

**Recreation in the
Upper Mississippi River System:
An Overview of Facility Needs**



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Upper Mississippi River Basin Association



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Preface

Millions of people visit the Upper Mississippi River System (UMRS) annually and engage in every conceivable outdoor recreation activity dependent upon or enhanced by water resources. The UMRS is composed of nearly 1,300 miles of commercially-navigable waters. It includes the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota, the Illinois River, and small portions of the Kaskaskia, Minnesota, Black, and St. Croix Rivers. These rivers and their valleys combine to be the largest and most diverse recreation resource in the Midwest.

The UMRS is so mammoth in size and in potential that it is taken for granted by many people. Well-designed and properly located recreation facilities are vital elements to on-going river management. Numerous facilities currently provide people opportunities to use, enjoy, and learn about the rivers. However, many of these facilities are becoming overcrowded due to ever-increasing demands for outdoor recreation. Additional facilities are very much needed to decrease the pressure from the overused areas. New facilities are also needed in areas where public recreation is compatible with river management objectives, but are currently inaccessible or undeveloped for public use.

Funds for developing recreation facilities on the UMRS are extremely limited in relation to the demand. The purpose of this paper is two-fold with respect to funding limitations. First, this paper justifies the benefits of earmarking additional public funds for recreational developments by describing the importance of the UMRS as a recreation resource and the need for additional facilities. Second, this paper identifies specific recreational developments within the UMRS that are high priority for receiving funds; which in turn will aid in the expenditure of allocated funds in a wise and beneficial manner.

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Background

The "Comprehensive Master Plan for the Management of the Upper Mississippi River System" was prepared by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission and transmitted to Congress in January 1982. The preparation of that Plan, authorized by Congress in 1978 by P.L. 95-502, addressed specific questions related to navigation capacity and environmental impacts of navigation operation and maintenance. The recommendations of the Plan cover a broad range of Upper Mississippi River System problems and issues. Among other things, the Master Plan recognizes the need for quality recreation opportunities. One of the recommendations of the Master Plan is that:

"Congress immediately authorize the implementation of a program of recreational projects and the conduct of an assessment of the economic benefits generated by recreational activities in the UMRS."

Upon completion of the Master Plan and termination of the Commission, the five states of the Upper Mississippi River System (Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, and Wisconsin) formed the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association. The Association provides a cooperative forum for discussion and coordination of water resource programs and a focus for the implementation of the Master Plan. The Association is committed to advancing all the recommendations of the Master Plan. As part of that effort, this paper has been prepared to supplement the Master Plan recommendations regarding recreation projects.

This report provides useful information to a variety of audiences. Those interested in the implementation of the Master Plan will find additional documentation for the recommendation for a program of recreational projects. The projects presented in this report provide members of Congress with an indication of how appropriated funds for such a program may be used. In addition, this report should be useful to both Federal and State recreation managers. It provides a systemwide perspective on recreation facility needs and should help direct future developments in a comprehensive coordinated fashion. Available funds from existing and proposed program sources can be targeted to priority projects throughout the Upper Mississippi River System.

Overview of Recreation Opportunities and Use

The Upper Mississippi River System is unique in that it has two Congressionally authorized mandates. Much of the river system is designated as the Upper Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge, established by acts of Congress in 1924 and 1958. The entire system has also been designated by Congress as a Federal navigation project. In addition to this unique dual purpose mandate, the national significance of this region has also been recognized by numerous official national designations. Within the region there are designated national natural landmarks, national historical landmarks, national trails, and historical sites on the national register.

The natural character of the river system has been most influenced by the 9-foot navigation channel authorized by Congress in 1930. The locks and dams that were constructed form impoundments with relatively stable water levels. However, the navigation channel is only part of the system's waterscape. There are also backwaters, sloughs, marshes, swamps, ponds, small lakes, and thousands of natural and man-made islands. Within the water areas, the environment provides ideal spawning grounds for fish, nesting and hatching areas for waterfowl, and breeding grounds for aquatic furbearing animals. Water depths and conditions are suitable for river-going yachts, pleasure boats, speedboats, one-man skiffs, and canoes.

Recreational experiences on the Upper Mississippi River System can be classified into two general types -- water-oriented activities and activities enhanced by the presence of the river and its valley. Water-oriented activities include boating, hunting, fishing, swimming, and water skiing. Boating is undoubtedly the most popular activity. User surveys that have been conducted indicate that a typical river outing consists of taking a boat on a short excursion to a nearby dredged material beach or anchorage, meeting other boats and boaters, and spending the day swimming, picnicking, and sunbathing. Boaters constitute nearly 88 percent of river recreationists according to some user surveys (Comprehensive Master Plan for the Management of the Upper Mississippi River System, Technical Report G, January 1982).

Fishing is also a popular water-oriented activity. The popularity of this activity varies from pool to pool, but it has consistently ranked high on user surveys in many different river reaches. Fishing is done both from boats and from the shore.

In addition to recreational activities that are specifically water-oriented, there are numerous recreation activities that are enhanced by the presence of the river and its valley. This includes camping, hiking, picnicking, biking, sight-seeing, or river watching and experiencing or understanding the cultural heritage of this river valley. River-watching ranks consistently high as a popular recreational activity. In one user survey it ranked second only to boating (Comprehensive Master Plan, Technical Report G). On the lower river reaches, river viewing is the single most popular recreational activity cited in user surveys. This illustrates the fact that one of the primary attributes of the river system as a recreational resource is

its visual and aesthetic value. Visual contact with the river is extremely important to the recreationist's experience. This includes not only relaxing on river islands, but enjoying the scenic vistas from blufftops and roadside rest areas. The Great River Road Program in developing a national scenic and recreational highway has contributed immensely to the appreciation of the river corridor's scenic qualities.

