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

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

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 16, 2006

Contact: Ann Sarnecki 651-290-3030, ext 234 ann_sarnecki@nps.gov

Bike the Mississippi River with a Park Ranger this Summer!

It will be easier than ever to explore the Mississippi River this summer with National Park Service Rangers leading the way. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area kicks off its second year of the "Bike with a Ranger" program on Saturday, June 3rd. Park Rangers will lead free, 3-hour, 9-mile round trips along the Mississippi River within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park System. The leisurely, family-friendly rides feature stops where Rangers talk about the history, natural resources, and recreational opportunities of the area.

"This is a great opportunity for folks to get out and discover what an amazing river we have in our backyard," stated JoAnn Kyral, Superintendent of the National Park. "Our 'Bike with a Ranger' trips were so successful last year, we have added an additional route this summer exploring the Mississippi River in Minneapolis and St. Paul."

The "Bike with a Ranger" trips are scheduled for every Saturday morning, starting from Harriet Island Regional Park or Crosby Farm Regional Park in St. Paul. Trips run from June 3rd to August 26th and are limited to 20 participants each. Attendance is free, but reservations are required. To register or for more information, call the Mississippi River Visitor Center at (651) 293-0200. For further information about Bike with a Ranger and the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, see the National Park Service website at www.nps.gov/miss/index.html.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area 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.
-NPS-