



Photo Credit: Google Earth



MINNESOTA



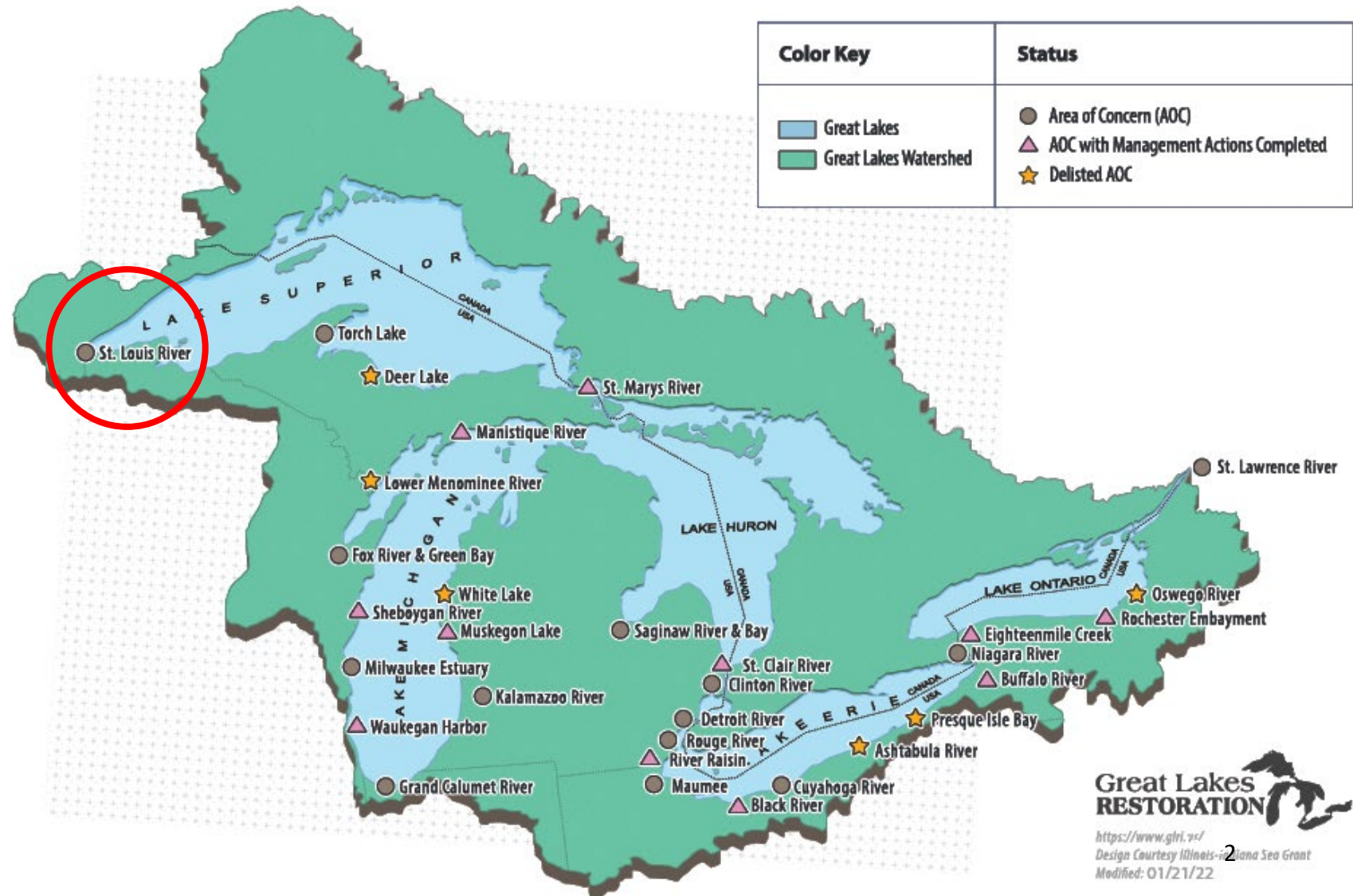
The St. Louis River Area of Concern: History & Progress

