

Friends of the Mississippi River engages citizens to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region.

Water Quality

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) continues to play a strong leadership role in the effort to clean up the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin, which are filling with sediment and runoff pollution. About half of Minnesota drains to Lake Pepin through many of the state's major rivers and watersheds, which presents an important opportunity to improve water quality throughout Minnesota. FMR is working with citizens, government agencies, and non-profit partners to ensure that this effort results in strong measures to reduce sediment and pollutants and improve water quality.

To enhance our ability to work on water quality issues, in 2010 FMR began coordinating the Minnesota Environmental Partnership's collective of water-focused organizations working together to protect and preserve Minnesota's water quality and habitat.



Other important 2010 accomplishments for FMR's water quality program include:

- Launching the *Blue Star Award Program* to recognize cities for excellence in urban runoff management

- Completing another successful year of the *Stream Health Evaluation Program*, working with 29 trained volunteers who contributed over 1,100 hours to conduct water quality monitoring and present results to public officials and land-use decision-makers
- Playing a leadership role in the state's development of *Minimum Impact Design Standards*, clean water performance goals for new development and redevelopment that will provide enhanced protection for Minnesota's water resources

River Corridor Advocacy

FMR continued to lead efforts to ensure the development of strong Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area rules. These rules will protect the health and the shared community assets of the Mississippi River through the Twin Cities while maximizing our communities' ability to showcase and utilize their stretches of the river. In 2010, our work in this area included:

- Meeting with corridor cities to initiate effective discussions about what the rulemaking effort means to them and the opportunities it presents
- Researching and compiling a 57-page report highlighting the best (and worst) examples of river corridor planning and zoning for use by

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff

- Conducting comprehensive analysis and review of the proposed land-use districts, standards, guidelines and definitions in the DNR's draft versions of the rules
- Creating the "Mississippi River Explorer," a set of 60 panoramic photos taken in key locations in the Mississippi River corridor, accessible online, that helps citizens and decision-makers recognize the important scenic resources that need protection

FMR also actively participated in local forums to build support for the protection and enhancement of the river's community assets through the Twin Cities. In 2010, these included:

- Chairing the Lilydale Regional Park Master Plan Task Force
- Serving on several St. Paul riverfront park planning efforts:
 - Great River Park Master Plan Task Force
 - Ford Motor Co. Open Space Working Group
 - Indian Mounds Regional Park Master Plan Task Force
- FMR staff serving on the board of the Minneapolis Riverfront Partnership and on the Above the Falls Citizen Advisory Committee

CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE

MISSISSIPPI RIVER CHALLENGE

The 7th annual Mississippi River Challenge was a great success, with nearly 400 paddlers raising over \$120,000 for vital river protection! The event was supported by over 100 volunteers, countless friends and family members who pledged financial support, and our generous sponsors. Participants experienced the Twin Cities from the perspective of the Mississippi River, enjoyed delicious food and beverages, and listened to live music, all while helping to protect the Mississippi River!

Paddle It. Protect It.

The 2011 Mississippi River Challenge will be held July 30 & 31! Register today and join us for this fully supported, one-of-a-kind journey. One or two day options are available. Truly experience your local river this summer – paddle the Mississippi River Challenge!

www.MississippiRiverChallenge.org

PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM BOYLE



Friends of the Mississippi River

360 North Robert Street
Suite 400
Saint Paul, MN 55101
651.222.2193
www.fmr.org

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CONNECTING

WATER

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COMMUNITY



2010 ANNUAL REPORT

DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2010, Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) celebrated 17 years of river advocacy and conservation work. We are proud to be aided by many partnerships and more than 3,200 volunteers who collectively gave more than 9,000 hours of their time to help protect and enhance the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities region.

We had a number of successes in 2010, but this important work could not have happened without the great efforts of our very talented and dedicated staff and without the support of our members, volunteers and partners.

To all of you, we extend our gratitude and sincere thanks for trusting us with your gifts and your time. Together, we can continue to ensure a healthy, scenic and productive Mississippi River for years to come.

Sincerely,

Stewart F. Crosby
Chair, FMR Board of Directors

Our work is extending far beyond the banks of our local Mississippi River. One example is the launch of the Blue Star Award Program to recognize cities around the state for excellence in urban runoff management. Another is the Mississippi River and Lake Pepin clean-up effort, which will affect water quality statewide and far downstream.

