
Mississippi River Parkway Commission of Minnesota

Bluffs Region (Hastings to Iowa Border)

September 23, 2016 • 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

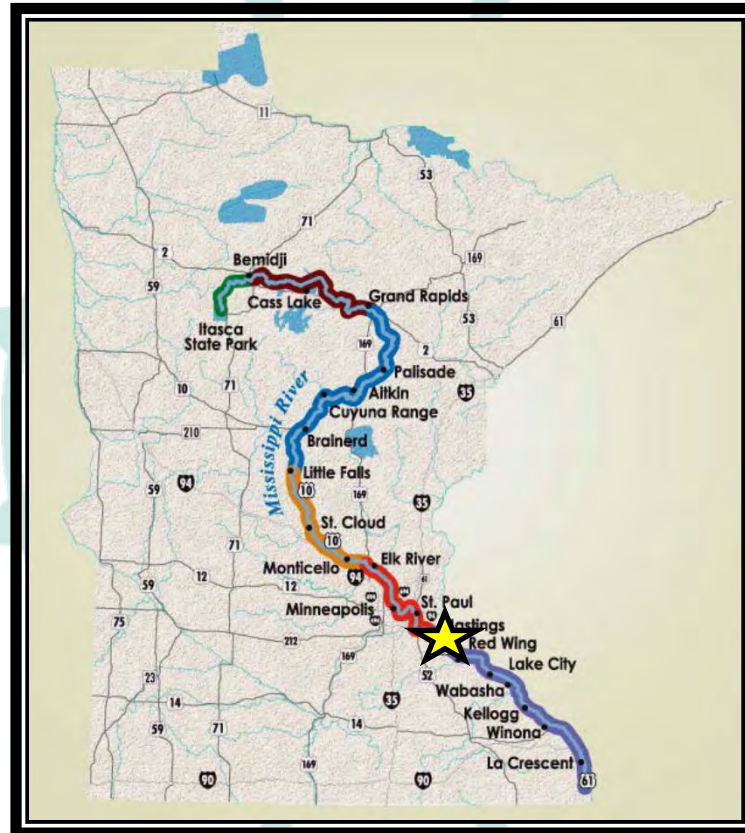
Red Wing Ignite

419 Bush Street, Red Wing, MN

Bluffs Region Agenda

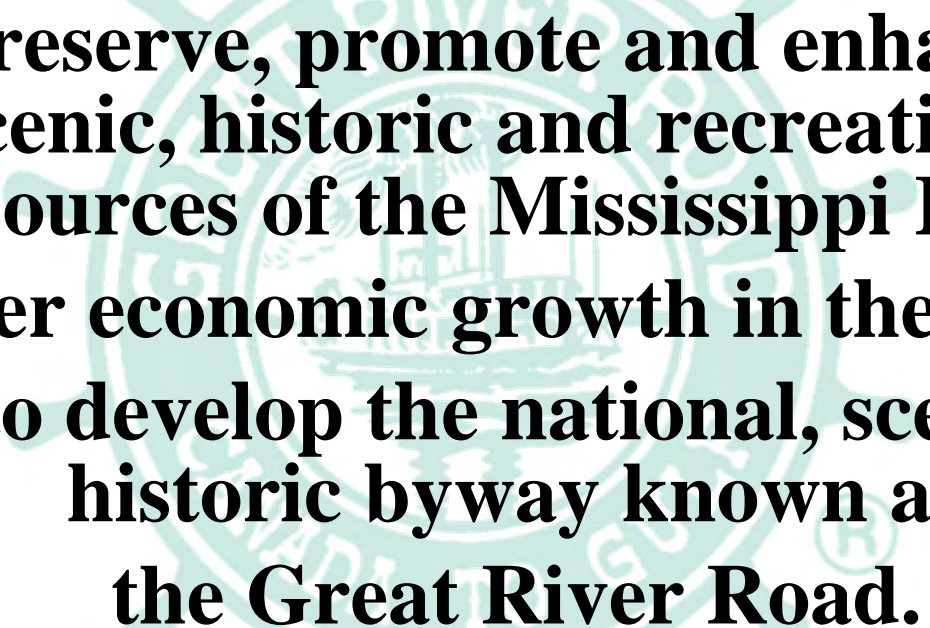
- 
- I. Welcome & Introductions
 - II. Minnesota Great River Road Updates
 - III. Ten State Great River Road Projects
 - IV. Regional Commissioner Election
 - V. Regional Work
 - IV. Ideas/Input/Updates from Participants
-

