
Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

Bluffs Region (Hastings to Iowa Border)
September 23, 2016 • 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Red Wing Ignite
419 Bush Street, Red Wing, MN

Bluffs Region Agenda

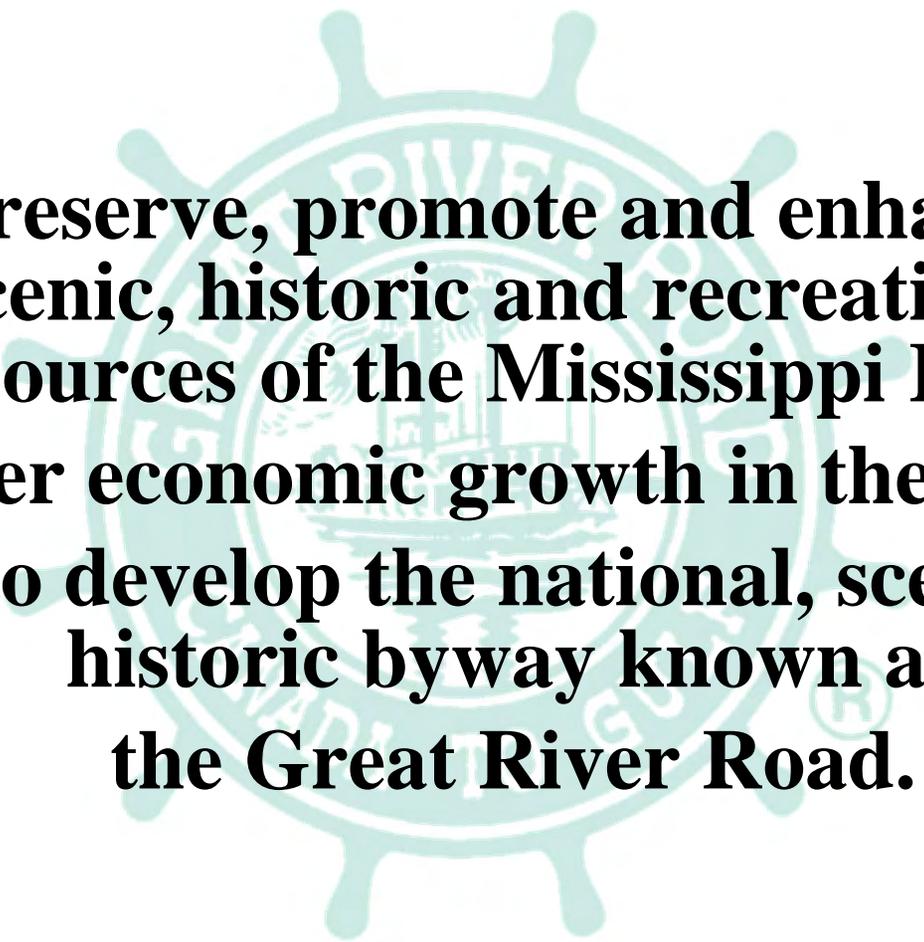
- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - II. Minnesota Great River Road Updates
 - III. Ten State Great River Road Projects
 - IV. Regional Commissioner Election
 - V. Regional Work
 - IV. Ideas/Input/Updates from Participants
- 

Welcome & Introductions



Commission's Mission:

To preserve, promote and enhance the scenic, historic and recreational resources of the Mississippi River, to foster economic growth in the corridor and to develop the national, scenic and historic byway known as the Great River Road.



Minnesota Great River Road Updates

- Corridor Management Planning Results
 - Corridor Management Plan Implementation
 - Wayfinding Signage
 - Plan Your Project
 - Plan Your Trip
 - Ambassador Development
- 

Corridor Management Planning Results

Top Themes:

Nature

Recreational Activities

Top Areas of Focus:

Health and Active Living

Facilities Management

Placemaking

215
RIVER
STORIES 

20 KEY
STAKEHOLDER
MEETINGS

87 VISITOR
SURVEYS

16 PROJECT
MANAGEMENT
TEAM MEETINGS

MN-MRPC
MEETINGS **6**

ADVISORY
TEAM
MEETINGS **7**

SOCIAL
MEDIA
PLATFORMS **4**

132 PARTICIPANTS
12
PUBLIC OPEN
HOUSES

543 Specific #cantmiss locations

99 RIVER VIEWS IDENTIFIED **533** Online Survey Participants Aged 19-65+

Corridor Management Planning Results

2016

Minnesota



GREAT RIVER ROAD

Corridor Management Plan

 Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Minnesota Legislative Coordinating Commission

 **Great River Road**
National Scenic Byway of the Mississippi River

Contact

MENU:

- Home
- Project Info
- Participate
- FAQ
- Project Documents
- Corridor Managers

[Back to mmississippiriver.com](#)

OVERVIEW

The Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan is available online! To view the full list and download all of the Corridor Management Plan supporting documents – click on "Project Documents."

