

SECTION 2.0

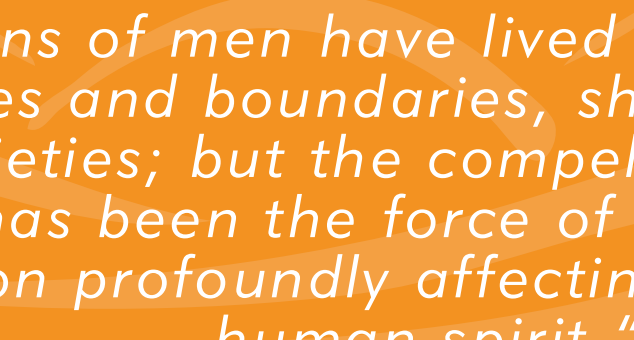
THE MASTER PLAN

PAINTING CREDIT:
"The Sounds of Silence" By Delores Pederson
Regional artist Doloris Pederson specializes in paintings of the Smoky Hill River region, Cheyenne Bottoms and The Quivira Wildlife Refuge.



Smoky Hill River Renewal Master Plan | Salina, Kansas





"Millions of men have lived to fight, build palaces and boundaries, shape destinies and societies; but the compelling force of all times has been the force of originality and creation profoundly affecting the roots of human spirit."

Ansel Adams

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW AND PROCESS INTRODUCTION

The City Commission authorized the City-funded and administered Phase Two – Master Plan Scope of Services to be conducted by Design Studios West (DSW) with the assistance of Wright Water Engineers (WWE).

The Master Plan would have two (2) primary areas of focus.

1. **Planning** - The first, planning, would entail translation of the community preferences expressed in Phase One into a comprehensive master river improvements plan for the planning area to meet the goals and objectives defined in Phase One. Planning work would be guided by the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MAC).
2. **Engineering** - The second area of focus, engineering, would address the technical issues identified in Phase One, as defined by the improvements proposed in the comprehensive master river improvements plan. Engineering work would be guided by the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

Working collaboratively, DSW and WWE would present to the MAC and TAC at regular intervals throughout the project, while holding teleconference meetings every two weeks with the Core Management Team consisting of the MAC and TAC Chairs, and the Consultant Team Principals

As in Phase One, Planning work would also include a community engagement process to present and invite community input on proposed solutions at critical junctures in the Master Planning process.

As outlined in the Process Overview in Section One, The intent of Phase Two – Old River Channel Master Plan is to identify appropriate planning and design responses to the specific opportunities associated with the restoration and redevelopment of the Old River Channel area of the Smoky Hill River. In addition, the intent is to provide open community meetings that encourage the public to offer their opinions and ideas on how the Master Plan should best address the variety of public and private improvements.

The intent is not to prepare a “Final Construction Design” for the Old River Channel. Rather, the intent is to identify specific improvements and their location, general costs and potential funding sources, recommended phasing, and operations and maintenance policies for future improvements. Those specific improvements would be the subject of future design efforts, not included in Phase Two.

THE MASTER PLANNING PROCESS

The Phase Two - Master Planning process was designed to include three (3) sub-phases of work to arrive at a Final Master Plan.

1. **Master Framework Plan** - The Master Plan Framework is intended to coordinate a river channel improvements framework with the existing site uses, proposed uses, activities and their locations as provided by the community in Phase One. The purpose of the Framework Plan is to provide a preliminary illustration of proposed uses and activities areas in conjunction with proposed channel conditions. The Framework Plan designates typical areas of similar uses, their conceptual horizontal and vertical relationship to the channel, access, circulation and special facility use areas. The Framework Plan development will be guided by public input from Phase One with MAC and TAC review and guidance. The Final Framework Plan will be presented at the Master Plan Alternatives Open House for Public Input and comment.
2. **Master Plan Alternatives** - A range of Master Plan Alternatives are intended to creatively coordinate uses and activities with recommended channel conditions to meet dimensional and elevation technical criteria. Master Plan Alternatives will illustrate a series of thematic channel modifications, proposed land use, vehicular circulation and parking, pedestrian/bicycle circulation, featured activity areas and special use nodes in plans for the overall Old Channel project area. The Master Plan Alternatives development will be guided by the review and comment of the MAC and TAC. The Alternatives were presented at the Master Plan Alternatives Open House for Public Input and Preferences, and at a joint session VIP Open House Orientation, of the Salina City Commission, the Salina Planning Commission and the Saline County Commissioners for questions and comment and other input.

3. **Final Master Plan** - A preferred master plan alternative will be developed to illustrate a combination of the most desirable attributes of several of the alternative plans as directed by input from the community and MAC and TAC. The preferred plan will then undergo modifications and technical refinement to arrive at a Preliminary Master Plan. The Preliminary Master Plan will be presented at the Smoky Hill River Festival for Public discussion and input. From that discussion and input the Final Master Plan will be prepared for presentation at a joint session of the Salina City Commission, the Salina Planning Commission and the Saline County Commissioners for questions, comment and approval. The Final Master Plan is envisioned as an annotated plan graphic or graphics that document proposed:
 - Land Uses and Activity Areas
 - Access, Circulation and Parking
 - General Site Improvements and facilities such as:
 - River channel improvements and riverfront features
 - Streetscape and other hardscape improvements
 - Landscape and other softscape improvements
 - Natural habitat preservation, enhancement or restoration areas



Patricia Flood, PE, of Wright Water Engineers leads MAC & TAC discussion

FRAMEWORK PLANNING AND SITE RELATIONSHIPS

COMMUNITY PREFERENCES

In an interactive, Master Framework Planning workshop, the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MAC), the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the consultant team met to initiate the Master Planning process. As a starting point for the Phase Two – Master Plan project, the final tabulations of the Community Preferences from Phase One – Public Outreach were presented to familiarize participants with the project background and community input direction and comment. The location and intensity of preferred uses and activities were discussed, along with updated River Reaches designations, thematic character statements for each reach, and images of the top ten uses and activities for each of the four river reaches.

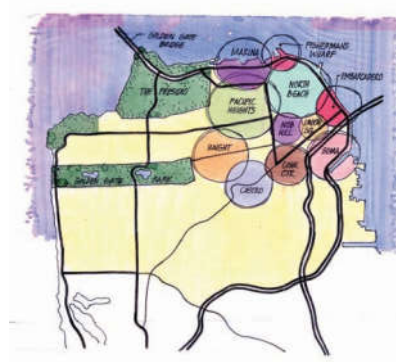
CONCEPTUAL PLANNING EXERCISE

To familiarize the MAC and TAC members with the principles of framework planning and the diagrammatic notation of relationship diagrams, a conceptual planning exercise was conducted, with participants verbally quizzed on a series of unidentified diagrams depicting well-known cities and their waterfronts. Based on the shape of the water's edge, district/neighborhood relationships, landmark locations and primary circulation routes, the MAC and TAC participants were able to quickly identify each of the cities as New York (Manhattan), Chicago and San Francisco.

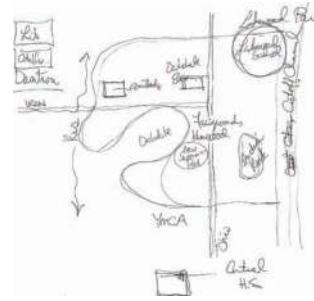
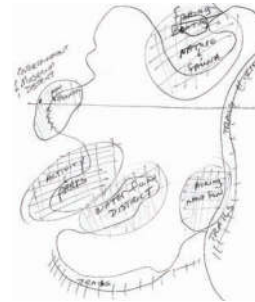
MAC and TAC participants were then asked individually to create simple sketch maps of Salina and the Old Channel of the Smoky Hill River in a similar diagrammatic form. Participants were encouraged to identify landmarks, destinations, neighborhoods and activity areas that they thought were important to the Old Channel area.

Following the exercise, discussion centered on the elements that were consistently shown on the diagrams, including the major public parks along the old channel, Downtown Salina, including the Iron Street / Founders Park area, and Regional Health Center, and major streets (Ohio Street, Iron Avenue, Crawford Avenue, and Santa Fe Avenue).

Discussion also included other elements that were less frequently noted, such as historic sites and city gateways from interstate highways; area user designations for kids, families, etc.; thematic districts for recreation, business, entertainment, environmental education and art; and off-site influences.

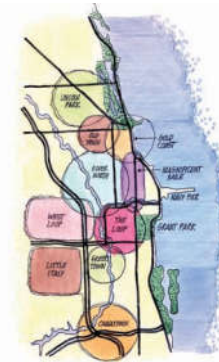


SAN FRANCISCO

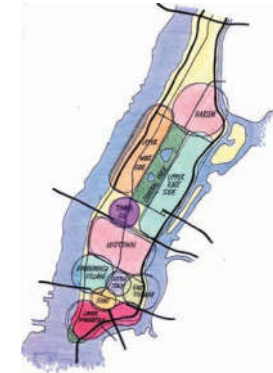
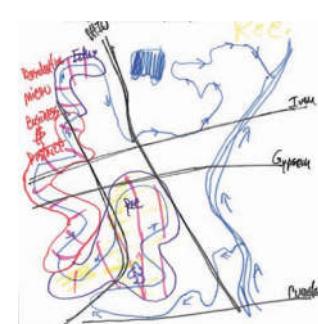
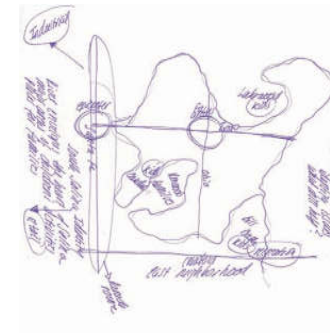


SALINA

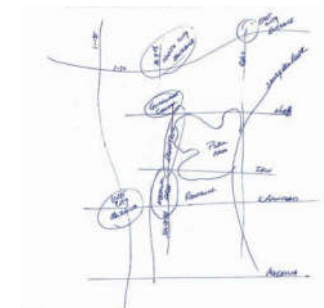
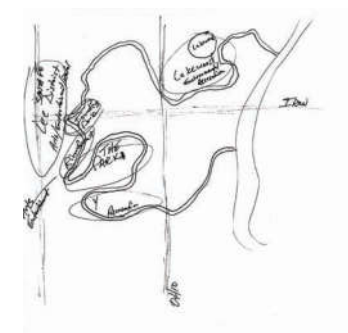
MAC and TAC workshop participants were asked to prepare diagrams of Salina



CHICAGO



NEW YORK



EXISTING OPPORTUNITIES

A series of plan overlays were presented for discussion with the MAC and TAC, describing preliminary consultant team observations on opportunities offered by the Old Channel project area and how they might suggest Framework Planning issues and opportunities.

ACTIVITY CENTER OPPORTUNITIES

A series of three (3) existing/ potential activity centers within the project area were presented for discussion, in order to better understand the perceived opportunities, issues and constraints of each. The activity centers were described to MAC and TAC members as the activity ‘anchors’ of the Old Channel corridor. The potential for river improvements to maximize opportunities to enhance them, while benefiting from their positive influence would improve the potential success of the Old Channel.

Existing / potential activity centers include:

1. Kenwood Park / Bicentennial Activity Center
2. Downtown - Regional Health Activity Center
3. Downtown - Historic / Cultural Activity Center



FIGURE 2.1
Kenwood Park
Bicentennial Activity Center

Kenwood Park / Bicentennial Center

The Kenwood Park / Bicentennial Activity Center (Fig. 2.1) is recognized as the primary indoor arena and community event venue for Salina, hosting indoor athletics, entertainment, conventions and other civic events. Built in 1979, the existing Bicentennial Center building and parking infrastructure, is recognized regionally as Salina’s host facility for large events that makes it the central element in potential expansion of Salina’s hospitality core for visitors.

The Kenwood Park site is defined by the eastern loop of the Old Channel, separating Kenwood Park activities from adjacent residential neighborhoods to the north and east, and less predominant non-residential uses to the southeast. The looped condition of the river also interrupts the city street grid, restricting access to Kenwood Park, with The Midway serving as the main entry from S. Ohio Street on the east. Internally, existing perimeter roadways separate the park’s event facilities from the river. Limited street connections to the businesses of the Downtown Lee District and entry recognition and visibility from S. Ohio Street are seen as issues to be overcome.

The Bicentennial Center with its 7,500 seat arena and 40,000 sq. ft. exhibition hall is in need of increased exhibit hall space, an on-site convention hotel and ancillary support uses to improve its competitive position with similar venues in the state. The Kenwood Cove aquatics park completed in 2010, provides added amenity to anchor the southwest end of Kenwood Park. The old municipal swimming pool site, Tri-Rivers Stadium rodeo grounds and County Exposition Center are considered redevelopment opportunities. The non-residential properties southeast of Kenwood Park may present a redevelopment opportunity due to their relative parcel size, access to S. Ohio Street and low intensity of use, while the Salina Family YMCA campus is perceived as an extension of the Kenwood Park activity area with indoor recreation facility and athletic fields.

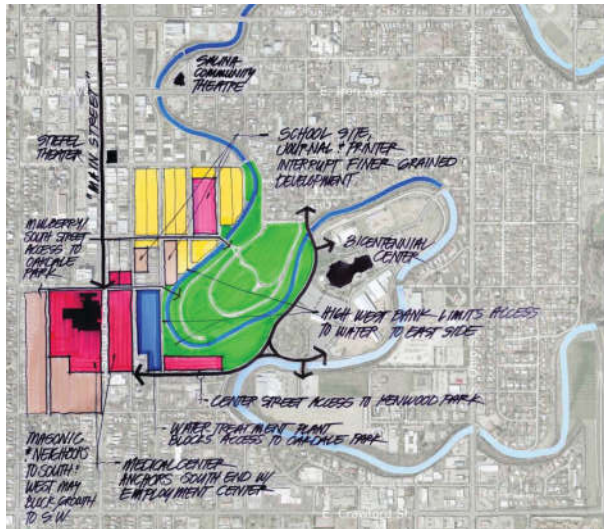


FIGURE 2.2
Downtown - Regional Health Activity Center

Downtown – Regional Health Activity Center

As an economically stable, highly populated employment and visitor destination, the Salina Regional Health Center is seen as a primary Activity Center (Fig. 2.2) that the river renewal should engage and support as an amenity, to attract investment that is mutually beneficial to the health center and river renewal.

Anchoring the south end of the South Santa Fe Avenue central business district (Lee District), the health center has experienced continued growth since the consolidation of Salina’s two major hospitals at this single campus in 1995. As one of Salina’s major employer’s it represents a positive influence on the Downtown Lee District which serves its employment base of over 1,000 employees, with a regional draw of patients and visitors. The health center’s positive influence on potential growth in the Downtown Lee District has prompted a city-designated Medical Special Use District, to allow for the orderly growth of future medical uses. The health center has proactively acquired additional

property to the east and north of the current facilities, in anticipation of future growth needs.

The Regional Health Center campus is located within one block of the Old River Channel, with very good access to the Old Channel, Oakdale and Kenwood Parks. Central pedestrian access to the river and Oakdale Park is provided by the highly-used Fourth Street footbridge on W. South Avenue at S. Fourth Street. One block to the north, W. Mulberry Street provides vehicular and pedestrian access via the Mulberry Street Bridge over the channel and into the heart of Oakdale Park. A southern vehicular and pedestrian access route between the health center campus and the Old Channel in Kenwood Park is provided by W. Center Street to S. Kenwood Drive.

The Regional Health Center’s direct physical relationship to the Old Channel of the Smoky Hill River is moderated by the presence of the City of Salina Water Treatment Plant and Water Department administrative offices that are located on the city-block between the Campus and the Old Channel. Northeast of the campus, continued growth of the health center and the added amenity of Old Channel improvements could enhance the opportunity to attract residential or other mixed-use infill development opportunities to serve medical and support staff and visitors. Southeast of the campus, vacant and residential properties adjacent to the Old Channel on E. Center Street could potentially be redeveloped with appropriate riverside health center uses, on the high bank of the Old Channel overlooking Oakdale Park.

Downtown – Historic / Cultural Activity Center

The Historic / Cultural Activity Center (Fig. 2.3) is proposed as an opportunity to enhance the relationship between the Old Channel, the E. Iron Avenue commercial corridor and the northern commercial blocks of the Downtown Lee District. The Salina Community Theatre, celebrating its 50th season with a \$4.3 million site and building expansion, and the historic resources associated with its Founder’s Park location on the banks of the Old Channel represent culturally significant and highly valued community assets worthy of community investment.

The Historic / Cultural Activity Center area is at the western-most point of the Old Channel, representing the closest possible connection to the S. Santa Fe Avenue commercial spine of the Downtown Lee District. It is centered on the E. Iron Avenue crossing of the Old Channel of the Smoky Hill River. It incorporates opportunities offered by the Community Theatre as a community-based educational and stage production performing

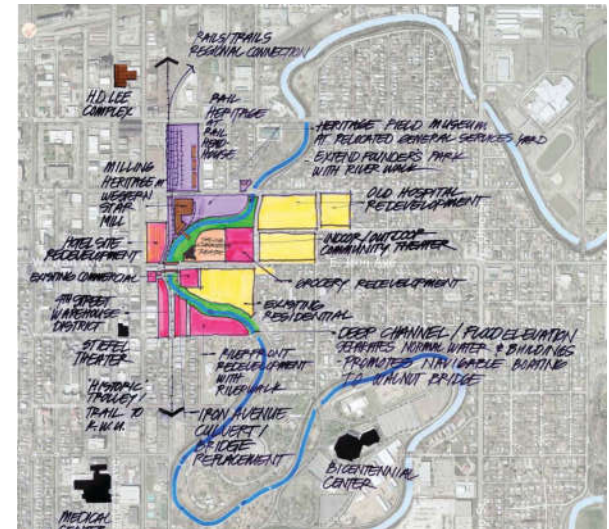


FIGURE 2.3
Downtown - Historic / Cultural Activity Center

arts center, as well as opportunities afforded by the riverside theatrical entertainment venue it provides. The historic significance of this location derives from the Iron Street pioneer ferry crossing of the river at this location that led to Salina’s founding, the Western Star Mill and Dam as icons of Salina’s early milling heritage, and the presence of associated rail yard and freight facilities nearby, illustrating another chapter in Salina’s history.

Existing buildings of a small rail warehouse scale along S. Fourth Avenue have attracted reinvestment to create a warehouse-character street environment that includes an indoor produce market, bookstore and Art Center-sponsored resident artist’s studio and events space. Adaptive reuse of old gas stations at each end of the block house an arts/craft gallery and the offices of the Friends of the River Foundation, respectively. Existing storage uses and redevelopment properties to the east along Walnut Street, in close proximity to healthy downtown businesses and the Old Channel contribute further to the opportunities of this proposed downtown activity center.

LAND USE OPPORTUNITIES

Existing Land Use patterns and potential redevelopment opportunities (Fig. 2.4) illustrate existing residential neighborhoods at the heart of the Old Channel loop, with existing major parks at the beginning middle and near the end of the Old Channel loop. Old Channel greenway improvements that extend the amenity value of those premier parks through riverfront neighborhoods could stabilize and strengthen older, central Salina neighborhoods. Kenwood Park, with the Bicentennial Center, Kenwood Cove Aquatics Park and County Exposition Center is recognized as an existing activity center with opportunity to be supported by a hotel site to complement those uses. River improvements may offer the opportunity for riverside residential reinvestment/ redevelopment near Kenwood Park. Additionally, light industrial and commercial properties between Kenwood Park and S. Ohio Street were noted as particularly attractive for potential riverfront redevelopment due to their relative large parcel scale (requiring less development property assembly), relative low intensity of use, and Ohio Street frontage. Between the Downtown commercial core and Oakdale Park, potential infill redevelopment opportunities were identified between E. South Street and E. Iron Avenue, consistent with the Salina Comprehensive Plan. Existing non-residential influences on three sides of that area, namely the Regional Health Center, the downtown Lee District commercial core and the E. Iron Avenue/ Founders Park area, have the potential to attract infill redevelopment. North of E. Iron Avenue, the historic significance of the Iron Avenue crossing, Founders Park, and the Western Star Mill and Dam are complemented by the Salina Community Theatre, suggesting a potential historic cultural area. It is suggested that potential relocation of the existing Public Works General Services Center may be appropriate after significant investment is made in river improvements. Another opportunity identified was the potential redevelopment of the old hospital properties east of the Old Channel, between E. Iron Avenue and E. Elm Avenue. Potential public investment in the Founders Park/ E. Iron Avenue riverfront may help in attracting private redevelopment investment in the hospital properties. The opportunity to stabilize and strengthen existing residential neighborhoods between Riverside Park, Lakewood Middle School and Lakewood Park could be enhanced with greenway and trail improvements that better link those park areas to the neighborhood. North of the Old Channel, the opportunity to enhance the Old Channel as a river amenity for non-residential riverside properties was discussed, to attract potential investment in light industrial park/ office improvements.

