



MISSISSIPPI RIVER PARTNERSHIP PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BRAINERD

A MASTER PLAN AND CONCEPT DESIGN TO ENGAGE THE RIVERFRONT

Prepared for the
Riverfront Steering Committee
and the City of Brainerd

MAY 2015

Prepared by:
Center for Rural Design, University of Minnesota
in collaboration with
Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program,
National Park Service



Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd

This report is prepared for the Riverfront Steering Committee
and the City of Brainerd

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Table of Contents

• <i>Introduction and Background</i>	4
• <i>Brainerd's Connections to the Region</i>	8
• <i>Mississippi River Corridor Today</i>	10
• <i>Identifying Riverfront Opportunities</i>	12
• <i>Community Input</i>	14
• <i>Planning and Design Zones Overview</i>	16
• <i>Design Zone 1 - Heart of the Community</i>	18
• <i>Downtown Greening and Civic Promenade Design Area</i>	20
• <i>Mississippi River Promenade Commercial Redevelopment Design Area</i>	22
• <i>Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons</i>	26
• <i>Performance Amphitheater Design Area</i>	28
• <i>River Landing Park design Area</i>	30
• <i>Mississippi River Promenade Design Area</i>	32
• <i>Performing Arts Center Design Area</i>	36
• <i>Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds</i>	38
• <i>Boom Lake and Kiwanis Park Design Area</i>	40
• <i>Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center Design Area</i>	46
• <i>Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Design Area</i>	54
• <i>Three (Four) Bridges Loop Trail System</i>	56
• <i>Appendices</i>	

Introduction and Background

Brainerd is recognized as a gateway to the lakes area of central Minnesota but its connection to the Mississippi River has long been overlooked. To a great extent, the City owes its existence to the Mississippi River in that, by physical feasibility and economic chance, the Northern Pacific Railway choose this location to cross the river. Brainerd's early economic development was also tied to the lumber and paper industries, with much of the wood arriving by water down the Mississippi and its tributaries. The river was also a cultural crossroads, used by native peoples and settlers alike for transportation, commerce, sustenance, and, ultimately, recreation. The focus on recreation persisted for decades with Brainerd identifying itself as the Gateway to the Brainerd Lakes Area. While still the largest community in the region, Brainerd was bypassed by new highway development that directs most vacationers along MN371 rather than through Brainerd.



The City's relationship with the river corridor is finally being recognized. The Brainerd-Baxter Mississippi Riverfront Vision Plan was completed in 2010. It outlined planning principles to:

- Honor the Mississippi River as an irreplaceable natural, cultural, and economic source;
- Expand access to the riverfront through a variety of transportation/circulation modes;
- Educate residents and visitors about the value of the river and the benefits it provides;
- Preserve and enhance the ecological health of the river;
- Encourage growth of private commercial enterprises along the riverfront while supporting those that currently exist;
- Maintain public ownership of riverfront lands and retain city rights to development review and approval;
- Promote partnerships between public agencies, private land owners, developers, special user groups, and interested citizens.



The Vision Plan saw the Mississippi River corridor as a place where residents and visitors can easily access and enjoy year-round natural scenery along with a variety of active and passive recreational opportunities in harmony with a healthy river environment. The plan identified development opportunities related to Connectivity, Funding/Partnerships, and Identity/Design including community gathering places, a pedestrian/bicycle bridge, trail system, and environmental enhancement/protection along the river.

Although not discussed in the Mississippi River Vision Plan the glacial landscape of the Brainerd region is visually very powerful and beautiful. Its geological history and many lakes have shaped the quality of life in the area, but not well understood as to why it is the way it is. The region has many positive attributes that contribute to its character and life style, yet they are often thought of as independent entities when their greater meaning is through the synergy of the connections.

In April, 2013, the Brainerd City Council organized a Strategic Plan that outlined four strategic focus areas. The fourth focus area is:

Design/Build a Mississippi Riverwalk - to connect downtown to the rest of the trails winding through the City. To create a clear recognizable identity of the City.

At its July 15, 2013 meeting, the Brainerd City Council approved a partnership with the University of Minnesota Center for Rural Design (CRD) to develop a riverfront design plan for a two (2) mile river front section from Washington Street to Little Buffalo Creek. The City Council hired the University of Minnesota Center for Rural Design to lead a riverfront steering committee process to create design ideas based on priorities established by the steering committee for recommendation to the City Council.

The City of Brainerd is the focal point for the region and this project has helped redefine its critical leadership role in shaping the region's future by forging partnerships to enhance economic development, tourism, wellness, and quality of life for the City and the surrounding region. This leadership role is framed on the

strong interrelationship and cooperative partnership between the public and private sectors to meet both-quality-of-life and economic goals.

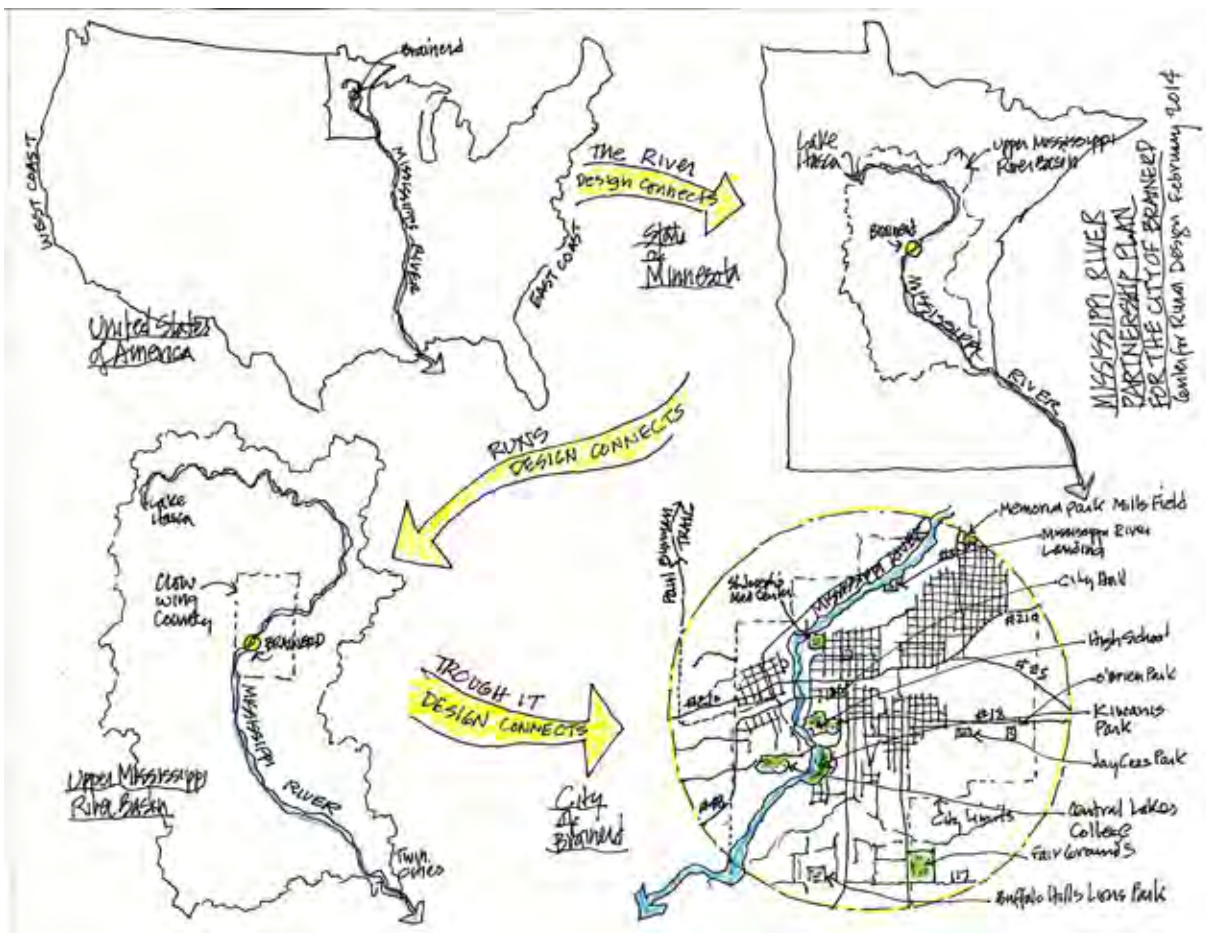
Much work has been accomplished to date in developing the Mississippi River Vision Plan and initial direction with support and collaboration of Randall Thoreson, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program, National Park Service. This existing framework formed the base upon which this project, Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd was built.



Brainerd - Connections to the Region

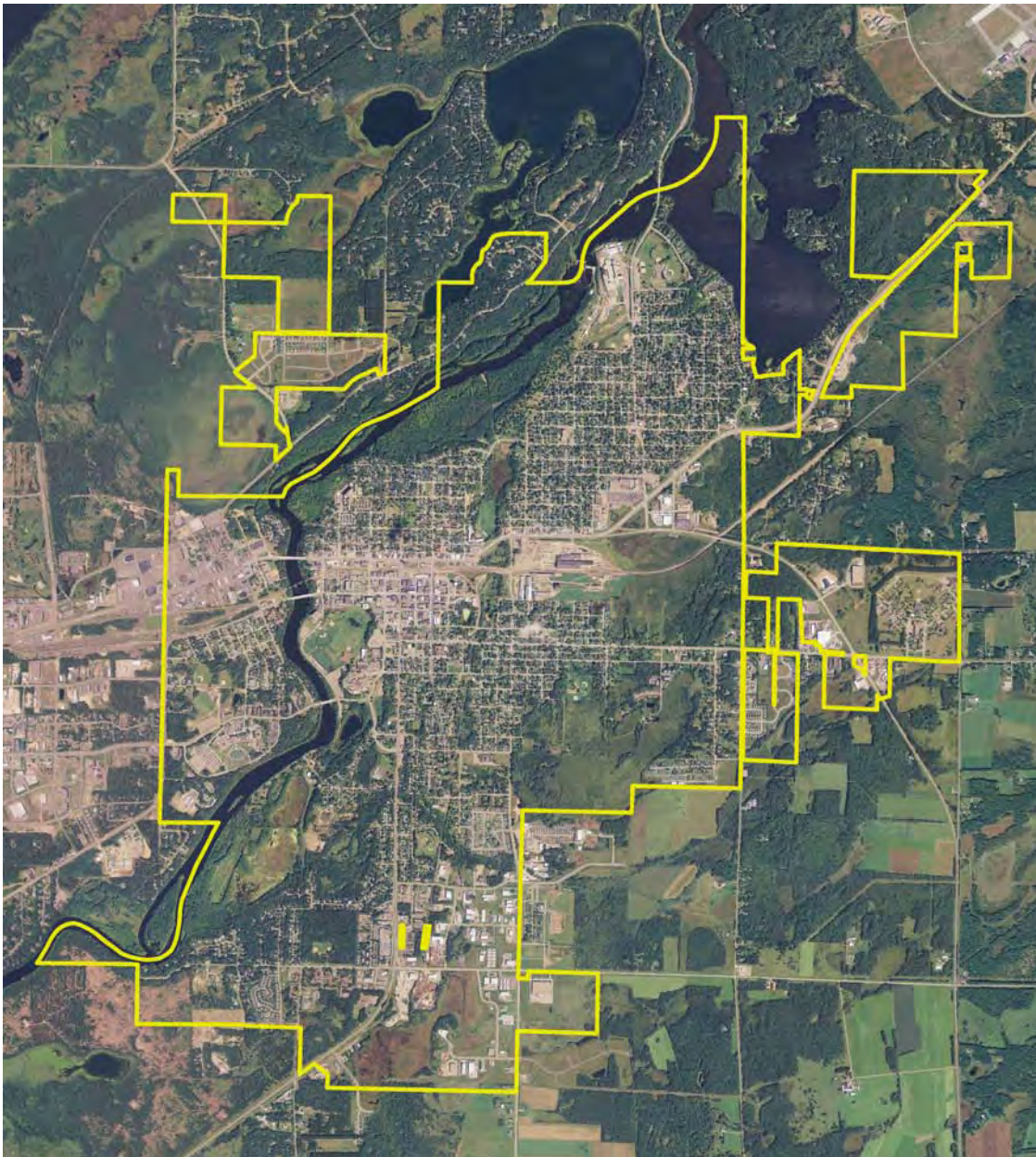
Situated at a key location along the banks of the Mississippi, Brainerd is the largest city in and the regional center of the Mississippi Headwaters Region. Here, the Mississippi achieves 'big river' status, a role it plays for the rest of its course to the Gulf of Mexico. Although a few flood control, power generation, and a paper mill dams exist upstream Brainerd is where the Mississippi grows big enough to be a working river, a status it maintains for the rest of its course.

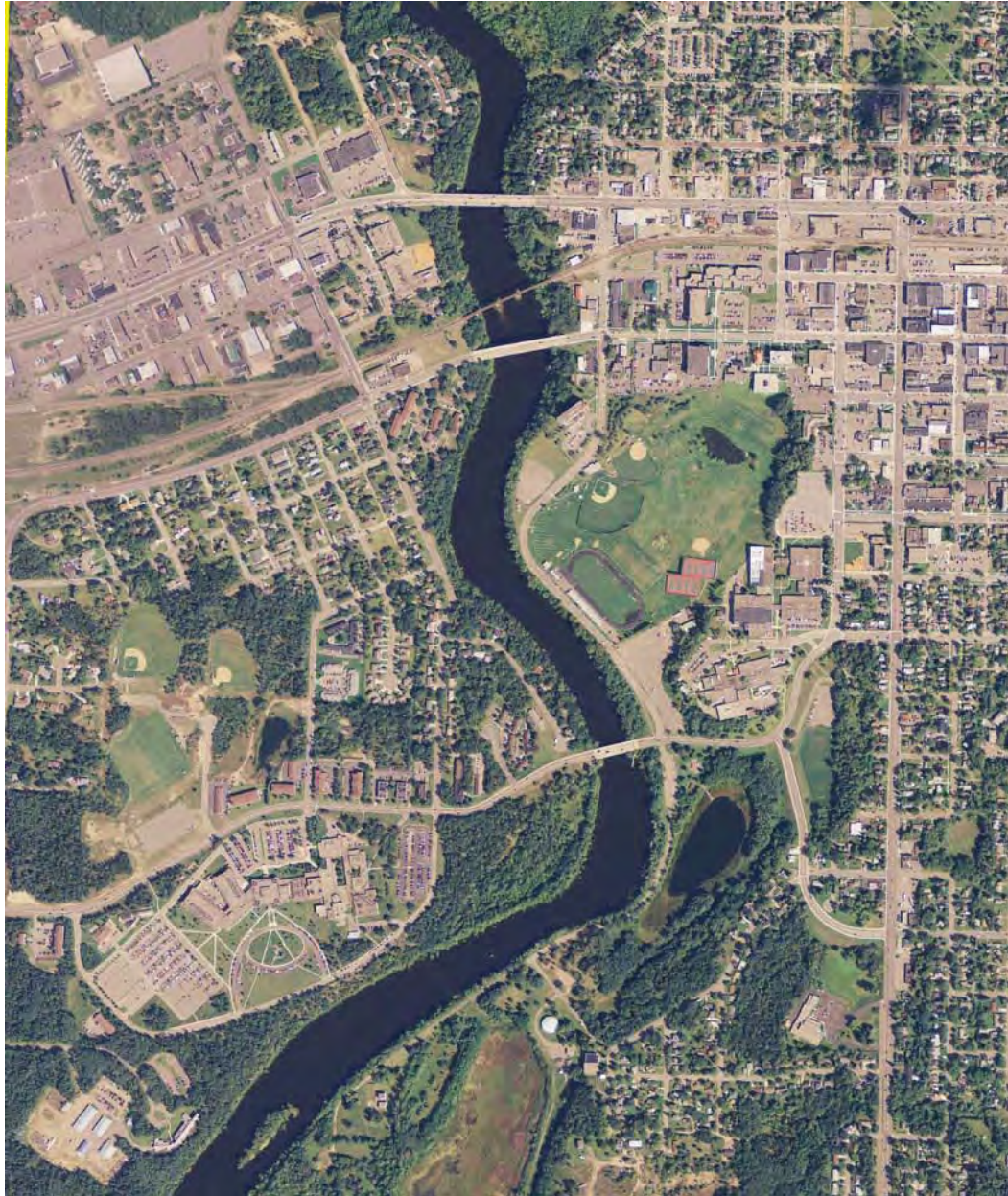
All of these factors link Brainerd to the region, the state, and the nation. The Great River Road passes through Brainerd as it follows the course of the Mississippi for almost another 2000 miles linking the various cultures, historical and present-day, along its route. In Minnesota, the Mississippi is more than just a working river, it's a fundamental part of the state's image and heritage as well as a prized recreational asset. The Mississippi River Trail passes through the heart of



Mississippi River Corridor Today

The Mississippi River Flows for over five miles through the heart of Brainerd. Despite its intimate relationship with a major city for much of its course the Mississippi retains its natural character. Impoundment and industrial activity at the northern edge of town has had some effect on the river's character but, for the most part, the Mississippi retains a natural feel with floodplain forests, wooded bluffs, and wetlands hugging its banks even through the urban center of the city.





This project focuses on the southern stretch of the Mississippi, as it passes through the civic and cultural heart of Brainerd and extends into some of the best preserved natural and recreation rich lands adjoining the river.

This southern stretch contains a large amount of public land with some on both banks of the river. It provides significant opportunity to identify places for public and private redevelopment that engages the river, to connect the community back to the cultural and recreational experience of the river, and to preserve the unique natural character of the Mississippi.

Identifying Riverfront Opportunities



Several areas for development and preservation opportunity were pointed to along the two mile long study area of the river corridor that was the focus of the project. City staff and the project Steering Committee identified key locations and provided guidance as to the appropriate types of uses that would meet the needs of the citizens of Brainerd. The maps on the following page located the areas and identified appropriate uses. These ideas provided the basis for exploring design approaches to meeting those uses.



