



## St. Paul Yacht Club

St Paul Yacht Club  
Board Of Directors Meeting  
Tuesday, May 13, 7pm ~ 8pm  
Google Meet:

**Approved by:** Andy Ristrom , Tom Surprenant , Bill Tschohl , Diane Scovill , Andrea Johnson

**Board members present:** Bill Tschohl , Troy Janisch , Diane Scovill , Andy Ristrom , Jon Oulman , Andrea Johnson , David Nelson , Robert Smekta

**Board absent:** Greg Jorgensen , Nathan Schumann , Tom Surprenant

**Staff present:** Kristina Cummings

**Attending:** Brett Cummings, Michelle Borne, Barb Haake, Marcia Sievert, Victoria Fritz, Bonnie Jean MacKay

## Board Meeting Agenda

- **Call to Order Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Approval of Agenda**
- **Open Comments from the Floor**
  - Please sign in to speak. We ask that comments be limited to 2 minutes.

**VF:** Concerns raised related to debris tossed from the Raspberry Island Bridge (slip 210) on Dahlgren (Occupant's bimini had a cigarette burn.)

**Action to be taken:** Marina manager will ask the city about slip cover options.

- **Flag Officer Reports**
  - Commodore - Bill Tschohl (Report attached)
  - Vice-Commodore - Nathan Schumann (No report)
  - Treasurer - Tom Surprenant (Report attached)
  - Secretary - Troy Janisch (No report)

**Marina Manager Report -** Kristina Cummings (Report attached)

Notable additions (not included in the report):

- Approx 20 slip covers will need to be replaced in upper harbor. New cover designs will be explored that improve the ability rollup/rollout covers. (New design will require city/board approval)
- 54 missing 2025 signed contracts. 18 new members.

- **Committee Reports**



## St. Paul Yacht Club

- Amenities - Nathan Schumann (No report)
- Finance Tom Surprenant (Report attached)
- Marketing & Membership - Troy Janisch (Minutes attached)

1. "Bagels with the Board" event planned on 5/24.

Board will supply bagels, cream cheese, coffee and juice for sit-in or take out.

Available board members/committee chairs are invited to volunteer and engage with members. 9am-11am.

2. SPYC River Adventure Guide

3. Little Free Library

**Motion:** "The Membership & Marketing Committee moves that the St. Paul Yacht Club Board approve a budget of \$300 for the acquisition, installation, and decoration of a Little Free Library on the Dahlgren Dock in the lower harbor during Summer 2025."

**Made by:** Troy Janisch

**Seconded by:** Andy Ristrom

**Status:** Passed

**Motion:** "Approve club membership for Brian and Diane Backes"

**Made by:** Troy Janisch

**Seconded by:** Diane Scovill

**Status:** Passed

- Operations - Andy Ristrom (Report attached)
- Social Committee - Andrea Johnson (No report)
  - Captain's Breakfast 5/17 (Biscuits & Gravy)
  - Commodore's Ball 6/28
- Strategic Planning - Bill Tschohl (Report attached)
- **Old Business**
  - Dredging (Completed)
- **New Business**
  - None (Completed)



St. Paul Yacht Club

- **Adjournment**

**Motion:** Adjourn

**Made by:** Andy Ristrom

**Seconded by:** Tom Surprenant

**Status:** Passed

## **"We Can Do It!" – Owning Our Future Together**

### **Commodore's Report – May 8, 2025**

After two decades at the St Paul Yacht Club, I've seen the rhythm of the seasons bring both challenges and excitement—and 2025 is shaping up to be one of our most promising yet. The warmer weather is here, and with it comes the energy and anticipation we all share as we prepare for an exceptional boating season.

Over the past year, we've made strategic moves to not only improve our infrastructure but to improve the long-term strength and independence of our operations. Key projects—like the long-overdue dredging beneath the clubhouse and at the upper harbor entrance—are now behind us, marking a significant milestone. Those were persistent pain points we couldn't resolve on our own and I'm proud to say they're finally resolved, allowing us to focus forward.

One of the most transformative achievements occurred in a shorter timeframe than typical this past month. We are going to be taking a much higher degree of control in our dredging operations. After more than 15 years of discussion, we've now equipped ourselves with the tools—and the mindset—to manage more of this critical function in-house. With the arrival of our Mudcat hydraulic dredge we took some control of dredging, but on its own it still has limitations. Later this month we'll see new equipment added to our equipment set. Two barge-mounted excavators, a spoils barge and two workboats will take us the next step into a new era of capability and self-reliance. These assets are more than equipment—they're a symbol of our commitment to charting our own course.

Once our crew is trained and ready, we'll be hitting the ground running. The equipment variety will allow us to address long-standing issues like humps, bumps, gravel bars, and tree debris that have frustrated us for years. This is about more than maintenance—it's about efficiency, confidence, and ownership of our marina's future.

My theme for the year is simple but powerful: **"We Can Do It!"** And I truly believe that spirit lives in every one of our members. Whether you're interested in lending a hand, learning about operations, or shaping our club's direction, I encourage you to get involved. Join us at a committee meeting, attend a board session, or just reach out with ideas. You'll find all the upcoming events and meetings listed on the [St. Paul Yacht Club Calendar](#).

With each slip that gets filled and each project tackled, we're building more than just a boating season—we're building a legacy.

