

Matthew Crellin

My family and I have used Crosby Farm Park, Hidden Falls Park for over 40 years and I have lived on the east bank of the Mississippi River at the Upper Landing for 2 years and know a little bit about the life cycle of the river. I believe that the MPCA has not done a complete study of the past and future impact of the Ford Area C toxic dump site on the Mississippi flood plain in the City of Saint Paul immediately down stream and other areas of the flood plain downstream.

The river sediments in the recently named "dead zone" where the Mississippi enters the Gulf of Mexico, contains large quantities of most of the same metals and chemicals identified in the report as being present in Ford's Area C. In fact, all along the river, south of the Ford site, where dredging takes place to keep the navigation channel open, these very same metals and chemicals are now found; enough so that some of these dredging spoils cannot be safely placed in agricultural fields.

Those of us who have enjoyed the use of Crosby Farms Park and Hidden Falls Park in Saint Paul are well aware that, when the river is in flood, tons and tons of river sediment is deposited just in these two areas and this has happened year after year since Ford's toxic waste has been seeping into the river. These river sediments commonly form annual drifts four or more feet high in these two areas, immediately adjacent to Area C. Our children and I am sure generations of other children have played in these these parks and children are playing these now, without knowing that a toxic dump exists less than a mile upriver.

I believe that a complete MPCA study of Ford Area C should include testing the soils and water in Crosby Farm Park and Hidden Falls Park for the same chemical and metal toxins that we know are still in Area C. The MPCA should also guarantee, in this report, that Area C will never pollute these two vital recreation areas. I believe the only way to guarantee this is for MPCA to require Alternative #6 and get all of Ford's toxic waste out of the flood plain of the Mississippi River.