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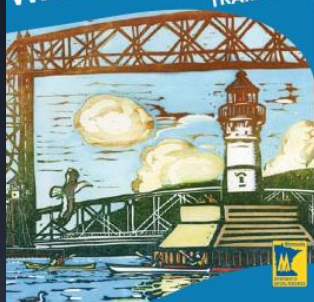






LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL - MAP 1

A STATE WATER TRAIL Guide



St. Louis River to Two Harbors
mndnr.gov/watertrails

MINNESOTA STATE PARKS AND TRAILS

FRONT COVER ART BY BOB ALLEN



The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

This information is available in
alternative format upon request

Minnesota State Parks and Trails
500 Lafayette Road Box 52
St. Paul, MN 55155-4052

INFORMATION

Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources Information Center

Metro 651-296-6157
888-MENDNR (644-6367)
TDD Metro 651-296-5484
TDD MN toll free 800-657-3929

DNR Parks & Trails
651-259-5666

DNR Web Site
mndnr.gov

ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY:

Lake Superior Water Trail
Association of Minnesota

Matt Kania Map Illustrations

This map is not intended as a
sole source for navigational
information.



Lake Superior is the largest freshwater lake on our planet, containing 10% of all the fresh water on earth. The lake's 32,000 square mile surface area stretches across the border between the United States and Canada; two countries, three states, one province and many First Nations surround Superior's magnificent shoreline. The diverse natural history and cultural heritage of the Lake Superior region offers paddlers a unique experience on this remarkable global resource.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR WATER TRAIL

Established by the Minnesota Legislature in 1993, the Minnesota portion of the Lake Superior Water Trail extends from the St. Louis Bay in Duluth to the Pigeon River on the Canadian border, a distance of approximately 150 miles. Cooperative efforts in Ontario, Wisconsin, Michigan and First Nations will develop a Water Trail completely around Lake Superior, primarily for use by sea kayakers. The development and maintenance of the Water Trail is a joint effort of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Lake Superior Water Trail Association of Minnesota.

Map 1 of the Water Trail includes the "Mile Zero" start of the trail at the Lift Bridge in the Canal Park area of Duluth. This is the western-most corner of Lake Superior and the Water Trail begins its northeasterly course past low cliffs, stately mansions, cobblestone beaches, gentle headlands, and small resort communities as you travel toward Two Harbors. This map also shows the estuary of the St. Louis River, a unique resource of undeveloped banks, wetlands and industrial waterfront spread between the cities of Superior and Duluth, and protected from the open waters of Lake Superior by the world's longest freshwater sandspit. This maze of bays provides kayakers and canoeists with a multitude of touring possibilities, particularly useful when the Big Lake is serving up less than ideal conditions.

THE LAKE SUPERIOR EXPERIENCE

Lake Superior, born in fire and ice, has offered adventuresome travelers endless miles of discovery for thousands of years. The geological history and features of the northwestern shoreline reveals some of the oldest rock formations on earth and are a testimony to the great forces of nature which created this great lake.

Although the North Shore of Lake Superior is located on the southern fringe of the boreal forest, the cold, harsh conditions created by Superior's cold waters resemble a subarctic ecosystem. Brilliant lichens, mosses, wildflowers, and rare plants – such as lichenberry, butterwort or cloudberry – together with spruce, white pine, aspen and birch soften the rugged shoreline.

The North Shore's cultural history and diversity is no less impressive. The North Shore offers the paddler an opportunity to learn about the people and traditions of the First Nations of the lake and the European influence of early explorers, missionaries and fur traders. Evidence of the history of the lumber, mining, shipping, and commercial fishing industries are found all along the shore.