**Here's to shared success,**

**Bill Tschohl**  
Commodore  
St. Paul Yacht Club  
651-335-1719

**You can email the entire board at this single address: [board@stpaulyachtclub.org](mailto:board@stpaulyachtclub.org)**

Marina Manager Report:

Kristina Cummings

May 2025

Contract – We are still missing 54 – 8 of which are in the water

Missing payments - \$64,000 in summer payments or a payment plan not set up

We have 18 new boats this year as of May 5<sup>th</sup>

New electrical pole set and should be hooked up on the eastern end of the Upper Harbor

Slip Covers – rolled out not yet invoiced but vendor paid 5/9/25

Dredging

- LSM – Completed but un paid
- Mudcat - Needs to start but with limited staff we are going to have to figure things out – we have lost 4 slips so it must be done

Lower Harbor Water

Each unit is 748 Gallons

100 Yacht Club Rd –

- October 2024 – 21 units – (October 2023 – 43 units ) = \$296.96
- November 2024 - 19 units – (November 2023 - 23 units) - \$277.38
- December 2024 - 75 units – (December 2023 - 33 units) - \$905.14
- January 2025 - 112 units – (January 2024 - 20 units) - \$1,302.83
- February 2025 - 130 units – (February 2024 - 32 units) - \$1,496.29
- March 2025 – 38 units – (March 2024 - 28 units) - \$507.46
- April 2025 – 27 units - \$393.37

## **SPYC Finance Committee Meeting Report**

**April 23, 2025 (Wednesday)**

Called to order at 4:45 PM

All Remote

Present: Tom Surprenant, Chair

Diane Scoville, Jon Oulman, Bonnie Jean MacKay, Brett Cummings,

Staff Representative: Kristina Cummings

***Special thanks to Bonnie Jean MacKay for keeping Meeting Minutes, summarized in this Report.***

Tom mentioned having trouble before the last Board meeting finding what he needed in Quickbooks. Issues have now been mostly resolved.

### **Budgets and Financials**

Tom shared a Budget vs. Actuals (cash) spreadsheet with the committee.

In Quickbooks – Tom ran the fiscal year budget against a cash Actuals to date report.

January 1, 2025 – April 23, 2026

He noted that the Club's Accrual Method of accounting does not facilitate tracking actual income and expenses attributable solely to the budget for the current fiscal year.

The committee then discussed whether the Club should use Cash vs Accrual accounting.

### **Receivables**

Tom next presented to the committee a report from Quickbooks showing receivables 30 days and less past due.

Brett questioned how the Club would show a shortfall in receivables collected in an annual audit if we were to use Cash accounting.

The committee and Kristina discussed whether it is possible to generate a report on cash received to pay 2025 bills, separate from payments received on bills budgeted in a prior year.

According to Kristina, everything should be in now for summer fees, or on a payment plan. The invoice determines which year the cash received will be credited to.

## **Board Actions on New Income or Expenses**

The committee discussed the issue of how to account for it when the Board approves new expenses that were not budgeted, and whether there should be a modification of the budget, such as when the board recently approved an unbudgeted amount for surveying.

It was brought up that for the \$200,000+ upcoming bill for dredging was budgeted in 2023.

After discussion, MOTION by Tom Surprenant, Chair:

When the board approves any new, unbudgeted expenses and/or income, at the next Board Meeting – that is, the next meeting held subsequent to the action – the budget will be modified to show separately any such Board-approved new expenses and/or income that were not part of the yearly approved budget.

Vote 5 to 0 in favor. Members voting were all those listed as ‘present’ above.

The change to the official budget will be made when the expense or income change is approved. Tom and Kristina will see to it that the change is recorded.

Brett recommended that the Treasurer come up with a P&L to be presented at the board meeting every month. Tom said he was already planning to do this.

## **Unanticipated urgent expense Fuel Valve for Gas Dock:**

Kristina reported that SPYC needs a new valve at the top of the gas dock. The gas valve leaks. We need to get the \$1300 new valve approved. This is urgent.

Kristina said she will put together the expense proposal and send it to the Board Members on the Finance Committee members who are also on the board who will forward it to the rest of the Board for an email vote.

## **Committee Budgets and Other Budget Line items:**

The committee discussed using separate committee budgets as part of financial planning.

## **Miscellaneous last remarks and discussion:**

The committee briefly reviewed Social Gifts (60700) flowers etc. for memorial gifts etc., as well as memberships fees and income from transient rentals.

Rate Structure Change & Membership Dues: \$100 member – The committee discussed tracking of dues and use of the funds.

Kristina reported there are 80 people who have not paid their bills as of April 15.

Meeting ended at about 5:40PM



St. Paul Yacht Club

## Marketing Committee

**Tuesday May 6 at 3:30PM, Google Meet**

**Attendees:** Troy Janisch , Bill Tschohl , Kristina Cummings

1. Reviewed and discussed outline and draft of the SPYC River Adventure Guide. Draft will be completed in May.
2. Reviewed and discussed Little Free Library proposal.
3. Planned “Bagels and the Board” event on 5/24. Board will supply bagels, cream cheese, coffee and juice for sit-in or take out. Available board members are invited to volunteer.
4. Discussed assembling and displaying an entry-way display at neighborhood apartment buildings.
5. Discussed kicking off a 2025 SPYC photo contest.
6. Discussed gathering photos and descriptions for all SPYC slips to promote slip sales on the SPYC website

**Thank you,**  
Troy Janisch

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday June 10 at 3:30PM, SPYC Club House

