

# A Minnesota

**10,000 Years Before Present**  
Lake Pepin formed as the Chippewa  
River partially blocked the flow of  
the Mississippi River



Minnesota River Valley



MN DNR

**12,000 Years**  
**Before Present**  
Minnesota River Valley  
formed by glacial  
meltwater



# Water Timeline

**1823**  
Steamboat completes the trip from St. Louis to Fort Snelling for the first time

**1825**  
Fort Snelling is established at the confluence of the Minnesota and Mississippi rivers

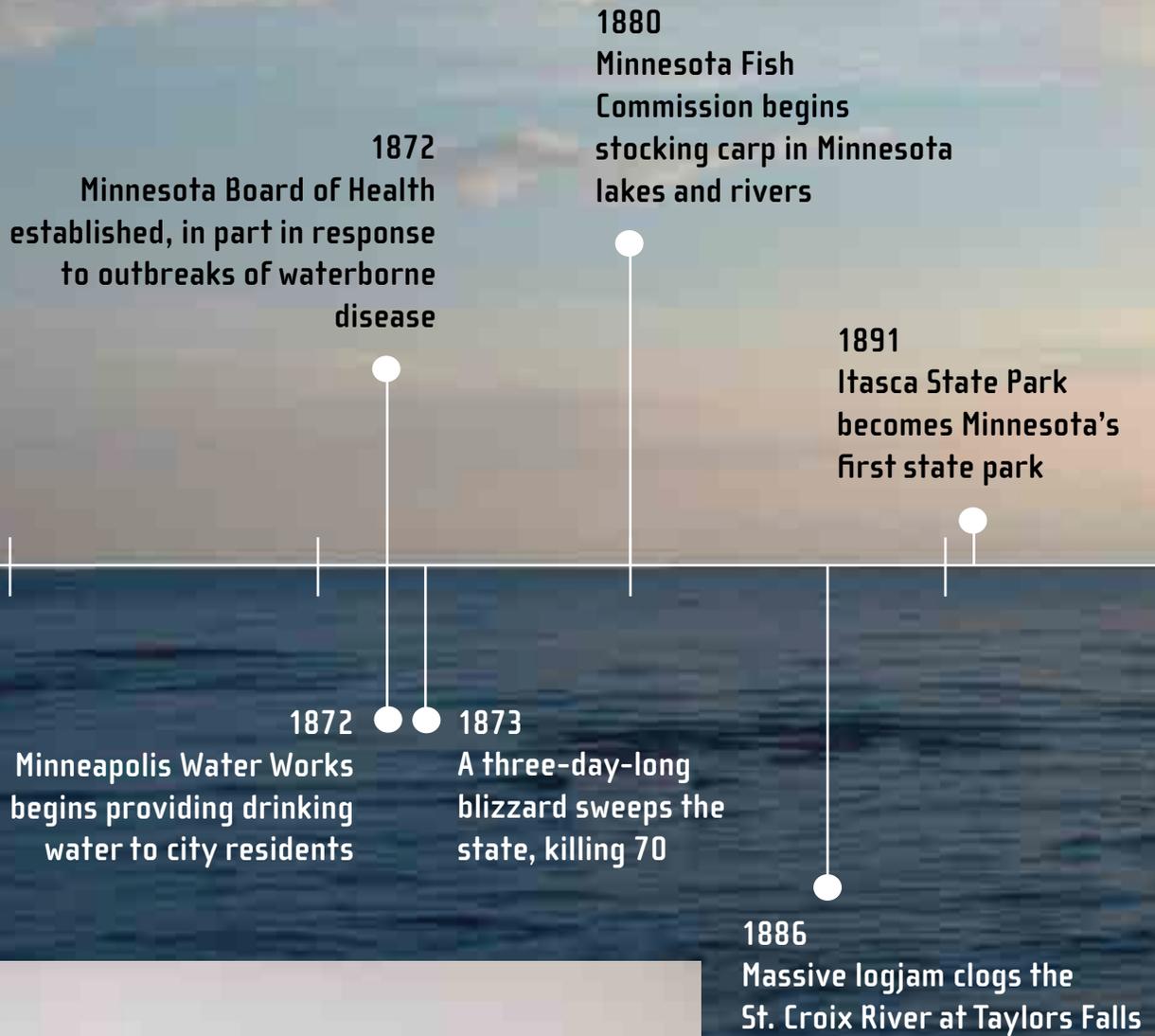
**1821**  
Sawmill constructed at St. Anthony Falls to use power from the waterfall to cut wood into boards

**1824**  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers takes on the job of making and keeping the Mississippi River navigable

**1832**  
Explorers Henry Schoolcraft and Ozawindib arrive at Lake Itasca, the “true head” of the Mississippi River

St. Anthony Falls





Logjam of 1886, Taylors Falls, St. Croix River

Minnesota Historical Society

**1909**  
First sewage  
treatment  
plant in  
Minnesota  
constructed  
at Baudette

**1912**  
Duluth begins  
chlorinating its  
drinking water  
supply

**1910**  
Minneapolis  
begins treating  
its drinking  
water supply to  
kill bacteria in  
response to a  
deadly typhoid  
fever outbreak

