



July 8th, 2020

Dear friends and colleagues,

After seven wonderful years, I am stepping down as Executive Director at MCE. I am extremely proud of what we've accomplished during that time, including expanding water quality standards, securing a clean up of the West Lake Landfill, launching the Known and Grown brand, seeing the implementation of a General Management Plan for the Ozark National Scenic Riverways, and renewing the Parks and Soils sales tax, to name a few. It was an honor to be at MCE as we hit the 50-year mark and help transition the organization to a new space on South Grand in St. Louis City, re-establish a presence in mid-Missouri, and double the size of the staff.

I'm grateful to have helped usher MCE to this pivotal moment. The next 50 years will require a new approach to advocacy. Our traditional legal and regulatory frameworks are failing to address climate change and the environmental movement, of which MCE has been a part, needs to acknowledge and understand its contribution to systemic racism. MCE is poised for authentic and transformational change. It's a good time to make space for new leadership that will guide MCE into the next 50 years. Personally, I'm looking forward to spending more time with my family and in my service as an alderwoman.

I am grateful for the amazing people I have worked with all along the way, from staff and board members to volunteers, interns, and our generous supporters. The world needs more places like MCE right now; I'm honored to have been part of its legacy and I am excited to see where the people take it in the next 50 years.

Heather B. Navarro
Executive Director
she/her/hers