Legislative Coordinating Commission - Subcommittee on Water Policy
June 6, 2022

Great Lakes Areas of Concern: *environmental damage from local actions*

1987 GLWQA designation

- 1 of 43 Great Lakes AOCs
- 2nd largest in the U.S.
- “Legacy” damages



Four “coordinating” agencies:



Others provide administrative, technical, and outreach support





“Legacy” issues: *contaminated sediment and lost habitat*

Decades of industrial and municipal waste discharged directly into the St. Louis River from:

- Logging/sawmilling
- Steel manufacturing, metal casting
- Paper milling
- Ship building
- Coal gasification



Photo Credit: spiritlakemarinarv.com

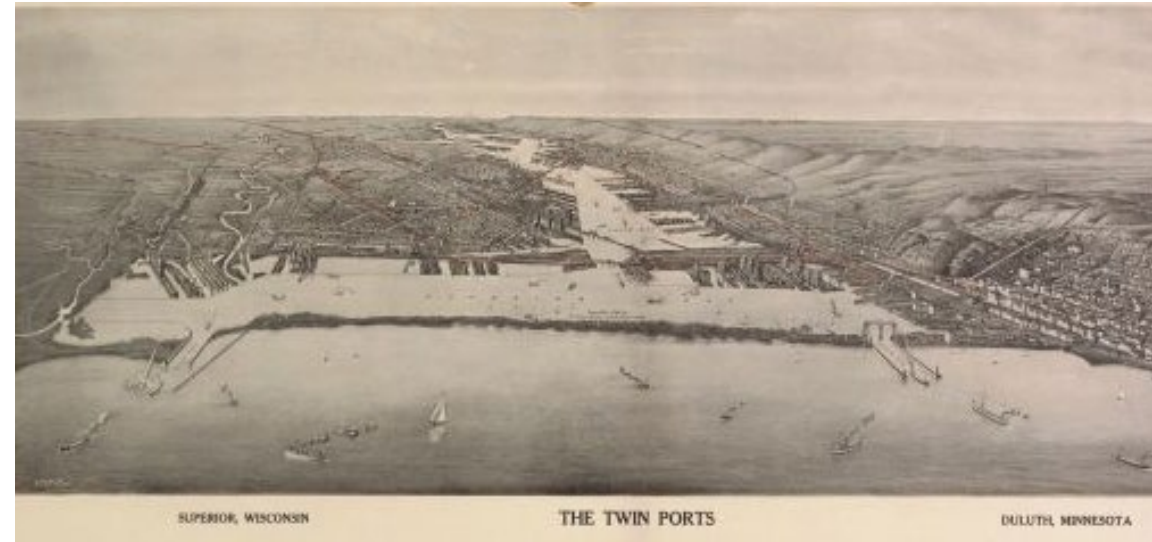


Photo Source: wisconsinhistory.org

Since 1871, wetlands were dredged and filled to create slips for ships and piers for businesses, destroying about 3,400 acres of shallow, open-water aquatic habitat.

Value of Estuary Work: *Human & environmental health*



- Food consumption
- Water exposure
- Contains most of MN's critically imperiled coastal marsh habitat
- The productivity-driver for western Lake Superior
- Is a recreational hot spot

