

Varied Skill Levels and Experiences

Defining the Segments of Paddlers

The Water Trail serves four segments of paddlers as well as power boats and sail boats. These boaters are leisurely in nature and seek a comfortable day or afternoon on the river. Larger powerboats and sailboats are small in number.

Exercise Oriented (represents 30% of paddlers) This group has a penchant for very active paddling and perfecting their skills. They will paddle at high intensity levels on a weekly basis, and they will routinely paddle upriver against significant currents, which increases the intensity of their paddle and eliminates the need for the traditional car shuttle. With the right craft, many will defy windy conditions like those experienced on Spirit Lake.

Two thirds of this group is motivated by the desire to socialize with friends who share similar high levels of energy and competitive drive. The other third here are the most competitive and performance oriented paddlers. They work hard to perfect their paddling skills and relish opportunities for either competing against others



Exercise Oriented Paddlers

or striving to routinely beat their personal best paddling times. This group will paddle as much as three times faster than other paddlers. As an example, if the average paddler paddles 1.5 miles per hour, members of this group will be more likely to paddle upwards of 5.5 to 6 miles per hour.

Adventure Oriented (represents 14 % of paddlers)

This group is motivated by the need for adventure, seeking new places and visiting new unique points of interest. In other words, lengthy paddles to different places motivates them most.



Adventure Oriented Paddlers

Nature Oriented (represents 46% of all paddlers)

This group is motivated by the enjoyment and experience of connecting with nature and learning about the river's ecosystems and natural history. This group enjoys visiting points of interest such as unique bird sanctuaries and historic sites such as Native American sites, Voyageur forts, etc. A little more than half of this group [56%] will paddle a significant distance to see a series of unique points of interest. Their rate of a paddle will be in the 1.5 to 2 miles per hour rate. A slightly smaller portion of this group [43%] is not as physical.

They will paddle at slower rates of speed and will avoid longer distances. In other words, they are less focused on the adventure of covering lots of geography and more focused on reaching points of interest in closer proximity.



Nature Oriented Paddlers

Comfort Oriented (represents 26% of all paddlers)

This group is characterized by a strong desire for good weather outings where the sun is shining and the warm, fresh air feels good. They paddle at low-intensity levels similar to the energy exerted on a short, easy walk on a paved trail. Their low level intensity is intentional. A little more than half [54%] of this group may have the physical ability to paddle lengthy distances, but they view paddling as a very physical outdoor activity. Many in this group may not have been exposed to outdoor



Comfort Oriented Paddlers

Water Trail Routes

Loops are grouped into three skill categories.

NOVICE TRAILS

Boy Scout Shuttle

Length: 3-4 miles

Points of Access: Boy Scout Landing; Perch Lake carry-in access

Experiential Estuary Zones: The Wild St. Louis River

Activities: Fishing, birding, wild rice, camping, scenic overlook/vista, hiking

Description: This intermediate distance trip can be done entirely on the water, or as a relay with some members of a party travelling the first leg of the relay on a multi-use trail.

Radio Tower Relay

Length: 1-3 miles

Points of Access: Existing Oliver public water access, proposed carry-in access(s) at Radio Tower Bay

Experiential Estuary Zones: The Wild St. Louis River

Activities: Fishing, birding, wild rice, hiking, scenic overlook/vista

Description: This short loop highlights the historic Oliver Bridge, the Radio Tower Bay restoration area and through the causeway at Mud Lake.

Tallas Adventures

Length: 1-7 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access at Munger Landing, existing carry-in access at Indian Point Camp Ground and Spirit Lake Marina(Private), proposed carry-in access at Tallas Island.

Experiential Estuary Zones: Protected Bays

Activities: Fishing, birding, wild rice, duck hunting (Wisconsin side only), scenic overlook/vista, picnic, camping, hiking.

Description: This short to intermediate distance trip explores many of Duluth's estuary bays and has beautiful long views across the open water.

Pokegama Bay Paddle

Length: 5-9 miles

Points of Access: Existing Billings Park access, or Proposed carry-in access(s) along Billings Drive and State Highway 105

Experiential Estuary Zones: Pokegama Bay

Activities: Fishing, birding, Nordic skiing, skijoring, wild rice, duck hunting (WI side only), beach, portaging

Description: This intermediate to long distance trip explores the immersive natural environment of the Little Pokegama River delta. Public land surrounds this loop, making it an ideal place to explore the area's natural habitat and wildlife diversity from the water or by land

INTERMEDIATE TRAILS

St. Louis River Excursion

Length: 2-8 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access(s) at Oliver, Boy Scout Landing; existing carry-in access at Perch Lake, Historical Park, Chambers Grove

Experiential Estuary Zones: The Wild St. Louis River

Activities: Fishing, birding, wild rice, duck hunting (Wisconsin side only), scenic overlook/vista, camping, picnic, historic site

Description: This short to intermediate length trip provides impressive views of the St. Louis River landscape and historic sites along the way



INTERMEDIATE TRAILS (CONT.)

