

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

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News Release

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National Park Service Hosts Trail-building Experts from Subaru of America, Inc.

Battle Creek Regional Park is site of upcoming ride and event

The National Park Service, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), Subaru of America's Trail Care Crew, the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC), and Ramsey County Parks are hosting a four day, mountain bike trail building school and ride in Battle Creek Regional Park on August 24 – 27, 2006. This event will teach trail enthusiasts and managers proper trail-building techniques while they spend quality time digging in the dirt. The event ends with a ride on Sunday to celebrate the completion of the new, 8-mile section of trail in Battle Creek Regional Park and within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area. The MNRRA is one of ten National Parks selected by IMBA for a 2006 Subaru Trail Care Crew visit.

The award-winning Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew program includes a team of trail-building experts who travel North America year-round, leading IMBA Trail-building Schools, meeting with government officials and land managers, and working with IMBA-affiliated groups to improve mountain biking opportunities. IMBA's Crews have led more than 1,000 trail projects since the program debuted in 1997.

Trail crews teach "sustainable" trail-building which means building trails that last a long time, require minimal maintenance, and have minimal impact on the environment. This helps reduce trail damage and enhances visitor enjoyment, which are important goals for trail development along the Mississippi River and within the MNRRA.

The Trail Care Crew visit includes an evening event, a two-day Trailbuilding School, and a ride with local trail enthusiasts. Now in its eighth year, the Subaru/IMBA Trail Care Crew program is more popular than ever. The crew's travel is sponsored by Subaru of America, IMBA's leading sponsor since 1997. Trail Care Crews and volunteers have installed thousands of new and improved trails in all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and several European countries.

In 1988, Congress established the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System to preserve, protect and enhance the nationally significant resources of the 72-mile stretch of Mississippi River that runs through the Twin Cities metropolitan area. An important vision for the MNRRA is for a continuous, 72-mile trail and open space corridor along both sides of the river while protecting the area's natural, cultural, and economic resources. The Battle Creek trail is part of this system and is the only official mountain bike trail in the MNRRA.

Subaru of America, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. of Japan. Headquartered near Philadelphia, the company markets and distributes all-wheel drive Subaru vehicles, parts and accessories through a network of nearly 600 dealers across the United States.

Ramsey County Parks is the implementing agency for the Regional Recreation and Open Space System in Ramsey County, MN and is responsible for five regional parks and five regional trail corridors consisting of over 3,774 acres. Battle Creek Regional Park is located at 2300 Upper Afton Road, Maplewood / St. Paul, MN. The park is within the MNRRA where numerous trail and restoration projects have been completed in partnership with the National Park Service.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) is a non-profit educational association whose mission is to create, enhance and preserve trail opportunities for mountain bikers worldwide. Since 1988, IMBA has been bringing out the best in mountain biking by encouraging low-impact riding, volunteer trail work participation, cooperation among different trail user groups, grassroots advocacy and innovative trail management solutions.

Minnesota Off-Road Cyclists (MORC) is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to safeguarding the future of mountain biking in Minnesota through the promotion of responsible riding, establishment and maintenance of mountain biking trails and preservation of Minnesota's natural resources.