

**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
2020 Request for Proposals (RFP)**

Project Title:

ENRTF ID: 247-FH

Pollinator Habitat Creation Along the Urban Mississippi River

Category: H. Proposals seeking \$200,000 or less in funding

Sub-Category: F. Methods to Protect, Restore, and Enhance Land, Water, and Habitat

Total Project Budget: \$ 129,297

Proposed Project Time Period for the Funding Requested: June 30, 2025 (5 yrs)

Summary:

To improve habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, we will remove invasive plants and replace them with high-value native species at three urban sites along the Mississippi River.

Name: Betsy Daub

Sponsoring Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River

Job Title: Conservation Director

Department: N/A

Address: 101 East Fifth Street, Suite 2000

St. Paul MN 55101

Telephone Number: (651) 222-2193

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Web Address: www.fmr.org

Location:

Region: Metro

County Name: Dakota, Hennepin

City / Township: Minneapolis; Inver Grove Heights

Alternate Text for Visual:

An aerial map of the Twin Cities metro shows the Mississippi River and stars two project locations in Minneapolis and one in Inver Grove Heights. Photos show the sites.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Funding Priorities	<input type="checkbox"/>	Multiple Benefits	<input type="checkbox"/>	Outcomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowledge Base	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Extent of Impact	<input type="checkbox"/>	Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific/Tech Basis	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urgency	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Capacity Readiness	<input type="checkbox"/>	Leverage	<input type="checkbox"/>		TOTAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	%



PROJECT TITLE: Pollinator Habitat Creation Along the Urban Mississippi River

I. PROJECT STATEMENT

This project will create 26.5 acres of diverse pollinator and wildlife habitat within the Mississippi River corridor in the Twin Cities urban core. This builds upon previous restoration and enhancement work Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) has done at 2 sites by restoring additional contiguous acres. The third is a new restoration. Invasive herbaceous and woody plants will be removed at all sites and native vegetation planted and seeded in their place. As pollinator and wildlife habitat is lost across the state and country, research increasingly indicates the value that even small acres of native vegetation in urban areas can provide. These areas can be critical habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife when they contain native vegetation and are strategically located (Baldock et al. 2019; Narango et al. 2018). All the project sites are located within two such strategic corridors: The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, and the Metro Conservation Corridors.

The entire 7-acre River Heights Park in Inver Grove Heights will be restored to native prairie and pollinator-friendly shrubs. In the Minneapolis River Gorge, 17 new acres of forest adjacent to the river will be enhanced, adding to the 10 acres that were previously enhanced immediately to the south. At Ole Olson Park in north Minneapolis, 2 acres of new riverfront prairie will be added to 2 previously restored acres. By expanding upon previous restoration efforts and adding new sites, this project helps create contiguous, high-quality habitat for wildlife and limits further invasive encroachment.

FMR staff will manage and oversee all aspects of the project including adaptive management. Local ecotype native plant material will be used, including diverse seed mixes (minimum 35 species) and species for resiliency. Staff will evaluate restoration results using the LCCMR’s restoration monitoring protocol. Previous three-year restoration projects have revealed that five years of initial funded efforts improve the chance of project success and help ensure that projects reach a maintenance stage that require only minimal effort going forward.

II. PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

Activity 1 Title: Minneapolis Prairie Restoration – Ole Olson Park

Description: On 2 acres of riverfront natural area in North Minneapolis, activities include: non-native/invasive herbaceous and woody plant removal and treatment, silt fence installation for erosion prone areas, seeding with 35+ native prairie species, mowing, and prescribed burning. Using in-kind support, community volunteers will be organized to assist with restoration efforts.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$39,785

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Removal of invasive woody and herbaceous vegetation/seeding of native prairie mix	November 2021
2. Establishment mows and spot spraying	July 2024
3. Prescribed burn on 2 acres and supplemental seeding	June 2025

Activity 2 Title: Minneapolis Forest Enhancement – Minneapolis Gorge Regional Park - Sand Flats

