





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

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

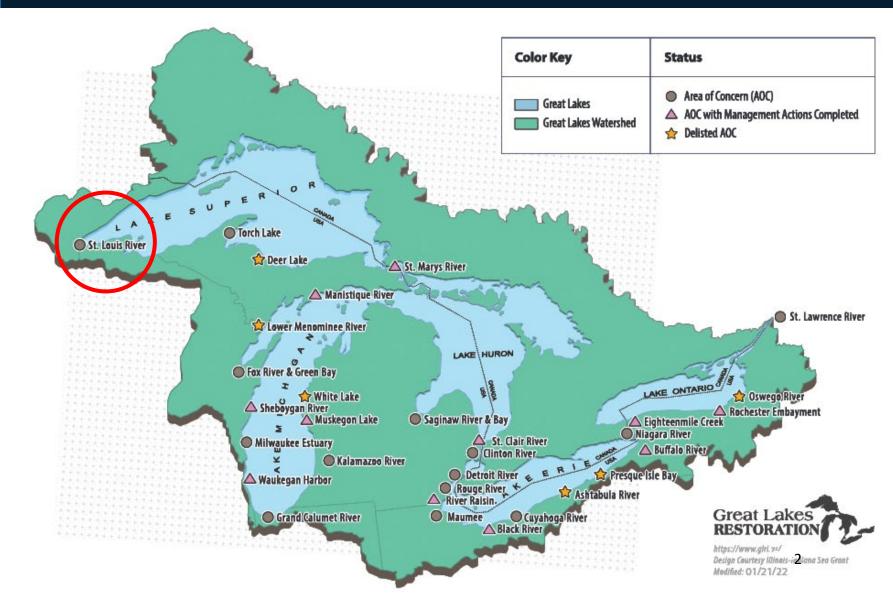
## Great Lakes Areas of Concern: environmental damage from local actions

#### **1987 GLWQA designation**

- 1 of 43 Great Lakes AOCs
- 2<sup>nd</sup> largest in the U.S.
- "Legacy" damages

St. Louis River

Area of Concern



# Many partners: *provide support in various ways*

#### Four "coordinating" agencies:



#### Others provide administrative, technical, and outreach support



## "Legacy" issues: contaminated sediment and lost habitat

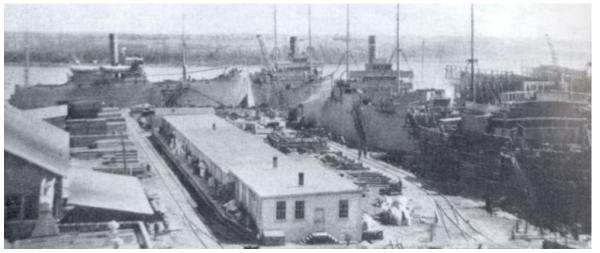
Decades of industrial and municipal waste discharged directly into the St. Louis River from:

- Logging/sawmilling
- Steel manufacturing, metal casting
- Paper milling

St. Louis River

Area of Concern

- Ship building
- Coal gasification



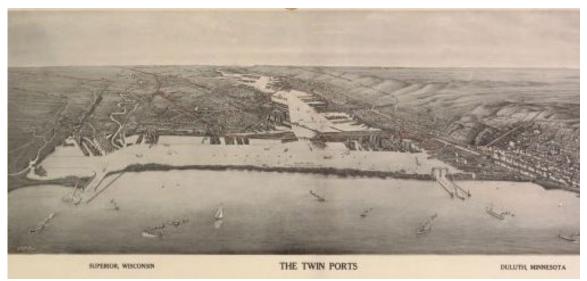


Photo Source: wisconsinhistory.org

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.

Photo Credit: spiritlakemarinarv.com

## Value of Estuary Work: Human & environmental health

#### St. Louis River Area of Concern







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

## Remedial Action Plan: structured progress

		BUIs:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
RAP	<ul> <li>Guides work</li> </ul>	Aesthetics	$\checkmark$						/					
BUIS		Fish Tumors & Deformities						$\checkmark$		/				
	• 9 here	Sediments & Nutrients							$\checkmark$					
	• 3 removed	F&W Populations							•		IP			
	• 80 total	Beach Closings & Body Contact												•
	• 30 remain	Dredging Restrictions											finish construct -ing	•
		Benthos												>•
		Fish Consumption Advisories												>•
		F&W Habitat											finish construct -ing	•

