

1 Columbus Riverfront Introduction

Project Team



Rick Hitchcock
Leadership, Strategy, Group Facilitation
Hitchcock Design Group



Randy Royer
Project Manager
Hitchcock Design Group



Jeff Fox
Water Resource Engineering
Christopher B. Burke Engineering



Dan Martin
Market Economics
Market & Feasibility Advisors



Scott Shipley
River Recreation
S20 Design & Engineering



Bill Hawkins
Civil, Structural, & Electrical Engineering
Strand Associates



Karen Valiquett
Project Manager
CORE Planning Strategies

Riverfront Citizens Committee

- Kathryn Armstrong
- Sarah Cannon
- Dave Hayward
- Kyle Hendricks
- Jean Donica
- Alicia Jamerson
- Mark Jones
- Tom Dell
- Jim Lienhoop
- Jeff Logston
- Richard McCoy
- Karen Niverson
- Scott Poling
- Russ Poling
- Heather Pope
- Tracy Souza
- Don Trapp

Riverfront Steering Committee

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

Upcoming Events

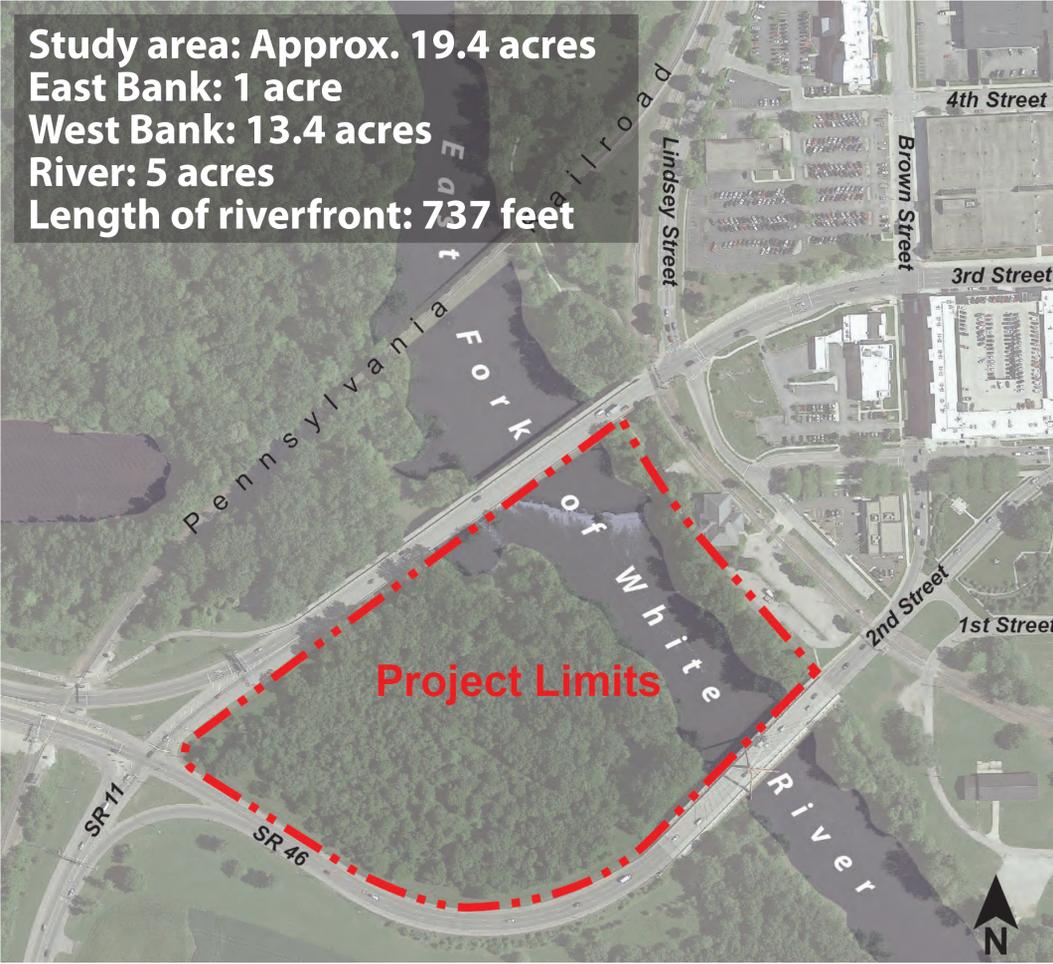


Present Recommendations to the Columbus Redevelopment Commission
Date: November 30, 2017
Time: 6:00 pm
Location: City Hall



Present to City Council
Date: January 16, 2018 (tentative)
Time: TBD
Location: TBD

Project Limits



Contact Information



Randy Royer
Project Manager
Hitchcock Design Group
rroyer@hitchcockdesigngroup.com



Heather Pope
Director of Redevelopment
Columbus Redevelopment Commission
hpop@columbus.in.gov

Visit the web page for more information:
www.ColumbusRiverfront.org

Columbus Riverfront

The Riverfront Today: Resources

Land

The site has limited accessibility due to steep slopes and thick vegetation. Soil erosion is a problem along the east and west bank, and continues to worsen due to the river current and spillway orientation.

