Project Purpose & Outcomes

Create Design Concept:

- Improve Access & Function
- Economic Development
- Ecological Improvement

Project Team

- Columbus Redevelopment Commission
  - Sarah Cannon
  - John Dorenbush
  - George Dutro
  - Donn Trapp
  - Robert Abrams
  - Al Roszcyk
  - Frank Jerome

Project Team

- Riverfront Steering Committee
  - Dave Hayward – City Engineer
  - Don Trapp – Redevelopment Commission
  - Heather Pope – Columbus Redevelopment
  - Mark Jones – Parks Department
  - Tom Dell – City Council/Downtown Merchants
  - Jeff Logston – Pumphouse
  - Karen Valiquett – CORE Planning

Project Team

- Riverfront Community Advisory Committee
  - Kathryn Armstrong – Columbus Area Arts Council
  - Sarah Cannon – Redevelopment Commission
  - Dave Hayward – City Engineer
  - Kyle Hendricks – Columbus Young Professionals
  - Jean Donica – Riverfront Property Owner
  - Alicia Jamerson – Citizen
  - Mark Jones – Parks Department
  - Tom Dell – City Council/Downtown Merchants
  - Jim Lienhoop – Mayor
  - Jeff Logston – Pumphouse
  - Richard McCoy – Landmark Columbus
  - Karen Niverson – Visitors Center
  - Scott Poling – Old National Bank
  - Russ Poling – Citizen
  - Heather Pope – Columbus Redevelopment
  - Tracy Souza – Heritage Fund
  - Don Trapp – Redevelopment Commission

Consultant Team

HITCHCOCK DESIGN GROUP
creating better places®

STRAND ASSOCIATES®

S2O REINVENTING WHITEWATER

Market & Feasibility Advisors

CBB

CORE PLANNING STRATEGIES

Rick
Leadership, strategy, group facilitation
Hitchcock Design Group

Randy
Project Management
Hitchcock Design Group

Dan
Market Economics
Market & Feasibility Advisors

Scott
River Recreation
S2O Design and Engineering

Brian
Water Resources Engineering
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC

Angela
Local Liason,
Public Engagement
Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LLC

Bill
Civil, Structural, & Electrical Engineering
Strand Associates

Karen
City Project Manager
CORE Planning Strategies

Deb
Managing Principal
CORE Planning Strategies

Process

Opportunity Analysis
April, 2017

- Public Outreach Plan
- Information Gathering
- **Public Workshop**
- Market Analysis
- Opportunity Analysis

Alternative Riverfront Concepts
July, 2017

- Strategy
- Preliminary recommendations
- Preferred Concept
- Preliminary Report
- Public Open House

Riverfront Concept Plan
September, 2017

- Final Concept Report
- Implementation Table
- Improvement Guidelines
- Presentation to City Council

Workshop Agenda

- Riverfront today
- Preliminary Opportunity Analysis
  - Resources
  - Marketplace
  - Stakeholders
- Riverfront tomorrow
- Next steps

Opportunity Analysis

Riverfront today

Describe the riverfront in 2017.

Resources

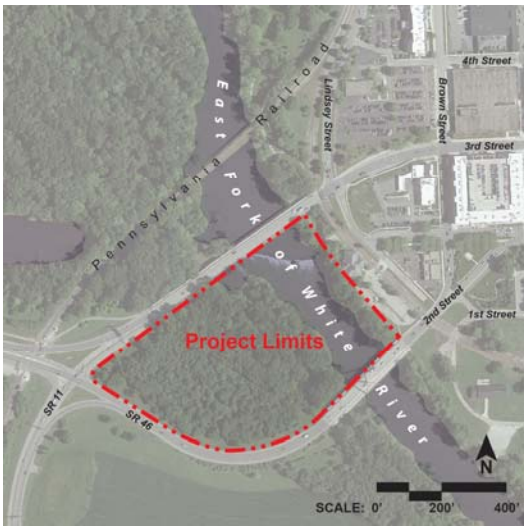
- Context
- Natural
- Structural
- Infrastructure
- Cultural
- Financial

