

Attachment A

Letters of Support

- **Red Wing Area Fund, committed \$96,800**
- **Live Healthy Red Wing, committed \$2,000 and 50 volunteer hours**
- **Friends of the Bluff, committed \$500 and 240 hours of volunteer labor**
- **Mayo Clinic Health Systems, committed \$2,000**
- **Aurora Ski Club, committed \$7,200, and 100 volunteer hours**
- **Red Wing Area Mountain Bike Organization, committed \$2,000**
- **Audubon Minnesota, committed staff time valued at \$1,000**
- **Wheelhouse Cycles, Inc. committed 72 hours of volunteer labor**
- **Jesse Nelson, High School Cross Country, committed 40 volunteer Hours**
- **Christopher Sheehan, High School Agriculture Department, committed 700 volunteer hours**
- **Barb Gunderson, AmeriCorps LEAP Director, committed 208 volunteer hours**
- **Red Wing Chamber of Commerce**
- **Red Wing Shoe Company, 50 volunteer hours**
- **Xcel Energy, committed 80 hours**
- **Anderson Center for Interdisciplinary Studies**
- **Brett Pederson, Youth and Family Director First Lutheran Church**
- **John Kern, Friends of the Bluffs**
- **Red Wing Arts Association**
- **United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties**
- **Goodhue County Historical Society**
- **St. James Hotel**
- **Red Wing YMCA**
- **Red Wing Housing and Redevelopment Authority**
- **Red Wing Visitor & Convention Bureau**
- **Red Wing Rotary, 50 volunteer hours**
- **Dan Knott, Boy Scout Troop 31**
- **Dave Borgen, Community Recreation Coordinator**
- **Goodhue County Health and Human Services**
- **Red Wing Environmental Learning Center**



Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul Minnesota 55155-4052

September 26, 2012

Dear Ms. Mularie,

During 2012 the Red Wing Area Fund of the St. Paul Foundation has been involved in restoring two family recreation areas serving also as trailheads on Sorin's Bluff Memorial Park. We have repaired and enhanced the existing picnic areas, overlooks and park features of the limestone quarries. Fencing and stair repair has restored safety. We have invested more than \$200,000 to date.

In 2013 we plan to add a handicap accessible trail, a picnic shelter and comfort stations to these locations. Our Red Wing Area Fund hired the Center for Changing Landscapes of the University of Minnesota to design these improvements and collect historical and cultural information that will be presented in information kiosks throughout the park. We plan to invest an additional \$96,800.

Our park has provided enjoyment for our citizens and our many visitors for 75 years. We are anticipating the same life span for the current improvements and enhancements.

We enthusiastically support this Legacy Grant application and its proposed additions to these plans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Suzanne Blue". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Suzanne Blue
Chair, Red Wing Area Fun
1-800-201-9650 (work)



Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052

September 15, 2012

Dear Ms. Mularie,

Live Healthy Red Wing is a local organization that works to make it easier to eat healthy and get physically active every day, and we are writing to extend our full support to the FY2013 Parks Legacy Grant for Memorial Park Improvements.

Over the last year, LHRW has had the pleasure of engaging support and volunteer hours for Memorial Park and listening to people of all ages and backgrounds talk about their stories, experiences, and love of Sorin's Bluff. Through neighborhood and community meetings, bluff events, and work-day volunteer efforts, we've heard firsthand how special this park is to the people of Red Wing and the region.

LHRW works to change policies and environment, and one of our goals is to create safe, accessible areas for physical activity. The Legacy Grant's improvements—including the ADA trail, south-side neighborhood access trail, restrooms, and kiosks—will open the bluff up to many more residents and make it useable for everyone.

Results from a two-week park visitor survey conducted by LHRW and the City showed Memorial drew people from 10 countries and 18 states, including places such as Cuba, Japan, and Switzerland, and states like Washington, Alaska, and New York. Memorial is indeed a place that lures not only locals, but visitors from around the world. LHRW envisions a time when Red Wing is known as the best small town to visit for recreational activity, and the proposed improvements to Memorial would help Red Wing realize that goal.