River

The Flatrock and Driftwood Rivers converge north of the site to feed the East Fork of the White River that runs through the project area. This portion of the river is considered to be one of the best small mouth bass fisheries in the state.

Structures

Due to its location within floodway and floodplain, the site is structurally undeveloped except for the low-head dam.

Infrastructure

The project area is encompassed on three sides with roadways and bridges. The northern boundary is the 3rd Street Bridge, and the southern boundary is the 2nd Street Bridge. The west/south boundary is where these two roadways converge at the SR 11 and SR 46 intersection. The project site is served by city-owned water and wastewater utilities and franchise-owned electric, data, and communications services.

Environmental

There are no jurisdictional wetlands within the project area, but the site is home to a variety of wildlife including ducks, kingfishers, spotted sandpipers, owls, muskrats, squirrels, and an occasional blue heron. The old city landfill is located on the west bank of the site. After remediation, the site was declared "ready for reuse" in 2012, and is subject to continuous monitoring.

Culture

The Riverfront is rich in cultural history and has been an integral part of Columbus since the early 1800s. The original low-head dam was constructed around 1890. The dam remains, but is no longer used for its originally intended purpose of providing water to Columbus.

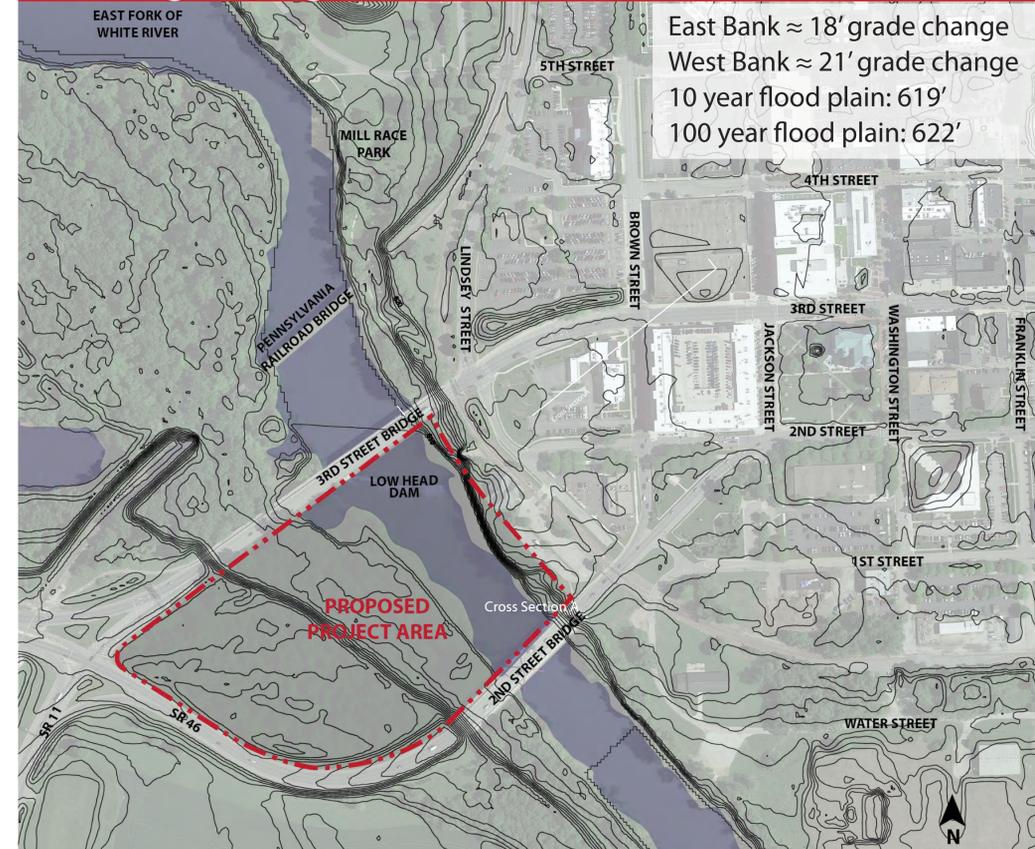
Funding

The project will be funded through public and private funds, as well as state and federal grants.