Regional Context

- Surrounding cities with improved riverfronts:
  - Indianapolis (Canal)
  - Evansville
  - New Albany
  - Clarksville
  - Jeffersonville
  - Louisville
  - Cincinnati

The Site

- Includes the East and West banks of the river.
- **Acreage** (approximate):
  - East bank: 1 acre
  - West Bank: 13.4 acres
  - River: 5 acres
  - Total: 19.4 acres
- Riverfront length:
  - 737 feet



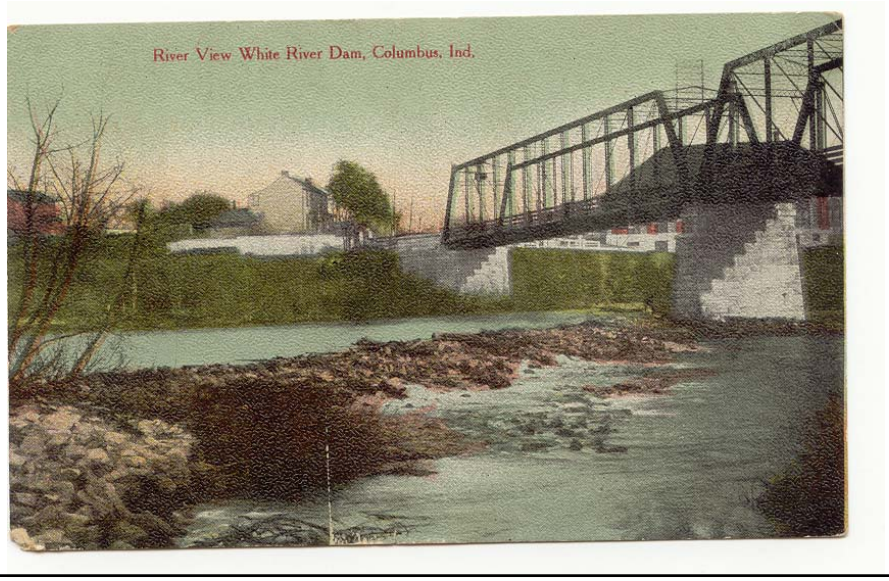
History

- **1821:** The first ferry that crossed the river was in this general location
- **1871:** The first Pumphouse was created
- **1890:** The original dam was constructed
- **1902:** The Pumphouse that we know today was constructed
- **1911:** The Water Works Swimming Pool was created south of the 2nd St. Bridge
- **1936:** The concrete dam was constructed across the river
- **1999:** The 2nd Street Bridge was completed

