

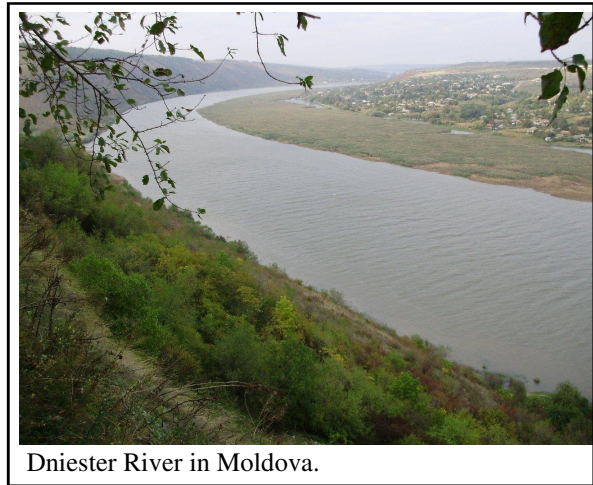
Sister Rivers: Red River of the North And Dniester River

The Sister Rivers project is a collaborative project to develop a relationship between the American and Moldovan partners, focusing on the Dniester River and the Red River of the North. Its primary use is to recognize the importance of water resources in the world.

The Red River of the North's sister river will be the historic Dniester River located in Eastern Europe. The Dniester begins its journey in Ukraine, flows through Moldova, and empties into the Black Sea. It is close to Poland, Russia and Romania.

The sister river relationship has many components including an opportunity to learn more about another part of the world and to develop mutually beneficial connections through visits and web connections to each others people, organizations, agencies and cities.

River Keepers, a local non-profit organization, located in Fargo, North Dakota - Moorhead, Minnesota, is developing the relationship along with several partners including Eco-TIRAS (Chisinau, Moldova), The Rodger Ehnstrom Nature Center (Wahpeton, ND), International Water Institute (Fargo, ND), and The Natural and History Museum of the City of Bendery (Bendery, Moldova).



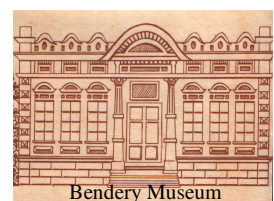
Dniester River in Moldova.

A grant to begin this project was received from Museums & Communities Collaboration Abroad (MCCA) which is a program of the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the US Department of State in partnership with the American Association of Museums.

Utilizing water as the common tie that binds, this sister river relationship will engage the general public and numerous partners in activities that will, in both countries:

- Raise awareness of international rivers and their role in our environment.
- Stimulate understanding of diverse cultures, history and immigration.

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- Provide tools to each museum for sustainable increased community involvement.
- Increase volunteerism and community knowledge of a natural resource.

Key activities include:

- Develop a sister river relationship between the Red River of the North and the Dniester River which are both international rivers.
- Develop a youth Water Festival in Moldova. A Water Festival is a proven educational hands-on event designed to teach youth about water, watersheds and related environmental issues.
- Create tools and experiences for continuing teamwork and communication between students, museum staff, Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and community members.
- Develop exhibits.
- Increase the use of volunteers at each museum through training.
- Visit each others countries.

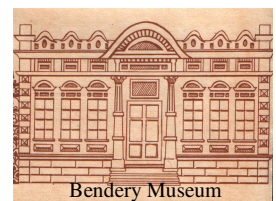


Red River of the North in USA.

For more information:

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Bendery Museum