It is a massive task to accurately quantify current and projected recreation use of the river system as a whole. Analysis has been done on some river reaches and it is significant that all the studies indicate that increases can be expected in recreation use of the river system. On the upper river (pool 1-10) recreation use is estimated to increase by nearly 50 percent over the next 50 years (GREAT I Study of the Upper Mississippi River, Volume 6: Recreation Appendix). In the middle river reaches (pools 11-22), recreation use was estimated to be 16.8 million activity days in 1978. This use is estimated to increase 21 percent over the next 50 years (GREAT II Upper Mississippi River, Recreation Appendix). Finally, in the lower river (pools 24-open river) it is estimated that recreation activity days totalled 1.5 million in 1981. This use is projected to increase by 7 percent by the year 2000 (GREAT III Mississippi River, Recreation Needs Assessment).

One of the most interesting conclusions from recent user surveys relates to travel distances for Mississippi River recreation. The majority of users are local residents within 25 miles of their residence. This of course varies from pool to pool, but generally about 60 percent of the recreationists travel less than 25 miles to the river. However, it is particularly interesting to note the frequency of visits. One user survey on the lower reaches of the river indicates that nearly three-fourths of the users visit the river more than 6 times a year (GREAT III, Recreation Needs Assessment). Another survey indicated that of those users living less than 10 miles from the river, three-fourths of them visit more than twice a month. Even for those who travel more than 200 miles, about one-fifth of them come at least twice a month. This implies a significant amount of travel each year just for river recreation. Even though only about 1 percent of the sample travel this far, they are clearly committed (Comprehensive Master Plan, Technical Report G).

Recreational values of the Upper Mississippi River System are not only important to area residents who use and enjoy the river, but recreational activities have an impact on local economies. Expenditures made for recreation include equipment, food, lodging, transportation, and licenses. It is estimated that the economic impact of the annual expenditures for sport fishing, waterfowl hunting, and other recreation activities amounts to nearly a billion dollars per year on the Upper Mississippi River System (Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, Outdoor Recreation: Big Business on the Upper Mississippi River System, September 1982). This magnitude of investment makes the recreation industry a vital part of many river communities.

Recreation Facility Needs

As illustrated by recreation use projections, there is a growing demand for quality river-based recreation experiences in the Upper Mississippi River System. With this growing demand is the need for additional facilities. Studies have identified various deficiencies in nearly every pool in the system. Currently, Minnesota, Iowa, and the St. Louis area are all projecting deficiencies in the availability of access for water-based recreation.

In order for the river system to meet the recreational needs of area residents, people must be able to get to the river valley, see the river valley, and understand the river valley. These are all variations of the problem of access. Boat ramps and fishing areas are needed to get people to the river's shores and water surfaces. Scenic overlooks and trail systems are needed to enhance people's visual contact with the river. Interpretive centers and historic site restorations are needed to help people understand the river's resources and rich history.

Physical access to the river is perhaps the most critical recreation facility need. Much of the river system's shoreline is presently not available for use since its access is impeded by parallel railroad tracks, levees, and topography. Furthermore, about 75 percent of the Federally-owned lands along the Mississippi are managed for fish and wildlife purposes which may be incompatible with recreational facility development and the associated intensive public use. The GREAT studies have identified public access needs in nearly every pool. In the upper river all pools except Pools 2 and 10 have inadequate boat landings. In the middle reaches, a definite need for boat ramps has been shown for all but Pool 11. In the lower pools, user surveys have identified "more public access" as one of the top two suggested recreation improvements.

Facilities are also needed to provide visitors with opportunities to enjoy the scenic character of the rivers and learn more about their many values. Visitor centers, interpretive programs in parks and overlooks, interpretive trails, and information programs for campers are all important facility needs.



Identified Recreation Projects

The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association has identified specific recreation projects that will help meet recreation needs on the river system. The list was compiled not only to document current needs, but is also intended to serve as a list of candidate projects for recreation project funding recommended in the Master Plan. This project list is the result of a coordinated collective effort of the five states of the Association. Initially, the State representatives to the Association agreed on criteria for defining eligible projects:

- 1) The proposed recreation project must be "related" to the river. This relationship was not necessarily defined in terms of physical proximity. Rather, the project must in some way facilitate physical contact with the river, visual enjoyment of the river, or increased understanding of the river corridor's history or character.
- 2) The proposed recreation project must have adequate written documentation. This criterion is intended to insure that proposed projects have undergone sufficient study to provide the Association with enough information on user demand, project size, cost, and location to determine that the project is viable and essentially ready for implementation.

Individual states then compiled lists of projects within their state that met the prescribed criteria. Frequently inter-agency reviews of state lists were conducted. Individual state lists varied in terms of both the number and types of projects included. Therefore, no attempt was made to prioritize projects among states. Finally, all eligible projects were merged into a list of recreation projects representing systemwide needs.

The final list of identified recreation projects is included at the end of this section. These projects can include one or more of the following categories of facilities:

Park Improvements include improvements at existing park or recreation areas to expand, renovate, or rehabilitate facilities in that park. These are generally multi-purpose projects that may include such things as expanding picnic areas, campgrounds, sanitation facilities, parking, or landscaping.

Park Land Acquisition or Development includes projects which require the purchase of land and/or the creation of multi-purpose recreational areas and facilities which do not currently exist.

Boat Access includes projects to provide additional boat ramps or boat access points. These projects may either create new access facilities or upgrade existing facilities.

Lock Waiting or Holding Areas include shoreline or beach areas that have been developed to provide a safe area for recreational boats to wait for their opportunity to use the lock chambers.

Small Boat Harbors and Marinas include projects to upgrade these facilities including dredging, additional slips, or general improvements.

Fishing Areas include projects to provide shore access for bank fishing.