LAND USE PATTERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES

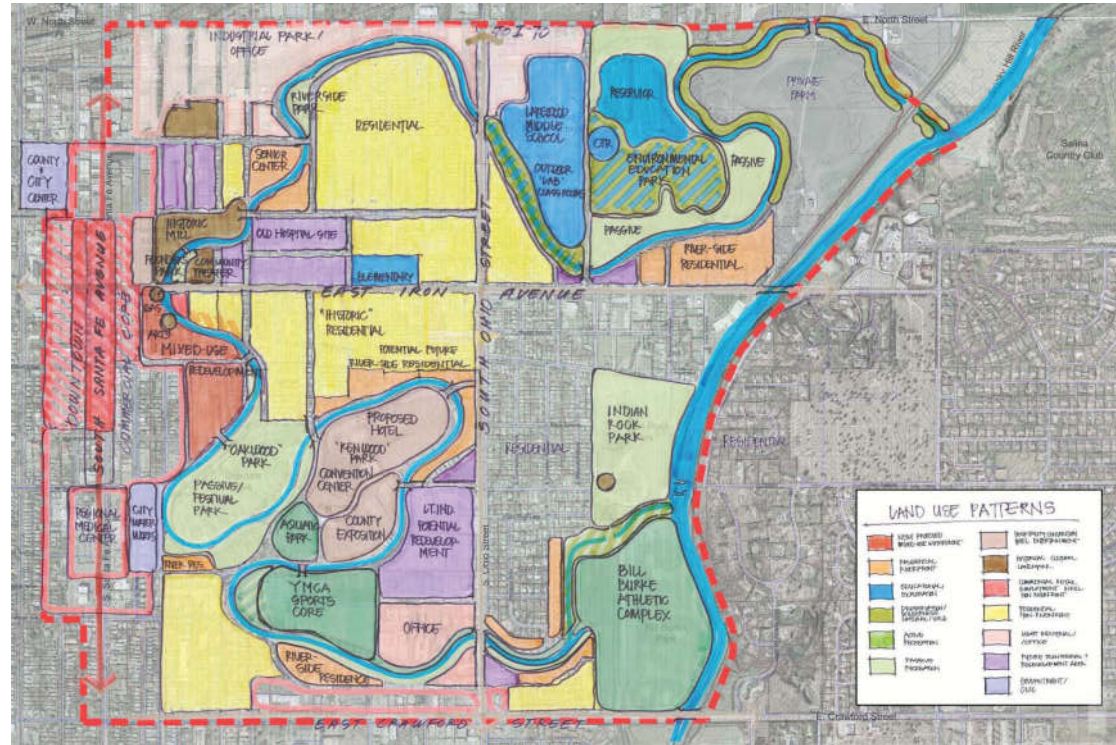


FIGURE 2.4
Land Use Opportunities

URBAN DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

The Urban Design overlay (Fig. 2.5), summarizes potential opportunities for thematic use areas and their inter-relationships. The thematic use areas combine use and activity opportunities, matched with opportunities presented by channel conditions. S. Ohio Street serves as the main entry to the project area, with opportunities to improve project area identity with gateway features at E. North Avenue from I-70, and at E. Crawford Avenue from I-135. The opportunity to create a major new entry to the central project area at The Midway in Kenwood Park would further improve the project area visibility, identity and arrival statement.

The south reach of the Old Channel illustrates the opportunity to link active recreation and athletic fields at the Bill Burke Athletic Complex with those at the YMCA campus with an active recreation corridor. The Active Recreation corridor is envisioned as including multi-use bicycle, skate and exercise trails, with potential off-trail (BMX) bike course and trailhead facilities. Indoor and outdoor aquatic facilities are provided by the YMCA and Kenwood Cove Aquatics Park, respectively. Opportunities at Kenwood Park suggest the development of an expanded hospitality core, with an expanded Bicentennial Center with the potential to attract a convention center hotel, and potentially, redefined County exposition center uses. Expanded activity at Kenwood Park and the South Active Recreation Corridor is complemented by continued use of Oakdale Park for predominantly leisure recreation and Smoky Hill River Festival grounds.

Opportunities to link Downtown with the Old Channel of the river are depicted by enhanced E. Mulberry Street and E. Walnut Street from the S. Santa Fe "Main Street" corridor to the river, serving urban infill development. The Urban Infill 'Gap' represents the opportunity to be filled with a range of residential and mixed use development that is seen as an opportunity to serve Regional Health Center employees and visitors, downtown Lee District-related uses, and historical/ cultural/ and fine arts center visitors and employees. The historic/cultural center proximity to the senior center and residential neighborhoods to the north provides resident opportunities for active participation as patrons or volunteer docents. Neighborhood Greenway improvements support neighborhood investment and linkages to the environmental education campus of Lakewood Middle School and Lakewood Park.

URBAN DESIGN PATTERNS AND OPPORTUNITIES

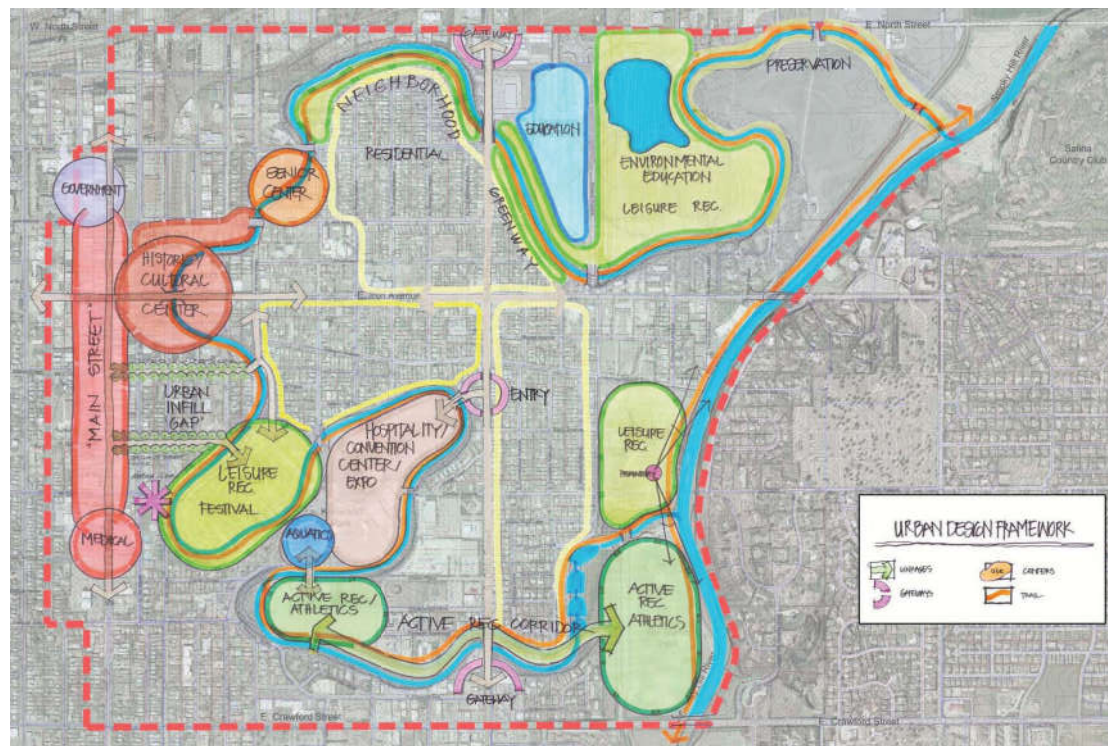


FIGURE 2.5
Urban Design Opportunities

PRELIMINARY FRAMEWORK PLAN

INTRODUCTION

Based on the community preferences received in Phase One outreach, existing opportunities and issues identified and Activity Center opportunities, a Concept Program Plan and River Channel Framework, and Access and Circulation Framework were developed to describe those key functional elements of a summary Preliminary Framework Plan.

CONCEPT PROGRAM PLAN

The Concept Program Plan (Fig. 2.6) combines uses and activities identified in the public outreach process with existing land uses and activity resources that can be enhanced and built upon with the addition of river improvements. Proposed uses and activities are intended to support and expand existing land uses and activities to define general use themes. The Concept Program Plan illustrates those thematic use areas, their inter-relationships and ways to create critical linkages between them so the thematic areas can mutually support one another.



TAC Members Dean Andrew and Dan Stack discuss project Goals and the Concept Program Plan

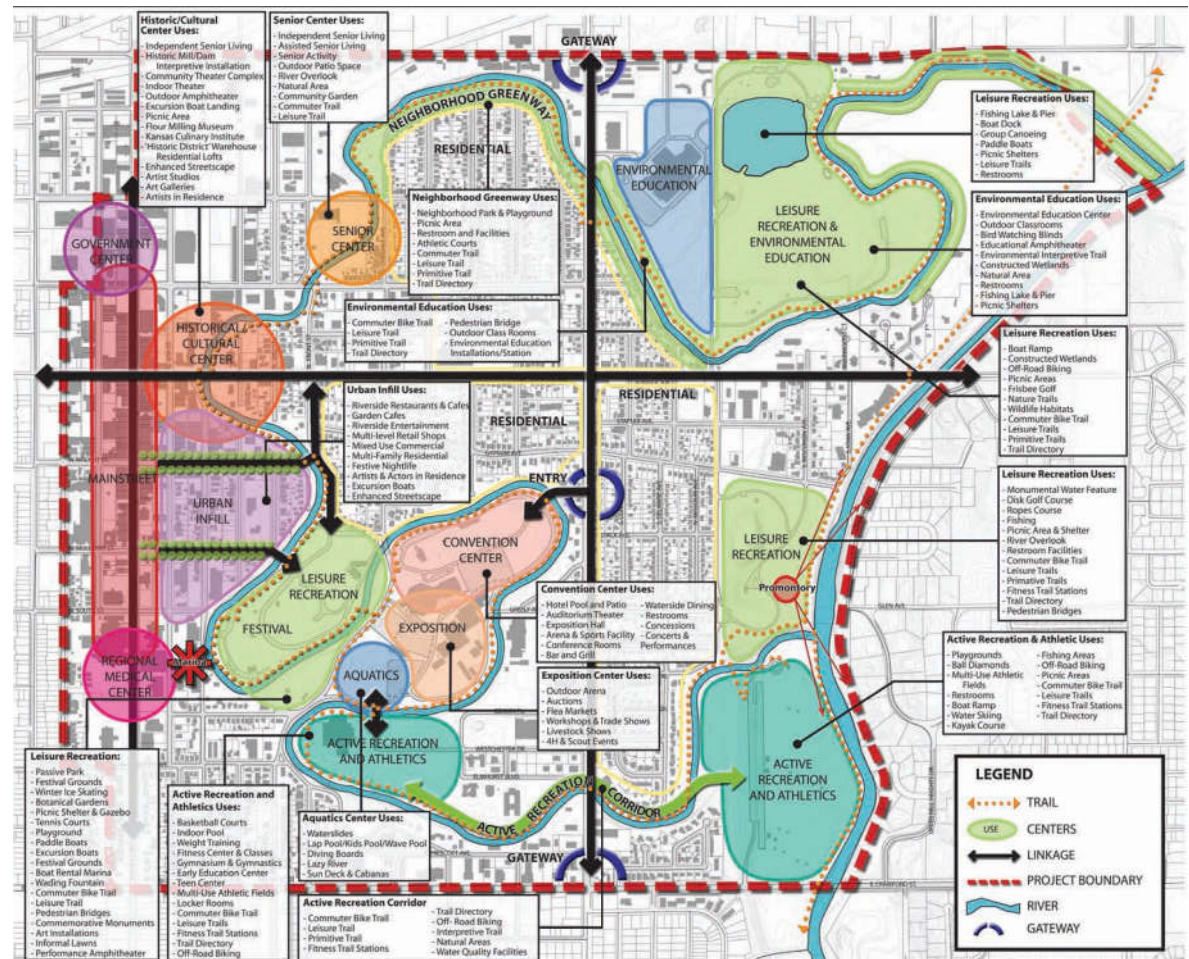


FIGURE 2.6
Concept Program Plan

THE MASTER PLAN | PRELIMINARY FRAMEWORK PLAN

RIVER CHANNEL FRAMEWORK

The existing character and conditions of the Old Channel, and proposed amended conditions to accommodate proposed improvements are illustrated in the River Channel Framework (Fig. 2.7). Additionally, opportunities to introduce other channel facilities to enhance performance of the channel are presented. It is presumed that much of the channel upstream of the Western Star Mill Dam will require accumulated sediment removal and bank stabilization in erosion-prone areas, with appropriate mitigation of any existing wetland disruption. However, upon completion of that work, the majority of the Old Channel course is envisioned as being restored to conditions that are similar to those that exist today. While the potential of additional navigable channel routes may be explored, strict regulatory restrictions prohibit channel abandonment and filling. Therefore, the current alignment of the Old Channel is presumed to be the base-line river course, unless specific objectives or conditions warrant consideration of other alternatives.

Potential additional facility concepts are also presented as opportunities to improve long-term channel performance. The addition of a sediment forebay and in-line water quality settling ponds are included as an opportunity in Bill Burke Park to reduce reintroduction of additional sediment from the main channel. Similarly, the addition of off-line water quality ponds are considered at the major storm water outfall at E. Prescott Avenue, requiring some channel realignment. The concept of an off-line, water conservation pool has been discussed as a potential storage reservoir, or permanent pond feature (supplemented by potable water in periods of extended drought) for a waterfront hotel in Kenwood Park. In the interest of improving water quality in the downtown reach of the old channel, the concept of extending downtown storm drain pipes has been considered, under the bottom of the channel, from the major outfall at S. 4th Avenue and E. South Street, to the Western Star Mill Dam. The creation of off-line aquatic study ponds at the Lakewood Middle School campus are also illustrated. As a final concept for further exploration, recirculating channel water, by pumping channel water from Lakewood Park back to the Old Channel inflow at Bill Burke Park, has been considered as a means to maintain Old Channel flows at times of extended drought.

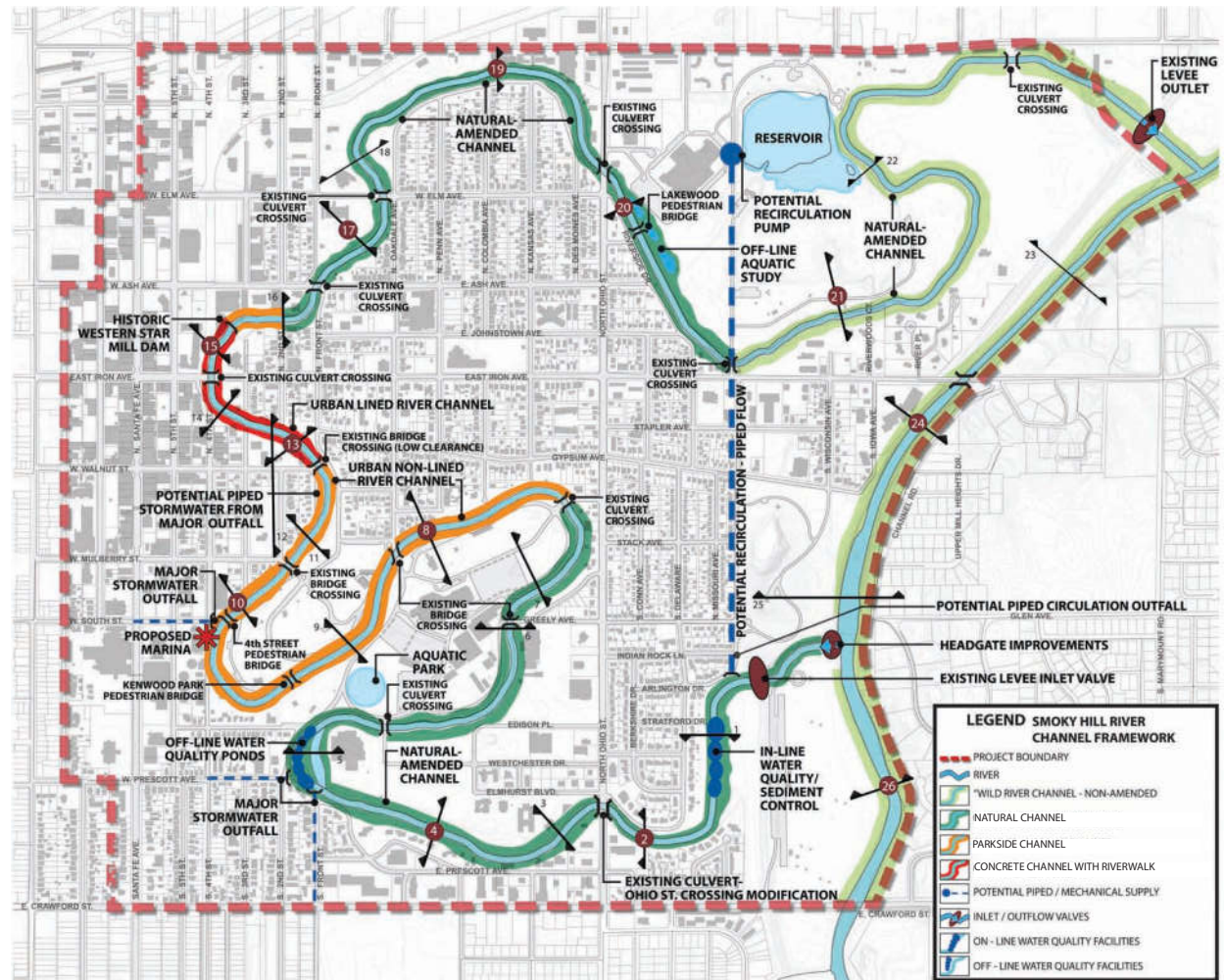


FIGURE 2.7
River Channel Framework

Three (3) typical channel types were identified to generally describe the restored river bank condition and Old Channel character.

Natural Channel, (Fig. 2.8) describes a channel condition intended to be restored to a predominantly natural condition, with minimal engineering improvements (sediment, erosion control, vegetation thinning) and native wetlands and riparian forest lining its banks. The Natural Channel designation also includes non-amended, ‘wild river’ areas, such as downstream of Indiana Street from Lakewood Park to the existing levee outlet, and the Main and Diversion By-Pass Channels of the Smoky Hill River. Navigation is not intended in this type of channel, other than kayaks, potentially, in designated reaches of the Old Channel.

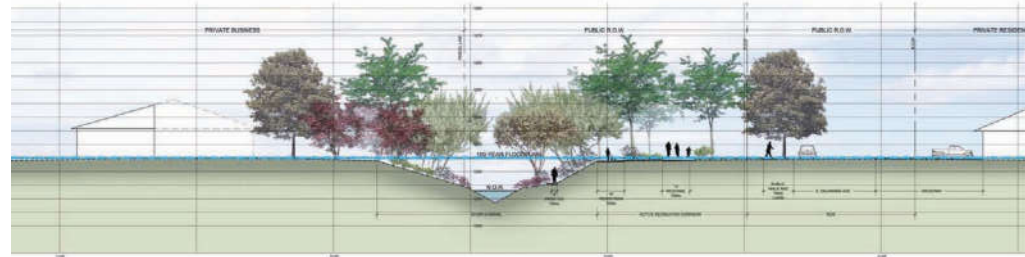


FIGURE 2.8 - Natural Channel Section (typ.)