FOR YOUR SAFETY

The many shipwrecks along the North Shore are tragic reminders of the power and fury of Lake Superior. That power is something every paddler must respect and not underestimate. The same dramatic features that enrich the shoreline experience, such as lake cliffs, can pose serious hazards to unwary paddlers: placid summer waters can change in minutes to life-threatening conditions and cliff faces can prevent paddlers from seeking safety on shore. A paddler needs to be prepared mentally and physically to deal with these conditions and possess the paddling skills necessary to assure their own safety and that of others. Local marine weather forecasts should be monitored before and during any trip on the lake. A paddler needs to understand that the implications these forecasts have on overall lake conditions, as well as the shoreline area you plan to travel. Wave heights can be greatly increased by shoreline features and currents.

• **Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.**

• **Be familiar with dangers of hypothermia and dress appropriately for the cold water (32 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit). Cold water is a killer – wearing a wet or dry suit is strongly recommended.**

• **Seek instruction and practice kayak skills, including rescues, before paddling on Lake Superior.**

• **Be certain your boat has adequate bow and stern flotation and that you have access to a pump for emptying a flooded boat.**

• **Travel with a companion or group.** Know the skill level of other paddlers in your group. Discuss safety issues before leaving shore.

• **Study shoreline features on your chart and review exit points before launching.** Remember, cliffs can cause additional water turbulence and prevent you from going ashore.

• **Fog frequently restricts visibility to zero.** Bring a good compass and know how to use it.

• **Anticipate changes in weather, wind and waves by monitoring a weather or marine VHF radio, and using your awareness and common sense.**



The National Weather Service broadcasts a 24-hour updated marine forecast on KIG 64, weather band channel 1 on the maritime VHF frequency, from Duluth; a version of this broadcast can be heard by calling 218-729-6697, press 4 for Lake Superior weather information. The VHF radio can also be used to call for emergency help.

• **Other items recommended for paddlers to carry:** Spray skirt, float for paddle, whistle and emergency flares; water, snacks and sunscreen; and compass.

• **The Duluth Harbor is a major port in the U.S.** Familiarize yourself with the rules of the nautical road and stay out of the shipping lanes. When using the Minnesota and Wisconsin entrances be aware that while inbound ships are easily spotted at some distance, the outbound ships are not visible from the end of the entrances. When paddling through the entrances stay to the right side in order to not give up your right of way. Obtain a chart of the Duluth Harbor for specifics regarding shipping lanes.

• **Beware of special paddling hazards in the Duluth-Superior harbor area.** Outgoing currents through the Minnesota and Wisconsin entrances can clash with incoming reflected waves to create chaotic paddling conditions. Stay near the shore and keep well away from commercial and recreational boating traffic. Fog can be a particular hazard in busy areas. Several areas in the St. Louis Bay may be subject to waterfowl hunting seasons.

• **Each paddler is required to have a wearable U.S. Coast Guard personal flotation device readily accessible and there must be a bright white light on board each kayak or canoe after sunset to be displayed in time to prevent a collision.**



• **All watercraft (including non-motorized canoes and kayaks longer than 9 feet) must be registered in Minnesota or the state of residence.**

• **Choose your trip and daily travel distance in relation to experience, fitness and an average kayaking speed of 2-3 m.p.h.** Changing lake conditions can greatly affect distances traveled.

• **This map is not adequate for sole use as a navigational aid.** USGS topographic maps and NOAA charts of the North Shore can be obtained from a variety of sources, such as kayaking or camping gear retailers. Learn how to use maps and a compass for navigation before setting out on the lake.

CAMPING OPPORTUNITIES

Camping is permitted at designated sites only. The following options are available:

• **Campgrounds – state park, municipal and private campgrounds.** These are generally located inland. They make a good base camp for day trips. Fees are charged and reservations are advisable.

• **Kayak/backpack campsites in state parks.** These primitive sites are accessible by water or foot trail only. Most of these sites have fire rings. Fees are charged, and reservations are required. At these sites, all state park rules apply and all vehicles must have a state park vehicle permit.