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**

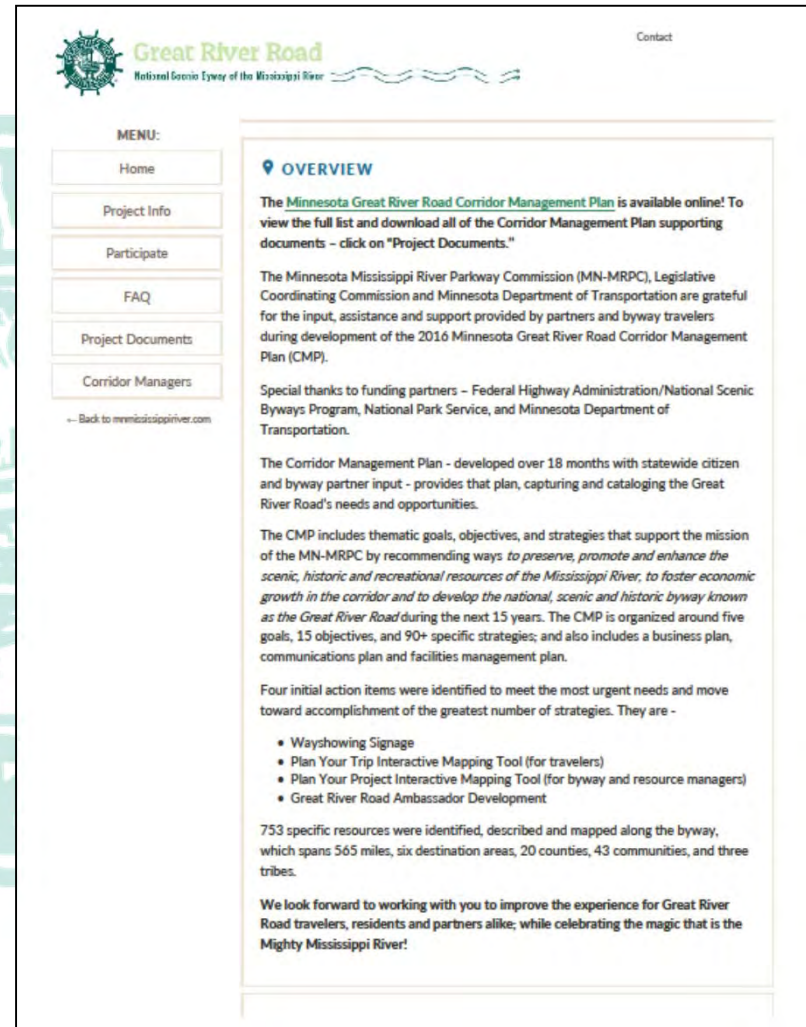
SOCIAL
MEDIA
PLATFORMS **4**

132 PARTICIPANTS
12
PUBLIC OPEN
HOUSES

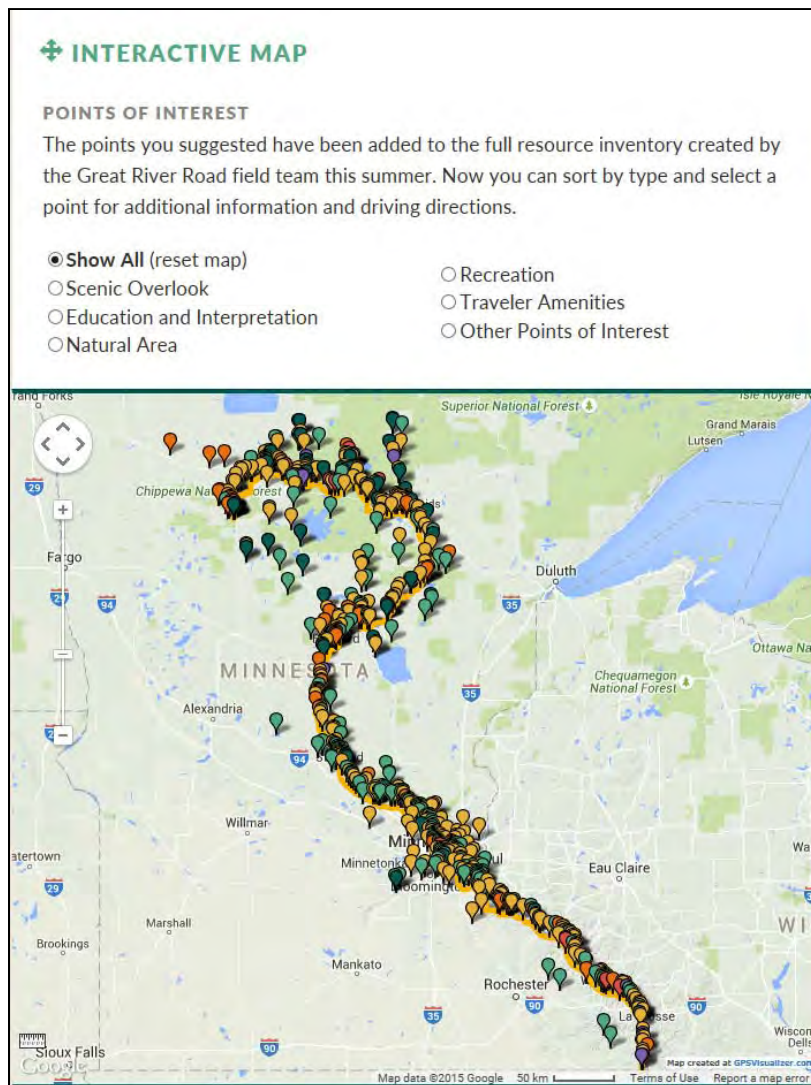
543 Specific #cantmiss locations

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

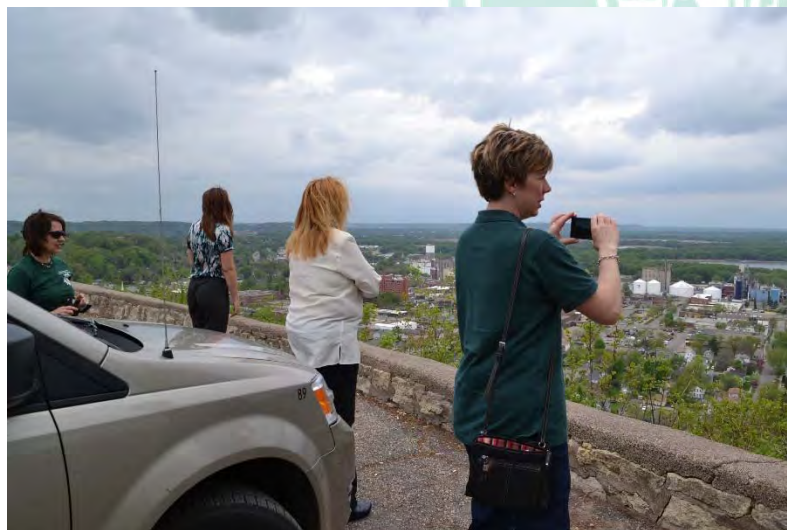
Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results



SIGNIFICANT VIEWSHED OR VISTA		VISUAL PROTECTION PLAN	
Assessment Form		Control Number (From Submittal) <input type="text"/>	
General:		View Direction/Compass Bearing <input type="text"/>	
View <input type="text"/>		Primary Modal Accessibility <input type="text"/> Parking Available <input type="text"/>	
Location or Address <input type="text"/>		Primary Modal Accessibility <input type="text"/> ADA Accessible <input type="text"/>	
City <input type="text"/> County <input type="text"/>		Landowner/Managing Agency:	
GPS Coordinates <input type="text"/>		Landowner <input type="text"/> Managing Agency <input type="text"/>	
Anything Else? <input type="text"/>			
Assessment:		Landform/Cover <input type="text"/>	
View Type <input type="text"/>		Landform/Cover <input type="text"/>	
Landscape Type <input type="text"/>		Land Use (Zoning/Type) <input type="text"/>	
Landscape Type <input type="text"/>		Land Use (Zoning/Type) <input type="text"/>	
Scenic Quality Rating (1-5, 5 being best) <input type="text"/>			
Suitability for GRR Viewpoint (1-5, 5 being most suited) <input type="text"/>			
Threat Level (0-5, 0 being no threat) <input type="text"/>			
Discuss how any threats might be mitigated, or any infrastructure needs to develop vistas as by byways viewpoint/overlook <input type="text"/>			
Other Notes: Best season, environment details (background noise, site details), sensory experience, wildlife, etc. <input type="text"/>			
Your Information (Optional):		Submit by Email <input type="button" value="Submit by Email"/>	
Submitted by <input type="text"/>		Or, mail to: MPRC MPRC Mailing Address Address, AD	
Email <input type="text"/>			
Date <input type="text"/>			
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

