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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



### How FMR's priorities fared this legislative session

Thanks to River Guardians and our strong coalitions, we managed a few important wins despite a fraught legislative session. But some of our priorities stalled, and the clock ran out before lawmakers could get bipartisan compromise language across the finish line.

[Here's what was left undone >>](#)



### Passed: Investments in clean-water crops and their supply chains

We're pleased that our top two priorities this legislative session passed with bipartisan support — new investments in clean-water crops and the local businesses that can make them successful.

[What this means for clean-water crops >>](#)



## Passed: Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund appropriation

On the final weekend of the legislative session, lawmakers finalized \$70.88 million in spending from the state's Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund, including some great projects — and some contentious decisions.

[Learn more about this year's controversy >>](#)



## Courtney Cochran to lead art projects in Water Knowledge Network series

Minneapolis-based Anishinaabe Artist, filmmaker and community organizer Courtney Cochran will join us for a series of community skill-sharing and water quality education workshops in Minneapolis this summer.

[Find out more about our collaboration >>](#)



## As 'dead zone' forecast rolls in, so do endorsements of federal river initiative

Predictions of a 5,000+ square mile dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico highlight the need for a major coordinated effort to restore the river. That's why we're so excited to announce that the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative (MRRRI) now has more than 100 endorsing organizations.

[Join us and sign on your group to endorse MRRRI >>](#)



## Take our advocacy survey

Help shape FMR's advocacy engagement in the coming year and let us know how you want to plug in. We'd love to hear from our existing 2,800 River Guardians and any FMR supporters that want to become advocates.

[Fill out the 5-minute advocacy survey >>](#)



## Where we work: South Branch Vermillion River Aquatic Management Area

Located along a newly re-meandered stretch of the South Branch of the Vermillion River, this 24-acre woodland-turned-savanna is now a showcase for successful savanna restoration.

[Learn more about this place >>](#)

## Mississippi River News

### 'Goal is to shrink Gulf dead zone, but that's not happening'

Each year an overgrowth of algae — fed by urban and agricultural runoff all along the Mississippi River — creates a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico. Its oxygen-less waters can't support sea life. This year, experts predict a dead zone spanning more than 5,000 square miles, which is just about average, but way off mark for federal reduction goals. ([Here's how clean-water crops can reduce the size of the dead zone.](#))

[Read more from ABC News >>](#)

### 'Project underway to build islands in Pig's Eye Lake in St. Paul'

Dredged sediments from the Mississippi River will form six new islands in St. Paul's Pigs Eye Lake. We've been optimistic about this project and its benefits for years, and we're excited to see it move forward. These new islands will break up winds and offer a foothold for plants and animals, transforming this "aquatic desert" to quality habitat for fish, birds, river otters and more. We still think the project could be a good candidate for climate-adapted plantings as well.

[Read more from MPR News >>](#)

### 'Gallery: Design concepts unveiled for Mississippi River Learning Center'

Three design concepts have been unveiled for the River Learning Center, a proposed project at Crosby Farm Regional Park in St. Paul. We've supported the idea of a river-focused center and base for the National Park Service for years, but we have major concerns about these designs — they're inappropriate for the setting and would break state rules. [Read our letter to the leadership team to find out more.](#)

[Read more from Bring Me the News >>](#)

### 'Sacred in the city: Indigenous site in St. Paul prepared to welcome, educate public'

It's great to see this profile of Indigenous-led Lower Phalen Creek Project's work, including the Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary restoration we're partnering on. Construction begins there this month on their Wakan Tipi Center, a community gathering and exhibit space to welcome people back to this sacred place and educate the public about its Dakota connection.

[Read more from MPR News >>](#)



## Conservation Corner



### Neighborhood takes the lead on restoration

At James I. Rice Park in Minneapolis, a neighborhood community saw a need for restoration of their beloved park and banded together to make it happen. This community-driven restoration provides a new stewardship model for local parks — FMR provides technical guidance, but neighbors lead.

[Here's how it started >>](#)

## Upcoming Events



Join us to [weed and tend the demonstration prairie at Crosby Farm Regional Park](#) on Wednesday, June 22. Or sign up for our other [summer volunteer events!](#)

And don't forget that FMR receives 10% of any crowler sale at [Fair State Brewing Cooperative](#) in June.

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

## Supporting FMR



## June matching gift challenge

We're honored to announce a special \$5,000 matching gift challenge to support the river. All gifts to FMR will be matched dollar-for-dollar by a generous river benefactor until we reach \$5,000.

[Join, renew or donate today and help us reach our goal by June 30 >>](#)

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### Friends of the Mississippi River

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