

Subject: Mississippi Messages — November 2021
From: Friends of the Mississippi River <communications@fmr.org>
To: sue rich <communications@fmr.org>
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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



Can we make Minnesota's drinking water lead-free?

Everyone deserves clean, safe drinking water. Unfortunately, though lead was banned for plumbing in 1986, existing lead pipes remain a threat in Minnesota. FMR is working with our partners to advance three emerging opportunities to fund lead service line replacement.

[Learn more and sign up to take action >>](#)



FMR is hiring a data manager

Help us find our new Data Manager! This is a full-time position with benefits — a great fit for a motivated problem solver eager to streamline systems, refine workflows and empower their teammates.

[Apply by November 17 at 5 p.m. >>](#)



Lilydale considers new blufftop development

A challenging property on Lilydale's river bluffs is the site of a new redevelopment proposal under consideration. Our concern: Will the building disrupt the river's scenery?

[Learn more about the project and next steps >>](#)



Thank you, 2021 storm drain stenciling volunteers!

Despite our second season of COVID-19, neighbors, classrooms, sports teams, girl scouts, churches and local businesses safely stenciled 1,615 storm drains in the Twin Cities to spread the word about why it's so important to keep our storm drains clean.

[Check out this season's highlights >>](#)



Quick tips for speaking at a public meeting

Elections are over, but we hope your participation in local politics continues! We put together this video to encourage you to weigh in at local public meetings and make a difference for the river and your community.

[Here's what to expect at a public meeting and how to prepare >>](#)



Fun upcoming ways to support FMR

We hope you'll join in Minnesota's giving holiday and [contribute to FMR on Give to the Max Day, Thursday, November 18](#). Any donation made this November will be matched, so it's a great time to give! And on [Wednesday, December 1 from 3-10 p.m., all net proceeds at Indeed Brewing Company in Minneapolis will be donated to FMR](#).

Mississippi River News

'Conversion of Minnesota grasslands to crops threatens wildlife, water, climate'

Last month we posted about [the endangered species found at grasslands under consideration for development in Maplewood](#). The next weekend, reporter Jennifer Bjorhus wrote about Minnesota's disappearing grasslands, citing a study that calculated a combined loss of that habitat the size of Delaware in just five years. Plowing grasslands to grow corn and soybeans for food, animal feed and biofuels impacts already-imperiled birds and pollinators. And where grasslands can filter and hold onto rain and melt, water more easily runs off croplands, polluting lakes and streams.

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

'Rowing group builds river access at UHT site 'for everyone''

There's a new launch point and dock for community members at the site of the Upper Harbor Terminal in North Minneapolis. North News reports that this dock is the only river access point in the Twin Cities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. It's also the home of North Star Community Rowing, a nonprofit dedicated to inclusivity in the sport.

[Read more from North News \(p. 11\) >>](#)

Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment plan faces first lawsuit

The Minneapolis City Council approved the Upper Harbor Terminal redevelopment plan on the North Minneapolis riverfront, but it's already facing its first lawsuit over the project. The North Minneapolis-based Community Members for Environmental Justice, with legal representation from the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, has filed suit alleging that the project's environmental review was inadequate. We agree.

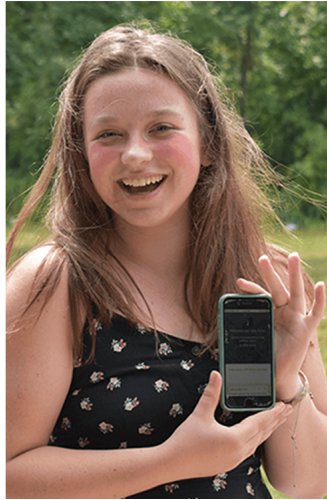
[Read more from FMR >>](#)

'Changes to Minnesota's clean water rules get feds' approval'

In an unusual move, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has allowed Minnesota's Pollution Control Agency to loosen clean water standards relating to salt pollution. Now, waters used for industry, agriculture, livestock and wildlife will need to meet narrative requirements rather than numeric, measurable limits of some pollutants, including chloride. Along with other environmental groups and tribal nations, FMR submitted comments opposing the proposed changes.

[Read more from MPR News >>](#)

Guest blog posts from ESI fellows



Our summer Environmental Stewardship Institute (ESI) fosters the diverse next generation of environmental leaders. Over the next few months, we'll feature some of our 2021 fellows' guest blog posts about their final projects.

Mateo (left) [created a comic](#) that imagines people in conflict over water resources learning from Native knowledge around the cooperative hunting strategies of coyotes and badgers.

Fiona (right) interviewed pollinator experts from around the country and explored [the potential for pollinator habitat to grow alongside solar farms](#), as well as her own potential future in the field.

Conservation Corner



A short field guide to metro wildlife

Whether it's the return of grassland birds to a once-homogenous cropland we've restored to prairie, or the adaptive behaviors of urban foxes and coyotes, the well-being of Minnesota's wildlife can serve as a window into our ecosystems as we strive to be better stewards of the land. Here's a short guide to a few of the diverse species you might see at our sites that illustrate how strategic conservation efforts leave a lasting impact.

[Get to know a few of the critters who find habitat in FMR restoration sites >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Double your impact on the river's health this November

All of us at FMR are thankful for our dear friend Phil Riveness' generous \$10,000 matching donation for Give to the Max 2021. Phil will graciously match any gift you make to FMR in November, dollar for dollar.

[Help us meet his match and give today >>](#)

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Friends of the Mississippi River

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