

Subject: Mississippi Messages — June 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 River we steward in Minnesota has long been stewarded by Native Nations including the Dakota and the Ojibwe.

FMR Updates



Coming soon: A new federal river initiative?

As FMR Executive Director Whitney Clark and Congresswoman Betty McCollum recently wrote in the StarTribune: it's time for Congress to make the same commitment to the Mississippi River as they have to Puget Sound, Chesapeake Bay, and the Everglades.

[Read their commentary and join the call for a new, dedicated federal funding program for our remarkable river >>](#)



Introducing FMR's Cultural Landscape lesson

Our education program teaches hundreds of youth each year about watersheds, pollution, ecosystems and more. Now we're evolving our curriculum to explore cultural connections to place as well.

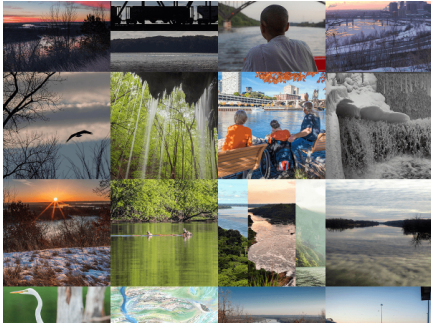
[Learn more about this new curriculum >>](#)



Annual park rankings highlight racial and economic disparities

St. Paul and Minneapolis are known to have some of the country's best urban park systems. But how well do they deliver equitable park access to all residents?

[Find out how the Twin Cities ranked and why >>](#)



Write to the River's last chapter

After four years, we're wrapping up Write to the River, FMR's community creative writing project run by our dedicated volunteer Leslie Thomas.

[Read our interview with Leslie and a message for all contributors >>](#)



Where we work: Hampton Woods WMA

The only forest among miles of farmland in all directions, Hampton Woods WMA is a 200-acre haven for wood thrush and other woodland wildlife near the Vermillion River in Dakota County. We helped permanently protect this area in 2017, and now we're working to restore its red oak forest.

[Visit Hampton Woods Wildlife Management Area >>](#)



Take action this special session

The Minnesota Legislature's June special session includes opportunities to support clean water and conservation agencies and oppose dangerous environmental rollbacks.

[Read all about it and sign our online action alerts on our Water Blog >>](#)

Line 3 and the Mississippi River

Construction on Line 3 in Northern Minnesota was slated to begin again in June after spring thaw. Water protectors have organized resistance, including an encampment at the landing where Enbridge plans to drill under the Mississippi River. We're in solidarity with individuals and organizations fighting Line 3, a massive threat to water, the Mississippi River and Indigenous treaty rights and ways of life in our state. Please take a moment to [visit Honor the Earth](#) to learn more or [find out how you can act on Line 3](#).

[Read more from MN Reformer >>](#)

Who farms in MN? What the ag census tells us about MN agriculture

Since cropland agriculture is by far the largest source of pollution to the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico, the ag census, can help us understand our clean water challenges. Who farms, and the size, scope and methods of Minnesota's farming operations are vital factors affecting water quality in our state and far downstream.

The ag census also gives us uncommon insights into issues of racial and economic justice.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

Something's rotten in the state of Minnesota

For some time now FMR's Water Blog has been tracking the "Pinelands to Potatoes" case near the Mississippi's headwaters. While not exactly "The Pelican Brief," it's a story with high stakes and intrigue (particularly considering it's about root vegetables). It also illustrates the complexities of keeping our river healthy and underscores the importance of supporting more clean-water crops and practices.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'It's time to wake up to the threat facing our water supply'

A brewery co-owner writes about water quality and the need for water protection: "40% of Minnesota's lakes and rivers do not meet federal water-quality standards. [...] we will have less than 50% of our current groundwater supply in the metro by 2030, only nine years away. [...] wells around the state are running dry at a rapidly growing pace. And she reminds us: No water, no beer.

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

Upcoming Events



Fair State Brewing Cooperative's member-owners have selected FMR as their June nonprofit partner. [All month long, every time you purchase a crowler or a bottle in the taproom](#), 10% is donated to FMR.

If you'd like to restore important local habitat, RSVP to join us [July 22nd](#) at the stunning Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific & Natural Area, an award-winning restoration site known for some of the best views of the Upper Mississippi River.

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

Conservation Corner



Beat the heat with a paddle to Settler's Island

Pair your next paddle with a visit to the new kayak/canoe landing and picnic table at Settler's Island, an FMR habitat restoration site in Cottage Grove. Enjoy a respite in the shade of the island's canopy as you take in the quietude of the Mississippi River's back channels.

[Get paddling tips and find out what signs of successful restoration to watch for when you visit >>](#)

Supporting FMR



FMR is committed to financial accountability and transparency

FMR once again meets Charities Review Council's 25 Accountability Standards. This is a testament to our commitment to accountability in the areas of public disclosure, governance, financial activity and fundraising. Donors can be confident that a substantial amount of their contributions are used for our programs.

[Visit our Charities Review Council page to learn more >>](#)

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