

The background of the entire page is a photograph of a field of wildflowers. In the foreground, there are several yellow flowers with dark brown centers, some in bloom and some as buds. A purple flower with a fuzzy, cylindrical center is also visible. In the background, a person wearing a yellow shirt is walking through the field, and a body of water is visible under a bright sky.

Friends of the Mississippi River

Annual Report 2018

Celebrating 25 years of protecting the river together

**View the full report
online at
fmr.org/AR2018**



101 E. Fifth Street, Suite 2000
 Saint Paul, MN 55101
 651-222-2193
 www.fmr.org • info@fmr.org

Mission

Friends of the Mississippi River engages people to protect, restore and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities region.

Board of Directors

- Susan Vento - Chair
- Ronnie Brooks - Vice Chair
- Perry McGowan - Treasurer
- Peter Gove - Secretary
- Dr. John Anfinson (ex-officio)
- Marcia Avner
- Paul Bauknight
- Stewart Crosby
- Chad Dayton
- George Dunn
- Forrest Flint
- Diane Herman
- Chris Higgins
- Julia Kaemmer
- Ryan Mallery
- Hokan Miller
- Deanna Wiener

Staff

- Whitney Clark, Executive Director
- Kate Clayton, Youth Coordinator
- John Czynscon, Development Associate
- Betsy Daub, Conservation Director
- Sara DeKok, Associate Director & Development Director
- Sophie Downey, Program Assistant
- Tessa Enroth, Individual Gifts Officer
- Adam Flett, Stewardship & Education Program Director
- Sheila Gothmann, Finance Director
- Jennifer Schuetz Hadley, Database Coordinator
- Barb Heintz, Accountant
- Irene Jones, Senior Policy Advocate
- Amy Kilgore, Volunteer Coordinator
- Darius Mikrobarts, Program Assistant
- Colleen O'Connor Toberman, River Corridor Director
- Raynette Prince, Administrative Assistant
- sue rich, Communications Director
- Ellen Rogers, Communications Associate
- Alex Roth, Ecologist
- Trevor Russell, Water Program Director
- Karen Schik, Senior Ecologist

Dear friends,



Photo by Anna Botz

This year, our work was rich and wide like the mighty river we serve.

As a result of your generous support, we restored 1,000+ acres for pollinators and other wildlife, and worked with thousands of people (including 100+ SuperVolunteers) to take care of our river. Together, we transformed farm fields into habitat, and we're reviving greenspace on Nicollet Island in the heart of Minneapolis.

We weighed in on 35 projects, plans and policies that impact our river, from groundwater protection rules to park master plans. We filled the halls of the Capitol on Water Action Day with attendees from throughout the state. Plus, over 2,000 River Guardians took action when threats arose, helping to save River Heights Park and restore environmental funding among other achievements.

And because the river is for all of us, we worked with North Minneapolis community members in calling for the city to include their voices and visions for a 1-mile stretch of public riverfront at the Upper Harbor Terminal.

Thank you for allowing us to continually turn to you — our community of passionate river friends — to provide the support that the river needs. Together, we can have a transformational impact on our waters and ensure a vibrant community today and for generations to come.

With gratitude,

Susan Vento

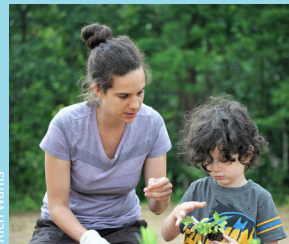
Susan Vento, Chair of FMR's Board of Directors

Join us in 2019



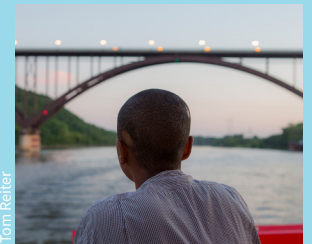
Tom Reiter

fmr.org/advocate



Rich Wahls

fmr.org/volunteer

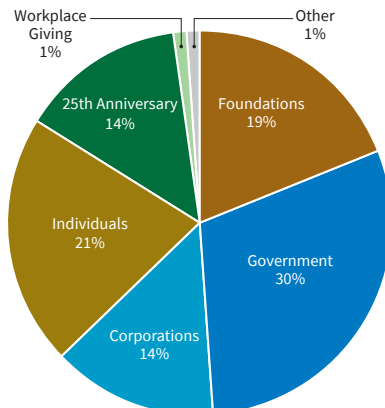


Tom Reiter

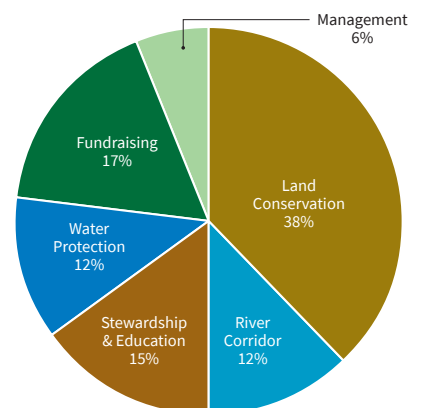
fmr.org/donate

Our 2018 Statement of Financial Activities*

Revenues: \$2,227,406



Expenses: \$2,220,994



*Calendar year 2018 unrestricted amounts, unaudited. For our full financial report, check fmr.org/AR2018. Audited financials will be available after July 2019.

YOUR IMPACT THIS YEAR

Karen Schik, Jim Hudgins (USFWS), Chris Smith (2)



Together we restored 1,253 acres of river habitat for wildlife in the metro area



668

pounds of prairie and woodland seeds spread to create diverse habitat



24

Species of Greatest Conservation Need spotted at our habitat restoration sites



263

acres of buckthorn removed to make way for native habitat

Audubon Minnesota, Tom Reiter (2), USFWS



Together we protected the water we drink and enhanced the river for all



More than 750

people urged legislators to protect our water on Water Action Day



35

projects and plans weighed in on by FMR staff and advocates



More than 2,000

River Guardians took action when threats to the river arose

Paul Roymaker, Tom Reiter, MWM, Will Stock



Together we engaged thousands of local residents to learn about and steward our river



More than 4,000

people joined in on our volunteer and educational events



146

events held for people to pull or plant, make rain barrels, learn and more



More than 6,000

hours spent restoring and learning about the Mississippi by participants



101 E. Fifth Street, Suite 2000
Saint Paul, MN 55101

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TWIN CITIES, MN
PERMIT NO. 1581

THANK YOU

The difference you make

At FMR, the continued and growing community support that makes a real, tangible difference on the health of the Mississippi River never ceases to amaze us. Throughout 2018, you spoke up for our hometown river, got your hands dirty at stewardship events and made generous donations that directly benefit our mission. Your action and commitment to the river inspire us every day.

Inside, view a snapshot of what you helped make possible in 2018 — FMR’s silver anniversary year. And be sure to enjoy the full, interactive version of our annual report as well as view our list of our generous 2018 donors at fmr.org/AR2018.

The river and all of us at FMR extend our gratitude for all that you made possible and helped achieve. We hope you’ll continue to share in our work as together we protect clean drinking water, restore riverfront lands and engage the next generation of river stewards in the life of our great river.

—Whitney Clark, Executive Director



Clockwise from top left, photos by Tom Reiter, Rich Wahls, Will Stock, Paul Raymaker.

FMR.ORG

Sign up for our twice-a-month e-newsletter “Mississippi Messages” at www.fmr.org.



“Friends of the Mississippi River”



@FriendsMissRiv



FriendsMissRiv



FMR is proud to be a member of the Minnesota Environmental Fund www.mnenvirofund.org.