



# 2023 St. Louis River Area of Concern Celebration of Progress

**April 13, 2023**

SLRAOC Coordinators: Rick Gitar (FdL), Melissa Sjolund (MNDNR),  
Barb Huberty (MPCA), and Matt Steiger (WDNR)







Photo Credit: WDNR

- ✓ Area of Concern Program
- ✓ Upcoming 2023 project highlights
- ✓ Staying informed



Photo Credit: WDNR

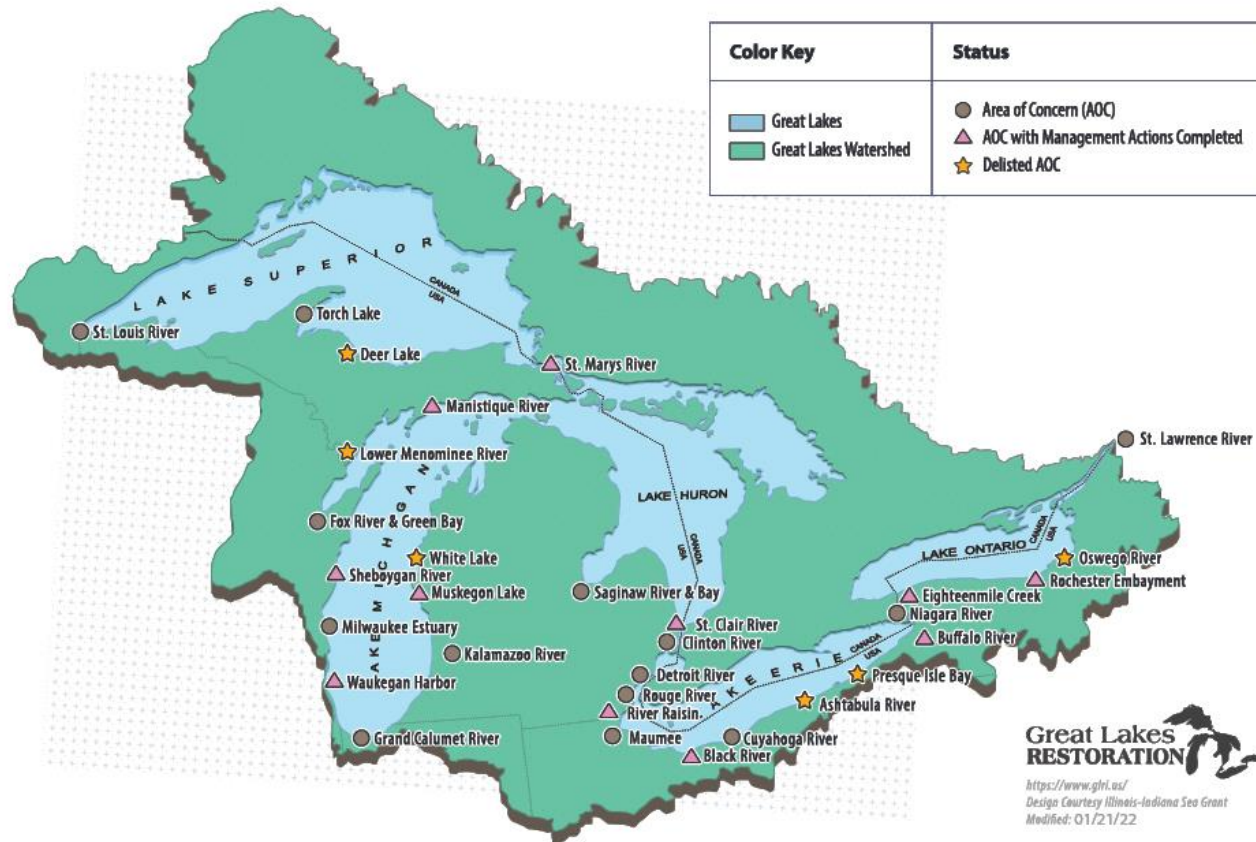


Photo Credits: MPCA





## U.S. Great Lakes Areas of Concern



The **1987** Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement established **43** of the most polluted locations on the Great Lakes.

*These “Areas of Concern” are the focus of comprehensive cleanup and restoration efforts.*

