



GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

2023 Minnesota State Capital
Investment Request

MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEARNING CENTER

Experience the Land + Water + Culture
of the Mississippi River

**\$23,500,000 Request for
Design and Construction**

The combined River Learning Center and National Park Service Headquarters and Visitor Center will be a one-of-a-kind national hub of Mississippi River-focused recreation, education, environmental stewardship, and more.

"International travelers visit the US to experience the Grand Canyon, Disney World, Las Vegas and near the top of the list is the Mississippi River. The Mississippi River Learning Center will provide access to the river not only for local visitors but also opens the opportunity to market to global travelers passing through MSP International Airport."

—Jana Webster, Executive Director,
Airport Foundation MSP



CREATING A RIVER CENTER

The River Learning Center will be perfectly situated at a strategic, 25-acre city-owned site, sitting at the convergence of key cultural, historical, ecological, recreational, and developmental sites, with MSP Airport, Mall of America, and Ft. Snelling nearby.



DEVELOPING GENERATIONS OF RIVER STEWARDS

The River Learning Center will host year-round environmental, cultural, and historical education and recreation opportunities that are integrated into the region's routines, traditions, and collective identity. We will build a river-centered community that values the Mississippi and will care for it in the future.

"The River Learning Center will be a tremendous local resource for Saint Paul students and teachers. The Mississippi River is an inspiring place for learning, offering infinite curricular opportunities for PreK-12. The Center will expand our long-standing partnership with the National Park Service to teach and inspire our community of learners."

—Marty Davis, Supervisor, PreK-12 Science, SPPS



DESIGNING A GATEWAY: THE RIVER IS FOR ALL OF US

The Twin Cities stretch of the Mississippi is a national park, but today has few spots to safely access the river. With its two sheltered bays opening up the river in new ways to thousands of local and national visitors, the River Learning Center will be the gateway to the Mississippi. It is the contemporary meeting point of:

- Forward-thinking design that is small in scale, light on the land, and responds to the interplay of the site's dynamic river conditions and sensitive riparian ecology
- Restorative landscape design
- Equity-focused design and engagement
- A true public-private partnership in ownership, funding, programming, and management

"The River Learning Center will be a new landmark on the Mississippi River, supporting our region's growth and transforming Saint Paul's identity into an internationally renowned River Capital."

—Peter Frosch, Chief Executive Officer of GREATER MSP



TRANSFORMING OUR RELATIONSHIP TO THE RIVER, EXPERIENCING NATURE

With key partners hosting programming at the site, Mississippi River Learning Center visitors will:

- Be moved by the river, whether literally (in a kayak) or by connecting with the natural beauty and wildlife



- Get in touch with the river, by trying out recreational equipment, exploring the landscape, and gaining confidence in the outdoors
- Get involved by helping with projects and initiatives that protect the river, and by experiencing the river through the lens of diverse cultures
- Be healthy physically and mentally by connecting with others in a safe and welcoming setting

WE ARE THE RIVER



MISSISSIPPI RIVER LEARNING CENTER PROGRESS TO DATE

- Completed technical study (2017), feasibility analysis (2018) and programming survey (2019)
- Signed a General Agreement outlining the City and National Park Service partnership in pursuit of the project (January 2020)
- Launched Mississippi Park Connection/Wilderness Inquiry/Great River Passage Conservancy co-fundraising partnership and campaign (2020-21)
- Raised public/private funds for schematic design (2020-21)
- Completed schematic design, engagement and phasing strategy (October 2022)

PROJECT PARTNERS

- City of Saint Paul
- Great River Passage Conservancy
- National Park Service
- Mississippi Park Connection
- Your Boat Club

TIMELINE AND MILESTONES

Jan 2022—Oct 2022	Nov 2022—May 2023	Jun 2023—Jun 2024	Jul 2024—Sep 2025	Fall 2025
SCHEMATIC DESIGN	GOVERNANCE, FINANCE STRATEGY, PROGRAMMING	DESIGN DEVELOPMENT CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS	CONSTRUCTION	GRAND OPENING

2023 MINNESOTA STATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST

Design and Construction: \$23.5 million

- Design development and construction documents
- Marina site reconfiguration
- Bay and peninsula reconfiguration, landscaping and programming spaces

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