



*Protecting, restoring and enhancing the metro
Mississippi River and its watershed since 1993.*

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January 16, 2025

Councilmember Rebecca Noecker
Saint Paul City Council
15 W. Kellogg Blvd, Suite 310
Saint Paul, MN 55102

Dear Councilmember Noecker:

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) appreciates the opportunity to share our support for the proposed Tree Preservation for City Sponsored Projects amendment to Title IV of the Administrative Code.

FMR is a St. Paul-based non-profit organization with a mission to engage community members and other stakeholders to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region. We represent thousands of people in the metropolitan area who care deeply about the river, including over 6,000 who participate as FMR advocates, volunteers, and members each year.

Trees are vital to St. Paul's quality of life for people, as well as other plant and animal species that depend on the ecosystem functions trees provide—in even the most developed of places. Our tree canopy provides shade, clean air, reduced energy costs, habitat, and beauty. People become attached to their neighborhood trees, and they need to trust that the city is taking every measure to preserve or replace trees when other public improvements are being made.

We appreciate this ordinance's commitment to consistent, science-based standards developed by expert city staff. These standards will help mitigate the impacts of climate change for St. Paul residents and ensure every project is conducted with care.

For the river,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colleen O'Connor Toberman'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colleen O'Connor Toberman
Land Use & Planning Director