

Photo: Chris Juhn

THE RIVER FLOWS THROUGH US

We are connecting our two greatest assets - our people and the 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 flood plain 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.

CONTACT

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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.

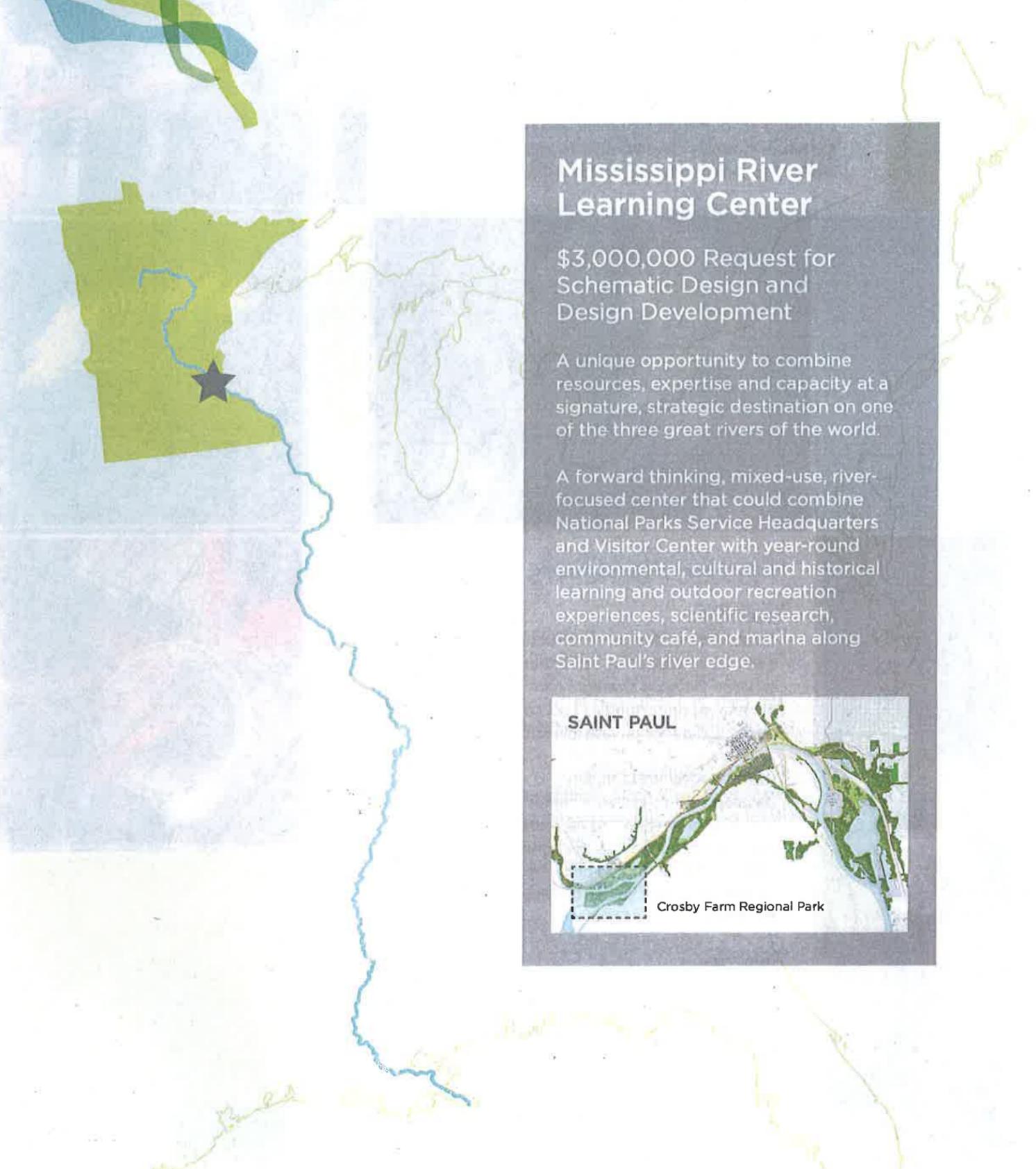
www.GreatRiverPassage.org

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



GREAT RIVER PASSAGE

2019 MINNESOTA STATE CAPITAL INVESTMENT REQUEST



Mississippi River Learning Center

\$3,000,000 Request for Schematic Design and Design 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 Parks 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.

SAINT PAUL

Crosby Farm Regional Park



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



COMPLETED WORK

TECHNICAL STUDY (2017)

- Evaluated programmatic needs and spatial requirements
- Analyzed potential sites
- Determined regulatory processes and restrictions
- Outlined design and phasing scenarios

FEASIBILITY STUDY (2018)

- Evaluated possible revenue-generated program options
- Analyzed capital and operations/maintenance expenses
- Outlined organizational structure and phasing scenarios



PROJECT TIMELINE, DELIVERABLES AND BUDGET

JULY 2019–MARCH 2020

Schematic Design

- Vision
- Phasing
- Cost estimate

\$500,000

APRIL–DECEMBER 2020

Design Development

- Detailed design concept
- Partnership/governance agreement
- Funding strategy
- Environmental assessment
- Initial permitting

\$2,500,000

GRAND TOTAL: \$3,000,000

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.



PARTNERS

- City of Saint Paul
- National Park Service
- Mississippi Park Connection
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Capital Region Watershed District
- Wilderness Inquiry

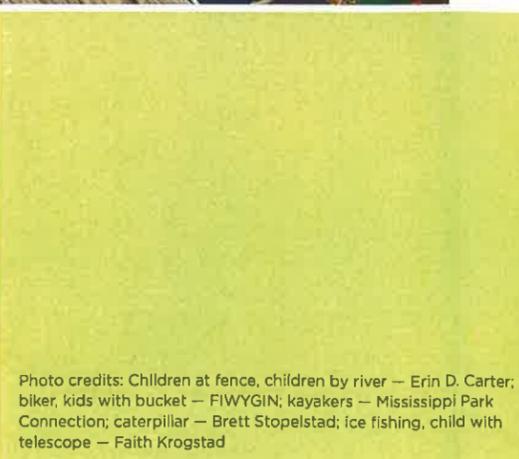


Photo credits: Children at fence, children by river — Erin D. Carter; biker, kids with bucket — FIWYGIN; kayakers — Mississippi Park Connection; caterpillar — Brett Stoppelstad; ice fishing, child with telescope — Faith Krogstad

