

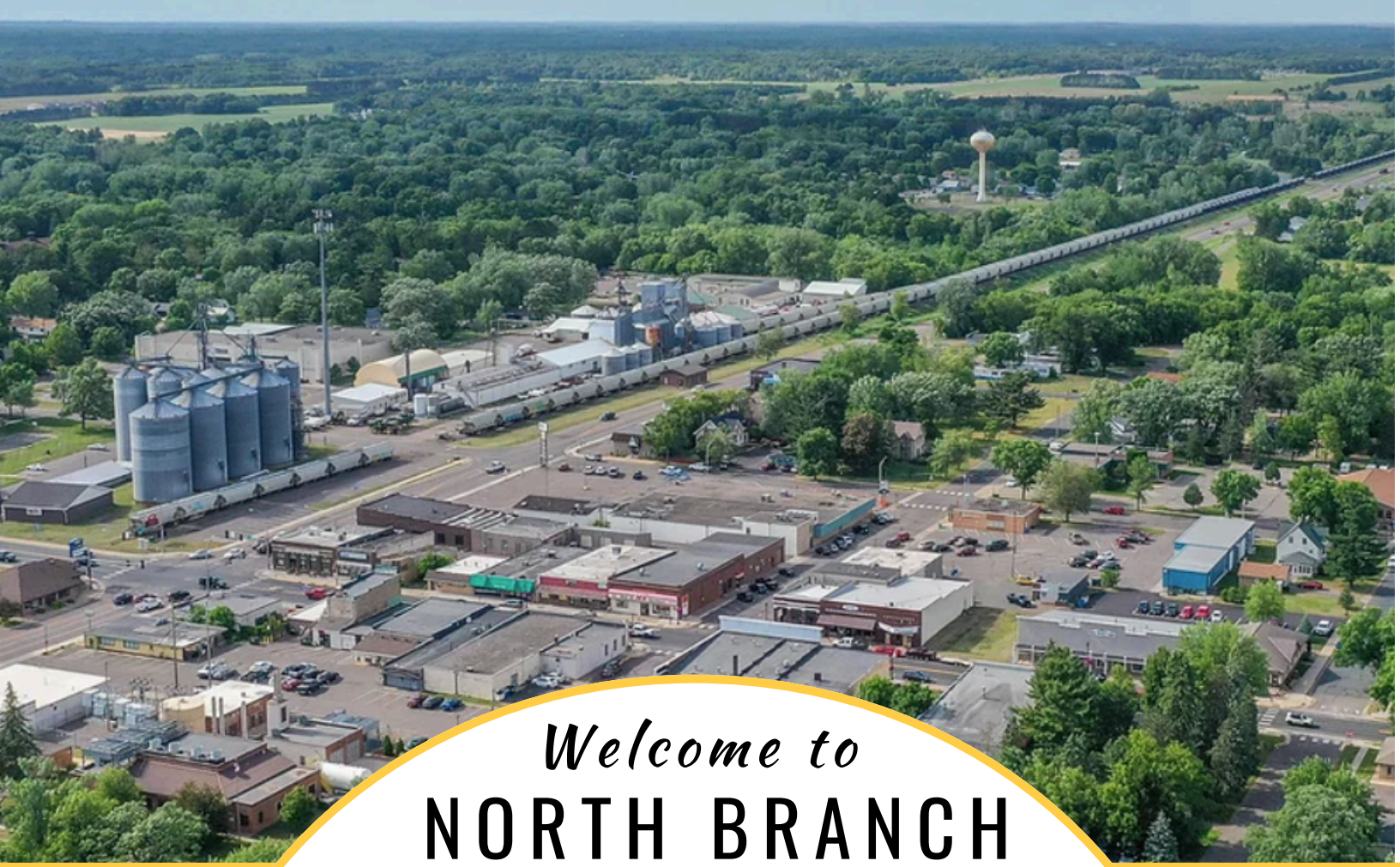
# CITY ADMINISTRATOR

CITY OF NORTH BRANCH, MN



## WHY APPLY?

This is an excellent opportunity for a progressive city administrator to lead a community into the future. North Branch is a full-service city with stable finances, well-maintained infrastructure, and strong council/staff relations with seasoned, experienced staff dedicated to providing exceptional customer service. Conveniently located just 30 minutes north of the Twin Cities on I-35 and less than two hours from Duluth, this community is close to big-city amenities and attractions while retaining small-town charm and friendliness in a semi-rural setting. As the largest city in Chisago County, North Branch continues to enjoy robust residential development and is poised for major commercial and industrial development and redevelopment projects. A municipally owned industrial park located on the interstate is shovel-ready for development and many other large tracts are also available. If you're looking to make a difference and enjoy an excellent quality of life, this could be the opportunity for you.



