

# Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund 2018 Request for Proposals (RFP)

**Project Title:****ENRTF ID: 214-G**

Mississippi Riverfront Redevelopment Project

**Category:** G. Land Acquisition, Habitat and Recreation**Total Project Budget:** \$ 1,000,000**Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested:** 3 years, July 2018 to June 2021**Summary:**

The City of Brainerd is requesting a \$1,000,000 grant for the preliminary and final design of the Three Bridges Trail, Phase 1 of the Mississippi Redevelopment Project.

**Name:** Jim Thoreen**Sponsoring Organization:** City of Brainerd**Address:** 501 Laurel St  
Brainerd MN 56401**Telephone Number:** (218) 828-2307**Email** jthoreen@ci.brainerd.mn.us**Web Address** www.ci.brainerd.mn.us | www.brainerdriverfront.org**Location****Region:** Central**County Name:** Crow Wing**City / Township:** Brainerd**Alternate Text for Visual:**

The map shows a two mile corridor of the Mississippi River, which is the focus of the Mississippi Redevelopment Project, from Buffalo Creek northward to Washington Street. It shows connections from this project's Three Bridges Trail to existing Buffalo Hills Trail, Cuyuna Lakes Trail and Paul Bunyan Trail. It also shows how the Three Bridges Trail fits into the overall larger project of the Mississippi Riverfront Redevelopment project.

_____ Funding Priorities	_____ Multiple Benefits	_____ Outcomes	_____ Knowledge Base
_____ Extent of Impact	_____ Innovation	_____ Scientific/Tech Basis	_____ Urgency
_____ Capacity	_____ Readiness	_____ Leverage	_____ TOTAL _____%



## **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**

### **2018 Main Proposal**

**Project Title:** Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail

#### **(2 page limit) I. PROJECT STATEMENT**

The City of Brainerd is seeking a \$1,000,000 LCCMR grant for the completion of plans and specifications, final design and construction of the Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail. This trail will be non-motorized and will be constructed along the banks of the Mississippi River from College Drive north to Washington Street (see attached map). Portions of it, approximately 2,000 lineal feet, will be elevated. The trail will connect the southern section of the Paul Bunyan State Trail to the Cuyuna Lakes State Trail. The Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail will also link the Buffalo Hills Trail, Rotary Park, Boom Lake, Kiwanis Park, Buster Dog Park, Brainerd High School, downtown, and ultimately the Brainerd Industrial Center (again, see attached map). Very preliminary cost estimates for the construction of this project is \$15,000,000. The City of Brainerd is actively pursuing funding for the construction portion of this project from the State Bonding Bill, Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission, Greater Minnesota Transportation Program, Minnesota DNR Trail Programs, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation and funds from local private businesses/individuals. The City of Brainerd anticipates to begin construction on the elevated portion of this trail in July 2020.

The vision for this project began after a group of citizens in the Brainerd Area participated in a Blandin Community Leadership Program in 2010. This group identified the development of the Mississippi Riverfront as a priority project and commissioned the Brainerd-Baxter Mississippi Riverfront Vision Plan, which led to the Mississippi River Partnership Plan that focused on a two mile corridor of the Mississippi River. This two mile corridor will be developed as a natural resource based recreation area. Access to this area via the Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail will provide a high-quality recreational experience to a nationally significant, natural resource – the Mississippi River. The recreation area will allow users to experience the Mississippi River way of life, filled with history, natural beauty and remarkable adventure. There will be spaces for quiet relaxation and passive recreation, such as bird watching, as well as opportunities for the more active adventure seekers. Additionally, there will be opportunities to learn about the importance of the Mississippi River and its regional importance and impact. Natural, historical, ecological and economical importance of this great resource will be shared through interpretive stations. Additional improvements, developments and activities that will attract users include: trails, plazas, outdoor amphitheater, picnicking area, canoeing, fishing, hiking, skating, sledding, cross country skiing and a cultural/environmental learning center.