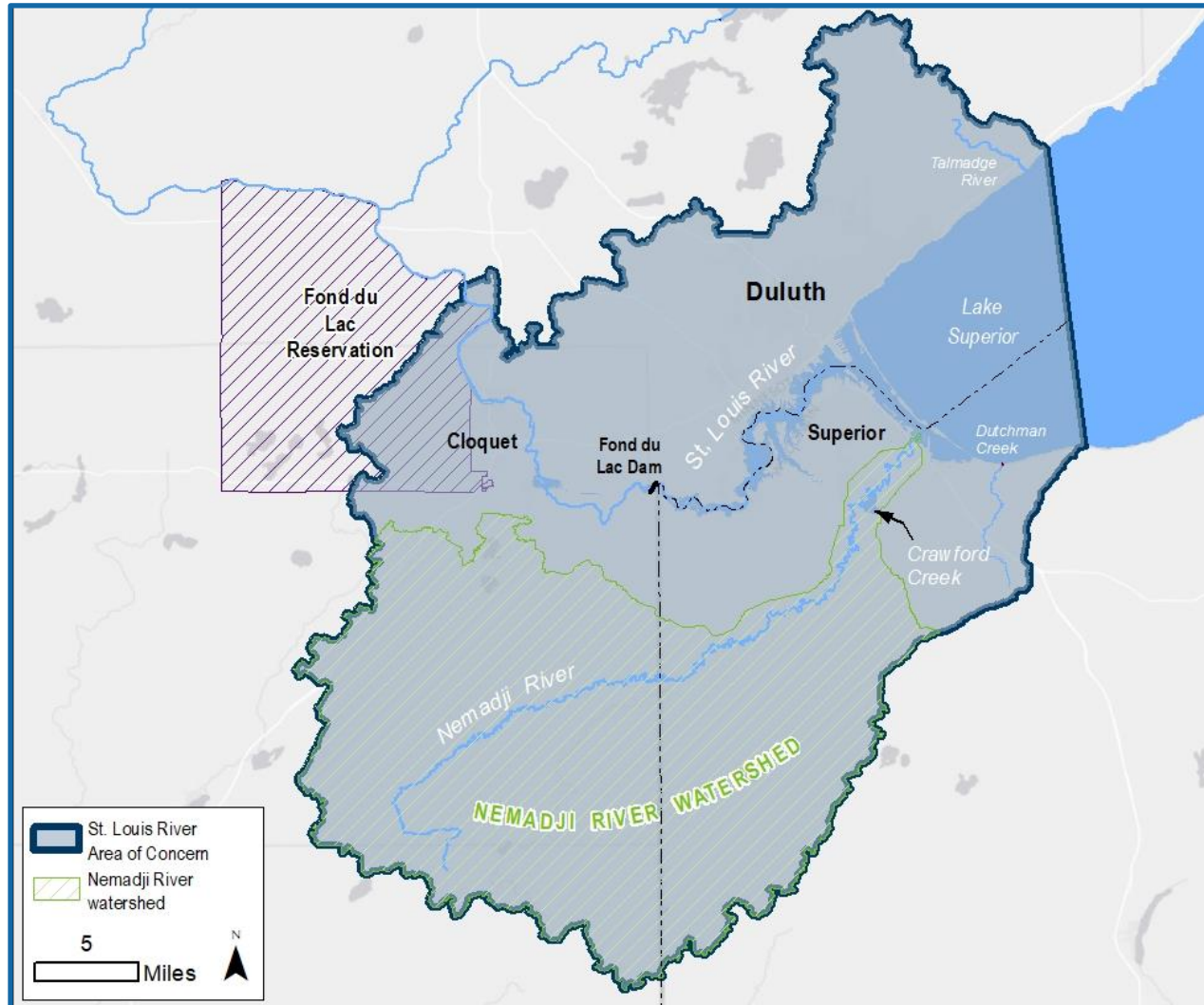
Four “coordinating” agencies:



Others provide administrative, technical, and outreach support



## The St. Louis River AOC Boundary



## 2022 Remedial Action Plan 80 Management Actions

**St. Louis River Area of Concern**  
**2022 Remedial Action Plan**  
Reflects amendments to the 2021 RAP  
October 1, 2021 – September 30, 2022