# *Welcome to* **NORTH BRANCH**

North Branch is a family-friendly community of 11,791 centrally located between the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area and northern Minnesota cabin country, offering a desirable location for residents and businesses seeking small town living with all the essential amenities. As a result, North Branch is the largest and fastest growing city in Chisago County.

First incorporated as a township in 1861, the city is named for the north branch of the Sunrise River which flows west to east through the heart of the city. The town gathers to celebrate its community spirit at annual events like the Fall Harvest Festival, Midsummer Days, Winterfest, Christmas tree lighting, and summer concerts in the park.

Within the city are numerous opportunities to enjoy nature and outdoor recreation, including 301 acres of City-maintained parkland, Checkerboard County Park, Janet Johnson Wildlife Management Area, a 9-hole public golf course, and the regional Sunrise Prairie Trail—a paved pedestrian and bicycle path that extends south through Chisago and Washington Counties. The City also maintains a 21-hole disc golf course, community garden, and 3 outdoor skating rinks throughout the winter season.

As the gateway to northern Minnesota, North Branch offers proximity to many lakes, rivers, and trails for fishing, hunting, boating, hiking, and snowmobiling. Downhill skiing is available at nearby Wild Mountain and Trollhaugen ski areas. St. Croix National Scenic Riverway is only 30 miles away and offers 200 miles of wild and scenic beauty to explore.

North Branch is also home to several distinct shopping areas such as the quaint and historic downtown along with Gateway North outlet mall which features major retailers like Bath & Body Works, and Famous Footwear. Minneapolis-Saint Paul International Airport serves the region only an hour away.

# THE CITY OF NORTH BRANCH

The City of North Branch is a Minnesota Statutory Plan A City with a Council-Administrator form of government. The City Council consists of a part-time mayor and four council members elected at large. The mayor is elected to a two-year term and council members are elected to four-year terms. In 2024, the Mayor and two City Council seats will be on the ballot.

The Council is responsible for setting the policy and overall direction for the City, which includes legislative decisions and approval of the City budget. City employees, under the direction of a City Administrator, carry out council decisions and provide day-to-day services. The City Administrator provides leadership, direction and guidance to all City departments and is accountable to the City Council.

The City serves a population of 11,791 across 36 square miles with a 2024 budget of \$7.6 million and a team of 40 FTEs. Departments include Administration, Attorney, Building Inspection, Engineering, Finance, Fire, Liquor, Planning and Zoning, Police, and Public Works.

The community is active and engaged, as such, the City is committed to open government and strengthening connections between residents, businesses, and community partners. Several commissions assist the Council with various aspects of municipal government, including the Economic Development Authority, Planning Commission, and Parks, Trails, and Open Space Commission.



**FULL-TIME  
EMPLOYEES**  
40

**2024 BUDGET**  
\$7.6 million

**AREA**  
36 square  
miles

**POPULATION**  
11,791

## THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR

The City Administrator is the chief administrative officer of the City and reports directly to the mayor and four city council members. The City Administrator is responsible for planning, organizing, and managing all municipal activities coordinating the day-to-day affairs of city government. The City Administrator is also the chief policy advisor for the mayor and council. The City Administrator supervises leaders in Finance, Human Resources staff, Information Technology, Liquor Operations, Community Development, Police, Fire, Parks, and Public Works. The City Administrator also serves as the lead negotiator for all four collective bargaining units.