**1920**  
St. Paul begins  
chlorinating its  
drinking water  
supply

**1937**  
Minnesota Water  
Conservation Act  
becomes law

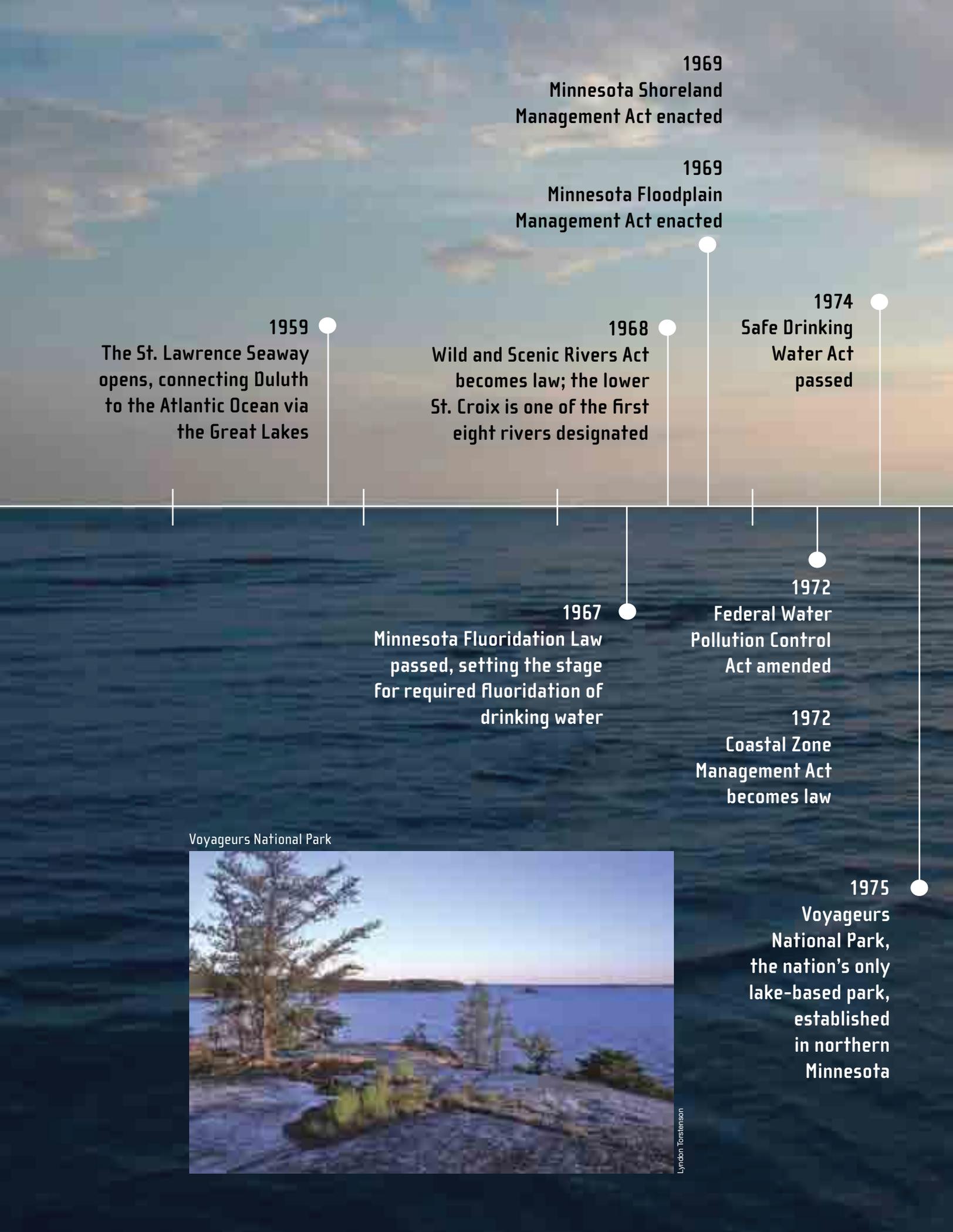
**1938**  
Sea lamprey  
first found in  
Lake Superior

**1940**  
Surprise Armistice Day  
blizzard dumps nearly  
17 inches of snow on  
parts of Minnesota,  
killing 49

**1948**  
Federal Water  
Pollution Control  
Act becomes law



Digging out after the  
Armistice Day blizzard



1969

Minnesota Shoreland Management Act enacted

1969

Minnesota Floodplain Management Act enacted

1959

The St. Lawrence Seaway opens, connecting Duluth to the Atlantic Ocean via the Great Lakes

1968

Wild and Scenic Rivers Act becomes law; the lower St. Croix is one of the first eight rivers designated

1974

Safe Drinking Water Act passed

1972

Federal Water Pollution Control Act amended

1967

Minnesota Fluoridation Law passed, setting the stage for required fluoridation of drinking water

1972

Coastal Zone Management Act becomes law

Voyageurs National Park



Lynden Torstenson

1975

Voyageurs National Park, the nation's only lake-based park, established in northern Minnesota

1977

Further Water Pollution Control Act amendments result in creation of Clean Water Act

1982

Nearly 3 feet of snow fall in the Twin Cities over a period of three days in January

1982

Minnesota Acid Deposition Control Act enacted

1988

Mississippi National River and Recreation Area established

1988

Minnesota suffers record drought

1990

Minnesota Wild and Scenic Rivers Act enacted

2007

Southeastern Minnesota struck by a devastating flood as the northeastern part of the state suffers drought

1978

Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness established by act of Congress

1989

Minnesota Ground Water Protection Act enacted

1985

Minnesota bans use of lead in plumbing solder, pipes, and fittings

1991

Wetland Conservation Act enacted

1991

Record snowfall dumps 24 inches of snow in 24 hours on parts of Minnesota

1997

Red River flood devastates East Grand Forks, Moorhead, causing billions of dollars in damage

1997 Red River flood