Description At the 17 acres of river-adjacent floodplain forest, activities include: non-native/invasive herbaceous and woody plant removal and treatment, seeding, planting native trees and shrubs. Using in-kind support, FMR will organize volunteer stewardship events to assist with enhancement activities.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$42,872

Outcome	Completion Date
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**Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF)
2020 Main Proposal Template**

1. Removal of invasive woody and herbaceous vegetation/seeding	October 2021
2. Plant 300 native trees and shrubs	June 2023

Activity 3 Title: Prairie Restoration – River Heights Park

Description At this 7.5-acre park, activities include: removal of invasive woody plants, seeding to native prairie, prescribed burns and mowing. With an abundance of existing non-native invasive plants, this site will require two full seasons of site preparation. Using LCCMR and in-kind support, we will engage volunteers and citizen scientists to survey pollinators and track changes before and after restoration.

ENRTF BUDGET: \$46,640

Outcome	Completion Date
1. Removal of invasive woody vegetation on 7.5 acres	June 2021
2. Prescribed burn and seeding of native prairie mix/plant 20 pollinator shrubs	June 2023
3. Mow grassland 4 times and conduct 2 nd prescribed burn	June 2025

III. PROJECT PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS:

Ole Olson Park and Minneapolis Gorge Sand Flats: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will support volunteer events with in-kind labor; the Longfellow Community Council (for Sand Flats) will support volunteer activities through match funding and volunteer recruitment.

River Heights Park: City of Inver Grove Heights will assist with invasive woody removal and support for volunteer activities; Local community of volunteers is highly engaged and will assist restoration and monitoring efforts.

IV. LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING:

FMR strategically focuses on areas within designated conservation corridors. We stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, ensuring continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while protecting the public investment. The project at Ole Olson will complete restoration for the entire site and bring it to a maintenance state requiring minimal future efforts. FMR will partner with the Minneapolis Park Board and work with volunteers to maintain the restoration. The project at the Minneapolis Gorge Regional Park more than doubles the acres FMR will have restored of the roughly 65 acres of park along the river’s west bank. We will continue to work with FMR’s volunteer Gorge Leadership Team to maintain the previous and new restorations with support from the Longfellow Community Council and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. Our future goals are to expand restoration north and south of these acres once Master Planning has been completed by the Park Board. The River Heights Park site will likely need spot-management of invasive species as well as periodic prescribed burns. FMR will work with the city and volunteers to assist with these tasks and will seek funding as needed for larger tasks. Brought to these stages of restoration, the sites will provide contiguous corridors for the benefit of wildlife and people, and improve water quality for the river.

V. SEE ADDITIONAL PROPOSAL COMPONENTS:

- A. Proposal Budget Spreadsheet**
- B. Visual Component or Map**
- C. Parcel List Spreadsheet**
- D. Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration Requirements**
- E. Research Addendum (Not required at proposal submission stage. Required later in process, if proposal is recommended. Staff will provide further information at that time)**
- F. Project Manager Qualifications and Organization Description**
- G. Letter or Resolution**
- H. Financial Capacity**



Legal Citation:

