

You are invited to join the National Park Service for the Mississippi River Forum--your opportunity to learn about issues impacting the Mississippi River, and to make sure other decision makers understand your perspective. Details for the October and November programs are below. Please RSVP by emailing or calling me.

The Mississippi River Forum is made possible by the generous support of the park's charitable partner, the Mississippi River Fund, and the McKnight Foundation.

"Can We Harvest Rainwater for Indoor Use?"

**Friday, October 17 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. (Minneapolis) -AND-
Friday, November 21 from 8:00-9:30 a.m. (St. Cloud)**

Wes Saunders-Pearce, City of Saint Paul.

Light breakfast provided. Free. RSVP to lark_weller@nps.gov

As green infrastructure receives greater attention for its potential to help communities protect water resources, so do rainwater capture and re-use opportunities. Here in Minnesota, a common perception is that state laws prohibit harvest and re-use of stormwater for indoor uses like toilet flushing—but is this just a myth? Why, truly, don't we see more projects harvest rainwater for indoor use, especially as we deepen our understanding of the need to reduce demand on our limited water resources? The answer is part governance, part economics, and part persistence. Saint Paul's Lowertown Regional Ballpark (currently under construction and will be home to the St. Paul Saints) will harvest rainwater for indoor use—Minnesota's first such municipal project. Come hear how this project navigated regulatory issues, why the City of Saint Paul sees it as an important opportunity to demonstrate sustainable water management, and how others can apply lessons learned from this project. The topic is particularly timely, given that the MN Plumbing Board is updating the Plumbing Code—and is considering the recommendations of an interagency Water Reuse Group on rainwater harvesting.

Wes Saunders-Pearce is the City of Saint Paul's Water Resources Coordinator, and was instrumental in incorporating a rainwater harvesting program at the Lowertown Regional Ballpark.

LOCATIONS:

Minneapolis*: McKnight Foundation (710-2nd Street South, Suite 400, Minneapolis, 55401)

St. Cloud: St. Cloud City Council Chambers (400-2nd Street South, St. Cloud, 56301)

*If you are planning on joining us for the October meeting, please note that our hosts at the McKnight Foundation have a new check-in process. When you arrive, please be prepared to sign in at the front desk and get a visitor pass.

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Lark Weller

Water Quality Coordinator

[Mississippi National River and Recreation Area](#) - National Park Service

111 E. Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105

St. Paul, MN 55101

lark_weller@nps.gov

651-293-8442