Published February 2023  
EGAD Number: 3900-2023-04

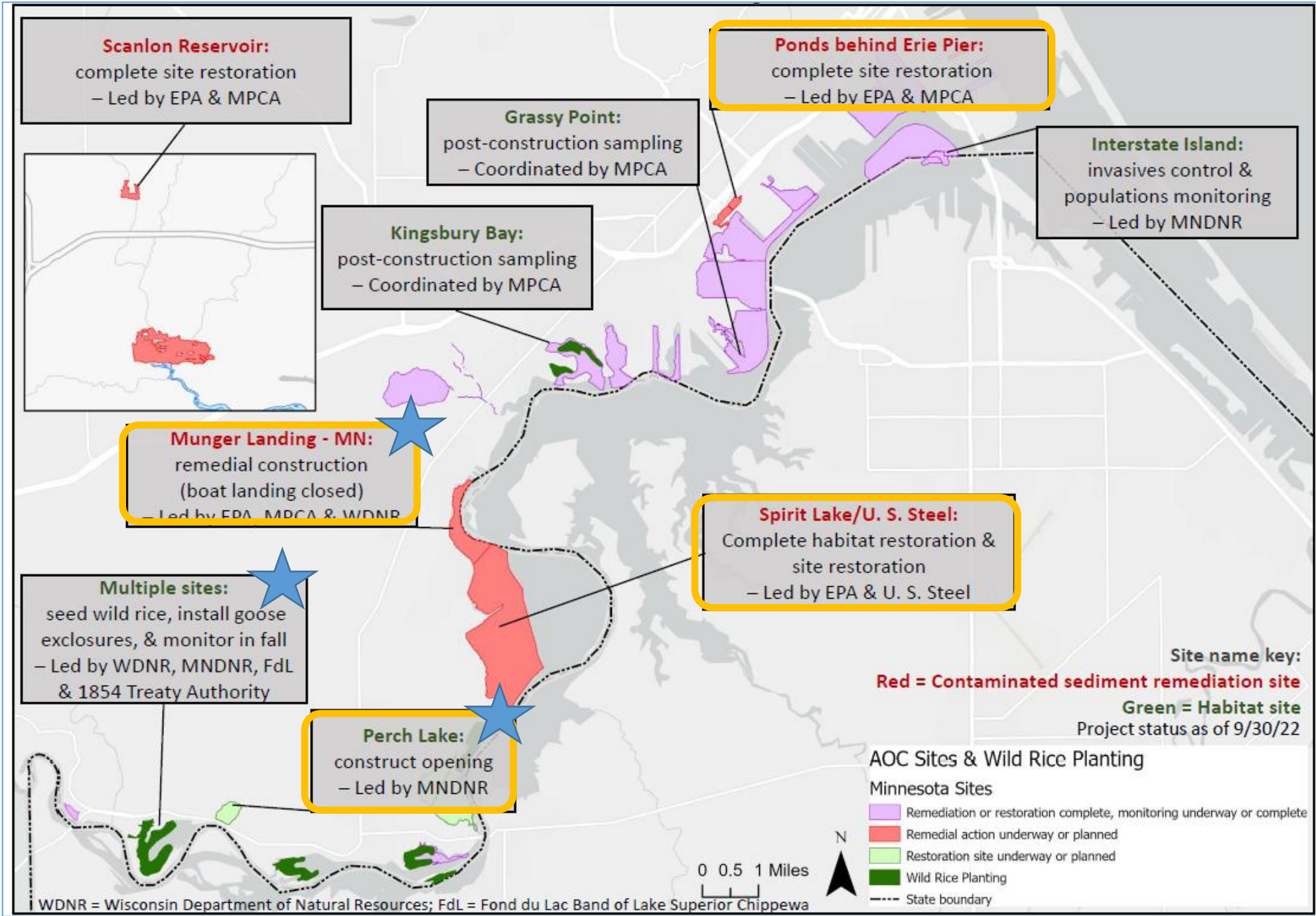


# 2023 SLRAOC Work in Minnesota

Active construction = Public safety concerns, access restricted



Highlighted in Presentation

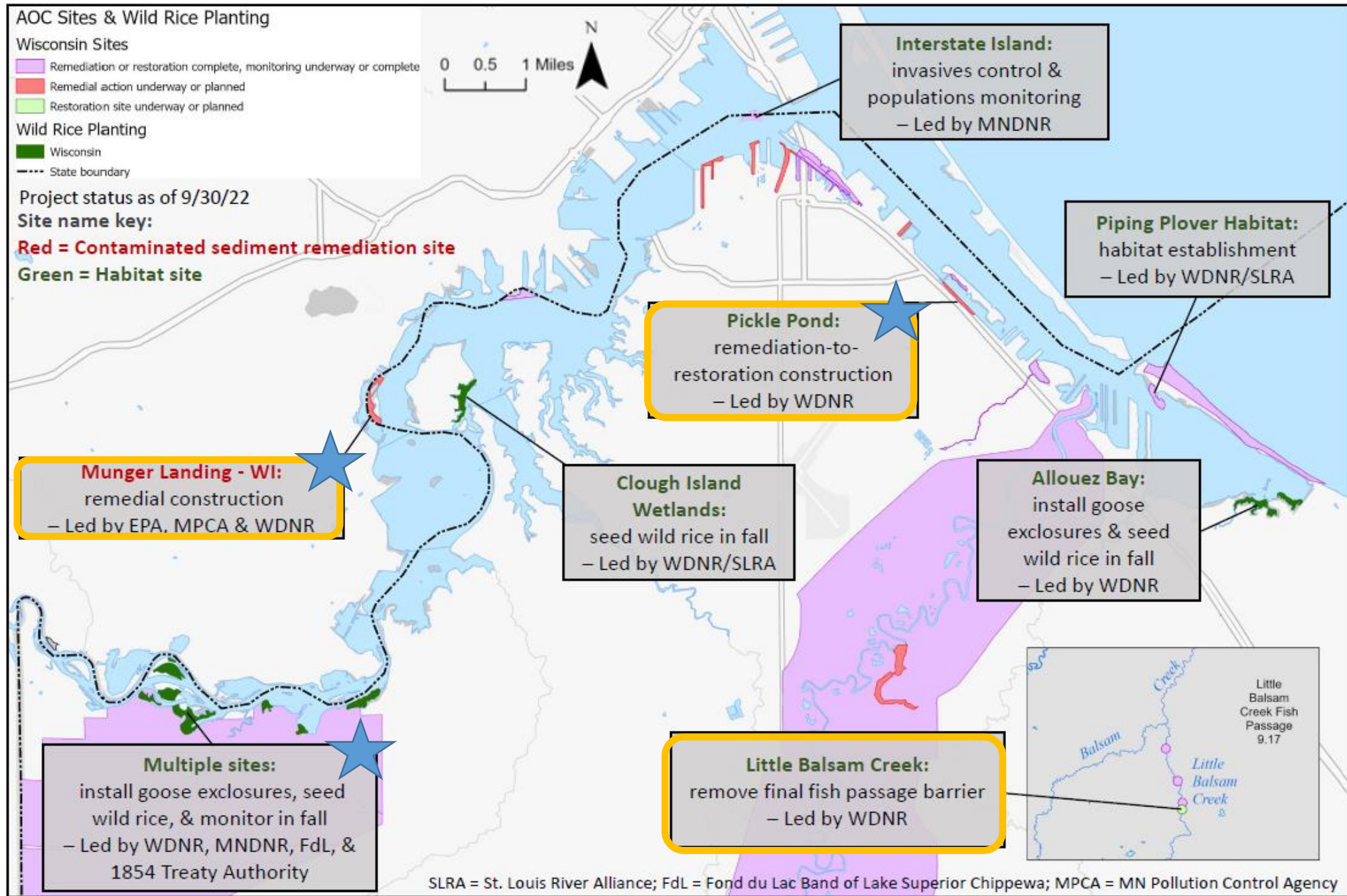


# 2023 SLRAOC Work in Wisconsin

Active construction =  
Public safety concerns, access restricted



★  
Highlighted in  
Presentation





