



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area

111 Kellogg Blvd. E., Ste 105
Saint Paul, MN 55101-1256

651-290-4160 phone
651-290-3214 fax

News Alert

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Contact: Denise Niedzolkowski
651-290-3030 ext 238

National Park Service Rangers will be giving what may be once in a lifetime tours on the Rock Island Swing Bridge on Saturday, October 25th between 10am and 2pm.

Built in 1894, it was the longest swing span bridge in the world at that time and is possibly the only remaining swing bridge in the US that was constructed to carry trains on an *upper* level deck and passenger traffic on the lower level deck. The history of the bridge is long and colorful – John Dillinger used the bridge to elude police in the 1930's!

Closed to all use since 1999, Dakota and Washington County officials have been studying the complete removal of the bridge; Dakota County is exploring the potential for reuse of the western approach. Reuse of these 600 feet of the western approach spans could include pedestrian walkways, overlooks, interpretative displays, and fishing access, and it would become a trailhead for the Mississippi River Regional Trail. The bridge is adjacent to the site of Inver Grove Heights' future Heritage Park.

The bridge is currently closed to all traffic, including pedestrian use. This is an opportunity to experience some of the most amazing views you'll find on the Mississippi River. The bridge is under consideration for complete removal. Don't miss the chance to experience this unique piece of Minnesota double-decker history and re-trace John Dillinger's escape!