THIEF RIVER FALLS
AREA CHARACTER
COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS
OAKLAND PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS
OAKLAND PARK DESIGN
DESIGN DETAILS
THIEF RIVER FALLS

AREA CHARACTER

Thief River Falls has a number of existing recreational resources, including the Riverwalk Trail system which links nearly all the amenities within the city. This existing network of trails and park spaces informed the planning for the communities design framework. The plan integrates and expands existing amenities while creating new connections, producing a strengthened relationship between the parks, trails, neighborhoods within the existing parkway system. This community driven approach is specific to this section of the Red Lake River where the river turns south an proceeds along the historic Beach Ridges of the Glacial Lake Agassiz.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

THIEF RIVER FALLS DAM: This river feature acts as a bridge for pedestrians, produces power for the community of Thief River Falls, and forces river travelers to portage from the Mill Yard Park to the Lower Dam Carry-in site.

RIVERWALK BRIDGE: This bridge structure is the only pedestrian bridge in Thief River Falls and make the Riverwalk system of trails contiguous. The patina of the rusted Core-10 has little or no negative visual impact this section of river. Elevated views up and down the river are garnered along the entire length of the bridges span.

OAKLAND PARK CARRY-IN: The carry-in location at Oakland Park is in one of the most scenic locations along the entire Red Lake River. Shallow water depths here create a vista that is filled with boulders which are partly or completely revealed. Navigation along this river section is difficult during low water levels.

RED ROBE FISHING PIER: The fishing pier at the historic Red Robe Park offers river access and viewing opportunities to fisherman, and also provides access for physically challenged individuals. The pier is a floating structure which is relocated during the winter months.

FINSBURY PARK: Finsbury Park is characterized by large open recreational areas located across from a swift meander of the Red Lake River.

BOY SCOUT PARK LAUNCH: The existing canoe carry-in / boat launch at Boy Scout Park is a potential portage landing for river travelers as they approach the Thief River Falls Dam.
THIEF RIVER FALLS
COMMUNITY TRAIL OPTIONS

COMMUNITY TRAILS DESIGN CONCEPT: A community-wide system of trails use the river as a focus from which other “loop trails” extend. The Riverwalk and water trail as the main trails; loop trails connect community resources and make a network of green spaces that tie the community together.

EXISTING RIVERWALK: The historic Riverwalk provides 7.3 miles of walking, biking, and cross-country ski trails through town along the Red Lake River & Thief River. The trail passes through 6 city parks, 2 forest trails, recreational areas, historical points and the dam. The additional loops suggested for the Riverwalk seek to unify the remaining disparate elements of the community by connecting to the Riverwalk to the Northland Community College Campus, the downtown area, and the east bank communities multiple amenities such as its parks and schools.

CAMPUS LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The trail surrounding the Northland Community College campus connects Finsbury and Alan-a-dale Parks to the river-walk and provides bicycle access to and from the campus.

DOWNTOWN LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The Riverwalk’s downtown section runs through the historic depot district along Davis Avenue and Main Avenue. Parkway street trees along the rail corridor create a new destination and link to the existing recreation system in the city.

COMMUNITY LOOP OF RIVERWALK: The focus of the community loop of the Riverwalk is to make deliberate connections between the parks, and schools in this part of the community. The roadside and sidewalk trail connections are suggested to provide increased safety for the children of the neighborhood.

NEW OAKLAND PARKWAY: Oakland Parkway acts as an extension of Oakland Terraces Park. The new alignment creates a visual connection from Highway 32 to the park and the river. The street trees separate the neighborhoods from the industrial and commercial land uses.

OAKLAND PARK: A southern river-walk terminus and a loop trail connect both the land and water trails. Park improvements create new amenities for the community in the unique riverine landscape.

GREENWOOD ST. PARKWAY: This new parkway creates a new amenity across the community. The parkway increases connections for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. This parkway is possible because of the potential for a bridge seen on the north side of the Greenwood Trails Recreation Area providing more connections across the community for pedestrians and vehicular traffic.

RLRC TRAIL SIGN: The road sign marks the river-walk, the community trails, the river trails and trail access locations. Signs placed at strategic locations throughout the community strengthen the connections between community, its special amenities, and the river. These locations also provide opportunities to interpret natural and cultural assets.
THIEF RIVER FALLS:
OAKLND PARK EXISTING CONDITIONS

Oakland Park occupies a peninsula created by a meander of the Red Lake River. The Red Lake River’s processes of erosion and deposition created the park’s three distinct river terraces. Terrace identity is reinforced by the nursing home’s location, the current uses, and the existing vegetation patterns. The nursing home site on the upper terrace has a pastoral, woodland quality. The middle terrace is dominated by an open meadow that accommodates active recreation. The lowest terrace has riparian vegetation, a sandy beach and riverbanks.

