

Brett Pederson

303 Glenwood St
Red Wing, MN 55066
651-301-4208
651-388-9311
Brett@firstlutheranrw.org

September 24, 2012

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

Dear Audrey,

I am a Youth and Family Director at First Lutheran Church. I feel most purposeful in my position when I can plug-in to the community that I serve. As an advisor for the local high school's Key Club, I have the special opportunity to view community service and preservation through the eyes of the young people in Red Wing.

Recently, the City of Red Wing began an application process for a Park Legacy Funding Grant for the Improvement of facilities on Memorial Park. I want you to know that I support this application and fully intent to be involved with projects that serve the bluffs and natural areas in Red Wing. I am also committed to involving the youth of Red Wing in projects and volunteer efforts that focus on supporting places like Memorial Park. The RWHS Key Club has grown to near 50 members, many of which are ambitious about volunteering on community outdoor projects. I commit myself to create awareness and opportunity for the Youth of Red Wing to serve in such capacities on Memorial Park.

I know personally many community parks are used by the youth of our community. Often, I arrange get-togethers and field trips at our local natural areas. Memorial Park is no exception. In fact, my personal property borders Memorial, it is as if I am writing to you of my OWN backyard! I am aware of the popularity of this natural area with the locals. My penchant for these special places is shared with other young adults and friends, we use the bluffs as a sanctuary with which to contemplate life. Of course, more active recreation is abundantly available as well. I see MANY young adults visit from the metro area for rock-climbing, bicycling, and hiking opportunities that aren't available in-and-around Minneapolis.

I urge you to give the City of Red wing full consideration with this application. Be assured of community support of improvement projects and honest volunteer efforts by the sons and daughters of Red Wing. I pledge my time and efforts as a contribution.

Sincerely yours,



Brett Pederson
Youth and Family Director
First Lutheran Church
Friends of the Bluffs director's board
RWHS Key Club Advisor
Blandin Community Leadership Program Participant

September 17, 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 to support the City of Red Wing 2013 Legacy Funding Grant for Memorial Park improvements. My personal stake, as well as my wife and family's, is as a 33-year user of the trails on Memorial Bluff for biking, skiing, disc golf, and hiking. I am also a founding board member of the local Friends of the Bluffs volunteer organization, which supports all outdoor activities on Red Wing's beautiful bluffs. Currently I serve as Chairman of the Board of the Red Wing YMCA, a 150-year-old institution with nearly 6,000 members.

Memorial Park is an amazing recreational asset for the people in the Red Wing area as well as visitors. Users include the activities mentioned above, as well as picnickers, people walking their dogs, and locals and tourists who just want to enjoy the panoramic views of the city and the Mississippi River.

In addition to expressing my support, it is my plan and that of the Friends of the Bluffs organization to commit many volunteer hours in the coming months and years, as well as doing ongoing fundraising for projects as they arise. Besides projects, our group promotes access and usage to citizens of the area as well as tourists from throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the Midwest who love to visit Red Wing.

Very few natural assets offer the amazing variety of outdoor activities as Memorial Park in Red Wing, while still offering just as much potential for improvement and additions. I request your support for this very worthy Legacy Grant application.

Sincerely,

**John Kern
Red Wing, Minnesota
thekerns@charter.net
651 388-3918**



Red Wing Arts Association

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

Dear Ms. Mulaire'

On behalf of the Red Wing Arts Association we want to strongly support the application for the City of Red Wing 2013 Parks Legacy Grant program for its Memorial Park Improvements. This park has long been a major asset of our community for local citizens and tourist activity.

Memorial Park, with its winding trails and scenic overlooks, is a favorite among local artists for Plein Air painting during all seasons of the year. This spectacular advantage culminates with the annual Plein Air Arts Festival sponsored by RWAA. Artists from around Minnesota and the five state area spend a week in Red Wing painting local scenes and its natural habitat.

The improvements that are planned for the park will increase artists' access to this natural beauty. Clearing away some of the bluffs will offer greater views of our river and valleys, making this park a destination for so many more artists.

The arts and culture in Red Wing are connected to our natural surroundings and remain a core value of our identity as a community. This Legacy Grant is will be an important assistance to continuing this valuable asset.