Project Manager: Betsy Daub

Project Title: Pollinator Habitat Creation Along the Urban Mississippi River

Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River

Project Budget: \$129,297

Project Length and Completion Date: 5 Years; June 30, 2025

Today's Date: April 8, 2019

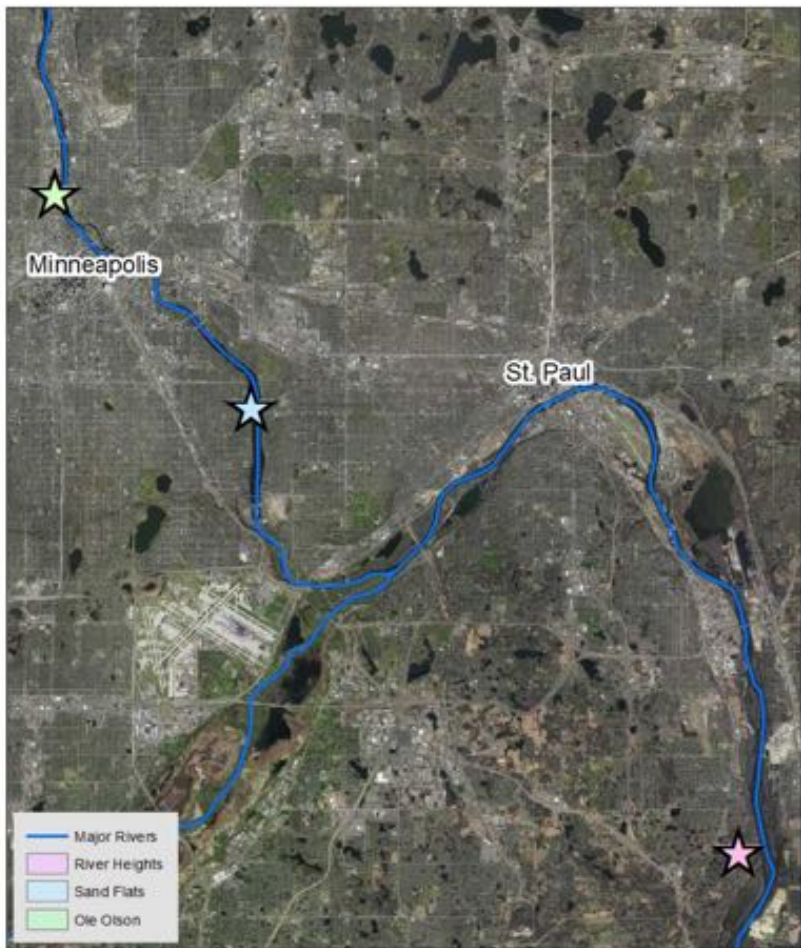
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BUDGET	Budget	Amount Spent	Balance
BUDGET ITEM			
Personnel (Wages and Benefits)	\$ 28,018	\$ -	\$ 28,018
Conservation Director(1). \$2,183. Overall project management, assist with evaluation of restoration projects, partner communications. .004 FTE over the five-year project. 86% salary, 14% benefits			
Ecologist(2). \$21,637. Plan/organize restoration activities, develop and put out bids, hire and oversee vendors, guide restoration activities, evaluate restoration activities. .049 FTE over the five-year project. 86% salary, 14% benefits			
Bookkeeper (1). \$2,294. Pay invoices received. Assist in developing reimbursement documentation, track and document staff expenses. .007 FTE over the five-year project. 86% salary, 14% benefits.			
Stewardship Coordinator (1). \$465. Oversee volunteer event to install native shrubs. .001 FTE over the five-year project. 86% salary, 14% benefits.			
Volunteer Coordinator(1). \$725. Recruit and coordinate volunteers for native shrub planting. .002 FTE over the five-year project. 86% salary, 14% benefits.			
Conservation Intern(1). \$714. Conduct pollinator surveys 4 times prior to restoration and 4 times post restoration; assist with volunteer native shrub planting. .004 FTE. 100% salary, 0% benefits.			
Professional/Technical/Service Contracts	\$ 77,640	\$ -	\$ 77,640
Multiple vendors to provide restoration services such as prescribed burns, soil prep., seeding, woody and exotic plant removal, herbicide application, etc. (Vendor contracts will be awarded on a competitive and performance basis).		\$ -	\$ -
Ole Olson Park: \$23,020			
Minneapolis River Gorge Regional Park: \$28,700			
River Heights Park: \$25,920			
Equipment/Tools/Supplies			
Plant material (trees, shrubs, seed)	\$ 22,250	\$ -	\$ 22,250
Capital Expenditures Over \$5,000			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fee Title Acquisition			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Easement Acquisition			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Services for Acquisition			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Printing			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Travel expenses in Minnesota			
Mileage (103 trips for 3 sites over 5 years)	\$ 1,389	\$ -	\$ 1,389
Other			
	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
COLUMN TOTAL	\$ 129,297		\$ 129,297