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MN-MRPC), Legislative Coordinating Commission and Minnesota Department of Transportation are grateful for the input, assistance and support provided by partners and byway travelers during development of the 2016 Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

Special thanks to funding partners – Federal Highway Administration/National Scenic Byways Program, National Park Service, and Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The Corridor Management Plan - developed over 18 months with statewide citizen and byway partner input - provides that plan, capturing and cataloging the Great River Road's needs and opportunities.

The CMP includes thematic goals, objectives, and strategies that support the mission of the MN-MRPC by recommending ways to *preserve, promote and enhance the scenic, historic and recreational resources of the Mississippi River, to foster economic growth in the corridor and to develop the national, scenic and historic byway known as the Great River Road* during the next 15 years. The CMP is organized around five goals, 15 objectives, and 90+ specific strategies; and also includes a business plan, communications plan and facilities management plan.

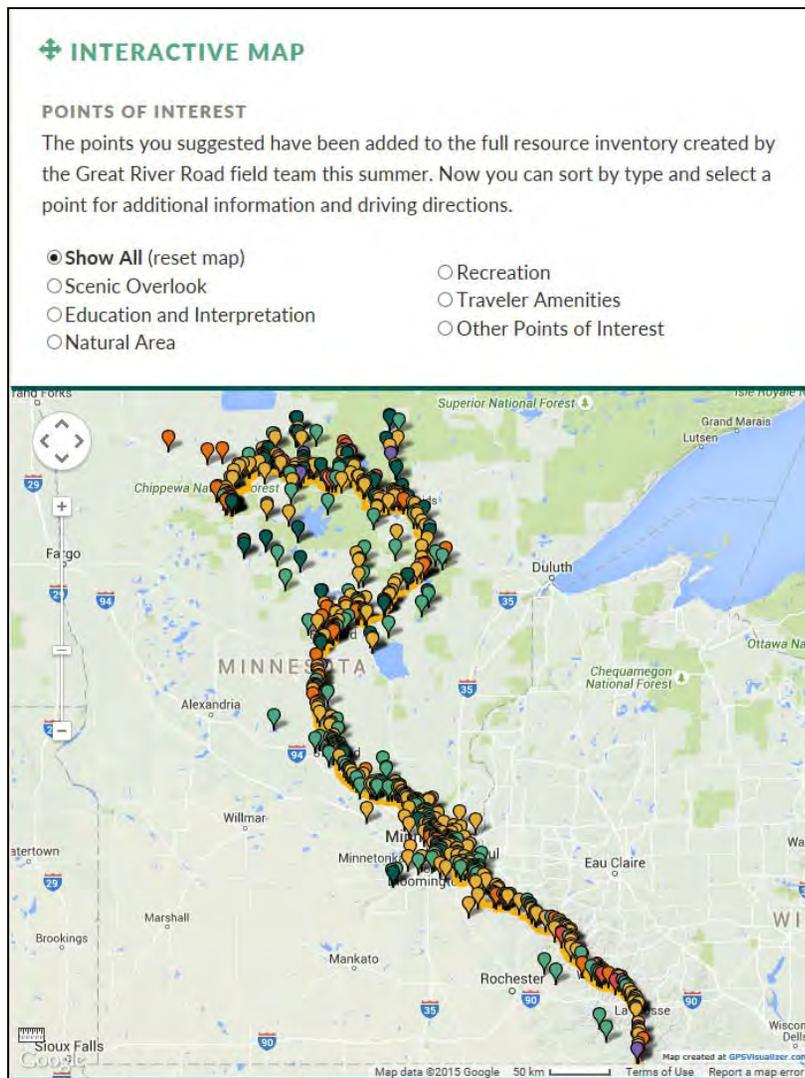
Four initial action items were identified to meet the most urgent needs and move toward accomplishment of the greatest number of strategies. They are -

- Wayshowing Signage
- Plan Your Trip Interactive Mapping Tool (for travelers)
- Plan Your Project Interactive Mapping Tool (for byway and resource managers)
- Great River Road Ambassador Development

753 specific resources were identified, described and mapped along the byway, which spans 565 miles, six destination areas, 20 counties, 43 communities, and three tribes.

We look forward to working with you to improve the experience for Great River Road travelers, residents and partners alike, while celebrating the magic that is the Mighty Mississippi River!

Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results



SIGNIFICANT VIEWSHED OR VISTA
Assessment Form

VISUAL PROTECTION PLAN

General:

View: View Direction/Compass Bearing:

Location or Address: Primary Modal Accessibility: Parking Available:

City: County: Primary Modal Accessibility: ADA Accessible:

GPS Coordinates: Landowner/Managing Agency:

Landowner: Managing Agency:

Anything Else?:

Assessment:

View Type: Landform/Cover:

View Type: Landform/Cover:

Landscape Type: Land Use (Zoning/Type):

Landscape Type: Land Use (Zoning/Type):

Scenic Quality Rating (1-5, 5 being best):

Suitability for GRR Viewpoint (1-5, 5 being most suited):

Threat Level (0-5, 0 being no threat):

Discuss how any threats might be mitigated, or any infrastructure needs to develop vistas as by byways viewpoint/overlook:

Other Notes: Best season, environment details (background noise, site details), sensory experience, wildlife, etc.:

Your Information (Optional):

Submitted by:

Email:

Date:

Or, mail to: MPRC, MPRC Mailing Address, Address, AD

GREAT RIVER ROAD Corridor Management Plan

Corridor Management Planning Results

Great River Road Visitor Survey Results Overview



73% of respondents were aware they were traveling on the Great River Road

Most respondents were traveling by car and 20% were traveling by bicycle



25 percent of respondents were over the age of 50



27 percent were under 18



75% of respondents visited or plan to visit the Headwaters of the Mississippi River

The top three activities in terms of enjoyment included:

- 1 Touring by car
- 2 Headwaters/Itasca State Park
- 3 Hiking



75% of respondents were visiting friends and family or were vacationing

Many respondents would like to see more and better signs indicating they are on the Great River Road

Many listed getting lost as a least favorite activity or a need for improvement



95% of respondents definitely will or probably would plan to visit again

Most travelers learned about the Great River Road from:

- 1 The website
- 2 Existing local knowledge
- 3 Friends/family
- 4 Brochures
- 5 Wayshowing signs

Corridor Management Planning Results



TH 61 Underlook



TH 61 Lake City Concourse



TH 61 Reads Landing



TH 61 Lake City Rest Area



TH 26 @ New Albin, IA

Corridor Management Planning Results

National Scenic Byway of the Mississippi River
Protected, Enhanced and Promoted by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

 explore
Minnesota's Great River Road



About Plan Your Experience Attractions & Events Photo Gallery Links Order Maps Contact Us

Headwaters Mississippi Northwoods Mississippi Crossings Mississippi Scenic Mississippi Metro Mississippi Bluffs Mississippi