Red River Run

Length: 2-4 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access at Boy Scout Landing, existing carry-in access at Perch Lake

Experiential Estuary Zones: The Wild St. Louis River and Red River Slough

Activities: Fishing, birding, duck hunting (Wisconsin side only), trapping, hiking

Description: This short seasonal trip offers excellent bird and wildlife observation with impressive scenery and views of the rugged landscape surrounding the river

Special Considerations: Trip distance and difficulty level will vary depending on seasonal water flow and water levels of the Red River and St. Louis River

Little Pokegama Seasonal Loop

Length: 2-3 miles

Points of Access: Proposed carry-in near State Highway 105 / E Riverside Drive

Experiential Estuary Zones: Little Pokegama Bay

Activities: Fishing, birding, hiking

Description: This short seasonal trip offers excellent bird and wildlife observation with impressive scenery and views of the rugged landscape surrounding the river

Special Considerations: Trip distance and difficulty will vary depending on seasonal water flow and water levels of the St. Louis River.

Spirit Lake Loop

Length: 5-7 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access at Munger Landing, existing carry-in access at Spirit Lake Marina(Private), proposed carry-in access near Morgan Park

Experiential Estuary Zones: Spirit Lake Open Water

Activities: Fishing, birding, wild rice, scenic overlook/vista, picnic, skijoring, portaging

Description: This intermediate distance trip provides scenic long views of Spirit Mountain and the landscape

Special Considerations: This large open water area is commonly used by motorized watercraft and can be prone to high winds; proper caution and planning should be exercised when travelling this loop. The U.S. Steel site is currently undergoing remediation, pollution levels on the site may be hazardous for visitors

Clough Island Circuit

Length: 5-6 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access at Munger Landing, existing carry-in access at Spirit Lake Marina(Private)

Experiential Estuary Zones: Spirit Lake Open Water, Pokegama Bay, Big Open Water

Activities: Fishing, wild rice, duck hunting (Wisconsin side only), skijoring, beach, picnic

Description: This intermediate distance trip offers scenic long views across open water and provides access to the remote and interesting features of Clough Island

Special Considerations: This large open water area is commonly used by motorized watercraft and can be prone to high winds; proper caution and planning should be exercised when travelling this loop

Superior Bays

Length: 3-12 miles

Points of Access: Existing public water access at Billings Park and Arrowhead Pier, existing carry-in access at Arrowhead Pier, existing private water access along Billings Drive, proposed carry-in access along Billings Drive

Experiential Estuary Zones: Superior Bays

Activities: Fishing and fishing pier, birding, camping, picnicking, scenic overlook/vista, portaging, archery

Description: This short to long distance trip has some of the most spectacular scenery in the entire estuary with steep rocky cliff faces and long panoramic views of Duluth and the surrounding area

Special Considerations: Much of the shoreline along this loop is privately owned, and some areas of open water can be prone to high winds; proper caution and planning should be exercised when travelling this loop

EXPERT TRAILS

Fond du Lac Voyage

Length: 2-3 miles

Points of Access: Existing carry-in access at Chambers Grove and Historical Park

Experiential Estuary Zones: St. Louis River Gorge

Activities: Fishing, picnicking, hiking, historic site

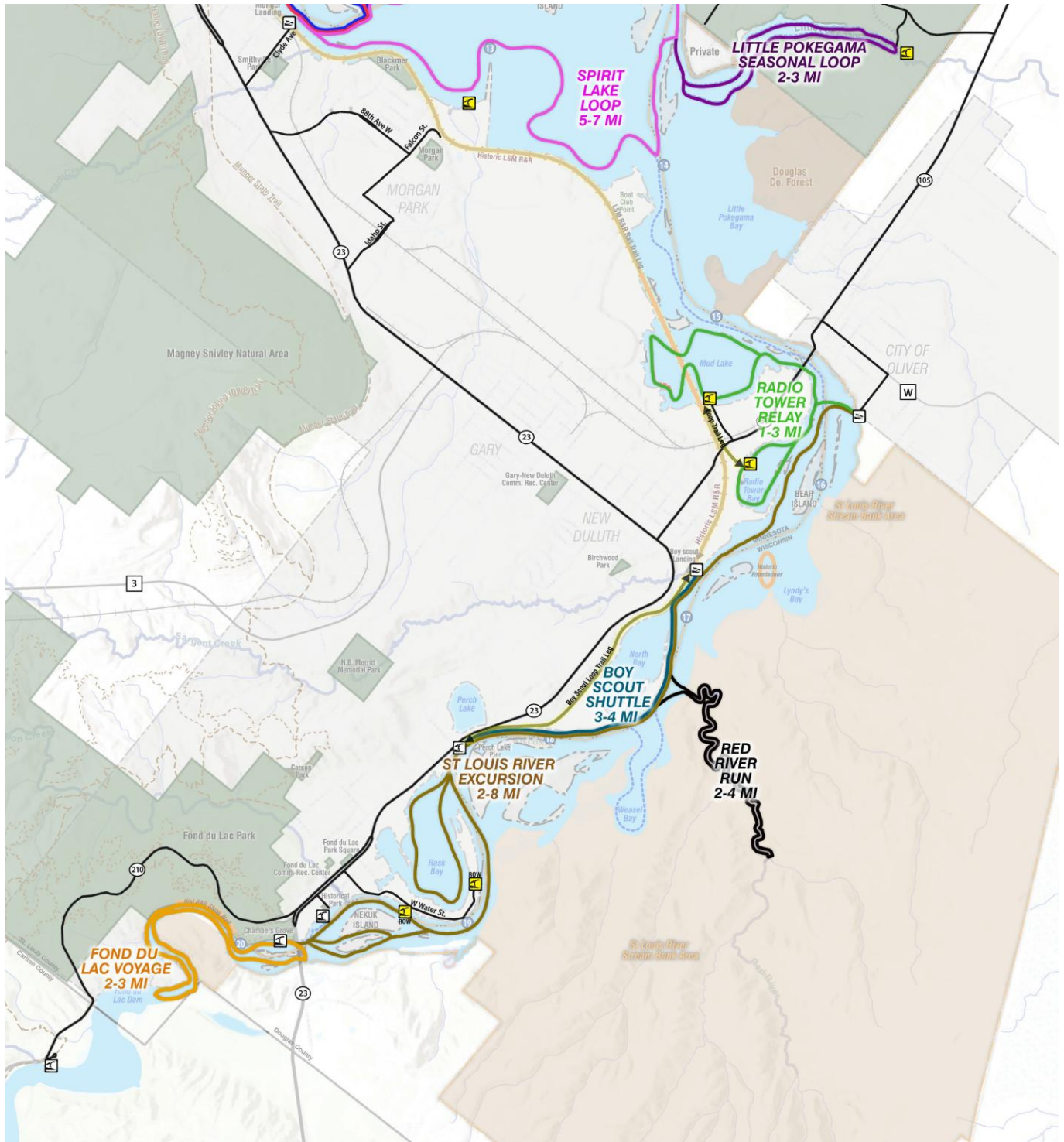
Description: This short paddle provides views of historic railways and the steep, rocky faces of the St. Louis River Gorge downstream of the Fond Du Lac dam

Special Considerations: This area contains rapids, shallow areas, and fast moving water and is recommended for experienced paddlers only