Sincerely,



Art Keryon
President
Red Wing Arts Association

C E L E B R A T I N G C R E A T I V I T Y

**United Way of
Goodhue, Wabasha &
Pierce Counties**

413 West Third Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
tel 651.388.6309
www.uw-gwp.org



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

Sept. 19, 2012

Dear Ms. Mularie,

I strongly encourage the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' Park Legacy Funding Program to consider the City of Red Wing and Live Healthy Red Wing's grant application for Memorial Park improvements.

The United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties has three focus areas; Education, Health and Basic Needs. Parks are an important part of our work but this park in particular park fills some needs that others do not. Aside from the rich history of this park and the role it played in early Red Wing industry, the park acts as a natural classroom for geology, biology, art and conservation classes. Having a safe place to play and explore, which Memorial Park will offer, is a basic need for every child. However the most important role it will play as far as United Way is concerned is a place for recreation and activity for people from all around our region, for all age and fitness levels.

We strongly believe that a healthy community must be a physically active community and Memorial Park will offer a wide variety of activities that cannot be found anywhere else in our city or region. Disc golf, mountain biking trails, hiking and nature walk trails, picnicking areas, geocache sites all offer opportunities to enjoy physical activity and improve your health in this park. Beautiful vistas, areas of field and forest and grass offer quiet, serene areas to relax and improve your mental health as well.

Volunteerism is also important to United Way and to the health of a community. Team building, ownership and pride in oneself and the community are all benefits that we see when people have given of their time and energy to the park. Many groups have already committed time and want to stay involved in the work of restoring Memorial Park. We feel there is no better way to teach young people respect for themselves, each other and the park itself than to invest some hard work in a project. This is a project that has captured their interest.

The United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha and Pierce Counties, has always supported Live Healthy Red Wing in the work they do. This support is testament to Live Healthy Red Wing's importance to improving the overall health of our community.

If I can answer any questions or provide additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Maureen Nelson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Maureen Nelson
Executive Director
United Way of Goodhue, Wabasha & Pierce Counties



September 19, 2012

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

Dear Ms. Mularie:

The Goodhue County Historical Society is dedicated to telling the stories of Goodhue County and its people. The City of Red Wing's application for a FY2013 Parks Legacy Grant for Memorial Park improvements helps us to do that.

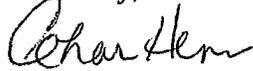
As Live Healthy Red Wing works to promote healthier living styles for the citizens of Red Wing, we have been happy to promote research support as the group explored the history of Sorin's Bluff and Memorial Park and how integral the bluff/park have been to community life. We regularly receive requests from local residents and visitors to the area about information about the bluff/park. It is a popular place for residents to spend time and to take out of town visitors to get a "bird's-eye" view of the town. Upgrading Memorial Park and installing interpretive kiosks could tell the stories of commerce (quarrying), recreation (picknicking), and geology (interesting land formations and the impact that the Mississippi River has had on our landscape) while people are enjoying the views, trails, and amenities that approval of this grant application would allow.

We are lucky to live in a city located in a beautiful natural setting and residents enjoy getting outside and hiking, biking, watching birds, walking dogs, and skiing, among other activities. Upgrades to Memorial Park will make these activities easier to do and will encourage others to try them.

We have been very happy to help Live Healthy Red Wing with the research that has already gone into this project. We look forward to a grand opening of the improved Memorial Park complex.

Please support this worthwhile project. If you have questions, or need further information, please contact me at 651.388.6024 or chargchs@qwestoffice.net.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Char Henn".

Char Henn
Director/CEO



ST. JAMES HOTEL
RED WING

September 20, 2012

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

Project Title: Memorial Park Phase II Improvements

Dear Ms. Mularie:

I am writing in support of the Memorial Park phase II improvement efforts as part of the FY 2013 Parks and Trail Legacy Grant Application.

I have witnessed first-hand the popularity of Memorial Park, as we, at the St. James Hotel, have pre-printed directions to the Park for our guests searching to see the highlights in our city.

Memorial Park is probably the perfect blend of combining two top Red Wing area assets; that being, history and natural splendor.

I can testify that Memorial Park is a real destination spot and within earshot of the Oakwood Cemetery, another highly visited historical attraction.

