

WHO WE ARE

The Mississippi River Collaborative is a **partnership of environmental organizations and legal centers** from states bordering the Mississippi River as well as regional and national groups working on issues affecting the Mississippi River and its tributaries. The Collaborative harnesses the resources and expertise of its diverse organizations to **reduce pollution** entering the Mississippi River as well as the Gulf of Mexico.

OUR WORK

The Collaborative works cooperatively within the Mississippi River Basin by

- Strategically focusing on state and regional **water pollution issues**, and
- Increasing the **organizational, legal, and technical capacity** of participating groups to meet existing challenges and to effectively implement new initiatives of the Collaborative.

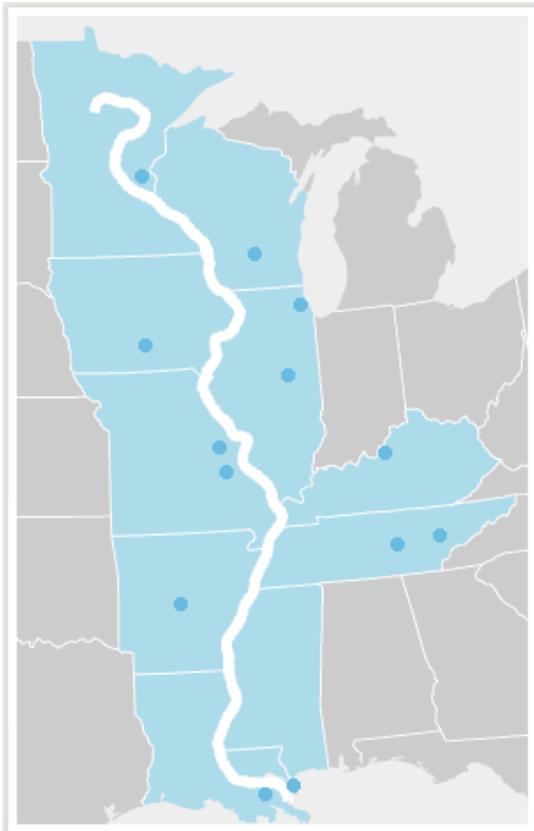
Specifically, we work to

- **Reduce nitrogen and phosphorus pollution** in the Mississippi River and Northern Gulf of Mexico,
- **Increase the effectiveness** of Collaborative members to reduce agricultural sources of pollution,
- **Ensure that water pollution is reduced and the uses of our waters are protected** in permitting discharges to or the alteration of our waters in each of the Collaborative states,
- **Expand and protect wetlands** in the 10-state Mississippi River corridor, including wetlands along major tributaries and critical watersheds, and
- **Extend the impact** of the Collaborative through improved communications with the press and the public.

STRUCTURE

The activities of the Collaborative are divided into two main categories: **policy activities**, which include training and technical research, and **communication activities**, which include workgroup collaboration and public outreach.

Much of the policy and communication activities of the Collaborative take place in its workgroups, which generally hold monthly conference calls, host bi-annual in-person meetings, and provide training and technical assistance to partner groups. The workgroups are Wetlands, Agriculture, Nutrients, and Communications.



HISTORY

The Collaborative was founded by the **McKnight Foundation with its goal of restoring the water quality and resilience of the Mississippi River**, which supports nonprofits that work to restore lands, reduce pollution, and strengthen advocacy for restoration. In 2005, the McKnight Foundation initiated the Mississippi River Collaborative to strengthen efforts to reduce all types of pollution entering the River.

COLLABORATIVE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

- Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (St. Paul, MN)
- Midwest Environmental Advocates (Madison, WI)
- Iowa Environmental Council (Des Moines, IA)
- Environmental Law & Policy Center (Chicago, IL)
- Prairie Rivers Network (Champaign, IL)
- Washington University (St. Louis, MO)
- Missouri Coalition for the Environment (St. Louis, MO)
- Kentucky Waterways Alliance (Louisville, KY)
- Tennessee Clean Water Network (Knoxville, TN)
- Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (Washington, D.C.)
- Arkansas Public Policy Panel (Little Rock, AR)
- Gulf Restoration Network (New Orleans, LA)
- Tulane Environmental Law Clinic (New Orleans, LA)

www.MSRiverCollab.org