

# The Next Big Idea: Great Rivers National Park

















**AltonWorks is  
Transforming Historic  
Downtown Alton  
into a Vibrant, Walkable,  
and Innovative Place to  
Live, Work, Eat, and Play**





The Wedge



Lucas Row



Jacoby Building



Park Park



**Let's Work Together  
to Transform  
Riverfront Park into a  
Family-Friendly Outdoor  
Recreation Destination**







Here's  
Riverfront Park  
Today











**Let's Use Innovative  
Riverfront Development  
Principles to Create a  
Place People Love**



- 1) Showcase the river's history
- 2) Activate the riverfront but preserve the view shed
- 3) Connect the community to the river
- 4) Engage with the water





**5) Connect seamlessly along the riverfront and into downtown**

**6) Restore the environment**

**7) Use high-quality materials and sustainable design**









# AltonWorks Proposes a New Vision for Riverfront Park







# 1 - Improve Cruise Ship Mooring Area & Amenities





# 1 - Food and Beverage Stands, Information Kiosks





# 1 - Bike and EV Rentals, Signage, and Public Art





## 2 - Make Updates to the Marina





## 2 - Better Restrooms, Restaurant with Great Views





# 3 - Add Concrete Boardwalk Along the Riverfront





# 3 - Access to Water, Kayaks, Canoes, and Fishing





# 4 - Connect Riverfront & Downtown with Bike Trails





# 4 - Make Biking and Walking Safe, Easy, and Fun





# 5 - Activate the Great Lumber Site for Family Fun





# 5 - Basketball, Pickleball, Climbing, and Lots of Fun





# Recommended Site for Landside Argosy Casino





**Riverfront Park**

**Next Steps:**

**City of Alton and the  
Army Corps of Engineers  
