



Proclamation

Mayor Shaundel

City of La Crosse

The Mississippi River is more than just a waterway—it's a lifeline for millions of people, a haven for wildlife, and a source of inspiration, recreation, and connection. Spanning 2,350 miles and uniting ten mainstem states and 32 tributary states within its vast watershed, from the wild rice beds in Minnesota to the oyster reefs in Louisiana, the River nourishes communities, supports livelihoods, and brings people together. Today, we honor its importance and commit to protecting its future.

WHEREAS, for thousands of years, the Mississippi River has been deeply woven into the lives of Indigenous peoples, sustaining communities and holding profound cultural significance; and

WHEREAS, the River provides drinking water for over 20 million Americans, fuels local economies through commerce, agriculture, tourism, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, the River is the heart of a migratory flyway for 60% of North America's bird species, and home to hundreds of fish, amphibians, reptiles, and mammal species, making it one of the world's most important ecological corridors; and

WHEREAS, pollution, habitat destruction, and climate change threaten the health of the River and the communities that depend on it, requiring collaboration across states, agencies, individuals, communities, and organizations to restore and protect this natural treasure; and

WHEREAS, One Mississippi and its network of 78 organizations and 20,000 River Citizens invite all to take action—through conservation efforts, advocacy, or simply enjoying the River and building community—especially during River Days of Action (June 1-15), when people unite to restore, celebrate, and advocate for a healthier River; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, SHAUNDEL WASHINGTON-SPIVEY, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LA CROSSE, do hereby proclaim June 2, as

“MISSISSIPPI RIVER DAY”

encouraging all to celebrate, protect, and restore this incredible River by participating in events, becoming a One Mississippi River Citizen, and taking action for a cleaner, healthier future.

Dated on this 2nd day of June in the year Two Thousand Twenty-Six.



MAYOR SHAUNDEL