



Mississippi Headwaters

As the longest river in North America, the Mississippi River is known as “America’s River”. With millions of people depending on the river for drinking water and recreational opportunities, the importance of the Mississippi River cannot be understated. In the headwaters region — defined as the 400 miles below the river’s origin at Lake Itasca — the river provides habitat for fish and other wildlife, hosts annual waves of migratory waterfowl, and is a favorite destination for hunting, fishing, birding, boating, and hiking. Much of the land along this stretch of the river is at risk to development or conversion to agriculture.

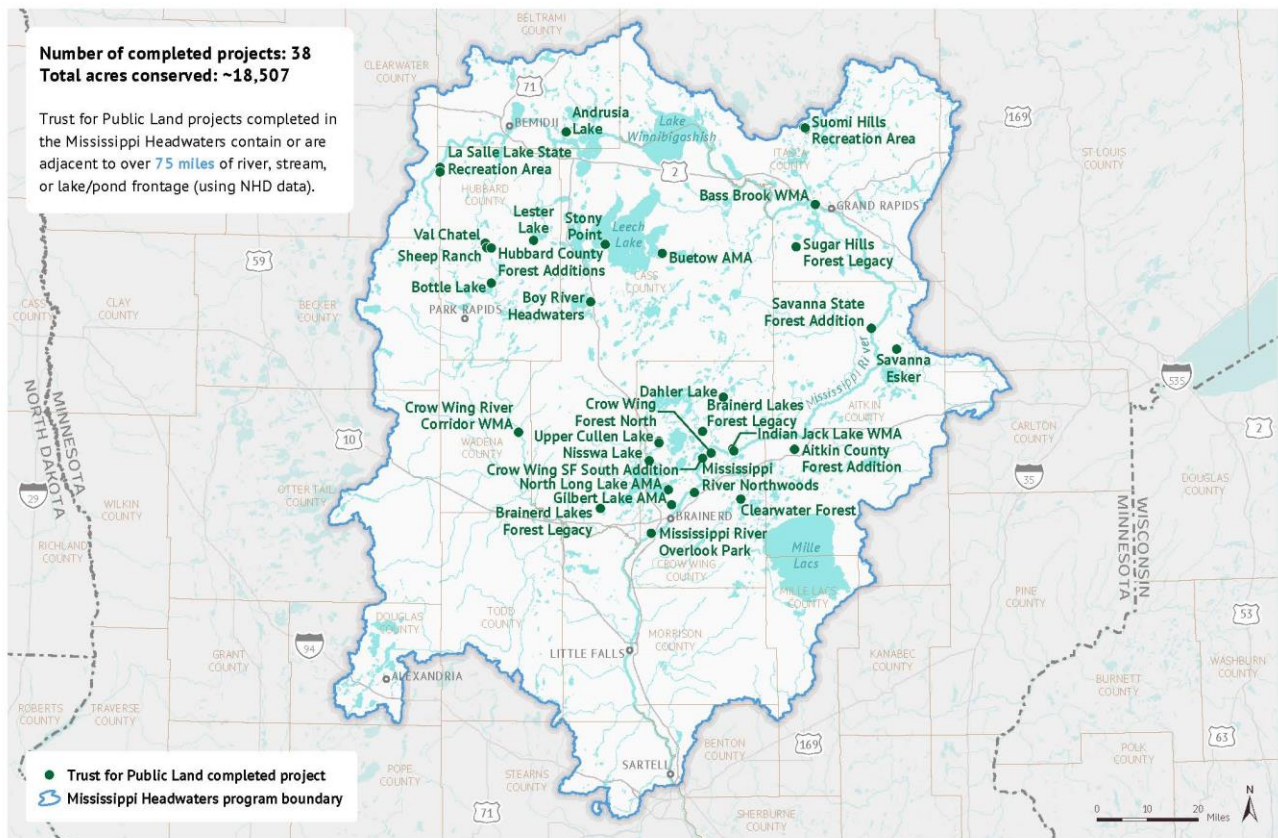
WHAT WE DO

Trust for Public Land is working in partnership with communities and local governments in the Mississippi Headwaters area to safeguard lands that increase outdoor access for all. In partnership with the Mississippi Headwaters Board and Board of Water and Soil Resources, we are acquiring high-priority property along the Mississippi River to protect and preserve sensitive shorelines, high-quality habitat, and recreation areas.

With great recreational opportunities and critical habitat, the Mississippi Headwaters must be preserved and treated like the national treasure it is.

RECENT WINS FOR CONSERVATION

- Sheep Ranch:** The Sheep Ranch addition to the Paul Bunyan State Forest encompasses over 2,500 acres of serene forests, pristine ponds and streams, and precious habitat for native plants and wildlife. In all, this property was one of the largest remaining blocks of private forest in the entire state. Whether hiking through the magnificent woods and connecting to the North Country National Scenic Trail, fishing from a gorgeous lake, or hunting deer and grouse, Sheep Ranch will now be able to be enjoyed by all.
- Indian Jack Lake Wildlife Management Area:** Trust for Public Land first created and then added to this new MN Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in the popular Brainerd Lakes region. Indian Jack Lake WMA is approximately 270 acres of hardwood forest with more than two miles of shoreline on Indian Jack Lake as well as shoreline along the Mississippi River that connects to nearby public land. Indian Jack Lake WMA is now a great place to hunt, fish, hike, watch wildlife, and canoe.
- LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area:** LaSalle Lake is Minnesota's second-deepest lake and is known for its remarkable biodiversity. Trust for Public Land conserved 1,000 acres surrounding the lake to help create LaSalle Lake State Recreation Area, a satellite unit of Itasca State Park.



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MINNESOTA RIVERS: SUB-PROGRAMS

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