

**Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
Natural Resources Board Agenda Item**

**SUBJECT:** Approval of the name "Three Bridge Park" for department lands along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County now known as the "Airline Yards" and part of the Hank Aaron State Trail

**FOR:** June 2013 Board meeting

**TO BE PRESENTED BY:** Dan Schuller, Parks and Recreation Bureau Director

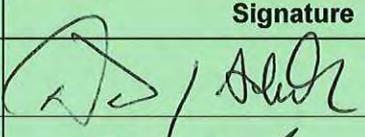
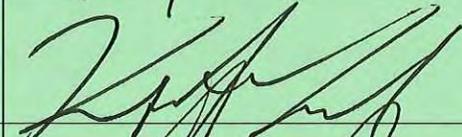
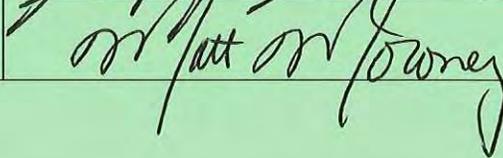
**SUMMARY:**

The Natural Resources Board has been provided authority to name state properties not otherwise named by the Wisconsin Legislature. The Wisconsin DNR, along with its partners the WiDOT, City of Milwaukee, Menomonee Valley Partners, and the Urban Ecology Center, have created a new 24 acre park along the Hank Aaron State Trail from the ruins of a brownfield. The work has been in the planning for seven years and in construction for three years. A grand opening celebration is planned for July 20, 2013. We are requesting your approval of the name "Three Bridges Park" for this new park.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Request approval of park naming along the Hank Aaron State Trail as "Three Bridges Park".

**LIST OF ATTACHED MATERIALS (check all that are applicable):**

- Background memo
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable
- Type name of attachment or type N/A if not applicable

Approved by	Signature	Date
Daniel Schuller, Bureau Director		6/10/13
Kurt Thiede, Administrator		6/12/13
Cathy Stepp, Secretary		6/17/13

DATE: June 10, 2013

TO: Natural Resources Board Members

FROM: Cathy Stepp, Secretary

SUBJECT: Naming of a park on the Hank Aaron State Trail as "Three Bridges Park"

The Hank Aaron State Trail represents a marvelous story of dedication and preservation in bringing a pedestrian path from the shores of Lake Michigan at Lakeshore State Park, west to Waukesha County. The trail enjoys thousands of users annually for purposes of recreation, commuting and general transportation. Joining with partners WiDOT, the City of Milwaukee, the Menomonee Valley Partners (MVP), and the Urban Ecology Center (UEC), the Hank Aaron State Trail has been expanded at the former Airline Yards property to create a new 24 acre park that will have the capability of serving over 400,000 neighboring citizens as well as thousands of new visitors to the river valley. A recent open contest for a naming suggestion for the park, facilitated by MVP and the Friends of the Hank Aaron State Trail, brought in 777 suggested names. The name chosen by a panel of reviewers was "Three Bridges Park". The panel has agreed to frame the name as "Three Bridges Park, a part of the Hank Aaron State Trail", and bring the name to both the City and the NRB for naming approval.

The name has a direct connection to the three new bridges that link the 24-acre park to the Hank Aaron State Trail and Mitchell Park. In a broader extension, Three Bridges Park captures the various elements of the valley and the decades-long effort to rebuild a deteriorated industrial corridor into a natural space for exercise and education. The name further spans history and south side neighborhoods as well as the new green space found throughout the Menomonee Valley.

Three Bridges Park will open July 20<sup>th</sup> with a large local celebration. One of the bridges, the valley passage at S. 37th St., opened in 2010. Bridges extending from S. 33rd St. and Mitchell Park will open with the park in July. Once open, the park will be maintained under a unique cooperative agreement with the City of Milwaukee, WiDNR, the MVP and the UEC.

Our agency has worked closely on this project for more than seven years. The effort to rehabilitate this brownfield while creating a park, a transportation corridor and a great fishery has been extensive and involved hundreds of participants and donors. As of today, the project has secured 90% of the \$25 million needed to pay for the improvements, including a six-mile extension of the Hank Aaron State Trail. The Menomonee Valley Partners and the Urban Ecology Center will work to raise the last \$2.5 million this summer.

Thank you for your support of the Hank Aaron State Trail and the naming of the new park within to "Three Bridges Park".