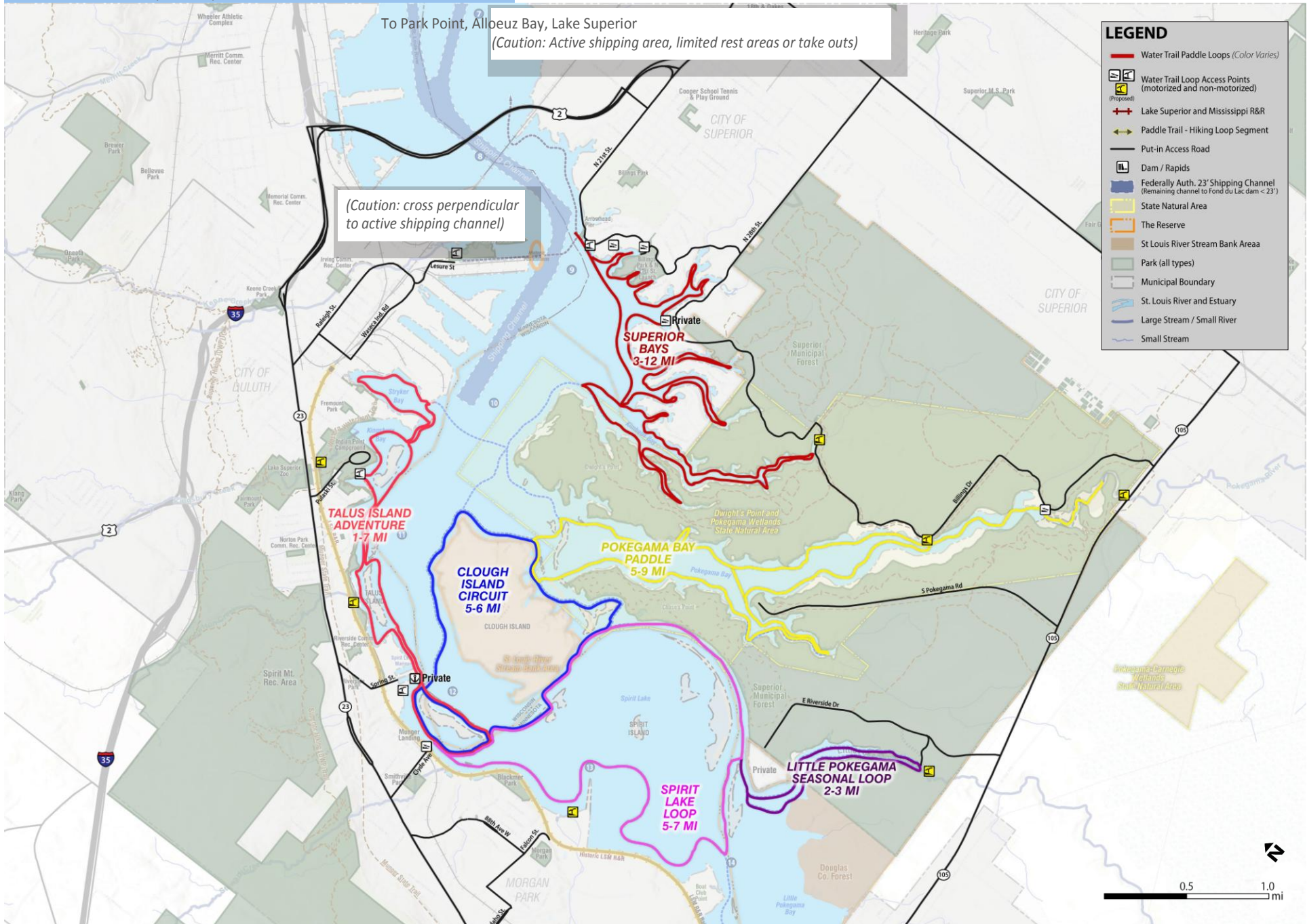
TABLE 1 - WATER TRAIL LOOPS, SKILL LEVELS AND PADDLER SEGMENT MATRIX

Trail Routes	SKILL LEVEL			PADDLER SEGMENT			
	Novice	Intermediate	Expert	Exercise	Adventure	Nature	Comfort
Radio Tower Relay	X					X	X
Pokegama Bay Paddle	X				X	X	
Tallas Adventures	X	X					X
Boy Scout Shuttle	X		X	X	X		X
Red River Run		X			X	X	
Little Pokegama Seasonal Loop		X				X	
Spirit Lake Loop		X	X	X	X		
Clough Island Circuit		X	X	X	X	X	
St. Louis River Excursion		X	X		X		X
Superior Bays			X	X		X	
Fond du Lac Voyage			X	X	X	X	