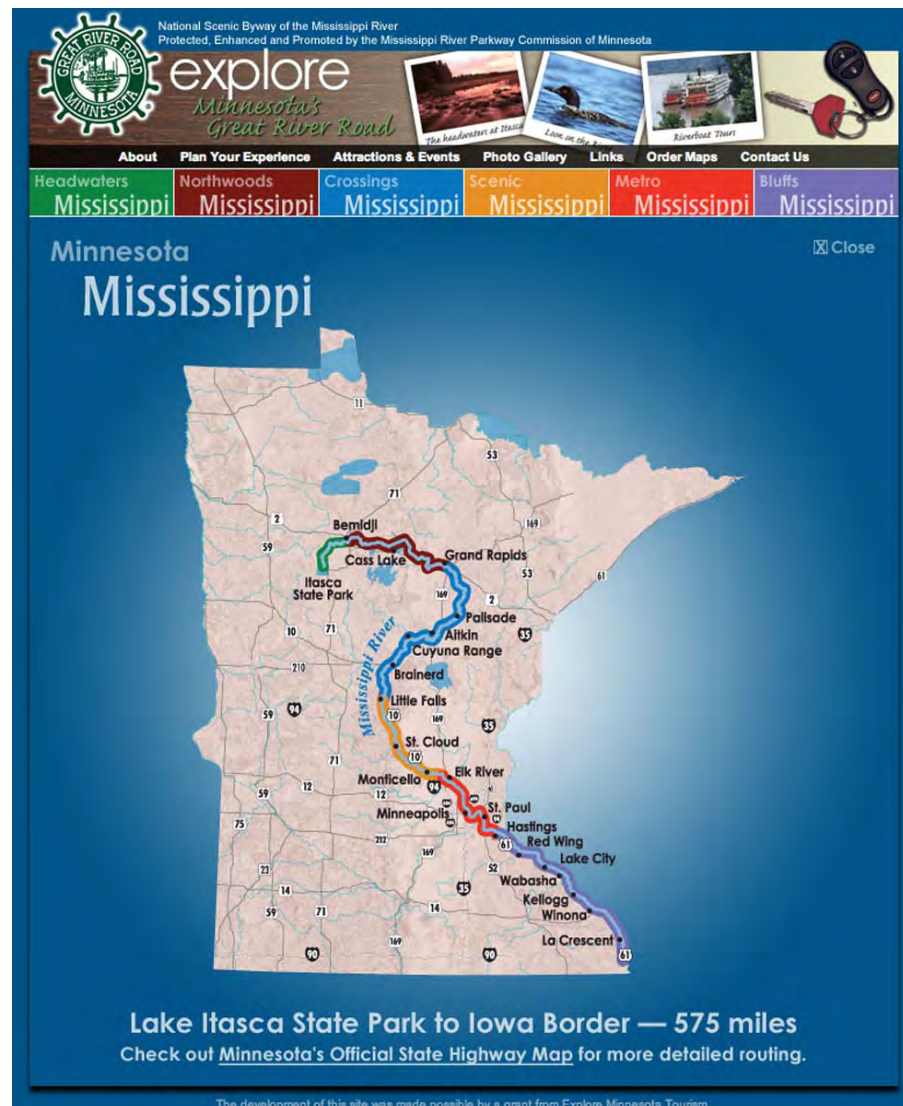


TH 61 Lake City Rest Area



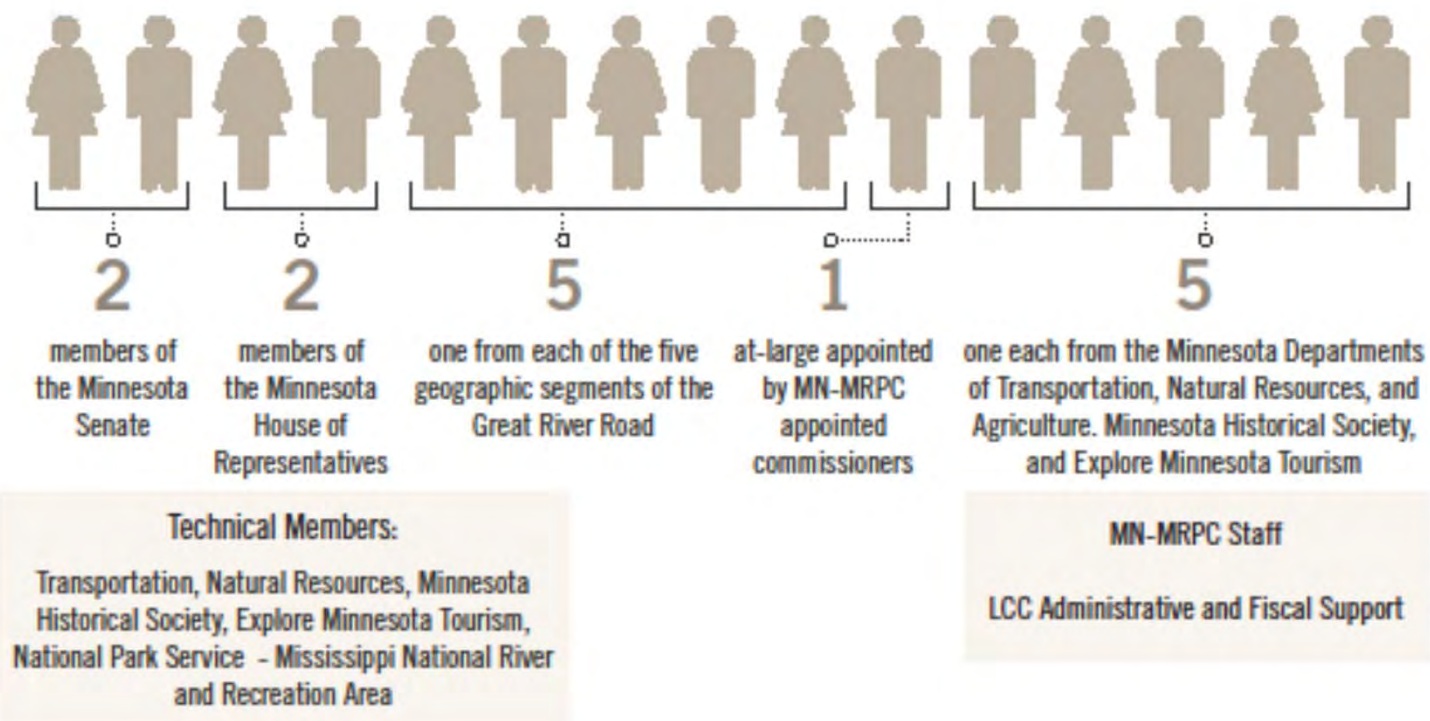
TH 26 @ New Albin, IA

Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results

Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission Organization Chart



Corridor Management Planning Results



Corridor Management Planning Results



Online at www.mnmississippiriver.com

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 126 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



Legend:

- Great River Road
- Metropolitan River Trail
- Trail Corridor
- Historic Highway
- Interpretive Center
- Museum
- Historic Site
- Outlook
- Planning Point
- State Parks
- Other Scenic Routes
- State Capitol Trail



Online at www.mnmississippiriver.com

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




Legend:

- Lake City
- Lake Pepin & Open Space
- State Parks
- State Capitol Trail
- Metropolitan River Trail
- Historic Highway
- Interpretive Center
- Museum
- Historic Site
- Outlook
- Planning Point
- State Parks
- Other Scenic Routes
- State Capitol Trail

Attractions

- Lake City Concourse
- Historic La Municipal Park and Ground
- Foreman State Park
- Reads Landing Overlook
- Underwood Park
- Rooschen Park
- Olivia Park
- Lake City Marina



Online at www.mnmississippiriver.com

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 Island, IL. 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



Legend:

