

# WHY ARE WE DOING THIS WATERSHED PROJECT PLAN?

## Project Partners



Grand Valley Metropolitan Council (GVMC) is preparing a Watershed Project Plan (WPP) as part of the process to receive funding from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) under Public Law 83-566 (The Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Act, PL-566), for river restoration on the Grand River in Grand Rapids, Michigan. As part of the decision-making process three project alternatives are being considered. This funding will be used to restore historic conditions of the Grand River by improving habitat, fish and mussel communities, and public recreational opportunities.

### WHAT ARE THE MAJOR CONCERNS BEING ADDRESSED BY THIS PROJECT?

- Four, low-head beautification dams alter sediment transport, flow velocity, fish passage, and substrate suitability and create public safety hazards.
- Habitat diversity has been significantly reduced.
- Fish and mussel community diversity and productivity are currently much lower than possible.

### WHAT WILL THE OUTCOMES OF THIS PROJECT BE?

- Improved habitat diversity and suitability over 3,300 feet of the Grand River.
- Increased Great Lakes native fish and mussel diversity and productivity.
- Protection of Threatened and Endangered fish and mussel species including the lake sturgeon, river redhorse, and snuffbox mussel.
- Creation of new recreational opportunities with safe public access in an urbanized Great Lakes river corridor.

### WHAT ARE THE PROJECT ALTERNATIVES?

- To support the NRCS funding decision three project alternatives were considered before choosing a preferred alternative:
- No action.
  - Removal of four, low-head beautification dams without substrate improvements.
  - Removal of four, low-head beautification dams with substrate improvements.

