



**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



The cutoff wall: St. Anthony Falls' hidden hazard

[A massive, concrete cutoff wall](#) constructed nearly 150 years ago keeps St. Anthony Falls from collapsing. Nobody knows when the wall was last inspected, or what shape it might be in. We need to make sure the structure isn't on the verge of failure.

[Learn more about the FMR-backed bill to fund such a study.](#)



5 ways you can educate yourself and your community about the river

We're turning 30 this year, and we want people to celebrate with us by helping the Mississippi River. This month's focus? Deepening your own knowledge about the river — and inviting your community to dive in as well.

[5 ways you can educate yourself and your community about the river.](#)



Time is running out to apply for our summer 2023 ESI program

High school students who are interested in the environmental field, make sure to apply for our summer Environmental Stewardship Institute (ESI) program. This six-week program provides 60 hours of paid job experience and foundational learning.

[Don't miss your chance: Apply before the upcoming deadline.](#)



Petition: Get the lead out of Minnesota's drinking water

Lead service lines present an ongoing risk to the health of thousands of Minnesota residents. Lawmakers have an opportunity to pass a bill that would remove all lead service lines in the state within the next decade.

[Sign our petition! Tell decision-makers to get the lead out of MN's drinking water.](#)



Deadlines fast approaching at the Capitol

The legislative session is nearing a critical juncture, with a committee hearing deadline flowing into omnibus discussions. Many of FMR's priorities are in good positions: Our [bill to build an invasive carp barrier](#) secured a crucial first hearing, and clean-water crops [cleared key hurdles ahead of budget talks](#).

[Check in on all of FMR's legislative updates.](#)



Farewell to Sophie Downey!

There's no way to fully capture the positive impact Sophie Downey had during her time at FMR, but of course we had to try. So as Sophie leaves to pursue a new opportunity, take a look at some of her (many) accomplishments over the past five years.

[We will miss you Sophie!](#)



FMR position announcement: Volunteer Coordinator

We are hiring a Volunteer Coordinator! This person will recruit and coordinate volunteers to participate in FMR's many events, projects and programs. The role includes public outreach, volunteer participation tracking, event support and more.

[Learn more about the Volunteer Coordinator role and apply here.](#)

Mississippi River News

'Advocates seek more respect for Minnesota's underappreciated fish'

Native "rough fish" play an important role in the health of Minnesota's rivers and lakes. You wouldn't know it by how they're portrayed. Wrongly labeled as undesirable, nuisance fish more than a century ago, these native rough fish species could soon gain much-needed protections — and some long-overdue respect.

There's [a proposal](#) in the Legislature, the "No Junk Fish" bill, that would allow for new conservation measures for rough fish. This effort has been spearheaded by [Native Fish for Tomorrow](#). FMR supports protections for native rough fish, and last fall [signed a petition](#) calling for action.

[Read more from MPR News.](#)

Odds jump for spring flooding on Mississippi River

A snowy (and sometimes rainy) winter is setting the stage for potential spring flooding. The [NOAA's most recent flooding forecast](#) projects a spring flooding threat that is "well above normal." There's currently more than a 50% chance the Mississippi River at St. Paul reaches the major flood stage this season, the NOAA says (though the agency will issue an updated forecast near the end of March).

"It's now not so much a question of if we will see flooding, but how severe and widespread will it be?"

Meet the skunk cabbage: Minnesota's earliest-blooming wildflower

Yes there's plenty of snow still on the ground, but you can already find a blooming spring wildflower.

Skunk cabbage can begin pushing through frozen soil in late February or early March. This is thanks to its remarkable ability to generate heat, which melts nearby snow. It's also a valuable wildflower for pollinators that need protection from the elements during periods of sudden chill.

[Head to our Instagram to see some photos and read more about skunk cabbage.](#)

How River Guardians helped us reach a clean-water crops milestone

Public support to help [build out and scale up the market for clean-water crops](#) has been a top priority for FMR in recent years. With the recent opening of a new grants program, that effort has hit a new milestone in our state's development of this emerging industry.

The funds will help small and mid-sized businesses get more products to consumers, ultimately driving demand that results in more acres of clean-water

the NOAA writes.

One thing FMR will be watching: If the metro Mississippi River does see major flooding, it may give us a long-awaited opportunity to gather valuable new [groundwater monitoring data at the Ford Area C site](#).

[Read more about the spring flood forecast via FOX 9.](#)

crops across the landscape. With it, Minnesotans benefit from healthier soil and cleaner water.

The roots of this program stretch back to the 2022 legislative session, where River Guardians played a crucial role in making this a reality.

[Read more from FMR's Water Program.](#)

Upcoming events



Earth Day and beyond!

[Clean up the Minneapolis river gorge](#) with us on Saturday, April 22 for Earth Day. [Sign up to pull garlic mustard](#) at habitat restoration events along the metro river this May. Or set up your own stenciling outing for your group.

For the next few weeks, all sign-ups will be through online forms. Thanks in advance for your understanding! And if you know someone who would be a good fit as FMR's volunteer coordinator, [please share our opening with them](#).

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

Conservation Corner

How to take part in the next phase of the coyote and fox project

Hundreds of FMR supporters have helped deepen our collective understanding of wild canids by submitting sightings to the Twin Cities Coyote and Fox Project in recent years.

Now, the University of Minnesota-led project wants to learn more about these secretive species — and is



once again asking for help from FMR supporters and Twin Cities residents.

[Got scat? The next phase of the coyote and fox project.](#)

Supporting FMR



Help create a brighter future for the river

Giving supports the work that helps make our events possible.

Become a member today and join us in our efforts to reduce water pollution, restore habitat and improve river access. Together, we can make a difference for the river and all the communities it sustains.

[Donate today.](#)

Need to reduce your inbox for a while? We understand. [You can opt out of FMR emails for 60 days](#) or [manage your email preferences](#).

[Make sure FMR emails avoid your spam filter!](#)

unsubscribe

donate

our work

Friends of the Mississippi River

106 West Water Street Suite 600 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55107 | (651) 222-2193 | communications@fmr.org

Trouble viewing? [Click here to read this email in your web browser.](#)

Follow Us



[Unsubscribe](#) or [Manage Your Preferences](#)