Saint Paul Yacht Club

# 2025 River Adventure Guide



## Contents

<b>Introduction</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Mississippi River - Pool 1</b>	<b>4</b>
Exploring and Anchoring in Pool 1 (River Mile 848–854)	5
Lock & Dam No. 1 (River Mile 847.9)	5
2025 Hours of Operation:	5
How to Lock Through:	6
Boater Tips:	6
<b>Mississippi River - Pool 2</b>	<b>7</b>
Ford Island (River Mile 846.5)	7
Minnehaha Dog Park (River Mile 845.5)	7
Hidden Falls Park and Public Boat Launch (River Mile 844.8)	7
Watergate Marina (River Mile 843.5)	8
Crosby Farm Regional Park (River Mile 843.0)	8
Activities & Amenities	8
Tips for Visitors	9
Pike Island (River Mile 842.0)	9
Snelling Lake - Minnesota River (River Mile 841.5)	10
Pool and Yacht Club (River Mile 840.0)	10
Pillow Beach & Shepard Rd. Bridge Anchorage (River Mile 839.0)	10
Lilydale Regional Park Boat Launch (River Mile 838.5)	11
Ohio Swing Bridge (River Mile 837.0)	12
Excel Energy Inlet (River Mile 836.5)	12
SPYC Upper Harbor (River Mile 835.5)	13
Gas Dock	13
Upper Landing Park (River Mile 835.0)	13
City House (River Mile 839.6)	14
Harriet Island & Kelly's Landing	15
SPYC Lower Harbor	15
Raspberry Island	15
River Heights Marina	15
Mile Marker 826 Islands and Sheely's Cut	15
Spring Lake	15

Lock & Dam 2 (Hastings, MN)	15
<b>St. Croix River</b>	<b>15</b>
Prescott & Point Douglas	15
Kinnickinnic (“The Kinny”) Sandbar	16
Afton Area	16
Lake St. Croix	16
Hudson, WI	16
Stillwater, MN	16
<b>Mississippi River - Pool 3</b>	<b>16</b>

## Introduction

There’s nothing quite like the freedom of setting out on the river with the sun above you, the current below, and the day wide open ahead. Whether you’re a seasoned river captain or casting off for your first upriver cruise, this *River Adventure Guide* was created to help you discover the beauty, history, and hidden gems that lie between the bluffs of the Mississippi and St. Croix.

From quiet coves and sandy beaches to vibrant harbors and riverside parks, this region offers something for everyone—fishing, paddling, rafting, anchoring, dining, and docking. Along the way, you’ll find spots to stretch your legs, grab a bite, and connect with the river’s past.

As thrilling as river exploration can be, the waters in and around St. Paul demand respect. Depths shift, current can be swift, and the landscape changes with the seasons. We encourage all boaters to be **cautious adventurers**—navigate with care, keep your charts handy, monitor VHF channels, and never underestimate the power of the river.

This guide highlights not only destinations but also real experiences and insights from SPYC members who know these waters best. Whether you’re seeking serenity or spontaneity, let this be your map, your inspiration, and your reminder to explore boldly—and safely.

We’ll see you out there. Stay curious. Stay safe. And most of all—enjoy the ride.

—The St. Paul Yacht Club

# Mississippi River - Pool 1

## From Ford Dam to the Upper Locks of Minneapolis

Pool 1 stretches from Lock & Dam No. 1 (commonly called Ford Dam) northward to the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock in Minneapolis. This stretch of river offers a blend of urban exploration and natural beauty, flanked by tree-lined bluffs, historic infrastructure, and secluded anchorages.

Navigating Pool 1 requires passing through Lock & Dam No. 1, operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The area is lightly trafficked by barge traffic, making it a peaceful zone for recreational boaters.

Our members share that Pool 1 offers one of the most tranquil stretches of river within the Twin Cities metro area. Explore this upper reach for a serene anchoring experience or a unique view of the Minneapolis skyline.

## Exploring and Anchoring in Pool 1 (River Mile 848–854)

Members describe Pool 1 as a hidden gem. With minimal boat traffic and plenty of space to explore, the pool is ideal for anchoring out, swimming, or enjoying lunch aboard.

- **Common Anchor Points:** Just upstream from the lock, there are calm coves tucked into the bluffs on both riverbanks.
- **Scenic Views:** Expect panoramic vistas of forested cliffs, birdlife, and the distant outline of downtown Minneapolis.
- **Activities:** Some members bring paddleboards or inflatables for a slow float in the current. Others pack a picnic and anchor for hours of quiet.

Notes from Nate: There are two anchorages that I've been to, but others may have more experience. Make a note of the furthest you can go without having to portage

**Navigation Note:** Depths are generally stable, but watch for submerged rocks near the eastern shoreline.

## Lock & Dam No. 1 (River Mile 847.9)

Lock & Dam No. 1, commonly referred to as **Ford Dam**, marks the southern entrance to Pool 1. Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this lock is friendly to recreational traffic and a gateway to a tranquil stretch of river leading toward downtown Minneapolis.

**Location:** 5000 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55417

**Phone:** (651) 290-5919

**VHF Radio Channel:** 14

### 2025 Hours of Operation:

- **Fridays & Mondays:** 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
*Last lockage at 7:30 p.m.*
- **Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays:** 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.  
*Last lockage at 5:30 p.m.*
- **Tuesdays – Thursdays:** Closed to recreational traffic  
*(Open for commercial vessels by appointment only with 24-hour advance notice.)*

### How to Lock Through:

- **Radio Contact:** Call on **VHF Channel 14** as you approach to request lockage.
- **Signal Cord Option:** If you don't have a radio, pull the **recreation signal cord** located on the lock's guide wall.
- **Arrival Reminder:** Arrive at least **30 minutes before closing** to ensure passage.

