

# ST. LOUIS RIVER NATURAL AREA



The St. Louis River Natural Area is comprised of nine places along the shoreline of the St. Louis River from Chambers Grove Park in the Fond du Lac neighborhood on the west, to Grassy Point in the Irving neighborhood on the east. The approximately 1,200 acres are home to a mix of 17 distinct native plant communities and over 150 species of birds. The natural area protects the waters of the St. Louis River estuary and provides river access for Duluth's residents and visitors.



## UNIQUE FEATURES

### Native Plant Communities

- Lake Superior estuary marsh—this community only occurs in estuaries and river mouths influenced by Lake Superior water elevations
- Sandstone cliffs, upland and floodplain forest, wet meadows

### Sensitive Species

- Sensitive plants, including: discoid beggarticks (*Bidens discoidea*), soapberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*), and the endangered pale sedge (*Carex pallescens*)
- Fifty-two sensitive bird species, including: Common Tern, Horned Grebe, Trumpeter Swan, and Peregrine Falcon

### Natural Water Features

- St. Louis River Estuary, the largest freshwater estuary in North America
- Trout streams: Knowlton, Stewart, Kingsbury and Keene Creeks

### Important Bird Congregation Area

- Tens of thousands of shorebirds, waterbirds, waterfowl, and migratory landbirds congregate in the natural area

## Geological Landforms

- Shallow sheltered backwaters of Rask Bay, North Bay, Radio Tower Bay, Mud Lake, and Kingsbury Bay are evidence of the drowned river mouth that once flowed into glacial Lake Duluth

## THINGS TO DO

### Explore, Relax, Get Healthy

- Hike and bike on designated trails, including the Western Waterfront Trail
- Go kayaking or canoeing on the National Water Trail (designation pending)
- Go fishing or boating
- Enjoy bird watching

### Volunteer

- Contact Parks and Recreation Division at 218-730-4300

## HABITAT PRIORITIES

Management and restoration of human-induced impacts and invasive species control are important to long-term protection of St. Louis River Natural Area's native plant and animal communities.

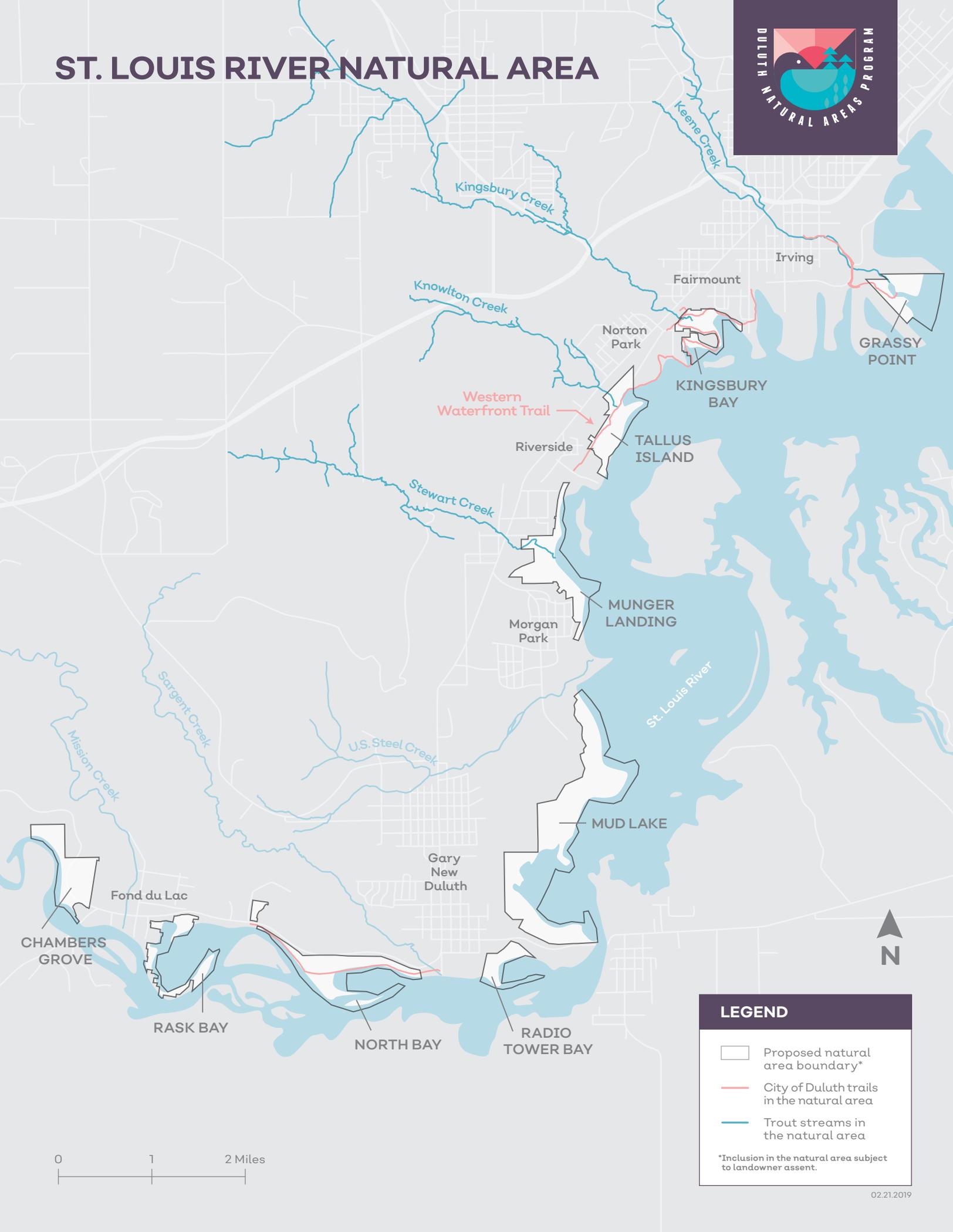
 **The Duluth Natural Areas Program enables the city to celebrate and sustain select open places that enrich the lives of all Duluthians by preserving and protecting the city's natural heritage.**

St. Louis River Corridor Initiative  
[www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor](http://www.duluthmn.gov/st-louis-river-corridor)

Duluth City Parks  
[www.duluthmn.gov/parks](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks)

DNAP program website  
[www.duluthmn.gov/parks/planning/duluth-natural-areas-program](http://www.duluthmn.gov/parks/planning/duluth-natural-areas-program)

# ST. LOUIS RIVER NATURAL AREA



**LEGEND**

- Proposed natural area boundary\*
- City of Duluth trails in the natural area
- Trout streams in the natural area

\*Inclusion in the natural area subject to landowner assent.