• **Water Trail kayak campsites.** These primitive sites are accessible from the lake only. There is no parking allowed. They are available on a first-come, first-served basis, with no fee charged at this time. The campsites are intended for a one night maximum stay, weather permitting. Group sizes are limited to six paddlers; please be courteous to others sharing adjacent sites. Fires are not allowed. Please leave campsites as clean or cleaner than you find them and carry out all trash. For more information on individual site capacity, refer to the route description portion of this map.

• **Low impact camping.** Please tread very lightly when you are on land. Use only established trails. (Notice that even walking on what appears to be a "plain" rock surface there are many brightly colored lichens, mosses and tiny plants.) Avoid walking on mosses and lichens along the shore. The use of camp stoves at campsites is recommended. Within state parks campfires are allowed in fire rings only.

• **Camp in groups of 6 or less. Camp only in designated areas that are marked on the map.**

• **Respect private homes and property along the shore!** Please take breaks and camp only at designated areas.

DRINKING WATER

Drinking water is not provided at most of the campsites. Be prepared to treat all water from the lake and rivers. Carry all your water needs when paddling in the St. Louis River estuary.

ENJOY

Lake Superior is a spectacular environment for a sea kayaker to experience the world's largest freshwater lake. The natural history and cultural diversity will provide additional dimensions to the experience. Enjoy all that Lake Superior has to offer, respect the lake and tread lightly on her shores. Have a great time!

HOW CAN I HELP?

For Association membership and information on becoming involved with the Lake Superior Water Trail Association (LSWTA), write to:

Lake Superior Water Trail
Association of Minnesota
Waters of Superior
395 S. Lake Avenue
Duluth, MN 55802

Visit the LSWTA website:
LSWTA.org



Route Description

In Miles (L) or Minnesota Entrance – Duluth (R) Bridge
Note: Mile markers for shore within the St. Louis River and along Minnesota Entrance estuary. Distances marked on this map's linear scale. Actual paddling distances between sites will vary.

Note: (L) and (R) represent left and right banks of the St. Louis River when facing downstream. (Right bank) is east.

St. Louis River and Bay – Minnesota Side

- 16.9 Bay Scout Landing. (L) Boat access, ramp, limited parking. [46° 35.205' N / 92° 13.500' W]
- 12.0 Clyde Avenue Boat Access. (L) Boat access, pier, toilets, parking. [46° 42.050' N / 92° 12.450' W]
- 10.6 Indian Point Campground. (L) City of Duluth campground, no toilets, no facilities. No parking boat docks. Call for information/reservations. [46° 43.200' N / 92° 10.933' W]
- 8.4 Grassy Point Trail. (L) Parking. Primitive shore boat launch, no toilets, no facilities. Launch located at Keston Creek. [46° 43.508' N / 92° 09.253' W]
- 5.3 River Point Landing. (L) Public boat access, parking, toilets. Under Hwy 55. Blanket by the Minnesota side. [46° 45.080' N / 92° 06.150' W]

St. Louis River and Bay – Wisconsin Side

- 10.8 Superior Municipal Forest Water Access. (R) Under closed public boat access, no toilets, limited daytime parking. This 432-acre forest is the second largest municipal forest in the nation; it contains a wealth of unusual natural features, including stands of mature coniferous forest, extensive emergent marsh, and wet clay flats, supporting a mixture of bird, mammal, and insect meadow. [46° 40.995' N / 92° 09.150' W]
- 9.7 Dwight's Point. (R) Primitive campsite. Not maintained by city. No toilets. Fires allowed. Not marked with sign. [46° 42.350' N / 92° 09.645' W]
- 9.1 Billings Park Access. (R) City park with boat access. Daytime parking. Access fee charge to use boat launch. Facilities. Picnic tables. No camping. [46° 42.795' N / 92° 08.465' W]
- 9.0 Arrowhead Fishing Pier. (R) A public fishing pier, toilets, limited parking. [46° 43.110' N / 92° 08.670' W]
- 2.3 Barker's Island. (R) Public boat access. Access fee charge to use boat launch. Toilets, daytime parking. [46° 43.102' N / 92° 03.640' W]
- 0.8 Loons Foot. (R) Public boat access. Access fee charge to use boat launch. Toilets, daytime parking. [46° 42.010' N / 92° 02.060' W]
- 0.0 Wisconsin Point. A city of Superior natural area. Lighthouse, parking, no facilities. Protected launch on beach inside breakwater. Bowers of ships, currents, and reflected waves are channel out to lake. [46° 42.370' N / 92° 00.775' W]

