



## 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



#### A warm welcome to four new FMR staff!

We're excited to introduce you to four new staff who are bringing their passion and expertise to our youth programs, events, restoration projects and pollinator research.

[Meet Julia, Leah, Carrie and Sovatha.](#)



#### Last days of the legislative session

The Minnesota legislative session wraps up on May 22. Lawmakers have taken [a big step toward clean drinking water](#), and things look promising for [a cutoff wall study](#). But many of our priorities remain in the balance.

Check our [legislative updates](#) for the latest news — and [River Guardians](#), keep an eye on your inboxes next week for our special end-of-session wrap-up.



## Celebrating the Water Knowledge Network

FMR debuted our Water Knowledge Network workshop series last summer to share community knowledge about water and love for water, while building skills for youth and adults to care for our watershed.

[Watch our new video to see what we learned.](#)



## What our spring flood could reveal about the Ford Area C dumpsite

We've been waiting for a river flood to gather more information about the hazards created by Ford Motor Company's floodplain dumpsite in St. Paul, known as Area C. This year, we'll have new data (and a special tour for our River Guardians).

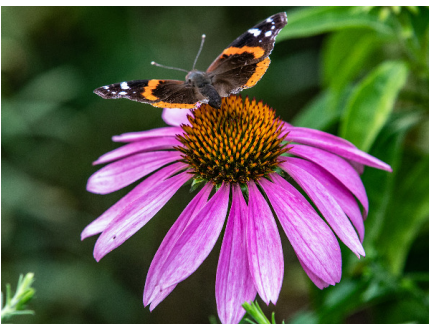
[What's next for this toxic riverfront dumpsite.](#)



## Action Alert: Protect funding for environmental projects for future generations

There's still time to tell your lawmakers to give Minnesotans the opportunity to rededicate lottery funds to the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund — a vital resource for clean water, habitat and outdoor access for all.

[Sign the action alert today.](#)



## 5 ways you can improve water quality from home

Celebrate our 30th anniversary with us by helping the Mississippi River. This month we're sharing river-friendly gardening and yard tips in time for spring.

[Learn more about rain barrels, native plants and more.](#)

# Mississippi River News

## 'The most critical infrastructure you've never seen': St. Anthony Falls cutoff wall in the news

Near St. Anthony Falls, a three-story wall runs beneath the Mississippi River and keeps the falls from collapsing. This "cutoff wall" is essential for drinking water and our riverfront, but it's nearly 150 years old. "No one has thoroughly studied the wall or the adjacent geology since 1876," wrote FMR board member and river historian Dr. John Anfinson in a [Star Tribune commentary](#). That's why [we're asking the Legislature](#) to invest in a study to find out what state it's in now.

[Read more from the Minnesota Reformer.](#)

## 'Nitrate levels in 8 southeast Minnesota counties near crisis point'

When enough nitrate from fertilizer or manure leaches into the groundwater, drinking water becomes unsafe, posing a major risk to human health. In Minnesota, rural cities and towns surrounded by conventional crop agriculture and concentrated animal feeding operations are faced with contaminated wells — an expensive and dangerous problem. Organizations and agencies, including FMR, have worked to increase groundwater protection from nitrate pollution over the years. But southeast Minnesota remains threatened, partly due to the geology of the ground itself. Now, [we've signed on to petition the EPA](#) to take action to ensure safe drinking water.

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

## 'Minnesota companies debut new foods, whiskey made with Kernza perennial grain'

It's getting easier and easier to eat (and drink) [clean-water crops](#). Minnesota-based Perennial Pantry now offers a CSA box — monthly deliveries of pasta, crackers, flour and more, all made with perennial and winter-annual crops. And local distillery Tattersall Distilling just debuted a Kernza whiskey. As the market grows for products like these, more and more agricultural fields will be able to incorporate continuous living cover, improving water quality from the Midwest to the Gulf.

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

## 'Friends group celebrates 30 years as voice for Mississippi'

For our 30th anniversary, this profile looks back to FMR's beginnings as a nonprofit and spotlights our current work. With a staff of 25 today, we're able to focus on a range of initiatives. On clean-water crops, Executive Director Whitney Clark spoke to the need to "transform the ecological footprint of agriculture" in order to address water pollution. We're also working to stop invasive carp, protect habitat, advocate for the cleanup of a toxic waste site, strengthen river rules and collaborate with the next generation of leaders.

[Read more from The Villager.](#)

## Upcoming events

Join us to restore habitat





Many of our upcoming stewardship events still need volunteers, including invasive plant pulls at [William H. Houlton Conservation Area in Elk River on Saturday, June 3](#) and [Camel's Hump Park and Open Space in Cottage Grove on Thursday, June 15](#).

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

## Conservation Corner



### Goodbye stubborn spring chill, hello songbirds!

After a slow start to migration, the captivating colors and dazzling melodies of many spring migrants are now waiting to be discovered at sites throughout the Twin Cities. You just have to know where to look. FMR has helped restore and protect sites along the Mississippi River flyway, a critical migration corridor — including some spectacular spots for spring birdwatching.

[Here are 5 FMR sites we recommend for both new and experienced birders.](#)

## Supporting FMR

**GIVE  
TO FMR  
AT  
ORVIS  
THIS  
MAY**



## Orvis gives back to the river

Orvis - Miracle Mile in St. Louis Park has selected FMR to be a recipient once again of their Great Giveback Days campaign. Throughout May, Orvis - Miracle Mile will collect donations at the register to support our efforts to conserve the river. As a token of appreciation, participants will receive a one-time-use savings card to use only at Orvis - Miracle Mile.

[Learn more and participate.](#)

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### Friends of the Mississippi River

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

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