Red Wing has momentum on many fronts to care for, promote, and advocate for Memorial Park. Through Live Healthy Red Wing, the recently formed Friends of the Bluffs, our soon-to-be-unveiled Red Wing App for mobile devices, a new local staff presence from Audubon MN, and strong partnerships between the Red Wing Area Fund, the City of Red Wing, and multiple bluff users, we know Red Wing will work together as a community to be good caretakers of Memorial's improvements.

It is Live Healthy Red Wing's pleasure to support the FY2013 Parks Legacy Grant for Memorial Park Improvements and work fully to making Memorial a place of activity and stewardship for today and the future.

Sincerely,

Michelle Leise
Project Coordinator, Live Healthy Red Wing



FRIENDS of THE BLUFFS

RED WING, MN • EST. 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program,
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052

September 15, 2012

Dear Ms. Mularie:

Friends of the Bluffs is a community organization with the mission to increase the enjoyment, promotion, and stewardship of Red Wing's bluffs. We write to extend our wholehearted support of the City of Red Wing's Application for FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements. We commit to raising \$500 for Memorial improvements and leading 240 hours of volunteer work this year. In addition, our group will assist in spearheading and promoting activities at Memorial, and we will continue to advocate for the park in the years to come.

Friends of the Bluffs grew out of a passion for Memorial Park. A year ago, Memorial was the catalyst that drew hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, sightseers, disc golfers, cross country skiers, and snow shoers together. Though the people varied in age, backgrounds, and reasons for using the bluff, they knew they had two things in common—their love for Memorial and their desire to make it safe and cared for again.

Over the last year, the improvements that the Red Wing Area Fund and Live Healthy Red Wing have made have brought more people to the bluff for recreation, relaxation, and physical and mental health. The improvements included in the Legacy Grant will continue to draw more activity locally and regionally and provide amenities such as bathroom facilities that are desperately needed.

As a newly formed 501(c)(3) organization, Friends of the Bluffs with its 10-member board and communitywide membership looks forward to working with the Red Wing Area Fund, Live Healthy Red Wing, the City of Red Wing, and others. We respectfully pledge our support and commitment to Memorial Park and this Legacy Grant Application. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Chap Achen, Jr., Board President/Chair
Friends of the Bluffs



September 21, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie,
Local Grants Program,
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52,
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052.

Please accept this letter of Support for the 2013 Red Wing Legacy Grant Application for Memorial Park Improvements:

Mayo Clinic Health System in Red Wing is supportive of the work the City of Red Wing has proposed. We are an active partner with the City, Live Healthy Red Wing, the Red Wing Area Fund and local citizens who are working to improve Memorial Park. We would like to pledge a contribution of \$2,000 along with our continued staff participation in the Live Healthy Red Wing initiative.

We are fortunate in our community to have this beautiful and historic area that is available to our community members and visitors. The improvements outlined in the grant application will benefit our whole region. The work that is proposed in the park will improve the natural setting and enhance the local access to the park.

The access improvements will allow more community members to enjoy the park from their neighborhoods. This direct link to the park has been missing and has been a barrier to those with transportation limitations.

We are in the middle of the Community Health Needs Assessment, and even before the data is finalized, we know there is a need for opportunities that encourage our community members to be active. This improvement at Memorial Park will encourage walking, biking, skiing and picnicking for whole families.

This beautiful park is a part of the fabric of our community; we thank you for the opportunity to strengthen this asset.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pam Horlitz".

Pam Horlitz
Business and Community Development

Red Wing
701 Fairview Boulevard
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
651-267-5000

**Red Wing – Professional
and Community Center**
1407 W. Fourth Street
Red Wing, Minnesota 55066
651-267-5000

Ellsworth
530 W. Cairns Street
Ellsworth, Wisconsin 54011
715-273-5061

Zumbrota
1350 Jefferson Drive
Zumbrota, Minnesota 55992
507-732-7314

To: Brian Peterson
City of Red Wing

From: Jim Patterson
President of Aurora Ski Club

Date: September 20, 2012

RE: Support of Grant Funding

The Aurora Ski Club is interested in being part of the Grant Proposal to the State of Minnesota Legacy Fund for recreational improvements to Memorial Park on Sorin's Bluff. The specific projects that we are interested in supporting are: ski trail improvements and the construction of an equipment storage building. The trail improvements are estimated to be \$9,900 and the building construction \$18,780 for a total of \$28,680. It is our understanding that the grant application will be enhanced by showing a local commitment of funding to the project. The Aurora Ski Club is committed to donate a minimum of \$7,200 toward the project and will be involved in the long term maintenance of the ski trails and equipment storage building.

