



**Metro Mississippi Regional Meeting**  
(Elk River to Hastings)

November 30, 2022 • 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.

# Agenda & Introductions

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Ten-State Great River  
Road
- III. Minnesota Great River  
Road
- IV. Regional Commissioner  
Election
- V. Your Regional Updates



## **MN-MRPC 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.

# Ten-State Great River Road



Initiated in 1938

A National Scenic Byway through ten states, following the winding course of the Mississippi River



Ten state coordination through the Mississippi River Parkway Commission

In Minnesota, partnership of the MN Mississippi River Parkway Commission and MN Dept of Transportation





# Ten-State Great River Road Tools

[www.experiencemississippiriver.com](http://www.experiencemississippiriver.com)

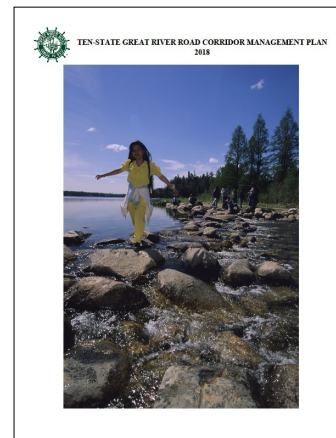
**GREAT RIVER ROAD**  
NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY  
ALL-AMERICAN ROAD  
ALONG THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER



**MISSISSIPPI RIVER COUNTRY**  
**AMERICA'S BYWAYS®**

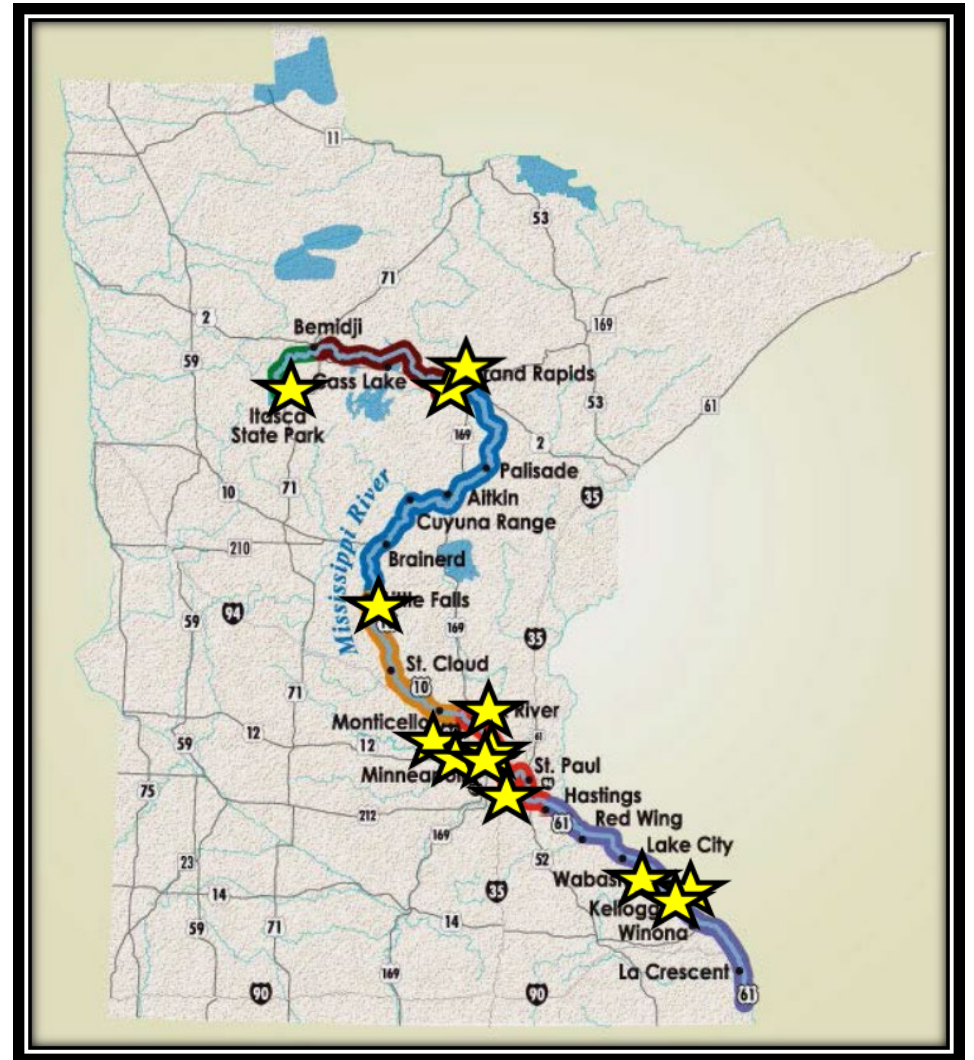
**EXPERIENCEMISSISSIPPIRIVER.COM**  
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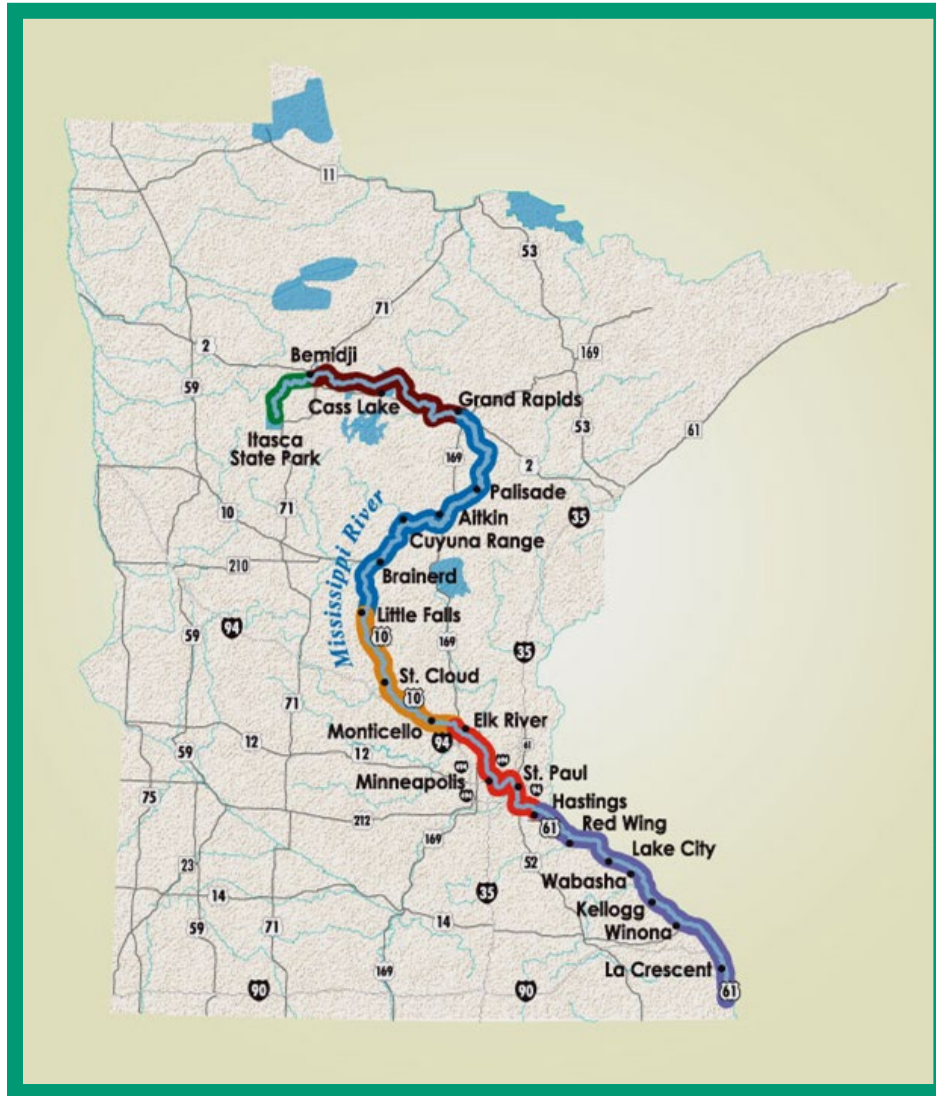