Hiking Trails and Bikeways include projects to designate and develop marked trails along river banks and bluffs for both hiking and bicycling.

Scenic Overlooks and Wayside Rests include projects to upgrade or create areas for enjoying scenic river vistas. Many of these projects are part of the Great River Road program.

Interpretive Centers include facilities to provide information and special interpretive programs to park and river visitors.

Historical Site Restoration include restoring and/or providing public access to river-related historic buildings or archeological areas.

Beach Creation or Enhancement includes improvements to existing areas or creation of new areas to provide sand beaches for camping, picnicking, and swimming. Activities may include mechanical, chemical, or dredge spoil vegetation control or island reshaping.

The following table presents a summary of the types of facilities included in the recreation projects that have been identified by the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association. Following the summary table is the complete list of identified candidate recreation projects. Each state developed its own procedure for identifying its recreation project list. For example, some states have eliminated lower priority projects while other states retained them. Therefore, the number of projects and those considered high priority differs among states. There are a total of 191 recreation projects that have been identified. The totals on the summary table are larger because individual projects may include numerous types of improvements and may therefore be counted in more than one category.



SUMMARY OF TYPES OF FACILITIES INCLUDED IN
RECREATION PROJECT LIST

Category	IL	IA	MN	MO	WI	Total
Park Improvement	25	4	7	6	23	65
Park Development	11	0	9	5	12	37
Boat Access Improvement	14	5	4	5	25	53
Boat Access Development	1	6	14	9	7	37
Lock Waiting Area	0	0	2	0	3	5
Small Boat Harbor	0	1	1	1	2	5
Fishing Area	12	2	2	2	1	19
Hiking Trail	20	1	5	4	8	38
Scenic Overlook	5	0	0	1	7	13
Interpretive Center	10	0	1	0	1	12
Historical Site	5	0	0	1	5	11
Beach	0	0	5	0	25	30
Miscellaneous	2	0	3	0	4	9
Total	105	19	53	34	123	334



State of Illinois^{1/}

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 13</u>		
Mississippi Palisades Park and National Natural Landmark	RM 538.0 - 543.0	Develop a facility to provide overlook, toilets, site, and regional interpretive programs (\$750,000). Acquire 498 acres necessary to complete management unit (\$747,000).
Spring Lake Recreation Area	RM 533.0	Develop interpretive center, trails, and overlook (\$1,500,000).
<u>Pool 14</u>		
Albany Mounds State Historic Site	RM 512.0	Acquire 45 acres to preserve village area of archaeological site (\$90,000).
<u>Pool 16</u>		
Sunset Park at Rock Island	RM 479.5	Improve park with scenic overlook, trails, and picnic area (\$250,000).
Hennepin Canal State Park	RM 479.0	Rehabilitate and develop canal for trails, fishing, and interpretation (\$2,000,000).
<u>Pool 21</u>		
Villa Catherine Visitors Center at Quincy	RM 327.0	Renovate historic house (\$750,000).
Quincy City Park	RM 328.0	Improve park facilities (\$250,000).
<u>Pool 22</u>		
Fall Creek Rest Area	RM 314.0	Expand facility to provide shelters, trails, and play equipment (\$240,000).
<u>Pool 24</u>		
Pike Station State Boat Access Area	RM 180.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$180,000).

^{1/} The recreation projects in Illinois listed in this report were selected from lists maintained by the Illinois Department of Conservation and Illinois Department of Transportation. These projects have been previously studied and are near implementation readiness.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 25</u>		
Red's Landing State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 253.0 - 255.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$90,000).
Batchtown State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 242.0 - 248.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$150,000).
<u>Pool 26</u>		
Calhoun Point State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 219.0 - 223.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$80,000).
Quarry Rest Area and Overlook	RM 218.0	Develop parking, overlooks, picnic areas, and trails (\$500,000).
Piasa Creek State Boat Access Area	RM 209.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$910,000).
<u>Pool 27</u>		
Lewis and Clark Historic Site	RM 195.0	Improve access to and picnic facilities around monument (\$200,000).
<u>Open River</u>		
Horseshoe Lake State Park	RM 183.0 - 185.0	Develop new and expanded facilities for boat access, trails, fishing, and picnicking for East St. Louis area (\$500,000). Acquire 470 acres to complete management unit (\$1,175,000).
Cahokia Mounds State Park within National Historic Landmark	RM 181.0 - 183.0	Construct an interpretive center on Mississippi Indian culture, and utilities and food service (\$2,660,000). Acquire 72 acres to complete management unit (\$1,175,000).
Fort de Chartres State Park within French Colonial National Historic Landmark	RM 132.0 - 135.0	Reconstruct stone fort to complete wall and buildings for optimum interpretation and tourist potential (\$8,000,000). Acquire 402 acres to complete management unit (\$804,000).
Kaskaskia Village National Historic Landmark	RM 113.0	Acquire 46 acres to preserve significant archaeological site (\$143,000).
Fountain Bluff Scenic Overlook	RM 84.0	Develop overlook site and necessary access (\$1,500,000).
Union County State Conservation Area	RM 62.0 - 64.0	Rehabilitate existing access to provide safe, upgraded access to view Canada geese (\$200,000).