- Great River Road
- Metropolitan River Trail
- Trail Corridor
- Historic Highway
- Interpretive Center
- Museum
- Historic Site
- Outlook
- Planning Point
- State Parks
- Other Scenic Routes
- State Capitol Trail

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

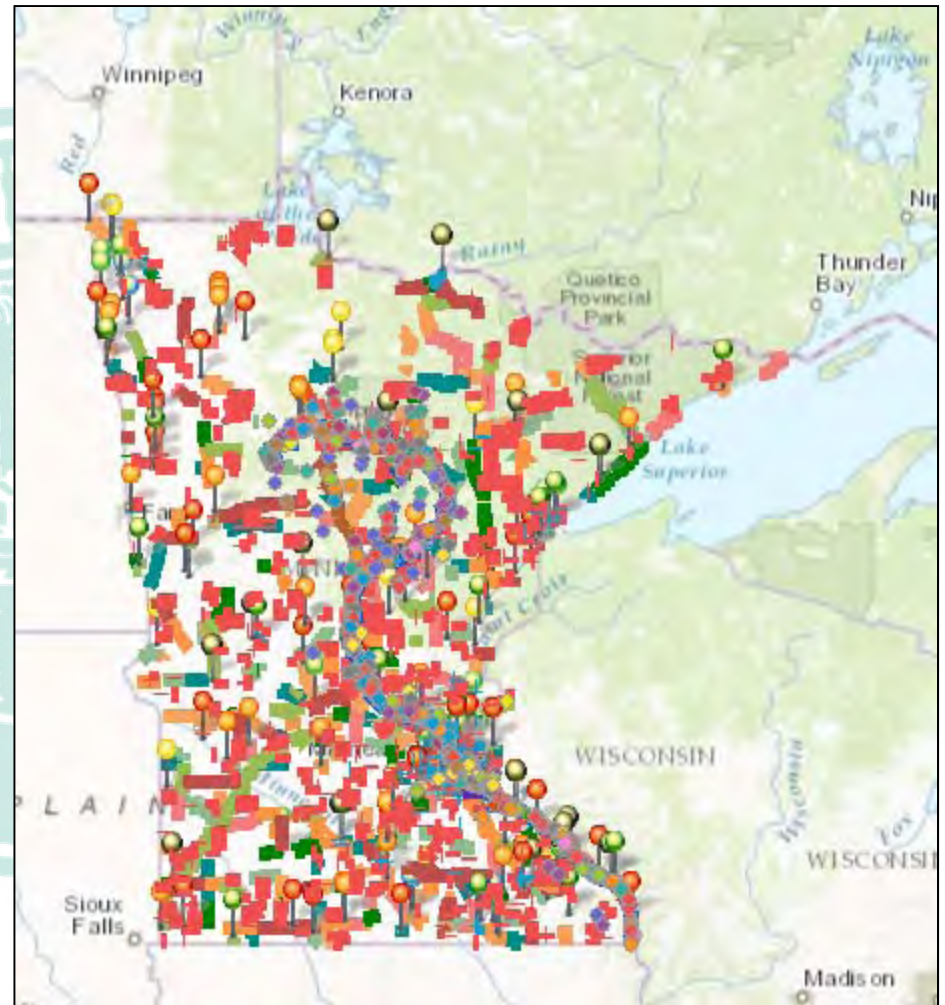
Planned Bridge Projects 2019 - 2022

Planned Projects 2019 – 2022

Scenic Easements and Areas

Multi-modal connections

