

An aerial photograph of a large river system, likely the Duluth Superior National Forest area. The river winds through a dense forest of green trees, with several large islands and peninsulas. In the background, a city is visible along the riverbank under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'WONDERS OF THE WEST' is overlaid on the top half of the image.

WONDERS OF THE WEST

SCENIC HIGHWAY 23

Take the “old road” through town to discover a cluster of St. Louis River neighborhoods with historic charm and abundant natural beauty. The state scenic byway reveals hidden gems like the city’s oldest house and one-time fur trading post in Fond du Duluth, as well as opportunities for rock climbing and wild rice harvesting in Gary-New Duluth.

ON THE MOUNTAIN

Spirit Mountain, a wonderland for winter activity and hub for summer thrills, also offers one of many western access points to the Superior Hiking Trail—a section with stunning ridgeline vistas, like Bardon’s Peak and Ely’s Peak, and tromps through old growth forest.

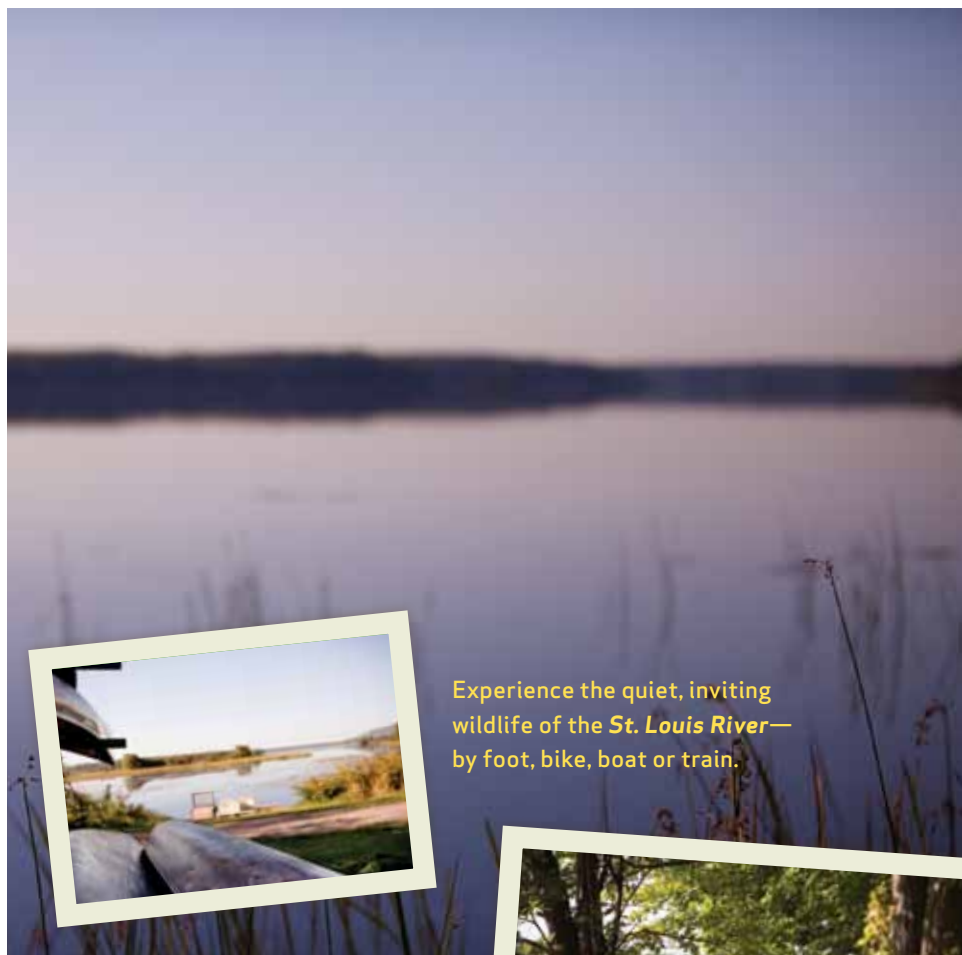
Kick into high gear on some serious multi-use bike trails at Spirit Mountain and the Piedmont trails. For trail info, see coggs.com, bikeduluth.com or page 58 of this guide.

BY THE RIVER

The St. Louis River’s 12,000-acre freshwater estuary flows below Jay Cooke State Park and on into the Duluth-Superior harbor. A habitat teeming with flora and fauna, you can get in touch by boat, train or trail.

The Western Waterfront Trail offers a bird-lover’s perfect day hike. It’s also the start of the Willard Munger Trail, a 63-mile paved stretch considered among the most scenic bike routes in the state. Near the trailhead, you can also climb aboard the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad for an excursion along the waterfront to places otherwise only accessible on foot—and a tour into the area’s rich past.

The Waterfront Trail circles the Indian Point Campground and continues on to the Spirit Lake Marina and RV Park. Once the Riverside neighborhood’s economic mainstay as a WWI and WWII shipyard, its massive piers now host everything from 60-foot cruisers to pontoons, fishing boats and canoes available for daily rental.



Experience the quiet, inviting wildlife of the *St. Louis River*—by foot, bike, boat or train.



IN THE VALLEY

Stretch your legs and mind on the 16-acre grounds of the Lake Superior Zoo, home to hundreds of native animals and exotic species. Enchanting trails hug the zoo perimeter, crossing iconic stone bridges over Kingsbury Creek.

Delve deeper into historic western neighborhoods with a summer ball game at the vintage Wade Stadium, a WPA-era structure where you feel the bygone glory of America’s favorite pastime. Make a stop at the Duluth Heritage Sports Center for more than sports. The former Clyde Iron factory once manufactured cranes used to build the Panama Canal and Empire State Building. Now, it’s a recreational hub for hockey and soccer, with adjoining restaurant, bar, concert venues and more.

