

NORTHFIELD'S CANNON RIVER REGIONAL PARK EXPERIENCE

NORTHFIELD CANNON RIVERFRONT ENHANCEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (REAC) SCORES FOR ALL NON-PARK SUGGESTIONS
 MARCH 2020

Suggestion #	REAC Score	Project Proposals
40	32	Create "Welcome to Northfield" gateway, including public art, aesthetic treatment of bridges, emphasize river identity at the following locations: Hwy 3 & 2nd St., Hwy 19/5th St & Hwy 3, Cannon River near Dundas, Ames Park.
44	32	Add cohesive wayfinding/navigation along the river.
94	32	Create a "tree fund" program so the City can plant more trees using donations.
105	32	Avoid policy and development decisions that diminish the corridor (buildings backing up to the river, garbage/dumpsters along river, etc.).
59	30	Convert turf boulevards to pollinator friendly or edible landscapes.
80	30	Maintain protection of the Cannon River.
83	30	Preserve the scenic quality along the river from the south end of the city to Babcock park (remove invasives & debris, plant with natives).
85	30	Protect mature trees and vegetation along the river corridor.
86	30	Encourage conservation easements to preserve river corridor (possible through Wild & Scenic designation).
92	30	Remove invasive species from river corridor & replace with native species, especially from the hotel & northward & on City property.
58	29	Add more "green" to the 3 riverside parks & ice arena through the 'Turf to Pollinator' Program.
45	28	Sign and label public gathering spaces.
82	28	Preserve existing green infrastructure.
23	27	Add native plantings in road medians, especially Hwy 3.
93	27	Fund (and manage) the 'Turf to Pollinator' program.
122	27	Ensure that businesses in the river corridor manage their waste properly to prevent river pollution.
88	26	Address flood mitigation.
89	26	Wetland mitigation.
97	26	Partner with the Cannon River Watershed Partnership to educate the public about resource conservation.
123	26	"Encourage conservation standards" among riverfront property owners.
17	25	Enhance 2nd St. Bridge for Bikes and Pedestrians.
20	25	Bring recreational trails downtown to improve economic vitality; develop downtown spur of Mill Towns Trail..
42	25	Use art along the river downtown & through transition areas that relates to the river.
43	25	Consider water related, artistic crosswalk designs for the river corridor.
106	25	Modify policy to not require garbage be in the back of buildings for buildings along the river; require a garbage enclosure along the river downtown.
121	25	Review development policies for aesthetic conflicts with the river & adjust policies as necessary.
8	24	Evaluate access to the river as part of development review process.
31	24	Add a multi use, off street, paved trail in the west side of the Cannon River corridor from 2 nd St. northeast to the northern City boundary and beyond, connecting with other local or regional trails.
41	24	Create murals to enhance aesthetic, engage people, and add character within downtown river corridor.
48	24	Identify wayfinding spots for trails as part of complete wayfinding plan
57	24	Install an appropriate number and distribution of the following along the river: picnic tables, shade trees, bike racks, informational signage.
99	24	Educate the public about river corridor conservation.
107	24	Keep development off of the steep slopes on the riverbank.
108	24	Limit development to "smart development" along the river corridor to enhance rural quality.
115	24	Create an overlay district for the river corridor to identify the ideal redevelopment form.
118	24	Create design standards that orient commercial buildings to help define the streetscape and riverfront.
2	23	Evaluate downtown sites for redevelopment opportunities to orient development to the river, provide public spaces, and increase river access.
6	23	Increase programming for recreation and tourism along or on the river.
76	23	Add new parkland behind the Fairfield hotel along the river, or Obtain a scenic easement along the river behind the hotel & condos & add natural vegetation.
81	23	Convert existing open space into more beautification efforts.
84	23	Move the compost facility to a non-river location & convert the site to RV camping.

High

Medium

All project proposals on this ranked list were products of a review of suggested improvements in previous Northfield planning documents and citizen initiatives, and a multi-meeting brainstorming process with the REAC members. All park proposals that had a primary focus inside a riverfront park were used to inform the conceptual park designs. All of these remaining project proposals were independently scored by REAC members, with the list being sorted from highest score to lowest score. The break between the Low Score and Medium Score categories was determined when 75% or more of all votes received the lowest possible score. The break between the High Score and Medium Score categories was determined when 75% or more of the all votes received the highest possible score.

