

Subject: Mississippi Messages — November 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 and continues to be stewarded by Dakota and Ojibwe people.

FMR Updates



The case for and against lock and dam removal

Removing two metro locks and dams would reconnect 39 miles of river through the Mississippi's only gorge, which is located right here in the heart of the Twin Cities. But is dam removal the best scenario for our metro river?

[Here's what we're considering.](#)



It's time: Comment on the lock and dam disposition study

The Army Corps is now embarking on a highly anticipated disposition study, which will help decide what happens to the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, and Lock and Dam No. 1 (the Ford dam). What should they research and take into account?

[Use our form to weigh in by Dec. 18.](#)



'Heal with the Earth:' FMR's 2022 mural for water quality

FMR worked with artist Graci Horne to create a water quality mural at Lake Phalen: a youth-inspired design showing the hydrogen cycle through life connected by water — Dakota floral, wild rice, animals — up through the atmosphere.

[Read an interview with the artist and see the mural in progress.](#)



What MN election results mean for FMR's legislative priorities

The 2022 elections are (mostly) behind us, meaning we have a clearer picture of how FMR's legislative priorities may fare.

[What might change — and what will probably stay the same.](#)



FMR signs on to petition calling for protection of native fish

FMR has signed on to a legal petition calling for the protection of all native fish, especially "rough fish" — a catchall term for native species that are less desirable to eat, like buffalo fish or freshwater drum.

[Why we signed the petition.](#)



Mississippi River diversion pipeline is impractical, study says

Could the Mississippi River refill the Southwest's freshwater reserves? A recent study says the idea of a diversion pipeline doesn't hold water.

[Read more about the many concerns and hurdles.](#)



A vision of sustainable agriculture from Gnometown, USA

The excitement around Minnesota pea protein business PURIS can show us the path forward for clean-water crops and continuous living cover.

[Read more about the recent tour we helped put on.](#)

Mississippi River News

Fall drought in MN, record low Mississippi River down south

An enduring drought has gripped much of the Mississippi River basin for months, and the river there is now at historically low levels. Here in Minnesota, the Twin Cities experienced its driest September on record and sixth-driest October. While water levels in the Mississippi River haven't reached the drastic lows seen further south, signs of the drought are obvious. What does this mean for the Mississippi River in our neck of the woods? Here are some of the potential impacts FMR's Water and Land Conservation programs will be monitoring.

[Read more from FMR.](#)

'Army Corps studying dam removal that could restore free-flowing Mississippi River in Twin Cities'

As the Army Corps of Engineers begins its study about the future of two Twin Cities locks and dams, organizations and community members are weighing in, including the [Star Tribune Editorial Board](#). In this article, FMR Land Use & Planning Program Director Colleen O'Connor Toberman talks about the possibilities we see around dam removal, the questions we still have and the long view we can take as we look ahead: "What we accept as the only way the river is, the only way that river can be, is actually just a blip in history."

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

'An ancient, otherworldly giant glides Minnesota rivers'

As part of their Vanishing North Series on the biodiversity crisis, the Star Tribune featured one of the oldest (and one of the coolest-looking) fish to grace the Mississippi River. With a 2-foot-long, almost-platypus-like nose, the native paddlefish is iconic — and increasingly threatened. It's species like this that would likely stand to gain from dam removal and reconnecting the river. This article describes the DNR's monitoring efforts since Upper St. Anthony Falls lock and dam closed in an effort to stop the spread of invasive carp.

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

'River Balcony aims to connect downtown St. Paul with Mississippi River'

Even though downtown St. Paul sits along the Mississippi River, seeing and accessing the river from downtown isn't always easy. Bluffs, buildings, streets and railroad tracks all inhibit access. The proposed River Balcony's promenade along 1.5 miles of river bluff edge will change that. Just a few weeks ago, the final design concepts were released. What's next? The Great River Passage Conservancy will be figuring out construction plans and how to fund the project.

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

Conservation Corner



Long fall? Extended prescribed burn season!

The lingering fall this year gave us the rare opportunity to implement a fall burn in our prairie restoration at Hastings River Flats, a 216-acre city park located along the Mississippi River at Lock and Dam No. 2 in Hastings.

[Here's why we jumped at the chance.](#)

Supporting FMR



Give to the Max was a big success!

Thank you so much to the 220 donors that helped us meet our \$10,000 match, raising over \$31,000 during Give to the Max season. Together we are creating a brighter future for the river and the life it sustains.

If you missed Give to the Max Day earlier this week, there's still time to help us end the year strong.

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