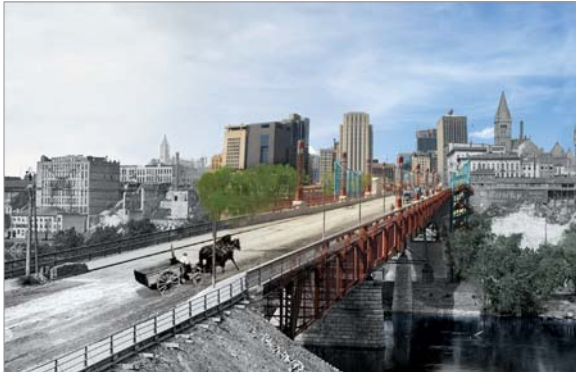
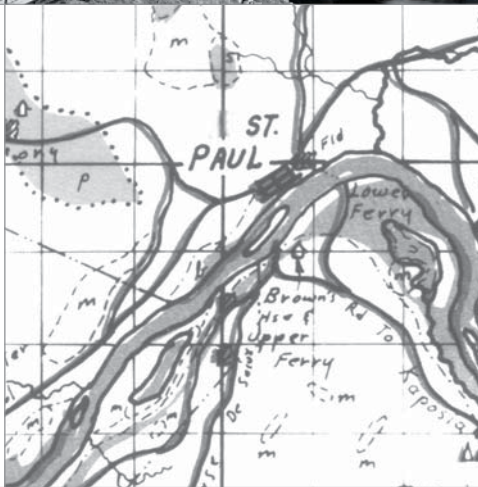


St. Paul Riverfront Interpretive Planning

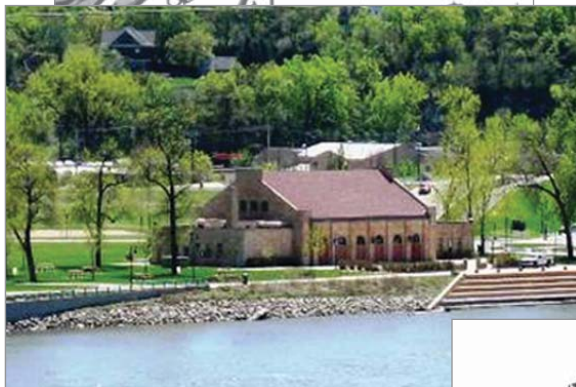
St. Paul, Minnesota



In the last 10 years, the St. Paul Riverfront has undergone a significant transformation, which is still underway. New parks and recreation areas are in place or planned, and more residents and businesses are calling the riverfront home. Historic preservation and interpretation of the riverfront and nearby historic districts are a priority for the city and its partners. As a result, more people are visiting downtown with an interest and desire to learn about the rich history of the Mississippi River and St. Paul. The 106 Group has been instrumental in studying, understanding, and interpreting that history as part of the community planning process.



For example, the 106 Group developed an interpretive plan for St. Paul's Upper Landing—a new park along the Mississippi riverfront near the site of a former steamboat levee. The Upper Landing originally included a 19th century neighborhood known as Little Italy, a stone cutting factory, a brewery warehouse, and the St. Paul Municipal Elevator and Sackhouse. The "headhouse," as it is affectionately known, is a landmark on the river's edge that the 106 Group will soon be working with designers to convert into an interpretive center to teach visitors and residents alike about the shipping and marketing of the region's grain, about Minnesota's rural and urban past, and about the transformation of the Mississippi River from a natural stream into a commercial highway.



The 106 Group also worked with the city and a team of specialists to redesign and develop Harriet Island Regional Park. In addition to conducting cultural resources investigations in compliance with federal and state legislation, our team identified themes and stories integral to the park's history and interpretation. We consulted with Dakota elders to determine how the tribe's traditional beliefs about the island could be appropriately incorporated into the city's plans for the park. In partnership with Battle Creek School and the Riverfront Corporation, the 106 Group also helped create a school archaeology program focusing on the island's archaeology and history.

