
# The Mississippi River Water Action Collaborative Goals

The Mississippi River Water Action Collaborative (MRWAC) is a collaborative network built to advance water resilience across the Mississippi River Basin (MRB). MRWAC is designed to serve as a tool that connects project implementers and companies and ultimately support the implementation of projects that address shared water challenges in the MRB.

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## The Mississippi Water Action Collaborative Overarching Goal

- MRWAC aims to mobilize funding and cross-sector partnerships to advance water stewardship projects across 24 million acres of the Mississippi River Basin by 2035. These efforts will advance measurable improvements in priority challenges identified through scientific analysis and regional stakeholder engagement.
- MRWAC's corporate basin-wide goal of 24 million acres is rooted in a science-based target developed by the **EPA Hypoxia Task Force**.

## Addressing the Most Pressing Water Challenges

- The most pressing water challenges were identified using basin-wide indicators, similar to the AWI Report Card, using the Water Resilience Coalition Basin Diagnostic Tool.

### Water Quality

- Nutrient, sediment, and chemical pollution
- Groundwater contamination

### Water Quantity

- Groundwater decline
- More frequent and extreme floods and droughts
- Increasing water demand

### Water Access

- Localized safe drinking water and sanitation issues, primarily in high poverty areas

## Examples of Activities that Support MRWAC's Corporate Goal

- Projects can be added to the MRWAC Portfolio if they follow previously established Eligibility Criteria. The portfolio currently has 21 projects.

### Watershed Management Activities

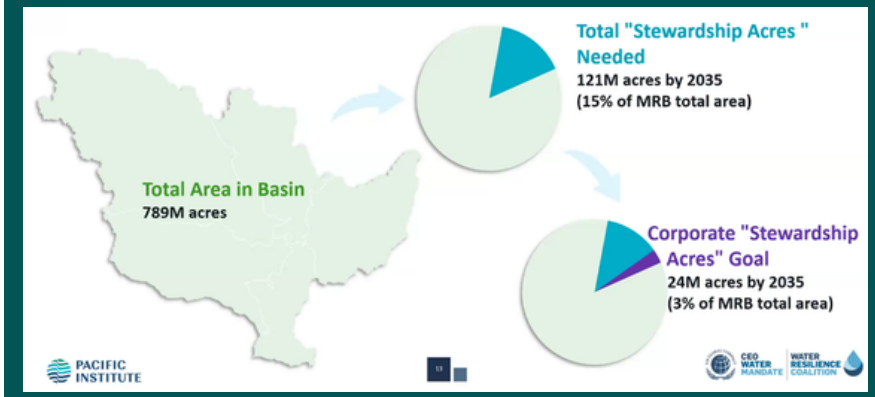
- Wetland restoration
- Agricultural BMP (e.g., buffer strips)
- Stream buffers
- Floodplain reconnection
- Urban green infrastructure and nature-based solutions

### Water Use Activities

- Groundwater recharge
- Protect and restore water wells
- Building of water reuse facilities
- Water consumption reduction (i.e., industrial and irrigation consumption, reduce non-revenue water)

- Across projects, benefits are aggregated to contribute toward the total acres of stewardship goal. For projects without a direct acreage component but with quantified water quality or quantity benefits, an equivalent acreage value can be calculated.

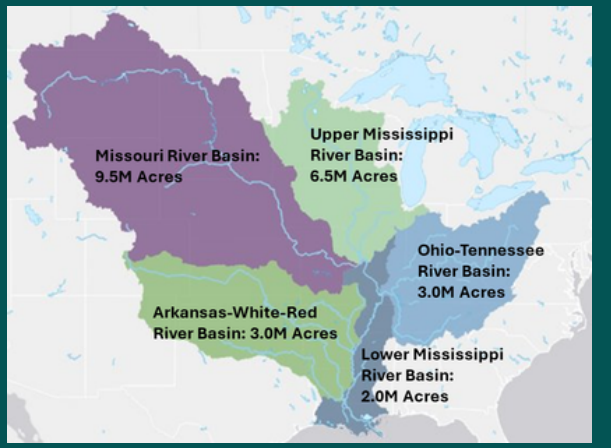
## How was the MRWAC 24M Acres of Stewardship by 2035 Corporate Goal Derived?




- The Total “Stewardship Acres” Needed correspond to 15% of the total MRB area, and was calculated using a desktop tool that converts the total nutrient load reduction Hypoxia Task Force goal (i.e., reduce N and P loads by 25% between 2025 and 2035) to an estimated “areas of stewardship”, assuming a certain acreage of land will be restored.
- The Corporate “Stewardship Acres” are 20% of that total (3% of the total MRB). This MRB corporate contribution was estimated by assessing corporate water use and area footprint (available datasets).

## How is the MRWAC 24M Acres of Stewardship by 2035 Goal Distributed Across the 5 Subbasins?

- The overarching 24M acre goal was further divided into the 5 HUC-2 MRB subbasins to provide a more specific number to local partners and a smaller scale.
- These subbasin goals take into account: basin size, flow within basin, estimated nutrient contributions, land use characteristics within subbasin. Also reflects stewardship activities can provide the biggest impact on water quality, quantity and access.
- AWI will focus primarily on UMRB and LMRB over the next 14 months.




## How is the Area-Based Primary Goal Translated into Water Quantity and Water Quality Metrics?

- LimnoTech has developed a methodology to translate Water Quantity and Water Quality Metrics to an equivalent area of conservation or stewardship so all projects, regardless of type of benefit, can be accounted towards the shared corporate goal.

**WATER QUANTITY**
3,900 Bgal/yr of water returned to the basin

**PRIMARY GOAL AREA**
24 M Acres by 2035

**WATER QUALITY**
Reduction of
119,000 tons/yr of N
6,000 tons/yr of P