Thank you for the opportunity to be part of this proposal.

RAMBO

Red Wing Area Mountain Bike Organization

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52,
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052.

Dear Ms Mularie,

I am writing in support of the city of Red Wing's proposal for grant funds from the 2013 Parks Legacy Grant program. I am an active member of the Red Wing Area mountain bike club and a frequent user of the park. Memorial park on Sorin's bluff in Red Wing is an incredible resource that boasts activities from snow showing and skiing in the winter to hiking and Frisbee golf in the summer. As a member of the local mountain bike club, we feel very fortunate to enjoy a strong relationship with the city that allows us to develop and maintain some of the finest mountain bike trails in the Midwest. Riders routinely come from all over southern Minnesota to enjoy the trail system. Our club provides around 150 volunteer hours annually to maintain the trails and this grant will help to make the park even more inviting and accessible, not only for bikers, but all users. Our club is in support of this project and will commit \$2,000 towards its success.

Larry Warrington
Red Wing Area Mountain Bike club



Audubon MINNESOTA

2357 Ventura Dr.
Suite 106
St. Paul, MN 551125

September 21, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program,
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052

Dear Ms. Mularie,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Audubon Minnesota, the state office of the National Audubon Society. Audubon has over 12,000 members in Minnesota with 13 chapters statewide. Audubon Minnesota supports the effort of the City of Red Wing to obtain funds from the FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements. Audubon believes that the improvements to this park will encourage residents of Red Wing and the surrounding area to engage in more outdoor activities and increase their appreciation and use of our natural landscape.

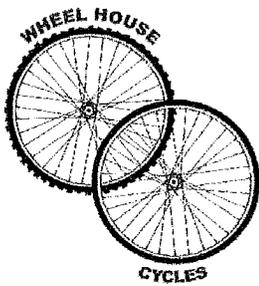
Audubon is currently starting a new chapter in Red Wing and we will soon be hiring a full-time Community Conservation Specialist. We will work with the city to help develop educational kiosks for this park that focus on the area's birdlife and other natural features. We will donate staff and volunteer time to this effort that will be worth between \$1,000.

Audubon's conservation mission is focused around citizen involvement and participation. Providing safe and attractive venues, such as Memorial Park, for people to get out and enjoy nature is a benefit to our environment, communities, and the people who live there. Audubon supports the full funding of the City of Red Wing's request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Martell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "M".

Mark Martell
Director of Bird Conservation
mmartell@audubon.org



WHEELHOUSE CYCLES, INC.

Independent Bicycle Retailer
1932 Old West Main Street
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone (651)388-1082
www.wheelhousecycles.com

September 21, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul Minnesota 55155-4052

Dear Audrey Mularie,

I have been a lifelong resident of Red Wing, and a current business owner of Wheelhouse Cycles, I am writing to express my full support for Red Wing's Legacy Grant Application.

I am an avid user and sustainer of Memorial Park. The bluff is a tremendous asset to my business and the organizations that I am involved in. The trail system has grown over the years and has seen an increase in users. With the increase in users we need to invest into the park to grow it as an asset in our community.

As the bike shop owner I see a lot of visitors from town who use the park's trail system. The Phase II park improvements will address many of the improvement needs that have been brought up to me. The restroom enclosure and event pad will be tremendous assets. The picnic pavilions will make the park a more family friendly destination, and the trail improvements will continue to help with the trails sustainability. All of this will be done while still maintaining the bluffs historic and natural look and feel.

I am making a commitment to personally provide 72 hours of volunteer work through my trail work efforts with the local mountain bike organization. I have and will continue to make a commitment to the park through the promotion of the trail system to my customers.