Site History

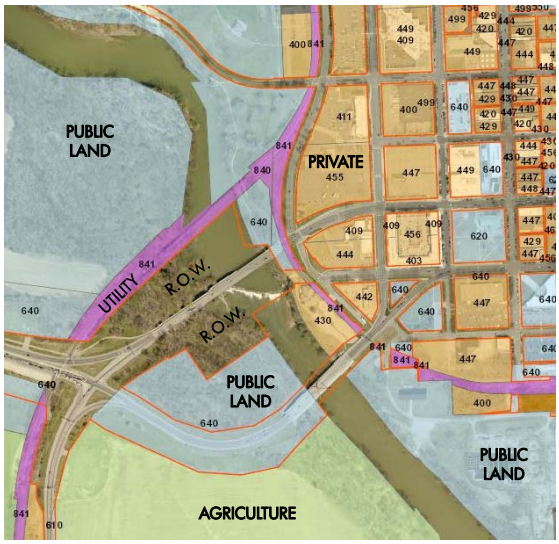
Site History

Site History



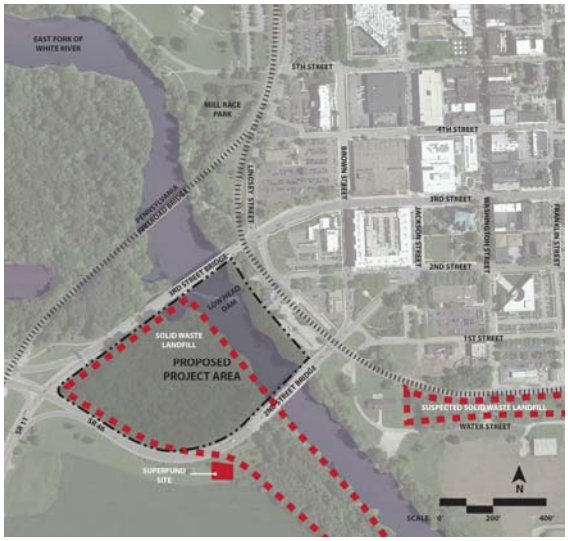
Property Ownership

- Public
- Private
- INDOT ROW
- Utility
- Agriculture



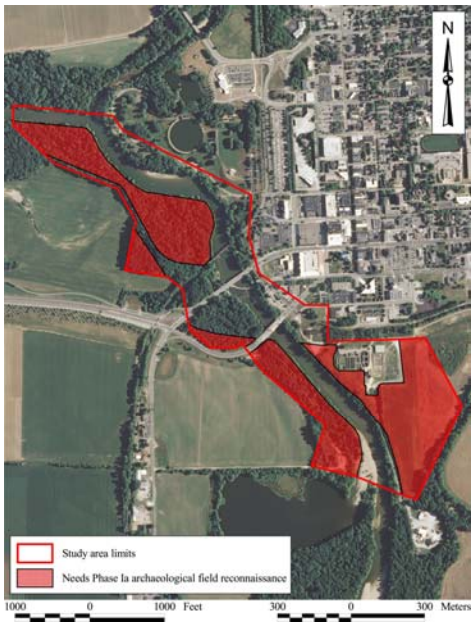
Landfill

- Solid Waste Landfill on the West bank
- **Former** Superfund Site (south of project area)



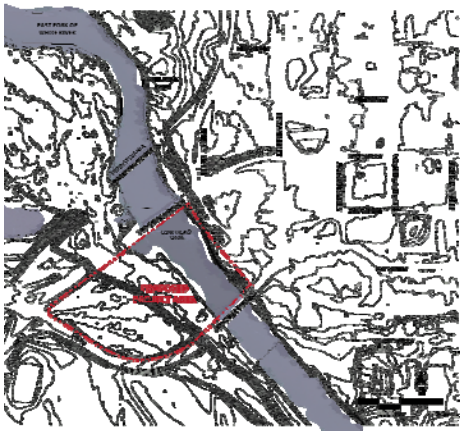
Archaeology

- There are a number of archaeological sites in the nearby area.
- Areas in red have potential archaeological significance.
- Recommended for Phase 1a archaeological field reconnaissance



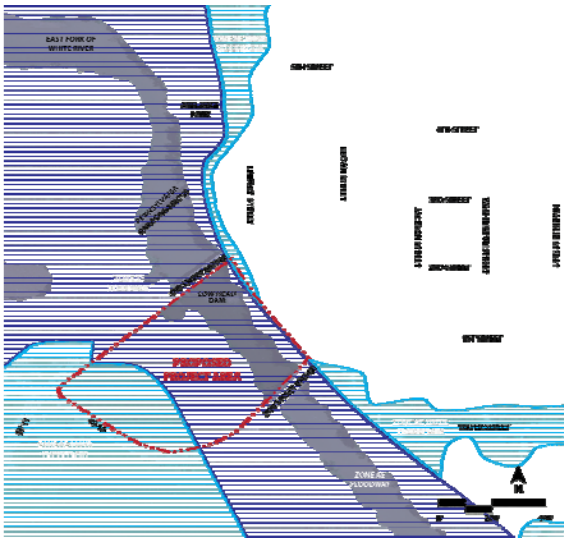
Topography

- Steep/High banks
  - West Bank: 21' Elevation change
  - East Bank: 18' Elevation Change
- Bridge constrictions
- Floodplain connectivity