Minnesota Mississippi Close

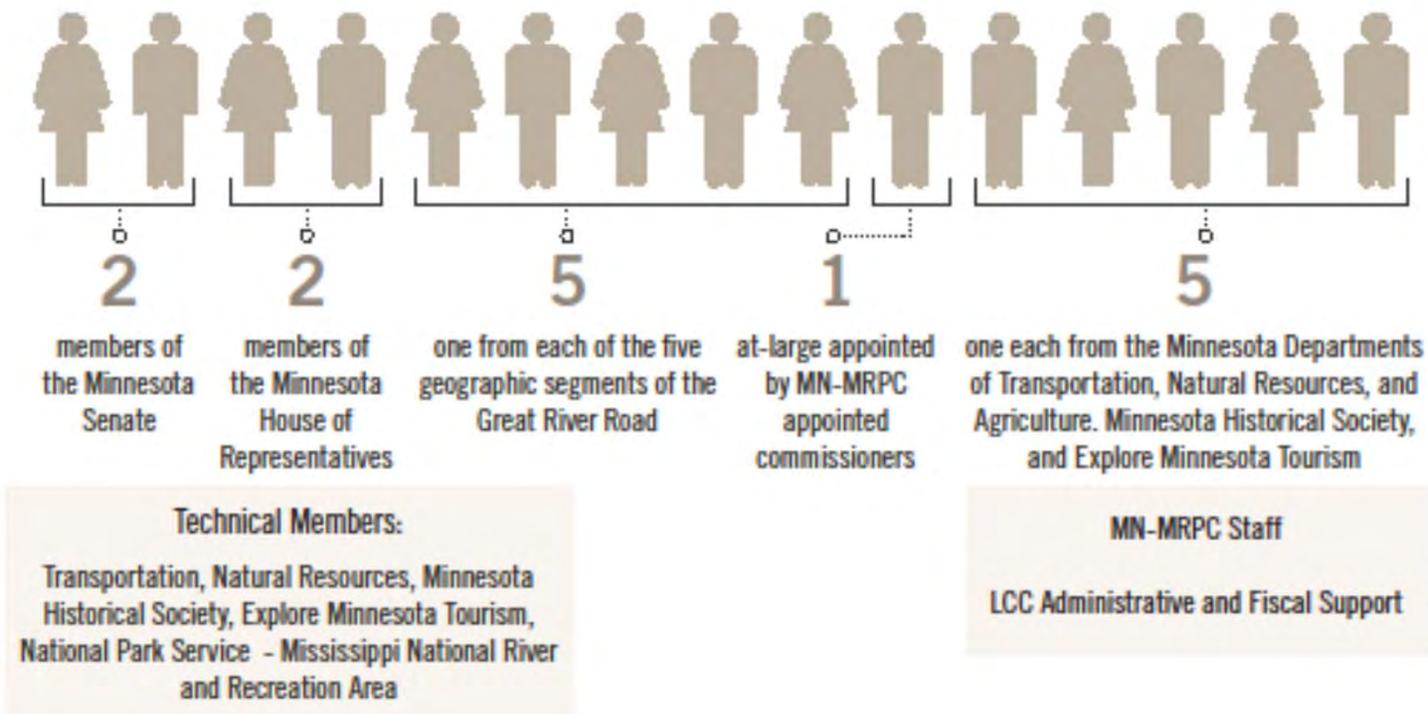


Lake Itasca State Park to Iowa Border — 575 miles
Check out [Minnesota's Official State Highway Map](#) for more detailed routing.

The development of this site was made possible by a grant from Explore Minnesota Tourism.

Corridor Management Planning Results

Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission Organization Chart



Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results



Metro Mississippi
Local Playground, Continental River

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is a 72-mile river park that has opportunities for fishing, boating, and canoeing. On its banks are excellent locations for birding, bicycling, and hiking. Although annually millions of people from around the globe come to see the Mississippi River, they are not the only visitors—40 percent of all North American waterfowl use the river as a migratory flyway, and 320 bird species (more than one-third of all species in North America) follow the flyway in their spring and fall migrations.

In Between Twin Cities

While St. Paul was developing around shipping and transportation, Minneapolis, with its lumber and flour mills fueled by St. Anthony Falls, became an industrial giant. The social differences and the destinies of the two cities were firmly established by the mid-19th century. Today, you can discover the unique and diverse cultural and recreational opportunities that Minnesota's two largest and most vibrant urban communities offer.

Destination Area: Metro Mississippi





Lake City, a Mississippi River Trail Community

Welcome to Minnesota's South Shore! Lake City is known for its sailing fleet, recreational opportunities and quaint shops and galleries. Settled in the 1850s, the city was an important grain shipping port. It also was a center for harvesting river clams, the shells of which were cut into buttons. The city is centrally located for exploring the magnificent Mississippi River Bluffs region.

River Facts

Lake Pepin is the largest lake and widest naturally occurring section on the entire Mississippi River. It was formed by water backing up from the delta of the Chippewa River, which empties into the Mississippi five miles downstream across from Reads Landing. It was named for Jean Pepin, who settled near here in the late 1600s when the area was still part of New France.

Did you know?

Lake City is the birthplace of water skiing. In 1922, 18-year-old Ralph Samuelson hoped to recreate the sport of snow skiing on the water. He made a set of skis from pine boards, bending the front tips by softening them in his mother's copper kettle, and first used them successfully here on Lake Pepin. Later, he performed the first ski jump from a launch platform greased with lard and went on to become the first speed skier. Lake City celebrates the invention of the popular sport each June with its Water Ski Days festival.

Lake City



Attractions

- Lake City Concourse
- Frontenac State Park
- Roehen Park
- Hill-St-Lie Municipal Park and Campground
- Reads Landing Overlook
- Ojutsa Park
- Underwood Park
- Lake City Marinas

Biking on the Mississippi River Trail (MRT)

Lake City welcomes your community and the trail! The MRT offers opportunities for visitors to bicycle short loops of set length of loop or just and time along the full length of the Mississippi River.

Route Profile

- ▶ The MRT has something for everyone within Minnesota—but not all segments are appropriate for all types of users.
- ▶ The off-road segments are suitable for experienced bicyclists comfortable sharing the road with traffic.
- ▶ As of 2015, all Clearwater Co., some Hennepin Co., and all Minneapolis park segments are not signed. Please refer to Dept. of Transportation route maps.

Basic Equipment

- ▶ The Minnesota MRT travels through urban and rural settings.
- ▶ Helpful gear necessities such as drinking water, tools, tools and proper clothing.
- ▶ Most bicycles will work, but first, let's discuss the route length of the MRT. However, mountain bikes might be more appropriate for the greater distances of the route in Adair Co.



Mississippi Bluffs
The Driftless Area

Downstream from Hastings, you enter a very unique landscape known as the Driftless Area. It extends all the way south to the Iowa border, but not much farther, and east into Wisconsin and northern Illinois. The Driftless Area is a very small area that the advancing glaciers of 12,000 years ago missed. It is a land of deep valleys, majestic bluffs and rugged exposed bedrock. It is a place where you can see land that has been continuously washed by wind and water for 243 million years. It's a whole different kind of Minnesota.