Permitted billboards

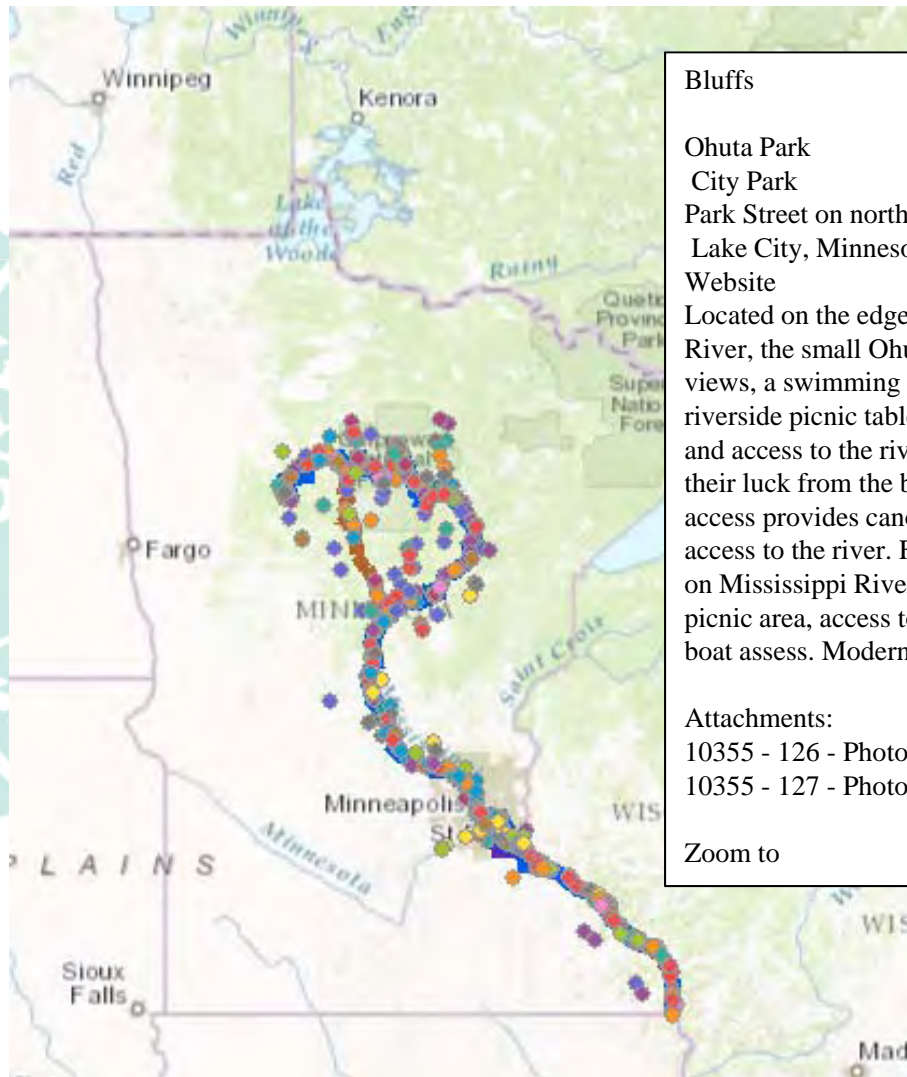


Plan Your Trip

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



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:

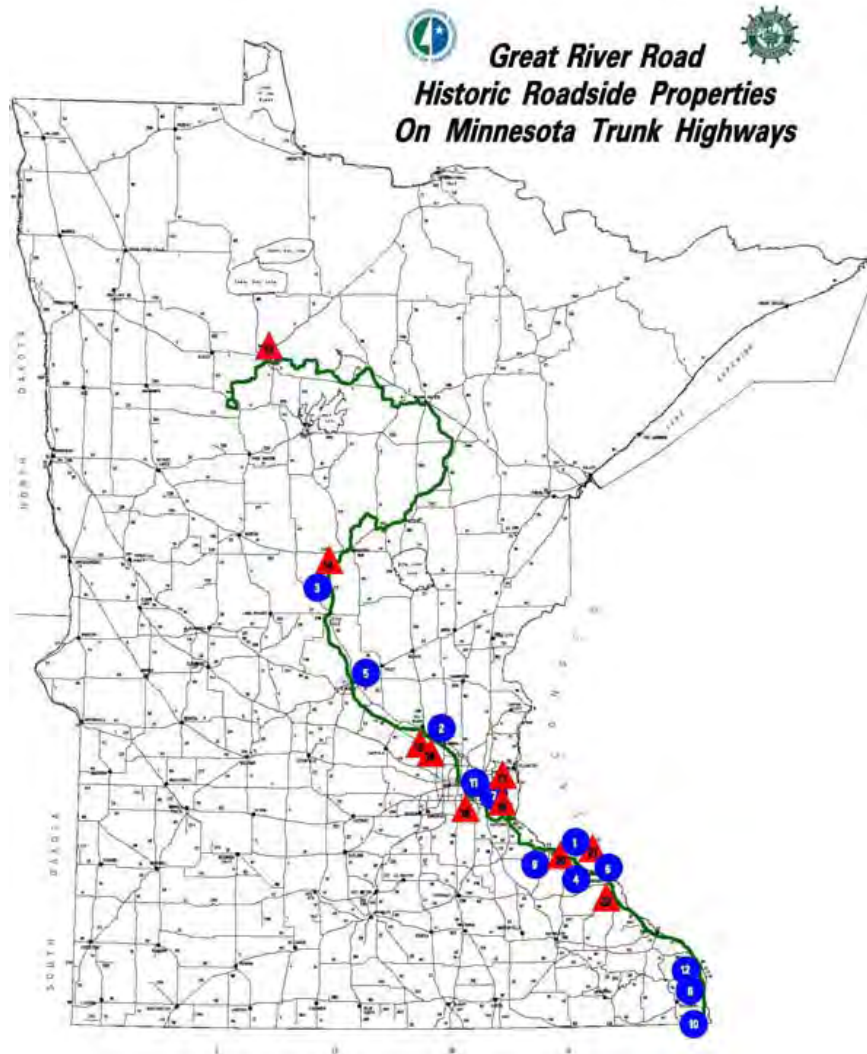
- TH 61 Hastings – Complete
- TH 63 Red Wing – Final Design, approaches under construction
- TH 43 Winona – Under construction, rehab design phase
- I-90 Dresbach – Under construction



