



SACRED WATER SHARED FUTURE

Register your event and learn more at SacredWaterSharedFuture.org

Embracing our commitment to a healthy river.

Sacred Water, Shared Future is a Twin Cities wide campaign to honor the Mississippi River's central role in our region and its deep history—its sacred significance, its strength, and the harm it has endured, including pollution and the displacement of Indigenous peoples. While decades of restoration have helped heal its waters and repair relationships, the journey of care and protection has just begun.

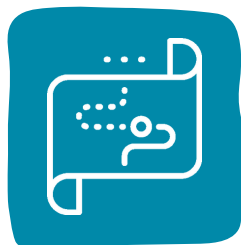
This campaign celebrates the power of community, storytelling, education, and conservation. Through collaboration and shared action, Sacred Water, Shared Future embraces a collective movement for a healthy river—including the connections, responsibilities, and justice that flow from this shared commitment.

A River's Death and Rebirth: 1926–2026

In 1926, the Minnesota and Wisconsin Boards of Health commissioned a water quality study of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities. The study found only three live fish in nearly 50 miles of river. The results confirmed what scientists and residents already suspected: The Mississippi River was effectively dead. In response, the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul developed a plan to collect and treat wastewater before it entered the river. This study sparked the first of many actions to restore, and eventually protect, this vital waterway.

The year 1926 marked a significant turning point in the relationship between the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the Mississippi River. In 2026, we hope to create a new inflection point that invites people to explore the river's history and discover new ways to connect with, value, and care for the river in the future.

We welcome you and/or your organization to host an event of your own, by featuring any of the following:



Honoring the River's History: The Sacred Water, Shared Future campaign acknowledges the Mississippi River's deep history, including its significance, strength, and past harms. This resonates with people and organizations that understand the importance of historical context and the need to address past injustices.



Focus on Community and Collaboration: The campaign celebrates community power, storytelling, and education, through collaborative action. This appeals to people and organizations that value partnership, engagement, and shared responsibility in river protection.



Commitment to a Healthy River: Sacred Water, Shared Future embraces a collective commitment to a healthy river, focusing on connections, responsibilities, and care. This resonates with organizations whose core mission is environmental stewardship and advocacy for a healthy ecosystem.

Fast Facts & FAQs

Who was involved in the planning process?

This campaign was created by the Sacred Water Shared Future planning team, which is made up of representatives from Capitol Region Watershed District, Freshwater, Metropolitan Council Environmental Services, Mississippi Park Connection, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, National Park Service, One Mississippi.

What events have been planned by the campaign organizers?

The Sacred Water Shared Future planning team is not planning events. This campaign has been planned by volunteers and all events will be planned and hosted by partners. The name, theme, logo and other campaign assets will support a broad variety of events.

Who can plan and host campaign events?

We welcome any group or organization that feels a passion for the health of our waterways or a connection to the Mississippi River and its watershed.

What types of events are encouraged?

The types of events are ultimately up to our partners, but we highly encourage river-focused activities that allow for individuals to connect to the water.