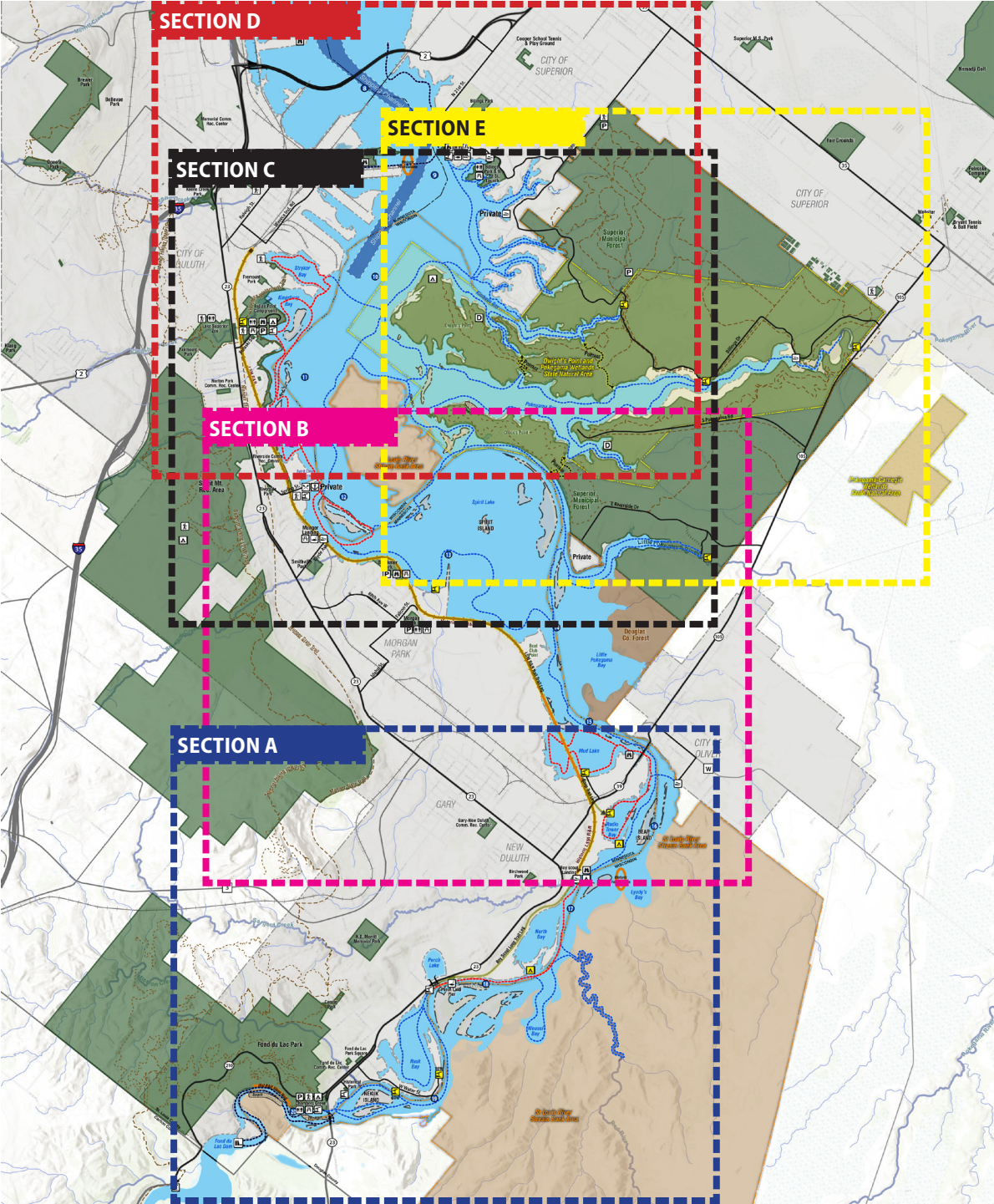
Water Trail Loops (South)



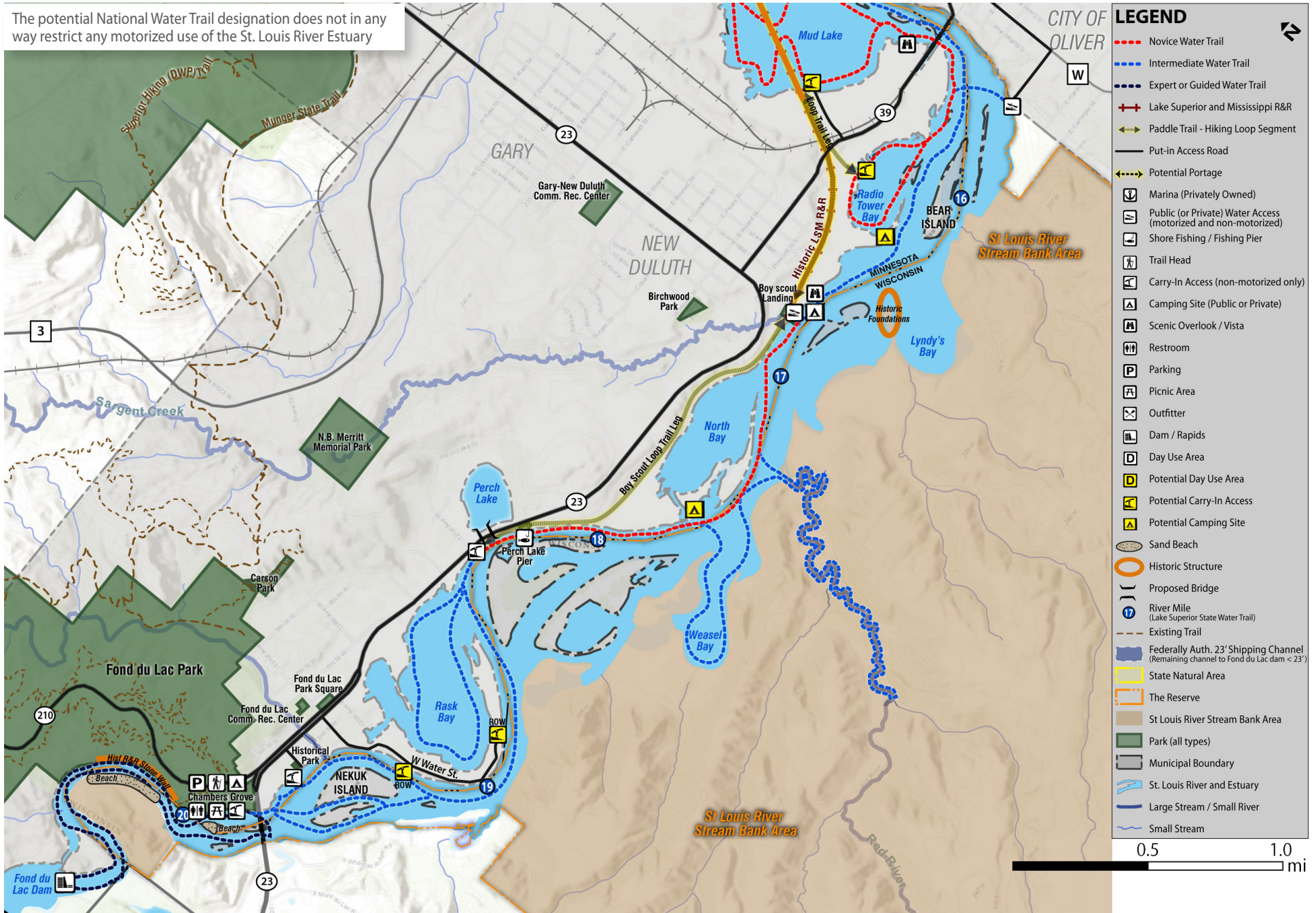
WATER TRAIL LOOPS (NORTH)