Hastings to the Iowa Border

Bald eagles soar between the river and the scenic bluffs, and charming river towns dot this stretch of the Mississippi. Plan some time outdoors in the Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge area, which begins at the confluence of the Mississippi and Chippewa rivers near Wabasha, MN, and ends in Rock, Iowa. This refuge has more than 240,000 acres of wooded islands, marshes and backwaters that are an angler's paradise, waterfowl haven and a bird watcher's bounty.

Destination Area: Mississippi Bluffs





Mississippi Bluffs

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MRT Host Communities: Bemidji, Brainerd, Little Falls, Ramsey, Hastings, Lake City & Winona

Initial Implementation Focus

- 
- I. Wayfinding Signage
 - II. Plan Your Project
 - III. Plan Your Trip
 - IV. Ambassador Development

Wayfinding Signage

- A total of 135 Great River Road wayfinding signs, or 22%, were noted as missing



Wayfinding Signage

- Where signs are in place, 32% of the time they do not follow the Manual On Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD)
- Variations in size, color, and wording
- Inconsistent sign placement on poles
- Inconsistent type of arrow
- Arrow is missing
- Faded or otherwise beyond its useful life



Plan Your Project

Great River Road Route

MRT Route

Traveler Resource Database

Great River Road Sign Inventory

SALT Database (County, City, Other)

