



A Cleaner, Deeper River Coming Soon!

June 2012

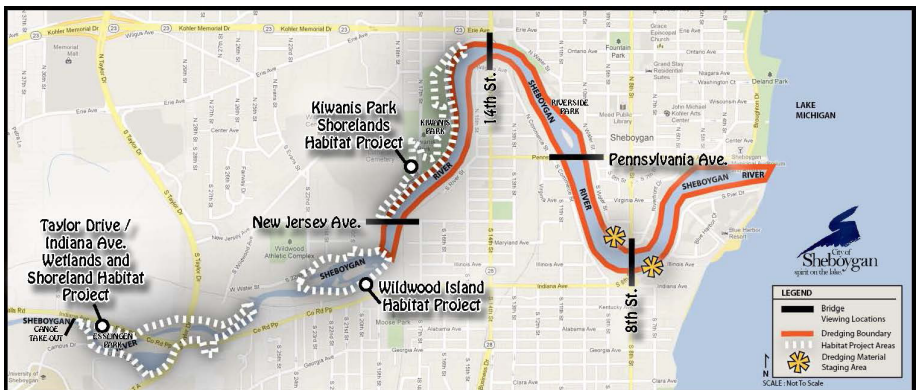
Sheboygan River is getting cleaned up to make it a safer place for people, fish, and wildlife. This year, habitat along the shore and in the river is being improved and expanded. Dredging projects are removing sediment from the river bottom that is contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). These compounds are harmful to aquatic life and humans. Dredging is also making the river deeper. Greater depths will make the river safer and easier to access and navigate. The project team asks for your patience and understanding as the river is improved for seasons to come.

For more information, contact the project team at (920) 459-3383 or development@ci.sheboygan.wi.us (Chad Pelishek, City of Sheboygan) or visit our website, fyi.uwex.edu/aocs/sheboygan.

DREDGING OPERATIONS

When and where will the dredging take place?

The dredging of the river will begin in May and continue through the end of the year. Part of the cleanup will occur in the harbor, from the



mouth of the river to the 8th Street Bridge, managed through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Another section of the cleanup will take place from the 8th Street Bridge to Kiwanis Park through the GLRI and the Great Lakes Legacy Act. Superfund will dredge between the Pennsylvania Avenue and 8th Street Bridges, and then dredge in an area downstream of Wildwood Island later this summer. In addition, soil will be excavated on Kohler Company's property near the river close to Rochester Park.

Will the shoreline be dredged?

From the 8th Street Bridge to the 14th Street Bridge, 10 to 30 feet of the river along either shoreline will not be dredged. This is to keep the shoreline and structures along the shoreline stable. There will also be similar "offsets" downstream of the 8th Street Bridge. The



dredging projects will remove most of the contamination in the river; no cleanup can remove all contaminants.

How deep will the river be dredged?

The river will be dredged to about 11-15 feet in the harbor, 10 feet from 8th Street to Pennsylvania Avenue, 8 feet from Pennsylvania Avenue to 14th Street, and 5 feet from 14th Street to Kiwanis Park. Depths will vary within these sections; these numbers represent the approximate dredged depth of the navigation corridor.

Where did the contamination in the river come from?

Contamination in the river is linked to historical industrial pollution. Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) were produced largely between the 1950s and 1970s, before society fully understood their impact on the environment. They had a wide range of industrial uses, such as coolants, insulators, fire retardants, lubricants, and adhesives. They are no longer manufactured in the United States. Most polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in the environment come from the incomplete burning of fossil fuels. PAHs in Sheboygan River came from a manufactured gas plant formerly located in the area of Boat Island. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources now regulates the amount of PAHs that industries can release.

Who is paying for the projects? How much will they cost?

The projects are being paid for by a combination of sources. Wisconsin Public Service and Pollution Risk Services are conducting the Superfund cleanups. The cleanups downstream of Kiwanis Park through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) and the Great Lakes Legacy Act are jointly funded by the GLRI (administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, with contributions from Sheboygan County and the City of Sheboygan. The total cost is approximately \$70 million.