SOURCE AND USE OF OTHER FUNDS CONTRIBUTED TO THE PROJECT	Status (secured or pending)	Budget	Spent	Balance
Non-State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Royal Bank of Canada Foundation	pending	\$ 10,819		
FMR Stewardship Program - volunteer events	secured	\$ 27,260		
Longfellow Community Council	pending	\$ 4,000		
State:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
In kind:		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board	pending	\$ 4,000		
City of Inver Grove Heights	pending	\$ 5,500		
Other ENRTF APPROPRIATIONS AWARDED IN THE LAST SIX YEARS	Amount legally obligated but not yet spent	Budget	Spent	Balance
M.L. 2013, Chp. 52, Sec. 2, Subd. 04d2.1/3.4 - Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) Phase VII-Protect, Restore and Enhance Significant Watershed Habitat	0	304,000	304,000	0
M.L. 2015, Chp. 76, Sec. 2, Subd. 08e - Metro Conservation Corridors Phase VIII	0	276,000	274,886.00	1,114.00
M.L. 2017, Chp. 96, Sec. 2, Subd.08h - Mississippi and Vermillion Rivers Restoration of Prairie, Savanna and Forest Habitat - Phase X	\$ 148,069	\$ 213,000	\$ 64,931	\$ 148,069

Project Title: Pollinator Habitat Creation Along the Urban Mississippi River
Friends of the Mississippi River

26.5 Acres of Habitat Creation for Pollinators and Other Wildlife

2020 ENRTF
 Funding Proposal



Ole Olson Park, Minneapolis – Additional restored acres will add to, and resemble, this land restored in Phase I.



Minneapolis River Gorge – This project will remove both woody and herbaceous invasive plants - like the garlic mustard and buckthorn pictured here. Native species will be planted, improving wildlife habitat.



River Heights Park, Inver Grove Heights – FMR will establish native prairie and pollinator plantings, and remove invasive and non-native plants such as the invasive shrubs pictured here.

All sites are within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area corridor.

Research indicates urban natural areas provide critical habitat for pollinators, birds and other wildlife.
05/12/2019 **ENRTF ID: 247-FH**



Attachment C:
 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
 M.L. 2020 Acquisition/Restoration Parcel List Spreadsheet
 Project Title: Pollinator Habitat Creation Along The Urban Mississippi River
 Legal Citation: Staff will update the legal citation upon work plan approval by the LCCMR following the MN Legislative Session.
 Project Manager: Betsy Daub
 Organization: Friends of the Mississippi River
 College/Department/Division: N/A
 M.L. 2020 ENRTF Appropriation: \$ 129,297
 Project Length and Completion Date: 5 Years, June 30, 2025
 Today's Date: April 8, 2019

Instructions: Please include on the following list all targeted parcels that you are currently considering for acquisition (fee title or easement) or restoration (all phases) using the appropriation. The list may include more parcels than you will ultimately acquire or conduct restoration work on with the funds. To be eligible as part of your project, however, a parcel must be included on the list. Changes may be requested through the amendment process. Please update the status column and submit with your periodic workplan updates. Include any significant issues related to any particular parcel in your activity and project status sections of your Main Workplan Document.