By the strong support of multiple groups in Red Wing, I believe you can see the value we put on Memorial Park. I am highly confident that further improvements would allow us to attract even more visitors to the Red Wing area.

Sincerely,

Michael McKay
General Manager

MM/mc

406 Main Street
Red Wing, MN 55066
www.st-james-hotel.com
Phone: 651.388.2846
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HISTORIC HOTELS
of AMERICA



NATIONAL TRUST
for HISTORIC PRESERVATION



Red Wing Family YMCA

We build strong kids,
strong families, strong communities.

Ms. Audrey Mularie
Local Grants Program
DNR Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road, Box 52
St Paul Mn 55155-4052

Dear Ms Mularie, my name is Mike Melstad and I am the President and CEO of the Red Wing Family YMCA in Red Wing Minnesota. I am writing to support the City of Red Wing's FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements. The Red Wing Family YMCA enthusiastically supports this grant application. We have been an active partner in the collaborations that have spurred this revitalization. Many of our staff and volunteer leaders have been involved on personal levels as well helping drive Live Healthy Red Wing and the Friends of the Bluff forward. A tremendous amount of good work has happened already and the proposed improvements will position Memorial Park very well for an even larger participation.

The Red Wing Family YMCA has a long history of youth and family programming in outdoor settings and Memorial Park has always been our favorite location for Hiking, Mountain Biking, XC Skiing and a whole range of smaller quieter activities such as bird watching, compass activities, disc golf and geocaching.

Memorial Park is within walking distance of the YMCA for our youth programs and it provides a perfect bridge between kid's daily lives and the splendid outdoor environment in Red Wing. We can leave for a morning's walk and in half an hour be in a remarkably different environment helping kids connect with outdoors.

The park badly needs an investment in infrastructure and accommodations to ensure safety and accessibility for people of all ages and abilities.

On a personal level Memorial Park is the first stop when my family hosts visitors and my wife and I enjoy picnicking and hiking there regularly. I've helped raise money for this project on a local level and the good will and broad support – translated into volunteering has been splendid. This proposal is a solid investment in deeply bought in community. I strongly believe this project is a great match with the intent of the Legacy Fund.

Sincerely,

Mike Melstad

Red Wing Family YMCA • 434 Main Street • Red Wing, MN 55066

phone: 651-388-4724 • fax: 651-388-5340

Website: www.redwingymca.org

YMCA Mission: To enhance the quality of the life for individuals and the community through programs that build healthy spirit, mind, and body.



RED WING HOUSING & REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

428 WEST FIFTH STREET, RED WING, MN 55066

TELEPHONE (651) 388-7571

FAX (651) 385-0551

TDD/TTY 711

WWW.REDWINGHRA.ORG

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 the Executive Director of the Red Wing Housing And Redevelopment Authority (HRA). We administer federal and state housing and community redevelopment programs in the City of Red Wing.

This letter of support is in reference to the City of Red Wing's Application for FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements.

I support the improvements that are detailed in the Memorial Park Phase II Improvements application. The HRA continually supports ideas and improvements that improve the livability of the City of Red Wing and increases its attractiveness as a destination for visitors. Improving the trails and amenities of Memorial Park will do just that. It is a beautiful park and making improvements to the park so that it is more usable for all people just makes sense from every angle.

The park lies just southeast of the downtown area and is an easy walk for most people from the downtown area. One of the HRA's goals is to increase the number of people who live in the downtown area. An improved Memorial Park will be an amenity that people will greatly enjoy and it will increase the reasons for people to want to live in the downtown area. A park with added amenities increases the value of the downtown area for all people.

I envision that an improved park would be a draw for many visitors to come to Red Wing. As the word gets out, I can see people driving to Red Wing and climbing Sorin's Bluff as an outdoor activity and enjoying the panoramic view of the Mississippi River Valley at its top. Improving the trails, its safety and the picnic areas only makes sense as a tourist attraction. An improved Memorial Park will allow access to a great natural resource that many people will enjoy for many years.

I hope that you will support and approve the application to improve Memorial Park.

