

River Voice

St. Louis River Alliance News & Updates

September 2022 Highlights



Estuary Extravaganza & National Water Trail Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Wed. Sept. 28th, 5-7 p.m.
Chambers Grove Park

The St. Louis River Alliance and partners are excited to invite you to the first ever Estuary Extravaganza. Join us at Chambers Grove Park (13404 Mn-23, Duluth) for a night of free family fun!

- **Nature-inspired educational activities** from Hawk Ridge Bird Observatory, 1854 Treaty Authority, Superior Hiking Trail Association, Master Naturalists, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, the St. Louis River Alliance and more!
- Plant and mushroom identification display

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The St. Louis River Alliance has a few volunteer opportunities coming up. Come as long or as little as you'd like. More hands make for easy work.

If you are interested in volunteering for any of these events you can email Alyssa at Outreach@StLouisRiver.org, or just show up. Groups and other organizations are highly encouraged to get involved!



Piping Plover Habitat Cleanup on Wisconsin Point

Sat. Sept. 17th, 10-2 p.m. and/or
Mon. Sept. 19th, 11-2 p.m.

Join the Alliance on Wisconsin Point for additional site maintenance work including weeding and removing unwanted vegetation/debris.

Bring water, sun hat, gloves, kneeling pad, snacks, and sunscreen to stay comfortable

Driving Directions:

- Kayak and Standup Paddle Board demos from Ski Hut
- Live music from Cory Coffman
- Local food from Mama Roots Food Bus
- 'St. Louis River Roast' tastings from Alakef Coffee

There will be a short program from 6:00-6:30 p.m. including special guest speakers and the ribbon cutting ceremony for the St. Louis River Estuary National Water Trail. Attendees are encouraged to launch their kayaks and canoes during the event.

[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](#)

- Hwy 2 East/Hwy 53 South through Superior, WI. Turn left onto Moccasin Mike Road (toward City of Superior landfill). Turn left onto Wisconsin Point Road (before you reach landfill).
- NOTE: Last public restroom at first parking lot on right (Lot 1).
- Drive almost all the way to the end of road. You will pass through the pine tree forest and Native American burial grounds (on right).
- Just past this there is a gravel road to the Left. There will be an SLRA sign to designate the location.
- Please walk down gravel approach toward the Bay side of WI PT, walk through one vehicle gate and then through a 12-foot-tall perimeter fence gate. Turn left and walk down the beach to check-in with SLRA staff. Enjoy the weeding fun!



Cleanup & Invasive Species Removal @ Woodstock Bay Landing Wed. Sept. 21st, 5-6:30 p.m.

We will be removing Purple Loosestrife flowers by hand as well as collecting garbage at Woodstock Bay Landing located at 15 White Birch Trail, Superior, WI 54880.

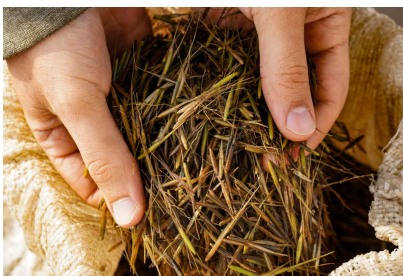
Purple Loosestrife is a wetland plant with showy purple flowers and is considered an invasive species.

We will be working in and near the water, so ***please wear long clothing and high-boots/waders if you have them!*** Bring your own drinking water. We will provide clippers, gloves and garbage bags.

Manoomin/Wild Rice Planting in Kingsbury Bay



Pulling stored wild rice out of river to prepare for planting.



Manoomin (Ojibwe word for wild rice) seed.



Paddling to Kingsbury Bay for planting.

On Wednesday, September 14th, St. Louis River Alliance volunteers helped plant ~500 pounds of manoomin (wild rice) seed into the goose exclosures in Kingsbury Bay. This was the second year the Alliance planted in Kingsbury Bay, and the seventh year of planting in general.

Thank you to Thomas Howes, Fond du Lac Band Member and Natural Resources Program Manager, for opening the day in a good way!

This effort was in partnership with the Wisconsin DNR, though it is a part of a much larger Manoomin Restoration Partnership in the St. Louis River Estuary which includes partners from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, the St. Louis River Alliance and additional tribal partners and nonprofits working together to restore at least 275 acres of wild rice.

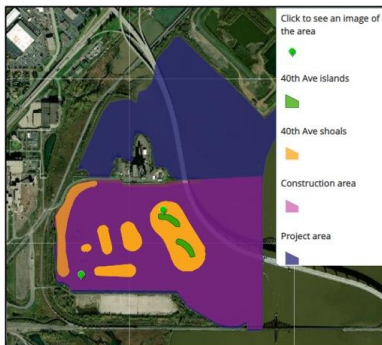
St. Louis River Area of Concern Updates

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.

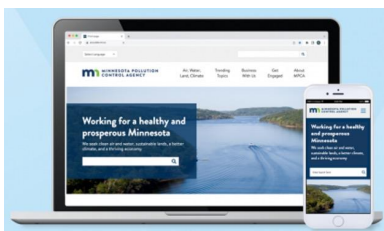
The MPCA and EPA are grateful to the entire project team for keeping this Great Lakes Legacy Act project running smoothly. In the photo to left, a drone captured the equipment arrangement that was needed to precisely apply the amendment. [Learn More](#)



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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