



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River
and Recreation Area

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Park Rangers Talkin' Trash

Rangers from the National Park Service will offer free mini-walking tours and activities every day during the Minnesota State Fair, August 24- September 4, 2006. Stop by the Adopt-a-River Trash Sculpture just south of the fish pond by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) building to join a Ranger-led tour at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. No reservations are needed.

A close look at this year's Trash Sculpture, a 12-year old program sponsored by the DNR, helps reveal the types of trash that end up in the Mississippi River. River clean-ups, including a special project funded by the Mississippi River Fund to remove derelict boats from the river, contribute materials for the art project. Staff from the Minnesota DNR and the National Park Service will help fair goers discover how trash gets from lawns and highways in to the river, and how to keep it out!

Fairgoers of all ages can also become a Junior Ranger in one day at the State Fair. Special programs are offered throughout the year to help Junior Rangers fulfill their pledge to "explore, learn about, and protect the Mississippi River". Talk with Park Rangers at the State Fair Trash Sculpture, go to www.mississippipassport.org, or visit the National Park Service's Mississippi River Visitor Center in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St. Paul. 651.293.0200

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The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) is the unit of the National Park System that represents America's greatest river, and weaves together the heartland's natural and cultural heritage and economic vitality. One of 390 units in the National Park System, the MNRRA extends 72 miles south from the cities of Dayton and Ramsey, through Minneapolis and St. Paul, ending just south of Hastings. The National Park Service works with partners and local governments to care for the river's nationally significant resources found here, which include the Mississippi's only gorge and waterfall.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.