Reconnecting the City and the River

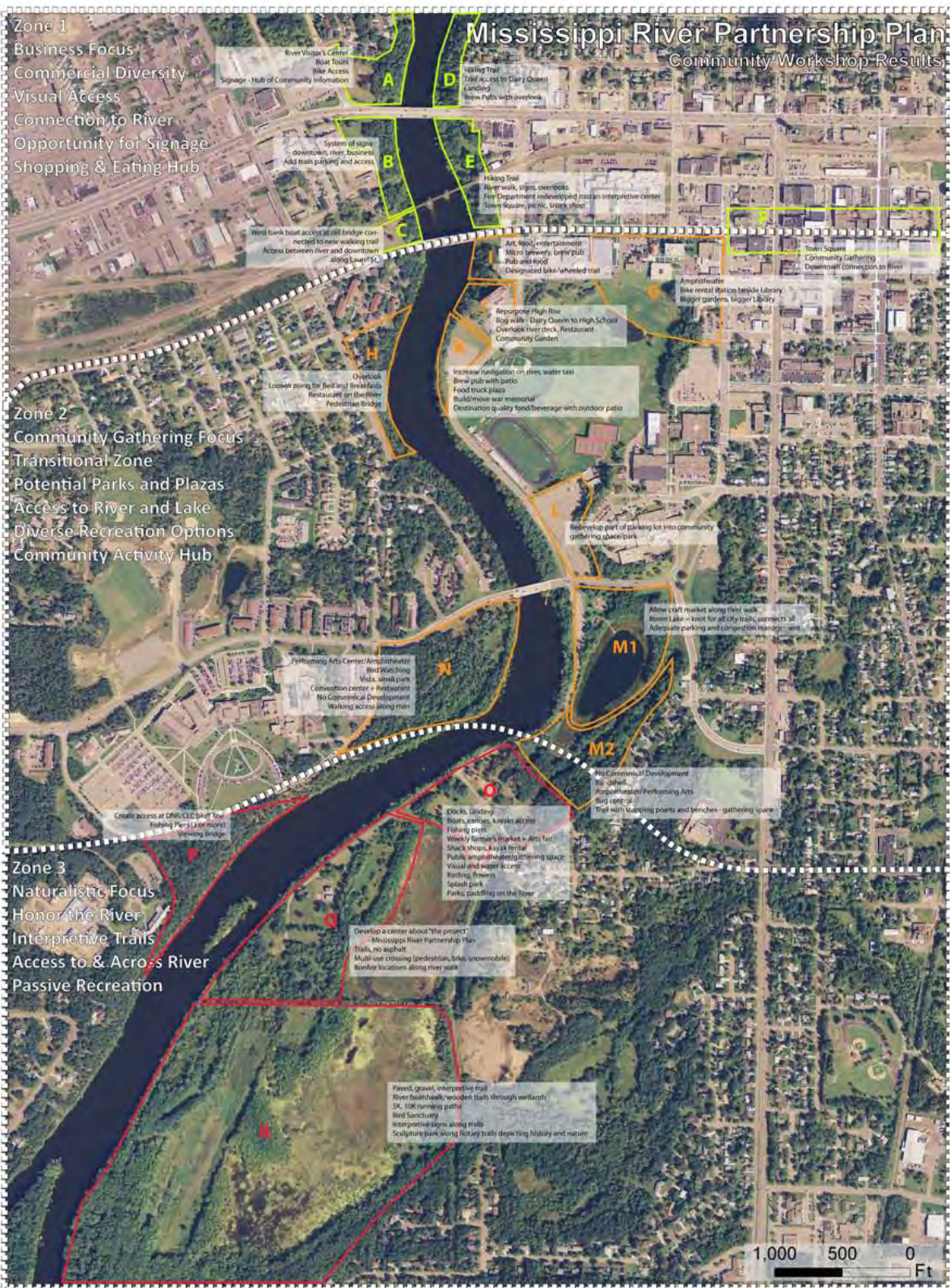
- Community Input

The community engagement process (detailed in the appendices) was overseen by the steering committee appointed by the Brainerd City Council to guide the outcomes of the project and to make recommendations back to the City Council. The steering committee conducted an internal workshop with project staff to identify and prioritize a preliminary set of issues and design opportunities.

These issues and opportunities were then associated with specific locations as shown on the map on this page. In the process of organizing these ideas with places the group recognized that the character of the river corridor in the study area was driving the decision making process. While the whole corridor under study is significantly natural it did show a transition from urban in the north to near wild in the south. The group identified three zones that were used to guide the placement of issues and opportunities.

This preliminary work was used as the organizing structure for a community workshop, held the end of May 2014, to get input and corroboration from the citizens of Brainerd. Working with the preliminary ideas set forth by the steering committee, the citizens refined the concepts as shown in the map on the next page.



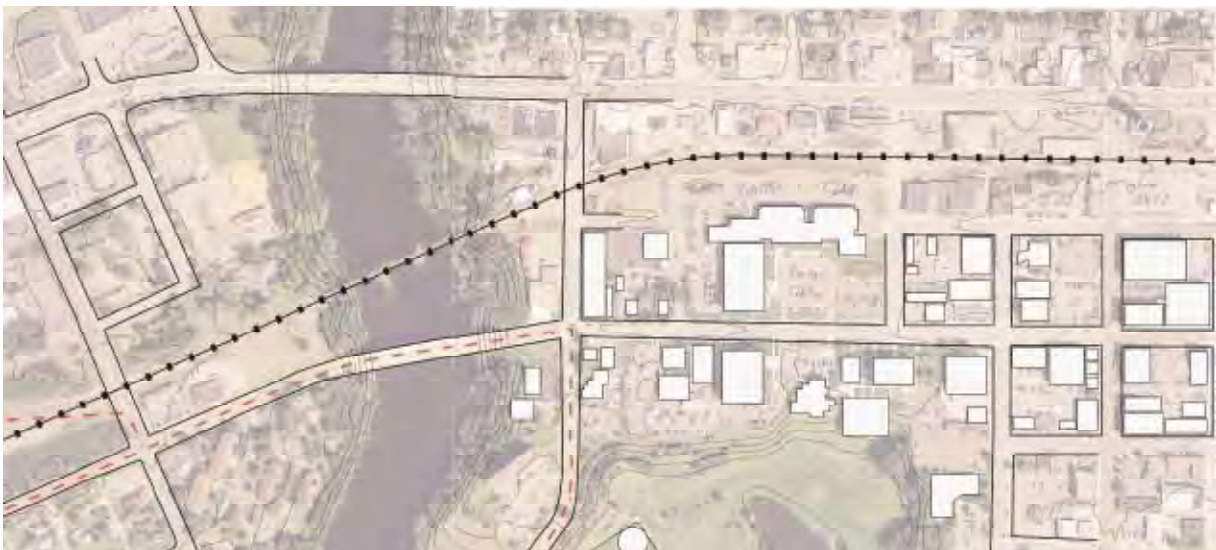


Reconnecting the City and the River

- Planning and Design Zones Overview

Decisions about what are the key areas of interest along the river, their relationship to each other and the rest of Brainerd, and the primary design moves within them were driven by input from the community workshop and the series of steering committee meetings. The range of ideas and desired outcomes were prioritized by a survey conducted of the steering committee members. The compilation of steering committee input resulted in the identification of three primary planning/design zones and a list of design priorities for each zone. Although the boundaries and specific design priorities within each zone can overlap with and support the priorities of adjacent zones, the characteristics of each zone are clearly articulated and distinct:

- **Zone 1 - Heart of the Community**
Most Developed, Business District, Commercial Diversity, Visual Access. This zone extends from Washington Street south to Laurel Street and from the west bank of the Mississippi connecting east to the downtown core.



- **Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons**

Semi developed, Transition Zone, Community Gathering, Parks and Plazas, Access to River and Lake, Active/Very Physical Recreation. This zone extends from Laurel Street to College Drive along both banks of the river.



- **Zone 3 - Community Wilds**

Least Developed, Naturalistic, Interpretive Trails, Access to River and Across River, Passive Recreation. This zone extends along both sides of the river from College Drive south to the land donated by the Rotary to the City and reconnects Brainerd to the natural and wild river that is its recreational heart.



Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 1 - Heart of the Community

The City of Brainerd is first and foremost a river city. It's commercial heart benefits from the proximity to the river and the wetlands to the south. Heart of the Community seeks to augment and stitch these assets together in an integrated commercial, civic, and recreation plan. The Downtown and the River are the vital arteries of Brainerd's future.

The Heart of the City Design Zone connects downtown with the Mississippi River along the civic corridor of Laurel Street on the south and the commercial corridor of Washington Street on the north. This zone defines the commercial and civic heart of Brainerd and links it to the historical, cultural, and recreational heart of the city embracing both banks of the Mississippi. As shown in the graphic below the steering committee identified areas that offer opportunity for civic enhancement and economic redevelopment. These areas were prioritized and a framework designated to guide the development of design concepts for selected sites.





Heart of the Community design areas include a Downtown Greening and Civic Promenade area that extends from 7th Street west to the river along Washington Street, Front Street, Laurel Street, and Maple Street with street plantings, key intersection treatments, and gathering spaces unified by a consistent design theme that embraces the city's identity as a river town.

The River Promenade Commercial Redevelopment area brings the unifying elements and identity of the Downtown Greening area to the river front between Washington Street and Laurel Street. The concept include opportunities for commercial redevelopment and new public open space and river walk overlooking the Mississippi.

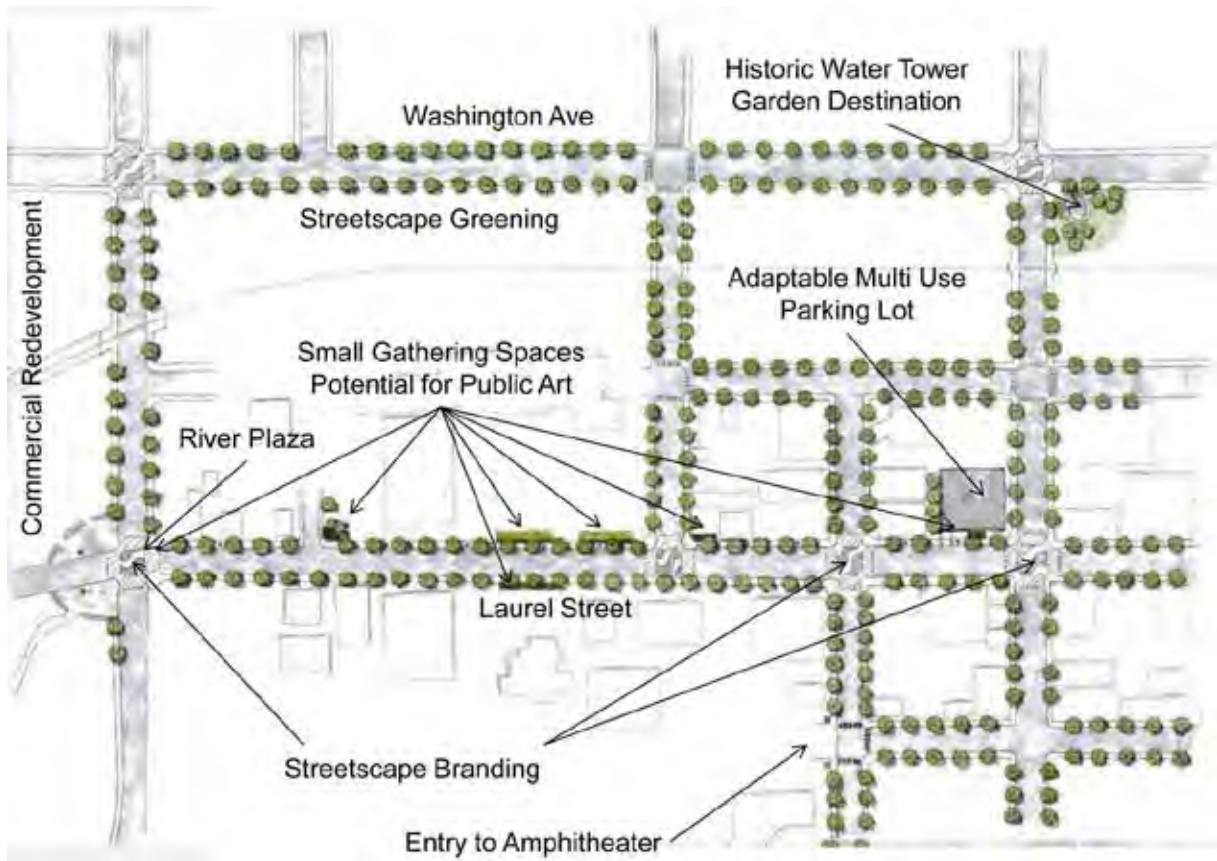


Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 1 - Heart of the Community

Downtown Greening and Civic Promenade Design Area

This design area embraces the civic corridor along Laurel Street to link the downtown business district with the commercial development design area outlined above. This area is particularly important for the daily activity already prevalent with the range of government services and facilities located in the corridor. Two significant opportunities to expand activity include improved pedestrian experience – streetscaping including public art and small gathering spaces, and identified locations for public events, festivals, fairs, shows, etc. Although the character is somewhat different this design area has been conceptually extended up to Washington to embrace the commercial businesses along that corridor. The relationship would be defined through intersection treatments, signage and streetscaping. The promenade overlaps with Zone 2 particularly with the pro-



posed amphitheater which would support public events in the downtown core

Downtown Greening and Civic Promenade offers:

- Heightened connectivity between the civic and commercial heart of Brainerd and the second heart, the river.
- Access to the river stitched together with pedestrian focused intersections and offering a relaxed stroll between art-in-place parklettes.
- A unifying relationship between the downtown commercial district and the:
 - Commercial and service businesses along Washington Street.
 - The City and County government services along Laurel.
 - A new commercial redevelopment district along the Mississippi between Washington Street and Laurel Street.
- Opportunities for cultural and historical interpretation including:
 - Brainerd's railroad and lumbering era.
 - Veterans Memorial celebrating community members who served in the armed forces.
 - Memorial to firefighters, police and other public service providers in the community.
 - Temporary and permanent art installations in public open space as a celebration of Brainerd's cultural and artistic community.
 - Natural history of the Mississippi and the region in general.

All of these features heighten the beauty of the city and provide public interest activity and recreation that will attract visitors and business activity to the community.



Reconnecting the City and the River

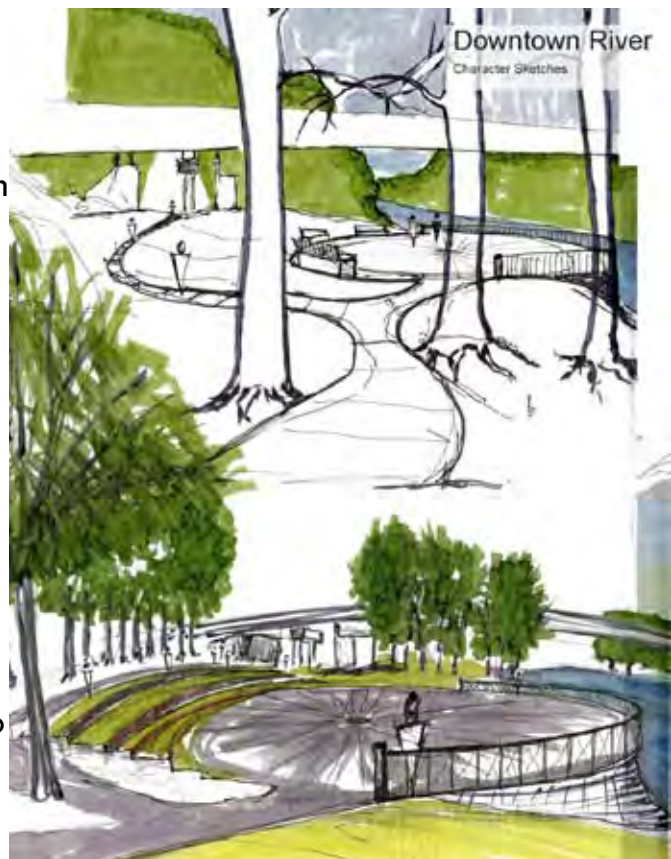
Design Zone 1 - Heart of the Community

Mississippi River Promenade Commercial Redevelopment Design Area

This design area encompasses both sides of the Mississippi River and is located primarily between Washington Street and Laurel Street but includes the parcel north of Washington on the west bank and the parcel south of Laurel on the east bank. This area is recognized for its short and long-term potential for redevelopment as a commercial district that embraces the river. Ideal business types would include recreational goods, clothing, arts, and gift retail; restaurant and restaurant/entertainment; and professional office space. This area preserves the river front as public gathering space, plaza, and river walk that allows public access to the river.

River Promenade offers:

- Access to the river edge from downtown.
- Creates vital connections between visitors and the river.
- Develops a river-focused fabric that:
 - Connects business development to the river as amenity.
 - Provides public open space for gathering and small performance events.
 - Acts as a river walk for the community that provides outstanding scenic views overlooking the river and access to shops, restaurants, professional offices, and other services.





Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 1 - Heart of the Community

Mississippi River Promenade

Commercial Redevelopment Design Area

Laurel Street is strategically located as the principle focus for public and private business activity in downtown Brainerd. With a bridge over the Mississippi River it becomes the primary pedestrian and symbolic connection between the downtown and the bicycle and walking trails along the river.

