River Voice

St. Louis River Alliance News & Updates

OCTOBER 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

St. Louis River Roast

The St. Louis River Alliance is proud to partner with Alakef Coffee on the new St. Louis River Roast, a well-balanced, lively cup of coffee that can be enjoyed at home or on the banks of the St. Louis River.

Best part is 100% of net profits will be donated to the St. Louis River Alliance in order to support our mission.

LEARN MORE & PURCHASE HERE

Woodstock Bay Invasive Species Removal & Clean Up

Thank you to the volunteers who came out and helped us clean up and remove invasive Purple Loosestrife at Woodstock Bay Landing in Superior on 9/21/22!

Purple Loosestrife is a wetland plant with showy purple flowers and is considered an invasive species brought to America from Europe and Asia.

The Alliance and volunteers removed two large contractor bags full of Purple Loosestrife flowers, as well as collected garbage at the landing.

LEARN MORE

Estuary Extravaganza & National Water Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Thanks to everyone who joined us! PUT PICTURES AND RECAP OF EVENT HERE.

More info

About the Trail
Watch the short video above to learn more about the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail.

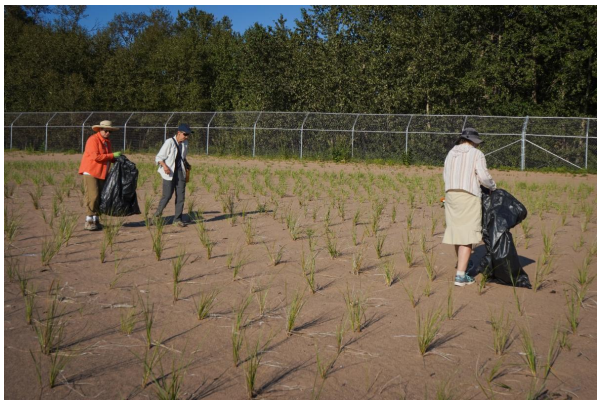
Interested in exploring the Trail?
The St. Louis River Alliance has free National Water Trail maps and online PDF maps to point you in the right direction!

Learn More Here

SLRA Walked Along the River with the College of St. Scholastic Ecology Class

We had fun with the College of St. Scholastica Ecology students a few weeks ago! We walked down the Waabizheshikana trail (previously the Marten Trail) and explored the various ways humans have interacted with and changed the River in our past, present and looking towards the future.

The Alliance shared about the St. Louis River Area of Concern process and ways students can get involved with the clean up efforts on the River, as well as events they an attend!



Wisconsin Point Piping Plover Habitat Work

The St. Louis River Alliance has been actively engaged in Piping Plover efforts in the St. Louis River estuary for over a decade. In partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources we help manage and maintain the Piping Plover Bird Sanctuary on Wisconsin Point to help create nesting and foraging habitat for the endangered shorebird.

Throughout the season (March - October), we have been working on site maintenance including removal of woody debris, controlling unwanted vegetation by picking weeds, cutting shrubs and burning.

Thank you to Master Naturalist-Head of the Lakes Chapter volunteers, St. Louis River Alliance staff and other community members who have helped make this site a favorable environment for the Piping Plover!

Manoomin/Wild Rice Planting in Kingsbury Bay

On September 14th, 2022 the St. Louis River Alliance (SLRA) in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), planted approx. 500 pounds of manoomin (Ojibwe name for wild rice) in the St. Louis River Estuary. This was the 7th year SLRA has had the opportunity to participate in these restoration efforts.

During this time volunteers learned about manoomin ecology, cultural significance and restoration in the St. Louis River and reseeded the wetlands in Kingsbury Bay for reestablishment. In the past, seed has been replanted around Clough Island.

Monitoring by the 1854 Treaty Authority shows that Manoomin growth progress in the estuary is slow, but steadily increasing in density. With consistent planting and management, partners are hopeful that self-sustaining manoomin will be re-established. The restoration supports the removal of the St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) Fish and Wildlife Habitat impairment and establishs opportunities for harvest of Manoomin with a goal of 275 acres of rice by 2025.

CLICK HERE to learn more about the cultural and ecological importance of this incredible resource!

