

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

Visual Resource Viewshed Analysis

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



About the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA)

This 54,000-acre park was established by Congress in 1988 encompasses 72 miles along the Mississippi River and surrounding landscape running through the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area. The National Park Service owns very little of the land, and works in partnership with 25 local governments, several state agencies and numerous organizations to preserve and enhance the scenic, recreational, historical, cultural, natural, and scientific values of the area, and ensure that commercial uses are consistent with the protection of these globally significant values.

Opportunities for historic, recreational, and scenic touring are plentiful within the MNRRA, which includes segments of three popular recreation corridors:

- **The Great River Road National Scenic Byway** travels for 575 miles through the heart of Minnesota before continuing south through nine more states to the Gulf of Mexico. The Mississippi flows through six distinct regions in Minnesota, each offering unique river experiences and landscapes. Highlighted by the MNRRA, the Metro Mississippi region runs from Elk River to Hastings through Minneapolis/St. Paul. For more information, visit www.mnmississippiriver.com.
- **The Mississippi River Trail** is Minnesota's first state scenic bikeway and provides opportunities tailored for bicyclists of all types and ages to follow America's great

river. Minnesota's portion of the ten-state bikeway starts at the river's source in Itasca State Park and often follows the Great River Road. It also offers a more intimate river experience, winding over 600 miles along the river and its various tributaries to the Iowa border. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt/>.

- **The Grand Rounds National Scenic Byway** is also a Minnesota State Scenic Byway. Two of its seven districts, the Downtown Riverfront and Mississippi River, are within the MNRRA. In addition to creek and river views, Grand Rounds offers a wealth of interpretive sites and information centers as well as hiking, biking, skiing and driving paths. For more information, visit www.minneapolisparcs.org/grandrounds.

About the Visual Resource Protection Plan

Scenic views are some of the most highly valued resources in the MNRRA. These views are threatened by increasing pressures from land uses associated with urban development. The National Park Service, in partnership with the Mississippi River Parkway Commission, is developing a plan to preserve, protect, and enhance views along the Mississippi River and surrounding area.

For more information about this project, please contact:

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Tell us about your favorite scenic viewpoints in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

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We are collecting public input on scenic viewpoints from Dayton/Ramsey to the north and Hastings/Prescott to the south. Please take a few minutes to let us know about your favorite views and the places that are important to you. We are trying to collect information about how often you visit the viewpoint, how long you stay there, how you reach the area, and why you feel it is scenic. Please use a separate form for each viewpoint you would like to comment on.

Responses will be collected until February 22nd, 2013.

You can also attach a photograph (recent or historic) of your favorite view.

**We encourage you to provide input online at
mymississippiview.crowdmap.com**

If not responding online, please e-mail the form to susan_overson@nps.gov or send it by mail to:

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MISS)
Attn: Susan Overson
111 Kellogg Blvd. E, Suite 105 • St. Paul, MN 55101

We would love to hear from you! Please use the space below to share any comments you may have about your favorite viewpoint in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Zip Code (required):

Optional Information

Name

Mailing Address

Email

☐ I would like to be contacted about volunteer opportunities for the Visual Resource Protection Plan.

Thank you for your participation!