

Subject: Mississippi Messages — March 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



Bipartisan momentum builds for clean-water crops

Two bills proposing investments in clean-water crops are already making their way through crucial committees at the Legislature with support from both sides of the aisle.

[Here are the next steps for our top legislative priorities >>](#)



Celebrate Earth Day with us!

After two years of pandemic adjustments, we're back at the Minneapolis river gorge for our annual Earth Day cleanup! Join us on April 23 or mark your calendar for our other spring events.

[Volunteer with us this spring >>](#)



Oppose bills that would undermine aquifers and the MN Environmental Rights Act

A pair of bills regarding White Bear Lake area groundwater usage have been introduced in the Legislature that could undermine local aquifer levels and undercut one of Minnesota's bedrock environmental laws.

[Take action today >>](#)



Sign the petition: It's time for MN to salt smart for the river

Salt pollution is a serious issue for our waters. Just 1 teaspoon of road salt irreversibly pollutes 5 gallons of water. That's why passing salt or chloride pollution legislation is a longstanding FMR priority.

[Tell your legislators you support safe communities and a healthier river >>](#)



Join our summer career pathways program as a youth fellow or an arts / sciences mentor

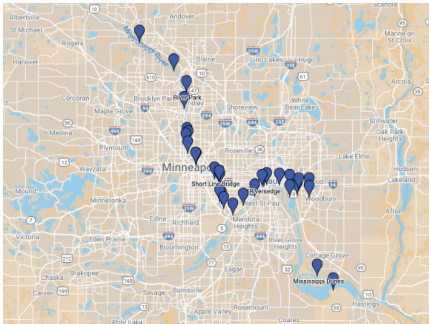
FMR's Environmental Stewardship Institute provides a 6-week paid summer job experience to a group of students, our ESI fellows, curious about environmental career paths. [If you're a rising 10th, 11th or 12th grader, we hope you apply!](#) We're also looking for professionals with arts or STEM backgrounds to mentor our fellows. [Learn more and apply for the mentor program.](#)



Welcome Laura, FMR's new ecologist

FMR is excited to announce the hiring of Laura Domyancich-Lee, FMR's new ecologist, taking on the position Alex Roth held until he became conservation director earlier this year. Laura brings a perfect combination of expertise and interests to her role.

[Meet Laura >>](#)



Check out our Riverfront Developments Map

Our Land Use & Planning program monitors and weighs in on dozens of projects and planning processes throughout the metro river corridor.

[Find out what riverfront developments and park changes are in the works near you >>](#)

Mississippi River News

'Community conversations kick off project to restore Native story of St. Anthony Falls'

Last month we wrote [an update on the future of St. Anthony Falls](#), including info about a series of community conversations led by Friends of the Falls, a group prioritizing Indigenous leadership in determining what should happen to land surrounding the falls next. The Star Tribune reported on the first conversation and the "land back" opportunity ahead. FMR Executive Director Whitney Clark will join the second of five conversations on March 16. [Register here](#).

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

'Cottage Grove: Part of former Mississippi Dunes golf course could become riverfront park'

Included in the development plans for the former Mississippi Dunes golf course in Cottage Grove is a 34-acre riverfront park. That's fewer acres than we hoped to see in this crucial wildlife corridor. FMR Land Use & Planning Program Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman points out that this land currently provides habitat for threatened birds that require more space to thrive than the future parkland allots: "Birds don't understand property lines."

[Read more from the Pioneer Press >>](#)

'Minneapolis reveals plans for new trail along Mississippi River'

'Does water really only flow out of Minnesota — not into it?'

In the fall of 2023, you'll be able to walk along the river from Ole Olson Park to the 26th Avenue North Overlook in North Minneapolis. The announcement of this Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board project is great news for anyone who's been to our prairie restoration at Ole Olson Park and has seen the stellar views of the water and the Minneapolis skyline downriver. We're excited to see the Northside gain more connected riverfront access.

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

The Curious Minnesota team explores the fact that no rivers carry water into Minnesota, just out. That's because our state is at the intersection of two continental divides and three major watersheds, including the Upper Mississippi watershed that flows south to the Gulf of Mexico. That means much of the continent lies downstream from Minnesota. Since rivers carry not only water, but the pollution they pick up along the way, our efforts to keep our waters clean make a vast impact beyond our borders.

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

Conservation Corner



Meet five new FMR restoration sites

Our ecologists actively restore and maintain habitat at more than 30 sites across the metro region. But we're always looking for additional projects that can support wildlife, protect our water and increase climate resilience. In 2021, we added five new restoration projects totaling 273 acres to our restoration portfolio.

[Here's what we're planning for each site >>](#)

Upcoming Events



It's an exciting time of year! We'll soon be updating [our events calendar](#) with more opportunities to volunteer at our habitat restoration sites around the metro this spring.

Do you live near James Rice Park? [Join us for a community meeting](#) about the future of its natural areas on Wednesday, April 6.

[Clean up the Minneapolis river gorge](#) with us on Saturday, April 23 for Earth Day.

Supporting FMR

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Candid's highest seal of transparency

We're excited to share that FMR has earned a 2022 Platinum Seal of Transparency with Candid (formerly GuideStar). This is the highest level of recognition offered by Candid, and it shows our ongoing commitment to being transparent and open about our operations, finances and mission. Our supporters can give confidently knowing that we'll wisely use their gift to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River.

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Friends of the Mississippi River

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