



# MISSISSIPPI River Fund

2012 – 2013 Annual Report





The Mississippi River is the most iconic, natural feature of the Twin Cities. Our environment, economy, culture, and daily lives rely on the river. Yet, many individuals in our community don't feel connected to this crucial part of our collective livelihood. We are frequently asked, "How can I get on the river?" and "What programs can I take part in?"

Our goal is to create more opportunities for people to build connections with the river. During this past year, the fund began offering new programs—aimed at a broad spectrum of audiences—to experience the Mississippi River and our unique national park.

  
**Tricia Davidson**  
Board Chair

River City Revue brought together hundreds of Twin Citians on cruises aboard the Padelford Riverboat as a floating venue filled with art, science, music, and history. This program is a partnership between the fund, the National Park Service, and Works Progress.

Our partnership at Coldwater Spring has positioned us as leaders in significant planning and communications activities. Last year alone, we were involved in 84 programs with as many as 1,042 volunteers at Coldwater Spring.

We continue to develop and expand public programming in partnership with our friends from the park service. The wide range of educational and recreational topics include birding boat tours, biking, hiking, and eco-volunteer events. Our long-term goal is to provide consistent, reliable river programming for residents and visitors in our community.

We invite you to share any ideas you might have about programming and partnership opportunities. We encourage you to keep up with our activities via our website or social media and we hope that you'll take the opportunity to share what we're doing with others, as we continue to engage more people, in new ways.

  
**Katie Nyberg**  
Executive Director

**Cover image:**

1944 Mississippi River alluvial meander floodplain map by Harold Fisk, Army Corps of Engineers.

# Mississippi River Fund 2012–2013



I'm writing fresh back from the third government shutdown in my career with the National Park Service. I'm struck (not surprisingly) at the value of the partnership with this national park and the Mississippi River Fund. The hasty shutdown meant that our facilities were to close. Closure at Coldwater Spring threatened a lot of hard work by our volunteers who had just completed the most recent round of tree planting. We were able to convince our leadership that it was important to designate one National Park Service employee to maintain the health and safety of the precious resources at Coldwater and, with the help of the fund, we continued to protect and nurture the newly planted trees.

The transformation at Coldwater Spring would not be possible without the partnership between the park and the fund. Coldwater is no longer a fragile, disturbed site; rather, it is growing into a community asset and a natural landscape supporting an amazing variety of plant

and animal life. Continued restoration at Coldwater moves us closer towards the vision of a fully restored oak-savanna prairie. Most exciting is the continuation of robust public programs year-round that respond to the public demand for access and information about this nationally significant treasure.

For the thousands who enjoy learning about Coldwater Spring, both the National Park Service and the Mississippi River Fund can smile and know that together we are helping create more stewards of our important places as well as supporters and stewards of all of our partners. We emerged stronger from the shutdown and will continue working on creative ways to bring the National Parks and the Mississippi River to our neighbors and friends. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Paul Labovitz".

**Paul Labovitz**

Superintendent, Mississippi National  
River and Recreation Area



# BY the B Numbers

58,511

KIDS PARTICIPATED IN NATIONAL  
PARK PROGRAMS & EVENTS

3,523

2/3

OF TREES  
PLANTED AT  
COLDWATER  
SPRING PROVIDED  
BY TREES FOR  
COLDWATER  
DONORS

3,151

VOLUNTEERS  
PROVIDED

18,719

HOURS OF  
SERVICE  
TO THEIR  
NATIONAL  
PARK

Photo by Melissa Buss



405

SPECIES FOUND  
AT BIOBLITZ, A

24

-HOUR SCIENTIFIC  
SCAVENGER HUNT AT  
COLDWATER SPRING

“Thanks to the work the  
Mississippi River Fund has  
done with the Coldwater  
Crew. The transformation  
over the last two years has  
been incredible!”

**Tom Holtzleiter,**  
Volunteer & Member

“Our Mississippi River Forum served 400  
people in its fifth year, including via live  
webcasts. Thanks to support from the  
Mississippi River Fund and the McKnight  
Foundation, we have created a community  
of engagement between scientists,  
educators, planners, and policy makers.”