to Work Together  
on a Master Plan**



The Next Big Idea:  
AltonWorks  
Proposes  
the Great Rivers  
National Park

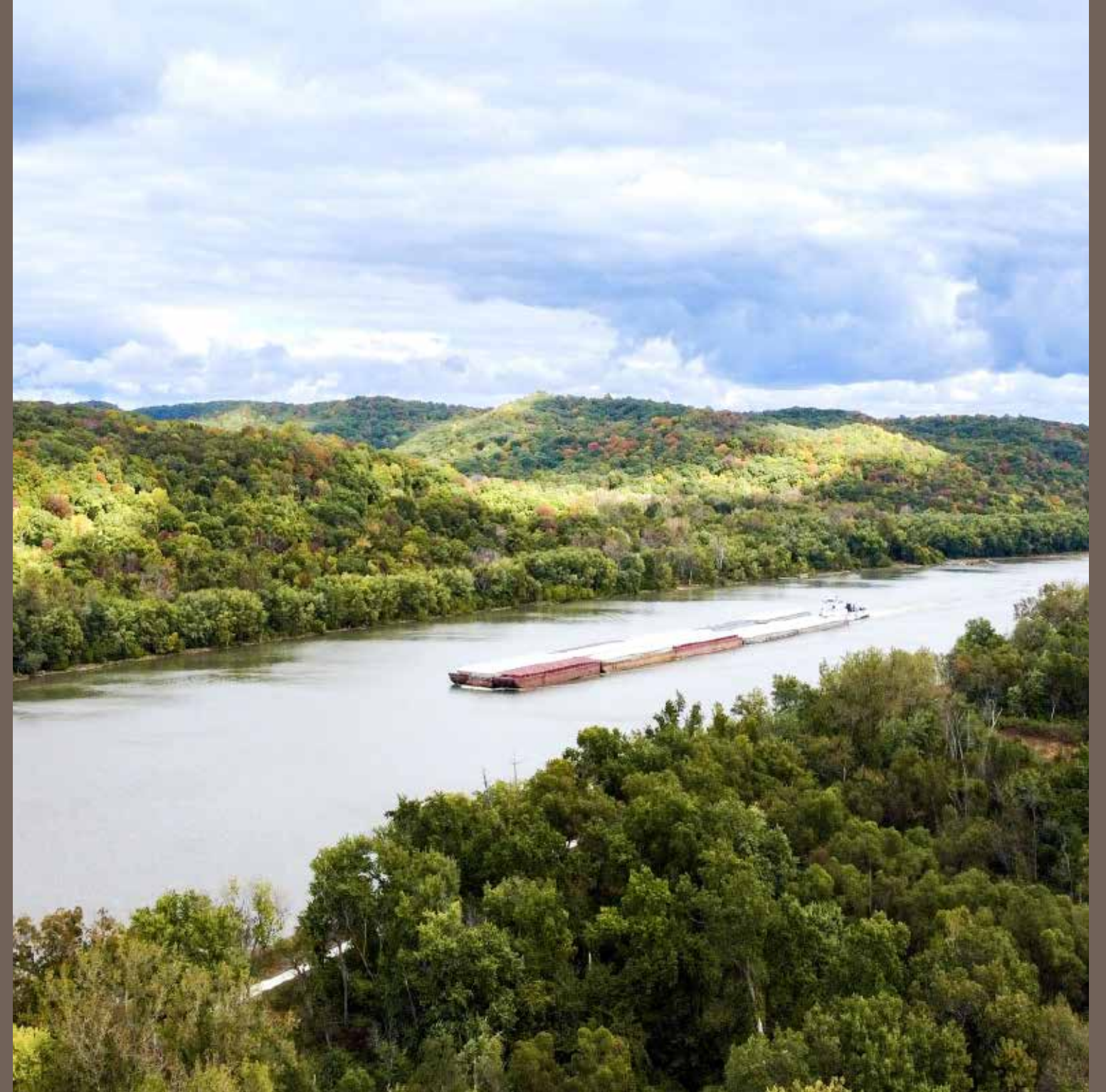






# The Mississippi River is a Significant, National Icon

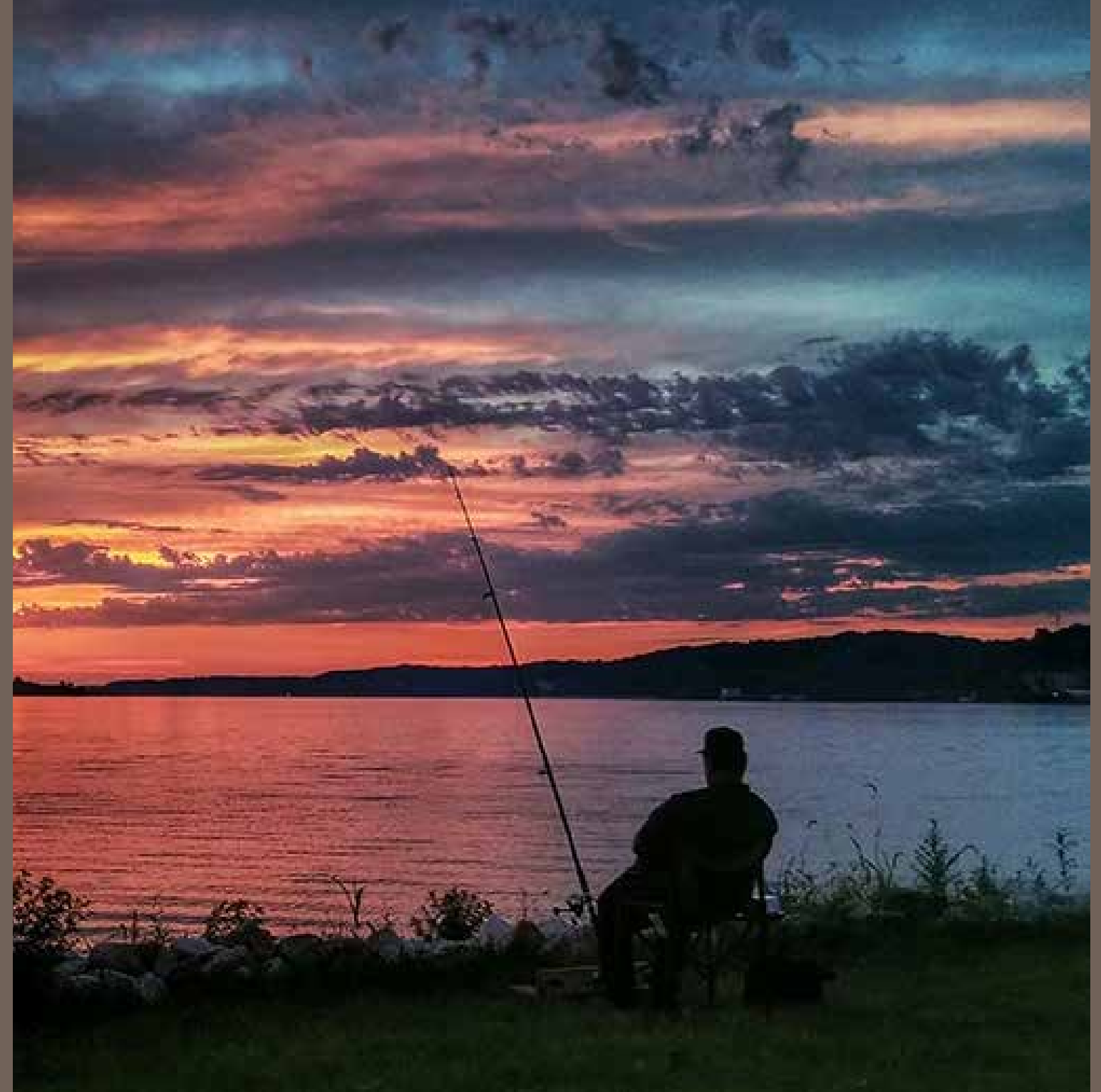
Major, historic transportation route, water source for millions, diverse wildlife habitat





# Surrounding Public Lands are Used in Many Ways

Crucial for agriculture with fertile soil, and outdoor recreation with rivers and forests





# Threats and Challenges

- **Fragmentation: disrupts habitats, increases pressure on budgets and land management**
- **Invasive species**
- **Pollution**
- **Poorly planned growth and encroachment**
- **Population growth: second-largest concentration in Illinois after Chicago**





# Examples of Similar National Parks

New River Gorge National Park,  
West Virginia

Mississippi National River &  
Recreation Area, Minnesota



# New River Gorge National Park, West Virginia

70,000 acres along 53 miles of the New River from Bluestone Dam to Hawk's Nest Lake





# Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

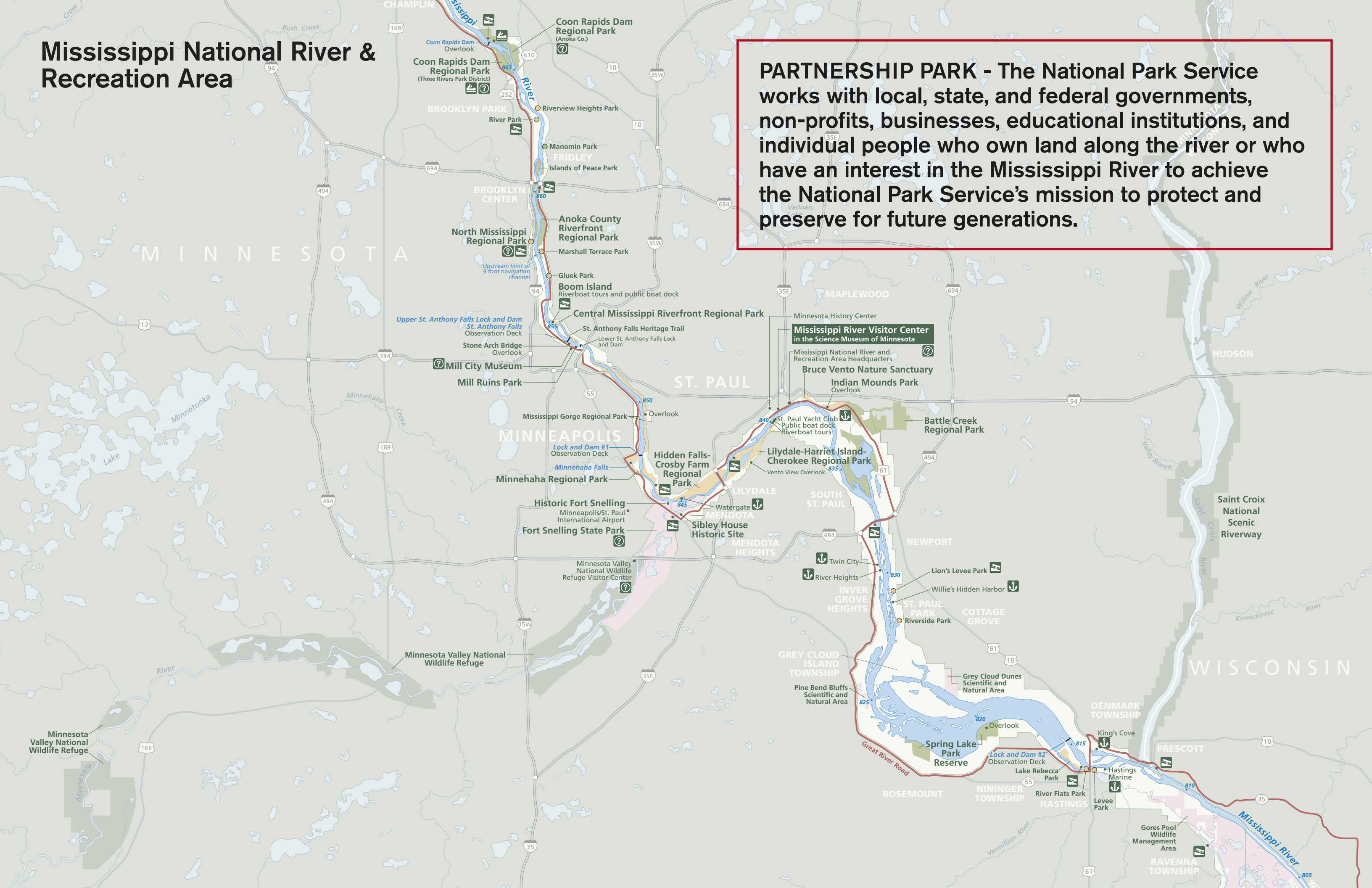
72-mile long park in Minneapolis, MN for fishing, boating, birdwatching, and canoeing





# Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

**PARTNERSHIP PARK** - The National Park Service works with local, state, and federal governments, non-profits, businesses, educational institutions, and individual people who own land along the river or who have an interest in the Mississippi River to achieve the National Park Service's mission to protect and preserve for future generations.





**Great Rivers National  
Park Would Preserve  
and Protect the Iconic  
Mississippi River and  
its Confluences with  
the Missouri and  
Illinois Rivers**



**Within This Area There  
are Thousands of  
Acres Already Under  
Federal, State, and  
Local Jurisdictions -  
All Public Lands**



**Bring Them Under the  
National Park Service  
Management -  
Consistent Trails,  
Interpretives, Amenities,  
Marketing, Maintenance,  
and Funding**

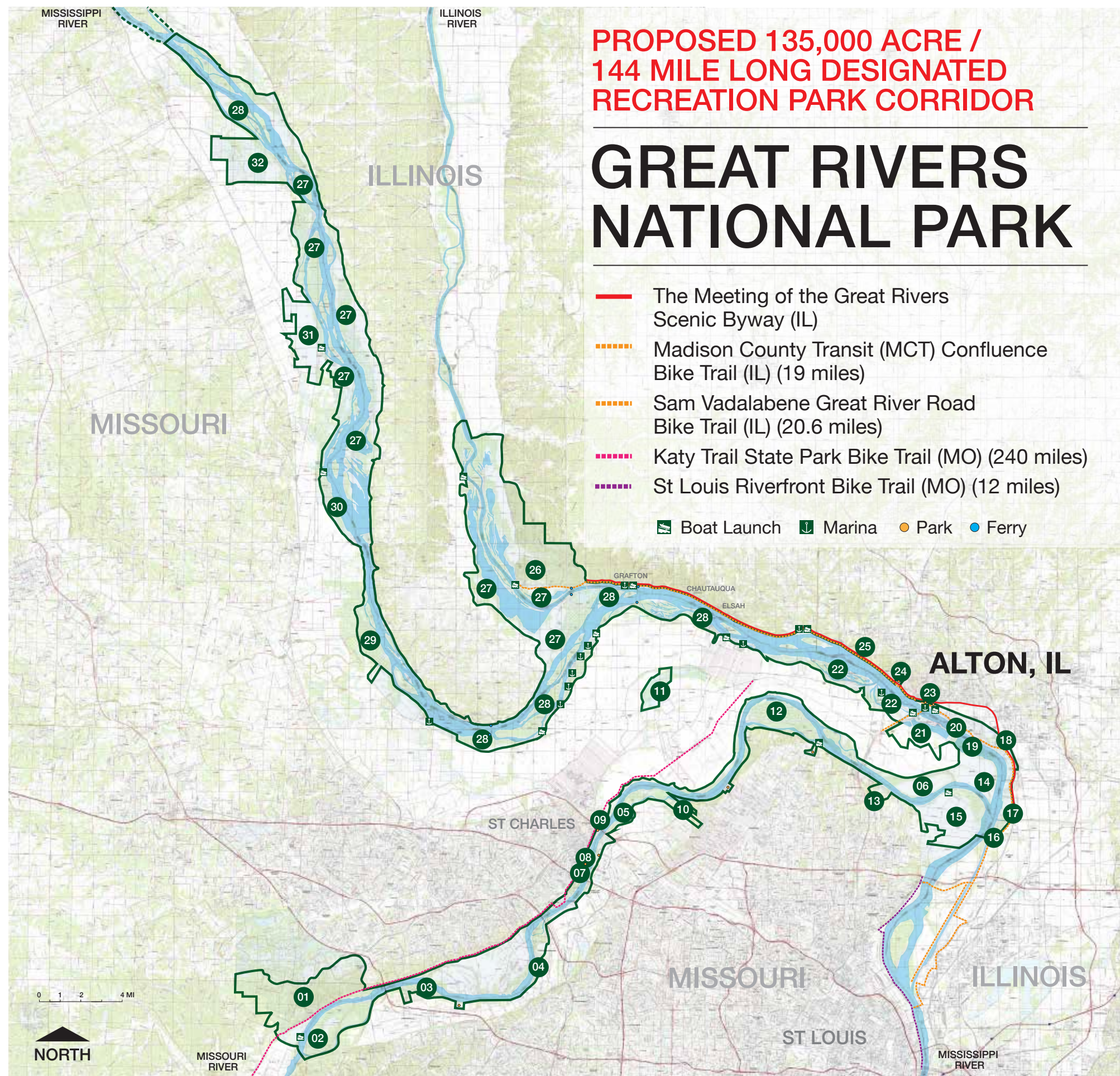


# Proposed Great Rivers National Park

135,000 acre, 144 mile designated recreation park corridor and beacon of sustainability