Cultural Resources



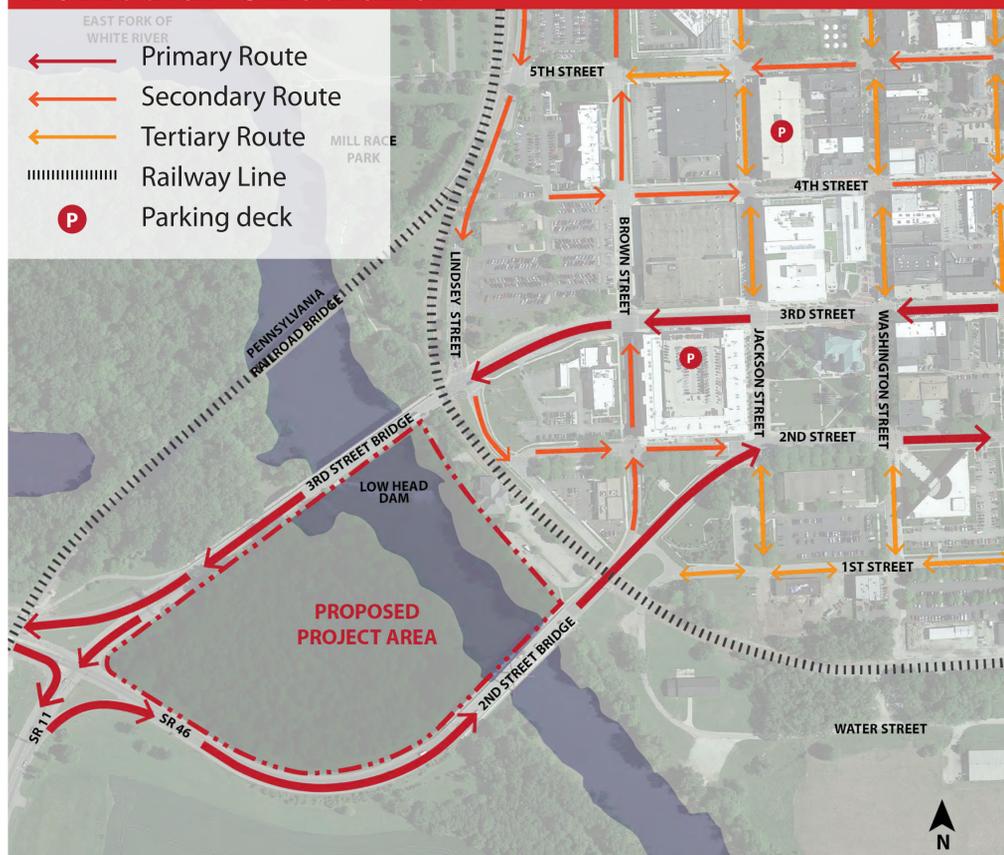
Existing Topography



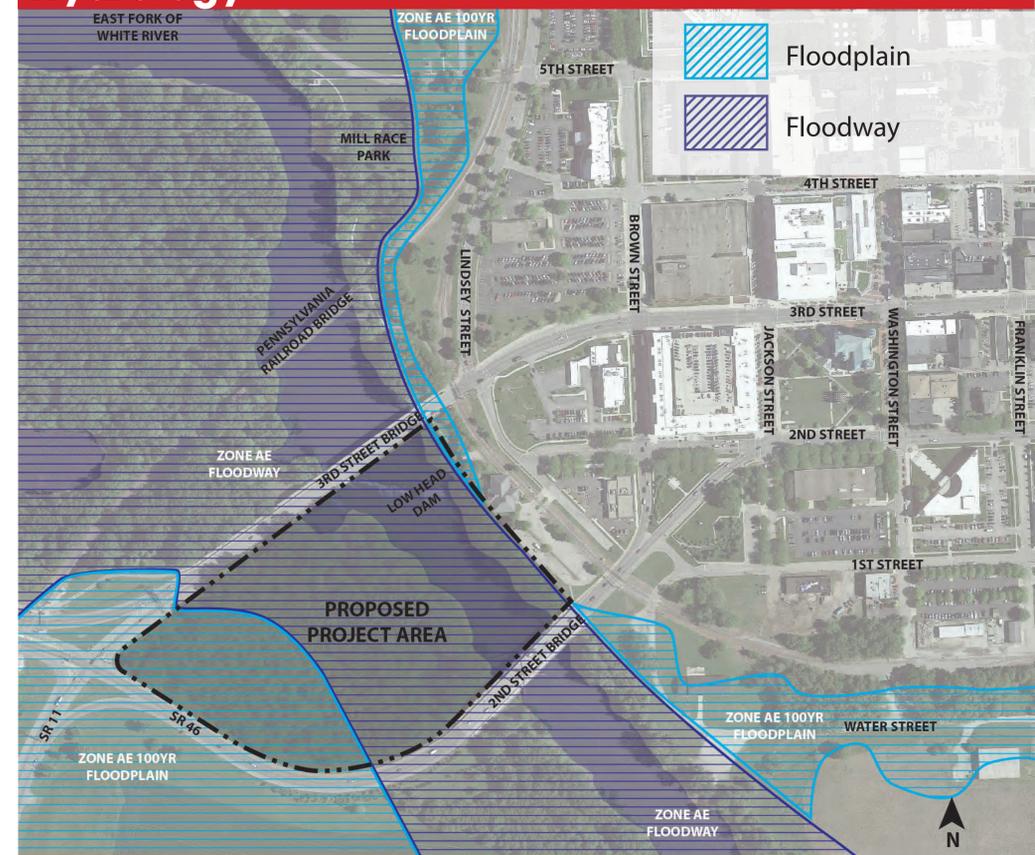
Other Proposed Plans



Vehicular Circulation



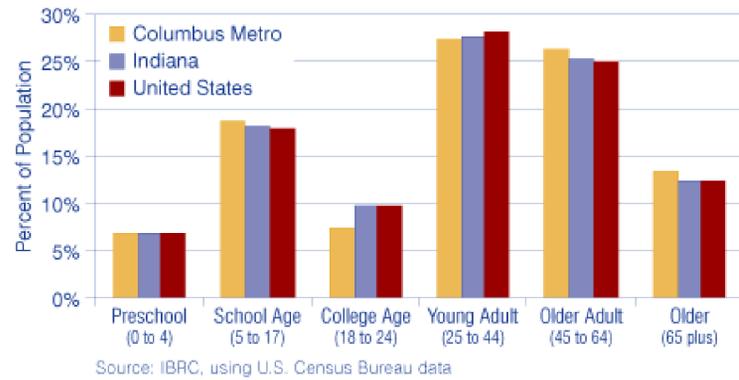
Hydrology



Columbus Riverfront

The Riverfront Today: Marketplace

Demographics



Columbus population growth is faster than local, state, and even national averages