Sincerely,

Randal Hemmerlin

Executive Director



September 24, 2012

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

Dear Ms Mularie,

I am the Executive Director of the Red Wing Visitor & Convention Bureau and am writing this letter in support of the FY Parks Legacy Grant Program for the Memorial Park Improvements. As a tourism organization we love to partner with the City of Red Wing in promotion of many of the assets of our city.

Memorial Park is a huge part of our tourism efforts throughout the seasons. It is one of my favorite spots to share with our nearly 17,000 visitors through the Red Wing Visitor Center plus bus groups whom maneuver the motor coaches around to catch an eyeful of the panoramic breathtaking views of the Mississippi River and our city. This spot is one that is never missed in hosting a travel writer to our city. Hopefully, an eagle or two will grace us with its presence soaring overhead.

I would assume that this project would not only enhance the visitors experience but also to the local & regional people who use the disc golf area, picnicking, biking, or hiking throughout the area. This park is an attraction for our city and is wonderful for our businesses both retail, restaurants and lodging and that's what tourism does for our city.

Thank you for your consideration

Kathy Silverthorn
Red Wing Visitor & Convention Bureau
420 Levee Street
Red Wing MN 55066



Ms. Audrey Mularie,

Local Grants Program, Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Trails

Hello, I am Tom Feehan Past President of the Red Wing Rotary Club. This letter is in support of Red Wing's Parks Legacy grant application. During my year as President in 2001, Red Wing Rotary worked with the City of Red Wing to create and build the 18 hole Memorial Park Disc Golf Course on top of Sorin's Bluff. In 2006 Red Wing Rotary worked with area businesses as sponsors to add new improved disc golf baskets and individual hole signage to the Memorial Park course. Yearly tournaments are held here and area golfers have won State championship honors. Rotarian and community members volunteer time to help keep the course in good shape.

Rotary is proud of our part in bringing this family friendly sport to Red Wing. It brings many to our community to enjoy the beauty of this bluff and its stunning views. The terrain is disc golf perfect for exciting winds and generally safe golfing away from other guests. Work is needed to bring restrooms and more guest support to this beautiful resource. It is an underutilized gem in our community and with some work could become a main attraction.

Tom Feehan

Red Wing Rotary

www.redwingrotary.org

23 September 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 on behalf of the Boy Scouts Troops and Cub Scout Packs of Red Wing in support of the City of Red Wing's FY 2013 Parks and Trail Legacy Grant Application for Memorial Park Phase II Improvements. Local Scout units have used Memorial Park for at least as long as I have been a Scout leader (over ten years) for recreational and educational activities, and Memorial Park has also been the location of several completed and proposed Eagle Scout Projects.

Over the years, Scouts have participated in many recreational activities at Memorial Park, especially hiking on its trails. For example, our Troop has used Memorial Park for pre-high adventure conditioning hikes, and has used the picnic areas both for dining and for programs. In addition to what we do at Memorial Park as Scouts, I know that many of the boys especially enjoy using the disc golf course and mountain biking trails on Memorial Park.

Memorial Park has is an ideal real-world classroom, as well. Geology, Nature, Forestry, Mammal Study, Bird Study, and Environmental Science are just some of the merit badges we have taught at Memorial Park. Our Scouts have also participated in community activities at Memorial Park with other groups, like the regional amateur radio club, which holds its annual Field Day exercise at Memorial Park, where they practice setting up emergency radio communications in the event of a disaster.

In just the past three years, I know of at least two completed Eagle Scout projects at Memorial Park, and several others that Scouts have discussed and planned. It is important to note that the Scouts themselves develop and plan the Eagle Scout projects, so the number of Eagle Scout projects planned, proposed, and performed at Memorial Park reflects the level of interest and excitement that the Scouts get from Memorial Park, and the Scouts' desire to give back to the Park and the community through their projects.

Many of our Scouts and their families have participated in the community input for the Memorial Park improvements, and many have volunteered to work on various aspects of the plan. As local Scout leaders, we look forward to the continued improvements at Memorial Park, and to enjoying the updated facilities with our Scouts for many years to come.