Site Hydrology

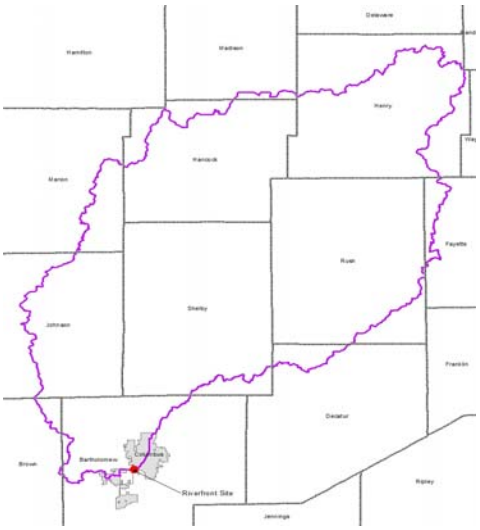
- Floodway
  - Project expected to result in negligible change to floodway
- Floodplain
  - Project expected to result in negligible change to floodway
  - Potential for very minor benefit
- Low Head Dam



Site Characteristics

Water Related

- Contributing watershed
  - Flatrock
    - 541 mi^2
    - 80% Ag
  - Driftwood
    - 1,164 mi^2
    - 69% Ag
  - East Fork White
    - 1,705 mi^2
    - 72% Ag
- Confluence influence
  - Complex flow situation
  - Minor impact on design



Low Head Dams

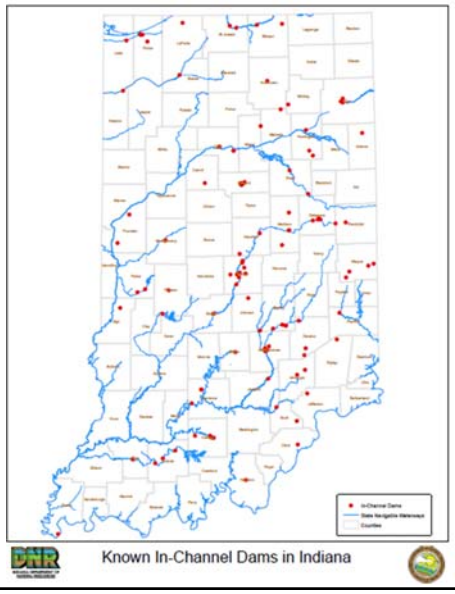
Purpose

- Weir structure that produces vertical drop
  - Typically concrete
- Constructed across rivers and streams to raise water level to:
  - Improve municipal/industrial water supply
  - Produce hydropower
  - Fill navigation canals
  - Divert flow for irrigation
  - Power gristmills
- Many abandoned and in disrepair creating dangerous condition to public

Low Head Dams

Safety

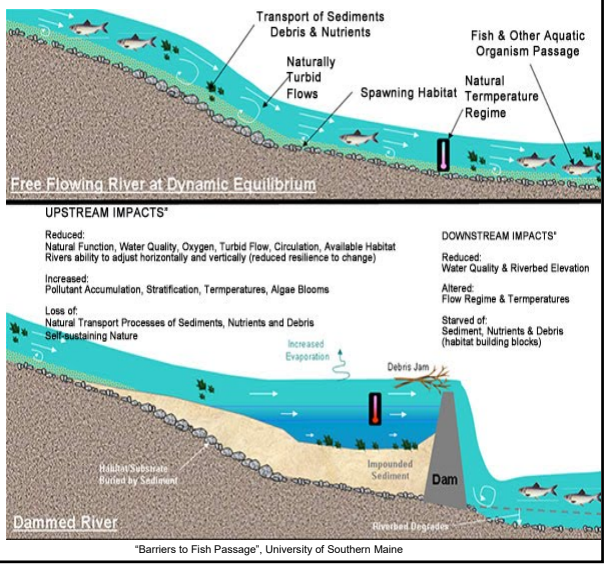
- Data from 2014 ASDSO Survey
  - 2,700 – 4,400+ low head dams in United States
  - Between 1960 and 2014:
    - 287 fatalities
    - 71 injuries in 235 incidents