Columbus is relatively young with a median age of just 38.8 years old



9,400 People work within a 15-minute walk of the project area

Activities



The local population dines out well above the national average



Columbus locals enjoy music, art, birdwatching, hiking, and other outdoor activities at a rate much higher than the national average



Jogging, walking, swimming, biking, and fishing top the list of local favorite activities

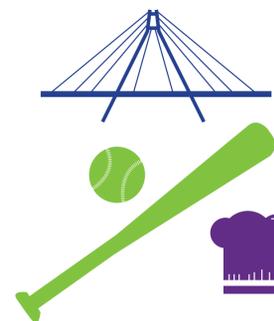
Tourism



Columbus is a genuine visitor attraction for the state of Indiana.

Bartholomew County has a higher overnight visitor percentage compared to the rest of Indiana, the length of stay is longer, and the visitor party size in Bartholomew County is larger compared to the rest of the state.

Indiana attracts a higher percentage of young visitors (18-34 years) and more families with young children compared to other states and destinations within the country.



Architecture, sports and dining top the major tourist attractions list in Columbus

Best Practices



Multi-dimensional

We should consider improvements that target resident and visitor audiences and accommodate a variety of program requirements to provide a high return on investment for all project investors.

Attractive

We should create engaging, stimulating, and well-maintained improvements that support and help define this gateway to downtown.

Distinctive

We should differentiate the riverfront from other local and area destinations.

Respectful

The process and the improvements should follow jurisdictional requirements, respect the riverfront stakeholders, and support the community's rich cultural heritage.

Barrier-free

While challenging, we should provide access to the study area and its features for patrons with compromised mobility, and we should provide all patrons with barrier-free access to the river.

Healthy

We should create a variety of active and passive, accessible, comfortable, clean, and safe experiences for all patrons.

Sustainable

We should create improvements that add environmental, economic, and cultural value for years to come.

Incremental

We should phase the improvements over time to manage costs and to create and sustain momentum.



Columbus Riverfront

The Riverfront Today: Stakeholders

Community Workshop



Over **70** residents participated in the workshop, geared towards **re-envisioning** the Columbus Riverfront



Stakeholder Interviews

30 Interviews with community leaders and jurisdictional leaders

5 Core themes for a successful riverfront

- Importance**
The riverfront should be presented as an iconic and purposeful amenity.
- Connectivity**
3-dimensional access (up / downstream, lateral, and vertical) connectivity was stressed by many, as well as connectivity to the water for kayaking and canoeing, as well as parking and hiking / jogging trails.
- Activity**
Talent attraction and retention is a major community priority, both for tourism and workforce. Accommodating trending activities is a must.
- Hospitality**
Hospitality is critically important. Every aspect of the riverfront, from convenience to comfort to safety to appearance should create a positive and memorable experience for visitors and residents.
- The Columbus Way**
Do it right, or don't do it at all. The design and implementation of the riverfront should reflect the communities goal for long lasting, durable design, as well as high quality materials and finishes.

Community Survey



Over 600 People Participated in the survey

- 75%** of respondents are familiar with the study area
- 70%** reported regularly walking, running, or cycling on existing trails
- 58%** of respondents would include the project area in "downtown"
- 77%** of respondents said they were likely to increase use of the riverfront with new improvements

5 Columbus Riverfront Strategy

Based on the existing resources, marketplace, and stakeholder expectations, the consultant team recommends the following strategy to advance the community's riverfront goal:

Each component should meet the **four objectives** and most, if not all of, the best practices: **Multi-dimensional, Attractive, Distinctive, Respectful, Barrier-free, Healthy, Sustainable, Incremental.**

Connect

- Construct a 3 dimensional network of related connections through the following:
- Vehicular access and limited parking on the west bank for maintenance, emergencies, loading, and accommodation of less mobile patrons
 - Sidewalks that expand the People Trail along the river with connections north and south of the bridges
 - Sidewalks that provide river access from the top of the banks
 - Sidewalks that clearly link the riverfront and downtown, providing convenient access to nearby public and privately owned destinations
 - Dam modification that allows in-stream watercraft passage



Attract

- Construct several distinctive public features that target young professionals and families, which in turn, are catalysts for related, nearby private sector investments:
- Whitewater course that appeals to a variety of experience levels
 - Nature-themed children's play space
 - High-amenity riverwalk (spacious, and sculptural with attention to surfaces, fixtures, furnishings, lighting, public art, and landscaping) with node(s) that accommodate small groups and overlooks with great river views
 - The western/southern edge of the west bank property should get special attention as part of a beautiful Columbus "front door" downtown gateway

