

Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners

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Boe Carlson Superintendent February 15, 2023

The Honorable Sandra L. Pappas Chair, Capital Investment Committee 2113 Minnesota Senate Building 95 University Ave. W. Saint Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Pappas:

On behalf of the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners, thank you for including a \$3 million general fund appropriation for the Mississippi Gateway Regional Park redevelopment project in the delete-all amendment to Senate File 677. The project is shovel-ready with construction expected to begin this spring, and this funding is vitally important to ensure that this \$34 million project can be completed as planned in time for a grand re-opening in summer 2026.

Mississippi Gateway Regional Park is a partnership between Three Rivers Park District and the City of Brooklyn Park, combining Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park in Brooklyn Park and the Brooklyn Park Environmental Nature Area into one 260-acre regional park on the banks of the Mississippi River. The park will be a year-round connection for all people to celebrate the Mississippi River, learn about nature and enjoy the outdoors. Three Rivers Park District and the City of Brooklyn Park worked together to complete a master plan that re-envisions the park to better meet the needs of the public now and in the future. Development of the master plan was guided by the findings from extensive engagement with targeted populations, and the intent of the park is to connect people to nature and the Mississippi River in a manner in which they are comfortable.

Please share our sincere appreciation with members of the Senate Capital Investment Committee for this investment that will help present and future generations discover our nation's greatest river and explore the outdoors at Mississippi Gateway Regional Park.

If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to contact Boe Carlson, Three Rivers Park District Superintendent, at 763-559-6761 or <u>Boe.Carlson@ThreeRiversParks.org</u>. Thank you again for this investment in Mississippi Gateway Regional Park.

Sincerely,

John Gibbs Board Chair Three Rivers Park District

CC: The Honorable Kari Dziedzic The Honorable Susan Pha

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Jennifer DeJournett Vice Chair Three Rivers Park District