I ask that you approve Red Wing's Legacy Grant Application so that we can see Memorial Park become the destination that I dream of for Red Wing.

Sincerely,

Andrew Petersen
Wheelhouse Cycles, President

2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

September 20, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie,
Local Grants Program,
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails,
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52,
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052.

Ms. Mularie,

I am writing this letter in support of the City of Red Wing's application for the FY 2013 Minnesota DNR Park Legacy Funding. I represent the 7-12 Red Wing High School Cross Country running program.

During the summer and fall our program utilizes the trails on Memorial Park on a weekly basis. The improvements at the park have and will make the trails more accessible for the 95 athletes on our team this year. When bringing that many students on the trails it is important that the trails are well marked and maintained.

The student athletes in our program have already provided over 30 volunteer hours to this project in the past year and we pledge at least 40 volunteer hours per year for the next 2 years.

Having the trails for training not only benefits our performance by making the kids stronger runners but is better for their health and safety when compared to running on roads. The soft surfaces the trail provides lowers the amounts of overuse injuries which can result from running on asphalt or concrete. Running on the trails also reduces the likelihood of a runner being struck by a car, making our activity safer.

The Memorial park trails are an invaluable resource for our community and our running program. Our team values this resource and has volunteered to help maintain it and will do so in the future. Thank you for your consideration and if I can be of assistance please contact me at jhnelson@redwing.k12.mn.us or 651-385-4688.

Sincerely,

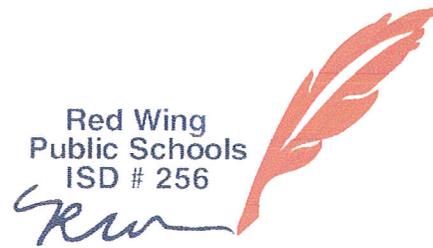
Jesse Nelson
Head Coach
Red Wing Cross Country

Red Wing Public Schools
2451 Eagle Ridge Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066

Phone 651.385.4500

www.redwing.k12.mn.us

Fax 651.385.4510



Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Ms. Mularie,

I write this letter of support for the City of Red Wing proposal for access to FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program funding for the Memorial Park Improvement project.

My name is Christopher Sheehan. I teach Agricultural Science and Natural Resources Education at Red Wing High School and am the coordinator of the Red Wing FFA Chapter. Our program meets a variety of community needs including a comprehensive career development curriculum focusing on agricultural, environment and natural resources, experiential learning and leadership development. A major component of that is the work our program does to enhance the community, sustain and improve our environment and foster leadership development.

My role relates to this project as a coordinator of Red Wing's Earth Day event. Each year Red Wing High School partners with the City of Red Wing and Live Healthy Red Wing on a citywide initiative to improve our community through a series of events in April cumulating on Earth Day. Dozens of community businesses, industry, agencies and educational institutions partner with the event donating over \$12,000 in capital, natural, human and financial resources to provide an opportunity for thousands of people (including all of RWHS's one thousand students and 70+ staff) to conduct over 7,000 service hours each year.

Our priority project over the past two years has been the renovation and development of one of area's most valuable historical markers and bluffs: Memorial Park. The park provides an incredible view of community, the bluffs of Minnesota and Wisconsin and the Mississippi River, along with hiking and biking trails, picnic sites and athlete facilities. The City and Live Healthy Red Wing has provided an opportunity to do work, primarily general restoration and safety improvements, during Phase I of their project.

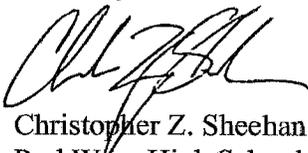
The community overall, including students, business and local non-profits are all vested in this project, seeking to make Memorial Park a safe, welcoming place that everyone can enjoy. The greatest benefit from the Park Restoration is the opportunity for Red Wing, as well as numerous surrounding communities to become engaged both in outdoor recreation and exercise, but also exploration and environmental education, as the Park provides a unique experience and historical perspective overlooking one of the most beautiful sights in Minnesota.