Parkside Channel, (Fig. 2.9) describes a more controlled, non-lined, park-like edge condition where bank conditions may be modified to introduce grassed slopes that allow access to, or near to the river’s ‘natural’, unimproved edge. Motorized excursion boats or water taxi navigation could be accommodated in this channel type, except in periods of extended drought that result in low or no water flow.

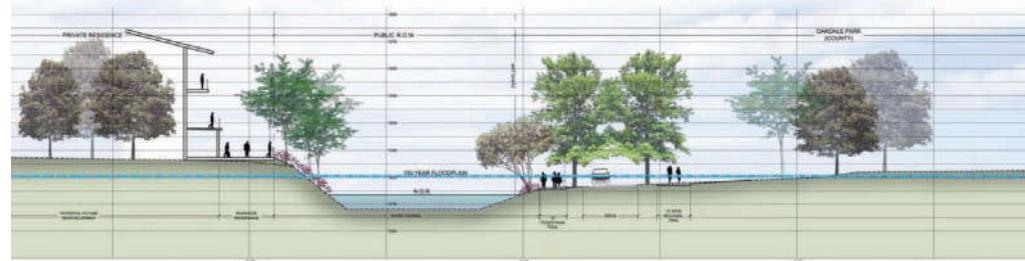


FIGURE 2.9 - Parkside Channel Section (typ.)

Concrete Channel with Riverwalk, (Fig. 2.10) describes the most controlled edge condition, introducing a hard-edged (concrete) bulkhead lining the banks of the river, creating a canal-like condition that incorporates continuous paved walkways, lighting, and other furnishings along the water’s edge. To maintain water in the channel in periods of extended drought, a bottom lining (concrete or rubber) may also be proposed with this channel type. Motorized excursion boats or water taxi navigation would be accommodated in this channel type at all times.

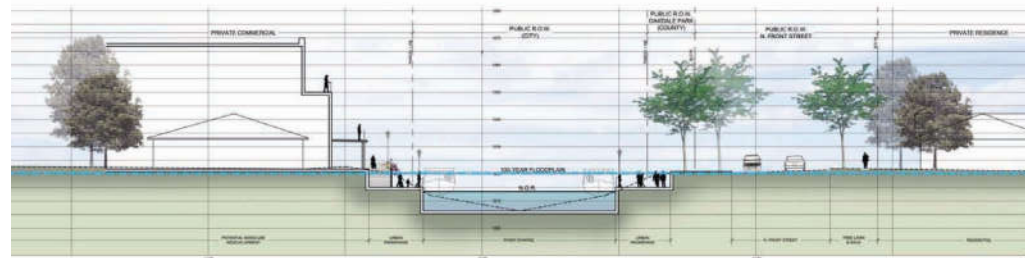


FIGURE 2.10 - Concrete Channel with River Walk (typ.)
 Three typical channel sections illustrate the River Channel Framework

ACCESS AND CIRCULATION FRAMEWORK

Existing access and circulation conditions include primary interstate highway access from I-70 via Ohio Street from the north and I-135 via Crawford Avenue from the west to Ohio Street serve the site well. Way-finding to the Old Channel project site from those highway interchanges could benefit from a wayfinding signage and project arrival monumentation. Local street circulation within the site is indirect and confusing for visitors, due to interruption of the street grid created by the circuitous route of the Old Channel. Lack of direct east-west routes between the Downtown Lee District and the Bicentennial Center are problematic, discouraging event visitors from making their way to downtown businesses. The absence of more direct north-south circulation routes also discourages access to downtown via E. Crawford or E. Iron Avenue. The result is that the Bicentennial Center is isolated from downtown businesses by residential neighborhoods and a circulation system that redirects them back to interstate highways, by-passing downtown. Street network access to the project area is also severely limited for neighborhoods to the east of the project area. Access across the Main Channel of the Smoky Hill River and Diversion By-pass Channel is limited to two streets, E. Crawford Avenue and E. Iron Avenue.

Street network river crossings, that were historically bridges, have been replaced with earthen fill and box culverts. The effect has been to segment the river corridor, into short discontinuous reaches, that are blockaded by massive earthen structures of roadway fill. Some culverts have experienced, or encouraged accumulated sediment, reducing river flows. The opportunity to reconnect the river as a continuous, connected water course could be realized by removal of culverts and replacement with bridges or oversized box culverts that promote continuous river circulation, navigation by watercraft and trails.

The Access and Circulation Framework (Fig. 2.11) illustrates the Smoky Hill River Trail Master Plan (BWR 2009) offers the opportunity to create a looped, multi-use trail course along the Old Channel and Diversion By-pass Channel, primarily utilizing existing city street right of way and park land, with relatively little land acquisition required. The limitations imposed by relying existing right of way include segments that function as street sidewalk, with little or no relationship to the river and safety issues presented by at-grade, crosswalk street crossings at some of Salina’s busiest streets. The opportunity to create trail underpasses as phased culvert replacement occurs would eliminate street crossing conflicts. Trail linkages in Bill Burke Park to the existing regional (levee) trail system provide trail access to the project area from Salina’s south neighborhoods. Potential future regional trail extensions could also be considered on the

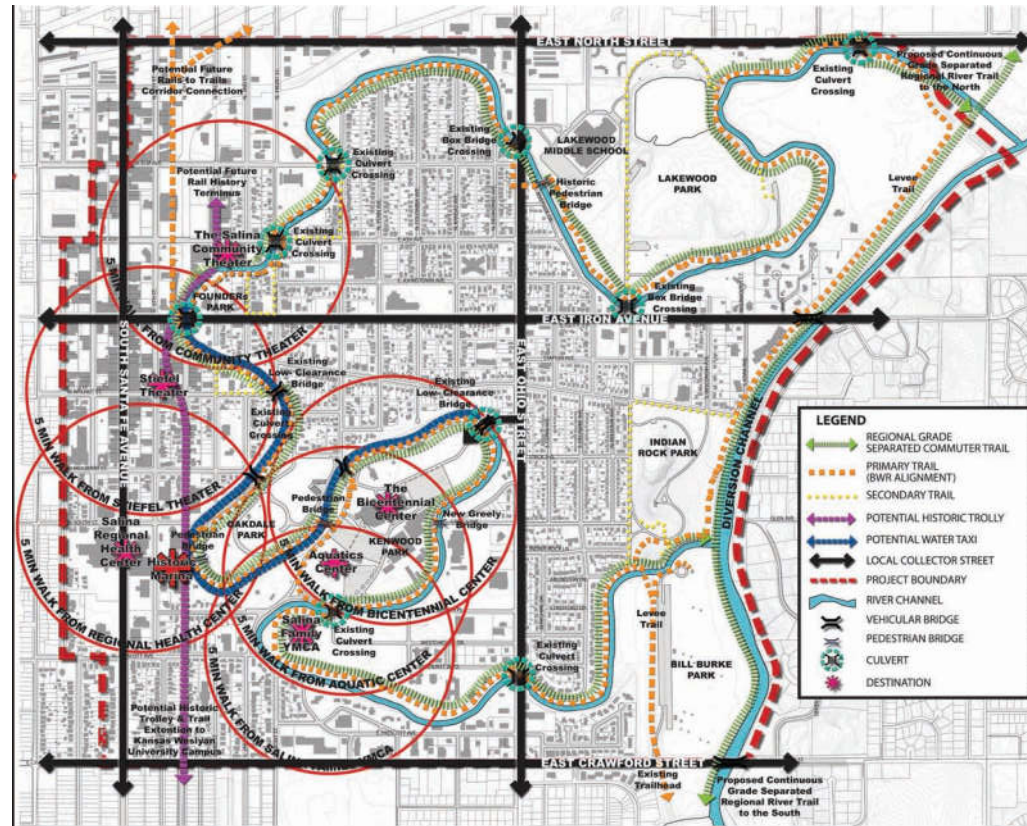


FIGURE 2.11
Access and
Circulation
Framework

west side of the project area through potential “rails to trails” conversion as existing rail right of way becomes available. Another rail right-of-way opportunity may be the use of the S. 4th Avenue rail corridor for a “historic” tourist trolley between South Street and a Rail Heritage Center between E. Ash and E. Elm Avenues. Potential future extension of that trolley might include weekend service to Kansas Wesleyan University.

The Salina “City-go” bus transit system serves the project area, with three (red, yellow and blue routes) of four routes providing local service to the greater project area. An analysis of pedestrian circulation opportunities,

plotting five-minute (¼ mile) walking radii between major visitor destinations, revealed that the Bicentennial Center and any proposed associated development, is beyond the preferred walking distance to downtown destinations. The benefit of clustering major destinations within walking distance allows visitors to “park once”, increasing the potential that they will extend their stay, and spend more in local businesses.

PRELIMINARY FRAMEWORK PLAN

The consolidation of the Concept Program Plan, the Channel, Access and Circulation Frameworks results in the Preliminary Framework Plan (Fig. 2.12) that illustrates potential Activity Centers, destinations, thematic use areas and their inter-relationships. Based on the walking radii and Activity Center locations, the Preliminary Framework Plan illustrates that a Kenwood Park - Hospitality / Convention Center/ Exposition Activity Center is not within visitor walking distance of existing downtown visitor destinations. Therefore, as planning proceeds, concepts may consider Activity Centers and destinations as sub-area anchors. The importance of river improvements in linking sub-areas will be increased through proposed circulation improvements, including enhanced streets, trails, potential water taxi and other types of boating. Additional long-range planning concepts for potential consideration in alternatives included:

- Infill development with thematic Walnut and Mulberry Street streetscapes between S. Santa Fe and the Old River Channel to extend downtown closer to the Bicentennial Center Convention facility;
- New convention hotel and relocated convention facilities between S. Santa Fe and the Old River Channel to locate Convention facilities closer to downtown;
- River Channel improvements to accommodate Water Taxi/ Excursion Boat service between Downtown and the Convention Center area, potentially including extensions of new navigable canals from the Old River Channel.

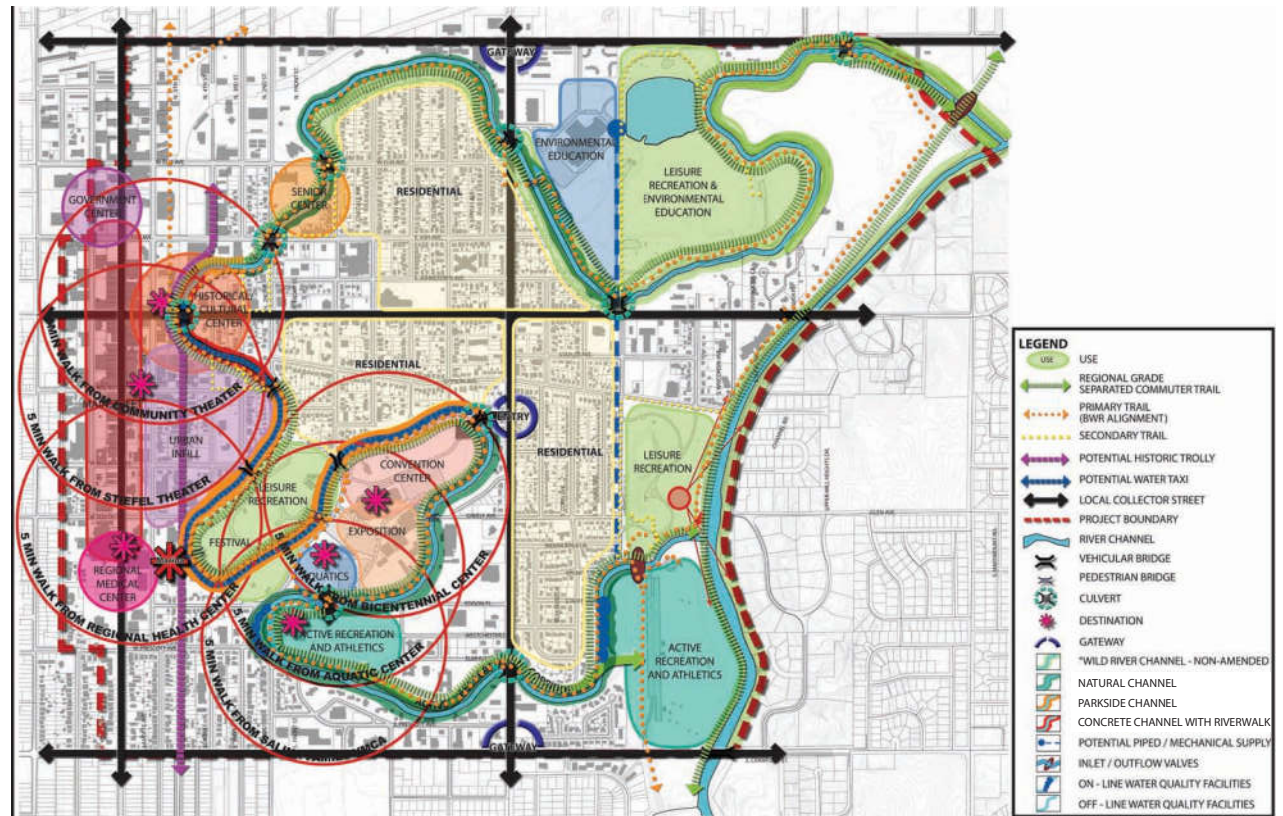


FIGURE 2.12
Preliminary Framework Plan

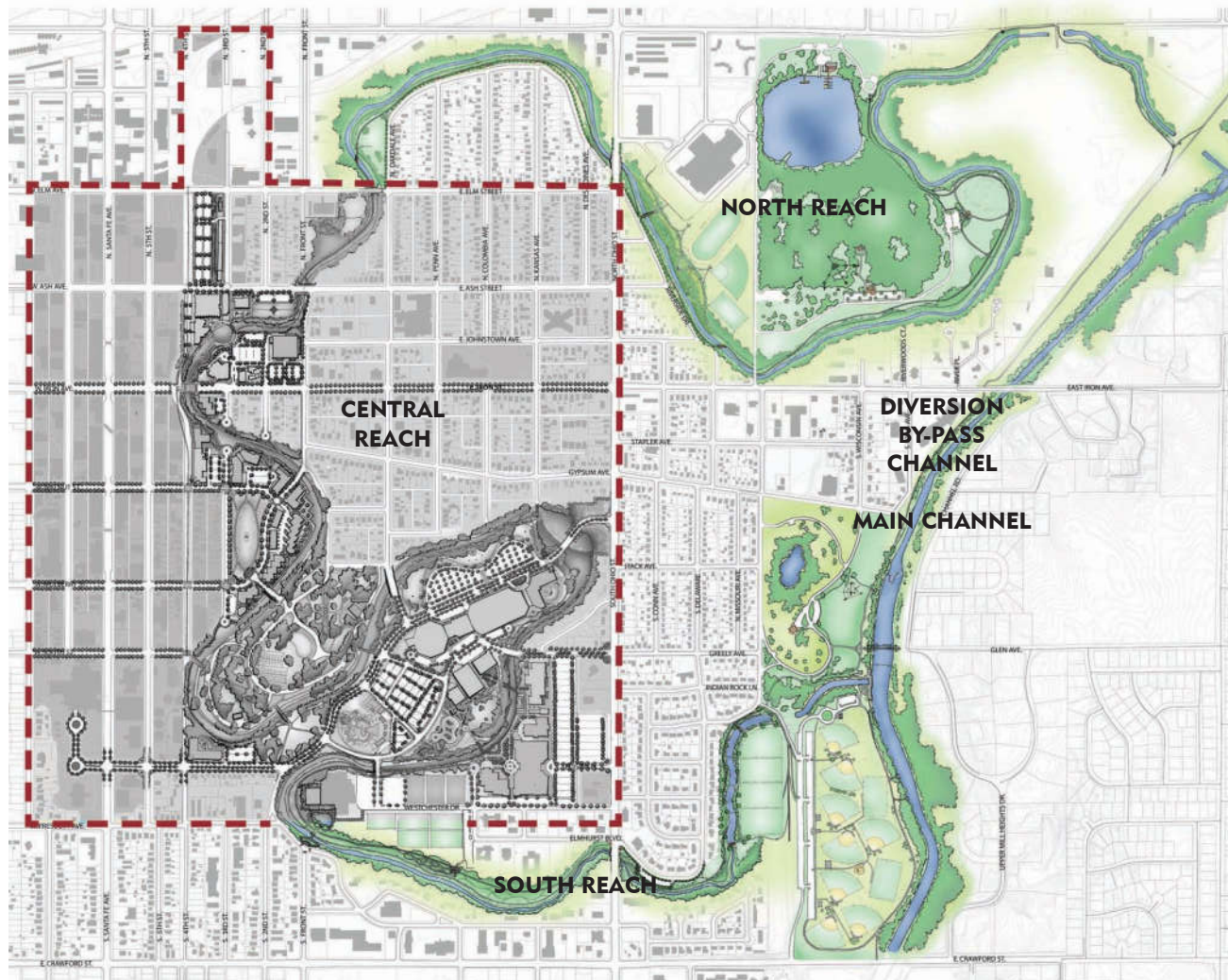


FIGURE 2.13
Elements common to all alternatives

ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

In reviewing public outreach input and preferences South, North and Main Channel / Diversion By-Pass Channel reaches, there was consistency in the general direction expressed for each of those reaches, based largely on existing use patterns and physical characteristics. Upon reviewing the proposed uses and character of the South Reach, North Reach and Main Channel and Diversion By-pass Channel with the MAC and TAC, there was agreement that proposed improvements were consistent with input, goals and objectives expressed by the public for those reaches. Due to that consistency in desired use and character, proposed improvements on each plan are the same on all three Alternatives to allow a more focused exploration of options in the Central Reaches. Improvements proposed for South, North and the Main Channel and Diversion By-pass Reaches (Fig. 2.13) are presented on this page, with Concept Alternatives for the Central Reaches on the following pages.

Concept Alternatives for the Central Reaches are described in terms of the general concept, land use, circulation, river improvements, and private sector development opportunities to attract investment.



