



MISSISSIPPI PARK CONNECTION

Discover your river



Annual Report
2018-2019



Relationships Take Root

It's easy to focus on numbers when we report to our community—the number of school groups that engage in on-river learning, the number of dollars raised in a particular year, the number of trees planted in the floodplain. We love numbers and they provide an important part of our impact story.

While our numbers are impressive, we're more interested in developing long-lasting relationships with people and places. As we like to say around the office, "We're growing trees, not planting them." Our Plant for the Future campaign has an ambitious goal of planting and growing 15,000 trees that will survive for decades—providing important ecological services for our floodplain forests. Our on-river education programs engage elementary school students and teachers several times throughout the year. Rather than focusing on one-off field trips, we encourage a deep and lasting affinity with the river and the natural world.

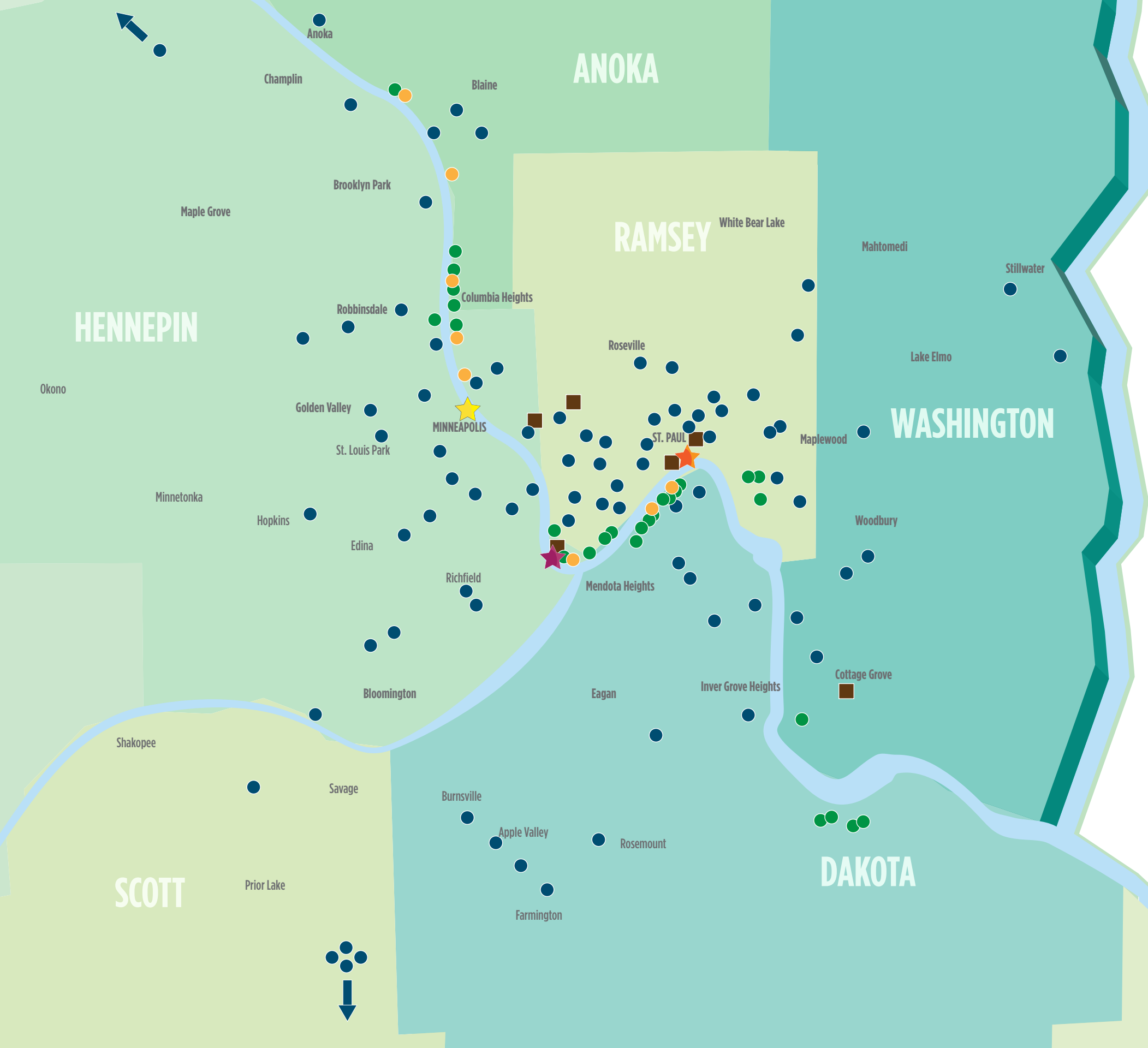
Over the past year, we started to recognize volunteer groups that helped our park for five or more years. It turned out to be a lot of plaques! Some of the groups have been volunteering for the park for 10 or more years. The collective work of our 5,000 volunteers is remarkable and the impact on our public lands is evident, but we are also deeply interested in the volunteers themselves. We hope that the reason our groups keep coming back is because service projects foster friendship, belonging, and a sense of accomplishment.