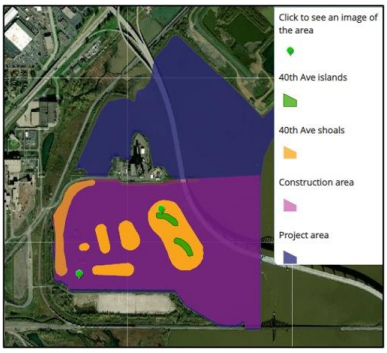
St. Louis River Area of Concern Updates

The St. Louis River Area of Concern (SLRAOC) is one of 31 AOCs in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes basin. It was designated as an AOC under the U.S. – Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987 because of significant impacts that occurred before modern environmental laws were in place. Click here to learn more

Following the SLRAOC Remedial Action Plan, state and federal agencies have been implementing management actions to address the legacy impairments. If you look, you can now see the work in progress throughout the

SLRAOC: contractors are busy each construction season, plant and animal populations are rebounding, water is cleaner, and lost habitat is being restored.

Keep reading for current Area of Concern project updates.



40th Ave. West Habitat Restoration

Underwater shoals (gold areas) were constructed in 2017 and 2018 to restore shallow, sheltered bay habitat at the 40th Ave West project site.

To spur the recovery of bottom-dwelling plants and invertebrates, natural biomedium was recovered from Kingsbury Bay in 2020 and placed in a six-inch layer on top of the westernmost shoal and the southern half of the easternmost shoal. This year, “manufactured” biomedium is being added. Clean and fine sediment (dredged from the Superior Entry) is mixed with seeds of eight aquatic plant species and then broadcast in a six-inch layer on top of the remaining shoals. **Learn More**

Scanlon Reservoir

The in-water remedial construction at the Scanlon Reservoir will be completed by 9/17! The contractors have successfully placed the activated carbon amendment over 13.5 acres of sediment within the reservoir that had been contaminated with dioxins and furans. Project work will continue this fall and into next spring with upland site restoration and re-vegetation.

The MPCA and EPA are grateful to the entire project team for keeping this Great Lakes Legacy Act project running smoothly. In the photo to left, a drone captured the equipment arrangement that was needed to precisely apply the amendment. **Learn More**

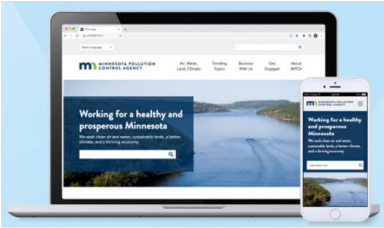
Kingsbury Bay Celebration Event

On September 12th, Sarah Strommen, the Commissioner of the MN Department of Natural Resources, was in Duluth to celebrate the completion of the Kingsbury Bay and Grassy Point habitat restoration projects. Amy Pelka, Section Chief at the Great Lakes National Program Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, was also present to explain how funds from the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative helped make this project possible. Other speakers included Duluth Mayor Larson, Duluth Council member Terese Tomanek, and Charlie Wooley, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Speakers on the new Kingsbury Bay fishing pier (from left to right): MNDNR Commissioner Sarah Strommen, USFWS Regional Director Charlie Wooley, Duluth Mayor Larson, GLNPO Section Chief Amy Pelka, and Duluth Councilor Terese Tomanek.

Redesigned MPCA Website

The MPCA’s newly redesigned and reorganized **website** will launch the week of September 12th. Check out the new St. Louis River Area



of Concern pages and send your feedback to **barbara.huberty@state.mn.us**.

About the Alliance

Watch this short video to hear what our members are saying!

The St. Louis River Alliance is a membership organization committed to supporting the resiliency of the St. Louis River. As stewards we are the voice of the river, working together to protect, restore and enhance the St. Louis River.

Ways to Support the Alliance:

- **Become a Member**
- **Make a Donation**
- **Come to an SLRA event**
- **Volunteer**
- Follow and share our work on social media; **Facebook**, **Instagram**

Thank you to our $2,500 *River Proctors Business Partners* for their continued support and stewardship of the River! Their contributions make our work possible:
FORIVER/Anndrea's Art, **Hartel's Disposal**, **JF Brennan**, **Oneida**, **Sappi Cloquet**, and **Spirit Lake Marina & RV**

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