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

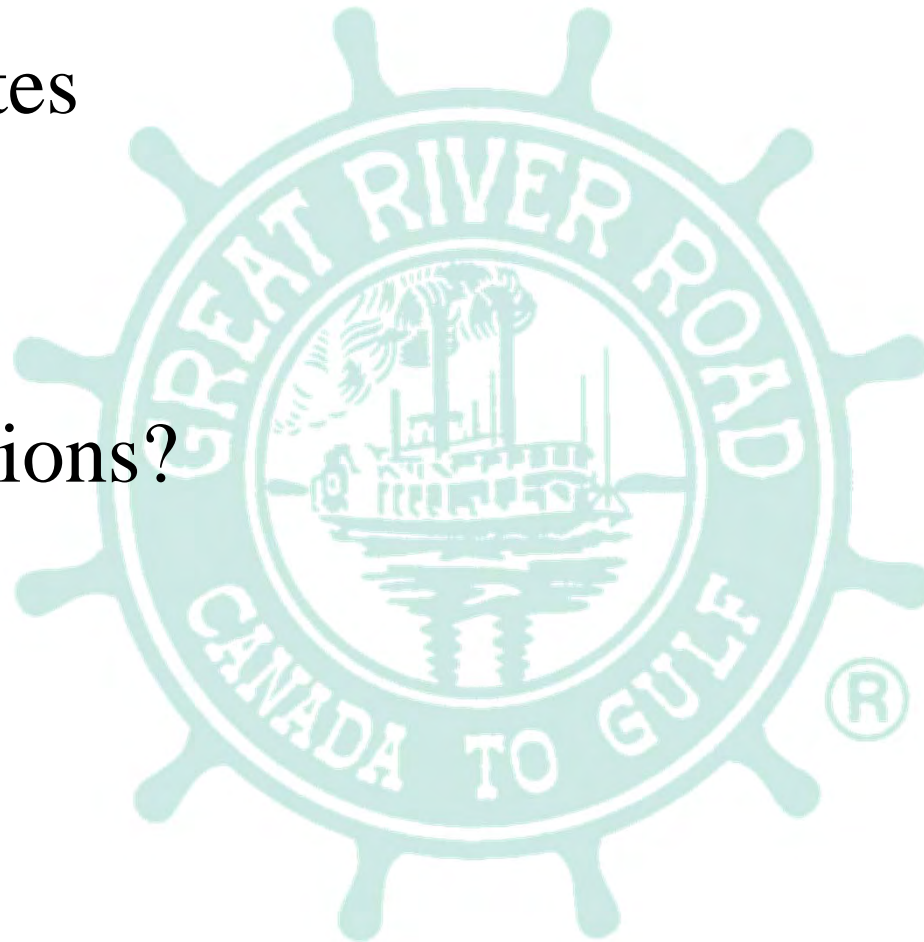
Environmental Quality Board

**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

651-341-4196

info@mn.mississippiriver.com

www.mnmississippiriver.com

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