### Boater Tips:

- Have **lines and fenders ready** before entering the chamber.
- Watch for **strong currents** near the dam structure.
- Be courteous to other boaters waiting for lockage, especially during peak hours.

Lock & Dam No. 1 is more than just a gateway—it's your entrance to a peaceful and scenic part of the Mississippi rarely experienced by the casual boater.

## Mississippi River - Pool 2

### From Lock & Dam 1 (River Mile 847.9) to Lock & Dam 2 (River Mile 815.2)

Pool 2 flows through the heart of the Twin Cities and offers a remarkable blend of natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and riverside culture. Whether you're craving sandy beaches, tranquil anchorages, or spots to dock and dine, Pool 2 delivers adventure in every direction.

### Ford Island (River Mile 846.5)

**Location:** Near 5000 West River Parkway, Minneapolis, MN 55417

**Access:** By water only

**Hours:** Open access; daylight recommended

A wooded island near the base of Lock & Dam 1, Ford Island is a favorite for small-boat anchoring. It offers solitude, birdwatching, and calm water sheltered from the main channel. There are no formal facilities, but many members bring hammocks or paddleboards for a peaceful escape just minutes from the city.

### Minnehaha Dog Park (River Mile 845.5)

**Address:** 5399 Minnehaha Park Dr S, Minneapolis, MN 55417

**Hours:** 6:00 AM – 12:00 AM daily

**Access:** Via land trail or upstream dinghy landing

This riverside dog park is an adventure for your four-legged crew. Heavily wooded and shaded, it spans several acres with sandy shoreline access to the river. There's even a dog beach! You'll need to land at a nearby cove and hike in.

- Wave to the doggos on the way up/down the river

### Hidden Falls Park and Public Boat Launch (River Mile 844.8)

**Address:** 1313 Hidden Falls Dr, Saint Paul, MN 55116

**Hours:** 6:00 AM – 9:00 PM daily

**Access:** Closest dock is Watergate Marina or via shoreline anchorage

Tucked into a wooded valley beneath the Highland Park bluffs, this park features picnic shelters, scenic walking trails, and the namesake waterfall just a short hike

in. Perfect for families, this is a quiet green escape from city noise with great photo ops.

- Not really an SPYC thing, but worth noting that the park and launch are there if you have other boats (no dock)
- Fun place to launch a kayak and paddle down to SPYC
- We may build kayak storage as part of the amenities committee
  - Might be fun to organize a paddle to see the river from another vantage point

## Watergate Marina (River Mile 843.5)

**Address:** 2500 Crosby Farm Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55116

**Phone:** (651) 695-3780

**VHF Radio Channel:** 16

**Fuel Dock Hours:** 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily (Call or radio ahead for service)

**Fuel Types Available:** Gasoline and Diesel

**Amenities:** Pump-out station, ship's store, restrooms, picnic area

## Crosby Farm Regional Park (River Mile 843.0)

**Address:** 2595 Crosby Farm Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55116

**Hours:** Open daily from sunrise to 10:00 PM

**Contact:** (651) 266-6400

Nestled along the Mississippi River, Crosby Farm Regional Park is Saint Paul's largest natural park, encompassing approximately 736 acres of floodplain forests, wetlands, and small lakes, including Crosby Lake and Upper Lake. The park offers a serene escape with a variety of recreational opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts.

### Activities & Amenities

- **Trails:** Explore 6.7 miles of paved trails suitable for hiking, biking, and cross-country skiing, connecting to Fort Snelling State Park and Hidden Falls Regional Park. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Fishing:** Enjoy fishing along the Mississippi River shoreline and in the park's lakes, which serve as nurseries for various fish species during flood seasons. [NPS.gov+1Hilary Bullock+1](https://www.nps.gov+1Hilary+Bullock+1)
- **Picnicking:** Utilize picnic tables, BBQ grills, and a picnic shelter equipped with a fire pit and electricity. The shelter accommodates up to

50 people and can be reserved for events. [Saint Paul Minnesota](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov)

- **Wildlife Observation:** The park is a haven for birdwatchers, especially during spring and fall migrations, with sightings of great egrets, herons, and bald eagles. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Boating:** Access the Mississippi River via nearby Watergate Marina, offering opportunities for canoeing and kayaking.

Boaters can dock at Watergate Marina (River Mile 843.5) and access the park via a short walk. Alternatively, anchoring near the park's shoreline allows for direct entry to the trails and picnic areas.

### Tips for Visitors

- **Seasonal Considerations:** Be aware that trails may be inaccessible during high water conditions. [NPS.gov](https://www.nps.gov)
- **Facilities:** Restroom facilities are available near the picnic shelter. [Saint Paul Minnesota](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov)
- **Regulations:** Note that the possession or consumption of alcohol is prohibited within the park. [Saint Paul Minnesota+1 Saint Paul Minnesota+1](https://www.saintpaulmn.gov+1Saint+Paul+Minnesota+1)

Crosby Farm Regional Park offers a blend of natural beauty and recreational activities, making it a must-visit destination for those seeking adventure along the Mississippi River.