SOUTH REACH

Improvements in the South Reach characterize its emphasis as an Active Recreation Corridor connecting Kenwood Park and the YMCA area with the Bill Burke Park Athletic Complex and other parks and athletic facilities further upstream on the regional trail system. Active recreation from youth to intercollegiate team sports could be promoted with leagues and play-off events in Salina’s athletic complexes complimented by a range of hotel, park, and entertainment activities in Kenwood Park in a sports festival setting. Trails, other linear activities and exercise facilities strengthen the activity in the corridor. River improvements include the dredging of channel to remove sediment throughout the length of the South reaches. Highlights included in each of the Master Plan Alternatives include:

- Headgate Historic Plaza & Fishing Pier
- Natural Area for Habitat Restoration
- S. Ohio Street Bridge Underpass and Trail Head
- Lincal Park Trailhead, Off-Road Biking, & Exercise Trail
- Potential YMCA Area Pond and potential expansion,
- YMCA Boating put-in point



NORTH REACH

The North Reach is characterized as a place of Environmental Education and learning and connecting to neighborhoods. The residential neighborhoods served by the north reach share Riverside Drive as a common seam with the river corridor, so trail and streetscape enhancements have been incorporated throughout its length. Lakewood Middle School and Lakewood Park Discovery Center share a common boundary and a common interest; Environmental Education. While river channel improvements are generally limited to stabilization and upkeep, a range of cooperative opportunities have been proposed to expand the environmental education theme. Potential future use of the Lakewood Park Lake has been proposed as part of a river water recycling and pump-back system to address periods of drought and low water with boating improvements at the marina. The North River Reach includes the following highlights in each of the Master Plan Alternatives:

- Trail Linkages and Hierarchy
- Lakewood Middle School Learning Laboratories
- Lakewood Park Enhancements & Educational Amphitheater



MAIN CHANNEL AND DIVERSION BY-PASS CHANNEL

The Main Channel and Diversion By-pass Channel are characterized by the unique and distinctively higher volume of water that flows through that reach, prompting public outreach interest in potential boating, fishing and other water activities. In evaluating the site potential and safety issues associated with this reach, limited improvements and activities are proposed for this area. Severe slopes, bank instability, deteriorating Corps of Engineers flood control infrastructure and higher volume drop structures limit the potential for active recreational use. Highlights included in each of the Master Plan Alternatives include:

- Pedestrian Suspension Bridge between Indian Rock Park and Glen Ave.
- Levee Trail connection north of Iron Ave. and south of Crawford St.
- Indian Rock Park Overlook Pavilion
- Fishing access in Bill Burke Park

THE MASTER PLAN | ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

CONCEPT A - CONVENTION CENTER

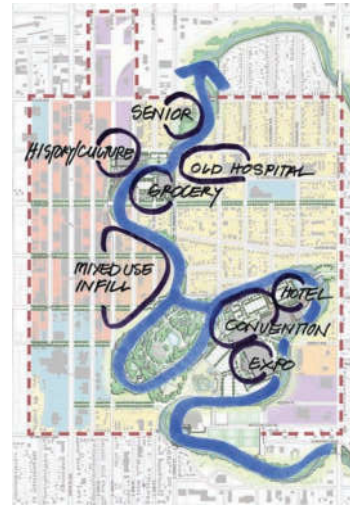
Alternative Plan "A" (Fig. 2.14) focuses on creating a downtown infill neighborhood based on the strength of all three activity centers, but capitalizing on a new direct east-west connection between Downtown and the Bicentennial Center, using the alignment of Oakdale Drive as a primary street corridor, and the northern tier of Oakdale Park as a new river channel. The Bicentennial Center is strengthened and expanded with additional conference facilities to attract more weekday events and a hotel to serve the center and central Salina. This Alternative seeks to build upon the benefits of proximity to the historical/cultural/ arts development, and from Regional Health Center growth and expansion. Highlights include:

Land Use

The Historical/ Cultural Center development near the Salina Community Theatre, includes Milling, Rail and Pioneer/Agricultural Heritage exhibits and hands-on demonstrations at the Western Star Mill and adjacent Public Works General Services Center. Mixed Use infill development is intended to serve, and therefore reflect, the influence of the surrounding activity centers, with the river as the primary amenity. Redevelopment of the old hospital site to provide a range of new residential opportunities is proposed, as well as potential expansion of the Riverside Plaza senior residences, supported by reinvestment in a new grocery store anchor. At Kenwood Park, emphasis is placed on expanding the capabilities of the Bicentennial Center to achieve a balance between weekend event revenues and weekday business conferences and tradeshow. Conference/ Convention facilities are linked with a business hotel at the east end of the site, facing Ohio Street. A new, fully indoor County Exposition hall is proposed south of the Bicentennial Center, maximizing shared and overflow parking opportunities. Commercial sites for restaurants are located at entries to the park.

Circulation

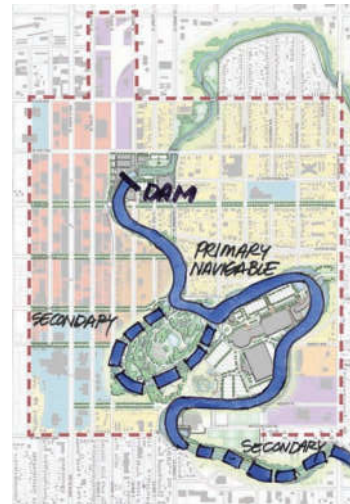
Strengthening east-west connections from the Bicentennial Center to Downtown are proposed with realignment of the Mulberry Street/ Oakdale Drive over a pair of new bridges, improving the direct connection between downtown and the convention center. With the addition of a new river channel in Oakdale Park, circulation through Oakdale will be reduced from Oakdale Drive. Kenwood Park access is reorganized with an outer loop drive with continuous public riverfront promenade on the outer side and development on the inside. Center street is proposed to be extended through to Santa Fe to complete the east west linking of downtown through to Ohio Street.



LAND USE



CIRCULATION



RIVER IMPROVEMENTS



PRIVATE SECTOR

CONCEPT A - CONVENTION CENTER



FIGURE 2.14
Concept Alternative A
 Convention Center

River Improvements

In this Alternative, the existing Western Star Mill Dam elevation is proposed to remain at its current elevation to provide a navigable channel and permanent pool upstream to Oakdale Park with hardscaped, urban edge to Walnut Street. Commercial excursion boats are envisioned looping between the Heritage Center and Convention Center Landing looped channel.

Private Sector Investment Opportunities

Private investment in the Old Hospital infill neighborhood, downtown infill neighborhood and retail (sales tax) redevelopment investment along East Kenwood/Ohio Street is intended to be attracted by public sector investment in the river, circulation, historical cultural center and Kenwood Park facilities development.

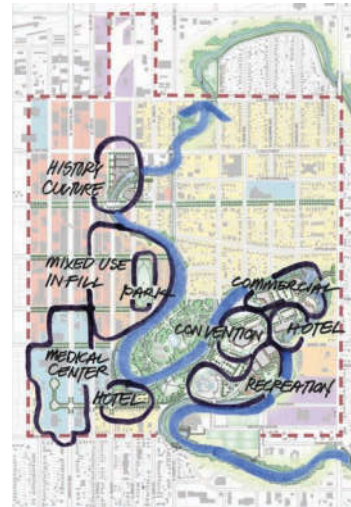
THE MASTER PLAN | ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

CONCEPT B - RECREATION AND WELLNESS

Alternative Plan “B” (Fig. 2.15) focuses on creating a strong connection between Downtown and the River, using the Regional Health Center as a primary focal point, and using the Smoky Hill River renewal to direct reinvestment to the southern edge of Oakdale/ Kenwood Park. This strategy attempts to maximize health/medical growth potential by directly linking the Regional Health Center to Kenwood Park active recreation amenities. Active recreation from youth, to intercollegiate team sports is promoted with hosting of leagues and play-off events in Salina’s athletic complexes with a range of hotel and activities in Kenwood. Historical Cultural Activity Center investment is scaled back, but still anchors the northern end of the central segments with cultural arts district along the river. Highlights include:

Land Use

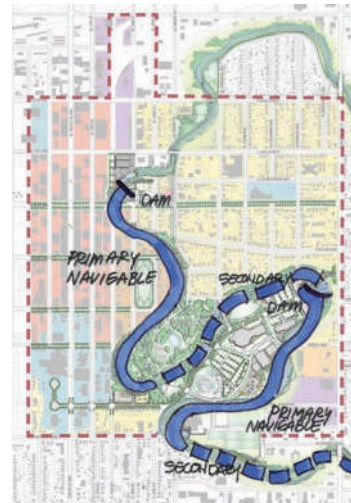
Regional Health Center development both within the boundaries of the Health Center Land Use District and potentially beyond is envisioned with teaching, laboratories, support services and vendors. A smaller, extended stay hotel is located to serve Health Center visitors over-looking Oakdale Park, with a second, more family-affordable hotel located in Kenwood Park to serve travelling athletic teams and recreation-minded families and youth groups. As in other alternatives, mixed use infill development is intended to serve and therefore reflect the influence of the surrounding Activity Centers, with the river as the primary amenity. This alternative envisions a more medical staff-oriented influence in the types of mixed use and residential development in downtown and Riverfront Redevelopment infill areas. A central Neighborhood Park is proposed between Mulberry and Walnut as an amenity to support a range of residential opportunities directed as the medical employees of the center. Cultural Center development is proposed around the Salina Community Theatre, but less aggressive with a Milling, Rail and Pioneer/Agricultural Heritage Center at the Western Star Mill. At Kenwood Park, emphasis is placed on Convention support uses, with the hotels mentioned above, and indoor courts (tennis/ other) pavilion, indoor ice arena/bowling and crafts pavilion in the adaptive reuse of County Agricultural Exposition buildings. Along the southern/ eastern segment of the river, a park-like edge is provided to a host of restaurants, commercial retail with a non-urban, park-like river promenade focus as a back yard/ patio that spans both sides of the river.



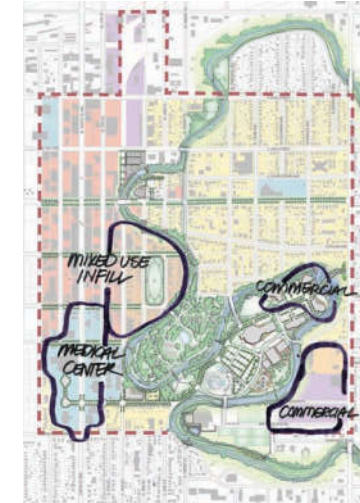
LAND USE



CIRCULATION

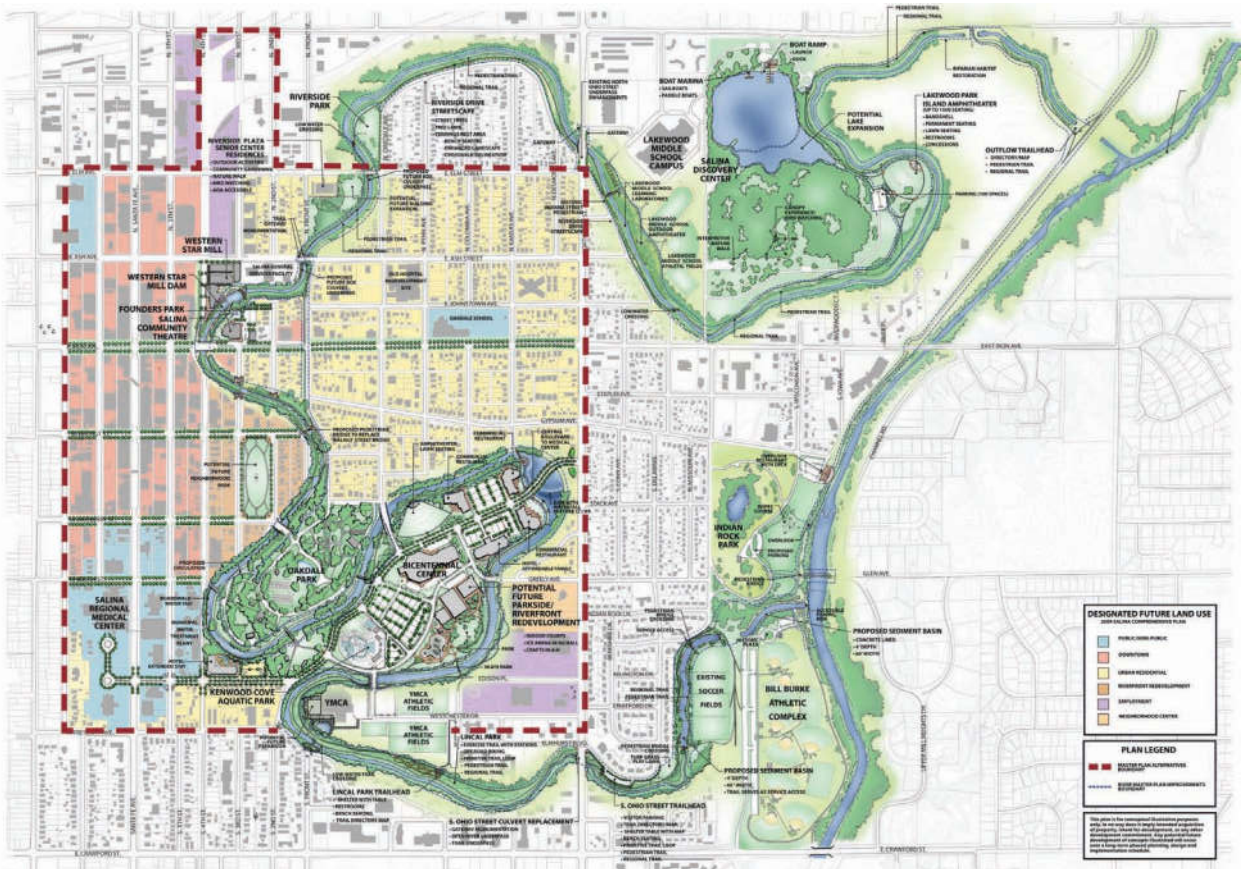


RIVER IMPROVEMENTS



PRIVATE SECTOR

CONCEPT B - RECREATION AND WELLNESS



Circulation
 Strengthening east-west connections from Ohio Street to Santa Fe Avenue are proposed with realignment of the Midway as a continuous boulevard along the alignments of the Midway, Oakdale and Center Street, improving the drive connection between downtown and the Convention Center. Other Kenwood Park circulation is realigned by consolidating roadways to the center and opening access to the river from uses and activities and adjacent development. Other east-west street connections to Downtown are enhanced to further strengthen connections between Downtown and the river, including the enhancement of East Iron Avenue as a “complete street” as proposed in the 2009 Salina Comprehensive Plan.

River Improvements
 The existing Western Star Mill Dam elevation is proposed to be lowered by 2-3’ to provide a navigable channel and permanent pool upstream to Oakdale Park with hardscape, urban edge this case only to the Walnut Street. Excursion (private or public) boats are envisioned looping between the Heritage Center and boutique hotel along the river’s channel. A landing at the base of the bluff bank is envisioned opposite Oakdale Park. At Kenwood Park, a new second dam is proposed at the northeasterly corner of the park, this time to create a very long, water cascade feature welcoming visitors from Ohio Street. The second dam provides a second low-water permanent pool that will allow recreational rafting, canoeing and kayaking from the YMCA to the east end of Kenwood and most importantly, an increased assurance of the presence of water during periods of drought.

Private Sector Investment Opportunities
 Private investment in the Medical Center area, downtown infill neighborhood, Kenwood Park development (long term ground-lease) and potential redevelopment investment east of Kenwood along the South Ohio Street corridor is intended to follow public sector investment in the river, circulation, historical cultural center and Kenwood Park circulation and infrastructure.

FIGURE 2.15
 Concept Alternative B
 Recreation and Wellness

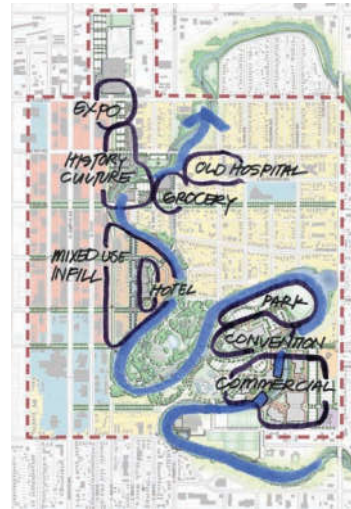
THE MASTER PLAN | ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

CONCEPT C - DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK

Alternative Plan "C" (Fig 2.16) focuses on creating a strong connection between Downtown and the River, utilizing a proposed Historical/ Cultural Activity Center at the river and East Iron Avenue as a primary focal point, and using the Smoky Hill River renewal to direct reinvestment to the northwest of Oakdale/Kenwood Park. This strategy attempts to maximize river improvement impact to Downtown by linking the river to downtown with redevelopment and by bringing the river closer to Downtown with additional channel waterfront being created on the alignment of Third (3rd) Street to serve as a central hotel site. Highlights include:

Land Use

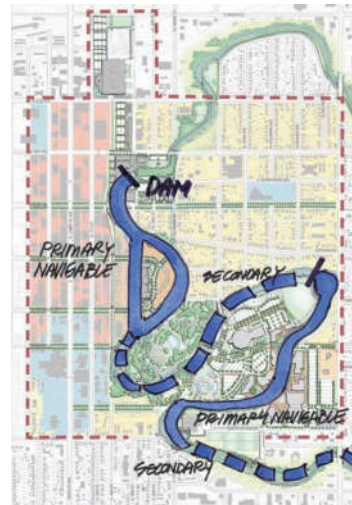
The Historical/ Cultural Center development near the Salina Community Theatre, includes Milling, Rail and Pioneer/Agricultural Heritage exhibits and hands-on demonstrations at the Western Star Mill, rail head house and adjacent Public Works General Services Center. A centrally located hotel is located to serve Cultural, Convention and Medical Center visitors. Mixed Use infill development is proposed between the river and downtown including ground-level commercial uses with office and residential uses on upper floors. Proposed mixed-use areas will reflect the influence of the surrounding activity centers and their respective emphasis in each respective Alternative. The river will provide the primary amenity. Redevelopment of the old hospital site is proposed to provide a range of new residential opportunities, supported by reinvestment in a new neighborhood-serving grocery store anchor. Cultural center and hospital site investment is anticipated to encourage reinvestment in the surrounding residential neighborhoods. At Kenwood Park, emphasis is placed on extending the arts-in-the-park qualities of Oakdale Park, upstream along the northern segment of the river with a Sculpture Park and large, traveling production events Amphitheater, to host national entertainment. Relocated exposition facilities are proposed for expansion at a downtown site at North 5th Street between Elm and North Street, near the Historical/ Cultural Activity Center. In its place in Kenwood Park, along the southern/eastern segment of the river, is a thriving marketplace of restaurants, entertainment (including a multi-plex movie theater) and other commercial/retail development, including a business hotel. That potential future development is directly connected to the riverfront by a paved, hardscape river promenade of patios, riverside dining and other new entertainment-oriented uses on both sides of the river from Ohio Street.



LAND USE



CIRCULATION

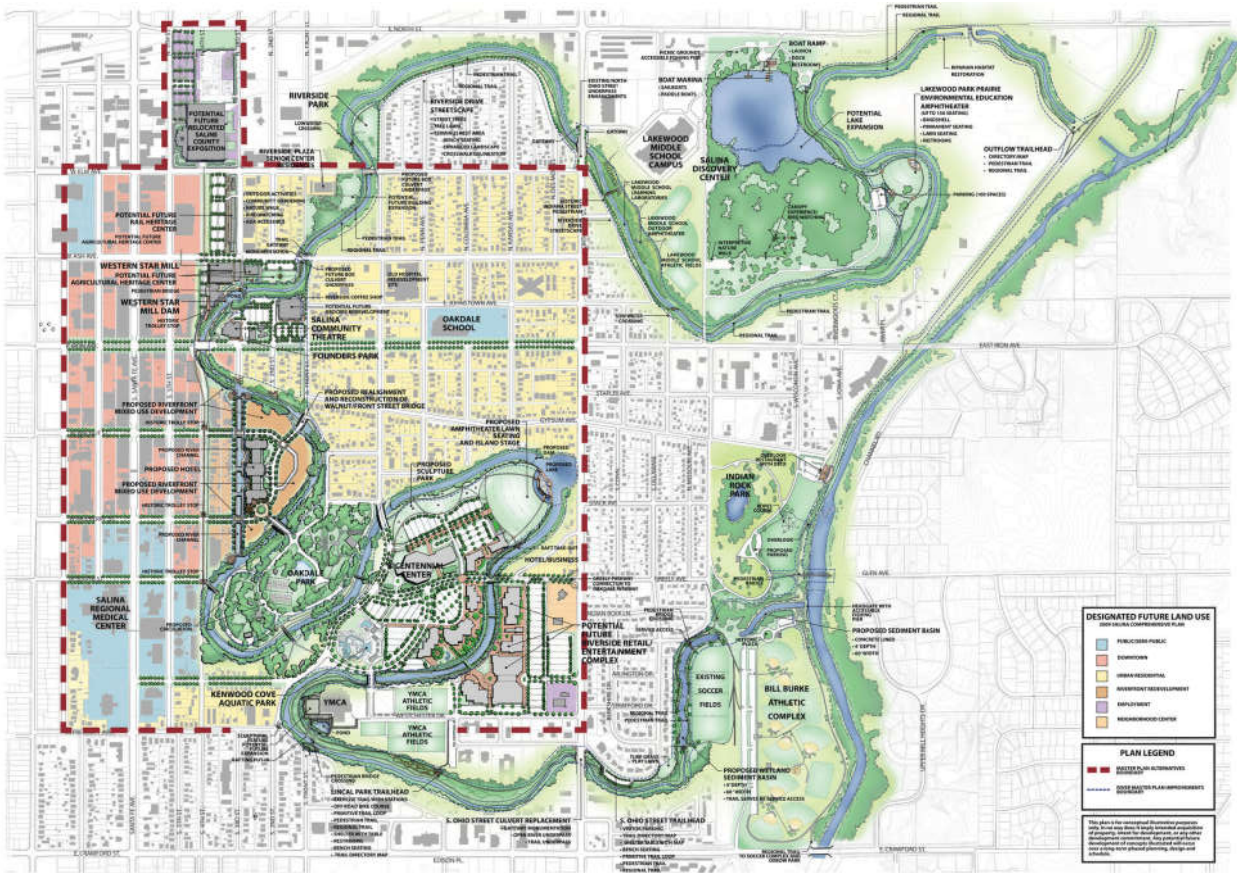


RIVER IMPROVEMENTS



PRIVATE SECTOR

CONCEPT C - DOWNTOWN RIVERWALK



Circulation

Strengthening north-south connections from Oakdale/Kenwood Parks are proposed between Iron Avenue and areas north, with realignment of the Walnut Bridge and Front Street, enhanced Oakdale Avenue and a new, more direct east-west Mulberry Street/Oakdale Drive connection between downtown and the convention center. Kenwood Park access is realigned by closing the midway entry of Ohio and creating a strong east-west access to Oakdale, while preserving larger development parcels and removing the street separating uses from the river. Center Street is proposed to be extended through to Santa Fe Avenue to complete the east-west linking of downtown through to Ohio Street. Historic trolley service along 4th Street is encouraged for character and image, with Trolley Stops (brown-hatched pavement on the plan) if there is a volunteer railway heritage interest group in the area.