Drive the **GREAT RIVER ROAD**  
**MONTH**

# Ten-State Network of Interpretive Centers



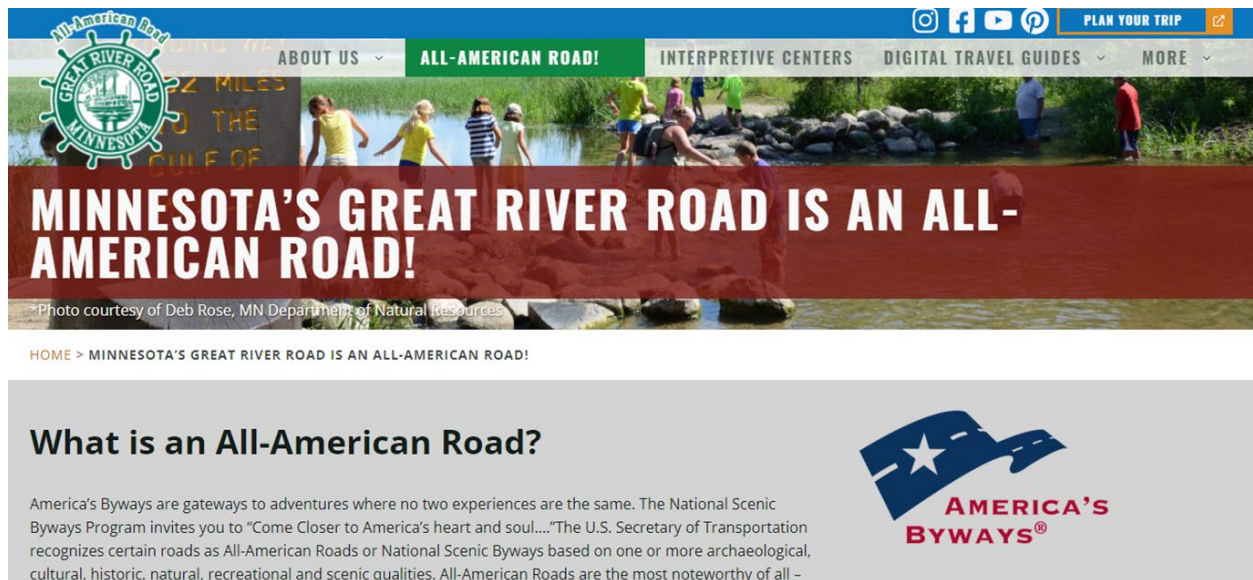
# Minnesota's Great River Road



- 565-Mile Route
- 43 Communities
- 20 Counties
- 6 Destination Areas
- 3 Tribal Communities

# All-American Road Designation

- This is the highest level of byway designation awarded by the Federal Highway Administration.
- 8 of 10 states, including MN, submitted nominations in 2020 and were notified of the designation in early 2021.
- Nominations must highlight two features of national or international significance demonstrating how the byway is a destination unto itself. Minnesota highlighted historic and scenic features in the nomination.



The screenshot shows the homepage of the All-American Road website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'ABOUT US', 'ALL-AMERICAN ROAD!', 'INTERPRETIVE CENTERS', 'DIGITAL TRAVEL GUIDES', and 'MORE'. A 'PLAN YOUR TRIP' button is also visible. The main banner features a photograph of people walking along a riverbank. Overlaid on the banner is the text 'MINNESOTA'S GREAT RIVER ROAD IS AN ALL-AMERICAN ROAD!'. Below the banner, a breadcrumb trail reads 'HOME > MINNESOTA'S GREAT RIVER ROAD IS AN ALL-AMERICAN ROAD!'. The section titled 'What is an All-American Road?' explains that America's Byways are gateways to adventures and are recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation for their archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic qualities. The 'AMERICA'S BYWAYS' logo is displayed in the bottom right corner.