## MN Construction Projects: *Close to completion*

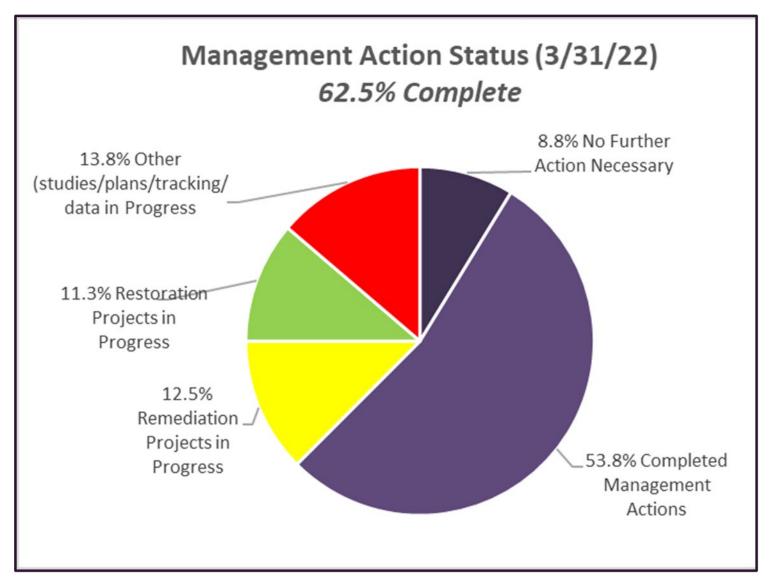
St. Louis River Area of Concerr	Slip 3 5.05 (A)	Lead	Project Site	2022	2023	2024			
Remediation and Restoration Sites		MPCA	<b>Ponds Behind Erie Pier</b>						
Scanlon 5.20 Esko 5		EPA	U.S. Steel/Spirit Lake						
Prodor	5.13 Vest 9.02 Bayer Conti Tower Avenue Slip	MPCA	Scanlon Reservoir						
Thomson Reservoir 5.19 Cariton Thomson P.07 Cariton Thomson P.07 Cariton Thomson P.07	Hallet 5.22 Dock 8 Oil Barge Dock Slip Supertor 5.29 Pickle P	MPCA	40th Ave West						
0 1 2 Munger Landing	ouis River         Glassy Point         9.14           9.04         9.04         9.04         9.04           Newton Creek / Hog         5.26 & 8.04<	MNDNR	Perch Lake						
1:110,000 U.S. Steel/Spirit Lake 7.04, 8.03, & 9.01	okegama Bayt	MPCA	Munger Landing						
Chambers Grove Reach 9.10 Durch Lake West	The second	MPCA	Thomson Reservoir						
Perch Lake 9.08 9.09 Mud Lake East 9.08 Village	Village of Superior	MNDNR	Mud Lake						
Streambank Protection Area 9.19	r Bay	MPCA	AGP/Northland Slip						
Remediation or Restoration complete, monitoring underway or complete Remedial action proposed Restoration site underway or planned	Nemadji River & Watershed 6.05 & 9.13	See project details in story maps: search St. Louis River							
Wild Rice Planting 9.21 Projects 5.15, 5.16, 5.18, 5.24, 5.25, 5.28, and 9.16 concluded that additional action is not needed to address BUIs (areas not shown on map)	current as of 3/31/2022	Area Concern Resources on MPCA's website							

# SLRAOC-Wide Progress: 62.5% complete

#### 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.)



## Funding: every possible source

### **FEDERAL:**

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

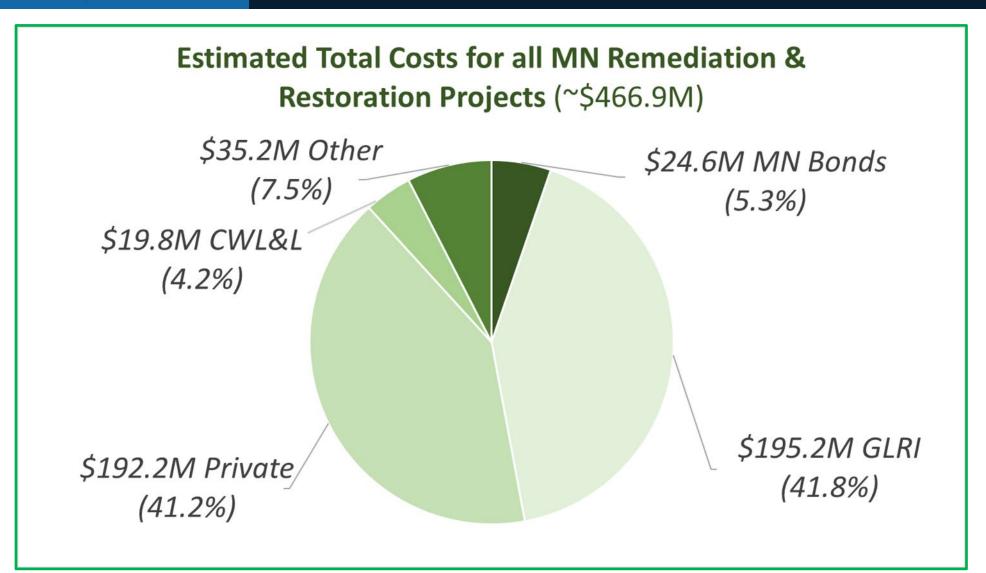


Awarded funds are earmarked for specific projects and cannot be used elsewhere.

## **NON-FEDERAL:**

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

MN Construction Projects: *Estimated totals by source* 



## Questions?

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