### WHAT IMPACTS WERE COMPARED WHEN DECIDING THE ALTERNATIVES?

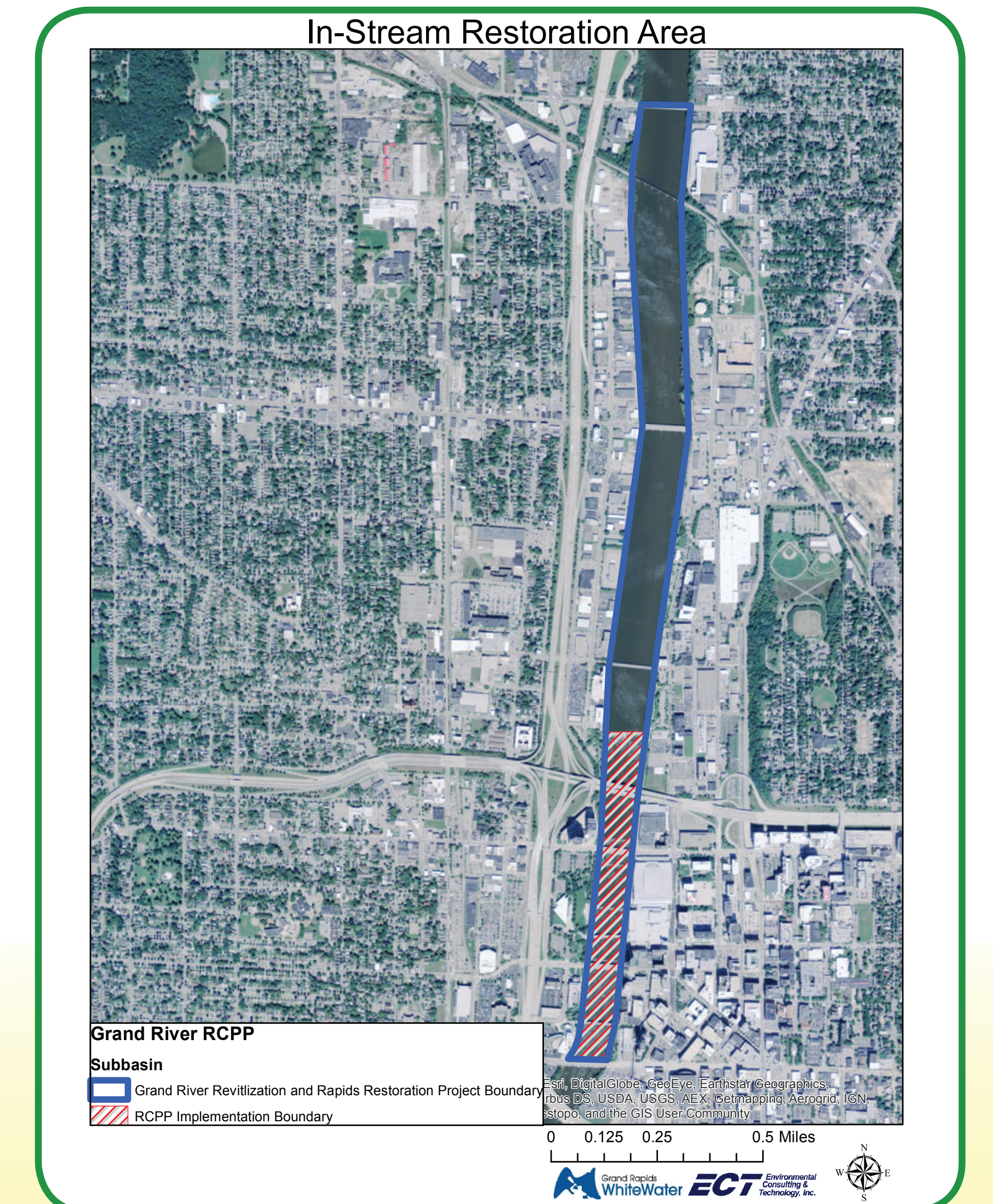


### WHAT IS THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE?

The preferred alternative is removal of four, low-head beautification dams and creation of more substrate diversity that will create riffle habitat features with associated run, pool, and glide habitats.