Red Wing High School and the council coordinating Earth Day continues to support the Memorial Park Improvement efforts. As a major focus of the event and ongoing project, the district will continue to commit resources in terms of staff, student volunteers and transportation, as well as community outreach. At minimum the district can designate 100 students per year, for four to seven hours of service totaling 700 hours of volunteer work each year until the project is completed. As the project grows, the City, Live Healthy Red Wing and the Earth Day partners can continue to leverage additional support from the community and region and further develop Memorial Park.

As a teacher of Agricultural Science and Natural Resources, I believe in the impact of environmental awareness and education. The efforts of this community, including youth, business and non-profits to revitalize Memorial Park are absolutely amazing. It provides us more opportunities to teach about sustainability and outdoor recreation and has shown the community that through combined efforts they will make a difference and save a historical marker and regional park. These efforts allow us to demonstrate to our students and community the importance of being engaged in the environment and to take responsibility for it, and, after all, environmental responsibility is the entire purpose of the Legacy Grant; to ensure that the legacy of our environmental and natural resources is around of future generations.

It is for these reasons that in my professional role with the Earth Day efforts, the ongoing Memorial Park project and in representation of Red Wing High School, I strongly support the Memorial Park Improvement application for support through the FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant and recommend its approval for funding.

Sincerely,



Christopher Z. Sheehan
Red Wing High School
Agricultural Science Department Chair



LEAP Initiative



September 18, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks, and Trails
500 Lafayette Road
PO Box 52
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4052

Dear Ms. Mularie,

This letter is submitted in support of the City of Red Wing's application for FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements. A team of 24 AmeriCorps members and two staff will provide 208 volunteer hours to this project.

My name is Barbara Gunderson. I lead and manage an annual "domestic Peace Corps", AmeriCorps program for the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation which is located in Owatonna, Minnesota. The Foundation's program of work covers a 20-county region in southern Minnesota. Red Wing is in that area.

The program I am in charge of is its donor sponsorship with ServeMinnesota and the Corporation for National and Community Service. It's called the AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative. Our program focus includes building social-emotional school readiness skills of preschoolers, educating parents on the importance of brain development to learning, encourages routine reading in the home; and informs on how nutrition, sleep, and exercise all impact a child's ability to focus and learn in Kindergarten. Connecting parents to resources and activities in the community that build deeper connections for overall health and well-being is also a LEAP Initiative goal.

I am committed to scheduling one of our Corps Friday service days to the Memorial Park Improvement project. It fulfills the AmeriCorps goal of "getting things done" and "making a difference" in communities. Our AmeriCorps LEAP Initiative team will extend the Foundation's commitment to providing collaboration, technical assistance and resources to improve the region.

This project provides great outdoor education and exercise for families as well as provides a deeper a sense of place and history. The East End Neighborhood Association can take pride in the fact that this outstanding community asset is located in their neighborhood. For the LEAP Initiative, it provides an excellent experience to build esprit des corps by serving together to strengthen community through service.

Warm regards,

Barbara Gunderson
AmeriCorps LEAP Director
Southern MN Initiative Foundation
507 456 0353



439 Main Street ■ Red Wing, MN 55066 ■ 651-388-4719 ■ Fax 651-388-6991

September 24, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052

Dear Ms. Mularie,

I am writing to express our support on behalf of the Red Wing Area Chamber Board of Directors, and myself, regarding the Minnesota State Legacy Grant for Phase II improvements to Memorial Park in Red Wing, Minnesota.

As the Chamber, we realize how important Memorial Park is to our entire area. Not only do our locals enjoy the park, but we also recognize the park has an economic impact on our community because it brings people here for a wide variety of reasons and those visitors tend to shop, eat, buy gas and sometimes stay in our hotels while they are here.

In addition, we receive many inquiries regarding Memorial Park. We also receive many positive comments from visitors that have experienced the park and then stopped in our office. One of the common questions we receive about the park is whether there are bathrooms and if it is handicap accessible, so the improvements suggested in this grant are very needed and will provide better access for all people to enjoy the park.