St. Louis River Estuary Water Trail & Facilities Mapping



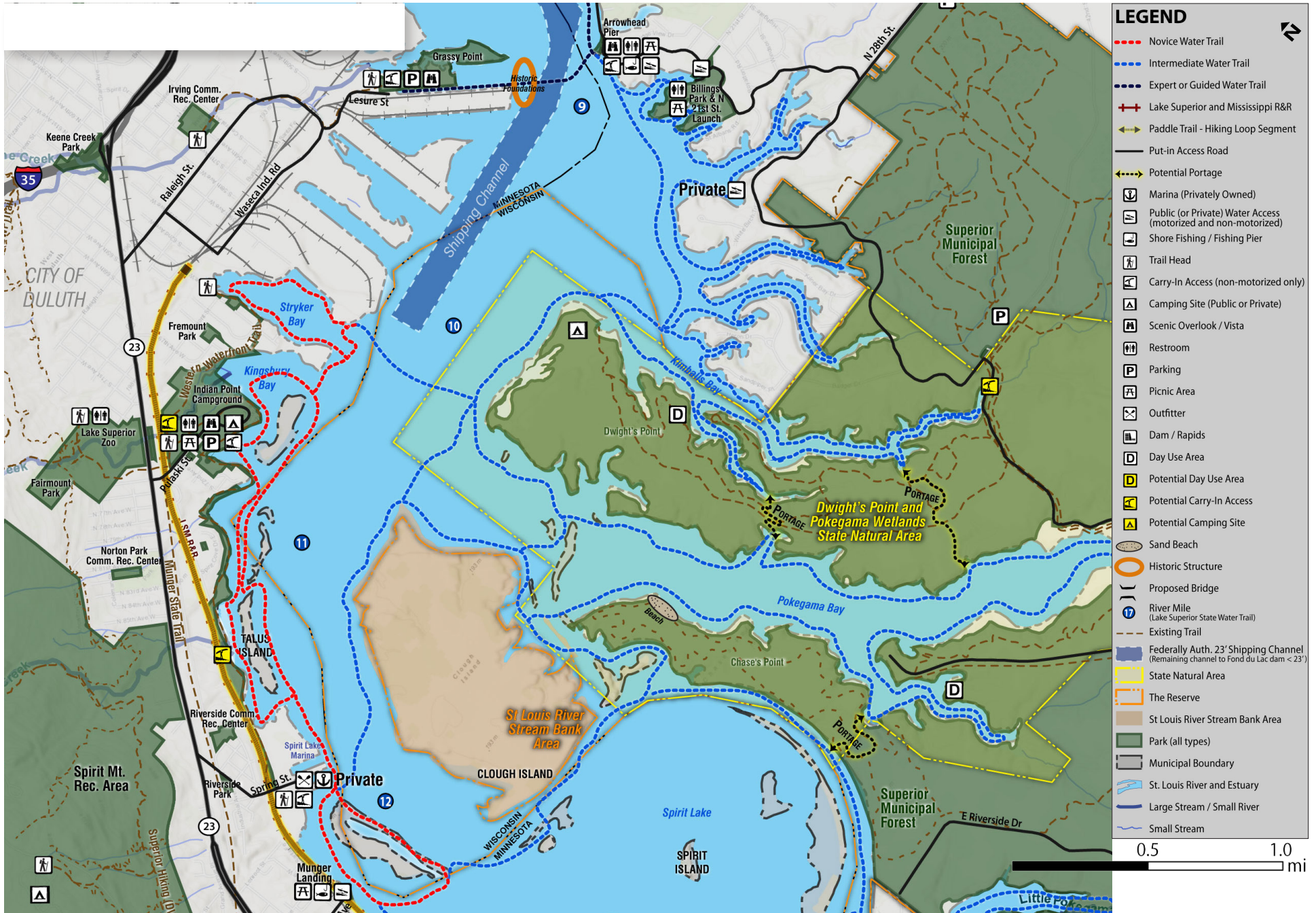
The potential National Water Trail designation does not in any way restrict any motorized use of the St. Louis River Estuary



