

Minneapolis Parks Foundation/Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

Great Northern Greenway River Link/26th Ave N Overlook - Requesting \$3 million
Briefly, here is why the Parks Foundation urges the MRPC to support the Great Northern Greenway Overlook (S.F. 1586; H.F. 1533):

- The project is located directly on the Mississippi River and immediately adjacent to the Mississippi River Trail Bikeway where it intersects with 26th Ave N. in Minneapolis.
- The 26th Ave N. Overlook is a true "shovel-ready" project. If funded, the Minneapolis Park Board will begin project work in July 2018; construction of the overlook and pier will be complete in 2019.
- State funding for this project will be matched 2:1 by philanthropic funds secured by the Minneapolis Parks Foundation, which has committed an additional \$1.5 million for near-future trail expansion.
- This project addresses equity in access to the Mississippi River by turning a dead-end into a destination. It will bring to the North Side the same river access that the central and south Minneapolis residents long have enjoyed and offers lower-income minority neighborhoods such as Hawthorne and Jordan new opportunities to connect with the magnificent Mississippi River and the Great River Road.

Metropolitan Regional Parks - Requesting \$15 million

In addition to the 26th Ave N. project, the Minneapolis Parks Foundation encourages the Commission to support the \$15 million bond funding request for metropolitan regional parks. These are the state parks for the Twin Cities, serving 3 million people and hosting more than 47 million visits annually. Several projects along the Great River Road will benefit from fully funding the metro parks request, from Anoka Country, to Minneapolis, and St. Paul.



Legislative Fact Sheet

Great Northern Greenway River Link/26th Ave N Overlook & Pier

Project Description

This is a “shovel-ready” project pivotal to connecting the Grand Rounds at Wirth Park to the Mississippi River. Together with the site’s future regional trail expansion to the south, new features will make it a destination:

- A lighted amenitized pier, extending at street level over the river’s edge, would provide visual access to this natural resource and facilitate fishing.
- New plantings along the shoreline, roadway, and bike path would contribute to stormwater filtration while simultaneously establishing to a sense of place.

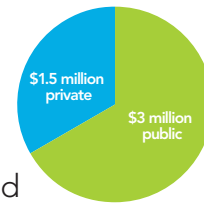
By locating the overlook at this juncture, the site opens a window on the North Bank to the Mississippi River national park. It builds on existing public assets and creates a much-needed reconnection of Farview Park and Nellie Stone Johnson School to the river.

Related Public Assets

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
Mississippi River National Trail
Grand Round National Byway
Regional trail network
Nellie Stone Johnson School
Farview and Ole Olson Parks

Project Funding

Total Project Cost \$4.5M
\$1.5 M in philanthropy already committed



Partners

Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Minneapolis Parks Foundation
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
Friends of the Mississippi River
City of Minneapolis

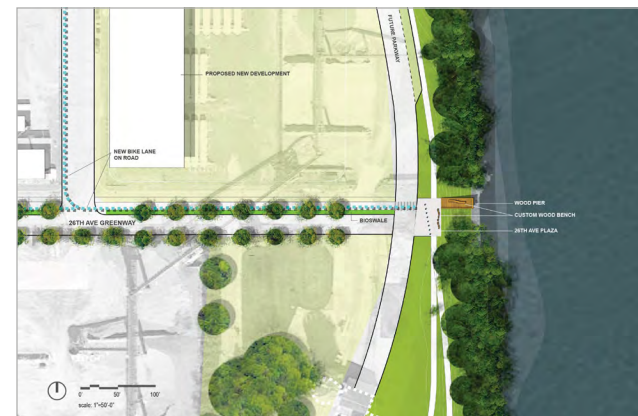
Schedule

2018 – 2019: Design Development – Construction Documents
2019 – 2020: Construction

Youth Jobs Created To Date 24
Construction Jobs Created 60



The River Link Pier at 26th Ave N. is located on the Mississippi River and will connect with regional trails.



Site Context



Pier Concept



Youth apprentices observed the site on land and from water before preparing design and program plans.



Contacts

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\$15 million in state bonding:

A smart investment for regional parks

Since 1974 over \$500 million has been invested in our regional parks system: 54 parks and reserves encompassing over 55,000 acres of land and almost 400 miles of hiking and biking trails.

State bonding leverages investments across the Metropolitan region

Protecting and improving the regional park system since 1974 (MN Statute 473.147).

Investing so our children and grandchildren enjoy a quality park system.

A \$15 million bonding proposal provides 26 Park & Trail projects that:

- are ready to go
- are local government approved
- create jobs
- serve a diverse population
- preserve parks assets
- protect and improve the environment



\$15M of state bonding leverages \$26M in local matches

State Bonds + **Local Matches** = **Vibrant Metropolitan Regional Parks**

Without state bonding, local matching funds are lost!



Regional parks, investing in a better quality of life



750,000 more people in the seven-county metro area by 2040



Meeting the needs of a growing and changing region



"The nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value."

-Theodore Roosevelt



47 million Regional Parks System visits each year. More than twice Yellowstone, Yosemite and the Grand Canyon combined!!