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## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

- Exceptional interpersonal, oral, and written communication skills with the ability to positively interact with diverse personalities.
- An exceptional listener who is approachable and seeks advice, ideas, and opinions of others. Respects and appreciates opposing viewpoints. Strong facilitation skills that support and enable opportunities to reach consensus, especially on difficult issues.
- Models ethical and moral behavior, conducts themselves with the highest levels of integrity and honesty, and is committed to the highest ideals of accountability and transparency as the foundation of promoting good government.
- Able to advise the Mayor and Council in their decision-making process by providing thorough, accurate, timely, and comprehensive data constructively and positively.
- Goal-driven in the pursuit of excellence in work product and provides strong, visionary leadership to inspire and motivate others to work collaboratively and in partnership to resolve challenges.
- Approaches challenges and opportunities in a positive, self-confident manner with creativity and is willing to undertake reasonable, calculable risks in the pursuit of excellence with the goal of continuous improvement of public services.
- Utilizes entrepreneurial, forward-thinking, and non-traditional approaches to problem-solving.
- Develops effective policies and procedures that are clear and concise.
- A comprehensive but high-level understanding of municipal finance, laws, human resources, planning and zoning, and other basic service delivery functions. Knowledgeable in economic and community development principles and practices.
- Able to advance, articulate, and defend staff recommendations that are in the best interest of the greater good with confidence and in a respectful, disciplined, and pragmatic manner.
- A strong leader who delegates tasks and duties while supporting and motivating staff through teamwork, and who sees such delegation as professional development and investment in staff.
- Balances the responsibilities of managing daily operations with representing the City's interests through engagement with external community, state, and national associations and organizations including state agencies and the legislature. Must be a strong proponent of intergovernmental relationships that forge productive partnerships.
- Is comfortable in a fully cloud-based computing environment.
- Is transparent and proactive with staff in all dealings. Has a commitment to "no surprises" when working with all stakeholders.
- Consistently prioritizes City's needs, goals, and vision over personal goals.
- Able to collaborate with City staff to develop solid 10-year financial plans for both the budget and capital improvement plan.

# OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

## Staff Development

A recent analysis concluded that the City would greatly benefit from the addition of 7.5 full-time employees to expand services in response to growth. One such position is human resources. These functions are currently dispersed and need to be consolidated into a comprehensive staffing program that addresses hiring, on-boarding, benefits administration, workplace safety, performance evaluations, and professional development. A finance plan will also be needed. The most immediate staffing issue will be filling the vacant position of Community Development Director.

## Facility Analysis

Another study concluded that the City should re-examine several of its current facilities, such as Public Works. While City Hall is functional, additional space is needed to improve efficiency and expand service levels. The Police Department has the most acute space needs as it's in the basement of City Hall. Finally, several new recreational facilities are being considered and include a community center, pool, hockey facility, and splash pad.

## Economic Development and Growth Management

The City has enjoyed rapid growth in single-family residential development, averaging over 100 new homes per year. This growth rate has been driven chiefly by residents re-locating from the Twin Cities and is expected to continue. The City is poised for more major commercial and industrial growth and had the foresight to invest in a major 200+acre, shovel-ready industrial park located on I-35. In addition, several other large tracts of privately-owned land exist to accommodate growth. To diversify and expand the tax base, the City needs to aggressively promote commercial and industrial growth. Finally, several opportunities exist for in-fill re-development including certain parts of the downtown central business district and the current Tanger Mall.

## City Council Governance Process

The City Council is a mix of newly elected members and those with longer tenure. As such, the Council has significantly divergent policy views and perspectives. Several previous issues have proven contentious. Council is looking for methods to improve their governance process to better facilitate their decision-making. The new City Administrator will have the opportunity to provide new leadership and skills to assist the Council with this improvement process. The City would likely benefit from undertaking a comprehensive strategic planning exercise to clearly identify and advance the City's goals and objectives.



# EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

Bachelor's degree in public administration, business administration, or closely related field and 5 years of experience in broad areas managing public organizations that contributed to a knowledge base and an ability to employ management, budgeting, planning, and program techniques in daily operation of a similarly complex entity. Or any satisfactory combination of experience and training which demonstrates the knowledge, skills, and abilities to successfully perform the job. Masters' Degree preferred.

# COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

The City of North Branch is offering an annual salary range of \$140,000 to \$180,000 for this position, dependent upon experience and qualifications. The benefit plan includes employee medical and dental insurance, standard paid holidays, negotiated sick and vacation leave, \$25,000 basic Life insurance + salary, Short-Term Disability (STD), Healthcare Savings Account (HSA), and Volunteer Employee Benefits Association (VEBA) account.



# RESOURCES

[2024 Budget](#)

[2018 Comprehensive Plan](#)

[2023- 2032 Capital Improvement Plan](#)

[North Branch Area Chamber of Commerce](#)



## TO APPLY

Apply Online: [gmphr.com](https://gmphr.com)

First Review: **August 18, 2024**

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