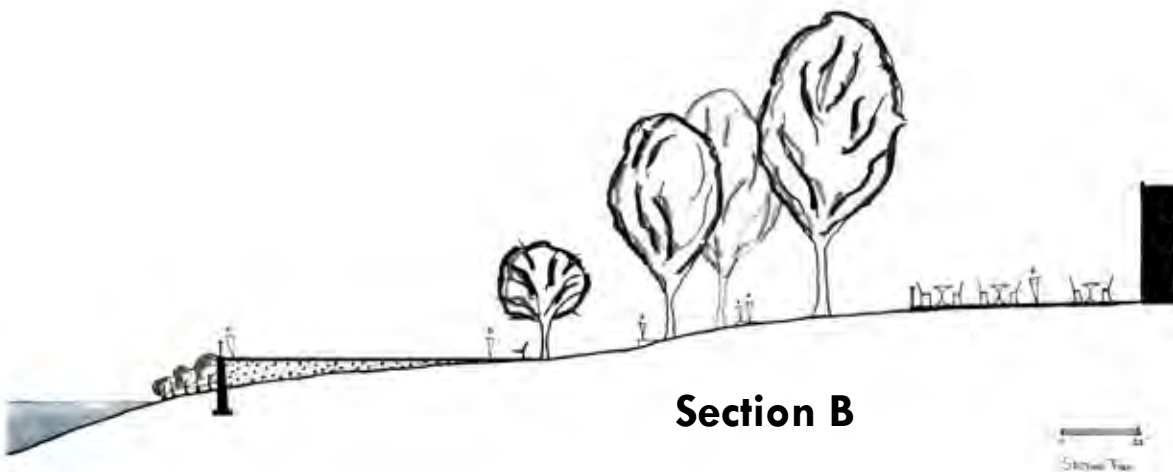
The bridgehead is suggested to become a public plaza providing both ramp and stair connections to the trail along the river. The plaza has a distinctive character with a paving pattern suggesting water with interpretive and information graphics to identify landmarks and access points to key features and facilities such as the interpretive center, performing arts center, and amphitheater.

New real estate development is proposed both on the north and south sides of Laurel Street adjacent to the Mississippi River. The existing fire station and other properties should be acquired and offered to developers for retail shops and restaurants. The southeast corner of the intersection should also become available for new office development.



Downtown River

Character Sections



**Experiential sections from the top of the bluff
to the river's edge**

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons

The City of Brainerd is bestowed with an abundance of landscape types in close proximity to its civic and commercial core. The Cultural Community Commons Design Zone embraces connections to the city's heart in the more developed design zone to the north, but here the focus is on the softer and more passive experiences offered by community open space and gathering areas - the community commons accessible to all citizens. This zone affords opportunity to gather formally or informally to share in cultural experiences focused on entertainment, performances, education, and celebrations, or for quiet relaxation and passive recreation along the Mississippi River.

The Cultural Community Commons Design Zone extends from Laurel Street in the north to College Drive in the south and recognizes the potential on both banks of the river. As shown in the graphic to the right the

steering committee identified areas that offer opportunity for civic enhancement and recreational trail development. These areas were prioritized and a framework designated to guide the development of design concepts for selected sites.





Cultural Community Commons design areas include:

- A performance and celebration amphitheater in the northeast corner of the school athletic fields that could host school, civic, and entertainment events.
- A reconfigured parking lot becomes a small public park and gathering area that includes a canoe/kayak launch and demonstration rain gardens for storm water management.
- An enhanced trail system along the east bank of the Mississippi that separates pedestrians and bicycles giving walkers intimate access to river oriented experiences.
- A performing arts center on the west bank of the river at College Drive and adjacent to Central Lakes College that provides a venue suitable for year around performances of dance, plays, and music.

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons

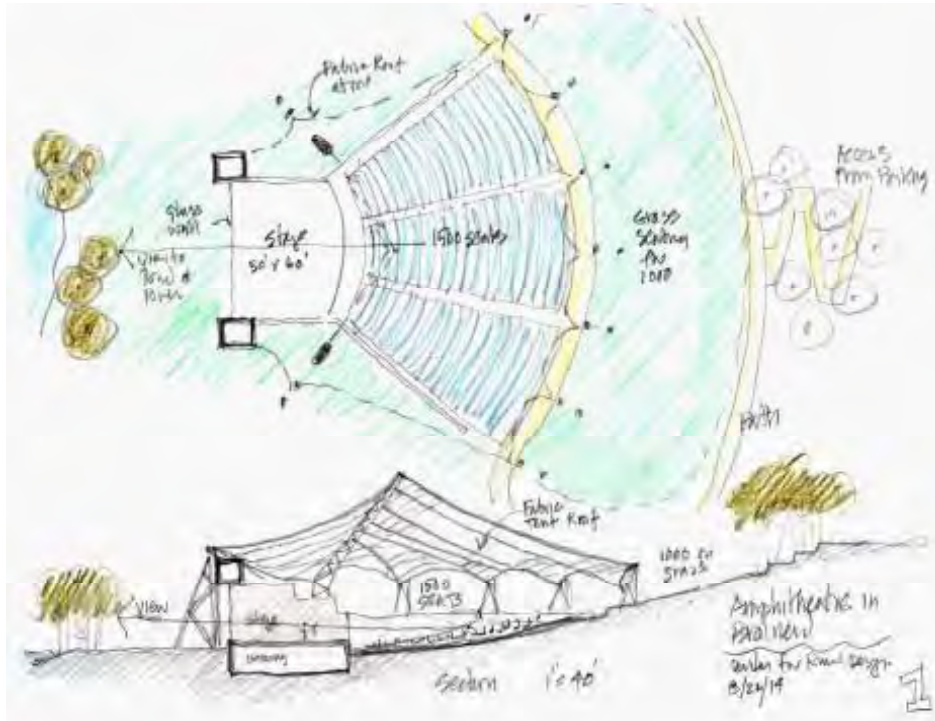
Performance Amphitheater Design Area

While several locations for a public amphitheater were identified by the steering committee the design team chose to focus on the location in the northeastern corner of the high school athletic fields. The natural sloping topography of the site will provide a setting for an amphitheater that will seat 1,500 people under a tent structure and another 1,000 on grass. The design proposes that the back wall of the stage be a glass curtain wall allowing a visual connection toward the Mississippi River and a small pond, and a fabric cover over the fixed seating area providing sun and rain protection. This site offers excellent opportunity to connect to the downtown core, the civic promenade outlined above, the Mississippi River, and the high school.



These connections allow for a wide range of uses and programming that support a significant sized outdoor venue including a performance venue, festival space, and high school events such as sports rallies and graduation ceremonies. The objective is for the City of Brainerd to have the largest outdoor amphitheater in central Minnesota providing the opportunity to present musical concerts and other festival events to draw people from the surrounding region and throughout the State of Minnesota to downtown Brainerd.

The Performance Amphitheater would be a shared venue between the City of Brainerd and the Brainerd School District that provides an opportunity to:



- Host school events, performances, graduations.
- Host significant sized music and other performing arts events.
- Other civic and cultural gatherings.
- Positioned as a hub between the commercial core and the river.
- Provide views to the Mississippi River corridor
- Seat up to 2,500 spectators.
- Provide a weather protected space for 3 season outdoor events.
- Utilize extensive parking adjacent to public buildings and the high school as well as easy pedestrian connection to the downtown area.
- Provide the City of Brainerd to have the largest outdoor amphitheater in central Minnesota.
- Be a regional and state-wide attraction in the heart of Brainerd.



2

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons

River Landing Park Design Area

Set in the current location of the athletic field overflow parking lot the River Landing Park Design Area restructures the parking area to a smaller but better defined and usable parking lot. The additional space is dedicated to an urban park-like plaza that embraces a strong connection to the river in multiple ways. First, it forms a significant node and destination along the river walk trail connecting the plaza at Laurel to the north with the Kiwanis Park to the south. It would include public gathering space that could accommodate small gatherings, public performance, and outdoor classroom space as well as serve as a launch/take-out site for canoes and kayaks. It also acts as a storm water demonstration site that captures and treats runoff through onsite gardens and wetlands.

Redesigning and repurposing the parking lot on East River Road would provide a public park and gathering space beside the Mississippi along the existing multi-use trail and proposed Mississippi River Promenade while still providing ample parking for park visitors and events at the school's athletic fields. Two alternative concepts were developed:

- Concept 1
 - Gathering area/outdoor classroom
 - Storm water treatment demonstration gardens
 - Canoe launch
 - Connection to local and state trails
 - Maintained parking
- Concept 2
 - Playground
 - Informal gathering area
 - Storm water treatment demonstration gardens
 - Canoe launch
 - Connection to local and state trails
 - Maintained parking



Riverside Park
Example 1

River Landing Park - Concept 1

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons



Mississippi River Promenade Design Area

The Mississippi River Promenade is a redesigned trail corridor along East River Road that begins at Washington Street and follows the Mississippi south to Kiwanis Park (continuing there as part of the park's trail system). The proposed trail system separates cars, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic for increased safety and enhanced pedestrian experience.

The existing trail is redesigned for multi-use traffic as part of a broader trail system connecting all three design zones with the rest of the city. The redesign includes plantings where possible that provide further definition from the street traffic for safety and extend the experience of the wooded river banks up to the edge of the road.

The new pedestrian pathway engages walkers with the river and its floodplain forest. As the Mississippi River Promenade, between Washington Street and Laurel Street, the pathway travels higher up the bluff offering views and vistas of the river below and connections to the commercial development above. The trail crosses underneath the railroad bridge and comes back up to street level to cross Laurel Street at East River Road. There it gradually drops back down to the river at River Landing Park and continues to follow the river offering intimate views up and down the river along with an opportunity to experience the floodplain forest during high-water events. At its southern end it joins with the multi-use trail and enters Kiwanis Park on the existing underpass below College Drive.



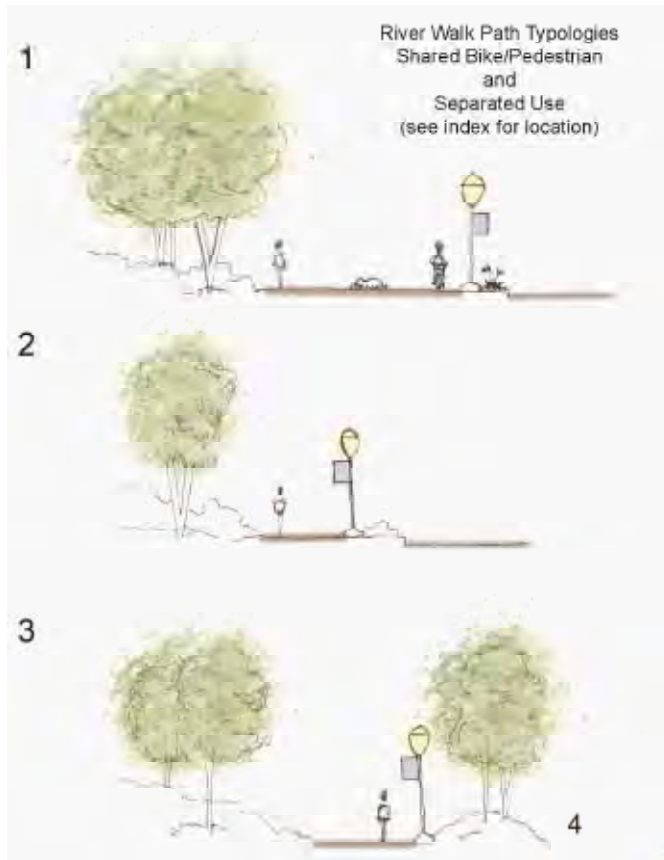
Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons

Mississippi River Promenade Design Area

While park-like along its entire length, the Mississippi River Promenade transitions in character from urban at the northern end to more natural at its southern end. As it travels through Kiwanis Park toward the Rotary Park at the southern end it continues to transition to a more and more natural character. The current multi-use trail remains in its current location along East River Road but is enhanced with streetscaping and planted buffer strips.

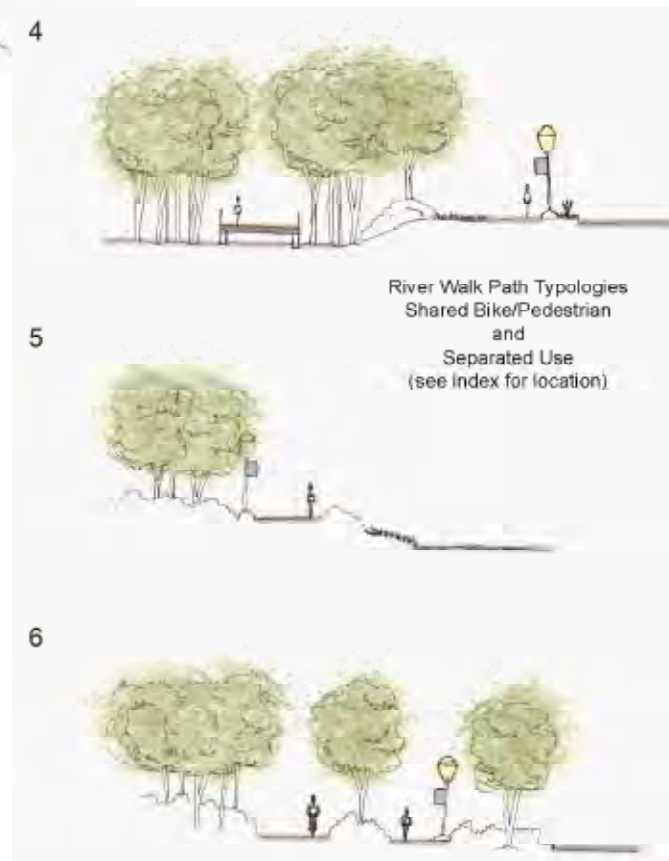




New multi-modal pathway that engages with the river and its floodplain forest.

- Connect all 3 design zones along East River Road.
- Separates cars, bicycle, and pedestrian traffic for enhanced safety.
- Bicycles remain primarily on existing but redesigned pathway.

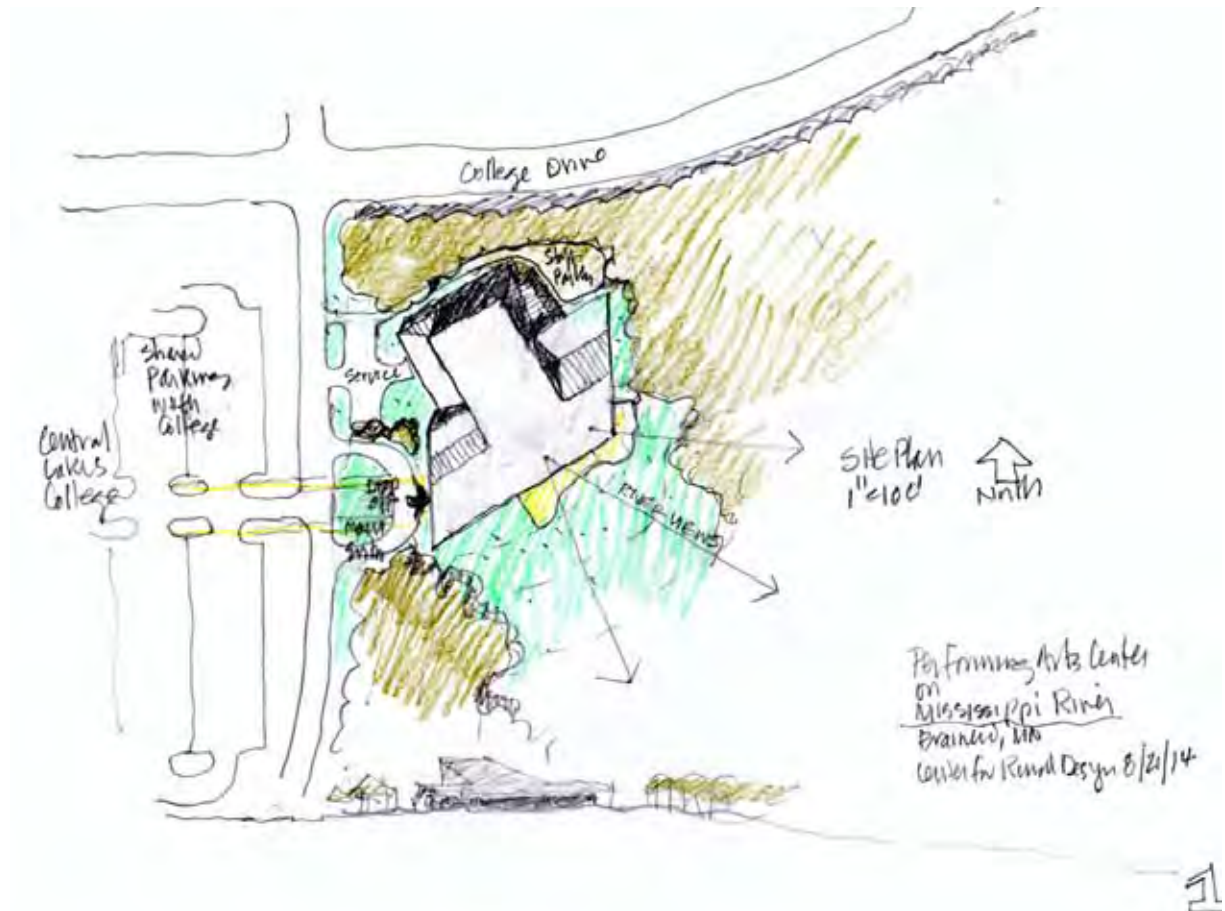
- Occasionally juts over the floodplain on an elevated boardwalk.
- Moves at an accessible grade from the new park up the bluff side to the Laurel St. Plaza.



