

A Call to Action *Crystal Clear*

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River &
Recreation Area



State of the River Report



The Mississippi River through the Minneapolis/St. Paul metropolitan area is a rapidly growing destination for canoeists and boaters.

NPS PHOTO

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (NRRA) is a 72-mile river segment of the Mississippi River corridor running through the heart of Minnesota's "Twin Cities," Minneapolis and St. Paul. The NRRA was established in 1988 to protect, preserve, and enhance the river's nationally significant resources, coordinate government programs and provide an integrated management framework. The only gorge and waterfall along the entire Mississippi River main stem, as well as confluences with the Minnesota and St. Croix rivers, are located within the NRRA.

Background

The State of the River Report for Mississippi NRRA was developed in conjunction with NPS partner Friends of the Mississippi River to highlight key indicators of river health. The report provides interpreted information on 13

indicators that help readers understand how the river's condition impacts its usability for swimming and recreation, fish and fishing, and its overall ecological health.

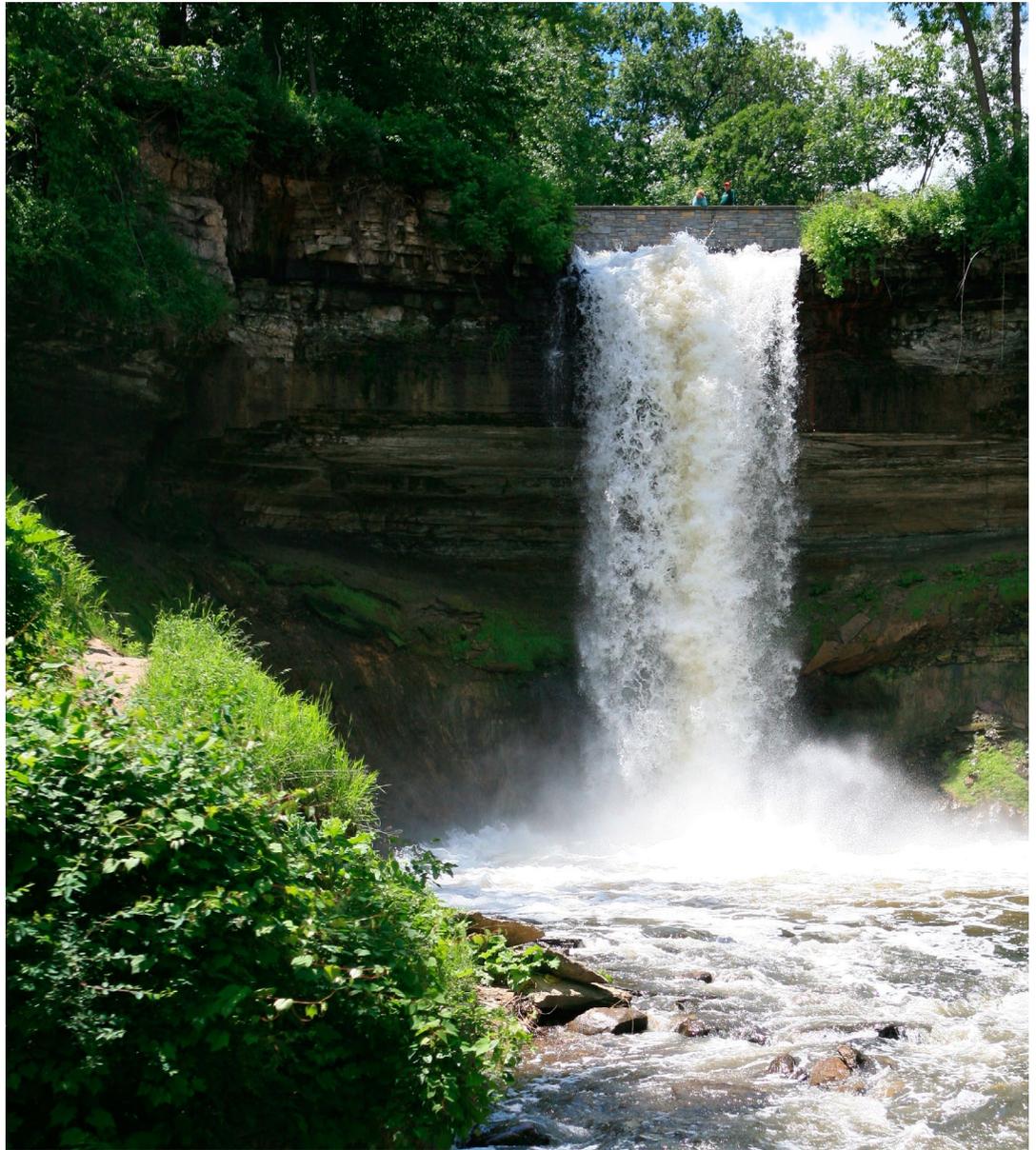
Status

Results indicate that river water quality and ecological health have improved in many ways since implementation of the Clean Water Act in 1972. Bald eagles, native mussels, and fish populations have improved in conjunction with pollution reduction. However, concentrations of sediment, phosphorus, and some toxins remain too high, and increasing river

flow, nitrate concentrations, invasive species like Asian carp, and contaminants of special concern are identified as high risk concerns.

The report is available at the Mississippi NRRA website under State of the River at www.nps.gov/miss/naturescience/water-quality.htm.

Minnehaha Falls on Minnehaha Creek just above its entry into the Mississippi River. NPS PHOTO



More Information

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