#	Acquisition or Restoration Parcel Name	Geographic Coordinates (preferably from the center of the parcel) Format: [Deg.]° [Min.]' [Sec.]" [Hemis.]		Estimated Cost	Estimated Annual PILT Liabilities	County	Site Significance (please include what ecosystem (e.g., prairie, forest, wetland, savanna) is represented as well as the ecological significance, site importance, conservation value, and public benefits)	Activity Description (e.g. fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, site preparation, restoration)	# of Acres	# of Shoreline Miles	Type of Landowner (private individual or trust, non-profit organization, for-profit entity)	Proposed Fee Title or Easement Holder (if applicable)	Status of work (e.g. engaged in landowner negotiations, no longer in consideration, restoration activities underway)
		Latitude	Longitude										
1	River Heights Park	44° 49' 19.5594"N	93° 1' 1.689"W	\$ 46,640		Dakota County	When restored, it will be new prairie habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. It is located 0.3 miles from the Mississippi River within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Corridor and within identified Metro Conservation Corridors. It is highly valued and used by the community near it.	Restoration	7.5	0	City of Inver Grove Heights		Proposed restoration
2	Ole Olson Park	45° 0'2.98"N	93° 16'34.18"W	\$ 39,785		Hennepin County	When restored, it will add new prairie habitat for pollinators and other wildlife, and provide natural area enjoyment for the community near it. It will be a valued expansion of the restored prairie already adjacent to it. The site is located along the Mississippi River, within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Corridor and within identified Metro Conservation Corridors.	Restoration	2	0.20 miles	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board		Proposed restoration
3	Mpls. Gorge - Sand Flats	44°56'26.05"N	93°12'9.68"W	\$ 42,872		Hennepin County	When restored, it will add 17 acres of restored floodplain forest habitat for pollinators and other wildlife. It is located along the Mississippi River, within the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area Corridor and within identified Metro Conservation Corridors. There is a dedicated group of community members who actively steward the area and value it.	Enhancement	17	0.47 miles	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board		Proposed enhancement
4													
5													
6													
7													
8													
9													
10													

NOTES:

Attachment D. Additional Work Plan Information for Acquisition, Easements, and Restoration

Acquisition/Restoration Information:

The information to be included in this section is to help fulfill specific requirements pertaining to fee title acquisition, conservation easement acquisition, and restoration efforts completed using Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund dollars. More detailed information explaining these requirements is available in separate documents that are available on the "Project Manager Info" page of the LCCMR website under "Requirements for ENRTF Land Acquisitions and Restorations":

http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/pm_info/manager_info_index.html. Please fill out the relevant portions below. Please delete any sections that do not apply to your project. For example, if your project only involves fee title acquisition, answer all five items under fee title acquisition and then delete all of the text for the portions relating to conservation easement acquisition and restoration.

Restoration

1. Provide a statement confirming that all restoration activities completed with these funds will occur on land permanently protected by a conservation easement or public ownership.

Friends of the Mississippi River's (FMR) work for this project will take place on two sites that are permanently protected and in public ownership. Ole Olson Park is owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and is open to the public for wildlife-viewing activities. Minneapolis River Gorge Regional Park Sand Flats is public land owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and is open to the public for wildlife-viewing activities. River Heights Park is owned by the City of Inver Grove Heights and is open to the public for wildlife-viewing activities.

2. Summarize the components and expected outcomes of restoration and management plans for the parcels to be restored by your organization, how these plans are kept on file by your organization, and overall strategies for long-term plan implementation.

FMR proposes to create 26.5 acres of pollinator and wildlife habitat in three urban locations in the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area corridor. At Ole Olson Park in north Minneapolis, two acres of new riverfront prairie will be added to the two acres previously restored in Phase I at this site. Work at this site will remove herbaceous and woody invaders and seed the site to native prairie – the historical vegetation community present in the area. In the Minneapolis River Gorge, 17 acres of forest adjacent to the river will be restored for pollinators and other wildlife through the removal of woody and herbaceous invasive plants, and native seeding and planting. At the seven-acre River Heights Park in Inver Grove Heights, we will remove invasive and non-native plants and establish native prairie and pollinator-friendly shrubs. At this site, we will also engage citizen scientists to survey pollinators and to track changes before and after restoration.

The project sites have resource management plans already written for them. These plans are stored on a shared server by our organization.

FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within designated conservation corridors for over a decade. This has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while

protecting the public investment that has been made in them. FMR is committed to ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

3. Describe how restoration efforts will utilize and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” in order to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement.