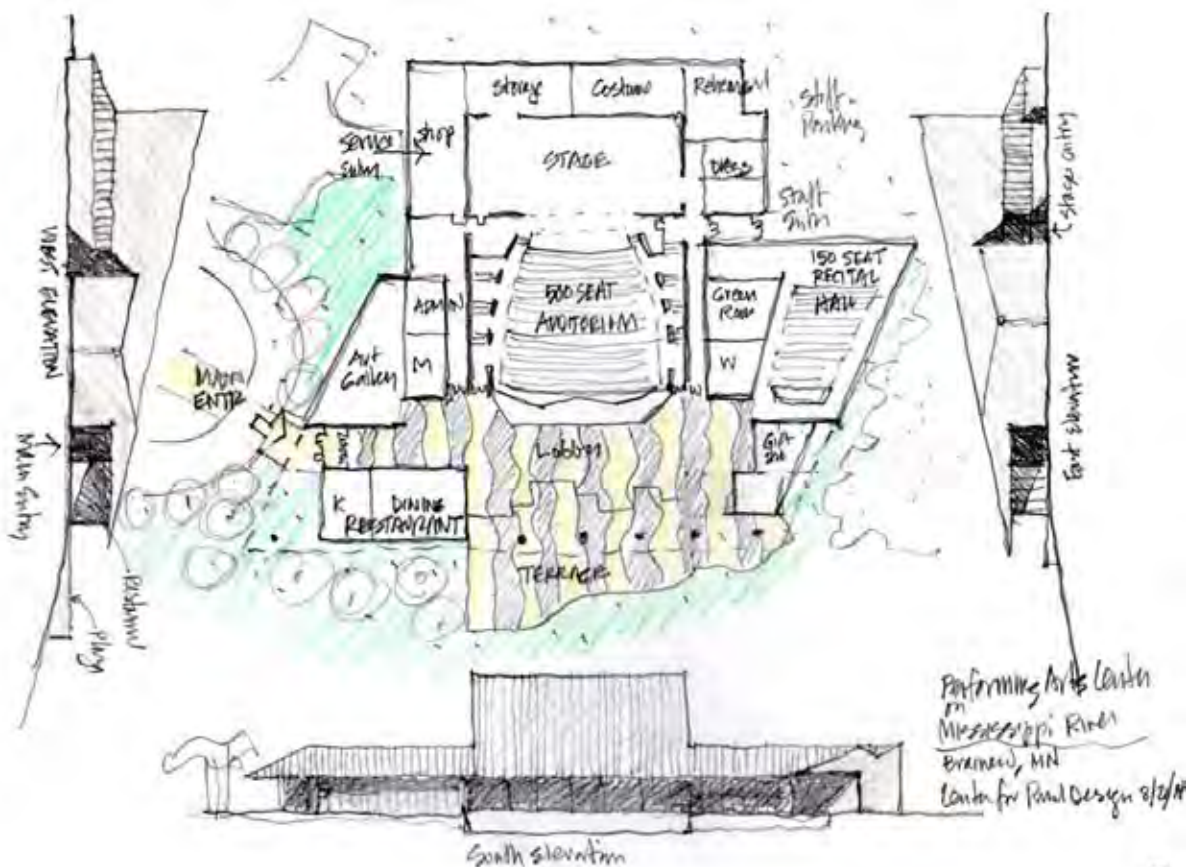
Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 2 - Cultural Community Commons

Performing Arts Center Design Area

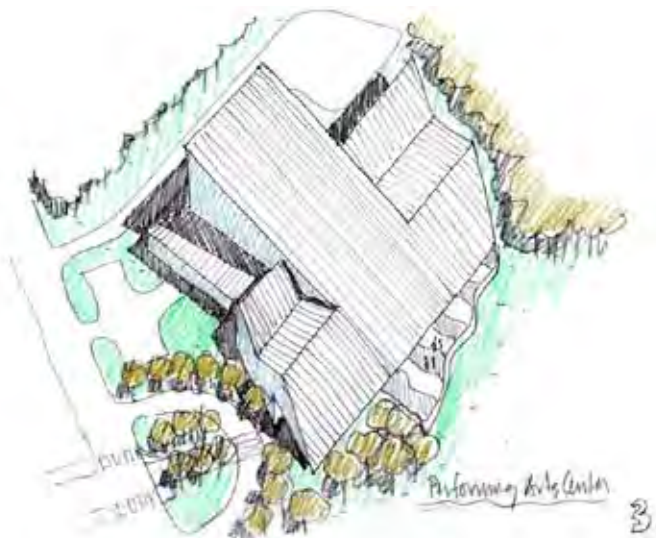


Located across the street from Central Lakes College, the performing arts center overlooks the Mississippi River valley. The 36,000 square foot center provides a 500 seat auditorium with theatre stage and orchestra pit, a 150 seat recital hall, a 1,750 square foot art gallery, a restaurant and a gift shop. The objective is for the City of Brainerd to have the premier regional arts facility in the State of Minnesota that can be used by the college as well as the community for a wide range of public and private events. The building concept for the performing arts center is rooted in its location along the Mississippi River with an indoor lobby overlooking the river valley. Parking will be available at the college as well as onsite adjacent to the building with access off Mississippi Pkwy. The building program includes a theatre shop, costume area, dressing rooms, rehearsal room, and



2

green room. In addition, public toilets and administrative offices are provided. Sustainable design principles will be utilized in design decision making for site development, water management, energy use and conservation, indoor air quality and comfort and waste management for the facility to be carbon-neutral. The total effect is to provide a premier performing arts center overlooking the Mississippi River in Brainerd for music and theatrical events and art exhibits along with a revenue producing restaurant and gift shop. It will be available for corporate meetings, symposiums, community events, and public meetings that can produce economic activity for the City in a beautiful natural setting.



3

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

The City of Brainerd is surrounded by the natural, scenic beauty and wildness of Minnesota's north-central forests, where the Laurentian Mixed Forest Biome of the north meets and mingles with the Eastern Broadleaf Forest Biome. Along the Mississippi River corridor the resultant diversity and complexity of ecosystem types reaches into the city. Design Zone 3 embraces the varied mix of human and natural settings as it transitions from the naturalistic, park-like character of Kiwanis Park southward to the floodplain forests and wetlands of Rotary Park. This zone affords the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Mississippi River in a near natural to almost wild setting without leaving the boundaries of Brainerd.

The Community Wilds Design Zone extends from College Drive in the north down to Rotary Park in the south.

It includes the lower lying floodplains on the east bank of the Mississippi, home of Kiwanis Park and Rotary Park, as well as the steep, forested bluffs on the west bank.

As shown in the graphic to the right the steering committee identified areas that offer opportunity for park enhancement, expansion, and recreational trail development. These areas were prioritized and a framework designated to guide the development of design concepts for selected sites.



Community Wilds Design Zone reconnects Brainerd to the natural and wild river that is its recreational heart and provides the least developed and most naturalistic experience along the corridor. This area provides access to and across the river, interpretive trails, and extensive opportunities for active and passive recreation.

Community Wilds Design Areas include:

- Boom Lake and Kiwanis Park Design Area that explores ways to enhance family recreation while providing a seamless transition from urban river experience to wild river experience.
- Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center Design Area that incorporates opportunities



for environmental education with passive recreation at the northern edge of the Mississippi floodplain forest and wetland. This area also provides an opportunity to connect the east and west banks of the river with a pedestrian bridge.

- Wetlands and Forest Design Area extends the educational opportunities of the environmental learning center into the floodplain forest and wetlands of Rotary Park with trails and boardwalks as the only developed features.

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Boom Lake and Northern Kiwanis Park Design Area

The focused redevelopment of Kiwanis Park seeks to anchor this central feature in a picturesque park with integrated civic, cultural, and recreational activities. Kiwanis Park has the bones to support a vibrant multi-use river moment. The vision is to develop just the right blend of transitional activities to stitch the cities river character zones into one complete asset.



The redesign of Kiwanis Park focused on enhancing the following assets:

- Boom Lake
 - focused augmentation of the picturesque character of the lake through improved trails and forest management.
 - fishing and rowing pier invites compatible visitor experiences.
- North Picnic Pavilion
 - defines a gateway to the park and lake.
 - organizes and calms traffic entering from the north.
 - provides a destination structure close to downtown anchoring the views to and from the lake.
 - provides support to the new playground.
- Winter Warming House
 - provides concession support for the small forest amphitheater.
 - a focused winter destination supporting lake skating and the newly carved sledding hill.
 - augments the relocated Buster Dog Park.
- Buster Dog Park
 - relocated to take advantage of new ADA amphitheater parking and trail system.
 - located in a topographically exciting space that permits a variety of experiences for dogs and their owners.
 - features three character zones, the Shade Walk, the Agility Center, and the Lawn.
- Wild River Pavilion
 - a river edge Picnic Pavilion which provides the northwoods magic of tall trees and fire pits.
 - supports arts festival and other destination activities in the City Wilds.

Two different redesign options were developed for Kiwanis Park and are illustrated on the following pages.

Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Boom Lake and Northern Kiwanis Park Design Area

Since access to the park from the north was significantly limited by reconstruction of College Drive the design team identifies an opportunity to improve access from College Drive and designating Jenny Street as the primary entrance. Access from the north would be accommodated on the under pass under College Drive with parking available at the south end of East River Road in the school parking lot. The northern end of Kiwanis Park would be redeveloped to include expanded picnic grounds with a large picnic pavilion, enhanced playground, swimming beach and paddle boats on Boom Lake, and ice skating in the winter. The trail around the east side of Boom Lake would be upgraded to be ADA accessible and lead to a relocated and enhanced dog park with dedicated parking and views to the southern end of Boom Lake.

Kiwanis Park Rethought - Option 1

- Redesigned parking
- Possibility to improve access from College Drive for safety
- Larger picnic pavilion and playground
- Enhanced access to Boom Lake
- Sledding hill and warming house
- Relocated and enhanced dog park
- Small amphitheater for outdoor teaching and other children' events
- New picnic pavilion at intersection of East River Road and Jenny St.
- Enhanced multi-use trail connections around Boom Lake

This image offers an alternative option for the relocated dog park based on eliminating the sledding hill and warming house. This option has less features within the dog park but provides closer access to the parking lot and preserves more of the woodlands.





Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds **Boom Lake and Kiwanis Park Design Area**

Kiwanis Park Rethought Option 2

- Redesigned parking
- Possibility to improve access from College Drive for safety
- Larger picnic pavilion and playground
- Enhanced access to Boom Lake
- Sledding hill and warming house with dedicated parking
- Small amphitheater for outdoor teaching and other children' events
- Enhanced multi-use trail connections around Boom Lake
- Enhanced dog park in same location



Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Mississippi River Headwaters

Environmental Learning Center Design Area

South of Jenney St. the park would transition quickly to a very natural character with Rotary Park preserved in a near-wild state. The overall aim is to think of this area as an outdoor and indoor environmental learning center of state-wide significance with a focus on water systems in general and the Upper Mississippi River System in particular. An indoor environmental learning center is proposed at the southern end of Kiwanis Park that becomes the northern terminus of an interpretive trail system through Rotary Park. The learning center would house interpretive displays and meeting/classroom space for educational programs. Current uses in this area (city facilities and community gardens) would be interpreted for their relationships to water systems and the river. This design area offers the following opportunities:

- Environmental Learning Center
 - a local and regional destination focused on Brainerd as the ecological headwaters of the Mississippi River.
 - providing educational opportunities for visitors.
 - providing interpretive interactions in the flood plain forest.
- Wetland Walks
 - focused on a recreational trail network these trails explore the City's wetlands.
 - dotted with ecological interpretive signs and learning stations.
 - destination recreation within a natural park setting.
- Island Bridge
 - a dedicated multi-modal link between the floodplain and the bluff.
 - completes a new city river trail that begins at Washington Street in downtown.
- Wetlands as the River's Lungs
 - the opportunity exists for Brainerd to become a national leader in water stewardship and the wetlands are core of this potential.
 - exploration of multi-use water treatment coupled with management of ecological and recreational assets should be the driving mission of the Environmental Learning Center.



Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Mississippi River Headwaters

Environmental Learning Center Design Area

Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center Option 1

- Located just north and off of Rotary Park on the East Bank.
- Engages the floodplain and riverside wetlands in Rotary Park as an interpretive and educational opportunity.
- Becomes the southern anchor for the Mississippi River Promenade.
- Becomes the northern anchor for interpretive multi-use trails within Rotary Park.
- Connects across the river by a summer pedestrian/bicycle bridge (potential for snowmobiles in winter).
- Potential to be a nationally important center focused on river hydrology and ecology in the headwaters of the most significant river in the country.



Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Mississippi River Headwaters

Environmental Learning Center Design Area

Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center Option 2

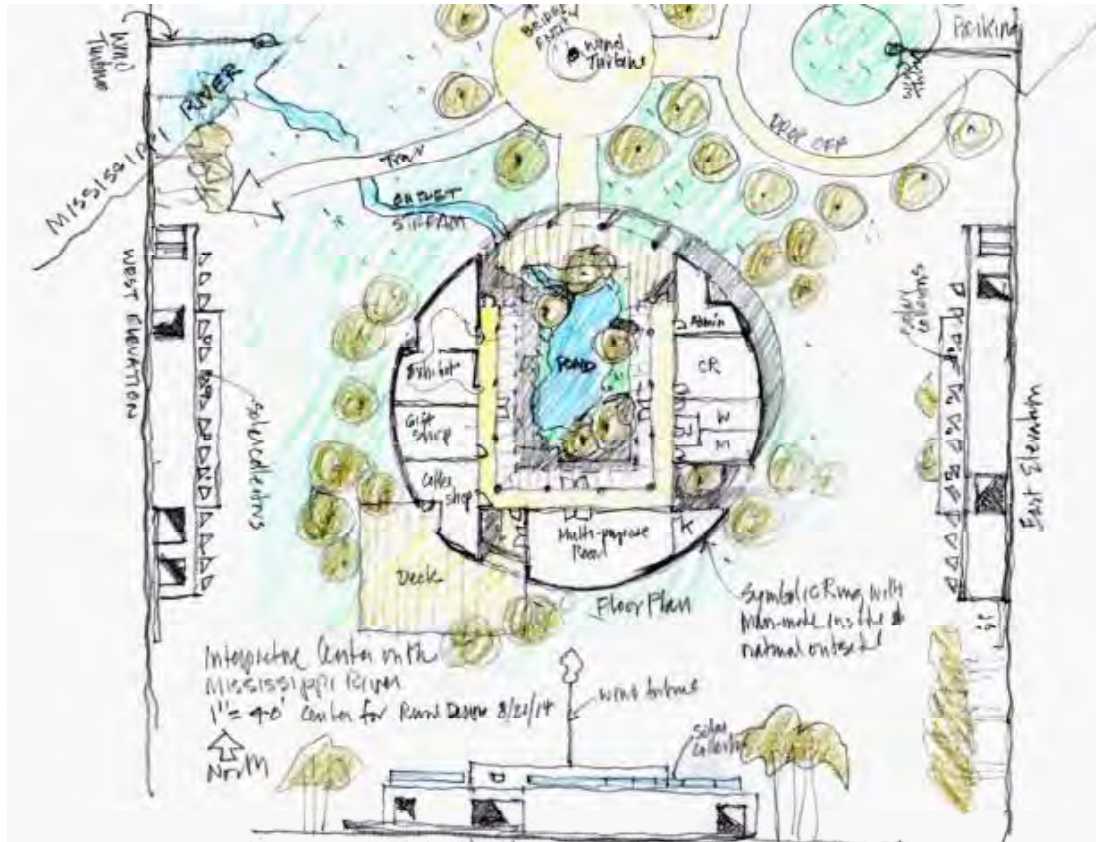
- Located on the West Bank along Mississippi Parkway, just north of the MN DNR offices.
- Provides similar features and functions as the East Bank location but relies on the construction of the pedestrian bridge for access to Rotary Park.
- Potential to be a nationally important center focused on river hydrology and ecology in the headwaters of the most significant river in the country.



Reconnecting the City and the River

Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds

Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center

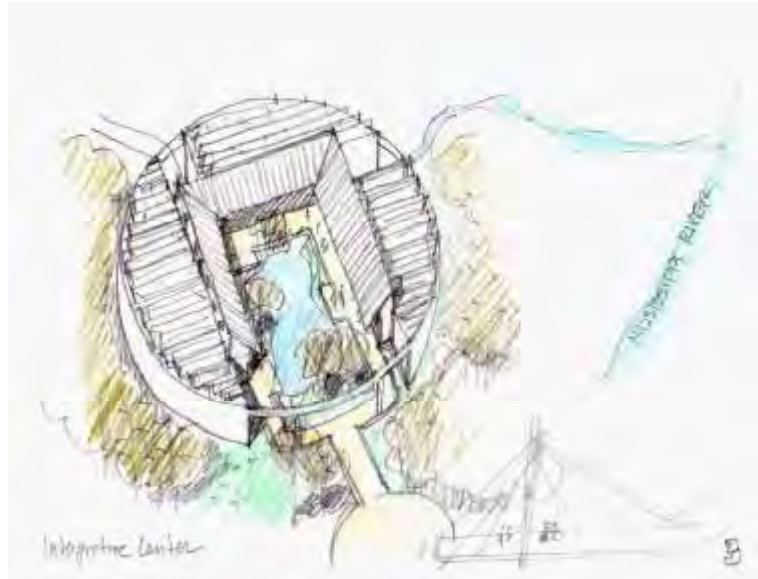


Located along the Mississippi River in the southern end of Kiwanis Park, the 7,000 square foot interpretive center will tell the story of human involvement with the river bringing to life the past and present interrelationships of river dynamics, topography, weather, and human activity. The objective of the interpretive center is to create a meaningful place with the closest possible interaction between building and landscape, and provide the visitor with information:

- Concerning the Mississippi River and the importance of water from its headwaters in Lake Itasca to its mouth in the Gulf of Mexico and its impact on the region.
- Regarding the history of the City of Brainerd and its natural and cultural connections to the river with its vision for the future.
- To engage with the Mississippi River and its natural environment in downtown Brainerd.

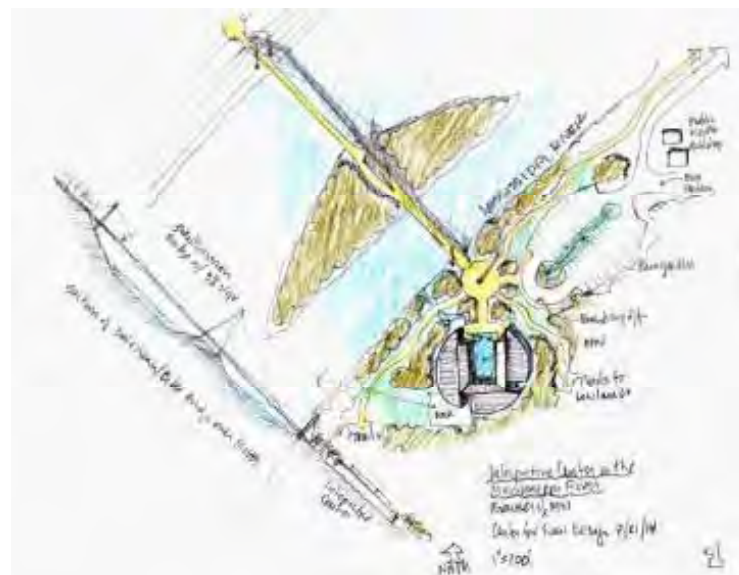
The building concept is based on an indigenous response to the specific site location and the severe contrast from summer to winter in the Minnesota climate.