RAP

- Guides work

BUIs

- 9 here
- 3 removed

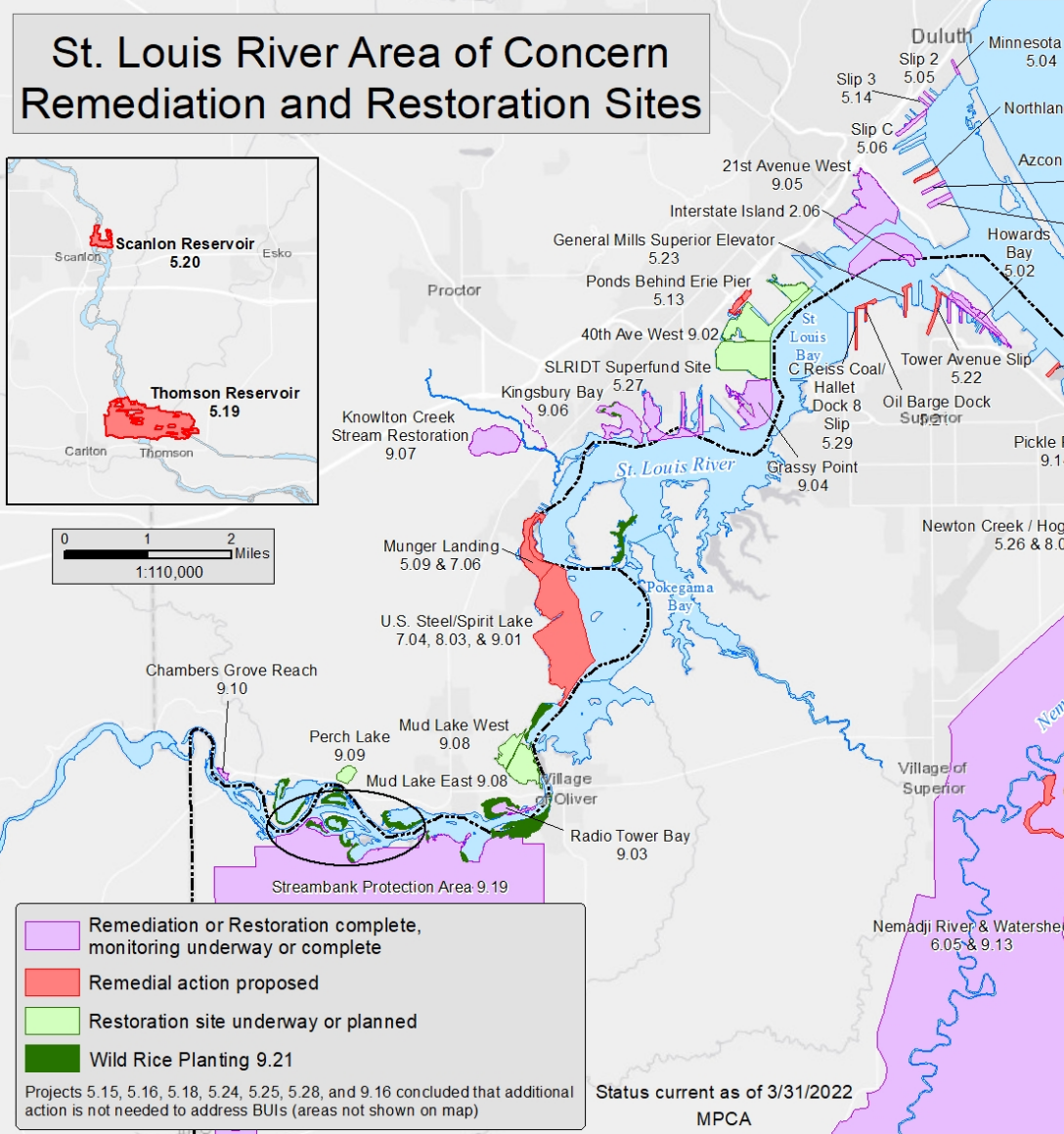
MAs

- 80 total
- 30 remain

BUIs:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Aesthetics	✓											
Fish Tumors & Deformities						✓						
Sediments & Nutrients							✓					
F&W Populations									IP			
Beach Closings & Body Contact												●
Dredging Restrictions											finish construct-ing	●
Benthos												> ●
Fish Consumption Advisories												> ●
F&W Habitat											finish construct-ing	●

St. Louis River Area of Concern

MN Construction Projects: *Close to completion*



Lead	Project Site	2022	2023	2024
MPCA	Ponds Behind Erie Pier	█		
EPA	U.S. Steel/Spirit Lake	█		
MPCA	Scanlon Reservoir	█		
MPCA	40th Ave West	█		
MNDNR	Perch Lake	█	█	
MPCA	Munger Landing	█	█	
MPCA	Thomson Reservoir		█	█
MNDNR	Mud Lake		█	█
MPCA	AGP/Northland Slip			█

