

13. Point

Recommended Actions:

The cities of Duluth and Superior and the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin should protect all of the undeveloped and natural areas of Minnesota Point (Park Point) and Wisconsin Point, and should restore natural plant communities to provide optimum habitat for breeding and migrating wildlife. The jurisdictions should also protect and maintain the conditions that sustain the natural geophysical dynamics associated with these bay-mouth bar ecosystems.

- (1) Superior should protect Wisconsin Point through special designation and education.
 - (a) The Superior Waterfront Redevelopment Commission should pursue actions in Waterfront Plan, including designation as a Natural Sand Dune Ecosystem Preserve.
 - (b) The Superior Waterfront Redevelopment Commission and City of Superior should educate users and the public about Wisconsin Point's unique ecosystem.
- (2) City of Superior, with WDNR, should initiate a habitat management program to encourage (protect, increase, expand, reestablish) native plant communities.
- (3) City of Duluth and other landowners should provide permanent protection to undeveloped portions of Minnesota Point. This could involve special designations (Minnesota Point a Sand Dune Ecosystem Preserve, etc.), a land trust, or conservancy group.
- (4) Residents of Minnesota Point are encouraged to assume active stewardship.
- (5) MDNR and City of Duluth should initiate a habitat management program on Minnesota Point and Hearing Island to encourage (protect, increase, expand, reestablish) native plant communities.
- (6) Duluth and Superior should develop and implement a management plan to protect and restore the Minnesota-Wisconsin Point bay-mouth bar ecosystem, with property owners and HTAC.

Implementors:

City of Duluth, City of Superior, MDNR, WDNR, owners of public and private lands on Wisconsin and Minnesota Points, and the Metropolitan Interstate Committee's Harbor Technical Advisory Committee.

Actions Taken:

5/94: Recommendations sent to eight listed implementors.

4/98: Follow up letters sent to cities of Duluth and Superior.

6/99: Minnesota Point Environmental Management Plan was completed. Copy available at library and CAC office.

9/00: Superior Water, Light & Power donated land from the airport to the entry on Minnesota Point to the Minnesota Land Trust. They are waiting for a cabin to be removed so it can be designated a scientific and natural area. The Corps of Engineers land by the piers is in the process of being sold.

11/00: The US Fish & Wildlife Corps of Engineers is holding on to Minnesota side of the pier but they plan to surplus the Wisconsin side. The General Service Administration (GSA) will contact federal then state agencies to see if they have an interest in the area. The USF&W will work with WDNR to explore making it a scientific and natural area.

11/00: Letter sent to MDNR.

Project Status:

This project does not appear to have a plan in place to address the problems stated. A plan of action needs to be established.