## Pike Island (River Mile 842.0)

**Address:** Within Fort Snelling State Park, 101 Snelling Lake Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55111

**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

**Access:** By water or footbridge

Located at the confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, this island is a quiet sanctuary with wide, flat trails perfect for hiking or biking. A historic Dakota site, Pike Island is rich with cultural significance. There are restrooms and picnic areas on the adjacent park shore.

## Snelling Lake - Minnesota River (River Mile 841.5)

**Address:** Fort Snelling State Park  
**Access:** By kayak or small craft only  
**Hours:** 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM

This shallow, spring-fed lake is accessible via a side channel from the Minnesota River. It's a great spot for paddle sports, birding, and picnicking. Motorized access is limited due to shallow entry, so it remains quiet and uncrowded.

## Pool and Yacht Club (River Mile 840.0)

**Address:** 1600 Lilydale Rd, Lilydale, MN 55118  
**Phone:** (651) 455-3900  
**Access:** Transient dock access for members and guests  
**Hours:** Dining: Mon–Fri 11 AM–8 PM; Sat 4:30 PM–9 PM  
**Amenities:** Full-service marina, pool, restaurant, fuel dock, clubhouse

One of the premier destinations on Pool 2. YOU MUST BE A MEMBER TO USE ANY OF THE CLUB'S FACILITIES. That said, the Pool & Yacht Club offers excellent dining overlooking the river, clean facilities, and a friendly boater community. It's a perfect evening stop with marina slips available for visiting yachts.

- Members only; use the contact information above to learn more.
- Dock with power and Pool & Yacht Club members can spend the night

## Pillow Beach & Shepard Rd. Bridge Anchorage (River Mile 839.0)

**Access:** Anchor near eastern shore, upstream of Shepard Rd Bridge  
**Hours:** Daylight only; no overnight mooring

This sandy shoreline—nicknamed "Pillow Beach" by SPYC members—is a summertime favorite. Calm waters and a wide sandbank make it a great swimming stop or raft-up location. Bring inflatables and beach chairs for a low-key adventure.

- Other side of the river from Pool & Yacht Club
- There are a couple of spots that are good for anchoring for the day

## Lilydale Regional Park Boat Launch (River Mile 838.5)

**Address:** 400 Water St, Saint Paul, MN 55107  
**Hours:** Sunrise – 11:00 PM  
**Amenities:** Double-wide ramp, trailer parking, picnic tables, restrooms

Ideal for trailering in or out of Pool 2, this is one of the best-maintained public ramps on the Mississippi. There's a wide beach nearby, and the area is popular with paddleboarders and fishing boats alike.

- Good place to launch tenders and small watercraft no dock

Lilydale Regional Park offers a variety of adventures:

- **Hiking & Biking Trails**  
Explore miles of paved and unpaved trails that meander through floodplain forests and along the riverbanks. These trails connect to nearby parks, including Harriet Island and Crosby Farm Regional Park, offering scenic routes for walking, running, and cycling.
- **Paddling & Boating**  
Pickerel Lake within the park provides a serene setting for kayaking and canoeing. A designated launch area is available near the picnic shelter parking lot. Seasonal kayak rentals are offered through Mississippi River Paddle Share.
- **Fishing Opportunities**  
Anglers can fish for bluegills, crappie, northern pike, and bass in Pickerel Lake, especially before mid-summer when aquatic vegetation becomes dense.
- **Off-Leash Dog Park**  
Opened in 2022, the park features a fully fenced dog park with separate areas for large and small dogs. The dog park is located southwest of the DNR boat launch parking lot.
- **Picnicking**  
A modern picnic shelter designed by VJAA offers a comfortable spot to relax and enjoy meals. The shelter includes picnic tables, a restroom, bike racks, and a drinking fountain. It's available on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Birdwatching & Wildlife Viewing**  
The park's diverse habitats attract a variety of bird species, making it a

prime location for birdwatching. Keep an eye out for bald eagles, herons, and other wildlife as you explore the area.

- **Historic Brickyards**

Discover remnants of the Twin Cities Brick Company, which operated from 1894 to the 1970s. Visitors can view brick kiln ruins and quarries. Note that some areas are closed due to unstable slopes; please respect all posted signs and barriers.

Whether you're seeking a peaceful paddle on Pickerel Lake, a scenic hike through floodplain forests, or a picnic with views of the Mississippi River, Lilydale Regional Park offers a multitude of adventures for outdoor enthusiasts.

## Ohio Swing Bridge (River Mile 837.0)

**Address:** 4465 66th Street E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55076

**Hours:** 6:00 AM – 10:00 PM daily

The Ohio Street Swing Bridge, located just upstream of downtown Saint Paul, is a rare surviving example of early 20th-century movable bridge engineering.

Constructed in 1915, the bridge was originally built to connect Saint Paul's West Side neighborhood to industrial rail lines and warehouses along the riverfront. Designed as a swing bridge to accommodate river traffic, its central span would rotate horizontally to allow towboats and barges to pass. Though long closed to vehicular and rail use, the bridge remains intact and visible from the river, a silent sentinel to the city's industrial past. Today, it serves as a point of interest for boaters and urban explorers alike—its rusting trusses and riveted steelwork evoking a time when river commerce shaped the region's growth.

Boaters navigating the Mississippi River near this location should be aware that the bridge's clearance is fixed, and passage beneath it is subject to the bridge's vertical clearance limitations. It is advisable to consult current navigational charts and local notices to mariners for the most up-to-date information on bridge clearances and any potential restrictions in the area.

