



## Steering Committee Organizations

### CONSERVATION AND AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

American Rivers  
Iowa Soybean Association  
Minnesota Corn Growers Association  
Missouri Agribusiness Association  
National Mississippi River Museum and Aquarium  
The Nature Conservancy  
Trout Unlimited  
Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee

### STATE AGENCIES

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

### FEDERAL AGENCIES

U. S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
U. S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area  
U. S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center

Fishers & Farmers Partnership has answered a national call to improve U.S. waters and fisheries through the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. To learn more about our developing organization, please visit [fishhabitat.org](http://fishhabitat.org) or contact:

Heidi Keuler  
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
La Crosse Fish & Wildlife Conservation Office  
555 Lester Ave.  
Onalaska, WI 54650  
T 608-783-8417  
E [heidi\\_keuler@fws.gov](mailto:heidi_keuler@fws.gov)



# Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin



HEALTHY FISH, HEALTHY STREAMS, HEALTHY FARMS

# Healthy Streams Are Within Reach

Water links us to our neighbor in a way more profound than any other

**In the Midwest, we feel the presence of the Mississippi River.** Early on, we understand that the creek near home meets the river we cross on the way to Grandma's, and the river we know meets the one that connects us to everything. We learn that the wide blue line snaking down the center of the map is the Father of Waters. And one day we stand on its banks, knowing for ourselves the force that sweeps everything in its path through our patchwork home of farmland, forests, and cities to the ocean.

Somewhere deep, we know that this network of waterways is fragile. As we go about our lives, we see our collective impact on land and streams and want to put things right.

Fishers & Farmers Partnership supports landowners as they work to run profitable operations while caring for land and streams. We bring science and technical expertise to locally-directed projects throughout the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Our goal is prosperous farms and thriving fish populations.

Ultimately, we strive to leave our home a better place for those who follow.



## Actions for Sustainable Farms, Better Fishing

Fishers & Farmers Partnership works with landowners to add value to farms while restoring aquatic habitat, both on site and downstream on the Mississippi River. Approved projects are led by landowners, with flexible cost-share funding and technical support provided by conservation partners.

Our aim is to keep profitability high and soil and nutrients on the land. Projects selected by landowners often include: stabilization of eroding stream banks, reconnection to floodplain, construction of in-stream habitat, installation of prairie and forest buffers, exploration of alternative land uses, optimization of fertilizer application rates, enhanced grazing rotations, fenced creeks, or better watering systems. Rivers and fishery respond quickly and well to these straightforward techniques.

### When projects are completed, the Partnership:

- helps landowners showcase successful practices;
- shares lessons learned with Partnership organizations and other landowners;
- monitors fish populations and habitat at project site and downstream.



## Common Purpose Anchors the Partnership

Fishers & Farmers is directed by volunteers from diverse professions, united to address the needs of the Basin's farms and fishes using innovative strategies. While benefits are genuine and measurable, we understand that success at the Basin scale may take decades.

### We are committed to:

- working together for sustainable farms and sustainable stream health;
- selecting projects that advance our Basin strategy;
- combining today's science with local knowledge;
- collaborating with existing watershed projects;
- being accountable by measuring our success;
- documenting success stories and communicating them inside and outside the Basin.

## mississippi facts



### The Mississippi River:

- sustains more fish species than any other temperate river in the world;
- supports more than 25% of freshwater fish in the United States;
- is a migratory flyway for 40% of all North American waterfowl;
- with tributaries, is used to move more than 126 million tons of commodities annually;
- sources 23 public water supplies north of St. Louis, Missouri.

### The Upper Mississippi River Basin:

- covers 189,000 square miles;
- is drained by 12 major tributaries and 30,700 miles of streams;
- is inhabited by 30 million people (80% in urban areas);
- supports more than 11 million recreational trips annually;
- has a landscape that is more than 60% cropland and pasture.