Minnesota Point:

- 0.8 Minnesota Point. Rest area. No toilets. No camping. Caution: poison ivy prevalent in area. Sand beach landing. [46° 42.660' N / 92° 01.455' W]
- 2.6 Park Point Park. A Duluth city boat access. Daytime parking, bathroom facilities, picnic areas, no camping. [46° 43.925' N / 92° 03.365' W]
- 4.2 Lafayette Park. Rest area, toilets, daytime parking. Sand beach landing. [46° 43.145' N / 92° 04.265' W]
- 5.7 Franklin Park. Rest area, limited daytime parking. Seasonal toilet. [46° 44.320' N / 92° 05.235' W]
- 5.7 UMD Boat Shed. Carry-in access, parking. [46° 76.872' N / 92° 08.824' W]

North from Canal Park:

- 6.7 Corner of the Lake. Rest area, Duluth Public Park and Lake Walk. Facilities. Nearby motorist parking. Westernmost point of Lake Superior. Sand and pebble beach. [46° 47.225' N / 92° 05.640' W]
- 7.3 Lef Erikson Park. Creek drainage through cement culvert. Pebble and sand beach landing. No facilities near landing. [46° 47.717' N / 92° 05.163' W]
- 10.4 42nd Avenue East. Rest area, no facilities, no camping. Rocky beach. [46° 49.235' N / 92° 02.305' W]
- 12.4 Lester River. Rest area. Sand and cobblestone beach near mouth of river. Facilities and tourist information kiosk near parking lot off Hwy 61. [46° 50.190' N / 92° 00.350' W]
- 12.7 Brighton Beach. A Duluth city park. Carry-in access, daytime parking, toilets, picnic area. No camping. [46° 50.595' N / 91° 59.545' W]
- 15.5 Lakewood Station. Rest area, no toilets. Daytime parking on east side of Hwy 61. [46° 51.805' N / 91° 57.445' W]
- 16.0 Duluth Tent & Trailer Campground. Steep bank up to Hwy 61. Private campground located across Hwy 61. Contact campground for camping. [46° 52.110' N / 91° 56.950' W]

(continued on other side)