The development of this project will also help to preserve a regionally significant and diverse natural and historical landscape. The Mississippi River is one of the world's major river systems in size, habitat diversity and biological productivity. The River has at least 260 species of fish, 40% of the nation's migratory waterfowl use the river corridor, and sixty percent of all North American birds (326 species) use the Mississippi River Basin. The Brainerd Riverfront will offer a varied mix of built and natural settings as it transitions from the floodplain forests and wetlands of Buffalo Creek and Rotary Park northward to the established Kiwanis Park, Brainerd High School and downtown Brainerd. This area encompasses over 50 acres with the opportunity for expansion.

This vision/project has been a cooperative effort that includes the Brainerd Riverfront Committee, the Brainerd HRA, City of Brainerd, Minnesota Center for Rural Design Team, University of Minnesota, Blandin Foundation, Brainerd Lake Area Community Foundation, area cities, Crow Wing County, Visit Brainerd, Brainerd Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce, Region Five Development Commission, Central Lakes College, Brainerd School District and the Initiative Foundation.



## Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)

### 2018 Main Proposal

**Project Title:** Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail

## II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

**Activity 1:** Project engineering, Design, Staking and Construction Administration for the Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail Project **Budget: \$1,000,000**

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Preliminary Design	December 2018
2. Cost Estimates	December 2018
3. Silva Culture Management	June 2019
4. Final Design	December 2019
5. Agency Permits Secured	February 2020

## III. PROJECT STRATEGY

### A. Project Team/Partners

City of Brainerd – Project Owners and Project Management – Not Receiving Funds

Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority – Not Receiving Funds

Riverfront Steering Committee – Project Oversight and Support – Not Receiving Funds

Minnesota Department Natural Resources – Oversight for Regulation Requirements – Not Receiving Funds

Community Lakes Central College – Technical Assistance – Not Receiving Funds

Consultants as needed for preliminary design, design and project management – Receiving Funds

### B. Project Impact and Long-Term Strategy

The short-term strategy for this project is to complete the design and then the construction of the Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail to provide a high quality nature and recreation experience for people of all ages and abilities. The completion of the trail helps to fulfill the long-term strategy as defined in the Mississippi River Partnership Plan (MRPP). The long term strategy within the MRPP was the culmination of vast public input including public meetings and surveys. Additionally, more than two dozen area residents were intimately involved in the creation of the MRPP. This long term strategy was built on these planning principles:

- Honor the Mississippi River as an irreplaceable natural, cultural, and economic resource
- 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

### C. Timeline Requirements

The design phase of this project will be completed as proposed in the project activities section of this application.