OAKLAND PARK TERRACE DIAGRAM
EXISTING CONDITIONS
THIEF RIVER FALLS
OAKLAND PARK DESIGN CONCEPT & COMPONENTS

DESIGN CONCEPT: The riparian peninsula, three existing terraces, and existing land cover inspired the design. These riverine landscape features drove the design of the gathering spaces and suggested the design elements that interpret the park’s natural and cultural assets. The three existing terraces of the park define park use zones and are used to organize the park. Geometries created by the nursing home and new gathering spaces are aligned on a strong axis to create a flow between different uses on the park terraces.

MEMORIAL GARDENS AND SCULPTURE PARK: The memorial garden design expands the existing Boy Scout garden. New plantings include rain gardens with native prairie flower species. A vine-covered arbor on the private / public edge of the park establishes a park gateway. A series of sculptures are placed along the high terrace trail. Trails lead visitors to the Greenwood Trails Recreational Area via a pedestrian bridge.

COFFEE SHOP PATIO & MASTER GARDEN: Placed between the coffee shop and master garden, the new patio serves as an outdoor room and gateway leading to the new nursing home parking lot, rain gardens, memorial gardens, and sculpture park.

CANOE CARRY-IN TRAILHEAD: Mounded earth berms and a portage trail create the entry experience to the canoe landing. A Red Lake River Canoe sign marks the drop-off site. Grading reveals the sedimentary layers in the riverine landscape.

REFECTORY & FIRE RING STRUCTURE: This gathering place features a large fireplace and hearth under a two-tiered shelter with an outdoor fire ring. It is nestled in the landscape on the lower woodland terrace at the edge of the open meadow terrace.

GRASS AMPHITHEATRE & MULTI-USE SHELTERED STAGE: The turf amphitheater is sited between the upper and middle terraces taking advantage of the change in grade. Seating is carved into the upper terrace. Trails encircle the seating area and mark the edge between the terraces.

RIVER WALK TRAILHEAD GATHERING SPACE: The river walk trailhead serves as a gathering space with restroom facilities, interpretative kiosks, and resting places. It is sited at the head of the parking area and overlooks the park while visually orientating the visitor to the park’s features. The Red Lake River and the Thief River are depicted in the paving as they flow through the community. The paving acts as a surface drain collecting storm water from rooftlines and hard surfaces and directing flows into the rain gardens. The rain gardens create views across the open meadow, serve as backdrops for the Red Lake River kiosk, and provide shade for resting places.

DESIGN IMPLEMENTATION: The design can be addressed as a whole, can be phased over time, or can be built as independent installations, based on the park design terrace delineations.
THIEF RIVER FALLS
OAKLND PARK GATHERING SPACES

With the addition of new memorial gardens, conservatory, sculpture park, amphitheater, and trailhead, the new Oakland Park design provides a number of gathering places for year-round use by a variety of user groups. It also expresses and accentuates the landform of the Red Lake River by providing different recreational opportunities on each of the park’s three main river terraces. The three terraces are linked by gathering spaces that create transitions between the different activity areas.

PERSPECTIVE VIEW
From Facilities Building to Open Meadow
Showing Planted Kiosks, Rain Gardens, Stage, and Meadow
THIEF RIVER FALLS
OAKLND PARK TRAILHEAD & CANOE CARRY-IN

Mounded earth berms and a portage trail create the entry experience to the canoe landing. A Red Lake River Corridor Trail sign marks the drop-off site. Grading reveals the sedimentary layers in the riverine landscape. Roadside pullout locations allow automobiles to drop off canoes at a staging area where corridor users can prepare for their journey.
TRAILHEAD & CANOE CARRY-IN

Red Lake River

Sandy Beach Landing

Naturalized Woodland

Canoe Carry-in

Canoe Drop Off

Infiltration Rain Garden

Earthen Berm

Red Lake River Corridor Signage

Path to Children’s Play Area

Vehicles With Trailer Parking Area

To Riverwalk Trailhead, Information Kiosk and Restroom Facilities

Path to Upper Terrace

TRAILHEAD & CANOE CARRY-IN
THIEF RIVER FALLS:
OAKLAND PARK SECTIONAL VIEWS

The built structures in Oakland Park respond to the terraces created by the Red Lake River. The siting of the buildings at the edges of the terraces and step-down form of the buildings emulate the stepping of the terraces.

SECTIONAL VIEW THROUGH OAKLAND PARK GATHERING SPACES

Arbor Option  Upland Terrace Memorial Garden  Gateway  Berms  Earthen Amphitheater  Multi-Use Stage
OAKLAND PARK SECTIONAL VIEWS

SECTIONAL VIEW OF POTENTIAL PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

[Diagram showing various features of the park, including sections labeled A1, A2, B1, B2, and notes on features like Mean High Water Level, Red Lake River, 150 Ft. Bridge Span, and others.]
THIEF RIVER FALLS
OAKLAND PARK STRUCTURAL DETAILS

The long, low rooflines reflect the horizontal sedimentary layers in the landscape. Flagstone columns and timber beams are used as building materials. The buildings’ metal details recall the metal signature elements of the Red Lake River Corridor. The higher, more open stage roof, accommodates acoustics and reflects its meadow location. The lower refectory roof and seating wall provide more protection from the elements and reflect the forest location.