



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



After another big invasive carp discovery, will the DNR finally act on a barrier?

Just after the legislative session ended, large numbers of invasive carp were found congregating at Lock and Dam 5 for the second time since March.

[See video of silver carp at Lock and Dam 5 and learn more.](#)



Metropolitan Council consults FMR's youth council for 2050 plan

The Environmental Stewardship Institute's youth council presented their findings and recommendations on park access and connection, habitat conservation and community gardens.

[Hear their recommendations.](#)



Sackett case: How the Supreme Court ruling impacts the Mississippi River

On May 25, the U.S. Supreme Court announced a decision that drastically narrows the scope of the Clean Water Act and represents one of the most far-reaching rollbacks to this decades-old law since its passage in 1972.

[Here's how the ruling affects our river and its watershed.](#)



FMR's Laura Mann Hill featured in 'SciGirls River Rescuers' episode

The "River Rescuers" episode also features our big green watershed model, the community science app we've used to track litter at cleanups and the metro Mississippi River.

[Watch the episode.](#)



What the Mississippi River needs from the new Farm Bill

The federal Farm Bill, taken up every five years, presents an opportunity to invest in our river's future and meet the challenges of climate change by prioritizing scientific research on clean-water crops and other scalable, sustainable solutions.

[Urge your elected officials in D.C. to create a forward-thinking Farm Bill.](#)



Meet our new Volunteer Coordinator

You'll have a chance to meet Tabitha Birdwell this summer at some of our volunteer stewardship events. But until then, check out her background and experience to see why we're thrilled to welcome her to the team.

[Get to know Tabitha.](#)



How FMR's priorities for the Mississippi River fared this session

FMR made progress on every single one of its priorities this legislative session thanks to our River Guardians and strong coalitions. We were thrilled to see [other environmental wins](#) as well.

[What we're celebrating and what we'll continue to advocate for.](#)

Mississippi River News

'Gulf of Mexico "dead zone" predicted to be twice the size of national goal. Again.'

Efforts to reduce the size of the Gulf of Mexico's dead zone, or low-oxygen area that kills fish and other marine life each summer, have not been effective enough. A result of pollution most often from industrial agriculture in the Mississippi River watershed, this year's dead zone will once again cause major problems for the marine ecosystem and for the people whose livelihoods depend on it. FMR is working to advance [agricultural solutions like clean-water crops](#) that would address the root cause of this humanmade disaster.

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

'Earth is "really quite sick now" and in danger zone in nearly all ecological ways, study says'

It's not news that we're in trouble with ecological issues like climate change, air pollution and water pollution. But a recent study published in the scientific journal Nature tries to quantify just how much trouble. Researchers identified boundaries for eight environmental issues past which the planet becomes unsafe. The scientists also looked at justice issues for the first time. But even with many measures in the danger zone, "It's not a terminal diagnosis. The planet can recover if it changes, including its use of coal, oil and natural gas and the way it treats the land and water, the scientists said."

[Read more from AP News.](#)

'Appreciate the Mississippi this summer with events on and near the river'

One of the mightiest rivers in the world winds through our cities. Summer is a perfect time of year to get out on the water or relax on its riverbanks. We know our supporters are drawn to the Mississippi. MinnPost's roundup features festivals, concerts and other happenings along the river this summer — new ways you might connect with these waters and the communities it sustains and inspires. Catch the Stone Arch Bridge Festival (today!), a free Shakespeare play, or public art on the riverfront.

[Read more from MinnPost.](#)

'Bison herd introduced at Dakota County park'

Bison roamed the prairies here for thousands of years. Their grass-grazing fosters more wildflower growth, which in turn supports more pollinators. Their hoofs break up soil and encourage seeds. Bison are also vital to Dakota ways of life. Dakota County celebrated the introduction of their first herd at [Spring Lake Park Reserve](#), now living near one of our restoration sites. This herd marks a move to restore relationships that existed for centuries prior to European colonization. This month, FMR staff took a field trip to meet the bison and tour the site with our old coworker Dakota County Parks Natural Resource Manager Tom Lewanski. [Check out our outing photos, including baby bison!](#)

[Watch on FOX 9 News.](#)

Upcoming events



Monitor water quality this summer and fall

Sample and study benthic macroinvertebrates — small stream-dwelling bugs — to assess stream quality in the Rice Creek Watershed District with our long-running Stream Health Evaluation Program. No experience necessary. [Apply this June!](#)

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

Conservation Corner

Where we work: Riverside Park in St. Paul Park



Located along the backwaters of the Mississippi River, this 14-acre park hosts an array of native woodland plants and serves as an oasis along the Mississippi River flyway for migratory birds. We've been working with volunteers and partners to restore habitat there since 2018.

[Learn more and plan your visit.](#)

Supporting FMR



Be a River Giver

FMR is part of the [Mississippi River Network River Days of Action](#) taking place June 8-18. Together, from Headwaters to Gulf, we're celebrating and taking action for the people, land, water and wildlife of our nation's most iconic waterway, the Mississippi. Support FMR as a River Giver individually or give to the Mississippi River Network and all participating organizations. [Please donate by June 18.](#)

P.S. FMR's Development team is [looking for a fundraising intern!](#) Help us spread the word.

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