

White Park

In 1902 the City of Brainerd issued a plat to Lyman P. White, one of our first residents and who was often called the “Father of Brainerd”. His addition was to be called the West End Addition to Brainerd and was at the end of the then-named Water Street. This was prime property, just a bit north of the old west side Steamboat Landing, not in a floodplain, and had 4-500’ of wonderful Mississippi River shoreline.

In May of 1921 Lyman’s son gave the parcel to the city for use as a “beautiful park site”, and it was known as White Park. No houses were ever built on the lots, but by 1924 it was used as a Tourist Park and 9,600 tourists had used its facilities that season. By 1928 that figure rose to 20,000. In 1930 Carl Wright owned the land north of it on the hill, and leased the Tourist Park. Not much is known about the park until 1974 when “The school board approved bidding for the removal of Wright Park hill for use as dirt fill for the lower site project”. At the time, the property was owned by the City, the school board and an unknown third owner. In 2017, plans were in the works to once again use this parcel, then a little-used paved parking lot, as a community green space.

