

Subject: Mississippi Messages — September 2021
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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



FMR is hiring

We're looking for a Conservation Director to lead and manage our work protecting and restoring an ecologically functioning corridor of natural habitat along the Mississippi River and important tributaries in the Twin Cities metropolitan area and beyond.

[Help us spread the word or apply by October 22 >>](#)



The lineup for Our Healing River on September 30

Watching the river flow by can feel like listening to a good story. We're honored to share with you four good stories about our healing river at our virtual fall gala.

[Find out more about our storytellers \(including the new poet laureate of Minnesota\) >>](#)



What's still possible for Mississippi Dunes?

Could the 150-acre Mississippi Dunes golf course still become a riverfront park? Or will a housing development take priority? Join us September 28 to find out what options FMR believes the city has and how you can support the effort.

[Learn more and sign up for the community meeting >>](#)



Thanks to our summer 2021 Environmental Stewardship Institute assistants

Putting on an 8-week program for the next generation of environmental leaders is a lot of work. This year, former fellows Naomi and Justine stepped up to help us plan and facilitate.

[Read their thoughts on the program and its exciting changes >>](#)



How to support our downstream neighbors after Hurricane Ida

Our partners along the river have outlined a few ways you can support immediate relief efforts near the Gulf, volunteer online and take action to create a more resilient Mississippi River long-term.

[Here's what you can do >>](#)



'It's really, really exciting': Clean-water crops are on the verge of something big

The latest headlines say clean-water crops could finally be taking off. That's good news for the river and for farmers.

[Check out our roundup of recent articles >>](#)



How our volunteer and education programs work on climate change

Our Stewardship & Education program philosophy is that people who learn about and find their own ways to connect with the places around them will be more likely to protect and steward the environment.

[Read more about how we plant the seeds for climate change efforts through each event and partnership >>](#)

Mississippi River News

Weigh in on two Minneapolis park plans

Two North and Northeast park designs are moving forward in Minneapolis, and the next step seeks input from you, city parkgoers. [Graco Park comments are open through September 26](#). Located right on the river near Boom Island and the Plymouth Avenue Bridge, this park could become an important feature of the Northeast riverfront. And the [Upper Harbor Terminal park plan comments are open through October 21](#). The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is asking for feedback on the current plan for the parkland portion of the site (which doesn't include the development plans for the city-owned portion).

'The Mysterious Concrete Wall Under St. Anthony Falls'

After it collapsed in 1869, St. Anthony Falls was stabilized with a concrete apron and a 40-foot high underground cutoff wall. Though critical, neither structure is regularly maintained. [Last month we shared our take on the Star Tribune's thorough article](#) that covered questions around the cutoff wall's current condition and ownership. This month, TPT Almanac interviewed reporter Eric Roper about his investigation of "the most important wall you've never heard of before."

[Watch the interview at TPT >>](#)

'Are more wild animals moving into Minnesota's cities?'

The black bear near the downtown St. Paul Depot last spring, foxes spotted at FMR's Nicollet Island restoration, wild turkeys Uptown — it may seem like we're sharing our urban areas with wildlife more and more these days. This article explores the factors behind what animals thrive in the metro area, and what we can do for the pollinators and others that don't.

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

'Ramsey County asks developers for proposals for Maplewood sites, upsetting environmental groups'

Birds like the endangered Henslow's sparrow find their nesting ground in an undeveloped 77-acre parcel of land next to Battle Creek Regional Park, part of the Mississippi River flyway. Though the natural resource study for this rare grassland has yet to be completed, the county has begun to call for development ideas. Learn more about the properties in [our blog post from April](#), and [sign up as a River Guardian](#) to weigh in on the future of this important habitat in Maplewood.

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

Upcoming Events



We have a few more volunteer opportunities this fall, including the [Pine Bend Bluffs brush haul and celebration on Saturday, October 30](#).

Learn more about the future of [Mississippi Dunes in Cottage Grove on September 28](#), and join us for [An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River on September 30](#).

[Register for these events and see more on our calendar >>](#)

Conservation Corner



Farewell to Allie, our summer field ecology intern

Allie was a quick study and a passionate addition to our land conservation team this summer. In this blog post, she reflects on the insect drama she witnessed while monitoring FMR restoration sites, the appeal of tiny urban prairies (like Ole Olson in North Minneapolis), and her next move.

Allie says, "This job with FMR has given me a much greater appreciation for all those who work in habitat conservation!"

[Find out why we appreciate Allie so much >>](#)

Supporting FMR



Register today for Our Healing River

An Evening Celebrating the Mississippi River is just over a week away! Register now to attend our virtual event celebrating Our Healing River next Thursday, September 30. We'll send registrants the livestream link before the program begins, as well as an announcement when our online auction opens so you can get a head start on bidding.

[Register here and learn more >>](#)

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