We are grateful for our community of supporters that understands the critical need to connect people early and often to our national park. Thank you for joining us.


James Eastman
Board Chair


Katie Nyberg
Executive Director


John Anfinson
Superintendent, Mississippi
National River and Recreation Area



The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area connects 25 cities along the Mississippi River, but our programs impact the community well beyond the boundaries of the park.








-  School taking a Mississippi River field trip
-  Community Gravel Bed Tree Nursery
-  Paddle Share Station
-  Tree Planting Location
-  Mississippi River Visitor Center
-  Coldwater Spring
-  St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center



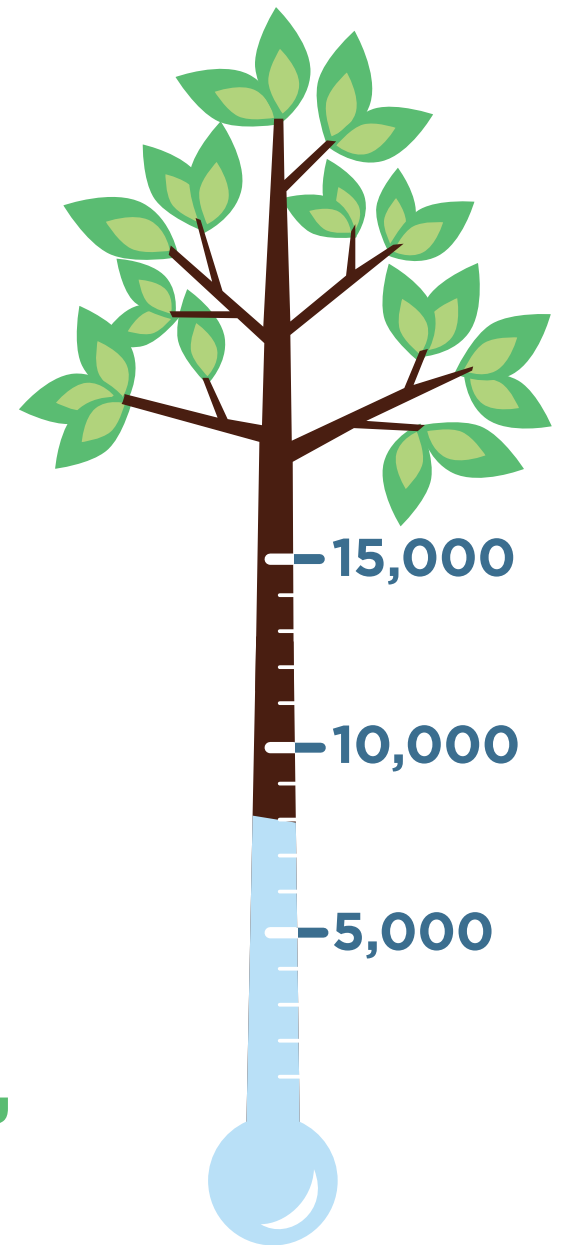
Photo by Bethany Birnie.

Plant for the Future


Our Plant for the Future campaign has broad community support. Six community partners host gravel bed tree nurseries that grow hardy trees. Volunteer groups then plant trees throughout the national park. And the Mississippi River Crew—a paid group of youth and young adults—waters and maintains the new saplings.

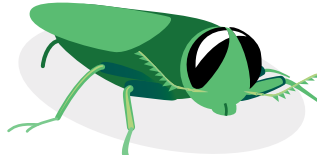
“A healthy floodplain ecosystem relies on a diversity of tree species, but due to the reservoir system, invasive species, and climate change, the upper Mississippi River’s forest is seeing less diversity. Restoring the river’s floodplain forest needs broad and diverse support, which is why Mississippi Park Connection and Mississippi National River and Recreation Area are working together to engage more partners and youth in planting a rich variety of tree species.”

