

Subject: Mississippi Messages — July 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 by Native Nations including the Dakota and the Ojibwe.

FMR Updates



Regarding Roe v. Wade

FMR is proud to announce that at its meeting on June 29, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution to support comprehensive, voluntary and equitable reproductive health care for all. We are committed to both environmental and reproductive justice.

[Read our statement >>](#)



Stream Health Evaluation Program starts its 16th year

Dedicated volunteers who live in the Rice Creek Watershed District have been monitoring stream health since 2006. Their findings, presented to decision-makers each year, help determine the watershed's future and shape policy to protect streams.

[Find out more and apply for the 2022 season >>](#)



Where to buy food and drinks made with clean-water crops

We've talked a lot about the environmental and economic promise of clean-water crops. But they make pretty darn tasty treats too!

[Here are a few of the places you can find \(and eat\) Forever Green crops >>](#)



Can St. Paul's River Learning Center project get back on track?

We've long supported the goal of creating a River Learning Center in St. Paul's Crosby Farm Regional Park. Recent design concepts for the center, however, seemed to disregard community input and riverfront development regulations.

[Here's how we've responded and what we hope to see happen next >>](#)



Time is running out to stop invasive carp

This spring a silver carp was recorded swimming 35 miles up Minnesota's Mississippi River in a single day. Our news outlets helped highlight what's at risk for our waterways, calling on FMR Land Use & Planning Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman to learn about the Stop Carp Coalition's response.

[Why we need to act now >>](#)



ESI guest post: Touring Lock and Dam No. 1

Our Environmental Stewardship Institute summer program kicked off in late June, and fellows are learning about environmental issues in the Twin Cities, including the potential for dam removal on the metro Mississippi.

[Read ESI Assistant Ivy's recap of a lock and dam tour >>](#)



Is the Minneapolis 2040 plan good for the environment? Yes.

The Minneapolis 2040 comprehensive plan continues to come under attack for its purported environmental harms. But we know that the plan's many environmental policies, including denser housing, are crucial responses to climate change.

[Here's how FMR is speaking up in support >>](#)

Mississippi River News

'Court defies precedent, deals blow to EPA climate effort'

Shortly after overturning *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court of the United States ruled that the Environmental Protection Agency did not have the authority to regulate carbon emissions. At a time when our country urgently needs to take climate action, this is a major setback. And we share the concerns of our partners that this decision could lead to the significant undermining of federal agencies' power across many issues in the future.

[Read more from Minnesota Environmental Partnership >>](#)

'New Report Highlights Need for Restoration and Resilience Along Upper Mississippi River'

More flooding in the Upper Mississippi River System and less floodplain forest spells trouble for birds, a recent report says. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' assessment brought together 25 years of watershed data, which showed the impact of climate change on river habitat. These findings make the case for the [Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative Act](#). (Sidenote: The podcast [Delta Dispatches](#) recently featured our own Trevor Russell on why it's time for the MRRRI Act.)

[Read more from Audubon >>](#)

'Parks on the Mississippi River'

Our metro river stretches for 72 miles between Coon Rapids and Hastings. If you're looking for a new place to explore, there are plenty of options along the river! This recent roundup follows the river's flow from north to south, listing some sites you might not have heard of, including a few where FMR works to restore habitat. Want even more possibilities for summer outings? You can check out [FMR's list of favorite river places here](#).

[Read more from Mpls.St.Paul Magazine >>](#)

'Company seeks to expand sand and gravel mine into Mississippi River near Cottage Grove'

Aggregate Industries has mined Grey Cloud Island for sand and gravel for decades. Now, since the current mine will be exhausted in five years, the company wants to expand operations into areas of the riverbed itself. The Star Tribune talked to FMR Land Use & Planning Program Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman about the possible risks of digging a hole in the river, including flow alteration, PFAS contamination and harm to at-risk species.

Conservation Corner



Think twice before removing that thistle

Thanks to their formidable spines, thistles are some of the most maligned species in the plant world. But not all thistles are invasive in Minnesota. In fact, some contribute to great habitat! Here's how to tell if you're looking at one of our five native thistle species and why we should leave those plants in the ground.

[Learn more about Minnesota's native thistles >>](#)

Upcoming Events



[Lop sumac at Grey Cloud Dunes Scientific and Natural Area](#) with us on Tuesday, August 16.

Come to our ['make & take' rain barrel workshop](#) on Tuesday, August 23.

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

Supporting FMR



Join our invite list for The River Dreams

The Big River's biggest night is back! Come join FMR's staff, board and community of river supporters for our not-to-be-missed annual fall event, An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: The River Dreams. This year we'll gather together at Nicollet Island Pavilion in Minneapolis on September 29. We'll hear from FMR staff about their hopes and dreams for the river and the work we're spearheading in pursuit of these dreams.

[Learn more and sign up to be among the first notified when registration opens >>](#)

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