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Open River</u> (Continued)		
Horseshoe Lake State Conservation Area	RM 14.0 - 15.0, 35.0 - 37.0	Expand trails, boat access, fishing, camping, and interpretation facilities (\$200,000). Acquire approximately 100 acres to complete management unit (\$750,000).
Fort Defiance State Park	RM 0.0	Upgrade access to Cairo Point (\$200,000).
<u>Pool 12 - Open River</u>		
Bikeway system from Dubuque to Cairo	RM 0.0 - 580.0	Develop a bike system along river (\$40,000,000).
Acquisition of original natural areas	RM 0.0 - 580.0	Acquire sites at various locations in river system. Sites vary in size and availability and choice would depend on funding levels and balance of representative regions (\$1,000,000).
<u>Illinois River</u>		
Illinois and Michigan Canal State Park within National Historic Monument	RM 223.0 - 286.0	Develop trails, boating, fishing, camping, and interpretation facilities. Area is focus for proposed National Heritage Corridor (\$13,000,000). Acquire 192 acres for historic sites, dredge sites, and to complete management units (\$952,000).
Starved Rock State Park and National Historic Landmark	RM 227.0 - 236.0	Rehabilitate, expand, and construct new facilities to provide overnight accommodations, camping, swimming, fishing, picnicking, boat access, and interpretation of site (\$2,650,000). Acquire 879 acres to complete management unit (\$2,197,700).
Lake DePue State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 211.0 - 214.0	Acquire 278 acres to secure inholdings and complete management unit (\$250,000).
Hennepin Canal State Park	RM 210.0	Rehabilitate and develop trails, fishing, and interpretation (\$10,000,000).
Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 138.0 - 144.0	Acquire 2,035 acres to complete management unit (\$1,017,500).
Turkey Bluffs Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 104.0 - 107.0	Expand camping facilities (\$180,000).
Sanganois State Wildlife Area	RM 94.0 - 102.0	Rehabilitate and expand waterfowl hunting, trails, and picnicking facilities (\$1,500,000). Acquire 2,894 acres to expand project area (\$2,894,000).

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Illinois River</u> (Continued)		
Godar-Diamond State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 23.0 - 29.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$150,000).
Hadley Landing State Boat Access Area	RM 13.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$100,000).
Glades State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 13.0 - 15.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$160,000).
Stump Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area	RM 8.0 - 13.0	Upgrade trails, boat access, fishing, and picnicking (\$180,000).
Pere Marquette State Park	RM 2.0 - 13.0	Rehabilitate and expand lodge, relocate picnic areas, upgrade boat access and interpretive facilities, and extend bike trail (\$9,920,000). Acquire 590 acres to complete management unit (\$590,000).
Acquisition of original natural areas	RM 0.0 - 327.0	Acquire sites at various locations in river system. Sites vary in size and availability and choice would depend on funding levels and balance of representative regions (\$1,000,000).

State of Iowa^{1/}

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 10</u>		
Marquette Boat Landing	RM 634.7	Expand the existing facility to include a double boat ramp, more parking, and a picnic area.
Pikes Peak State Park	RM 631.5	Redevelop all park facilities, including parking lots, picnic areas, campgrounds, trails, and interpretation program.
Sny Magill Landing	RM 627.0	Construct a concrete boat ramp and dredge access channel into Wyalusing Slough.
<u>Pool 11</u>		
Guttenberg Boat Ramp	RM 614.4	Develop a river access, including a boat ramp and parking lot at south end of Guttenberg. No public river access to upper Pool 11 exists.
<u>Pool 13</u>		
Bellevue Boat Ramp	RM 556.5	Redesign and reconstruct boat ramp.
Fish Lake Boat Ramp	RM 547.7	Improve boat access into Fish Lake by putting in a concrete ramp.
Brown's Lake Access	RM 545.8	Develop an access onto Brown's Lake, including a boat ramp and parking lot. Some road improvements and realignments may also be required.
<u>Pool 14</u>		
Princeton Pumphouse Boat Ramp	RM 504.0	Construct a boat ramp and improve access road. A hunting and fishing campground already exists at the site.
<u>Pool 16</u>		
Fish Access at Lock and Dam 16 Spillway	RM 457.2	Develop a public access for bank fishing, including road improvement and parking lot construction.
Fairport Campground Sanitation Facilities and Picnic Shelter	RM 462.0	Construct a dump station and improve existing sanitary facilities. Also, construct a picnic shelter.

^{1/} The recreation projects in Iowa listed in this report are at this time the top priorities for that state. The projects were selected from a comprehensive list maintained by the Iowa Conservation Commission.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 17</u>		
Big Timber Area Fishing Access	RM 445.0	Develop a parking lot and shore access for bank fishing at Rt. X61 and the levee at upper end of Big Timber Area.
<u>Pool 18</u>		
Fourth Pumping Station Recreation Area	RM 424.9	Expand recreation facilities area riverward of levee. Specific facilities needed are a campground, picnic area, and boat ramp.
Wykert's Landing	RM 426.5	Improve parking lot and construct a concrete boat ramp.
<u>Pool 19</u>		
River Access Upstream First Miss Terminal	RM 390.5	Develop a river access, including an access road, parking lot, and boat ramp.
Montrose Boat Harbor	RM 375.0	Dredge boat harbor and access channel to the main channel.

State of Minnesota^{1/}

Project Name	Location	Description
<u>Upper and Lower St. Anthony Falls and Pool 1</u>		
Public access near University Flats or Bohemia Flats	RM 852.0	Develop the only public access to Pool 1. No boat access except through Minneapolis Boat Club landing.
Kayak white water slalom course at St. Anthony Falls	RM 853.0	Develop a course to augment existing course at Taylor's Falls on St. Croix which is inadequate and too far away from Twin Cities. ^{2/}
Regional trail corridor along East River Road in St. Paul	-	Project would complete a missing trail link along east bank of the river and provide access to Hidden Falls Regional Park.
*Regional park at Central Mississippi Riverfront	-	Project would provide a major recreational facility that protects and interprets the role played by the river in the development of the region.
*Regional park at Mississippi Gorge	-	Project would protect and provide public access to a 4.5 mile long gorge which connects to regional parks on both sides of the river.
<u>Pool 2 (including Minnesota River)</u>		
Fort Snelling State Park	RM 845.0	Further develop park, including picnic sites, campsites, swimming beach, boat access, trail, and erosion protection for Pike Island.
Public use area north-west of L & D 2	RM 815.4 R	Develop a public use area to be used as a holding area for recreational boats waiting to lock through.

