Online at www.mnmississippiriver.com

Metro Mississippi

Local Playground, Continental River

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area is a 72-mile river park that has opportunities for fishing, boating, and canoeing. On its banks are excellent locations for birding, bicycling, and hiking. Although annually millions of people from around the globe come to see the Mississippi River, they are not the only visitors—40 percent of all North American waterfowl use the river as a migratory flyway, and 326 bird species (more than one-third of all species in North America) follow the flyway in their spring and fall migrations.

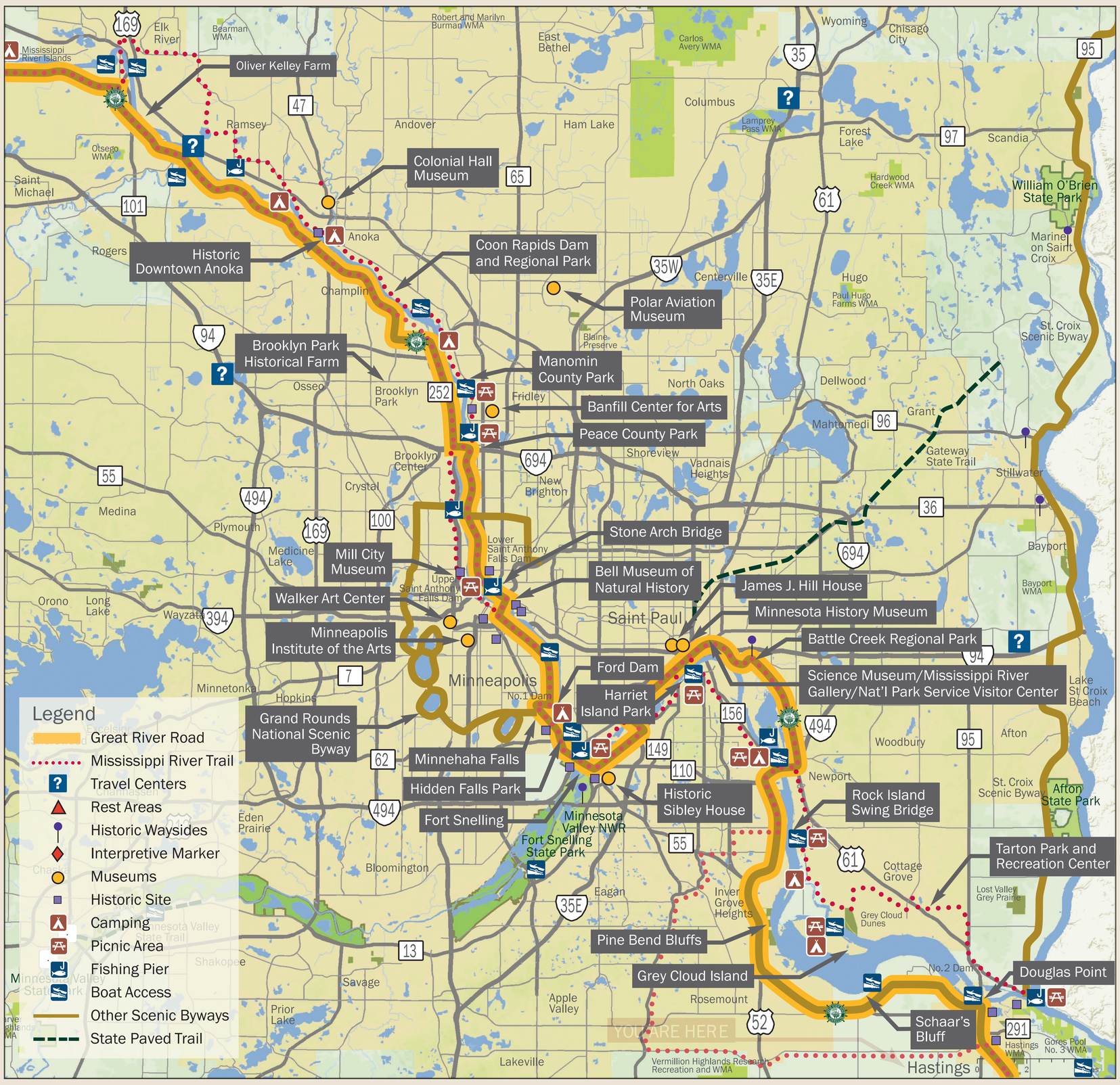
John H. Stevens Interpretive House

Historic Fort Snelling

In Between Twin Cities

While St. Paul was developing around shipping and transportation, Minneapolis, with its lumber and flour mills fueled by St. Anthony Falls, became an industrial giant. The social differences and the destinies of the two cities were firmly established by the mid-19th century. Today, you can discover the unique and diverse cultural and recreational opportunities that Minnesota's two largest and most vibrant urban communities offer.

Destination Area: Metro Mississippi



- Hastings serves as a host community for two Destination Areas: Metro Mississippi and Mississippi Bluffs.
- In Metro Mississippi, abundant parkland and trails will connect you to interesting places and events in the Twin Cities including world-class theaters, major and minor league sports, modern and classic museums, a wide range of concerts, dining and shopping.

St. Anthony Falls

- Discover the Falls of St. Anthony in downtown Minneapolis, the second largest potential source of water power (after Niagara Falls) in the continental United States.

Lock and Dam No. 1

- Natural rapids previously made navigating the Mississippi River to Minneapolis nearly impossible. The installation of locks and dams along the river made this a feasible option.

Explore the Great River Road and the Mississippi River Trail by following the routes marked by these signs:

Funding provided by FHWA National Scenic Byways, National Park Service, and Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Online at www.mnmississippiriver.com

Hastings, a Mississippi River Trail Community

Originally called Oliver's Grove after an early trading post, Hastings was established after the 1851 Mendota Treaty opened the area to white settlement. Hydropower from the falls of the Vermillion River was harnessed for an early mill that processed grain from the rich surrounding farmlands. Hastings became the Dakota County seat in 1857 and served as both a significant riverboat port as well as a regional railroad center in the 1870s and 1880s. The city's historic downtown area reflects its commercial importance.