**Problem:** Contaminants left behind from historic industrial discharges threaten human health and the environment.

**Project Objectives:** Remove legacy contamination, restore aquatic habitat, and improve recreation access.



### 2022 Work:

- ✓ Dewatering facility and water treatment systems constructed
- ✓ 79,000 CY of contaminated sediments removed/disposed

### 2023 Work:

- Dredge/dispose of remaining sediment (21,000 CY)
- Place clean cover material
- Restore nearshore fish habitat
- Restore upland vegetation
- Construct kayak landing
- Restore boat launch and parking lots



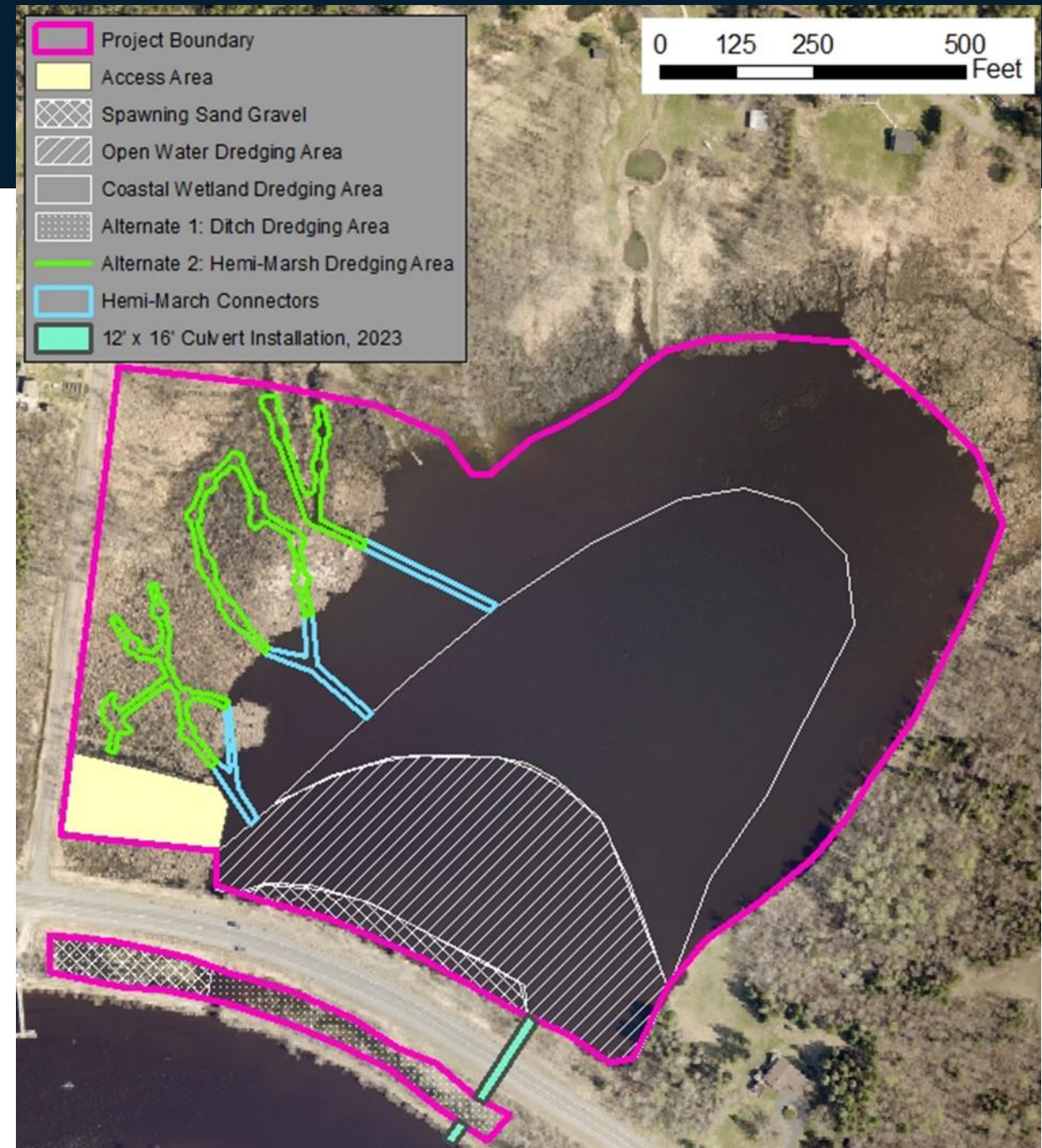


**Problem:** Perch Lake is isolated from the main river channel by Hwy 23.

- sediment is high
- oxygen is low
- habitat is poor

**Project Objectives:** Restore coastal wetlands, deep water, spawning habitat, marsh bird habitat, and hydrologic connection.