^{1/} List does not contain all projects initially reviewed for Pools 1 to 8. Proposed projects excluded where no justification was provided by any agency reviewing the proposed project list or where reviewers unanimously suggested low priority for a proposed project. Exceptions were four projects recommended by the Department of Transportation after the deadline established for final evaluation of projects, but which had been low priorities for other reviewing agencies -- Barn Bluff scenic overlook in Pool 4, Sugar Loaf overlook in Pool 5, a Lock and Dam Center in Pool 7, and LaCrescent scenic overlook in Pool 8. Reviewers of projects included Department of Natural Resources; Department of Transportation; Department of Energy, Planning and Development; the Metropolitan Council; the Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Commission (staff); and the Water Planning Board (staff). Highest priority projects are denoted by an asterisk(*).

^{2/} The Metropolitan Council recommended that this project be omitted from the list because: (1) it is inconsistent with the regional park master plan, (2) it is incompatible with existing land use plans, and (3) it may pose safety problems.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 2 (including Minnesota River)</u> (Continued)		
Spring Lake Regional Park Reserve	RM 821.0	Project would protect and provide public access to three miles of river bluff and a 1200-acre reservoir created by Lock and Dam No. 2 and expand picnicking, trail, and camping facilities.
Islands for recreational use	RM 823.0 R, 824.5 L, 826.0 R, 827.0 L, 828.5 L, and 831.0 R	Acquire islands within Pool 2 for future recreational use and wildlife management.
Hidden Falls-Crosby Lake Regional Park	RM 844.0 L	Expand park to provide protection of river bluffs that are not suitable for development and provide needed riverfront trail.
Island camp area	RM 847.4 L	Expand island to provide greater safety in recreational use and develop island/camp area.
Heron rookery at Pigs Eye Lake	RM 834.0	Establish natural area for heron rookery. Important natural element in the Regional Park.
*Minnesota River access sites	RM 11.0 on Minnesota River	Develop access sites in Twin Cities metro area.
River-oriented trails, Lilydale-Harriet Island Regional Park	RM 840.0	Provide more river bank access to anglers. Trails provide appropriate level of access to this reach of river.

Pool 3 (including St. Croix River)

*Boater waysides on Lower St. Croix River	-	Develop boater waysides on non-federal lands in accord with the management strategy for the Lower St. Croix. Additional areas (5 in Minnesota, 1 in Wisconsin) identified as a very high priority in Riverway Master Plan.
Afton State Park on St. Croix River	-	Further develop park, including picnic areas, individual and group campsites, swimming facilities, boating facilities, and trails.
Primitive island/beach areas	RM 799.4 R, 801.7 L, 802.3 R, 805.5 R, 807.5	Designate and maintain primitive island/beach areas to provide needed places for canoe camping.
*Vermillion River Public Access	RM 797.2, 807.3	Improve public accesses, including expanded parking, upgraded ramps, and improved signs.
Commissary Point recreational facilities	RM 797.3	Expand recreational facilities including camping, picnicking, beach, and other recreational facilities.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 3 (including St. Croix River)</u> (Continued)		
Beach/camp area	RM 814.9 L	Develop beach/camp area, with road access to the area to enhance bank fishing opportunities. Beaching area could serve boats waiting to enter Lock 2.
Limited public access to St. Croix River	-	Develop limited public access (total, 100 boats) at 5 sites on the Lower St. Croix River, consistent with the management strategy for the river.
Recreational boating channel	RM 810.6 to 811.3R	Dredge (if necessary) and mark a recreational boating channel behind Prescott Island.
<u>Pool 4</u>		
*Public access on Robinson Lake	RM 757.2 R	Acquire public access on Robinson Lake at Wilcox Campground.
Lake City Harbor breakwater	RM 773.0	Replace breakwater, including fishing access from concrete pads.
*Florence Township Access	-	Acquire and develop access for public use.
Frontenac State Park	RM 781.0	Further develop park, including road improvement, display, and camp site improvement.
*Boat passage below Red Wing	RM 787.8 L	Fourth cut below Red Wing would be opened by dredging at the mouth to allow boat passage in a high use recreation area.
*Boat access at Wabasha	RM 761.3 R	Acquire and develop boat access at Carrel's pit area to lower Lake Pepin and lower Pool 4 if the planned bridge project at Wabasha does not add an access.
<u>Pool 5</u>		
John A. Latsch State Park	RM 739.1 R	Develop water access camping for area.
*Boat access	RM 739.1	Reestablish boat access previously removed by highway construction.
<u>Pool 5A</u>		
Public access at Bass Camp	-	Develop public access to pool on available State land.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
		<u>Pool 6</u>
*Boat ramp at Homer	RM 721	Upgrade and expand boat ramp, possibly using dredged material.
East Boat Harbor in Winona	RM 723.8	Expand and upgrade harbor and parking facilities.
		<u>Pool 7</u>
*Public access to Pool 7	-	Develop public access to Pool 7 from Minnesota side.
Recreational area on Town of Dakota shoreline	RM 707.0	Develop access and recreational area for picnicking, boat launching, car/trailer parking, and beach swimming.
*Fish ponds recreation area	RM 713.2	Develop old fish ponds as recreation area including picnicking, boat launching, car/trailer parking, and (possibly) camping.
		<u>Pool 8</u>
*Wildcat Landing Recreational Use Area	RM 689.0	Develop for free public use as area is currently administered by county, with fees charged.
		<u>Any Pool</u>
Mississippi River Interpretive Center	-	Develop a center to inform visitors on the history and continuing importance of the River.

