



OUR RIVER

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DAVID WHEATON

Dear Our River Campaign donor,

The Mississippi River has always been a place of beauty, memories and community for my family and me. Through my involvement with Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR), I have the privilege to give back to this remarkable river that shapes our cities and connects us all. When we launched the Our River Campaign, we envisioned a transformed and thriving river, with clean, healthy waters, a resilient watershed and diverse, engaged communities caring for its future.

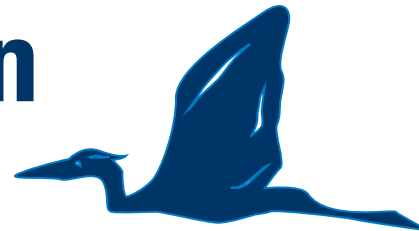
Thanks to your incredible generosity and commitment, we surpassed our \$5 million goal and reached our \$6 million stretch goal. This success is a testament to what we can achieve when we come together for a shared vision. On behalf of all of us at FMR, I am deeply grateful for your support, which helps ensure that the Mississippi River will remain vibrant and healthy for generations to come.

In the following pages, we are pleased to share with you the results of what your investment in the Our River Campaign has made possible so far, as well as all that we have to look forward to in the coming years for ourselves and those downstream. It all starts here.



**With gratitude,
Stewart Crosby
Our River Campaign Chair**

Our River Campaign achievements



We made significant strides in tackling pressing challenges facing our urban river. Your investment turned our vision into action, creating lasting improvements for the Mississippi.



Safeguarding our waters against invasive carp

Campaign funding amplified FMR's advocacy capacity, enabling us and our Stop Carp Coalition partners to secure state investment for invasive carp prevention. In 2024, funding was approved for a deterrent at Lock and Dam 5, which is now in development. With campaign support, we're halting the advancement of invasive carp and will continue to monitor, advocate and mobilize as needed.



Agricultural landscape change and water quality

Through the Forever Green collaboration, we are driving transformative change for clean water and climate resilience by addressing the river's largest source of pollution: agricultural runoff. The campaign strengthened our team by adding experts like Meghan and Shaymus, and increased our lobbying capacity. The growing national momentum for market-based solutions signals a new era for climate-smart water protection.



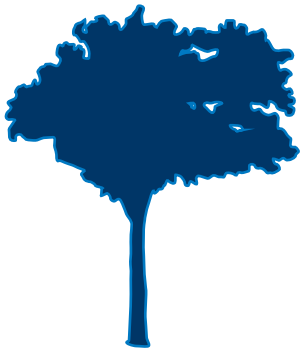
Youth & community engagement

Our youth programs doubled participation in our Environmental Stewardship Institute (ESI), broadening leadership opportunities and deepening connection to the river. Weekly canoe trips and hands-on partnerships engaged 25 fellows in 2025. In 2026, ESI will meet more frequently and offer enhanced career exploration and leadership opportunities, preparing the next generation to protect the river's future.



Land conservation

The campaign strengthened our capacity to restore vital ecological lands across the watershed. With the addition of a Restoration Project Manager, Logan, our team is tackling more projects than ever. We're also launching innovative initiatives like FMR's Pollinator Evaluation Program, ensuring that our work protects the river today and inspires a healthier future for pollinators.



Growing our capacity

Thanks to your investment in the Our River Campaign, FMR has achieved more than before. Your support empowered us to grow our talented team, bringing on experts in communications, ecology, education, advocacy and fundraising who are driving real change for our river. Every program area felt the impact of increased capacity.

New staff positions FMR has created with the help of the Our River Campaign:



Meghan Anderson
Biofuels Policy Manager



Gabe Holmes
Data Manager



Dr. Julia Leone
Pollinator Biologist



Shaymus McLaughlin
Communications Specialist



Logan Olson
Restoration Project Manager



Sovatha Oum
Youth Program Manager

With these staff additions, we've nearly tripled the acres restored along the river, launched an innovative Pollinator Evaluation Program, expanded our Environmental Stewardship Institute opportunities through the number of youth served & number of contact hours, and strengthened our ever-growing River Guardians advocacy program.

Each new team member has significantly amplified our impact, enabling us to connect with more supporters, expand our educational outreach, and inspire even greater stewardship. Together, we're building a movement for the river's future, and none of it would be possible without you.

Thank you to our lead campaign donors for their investment in FMR and the future of our river. Find a list of all campaign donors online at fmr.org/our-river.

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Thanks for joining Our River

You made the Our River Campaign a success. Your support created real change, and now we're ready to carry that progress forward. In the coming year, we're excited to build on the campaign's momentum for our metro river.



Lock and dam study & tours

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to reconsider the future of two Twin Cities locks and dams. Stay tuned!

Fall gala

You're invited: Sept. 24 at Nicollet Island Pavilion. This won't look like any gala you've seen before. Attendees will choose their own adventure to explore our programs. Details to come!

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