



In its fourth year, the Mississippi River Network's (MRN or the Network) River Days of Action brought thousands of people together from June 1 – 15th, 2024, for events and collective action from Headwaters to the Gulf of our mighty Mississippi River! The initiative featured a diverse range of events and activities, from hands-on habitat restoration and recreation events to captivating webinars and engaging place-based tours, all aimed at uplifting the entire Network and driving action for the Mississippi River's people, land, water, and wildlife.

"River Days" is one of the most significant collaborations with events and collective action across the Mississippi River watershed and has once again proven its success and impact, as evidenced by the following numbers:

River Days of Action 2024 By the Numbers:

- 29 events with 1,800+ total attendees
- 56 MRN members and partners participated
- 2,400+ webpage visitors
- 11 decision-makers and press attended
- 65+ #RiverDaysOfAction social media posts
- Eight emails amplifying events sent to our 20,000-person River Citizen community





*"With River Days of Action, we take a lesson from the River:
we reach our grandeur by uniting."*

-Michael Anderson, Director of Outreach and Education, Mississippi River Network





River Days now has a strong and familiar foundation, allowing MRN members, partners, and communities served to engage readily. Building on past accomplishments and lessons learned continues to make the initiative more streamlined and effective. The quantitative metrics provided above tell a powerful story, and the reflections below from MRN members remind us that we are all playing significant parts in the larger movement for our River:

 **River Days of Action Event Stories:** 

“A group of youth from the Multicultural Family Center joined to celebrate River Days of Action, where they learned the history of the river and the importance of watersheds. They were amazed by the wildlife that calls the river home and shocked by how vast the Mississippi River watershed is. **We tied our actions on the northern part of the river to how that affects our neighbors on the southern part.** They left the event excited to learn more!”
-Codi Sharkey, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium

“Our volunteer group removed approximately 200 linear feet of invasive vines encroaching on previously planted native trees along our local creek restoration in Tennessee. **Cleaning out the vines will allow the passing public to see their beauty and draw attention to the project.**”
-Jen Liepis, Green Interchange

“[People] engaged with the stories and concerns about water rights and industry from the Gulf Coast up to Minnesota...One woman said, "Thank you for doing this," as she walked out. **That's when you know people are thinking and taking the message home.**”
-Victoria Bradford Styrbicki, A House Unbuilt



In addition to mobilizing current MRN members and partners, River Days of Action is a bridge for building relationships with new organizations and communities. This year, approximately 14 participating organizations were first-time collaborators with the Network (either through hosting their own event or, more commonly, in partnership with an existing member).

We know a diverse, intersectional, and multi-faceted coalition is essential to embrace the issues and opportunities facing our Mississippi River's people, land, water, and wildlife. We are grateful to all our Network members and partners – new and longstanding!

Do you want more information and resources? Visit the [River Days of Action archive](#) and watch recorded events and webinars, like this year's 'Restoring Our River: Exploring 30 Years of Upper Mississippi River Science and Restoration' on the [1 Mississippi YouTube channel](#).



A 'Big River' thank you to our Mississippi River Network members, partners, funders, River Citizens, volunteers, and participants. By hosting events, collaborating, and promoting, you all made River Days of Action 2024 possible. Thank you!

Walton Family Foundation, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, Bell's Brewery, A House Unbuilt, ArtOpener, Big Muddy Adventures, Bworks, City of Champlin, City of Elk River, City Service Mission, Dales Sanders the Greybeard Adventurer, Dave Ellingson the Paddle Pilgrim, Dubuque Area Arts Collective, Dubuque Area Land and Water Legacy, Land, Water, and Wildlife Fund, Friends of Pool 2, Friends of the Mississippi River, Friends of William H. Houlton Conservation Area, Gene Slay's Girls and Boys Club, Great River Passage Conservancy, Great Rivers Greenway, Green Interchange, Green Lands Blue Waters, Iowa Environmental Council, Izaak Walton League of America, Land Water Place UMN, League of Women Voters Iowa, League of Women Voters Upper Mississippi River Region, Macoupin Art Collective, Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates, Mississippi Park Connection, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, Mississippi Valley Traveler, Multicultural Family Center, Murfreesboro Stormwater Department, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium, National Park Service-MISS, Open Rivers Journal, Paddle Bridge Guide Collective, Paddle Dynamics, Peace in Practice, Quad City River Bandits, Renew Moline, River Action, River City Outdoors, River des Peres Watershed Coalition, Saint Paul Parks and Recreation, Smokestack, Steven Marking 'Riverlorian', The Minnesota Canoe Association, Two Paddles LLC, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Society, Urban Boat Builders, Watershed Cairns, Wilderness Inquiry, Wilderness Mindset
