



## 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



#### Progress on FMR's priorities at the Capitol

FMR staff have been busy this legislative session advocating for [our top priorities](#) — with critical support from partners and River Guardians. Here are some recent notable updates:

- [Plan to protect MN's waters from invasive carp](#) takes shape
- Growers, business experts [show big support for clean-water crops](#)
- Where things stand with the [lead service line replacement bills](#)

[You can find all of FMR's legislative updates here.](#)



#### Got Earth Day plans?

FMR volunteers and advocates never cease to amaze us. If you're scouting opportunities to help the river, as an individual or group, check out our offerings for Earth Day and beyond.

[Learn more about our Earth Day plans.](#)



## 'He'll be deeply missed': A tribute to former Sen. Dave Durenberger

We lost a beloved environmental and public health champion last month with the passing of former U.S. Sen. Dave Durenberger, an outspoken advocate for national parks and other public lands. "Dave never said no to a request to help the Mississippi River," writes FMR Executive Director Whitney Clark.

[Read more from Whitney about Dave Durenberger's legacy.](#)



## Join our Stewardship & Education team!

Come work for FMR as part of the Stewardship & Education team. We're hiring for two positions: A full-time [Youth Coordinator](#) who will support our environmental education and career pathways program; and a seasonal [Event Assistant](#) who will provide project assistance with FMR's community engagement and outreach work.

[See more details and learn how to apply.](#)



## How a Clean Transportation Standard can help the Mississippi River

Transportation isn't usually a policy priority for FMR, but this legislative session is different. A Clean Transportation Standard could not only reduce transportation emissions, but also dramatically impact water quality, agriculture and economic justice statewide.

[Why FMR is working on a Clean Transportation Standard.](#)



## Now taking reservations for storm drain stenciling

Is your family, classroom, community or church group looking for a flexible and educational spring service outing for the river? Consider stenciling storm drains with FMR.

[Learn more and request your outing.](#)



## Sign our petition: Protect MN's waterways from invasive carp

Tell decision-makers to do their part to protect our waterways, by taking action to help prevent invasive carp from advancing further up the Mississippi River.

[Sign the petition and read more about the issue here.](#)

## Mississippi River News

### **An update on St. Paul's new bird-safe, river-oriented development rules**

St. Paul's proposed Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area ordinance (which [we like quite a lot](#)) is set to go through another round of revisions. Last month, the city's Planning Commission heard public testimony on the proposed development rules. Based on those comments, city staff will revise the draft ordinance before bringing it back to the Planning Commission in the weeks ahead.

As FMR Land Use and Planning Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman explained in a recent update, [we support the expected changes](#) involving building height along the downtown riverfront and bird-safe glass.

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

### **New Indigenous-led vision unveiled for riverfront land near St. Anthony Falls**

Friends of the Falls [revealed a new vision](#) for the future of a 3-acre site near St. Anthony Falls that could see the land returned to the Dakota. Friends of the Falls — which also announced a new leader and a Native-majority board of directors — is discussing that possibility with Dakota tribes and the City of Minneapolis.

The land has long been a sacred site for the Dakota, [Friends of the Falls explains](#). But European settlers

### **'Better design can reduce the use of road salt, preventing pollution in Minnesota's water'**

We've talked a lot about salting smart for the river. But what if one of the paths to reducing chloride pollution is infrastructure design. That's the topic of a recent story, which looks at some of the ways the placement of conifers, road height and permeable pavement may help reduce how much road salt needs to be used.

You can also [take a moment to sign our petition](#), letting policymakers, elected officials and community leaders know you support salt smarting measures.

[Read more at MinnPost.](#)

### **'Agriculture pollutes underground drinking water in Minnesota. Well owners pay the price.'**

"... [M]any rural Minnesotans rely on private wells, which tap into groundwater systems spread underneath rolling crop fields and livestock operations. When nitrates from the agriculture operations seep into the water and make it unsafe to drink, well owners pay the price."

An eye-opening report that explores the prevalence of nitrates in some Minnesota drinking water sources,

and the subsequent industry "desecrated" Owámniyomni (St. Anthony Falls) and destroyed the nearby Wita Wanagi (Spirit Island), leading to the site's current state.

[Read more from MPR News.](#)

and its connection to certain agricultural practices.

[Read more from Investigate Midwest.](#)

## Upcoming events



We'll soon be updating [our events calendar](#) with more opportunities to volunteer at our habitat restoration sites around the metro this spring.

If you'd like to sign up to receive special notices of spring restoration events in your inbox, [let us know!](#)

We're also in the process of **signing up small groups** for the [Earth Day cleanup, Saturday, April 22](#) and [storm drain stenciling outings](#).

## Conservation Corner



### Make a note to explore Grey Cloud Dunes SNA

This 220-acre protected riverfront stretch in Cottage Grove, Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area, offers sweeping river valley views and is home to a rare dry prairie that supports an immense diversity of plants, birds and other wildlife.

[Learn more and make a note to experience this beloved FMR restoration and volunteer site.](#)

## Supporting FMR



Become a monthly donor today  
— it's easy!

The Mississippi River is a life-sustaining force that supports the ecosystems and communities through which it flows. Like the river, you can sustain FMR's work by becoming a monthly donor. Recurring donations are an effective and affordable way to advance FMR's advocacy, restoration and education efforts to conserve the river.

Our online giving form makes it convenient to set up manageable payments by credit card or with your bank account.

[Become a member of our monthly donor community today.](#)

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### Friends of the Mississippi River

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