



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE'S

**UPPER MISSISSIPPI
RIVER INITIATIVE**

MISSION

To empower local communities, cultivate conversations, and bring forth actions that will restore the soil, land and water of the Upper Mississippi River Watershed for generations here and yet to come.

Despite millions of dollars from government agencies, foundations, are farmland owners, our water quality is degraded and getting worse. Our soils are depleted, our rivers are polluted, our infrastructure is threatened by erosion, and we have neglected to meet the Clean Water Act's provisions for "swimmable fishable waters."

The Izaak Walton League's Upper Mississippi River Initiative believes we need a new approach. We believe that we – conservationists, farmers, corporations, urban and rural citizens — are that solution. We care about our water and realize it is our life, our food, our income, and our recreation. Water should bring us together not drive us apart.



The UMRI provides an opportunity for dialog with all of our water stakeholders on how to improve our water resources. It is a process to learn how to build both resilient economies and landscapes. It's a process to learn about our water, its condition, and what we are doing to affect it.

UMRI is implementing citizen water monitoring to learn about our waters, working with absentee land owners to develop leases that provide conservation provisions, and expanding on the work that county extension offices and conservation organizations are doing to help build resilient lands and communities. We are giving communities the tools they need to improve their waters.

Photos Courtesy of USDA NRCS

IWLA UMR Initiative – Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin
Learn More at: www.umri.org or Contact: ikes@minnesotaiques.org