Located adjacent to the Mississippi River amongst existing trees and nearby natural lowland the circular solar collector roofed building is slightly elevated above the flood plain, protected by an earth berm, and connected by wood walkways to separate the interior man-altered landscape from the surrounding natural landscape.



Circulation involves a sequential phasing of interpretive places from automobile and trail arrival and parking through nature to the exhibit, gift shop, and coffee shop areas. A bike and snowmobile bridge has its bridgehead adjacent to the visitor center.

Sustainable design principles will be utilized in design decision making for site development, water management, energy use and conservation, indoor air quality and comfort and waste management to be carbon-neutral.



The total effect is to provide a unique year-round interpretive center that will also function for revenue producing corporate retreats, seminars, classes, weddings, community events, receptions, and public meetings in a beautiful natural setting.

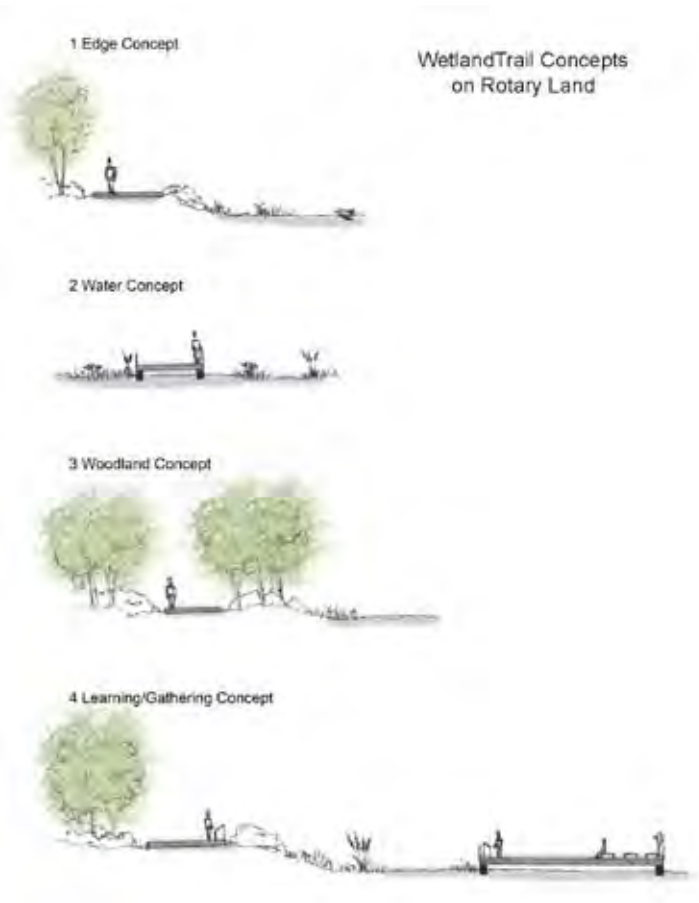
Reconnecting the City and the River

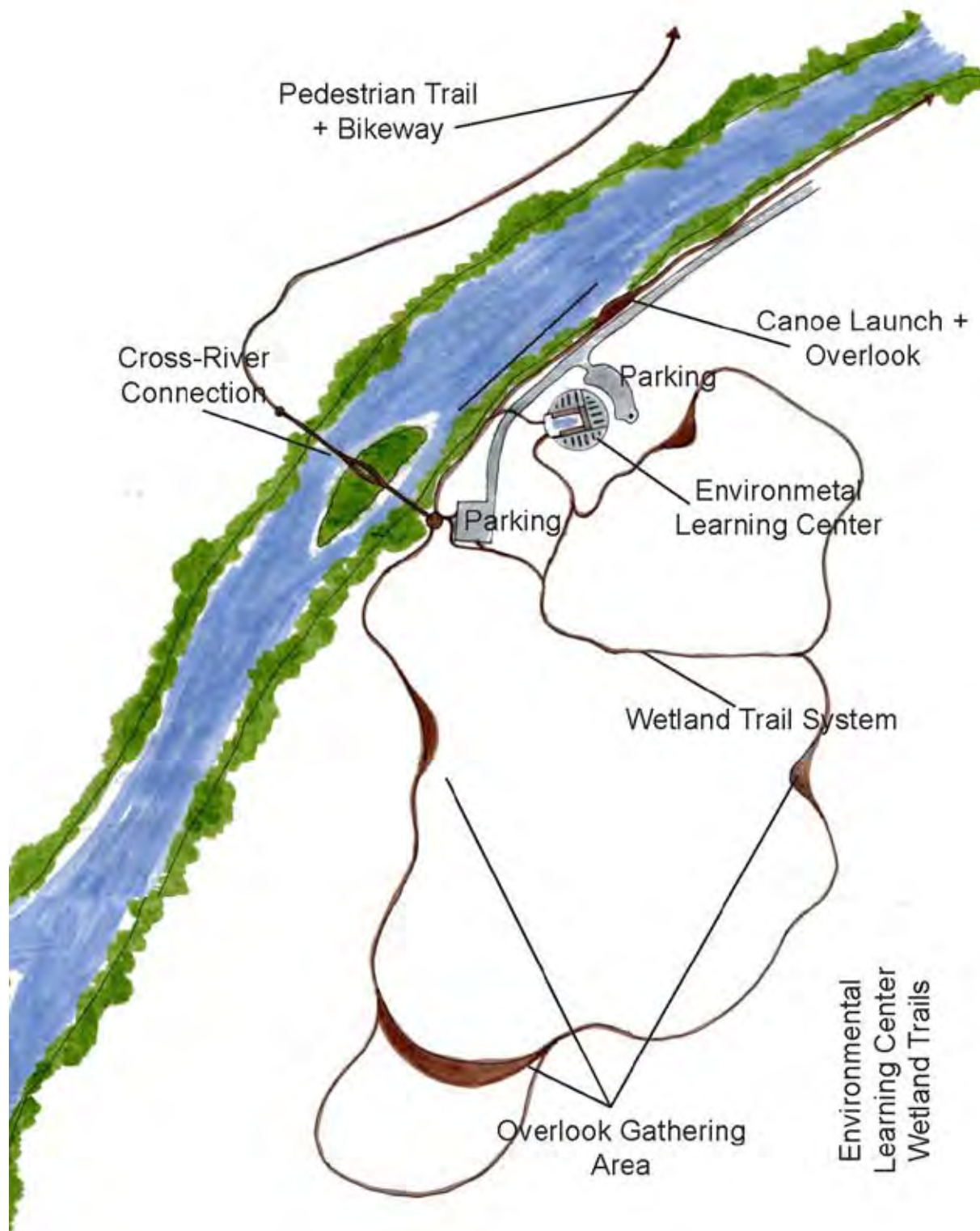
Design Zone 3 - Community Wilds **Floodplain Forest and Wetlands Design Area**



Development within Rotary Park is limited to interpretive trails and boardwalks through the floodplain forests and wetlands adjacent to the east bank of the Mississippi. The trails would provide a rare opportunity for passive recreation in a natural setting that is seldom experienced. The trails would support the educational mission of the Mississippi River Headwaters Environmental Learning Center located on the northern border of Rotary Park.

The trails would weave in and out of the floodplain forest and through the wetlands offering varied experiences throughout the seasons - the seasonal progression of river hydrology, plant communities, and animal populations within a floodplain ecosystem.





Reconnecting the City and the River

Three (Four) Bridges Loop Trail System

To enhance the opportunity to fully experience the Mississippi River as it courses through the middle of Brainerd it is imperative to designate a multi-use trail system that provides loops of varying lengths that join both sides of the river. The two upper loops essentially already exist and only need to be enhanced with small details and/or identified by signage.

- The northern loop encircles Zone 1 connecting the bridges at Washington St. and Laurel St. on East River Road and SW 4th St.
- The central loop encircles Zone 2 connecting the bridges at Laurel St. and College Dr. on East River Road and SW 4th St. (or possibly Hawkins Dr.)
- The southern loop would encircle Zone 3 using Mississippi Pkwy. and the trail system within Kiwanis Park to join the bridge at College Dr. with a proposed new multi-use bridge as described below.

Although most of the design moves have been focused on the east side of the Mississippi it is clear that the west side of Brainerd and its bluffs along the Mississippi offer unique and desirable opportunities to experience the river valley. This points to the need for an enhanced multi-use trail system and new connections to adequately join both sides of the river. At the recommendation of the steering committee the design team has explored the possibility of a multi-use trail bridge across the Mississippi. Located at the site of the environmental learning center, the bridge would connect Kiwanis Park on the east bank with Mississippi Parkway on the west bank. It would form the closing link in the Four Bridges Trail System.



The concept is to have a designated pedestrian/bicycle loop trail identified with each of the 3 Planning and Design Zones that provides an opportunity to experience the unique character and community purpose of each zone.

- Zone 1 – Heart of the Community
- Zone 2 – Cultural Community Commons
- Zone 3 – Community Wilds

This could be accomplished simply through appropriate signage and street markings (except for the new pedestrian bridge).



Three (Four) Bridges Loop Trail System

- Provides the opportunity for all users to intimately experience the Mississippi River corridor as the recreational heart of the city.
- Connects new features and development on both sides of the river into a unified and themed whole.
- Initially forms two loops:
 - Heart of the Community Loop (between Washington St. and Laurel St.)
 - Cultural Community Commons Loop (between Laurel St. and College Dr.)
- Potential for a third loop, Community Wilds Loop, creating a Four Bridges Loop Trail System – when the multi-use bridge at the ELC is built.

Appendices

- **Steering Committee Input**
 - Steering Committee Workshop 1
 - Steering Committee Workshop 2
 - Steering Committee Online Survey
- **Community Workshop Results**

Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd

Community Input and Suggestions

Information of this report was collected at the
Initial Steering Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, March 26 2014



ISSUES/NEED TO ADDRESS

Where to locate public parking

Run off

Spring Flood Levels

River/Lake Boat Access

Industrial nature of downtown

Connections throughout town -- new development, existing, downtown, and the river

Lack of River access

Trails -- up keep, additions, funding, material, both sides of the river

Safety

Jobs

Trains

Economic Vitality

Education

Attracting people to town

Tourism

Marketing, branding

Business

Lack of Entertainment

Lack of Recreational Opportunities

Lack of Ammenities

Natural Resources + Management

Lack of arts

Sense of novelty

Open...maintain openness where advantageous, remove openness (emptiness) downtown?

Limiting/removing river edge parking lots

High Rise -- needs redevelopment

IDEAS/WANTS

River Access

- Views and vistas
- Relocate dog park -- picnic and oversight spot
- Restaurant/bar opportunity on the river edge
- Piers
- Redevelop parking lots on river's edge to better community use

Boat Access

- Multiple locations
- Motorized and non-motorized
 - canoes, kayaks, paddleboats
- River and lake
- Arched bridge for boat connection between river and lake
- Potential rentals/racks for non-motorized boats
- Raft trips/adventures

Natural Area Preservation + Recreation

- Parks are very natural, native vegetation, wild feel
- Preserve natural areas
- Wetland observation decks
- Incorporate wildlife
- Fishing opportunities
- Camping in south wetlands
- Birding opportunities
- Camps for children/teens, summer camps
- Educational opportunities
- Bird/Butterfly/Pollinator Meadow/Garden
- Preserve stone by lake

Trails + Connections

- Parking near trails
- Bicycle bridge over the river by island
- Trail system
- More established trail material (crushed limestone/gravel, wood?)
- Connect River Trails
- Trails take people to downtown
- Connection between downtown and riverfront
- Trails on both sides of the river
- Bike rentals

Community Space/Community Building Opportunities

- Public amphitheater
 - Maintain natural quality
- Arts display/Concerts

IDEAS/WANTS

Community Space/Community Building Opportunities (continued)

- Expand community gardens
- Sense of coherency in town

Downtown + Business Improvement

- More variety
- More quantity
- Shift away from industrial and towards shops, retail, restaurants, and bars
- Redevelop high rise to condos/restaurant
- Commercial development along river -- Pub/restaurant

Historic Preservation + Significance

- Restoration/remodel/reprogram of old characteristic buildings in town
- Point out historical points
- Interpretive signage

High Impact/Fast Pace Recreation Opportunities

- Zip lines
- Cross Country skiing
- Dirt Bike trails
- Rafting adventures

Other

- New spaces/development that have a sense of novelty, the “cool factor”
- Develop tourism opportunities
- Hosting space for a potential arts festival

MISC. ADVICE/SUGGESTIONS/THOUGHTS

Programming

- For Trail Systems
 - Businesses/Organizations adopt a stretch of trail
 - Sponsors to help fund extensions of trails
 - Fundraising events to provide money for maintenance and extension and up keep

Getting the Word Out about Brainerd Vision/Development Plan

- Call it "River Day(s)" or "Huck Finn Day(s)"
- One day or a weekend
- Start with first workshop day
- Every year after is a celebration of that day
- Consider avoiding conflicting interest with Nisswa weekend and Tour of Lakes

Extra

- Do not clear the cedars along the river edge while clearing for views/vistas

Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd

Community Input and Suggestions Prioritizing Issues

Information of this report was collected at the second
Steering Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, April 30 2014



Prioritized Issues: Full List of Issues that Received Votes

Development is environmentally sustainable, safe, and upholds natural integrity

Access: River and Land

Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural

Define Time line

Keep what is working in its place

Keep Rotary in the loop

Accessibility/Trail Size & Type (walk, bike, golf carts, snowmobile)

Preserve area by CLC for potential performing arts center

Bird Sanctuary

South = natural, North = economic/business Differential

Trails = the spine for activities

Experience & connect with the River

Restaurant on/near the River

Destination Quality Commercial Development (food and beverage)

Multi faceted attractions (art, activities, recreation, food, etc.)

New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use"

Ranking Categories by Level of Importance

#1 Issue (RED) - Top Priority

#2 Issue (YELLOW) - Second Priority

#3 Issue (GREEN) - Third Priority

Prioritized Issues: Recorded Votes

Development is environmentally sustainable, safe, and upholds natural integrity



Access: River and Land



Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural



Define Time line



Keep what is working in its place



Keep Rotary in the loop



Accessibility/Trail Size & Type (walk, bike, golf carts, snowmobile)



Preserve area by CLC for potential performing arts center



Bird Sanctuary



South = natural, North = economic/business Differential



Trails = the spine for activities



Experience & connect with the River



Restaurant on/near the River



Destination Quality Commercial Development (food and beverage)



Multi faceted attractions (art, activities, recreation, food, etc.)



New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use"



Color Key

- #1 Issue - Top Priority
- #2 Issue - Second Priority
- #3 Issue - Third Priority

Prioritized Issues: Ranked by Issue Separately

Ranked #1 Issues

Destination Quality Commercial Development (7)

Access: River and Land (5)

Accessibility - Trail Size & Types (3)

Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural (3)

Development is environmentally sustainable, safe and upholds natural integrity (2)

Restaurant on/near the River (1)

South = natural, North = economic/business Differential (1)

Experience & connect with the River (1)

Trails = the spine for activities (1)

Ranked #2 Issues

Destination Quality Commercial Development (5)

Keep what is working in its place (3)

Accessibility/Trail Size & Types (3)

Access: River and Land (2)

Restaurant on/near the River (2)

Bird Sanctuary (2)

Define Areas: what is natural, what is developed (1)

South = natural, North = economic/business Differential (1)

Experience & connect with the River (1)

Multi faceted attractions (1)

Define time line (1)

Ranked #3 Issues

Access: River and Land (4)

Multi faceted attractions (3)

Preserve area by CLC for potential performing arts center (3)

Accessibility/Trail size & types (2)

New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use" (2)

Restaurant on/near the River (1)

South = natural, North = economic/business Differential (1)

Trails = the spine for activities (1)

Prioritized Issues: Synthesized Votes

Ranked Issues by Total Votes

(sum of votes regardless of #1,#2, or #3 ranking)

Destination Quality Commercial Development (12)
Access: River and Land (11)
Accessibility/Trail size & types (8)
Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural (4)
Restaurant on/near the River (4)
Multi faceted attractions (4)
South = natural, North = economic/business Differential (3)
Keep what is working in its place (3)
Preserve area by CLC for potential performing arts center (3)
Development is environmentally sustainable, safe, and upholds natural integrity (2)
Bird Sanctuary (2)
Trails = the spine for activities (2)
Experience & connect with the River (2)
New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use" (2)
Define Time line (1)
Keep Rotary in the loop (1)

Ranked Issues by Weighted Total Votes

(sum of votes, with #1 issues getting 3 pts, #2 issues getting 2 pts, and #3 issues getting 1 pt)

Destination Quality Commercial Development (31)
Access: River and Land (23)
Accessibility/Trail size & types (17)
Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural (11)
Restaurant on/near the River (8)
Development is environmentally sustainable, safe, and upholds natural integrity (6)
South = natural, North = economic/business Differential (6)
Keep what is working in its place (6)
Experience & connect with the River (5)
Multi faceted attractions (5)
Trails = the spine for activities (4)
Bird Sanctuary (4)
Keep Rotary in the loop (3)
Preserve area by CLC for potential performing arts center (3)
Define time line (2)
New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use" (2)

Prioritized Issues: 5 Common Themes/Opportunities

Attractions

Destination Quality Commercial Development (food and beverages)
Experience & connect with the River
Restaurant on/near the River
South end character
North end character
Bird Sanctuary
Performing art center

Access

Access: River and Land
Accessibility/Trail size & type
Trails = the spine for activities
Experience & connect with the River

