



Highland District Council
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June 22, 2018

David Thompson, c/o National Park Service
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

RE: Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls Regional Park Master Plan

Dear David Thompson, NPS RTCA Program Manager - Midwest Region,

The Highland District Council is happy to submit this letter of support for the City of St. Paul Parks and Recreation Department's application to the National Park Service (NPS) Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program. The City desires planning assistance from the RTCA for work on Crosby Farm and Hidden Falls Regional Park Master Plan.

This Master Plan benefits our community in the following ways:

1. Hidden Falls and Crosby Farm Parks are significant recreational and natural areas for our community and the broader region.
2. The last master plan for Crosby Farm Regional Park was in 2005, and Hidden Falls Regional Park has no master plan. These plans are required by the Metropolitan Council (local multi-county agency) to allocate funding.
3. Development pressures and natural area degradation (bluff erosion, flooding, non-native species invasion, etc.) are serious concerns for both of these parks.
4. Many previous plans have identified necessary improvements for these parks, including Great River Passage and the City's Parks System Plan, but none of the recommendations are collected in one report.

The HDC has supported updating the Master Plan for Crosby Farm and creating a new Master Plan for Hidden Falls for many years, including as a recommendation in support of the Great River Passage Plan back in 2012. The proposed project will be beneficial to the Highland neighborhood and we urge its support through NPS RTCA planning assistance.

Sincerely,

Kathy Carruth
Executive Director
Highland District Council

The Highland District Council's mission is to foster opportunities for the people that live, learn, work, and play in Highland Park to engage and connect with neighbors, businesses and local government and to help build a more vibrant, welcoming, and safe neighborhood.

The HDC is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit.