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MESSAGES**

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FMR Updates



St. Anthony Falls disposition plan threatens Twin Cities' water supply

In recent weeks, the Army Corps declared its intention to seek a new owner for the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock — a risky plan that could put the future of our river and the water supply for a million Twin Cities residents — into the hands of a private corporation.

[Join us to protect public interest and create public access >>](#)



Meet our new youth coordinator

Longtime youth coordinator Kate Clayton recently stepped down from her position after more than seven years of service to FMR. She leaves a legacy of inspiration and connection with thousands of metro youth and educators. Ashley O'Neill Prado will take her place as youth coordinator starting next month.

[Re-meet Ashley and celebrate Kate >>](#)



FMR hails bipartisan support for state land conservation funding

A state program responsible for water quality and habitat protection on more than 10,000 acres of rural land now has legislative support from both parties.

[Read our latest legislative update >>](#)



Where we work: Vermillion Falls Park

At the stunning waterfall after which this park is named, the Vermillion River drops 35 feet, then runs through limestone gorge and forest. We've been managing habitat restoration at this Hastings park since 2019. (Photo of icy falls by David R. Youngren)

[Find out more about this park and plan a visit >>](#)



River reminder: Hold the salt!

Just 1 teaspoon of deicing salt is enough to permanently pollute 5 gallons of river water. Here's how to reduce your salt use: 1) Shovel to keep ice from forming; 2) Most salts stop working in the bitter cold, so don't apply salt if temps go below 15° F; 3) You don't need much—one coffee mug of salt is enough for 10 sidewalk squares or a 20' driveway.

[Learn more winter tips that protect the river and our community >>](#)

Mississippi River News

Research roundup: Are agricultural climate solutions as effective as we want them to be?

Storing greenhouse gases in agricultural soils is all the rage these days, as Fortune 500 companies, conservation initiatives and even the Biden administration seek to reward farmers for sequestering carbon beneath our feet. But how sound is this approach? We pulled together some of the latest news about no-till farming, cover crops and how effectively these practices sequester carbon.

Upper Harbor Terminal vote delayed

Just after [MinnPost ran a late-January article about North Minneapolis residents' concern](#) over the proposed development plan for the Upper Harbor Terminal, we got some good news: The city agreed to complete a full environmental review of the project before bringing the development plan to a city council vote. Granted, they did so under threat of a lawsuit, but we're grateful for more time to really explore the impacts (environmental, social and economic) of this massive public riverfront project.

(Also, though there's uncertainty about their climate benefits, we know these practices are good for the river.)

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

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Upcoming Events



It's too cold to stencil storm drains now, but spring will be here before we know it. [Sign up here if you'd like a notification](#) when we open up our stenciling program and DIY stenciling kit sign-outs again.

[Urge the Army Corps of Engineers to protect the Twin Cities river](#) by weighing in on the plan for the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock before March 17.

[View our full events calendar >>](#)

Conservation Corner



Why insects matter and what you can do about their decline

In the past few years, news of the decline of insect populations has raised alarm bells. Experts say the world is losing around 1 to 2 percent of its insects each year. By now, most people know pollinators are vital to making about a third of our food supply. But what about all the other insects — does this overall population decrease matter?

[Find out why we need insects and how you can help >>](#)

Write to the River



Winter river poems

Here are just a few of the stunning lines in this winter's Write to the River edition:

My reflection, in a slow curl on the river's surface
Skipping a rock
—*From Nate Whitty*

You cut through like pitch,
dark and inky
—*From Tiffany Johnson Wortman*

The geese are singing, a chorus
of mud, reeds and wind coming
from the heart of the steely river.
—*From Irene M Alderson*

Rusted red of burr oak leaves
Chattering among the whispering pines
Conversations on the wind
—*From James Travis Spartz*

Frost-chilled winds of time pinwheeling their way
across the ever-shifting waters and lands.
—*From Jake Marble*

[Enjoy the full winter edition >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Sustain FMR with a monthly gift

The constant flow of the Mississippi River sustains countless birds like this green heron spotted in Minneapolis (photo by Tom Reiter). You can sustain FMR by signing up for automatic monthly contributions. Your gifts make up the crucial foundation we rely on in our work to protect the health of the Mississippi River.

[Become a River Sustainer today.](#) It's easy! When you make your donation, select the option "I'd like to become a Sustaining Member by making this donation a recurring monthly gift." Thank you for your support.

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