- 01 Weldon Spring Conservation Area (MO)
- 02 Howell Island Conservation Area (MO)
- Big Muddy National Fish & Wildlife Refuge (USFWS - MO):
- 03 • Boone's Crossing
- 04 • Howard Bend
- 05 • Bryan Island
- 06 • Cora Island
- 07 Lewis & Clark Boat House and Museum (MO)
- 08 Lewis & Clark Monument (MO)
- 09 Jean Baptiste du Sable Park (MO)
- 10 Saint Stanislaus Conservation Area (MO)
- 11 Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area (MO)
- 12 Pelican Island Natural Area (MO)
- 13 Fort Belle Fontaine (MO)
- 14 Edward "Ted" and Pat Jones Confluence Point State Park (MO)
- 15 Columbia Bottom Conservation Area (MO)
- 16 Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (NPS)
- 17 Lewis & Clark Confluence Tower (IL)
- 18 Lewis & Clark State Historic Site - Camp DuBois (IL)
- 19 Maple Island Conservation Area (USACE - MO)
- 20 National Great Rivers Museum & Melvin Price Lock and Dam (USACE/IL)
- 21 Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary (USACE/MO)
- 22 Great River NWR @ Dresser Island and West Alton Pool 26 (USFWS)
- 23 City of Alton - Riverfront Park (IL)
- 24 City of Alton - Piasa Park (IL)
- 25 John M. Olin Nature Preserve / Hoffman Gardens (IL)
- 26 Pere Marquette State Park (IL)
- 27 Two Rivers National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)
- 28 Great River National Wildlife Refuge (USFWS)
- 29 Cuivre Island Conservation Area (MO)
- 30 Sandy Island Conservation Area (MO)
- 31 BK Leach Memorial Conservation Area (MO)
- 32 Clarence Cannon National Wildlife Refuge (MO)



**National Parks  
Bring in Billions  
of Dollars in Positive  
Economic Development**



**Alton Would Become  
the Hub and Gateway  
for Great Rivers  
National Park Bringing  
Tremendous Economic  
Benefits and New Jobs  
to the Region**