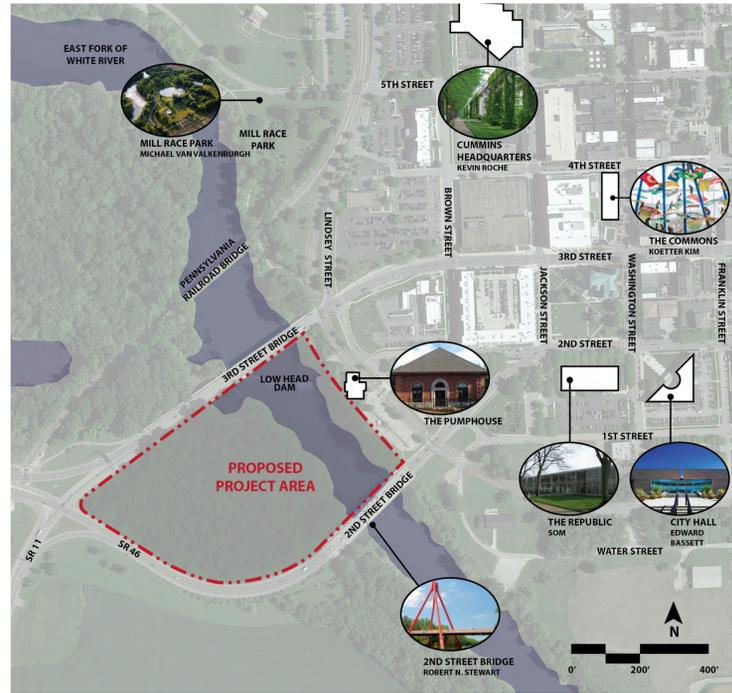
Complement

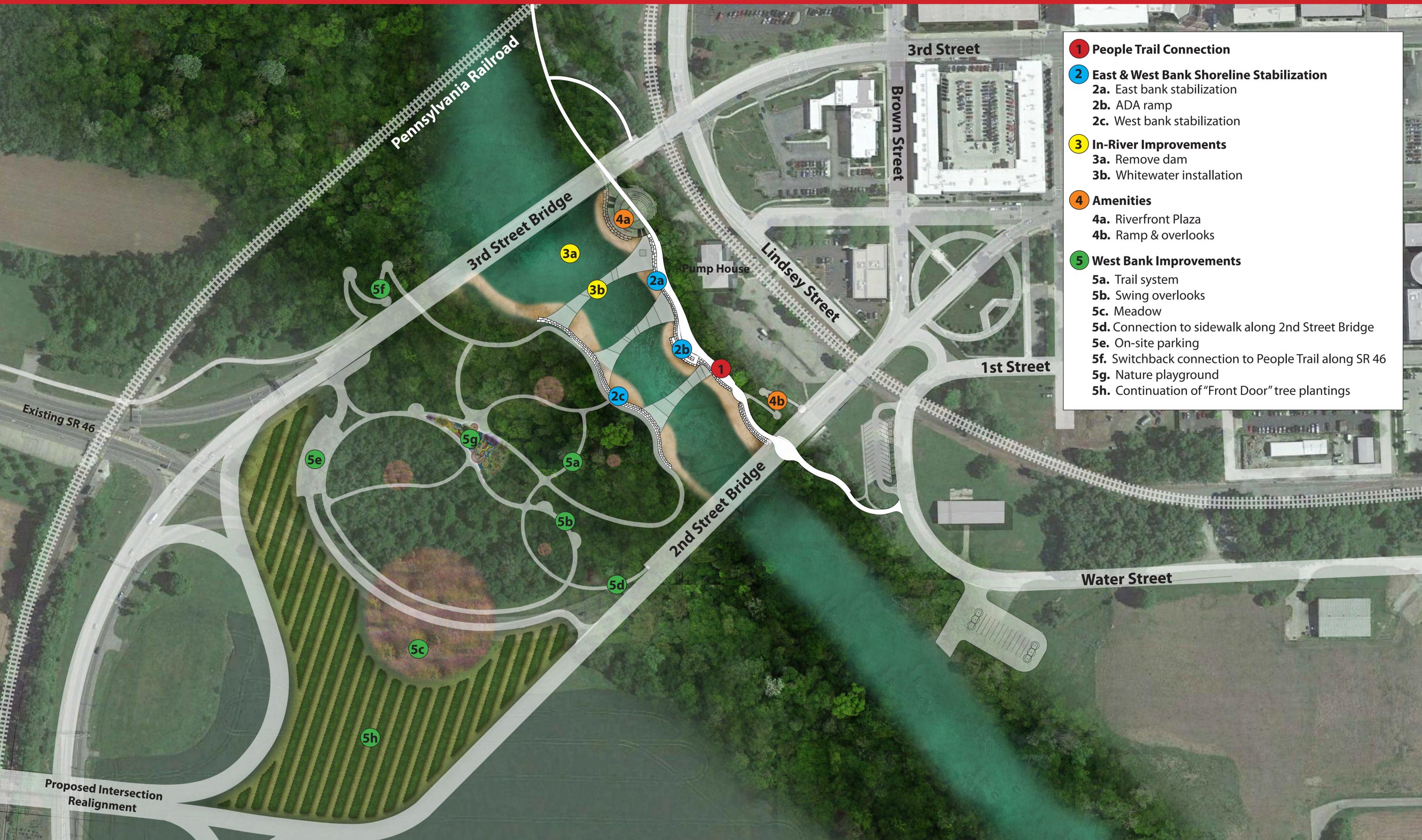
- Reaching beyond "respectfulness," design and construct captivating, complementary features giving special attention to:
- The gateway experience
 - The river and its story in Columbus
 - The community and neighborhood brand strategy



