

# The River Mile

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Award Video



Shears Adkins Rockmore (SA+R), Dialog Design, Calibre Engineering, Wenk Associates, and WSP are proud to present a design for The River Mile, a new urban neighborhood on 62-acre along the South Platte River.

The River Mile is an opportunity to completely rethink the relationship between the City and the River, embracing diverse activities and uses ranging from natural wetlands, water recreation, parks, residences, dining, retail, and office space which have been largely absent in this area. With two light rail stations and excellent bike connectivity, this is exactly the place for the city to grow and densify.

Throughout the planning process, the project team focused on six key principles to guide the development:



**1. Water, habitat, and natural systems-** Strategies that provide on-site management of rainwater and stormwater are prioritized. These include low-impact design (LID) elements that incorporate the intent and strategies contained in the City of Denver's Ultra-Urban Green Infrastructure Guidelines, permeable paving, and river wetland zones.

**2. Connection with the river**– The project will enhance the community’s connection to the river and surrounding environment by creating specialized habitats, enhancing, and adding to existing natural systems and incorporating



natural materials and patterns into the design.

**3. Health and physical activity** - The proximity to the river and to downtown encourage physical activity and connections to nature and enhancing these health assets by promoting walking, biking, and physical activity, providing access to fresh air and daylight within the buildings and public areas

#### **4. Mobility**

The River Mile development will enable safe, active, low carbon, and accessible mobility options, including access to light rail, and pedestrian and bike networks that enhance connectivity to the rest of the city. The site will incorporate a comprehensive TDM strategy and a circulator shuttle to connect to Union Station.



#### **5. Energy systems**

This project is working with Xcel Energy to be prepared for future zero carbon grid power by reducing onsite demands, planning for all electric systems, and use on on site waste-heat recovery. The project will seek to incorporate innovative energy financing (e.g. C-PACE), explore options for supplemental of-site community solar, and be a partner with Xcel Energy in providing grid resiliency, and evolving the potential for wide-spread distributed, low carbon energy grid.

#### **6. Equity**

This project will embrace equity as a core principle by creating public spaces open to everyone, a diverse array of housing types including Denver’s largest affordable housing agreement, and other community benefits such as a recreation center and access improvements.