*Photo Credit: MNDNR*







**Phase 1 (2022-23):** Dredging

**Phase 2 (2023):** install culvert  
under highway

- 135' long + 48' aprons = 183'
- 34 sections
- 1.4 million lbs (700 tons)!

**Phase 3 (2024):** install opening  
under city trail



**Problem:** once abundant, manoomin (wild rice) had been nearly eradicated in the estuary.

**Project Objectives:**  
Implement the Wild Rice Restoration Plan with a goal of restoring 275 acres.

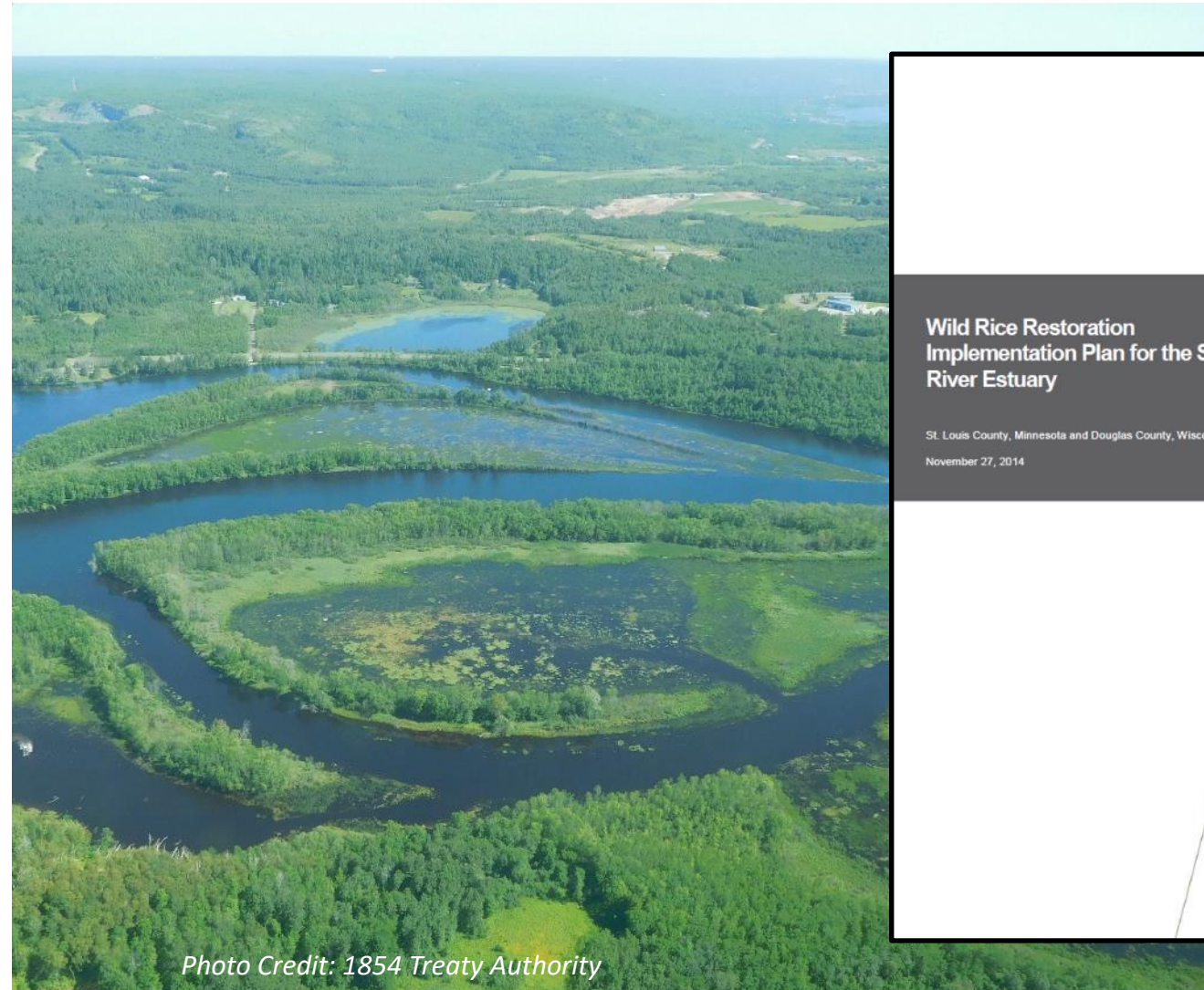
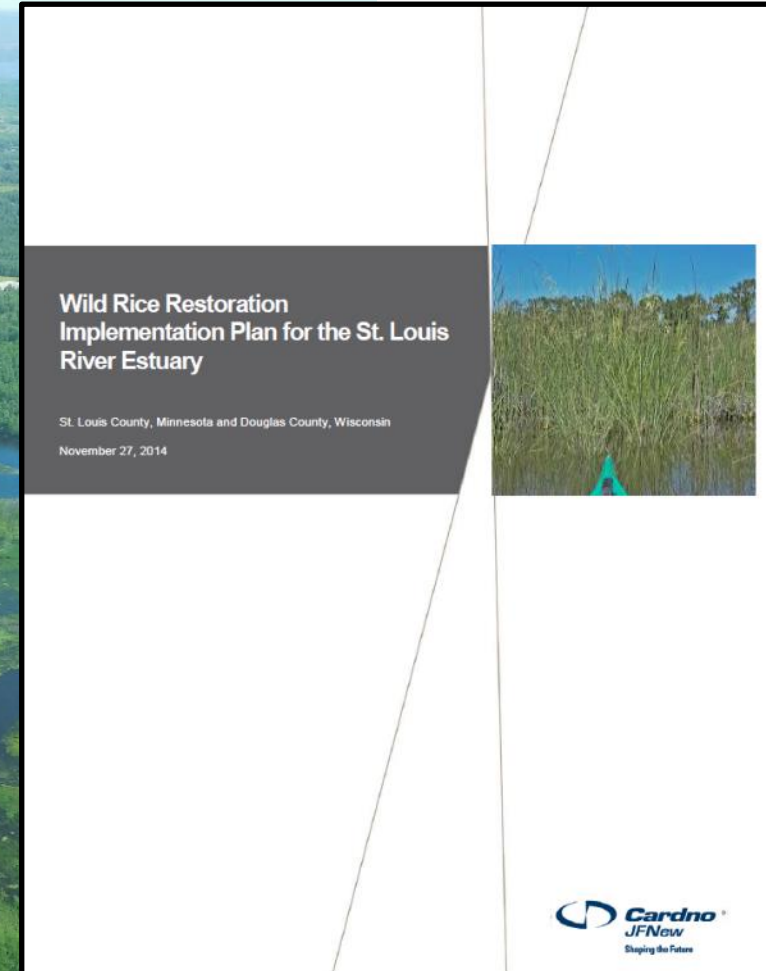