State of Missouri^{1/}

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
	<u>Pool 20</u>	
Fenway Public Access in Lewis County	RM 347.7	Develop a concrete boat ramp to replace gravel ramp (\$150,000).
	<u>Pool 22</u>	
Hannibal Marina Revitalization	RM 307.0	Improve marina through dredging, and adding boat docks and walkways (\$125,000).
	<u>Pool 24</u>	
Louisiana Boat Launching Ramp and Retaining Wall	RM 283.0	Improve boat access and retaining wall on the Mississippi River (\$15,000).
Salt River Boat Access	RM 2.5 on Salt River	This boat ramp project is about 5 acres in size and will provide access to the Mississippi River (\$200,000).
	<u>Pool 25</u>	
Norton Woods Access Area	RM 252.0	Improvements would include upgrading existing boat ramp, surfacing of road and parking lot, and provide picnic tables and camping facilities along the river bank (\$221,000).
	<u>Pool 26</u>	
Public Access and Boat Ramp	-	Construct a public access on Pool 26 at an undetermined site (\$125,000).
	<u>Open River</u>	
North Riverfront Park at St. Louis	RM 189.0	Develop boat launch and parking facilities and improve landscaping within park (\$320,000).
Central River Promenade in St. Louis	RM 180.0	Develop an area one mile in length consisting of a promenade, scenic overlooks, and semi-active park (\$3,325,000).
Mississippi River Bicycle Trail along St. Louis riverfront	-	Develop a bicycle trail system that would extend for 13 miles (\$337,500).

^{1/} The recreation projects in Missouri listed in this report include projects from a number of state agencies and cities and counties obtained through the Missouri Department of Natural Resources. No priorities were established for the projects.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
	Open River (Continued)	
Bellerive Park at St. Louis	RM 174.0	Renovate playground, restrooms, pavillion, fountain, and benches, and acquire land to connect park areas (\$475,000).
Jefferson Barracks County Park	RM 170.0	Develop a campground, six lighted athletic fields, tennis courts, con- cession, and parking (\$1,200,000).
Cliff Cave County Park	RM 167.0	Acquire 50 acres of floodplain land and 220 acres of river bluff and develop roads, parking, restrooms, picnic areas, river access, and athletic fields (\$1,375,000).
Bee Tree County Park	RM 162.0	Acquire 25-acre wooded tract near park entrance and include roads, parking, restrooms, and picnic shelter (\$560,000).
George G. Winter Park of Jefferson County	RM 14 on Meramec River	Expand park to include boating, fishing, picnicking, swimming, and nature experiences.
Boat access in South St. Louis County	RM 161.0 - 168.0	Acquire land and develop an access to the Mississippi River (\$180,000).
Boat access at Festus/ Crystal City	RM 148.0 - 150.0	Acquire land and develop an access (\$150,000).
Boat access at Ste. Genevieve	RM 122.0 - 125.0	Acquire land and develop an access (\$150,000).
Boat access at Perryville/Chester	RM 109.0 - 110.0	Acquire land and develop an access (\$150,000).
Boat access at Apple Creek	RM 75.0	Acquire land and develop an access (\$180,000).
Cape Girardeau Riverfront Park	RM 52.0	Construct amphitheatre and improve boat access (\$198,500).
Boat access at Commerce	RM 38.0 - 40.0	Acquire land and develop an access (\$180,000).

State of Wisconsin^{1/}

Project Name	Location	Description
<u>Pool 3</u>		
*Riverfront park at Prescott, Wisconsin	RM 811.4 - 811.0	Construct a seawall, park, picnic area, historic sites, boat ramps, and fishing area (\$240,000).
*Diamond Bluff Beach and riverfront park	RM 800.1	Improve boat access and parking facilities and mark historical Indian mounds (\$71,500).
Primitive island/beach areas	RM 799.4 R, 801.7 L, 802.3 R, 805.5 R, 807.5 R	Maintain existing primitive island/beach areas by vegetation control.
Boat access	RM 808.5	Develop a boat access off County Road "Q" between Prescott and Diamond Bluff.
Magee Park in Prescott	RM 810.9	Acquire and upgrade park and use it as starting point for multi-purpose trails and as an overlook.
Scenic overlook near Big River	RM 804.8	Develop an overlook with access road and Great River Road interpretive sign (\$78,000).
Morgan Coulee County Park near Diamond Bluff	RM 803.0	Acquire Morgan Coulee and develop park. This project includes one-half mile of Mississippi River frontage.
<u>Pool 4</u>		
*Park improvement at Village of Stockholm	RM 774.3	Construct paved road, improve boat launching ramp, erect Great River Road interpretive signs, and landscape park (\$50,000).
*Public access at Indian Slough and Beef Slough	RM 760.2	Construct concrete boat ramps, enlarge and pave parking lots, and install timber guard rails at both locations (\$120,000).
Redevelop Grand Encampment Island and other existing recreational areas	RM 756.2 R, 753.3 R, 759.5 L, 762.4 R, 784.7 R, 789.6 R	Redevelop facilities according to GREAT I guidelines.
Public access near Hagar City	RM 792.5	Expand parking and boat landing facilities (boat landing = \$16,000).
Village Park expansion at Maiden Park	RM 779.5	Acquire the necessary land to expand park facilities.

^{1/} The recreation projects in Wisconsin listed in this report include projects from a number of state agencies. This list is maintained by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in La Crosse, Wisconsin. High priority projects are denoted by an asterisk(*).