## Excel Energy Inlet (River Mile 836.5)

**Address:** 199 Kellogg Blvd W, Saint Paul, MN 55102

**Hours:** Varies by event; typically 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM (Mon–Fri)

This inlet is adjacent to the Xcel Energy Center, this area is notable for its urban riverfront scenery.

- Spring fed

- Only accessible when water is high (need an estimate of river gauge depth to access)

## SPYC Upper Harbor (River Mile 835.5)

**Address:** 375 Water St W, Saint Paul, MN 55107

**Hours:** Gas Dock: 24/7 self-service; Clubhouse: Hours vary

### Gas Dock

The St. Paul Yacht Club (SPYC) Gas Dock is a convenient and accessible fueling station located at 375 W Water Street, Saint Paul, MN 55107, along the Mississippi River. Designed to serve both club members and visiting boaters, the gas dock offers the following features:

#### Fuel Services

- **Fuel Type:** 91-octane clear (non-oxygenated, ethanol-free) marine-grade gasoline.
- **Availability:** Self-service pump accessible **24 hours a day, 7 days a week** via credit card pay-at-the-pump system.
- **Pump-Out Station:** A self-service pump-out system is also available **24/7** for waste removal.

The gas dock is situated just outside the upper harbor mouth of the SPYC, making it easily accessible for boats navigating the river.

## Upper Landing Park (River Mile 835.0)

**Address:** 180 Shepard Rd, Saint Paul, MN 55102

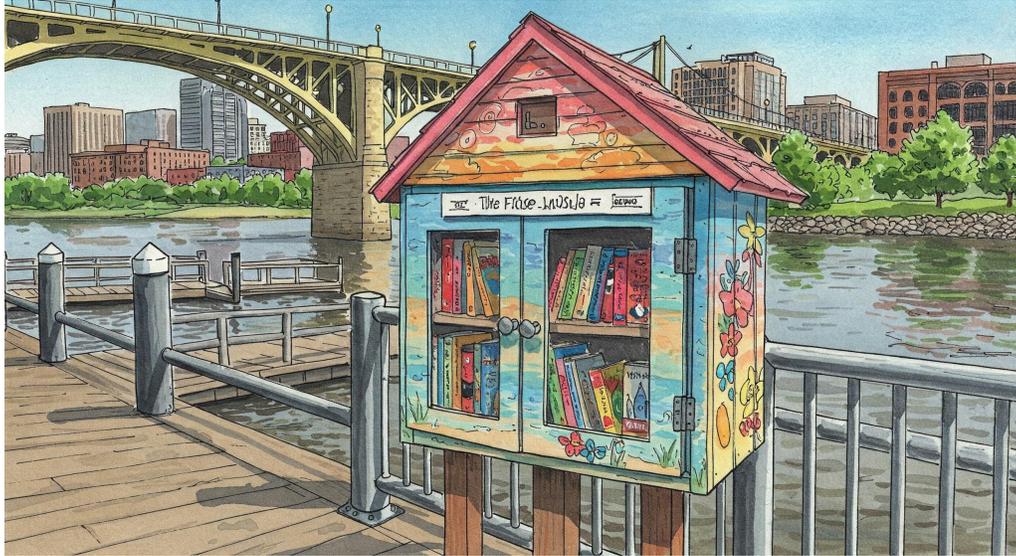
**Hours:** Open daily from sunrise to 11:00 PM

**Contact:** Harriet Island Event Office – (651) 266-6400

Nestled along the north bank of the Mississippi River near downtown Saint Paul, Upper Landing Park offers a serene urban oasis with panoramic river views. The park features lush lawns, a riverfront trail ideal for walking and biking, and artistic sculptures that enhance its scenic beauty. Notably, the park includes sculptural mounds that record the heights of major floods over the past 50 years, serving as a poignant reminder of the river's history.

Amenities include:

# Proposal: Little Free Library on Dahlgren



Prepared by: Membership & Marketing Committee

## Overview

The Membership & Marketing Committee proposes the installation of a Little Free Library (LFL) on the Dahlgren Dock in the lower harbor during the Summer of 2025. A Little Free Library is a small, publicly accessible book-sharing box that operates on a “take a book, leave a book” model. It encourages reading, literacy, and a sense of connection through the sharing of books among community members.

This initiative will serve as a charming and functional amenity for St. Paul Yacht Club members and guests, enhancing dockside life and supporting a welcoming culture. Victoria Fritz has volunteered to serve as the host/librarian, managing the library’s upkeep and helping to keep it stocked with donated books from club members.

## Goals

- Build community engagement among slip holders and transient guests
- Encourage reading and relaxation on the water
- Offer a charming and useful feature that enhances the club’s image and member experience
- Showcase member creativity through decoration and stewardship

## Project Scope

- Install one Little Free Library structure on the Dahlgren Dock in the lower harbor
- Design will include water-resistant construction, a clear front door, and secure mounting
- Initial book inventory will be sourced through member donations
- **Victoria Fritz** will serve as the host/librarian, with support from committee volunteers
- If successful, the program may be expanded in future years to include:
  - Upper harbor docks
  - Nearby areas of Harriet Island Park that are accessible and frequented by club members and the general public

## Timeline

Date	Task
May 2025 (Week 1)	Final board approval & volunteer coordination
May 2025 (Week 2-3)	Source materials and begin construction
May 2025 (Week 4)	Paint/decorate and install library on dock
June 2025	Launch with ribbon-cutting and member emails
Summer 2025	Ongoing maintenance and book donations

## Maintenance Plan

- Monthly check-ups by Victoria Fritz and committee volunteers
- Encourage members to contribute gently used books
- Repaint and reseal annually as needed
- Contact information will be posted for reporting damage or low inventory

## Budget

<b>Item</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>
Prebuilt LFL library	\$250
Waterproof paint/sealant	\$20
Post or dock-mounting hardware	\$30
Decoration (vinyls, logos)	\$0 Donated
Total	\$300

## Motion for Board Approval

“The Membership & Marketing Committee moves that the St. Paul Yacht Club Board approve a budget of \$300 for the acquisition, installation, and decoration of a Little Free Library on the Dahlgren Dock in the lower harbor during Summer 2025.”

