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**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



### What do you dream for the river?

The theme for our fall gala this year is The River Dreams. Get a preview of our speakers and their dreams for the river, then tell us yours!

[Tell us your dreams for the river >>](#)



### Video: Top 8 runoff pollutants in our metro waterways

When a storm rolls through, what kind of pollutants do you imagine rush down a storm drain and into our lakes and rivers? We put together a video about eight leading runoff pollutants, their effects on natural waterways and habitats in the metro, and how you can help.

[Watch and share our latest video >>](#)



## What we heard on this summer's lock and dam tours

This summer, FMR and our partners talked with over 600 community members about the future of our Twin Cities locks and dams. We led more than 20 focus-group tours that brought many people to the river in new ways.

[Here's what we heard from you about the river's future >>](#)



## How heat waves fuel toxic algae blooms in Minnesota waters

Harmful blue-green algae blooms can shut down popular beaches, sicken animals and negatively impact water quality.

[What you can do >>](#)



## Thank you, summer 2022 interns and assistants!

Our interns and assistants helped double the size of our high school career pathways program, co-led more than 20 engagement events around lock and dam issues, and surveyed wildlife at restoration sites around the metro.

[Learn more about their impact >>](#)



## 'Very excited about the prospects for this': Clean-water crops take center stage

Thanks to Forever Green Partnership efforts, a bipartisan group of state lawmakers, agriculture officials and business partners got a firsthand look at the development of continuous living cover crops.

[Behind the scenes at Albert Lea Seed >>](#)



## Introducing our newest friend of the river!

We're excited to welcome FMR Agricultural Policy Manager Peter LaFontaine's new baby William Michael to the world. Will was born earlier this summer, giving us yet another good reason to work for clean water, equitable communities and a sustainable future. Congrats to Peter and Izzy!

## Mississippi River News

### **How the Inflation Reduction Act could impact the Mississippi River**

By now, you've seen the headlines. A stunning compromise on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 sets the stage for nearly \$370 billion in new spending on climate change and energy security programs over the next 10 years. The bill includes substantial funding for climate-friendly agriculture, provisions that could be a boon for clean-water crops and the health of the Mississippi River.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

### **2022 Gulf dead zone smaller than last year, would still cover entire Twin Cities metro**

The annual humanmade "dead zone" in the Gulf of Mexico is smaller than scientists had forecast earlier this year. Official measurements put it at more than 2 million acres this year, remaining significantly larger than environmental officials' long-term target goal. Our fertilizers, urban runoff and wastewater treatment effluent enter waterways and end up in the Mississippi, flowing south to the Gulf. Find out more about what you can do to reduce the dead zone.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

### **'A federal funding program with bipartisan support helped clean up the Great Lakes. Could it work for the Mississippi River, too?'**

With sediment issues in Lake Pepin, the ecological threat posed by the spread of invasive species, increased flooding, and pollution leading to the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, the Mississippi River faces enormous challenges. This Wisconsin paper reported on the promise of the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI), based on the successes of its model, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

[Read more from the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel >>](#)

### **'This Invasive Fish Got an Anti-Racist Rebrand'**

Invasive carp have a new name, thanks to a push by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Unveiled in June, the name "copi" is meant to better entice fishers and diners to eat the fish — a valuable management tactic for fish that can create ecological harm in our waterways. Renaming these fish also steps us away from a history of framing them as scary foreign invaders, or inherently bad. Writer Christian Elliott reached out to FMR for our thoughts on how language can shape our relationship with the natural world. (We wrote about this more broadly in our [article from April](#).)

[Read more from Sierra Magazine >>](#)



## Conservation Corner



### Where we work: William H. Houlton Conservation Area

At one of the largest undeveloped riverfront properties in the metro, we're restoring 160 acres of soybean field and grazed grasslands into prairie and oak savanna, plus stewarding over 150 acres of upland and floodplain forest at the confluence of the Elk and Mississippi rivers.

[Learn more and plan your visit while the prairie blooms >>](#)

## Upcoming Events



Come to our ['make & take' rain barrel workshop](#) on Tuesday, August 23 or join us for a few more [fall volunteer events](#) at restoration sites around the metro.

And be sure to get your tickets now for [An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: The River Dreams](#) on Thursday, September 29.

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

## Supporting FMR



## Tickets are now available for the Big River's biggest night!

An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: The River Dreams is right around the corner. We're back in person this year for the first time since 2019 and we couldn't be more excited to celebrate the river with our community. We have a fun, entertaining evening planned and you won't want to miss it!

Get your tickets by September 15 to join us Thursday, Sept. 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the beautiful Nicollet Island Pavilion.

[Register today >>](#)

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### Friends of the Mississippi River

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