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 4</u> (Continued)		
Recreation facilities at Deer Island Boat Ramp and Beef River Landing	RM 755.0	Upgrade local public facilities.
Public fishing access to Swinger Branch	RM 764.0	Construct parking facilities for access to Swinger Branch.
Protection of Mississippi River frontage	RM 790.6 - 785.0 (Pierce County Islands) RM 797.0 - 796.0 (Gantenbein Lake) RM 784.0 (near Bay City)	Acquire or establish land use controls.
Lake Port overlook	RM 767.6	Develop overlook on south side of Hwy 35, Great River Road, and Hwy 183.
Park improvement at Bay City Village Park	RM 787.0	Improving docking, beach, and toilet facilities.
Public access to mouth of Rush River	RM 780.0	Acquire property on Rush River.
Trail from Lake Pepin overlook to wayside	RM 783.5	Improve ¼ mile hiking trail (\$5,000).
Fort Antoine restoration	RM 772.2	Restore Fort Antoine as State Historical Society identifies buildings and sites.
Chippewa Bottoms historical site	RM 763.5	Develop a site commemorating the Chippewa Bottoms (\$50,000).
Park expansion at Village of Stockholm	RM 774.3	Add campsites, acquire land, and expand both house and lifeguard services.
<u>Pool 5</u>		
*Primitive Island/beach areas	RM 741.6 R, 743.6 R, 749.7 L	Maintain existing primitive island/beach areas by vegetation control.
*Wayside overlook and picnic area near Alma	RM 750.5, 748.0	Upgrade parking facilities and landscape (\$30,000).
Island/beach/camping area	RM 747.8 L	Investigate an area according to guidelines in GREAT I to provide for primitive recreational use.
Bikeway and pedestrian corridor between Cochrane and Buffalo City	-	Develop a corridor with plantings and benches.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 5A</u>		
*Fisherman Park lot in Buffalo County	RM 728.5	Continue development of parking, toilet, and other day-use facilities near private fishing float (\$100,000).
Trail system between Merrick State Park and Whitman Wildlife Area	-	Develop a system of interconnecting trails.
Public access near Burleigh Slough	RM 734.0	Redevelop the boat ramp.
Boat lockage holding area	RM 737.7 L	Expand and reshape beach area to provide holding area
<u>Pool 6</u>		
*Small boat harbor at Trempealeau	RM 714.5	Develop a protected harbor or marina since none currently exists in Pool 6 on Wisconsin side.
Trail in Perrot Park	-	Construct, if feasible, a motorized trail in park.
Historic Site between Marshland and Centerville	RM 721.5	Construct shelter house, parking facilities, and commemorative marker.
<u>Pool 7</u>		
*Boat ramps on French Island, Dam No. 7	RM 702.5	Improve boat ramps above and below dam by deepening launching areas and paving ramps and parking areas.
*Public access at Brice Prairie and Lone Tree Landing and Lake Onalaska	RM 712.0	Upgrade boating facilities and water access routes. Brice Prairie and Lone Tree Landing should be improved.
*Riverside, USA	RM 698.0	A museum and interpretive center depicting the flora, fauna, and early culture of the upper river valley is being developed here in conjunction with a visitor center. \$150,000 of Great River Road funds have been requested for construction of parking lots. Examples of displays: Mississippi River craft - \$25,000; Showboat Theater - \$30,000; ecology display - \$15,000; pilot house - \$45,000.
*Recreation island/ beach areas	RM 703.3 R, 705.0 L, 712.0 R, 712.8 L, 709.0 L, 706.5 R, 714.0 R	Provide for primitive island/beach recreation by reshaping areas and controlling vegetation.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 7</u> (Continued)		
*Lockage waiting area	RM 702.3 L	Provide a lockage waiting area by reshaping existing beach/camping area.
Public access at Lydell's Landing on Black River	RM 709.2	Develop parking, canoe, and small boat access.
Recreational trail between Onalaska and Trempealeau	-	Develop a trail on abandoned railroad right-of-way. Project needs local sponsor.
Recreation area	RM 714.2 L	Develop, if feasible, a recreation area using dredged material. This site would be a beneficial use stockpile site for the Corps of Engineers.
Consolidation of waysides	-	Consolidate two highway waysides on STH 93 near Black River into one improved site. Add picnic, boat ramp, and toilet facilities.
Nelson Park in Town of Campbell	RM 703.5	Pave parking area and boat ramp.
<u>Pool 8</u>		
*Scenic bluff protection from La Crosse, Wisconsin to Lansing, Iowa	-	The project will acquire scenic easements to protect the bluff along Highway 35 bordering Pools 8 and 9 (\$150,000).
*Boat ramps on Goose Island	RM 691.0, 693.0	Upgrade the small boat ramps.
*Primitive beach/island/camp recreation	RM 686.0 - 689.0	Reshape dredged material disposal areas (islands) for recreation.
*Boat landing at Village of Genoa	RM 679.6	Dredge and cleanup of old fish houses and piers. Project could develop public boat launch with parking lot and paved ramp or could dredge harbor, build piers, and convert to a commercial fishing and boat dockage area.
Goose Island Park	RM 693.0 - 690.0	Further develop park, including campground area, a new utility building, and boat docking facilities with piers.
Village of Stoddard River Front Park	RM 686.0	Expand park, including picnic area, nature trails, scenic overlook, swimming beach, primitive campground, and improved boat ramp.
Old Settlers Overlook	RM 682.5	Upgrade the existing bluff top facility, including parking and hiking/biking trail.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 8</u> (Continued)		
Grandad Bluff Park	RM 697.5	Improve scenic overlook by constructing better parking lots at viewing points, picnic facilities, and a commemorative marker at the "Alpine intersection." Upgrade toilet facilities and perform selective tree trimming.
Copeland Park	RM 700.0	Construct parking lots, install rustic guard fence, and reconstruct south entrance (\$150,000).
Trail system from La Crosse park system to Goose Island County Park	-	Further improve the bike and walking trail system.
<u>Pool 9</u>		
*Boat access at De Soto, Victory, and Lynxville Depot	RM 667.0, 673.0, 651.0	Upgrade and expand the boat ramps and parking areas.
*Boat accesses at Lansing Dike and Great River Road	RM 665.3, 663.4	Upgrade the two boat ramps. The ramp at 665.3 should be raised above flood elevation, the parking lot and ramp paved and guard rail installed. The ramp at 663.4 should have a Great River Road sign, picnic area, and boat ramp improvements.
*Black Hawk Park	RM 671.0 - 669.8	Construct a better and safer park entrance. Improve parking lot, boat dock, picnic area, toilet facilities, and landscaping (\$750,000).
*Dairyland Power Cooperative boat landing	RM 679.0	Upgrade boat ramp area, parking lot, and toilet facilities.
Island/beach areas	RM 664.0 R, 664.5 L, 665.5 R	Maintain existing island/beach areas according to GREAT I guidelines.
Battle Island/Black Hawk Park	RM 670.5	Purchase island and include it with Black Hawk Park as a management unit.
Boat access	RM 686.8	Dredge area for boat launching site. Ramp is part of multi-purpose area that can provide access to the river through a slough.
Lockage waiting area	RM 678.9 R	Reshape the existing recreation beach area and buoy the wing dam to provide a lockage waiting area.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
	<u>Pool 10</u>	
*Bagley Bottoms Recreation Area	RM 624.0	Construct an entry road and parking area.
*Jay's Lake Landing	RM 622.0	Improvements at Corps of Engineers' Jay's Lake Landing, include: access road (\$20,000), at-grade crossing over the railroad tracks (\$60,000), a supporting vault toilet (\$35,000), courtesy pier (\$5,000), realignment of existing project circulation roads (\$20,000), fish cleaning station (\$3,000), visitor picnic area (\$5,000), and required site landscaping and signs (\$8,000).
*Hovie Island Recreation Area	RM 623.0 L	Redevelop the existing island/beach recreation area according to GREAT I guidelines.
*City of Prairie du Chien and St. Feriole Island recreational development and restoration of historical features	-	Implement plans to develop recreation areas and open space and to restore, relocate, and floodproof historical features.
Relocation of marina in Marais de St. Friol Slough	-	Relocate, if feasible, the marina from the slough to the mainland.
Wyalusing State Park	RM 630.0	Construct a new contact building, utilities, and parking lot (\$100,000).
Glen Haven Recreation Area	RM 618.0	Develop a scenic overlook access road, picnic area, and utilities.
Eagle Valley Educational Center access road	-	Construct an access road and acquire the necessary scenic easements.
Du Charme Creek Recreation Area	RM 644.0 - 644.5 L	Purchase, if feasible, the islands off Du Charme Creek and fill them slightly to provide a recreation area.
Gordon's Bay Recreation Area	RM 646.0 - 647.0 L	Purchase, if feasible, the islands off Gordon's Bay and fill them slightly to provide a recreation area.
	<u>Pool 11</u>	
*Protection of Pool 11 boat access	RM 583.0 L	Extend the rock riprap spit 150-200 feet to protect ramp from wave action.
Public access to Cassville Slough	RM 614.0 - 615.0 L	Improve fishing and hunting access to upper Pool 11 and Cassville Slough.
Beach areas	RM 610.4, 611.0 L, 609.5 - 610.2 R, 612.3 R	Maintain beaches and control vegetation according to GREAT II guidelines.