Programmed Bridge Projects 2015 -2018

Programmed Projects 2015 -2018

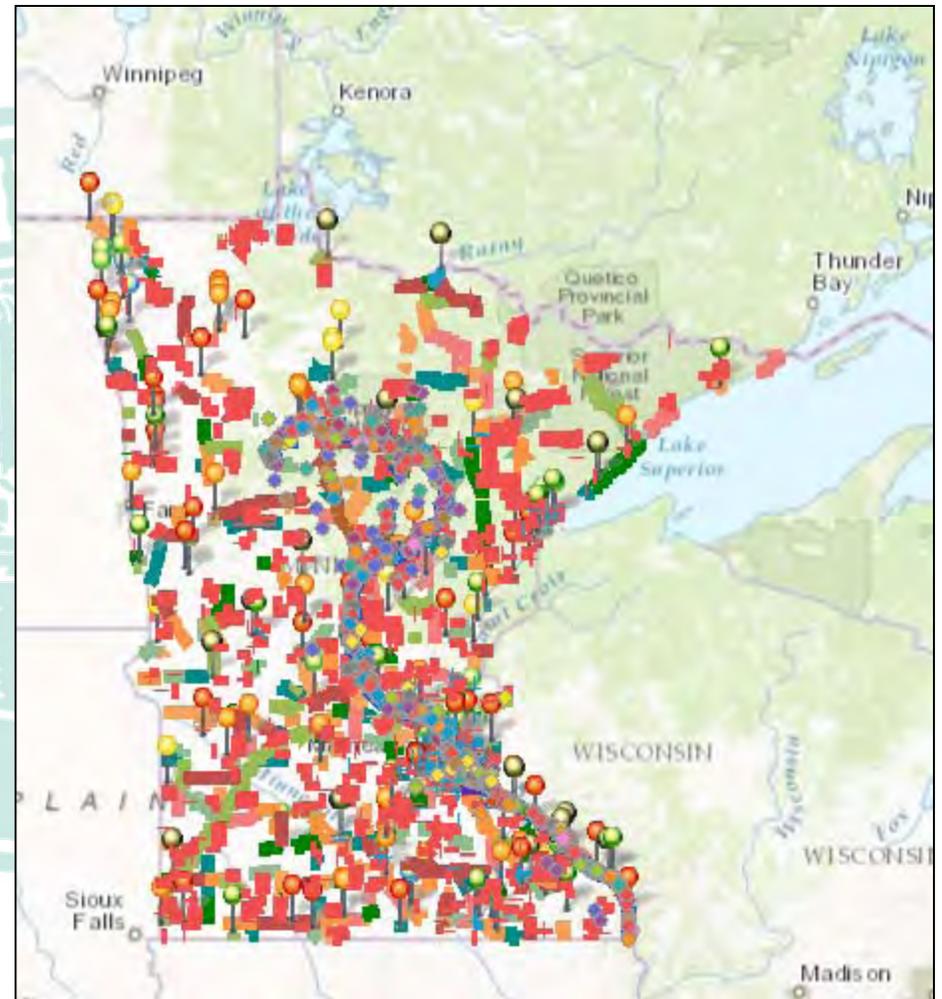
Planned Bridge Projects 2019 - 2022

Planned Projects 2019 – 2022

Scenic Easements and Areas

Multi-modal connections

Permitted billboards

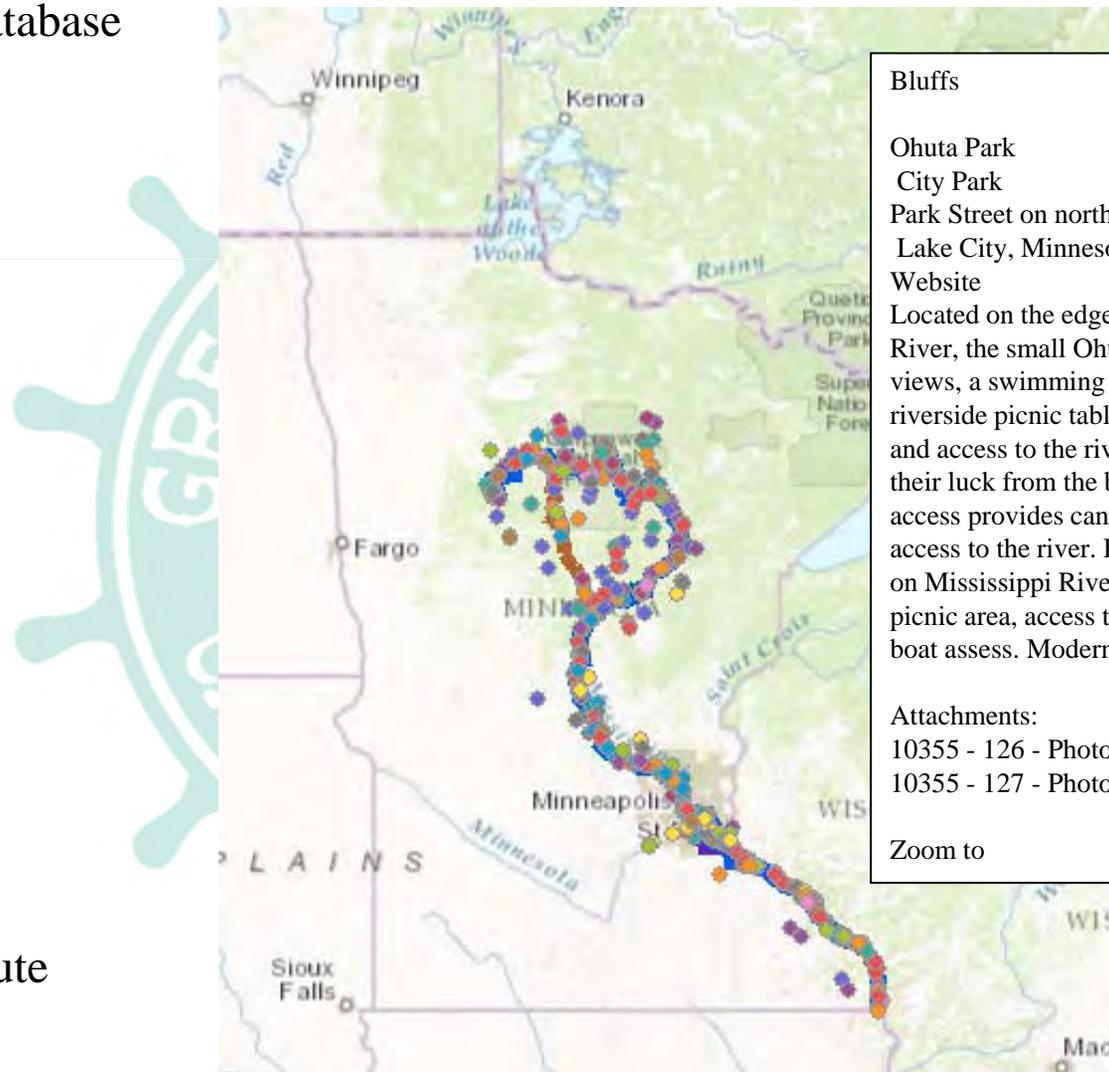


Plan Your Trip

Traveler Resource Database

- Boat Access
- City Park
- Museum
- Campsite (Water Trail)
- Trailhead
- Bridge
- Dam
- Rest Area
- Campground
- Forest
- Tourist Information Center
- Scientific and Natural Area
- Interpretive Marker
- County Park
- Regional Park
- State Park
- Scenic Overlook
- Wildlife Area
- Park Reserve
- Fishing Pier
- Recreation Area
- Byway Intersection
- Historic Site
- Picnic Area
- Public Art
- Visitor Center
- Multimodal Hub
- Native American Site
- National Park
- National Forest
- Tribal Lands

Great River Road Route
MRT Route



Bluffs

Ohuta Park
City Park
Park Street on north edge of marina
Lake City, Minnesota 55041

Website

Located on the edge of the Mississippi River, the small Ohuta Park offers fabulous views, a swimming beach, scattered riverside picnic tables, modern restrooms and access to the river walk. Anglers can try their luck from the bank. Carry-in boat access provides canoists and kayakers easy access to the river. Features: Small city park on Mississippi River. Swimming beach, picnic area, access to river walk. Carry-in boat access. Modern restrooms.

