

Susan K Schmidt

See attached letter for my comments. Please send email acknowledging receipt. Thank you.

February 3, 2026

Amy Hadiaris
MPCA Remediation Division
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Comments on Feasibility Study for Ford Area C

Dear Ms. Hadiaris:

I am a long-time resident of St. Paul. Like most Minnesotans, I believe the Mississippi River is one of our premier natural resources, treasured by residents and visitors alike who love to get to the river to boat, walk, bike, bird watch, enjoy nature including the viewshed, gather along the bluffs or shoreline for picnics, and so much more.

I write today about Ford Area C which lies within the 72-mile Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA, a unit of the National Park Service) as well as the 72-mile Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). I ask that MPCA take the steps needed to help ensure we have publicly accessible lands all along the Mississippi River within the 72-mile Twin Cities corridor. The land known as Ford Area C is currently a glaring gap in public accessibility along the Twin Cities River Corridor. The City of St. Paul - Park and Recreation Department Master Plan for Hidden Falls – Crosby Farms Regional Park, first completed in 1970 and updated in 2019, supports the idea of purchasing Ford Area C in order to expand public accessibility.

In order to create more continuous, uninterrupted publicly-accessible parkland within the MNRRA / MRCCA corridor, I am asking MPCA to select Alternative 6 – total cleanup – of the Ford Area C site now. Total cleanup now will also help accomplish parallel objectives:

- Total cleanup now would be most protective of human health.
- Total cleanup now would be most protective of the waters of the Mississippi River, one of our sources of drinking water, and the area plants and animals that depend on clean water and soil.
- Total cleanup now honors the land and its history.
- Total cleanup now contributes to a more livable St. Paul and Region.
- Total cleanup now is the most permanent remedy.
- Total cleanup now helps us ensure that Minnesotans have the cleanup paid for by the responsible party. Ford Motor Company benefitted from many years of business along the river and, therefore, Ford Motor Company can and should help contribute to Mississippi River vitality and public enjoyment of our river going forward.

I realize that total cleanup at Ford Area C now will not ensure public access to the site given land ownership. However, I believe total cleanup at Ford Area C will encourage continued, parallel discussions among city, state, federal officials, private property owners including, of course, Ford as well as the public to achieve public accessibility at Ford Area C (and other similarly closed off areas within the MNRRA / MRCCA corridor) going forward. MPCA decisions do in fact impact these types of land use decisions in our state.

Thank you for serving the State of Minnesota. I ask that you please confirm receipt of these comments via email.

Sincerely,
Susan Schmidt
Email: susanschmidt1222@outlook.com
1071 Cleveland Ave South, #104
St. Paul 55116