FMR will use and follow the Board of Soil and Water Resources “Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines” to ensure ecological integrity and pollinator enhancement on our project sites. Our project incorporates these guidelines in numerous ways, including:

- *Sites are selected to be strategic in providing ecological benefits for the landscape in which they are a part*
- *Sites are selected within identified conservation corridors in order to make landscape connections to decrease habitat fragmentation and create habitat linkages across the landscape*
- *Restoration efforts will incorporate plant communities appropriate to the sites to provide food and habitat for species in need, particularly pollinators*
- *Restoration efforts will include methods to restore and maintain species diversity, including incorporating prescribed fire and the removal of invasive plants that displace native vegetation*
- *Efforts are designed to restore habitat complexes and natural corridors and buffer natural areas*
- *The restoration of a former farm field to prairie will help retain water on the land, reduce runoff and improve adjacent Mississippi River water quality*
- *Efforts include removal of invasive species*
- *The project practices adaptive management with its focus on monitoring and assessing restoration methods and outcomes*

4. Describe how the long-term maintenance and management needs of the parcel being restored with these funds will be met and financed into the future.

FMR has been strategically focused on specific areas within designated conservation corridors for over a decade. This has allowed us to stay engaged with projects, landowners, partners and communities, helping to ensure the continuous improvement and expansion of the habitat values at these sites, while protecting the public investment that has been made in them. Starting with individual parcels, our project areas have grown by orders of magnitude to protect and restore large tracts of land, ultimately creating contiguous greenway corridors. The protection, restoration and enhancement projects presented in this work program are all part of larger projects both in the sense of time and area. Because of human induced changes in the landscape, natural areas require management. While it is often the case that initial restoration and enhancement require relatively large investments initially, the costs often decrease over time as the goals for a site are met and the project enters a more maintenance level of activity, such as conducting period burns on restored prairie. FMR is committed to conducting fundraising from both public and private sources, for the ongoing restoration and enhancement activities required at these sites over time.

5. Describe how consideration will be given to contracting with Conservation Corps of Minnesota for any restoration activities.

FMR's standard practice when contracting is to always provide the Conservation Corps of Minnesota with our Request for Proposals. We will continue this practice when contracting for restoration work for this project.

6. Provide a statement indicating that evaluations will be completed on parcels where activities were implemented both 1) initially after activity completion and 2) three years later as a follow-up. Evaluations should analyze improvements to the parcel and whether goals have been met, identify any problems with the implementation, and identify any findings that can be used to improve implementation of future restoration efforts at the site or elsewhere.

This project incorporates monitoring and evaluation at these sites. Pollinator surveys before and following restoration will help assess if restoration activities improve habitat for these organisms. Restoration outcomes will be monitored annually for multiple years following completion of the project. FMR's tradition of staying engaged at sites where we do restoration work, results in our being able to assess outcomes for many years following treatments.

PROJECT TITLE: Pollinator Habitat Creation Along the Urban Mississippi River
Friends of the Mississippi River

Project Manager Qualifications:

Betsy Daub, Conservation Director

Betsy holds a Master of Science degree in Resource Ecology and Management from the University of Michigan's School of Natural Resources and Environment. She has over 25 years of experience working in the environmental/conservation field. In her capacity as FMR's Conservation Director, she leads the organization's efforts to protect and restore land in the Mississippi River watershed. Her conservation work in Minnesota includes serving on the Minnesota Forest Resources Council, leading Audubon Minnesota's Important Bird Areas effort, and with the Minnesota DNR as project manager developing the online rare species guide.

Organization Description:

Friends of the Mississippi River (FMR) is a leading citizen organization working to protect and enhance the Mississippi River and its watershed in the Twin Cities area. We believe the tremendous ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational values of the river must be carefully tended to ensure that they continue to be shared equally by all citizens and that they endure for future generations. We accomplish these goals through three inter-related programs.

- Land Conservation: We work with public and private landowners to protect, restore and manage important natural areas along the river and its key tributaries.
- Watershed Protection: Working with citizens and local governments, we strive to draw attention to the health of local rivers, lakes and wetlands and bring citizen opinion to bear on decisions that improve water quality.
- River Corridor Stewardship: The Mississippi River cannot protect itself. We engage citizens in a variety of educational, recreational, and volunteer stewardship activities that give them the desire and the understanding to advocate on behalf of the river's public values at City Hall or the State Capitol.