

MISSISSIPPI River Fund



2011 – 2012 Annual Report

TRANSFORMING THE WAY WE VIEW NATIONAL PARKS



Stephen Lang

We'd like to welcome you to the Mississippi River Fund's fifth annual report. As in past years, this report serves as a record of accomplishments, financial transparency, and an illustrated guide to who we are and why our programs matter.

Our report theme this year is transformation. It's easy to think about the word *transformation* when seeing the changes at Coldwater Spring (seen in our cover photos). We hope transformation also describes the experiences we provide for people in the national park. Collectively, these individual experiences are transforming our entire community's relationship with the river.

In October of this year, we hosted 60 people from more than 20 national park sites around the country. This group, known as the "Friends Alliance," meets twice per year to discuss philanthropy in national parks. Even with such a knowledgeable group, we have had a hard time describing this "partnership park" to people who are familiar with more traditional national parks like Yellowstone. We had the opportunity to bring people to the Twin Cities and transform the way the group thought about urban national parks like the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

Our park owns little land and has no regulatory authority. There is no gated entrance to the park. But where we lack in real estate, we are ample in community engagement. How many other national parks in our country are serving 15,000 kids per year with content-rich educational experiences in the park?

We were delighted to bring our "Friends Alliance" group out on the Mississippi River in canoes for a UWCA-like experience. It was amazing to see the transformation in people who finally "got it." This is the Mississippi River! Many on our trip commented that they felt miles away from the city and experienced a wonderful afternoon with the fund, the National Park Service, and Wilderness Inquiry.

We hope you enjoy learning more about how the fund and the park work together to transform places and people.

Thank you for your support!



Duffy & Partners

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Tricia Davidson Board Chair

Paul Labovitz Superintendent,
Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

Mississippi River Fund
program highlights
and accomplishments in
2011-2012

Nice Ride expands
to St. Paul with
a grant from the
National Park Service



Mississippi River Fund
expands **Ranger on Call**
to Nice Ride stations in
Minneapolis and St. Paul



Melissa Buss

VOLUNTEER IMPACT

Mississippi River Fund and National Park Service volunteers set another record this year with 14,980 hours of service to benefit the river.

The co-managed volunteer program was also recognized with the 2011 George Hartzog Award for outstanding park program for the Midwest region. Together with volunteers from the following partner organizations, 7,221 volunteers provided 31,855 hours of service to our national park from October 2011 to September 2012.

Partner	Volunteer Hours
Adopt-A-River, MN DNR	438
Anoka County Parks	376
Audubon Minnesota	539
Friends of the Mississippi River	5,925
Great River Greening	2,800
Hastings Environmental Protectors	270
Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board	1,958
NorthWest Canoe	501
St. Paul Parks & Recreation	2,780
Wilderness Inquiry (UWCA)	1,288

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

TRANSFORMING EXPERIENCES

We believe that a direct experience with the river can be the spark that ignites a life-long interest in the outdoors and environmental stewardship. We support many programs that provide transforming experiences for people. Here is a snapshot of a new park program with deep impact.

“Take Me to the River and Fish” exemplifies the impact of personal connections. Simply stated, it teaches urban youth how to get to the river, ways to enjoy it, and how to protect it. The program was launched in 2012 with grant support from the National Park Foundation and Outdoor Nation. Park rangers, Mississippi River Fund staff, and volunteers met up with three groups of kids and high school mentors over five sessions to teach them the skills needed to fish and enjoy the river on their own. In total, 59 kids learned to tie their own tackle, cast and catch fish, and earned their own rod and reel to keep at the end of the program. Through afternoons spent fishing with national park rangers, kids learned to have fun on the banks of the Mississippi, while learning a new skill and ultimately feeling more ownership in caring for the river. A celebration at the end of the season allowed kids to share their experiences with friends and family in our community.



Gordon Dietzman

“The fishing club is one of my favorite programs at the park because it is clear we are really connecting kids and their families with the river in a way that will last.”

—Mary Blitzer, National Park Ranger

“I love it. I like experiencing the outdoors and experiencing something new. I like learning about fish, how to fish, having ranger Gordon’s book to learn what you need to know to fish. I like hiking and exploring.”

—Sela, fishing program participant

“It is the first time kids get to be outside like this. I think about where the future will take them, what being a part of the fishing club will mean for them, and where they might go. I also like getting to know the kids.”