Funds will be used for materials, weatherproofing, signage, and decoration. The library will be hosted and maintained by club member Victoria Fritz, with books supplied through member donations.

If successful, the committee may return with a proposal to expand the program to the upper harbor and select areas of Harriet Island Park adjacent to club facilities.



Troy Janisch <troy.janisch@stpauyachtclub.org>

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## Ops committee report and Power Pole replacement

1 message

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Andy Ristrom <andy@bolander.com>

To: "board@stpauyachtclub.org" <board@stpauyachtclub.org>, Troy Janisch <troy.janisch@stpauyachtclub.org>

Cc: BonnieJean MacKay <bonniejeanmackay@gmail.com>

Good morning,

Our operations report is as follows:

No operations committee meeting this month.

Operations news:

Clubhouse move and dredging went well.

New dredge equipment purchased and anticipated to be delivered in May.

Boats are being launched as requested.

Polymer has been ordered, and the geo-bag laydown area has been re-graded to help the drainage back toward the river to hopefully minimize water running off into the yard.

Plastic sheeting and geo-bags will be deployed once polymer arrives just prior to dredging.

Railing replacement at the clubhouse ramp is underway.

The big news lately was that a rotted-out power pole on the east side of the upper harbor fell toward the water dropping the energized power lines into the water.

We were able to get Collins Electric (a longtime partner of Bolander's) to rapidly respond and by Friday morning they were onsite with Xcel Energy to deenergize the services and replace the service. The service was temporarily re-energized so members could have power over the weekend, and then work finished Monday afternoon (5/12/25) by swapping the service disconnects and box. The new pole is treated and drilled 10 feet into the ground and should 'last a lifetime'... at least my lifetime! 😊

This concludes the operations committee report.





Strategic Planning April report (updated 05/8/2025)

Agenda for April:

Continue advancing boat dock proposal -

Permitting, etc. is advancing nicely and latest round of updates have been sent to COE, partners (District Watershed, River Users, etc.) for hopefully the last round of reviews.. This will be later than the hoped for June timeline to install the dock, but we're learning good information and making great contacts as we proceed.

Modifications to the dock design shorten ramp and first section adjusted cost a bit, but due to rising costs for materials the new estimate is still about what it was previously for dock components. \$27k for dock, \$9k for ramp porta-kit, puts it around \$36k for these components whereas it was \$39.9 as quoted last year for the bit larger dock and porta-dock.

Submitted a letter of intent (LOI) to 3M Priority 2 grant funding requesting \$50-65,000 to support the establishment of the dock. Received confirmation they received our LOI. First round decisions are expected in June.

Working on proper submission for Star grant money and determining any avenue for Lessard direct grants that may be possible

We are also working with DNR contacts to determine the proper route to get new signage for the boat launch.

Pursuing any other funding we may be able to find to assist with this project as well.

DNR Wildlife camera - No changes to the DNR wildlife camera location are expected in the near-term. The DNR will consider options later this summer when the nest is quieter again.

The old TV will be mounted near the entrance of the Clubhouse. The team is working on a system that will be able to rotate through the Eagle Camera, Club Calendar, etc. Mounting, etc. TBD.

