CROOKSTON
AREA CHARACTER
Crookston, a city of 8,192, is a regional center, home to a number of agriculture-based businesses and the University of Minnesota Crookston. State Highway 2 bisects the city. Crookston was built on logging, agriculture, and the railroad. The thirty-eight buildings in the Crookston Historic Commercial District make it the largest concentration of late nineteenth and early twentieth century commercial buildings in Northwestern Minnesota. The Red Lake River is the dominant landscape feature of the city. It winds its way through the city changing direction several times. Four city parks are located on its banks in the central Crookston.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS
ROCK RIFLE SITE (AT MAPLEWOOD PARK): The rock riffle at the park marks the site of an old dam.

HIGHWAY 75 BOAT LAUNCH: Located on the Highway 75 Crookston Bypass, the boat launch is west of the city. No other recreational facilities exist at this site.

THE RIVER AT WILDCOOD PARK: Wildwood Park is located on the peninsula created by a great bend in the river.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS: The old Crookston Cathedral and the Carnegie Library are two examples of the many historic buildings from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century in downtown Crookston.

THE RIVER & BOAT LAUNCH AT CENTRAL PARK: Central Park, a beautiful large park along the river, is the first park canoeists reach as they approach the city’s center from the north.
The four city parks along the river in Crookston and the boat launch on Highway 75 offer opportunities to add to the existing recreational facilities in Crookston and improve access to the river.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: A new city trail system could connect the residential neighborhoods to the parks, the four riverside parks to each other, and improve access by foot to the downtown from the parks for residents and visitors.

HIGHWAY 75 BOAT LAUNCH: This boat launch site could be improved to include amenities such as picnic tables and other recreational facilities.

STREET NETWORK FOR POTENTIAL TRAIL ROUTING: The neighborhood streets between the city park could be used as an extension of the existing Perimeter Trail System to increase the connectivity between the recreational assets in Crookston.

WHITETWATER RAPIDS ROUTE: The 325-foot river riffle at the site of the old dam is a major river fixture that can be used to promote whitewater canoeing and kayaking. Users could enter the river at a new carry-in just above the riffle and exit at a new carry-in below to return for another run.

CENTRAL PARK CARRY-IN: Improving the boat launch at Central Park and creating a new carry-in at Castle Park would create an hour-long route through the heart of the city. Boaters who wish to avoid the rapids could portage around them at Maplewood Park and return to the river to end their trip at the Castle Park launch site. Those wishing for a longer trip could continue to the Highway 75 boat launch.

WILD WOOD PARK CARRY-IN: The new carry-in / RLRC Trailhead at Wild Wood Park provides a river exit point upstream from the whitewater rapids route.
COMMUNITY RESOURCES & OPPORTUNITIES

Hwy 75 Boat Launch

Castle Park
Maplewood Park
Wild Wood Park

Central Park

Street Network
For Potential Trail Routing

White Water Rapids Route

Wild Wood Park Carry-In

Central Park Carry-In
CROOKSTON

TRAIL ROUTING POTENTIALS & SIGNAGE

CROOKSTON CITY TRAIL SYSTEMS: Access to the four riverside city parks and the
downtown is provided by a trail system on streets and river levees. Each park has a
riverside trailhead with maps and interpretive material. Most of the trails use existing
bridges to cross the river, but a new pedestrian bridge at Maplewood Park is suggested.
Extensions of the trail would connect to Highland Park and the Veterans Memorial
Trailhead.

LEVEE TRAIL POTENTIALS: The Levee Trail offers visitors and residents the opportunity to experi-
ence the levee from three vantage points: The park side of the levee, the levee top, and the river side of
the levee. These trails are only potentials on publicly held land such as the city parks.

CITY TRAIL POTENTIALS: The City Trails offer the opportunity to connect the cultural, historic,
and recreational resources seen in Crookston.