# Great Rivers National Park Becomes the “Third Coast,” Drawing Tourists and New Residents





**“This National Park  
designation would be  
a great opportunity  
for Madison County.”**

**Chairman Kurt Prenzler,  
Madison County Illinois**



**“Some ideas are just a  
‘no brainer.’”**

**Mike Morrow, Mayor of Grafton**



# A Call to Action: Designating a National Park

## Preserving National Significance for Future Generations



# National Park Service Process

Submit Formal Request  
for a Reconnaissance  
Survey to Assess  
Park Potential



# Criteria for National Parks

- National Significance
- Resource Evaluation
- Suitability
- Feasibility



# National Significance: A) Outstanding example of a particular type of resource

**Confluence**



**Pelican Island Natural Area**



**Alton Bluffs**



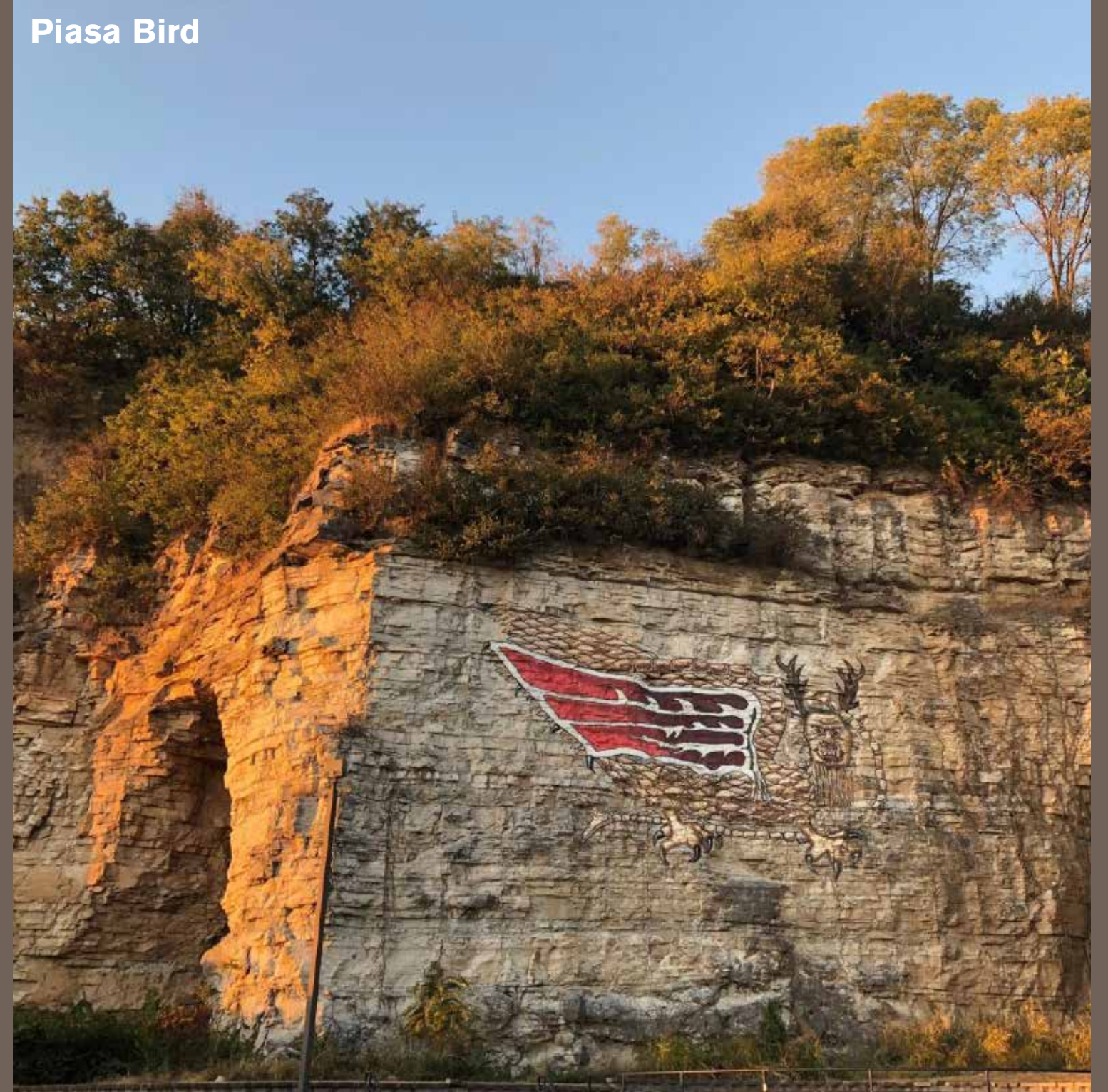


# National Significance: B) Exceptional illustration of our Nation's natural and cultural themes

**Cahokia Mounds**



**Piasa Bird**



**Lewis and Clark Memorial at Confluence Tower**





# National Significance: C) Superlative opportunities for recreation or scientific study

Bald Eagle in Alton



Walking and Biking Path



Pere Marquette State Park



Alton Marina





**National Significance: D) High degree of integrity as a true and accurate example of the resource**





# Resource Evaluation: Natural Areas

**Decurrent False Aster**



**Least Tern**



**Limestone Bluffs in Alton-Grafton Area**



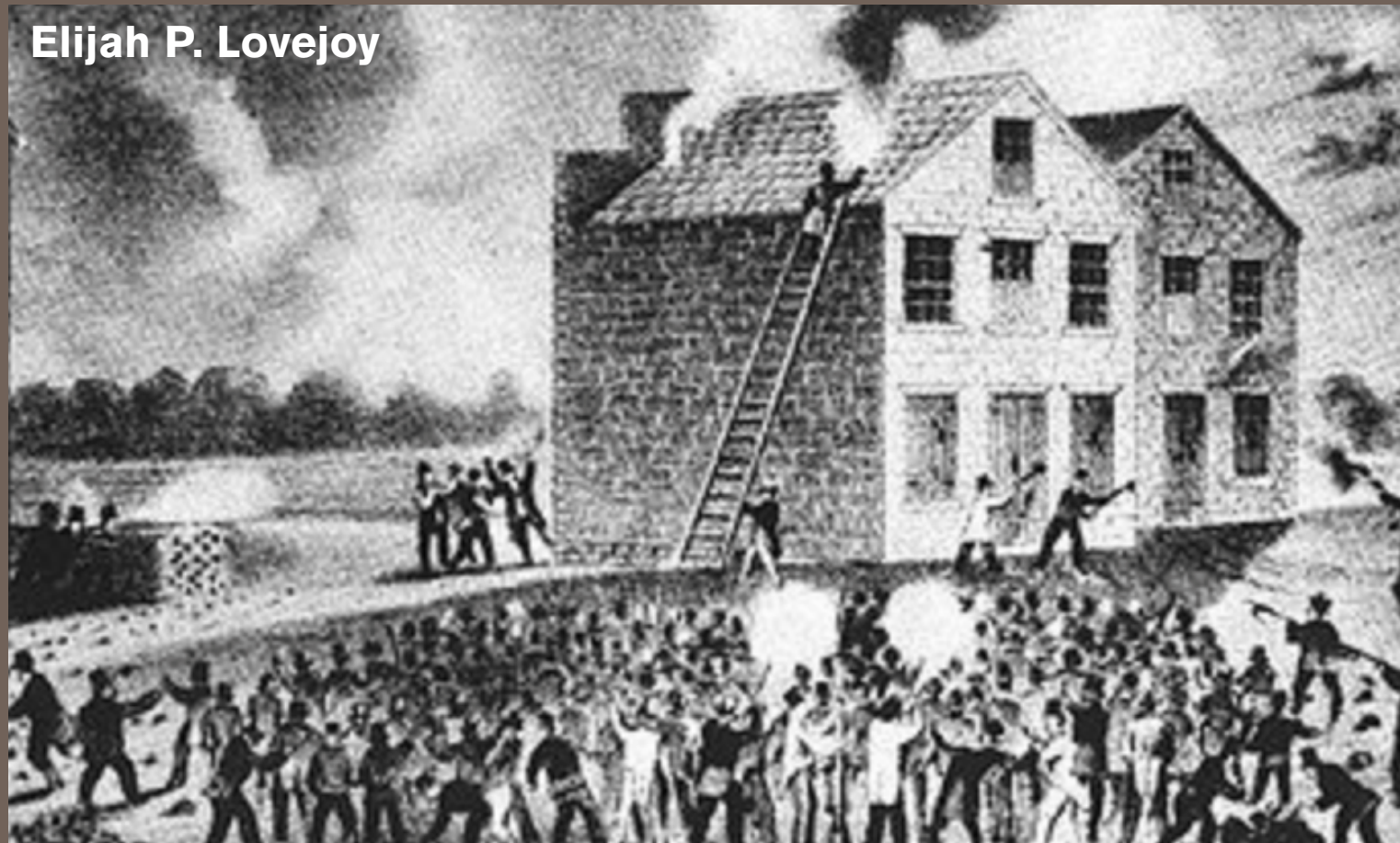
**Marais Temps Clair Conservation Area**