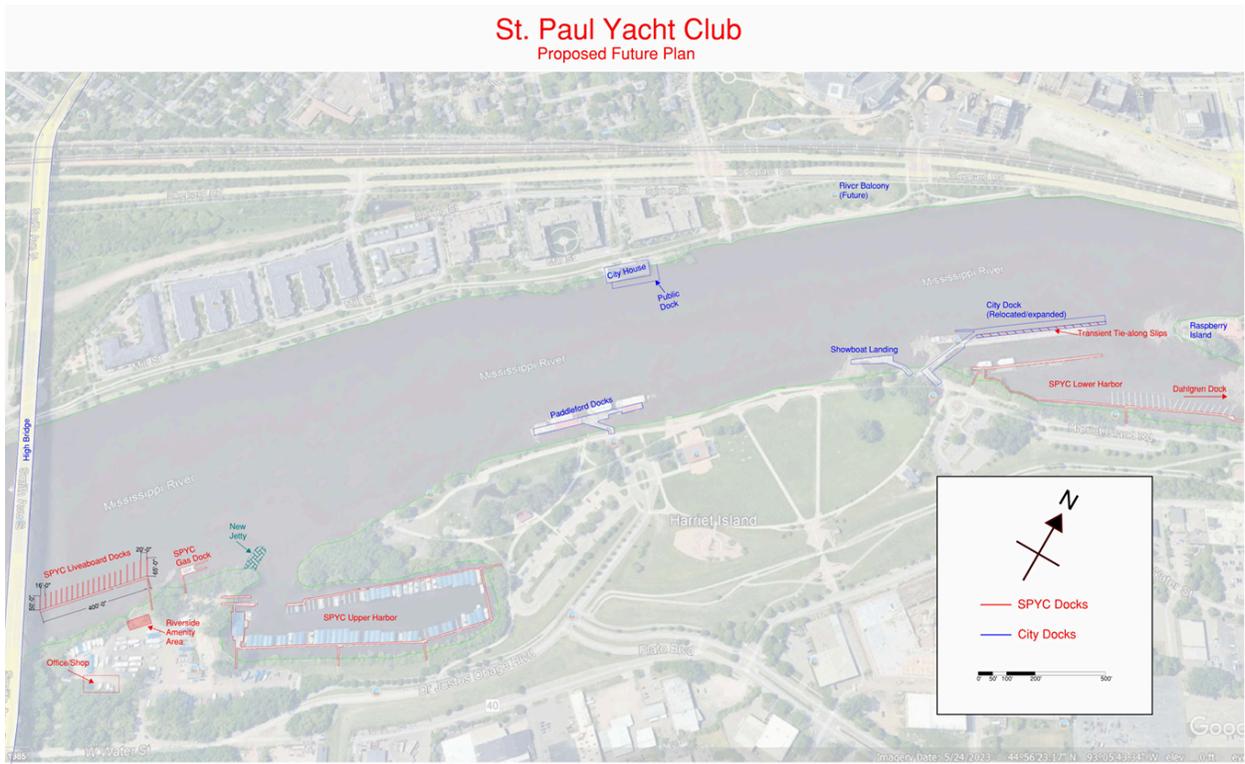
Sunde land survey - The board approved the budget for the survey. Sunde began the land survey work in mid-April and is working to complete that report. Once completed, we will have a solid foundational document to review opportunities for new working spaces.

Other items in progress for strategic planning:

Continue sharing aerial views that have all or a lot of any structural changes we think of put together on it for a visual to share with members. Essential as a visual to engage our membership and partners in conversations.

This map has been posted in the clubhouse along with a QR code linked to the SPYC ideas submission form.

### Future opportunities map



For those new to the club or long-term members not yet engaged. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month Spring through Fall. One is zoom only and one is in-person only. The schedule can be found on the club calendar page. <https://www.stpaulyachtclub.org/calendar>

Strategic Planning's purpose, mission and timelines.

Committee Members: Bill Tschohl (Chair), Brett Cummings (Co-chair), Troy Janish, Lee Pfeilsticker, Dave Nelson, Kit Richardson

**Purpose:** Gather and develop projects from ideation to deliverables with input from stakeholders.

**Mission:** The Strategic Planning committee will serve to benefit the St. Paul Yacht Club, St. Paul Parks & Recreation along with enhancing our outreach to the community. The committee will deliver detailed plans with expected benefits, costs and ongoing maintenance analysis for club and board review and approval.

**Timeline:**

**Spring meetings :** gather ideas and concepts

All ideas are good ideas. That said, the ideas and concepts phase is not to revisit board decisions, but to gather ideas and generate ways to gather more ideas via surveys, visits with area stakeholders, etc.

**Summer meetings:** refine list to 2-3 ideas for further project planning /development. From the ideas gathered in the Spring along with input from our St Paul Parks contract representative, determine which are meaningful projects to further evaluate and plan, budget, estimate further.

**Fall meetings:** Finish project planning and development, create presentations, verify costs and funding.

Projects should be as thoroughly designed as possible. Wherever possible they should have full design, benefits anticipated, cost analysis, anticipated timelines and agreement from any necessary committees such as amenities, operations, etc.

**Budget:** The committee has no fixed budget. That said, projects that partner with the City of St. Paul's Parks and are approved by the city can potentially lessen our lease payment if Parks agrees the item is mutually beneficial. The group will also work to leverage any available grants or other sources of project funding where appropriate.

**Note:**

Projects should be fully developed before the November Board meeting to be included in the following year's budget, if approved.

Marina strategic opportunity inputs and thoughts gathered so far:

**Essentials:**

Boat slips and docks  
Boat and trailer storage  
Fuel dock

**Wants:**

Boat ramps for visitors  
Boat rentals  
Business center  
Clubhouse  
Complimentary WiFi  
Fitness center and sauna  
Grills  
Kayaks and paddle board rentals  
Laundry  
Marina store  
Media equipment  
Picnic area  
Poolside bar  
Private beach access  
RV parking  
Shower facilities  
Tennis court  
Transient slippage  
Water skiing  
Waterfront pool  
Improved boat dock access  
Reopen Gate F in the Lower harbor  
There needs to be a Wheelchair Accessible Ramp and clear the debris

**Non-Boating or Programming activities that correlate well in the park**

Biking  
Bird watching  
Guided history tours  
Photography  
Scooters  
Wildlife and wilderness exploration - Wildlife camera?  
Run or race with canoes/ kayaks? Hidden Falls to here? Food trucks and music in the yard, stop at pool & yacht  
Large boat moored for rental, living activities, programming on the river

Balcony / patio area with roof, food trucks, music area accompanying

Movies at night

Music programming opportunities, etc. with local artists

Food Truck Connections

Let's Create Locked Food Truck Hookups inside our gates at each parking lot  
that can be managed by us with Food truck vendors.

Ferris wheel -Betty Danger style add a fun destination

Carousel

Bumper Boats

Conservation planting - intentional, milkweed, etc.

Garden area - High Bridge direction, similar to garden area above High Bridge

Bat and bird houses











Sent from my iPhone