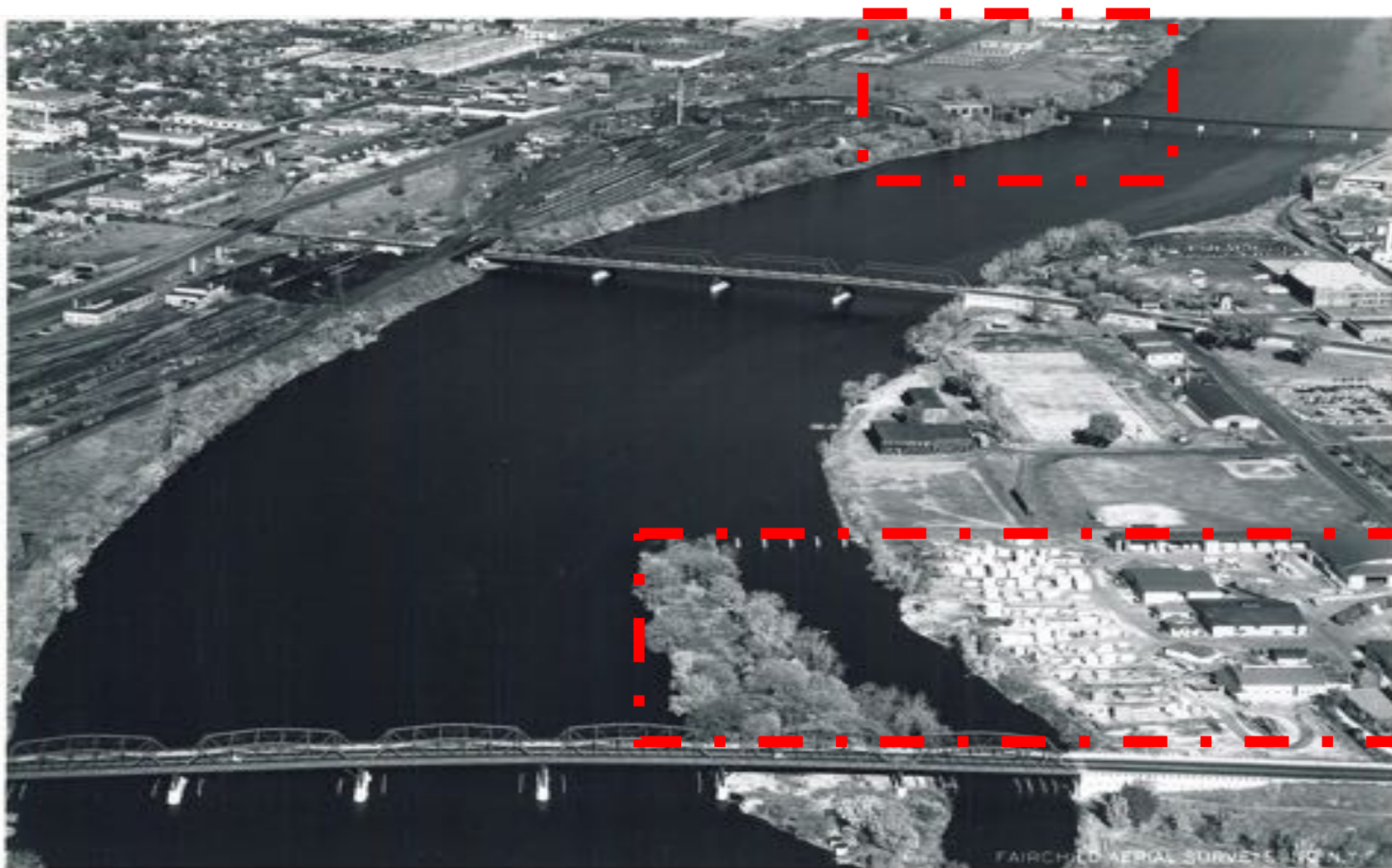
Sheridan Memorial Park

Hall's Island - Graco Park

Water Works



Hall's Island & Scherer Site ca. 1955



Hall's Island & Graco Park



The site of a former lumber yard, Hall's Island will be reclaimed as a biohaven for native riparian species and as the first public beach serving Northeast Minneapolis.

Hall's Island & Graco Park





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Water Works





Great Northern Greenway River Link Site Context



Great Northern Greenway River Link



When completed, the Great Northern Greenway River Link will provide a pedestrian crossing connecting North and Northeast Minneapolis neighborhoods across the Mississippi River and along the length of the River – fulfilling a 140-year vision.

Great Northern Greenway River Link





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Upper Harbor Terminal – down river view



Upper Harbor Terminal – down river view



Community Engagement



We prioritize engaging community members with RiverFirst so all benefit from the park and trail improvements and new jobs provide relief for neighborhoods that have traditionally been left out of the Minneapolis economy.

RiverFirst as a National Model



Mississippi River to Grand Rounds



The RiverFirst Vision will transform lives through parks and the public realm, made possible by creative public private partnerships.