Attachments:

10355 - 126 - Photo1.jpg
10355 - 127 - Photo2.jpg

[Zoom to](#)

[Get Directions](#)

Ambassador Development

Developing a Great River Road Ambassador program will educate tourism agencies, local hospitality-related businesses, local officials, and river enthusiasts about the unique characteristics and needs of byway tourists as well as to better leverage the economic benefits associated with the Great River Road.

It will include driving and biking the Great River Road with state and local transportation staff so they better understand opportunities to manage the byway as a parkway to better serve byway traveler needs.

Ten State Great River Road Projects

- Fall **Drive the Great River Road** promotion
- Other 2016 Contests – Birding & Biking
- Great River Road Mobile App
- Great River Road Ten-state Printed Map
- Ten-State Corridor Management Plan
- Mississippi River Connections Collaborative Partnership
 - 2016 Year of Birding
 - 2017 Year of Hiking
 - Geotourism - <http://mississippiriver.natgeotourism.com/>
 - Launch
 - Contributor recognition



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Regional Commissioner Election

- **MN-MRPC COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- To enact the mission of the MRPC at National, State and local levels
- To participate in four meetings of the MN-MRPC annually.
- To participate, as schedule and funding allows, in bi-annual National Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings and to serve on National Standing Committees as appointed by the MN-MRPC Chair.
- To actively support special events related to the Mississippi River and/or Great River Road.

IN ADDITION, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:

- To enable their Citizen Committee and regional stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the Great River Road.
- To act as liaison between the MRPC/MN-MRPC and the regional Great River Road citizen committee from which he/she is appointed.
- To foster partnerships and cooperation within their region, harnessing local resources to implement the mission.
- To coordinate meetings and lead implementation of work plans for their Regional Citizen Committee.

Regional Commissioner Election

- According to statute, the MN-MRPC includes five Regional Commissioners elected by citizen committees within those regions.
- A Commissioner will be elected today for a two year term.
- Ballots will now be distributed...



Regional Updates

River Bridge Projects:

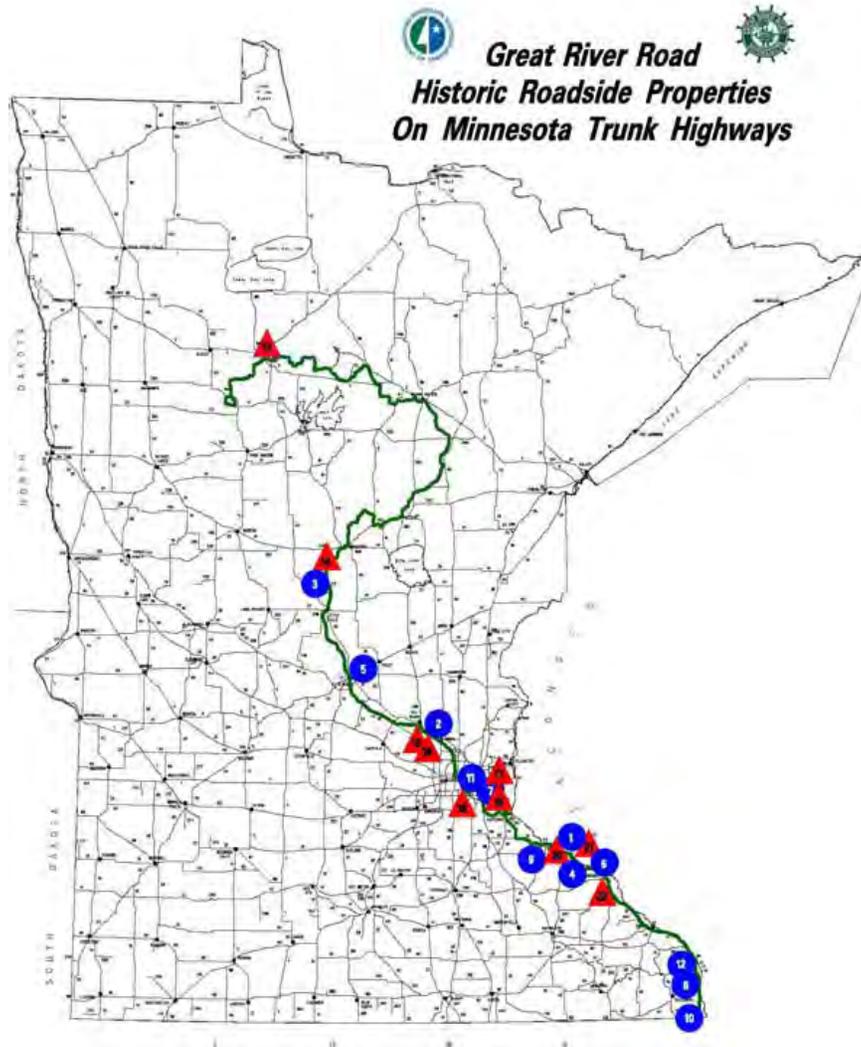
- TH 61 Hastings – Complete
- TH 63 Red Wing – Final Design, approaches under construction
- TH 43 Winona – Under construction, rehab design phase
- I-90 Dresbach – Under construction



