



Regional Parks Foundation *of the Twin Cities*

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Executive Director is Named to Regional Parks Foundation

Private dollars to help secure the “last, best natural areas” for regional parks

ST. PAUL—April 14, 2009—The Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities has named Jane Johnson as its executive director. The foundation was created late last year to raise private dollars to help the regional parks system. Johnson will direct those efforts, seeking out private sources of funding to help support the regional park system and raise public awareness.

Johnson served most recently as the executive director of the Library Foundation of Hennepin County. She also served as Associate Director of Development Research during Campaign Minnesota at the University of Minnesota Foundation, and managed development and membership initiatives for the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Foundation.

“I am very pleased that Jane has accepted this appointment,” said Metropolitan Council Chair Peter Bell, who also chairs the foundation. “She has the requisite experience in the world of nonprofits and fundraising. She has demonstrated leadership skills and abilities. And, she cares deeply about the legacy we leave our children and our children’s children.”

Metropolitan Council surveys show, year after year, that area residents highly value the region’s abundance of parks and natural areas. Bell says the region would be well served by acquiring the last, best natural areas, sooner, rather than later, while they are still available and affordable.

“Many of our state’s parks and natural areas were created and preserved through a combination of public and private investment,” said Bell. “The Regional Parks Foundation will provide those who value our parks and trails with the opportunity to help build upon that fine heritage.”

Bell calls regional parks the “crown jewels” of the Twin Cities metro area. Given the growing competition for state funding, a parks foundation can supplement the public funds that regional parks currently receive.

For more information on the Regional Parks Foundation of the Twin Cities, contact Ann Beckman at 651-602-1669.

Visit our website at: www.regionalparksfoundationtc.org