Phase

- Create and sustain momentum by carefully synchronizing:
- Big picture thinking, incremental implementation
 - Private sector fundraising, naming opportunities
 - East Bank and In-River construction
 - West Bank construction



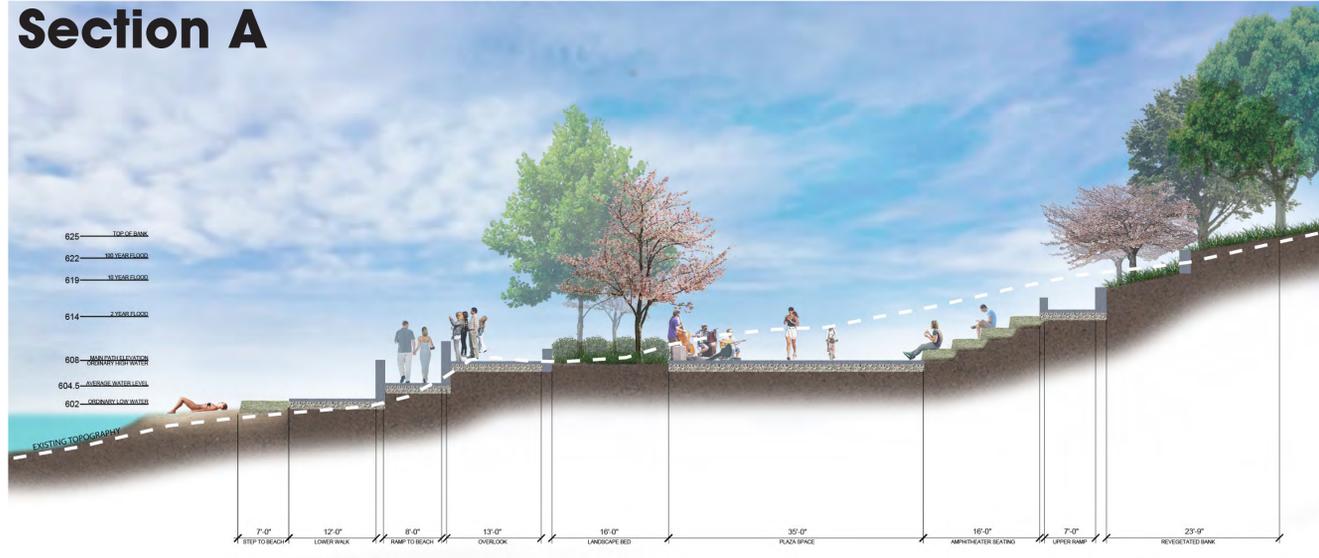


- 1 People Trail Connection**
- 2 East & West Bank Shoreline Stabilization**
 - 2a. East bank stabilization
 - 2b. ADA ramp
 - 2c. West bank stabilization
- 3 In-River Improvements**
 - 3a. Remove dam
 - 3b. Whitewater installation
- 4 Amenities**
 - 4a. Riverfront Plaza
 - 4b. Ramp & overlooks
- 5 West Bank Improvements**
 - 5a. Trail system
 - 5b. Swing overlooks
 - 5c. Meadow
 - 5d. Connection to sidewalk along 2nd Street Bridge
 - 5e. On-site parking
 - 5f. Switchback connection to People Trail along SR 46
 - 5g. Nature playground
 - 5h. Continuation of "Front Door" tree plantings