LAKE SUPERIOR

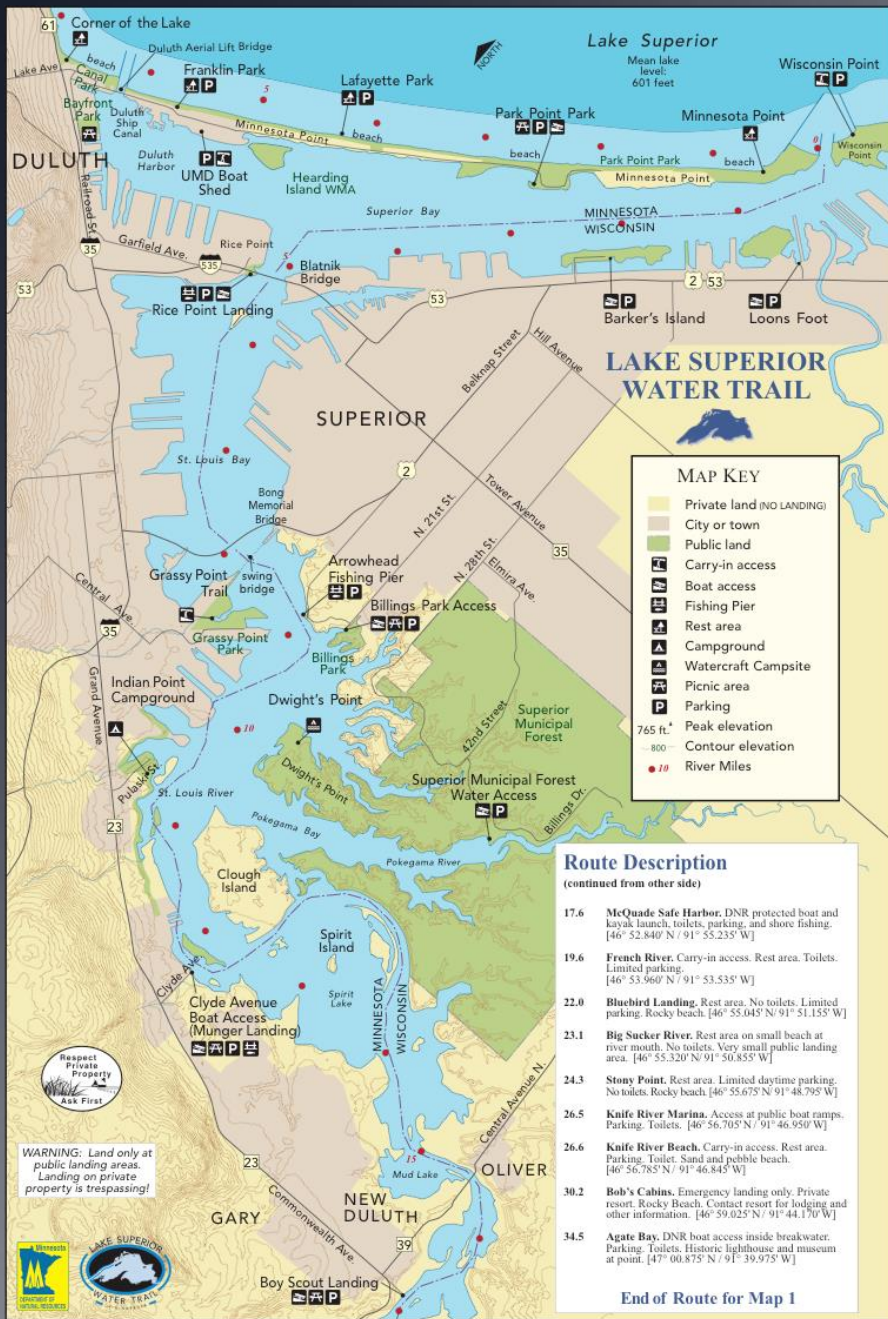
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containing 10% of all the fresh water on earth.

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ALL PHOTOS BY BOB ALLEN

St. Louis River and
Minnesota Point to Canal Park



Canal Park to
Lakewood



Lakewood to
Stony Point



Stony Point to
Two Harbors





KAYAKERS

Lake Superior can be
UNPREDICTABLE and HAZARDOUS

- Be alert to frequent weather changes. Plan your trip. Take a weather radio with you.
- Be prepared for fog. Always carry a compass.
- Be aware of present and changing wind and wave conditions.
- Cold water kills — temperatures of 35-55° F. are common. Wet or dry suits are strongly recommended.

Sea kayaking experience and peddling with other kayakers recommended.
Open canoes **NOT RECOMMENDED** on the Water Trail.