Low Head Dams

Impacts

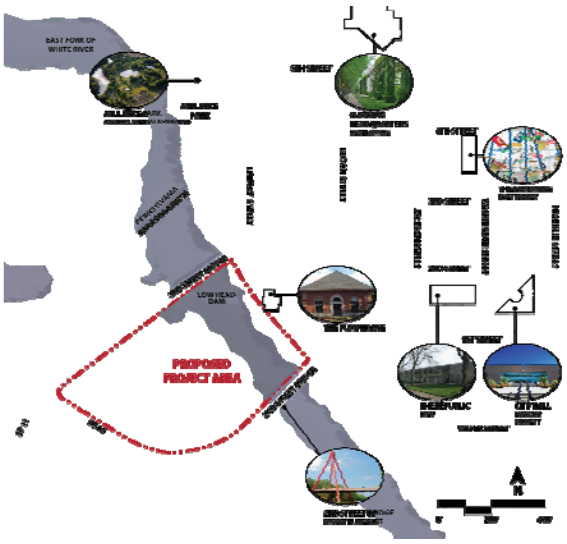
- Disrupts natural flow
- Disrupts sediment flow
- Disrupts passage of fish and other species
- Degrades water quality
- Impedes river-based recreation



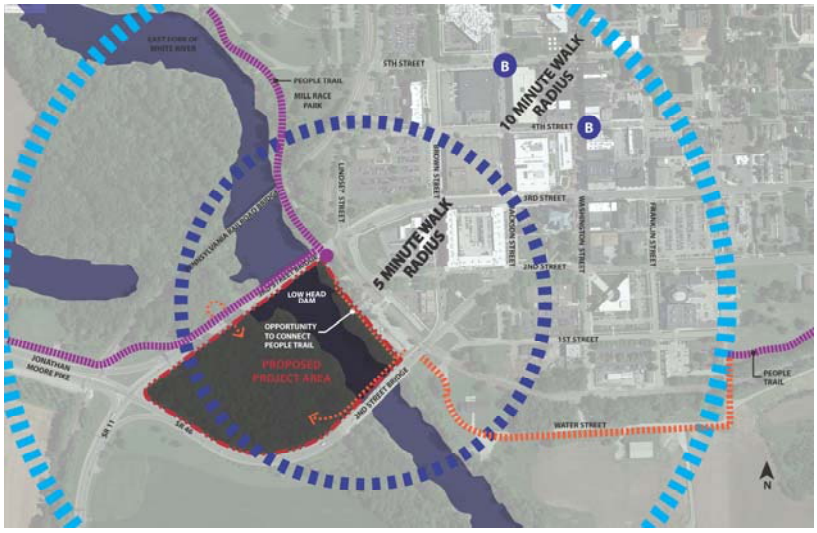
"Barriers to Fish Passage", University of Southern Maine

City Amenities & Activities

- Architecture
- Landmarks
- Natural Features
- Parks
- Playgrounds
- People Trail
- Boat Launch
- Restaurants
- Public art

