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!

*Katie Nyberg* Executive Director
*Tricia Davidson* Board Chair
*Paul Labovitz* Superintendent, Mississippi National River & Recreation Area
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.

“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

THANK YOU, VOLUNTEERS!

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.

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

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

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

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 YEAR OF TRANSFORMATION
by Kate Havelin, Coldwater Project Coordinator, Mississippi River Fund

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 Holzleiter
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
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

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.

Learn more at stopcarp.org.
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!

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

Stephen Lang

Contributions of $20,000 and above
The Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation
Mary Lee Dayton
REI

Contributions of $5,000 to $19,999
1 Mississippi Campaign / Biodiversity Project
David Winton Bell Foundation
Ecolab Foundation
General Mills Foundation
Anne Larsen Simonson / Larsen Fund
Medtronic Foundation
National Park Foundation
National Park Service *
Kate and Stuart Nielsen
Vinaya Foundation
WM Foundation
Xcel Energy Foundation

Contributions of $1,000 to $4,999
Thaddeus Agar
Anonymous
John Cowles III and Page Knudsen Cowles
Tricia and Jim Davidson Family
Beth and Kevin Dooley
John and Kirsten Driscoll
William L. Driscoll and Lisa Hoffman in honor of John and Kirsten Driscoll
David Hartwell and Elizabeth DeBaut
Ed and Libby Hiavka
Tom Holtzeiter
Eric Michael and Josh Hillger Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
Okabena Advisors, Inc.
Outdoor Foundation
Patagonia
SmartWool Advocacy Fund
Rob Treppendahl
Bill and Judy Walter

Contributions of $500 to $999
3M Matching Gift Fund
Martha Brand and Gerald Rosen
Edward and Sherry Ann Dayton
Christine Galloway
Lucy Hartwell
Suzanne and Richard Pepin
Prairie Restorations, Inc.

Contributions of $250 to $499
Conley & Marney Brooks
General Mills Foundation Matching Gift Fund
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Eric J. Jolly
Malcolm and Wendy McLean
Mississippi Corridor Community Alliance
Doug and Therese Moore
Charles and Barbara Nelson
Katie and Jeff Nyberg
Scott and Sarah Nyberg
James Roe
Don Shelby *
Mary Vaughan
Lisa and Nolan Venkatrathnam

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Anonymous
Susan Boren
Paul Brown
Clare Burke
Cecelia Butler
Ann Calvert
Wendy Coggins
Nancy Feldman
Wendell and Sue Fletcher
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Mike Hahn
Kate Havelin and Leo Timmons
Peggy Ingison
Steven and Debra Johnson
James Krache
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John and Judy Avoles
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Ned Krah
Greg Las and Patti Thurber
Lora LANDERS
Vernese F. Lathrop
Rubin Latz

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

* Contributions of In-Kind Support

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Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
National Parks Conservation Association
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Pat Nunnally
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Teri Rostberg
Susan Russell Freeman
David Schmidt and Sarah Klasky
St. Croix River Association
Diane Steen-Hinderlie
Jeanne and Steven Tanamachi
Michael Tegeder
Darrell Thorstenson
Anna Waugh
Lark Weller
Lois Whitehorn
Kenneth and Sheri Williams

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

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- Rebecca Newhouse
  - Annual Giving & Events Coordinator
- Anna Waugh
  - Volunteer Coordinator & Program Assistant

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