

Subject: Mississippi Messages — May 2022
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org> **To:**
Date Sent: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:45:49 PM GMT-05:00
Date Received: Wednesday, October 25, 2023 5:45:51 PM
GMT-05:00



**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



Take action this legislative session

Before the Legislature wraps up on May 23, ask your lawmakers to: 1) [Take steps to salt smart](#) and protect water quality, and 2) [Get the lead out](#) of drinking water. River Guardians, watch your email this week! We may need your help with urgent action alerts in the days ahead.

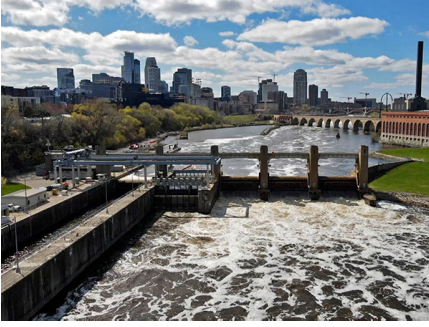
[Sign up as a River Guardian so you can weigh in as the session ends](#)
>>



Meet our new staff!

Thanks to our supporters and funders, we were able to hire staff this spring for new positions designed to strengthen relationships and extend our reach.

[Here's a brief introduction to our five newest teammates](#) >>



Join us for lock and dam focus-group tours this summer

Get an up-close look at two iconic Twin Cities locks and dams this summer! Join us on a free focus-group tour by boat, bike, kayak or foot and help shape the future of the Mississippi River gorge.

[Apply for a focus-group tour >>](#)



Where we work: Bruce Vento Nature Sanctuary / Wakáŋ Tipi

Beneath blufftop Dakota burial mounds, this St. Paul natural area is a sacred place. We're partnering with Native-led Lower Phalen Creek Project to restore habitat with culturally important practices and plants to better honor the site's history and ongoing importance to Dakota people.

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



FMR welcomes two new board members

We're thrilled to welcome Dr. Kate Knuth and Aubre Parsons to our board of directors this spring.

[Meet our newest board members >>](#)



It's garlic mustard season ...

Garlic mustard can be invasive in woodlands and along waterways. In May and early June, our [volunteer events](#) focus on removing garlic mustard from restoration sites before it flowers, restoring balance for wildlife and water quality.

[Find out more about garlic mustard >>](#)



In case you missed it: FMR's digital annual report

Tour new habitat restoration and development sites, watch a rusty patched bumblebee in action, celebrate major initiatives, meet our supporters and more.

[Here's what we accomplished together in 2021 >>](#)

Mississippi River News

Mississippi named one of the 'most endangered rivers' in the US

As covered by MPR News, WCCO and other media outlets, the Mississippi River made the list of "America's Most Endangered Rivers" in late April. But a proposed federal program — championed by FMR, Rep. Betty McCollum (MN-04), the National Wildlife Federation and Mississippi River Network among many others — has the potential to turn that designation around. Hear FMR Water Program Director Trevor Russell speak to this unsurprising designation and our proposed solution.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

New York Times spotlights U of M's clean-water crops

A Minnesota-led effort to develop new clean-water crops has caught the attention of the New York Times. The paper, as part of its series on "Visionaries" across the country, wrote about the University of Minnesota's Dr. Donald Wyse and his leading work with the Forever Green Initiative. FMR supports this work through the Forever Green Partnership. Jonathan Kauffman notes, "In the next decade, if [Wyse's] vision holds true, the Upper Midwest's Corn Belt could become the most forward-thinking agricultural region in the country."

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'Mississippi River tours to spark conversations about pros and cons of lock and dam removal'

St. Paul's MyVillager was one of three local newspapers to profile our summer engagement tours around metro locks and dams and their possible removal. Their piece quotes FMR's Land Use & Planning Program Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman on its potential: "Generally, dam removal seems to be good for wildlife. But every situation is unique and has particular costs and benefits, and we don't yet have an understanding of those particulars."

[Read more from MyVillager >>](#)

MRRRI in the national spotlight

Over 75 news articles, TV and radio news features have covered the Mississippi River Restoration and Resilience Initiative or MRRRI Act in the last month throughout the river's 10-state run. In Minnesota reporters worked with FMR and Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance. Downstream, journalists connected with the Iowa Environmental Council, Missouri Conservation Federation, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Tennessee Environmental Council, and Healthy Gulf of New Orleans amongst others. We're thrilled to see growing awareness of this historic initiative.

[Read more from FMR >>](#)

Conservation Corner



"Is it good or bad?" Rethinking language around invasive species

When we talk about invasive species, we're talking about living beings. You wouldn't be able to tell that from the negative and sometimes violent language our field often uses to describe them. But in recent years, thanks in part to learning from our partners at local Indigenous organizations, we've been revising how we talk about invasive species — and in turn, how we think about our relationship with the living world around us.

[Here's why it matters >>](#)

Upcoming Events



Join us for our spring volunteer events!

On Thursday, June 2, [pull garlic mustard and seed the savanna at Vermillion River Linear Park](#) in Hastings.

And on Saturday, June 11, [plant and tend William H. Houlton Conservation Area](#) in Elk River.

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

Supporting FMR



Save the date — An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River: The River Dreams

Mark your calendar for our annual fall event on Sept. 29 at Nicollet Island Pavilion in downtown Minneapolis. This year's festivities will feature stories of our hopes and dreams for the river told by FMR's own staff, board members and program participants — the people on the front lines of our critical work who work each day for a brighter future for our river and communities.

[Sign up to be the first to get event updates >>](#)

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](#)