<u>Project Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Pool 11</u> (Continued)		
Bertrom Lake Public Use Area	RM 601.0 L	Develop, if feasible, road improvements, a canoe trail, and expanded tent camping.
Public access at Great River Public Use Area	RM 591.0 L	Develop, if feasible, expanded camping and boat ramp facilities. Dredge an access channel.
<u>Pool 12</u>		
*Public access at O'Leary Lake	RM 582.9	Upgrade parking, boat ramp, and dredge the access wider and deeper.
*Beach areas	RM 581.5 L, 582.9	Maintain beaches and control vegetation according to GREAT II guidelines.
<u>St. Croix River</u>		
Kinnickinnic State Park delta area	RM 6.0 - 6.7	Enhance Kinnickinnic Delta in state park with dredge spoil.

Conclusion

The Upper Mississippi River System is an important and unique national recreation resource. It provides opportunities for both passive and active recreational activities. But increasing demand for quality recreational experiences is already producing many overcrowded facilities. Future demands will surely necessitate both expanding existing facilities and creating additional access facilities and recreational areas.

Both State and Federal outdoor recreation managers have studied these needs and are prepared to coordinate planning efforts to meet these needs. However, state and local governments are ill-equipped to meet the high costs of providing quality recreational facilities throughout this vast system. If indeed the recreational values of the Mississippi River System are to be maintained, a cooperative partnership of all levels of government is necessary. Federal investments must supplement State and local efforts to insure that the national interests in this unique recreational river are preserved.

Additional Information Sources

Recreation Appendix to the Final Report of the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT I), September 1980.

Recreation Appendix to the Final Report of the Great River Environmental Action Team (GREAT II), December 1980.

Recreation and Natural Area Needs Assessment for the Great River Resource Management Study (GREAT III), September 1982.

Technical Report G, Impacts of Navigation on Recreation, Potential Wilderness, and Cultural Resources (Comprehensive Master Plan for the Management of the Upper Mississippi River System), January 1982.

Recreation Use Projections and Needs Report, Recreation Work Group GREAT II, 1979.

Recreation Facility Inventory, Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, 1978.

Report for Recreational Development, Illinois River Backwater Areas, Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, 1969.

Outdoor Recreation: Big Business on the Upper Mississippi River System, Upper Mississippi River Conservation Committee, September 1982.

Comprehensive Master Plan for the Management of the Upper Mississippi River System, Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission, January 1982.



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