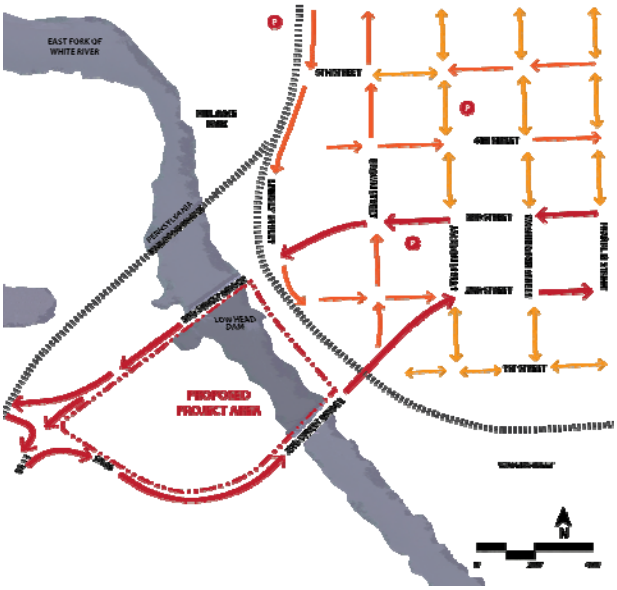


Pedestrian Circulation

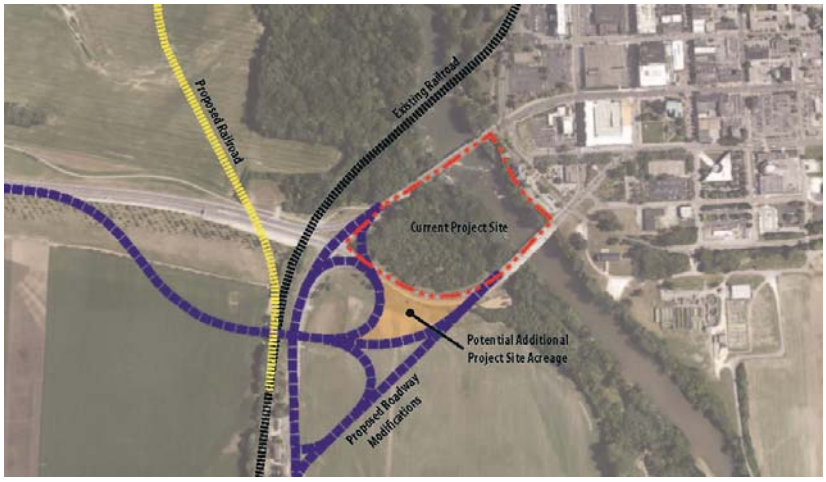


Transportation Circulation

- Vehicular Circulation
  - 2nd St. - 17,951 cars / day.
  - 3rd St. – 16,756
- Railroad
- Parking
  - 1,000+ public spaces within a 10 minute walk.



Potential Road and Rail



Funding

- Public
- Private (individual, corporate)
- Grants

Logical Markets

- Affiliated
- Pedestrian
- Convenience
- Destination

Tourism in Columbus

- Principal Activities
  - Dining 38%
  - Shopping 32%
  - Sports Tournament 22%
  - Outdoor Recreation 9%
  - Visiting Friends & Relatives 8%

2014 Tourism Data

- Source Markets
  1. Indiana 46.7%
  2. Ohio 11.1%
  3. Michigan 10.0%
  4. Illinois 6.7%

  Additional from KY, GA, MO, TN, SC
- 83% have "some college" through grad degree – *really high figure*
- 82% stay in hotels – *also unusually high*

- Trip category
  - Short Trip 44.4%
  - Day Trip 25.6%
  - Longer Trip 18.9%
  - Convention 10%
- 57% of hotel guests on first visit
- 50% of day visitors on first visit - *Less re-visitation that a destination would typically hope for*