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110	23	Create a form-based code overlay (including the river corridor).
119	23	Incorporate public improvements into new city improvements.
7	22	Close bridge on 4 th St. periodically for events. Identify needs for bridge rental program and large tent.
9	22	Identify priority areas for increased access to the river: Enhance access at south end on west side of river. Opportunity for economic development w/strategic land use.
14	22	Clear brush from river's edge and islands south of 5th St. & on park properties where feasible.
46	22	Provide georeferenced maps of bike/pedestrian system and water trails.
50	22	Improve amenities at parks along river to increase tourism.
90	22	Consider the effects of dam removal (possible whitewater park?).
96	22	Work with the County to consider the effects of the proximity of the landfill and waste water treatment facility to the river.
114	22	Do not allow new developments to block the views of the river.
1	21	Incentivize clean up and enhancement of buildings on the river.
4	21	Consider the area between the river & Water St., from St. Olaf Ave. to Greenvale Ave for redevelopment opportunities.
12	21	Provide for a pedestrian connection under the 2nd St. bridge as a Riverwalk extension to TIGER Trail.
67	21	Access and address any ADA non-compliance of the Water Fountain.
78	21	Move & reuse ice arena; consider converting old arena to pickleball, indoor tennis courts.
87	21	Address climate adaptation and carbon sequestration.
91	21	Expand the buffer around the trout and other streams.
95	21	Enhance habitat for fish to improve recreational fishing.
100	21	Create and install educational signage throughout the Cannon River watershed about the history & significance of the river.
113	21	Encourage more compact housing.
34	20	Connect the planned Armstrong Road off street trail to the existing trail along Sechler Park Road and to the planned off street trail in the west side of the Cannon River corridor.
62	20	Improve aesthetics on park properties along river.
64	20	Enhance Bridge Square with connectivity to other destinations.
111	20	Blend public realm/streetscape with new developments.
112	20	Develop identifiable neighborhood districts.
21	19	Evaluate lighting for bicyclists and pedestrians.
61	19	Improve "underdeveloped landings".
102	19	Enhance Landscaping.
117	19	Allow food trucks in all neighborhoods at specific locations.
13	18	Create a river trail access at the ice rink.
15	18	Create river access from the waterfront of buildings along the river.
32	18	Connect the planned northern corridor off street trail to the Cannon River trail system at Heath Creek near the southwest edge of Sechler Park.
33	18	Connect the planned off street trail along the Rice Creek corridor to the planned Cannon River trail extension on the west side of the Cannon River.
36	18	Develop an off street trail connection to the planned west side Cannon River corridor trail in the vicinity of St. Olaf Ave. & Water St. and/or Greenvale, where feasible.
51	18	Use the river as a more active recreational resource for tourism.
56	18	Create a portage around the dam.
65	18	Close the stub street adjacent to Bridge Square & convert to parking or expansion of park.
68	18	Provide additional vegetative screening within the square as needed to hide utility elements.
77	18	Move ice arena to near Honeylocust St. and convert the ice arena property to a new park. Consider existing ice arena location for river outfitter.
98	18	Share the depth-to-bedrock soils maps with the public "more aggressively" to address the concern about soil depth downtown.
104	18	Improve aesthetics (lack of architectural details of bridges).
26	17	Connect trail around Post property.
39	17	Create an off street trail along Heath Creek.

Medium Score

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47	17	Add wayfinding to Heath Creek mountain bike trail.
63	17	Implement the elements that have not been accomplished from the 2014 Bridge Square Plan.
101	17	Light the dam and bridges.
19	16	Build a trail connection from Riverview Lane across the river to Sechler Park Road.
30	16	Extend the paved, non-motorized, off-street trail from Sechler Park southwest w/in the W. Cannon River corridor to Bluff Ln & Dundas Blvd/CR 78 in Bridgewater Township, Rice County, in partnership w/ Township/County
49	16	Identify locations for fishing access & provide some amenities to increase tourism.
52	16	Partner with the colleges to increase recreational use of the river.
103	16	Add decorative lighting to buildings.
116	16	Streamline the process to obtain a liquor license for pop-up events.
120	16	Congestion pricing for parking—charge where you want to discourage parking & offer free parking where you want to encourage parking.
3	15	Create a Brew Trail in partnership with Dundas.
18	15	Build a trail connecting the East River Trail to Honeylocust St., including bike/pedestrian crossing at Hwy 3 & Honeylocust.
24	15	Consider creating a trail between the Fire Hall & the river, connecting Sechler & Ames Parks.
60	15	Create a health corridor with exercise stations.
109	15	Don't allow single family residential in or near downtown.
22	14	Create a visual connection between Ames Park and Bridge Square.
11	14	Add a pedestrian bridge across the river between 1st St. & Carleton College Fieldhouse.
28	14	Add a pedestrian bridge across the river at Carleton Stadium.
35	14	Develop an off street trail from 2 nd St. to Laird Stadium on the Carleton College campus in the east side Cannon River Corridor.
37	14	Connect the planned off street trail from Hauberg Woods to the west side Cannon River Corridor trail in the vicinity of Fremouw Ave.
53	14	Provide kayak lockers at multiple locations.
54	14	Create a kayak flume on the river wall if dam is removed.
70	14	Work with Dundas to add a shared RV & tent campground/picnic area between the river & Dundas road, across from Bluestone St. entrance.
79	14	Explore installing a lagoon for flood mitigation off of Riverview St. & Campostella Park.
5	13	Encourage the following uses: maker space, industrial art, 3D printing lab for obsolete parts, micro organic milling operation—a hub for small grain production, reuse of vacant industrial/commercial space, foods trucks.
16	13	Add a canoe/kayak launch on the river from the Arboretum trail.
25	13	Add a trail to the Arboretum from the new proposed bridge. Work with Carleton to designate a route & add wayfinding signs.
38	13	Connect the planned Northern Corridor off street trail to the northeast end of the west side Cannon River Corridor trail system between the wastewater treatment plant and Hwy 3/CR47 intersection, near the City border.
69	13	Create a "ceremony place" at the river's edge or protruding into the river, south of 2 nd St. Bridge at former Byzantine Restaurant site, or at Ames Park.
10	12	Evaluate bridge across river in "rural" areas.
27	12	Add a bridge over the Cannon River off of the Carleton Arboretum Trail, near the oxbow lake.
29	12	Add trails to Campostella park.
66	11	Implement the remaining viable ideas from the Downtown Streetscape Framework Plan.
71	10	Develop a campground at north end of Campostella Park.
72	10	Develop a campground where Riverview Lane terminates.
74	10	Create a Northfield Boat Club on the "16 current ports of Northfield"
55	9	Lighted gondolas for rent between 2 nd & 4 th St. bridges.
75	9	Add a boat house/café near Division St. parking lot at Carleton College
73	8	Create a parking site for "Park Once" between Linden & Hwy 3, south of 3 rd Ave.

Medium

Low Score

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