

# St. Louis River Area of Concern

**m** MINNESOTA POLLUTION  
CONTROL AGENCY

## Thomson Reservoir Project update – June 2024

July 3, 2024

### Project Overview

A sediment remediation project will begin soon at the Thomson Reservoir, to protect human health and the environment from contamination left behind from historic

industrial discharges. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in partnership with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and industry are conducting the remedial action through the voluntary Great Lakes Legacy Act program. J.F. Brennan has been contracted to perform the work. The Thomson Reservoir remediation project is part of a larger effort to restore and delist the St. Louis River as a Great Lakes Area of Concern.

The Project includes placement of an activated carbon amendment across 69 acres of the reservoir, where contaminant levels are likely to cause adverse impacts to sediment-dwelling organisms. The Project will also include expansion and improvement of the public parking lot at the UMD Kayak Center.



## Upcoming Work- 2024

- Expansion of the public parking lot at the Kayak Center- late June/early July.
- Installation of fencing and construction access at the Kayak Center- August.
- Mobilization of construction equipment at the Kayak Center and in water via Minnesota Power upper gate house access- August.
- Placement of activated carbon amendment in Thomson Reservoir- September-October.
- Demobilization for winter- November.

## Public Interest Items

**Work Schedule:** J.F. Brennan will be phasing site preparation activities in June and July. Crews may be onsite for a week at a time and then away for a while. Full-scale on-water activities will begin in September 2024. Work hours will be from 7am-7pm daily. The construction crew will demobilize from the site in November 2024, and return to the site in June 2025. Construction will be fully complete in November 2025.

**Safety:** The public will maintain access to the Thomson Reservoir and the UMD Kayak Center parking lot during construction. Paddlers on the reservoir should maintain a safe 200-foot distance from barges and on-water equipment. Users should also be aware that parking at the Kayak Center will have reduced parking availability during active construction. There will signage denoting the public and construction entrances, and Separate public and construction entrances will be marked with signage, directing the public to where they can safely park and access the reservoir. Trucks will be hauling and delivering the activated carbon amendment to the kayak center parking lot via highways 45 and 210. Please watch for trucks and use caution when accessing the St. Louis River on highway 210.

Contact: MPCA Project Manager 1-800-657-3864

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## For More Information

If you are interested in learning more about the MPCA's work in the St. Louis River estuary, please visit the [Cleaning up the St. Louis River web page](#).

For More Information: LaRae Lehto, Project Manager, [larae.lehto@state.mn.us](mailto:larae.lehto@state.mn.us), or 218-302-6623.