—Shante Stewart, AVID program graduate, college student, and second-year fishing club volunteer

Big River Journey celebrates **16** years of giving kids on-the-river learning experiences

74 habitat restoration events provide **5,189** hours of volunteer service to the national park

UWCA reaches record **10,000** kids on river adventure trips in the Twin Cities



Wilderness Inquiry

New **River Volunteer** newsletter strengthens the connection between volunteers, the fund, and the park

TRANSFORMING A PLACE



Robert Waldrige



Minnesota Historical Society



Leon Kosek



Leon Kosek

The Mississippi River Fund is partnering with the National Park Service to restore **Coldwater Spring** and its surrounding habitat.

In 2010, the National Park Service assumed management responsibility for the former Bureau of Mines Research Center, a 29-acre property located along the Mississippi River between Minnehaha Regional Park and Fort Snelling State Park. Considered to be Minnesota's first American settlement, Coldwater Spring has been an important landmark for hundreds of years. From the Dakota, to the development of Fort Snelling, to more recently the Bureau of Mines, Coldwater holds stories central to the American

narrative. The site had been abandoned for nearly two decades prior to 2010. The National Park Service, Mississippi River Fund, and community partners are restoring the land surrounding Coldwater Spring to oak woodland, oak savanna, prairie, and wetland habitats.

All of the buildings and most of the roads and infrastructure of the former Bureau of Mines research campus have been removed from the site. Landscape restoration began in the spring of 2012. Coldwater Spring represents a tremendous opportunity to restore 29 acres of natural habitat in an urban area and encourage the community to enjoy and care for their public lands.

Learn more about Coldwater's past and future, including an interactive timeline at nps.gov/miss

Mississippi River Fund
program highlights
and accomplishments in
2011-2012

13,000 cubic yards of
crushed concrete and
stone from demolished
buildings at Coldwater
recycled as road fill



15,000 square feet
of new wetland
established at
Coldwater Spring

Park rangers lead **24**
tours and talks for **500**
visitors to Coldwater
Spring during demolition
and restoration



A YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION

by Kate Havelin, Coldwater Project Coordinator, Mississippi River Fund

In November 2011, Coldwater Spring seemed desolate. Graffiti smeared the walls of a dozen abandoned buildings—their windows boarded or broken. Weeds sprouted amid crumbling concrete. Invasive buckthorn and garlic mustard staked a claim throughout the bleak scene.

What a difference a year makes. Over twelve months, Coldwater Spring has been transformed. Where vacant buildings once slumped, a park is emerging and birds sing. Where dozens of cars parked, a prairie establishes its roots. Where buckthorn crowded the landscape, an oak grove stands free. Where a road lay, a burbling creek now flows.

Coldwater Spring is being reborn as an oak savanna prairie, a green space with wetlands and bluff top woodlands. A park of nature and history, open to all.

**Be a part of the transformation at Coldwater Spring—
visit missriverfund.org/coldwater**



TREES FOR COLDWATER

Our newest giving program provides funding for the restoration of an oak savanna at Coldwater Spring. We would like to thank the following individuals for their generous support of Trees for Coldwater:

Tree Builders Trust

- Dennis Appleman
- Emily Buhr & Sean Alter
- Clare Burke in memory of Sally Burke
- David Hartwell in honor of Elizabeth DeBaut
- Kate Havelin & Leo Timmons
- Tom Holtzleiter
- Mary James in memory of Sally Burke
- James Krache
- Paul & Sue Labovitz
- Elizabeth Lundstrum in memory of Sally Burke
- Alfred Norcia in honor of Leah Norcia
- Katie & Jeff Nyberg in memory of Sally Burke
- Gabrielle Pillmann in loving memory of Gertrud Maria Pillmann née Mühlherr
- James Stensvold
- Kinnell Tackett
- The Venkatrathnam Family
- 2012 CureSearch Ultimate Hike Team



Our park launches its first **pontoon boat**, provided by the Mississippi River Fund



Since 2010, more than **1,200** volunteers have given **7,500** hours to restoring Coldwater Spring

643 river citizens pledge to care for the river at **16** events through the **1 Mississippi** campaign

A TRANSFORMING ECOSYSTEM



Will Steger Foundation

Climate Change in Our National Park

A new collaboration with the Will Steger Foundation, Fort Snelling State Park and the National Park Service has given the Mississippi River Fund the opportunity to step into the increasingly important issue of climate change. Teachers at seven Twin Cities' schools will receive funding this school year to participate in a unique one-day climate change field trip with their students. The program, funded with support from the National Park Foundation, will bring 500 students to the river to learn about the effects of climate change on our local ecosystem through phenology, service projects, and a new weather station lab at Fort Snelling.