**Lark Weller,**  
Water Quality Coordinator, NPS



From July 2012 to June 2013, the Mississippi River Fund, together with our community, worked hard, had a lot of fun and shared many amazing experiences—all for our national park.

KIDS  
RECEIVED  
“TICKET TO  
RIDE”  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
TO ATTEND  
NATIONAL  
PARK  
PROGRAMS  
ON THE  
RIVER



Photo by Wilderness Inquiry

# 5<sup>th</sup> Place

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER FUND  
TEAM CAME IN AT THE 2ND  
ANNUAL GREAT RIVER RACE TO  
BENEFIT THE UWCA

TREES PLANTED  
AT COLDWATER SPRING  
SINCE 2012

# 14

RIVER PARKS  
AND ISLANDS  
BENEFITED FROM  
VOLUNTEER  
HABITAT  
RESTORATION:

Coon Rapids Dam East  
Coon Rapids Dam West

Island 102-01

Durham Island

Mill Ruins Park

Boom Island

Minnehaha Park

Coldwater Spring

V.A. Grounds

Fort Snelling State Park

Hidden Falls Park

Crosby Farm Regional Park

Bruce Vento Nature  
Sanctuary

Indian Mounds Park

# 495

# 1

RIVER  
ISLAND  
CLEARED OF  
BUCKTHORN

Photo by Leon Kosek



# 1/4 Million

BIRDS COUNTED DURING  
ANNUAL WATERFOWL  
MIGRATION SURVEY

“The birding pontoon  
boat event was a great  
trip—beautiful evening  
to be on the river.  
Thanks for offering  
these intimate outings  
on the river.

**Dave Schmidt,**  
Tour Participant

# 451

PEOPLE  
BOARDED  
RIVERBOAT  
CRUISES FOR  
ART, SCIENCE,  
HISTORY, &  
ADVENTURE  
ON "RIVER CITY  
REVUE"

# Giving Kids a *Ticket to Ride*



Photo by Brian Peterson, Star Tribune

People and nature are fundamentally interconnected. The human relationship with nature is a proven component of good preventative health; it aids in physical and psychological restoration and it contributes greatly to intellectual development. Educators, physicians, and public health officials have all made strong arguments for ample exposure to nature.

In 2013, we launched Ticket to Ride, a new scholarship fund that provides financial support for young people to take part in national park programs that get them outdoors—including funds for program fees, boat tickets, or simply bus fare to get there—and begin a lifelong relationship with the river. In its first year, Ticket to Ride provided 3,523 kids with the means to participate in park programs.

Park programs like Big River Journey, Urban Wilderness Canoe Adventures, and Take Me to the River not only bring urban youth to their national park, they give kids a chance to make connections with nature that empower them. Through Ticket to Ride, we bring youth to the river, where they can watch an eagle soar or see a great blue heron rookery. We teach them how to get back to these special places and empower them with skills and confidence they can use their whole lives.

# TICKET TO RIDE

**“Without scholarship funding, my students would not have been able to afford this trip. Most of them are at poverty level...and had never been on a boat or near the river.**

**This experience had a profound effect on these kids, and they felt so fortunate to be able to do this. Widening their world and minds is a gift that will give back in countless ways.**

**I can’t thank you enough!”**

**Jan Nethercut,**

5th Grade Teacher, Pratt Community School, Minneapolis

”



RIVER CITY  
REVUE

# Arts and Culture on the Mississippi: *River City Revue*

The Mississippi River has long been an inspiration for artists, adventurers, storytellers, and river dwellers. And it is no secret that the Twin Cities community is alive with outdoor enthusiasts, science lovers, visual artists, and musicians alike. When the opportunity to create a shared space on the river for inspired conversation, art-making, and entertainment emerged, a partnership was born.

The Mississippi River Fund and the National Park Service partnered with the art and design studio Works Progress to create River City Revue: a series of public events that blend a novel experience on the river with opportunities for creative participation and social connection.