River Improvements

The existing Western Star Mill Dam elevation is proposed to be lowered by 2-3' to provide a navigable channel and permanent pool from the dam, upstream to Oakdale Park with a hardscaped, urban edge to the upstream end of the proposed new channel. Commercial excursion boats are envisioned looping between the Heritage Center and Hotel looped channel. At Kenwood Park, a new second dam is proposed at the northeasterly corner of the park to create a lake feature welcoming visitors from Ohio Street. The second dam provides a second low-water permanent pool that will allow recreational rafting, canoeing and kayaking from the YMCA to the east end of Kenwood Park.

Private Sector Investment Opportunities

Private investment in the Old Hospital infill neighborhood, downtown infill neighborhood and retail (sales tax) redevelopment investment along the river in East Kenwood and along Ohio Street is anticipated to be attracted by public sector investment in the river, circulation, historical cultural center and Kenwood Park improvements.

FIGURE 2.16
Concept Alternative C
 Downtown Riverwalk

THE MASTER PLAN | ALTERNATIVE CONCEPTS

MASTER PLAN ALTERNATIVES PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Master Plan Alternatives were presented in a Public Open House from 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Salina Art Center – Warehouse facility, adjacent to the Smoky Hill River. Over 700 participants reviewed the three (3) Alternative Master Plans presented on the preceding pages, in addition to the Master Plan Framework plans that led to the Alternatives. Participants provided input through the over 288 citizen questionnaires that were received and through discussion with City Staff, Consultant team and Friends of the River Foundation representatives.

The morning of the Open House, a VIP presentation for elected officials was held, to introduce the alternatives and answer questions. City Commissioners, Planning Commissioners, County Commissioners and School Board members were invited attendees, along with MAC and TAC members.

Additional project information was presented including:

- A River Runs Through It – Smoky Hill River History Video
- Smoky Hill River Memories - Oral History Video Presentation
- Smoky Hill River Renewal Master Plan – Phase 1 & 2 Project PowerPoint Presentation

Local AM Radio Station KSAL conducted a remote broadcast from the Open House to interview project participants with the local Public Access Television Station conduction taping proceedings and interviews.

Refreshments were hosted by the Friends of the River Foundation, including a BBQ dinner featuring the culinary creations of the local BBQ Champions.



**RESPONSES TO THE ALTERNATIVES
OPEN HOUSE DATA INPUT - QUESTIONNAIRE**

Results from Public Open House questionnaires were tabulated and comments recorded to summarize citizen input (Fig. 2.17). Summary results were distributed to guide the MAC and TAC in recommending a Preferred Plan direction. Complete summaries and comments are included in the Appendix.

Elements Common to All Plans

In the South Reach (Bill Burke Park to YMCA) the concepts presented meet your expectations of what should occur there	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Response
	85	134	31	3	6	259
Percentage of Total Responses	32.8%	51.7%	12.0%	1.2%	2.3%	100%
In the North Reach (Ash Street to the Outflow Confluence) the concepts presented meet your expectations of what should occur there.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Response
	79	126	34	4	6	249
Percentage of Total Responses	31.7%	50.6%	13.7%	1.6%	2.4%	100%
In the Main Channel/By-pass Diversion Channel (Bill Burke Park to the Outflow Confluence) the concepts presented meet your expectations of what should occur there.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Response
	72	121	40	2	5	240
Percentage of Total Responses	30.0%	50.4%	16.7%	1.2%	0.8%	100%

Central Reach Alternatives

Which Alternative do you feel best fits your desire for Kenwood Park Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response
	36	101	107	52	296
Percentage of Total Responses	12.2%	34.1%	36.1%	17.6%	100%
Which Alternative do you feel best fits your desire for Bicentennial Center Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response
	75	74	81	41	271
Percentage of Total Responses	27.7%	27.3%	29.9%	15.1%	100%
Which Alternative do you feel best fits your desire for Western Star Mill/Cultural Heritage Center Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response
	23	50	124	50	247
Percentage of Total Responses	9.3%	20.2%	50.2%	20.2%	100%
Which Alternative do you feel best fits your desire for Downtown Area Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response
	16	67	172	33	288
Percentage of Total Responses	5.6%	23.3%	59.7%	11.5%	100%
Which Alternative do you feel best fits your desire for Street Circulation Pattern Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response
	17	79	86	57	239
Percentage of Total Responses	7.1%	33.1%	36.0%	23.8%	100%

Which Alternative do you feel offers the best concepts for the extent of River Channel Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response	
	17	87	86	62	252	
Percentage of Total Responses	6.7%	34.5%	34.1%	24.6%	100%	
Which Alternative do you feel offers the best opportunities for Economic Development and Private Developer Investment Improvements:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response	
	40	39	111	55	245	
Percentage of Total Responses	16.3%	15.9%	45.3%	22.4%	100%	
Do you agree that the Smoky Hill River Renewal is a good idea and should be continued?	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Response
	205	58	17	4	6	259
Percentage of Total Responses	70.7%	20.0%	5.9%	1.4%	2.1%	100%
The Master Plan Alternatives provide a creative range of concepts for Channel Improvements that are applicable to Salina.	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Response
	143	96	9	4	2	254
Percentage of Total Responses	56.3%	37.8%	3.5%	1.6%	0.8%	100%
Is there an Alternative that includes a concept that should absolutely be included in any combination of the Alternatives in the Final Master Plan, and what is that Concept?	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response	
	22	93	118	3	236	
Percentage of Total Responses	9.3%	39.4%	50.0%	1.3%	100%	
Is there an Alternative that includes a concept that should absolutely NOT be included in any combination of the Alternatives in the Final Master Plan, and what is that Concept?	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response	
	44	19	23	2	88	
Percentage of Total Responses	50.0%	21.6%	26.1%	2.3%	100%	
In general, the single best Master Plan Alternative is:	Convention Center Exposition Center	Recreation & Wellness	Downtown Riverwalk	All Equally Good	Total Response	
	25	86	101	1	213	
Percentage of Total Responses	11.7%	40.4%	47.4%	0.5%	100%	

FIGURE 2.17
Open House Response Table - Master Plan Alternatives

THE MASTER PLAN | PREFERRED PLAN

THE PREFERRED PLAN - MAC FOLLOW-UP INPUT

Having actively participated in the Public Open House to present Master Plan Alternatives and reviewed the summary results of citizen input questionnaires, the MAC and TAC met in joint session to make summary recommendations illustrated in the Preferred Plan (Fig. 2.18) to the consultant team. A combination of noteworthy elements from each plan was the recommended approach for a Preferred Plan direction. Generally, Downtown and Ohio Street commercial elements from Plan C Convention Center expansion and Hotel elements were carried over from Plan A, and the “grand boulevard” and Midway Gateway Entry from S. Ohio Street to the Regional Health Center and boutique hotel were included from Plan B. The proposed Third Street channel and hotel proposed in Plan C received commendations for innovative initiative, however, in the end they were passed over in favor of focusing on the existing 6.8 miles of channel and developing the riverside convention hotel site in Kenwood Park.

PROJECT IDENTITY AND OUTREACH PROMOTION

Project identity and outreach promotion of the project was accomplished by creating distinct identity logos, for both the Smoky Hill River Renewal project, and the Friends of the River Foundation non-profit organization. Printed T-Shirts and embroidered sports shirts worn by volunteer at events have become the “it” fashion item around town, as have the rubber ID/Remembrance wristlets that are imprinted with “Let’s get current!”, and the project web site address for more information.



To promote the river renewal embroidered shirts and remembrance bracelets were created by the Friends of the River

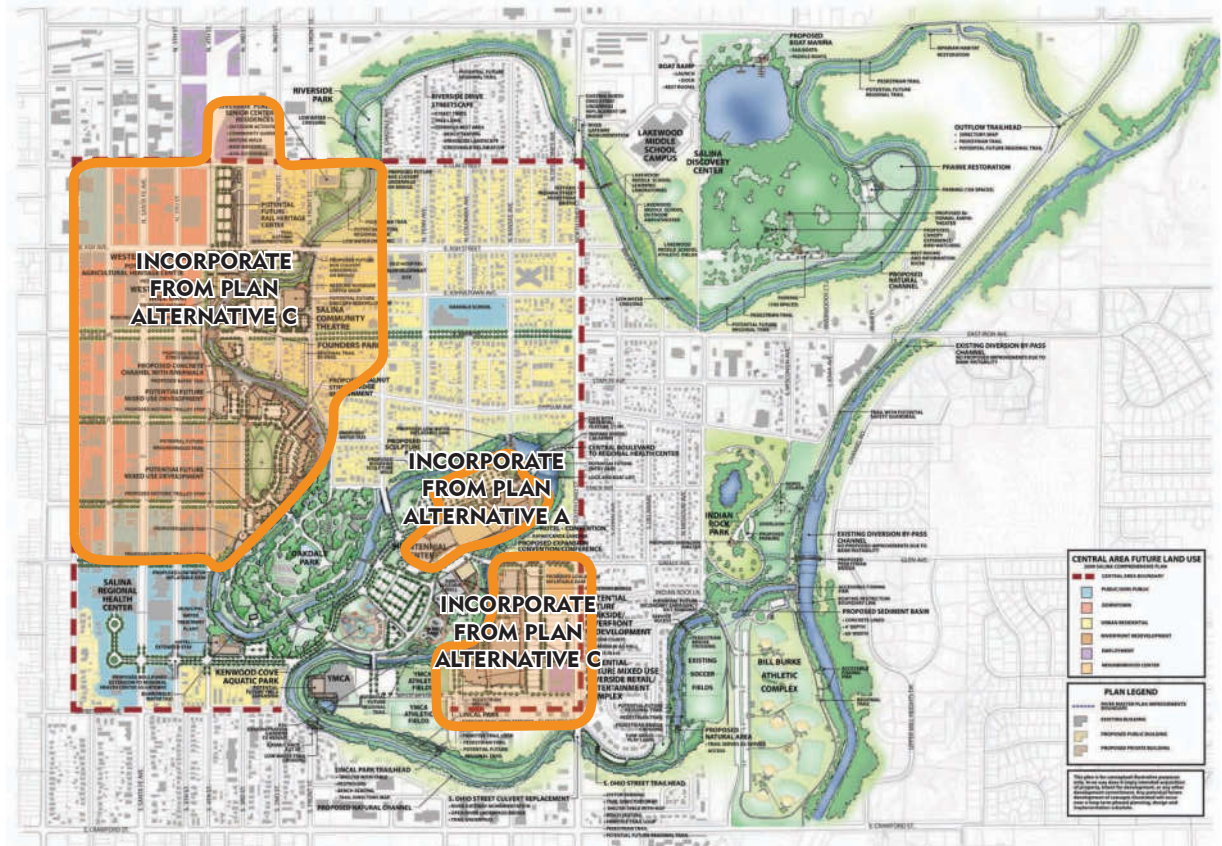


FIGURE 2.18
The Preferred Plan

PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN - OPEN HOUSE

Smoky Hill River Festival

As the premier annual community event in Central Kansas, the three-day Smoky Hill River Festival in Oakdale Park draws an attendance of 75,000 each year as a nationally recognized celebration of the arts. Fine artists and craftspersons display their work in juried competitions, while outdoor performances by local, regional and nationally known musicians create a festive atmosphere with a range of food and beverage offerings. Set along the Smoky Hill Riverside, a sea of lawn chairs, coolers and blankets with facilitated art activity tents for children, the scene is reminiscent of a festive community picnic. For those reasons, the Festival provides an outstanding opportunity to engage citizens in an open house setting to consider future plans for the Smoky Hill River Renewal.

A team of over 75 volunteers organized by the Friends of the River were scheduled to staff the River Restoration Open House tent as greeters, docents, and facilitators. In the week leading up to the Festival, volunteers participated in an orientation session to familiarize them with the presentation materials and a written set of “Frequently Asked Questions” and their responses. During the Open House, volunteers were all provided name tags and were encouraged to wear official Friends of the River T-shirts or polo shirt logo wear, for easy recognition. Volunteers were scheduled in shifts from 9:00am to 10:00 pm on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, although severe thunderstorms caused the cancellation of the Saturday evening session.

Displays within the 1,250 sq. ft. Open House tent included two large Preliminary Master Plan graphics, character sketches and annotated featured area plan enlargements to illustrate details of the Master Plan. A series of “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) boards were displayed with written responses to technical questions, so the information on technical details was presented with accuracy and consistency. FAQ boards included information related to how the project came to be, project leadership, potential phasing, cost and funding information and engineering feasibility information.

A Citizen Questionnaire Table and receiving box was located in the center of the tent to garner additional input and gauge support for the Preliminary Master Plan and the River Renewal. Outside the tent, two large screen monitors featured three (3) continuously running video presentations, including A River Runs Through It – The History of Salina’s Smoky Hill River, Smoky Hill River Memories - oral history, and the Smoky Hill River Renewal Overview slide presentation.



THE MASTER PLAN | PRELIMINARY MASTER PLAN



QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS SUMMARY

Attendance

Over the three (3) days of the Smoky Hill River Festival, total attendance is estimated at 2,130 – 2,550 participants, with a total of 648 Questionnaires completed. The results are tabulated below in the Preliminary Master Plan Questionnaire Results Table (Fig. 2.19).

Questionnaires

1. Residency distribution for questionnaire respondents was:

72% City of Salina 8% Saline County 14% Outside Saline County, in Kansas 6% Out of State

Responses to the following questions were tallied based on residency:

2. Do you agree that the Smoky Hill River Renewal is important to the future of the City and should be implemented as a community priority?

Salina Residents:	96% Strongly Agree or Agree	3% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Saline County Residents:	98% Strongly Agree or Agree	2% Neutral	0% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Kansas (outside Saline County):	92% Strongly Agree or Agree	8% Neutral	0% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Out-of State Residents:	89% Strongly Agree or Agree	8% Neutral	3% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Total:	95% Strongly Agree or Agree	4% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

3. Do you agree that restoring a flow through the river is essential to retaining Salina’s historical identity?

Salina Residents:	93% Strongly Agree or Agree	6% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Saline County Residents:	88% Strongly Agree or Agree	12% Neutral	0% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Kansas (outside Saline County):	88% Strongly Agree or Agree	12% Neutral	0% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Out-of State Residents:	84% Strongly Agree or Agree	13% Neutral	3% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Total:	91% Strongly Agree or Agree	8% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

4. Do you believe the proposed Master Plan provides a balanced approach to core river improvements, private investment and illustrates a long-term development vision?

Salina Residents:	92% Strongly Agree or Agree	6% Neutral	2% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Saline County Residents:	96% Strongly Agree or Agree	4% Neutral	0% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Kansas (outside Saline County):	85% Strongly Agree or Agree	14% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Out-of State Residents:	92% Strongly Agree or Agree	6% Neutral	3% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Total:	91% Strongly Agree or Agree	7% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

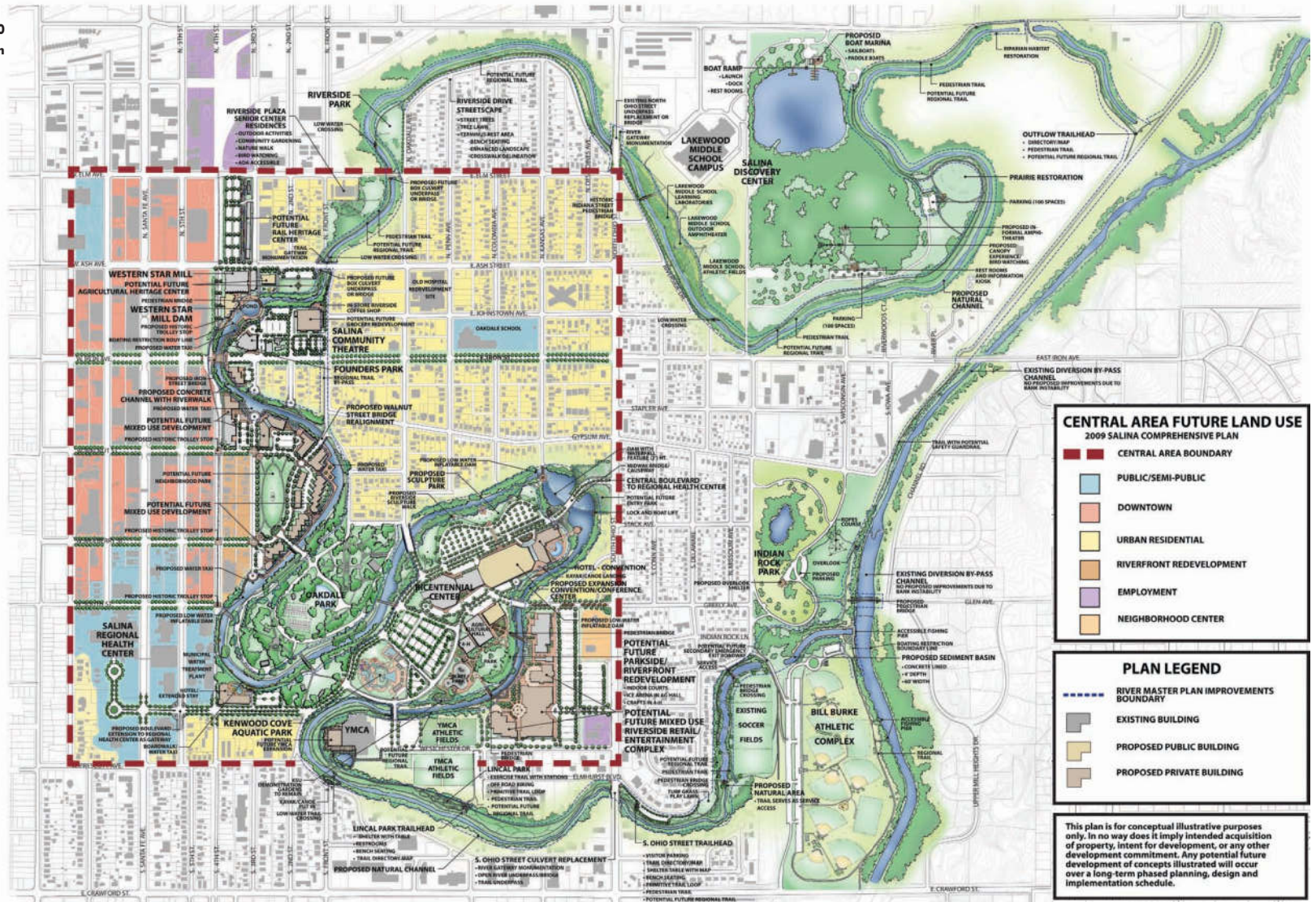
5. Would you support project funding for the river project that included a combination of private development, private donations, grants and local sales taxes?