Sincerely,



Dan Knott
Scoutmaster, Boy Scout Troop 31
Red Wing, Minnesota



Red Wing
Community Education & Recreation

2451 Eagle Ridge Drive, Red Wing, MN 55066 651-385-4565 www.redwing.k12.mn.us

September 19, 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,

My name is Dave Borgen. I am the Community Recreation Coordinator for Red Wing. I am writing in support of the City of Red Wing's Application for FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements.

The recent park and trail improvements on Memorial Park have created a wonderful resource that we use at Community Recreation to try to increase outdoor programming and opportunities for the youth of our community. We offered for the first time last spring a "Trampin' the Trails" program in Red Wing. The program was created out of the increased awareness of the great resource we have in Red Wing with our bluffs and natural resources. The kids in this program visited different trails in Red Wing. The highlight of our season was the trip to Memorial Bluff. We were able to enjoy the trails and visit a cave on the outing. We will continue to offer this programming in the future. The park improvements help with access to the outdoors and the well-marked and maintained trails made our trip a pleasure.

In addition to this outdoor programming, I also have the pleasure of heading up a group of volunteers who are working to create a Red Wing App. The app is called "Enjoy Red Wing" and grew out of our desire to promote the outdoor resources Red Wing is blessed with. We were thinking of ways to use technology to help people access trails for hiking, biking, cross country skiing and other uses. We feel the trails and improvements made in Memorial Park are a real asset to our community and want to promote their use to residents and visitors to our community. The app is just being completed. We believe the app will promote the park and trails located in Memorial Park.

I fully support the work being done in Memorial Park and hope you will look favorably upon their application for this Legacy Grant.

Sincerely,

Dave Borgen

Dave Borgen
Community Recreation Coordinator



**GOODHUE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION**

509 W. 5th St. • Red Wing, MN 55066
651/385-6100 • Fax 651/385-6472

"PROMOTE, PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITIES"

September 19, 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,

As the Community Health Specialist at Goodhue County Health and Human Services, it is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the City of Red Wing's Application for the 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements.

I support the application for the grant because the park improvements will help to provide better access for all people to get outside and become active. As you know, obesity across the nation is a public health issue and lack of physical activity is a primary contributing factor. The park improvements will highlight and inform visitors and residents of the opportunities for fun healthy activities. Additionally, the history of the quarries and the beauty of being outdoors in a natural environment have been found to be beneficial to mental health.

In conclusion, I fully support the efforts of the Memorial Park project and I am committed to volunteering time towards the improvements.

Sincerely,

Ashlyn Christianson
Community Health Specialist



Red Wing Environmental Learning Center

5354 Tower View Drive- 651-388-7339 Website: www.redwingelc.com

Red Wing MN 55066

Executive Director

Jason Jech
rwelcjason@gmail.com

Field Instructors

Brad Nagel
rwelcbrad@gmail.com
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Maureen Nelson
Brian Peterson
Tyler Quandt
Tom Schneider

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

Ms. Audrey Mularie,

9/19/12

As Executive Director of the Red Wing Environmental Learning Center, I would like to express my support for the proposal from the City of Red Wing's application for FY 2013 Parks Legacy Grant Program for Memorial Park Improvements.

Conservation has been defined as a state of harmony between people and the land. With increasing population pressures and hectic lifestyles that are further removing us from meaningful everyday relationships to the land, it becomes even more important that we try to develop more opportunities to learn about our natural world and achieve some level of harmony.

The State of Minnesota and the community of Red Wing are blessed to have a wide variety of natural resources such as rivers, lowland forests, prairies, and limestone bluffs. Access and enjoyment to trails, pathways, and various outdoor activities such as the one being presented would help greatly in getting people out and enjoying the outdoors and that is a wonderful thing. These improvements would not only benefit our Environmental Learning Center but the community of Red Wing and all of the visitors to this area of the state.

The Red Wing Environmental Learning Center uses this specific resource in a number of programming ways such as orienteering, geocaching, cross country skiing, mountain biking, snowshoeing to name just a few. During the course of a year we bring hundreds of students up to enjoy and learn about the geological, natural and human history of the area.

I would whole heartedly support the proposal being presented to you so that future generation will be able to enjoy, learn about and appreciate this unique and beautiful area. If you have any questions or need more information I would be glad to visit with you. Thank you again for your consideration!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Speer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Executive Director

Environmental Learning Center