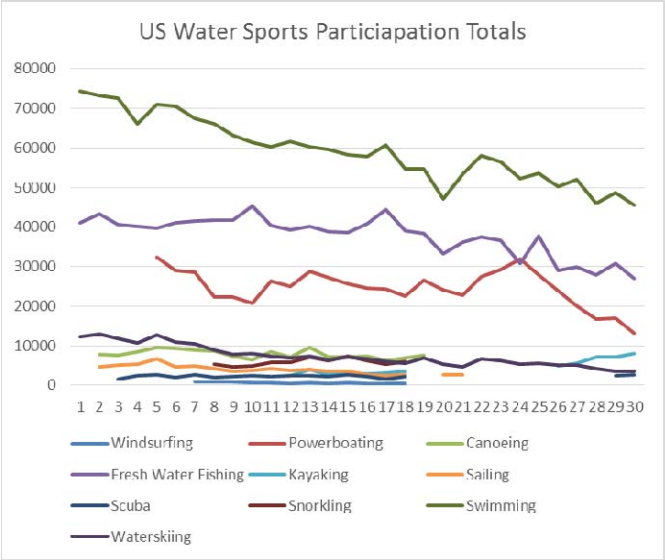
2014 Tourism Data

- Principal Activities
  - Dining 38%
  - Shopping 32%
  - Sports Tournament 22%
  - Outdoor Recreation 9%
  - Visiting Friends & Relatives 8%
- Activities while in Columbus
  - Shopping Malls
  - Architecture/Downtown
  - Zaharakos
  - GTO Convention
  - Brown County/Nashville
  - CERAland/sports events
  - Kidscommons

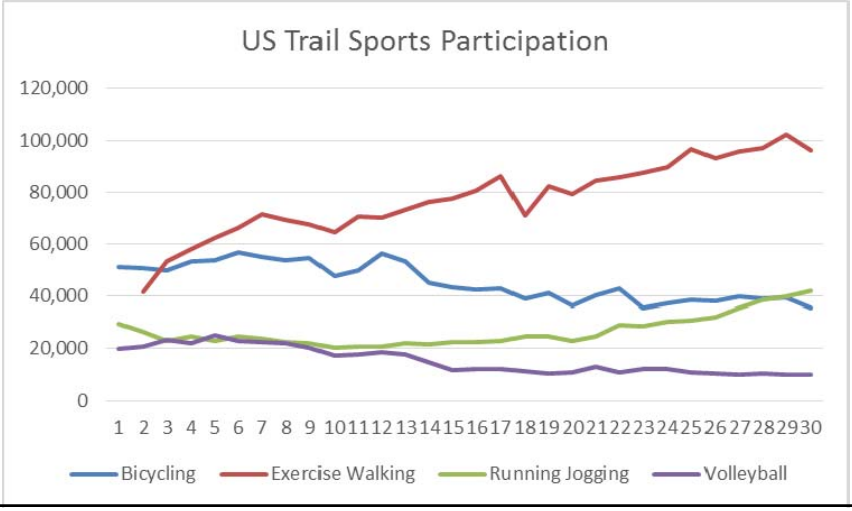
Divergence within State

- 35% of travel parties include children (29% in competitor states)
- Indiana draws higher income households but they spend less
- State draws fewer parties of couples of two men or women – IN =30%; US =37%
- 42% of parties are VFR, 31% are Getaway weekends 15% are special events
- Leisure visitation 75% in Indiana, 80% nationally
- Typical overnight leisure visitor spending is $82 in IN (2006) 24% below US norm and 12% below competitive states
- Top visitor activity nationally is shopping – dining is tops in IN but travel parties spend less on dining

Active Trends 1984 to 2013



Active Trends 1984 to 2013



Visitor Market

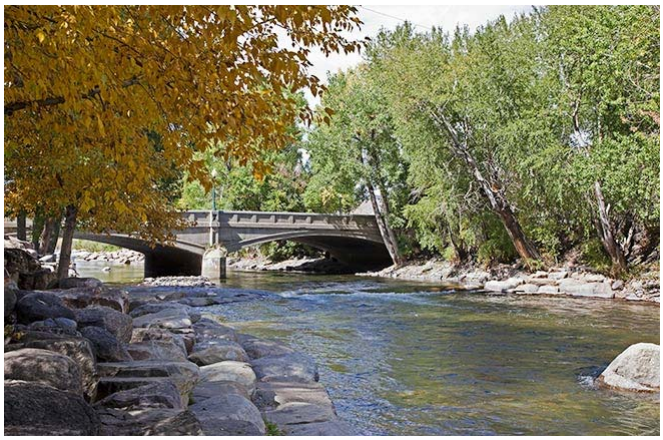
- Market size
- Motivations
- Party composition
- Seasonality
- Activity analysis
- Origin market