Salina Residents:	91% Strongly Agree or Agree	7% Neutral	3% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Saline County Residents:	84% Strongly Agree or Agree	14% Neutral	2% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Kansas (outside Saline County):	78% Strongly Agree or Agree	21% Neutral	1% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Out-of State Residents:	75% Strongly Agree or Agree	19% Neutral	6% Disagree or Strongly Disagree
Total:	87% Strongly Agree or Agree	11% Neutral	3% Disagree or Strongly Disagree

FIGURE 2.19
Preliminary Master Plan - Questionnaire Results Table

THE MASTER PLAN | FINAL MASTER PLAN

FIGURE 2.20
Final Master Plan



FINAL MASTER PLAN INTRODUCTION

Based on very positive public response to the Preliminary Master Plan presented at the Smoky Hill River Festival, implementation recommendations were refined and technical engineering issues were clarified to arrive at the Final Master Plan (Fig. 2.20).

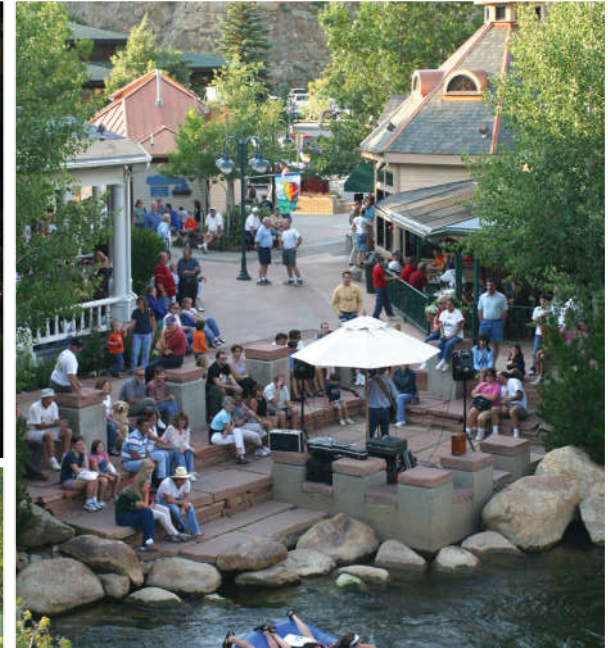
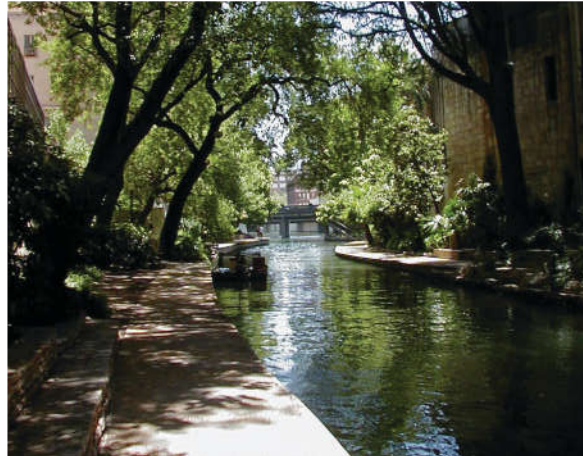
The Master Plan identifies river improvements for the Old Channel of the Smoky Hill River. Equally important, future opportunities for uses and activities created by those river improvements have been integrated in the Master Plan. Together, they illustrate a community investment strategy for improving the river, and a strategy for creating opportunities to attract private investment to stimulate the future Economic Development of the Salina Community.

The Master Plan organizes riverfront development concepts to support a comprehensive theme or development strategy that responds to the guidance provided in the Phase One Public Outreach. The Master Plan supports opportunities to build upon the strengths of three (3) Activity Centers identified with the Master Plan Advisory Committee (MAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Public preferences and comments received for each of the Alternatives presented at the Public Open House have been incorporated with the assistance of MAC and TAC input. Those Activity Centers are:

1. Regional Health Center Activity Center
2. Bicentennial Convention Center/ Kenwood Park Activity Center
3. Historical Cultural Activity Center at E. Iron Avenue

The strategy harnesses Salina Regional Health Center future growth opportunities, active athletics and recreation as economic stimuli for downtown and Kenwood Park. Additional components of the cultural and history interpretive center, downtown riverfront infill, mixed-use entertainment development and convention center balance reinvestment opportunities geographically.

The following pages describe the Final Master Plan in terms of Land Use, Circulation, River Improvements, and Private Sector Development Opportunities to attract investment. Additionally, Featured Areas of the Master Plan are presented to provide further detail in describing how each of those areas contribute to the master plan.



LAND USE

In the Final Master Plan - Land Use (Fig. 2.21) Salina Regional Health Center development, both within the boundaries of the Medical Center Land Use District and potentially beyond, is envisioned with teaching, laboratories, support services and vendors. A smaller, extended-stay hotel is located to serve Health Center visitors over-looking Oakdale Park, with a second, Convention-oriented hotel located in Kenwood Park that could also serve travelling athletic teams and recreation-minded families and youth groups. As in other alternatives, mixed use infill development is intended to serve and therefore reflect the influence of the surrounding activity centers, with the river as the primary amenity. The Master Plan envisions a more medical staff-oriented influence in the types of mixed use and residential development in downtown and Riverfront Redevelopment infill areas. A central Neighborhood Park is proposed between Mulberry and Walnut as an amenity to support a range of residential opportunities directed at medical employees and their families. The Historical/ Cultural Center development near the Salina Community Theatre, includes Milling, Rail and Pioneer/Agricultural Heritage exhibits and hands-on demonstrations at the Western Star Mill, a redeveloped rail head house and adjacent Public Works General Services Center redevelopment. Redevelopment of the Old Hospital site is proposed to provide a range of new residential opportunities, supported by reinvestment in a new neighborhood-serving grocery store anchor. Cultural center and hospital site investment is anticipated to encourage reinvestment in the surrounding residential neighborhoods as well. At Kenwood Park, emphasis is placed on convention support, with the hotels mentioned above, and in the form of recreation amenities including indoor courts (tennis/other) pavilion, indoor ice arena/bowling and crafts pavilion in the adaptive reuse of Agricultural Hall and the 4H Building among existing Exposition buildings. Along the southern/eastern segment of the river, a park-like edge is offered with a youth-oriented skate park facility and the existing KSU Extension Master Gardeners demonstration garden to invite a host of restaurants and entertainment-oriented commercial retail with a non-urban, park-like river promenade focus as a back yard/ patio that spans both sides of the river.

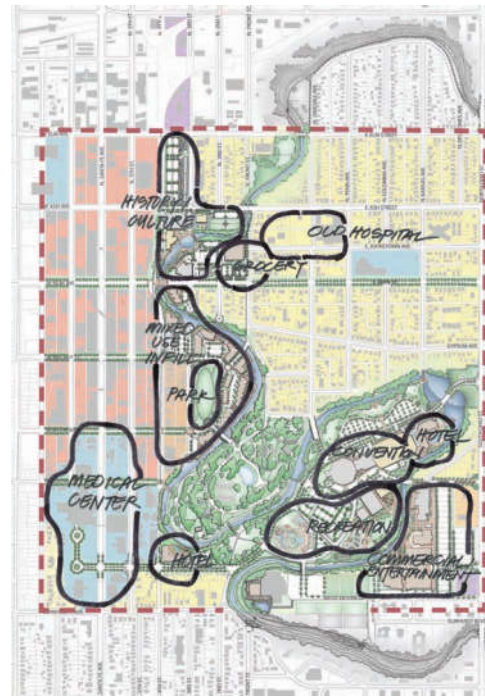


FIGURE 2.21
Land Use - Final Master Plan

CIRCULATION

Strengthening east-west connections from Ohio Street to Santa Fe Avenue are proposed in the Final Master Plan - Circulation (Fig. 2.22) with realignment of the Midway as a continuous, grand boulevard along the alignments of the Midway, Oakdale and Center Street, improving the drive connection between downtown and the Convention Center. Other Kenwood Park circulation is realigned by consolidating roadways to the center and opening access to the river from uses and activities and adjacent development. Strengthening north-south connections from Oakdale/Kenwood Parks are proposed between Iron Avenue and areas north, with realignment of the Walnut Bridge and Front Street. Other east-west street connections to Downtown are enhanced to further strengthen connections between Downtown and the river, including the enhancement of East Iron Avenue as a "complete street" as proposed in the current draft of the Salina Comprehensive Plan.



FIGURE 2.22
Circulation - Final Master Plan

RIVER IMPROVEMENTS

The existing Western Star Mill Dam elevation is proposed by Final Master Plan - River Improvements (Fig. 2.23) to be lowered by two feet (2') to provide a navigable channel and permanent pool upstream to Oakdale Park with a hardscape, concrete-lined urban riverwalk to beyond the Mulberry Street bridge. Excursion (private or public) boats are envisioned looping between the Heritage Center and boutique hotel along the river's channel. A boardwalk landing at the base of the bluff bank is envisioned opposite Oakdale Park. At Kenwood Park, a new second dam is proposed at the northeasterly corner of the park, this time to create a very long, water cascade feature welcoming visitors from Ohio Street. The second dam provides a second low-water permanent pool that will allow recreational rafting, canoeing and kayaking from the YMCA to the east end of Kenwood and most importantly, an increased assurance of the presence of water in permanent pools during periods of extended drought. The concept of inflatable dams, used in other cities, is proposed to create a linear basin that guarantees a waterfront amenity, while other portions of the river may go dry.

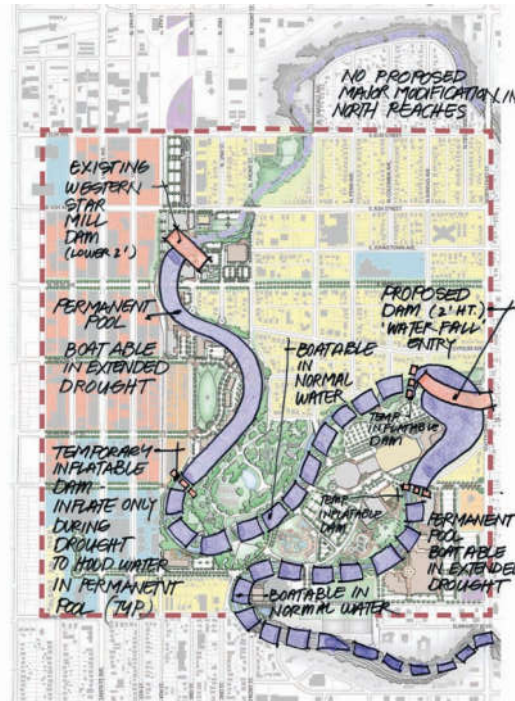


FIGURE 2.23
River Improvements - Final Master Plan

PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

Private Sector Investment (Fig. 2.24) in the Regional Health Center area, downtown infill neighborhood, Kenwood Park hotel development (long term ground-lease) and potential redevelopment investment east of Kenwood along the South Ohio Street corridor is intended to follow public sector investment in the river, circulation, historical cultural center and Kenwood Park circulation and infrastructure. Private investment in the Old Hospital and downtown infill neighborhoods are also encouraged with potential future grocery anchor redevelopment proposed.

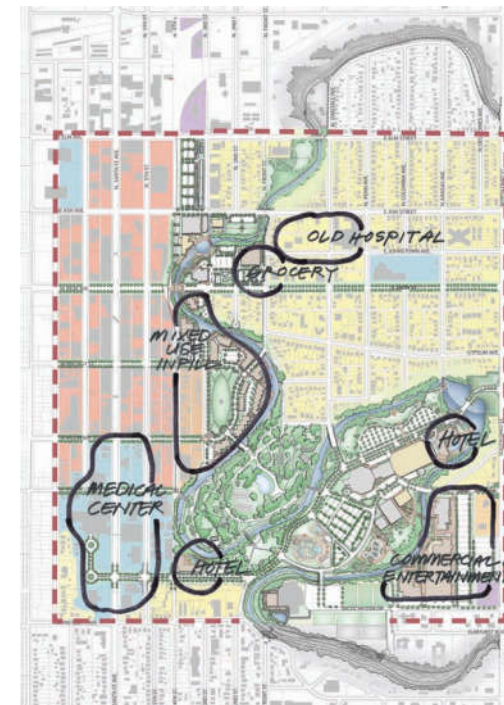


FIGURE 2.24
Private Sector Investment - Final Master Plan

THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

HISTORIC HEADGATE PLAZA AND FISHING PIER

The Historic Headgate Plaza and Fishing Pier (Fig. 2.25) represent civic enhancements to the proposed functional infrastructure that is necessary to divert water flows from the main channel of the Smoky Hill River into the Old Channel. The concrete headgate wall will separate the main channel from the current old channel allowing inflow gates to control the flow of water into the proposed sediment basin before flowing through the levee inlet and into the restored Old Channel. The headgates are significant in their role as the starting point of the Old Channel improvements.

A Community Fishing Pier is proposed, with the concrete headgate wall serving as its base, to transform the functional, somewhat industrial appearance of the headwall and gates, into a civic amenity. It is envisioned as heavy-duty timber construction with ornamental metal railings, pedestrian lighting, benches and other site furnishings. It will provide ADA accessible fishing to the main channel, a river overlook and historic interpretive installations to recall the significance of this location as the original site of Salina's first flour mill, the significance of Indian Rock Park and the site's importance at the point of diversion for the 1957-61 Diversion By-pass and Flood Control project.

Two additional accessible fishing platforms are proposed to the south along the Main Channel to further expand main channel fishing opportunities and enhance Bill Burke Park's currently ignored relationship with the river.

Other proposed improvements include the Overlook Shelter previously proposed for Indian Rock Park, as designed by Jones Gilliam Renz Architects, of Salina. The proposed shelter provides updated outdoor accessible restrooms, an indoor multi-functional park shelter space and expansive deck on the west side of the building and expanded parking.

A pedestrian Suspension Bridge is proposed across the Diversion By-pass Channel connecting Glenn Drive with Indian Rock Park and the Smoky Hill River trail system. With a span of approximately 300' this bridge will be unique regardless of design, but offers an opportunity to create a signature art installation if designed as a less conventional single mast-stay bridge or other contemporary design.

A potential secondary emergency exit to Bill Burke Park has also been included in the master plan, as a potential future improvement to improve the park safety. Bill Burke Park is currently served by only one ingress/egress point at Crawford Street which can become blocked or congested in the event of a major storm event such as a severe thunderstorm or tornado. The emergency-only exit is not intended for regular park access to limit traffic impacts to adjacent neighborhoods



KEY MAP

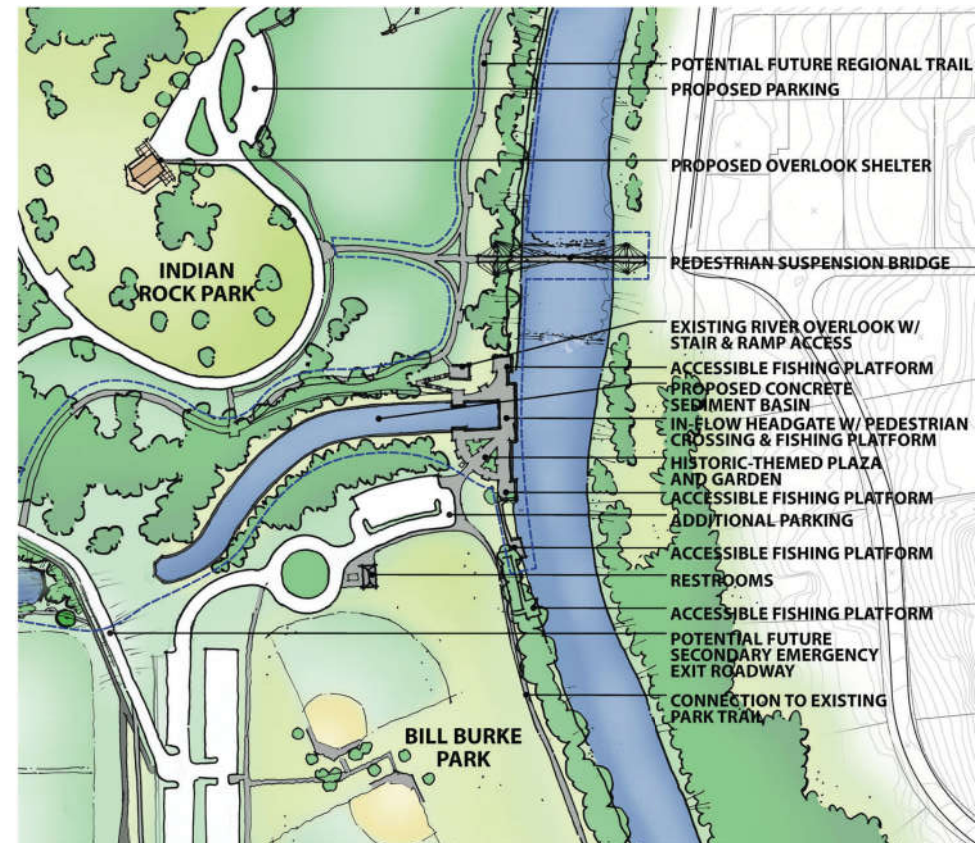


FIGURE 2.25
Historic Headgate Plaza
and Fishing Pier

SOUTH OHIO STREET BRIDGE AND TRAILHEAD

The South Reaches of the Old Channel are intended to create a Active Recreation Linear Park corridor with river channel, trail, and other improvements, connecting Bill Burke Park with the YMCA Athletic Fields and Kenwood Park.

Trailhead improvements (Fig. 2.26) are proposed adjacent to E. Elmhurst Blvd to provide off-street parking for trail users that may be arriving from other parts of town, a trailhead shelter with restrooms, seating and a trail information map. Since the S. Ohio Street crossing will initially be a street level crosswalk, multi-use trial alignments in the area are proposed street-side to serve both as a paved E. Elmhurst sidewalk and multi-use trail route. Later phase improvements will introduce the regional trail and underpass along the river below S. Ohio Street.

Underpasses will remain designated as multi-use for both pedestrians and cyclists. Primitive, unimproved trails are also proposed to provide routes for access to the channel and natural areas of the corridor to allow exploration and nature study, without conflict of trail through traffic of recreational users.

The S. Ohio Street Bridge is illustrated (Fig. 2.26) to show a typical enhanced bridge underpass. It is a crossing that celebrates the river to motorists and pedestrians on S. Ohio Street, while allowing trail users to cross the street below without traffic conflicts. Vertical clearance in the underpass is currently proposed at a minimum of 8' clear to accommodate mounted cyclists, balanced with the desire to keep the trail surface sufficiently above the normal water surface to avoid flooding and silt/mud deposits on the trail after frequent storm events. Each bridge replacement and trail underpass will need to be designed individually to address site specific conditions.



KEY MAP

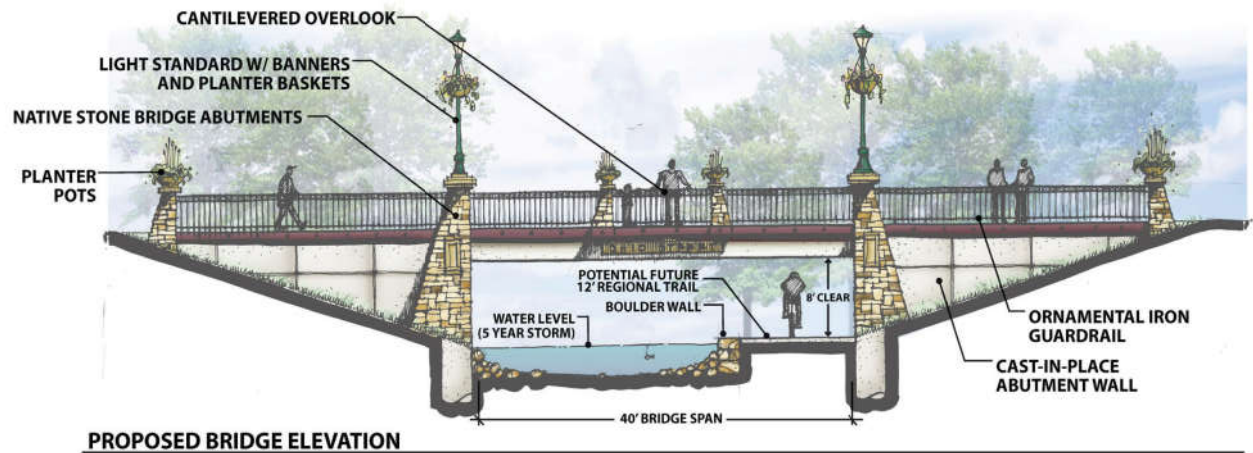


FIGURE 2.26
South Ohio Street Bridge and Trailhead

THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

TRAILS

The proposed Master Plan trails concept (Fig. 2.27) builds upon the Smoky Hill Trail Master Plan, prepared by Bucher Willis Ratliff, Inc. (BWR) for the City of Salina Parks and Recreation Department in 2008. That plan for a ten (10) foot width, multi-use concrete trail defines trail routing for a looped trail system that follows the Old Channel of the river. Starting at Bill Burke Park, the trail loops to the outlet structure and back along the Main Channel levee and Diversion By-Pass Channel through Indian Rock Park to the point of beginning. The BWR trail plan provides at-grade, relatively conventional street crossings in crosswalks with curb ramps and generally corresponds with existing conditions. The plan pre-dates the Smoky Hill River Renewal movement that has proposed modification to many of those conditions.

