



324 East River Road  
Brainerd, MN 56401

Phone: 218/828-3705  
Fax: 218/828-8817

## NEWS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, Dec. 17, 2015

Contact: Jennifer Bergman, Executive Director, 218-824-3425

Jennifer@brainerdhra.org

### Brainerd's Mississippi River Partnership Plan Proceeds Toward Implementation

Brainerd, MN—Brainerd's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), the City of Brainerd, Mississippi Riverfront Sub-Committee, and the community's public and private sectors are excited to be embarking on a multi-phased effort with local consulting firm Short Elliott Hendrickson Inc. (SEH) for implementing the Mississippi River Partnership Plan. The project presents an opportunity to connect the city and the Mississippi River and create a corridor as a place where residents and visitors can easily access and enjoy year-round natural scenery.

The City of Brainerd previously partnered with the University of Minnesota Center for Rural Design (CRD) to develop a riverfront design plan for a two-mile section along the Mississippi River from Washington Street to Little Buffalo Creek in Brainerd, Minnesota. The U of M CRD led a riverfront steering committee process to create design ideas based on priorities established by the steering committee, which was accepted by the City Council.

As a result of the Mississippi River Partnership Plan, the City of Brainerd applied for and was awarded a Difference Maker Grant from the Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation to begin the process of implementing some of the recommendations in the Plan. The City was awarded a \$33,000 grant to retain a consultant firm or team for the first year with the opportunity to renew the grant for two additional years. The City of Brainerd entered into an agreement with the Brainerd HRA to manage this grant on their behalf.

The SEH team includes local civil engineer, Jeff Ledin, landscape architects Bob Kost and Gregg Calpino, funding specialist Heidi Peper, and finance specialist Jon Commers of Donjek Consulting. SEH team members have successfully designed and implemented waterfront redevelopment and enhancement projects across the Midwest including Duluth, Minneapolis, Dubuque, IA, and Chippewa Falls, WI.

Guided by a 9-member Riverfront Sub-Committee, consultants will develop measurable goals, objectives, budgets, priorities, timelines, and identify sources of funding for implementing design concepts identified in the Mississippi Riverfront Partnership Plan. Additionally, the consulting team will work to keep community members informed and engaged during the process through the use of social media, events, activities, and a project web site. The first year's goal is to identify an initial project that can be funded and launched in 2016.

To follow the project's progress, view information and leave feedback, visit:  
<http://www.sehinc.com/online/mississippi-river-partnership-plan>.

###

About Brainerd HRA:



Brainerd HRA's mission is to provide redevelopment and affordable housing opportunities to strengthen our neighborhoods. For more information about Brainerd HRA, visit [www.brainerdhra.org](http://www.brainerdhra.org)

