



## Member Update to MN Mississippi River Parkway Commission

Commissioner: Cordelia Pierson

Representing: Elk River to Hastings

Quarter: 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter 2020 – Part 2

### From the Region:

**Three Rivers Park District - Mississippi Gateway Regional Park; Patty Maher, Outdoor Education Supervisor** - The team at Three Rivers Park District's Mississippi Gateway Regional Park has been delivering many services to the community in Brooklyn Park and beyond. We offer a welcoming natural space at the Coon Rapids Dam area of the river. From trails and a canoe/kayak launch to educational programming for all ages and interpretive signage, our team focuses on creating a welcoming space that provides opportunities for people to connect to nature.

The park is currently in the second phase of a master plan project. Last summer, the parking lot and park access was greatly improved. This summer, work is being done on the trails in the park and along the river. More information about the project can be found here: <https://www.threeriversparks.org/page/mississippi-gateway-regional-park-master-plan-development>.

**City of Brooklyn Park; Jody Yungers, Director, Parks & Recreation Department** - Brooklyn Park is a very diverse community of over 80,000 with over 50% persons of color and 23% non-US born. We are very excited about the new improvements to River Park, both trail connection to the park and the improved amenities to encourage natural connections to the River (paddle share, boat launch, fishing platforms, nature play areas and natural trails and expanded picnic facilities). However, what my recreation team is missing is the ability to partner with agencies to deliver "try new outdoor recreation activities" and ability to do at our site at no or low cost. Learn to fish, learn to canoe/kayak, etc. We are experiencing budget cuts to our levy supported programs.

Additionally, I believe you are aware of the Partnership (Joint Master Plan) for Mississippi Gateway Regional Park plan, that includes the Env. Nature Area of the City. The primary goal and objective of this park plan is to connect the community and region to the Mighty Mississippi. We purposely tied this project to River Park, and we will be working with Three Rivers to better connect our multi-cultural community to this unique regional facility.