The multi-use trail would serve multiple types of users from pedestrians of all ages and abilities as well as groups of two or more, bicyclists, skate boarders, wheelchairs and families with baby strollers. Users will range from leisurely strollers to recreational joggers. Street intersection crossing presents safety conflicts that at a minimum, will have the effect of limiting use during periods of high traffic volume.

In response to those safety issues and others, additional future trail lanes could potentially be added in the future to allow separation of cyclists and pedestrians. A twelve foot (12') width regional concrete trail is proposed as a downtown sub-loop of the larger regional trail system. The regional trail is intended to serve cyclists and skaters and is proposed to pass below street grade at crossings to reduce crossing conflicts. Bicycle through-traffic in the vicinity of Founders Park would have the option of by-passing that area of high pedestrian congestion on an on-street, Front Street, bike lane that would be separated from vehicular traffic by a curbed median.

Additionally, primitive trail routes are proposed in forested areas to provide access through out the riverbank and forest area, free from conflicts with trail through traffic. Primitive trail surfacing is proposed as a clearly defined material such as shredded wood or quarry gravel fines to delineate the trail and discourage people from creating desire line and other social trails. Local scout groups, Friends of the River and other volunteer groups are envisioned as providing volunteer primitive trail maintenance. Multi-use trails are proposed to be lighted in Oakdale and Kenwood Parks for safety and built to allow freeboard between the trail surface and the water surface, to minimize silt deposits from flooding on trails.

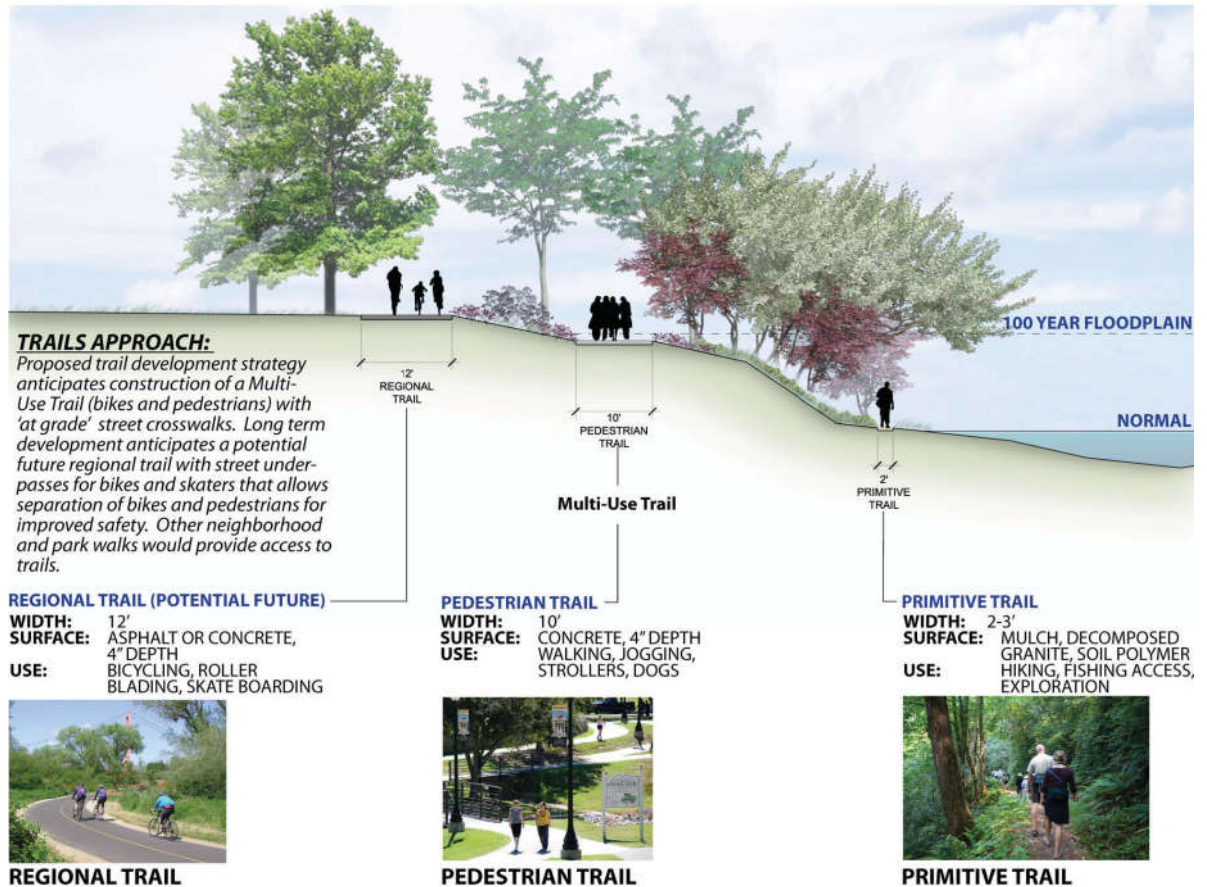


FIGURE 2.27
Trail Types and Section

KENWOOD PARK SOUTH

Kenwood Park South area (Fig. 2.28) is proposed as an enhanced riverfront recreational area that extends the recreational activity of Kenwood Cove eastward to the proposed convention center hotel site. Riverfront park improvements and refurbished Exposition Center buildings (4-H and Agricultural Hall) are intended to create a public activity center that attracts private redevelopment on the east side of the river in a complementary public/private riverfront.

The existing Saline County Exposition Center is proposed for relocation to another, undetermined site due to the constraints of the small Kenwood Park site and facilities it currently occupies, as determined in the 2003 Expo Center Master Development Plan prepared for the County by Gralla Architects. The existing 4-H and Agricultural Hall buildings are proposed to remain for adaptive reuse as recreational arts and crafts and indoor ice area facilities, respectively. Indoor tennis or other courts are proposed in a new building as is a potential skate park set around a community riverfront park with restroom facilities. The existing KSU Master Gardener’s Demonstration Garden is proposed to remain at its current location. Pedestrian bridges connect the public multi-use trail and recreation facilities with potential proposed river-oriented retail entertainment complex that would be developed on properties fronting on S. Ohio Street. In addition to public recreational facilities on the Expo site, river improvements that include channel restoration that would allow kayaking and canoeing between the YMCA and Midway are envisioned as attracting potential riverside plaza dining, events and other entertainment.

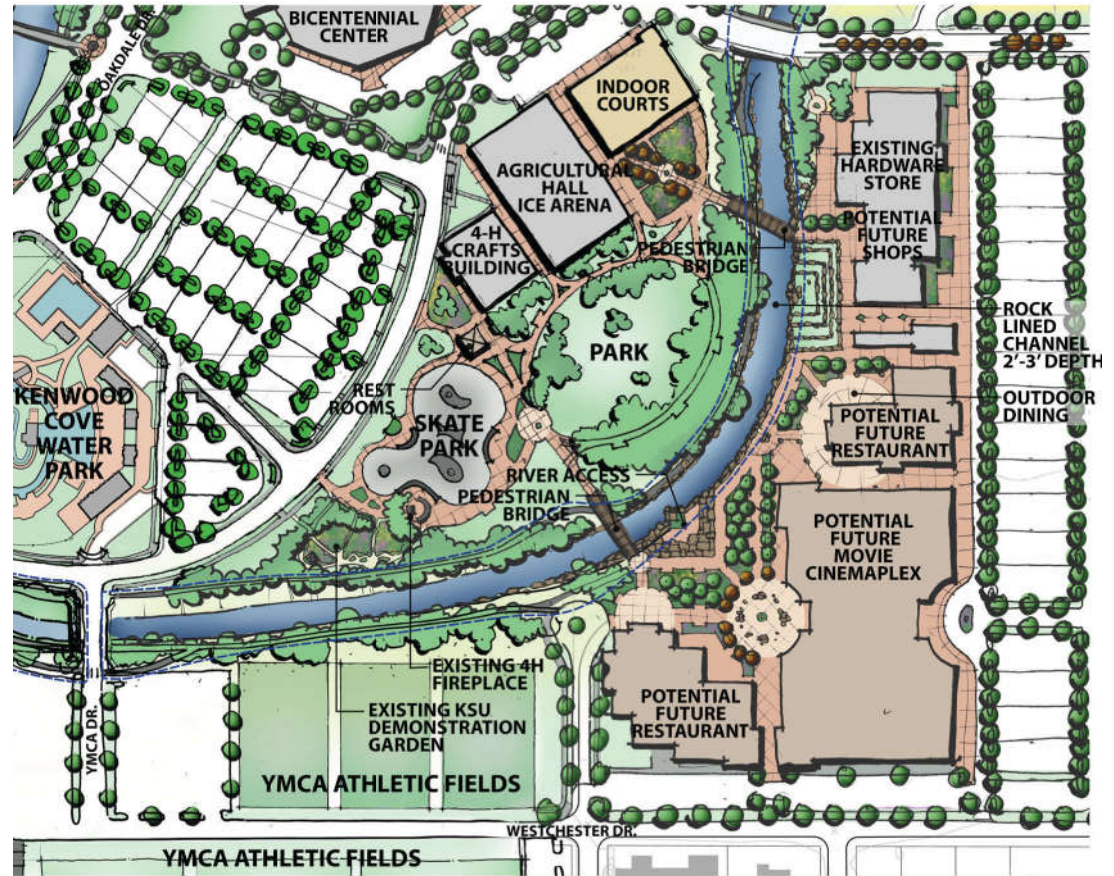
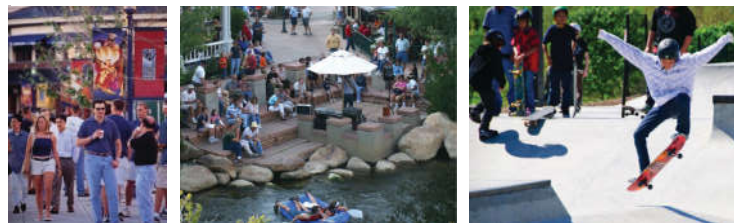


FIGURE 2.28
Kenwood Park South



KEY MAP



THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

KENWOOD PARK ENTRY / CONVENTION CENTER

An expanded Bicentennial Center Convention Center is proposed (Fig. 2.29) with expansion to the east including additional exhibition hall space and convention center hotel, connected to create a facility that can attract a higher tier of events to Salina.

To improve visibility and promote the hotel site to potential hoteliers, a grand Midway Boulevard entry from Ohio Street, with its direct access from Interstate 70, is proposed, flanked by a landscaped entry park. The entry includes the creation of a lake (Fig. 2.30) with a broad, two foot (ft.) water cascade as part of an entry sequence that creates a waterfront hotel site. The Midway Boulevard entry continues to the west, serving the Bicentennial Center arena, extending to the Salina Regional Health Center and Downtown. On the north side of the Boulevard, surface parking is proposed to serve the convention center, in addition to lower level parking in the proposed building expansion. A riverside sculpture walk is proposed between the riverfront multi-use trail and parking as a riverside extension of Oakdale Park. Kayak and canoeing on the river from the YMCA is proposed to the hotel site. During times of extreme drought, inflatable dams are proposed at each end of the lake to provide a short-term, permanent pool of water. During times of regular river flows, boating between the hotel and Oakdale Park/ Downtown would be facilitated by a manual, gravity hydraulic boat lift (lock).

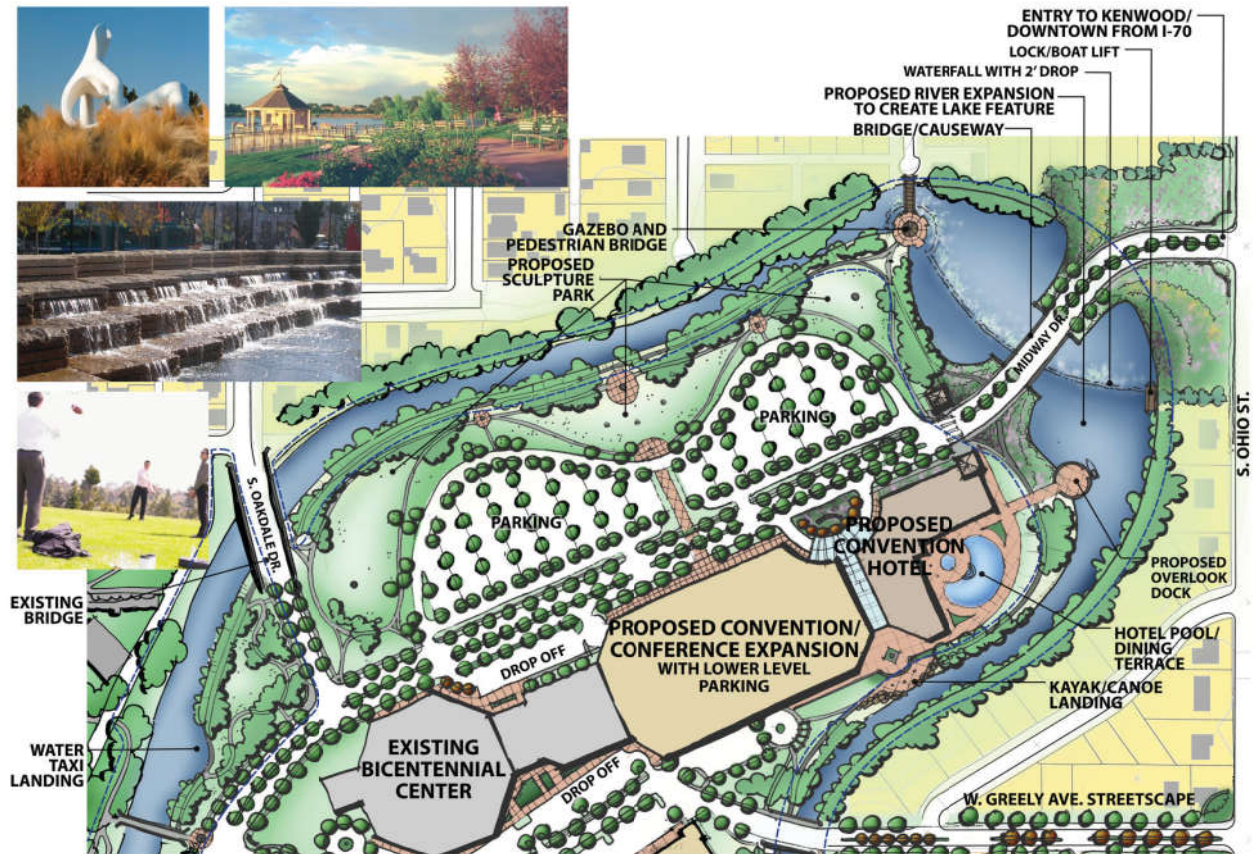


FIGURE 2.29
Kenwood Park Entry / Convention Center



KEY MAP



FIGURE 2.30
 Kenwood Park Entry / Convention Center
 Aerial Sketch

THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

DOWNTOWN MIXED USE DEVELOPMENT

Downtown Mixed Use infill development (Fig. 2.31) is proposed on the west side of the river between Oakdale Park and the Iron Street Bridge along a proposed concrete channel and riverwalk. The proposed channel improvements and riverwalk are intended to promote private development investment with a mix of ground level commercial, restaurant and retail uses that have residential uses on upper levels (Fig. 2.32). A public waterfront esplanade is proposed to connect Downtown businesses at Iron Street with the river, extending beyond the existing Mulberry Street Bridge, to the Fourth Street Pedestrian Bridge. Waterfront development is proposed seven to eight feet above the esplanade to respect 100 year flood restrictions. To promote better street connections between neighborhood development on the north side of Iron Street and the Regional Health Center/Downtown businesses, realignment of Second Street and the Walnut Street bridge are proposed, with potential future redevelopment of the existing school district property as a neighborhood-serving park. The park would provide additional amenity to the infill neighborhood to add value to properties not immediately adjacent to the riverfront. Commercial excursion boat service is proposed in this area to provide service between Oakdale Park and the Founders Park/ Salina Community Theatre area.



FIGURE 2.31
Downtown Mixed-Use Development



KEY MAP

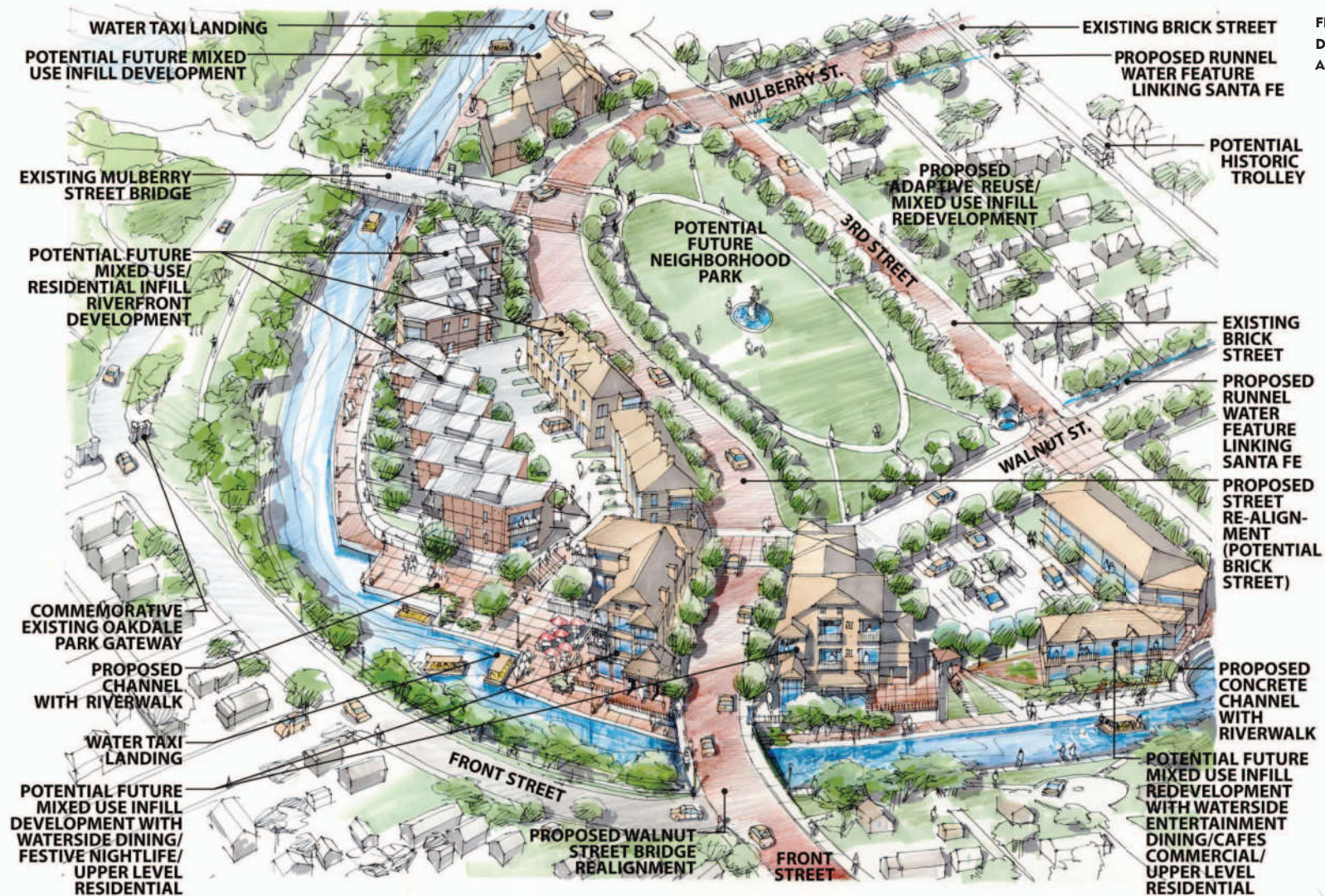


FIGURE 2.32
Downtown Mixed-Use Development
Aerial Sketch

THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

CULTURAL HERITAGE CENTER

The Cultural Heritage Center (Fig. 2.33) is proposed to honor and celebrate the historic significance of the Iron Street river crossing and Western Star Mill area in Salina's founding and ranking as a top milling center in the country while featuring the Salina Community Theatre as a community-based performing arts resource. Together, with urban riverwalk improvements, these resources form the foundation of a public community cultural center (Fig. 2.34) that can attract private re-investment in the downtown and established residential neighborhoods in the area.