River Trail Planning:

- Mississippi Blufflands State Trail Master Plan – MnDNR led

Historic Wayside Restorations



- Camp Ripley Entrance Walls
- St. Cloud Historical Marker
- National Grange Historical Marker
- Sibley Pioneer Church Monument
- Burns Ave. Overlook
- Minn. State Training School Walls**
- Ft. Beauharnois Historical Marker**
- Lake City Concourse**
- Reads Landing Overlook
- LaCrescent Overlook
- LaCrescent State Entry Marker
- Reno Spring Roadside Parking Area

Silica Sand Toolkit

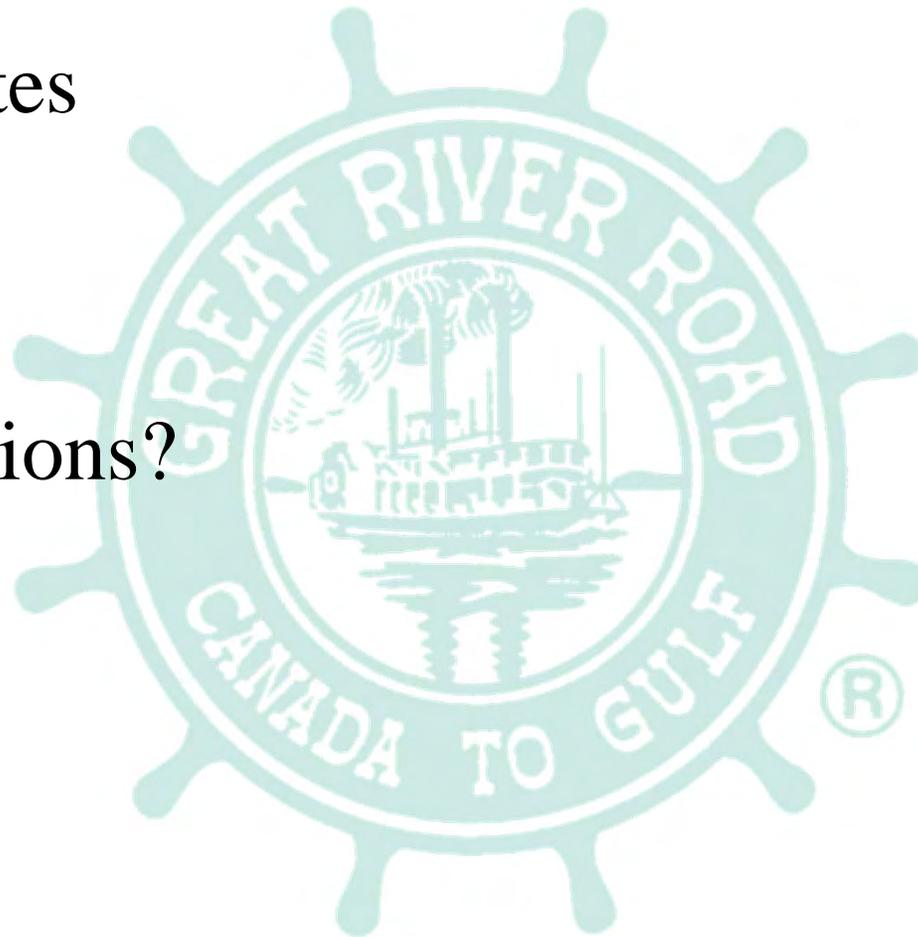
Environmental Quality Board

**Tools to Assist Local
Governments
in
Planning for and Regulating
Silica Sand Projects**

**approved
March 19, 2014**

From the Group...

- Updates
- Ideas
- Input
- Questions?



Thank You!

Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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Waite Park, MN 56387

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www.mnmississippiriver.com

Special thanks to the Redwing Ignite
for hosting today's meeting!