## 2018 Detailed Project Budget

Project Title: Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail

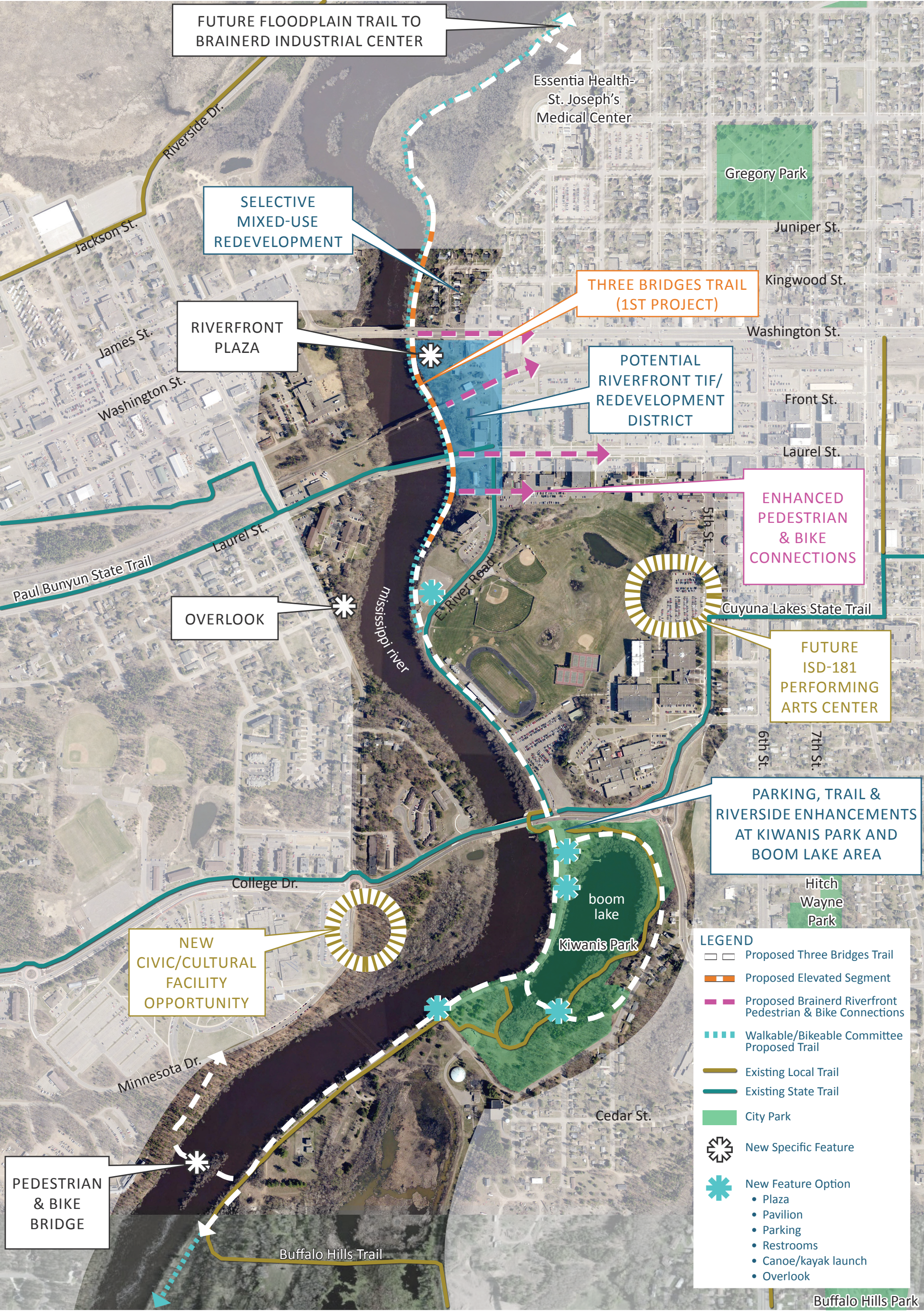
### IV. TOTAL ENRTF REQUEST BUDGET (3) years

<u>BUDGET ITEM</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts: Preliminary Design and Final Design for the Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail. Worked to be performed by a licensed, professional engineering firm.	\$930,000
	\$ 70,000
Silva Culture Management	
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
	\$ -
<b>TOTAL ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND \$ REQUEST =</b>	<b>\$ 1,000,000</b>

### V. OTHER FUNDS

<u>SOURCE OF FUNDS</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>Status</u>
Other Non-State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
Other State \$ To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
In-kind Services To Be Applied To Project During Project Period:	N/A	N/A
Past and Current ENRTF Appropriation:	N/A	N/A
Other Funding History: Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Difference Maker Grant	\$99,000	Secured