CITY TRAIL SIGN: The city trail sign is used to mark the trail route through town. The
design of the sign references the importance of the river in shaping Crookston.
CROOKSTON
CENTRAL PARK DESIGN

Central Park, a major public space in Crookston, is located on the river one block from downtown next to the public library and a short distance from the public swimming pool. The park is used for both active and passive recreation. The new design retains the space for hockey and soccer fields, the picnic shelter, and the warming house with restrooms.

PARK TRAILS: The pathways are improved and connected to the city trail system. The paths are paved and new sections are added, increasing the potential user groups who may utilize the park.

AMPHITHEATER: A new amphitheater for concerts and other performances is cut into the hill beneath the swimming pool. The stage of the amphitheater is portable so that it can be stored offsite. Its plank stage floor can be removed from its concrete foundation and its tent-like roof and mast can be removed from its footings. The different amphitheater steps provide alternate levels of experience from which it is possible to view the downtown, the park, and the Red Lake River.

PARK ROAD, BOAT LAUNCH & PARKING LOTS: A loop road provides access to the point, boat launch, and parking lots. The boat launch is moved upstream to reduce its sedimentation during flooding and reduce the cost of after-flood maintenance. A new paved parking lot, associated with the boat launch, accommodates both cars and trailers. The parking lot by the viewing promontory is for cars only. In order to reduce pollution in the river, an infiltration basin receives storm water run-off from the parking lots and the road.

RIVERS EDGE GATHERING SPACE: A viewing promontory, a kiosk and fishing pier are sited together along an axis to make a gathering area at the southeastern tip of the park.

SECTION THROUGH THE PARK: This drawing shows how the change in the park’s topography is used to create different spaces and areas of use within the park.
CROOKSTON
RIVER’S EDGE GATHERING SPACE

The design concept for the River’s Edge Gathering Space creates a strong axis starting at the edge of the park’s middle zone (active recreation - soccer and hockey) extending to the shore of the Red lake River. The spaces created are organized along this axis are used to organize the different zones within the gathering spaces. The sequence of experiences created an increased connection between the park visitors, the floodplain landscape, and the river.

RIVER’S EDGE GATHERING SPACE: The entry to the gathering space and parking lot are screened with flood-tolerant silver maples set in an infiltration garden. Trees, benches, and bicycle racks flank each side of the entry to the space. Three pairs of lights flank the pathway to the circular paved river-viewing platform. The platform is on the river levee and is bounded by a sitting wall.

RLRC KIOSK & INTERPRETIVE PLAZA: The Red Lake River Corridor kiosk is set in a thirty foot in diameter paved plaza that depicts the Red Lake River as it winds through Crookston. The two-panel kiosk provides information about Crookston and the corridor. It is made of steel rebar and set in concrete to withstand flooding.

FISHING PIER: The two-stage fishing pier that accommodates the bounce of the river highlights the axial organization at the river’s edge. The pier provides river viewing opportunities up and down the river.

VIEW OF INFORMATION KIOSK & PROMONTORY
RIVER’S EDGE GATHERING SPACE

- Infiltration Garden
- One Way Traffic
- Silver Maple Plantings
- Interior Path
- Silver Maple Plantings
- Entry with Lighting
- Bike Racks and Benches
- Turf Planting
- Sitting Wall
- Pathway Viewing Areas
- Levee Trail

RLRC KIOSK & INTERPRETIVE PLAZA

- Naturalized Shoreline Vegetation
- FISHING PIER (Dual Level Fishing Pier Accomodates High and Low Water Levels)

INTERPRETIVE KIOSK SECTIONAL VIEW

- Kiosk Informational Sign
- Typical RLRC Rebar Design Vocabulary Used in Kiosk Leg Construction
- Red Lake River Corridor Logo
- Compacted Class 5 Subgradewith a prepared base
- 48 inch deep by 24 inch diameter poured concrete footings

RLRC KIOSK / INTERPRETIVE PLAZA PLAN VIEW

- Horizontal Flagstone River Form Inlay
- Circular 30ft Platform
- Kiosk Interpretive Panels

Red Lake River Entry with Lighting Bike Racks and Benches

FISHING PIER

(See Diagram for details)