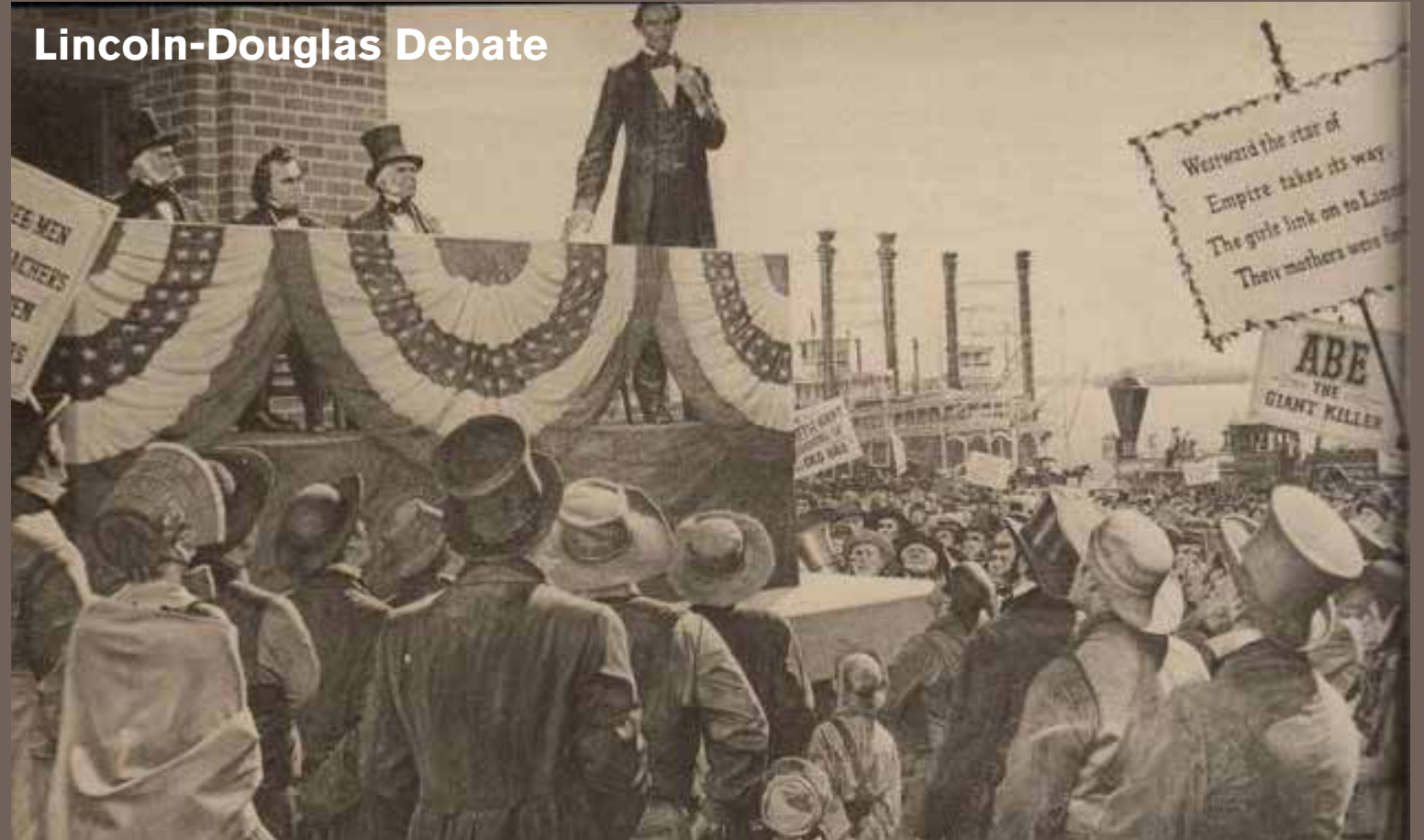


# Resource Evaluation: Cultural Areas

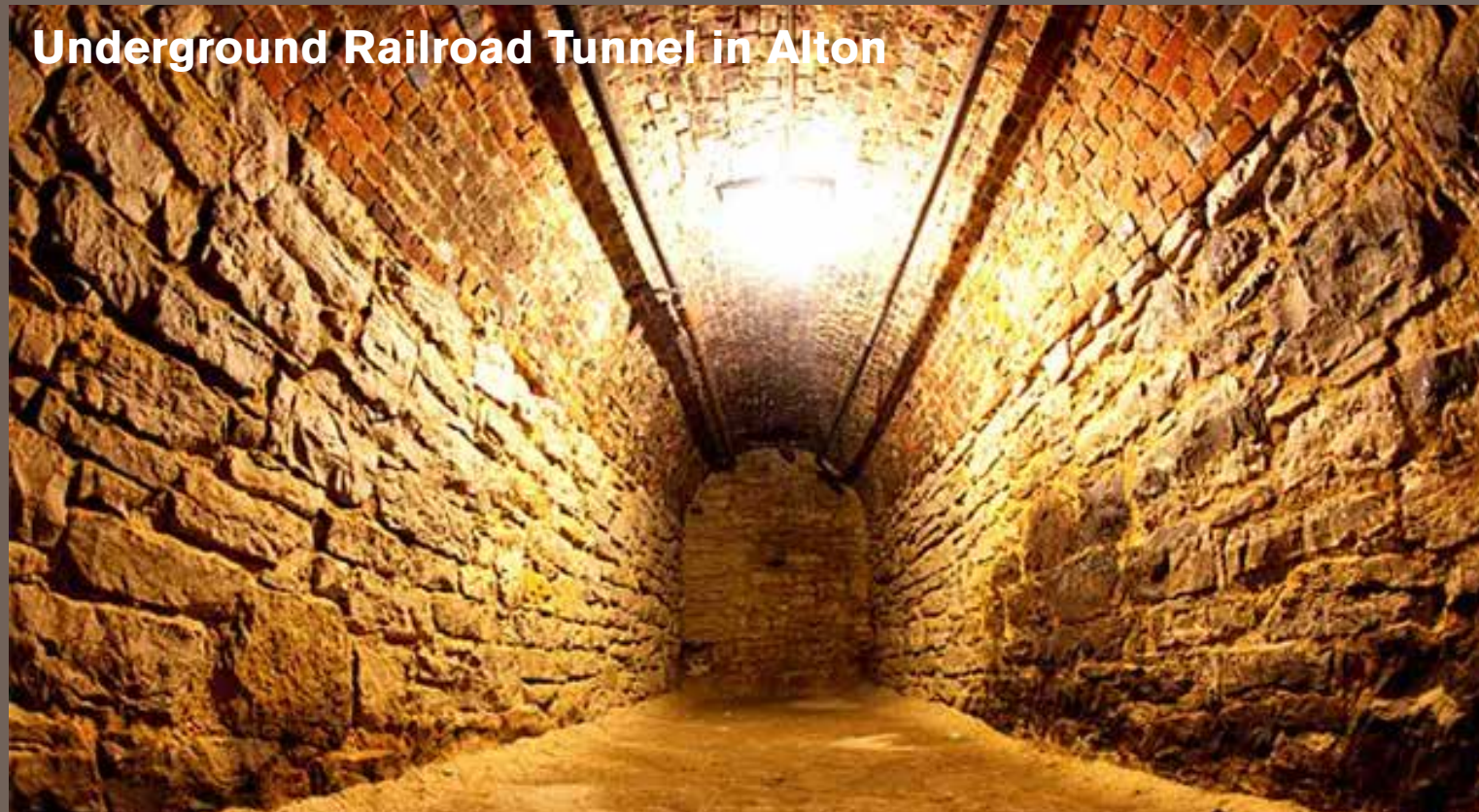
Elijah P. Lovejoy



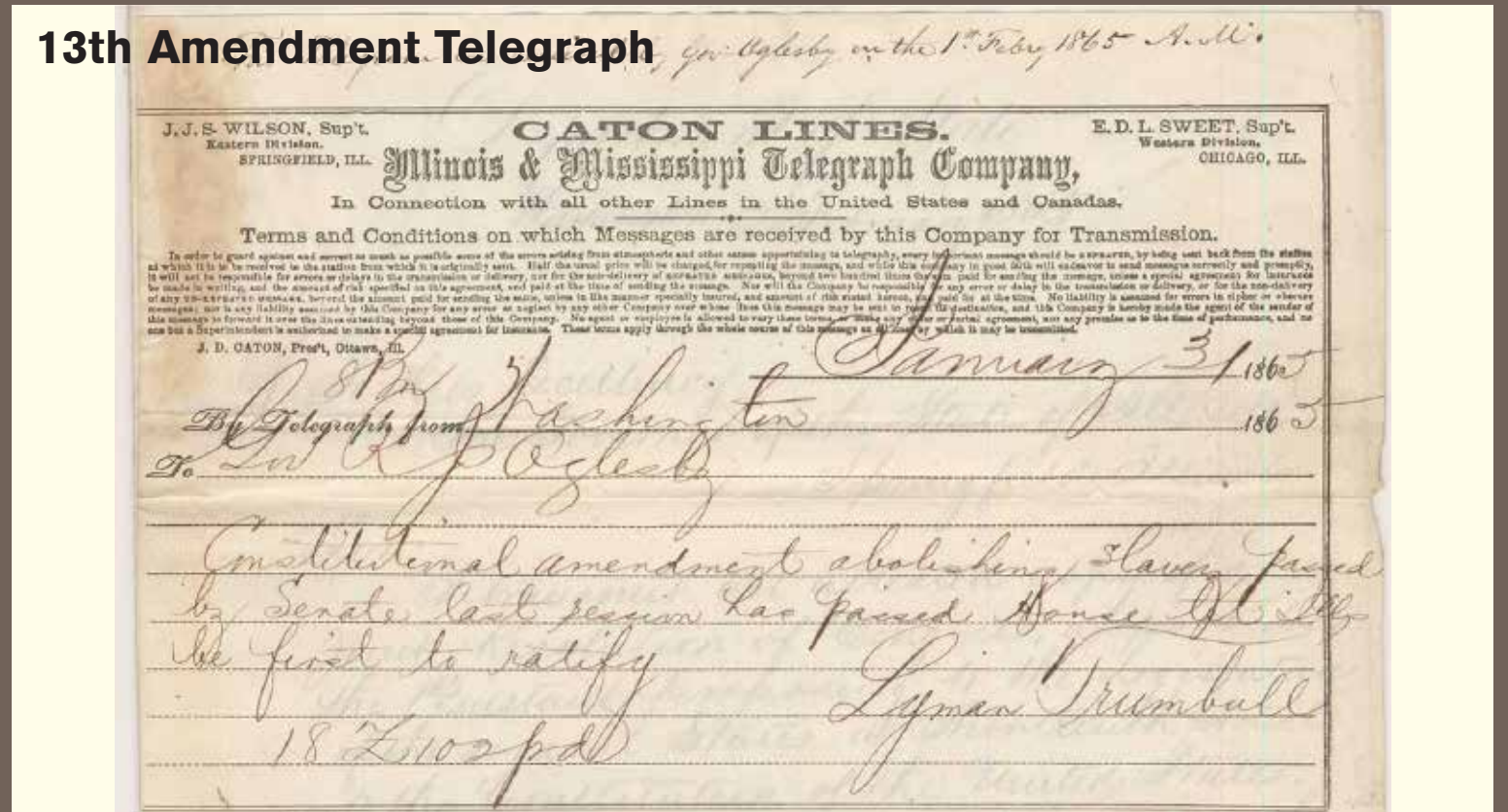
Lincoln-Douglas Debate



Underground Railroad Tunnel in Alton



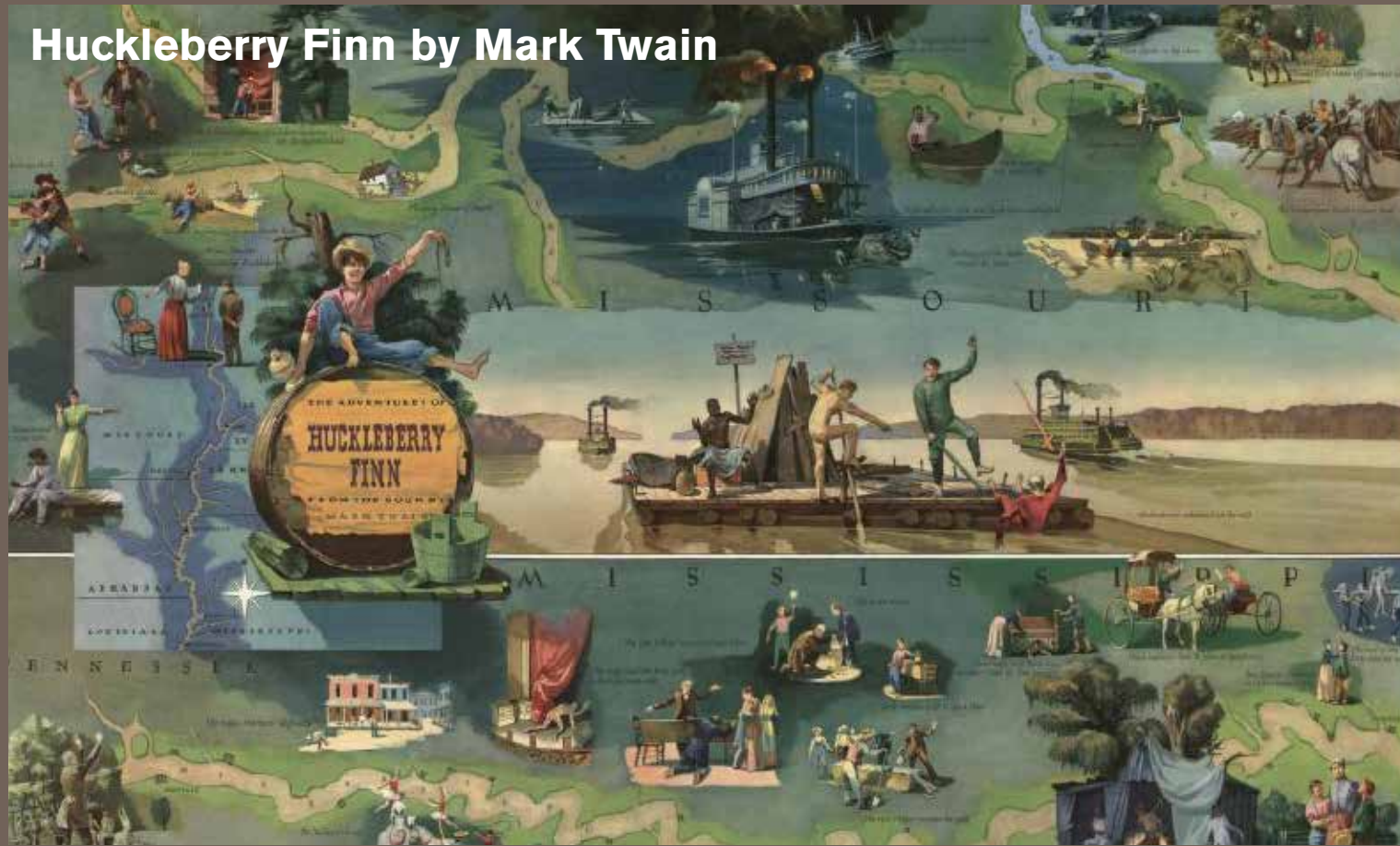
