



# Planning Together: Student and Family Feedback

**Spring Forward was honored to be awarded a QC River Connections grant through the Quad Cities Community Foundation for summer camps in 2024.**

In year's past, camps have always had river activities, but the grant will allow for expansion and to have *Our River* as the central camp theme.

*Our River* camp committee was recruited and began meeting in January. The first step was to gain better understanding of how families are connected to the river and what their experiences have been. With this as a goal, online and pop-up surveys were created, and pop-up events were planned.

Students and families shared many stories, including how they attended music festivals, cruised on the Channel Cat, walked across the Centennial Bridge, played at river front parks, and fished. We learned that many care deeply about our river's history, have a desire to keep it clean, and simply spend time next to the river.

A few of things that stood out from the surveys and pop-up events:

- Nearly half of the survey respondents said they rarely visit the river or visit only once or twice a year.
- When asked about their interests, "visiting parks and playgrounds" was a top response both in the online and pop-up surveys
- Online survey respondents were most interested in learning about river history and recreation
- Online survey respondents sighted safety as their greatest concern

This feedback, along with the Mississippi River Equity Vision, will be shared with Spring Forward partners who provide programs at camp and/or hosting kids for field trips.



## SURVEY PROCESS:



### Online Survey

An online survey was created and sent to 480 families of children who have attended Spring Forward after school programs, intersession, and summer camps.



### Pop-up Events

We popped up at three Rock Island sites. Earl Hanson Elementary, the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center after school programs and STEAM Night at Ridgewood Elementary School.



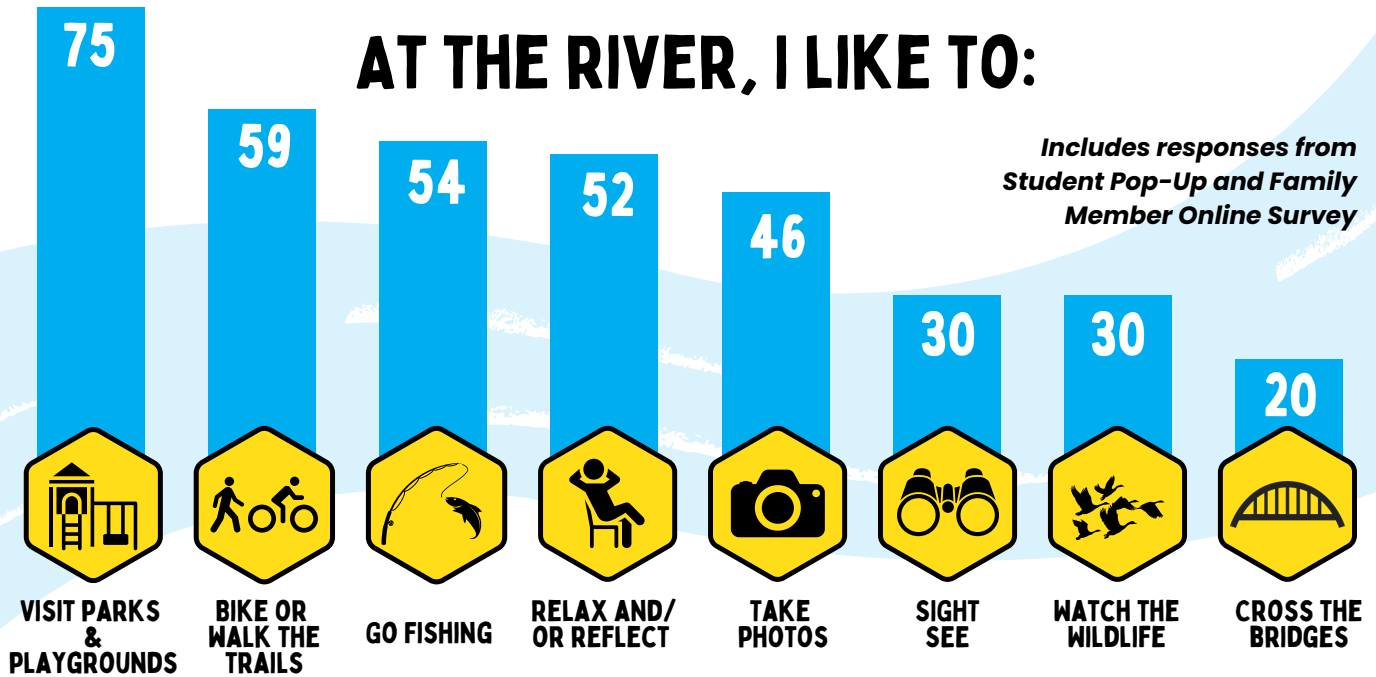
### Student Survey

Students in Spring Forward after school programs were provided the prompt, "The Mississippi River to Me", through visual art, they created artwork that included fishing, throwing rocks, crossing bridges, and cleaning up trash.



# AT THE RIVER, I LIKE TO:

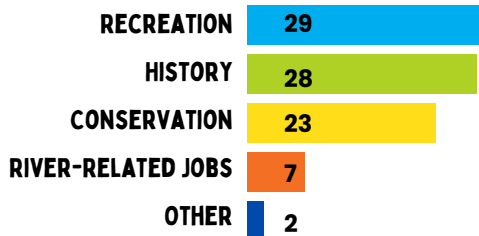
Includes responses from Student Pop-Up and Family Member Online Survey



## ONLINE SURVEY RESULTS

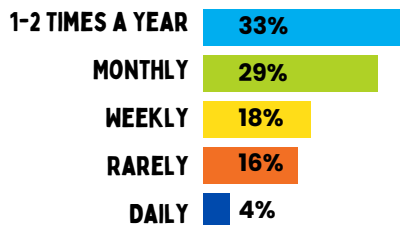
### What would you like to learn more about the Mississippi River?

44 responses



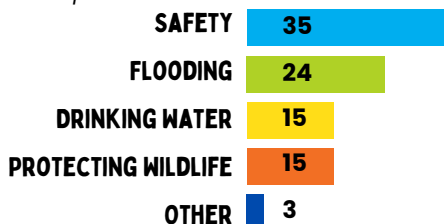
### How often do you visit the Mississippi River or riverfront?

45 responses



### What, if any, concerns do you have about the Mississippi River?

43 responses



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*“I had a great experience riding the Channel Cat with my family.”*

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*“I remember going fishing with my dad and sisters, but I always hated the smell of the river.”*



### Our River Camp Committee

- Alannah Alexander, River Captain (Project Lead), Edison Jr. High
- Dr. Dorian Maag, Ph.D. Rock Island-Milan School District
- Heidi Woeber, Retired, US Fish and Wildlife
- Tee LeShoure, Family Resources
- Nina Struss, Prairie Rivers Network
- Spring Forward Staff - Dan McNeil, Robbie McIntyre, and Jae Crocket

**Questions?** Contact Spring Forward at [info@springforwardqca.org](mailto:info@springforwardqca.org)