A cleaner, deeper river is coming soon!

What is being done?

Dredging projects are removing sediment from the bottom of the river, which is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). More than 400,000 cubic yards of sediment are being removed, equal to more than 300 dump trucks per day for 120 days. Dredging is making the river deeper, about 11-15 feet in the inner harbor and from 5-17 feet





Thousands of samples have been taken to determine the location and toxicity of the contamination.

For more information about impacts to community events and other temporary *impacts please* visit our website: fyi.uwex.edu/aocs or scan the QR code.



Mechanical dredges scoop out sediment which is then dumped into barges.



A bubble curtain near the dredge on 8th Street keeps stirred-up sediment from traveling downstream.



Barges unload sediment at staging areas (see map), where the sediment is dried and trucked to a landfill.

Why is this being done?

Historic discharges of pollutants left the Sheboygan River contaminated with PCBs and PAHs, chemical compounds linked to reproductive problems and cancer. PCBs travel up the food chain and can cause health problems in people who eat contaminated fish and game. That is why we are advised to limit or refrain from eating our fish and waterfowl. PAHs are harmful to aquatic life and are known to cause cancer in people.

Also, the high-levels of PCBs and PAHs in the river caused a restriction on dredging. Over the years, the river has become shallower. Greater depths will make the river available to larger vessels, and safer and easier to navigate.

deep upstream of the 8th Street bridge.

Where, when is this work being done?

In 2012, dredging is taking place from the mouth of the river up to just past Kiwanis Park. Dredging started in May and is targeted to finish by the end of 2012. In 2006, 2007 and 2011 contaminated sediment in other portions of the river was removed.



Hydraulic dredges "vacuum" sediment from the river bottom into pipes leading upriver.





Pipes transfer sediment to geotubes for drying at the staging area.



When the sediment is dry, the geotubes are cut open and the sediment is trucked to a landfill.



Dredging projects are like big construction projects on water. Barges and large dredges will be working 24/7. Docks and slips may be relocated temporarily. There will be noise, dust, bright lights at night, and truck traffic. City launches on the river are closed for 2012.

How is this work being done?

A cleanup is complex and has many stages. Engineers, municipal officials, and state and federal environmental specialists negotiated and planned the projects for two years, after numerous legal documents were developed.

Two types of dredging are being conducted in 2012: mechanical dredging (scooping) and hydraulic dredging (vacuuming).







ne current level of PCBs in the Sheboygan River <u>r triager an advisory for us to limit or refra</u> eating fish and wildlife harvested here

The goal is to make the Sheboygan River cleaner and deeper to reduce health threats for people, fish and wildlife and to increase opportunities for economic and recreation activities.

Painted turtle

We're in this together. Please excuse the mess.

MOTORIZED BOATERS:

- Please navigate with caution and reduced speed.
- Please use the Harbor Centre Marina to access Lake Michigan.

KAYAKERS AND CANOEISTS:

- Kayaking and canoeing from Esslingen Park to the Harbor is discouraged.
- Please use landings upstream from Esslingen Park. A take-out landing is available just upstream from Esslingen Park, along University Drive.

Who is doing the work? How much does it cost?

The three dredging projects are through different pieces of legislation which authorize or require certain parties to participate. Approximately \$70 million is being spent in 2012 to reduce the level of contaminants in the Sheboygan River.

Organizations involved in the dredging include:

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Great Lakes National Program Office
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Superfund
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Sheboygan County

- City of Sheboygan
- Pollution Risk Services
- Tecumseh Products Company
- Wisconsin Public Service

Part of the largest fresh surface water resource in the world the Great Lakes ecosystem

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