

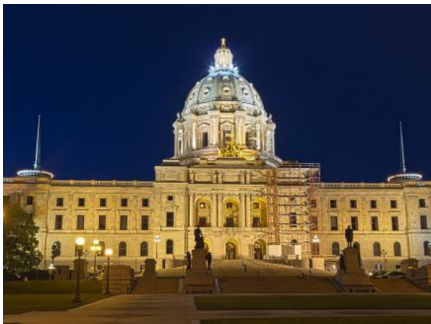
Subject: Mississippi Messages — April 2022
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org> **To:**
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:52:23 PM GMT-05:00
Date Received: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:52:25 PM
GMT-05:00



**MISSISSIPPI
MESSAGES**

[Our work takes place on the ancestral homelands of the Dakota.](#) Haha Wakpa, Misi-ziibi, Mississippi — the river we steward in Minnesota has long been stewarded by Native Nations including the Dakota and the Ojibwe.

FMR Updates



Where FMR's priorities stand at the Legislature

After a week-long break, lawmakers are heading back to the state capitol for the final legislative push. Now is a great time to take stock and take action.

[Get the latest on salt pollution reduction, soil health and more >>](#)



The ESI Youth Advisory Council's first year

The most recent expansion of our Environmental Stewardship Institute (ESI) is a youth-led council that explores pathways to environmental leadership at FMR and in the larger Twin Cities community during the school year.

[Here's what the founding members have been up to, including their first public event earlier this month >>](#)



St. Paul riverfront roundup: Five projects to watch

St. Paul has a lot of projects in the works along its 26 miles of Mississippi River shoreline. Check out the plans for new visitor and cultural centers, recreational improvements and more that will celebrate and improve St. Paul's connection to the river.

[Learn more and get involved >>](#)



Where we work: Orvin 'Ole' Olson Park

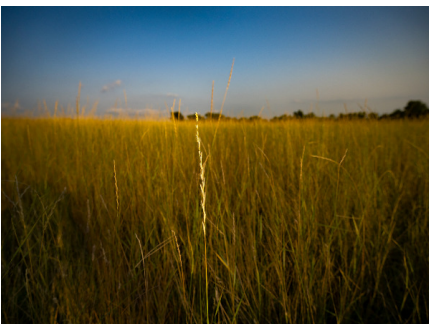
A former railyard is now a restored prairie on the Mississippi River in North Minneapolis. Along with the pollinator demonstration garden, Ole Olson Park adds vital habitat to our urban corridor and a beautiful riverfront spot for residents.

[Plan your visit \(spring wildflowers coming soon!\) >>](#)



Take action this legislative session

Right now we're asking River Guardians like you to take action on two important legislative initiatives: 1) Ask your lawmakers to [prevent the expiration of lottery funds for environmental projects](#), and 2) [Sign our petition to get the lead out](#) of drinking water pipes, childcare centers and schools, products, tackle and ammunition.



Clean-water crop measures move forward

This year, both the Minnesota House and the Senate have put forward measures regarding FMR's top legislative priority: clean-water crops. But the proposed funding levels are pretty different.

[Here's why we're hopeful >>](#)

Mississippi River News

'About half of US water 'too polluted' for swimming, fishing or drinking, report finds'

Half of America's rivers and streams are too polluted for safe swimming, fishing, drinking and recreation. That's according to a worrying new report recently published by the Environmental Integrity Project, which looked to measure the impact of the federal Clean Water Act 50 years after its landmark passage. Researchers assessed more than 1.4 million miles of rivers and streams across the U.S. and found 51% qualify as "impaired" — meaning they are "too polluted to meet standards for swimming and recreation, aquatic life, fish consumption, or as drinking water sources."

[Read more from The Hill >>](#)

'St. Paul City Council approves \$4 million 'start' to broader lead pipe replacement'

The City of St. Paul recently approved \$4 million to begin replacing as many as 26,600 lead service lines — small water pipes that connect water mains to an individual property. The investment is part of a 10-year strategy to replace all lead pipes (public and private) in the city through a combination of city, state, American Rescue Plan and Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funding — which would be a big win for public health. St. Paul residents can see if their home has a [lead service line here](#). And all [Minnesotans can weigh in to support efforts to get the lead out of our drinking water and more!](#)

[Read more from the Star Tribune >>](#)

'Walk with spirits and connect with Dakota history at St. Paul nature sanctuary'

A dazzling new public art installation at Wakáŋ Tipi (now Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary in St. Paul) allows visitors to connect with Dakota culture. Indigenous artist Marlena Myles (Spirit Lake Dakota) designed the Dakota Spirit Walk, which is a permanent augmented reality art installation. Using geolocation, audio and 3D animation, visitors encounter beautiful animated Dakota nature spirits that share their stories and history. If you visit you'll also get to experience [the habitat restoration we're collaborating on](#) with Lower Phalen Creek Project and other partners.

[Read more from the Star Tribune >>](#)

'Is it normal to see a beaver in downtown St. Paul?'

In case you missed it, MinnPost released exclusive footage of a beaver making their way down the sidewalk in Lowertown, potentially to meet with FMR about ecological restoration opportunities near their river home. The beaver joins the Union Depot bear and MPR raccoon as newsworthy wildlife sightings in downtown St. Paul, which makes us feel at home in our downtown offices. All joking aside, the story has a happy ending — the beaver was reunited with the Mississippi River later that same day.

[Read \(and watch\) more from MinnPost >>](#)

Conservation Corner

How can we reduce buckthorn and preserve native plants?



The results are in!

In 2018, we started a three-year research project at Hampton Woods Wildlife Management Area to find out which methods of buckthorn control best protect and encourage native plants.

[Here are our results >>](#)

Upcoming Events



[Clean up the Minneapolis river gorge](#) with us on Saturday, April 23 for Earth Day.

[Join us to pull garlic mustard](#) and make way for more plant diversity at restoration sites all along the metro river this May.

[Check out our full events calendar >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Celebrate Earth Day all year long with a recurring gift for the river!

The Mississippi River is a life-sustaining force that supports a diverse ecosystem of birds, pollinators, mammals, fish, amphibians and more. Like the river, you can sustain FMR's work this Earth Day — and beyond — by becoming a Sustaining Member. Simply [sign up](#) for automatic monthly or quarterly contributions. Sustaining Members make up the crucial foundation we rely on to help us realize our vision of clean waters, restored habitat and a river for all to enjoy.

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Friends of the Mississippi River

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