**“There are myriad opportunities to experience the river through recreation, environmental stewardship and advocacy, and although these are important programs, we wondered how a focus on art and creative culture could be a catalyst for people who might not otherwise feel a connection to the Mississippi River. After all, there’s a long tradition of art and culture inspired by the Mississippi, and art is a powerful way that people express their relationship to things that matter deeply. How can art help us imagine the river? How does the river inspire our art and culture?”**

**Shanai Matteson and  
Colin Kloecker,**

Co-Directors, Works Progress



# Connected to Coldwater

In the three years since the National Park Service began managing Coldwater Spring, not only has the landscape there changed dramatically, the level of engagement with the community and the park has grown exponentially as well. Dedicated volunteers care for the park weekly and all year long, watering newly planted trees and shrubs, pulling and hauling buckthorn, and maintaining the prairie.

The Mississippi River Fund's Trees for Coldwater program has also provided an opportunity for people to show their support of their national park site while honoring and remembering loved ones by donating trees that will stand for generations to come... reshaping the landscape and our relationship with it.

**“On the Saturday of Mother’s Day weekend of 2013, I had the privilege to plant an oak grove at Coldwater Spring in memory of my mother. There were many other people planting trees in the spirit of spring tree planting at Coldwater, and I had a group of wonderful volunteers dedicated to ‘my’ grove.**

**Having a place to plant a tree in honor of someone and making it a gift to the community is truly elating and lasting. Donating trees to my national park has provided me with a private joy and sense of connectedness. As a volunteer at Coldwater Spring, I am immersed in nature, peace, and a feeling that this work truly makes elementary sense.**

**Every so often I hear someone referring to the trees in memory of my mother as ‘your grove,’ but I see it as our grove, and I hope the people helping me care for them feel the trees are also theirs. They are cared for by dedicated volunteer crews that meet Tuesday evenings and Thursday mornings; there is no difference between ‘my’ tree and ‘your’ tree. And that is the beauty of it—creating a public space with many other people to look toward the future for many generations to come.”**

**Gabrielle Pillmann,**  
Volunteer and Donor



*Gabrielle planting trees at Coldwater Spring.*







*Coldwater's historic spring house.*

# Contributors July 1, 2012–June 30, 2013

## Contributions of \$15,000 and above

Mary Lee Dayton  
F.R. Bigelow Foundation  
Patrick & Aimee Butler Family Foundation  
The McKnight Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, Wells Fargo Environmental Solutions for Communities  
Roepke Communications, Inc. \*

## Contributions of \$5,000 to \$14,999

3M Foundation  
David Winton Bell Foundation  
John and Page Cowles  
Duffy & Partners \*  
Ecolab Foundation  
General Mills Foundation  
Ellen Grace  
REI  
RBC Blue Water Project  
RBC Foundation USA  
Seward Community Co-op  
Xcel Energy Foundation

## Contributions of \$1,000 to \$4,999

Thaddeus Agar  
Johanna Bell  
Biodiversity Project, Inc.  
Kerrie Blevins and Jack & Lillie Walstrom in honor of Mike Walstrom  
Peter and Eleanor Blitzer  
Martha Brand and Gerald Rosen  
Tricia and Jim Davidson Family  
John and Kirsten Driscoll  
Bert and Susan Gross  
David Hartwell and Elizabeth DeBaut  
Ed and Libby Hlavka  
The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread  
Anne Larsen Simsonson / Larsen Fund  
Eric Michael and Josh Hillger  
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization  
National Environmental Education Foundation  
Okabena Advisors  
Patagonia

Padelford Packet Boat Co., Inc. \*

Gabrielle Pillmann in loving memory of Gertrude Maria Pillmann née Muhlher

Prairie Island Indian Community

Don Shelby

Squam Lake Foundation

USA Environmental Management, Inc.

Bill and Judy Walter

## Contributions of \$500 to \$999

2012 CureSearch Ultimate Hike Team

Edward and Sherry Ann Dayton

William Driscoll and Lisa Hoffman

Jon W. and Christine Galloway

Lucy Hartwell

The McKnight Foundation \*

Tom Meyer and Martha Meyer-VonBlon

Mississippi Market Natural Foods Co-op

Katie and Jeff Nyberg

Susan and Mark Overson \*

Suzanne and Richard Pepin

Marilyn Thompson

## Contributions of \$250 to \$499

Paul and Sue Labovitz

Theresa Love in honor of Drs. Peter and Genie Blitzer on their 40th wedding anniversary

