



## The Pilot Knob Preservation Association

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CONTACT:** Chris Soutter: 651-228-0306, [csoutter@usfamily.net](mailto:csoutter@usfamily.net)

**DATE:** May 4, 2011

**RE:** *Pocket Guide to Pilot Knob* Now Available

The *Pocket Guide to Oheyawahi/Pilot Knob* is now available to the public. The brochure highlights the cultural and historical importance and the landscape features of this historic site.

Traditionally known to the Dakota Indians as *Oheyawahi*, "a hill much visited," Pilot Knob hill has become an open space site protected by the City of Mendota Heights. It is located across the Mendota Bridge from Fort Snelling. The trails are free and open to all during daylight hours.

The main entrance to Oheyawahi/Pilot Knob is at the north end of Pilot Knob Road, where it meets Acacia Boulevard. From here, a trail winds through the 27-acre site to the lower entrance at the Big Rivers Regional Trail. Two interpretive signs along the trail inform visitors about the traditional importance of the hill in Dakota culture. Visitors can observe the progress as the land is restored to oak savannah. Oheyawahi/Pilot Knob offers spectacular views of the Minnesota and Mississippi River valleys. A high point along the Mississippi Flyway, it is an excellent site to look for migrating birds. The pocket guide addresses these features, and more.

Pocket guides will be available at site entrances. A digital version can be downloaded from [www.pilotknobpreservation.org](http://www.pilotknobpreservation.org), and a copy of the pocket guide can be requested through the email link on this website.

The *Pocket Guide to Oheyawahi/Pilot Knob* was produced and published by the Pilot Knob Preservation Association. This project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through the Minnesota Historical Society.

Known to Dakota people as Oheyawahi, "a hill much visited," Pilot Knob is a place of distinctive historical, cultural, and environmental importance, a sacred site, a landmark of Minnesota's beginnings. The Pilot Knob Preservation Association advocates for this distinctive hill, documents its long history, raises public awareness of its importance, and helps to preserve it for present and future generations.