Community Gathering Space

Multi faceted attractions (art, activities, recreation, food, etc.)
Experience & connect with the River
Define Areas: what is developed and what is natural
Potential Performing art center

Trails

Trails = the spine for activities
Access to the River
Experience & connect with the River
Development is environmentally sustainable, safe, and upholds natural integrity

Economic Opportunities

Restaurant on/near the River
Destination quality commercial development (food and beverages)
Multi faceted attractions
New Residential: "high-end, mixed-use"

Zone 1

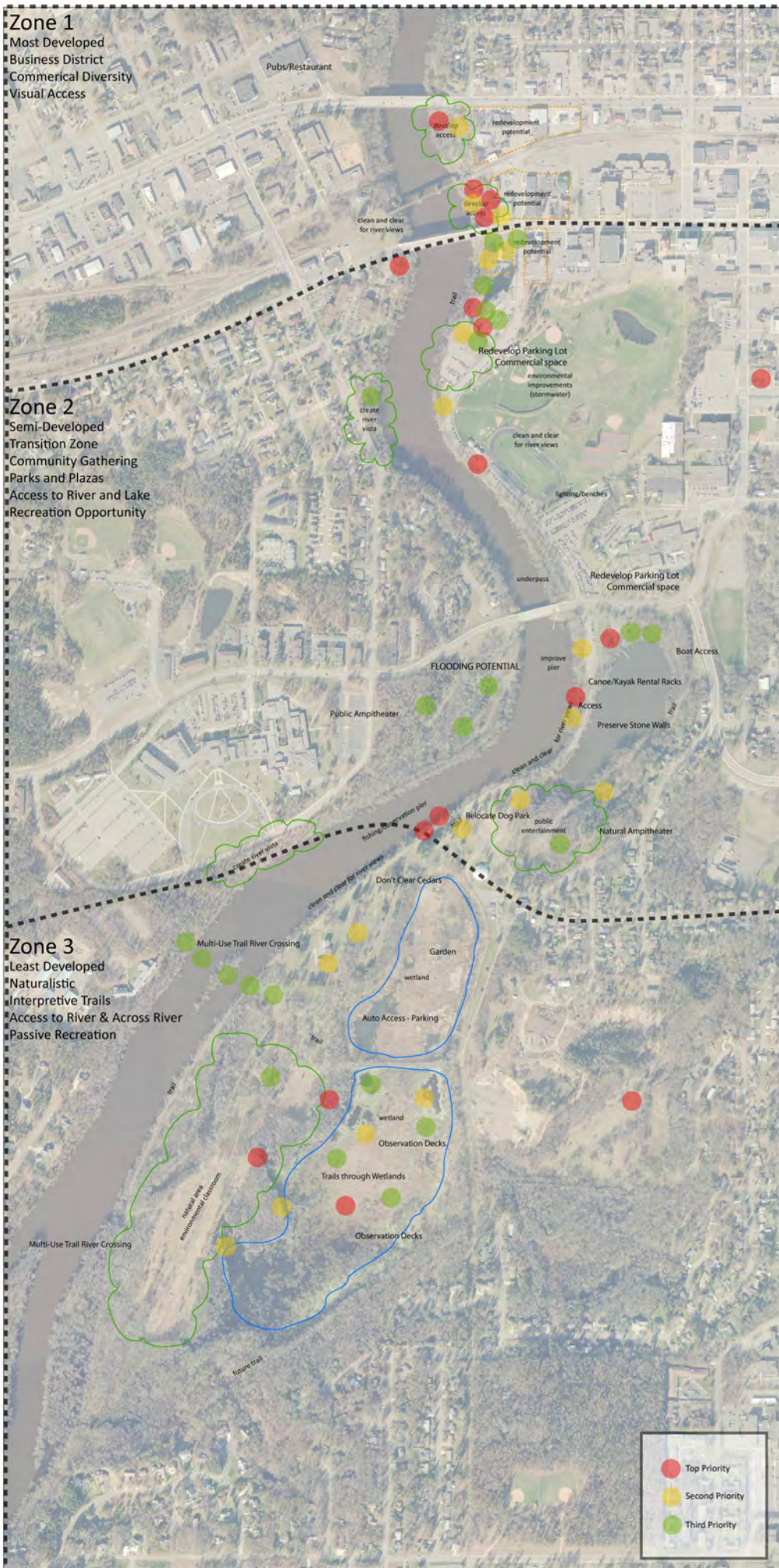
Most Developed
Business District
Commercial Diversity
Visual Access

Zone 2

Semi-Developed
Transition Zone
Community Gathering
Parks and Plazas
Access to River and Lake
Recreation Opportunity

Zone 3

Least Developed
Naturalistic
Interpretive Trails
Access to River & Across River
Passive Recreation





Steering Committee Online Survey Results

August, 2014



Online Survey Reference Map

My Report

Last Modified: 08/06/2014

1. Does this map properly identify the previously agreed upon identity and characteristics of each section?

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	Severely Disagree		0	0%
2	Somewhat Disagree		0	0%
3	Unsure		0	0%
4	Mostly Agree	<div></div>	11	44%
5	Completely Agree	<div></div>	14	56%
	Total		25	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	4
Max Value	5
Mean	4.56
Variance	0.26
Standard Deviation	0.51
Total Responses	25

2. Please convey how accurate or inaccurate each of the character zones are by sliding the bars towards 100 (100% accurate) or 0 (0% accurate).

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Zone 1: Mostly Business Focus (red)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
2	Zone 2: Mostly Community Gathering Focus (orange)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
3	Zone 3: Naturalistic Focus	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-

3. Describe why these current divisions are not to your liking or do not match your own comprehension of the river corridor's character.

Text Response	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	0

4. Access to the Mississippi River Via Pedestrian-ways, Steps, Landings, and Vistas This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Pedestrian-ways, steps, landings, vistas	50.00	100.00	89.00	14.11	24

5. Trail Location Options/Ideas

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Up and Down the River Corridor	41.00	100.00	83.13	17.42	24
2	The River Corridor + Rotary Land	0.00	100.00	70.63	27.03	24
3	The River Corridor + Rotary Land + Into Neighborhoods	10.00	100.00	64.04	25.40	23
4	The River Corridor + Rotary Land + Connections out to Regional Trails	31.00	100.00	81.28	24.84	25

6. Outdoor Public Amphitheater This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	outdoor public amphitheater	0.00	100.00	64.04	34.12	24

7. FOR THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE MAP

BELOW. Outdoor Public Amphitheater Location Options/Ideas that have already

been previously identified by Steering Committee and Community Workshop (IN PURPLE) Indicate your preferred location(s) below. PLEASE CLICK ON ALL LOCATIONS, EVEN IF THE SELECTED VALUE IS 0. TO ENSURE YOUR ANSWER IS PROPERLY COUNTED.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location G	0.00	100.00	62.83	32.61	18
2	Location N	0.00	92.00	46.39	34.71	18
3	Location M2	0.00	95.00	47.71	36.12	17
4	Location O	0.00	100.00	41.67	34.38	18

8. Areas below (IN WHITE) have not been previously identified, but are suitable for an outdoor amphitheater. If you prefer one of these sites, indicate below.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location A	0.00	79.00	8.22	18.94	18
2	Location B	0.00	34.00	4.88	10.19	17
3	Location C	0.00	80.00	12.28	22.87	18
4	Location D	0.00	22.00	3.76	6.36	17
5	Location E	0.00	63.00	8.94	16.55	18
6	Location F	0.00	26.00	2.82	6.47	17
7	Location I	0.00	90.00	8.59	21.71	17
8	Location J	0.00	92.00	14.39	28.46	18
9	Location K	0.00	93.00	26.16	31.96	19
10	Location L	0.00	89.00	21.00	28.86	19
11	Location M1	0.00	79.00	20.33	29.74	18

9. If the outdoor amphitheater were to be located North of College Drive, would you like it to be

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	mostly plaza like		6	25%
2	mostly park like		2	8%
3	50/50 plaza - park		16	67%
	Total		24	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.42
Variance	0.78
Standard Deviation	0.88
Total Responses	24

10. If the outdoor amphitheater were to be located South of College Drive, would you like it to be

#	Answer	Bar	Response	%
1	mostly plaza like		1	4%
2	mostly park like		13	54%
3	50/50 plaza - park		10	42%
	Total		24	

Statistic	Value
Min Value	1
Max Value	3
Mean	2.38
Variance	0.33
Standard Deviation	0.58

11. Performing Arts Center (traditionally more formal, indoor structures) This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	performing arts center	0.00	100.00	51.29	39.30	21

12. FOR THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE MAP

BELOW. Performing Arts Center Location Options/Ideas that have already been previously identified by Steering Committee and Community Workshop (IN PURPLE) Indicate your preferred location(s) below. Not all locations need to hold a value, but they can.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location N	0.00	100.00	73.17	35.44	23
2	Location M2	0.00	87.00	15.79	28.70	19
3	Location O	0.00	86.00	20.05	29.36	20

13. Areas below (IN WHITE) have not been previously identified, but are suitable for a performing arts center. If you prefer one of these sites, indicate below.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location A	0.00	71.00	8.53	19.31	19
2	Location B	0.00	50.00	4.95	12.20	19
3	Location C	0.00	58.00	8.50	17.68	18
4	Location D	0.00	85.00	10.11	22.67	18
5	Location E	0.00	79.00	14.53	23.12	19
6	Location I	0.00	92.00	23.52	34.47	21
7	Location J	0.00	92.00	21.15	33.08	20
8	Location K	0.00	94.00	21.53	34.11	19
9	Location L	0.00	87.00	19.61	32.60	18
10	Location M1	0.00	83.00	8.95	21.78	19

14. Public Plaza or Park Featuring Community/Art/Food/Entertainment Opportunities This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	public plaza or park with community/art/food/entertainment opportunities	0.00	100.00	79.48	26.70	23

15. What type of public spaces do you prefer? Slide bars to indicate preference

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	mostly plaza-like	0.00	100.00	34.50	35.42	16
2	mostly park-like	0.00	92.00	37.94	29.92	18
3	50/50 park and plaza	0.00	100.00	73.04	31.00	24

16. FOR THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE MAP BELOW.

Public Park/Plaza Location Options/Ideas that have already been previously identified by Steering Committee and Community Workshop (IN PURPLE) Indicate your preferred location(s) below. Not all locations need to hold a value, but they can.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location F	0.00	82.00	19.00	29.83	18
2	Location K	0.00	100.00	48.45	38.30	22
3	Location L	0.00	100.00	49.57	40.71	21
4	Location N	0.00	91.00	26.69	34.80	16
5	Location M2	0.00	100.00	33.18	39.82	17
6	Location O	0.00	100.00	30.94	37.82	17

17. Areas below (IN WHITE) have not been previously identified, but are suitable for a public park or plaza. If you prefer one of these sites, indicate below.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location A	0.00	75.00	9.29	20.28	14
2	Location B	0.00	50.00	7.71	14.40	14
3	Location C	0.00	51.00	9.54	16.59	13
4	Location D	0.00	25.00	4.77	7.95	13
5	Location E	0.00	92.00	25.87	36.56	15
6	Location G	0.00	88.00	17.47	31.18	15
7	Location I	0.00	93.00	34.46	39.39	13
8	Location J	0.00	94.00	33.38	40.03	16
9	Location M1	0.00	82.00	18.13	29.02	16
10	Location Q	0.00	94.00	18.50	30.09	14

18. Business Development within the river corridor and along parts of the riverfront (where appropriate) This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	business development	0.00	100.00	65.21	30.82	24

19. What type of business would you support on the riverfront, or within the immediate riverfront corridor area? Slide the bars to indicate preference

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	A broad range of business that do not typically enhance riverfront experience i.e. Offices, general retail, auto sales/repair	0.00	50.00	6.11	12.22	19
2	A broad range of business that can enhance the riverfront experience, specialty shops (food, clothing, keepsakes, art, books) sporting goods, food/drink establishments	0.00	100.00	67.50	33.78	24
3	Business uses should be limited to food/drink establishments.	0.00	95.00	33.71	32.70	21
4	There should be no business development along the riverfront.	0.00	60.00	17.94	25.60	18

20. FOR THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE MAP BELOW.

Business Location Options/Ideas that have already been previously identified by Steering Committee and Community Workshop (IN PURPLE) Indicate your preferred location(s) below. Not all locations need to hold a value, but they can.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location A	0.00	100.00	55.72	38.85	18
2	Location B	0.00	100.00	48.88	39.18	17
3	Location C	0.00	100.00	61.58	32.82	19
4	Location D	0.00	100.00	47.67	37.62	18
5	Location I	0.00	100.00	67.11	32.05	18
6	Location J	0.00	100.00	63.71	34.45	17
7	Location K	0.00	100.00	56.00	38.25	16
8	Location H	0.00	100.00	39.07	38.35	15

21. Areas below (IN WHITE) have not been previously identified, but are suitable for business. If you prefer one of these sites, indicate below.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location F	0.00	100.00	31.53	36.42	15
2	Location G	0.00	90.00	18.79	30.33	14
3	Location L	0.00	93.00	29.50	37.02	14
4	Location M1	0.00	94.00	15.14	29.14	14
5	Location M2	0.00	40.00	4.29	11.23	14
6	Location N	0.00	100.00	27.92	38.76	13
7	Location O	0.00	38.00	4.64	11.83	14

22. Re-purpose High Value Properties along the River Corridor This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	re-purpose high value properties	0.00	100.00	65.08	32.45	24

23. Which high value river edge property needs re-purposing? Slide the bars to indicate preference

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Adjacent to the river north of Laurel St to Washington St.	0.00	100.00	65.92	35.08	24
2	Adjacent to the river south of Laurel St to College Drive.	0.00	100.00	59.70	31.65	23
3	High school parking lot at College Drive and East River Rd.	0.00	100.00	58.04	34.44	24
4	Areas around (easterly of) Laurel St./East River Rd intersection	0.00	100.00	56.33	33.83	21

24. What should go in one of those locations? May write "no change" if applicable EXAMPLE ANSWER: [Location], [New purpose]

Text Response	
Repurpose high rise to condos	
At a loss here other than I have always questioned why the fire dept is on the river (valuable property)	
Garden	
Laurel to Washington - River Walk with shops- Sculptures Laurel-College Dr. - High End condo housing (High Rise) Riverside dining/brew pub. In Empty lot below high rise. HS Parking lot- small one along college drive - Restaurant and or brew pub	
Businesses, park, walkway, pavilions, etc. as indicated by earlier questions	
Restaurant with larger outdoor seating are overlooking river. South (or North) of Laurel Street in place of existing office building (Fire Station).	
In place of HS parking lot, riverfront business including restaurant development or open air market, and trail. In place of fire station, auto body shop, counseling center, riverfront business including restaurant development, and trail access.	
business that draw people to the river with dining opportunities; zip lines and brew pubs	
North of Laurel and south of Washington, restaurant/brew pub with overlooking deck	
Shops and restaurants	
High quality residential, food/beverage, specialty shops	
Souvenir shops, health food shops, retail shops	
Laurel to Washington, Walk way with some unique food. I can see employees from County to the hospital walking there for lunch.	
Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

25. Presence of Public Art in various Community Spaces (at a park, plaza, amphitheater, etc.) or as a guide along a path between a particular location the river (from memorial to river, from city hall to river, along Laurel (downtown) to river). This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	presence of public art	0.00	100.00	66.75	32.35	24

26. Interpretive Center This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Interpretive Center	9.00	100.00	47.55	27.83	22

27. What do you want to interpret? Slide the bars to indicate preference

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Nature	14.00	100.00	56.95	28.03	21
2	Mississippi River	13.00	100.00	69.86	26.43	22
3	Wildlife	0.00	100.00	52.52	31.71	21
4	Brainerd History	0.00	97.00	62.91	26.88	23

28. FOR THE NEXT 2 QUESTIONS, PLEASE REFER TO THE MAP BELOW.

Interpretive Center Location Options/Ideas that have already been previously identified by Steering Committee and Community Workshop (IN PURPLE) Indicate your preferred location(s) below. Not all locations need to hold a value, but they can.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location E	0.00	100.00	54.53	43.23	15
2	Location O	0.00	100.00	48.29	31.20	14
3	Location Q	0.00	100.00	46.19	33.35	16

29. Areas below (IN WHITE) have not been previously identified, but are suitable for an interpretive center. If you prefer one of these sites, indicate below.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	Location A	0.00	78.00	16.83	28.44	12
2	Location B	0.00	81.00	18.92	28.62	13
3	Location C	0.00	83.00	22.77	30.98	13
4	Location D	0.00	79.00	16.00	26.86	12
5	Location F	0.00	15.00	2.50	5.42	12
6	Location G	0.00	60.00	9.83	19.44	12
7	Location I	0.00	85.00	32.67	38.17	12
8	Location J	0.00	87.00	33.25	37.63	12
9	Location K	0.00	87.00	36.83	39.62	12
10	Location L	0.00	100.00	26.58	39.31	12
11	Location M1	0.00	85.00	30.83	36.33	12
12	Location M2	0.00	86.00	22.92	35.27	12
13	Location N	0.00	90.00	36.58	34.68	12

30. Wetland Boardwalk This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	wetland boardwalk	0.00	100.00	73.74	30.11	23

31. Having recreation opportunities along the river corridor has been expressed over previous meetings. Of the following types of recreation activities, indicate ones that interest you. This question is aimed to get your opinion about how important this topic is to include in the final design proposals. 0, is not important at all and 100 is extremely important, it is the most important topic to be considered and designed.

#	Answer	Min Value	Max Value	Average Value	Standard Deviation	Responses
1	canoe landing/launch	20.00	100.00	85.50	22.67	24
2	nature viewing	19.00	100.00	80.54	22.62	24
3	picnicking	22.00	100.00	72.17	24.89	24
4	fishing/fishing pier	12.00	100.00	75.50	21.73	22
5	walking/running	55.00	100.00	88.18	13.99	22
6	biking	60.00	100.00	92.00	11.50	23
7	public gathering	43.00	100.00	83.45	16.55	22
8	Other	0.00	100.00	46.25	49.69	8

Sculpture park

vistas

parking lots

bathroom facilities for canoers coming from the north or even camping spots available

32. Your Ideal Itinerary for Brainerd's Mississippi River Partnership Plan Rank the following items by clicking and dragging them up and down

[illegible][illegible]

“Level of Importance” Question Results

These questions were scattered through the survey, they were the first question of every topic series.

