

MN-MRPC/MN Great River Road All-American Road Nomination 2020



Capturing the Magic

Travel writer William Least Heat Moon's library contains over 2,000 travel books. Of those about rivers, most are all or partially about the Mississippi. He asks readers to "consider all the reasons you can come up with" for why this is so, but in the end, he concludes, you "still you must face the inevitable: The Mississippi has an encompassing mystique no other American river exerts, ..." It is this "encompassing mystique" that compels so many people from around the country and the world to seek the Great River.

Intrinsic Qualities

Historic, Scenic

The 565-mile Minnesota Great River Road National Scenic Byway showcases evolving river landscapes with 40+ cities hosting river exploration. Residents and tourists are invited to experience over 700 Mississippi River historic, scenic, recreational, cultural, natural and archaeological features.

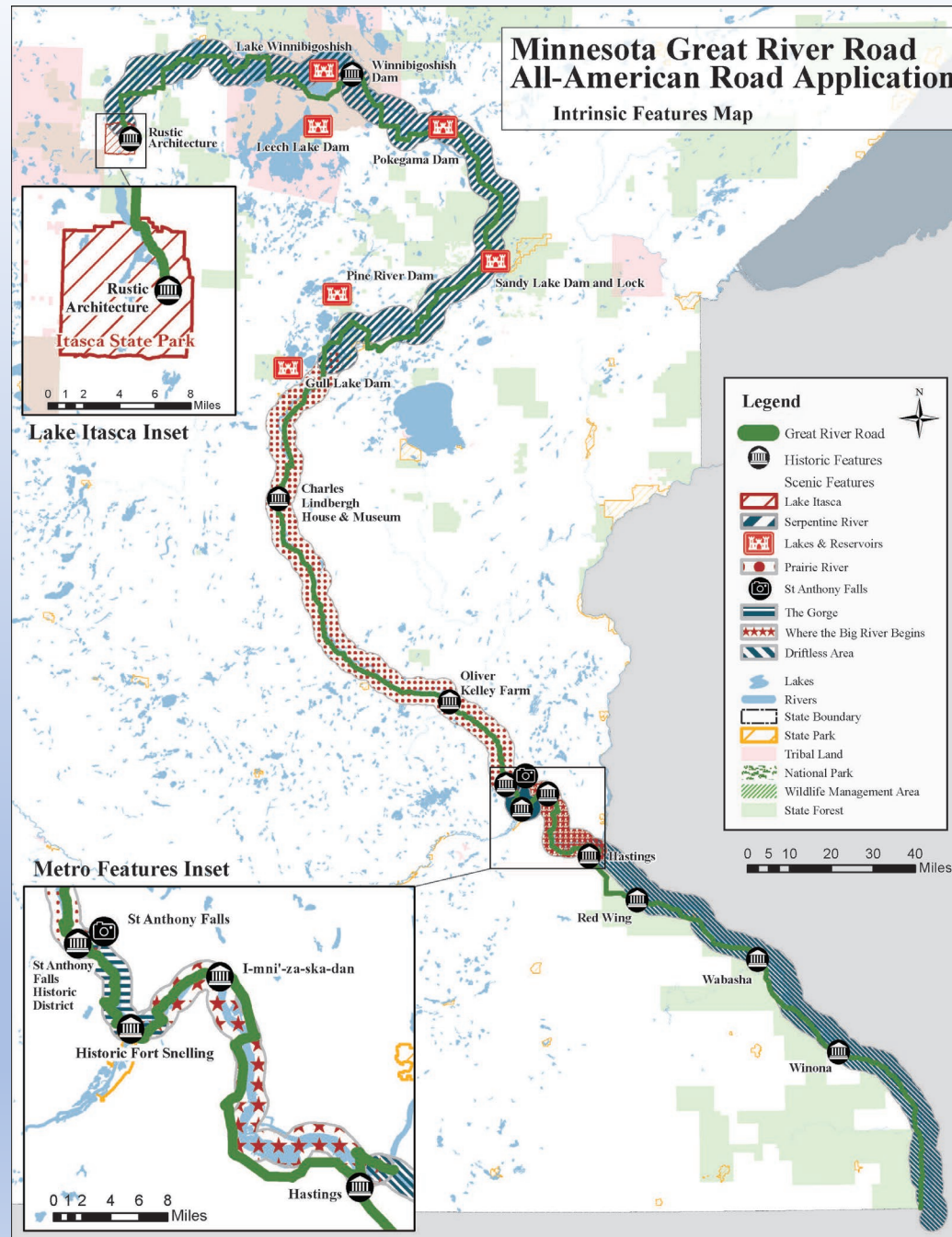
Minnesota's historic and scenic features were highlighted in the All-American Road nomination.