"I consider our continued partnership with the Mississippi River Fund and the park to be one of our greatest successes this year. Because of it, we will be able to connect over 500 students with the park next year, raising awareness about the impacts of climate change on the Mississippi and providing them with opportunities to do service."

—Kristen Poppleton, Director of Education, Will Steger Foundation

"We at the National Park Service are immensely proud of the collaboration we have begun with the Will Steger Foundation. National parks are clearly on the front lines of climate change, and our Mississippi River is no exception."

—Lyndon Torstenson, Manager, Educational Partnerships, Mississippi National River & Recreation Area



Will Steger Foundation

Identifying Asian Carp

In 2012, the Mississippi River Fund and St. Croix River Association funded the production of ID cards to inform boaters and river users about the invasive Asian Carp and what they can do to help protect their national parks.

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
Mississippi National River and Recreation Area



Identifying Bighead and Silver Asian Carp



L-14 See Grant
David Reeks

NOTE: These carp have capillaries close to the skin surface and appear "bloody" when bruised.

Learn more at stopcarp.org.

Mississippi River Fund
program highlights
and accomplishments in
2011-2012

399 water quality
professionals attended
Mississippi River Forums
and workshops with
newly added webcasts

7 River Action
Volunteer Events bring
272 volunteers on
adventure restoration
experiences



2,704 kids receive Big
River Journey field trip
scholarships from the
Mississippi River Fund

CONTRIBUTORS 2011–2012

July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012



MEMBERSHIP

In 2012, the Mississippi River Fund launched a new membership program. Now, with a donation of any amount, members are demonstrating their ongoing commitment to the preservation, enjoyment, and advancement of our national park.

By joining this community dedicated to the Mississippi River, our members help ensure that our 72-mile national park will be cared for and cherished forever. Join online at missriverfund.org!

Stephen Lang

Mississippi River
Fund introduces
River City Revue
events to the river
nightlife scene

Contributions of \$20,000 and above

The Patrick & Aimee Butler Family
Foundation
Mary Lee Dayton
REI

Contributions of \$5,000 to \$19,999

I Mississippi Campaign /
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Contributions of \$500 to \$999

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Contributions of \$250 to \$499

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Contributions of \$100 to \$249

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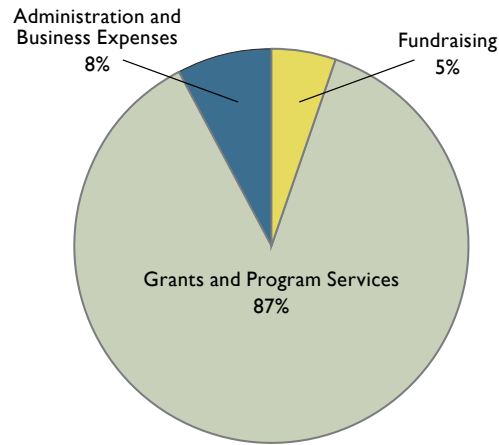
**Thanks to the individuals and
organizations who generously
supported the fund in 2011-2012.**

* Contributions of In-Kind Support

Financials

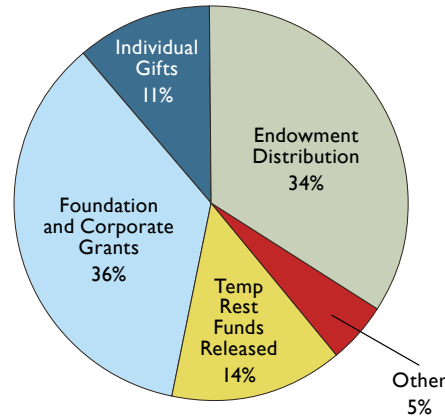
Expenses

Grants and Program Services	\$334,595
Administration	\$29,649
Fundraising	\$20,386
TOTAL	\$384,630



Revenue

Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$144,373
Individual Gifts	\$44,284
Endowment Distribution	\$139,325
Other	\$19,908
Temp Rest Funds Released	\$58,603
TOTAL	\$406,493



* \$114,424 raised in the previous year was available for 2011-12 operations. \$55,821 raised in 2011-12 is available for 2012-13 operations and not reflected here.

MISSISSIPPI River Fund

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Kate Havelin	<i>Coldwater Project Coordinator</i>
Rebecca Newhouse	<i>Annual Giving & Events Coordinator</i>
Anna Waugh	<i>Volunteer Coordinator & Program Assistant</i>

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