



REPORT: MISSISSIPPI RIVER NETWORK'S RIVER DAYS OF ACTION 2021

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

-Michael Anderson, Outreach and Engagement, Mississippi River Network



More than 2,500 people participated in the Mississippi River Network's (MRN) River Days of Action June 10-20th, 2021! There was something for everybody as 59 MRN members and community partners hosted over 40 in-person and virtual events from hands-on restoration projects to virtual environmental justice panels.

From Headwaters to Gulf and across the basin, 'River Days' was a shining example of what's possible when we act as *1 Mississippi*. Together, we set a new MRN record by gathering over 5,000 signatures in 10 days on the public petition calling for restoration, resilience, and equity on our Mississippi River.

Numbers are an important part of this story, but not the whole story. Keep reading for uplifting River Days successes and hear from the people who made it possible.

The National Caucus of Environmental Legislators hosted a covid conscious 3-day river tour in Chicago, St. Louis, and Des Moines. Legislators from various river states participated and learned about nutrient pollution reduction, environmental justice, natural infrastructure to reduce flooding and pollution runoff, and healthy soils.

"The River Tour was a great opportunity for legislators to see firsthand how they can make a difference in their communities and for the Mississippi River. I hope each of them took something back that will allow them to make better-informed decisions".

-Alayna Chunev, Esq.,
National Caucus of Environmental Legislators



Farm Tour in Des Moines, Iowa w/ Elected Officials!
From L to R: Sen. Sarah Trone Garriott (IA-22), Jeff Mauk (NCEL), Rep. Art Staed (IA-66), Alayna Chunev (NCEL). Photo via Alayna Chunev.

The Mississippi River Nationwide Townhall kicked-off River Days. The Townhall featured a watch party in St. Louis, a live national virtual event, and video cameos from VIP's. Three engaging *Lunch and Learn* events 'sandwiched' into River Days with topics and presenters spanning the length of the River. Including: Relay of Voices (top right), Environmental Justice Panel (bottom left), and Community Impacts of Fertilizer Pollution (bottom right). Missed these events live? Watch the recordings on [1 Mississippi's YouTube channel](#).



In Tennessee, a group of Network members hosted an online sweepstakes that inspired and empowered individuals to take in-person action for our River.

“Participants took a total of 162 actions including picking up litter, visiting a park near the River, planting native plants, taking boat rides and signing up for the River Citizen program!”
-Gretchen Hagel, Green Interchange

A ‘Big River’ thank you to our Mississippi River Network members, partners, funders, and River Citizens. You all made this happen: Friends of the Mississippi River, National Wildlife Federation, Walton Family Foundation, Healthy Gulf, Mississippi Valley Traveler, HeartLands Conservancy, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, American Rivers, Piasa Palisades Sierra Club, National Great Rivers Research and Education Center, Missouri Coalition for the Environment, Mississippi River Water Trail Association, Black People Who Hike, Iowa Environmental Council, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, University of MN – Land, Water, Place (Pat Nunnally), LightHawk, Mississippi Park Connection, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NPS), Audubon Center at Riverlands, Tennessee Environmental Council, Blessed Earth Southeast, TennGreen, League of Women Voters – Iowa City and Dubuque Chapters, Izaak Walton League of America, Quapaw Canoe Company, Lower Mississippi River Foundation, River Action, Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, Harpeth Conservancy, National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium, Illinois Stewardship Alliance, The Wetlands Initiative, Watershed Cairns, United Congregation of Metro East, Stream Teams United, Open Space Council, STL Metropolitan Sewer District, Missouri History Museum, Great Rivers Environmental Law Center, Big Muddy Adventures, Tulane – IWRLP, Rights of Mississippi River, Sierra Club – Delta Chapter, Dutchtown South Community Corporation, Blackrock Consulting, RISE and Engage Coalition, Relay of Voices, Green Interchange, River des Peres Watershed Coalition, Nicollet Island Coalition, Kindred Nature, RISE St. James, Louisiana Bucket Brigade, Minnesota Tracking Club, Great Rivers Passage Initiative (St. Paul), One4Water, and Presley Martin. It’s possible we missed someone here – we apologize for that, and we thank you!