Photo Credit: 1854 Treaty Authority





## 2023 Work:

- Install goose exclosures
- MN/WI goose management
- Harvesting, seeding, and monitoring
- Complete Restoration Plan update

Manoomin restoration is planned at up to 14 sites in the AOC, including Allouez Bay

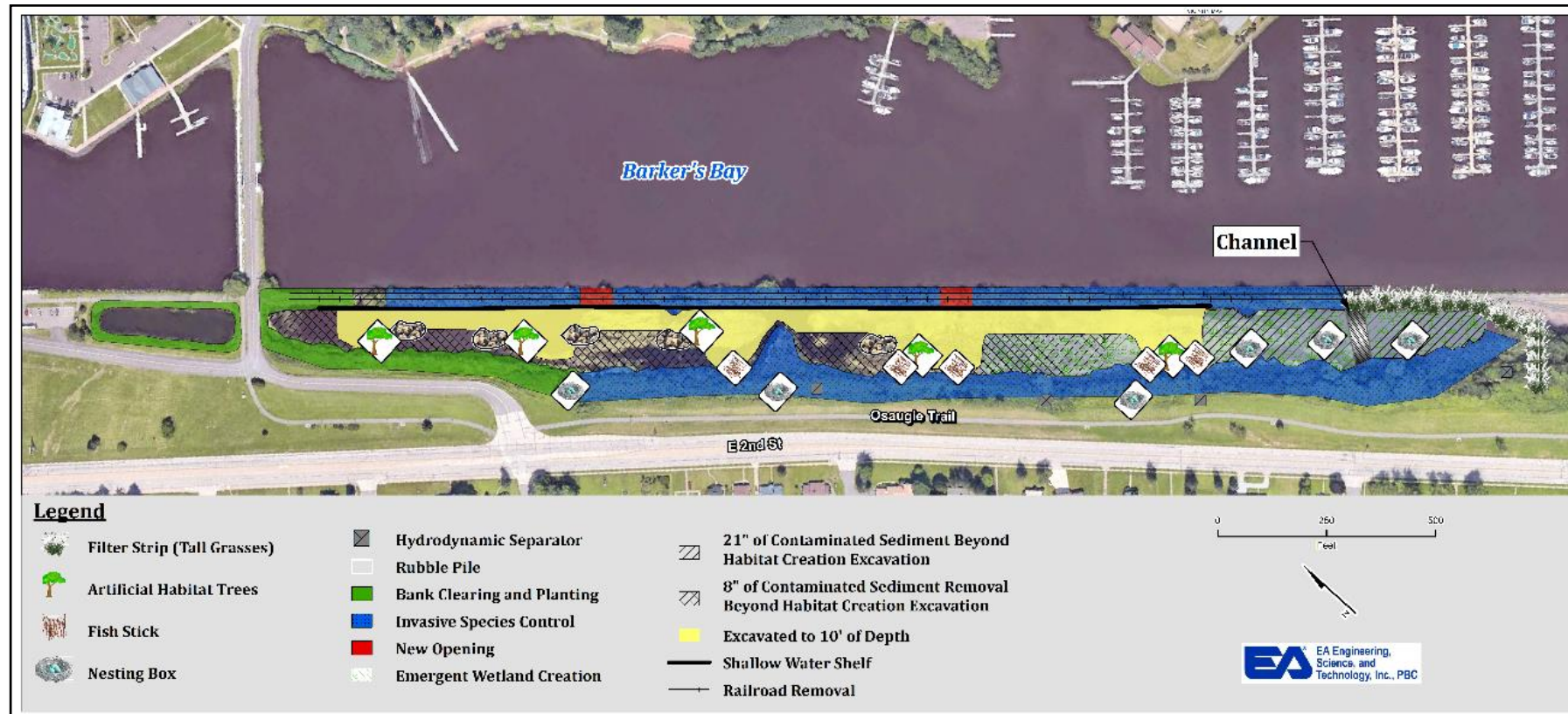


Photo Credit: Steve Kuchera – Duluth News Tribune



**Problem:** degraded habitat caused by industrial use, stormwater runoff and lack of water circulation

**Project Objectives:** work with landowners and City of Superior to restore habitat for fish and wildlife, remove contamination





## Pickle Pond Remediation to Restoration Construction in 2023

- Removal of 16,500 CY of contaminated sediment
- ~17 acres of habitat enhanced and restored
- Deepen areas of the pond for fish habitat
- Create additional openings in the RR grade for better water/oxygen circulation
- Shoreline habitat features
- Wetland creation
- New stormwater infrastructure





- MNDNR, MPCA, WDNR and SLRA web sites
- SLRA's social media posts & River Voice e-newsletter
- Minnesota and Wisconsin GovDelivery notices
- Community events



3/24/23

### NOW HIRING: Piping Plover Monitors

NOW HIRING! The St. Louis River Alliance is hiring four to five seasonal Piping Plover Monitors to help monitor and record bird activity on Wisconsin & Minnesota Point. Monitor season is from May 1st-June 15th and staff will work 20-30 hours per week, with field training starting April 24th (weather dependent). In the event that nesting behavior occurs, positions may be extended until August 31st. Please send your cover letter and resume to Mikayla Erickson at [projectleader@stlouisriver.org](mailto:projectleader@stlouisriver.org) to be considered for the position. [Click here for the full job description.](#)

[Read More](#)



3/15/23

### SAVE THE DATE 4/4/23 | The St. Louis River Area of Concern: From a Fond du Lac Viewpoint

Join us on Tuesday, April 4th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. for 'The St. Louis River Area of Concern: From a Fond du Lac Viewpoint' at the Stoney Brook Creek Room at Black Bear Casino (1785 MN-210, Carlton, MN 55718). Speakers from the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa will share their unique cultural perspectives about the St. Louis River Area of Concern, their partnership role, and their own natural resource management efforts. Around the Earth drum group will open with song and Naawakwe will share Ojibwe place names in the Estuary. St. Louis River Area of Concern Coordinators will share plans for their work in 2023.

This event is free and open to the public. Come enjoy snacks, a cash bar, and thoughtful conversations!

[Read More](#)



## MARCH UPDATES

3/13/23

### March 2023: St. Louis River Area of Concern Updates

Many projects are happening to help clean-up and delist the St. Louis River Area of Concern. Current project updates for March 2023:

- **Perch Lake Update** | In-water work at Perch Lake is complete now that dredging between Hwy 23 and the Waabizheshikana Trail (Marten Trail) is done.
- **Munger Landing Update** | J.F. Brennan is working ten-hour days intermittently this winter removing contaminated sediment from the Snively Creek wetlands just south of Munger Landing.
- **The St. Louis River Area of Concern: From a Fond du Lac Perspective (Event)** | Tuesday, April 4th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Black Bear Casino in the Stoney Brook Creek Room
- **2023 Anticipated Field Work & Paddlers Awareness Handout** | Many projects are planned for the St. Louis River Area of Concern, review these resources to learn about construction zones to avoid.
- **Winter Construction** | For safety's sake, please stay away & be alert to St. Louis River Area of Concern construction traffic near project sites

[Read More](#)





# Thank You!

Please visit tables and posters for more information  
and to visit with program staff.

