

**Subject:** Mississippi Messages — April 2021 calendar  
**From:** Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org>  
**To:** sue rich <communications@fmr.org>  
**Date Sent:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:15:19 PM GMT-05:00  
**Date Received:** Wednesday, October 25, 2023 6:15:21 PM GMT-05:00



**MISSISSIPPI  
MESSAGES**

[How will you celebrate Earth Day](#) (or Earth Month, as we like to think of it)? We've got ways for everyone to get involved this spring: from plastic tracking to independent cleanups, spring volunteer events to stenciling. [River Guardians](#), get ready for lots of chances to be a voice for the river through the end of the [legislative session](#).



**Solo cleanups for Earth Month**  
**All April long**  
**Your neighborhood streets and parks**

Our scaled-down Earth Day cleanup at the Gorge is just about full, but we hope you'll head out to your own nearby streets and parks. If you pick up trash this April on your own, let us celebrate your impact and credit you with volunteer hours.

[Record your solo cleanup volunteer hours here >>](#)



**Minnesota Earth Day Green Gathering (partner event)**  
**Thursday, April 22, 4:30pm to 6:30pm**  
**Online (please register)**

Minnesota's environmental organizations are teaming up to bring you the first-ever Earth Day Green Gathering, a virtual happy hour where people who care about our environment can connect, hang out and celebrate our planet.

[Learn more about the gathering and register >>](#)



## Track trash as part of the Mississippi River Plastic Pollution Initiative

**Now through April 25**

**Your city streets, local parks and waterways**

Contribute to a nationwide community science project that will map pollution along the river, helping scientists understand how it affects marine health, and helping policy-makers take action.

[Start collecting data and trash >>](#)



## Haul buckthorn and pull garlic mustard at Rosemount Preserve

**Thursday, April 29, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Rosemount Wildlife Preserve**

This preserve in the Northern Dakota County Greenway serves as a critical corridor for native wildlife. Help us restore the oak woodland by making way for a diverse mix of plants and a stronger habitat.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



## Pull garlic mustard at Hampton Woods

**Tuesday, May 4, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**

**Hampton Woods Wildlife Management Area, Hampton Township**

Get your hands dirty pulling invasive plants at Hampton Woods, the largest continuous oak forest in southern Dakota County, which provides critical habitat for forest-dwelling animals, especially birds.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



## Tend the oak woodlands at the Hastings Sand Coulee SNA

**Wednesday, May 5, 6:00pm to 7:30pm**

**Hastings Sand Coulee SNA**

Join us to tend the forest at the edge of this unique prairie. In just a couple of hours removing invasive plants, you'll improve habitat for the native woodland plant and animal species.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



**Pledge to pull garlic mustard at Pine Bend Bluffs SNA**  
**Thursday, May 6, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, Inver Grove Heights**

These bluffs offer some of the best views of the Upper Mississippi River, and the restoration there could use your ongoing help. Join us to pull garlic mustard and get the opportunity to continue the task in coming weeks on your own.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



**Remove invasive species at Cottage Grove Ravine Park**  
**Wednesday, May 12, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park**

A forested valley with 100-foot high slopes runs into Ravine Lake at this 515-acre park. We've been managing oak savanna and prairie habitat restoration here since 2012. Join us to pull invasives and support wildlife.

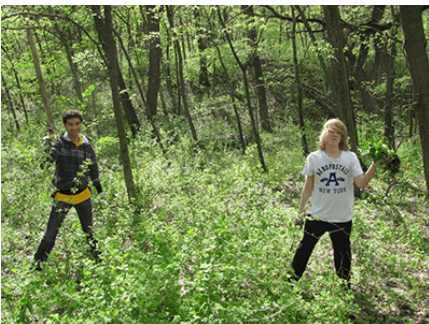
[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



**Help pull weedy invasive plants at St. Paul Park's Riverside Park**  
**Thursday, May 13, 6:00pm to 8:00pm**  
**Riverside Park, St. Paul Park**

Clear out invasives with us to restore much-needed habitat and resources for local critters of all kinds at this oasis for migratory birds along the Mississippi River flyway.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.



**Plant woodland shrubs and wildflowers at Weiss Woods**  
**Saturday, May 15, 9:00am to 11:00am**  
**Weiss Woods, Hastings**

Not normally open to the public, Weiss Woods is located on the bluff overlooking Lake Rebecca and the Mississippi River. Create habitat there by planting hazelnut, columbine, Virginia waterleaf and more.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.





**Pull garlic mustard at the River Gorge Sand Flats**  
**Saturday, May 22, 9:00am to 11:00am**  
**River Gorge Sand Flats, Minneapolis**

At these large sandy beaches along the river, pull garlic mustard and see a dramatic difference in ground cover by the end of this event. You'll improve wildlife habitat and contribute to clean water.

[Learn more](#) or email Sophie at [sdowney@fmr.org](mailto:sdowney@fmr.org) to register.

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**Friends of the Mississippi River**

106 West Water Street Suite 600 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55107  
(651) 222-2193 | [communications@fmr.org](mailto:communications@fmr.org)

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