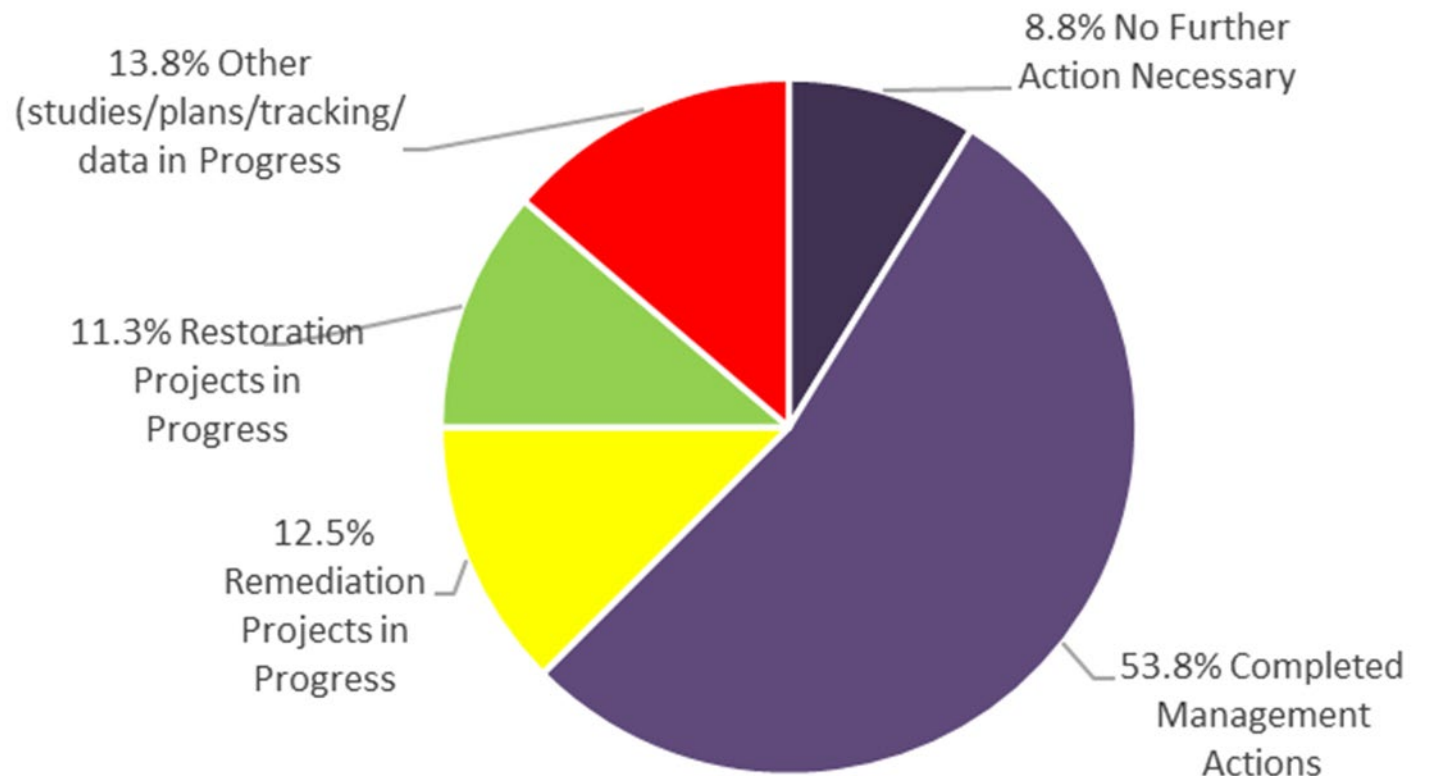
See project details in story maps: search St. Louis River Area Concern Resources on MPCA's website

80 management actions:

- 7 no further action necessary
- 43 actions complete
- 30 actions in progress
 - 10 remediation projects
 - 9 restoration projects
 - 11 “other” actions

(The time needed to complete each management action varies.)