ELEVATED TRAIL



ON-GRADE TRAIL



GATHERING



OVERLOOK



SEATING/GATHERING

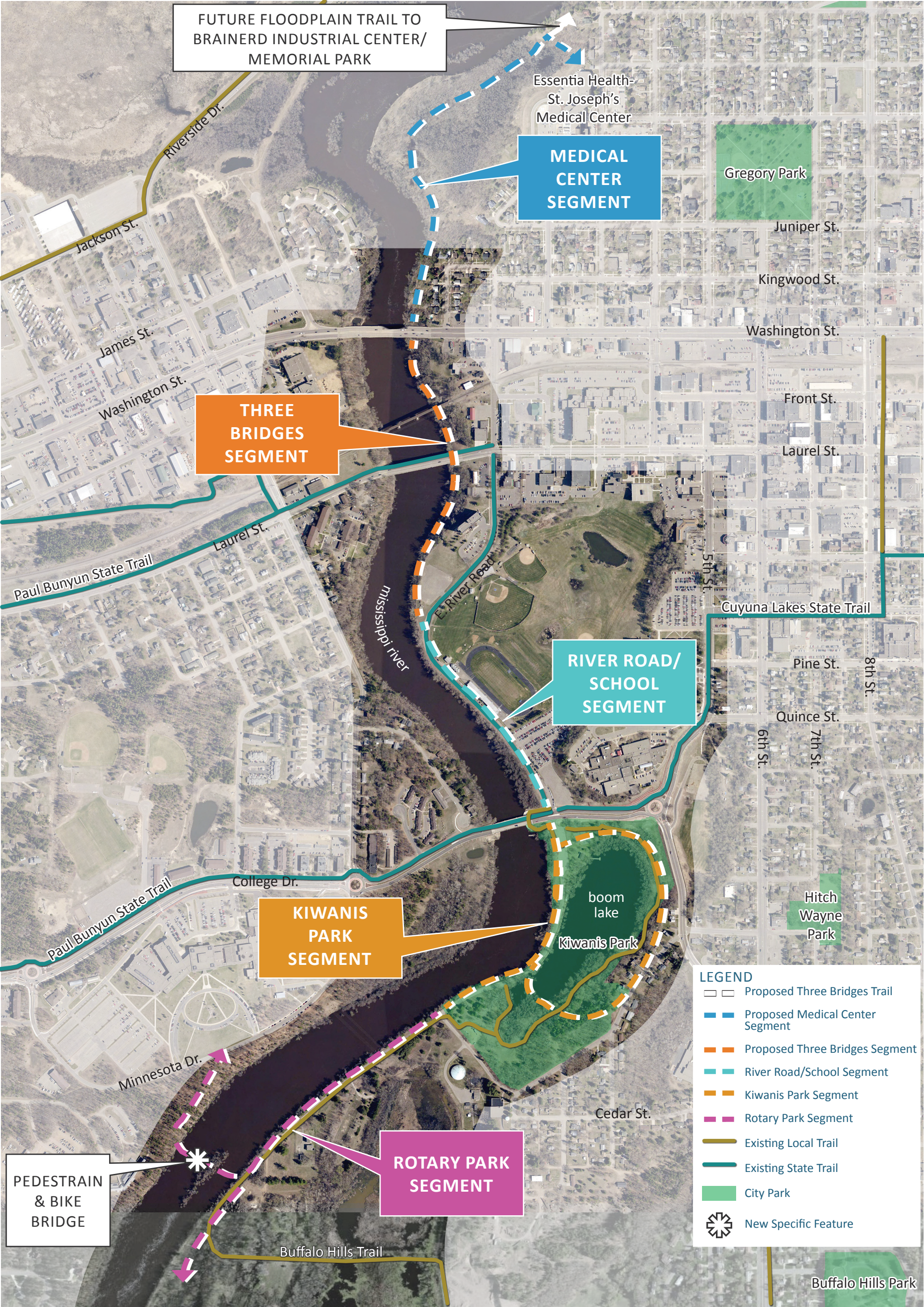


MARKER



BRainerd Riverfront  
3 BRIDGES TRAIL

BRainerd HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY  
NOVEMBER 29, 2016





**2018 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)**  
**PROJECT TITLE: Mississippi River Three Bridges Trail**

**Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**

**Project Manager Qualifications**

The overall manager for this project will be the City of Brainerd under the direction of the City Council and City Staff. The City of Brainerd is a state-aid city and as such has managed federal and state funding. Additional project oversight will come from the Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority which was named by the City Council as project administrator and oversight will come from the consulting engineer. City Administrator Jim Thoreen has been overseeing the development of this project since its initial inception and have many years of experience in overseeing large city projects.

**Organization Description**

The City of Brainerd was founded in 1870 and was incorporated in 1873. It is the county seat of Crow Wing County and is one of the largest cities in Central Minnesota. Brainerd is situated at a key location along the banks of the Mississippi River. 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 dam exists upstream, Brainerd is where the Mississippi grows big enough to be a working river.

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 river for about 2,000 miles. In Minnesota, the Mississippi is a fundamental part of the state’s image and heritage as well as a prized recreation asset.

The Brainerd Lakes Area is a well sought out tourism destination for residents throughout Minnesota and the nation. People enjoy water recreation, golf, hiking, biking and relaxation. Along with tourism, Brainerd has a well-rounded business community that includes manufacturing, logging, retail, commercial, and warehousing and distribution centers.

