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U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area

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News Release

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National Park Service Grants \$145,000 for Trail Work

The National Park Service has awarded \$145,000 in grants for improvements to regional trails along the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities.

The two trail segments are within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA), a unit of the National Park System that covers 72 miles of the river corridor through the Twin Cities, according to MNRRA Superintendent JoAnn Kyril.

The City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department will receive \$97,000 in National Park Service funds to construct an off-road bituminous trail through part of the Lilydale area of Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park.

Currently, bicyclists and pedestrians must use the narrow roadway that runs through the park. The new 1.37-mile trail will significantly improve trail user safety and provides linkages to existing trails at Harriet Island and the Big River Regional Trail to the west. The project includes 10 culverts to protect the integrity of wetlands in Lilydale.

The trail is used by approximately 117,000 visitors annually.

The National Park Service is also granting \$48,000 to the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department to replace a section of trail in Riverfront Regional Park south of Interstate 694 in Fridley.

The new trail will replace a three-mile section of deteriorated trail that is used by 250,000 visitors each year. The existing bituminous trail surface will be recycled and the site restored to natural conditions. The new trail will be located to avoid drainage problems and meet accessibility requirements.

Both projects are expected to be constructed in 2006, Kyril said.