The Iron Street Bridge is located at the site of the first free ferry crossing the Smoky Hill River, which led to the founding of Salina. Removing the blockage created by culvert piping of the river is proposed to reconnect the river as a continuous community feature. A new Iron Street Bridge is proposed to promote flows and include streetscape and bridge enhancements that are civic in character to honor the location of Salina's founding.

Western Star Mill is the location of one of the earliest, and continuously operated mills in Salina, and offers a signature element with its visually striking, iconic tall white elevators. It is proposed for site enhancements along the river's edge and potential future renovation to include a milling heritage museum celebrating Salina's history as the one time 4th largest milling center in the nation. Mill programs and site disposition will require participation of Archer Daniels Midland and close coordination with local mill operations and management.

A Rail Heritage Center is proposed in the head house, freight platforms and grounds on the west side of N. 3rd Street between Ash and Elm Streets. Proposed exhibits and visitor facilities in the head house would provide interpretive stories of the role of the railroad in Salina, supported by a collection of railroad locomotives and rolling stock. Parking at the western edge of the site would serve the entire Heritage Center.



KEY MAP

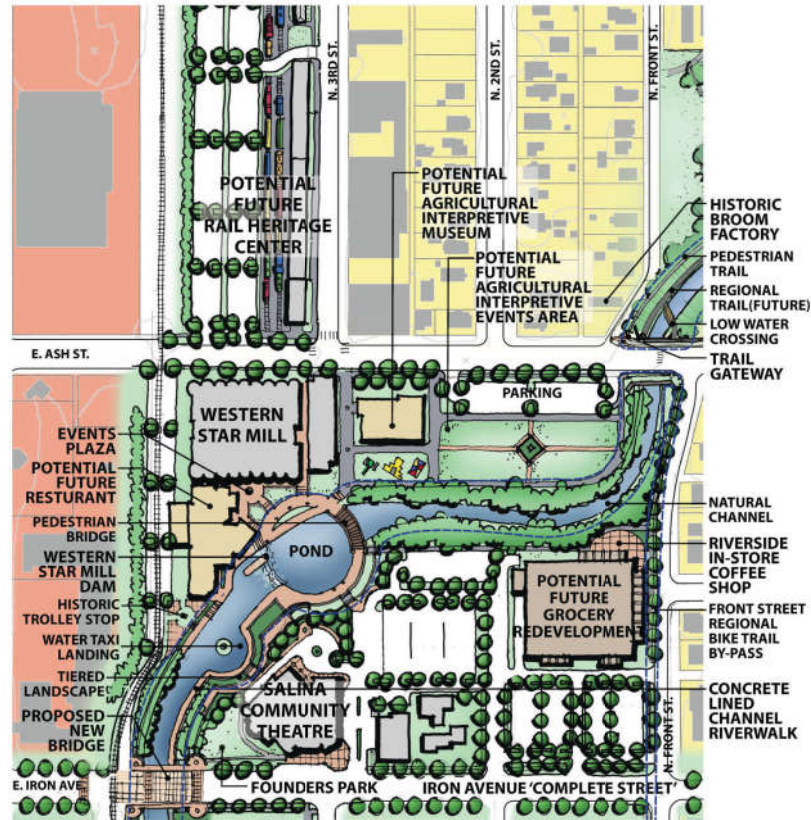


FIGURE 2.33
Cultural Heritage Center

Potential historical trolley on existing rail tracks in the center of 4th Street, linking the Heritage Center and Community Theatre with Oakdale Park at the 4th Street Pedestrian bridge. The trolley is intended as a featured tourist amenity that might be restored and operated by local rail heritage enthusiasts on weekends and holidays, rather than a component of Salina's City-Go transit system.

The Heritage Center is intended to provide active, hands-on living history interpretive experience, distinguishing it from, but serving as an active demonstration extension of Salina's historical museum, the Smoky Hill

Museum. To provide areas for demonstrations and events, the City of Salina, General Services Facility is proposed for relocation to an as yet, undetermined, more appropriate industrial site.

Public Investment in the River Renewal and Cultural Heritage Center are intended to promote potential future private redevelopment investment in:

- Dillon's Grocery Store
- Old Hospital Site Redevelopment
- Residential Neighborhoods on both North and South of Iron Street Oakdale School



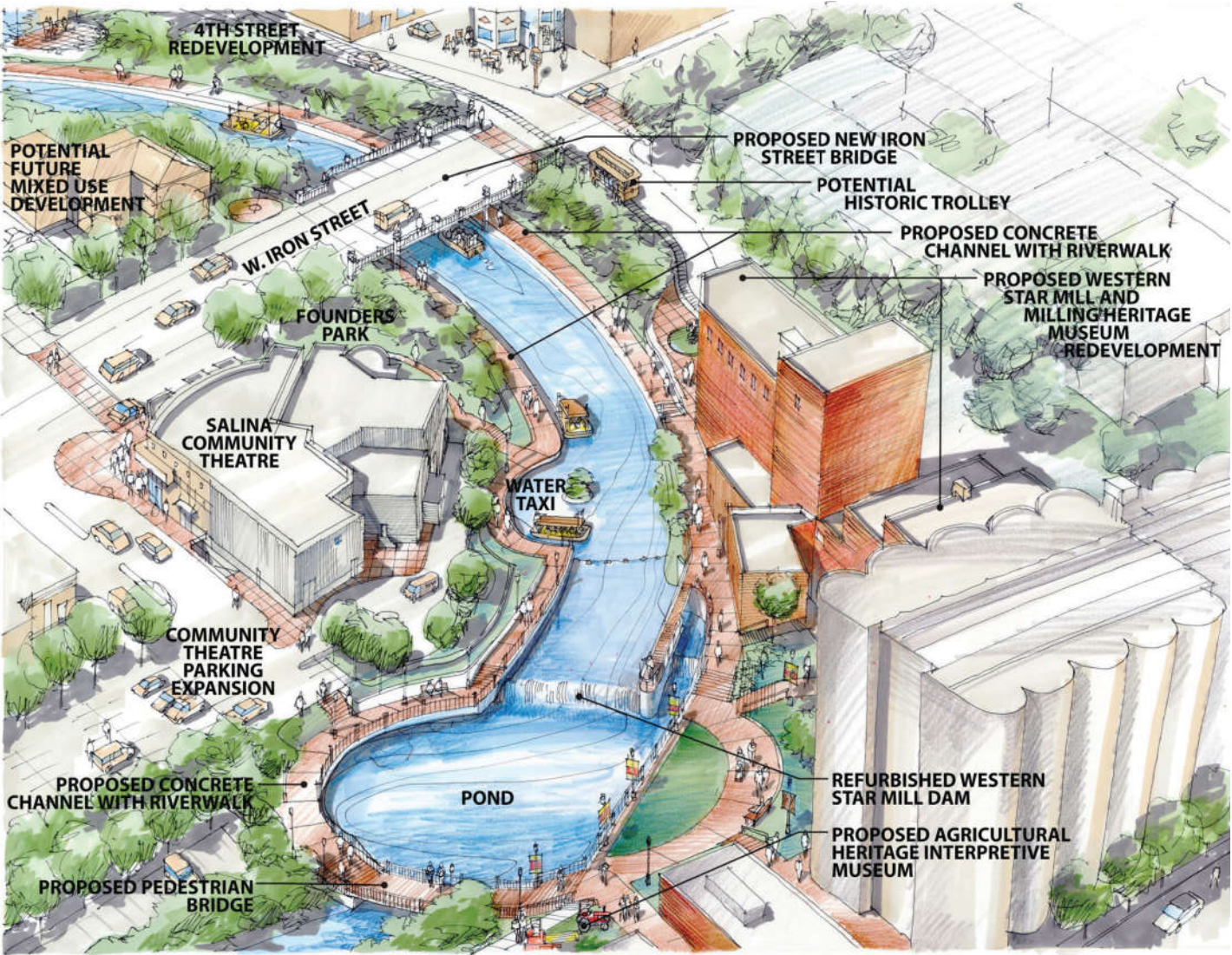


FIGURE 2.34
Cultural Heritage Center Aerial Sketch

THE MASTER PLAN | FEATURED AREAS

LEARNING LABORATORIES AT LAKEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

Environmental education learning laboratories located at Lakewood Middle School (Fig. 2.35) provide opportunities to study the different environmental habitats that are distinguished by their relative location to the river. From the wet river lowland habitat to drier upland prairie conditions, planting enhancements and interpretive are proposed to characterize the typical transition in plant communities. Interpretive educational material could be developed to serve as a narrative to students and visitors. An outdoor classroom area and habitat zones would be served by primitive trails leading from the paved multi-use trail. The Learning Laboratories are envisioned as a joint use facility between Salina United School District, the Lakewood Park Discovery Center and other environmentally – focused organizations.



FIGURE 2.35
Learning Laboratories at Lakewood Middle School



KEY MAP

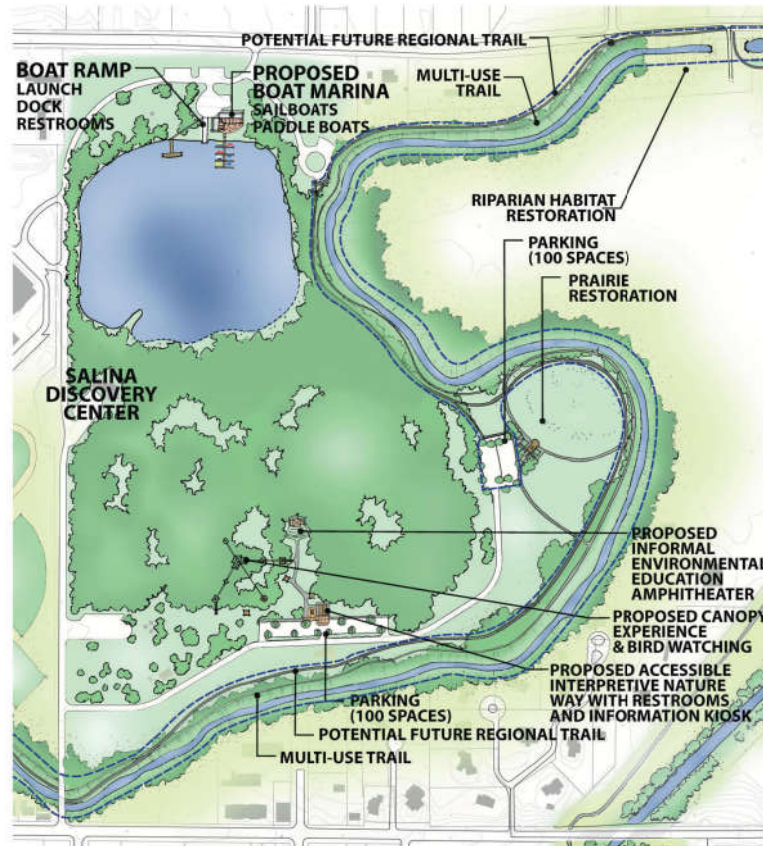
LAKESWOOD PARK AND AMPHITHEATER

The Master Plan seeks to preserve and enhance Lakewood Park as a place of environmental education by supporting and expanding facilities associated with the Salina Discovery Center, based on preferences indicated through the public outreach process (Fig. 2.36). In addition, preferences for water-based recreational opportunities have been addressed through boating improvements and preservation of fishing facilities associated with the lake.

In keeping with the concept that learning is fun, the master plan illustrates:

- The existing Discovery Center main building
- A new elevated Canopy Adventure Experience for bird and other wildlife observation
- An Environmental Education amphitheater set at the edge of the woods
- Expanded rest rooms and parking facilities
- Retaining and recreational picnicking
- Expanded boating opportunities with a marina for boat rental and boating classes

River Master Plan improvements include multi-use trail and potential future regional trail improvements.



KEY MAP

FIGURE 2.36
Lakewood Park and Amphitheater

FINAL MASTER PLAN PLANNING SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Master Planning process has illustrated that there are an enormous number of opportunities associated with the restoration and redevelopment of the Old Channel of the Smoky Hill River. Planning and design alternatives have been illustrated to consider different approaches, each with its own emphasis, to reaping the benefits of those opportunities. With the guidance of the MAC and TAC advisory committees, the most desirable combination of elements from those alternatives have been integrated into a comprehensive Final Master Plan. The Master Plan proposes riverfront improvements that leverage existing activity centers, community facilities and cherished community parks to renew and reinvent the Old Channel area as a cohesive, 6.8 mile community amenity and asset that leads the way in attracting new private investment in Salina.

PUBLIC INPUT

The master planning process has been community-driven, inclusive and uniquely participatory. Elected officials, City administration and staff have provided outstanding leadership and contributions of time and effort that have exceeded what would normally be expected of them. The Friends of the River Foundation and the legions of volunteers that they have enlisted and organized have made it possible to conduct a community outreach program that has exceeded all expectations of participation and input. Finally, the Citizens of Salina have responded to invitations to become engaged in the process with enthusiastic participation, and allowing themselves to positively embrace the possibilities of a Smoky Hill River Renewal.

The Master Plan provides a roadmap to meeting the goals and objectives crafted by the Friends of the River Focus Committees and endorsed by the public in Phase One. Opportunities to address those goals, in the areas of Recreation and Wellness, Environmental, Community, Economic Development, and Education have been integrated throughout the Old Channel area. Master Plan Concept Alternatives and the Preliminary Master Plan have been received with great interest, support and public endorsement in public open house events.

MASTER PLAN ENGINEERING ISSUES

Throughout the master planning process, technical engineering issues have been addressed simultaneously to guide proposed improvement alternatives. The documentation of those Engineering Issues is provided on the remaining pages of Section 2.



The Final Master Plan provides opportunities to address the citizen Goals and Objectives endorsed in Phase One - Public Awareness and Outreach.

FINAL MASTER PLAN COMMUNITY BENEFITS

ENVIRONMENTAL	RECREATION & WELLNESS	COMMUNITY	EDUCATION	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River restoration silt removal improves river flows and diversification and enhancement of aquatic habitat. 2. Wetland restoration offers opportunities for diversification and enhancement of wetland habitat 3. River restoration construction activity presents opportunities for incorporation of stormwater management and water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs); 4. Restored river promotes stormwater quality awareness and opportunities for educational/demonstration installations; 5. Restored river promotes environmental awareness and appreciation of water resources 6. Trails promote alternative modes of travel reducing auto emissions and improving air quality 7. River, trail and other improvements promote redevelopment infill in Central Salina promoting agricultural land preservation by reducing urban sprawl. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. River, trail and vehicular and pedestrian bridge improvements improve YMCA recreational program offering opportunities, development opportunities and site access 2. Trail system looped course provides multiple recreational opportunities for cycling, skating, running and walking 3. BMX Off-road bike course promotes diversity in alternative sports offering while discouraging unauthorized off-trail riding that can promote erosion and other habitat degradation 4. Trail Exercise Station circuit promotes aerobic exercise/ training 5. Trail and river improvements span the parks and open space gap between YMCA Athletic Fields and Bill Burke Athletic Fields linking those athletic venues for tournaments, organized youth and adult league play 6. River improvements provide Kayak and Canoeing opportunities in the river from YMCA to Oakdale Park 7. River improvements provide excursion boating from Oakdale Park to Founders Park 8. Accessible Picnic shelters enhancements 9. Lake boat launch and marina facilities enhance boating in Lakewood Park 10. Ropes course in Indian Rock Park 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Boating, Historic Trolley and Trail improvements promote pedestrian and other alternative modes of circulation reducing traffic congestion and parking demand 2. Strengthen neighborhood identity and social cohesion 3. Improvements interconnect neighborhoods 4. River and trail improvements provide neighborhood amenities 5. Neighborhood improvements support implementation of the Salina Comprehensive Plan 6. River restoration improvements offer the opportunity for potential reduced flood hazard/ reduced flood insurance strengthen neighborhoods 7. Trail system offers improved access circulation and mobility 8. River restoration bridge and culvert replacement presents opportunity to update, upgrade aging bridge infrastructure 9. River, trail and other improvements promote redevelopment infill in Central Salina reducing urban sprawl. 10. Trail system improvements and pedestrian suspension bridge over the Diversion By-Pass Channel connect Glenn Drive and east neighborhoods with Indian Rock Park and downtown. 11. Riverwalk, trails Iron Street Bridge replacement and streetscape improvements enhance the Salina Community Theatre as a premier community venue and resource 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Riverwalk, trail and redevelopment of the City's general services facilities provide a Cultural/Historic Center that promotes the preservation, enhancement and private reinvestment in the Western Star Mill and Founders Park area. 2. Riverwalk, trail and redevelopment of the City's general services facilities provide a Cultural/Historic Center that promotes Pioneer, Agricultural, Milling, Railroad and other cultural heritage education 3. Outdoor Environmental Education Learning Laboratories located at Lakewood Middle School promote experiential learning, and active student participation 4. Interpretive Historical Plaza at Headgate in Bill Burke Park 5. Headgate in Bill Burke Park provides a new intake for the old channel that enhances control of water intake to reduce the potential future sediment loading on the old channel. 6. Headgate Community Fishing Pier facilities provide a fully accessible fishing venue in the main channel of the river while enhancing the inflow gates that regulate water flow into the old channel. 7. Lakewood Park environmental education enhancement with canopy adventure experience 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. East Gateway and River improvements enhance potential future hotel site to encourage private investment or public private partnership with hotel developer to serve convention center and generating increased City sales tax and lodging tax revenue. 2. Hotel site strengthens convention center position to compete for more and larger conventions and events generating increased City sales tax revenue. 3. River improvements support Convention Center Expansion repositioning the convention center to attract next tier of larger convention and conference events generating increased City sales tax and lodging tax revenue. 4. East Gateway and Kenwood Parkway improve recognition and access to Downtown businesses and Salina Regional Health Center strengthening potential downtown business and Health Center as one of the largest employment centers in Salina. 5. River improvements enhance potential future entertainment/retail private development on South Ohio Street to improve City sales tax revenue. 6. River improvements support future public redevelopment of blighted County Exposition facilities and enhance potential future entertainment/ retail private development on South Ohio Street increasing neighborhood property value and City property tax and sales tax revenue. 7. River improvements enhance potential to attract private grocery retail reinvestment in upgraded Dillon's site at Iron and Front streets increasing neighborhood property value and generating City property tax and sales tax revenues 8. River improvements and potential grocery reinvestment in upgraded Dillon's site support private reinvestment in redevelopment of old Hospital site and adjacent residential neighborhood properties generating City property tax revenue. 9. River, trail and streetscape improvements enhance residential neighborhood and promote reinvestment in existing starter home residential property north of Ash Avenue improving 10. Property tax revenue. 11. River, trail and other improvements promote redevelopment infill in Central Salina reducing the need for expensive public infrastructure extensions of urban sprawl saving public tax monies. 12. Riverwalk, trail and redevelopment of the City's general services facilities provide a Cultural/Historic Center that promotes visitor and tourism and increased City Sales tax revenue