Management Action Status (3/31/22) *62.5% Complete*



FEDERAL:

- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative/ Great Lakes Legacy Act
- Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund
- Federal Emergency Management Agency

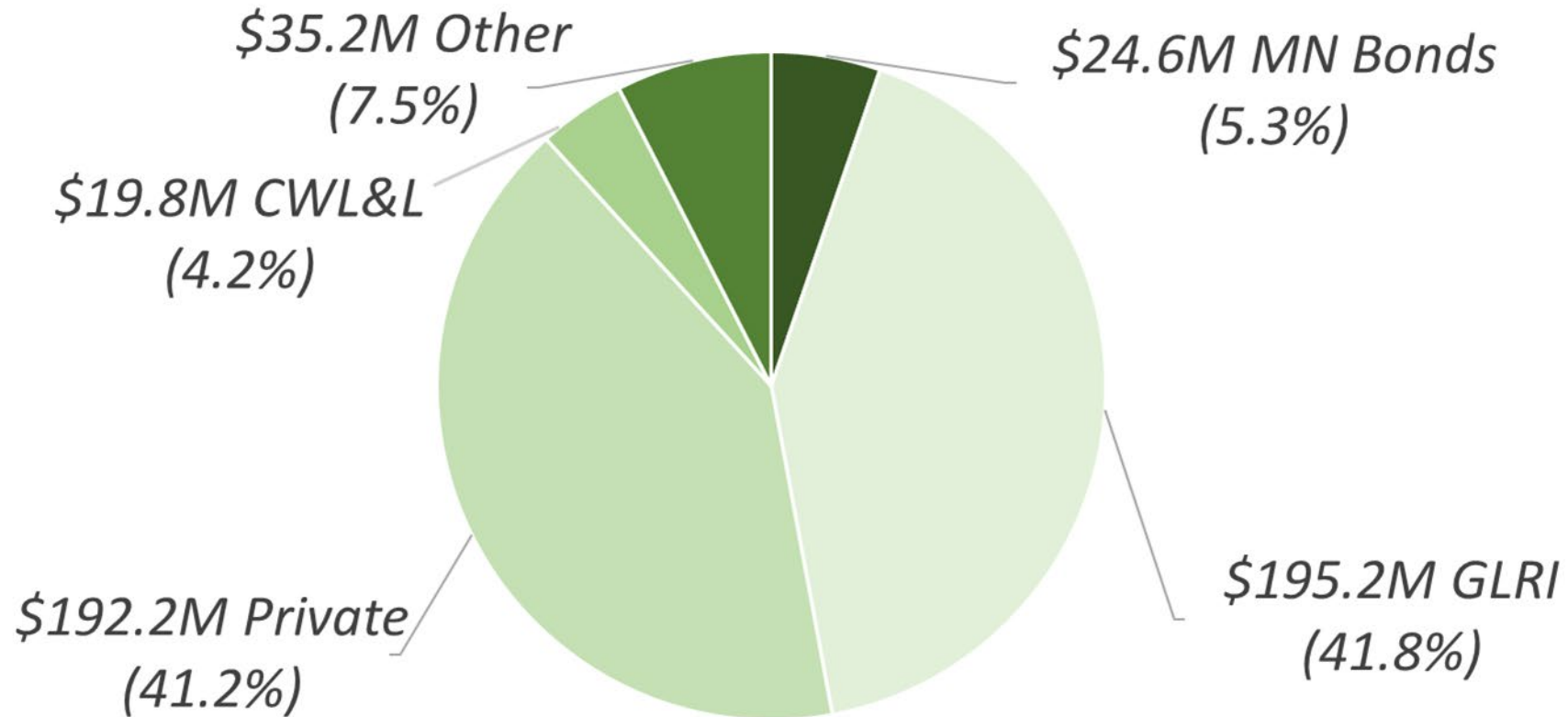


NON-FEDERAL:

- Private
- Natural Resources Damages Assessment Trusts
- Cities & townships
- States:
 - Bonds
 - Environmental funds
 - Clean Water Funds (MN)
 - Outdoor Heritage funds (MN) ⁹

Awarded funds are earmarked for specific projects and cannot be used elsewhere.

Estimated Total Costs for all MN Remediation & Restoration Projects (~\$466.9M)





Barb Huberty, MPCA St. Louis River Area of Concern Coordinator
barbara.huberty@state.mn.us (218/302-6630)