Sally McLean

Doug and Therese Moore

Charles and Barbara Nelson

Scott and Sarah Nyberg

C.H. Robinson Worldwide Foundation

James Roe

Sheba Productions

## Contributions of \$100 to \$249

Andersen Corporation Employees

Jane Andrews

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Susan Boren

Paul Brown

Emily Buhr and Sean Alter

David and Wendy Coggins

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Paul Eaves and Kathleen Rickert

Ronald Erickson

Nancy Feldman

Catherine Finch

Francis Flaig

Wendell and Sue Fletcher

Wilma Gitchel

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Mike Hahm

David Hartwell in honor of Elizabeth DeBaut

Keith and Beth Heaton

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Ellen Kluz in memory of Mark Wisniewski

Leon Knight

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## Contributions up to \$99

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Highland Park Woman's Club

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Rubin Latz in memory and honor of brother in-law John Cyrus Barnum

Gregory LeFevre

Chris and Brandee Lian

Dorothy Lipschultz

Mildred McLean and Daniel Waugh

Mary Murray

Sarah Nassif

Rebecca and Christopher Newhouse

Sharon and David Olson

Susan and Mark Overson

Mary Plant

Matt and Megan Prindiville in honor of Katie Nyberg

Debra Pusari

Daniel Puskar

Alan Robbins-Fenger

Rose Mary Satack

Diane Steen-Hinderlie

Erika Stevens and Ben Jones

Rory Stierler

Kathy Swenson

Jeanne and Steven Tanamachi

Lyndon Torstenson

Michael Walker

Anna Waugh

John Waugh and Kathleen Lively

Lark Weller

Lois Whitehorn

\* Contributions of In Kind Support

In July, our community lost one of its most influential civic leaders, Mary Lee Dayton. Mary Lee was a founding trustee of the Mississippi River Fund and we owe a great deal to her vision and guidance for how our work benefits the river and our community. She will be dearly missed.



# Board of Trustees

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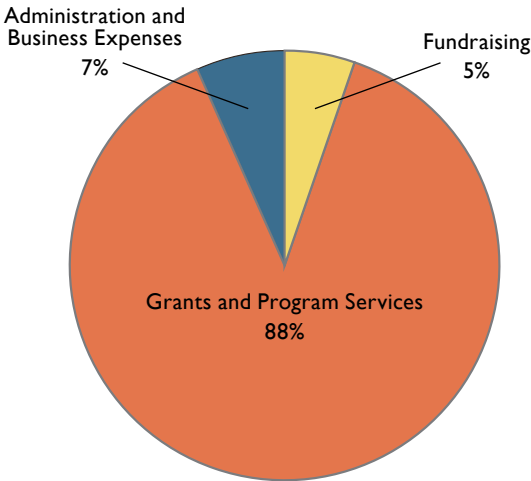
**Kate Havelin**  
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Accounting and financial management provided by Jay Lyons, MAP for Nonprofits.

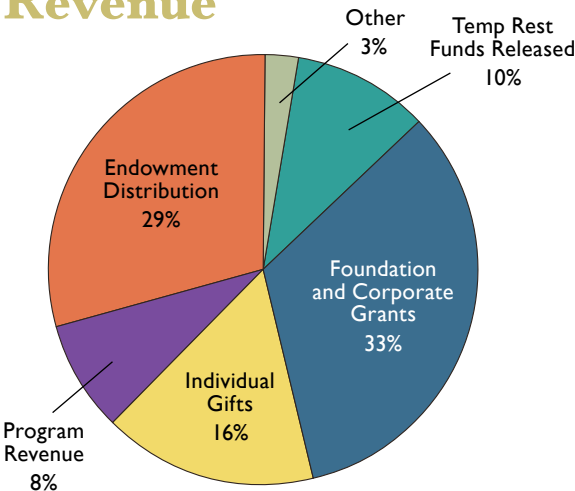
# Financials

## Expenses



Grants and Program Services	\$408,073
Administration	\$29,904
Fundraising	\$25,335
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$463,312</b>

## Revenue\*



Foundation and Corporate Grants	\$167,774
Individual Gifts	\$81,586
Program Revenue	\$41,458
Endowment Distribution	\$147,495
Other	\$13,088
Temp Rest Funds Released	\$50,680
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$502,381</b>

\* Reflects unrestricted activity. \$55,821 raised in the previous year was available for 2012-13 operations. \$64,805 is available for 2013-14 operations.