THE LAW REQUIRES:

- A Coast Guard approved wearable personal flotation device for each person.
- All watercraft must be licensed.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources





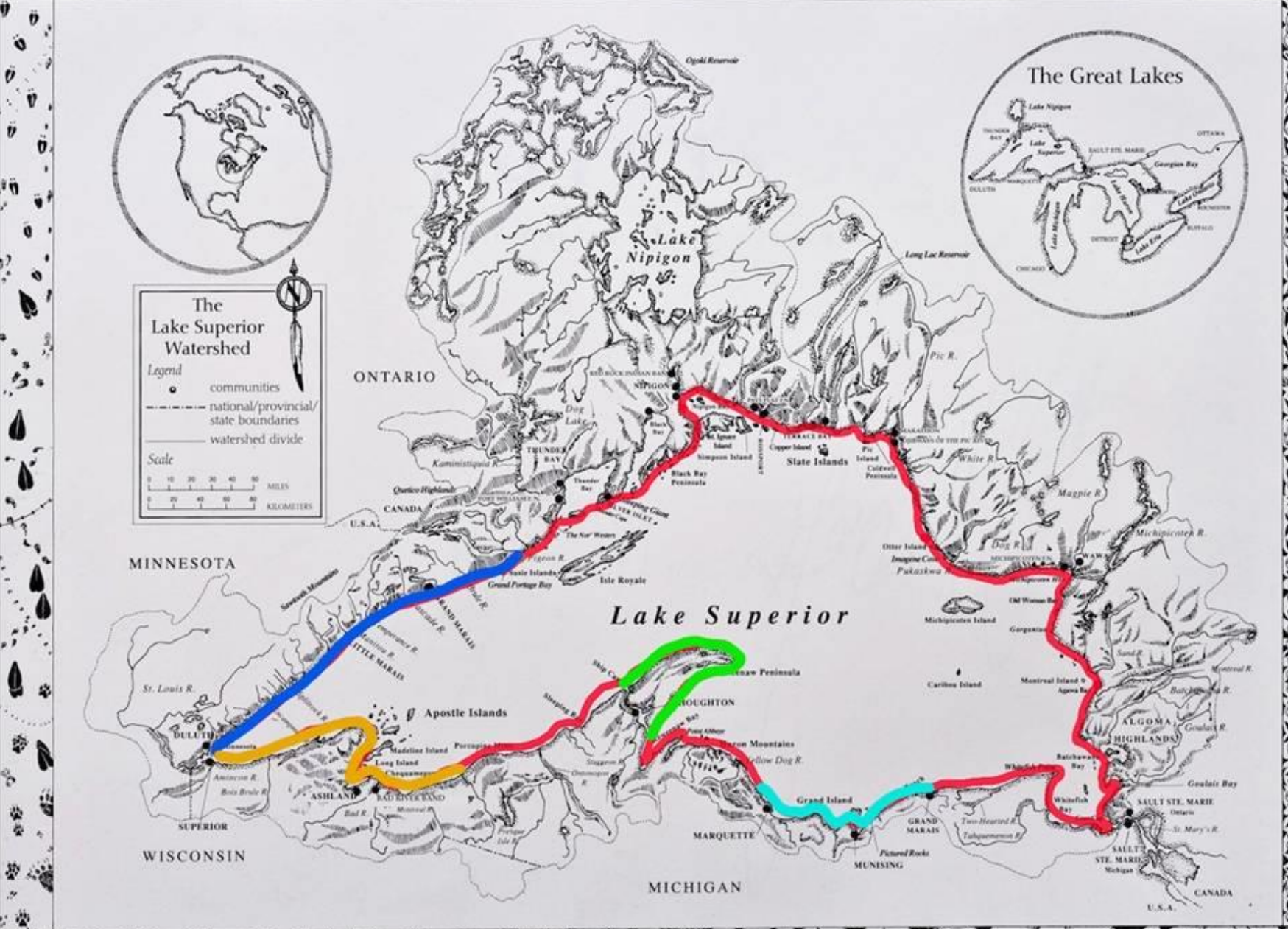
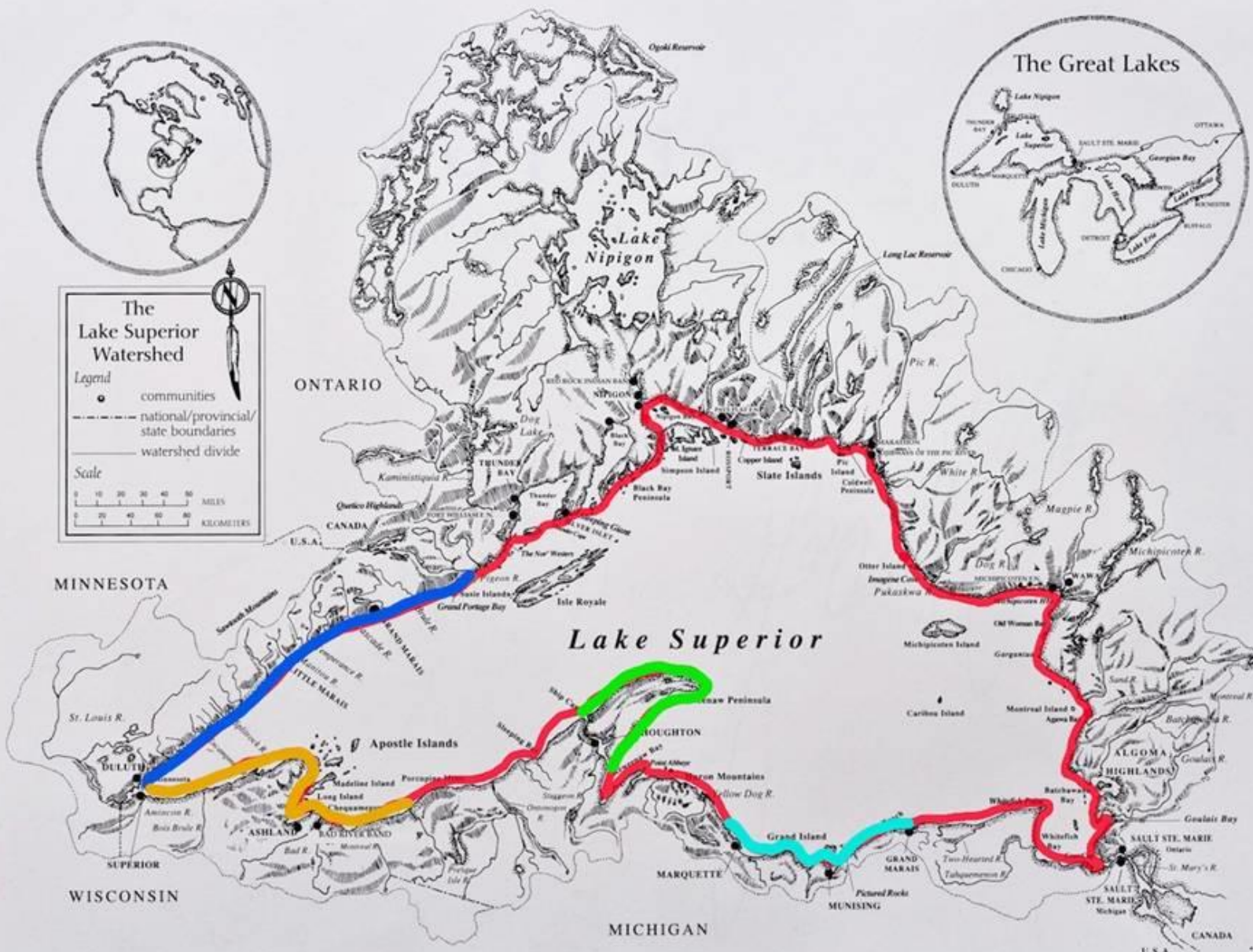




The Lake Superior Watershed

- Legend**
- communities
 - - - national/provincial/state boundaries
 - watershed divide

Scale



Please.. TAKE NOTHING BUT PICTURES
LEAVE NOTHING BUT FOOT PRINTS...

St. Martin Island Partnership



Thank you