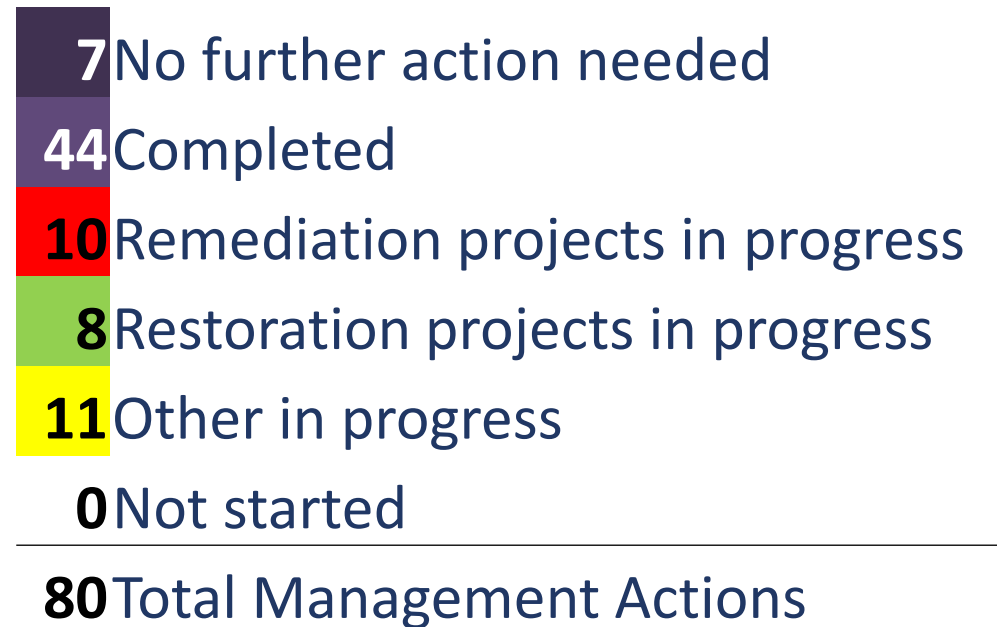


Extra slides



## Management Action Status (3/31/23)

*63.8% Complete*





- Permitting, contracting, tree clearing and site prep
- In-water construction in 2024



Image Credit: MPCA

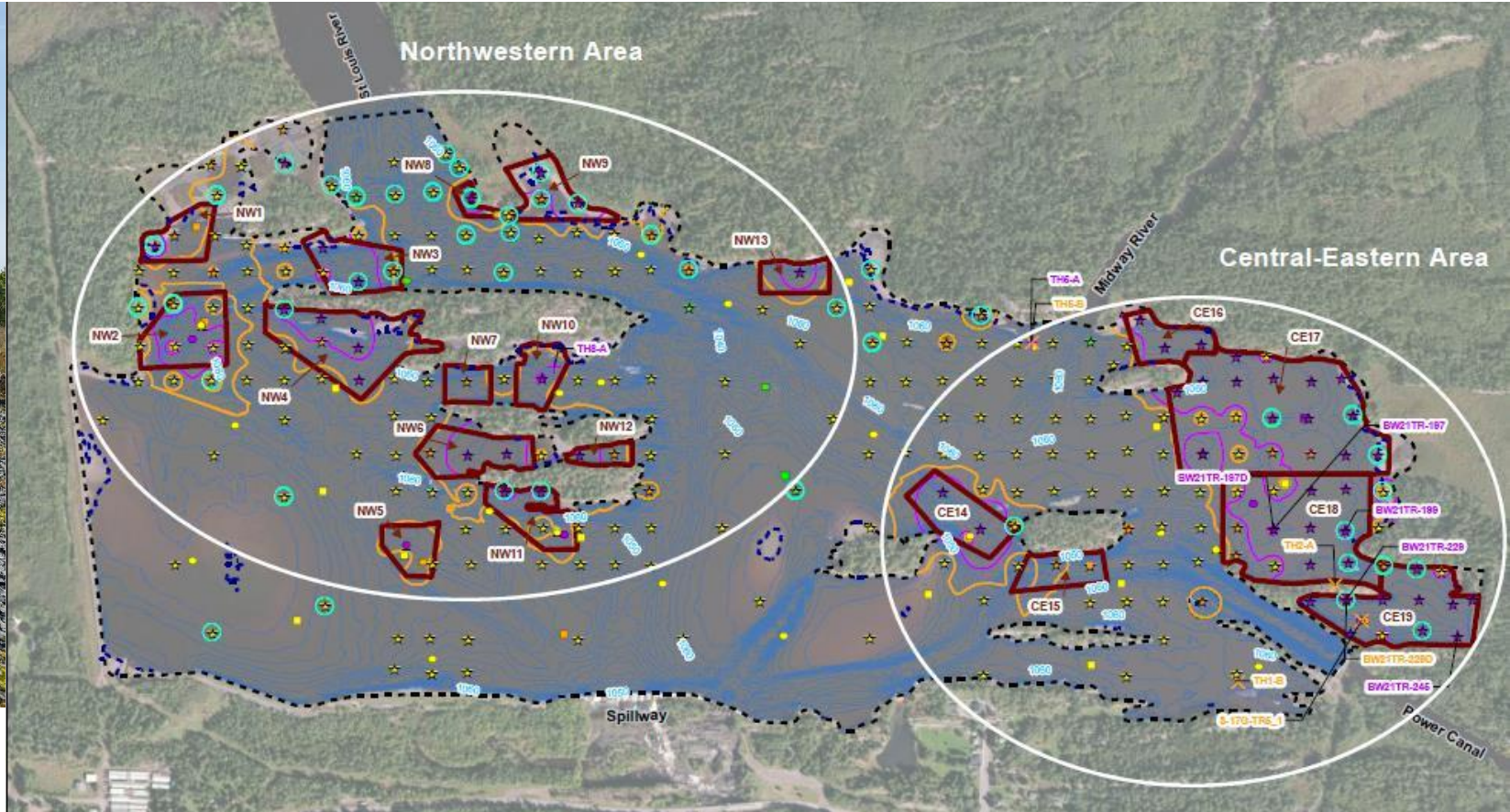


Image Credit: Arcadis Engineering



- Habitat restoration
- Complete pedestrian trail
- Construct kayak launch and landing, pause areas, and fishing stones

Photo Credit: MPCA







Photo Credit: MPCA

### **Ponds behind Erie Pier:**

- Restore City of Duluth trail
- Restore upland vegetation



Photo Credit: MPCA

### **Scanlon Reservoir:**

- Restore upland vegetation
- Construct replacement shed for MN Power