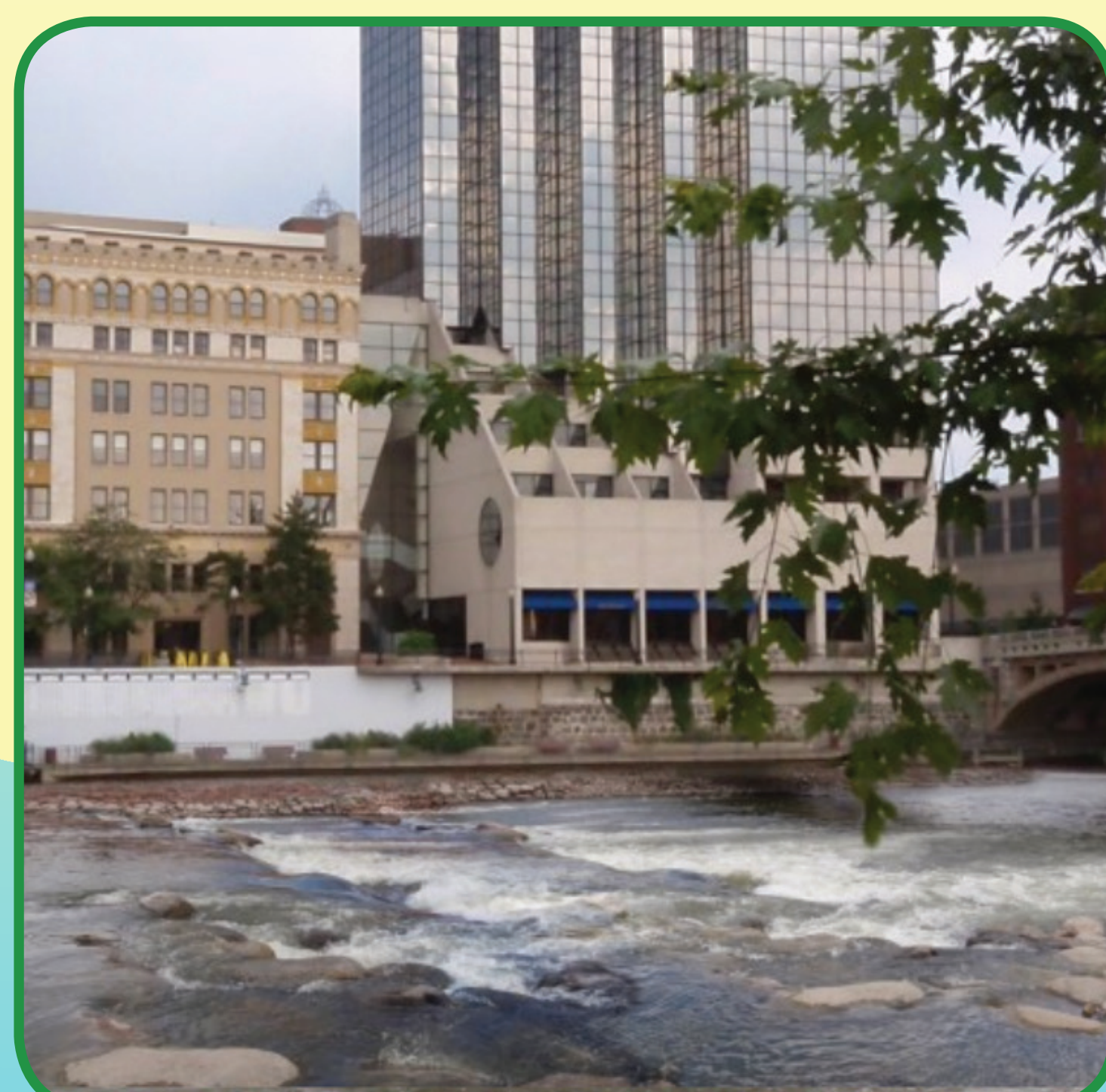
Historic map of Grand River



Project focus area



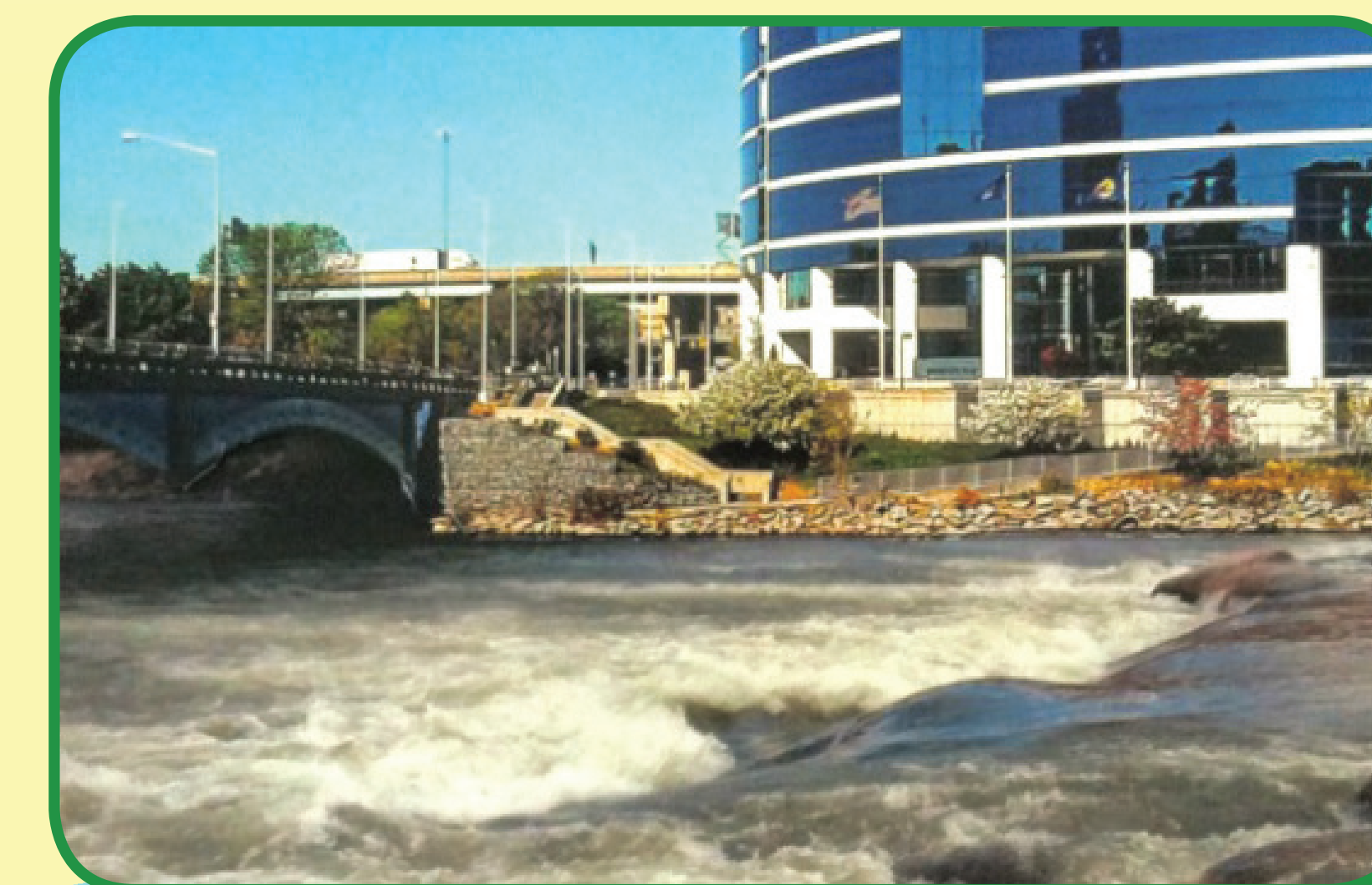
Current view of Grand River



Conceptual of preferred alternative



Current view of Grand River



Conceptual of preferred alternative

### ARE WE THE ONLY ONES THAT WANT TO DO THIS PROJECT?

This project aligns with the goals and objectives of multiple regional planning documents including:

- Lake Sturgeon Recovery
- Productivity and Diversity of Lake Michigan
- Productivity and Diversity of Grand River Native Fish and Mussel Populations
- River Accessibility Recreational Opportunities
- Lower Grand River Watershed Management Plan-Restoration of habitats, fishery improvements and encouragement of outdoor recreation
- 2017 Grand River Fisheries Assessment-Rapid restoration effect on the local fisheries in the river