

# What's been done to help the Sheboygan River heal?

The healing process was given a boost in 2012, with more than \$83 million in tax dollars and private funding. Projects improved fish and wildlife habitat and removed more than 15,000 dump truck loads of contaminated sediment containing more than one ton of PCBs.

#### The Sheboygan: a *healing* river <=</li> PCBs contaminated the lowe 14 miles of the Sheboygan **Great Lakes Areas of Concern** River by the 1970s. Then the Deer Lake-Carp Creek/Riv labitat Clean Water Act set the stage **Roy Sebald** for laws that prohibit dumping Sheboygan industrial waste, and the U.S **River Natura** Area oanned PCBs Shebovgan River Lake & Harbo Esslingen Park éé Habitat Area Michigan Sheboygan **Taylor Drive** an Falls Dam Wetland Habitat Area LEGEND The Sheboygan River is the first Wisconsin AOCs **Kiwanis Park** U.S. Great Lakes Area of Concern Other U.S. AOCs Canadian AOCs to undergo such a comprehensive You Are Here Habitat Area Binational AOCs clean-up and habitat restoration. Areas in Recovery River or Stream Great Lakes Areas of Concern are severely degraded **Special features:** Delisted Canadian AOCs Lake or River and do not support aquatic organisms (such as fish Delisted U.S. AOCs Habitat Improvement Area • Stairs for accessing the river and waterfowl) that are safe for human use. rom U.S. Environmental Protection Agen pdated January 2013)

## Projects improved fish & wildlife habitat

For more than a century, river habitat has been neglected and injured, resulting in Sheboygan River native fish and wildlife population declines. Projects restored, enhanced and connected wetlands and floodplain forest. This was done by:

- planting native trees, shrubs and other plants
- stabilizing eroded shorelands
- identifying, mapping and controlling invasive plants
- reclaiming historic wetlands
- ▶ installing habitat structures, such as nest boxes, boulders and logs







Publication paid for in part with support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, under Assistance Agreement No. GL00E00651-(



## What's next?

**Impact:** 

Biologists will monitor fish and wildlife communities to assure that project goals are being met. Biologists will also continue to monitor contaminant levels in fish and wildlife to determine when the consumption advisories can be lifted.

Follow advisories to avoid or limit eating fish and waterfowl caught in the Sheboygan River and Harbor until samples show that PCB levels in the food chain have dropped.

-XTENSION

This tremendous effort is due to the collaboration and partnership of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County, and the cooperation of Pollution Risk Services (Tecumseh Products Company) and Wisconsin Public Service.

101 native species planted

• 4.8 acres and .75 miles

of shoreline.

## Projects made the river cleaner & deeper

Dredges scooped or pumped out pockets of sediment contaminated with PCBs and PAHs. The sediment, some toxic, was hauled to special landfills in Wisconsin and other states.

#### What are PCBs?

PCBs are chemicals used in the U.S. from 1929-1978 to stabilize liquids and plastics. They have been linked to reproductive problems in fish and wildlife and people, and cancer in animals. They bio-accumulate in fish, wildlife and people.

## What are PAHs?

**PAHs** are chemicals produced when materials burn incompletely. PAHs can cause cancer and other ailments, such as skin rashes.

## Everything is connected

Healing the river helps reduce health threats, improves habitat, and boosts recreation and economic vitality. By doing this, we also help to heal the Great Lakes ecosystem – the largest fresh surface water resource in the world.