Director of Outdoor Education and Recreation
Plymouth, Minnesota
Welcome to Three Rivers

Three Rivers Park District is a natural resources-based park system located in the suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area of Minnesota that manages nearly 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trails and special-use facilities.

Our employees are enthusiastic about their work serving the outdoor recreation and education interests of a diverse community; we work together to inspire environmental stewardship. We are a leader in the parks & recreation industry – largely due to the commitment and dedication of our staff.

HISTORY AND MISSION

Formerly Hennepin County Park Reserve District, Three Rivers was established by the State Legislature in 1957, nearly 60 years after the initial concept was introduced to the Twin Cities. Since the initial gift of 210 acres of parkland was donated by Morris T. Baker, the Park District has acquired land through donation, purchase and acquisition.

The “80/20” policy insures the protection of natural resources by specifying that only 20 percent of park reserves may be developed for active use, while 80 percent of the parkland must be preserved or restored to a natural state.
Natural Resource Management
The Department of Natural Resources strategically works to restore and protect the natural resources in the park reserves and regional parks. Management efforts strive to maintain a diversity of wildlife, native plant communities, and quality water resources for public enjoyment.

In an effort to return the parklands to their native state, prior to settlement in the 1800s, a variety of restoration efforts have been utilized, including:
- reestablish big woods forest and tall grass prairies
- manage and reintroduction of native wildlife species
- control of invasive species
- stormwater management
- monitoring for E. Coli and swimmer itch

Recreation Activities and Programs
Three Rivers Park District provides a wide variety of recreational activities, programs and lessons open to people of all abilities and experience levels.

The array of recreation facilities provided by Three Rivers includes:
- four golf courses
- two downhill ski and snowboard areas
- a snow-tubing hill
- three campgrounds
- 8K of manufactured snow trails for cross-country skiing
- areas for swimming, fishing/boating, picnicking, snowshoeing and more

The Outdoor Recreation School specializes in instructor-led, adventure-based activities that promote and enhance active outdoor lifestyles and foster a greater appreciation for the natural environment.

Outdoor Education Programs
Countless opportunities are offered for people of all ages to experience nature at its best!

The educational programs offered reach thousands of people each year through public programs, school groups, scout partnerships and drop-in visitors. Outdoor education is delivered at a variety of locations throughout the service area.
- three nature centers
- an educational farm
- a formal garden
- a nature-based art park with gallery
- an environmental learning center
- a living history heritage park
- numerous off-site, school based partnerships

Trails
Hundreds of miles of paved and unpaved trails wind through Three Rivers Park District's service area including regional trails and in park trails, providing spectacular views of wetlands, woodlands, open prairie and old farm fields that are gradually succeeding back to nature.

Spanning more than 140 miles, the vast network of regional trails connects many of the parks to each other and to neighborhood trails.

The extensive in-park trail networks provide opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding and cross-country skiing. Additionally, over 35 miles of singletrack trails are divided between three locations, allowing for year-round mountain biking.
ORGANIZATION OVERVIEW

Governance and Financing
Three Rivers Park District is governed by an independent, seven-member Board of Commissioners which exercises oversight responsibility for the Park District. Five members are elected from districts in suburban Hennepin County, representing approximately 750,000 residents; two members are appointed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.

The primary source of operating funds is a tax levied by its Board of Commissioners on property located within suburban Hennepin County, outside the city of Minneapolis. The other major source of operating revenue is park use revenue, which includes equipment rental, program fees, special use fees, and merchandise sales. The annual operating budget is $35.8 million.

Human Resources/Staffing
Three Rivers employs approximately 450 employees in regular positions working year-round and approximately 2,000 people in seasonal positions working up to six months. The Park District has three unions representing park maintenance, park police and park police supervisors. The operating departments and sections are organized into the Superintendent's Office and two divisions.

Office of the Superintendent
The Office of the Superintendent works directly with the Board of Commissioners to help guide the Park District in its mission. The Superintendent directly oversees the Associate Superintendents, as well as the Directors of the Departments of Human Resources, Public Safety, Finance, Maintenance, as well as Marketing and Community Engagement. This group meets regularly to review Board agenda materials, prioritize capital improvement projects and other asset management initiatives, and to confer on all other matters pertaining to the ongoing business of the Park District.
A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The Twin Cities is a thriving metropolitan area. Frequently recognized for its low unemployment rates, great education system and cultural opportunities, it is also one of the healthiest communities in the country.

This high quality of life is critical to the region’s economic future because it is a primary driver for recruiting new workers and businesses and retaining the existing workforce. The Metropolitan Council’s annual metro resident survey indicates that the region’s parks and trails are the single most attractive feature for the Twin Cities.

Why Parks Are Important

The benefits of park systems to individuals, the community, the economy and the environment have been well documented. Parks play a critical role in providing opportunities for children and adults of all ages to improve their physical and mental health. Parks and trails help strengthen family relationships and connect communities.

The size and diversity of the park system are key indices for measuring quality of life. Parks and trail corridors improve property values. Park reserves and regional trail greenway corridors together create critical wildlife habitat, protect and improve surface and drinking water quality, and preserve large areas of woodlands and prairie communities around which the metropolitan area has developed. Healthy green spaces support thriving communities.

2040 System Plan

We have an opportunity to carry Three Rivers’ natural legacy forward. To accomplish this, Three Rivers is currently developing a 2040 System Plan which will include a vision for the future and serve as a road map to achieve that vision. The draft vision statement and three key goals for the System Plan were formed: Vision: Every person can discover, explore and enjoy the wonder of nature every day.

Goal 1: You belong here. Three Rivers is relevant, convenient and welcoming to all people.

Goal 2: Parks Matter. Three Rivers is essential to vibrant, healthy and livable communities.

Goal 3: Lead by Example Three Rivers is intentional and innovative in meeting the needs of today while anticipating & protecting the needs of tomorrow.
PROFESSIONAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Three Rivers Park District, located in the Twin Cities Metro area with its headquarters in Plymouth, Minnesota, seeks to fill the position of Director of Outdoor Education and Recreation.

Three Rivers Park District is a nationally renowned park system comprised of 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trail corridors, and special recreation features whose mission is to promote environmental stewardship through recreation and education in natural-resources based park system.

The Director of Outdoor Education and Recreation is accountable to the Associate Superintendent and is responsible for providing direction, leadership and management of district-wide education and recreation programs and services.

This key leader ensures department staff have effective leadership, an understand the Park District’s service principles, strategic direction, mission and district-wide goals and priorities.

Qualified candidates are required to have a bachelor’s degree in environmental education, biology, parks and recreation, or related field. In addition, at least eight years of increasing responsibility for management and/or administration with at least three years experience managing an operation comprised of multiple education/recreation facilities.

Apply online at ThreeRiversParks.org. Please include a resume and letter of interest. This posting is open until filled with a first submission deadline of September 26, 2018. All application materials received prior to that date will be given first priority. Three Rivers Park District is an equal opportunity employer.