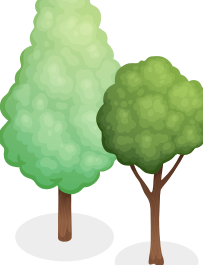
—John Anfinson, Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area





How We Do It


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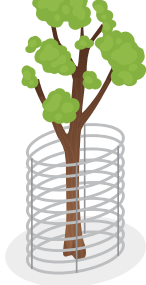
-1-
Data collection to establish baseline.
- 


-2-
Plan to plant trees in areas affected by emerald ash borer.
- 


-3-
Select species that can adapt to climate change.
- 

-4-
Build community tree nurseries with partners.
- 

-5-
Transplant trees from nurseries to the Mississippi River.
- 

-6-
Engage volunteers and youth in planting.
- 

-7-
Protect the trees from hungry deer.
- 

-8-
Water the trees.
- 

-9-
Study and monitor the success of the canopy.

Community Connections

When people feel connected to the river, they care for it. Together with the National Park Service, we connected 15,371 people from the community to the park in 2019 to enjoy fine art, performance, music, paddling, biking, boating, and more.

“Public lands are one of the great things about living in this country.

The Mississippi River is our backyard. It is the lifeblood of the Twin Cities. Every one of us has some interaction with the river every day, whether it's hiking a trail or driving over it and enjoying the fall colors.

We are proud to support Mississippi Park Connection because they are doing projects that are planning for our river corridor for the next 50, 75, 100 years. We'll see some of the benefits and our kids, grandkids, and future generations will reap the benefits of what we are doing today.”

—Alex Ubbelohde
Manager, Patagonia St. Paul





Photos by Bethany Birnie.



Youth Education

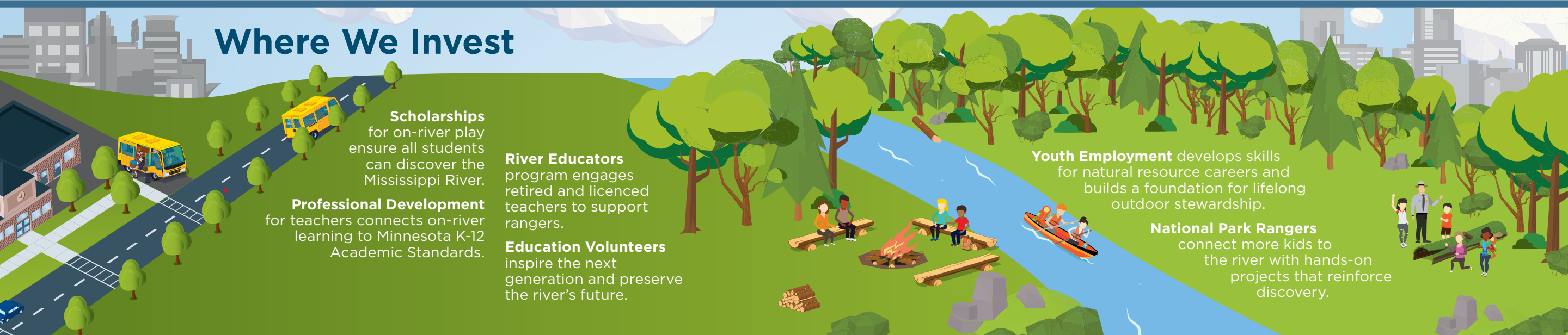
Year-round, formal, and informal education on and at the river can inspire children with the universal values of clean water, healthy aquatic ecosystems, scenic beauty, and outdoor recreation. These values are essential underpinnings of a community ethic of stewardship for this treasured national landmark for generations to come.

“ Together, the National Park Foundation and Mississippi Park Connection are increasing the number of people who benefit from our partnership in support of the park. Through our work together, new visitors are experiencing the park for the first time. Fourth grade students are engaging in meaningful field trips through NPF’s Open OutDoors for Kids program, and Twin Cities metro area middle school teachers and students are engaging in hands-on learning about the Mississippi River watershed. ”

—Will Shafroth
President and CEO of National Park Foundation



Where We Invest



Scholarships for on-river play ensure all students can discover the Mississippi River.