As the Chamber, we are unable to offer financial support for this grant. However, we will be happy to communicate to our business community about volunteer opportunities regarding this grant and progress on the improvements. When the project is finished, we foresee that Memorial Park will be a park unlike any other, one that will draw people in from around the region and country and make Red Wing an even greater destination spot.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 651-388-4719.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Patty Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Patty Brown
President
Red Wing Area Chamber of Commerce



September 24, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052

Dear Ms. Mularie:

I am writing this letter on behalf of Red Wing Shoe Company Inc., to show our support for the 2013 Legacy Funding Grant.

As one of the premier retailers and employers in Red Wing, our appreciation and support of our natural resources and our environment is unyielding; therefore, we would be a committed community supporter in this project through both financial and volunteer hour contributions.

In addition, our passion for trail running and hiking can be found throughout our Vasque product line. Supporting Memorial Park and this effort is a natural for us as we applaud any effort that enhances trail recreation and assists us in passing on the true beauty of any outdoor activity.

Red Wing is a unique place with unique citizens. I can assure you that the citizens of Red Wing understand and treasure Memorial Park's natural beauty and that there is the enthusiasm in this community to improve and sustain it as well.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Laurel Achen
Human Resources
Red Wing Shoe Company, Inc.



September 26, 2012

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55155-4052

Dear Ms. Mularie;

Xcel Energy is pleased to support the city of Red Wing's application for the Parks Legacy Grant program for Memorial Park Improvements.

Xcel Energy has a long history in community of Red Wing. We operate the Prairie Island nuclear plant, the refused derived fuel steam plant and a regional service center all in the city limits. As a matter of fact, one of the major overlooks at Memorial Park includes a wonderful view of our steam plant and the power lines that leave the facility and provide electricity to local residents.

Our employees live and play in Red Wing. We know that Memorial Park is a place where many choose to enjoy the outdoors. They hike, bike and walk their dogs on the trails. They cross country ski in the winter. And whenever visitors are in town, it is a natural spot to view the natural beauty around us in Red Wing.

As an environmental leader, our company believes in using natural resources wisely. We believe that a healthy environment is essential to thriving communities. We strive to build partnerships which enhance the environment and foster an ethic of conservation and preservation. Memorial Park is a perfect example of the partnership we look for in a community. We already have many, many employees who volunteer their time and efforts in the Red Wing parks and would continue to support this initiative moving forward. We are also interested in supporting this effort financially.

We enthusiastically endorse the efforts to obtain this grant.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Pam Gorman'.

Pam Gorman
Xcel Energy
Manager, Community & Local Government Relations



Anderson Center

for Interdisciplinary Studies

September 21, 2010

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4052

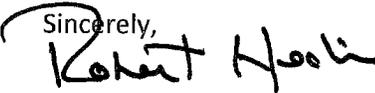
Dear Ms. Mularie:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Anderson Center, I wish to extend wholehearted support for the FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for the important Memorial Park improvements in Red Wing.

The Anderson Center is a national registered landmark and the largest artist community in the Midwest. More than 700 artists, writers, and scholars from around the world have participated in the Center's unique residency program since 1995 when the Center opened, and their work reaches many facets of the Red Wing community. When they visit Red Wing, they are invariably struck by the city's history, the beauty of its natural surroundings, and by the community's longstanding commitment to preserve the integrity of its heritage.

As you know, Memorial Park has long served as one of Red Wing's iconic destinations. For visitors and residents alike, it has for decades been a place for recreation, education, contemplation, courtship, for gatherings large and small. The views one encounters from its top are like no other in the Upper Mississippi region, and one invariably departs filled with a sense of awe, wonder, and thanks. This important park, after years of unfortunate neglect, is now experiencing a rebirth. Through an outpouring of hundreds of volunteer hours, increased programming, and overall community interest, it is coming back to life, and will once again play a vibrant role in people's lives.

Future improvements through the Parks Legacy Grant Program will ensure that people from all regions and backgrounds will continue to enjoy and care for this natural historic landmark in the heart of Red Wing. On behalf of the Anderson Center Board of Directors, I fully support this grant request and the good work that would result. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Robert Hedin
Executive Director