



Watchdog Group Encourages City To Focus On Maintaining Existing Parks Over Building New Facilities

SAINT PAUL, MN — Saint Paul's park system has long been a source of pride, consistently ranked among the top in the nation for accessibility, equity, and amenities. However, nonpartisan fiscal watchdog group [In\\$ight St. Paul](#) is raising concerns about a growing \$230 million backlog in deferred maintenance, and is encouraging city leaders and residents to take a closer look at how park funding is being prioritized.

The proposal they gave to city leaders today is available on the In\$ight St. Paul website.

St. Paul is currently planning several park expansion projects including the **River Balcony (\$114M)**, **Mississippi River Learning Center (\$65M)**, **Regional Athletic Complex (\$30M)**, and **Como Pavilion (\$30M)**. In\$ight St. Paul is urging city leaders to address the deferred maintenance of existing parks before investing so heavily into expanding the city's park system.

"We're proud of our parks, and we want to ensure they remain safe, welcoming, and well-maintained for everyone," said Carl Michaud, a spokesperson for In\$ight St. Paul. "Before we expand, let's take care of what we already have."

In addition to sound fiscal prioritization, the group is also encouraging the city to create a task force that includes members of each of the city's district councils to help guide investments. They are also encouraging the city to push harder to get the state to pay its share of the city's regional park operating and maintenance expenses. Current law calls for the state to provide 40 percent of these costs to the city, but recently they have been providing less than a quarter of this amount.

ABOUT US: *In\$ight St. Paul is a nonpartisan fiscal watchdog group made up largely of St. Paul residents and businesses concerned about the need for stronger financial management of St. Paul. The city is facing significant financial challenges that cannot be*

ignored. In\$ight's goal is to unpack, understand and explain the serious tax, spending and debt problems confronting St. Paul and work with policymakers and the community to develop sound solutions that ensure a strong financial future for the City.

MORE INFO: The full report is available on our website at www.insight.org. For more information, a copy of the full report, or to set up an interview with a member of In\$ight, please feel free to contact Nate Dybvig at 651.230.3018 or nate@spifirm.com.