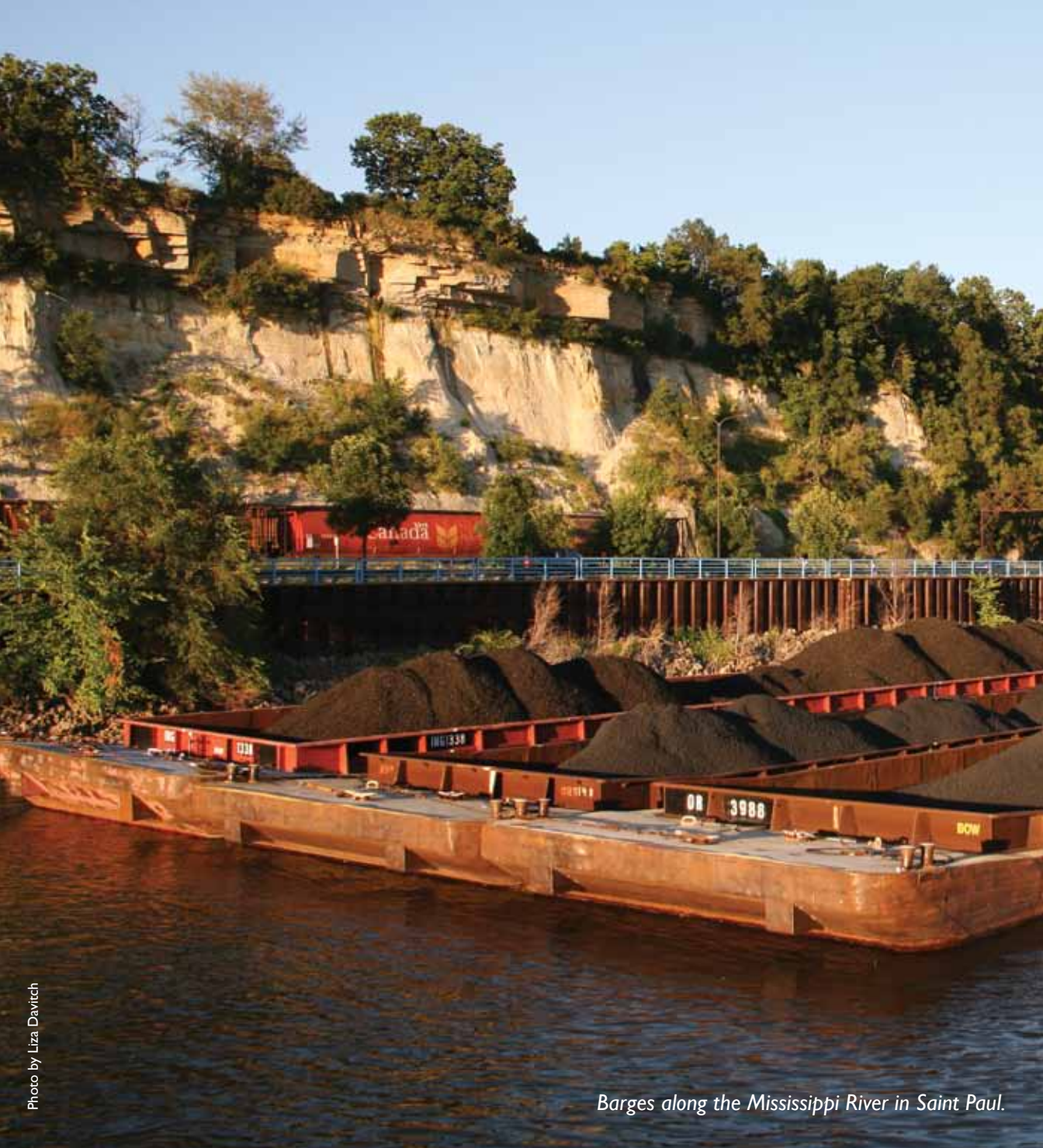


Photo by Liza Davitch

*Barges along the Mississippi River in Saint Paul.*

# MISSISSIPPI River Fund

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with 10% postconsumer material.