On a scale of 0 to 100, 0 being not very important to 100 being very important, the average scores are as follows –

1. Access (89.00 average)
2. Public Park or Plaza (79.48 average)
3. Wetland Boardwalk (73.74 average)
4. Presence of Public Art (66.75 average)
5. Business Development (65.21 average)
6. Repurpose High Value Properties (65.08 average)
7. Outdoor Public Amphitheater (64.04 average)
8. Performing Arts Center (51.29 average)
9. Interpretive Center (47.55 average)

“Ranking of Items, 1-9” Question Results

This question appeared at the end of the survey. It asked you to drag the items into your ideal order of importance.

You ranked 1 to 9, 1 being very important to 9 being not very important, the resulting order of everyone’s combined and averaged responses is as follows –

** observe changes when all items were viewed together & against each other in comparison to being addressed as separate entities.

1. Access (1.63 average)
2. Public Park or Plaza (3.00 average)
3. Recreation Related Space (4.17 average)
4. Outdoor Public Amphitheater (4.75 average)
5. Business Development (5.38 average)
6. Repurpose High Value Properties (6.04 average)
7. Wetland Boardwalk (6.17 average)
8. Performing Arts Center (6.54 average)
9. Interpretive Center (7.33 average)

“Character Zones” Question Results

This question opened the survey, and it addressed the identities and characterizations of different stretches along the Brainerd riverfront.

- 0% severely disagrees
- 0% somewhat disagrees
- 0% unsure
- 44% mostly agrees
- 56% completely agrees

Where is Access needed most? Question Results

1. Up and Down the River Corridor (83.13 average rating)
2. River Corridor + Rotary Land + Connections out to Regional Trails (81.28 average rating)
3. River Corridor + Rotary Land (70.63 average rating)
4. River Corridor + Rotary Land + Into Neighborhoods (64.04 average rating)

What type of Public Gathering Space do you prefer? Question Results

50/50 Park and Plaza (73.04 average rating)

Mostly Park-like (37.94 average)

Mostly Plaza-like (34.50 average)

Where should a Public Park or Plaza be located? Question Results

Front Runners

1. Location L (40.71)
2. Location M2 (39.82)
3. Location K (38.30)
4. Location N (34.80)
5. Location I (34.46)
6. Location J (33.38)

All Others

7. Location O (30.94)
8. Location F (29.83)
9. Location E (25.87)
10. Location Q (18.50)
11. Location M1 (18.13)
12. Location G (17.47)
13. Location C (9.54)
14. Location A (9.29)
15. Location B (7.71)
16. Location D (4.77)

Where should an Outdoor Public Amphitheater be located? Question Results

Front Runners

1. Location G (62.83)
2. Location M2 (47.71)
3. Location N (46.39)
4. Location O (41.67)

All Others

5. Location K (26.16)
6. Location L (21.00)
7. Location M1 (20.33)
8. Location J (14.39)
9. Location C (12.28)
10. Location E (8.94)
11. Location I (8.59)
12. Location A (8.22)
13. Location B (4.88)
14. Location D (3.76)
15. Location F (2.82)

If located north of College Drive, what aesthetic should the amphitheater have? Question Results

1. 50/50 plaza-park (67%)

2. Mostly plaza-like (25%)
3. Mostly park-like (8%)

If located south of College Drive, what aesthetic should the amphitheater have? Question Results

1. Mostly park-like (54%)
2. 50/50 plaza-park (42%)
3. Mostly plaza-like (4%)

What are the most important recreation activities to be offered? Question Results

1. Biking (92.00)
2. Walking/running (88.18)
3. Canoe landing/launch (85.50)
4. Public gathering (83.45)
5. Nature viewing (80.54)
6. Fishing (75.50)
7. Picnicking (72.17)

What type of business would you support on the riverfront? Question Results

1. A broad range of business that can enhance the riverfront experience, specialty shops (food, clothing, keepsakes, art, books), sporting goods, food/drink establishments (67.50)
2. Business uses should be limited to food/drink establishments (33.71)
3. There should be no business development along the riverfront (17.94)
4. A broad range of business that do not typically enhance riverfront experience, i.e. offices, general retail, auto sales/repair (6.11)

Where should Business be located? Question Results

Front Runners

1. Location I (67.11)
2. Location J (63.71)
3. Location C (61.58)
4. Location K (56.00)
5. Location A (55.72)
6. Location B (48.88)
7. Location D (47.67)

All Others

8. Location H (39.07)
9. Location F (31.53)
10. Location L (29.50)
11. Location N (27.92)
12. Location G (18.79)
13. Location M1 (15.14)
14. Location O (4.64)
15. Location M2 (4.29)

Which High Value Areas need Re-Purposing? Question Results

1. Adjacent to the river north of Laurel St to Washington St. (65.92)
2. Adjacent to the river south of Laurel St to College Drive. (59.70)
3. High school parking lot at College Drive and East River Rd. (58.04)
4. Laurel St./East River Rd Intersection (56.33)

Where should a Performing Arts Center be located? Question Results

Front Runners

1. Location N (73.17)

All Others

2. Location I (23.52)
3. Location K (21.53)
4. Location J (21.15)

5. Location O (20.05)
 6. Location L (19.61)
 7. Location M2 (15.79)
 8. Location E (14.53)
 9. Location D (10.11)
 10. Location M1 (8.95)
 11. Location A (8.53)
 12. Location C (8.50)
 13. Location B (4.95)
-

What topics should be interpreted at an Interpretive Center? Question Results

1. Mississippi River (69.86)
2. Brainerd History (62.91)
3. Nature (56.95)
4. Wildlife (52.52)

Where should an Interpretive Center be located? Question Results

Front Runners

1. Location E (54.53)
2. Location O (48.29)
3. Location Q (46.19)

All Others

4. Location K (36.83)
5. Location N (36.58)
6. Location J (33.25)
7. Location I (32.67)
8. Location M1 (30.83)
9. Location L (26.58)
10. Location M2 (22.92)
11. Location C (22.77)
12. Location B (18.92)
13. Location A (16.83)
14. Location D (16.00)

15. Location G (9.83)

16. Location F (2.50)

Mississippi River Partnership Plan for the City of Brainerd

Community Workshop Input + Results

Information of this report was collected at the
Community Workshop held on
Saturday, May 31 2014



Table of Contents

Part I

Written Summary

- Community Ideas Summary by Category + Additional Comments
- Map Token Summary by Category

Part II

Spatial Summary

- Composite Community Workshop Map Description, Helpful Ques
- Composite Community Workshop Map with Ideas + Comments

Part III

Opportunities for further study

- Survey Monkey
- ArcGIS Online Mapping
- How these services could be paired for maximum results

Part I

Brainerd Community Planning Workshop 31 May, 2014

Community Ideas Summary by Category + Additional Comments

Describes the ideas that the community wrote down on their ballot and the additional comments written on the back side of their ballot

Access

Add access points on DNR-CLC bluff line
New Trail w/ bridge across 1st island
Observation Deck with viewing scope next to bridge by fire hall
More biking trail access
Visual access and key water access points for canoes
Amenities by paper mill
Fishing piers
River crossing
Connection to downtown
Multi use access [i.e. bike, snowmobile, crossing
Between river and downtown
River walk and bike trails along river
Connect with Franklin Arts Center
Need steps/ramps down to river where sidewalks and trails cross
Lake #2 portage priority

Community Gathering

Amphitheater for music or Chautauqua
Spots near CLC/College Dr. /City Hall/Athletic Fields
Weekly "Movie by the River" night
Large picnic gathering
Develop south end into center of Mississippi River Partnership Plan project; add parking + visitor center
Public amphitheater for events
Community Garden
Community Auditorium

Public open air plaza

Move fire department and use as interpretive center + performing arts

A few gathering spots would be ideal

Public amphitheater

Take advantage of the college on one side + high school on the other side

Attractions

Metal Sculpture Park along the trail – depict Brainerd history and nature

Weekly farmers' market/arts fair

Interpretive signs and trails in zone 3

Bird Sanctuary

Move war memorial to riverfront

Add a peace officer memorial

Parks + gathering areas along the river

Bird Sanctuary

Fishing pier

Snack shops

Splash park for kids

Art – sculptures

Food and entertainment!

River boardwalk

Splash park for kids

Concession stand

Rec equipment rentals

Performing arts center

Amphitheater showing Brainerd as a cultural arts center

Trails

Trail on DNR-College side

Pedestrian/Bike Bridge

Trail to P.B./River Trails

Ability to cross major intersections safely

Hand build hiking trail starting north of Washington Bridge to allow more natural interaction with river

Trail for kids

Skiing on trails during the winter

Gathering areas along trail systems – playgrounds, etc.

Hiking trail

Walking trails

Running – 5K, 10K races, etc.

Designated/separate trails for walking and bikes (wheels)

No asphalt – Class 5

Extend trails as far north and south as possible

Connect destinations

Paved trails w/ connections to other trails

Create trail maps to pick up at trailhead or visitor center – way finding purposes

Economic Opportunity

Destination quality food

Restaurant on river with patio seating

Convention center in an already developed location

Opportunity for food trucks (multiple at one time)

Restaurant along the river

Should not be commercial development on river

Allow dates for art/craft market alongside river walk

Enhance downtown

Pub/Restaurant

Riverfront Condos

Amphitheater by library to be another anchor in town – partner with school

Other

H.R.A. high rise turned into condos with restaurant or brew pub on top – patio with glass walls

Purchase paper mill and develop as city park with different amenities like kayak/canoe rental, fishing piers, playground, etc.

Keep river in natural state

Long riverside trail with a connection to the Dairy Queen

Environmental learning center in Rotary Park (outdoor classrooms)

Bug control

Ensure resources available to handle increased traffic, parking, and use demands
Money to cover maintenance
A bridge connecting river trails and CLC
Brand “old town” with signage, flowers, etc. Don’t do on the cheap.
All ideas should reinforce a central “identity” for Brainerd as an arts/culture/nature center

Additional Comments:

Yes, agree to relocate dog park: nice space, but could be better utilized – like the dog park too
Bayfront Park Duluth

What resonates is Brainerd as Gateway to Mississippi, Mississippi River is the attraction itself.
Use the river for tours, services, recreation, etc.

Can Brainerd afford maintenance costs

We love the dog park, but feel it is a good idea in a bad location. Its current spot is a real high
value area better suited for human enjoyment.

Relocate dog park near community gardens?

Would like trail access to dam – trail from bluff or down on the river, parallel to RR tracking
leading into paper mill. Extend park near mill to dam and make it nice like in Little Falls.

Hedge maze?

Overlay local transit, on street bike corridors, state + local trails to identify connectivity to the
river from all of those modalities

Visual access from the bridge at 210 to river on both sides “arrival gateways” on both ends of
bridge, solar powered lighting @ various attraction points to create “sparkle”, all-season
attractions, indoor and outdoor aspects to each attraction, boom lake as public
groomed skating rink.

Brainerd Community Planning Workshop 31 May, 2014

Map Token Summary by Category

Describes tokens on the map and where they were spatially placed

Attractions:

Zone 1:

- Art, food, entertainment to be located across from Firestation on Eastbank corner of Mississippi and Laurel St. (55)
- River visitors center, located north of Washington (found on Econ. Map, (5))

Zone 2:

- Build/move Brainerd War Memorial from downtown to River Front, tie in with 4th of July, suggested location is proximal to overflow parking by HS fields. (12)
- River boat tours. Open river to navigation. (68)
- Performing arts center/community auditorium, located in CLC forest node south of College Dr. (4 & 61)
- Bird watching (noted on "Trails") (52)
- Vista! Small park, west bank across from HS overflow parking (noted on "Gathering Space") (54)

Zone 3:

- Bandshell, located south of Boom Lake (10 & 7)
- Amphitheater/performing arts, located south of Boom Lake (9)
- Splash Park (7 & 11)
- Parks, paddling on the river, south of Boom Lake (67)
- Weekly farmers market and arts fair, 1500' south of Boom Lake (15)
- Viewing bridge at south island (1)
- Sculpture Park along Rotary Trails depicting history or nature of area (64, 6 & 14)
- Interpretive signs along trails (6)
- River Board walk/wooden trails throughout area (14 & 13)
- Bird sanctuary (14)
- Hwy 371 (Change) Signage to historic Brainerd and Attractions to River (3)
- 5k and 10k running in wetlands (noted on "Other") (8)

Gathering Space:

Zone 1:

- River Visitor's Center, with cruise boat access, west bank north of Washington (5)
- great public event sign location, east bound across Washington (65)
- Town square, picnic, snack shop, east bank south of Washington (61)
- repurpose fire department to use as interpretive center (66)

Zone 2:

- Birding club (center?), Flowers, wetland must. (sic.) (noted on "Trails") (13)

- Community garden, located on existing high rise locale (52)
- Amphitheater by CLC forest node or in the HS athletic field complex (64)
- Amphitheater, gardens, bigger library, located in the HS athletic field complex (7)
- walking access at a few spots along river around College bridge (55)
- Performing arts center and community auditorium (4)
- splash park, south of Boom Lake (8)

Zone 3:

- Overlook (noted on “Access”) (9)
- bonfire locations along river walk (1)
- public amphitheater, public gathering space, north end of wetlands trails (67)
- develop area into center of projects (wetlands) parking, visitor’s center, etc. (12)

Economic Opportunity:

Zone 1:

- river boat tours/water taxi service (68)
- brew pubs with overlook, west bank north of Washington (9)
- develop trail access to Dairy Queen on east bank across Washington (4)

Zone 2:

- micro brewery, across Laurel from fire station (1)
- connect downtown core to river edge along Laurel (55)
- amphitheater in north east corner of HS fields (8)
- repurpose highrise on bluff to condos (5)
- convention center repurposed from something else, do not develop natural areas, also near high-rise (6)
- Brew pub east bank south of Laurel (noted on “Gathering Spaces”) (54)

Parking below High-rise—

- destination-quality food and beverage in outdoor patio on river (64)
- Brew pub w/ patio (10)
- Food truck plaza (12)

west bank—

- Restaurant on the river. (67)
- Loosen zoning to allow more B&B’s (14)
- performing arts center and amphitheater, CLC forest node (61)
- convention center and restaurant, CLC forest node (7)
- no commercial development, CLC forest node (52)

Zone 3:

Boom Lake area—

- shack shops and kayak rental (62)
- allow craft market along river walk (11)
- no commercial development, south east of Boom Lake (noted on “Trails”) (67)

Access:

Zone 1:

- Above dam canoe portage area (2)
- Landing, east bank north of Washington bridge (62)
- River walk, signs and overlooks, east bank between Laurel and Washington (61)
- Observation deck by Laurel bridge, next to firehall, with viewing scope (6)
- add train parking and access, west bank just north of rail bridge (12)

Zone 2:

- system of signs (along river?) detailing businesses and directing toward downtown, along Laurel (14)
- Access between downtown and river along Laurel (55)
- Look over river deck, restaurant, at current high-rise locale (7)
- Pub/restaurant, HS over flow parking locale (8)
- increase navigation on river, use water taxi for service (68)
- Trolley Car from downtown to river front visitors center/performing arts center (5)

Boom Lake area—

- boats, canoes, kayaks (1)
- docks, landing (9)
- dock (52)
- birding/flowers set staging area for trips into wild (13)

Zone 3:

- #1 visual access, #2 water access (67)
- multiple fishing piers, east bank (4)
- multi-use crossing, bike, per., snowmobile, just north of first island (11)
- create access at DNR/CLC bluff line, trail and bridge across at island (64)
- river crossing, at first island (66)

Trails:

Zone 1:

- develop river crossing east/west bike/ped corridor Lum Park and Baxter School (sic.) (65)
- hiking trail on east bank north of Washington (54), “hand built trails” (6)
- trail development east bank north of Laurel (8)
- “Bog” walk Dairy Queen to High School, across zones 1 and 2 (7)

Zone 2:

- designated bike/wheeled trail on east bank between Laurel and College (4)
- connect Cuyuna Rec Area to Paul Bunyan trail at river along College drive (64)
- connect all, Boom Lake as knot-for-all-city-trails (?) (55)
- with stopping points and benches, south of Boom Lake (62)
- Gathering areas off trails, south of Boom Lake (67)

Zone 3:

- No asphalt, class 5, north end of wetland trails (66)

- Trail for, and across, at island (72)
- paved, gravel and interpretive (61)
- potential winter skiing trail through and around wetlands (12)
- extend trails as far south and north as possible, with arrow showing linkage to southern Island (11)
- Birding Opportunity (noted on “Gathering Space”) (9)

Other:

Zone 1:

- Develop a park, cool public access at Dam or at Boat Ramp (noted on “Attractions”)
- develop dam/mill into interactive museum (12)
- community/access: purchase paper mill and develop as city park (6)
- bike access, east bank north of Washington (54)
- amenities by paper mill (52)

Zone 2:

- Overlook, west bank across from HS overflow parking (noted on “Trails”)
- fishing piers, at least three, west bank north of first island (noted on “Access”) (4)
- pub and food River and Laurel (8)
- Housing: turn high-rise into condos with a restaurant on top (64)
- Bike rental station beside library (1)
- connect with Franklin art center (via?) trolley, HS over flow parking (61)
- pedestrian swing bridge over river, adjacent HS over flow parking (7)
- adequate parking and congestion management at Boom Lake, north end (11)

Zone 3:

- bug control, south of Boom Lake (66)
- do not alter natural flow of river (13)

Urban Connectivity:

Attractions Map:

- walking access from CLC to CLC forest node
- walking access between high school and CLC forest node
- walking access between downtown and CLC forest node
- west bank, create River Banner Corridor road from Washington in the north to College in the south, along NW 4th/SW 4th St.
- “gateway” pieces on Washington bridge
- remove Washington concrete barriers replace with fences
- Washington bridge location of visitors center
- boat access on west bank just north of Washington bridge

Economic Opportunities Map:

- restaurant/bar north of Washington
- boat access north of Washington

- Downtown to River connection corridor along Laurel
- boat access from CLC forest node

Trails Map:

- new trail on west bank through CLC forest south of College and down past first Island
- connection across river at first Island
- connection from east bank, south end of Wetland Trails to second Island

Access Map:

- Vehicle river corridor on west bank along SW 4th St. from Laurel to and into CLC forest node
- River Visitor's center north west of Washington bridge
- west bank boat access at rail bridge connected to new walking trail
- trolly network to stitch downtown urban fabric to river edge fabric

Other Map:

- CLC/DNR research center
- focused corridor connections north and south of study area along Mississippi
- focused corridor connections east along Washington and Laurel

Gathering Space Map:

- walking access CLC to CLC forest node
- amphitheater at CLC forest node
- Boom Lake—CLC forest node—HS—athletic fields connected pedestrian ways
- east and west bound signage along Washington bridge

Part II

Community Workshop Composite Map Explanation

The composite map from the community workshop combines the thoughts, stickers, and spatial relationships that were derived from the community thinking exercise at the workshop.

