

The Sheboygan River

2012 Clean-up and Restoration Summary

The Sheboygan River Area of Concern

The Sheboygan River Area of Concern, or AOC, is one of five areas in Wisconsin that received this designation due to the presence of toxic pollutants in river and harbor sediments. The primary pollutants of concern are PAHs (by-products of burning coal tar as fuel) and PCBs (used to stabilize liquids and plastics from 1929 to 1978). The Area of Concern is the lower 14 miles of river, from the Sheboygan Falls dam to the Sheboygan Harbor.



Building Partnerships and Planning for Success

Throughout 2011 and 2012, Sheboygan AOC partners have worked and continue working in the planning for the significant cleanup and restoration activities that are occurring in 2012. A Sheboygan Dredging Workgroup meets regularly to coordinate the details of the ongoing sediment dredging projects. The City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County, WDNR, and U.S. EPA work closely together to plan both Great Lakes Legacy Act Dredging and the Sheboygan Harbor Improvement Project. A Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee meets regularly and oversaw the implementation of a \$200,000 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) grant to conduct an ecological assessment. The assessment is important for developing fish and wildlife restoration goals in the AOC.

2012: A Historic Year for the Sheboygan River

Approximately \$82 million dollars' worth of work is to be completed by the end of 2012. It includes removing contaminated sediments and restoring habitat that has been degraded. This work would not have been possible without the close partnerships of federal and state agencies, local governments, industry, and citizen volunteers. Partners on the projects include the following:

- **City of Sheboygan**
- **Sheboygan County**
- **U.S. EPA**
- **Wisconsin DNR (WDNR)**
- **Wisconsin Public Service**
- **Tecumseh Corporation**
- **Pollution Risk Services**
- **UW-Extension**
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (U.S. ACE)**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (U.S. FWS)**
- **Members of the Sheboygan River AOC Fish and Wildlife Technical Advisory Committee**

Sheboygan River Dredging, Cleanup and Restoration



Dredging the Camp Marina site in 2011. (Photo: WDNR)

Habitat Restoration Projects

Habitat restoration projects started in 2011 and are continuing in 2012. Approximately \$4.5 million is being invested. The three largest habitat projects include: **Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration, Taylor Drive & Indiana Avenue Area Wetland Restoration, and Wildwood Island Area Restoration.** These projects will include shoreline stabilization, in-stream habitat improvements, targeted invasive species control, and conservation planning. These among other projects, will improve and re-establish habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.



Dredging in the lower river Superfund cleanup site in 2011. (Photo: UW-Extension)

Completed Sediment Cleanups

2006/2007 Superfund Upper River Tecumseh Dredging Project – Approx. 20,728 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment were removed and paid for by Tecumseh Corporation and Pollution Risk Services (PRS) at a cost of \$20 million.

2011 Camp Marina Superfund Dredging Project – Approximately 24,000 cubic yards of PAH-contaminated sediment were removed with funding of \$10 million from Wisconsin Public Service.

2012 Sediment Cleanups in Progress

Lower River Superfund Dredging Project – Between 2011 and 2012, approximately 53,000 cubic yards of PCB-contaminated sediment will be removed by responsible parties, Tecumseh Corporation and Pollution Risk Services (PRS). The cost of this portion of the project is \$12.5 million, funded by Tecumseh Corporation and Pollution Risk Services (PRS).

Legacy Act Dredging Project – Approximately 160,000 cubic yards of PCB- and PAH-contaminated sediment will be removed from the lower river (Kiwanis Park to the 8th Street Bridge) at a cost of \$34 million in tax dollars and a private match.

Sheboygan Harbor Improvement Project – Approximately 170,000 cubic yards of non-hazardous sediment will be removed from the river starting at the 8th Street Bridge down river to the mouth, resulting in a 10 to 16 foot-deep navigational channel. The projected cost is \$20 million in tax dollars.

Together, the dredging projects will remove approximately 400,000 cubic yards of sediment (equivalent to 20,000 large dump trucks), resulting in a healthier river system for people, fish and wildlife and improved navigation for recreational boating and commercial shipping.