**What is an All-American Road?**

America's Byways are gateways to adventures where no two experiences are the same. The National Scenic Byways Program invites you to "Come Closer to America's heart and soul...." The U.S. Secretary of Transportation recognizes certain roads as All-American Roads or National Scenic Byways based on one or more archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. All-American Roads are the most noteworthy of all -

# Corridor Management Plan

<https://www.mnmississippiriver.com/about-us/management-plan/>





[ABOUT US](#) [ALL-AMERICAN ROAD!](#) [INTERPRETIVE CENTERS](#) [DIGITAL TRAVEL GUIDES](#) [MORE](#)

[PLAN YOUR TRIP](#)

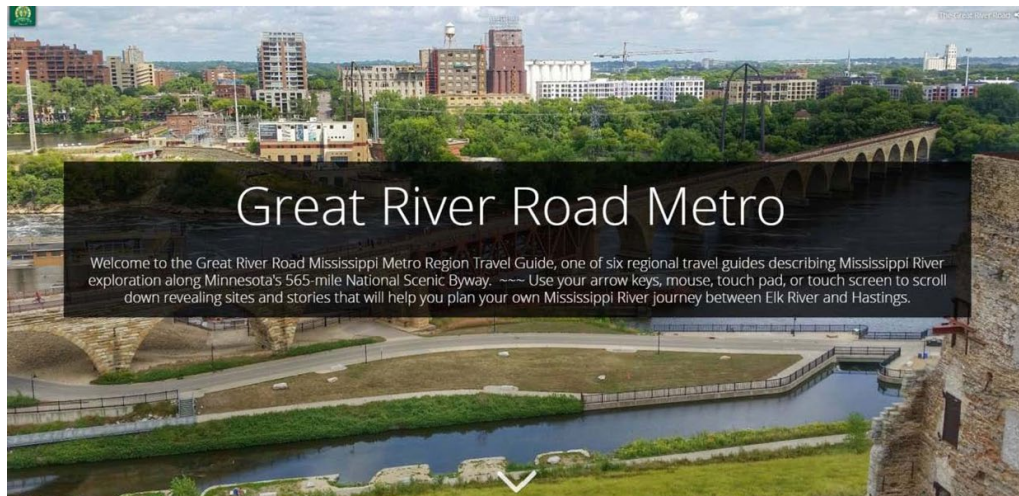
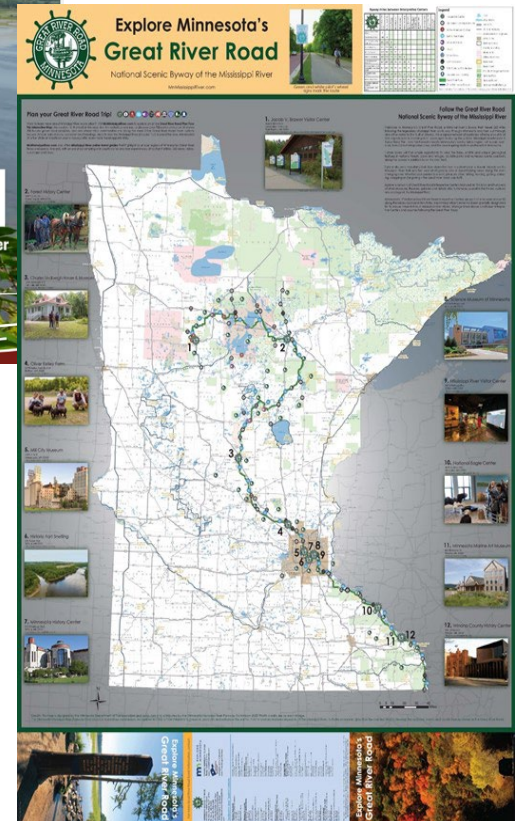
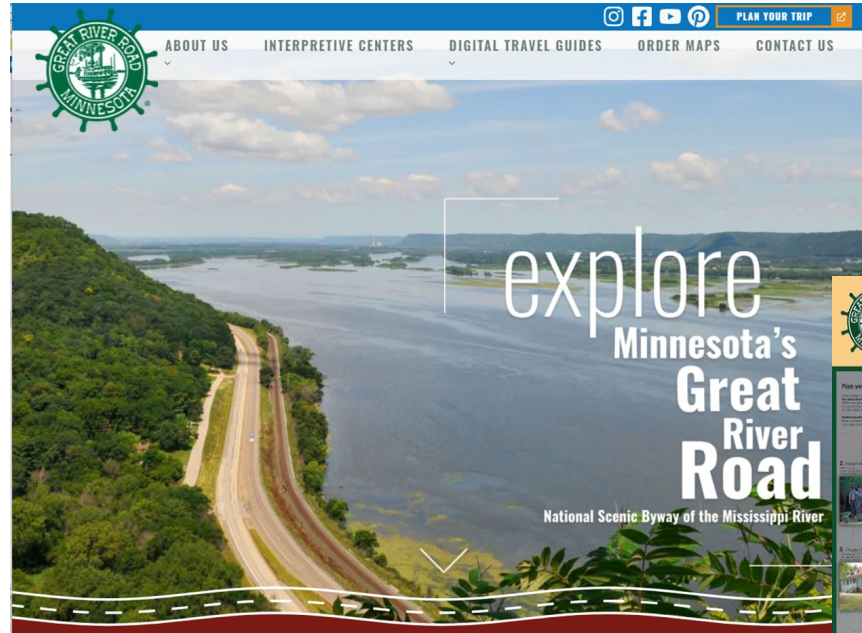
## Corridor Management Plan Summaries and Highlights