There are multiple layers and degrees of detail within this map. These degrees of detail will be described from broad detail to finite detail.

To begin, you will recognize the 3 character zones established from previous steering committee meetings. [Zone 1 – north of Laurel St, business focus; zone 2 – Laurel St to South Boom Lake, community focus; zone 3 – South of Boom Lake into Wetlands, naturalistic focus]

Second, you will see that there are outlined polygons (colored to indicate character zone shifts). These outlined polygons were derived from significant concentrations of community input. These areas are highlighted from the greater Brainerd study area by number of comments and interest. Each of the polygons is labeled with a letter to distinguish it from the others.

Now looking closer, you will see text adjacent to each of the lettered polygons [areas of distinction]. This text specifies comments and written notes from the stickers and the ballot sheets filled out by community members during the workshop.

Through your exploration and review of this map, you will begin to see patterns and areas of distinction that are more popular than others. It will be your job as a steering committee to prioritize these ideas and their spatial locations within the Brainerd study area.

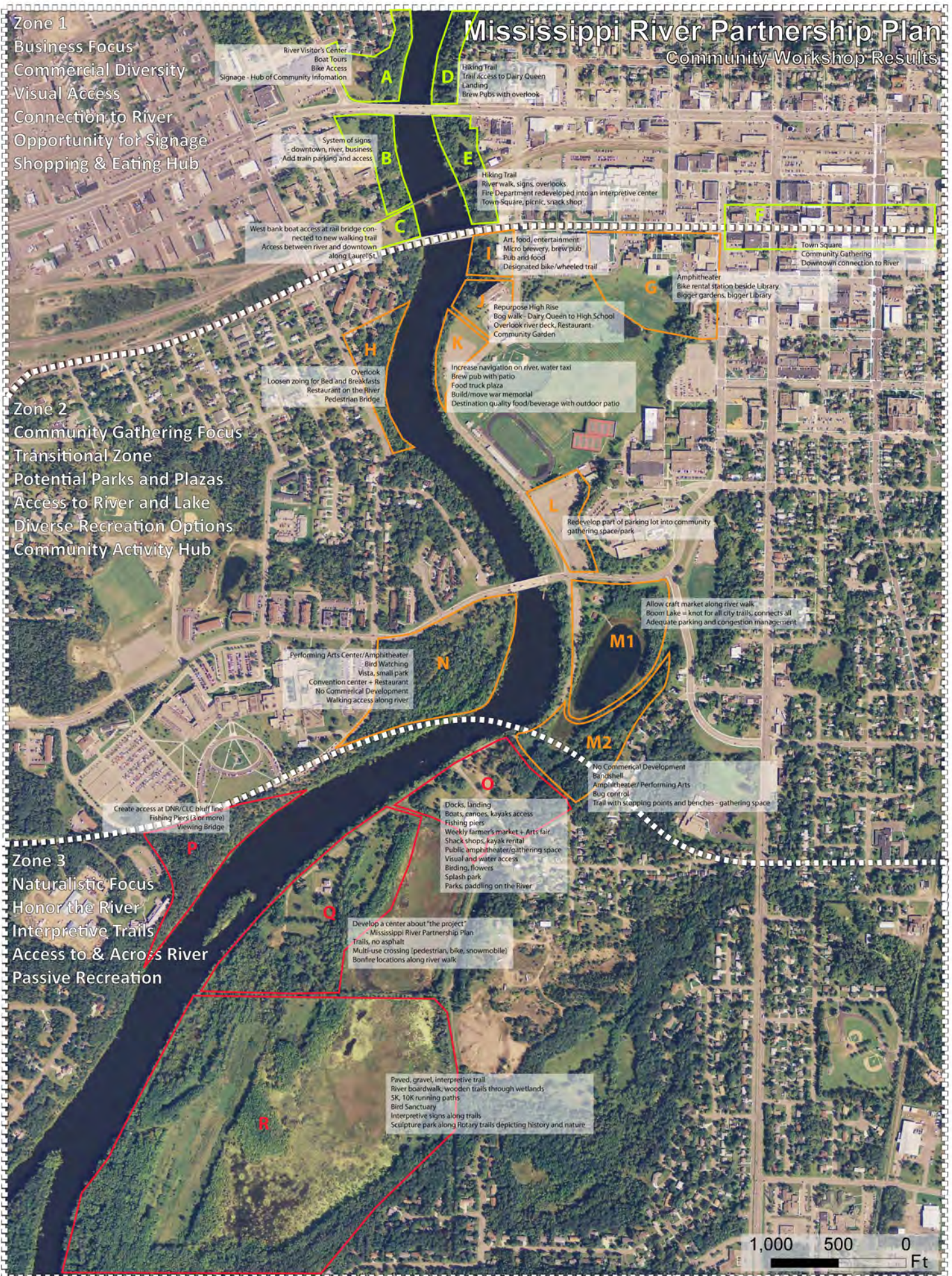
Mississippi River Partnership Plan

Community Workshop Results

Zone 1
 Business Focus
 Commercial Diversity
 Visual Access
 Connection to River
 Opportunity for Signage
 Shopping & Eating Hub

Zone 2
 Community Gathering Focus
 Transitional Zone
 Potential Parks and Plazas
 Access to River and Lake
 Diverse Recreation Options
 Community Activity Hub

Zone 3
 Naturalistic Focus
 Honor the River
 Interpretive Trails
 Access to & Across River
 Passive Recreation



Part III

Survey Monkey

Survey Monkey is a very helpful online tool. It allows you to create a short survey, send it to a pool of people and then track the results very efficiently.

Below is a screen shot of a potential question page if a Survey Monkey survey were to be made in order to help the community prioritize issues. The source material for these questions is simply derived from the page of input in Part I of this summary packet.

Brainerd Mississippi River Partnership Plan Ideas

Ideas Relating to Access

The following ideas were gathered at the Community Workshop in Brainerd on Saturday, May 31st. Please indicate your favorite idea. You have the option to add a new idea as well.

1. Which do you like best?

- ☐ add access points on DNR-CLC bluff line
- ☐ new trail with bridge across 1st island
- ☐ observation deck with viewing scope next to bridge by fire hall
- ☐ more biking trail access
- ☐ visual access and key water access points for canoes
- ☐ amenities by paper mill
- ☐ fishing piers
- ☐ connection to downtown
- ☐ multi use access [i.e. bike, snowmobile, pedestrian crossing]
- ☐ connection and access between river and downtown
- ☐ river walk and bike trails along river
- ☐ connect with Franklin Arts Center
- ☐ need steps/ramps down to river where sidewalks and trails cross
- ☐ lake #2 portage priority

Other (please specify)

Next

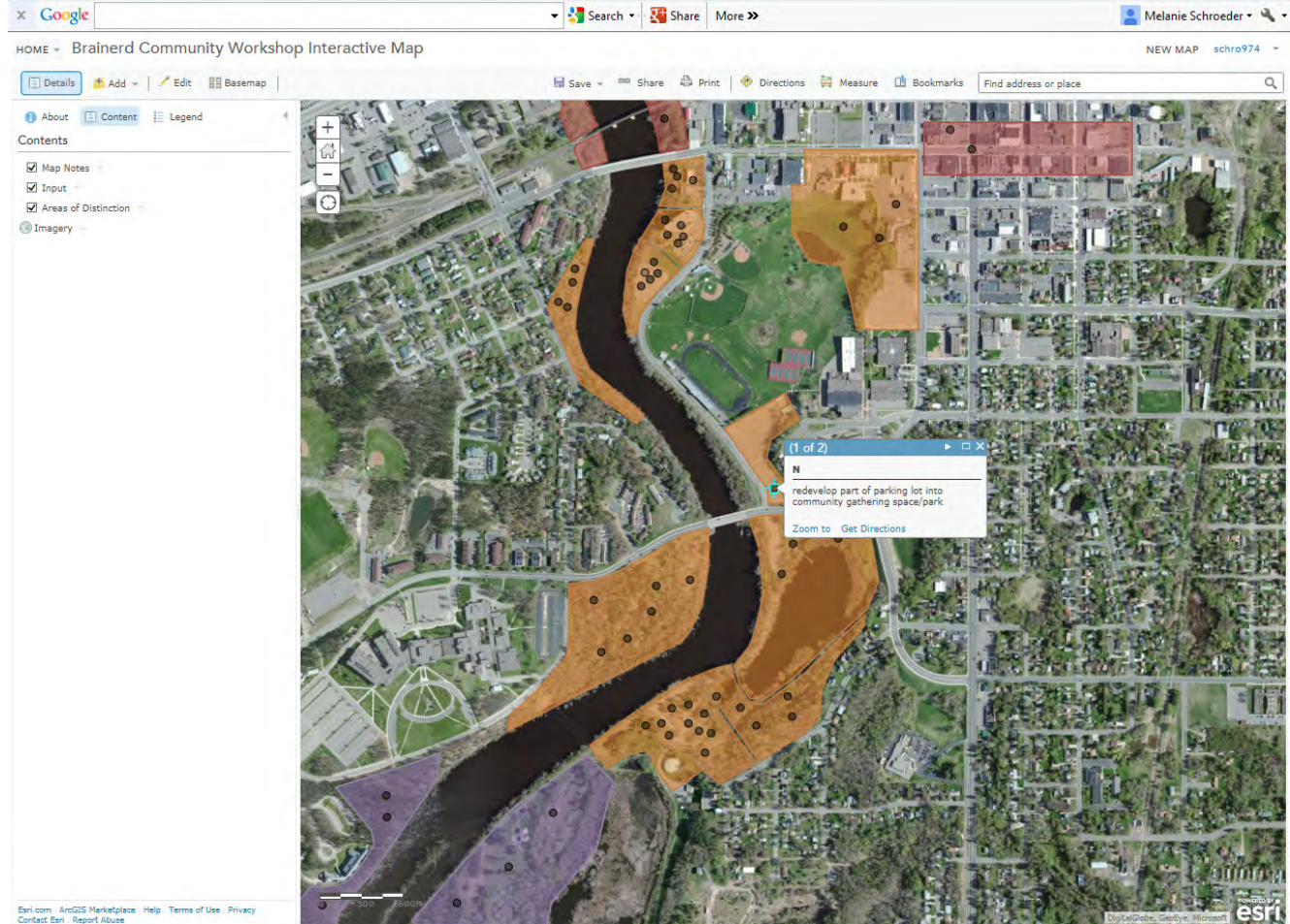
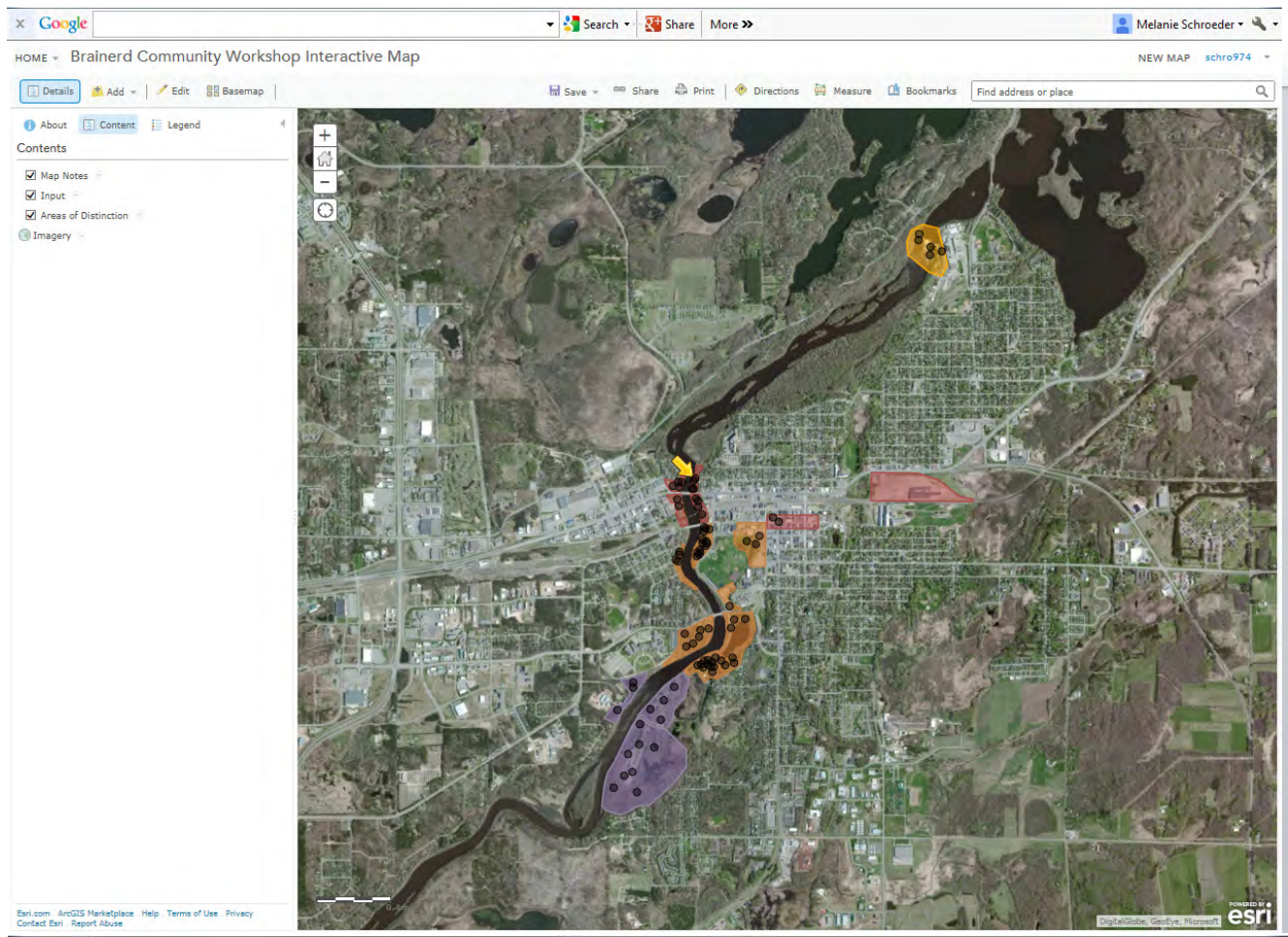
ArcGIS Online Mapping

ArcGIS mapping software was originally confined to desktop software subscription, but has recently launched the online program. You do not need to have an account to interact with a map made from this online tool. You only need an account if you were to make and customize your own map.

On the next page is a screen shot of a potential digitized map of the Brainerd Community Workshop Composite Map you viewed in Part II of this packet using the ArcGIS Online Mapping tool. This map will behave very similarly to Google Maps, with the ability to zoom in, zoom out, move around the screen, and click on things for descriptions/details; but it will also have capabilities far beyond that.

This map will allow the user to turn layers and features on and off in order to hide certain things from view. It will also allow active editing -- meaning that a community member who visits the map online would be able to add information and comments to the existing map.

Survey Monkey and ArcGIS online mapping can also be incredibly helpful by working together to obtain all types of information and feedback from the community. On the last page of this packet, you will find a sample e-mail that discloses how these tools would be paired for optimum results.



Sample document disclosing the details of the online map and complimentary survey

Utilizing ArcGIS online mapping and Survey Monkey as a post-engagement follow up exercise

Dear Brainerd community members,

We want to extend our thanks to you for participating in the Community Workshop for the Mississippi River Partnership Plan. It was our pleasure hosting the Community Workshop on Saturday, May 31st, partnering with Center for Rural Design and the National Park Service. It was exciting to see members of our community actively participating in the design process that will influence Brainerd's future goals and vision for upcoming generations.

As a follow up to the community engagement achieved at the workshop, we would like to share with you an online, interactive map that displays the results. The map can be found on the City of Brainerd website, or you can easily navigate to the map by clicking on the link below.

LINK

The map shows information in three levels. The largest, most zoomed out level indicates the "character zones" that were described at the Community Workshop. Looking closer, the map shows distinct areas where input was concentrated. These "areas of distinction" hold the ideas you relayed at the workshop. You will have the chance to see specific ideas within these areas, though the exact placement of the idea within the area of distinction has no hierarchy and is not exact.

The map will allow you to edit and add additional comments. There is an example of how to format these comments on the map, indicated by a bright yellow arrow. We hope that your exploration and review of the map will solidify the ideas it conveys. After looking at the map, you may click on the second link below, which will take you to a 10 minute online survey where you will vote for your favorite ideas (they will be listed to remind you).

LINK

We thank you again for your invaluable input in this process. As equal members of this community, we hope that a design process that involves everyone will result in planning that will uphold expectations and serve the needs of Brainerd's community for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Mississippi River Partnership Plan
Steering Committee
City of Brainerd





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This publication is available in alternative formats upon request. Please contact the Center for Rural Design at the above number.