

# Habitat revival for fish, wildlife and YOU!

## What is being done?

Habitat along the shore and in the river is being improved and expanded. Three projects are being constructed as first steps in reviving fish and wildlife habitat along the Sheboygan River. All of the projects involve removing non-native plants and planting native trees, shrubs, grasses and other plants. Some of the eroded portions of the riverbank will be repaired and strengthened. Places for you to view and fish in the river will be improved. The goal is to make the Sheboygan River a better place for fish, wildlife and you!



## Why is this being done?

In 1987, Sheboygan River was included on the list of 43 Great Lakes Areas of Concern – due to pollution, habitat loss, and loss of fish and wildlife populations. The goal of today’s work is to improve Sheboygan River conditions so that the river is no longer one of the most degraded places in the Great Lakes, but rather a healthy place for fish, wildlife and you. Over the years, we have changed a landscape of forests and wetlands to a landscape of villages and cities, farm fields and lawns, paved roads, parking lots and sidewalks, with only small scattered blocks of forests and few wetlands. This has greatly reduced the amount and quality of fish and wildlife habitat.



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

The habitat construction work you see along the riverbanks is being done by the City of Sheboygan, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Sheboygan County, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

\$4.2 million is being spent on this initial phase of habitat revival. The funding comes from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, an important federal effort to make substantial improvements in the ecological and economic viability of the Great Lakes.

## When and where is this being done?

Construction is expected to begin in mid-summer 2012 on three big projects: Kiwanis Park, Wildwood Islands, and the Taylor Drive/Indiana Avenue intersection. These projects kick-off a new era in caring for the Sheboygan River. You and others in the community will be called upon to continue habitat improvement into the future!



**We're in this together.**

Please excuse the mess along with any inconvenience in 2012! Look forward to enjoying a cleaner, healthier Sheboygan River in the future.



Please canoe and kayak upstream from Esslingen Park during 2012.

## How is this being done?

A committee of biologists began meeting in fall of 2009 to study the river and identify what needs to be done to bring it up to the quality of other similar rivers. In 2010 and 2011, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gathered data on fish, mussels, insects, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, and plants.



The banded darter lives in a few high-quality areas in Sheboygan River tributaries.

The biologists identified three main natural areas where the habitat is poor. Environmental contractors are working on the habitat projects with oversight from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, City of Sheboygan, Sheboygan County and the committee of biologists. These places will remain as green spaces and will not be developed.

In other scattered locations along the river, you might also notice crews treating invasive plants or installing fish habitat structures.



Biologists surveyed fish with a boom shocker.

Sheboygan River salmon and steelhead trout are prized.



## Explore & Restore the Sheboygan River

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