13th Amendment Telegraph





# Resource Evaluation: Cultural Areas

Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain



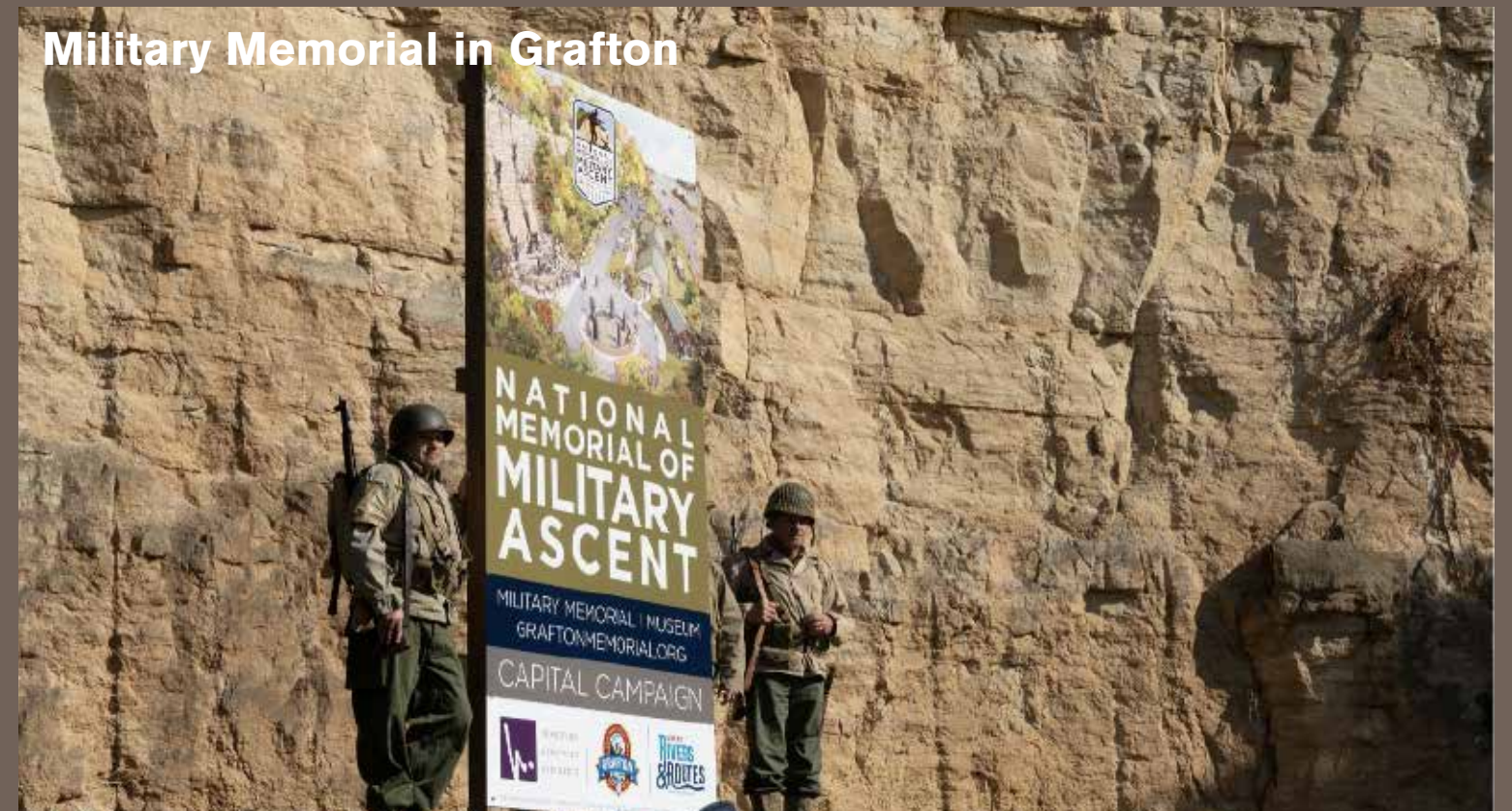
Miles Davis



Lewis & Clark State Historic Site - Camp River DuBois



Military Memorial in Grafton





# Suitability: Represents a unique theme or resource



Big Muddy Adventures



# Feasibility: All lands are public; establish a Trust



**Big Muddy National Fish and Wildlife Refuge**



**Let's Rally  
Public Support  
for Great Rivers  
National Park!**