Title	Size	Download
Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan – Overview Brochure	1.7 MB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>
MN-MRPC Organizational Chart	33 KB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>
Selected Outreach Results Infographics	482 KB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>
Corridor Management Theme Boards	12.1 MB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>

## Great River Road Inventories and Resource Information

Title	Size	Download
Wayfinding Sign Inventory	47.5 MB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>
Traveler Resource Inventory	146.4 MB	<a href="#">.pdf</a>

# MN Great River Road Information Tools



# Ambassador Program

- The Ambassador Program was an initial implementation priority in the MN GRR Corridor Management Plan.
- Interpretive Centers were identified as the first audience.
- Training, resources and materials are provided.
- Information is available online at <https://www.mnmississippiriver.com/minnesota-great-river-road-ambassadors/>



# **Opportunities**

## **National Scenic Byways Program**

- One-time grant solicitation in 2022
- 4 applications along MN GRR
- Advocacy for future funding continues

## **Land and Water Conservation Fund**

- National Outdoor Recreational Legacy Partnership Program (ORLP)  
Cities with a population of 30,000+, or other entities abutting a city of 30,000+. Full details are available at - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/national\\_outdoor\\_rec.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/national_outdoor_rec.html)
- Local Parks and Trails Grant Program  
Application details will be available in early December. Information is available at - [https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/outdoor\\_rec.html](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/outdoor_rec.html).

# MN Mississippi River Parkway Commission



2023 meeting schedule will be posted at -  
<https://www.commissions.leg.state.mn.us/mrpc/mrpc.html>

# **MN-MRPC Structure**

- Established in Minnesota Statute 161.1419
- Fiscal Agent: MN Legislative Coordinating Commission
- Basic Funding: State operating funds under Legislative Coordinating Commission
- Additional Funding: Federal and state grants, one-time state special project funds

# **Regional Commissioner Election**

## **MN-MRPC COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Enact the MN-MRPC mission at National, State and local levels.
- Participate in four Minnesota meetings of the MN-MRPC annually.
- Participate in bi-annual National Mississippi River Parkway Commission meetings and serve on National Standing Committees.
- Actively support special events related to the Mississippi River and/or Great River Road.

## **IN ADDITION, REGIONAL COMMISSIONER'S RESPONSIBILITIES ARE:**

- Enable their Citizen Committee and regional stakeholders to maximize the benefits of the Great River Road.
- Act as link between the MRPC/MN-MRPC and the regional Great River Road citizen committee.
- Foster partnerships and cooperation within the region, harnessing local resources to implement the mission.
- Coordinate meetings and lead implementation of work by their Regional Citizen Committee.

# **Regional Commissioners**

- 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.
- Email votes received have been tabulated. Please indicate your vote now and full results will be announced before we sign off today.

# **Your Regional Updates**

- Ideas
- Input
- Questions?
- Any anticipated requests for MN-MRPC involvement or support?
- Updates on what's happening in your communities so we can help promote as part of the overall Minnesota Mississippi River Corridor

# Thank You!



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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