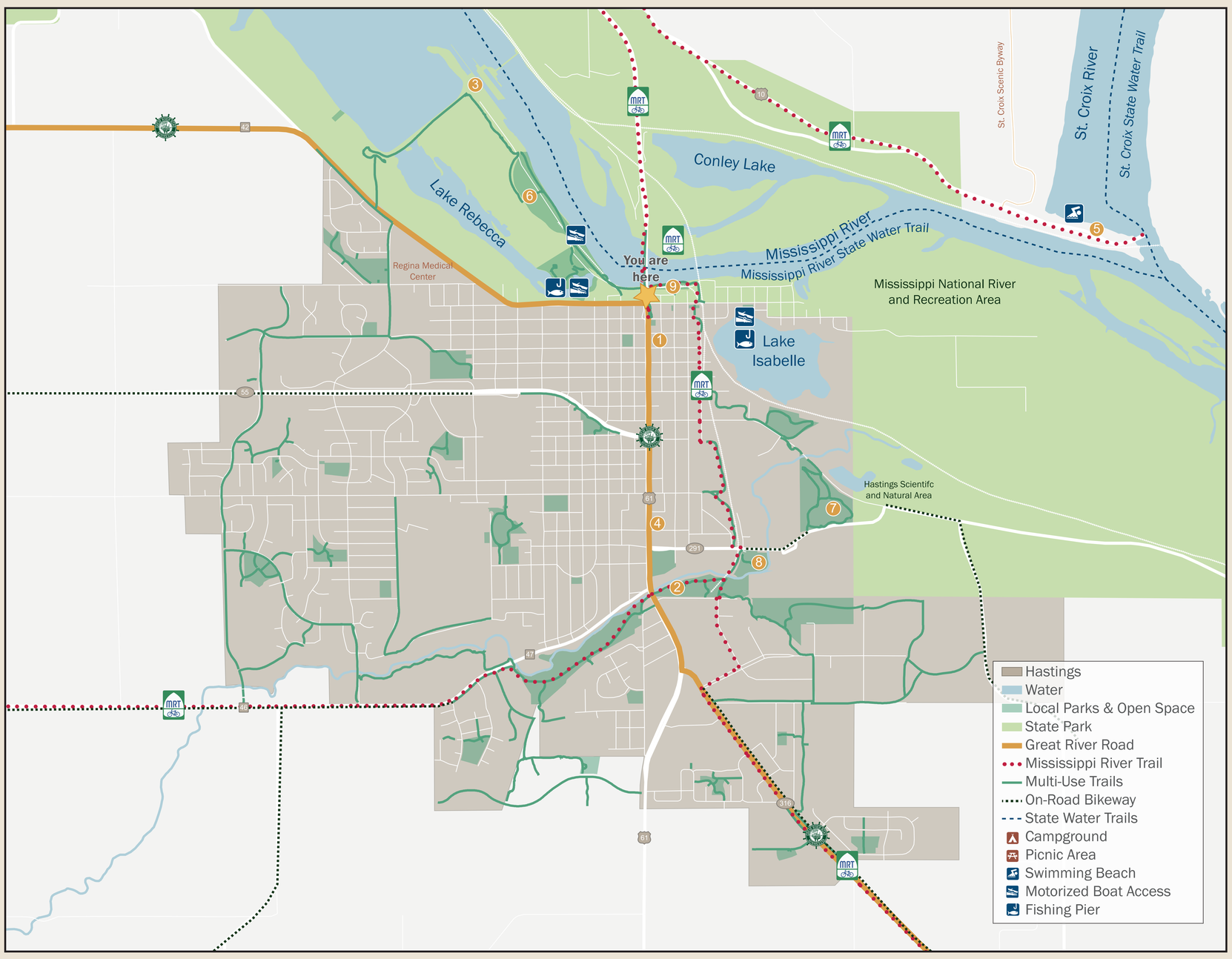
River Facts

The Hastings area lies near the upper boundary of the "Driftless Area," a section of the Mississippi River Valley untouched by Ice Age glaciers of the late Pleistocene Epoch. The dramatic bluffs along the river extending downstream into Iowa were carved not by glaciers, but by the river itself. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area begins at the confluence of the Crow River in Ramsey/Dayton in the north and flows to the confluence with the St. Croix River south of Hastings. This makes Hastings a southern gateway to this National Park, the MRT, and the Metro Mississippi Great River Road destination area. Enrich your National Park exploration at the *Mississippi River Visitor Center at 120 W. Kellogg Blvd in St. Paul, 21 miles northwest.*

Did you know?

Hastings was long known for its "spiral bridge" which was built in 1895 and remained in service until 1951. The spiral or helix at the south end enabled traffic to descend directly into the downtown area. The main span of the present bridge, which opened in June 2013, is the largest free-standing tied arch bridge in North America.

The City of Hastings



Attractions

1. Historic Walking, Bicycling, and Driving Tour
2. Vermillion Falls Park
3. Lock and Dam No. 2
4. LeDuc Historic Estate
5. Point Douglas Park
6. Lake Rebecca Park
7. C.P. Adams Park
8. Old Mill Park
9. Riverfront Crossings

Biking on the Mississippi River Trail (MRT)

photo from visitbrainerd.com

- Hastings welcomes bicyclists to explore their community and the river! The MRT offers opportunities for visitors to bicycle short loops of an hour or less as well as trips along the full length of the Mississippi River.

Route Profile

- The MRT has something for everyone within Minnesota—but not all segments are appropriate for all types of users.
- The on-road segments are suitable for experienced bicyclists comfortable sharing the road with traffic.
- The off-road segments on paths and trails are generally suitable for bicyclists of all abilities .
- As of 2015, all Clearwater Co., some Hennepin Co., and all Minneapolis park segments are not signed. Please refer to Dept. of Transportation route maps.

Basic Equipment

- The Minnesota MRT travels through urban and rural settings.
- Always carry necessities, such as drinking water, tools, parts, and proper clothing.
- Most bicycles will work just fine for bicycling the entire length of the MRT; however, mountain bikes might be more appropriate for gravel sections of the route in Aitkin Co.

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