

Subject: Mississippi Messages — July 2021
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org>
To: sue rich <communications@fmr.org>
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**MISSISSIPPI
MESSAGES**

[Our work takes place on the ancestral homelands of the Dakota.](#) The river — Haha Wakpa, Misi-ziibi, Mississippi — we steward in Minnesota has long been stewarded by Native Nations including the Dakota and the Ojibwe.

FMR Updates



Groups join the call to create a new federal program to protect the Mississippi River

More than 65 organizations are backing the Mississippi River Restoration & Resilience Initiative or MRRRI Act introduced to Congress in June.

[Find out why the MRRRI Act merits this broad support >>](#)



Need a rain barrel?

One of the simplest, most impactful ways to save water and help protect our watershed from your home is to use a rain barrel. Sign up now to reserve a \$35 rain barrel kit and a spot in our virtual workshop. We'll guide you through assembly and provide river-friendly lawn and garden tips.

[Register today for our August 24 pickup >>](#)



2021 Legislative session wrap-up

After the clock ran out on lawmakers during the regular legislative session this spring, they reconvened for a special session that wrapped up on June 30.

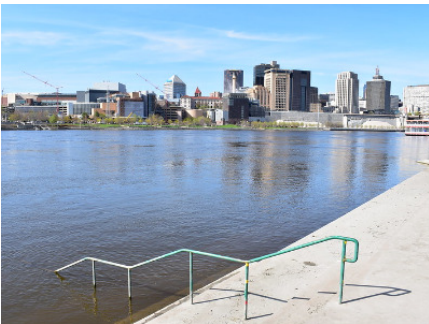
[Here's where major water-related environmental bills and issues stand, including future water train proposals, PFAS and more >>](#)



Star Tribune: 'Habitat or housing?' ... We say both

Ramsey County is eyeing a former golf course and two largely undeveloped sites for redevelopment near the St. Paul-Maplewood border. They're grappling with a big question: How can we create the housing the Twin Cities needs, while also preserving the homes of other species whose populations are collapsing?

[Find out more about the "bobolink grasslands" >>](#)



Climate change, climate justice and FMR's river corridor program

Climate change makes park access and greenspace even more important for public health and equity, and guidelines for riverfront development need to respond to the shifting climate in order to protect our river.

[Here's how our river corridor program's work intersects with climate change and climate justice >>](#)



Where we work: Camel's Hump Park and Open Space

Since 2012, we've been restoring the woods, savanna and remnant prairie still growing on the sandstone bluffs of Camel's Hump Park and Open Space, a 60-acre park with a vantage that gives expansive views of the Mississippi River Valley.

[Visit Camel's Hump in Cottage Grove >>](#)

Mississippi River News

Star Tribune spotlights need for action against invasive carp

Invasive carp present a growing threat to Minnesota waterways. A recent forum considered several strategies to stop their spread, including the addition of sound and light deterrents and restoring the river to increase its resiliency. We'll need to use all of these methods to protect the Mississippi River.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

Water crisis in Des Moines: Why does a river city need wells?

Des Moines has ample surface water from its two rivers, but contamination from upstream runoff has forced officials to start pivoting to a drastic new plan: drilling \$30 million worth of wells. Agricultural and surface water problems aren't quite so dramatic north of the Iowa border here in Minnesota, but nutrient runoff from farms and urban landscapes still poses a big problem.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'New Minnesota co-op wants to profit from getting Kernza wheat in marketplace'

The incorporation of the Perennial Promise Growers Cooperative demonstrates the progress of Kernza, a perennial grain with great potential to improve water quality. With combined harvests from more than 50 growers, the cooperative will be able to offer greater supply, improving the market viability of this clean-water crop.

[Read more from the Star Tribune >>](#)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency commissioner resigns

Only July 6, the Senate convened and informed the governor that they would vote to deny confirmation for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Commissioner Laura Bishop, due to the agency's support for the Clean Cars Minnesota rulemaking process. In response, Commissioner Bishop announced her resignation shortly thereafter.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

Upcoming Events



[Lop sumac with us on Wednesday, August 18](#) at Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area in Cottage Grove.

[Mark your calendars for An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: Our Healing River](#) on Thursday, September 30 at Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis (or online).

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

Conservation Corner



FMR Intern Allie's favorite insect sightings

Allie Carroll, our summer field ecology intern, has a great eye for insects. We're all looking a little more closely now that she's on our team. Allie wrote a guest post to give us a tour of some of the coolest finds from her fieldwork so far.

[Check out Allie's pictures of a wide variety of insects spotted at our restoration sites, including a baby katydid and an ichneumonid wasp >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Double your impact

Special announcement! All new memberships will be matched dollar for dollar by a generous donor until we've reached \$20,000 in new gifts. Join today and become a part of our community of river supporters who value clean waters, restored lands and a river accessible to all.

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Friends of the Mississippi River

106 West Water Street Suite 600 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55107 | (651) 222-2193 | communications@fmr.org

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