



April 18, 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**THREE RIVERS PARK DISTRICT FOUNDATION AND  
CITY OF ROBBINSDALE  
TEAM UP FOR THE BIRDTOWN HALF MARATHON**

The Three Rivers Park District Foundation and Three Rivers Park District are teaming up with the Birdtown Half Marathon race and the City of Robbinsdale. The goal of the partnership is to promote and grow the successful race and invest back into local parks and programs.

Three Rivers Park District, which already presents four signature races per year, will help promote the event, and the Three Rivers Park District Foundation will serve as the fiscal agent. Proceeds raised from the race will now benefit the Three Rivers Park District Foundation, which in turn will invest back into parks and programs in Robbinsdale by working closely with Three Rivers Park District. These investments will include expanding access to adapted programs for persons with disabilities including seniors, veterans and youth, and summer "Explorer Camps" for underrepresented youth in Robbinsdale.

"Our mission is to connect everyone with the wonders of our parks," said Chris Boyer, Executive Director of the Three Rivers Park District Foundation. "This partnership is great because it not only helps us fulfill that mission, but it helps us reach an inner ring community and expand opportunities for folks to access some wonderful park programs."

The partnership is a perfect fit, according to Robbinsdale Mayor Regan Murphy. "We have a unique community event and are looking to grow it and make it even better," Murphy

said. "The Park District has the ability to help us ramp up the promotion of this race. The best part is that the proceeds will help benefit our park system in Robbinsdale by funding new camps and adapted recreation programs and equipment provided by the Park District."

Race Director Mark Bontrager says he's also excited about the partnership. "We put on a great race every year, but Three Rivers has the ability to really help us grow and reach a much broader audience," he said. "And thanks to the Three Rivers Park District Foundation we can do more than just have fun, we can use this event to make a difference for kids and for people living with disabilities here in Robbinsdale."

The race takes place on Saturday, May 18, and begins at Lakeview Terrace Park. In addition to the half marathon, you can run an 8K, 4K or the "Little Birdie Fun Run."

#### **About Three Rivers Park District Foundation**

Three Rivers Park District Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that supports Three Rivers Park District in a variety of ways. The Foundation's mission is to connect *everyone* to the wonders of our parks. Founded in 1986, the Foundation has provided funding for scholarships, unique programming and the Parks on the Go outreach van, allowing Three Rivers to bring park experiences directly to the people.