



Restoring Radio Tower Bay

Radio Tower Bay in the St. Louis River Estuary is clogged with tons of wood and other debris from past industrial uses. Known historically as Cedar Yard Bay, it was the site of two sawmills in the late 1800s. A railroad line also once crossed the river here on pilings, which can still be seen, along with concrete foundations from an abandoned array of radio towers. The sawmills dumped waste slab wood and sawdust directly into the water, greatly reducing the quality of underwater habitat for fish and rendering the bay nearly inaccessible for recreation.

Funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Restoration Center, and the State of Minnesota Legacy Amendment is providing a unique opportunity to restore the bay's habitat and improve use by fish, birds and other wildlife, as well as improving access to the bay for people.

Project Activities

The project will be done in two phases. Phase One involves removing the wooden pilings that supported the railroad line. This will allow equipment access into the bay for restoration purposes. Phase Two will involve removing much of the slab wood that is covering the bottom of the bay. Organic material that has built up over time will also be removed to restore the bay's original depth.

Public Outreach

Interpretive projects that highlight the area's history and ecology will be developed. Presentations about the project will be made at community meetings and events to keep people informed on the project's progress. A curriculum about the project's impact on the environment and the community will be developed and presented to local elementary school students. News conferences will be held to highlight project activities for the larger community.

Timeline

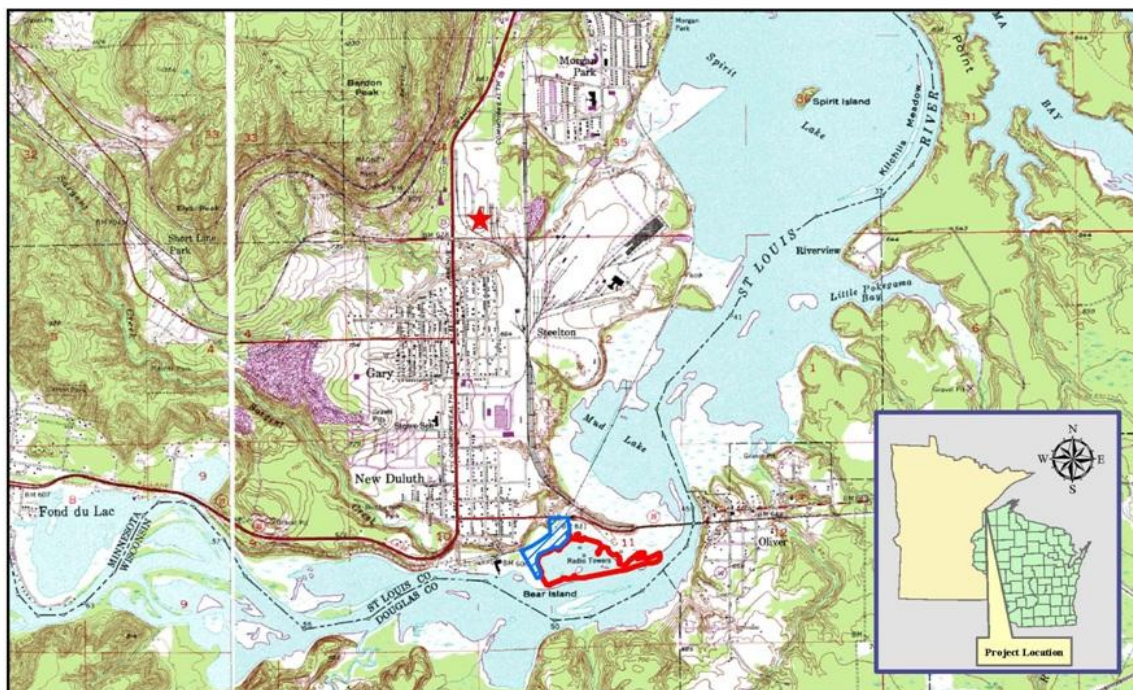
Phase One construction is expected to begin in mid-January 2012 and to be completed by April 2012. Phase Two should begin within the next two years.

Benefits

The project will benefit both the local economy and the environment. It will:

- provide local construction jobs.
- improve access to the 45-acre site for recreation and angling.
- enhance habitat for species such as walleye, muskie, northern pike, black crappie and bluegill.
- clean up persistent industrial waste left in place for more than 100 years.
- help raise awareness about the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative and efforts to clean up the river.
- help children connect with the outdoors.

Radio Tower Bay Project Location Map



■ Access Area
■ Restoration Area
★ Staging and Stockpile Area

Approximate address: 1100 McCam St. Duluth, MN 55808
 USGS 7.5' Quadrangle West Duluth, MN.

Map created by Minnesota Land Trust for illustrative purposes only.
 All information is draft and subject to change. April 2011.

Map Scale

 1,000 Ft

Partners

The Minnesota Land Trust, the St. Louis River Alliance and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources are working together to complete the project. The Minnesota Land Trust is managing the permitting, contracting oversight for the project design and implementation, and inter-agency coordination. The St. Louis River Alliance is providing public outreach materials, the educational module, and other public relations activities. The MN DNR is the overall project sponsor and provides technical

expertise and management. Other cooperators include the City of Duluth, the Duluth Economic Development Authority and MN Power.

Restoring the St. Louis River

The Radio Tower Bay project is part of the St. Louis River Restoration Initiative, a broad program to restore an amazing local and natural resource. For more information about St. Louis River projects, visit www.stlouisriver.org.

