

GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

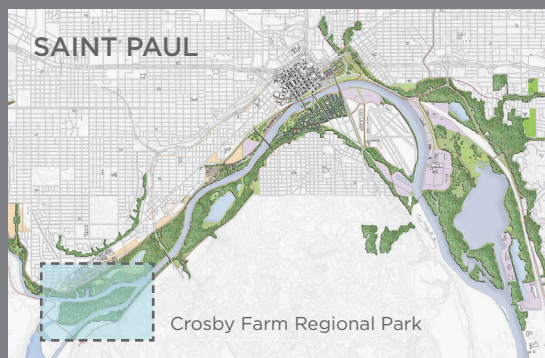
2020 MINNESOTA STATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST

Mississippi River Learning Center

\$3,000,000 Request for Design and Pre-Development

A unique opportunity to combine resources, expertise and capacity at a signature, strategic destination on one of the three great rivers of the world.

A forward thinking, mixed-use, river-focused center that could combine National Park Service Headquarters and Visitor Center with year-round environmental, cultural and historical learning and outdoor recreation experiences, scientific research, community café, and marina along Saint Paul's river edge.



THE PROJECT

- Create the next generation of park users and river stewards
- Transform what is now a strategic but underutilized, isolated edge of Saint Paul to an accessible regional center of activity
- Leverage the Mississippi River, the naturalized urban location, and public and private partnerships to stimulate economic development and act as a catalyst for future strategic development to improve quality of life for the community and health of the river



PROJECT BENEFITS

ECONOMIC

Create jobs in design, construction, maintenance and operations, education, recreation, food, and marine services. Develop strategic partnerships for revenue-generating opportunities and cost sharing. Leverage public dollars for private investment.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Develop year-round environmental, cultural and historical education and recreation opportunities that are integrated into the community and region's routines, traditions and collective identity. Cultivate a constituency that values the river and will care for it in the future.

IDENTITY

Minnesota's identity and well-being is inextricably linked to the Mississippi River. The River Learning Center is an opportunity to:

- build on the history and interconnectedness to the river,
- create an authentic, signature destination that positions the state nationally and internationally,
- improve the quality of life for residents and visitors, and
- cultivate a constituency that values the river and will care for it into the future.



Photo credits: Children at fence, children by river — Erin D. Carter; biker, kids with bucket — FIWYGIN; kayakers — Mississippi Park Connection; caterpillar — Brett Stopelstad; ice fishing, child with telescope — Faith Krogstad

ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- Securing public and private support for the River Learning Center (2017)
- Completing technical study (2017) and feasibility analysis (2018)
- Compiling a programing survey that includes year-round program offerings, partners and space needs (2019)
- Launching Mississippi Park Connection/Great River Passage Conservancy co-fundraising partnership and campaign (2019)
- Creating the City of Saint Paul/National Park Service Cooperative Management Agreement outlining City ownership and National Park Service long-term tenancy (2019)



PROJECT TIMELINE, DELIVERABLES AND BUDGET

JULY 2020–SEPTEMBER 2021

Design

- Concept, schematic design, design development and construction documents

\$1,350,000

APRIL 2021–APRIL 2022

Site Evaluation

- Survey, testing, permitting

\$500,000

MAY–SEPTEMBER 2022

Site Clearing and Stabilization

- Clean-up of marina site

\$1,150,000

TOTAL: \$3,000,000

LEADERSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP

- City of Saint Paul – Owner
- National Park Service – Tenant
- Great River Passage Conservancy – Private fundraising partner
- Mississippi Park Connection – Private fundraising partner
- Friends of the Mississippi River – Funding and advocacy partner
- Capital Region Watershed District – Funding and programing partner
- Wilderness Inquiry – Funding and programing partner

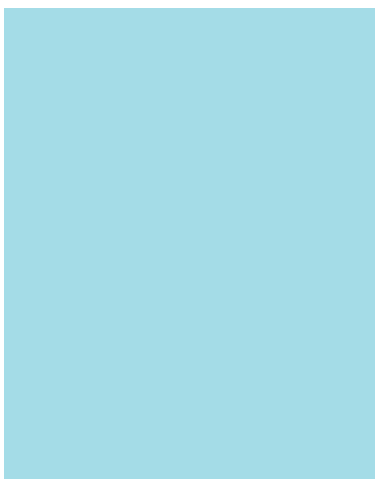




Photo: Chris Juhn

THE RIVER FLOWS THROUGH US

We are connecting our two greatest assets – our people and the Mississippi River.

Saint Paul is one of only two capital cities along the 2,300 miles of river and the city with the largest amount of river and riverfront. With 3,500 acres of riverside parkland, 17 river-adjacent parks, six major trails, and five historic and preserved sites, the Mississippi River is a well-used and well-loved asset in Saint Paul. More than 4 million people visit parks along the river annually and 30,000 school-aged children visit the river annually for environmental experiences.

The Mississippi River is the largest, most complex floodplain river ecosystem in the northern hemisphere. The fourth largest watershed in the world, the river serves as an important migration and flyway route for birds and habitat for animals. The river also is an economic engine in Saint Paul. Four terminals owned and managed by the Saint Paul Port Authority are home to 30 businesses, nearly 750 jobs and a \$51 million payroll.

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GREAT RIVER PASSAGE is both the 17 miles of the Mississippi River that flows through and defines Saint Paul and a City-led initiative to enhance, better connect to and steward one of the three great rivers of the world and its surrounding natural and built environments.

www.GreatRiverPassage.org

Formed in 2018, the **Great River Passage Conservancy** leads the private fundraising efforts for Great River Passage Initiative projects and programs along the Mississippi River. The Conservancy is an independent 501(c)3 nonprofit that works in partnership with the City of Saint Paul.

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