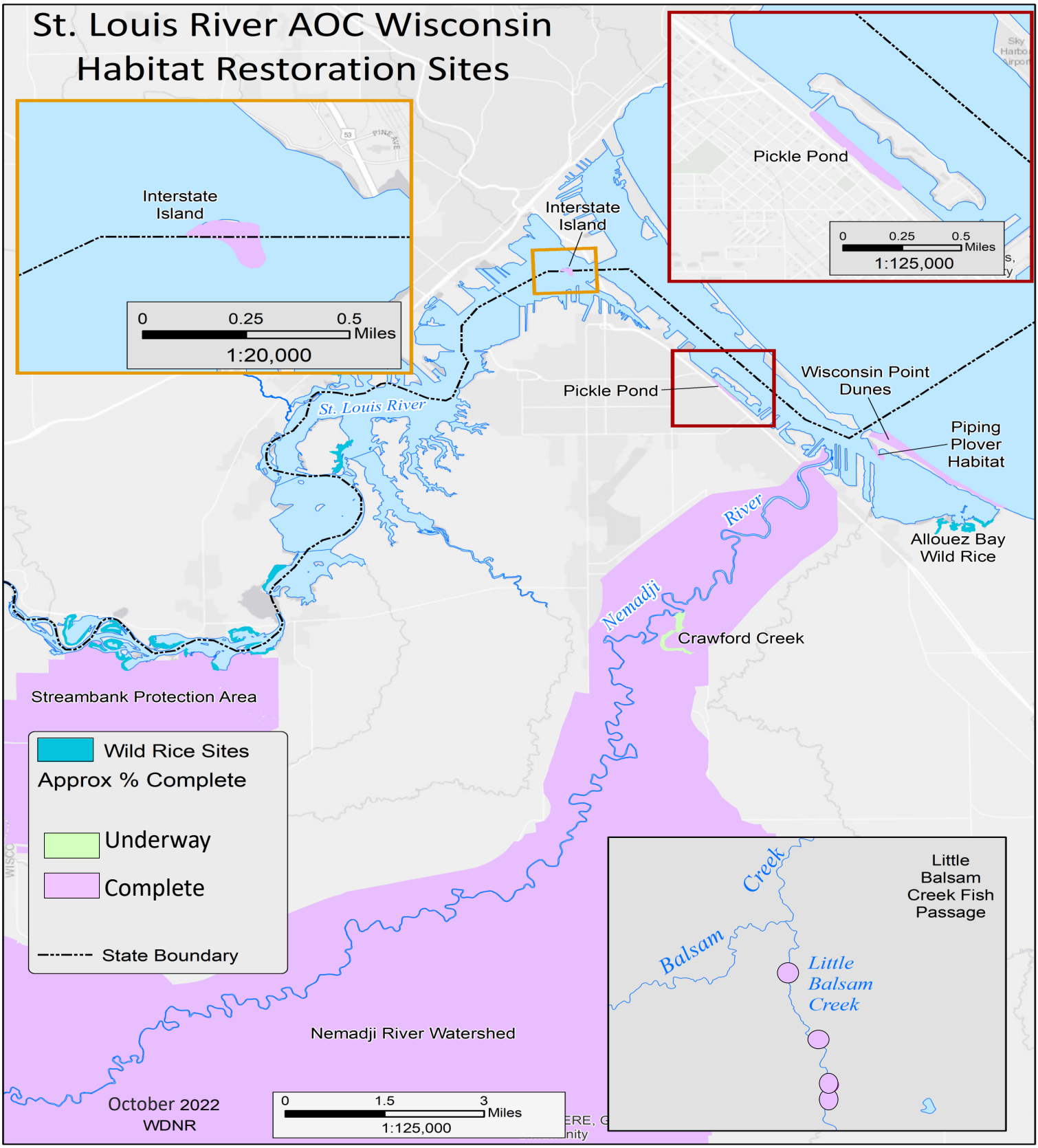
St. Louis River Area of Concern
Wisconsin Habitat Restoration Sites



For more info visit: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/GreatLakes/StLouis.html
Or contact Matt Steiger, St. Louis River Area of Concern Coordinator
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Wisconsin DNR implements and assists with habitat restoration projects to address the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) in the St. Louis River Area of Concern (AOC). These projects improve and create habitat for many native species. These AOC projects are made possible through many partnerships and funding sources in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Click here for more information about these and other restoration and remediation sites.

Wisconsin Point Dunes Restoration — **Completed 2019**

Completed by the City of Superior with public access improvements, a living shoreline, boardwalks to preserve the dunes and the addition of facilities for accessibility. Poor access points were restored and invasive species removed, along with planting of native vegetation.

Piping Plover Habitat Project — **Completed 2019**

In 2019, a 14-acre Piping Plover nesting and foraging habitat was created off of Wisconsin Point, using clean dredge material from the shipping channel, enhancing habitat for endangered Piping Plover. Monitoring for Plover nesting is ongoing.

Interstate Island Restoration — **Completed 2021**

Dredged material was used to build up and expand nesting habitat for Common Tern on the border island. Water levels have flooded much of the island's footprint and had eroded it permanently. The project also installed features to slow predation by gulls and birds of prey.

Pickle Pond Restoration — **Completed 2024**

Dredged contaminated and excess sediment containing mercury, PCBs, PAHs and metals. Addition of features such as loafing platforms, fish habitat and native vegetation helped improve the area. The wetland is adjacent to Barker's Island, a local recreation destination.

Little Balsam Creek Fish Passage — **Completed 2024**

Replaced four velocity and perched culvert barriers to allow for fish and other aquatic organism passage. 5.07 miles of headwater habitat is now accessible on the Class I trout stream. Road and trail crossings are more resilient to flooding impacts.

Manoomin Restoration — **Seeding 2015-2026**

Historically, the estuary may have sustained 3,000 acres of manoomin (wild rice); development, pollution and logging nearly eradicated it. This effort aims to seed 8-12,000 pounds of rice in the river per year. Since 2015, more than 80,000 pounds of manoomin have been seeded at 13 sites.

Allouez Bay Restoration — **Seeding through 2026**

Remove aquatic invasive species, re-establish manoomin and native wetland habitat in Allouez Bay. Pilot techniques for fencing and seeding that can be used at other manoomin restoration sites in the St. Louis River Estuary.

Crawford Creek Restoration — **Feasibility Study 2025**

This tributary feeds into the Nemadji River. Project goals include remediating contaminated sediments containing creosote, PAHs and dioxin, to restore habitat within the stream, wetland, and surrounding floodplain. This restoration is currently in the planning and feasibility phase.

Feasibility Phase	Design Phase	Implementation Phase	Project Complete