Professional Development for teachers connects on-river learning to Minnesota K-12 Academic Standards.

River Educators program engages retired and licenced teachers to support rangers.

Education Volunteers inspire the next generation and preserve the river’s future.

Youth Employment develops skills for natural resource careers and builds a foundation for lifelong outdoor stewardship.

National Park Rangers connect more kids to the river with hands-on projects that reinforce discovery.

Contributors

July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2019

Contributions of \$25,000+

3M Foundation
The McKnight Foundation
Minnesota Historical Society
National Park Foundation
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Wildlife Conservation Society

Contributions of \$10,000 to \$24,999

Boston Scientific Foundation
Friends of the Lock and Dam
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Contributions of \$5,000 to \$9,999

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Contributions of \$250 to \$499

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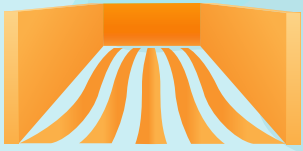
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* In-kind gifts

We make every attempt to provide an accurate listing of donors. If we have omitted your name or if other changes should be made, please contact us at 651-291-8164 and we will correct your record immediately.

2018-19 By the Numbers



25,587

St. Anthony Falls Visitor Center visitors



159,000

Coldwater Spring visitors



130,706

Mississippi River Visitor Center visitors



35

days of the Government Shutdown



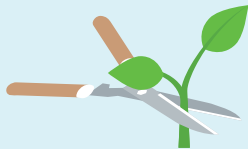
45

days in Floodstage (previous record = 33)



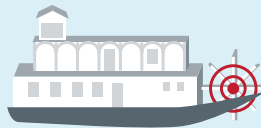
2,992

people participated in Sunset on the Lock



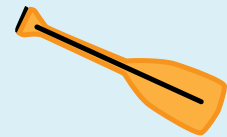
9,840

hours that the Mississippi River Crew restored habitat



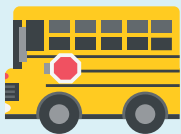
15,371

people attended MPC and NPS programming



2,482

people paddled with Mississippi River Paddle Share



22,719

students visited the river on a field trip



4,467

volunteers gave 13,901 hours to the national park



5,648

elementary school students received scholarships

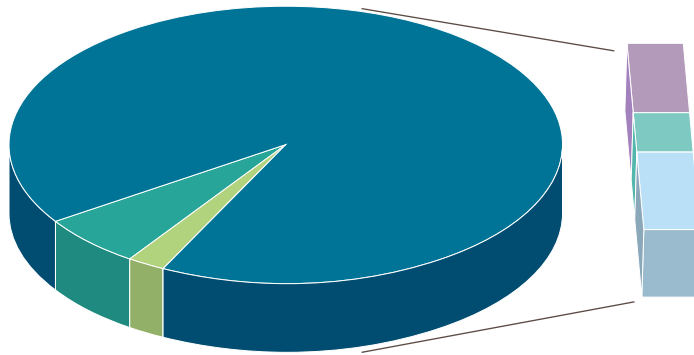


1

First pitch thrown by Katie Nyberg at the St. Paul Saints game

Financials

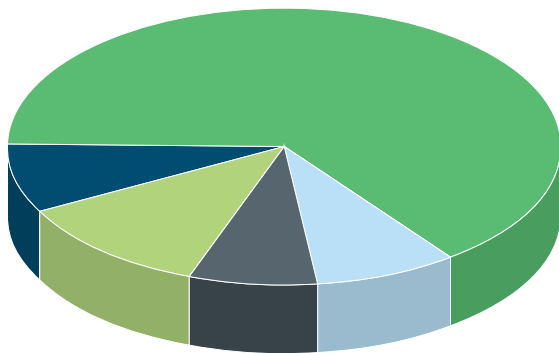
Expenses



Program Services	\$911,237
Environmental Stewardship	\$339,319
Youth Education	\$193,093
Community Programs	\$378,825
Fundraising	\$21,355
Administration	\$59,866

TOTAL \$992,458

Revenue



Individuals	\$86,000
Corporations and Foundations	\$672,743
Government Grants	\$87,712
Programs Revenue and Other	\$78,237
Endowment Distribution	\$121,413

TOTAL \$1,046,105

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