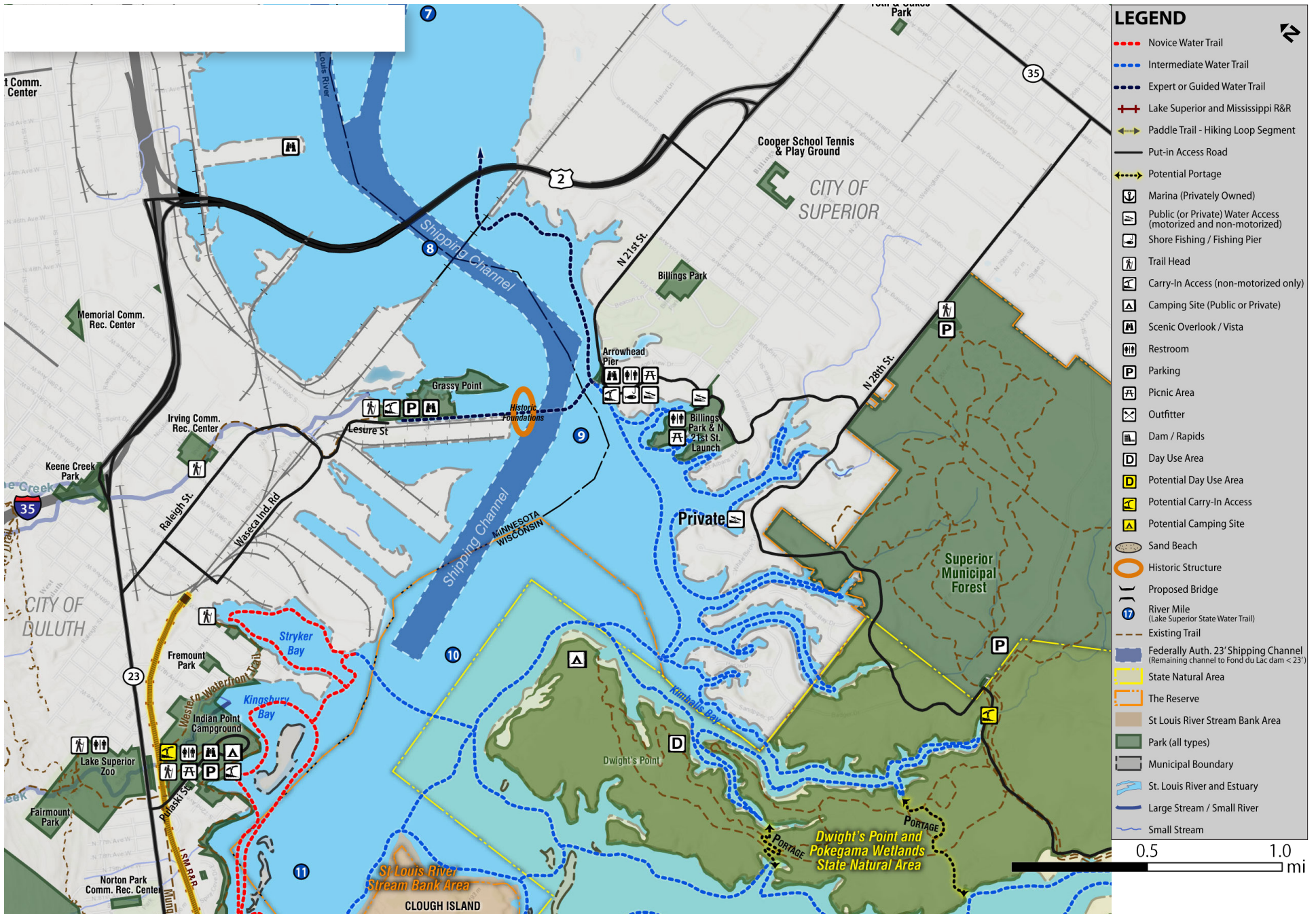
SECTION A - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY TRAILS AND FACILITIES



