



Return to the River

This exhibit was developed and produced by the Western Lake Superior Sanitary District, funded in part by the Coastal Zone Management Act through NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, in cooperation with Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program. St. Louis County's history – social, political and economic, as well as environmental - is deeply rooted in the history of the St. Louis River.

It depicts the history of the St. Louis River and current and ongoing progress in restoring its water quality, as well as the history of the WLSSD. The river is the second largest of Lake Superior's tributaries and the largest American tributary.

The exhibit covers early usage of the river by the native Ojibwe people, industrial use of the lower and middle sections and its resulting pollution, and the clean-up efforts made possible by various increments of environmental legislation beginning in 1948.

The exhibit is constructed with 10 hinged wooden panels (each 72" x 24"), totaling 21 linear feet. It includes three acrylic boxes highlighting the return of the sturgeon, graphic illustrations of earlier fish kills caused by the sludge of industrial dumping, and simple steps that anyone can take to avoid polluting the river and Lake Superior. It is suitable for educating all ages. Set-up and take-down instructions will be provided to anyone requesting a loan of the exhibit.