



# City of Burnsville

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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **NEW MINNESOTA RIVER GREENWAY TRAIL CONNECTION WILL BRING COMMUNITY CLOSER TO NATURE**

*Grand Opening Celebration of Minnesota River Greenway, Minnesota Riverfront Park to Include  
Activity Stations Along Trail, Presentations and Demonstrations*

**When: Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**10:15 a.m. Presentations begin**

**10:45 a.m. Ribbon Cutting**

**10:50 a.m. – Noon Activity Stations Along the Trail**

**Where: Minnesota Riverfront Park, 600 Black Dog Road W., Burnsville**

### **Background:**

The Minnesota River has always been a large part of the south metro's identity. Now, the City of Burnsville's newest park, and the newest connection to the Minnesota River Greenway trail will give visitors an extraordinary way to get up close to the river valley and its nature.

Minnesota Riverfront Park, located at 600 Black Dog Road West, is now home to the trailhead of the newly built Black Dog segment of Dakota County's Minnesota River Greenway. The 3.75-mile segment of paved trail stretches from the park, along the river, through the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge and Xcel Energy's Black Dog power plant property and on to Minnesota Highway 77/Cedar Avenue.

### **Speakers**

The celebration will include remarks from the following:

- Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz
- Dakota County Commissioner Liz Workman
- Dakota County Parks Director Steve Sullivan
- Xcel Energy-Minnesota President Chris Clark
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Refuge Supervisor MN/IA Tom Kerr
- Matt Pagano from Rep. Jason Lewis' Office

*(more)*

**Visuals**

- Between 200-300 attendees expected
- Attendees invited to bring bicycles, scooters to take on the trail
- Pedicab transportation
- Bikes available to demo from Penn Cycle
- Ribbon Cutting
- Scenic views of Minnesota River and Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge
- Activity Stations

<b>Location</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Park & Trailhead	Trail Information & Bike Decorating with Dakota County Demonstration Bikes with Penn Cycle
Rest Area (.25 miles from park)	Animal Tracking with Dakota County Parks
Wildlife Outlook (1 mile from park)	Birding with U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Black Dog Power Plant (2 miles from park)	Pollinator Gardens & Energy-Efficient Tiny House with Xcel Energy

**Project Partners**

The park and trail were made possible through funding from the following partnering organizations:



(more)

**About the Park**

The 1.8-acre Minnesota Riverfront Park offers amenities such as picnic tables, a grilling area, a bicycle repair station and a parking lot.

**About the Trail**

The Black Dog segment of the Minnesota River Greenway is ideal for walking or biking, and includes an observation deck overlooking the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge and wildlife viewing areas.

Once complete, the Minnesota River Greenway will travel 17 miles through Burnsville, Eagan, Mendota Heights, Mendota and Lilydale before landing at St. Paul’s Lilydale Regional Park. From there, trails continue to Harriet Island and downtown St. Paul. The hope is that trail connections will one day extend across the Minnesota River, to the planned Minnesota Valley State Trail and multiple trail loop opportunities within the river valley.

**About the Refuge**

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1976 to provide habitat for a large number of migratory waterfowl, fish, and other wildlife species threatened by commercial and industrial development, and to provide environmental education, wildlife recreational opportunities, and interpretive programming for Twin Cities residents.

The refuge is part of a corridor of land and water stretching nearly 70 miles along the Minnesota River, from Bloomington to Henderson, Minnesota. Comprised of more than 14,500 acres, the refuge has multiple units, offering a variety of free outdoor recreational experiences for individuals and families. Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge also manages a 14 county Wetland Management District.

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