Destination Profiles

1. Salida Colorado
2. Missoula, Montana
3. Bend, Oregon
4. Boise, Idaho
5. Tallulah, Georgia
6. Asheville, North Carolina
7. Richmond, Virginia
8. Milwaukee, Wisconsin
9. Hood River, Oregon
10. Columbia, South Carolina

Destination Profile

- Salida Colorado



Destination Profile

- Missoula, Montana

Destination Profile

- Bend, Oregon

Destination Profile

- Boise, Idaho

Destination Profile

- Tallulah Falls, Georgia

Destination Profile

- Asheville, North Carolina

Destination Profile

- Richmond, Virginia

Destination Profile

- Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Destination Profile

- Hood River, Oregon

Destination Profile

- Columbia, South Carolina

Key Characteristics

- Proximity to users
- Proximity to overnight accommodations
- Natural amenities
- Physical constraints
- Relationships to surrounding uses

What is a whitewater park?

- A focal point for in-stream recreation
- Built from native rock and provides for habitat as well as fish passage

Recreation

Habitat

Flood

economic impact

- Golden, $1.7 to $2 million *per year* in economic impact
- Vail and Breckenridge, over $1 million per year *each*
- Reno, over a million in free advertising in its first half year. $35 million in impact over 10 years

- Charlotte—$30-40 million in impact in first seven years.
  - 1 million visitors in the first year
  - $7.5 million in gross income, 2007

SAN MARCOS, TX

Dagger
SAN MARCOS, TX

wanaka

WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND

WANAKA, NEW ZEALAND

environmental benefit

- Positive environmental impacts
- Native materials that are naturally beautiful
- Creates and restores in-stream and riparian habitats
- Provides for in-stream and riparian connectivity

Low Head Dam Mods

"The apparent success of dam removal as a means of river restoration is reflected in the increasing number of dams coming down, more than 1,000 in the last 40 years," …

Jim O'Conner, USGS (Science 1 May 2015)

Low Head Dam Mods

Benefits

- Return natural flow
- Re-establish sediment transport
- Re-connect habitat for aquatic species
- Improved water quality
- Increased safety for river recreation

Low Head Dam Mods

Challenges/Opportunities

- Sediment release
  - Increase turbidity
  - Introduce contaminants from accumulated sediment
  - Bury aquatic plants and animals
- River morphology changes
  - Incision/Aggradation
  - Water profile
- Invasive and/or exotic plant or animal species may be released
  - Displacement of native species

PLEASE
KEEP OFF

RIVERWALK
WAUKESHA
FOX RIVERWALK
WAUKESHA
FOX RIVERWALK

ROCKFORD
RIVERWALK

Who We Are

- Downtown Property Owners & Business Owners
- Residents
- Organizations
- Governments

Stakeholder Interests

- Regulatory requirements
- Organizational preferences
- Individual expectations, aspirations

Riverfront tomorrow?

Describe the riverfront in 2025.

Riverfront tomorrow?

Describe the riverfront in 2025.

- One idea per card
- 3 – 5 words per card

Process

Opportunity Analysis
April, 2017

- Public Outreach Plan
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- **Public Workshop**
- Market Analysis
- Opportunity Analysis

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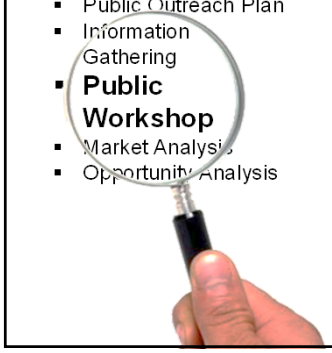

Stay Connected

- **www.columbusriverfront.org**
- Join Email List
- Project Office
- July Open House
- **Take the survey** (Link found on website)