


# Dredging to start soon on river, harbor

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Contractors have been selected to complete dredging work in the lower Sheboygan River and inner harbor this summer and work is expected to begin in earnest within a couple of weeks, officials announced this week.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has contracted with Cheboygan, Mich.-based Ryba [Marine](#) Construction Co. and Kalamazoo, Mich.-based Terra Contracting to dredge the river between the Eighth Street bridge and Kiwanis Park. The work is being done through the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Cincinnati-based Pollution Risk Services Inc. is continuing to dredge from the Eighth Street Bridge to the Pennsylvania Avenue Bridge.

Sediment dredging conducted by Ryba-Terra will begin in early August. Dredged sediment will be dried at the former Alliant Energy office building near the Eighth Street Bridge. The Wisconsin [Naval](#) Ship Association now owns the site. The dried sediment will be hauled from there to a landfill.

Equipment and materials are currently arriving on a daily basis, including sediment transport barges, sectional barges, dredging barges and work tugs, according to a press release from the City of Sheboygan.

[Construction](#) of an unloading platform along the shoreline has begun. Dredging will continue through November, with trucks using the Eighth Street roundabout and Indiana Avenue.

The EPA also has contracted with EQM Technologies, also of Cincinnati, to dredge the inner harbor below the Eighth Street Bridge to the river's mouth.

The harbor dredging project will remove low-impact sediment. A Redevelopment Authority-owned parcel of land on South Pier directly west of the City's [fish](#) cleaning station at the entrance to the pier as well as a 0.87 acre parcel of land across from this parcel will be used as de-watering and construction staging sites. Truck traffic from this project also will exit through the Eight Street roundabout and Indiana Avenue.

Construction of the de-watering site for the harbor project will begin in early August. Dredging there will start in late August and will continue through November.

All dredging activities will be operating 24 hours per day, seven days of the week

The dredging is part of a long-running plan to remove pollutants — mainly polychlorinated biphenyls, or PCBs — from the harbor to Sheboygan Falls and take that stretch of river off the EPA's list of most polluted areas on the Great Lakes.

The dredging also will deepen the channel to 16 feet in the inner harbor and to 10 feet upstream from the Eighth Street bridge. That will allow cruise ships to dock in the South Pier District and encourage economic development along the river, officials say.

The City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County are each contributing \$250,000 to the inner harbor dredging and \$100,000 each to dredging upstream of the Eighth Street bridge.

The city's website will be updated weekly with information on progress of the project and with updates on the construction schedule.

The website also contains links to City of Sheboygan, USEPA, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and [University](#) of Wisconsin-Extension websites that give information on other projects in the Sheboygan River Area of Concern.

In addition, the city has awarded a \$4.522 million contract to Lee & Ryan, of Greenfield, Ind., to complete the fish and wildlife habitat projects at Kiwanis Park, Wildwood Island and the Taylor/Indiana Avenue intersection. Work is scheduled to begin Aug. 9 and be completed near the end of the year.

Funding for this project is from the federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.