



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area

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Use the complete site
name here (e.g. Palo Alto
Battlefield Historic Site).

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News Release

Use a "short-hand" version of the site name here (e.g. Palo Alto Battlefield not Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Site).
For Immediate Release

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National Park Service Grants to Enhance Mississippi Corridor

The National Park Service is spending \$250,000 this summer on 11 projects to enhance natural resources, improve urban parks and increase public understanding of history in the Mississippi River corridor within the Twin Cities metropolitan area.

All the projects are within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a 72-mile segment of the Mississippi River within the Twin Cities that was set aside by Congress in 1988 as a unique unit of the National Park System. "While the National Park Service owns very little land within this 54,000-acre park unit, we work closely with partners to preserve, enhance and interpret this unique resource," said Park Superintendent JoAnn Kyral. "This summer's projects reflect the many great partnerships," Kyral said, "and we're excited to be able to help to improve the ways in which people experience the National Park in their own backyard."

The largest project is a \$75,000 grant to the Minnesota Historical Society for repairs to the support beams of the Half Moon Battery and repairing water damage to the lower level of the 1820 Round Tower at Historic Fort Snelling.

Three National Park Service (NPS) grants will benefit Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department will receive \$35,000 to eliminate flooding of the main access road to the park. Anoka County will also receive \$28,000 for indoor and outdoor exhibits at their Visitor Center, and another \$12,000 will go to Three Rivers Park District for interpretive signs across the Coon Rapids Dam spillway trail.

The Science Museum of Minnesota will receive \$30,000 for indoor and outdoor Mississippi River exhibits at the downtown St. Paul museum, which houses the National Park Service's Mississippi River Visitor Center.

The Minnesota Historical Society will receive \$14,300 for a reuse study and plan for the Washburn Grain Elevator at the Mill City Museum in downtown Minneapolis. NPS is also giving the society \$4,000 for outdoor interpretive signs in the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Zone.

NPS will spend \$11,000 to fund archeological testing at and stabilization, cleanup and repair work on the Meeker Island Lock and Dam Site, which was the first lock and dam built on the Mississippi River. The site straddles the Minneapolis-St. Paul border on the east bank of the river.

Another \$3,000 in NPS funds will be devoted to a literature search and records review as the first step in producing a history of the Banfill-Locke site in Fridley, one of the earliest settlements in Minnesota.

NPS will also fund \$2,500 worth of native vegetation restoration work on an island it owns near Inver Grove Heights. That work is related to ecosystem restoration work to be conducted this summer on the island by the Corps of Engineers. The island, at river mile 828, is popular with recreational boaters.

For more information about the activities and programs of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, visit www.nps.gov/miss or phone 651-293-0200.