Full listing of things to see & do available at www.mnmississippiriver.com



Intrinsic Features Mapping

Courtesy of MnDOT



Project Involvement

- Project endorsement and ongoing feedback from MN-MRPC
- Project Team – Carol Zoff and Suzy Scotty, MnDOT; John Anfinson, National Park Service; David Kelliher, MN Historical Society; Chris Miller, MN-MRPC
- Photos – Explore Minnesota; MnDOT; MN Department of Natural Resources; National Park Service; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mississippi Headwaters Board; MN-MRPC

Scenic – Eight Unique Reaches of River

Nowhere along its 2,552-mile course does the Mississippi River change more than in Minnesota. The river matures through eight distinct reaches, each with its own mystique. Lake Itasca

- Serpentine River
- Headwaters Lakes & Reservoirs
 - Prairie River
 - St. Anthony Falls
 - The Gorge
- Where the Big River Begins
 - Driftless area

Historic – Telling the Stories

- Rustic Structures of Itasca State Park
 - Headwaters Dams
- Charles A. Lindbergh House & Museum
 - Oliver Kelley Farm
- St. Anthony Falls Historic District
 - Dayton's Bluff
 - Historic Fort Snelling
 - River Towns

Scenic Highlights

The Iconic Headwaters



Mississippi River at Dayton



Scenic Highlights

Minneapolis Lowry Bridge



St. Anthony Falls



Scenic Highlights

St. Paul Riverfront



Fort Snelling State Park



Scenic Highlights

Lake Pepin



Driftless Blufftop View



Historic Highlights

Douglas Lodge – Itasca State Park



Pokegama Dam



Historic Highlights

Charles A. Lindbergh House & Museum



Oliver Kelley Farm



Historic Highlights

**St. Anthony Falls Historic District,
Minneapolis**



Historic Fort Snelling



Historic Highlights

Mounds Park/Dayton's Bluff



Historic River Town - Winona



Letters of Support

Categories -

- State Scenic Byways Office
- MN-MRPC Commission Members and Advisors
- Federal Land Management Agencies
- City Mayor
- Local Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Ten-State Great River Road Partners



All-American Road Nomination Letters of Support

State Scenic Byways Office

Minnesota Scenic Byways Commission

MN Mississippi River Parkway Commission Members and Advisors

Sen. David Senjem, Chair

MN Department of Agriculture

Explore Minnesota Tourism

MN Historical Society

MN Department of Natural Resources

MN Department of Transportation

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area – National Park Service

Federal Land Management Agencies

Chippewa National Forest

Upper Mississippi Wildlife & Fish Refuge

City Mayor

City of St. Cloud

Local Convention & Visitors Bureau

Visit Grand Rapids

Ten State Great River Road Partners

Mississippi River Country

Claasen Communications Germany/Austria/Switzerland

Connect-Worldwide Japan

AVIAREPS China

Cellet Marketing & Public Relations UK

Great Lakes USA

Next Steps

- Utilize “Scenic Features” content for Drive the Great River Road Month
- Patiently await notification from Federal Highway Administration by end of 2020
- Prepare to celebrate with partner states