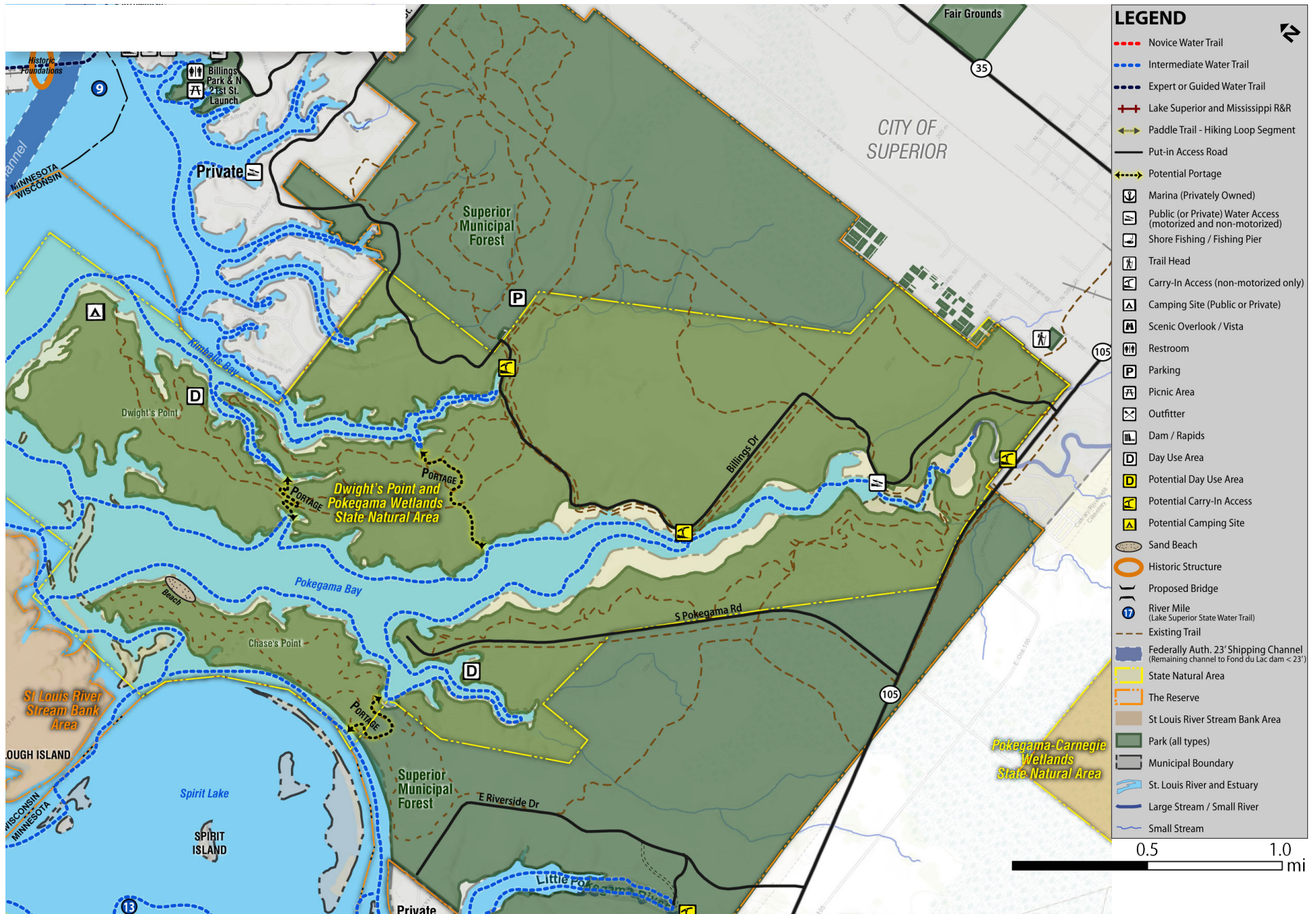
SECTION B - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY TRAILS AND FACILITIES



SECTION C - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY TRAILS AND FACILITIES



SECTION D - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY TRAILS AND FACILITIES



SECTION E - ST. LOUIS RIVER ESTUARY TRAILS AND FACILITIES