



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 and continues to be stewarded by Dakota and Ojibwe people.

FMR Updates



Where FMR's priorities stand as we head into the final stretch at the Capitol

We came into the 2023 legislative session with a slate of ambitious priorities that would help protect the Mississippi River. With less than six weeks to go, on which issues have lawmakers made progress? And where is there more work to be done?

[Our rundown of where FMR's priorities stand.](#)



Action Alert: Tell lawmakers to support policies that protect and enhance the river

Join us in urging legislators to advance proposals on clean-water crops, invasive carp control, clean drinking water and more.

[Sign the action alert to support these initiatives today.](#)



Celebrate Earth Day with us!

You're invited to clean up the Mississippi River Gorge and join our advocacy art build and picnic along West River Parkway on Saturday, April 22 for Earth Day. Can't make it? We've rounded up other ways you can make a difference.

[How you can help the earth and the river this spring.](#)



Envisioning a restorative future for BTT

What do community members want for this former juvenile correction facility and 72-acre oak savanna bluff site on the east side of St. Paul?

[See the results of a community dialogue and find out more.](#)



Spring migration is underway

For a rich birding opportunity in the heart of the Twin Cities look no further than the Mississippi River Gorge. Keep an eye out now for early arrivals like the fox sparrow and turkey vulture, with warblers and other waves of migrants arriving in the weeks ahead.

[Read more about the 192 species observed in the river gorge and find a full birding checklist.](#)



'State of Our River' event asks how we can protect, restore the Mississippi

Rep. Betty McCollum, lead author on the MRRRI bill, hosted a forum featuring local experts, including FMR Executive Director Whitney Clark. Panelists talked about the most serious threats to the river and what we can do about them.

[Check out our recap.](#)

A compelling case for urgent action on invasive carp

What will the state's waterways look like if legislators and agency leaders don't approve an invasive carp barrier this session? Leave it to acclaimed Star Tribune outdoors columnist Dennis Anderson to paint a distressing picture.

Anderson in a recent column brings readers to the year 2035, where a "carp-ridden" Minnesota River watershed is the direct result of officeholders' failure to act today. That grim potential future is exactly why we're calling on decision-makers to take action while we still can before the legislative session wraps up in May.

[Read more from FMR and the Star Tribune.](#)

50/50 chance for major flooding in St. Paul

Spring flooding on the Mississippi River is no longer a matter of if — but instead, when and how much? Federal weather officials, [in their most recent outlook](#), said spring flooding chances remain "well above normal" for the Twin Cities region, particularly on the St. Croix River and the Mississippi downstream from St. Paul.

The City of St. Paul [declared a local flood emergency](#) in preparation for high water levels, noting a 50/50 chance the Mississippi reaches the "major" flood stage of 17 feet there. As we noted last month, severe flooding could mean an opportunity to [gather new groundwater monitoring data at the Ford Area C site](#).

[Read more from the Pioneer Press.](#)

'What we know about the Monticello nuclear plant tritium leak'

400,000 gallons of radioactive water leaked into the groundwater at Xcel's nuclear power plant in Monticello last November. The public only heard about it last month. The plant is located on the Mississippi River north of the Twin Cities, but so far, regulators say the tritium leak has not reached the river or drinking water sources and poses no health risk. [At a hearing this week](#), officials said that even if the plume reached the river, drinking water intake locations and dilution would ensure no threat to humans.

However when a second leak was discovered in March, the shutdown initiated to fix the leak [resulted in a fish kill](#) in the Mississippi due to changing water temperatures.

[Read more from MPR News.](#)

'Soaring Above the Glass Ceiling': Learn more about FMR board member Deanna Wiener

FMR's board members bring a wide range of skills and life experiences to the organization. [Deanna Wiener](#), who serves as chair of the board Development Committee, is no exception. Minnesota Realtors recently wrote about Wiener's career in both real estate and politics — and her commitment to environmental activism, including her support of clean-water crops.

"The environment is not partisan," Wiener says in the piece. "This shouldn't be a Republican versus Democratic issue, or urban versus rural. It's about all of us living together on one planet. When we take action to reverse the damage we've done, it benefits everyone."

[Read the full story from Minnesota Realtors.](#)

Upcoming events



Want to dig in at a volunteer restoration event this spring?

We're especially looking for support pulling invasive plants at [Riverside Park on May 23](#), [Vermillion River Linear Park on May 25](#) and [William H. Houlton Conservation Area on June 3](#). Register today!

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

Conservation Corner



Where we work: Vermillion River Linear Park

Located along the Vermillion River and the Greenway trail in Hastings, this park's connection to the river and historical roots as a prairie have led us to work with local students and partners to restore its diverse habitats.

[Explore this special place.](#)

Supporting FMR

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Candid's highest seal of transparency

We're excited to share that FMR has earned a 2023 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid (formerly GuideStar). This is the highest level of recognition offered by Candid, and it shows our ongoing commitment to being transparent and open about our operations, finances and mission. Our supporters can [give confidently](#), knowing that we'll wisely use their gift to conserve the Mississippi River and its watershed.

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