

Subject: Mississippi Messages — December 2022
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org> **To:**
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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 and continues to be stewarded by Dakota and Ojibwe people.

FMR Updates



What our volunteers and youth accomplished in 2022

Thanks to 959 young river stewards and 1,926 volunteers for joining us to restore habitat, monitor water quality, stencil storm drains, clean up riverbanks and more this year.

[You made a difference for the river!](#)



What would an undammed metro Mississippi River look like?

How would the removal of Lower St. Anthony Falls and Lock & Dam No. 1 change the river? Compare renderings of the metro Mississippi after dam removal with present-day photos.

[See the images here.](#)



Just 2 days left! Comment on the lock and dam disposition study

You have through Sunday, Dec. 18, to submit a comment or question to the Army Corps ahead of its highly anticipated disposition study. The study will help decide what happens to the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Lock and Dam No. 1 (the Ford dam).

[Use our form to weigh in by Dec. 18.](#)



River Guardians' impacts in 2022

In 2022, 1,152 River Guardians sent more than 2,850 letters to 166 decision-makers, significantly impacting our work towards a healthier, more resilient river community.

[Learn more about your year of advocacy.](#)



Join us for the coming legislative session

Minnesota's [legislative session](#) starts in early January with a record budget surplus and great potential for our priorities. We'll be at the Capitol advancing clean-water crops, lead service line replacement and more.

[Become a River Guardian now to advocate for the river this session.](#)

Mississippi River News

'The largest dam demolition in history is approved for a Western river'

Four dams on the Klamath River, which flows from Oregon to California's coast, will be demolished beginning as early as next summer. This will be the largest dam removal project in the world, reconnecting hundreds of miles of river for salmon and other wildlife. Klamath Basin tribes advocated for dam removal and restoration for years, with conservation allies alongside. [Will we remove two dams in the metro and reconnect our own Mississippi](#)

'Midwest river towns seek answers after 3M factory taints water with PFAS'

The drinking water for nearly 300,000 residents in the Quad Cities region may not be safe to consume, the result of ["forever chemicals"](#) leaking from a nearby 3M plant. The PFAS contamination is reportedly linked to 3M's adhesives facility, located along the Mississippi River in Cordova, Illinois. The EPA said further testing is needed to determine if nearby municipal water sources are safe.

[River?](#) The Army Corps of Engineers is currently scoping out the possibility.

[Read more from NPR.](#)

Hey-o, the belted kingfisher!

The American Birding Association recently [revealed its pick for 2023 Bird of the Year](#): The belted kingfisher. This striking species is common throughout Minnesota during migration and breeding season, and uses its thick bill to snatch fish (and other aquatic prey) right out of the water. They're often found along shorelines, perched on a branch above the surface.

Want to see one of these peculiar birds yourself? Our Land Conservation team suggested heading to one of [these 4 FMR conservation sites](#): Crosby Farm Regional Park, Pine Bend Bluffs SNA, William H. Houlton Conservation Area or Bailey Point Nature Preserve.

[Read more from MinnPost.](#)

'A hotter, drier future could change how we eat, how we breathe and where we get our water'

The agriculture sector uses nearly three times as much water as the public uses. Drought conditions like we experienced this summer make it hard for the Midwest to grow and irrigate our staple corn and soybean crops, a vulnerability of our region that will only grow as climate change intensifies drought conditions from year to year. This article gives a shoutout to perennial crops like the ones the U of M Forever Green Initiative is developing. Perennial crops, like Kernza, stay in the ground year-round, find water with their deep roots even in drought and can withstand harsher conditions.

[Read more from KCUR.](#)

Conservation Corner



More hope for long-term buckthorn control

New research shows that seeding and planting after buckthorn removal can help keep future buckthorn growth at bay. But not all plantings are created equal.

[Read more about our Conservation Director Alex Roth's latest research.](#)

Supporting FMR



Share your love for the river

Give an FMR gift membership this holiday season!

Your friend or loved one will be honored to receive this thoughtful and personalized gift to help conserve the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region.

[Purchase a gift membership.](#)

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