



## **Above the Falls**

### **Policy Review and Implementation Study (ATF-PRIS)**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Updated June 9, 2011

### **1. What is “Above the Falls”?**

“Above the Falls” is a long-range plan for Minneapolis’s upper riverfront. It was adopted by the Minneapolis City Council and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board in 2000. It proposes establishing parks and trails along the riverfront from Plymouth Ave N/8<sup>th</sup> Ave NE to the Camden bridge. It also proposes redevelopment of certain nearby areas to provide additional jobs, establish new residential neighborhoods, and add offices, retail, and entertainment.

### **2. How do I know what the Above the Falls plan proposes for specific areas or properties?**

The Above the Falls plan is available at Minneapolis Central Library, or can be viewed on the City’s website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/master-plans/above-falls/index.asp>. The map titled “Upper River Master Plan” illustrates change areas, which are described more fully in the text of the plan. You may contact City staff with follow up questions by dialing city planners Thomas Leighton (612-673-3853, [thomas.leighton@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:thomas.leighton@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)) or Haila Maze (612-673-2098, [haila.maze@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:haila.maze@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)).

### **3. What is the purpose of the Policy Review and Implementation Study?**

The Above the Falls Policy Review and Implementation Study (ATF-PRIS) is a check-up on the Above the Falls plan, requested the Minneapolis City Council. It particularly focuses on the feasibility of the land use and development changes that are envisioned in the plan. It is not reconsidering the proposed parks and trails along the riverfront that are envisioned in the Above the Falls plan. The ATF-PRIS may lead to modifications to some parts of the ATF plan prior to further implementation efforts.

### **4. What issues has the Study focused on?**

The ATF-PRIS has involved many areas of research and analysis. Past research related to the upper riverfront was reviewed, along with existing development and property conditions. Information has been developed related to long range market trends, financial and fiscal impacts of different development futures, transportation and utility infrastructure, topography and soil conditions, industrial land uses, and other topics.

### **5. How do I find out more about what has been learned so far?**

The ATF-PRIS has a webpage ([http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/above\\_the\\_falls.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/above_the_falls.asp)) which includes links to its research findings. These include presentations which summarize the

research, and reports, which offer more detailed information. You may also contact City staff to get on a mailing list for upcoming public meetings.

## **6. What comes next?**

The ATF-PRIS is providing the basis for a recommendation to the City Council related to possible modification of the Above the Falls plan. This is scheduled to occur in September following an additional round of public engagement.

## **7. How does this project relate to the Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative?**

The Minneapolis Riverfront Development Initiative (MR|DI) is a project of the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. (Website: <http://minneapolisriverfrontdevelopmentinitiative.com/>) Like the ATF-PRIS, it focuses on the upper riverfront. But the MR|DI project area also extends further south to the Stone Arch Bridge. While the ATF-PRIS is focused on updating the land use and development future of the upper riverfront, the MR|DI is focused primarily on the future of its parks, trails and open space. The development scenario that was proposed as part of the initial MR|DI concept plan is being taken into consideration as part of the ATF-PRIS study. The two projects are collaborating closely as they evolve.