



Creating a brighter future
for the river and the communities it sustains

Interactive maps, full stories and more at:
fmr.org/AR2022

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



PHOTO: DAVID WHEATON

Fellow friends of the river,

It is with great pleasure that I write on behalf of FMR's board to recap another busy, impactful year. Our new fiscal year cycle means we're able to send our annual report earlier than usual and express our deep gratitude for all you make possible as the year comes to a close.

2022 was a year of growth and evolution in our Stewardship & Education program, including continued expansion of our youth-focused summer Environmental Stewardship Institute, a successful launch of the school-year council, and exciting collaborations with watershed districts focusing on community, art and stewardship.

The Water program — thanks in large part to FMR's fabulous volunteer River Guardians — helped shepherd legislative victories regarding water quality and transformational clean-water crop initiatives.

FMR's Land Conservation program collaborated on a new model of neighborhood-led restoration at two sites. Their vital work also included research studies to better

understand habitat enhancement methods and improve restoration best practices.

Our Land Use & Planning program engaged more than 800 people in discussions and on-water trips focused on considering the future of locks and dams and beginning an inclusive, community-based process of reimagining the metro Mississippi River.

This important work and programmatic growth would be impossible without you — our volunteers, partners, advocates and donors — as well as FMR's dedicated staff, which like FMR programs is growing; we welcomed dynamic team members this year, four in new positions. Together we're making a difference for the river.



With appreciation for 2022
and enthusiasm for 2023,
Chad Dayton,
Chair of FMR's Board of Directors



What we made possible together in 2022

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

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Karen Schik, Senior Ecologist
Colleen O'Connor Toberman, Land Use & Planning Program Director
katya wesely, Youth Coordinator

LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM



We restored sites all along the metro river for a resilient future

Our ecologists actively restore and maintain habitat at more than 40 sites across the metro region. At these sites, we plant for our changing climate future, we monitor returning wildlife, we research best restoration practices and we partner with the communities that connect with these places.

We collaborated on community-driven restoration plans

At two sites in Minneapolis, we're undertaking a new stewardship model for beloved parks and their community volunteers. FMR provides technical guidance, but neighbors lead.



STEWARDSHIP & EDUCATION PROGRAM

We deepened connections in our BIPOC River Stewards program

We joined up with amazing partners to hold BIPOC events like snowshoeing with Mississippi Park Connection, a Star Party with the Bell Museum, birding with Urban Bird Collective, planting trees at Wakáŋ Tipi with Lower Phalen Creek Project and more.



We debuted our Water Knowledge Network workshops

Our new workshop series focused on community, combining youth programming and leadership, community gardens, art, rain barrels, storm drain stenciling and more. Together with our partners, we held three events to share community knowledge about water and love for water, while building skills for youth and adults to care for our watershed.



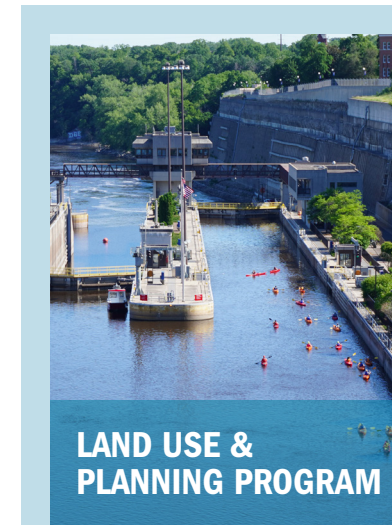
WATER PROGRAM

We made major advances at the MN state Legislature

In a year where little emerged from a contentious Legislature, together we were able to advance important initiatives and celebrate wins for the river, including clean-water crop growth, investments in environmental initiatives and a more effective Clean Water Council.

We helped continuous living cover take off

This year we worked to launch a pilot program for small businesses that use continuous living cover crops, and we organized tours for decisionmakers to learn more about the possibilities. Now we're seeing the market for these crops (which reduce pollution runoff, restore soil health and work for farmers) rapidly expand.



LAND USE & PLANNING PROGRAM

We engaged more than 800 people in imagining the future of our locks and dams

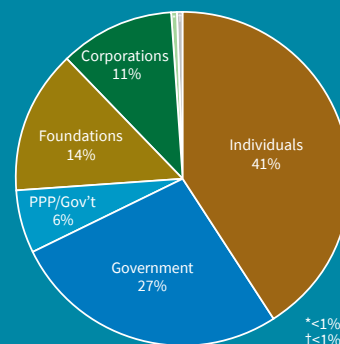
As the Army Corps of Engineers begins its study of two Twin Cities locks and dams and potential dam removal, we want to make sure everyone is invited into this important conversation. So this summer FMR and our partners hosted tours, gave presentations and visited community events to inform more than 800 people about the study and equip them to participate.

We advocated for the river and communities at 27 sites

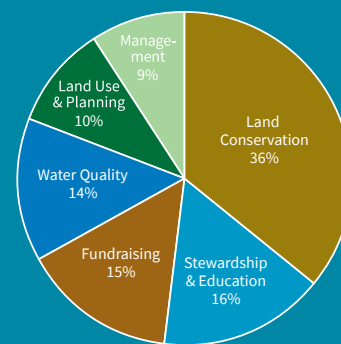
We weighed in on issues from one end of our river corridor to the other, like new rules for a bird-safe St. Paul riverfront, how to stop the spread of invasive carp, a right-sized River Learning Center, Minneapolis' climate-forward plan and healing bluffland at BTT.

2022 18-MONTH STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES*

REVENUES: \$3,940,094



EXPENSES: \$3,928,036



Note: In 2022, FMR moved to a July-through-June fiscal year calendar. Because of the fiscal year change, the above data is from the 18-month accounting period audit. If you would like to view audited financial statements, please reach out to FMR Member Relations Manager John Briel at jbriel@fmr.org. *Includes unrestricted amounts at 6/30/2022 (audited)

ADVOCACY & ENGAGEMENT BY THE NUMBERS so far in 2022



1,926 VOLUNTEERS



1,152 RIVER GUARDIANS



959 YOUTH



1,519 MEMBER HOUSEHOLDS

PHOTO CREDITS THIS PAGE:
Kiley Friedrich (restored prairie, top left)
Dodd Demas (Kernza farm family, above)
Mike Durenberger (Pine Bend, above)



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THANK YOU

for helping to create a brighter future
for the river and the communities it sustains

All of us at FMR are deeply grateful for our members, donors, advocates, partners and volunteers who have helped us make important strides to conserve the river in 2022. Your collective time, talents and generosity power our critical work year after year.

Because of this incredible community of supporters and the progress we have made together in FMR's nearly 30 years, the river is healthier, enjoys better protections and is beloved by people ready to defend and steward its life-sustaining gifts. Thank you so much for being a part of this growth!

Inside, check out a snapshot of the impact that together we made possible over the past year. And be sure to enjoy the full, interactive version of our annual report as well as our list of generous donors at fmr.org/AR2022.



Clockwise from top left, photos by FMR, David Wheaton, FMR, David Wheaton.

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