



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



Our 2023 legislative priorities

From investments in clean-water crops to funding for conservation work, here's a rundown of what we hope to accomplish at the Capitol this session.

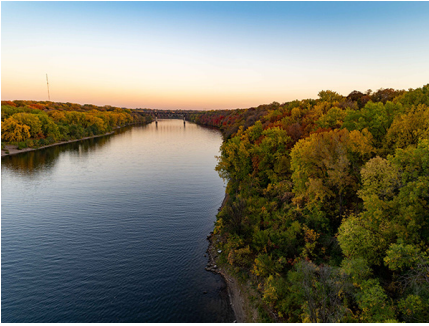
[What we're advocating for this year.](#)



We're hiring!

FMR's Land Conservation team is expanding. We're hiring a [Pollinator Biologist/Wildlife Ecologist](#) AND an [Ecologist/Project Manager](#) to help us increase our impact. Applicants are encouraged to apply by Feb. 17, 2023.

[Help us spread the word.](#)



What we made possible together in 2022

Celebrate a full, impactful year by exploring our 2022 digital annual report's stories, interactive maps, videos and more.

[Check out our annual report.](#)



Thank you Hugh, our fall Land Conservation intern

As an intern this fall, Hugh supported bird and plant surveys, analyzed data, sorted native prairie seeds and helped lead volunteer stewardship events.

[Read Hugh's reflections on working with FMR.](#)



What we asked the Army Corps about the future of the locks and dams

Not only did River Guardians send in more than 170 comments, FMR submitted a lengthy letter that raises detailed questions for the Corps to answer.

[Here are 5 critical issues we are urging the agency to consider.](#)



The scoping comment period for two Twin Cities locks and dams is over. Now what?

Maybe you took a lock and dam tour with us this summer and weighed in on the future of two Minneapolis locks and dams this fall. What's next in the process?

[Check out our progress meter for the lock and dam study.](#)



Celebrate our 30th anniversary with us!

In 2023, FMR turns 30. Every other month, we'll be sharing five ways you can help the river so you can celebrate with us. First up? Water pollutants.

[Here are 5 ways you can reduce lesser-known water pollutants.](#)

Mississippi River News

'Minnesota changes environmental review to measure climate impacts'

Developers will now have to consider the climate impacts of certain large projects. The Minnesota Environmental Quality Board recently voted to roll out a revised environmental assessment worksheet statewide. This means developers of projects that require an environmental review process (such as a highway or large housing development) now have to "calculate their project's carbon footprint and consider how to reduce their impact on the climate," MPR's Kirsti Marohn reports.

FMR's River Guardians weren't shy about expressing their support for these new rules when officials first began exploring this idea. They [submitted nearly 200 comments to the board](#) urging action. Thank you River Guardians!

[Read more from MPR News.](#)

'Road salts wash into Mississippi River, damaging ecosystems and pipes'

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reporter Madeline Heim explores the worrying increase of chloride pollution in the Mississippi River. Writes Heim: "New data reveal that levels of chloride — one of the elements that make up salt — have increased by more than a third since the late 1980s across the entire Upper Mississippi River basin, which extends from the river's headwaters in Minnesota to southern Illinois. Reported increases are even higher at monitoring sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota. And the problem is

Study finds Midwest is losing topsoil at a destructive rate

A recent study found Midwestern cropland soil is being eroded 100 times faster than it's forming, which poses long term risks to the sustainability of our environment and rural agricultural economy.

Fortunately, [soil-friendly clean-water crops](#) under development through the University of Minnesota's Forever Green Initiative — such as new cash cover crops and perennial crops (which don't require much tillage) — are powerful tools for limiting topsoil loss while also boosting farm prosperity and water quality.

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

New life for proposed RiversEdge development project in St. Paul

The Ramsey County Board recently voted to commit \$26 million to the creation of a new public park along the St. Paul riverfront, a key feature of the proposal known as RiversEdge. The park (for which the board will also seek an additional \$26 million from the Legislature) would be step one of a larger development project that could include housing, offices and commercial space.

[FMR has been monitoring RiversEdge](#) (one piece of the larger River Balcony proposal) since details first

magnified in smaller rivers and streams that can't flush the same volume as the Mississippi."

[Read more at Wisconsin Watch.](#)

emerged a few years ago. While we're still intrigued by some elements, such as a sizable new public riverfront space, there are still some questions we hope to see answered as more details emerge.

[Read more from the Pioneer Press.](#)

Upcoming events



Join us Saturday, Feb. 11, at Butter Bakery Cafe in Minneapolis to [show some love for the river this legislative session](#).

Stop by to grab a warm drink and make a Valentine's Day card (any time from 9:30-11:30 a.m.), which we'll then send to decision-makers who are tackling key river-related issues this session. FMR staff will also be there to answer questions about [our legislative priorities](#).

Conservation Corner



How the 2023 legislative session could impact our restoration work

Five of our restoration projects and one big pollinator study stand to gain from decisions made at the Capitol this legislative session.

[Learn more and sign up as a River Guardian to ensure these investments in wildlife habitat.](#)

Supporting FMR



Thank you for your generosity in 2022!

We are incredibly grateful for the 1,952 members and donors who financially supported us last year. Your generous contributions allow us to continue our critical work to conserve the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region. Together we can create a brighter, healthier future for the river and our communities.

If you missed giving last year, [consider helping us start 2023 off strong by making a gift today.](#)

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