Proposed Intersection
Realignment

7 Columbus Riverfront Connections

Section A



Key Plan

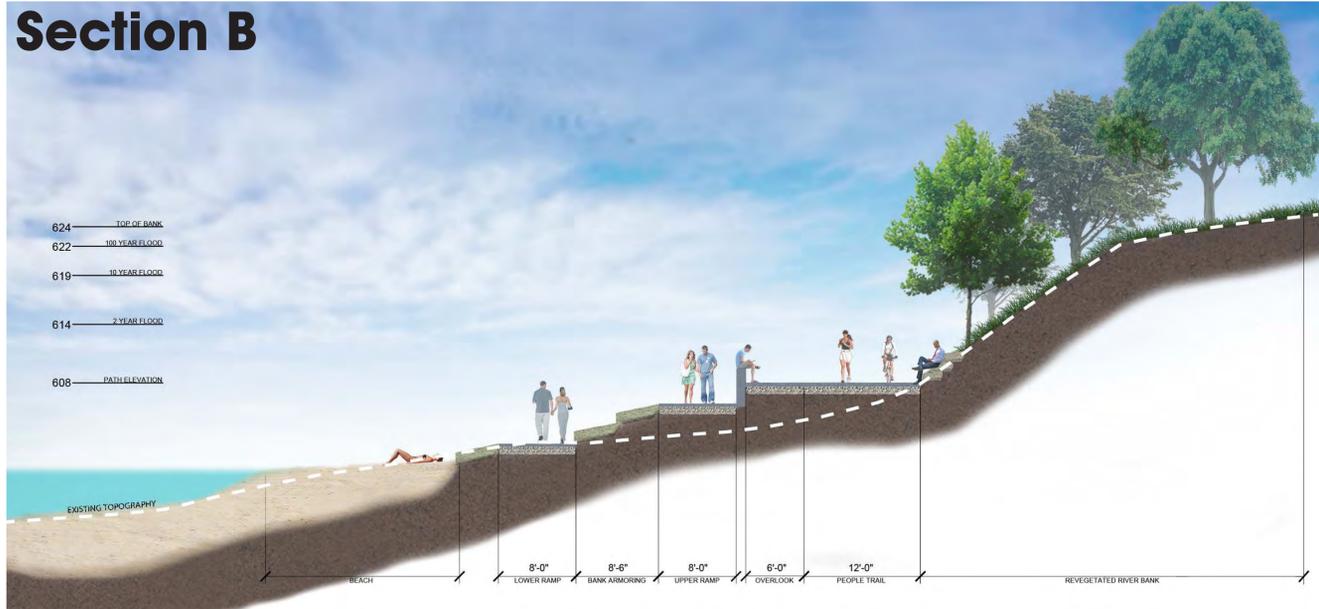


STRATEGY:

Create clear **CONNECTIONS** that link the RIVERFRONT and **DOWNTOWN**, providing convenient **access** to nearby public and privately owned **DESTINATIONS**,

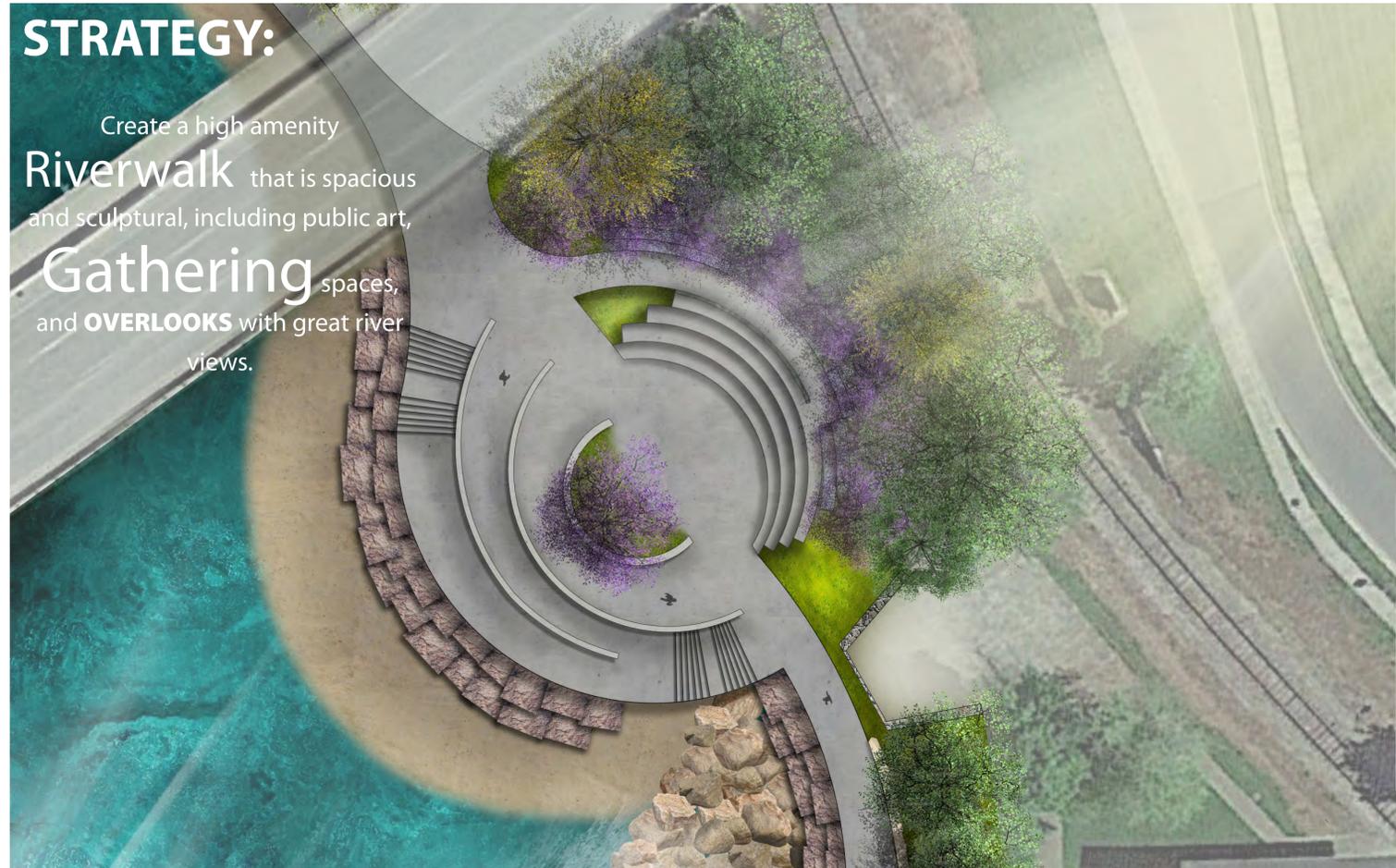
CONNECT the **PEOPLE TRAIL** north and south of the bridges, and provide **river access** from the top of the banks.

Section B



Section C





9 Columbus Riverfront Captivating Appearance



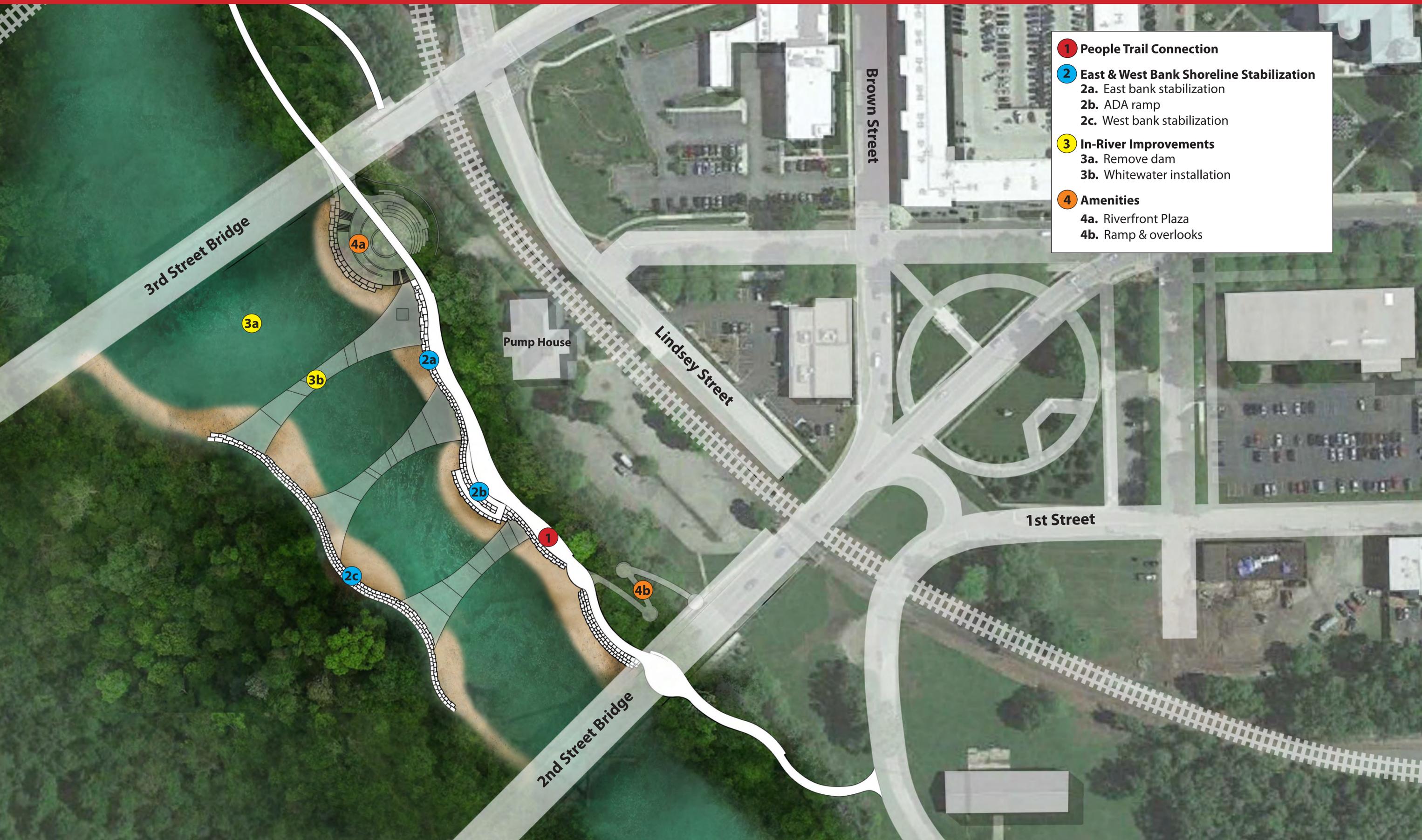
STRATEGY:

Create and sustain an iconic riverfront experience that **STRENGTHENS** Columbus' distinctive brand and **robust** economy.



Columbus Riverfront

Riverfront Concept Plan



- 1 People Trail Connection**
- 2 East & West Bank Shoreline Stabilization**
 - 2a. East bank stabilization
 - 2b. ADA ramp
 - 2c. West bank stabilization
- 3 In-River Improvements**
 - 3a. Remove dam
 - 3b. Whitewater installation
- 4 Amenities**
 - 4a. Riverfront Plaza
 - 4b. Ramp & overlooks