Why are multiple agencies working on the cleanups?

All participating agencies and agency divisions have the same goal: to clean up Sheboygan River. However, they also have different laws and standards for deciding what, when, and where to clean up. Therefore, multiple agencies are working in different parts of the river, targeting the removal of different contaminants. Together, they will help make Sheboygan River a safer, healthier place to live.

Once the contaminated sediment is removed, what will keep the river from filling with contaminated sediment again?

All significant sources of pollution have been identified and controlled. A Superfund cleanup removed contaminated sediment in the upper river in 2006-07. Studies on the river and its upper branches show that the sediment carried downstream is much cleaner than the historical sediment currently on the bottom of Sheboygan River.



DISPOSAL SAFETY

How many trucks are planned per day? What are the truck routes?

There may be as many as 300 trucks per day leaving the staging areas at South Pier and upstream of the 8th Street Bridge.

Trucks leave South Pier Drive via 8th Street Rotary, head west on Indiana Avenue, turn left (south) onto Taylor Drive, enter Washington Avenue, and merge onto I-43 headed south.

Trucks leave the former Alliant Energy site via 8th Street Rotary, head west on Indiana Avenue, turn right (north) onto Taylor Drive, enter Hwy 23, and merge onto I-43 headed north.

What hazard would truck accidents pose if they spill their contents? If they did, who would clean it up?

The chances of truck accidents and spilled contents are very small. The trucks are fully sealed, and the sediment they are carrying is similar to the consistency of compost. If a spill did occur, it would likely be confined to a small area. Nevertheless, a spill would create a physical hazard on the road. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's contractor is fully responsible for an immediate response to any accidents or hazards. The contractors are fully trained to respond to such an event. Regulations require the streets to remain clean.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS ON BOATING

Will the cleanup affect boat traffic in and out of the river and harbors?

Yes, dredging and habitat restoration projects will greatly influence river traffic. We are discouraging small non-motorized boating, such as kayaking and canoeing, from the mouth of the river to Esslingen Park. Boaters are advised to take extra precaution and be patient. The areas where contractors are working will change throughout the summer. Watch out for large equipment, moving barges, and the orange caution buoys that mark the metal dredge pipe below the water's surface. Reduce speed, be patient, and navigate with caution.

Will the cleanup affect boat launches?

The launches at 8th Street, 14th Street, Kiwanis Park, and Taylor Drive will be closed for the 2012 season. Please consider the boat launch at Harbor Centre Marina and canoe launches upriver as alternatives.



Will the cleanup affect river docking?

Yes. Downstream of the 8th Street Bridge, the city's contractor will work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) contractor to relocate city-owned docks during dredging

activities. Once the contractors determine a construction sequence, a follow-up meeting with dock owners and additional mailings will be provided to allow ample time to relocate. During dredging, the city anticipates moving slip renters to vacant slips within the same general area or tying off on the large yacht docks outside of Lino's Ristorante. Upstream of the 8th Street Bridge, individual dock owners will need to work directly with the EPA and EPA's contractor.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY

Will any public access areas on land be unavailable for public use during the project?

Yes, South Pier Drive between Habush, Habush & Davis law firm and the city's fish cleaning station will be unavailable. The shoreline at Kiwanis Park and Esslingen Park and the public space at Taylor Drive and Indiana Avenue will also be unavailable due to restoration.

Will dredging affect water quality?

Dredging causes a short-term stirring up of sediment (turbidity) in the river at the site. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's contractor is using

multiple controls to protect water quality. Water will be monitored upstream and downstream of the dredging projects. The project work performed upstream of the 8th Street Bridge will use an air-bubble curtain to help prevent sediment from moving downstream.



How much noise will come from these operations?

Dredging projects are loud and will run 24/7. The noise will be typical of construction site operations. Noise will come from dredges, barges, trucks, compressors, and other machines. There will be dust, bright lights at night, and heavy truck traffic.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY EVENTS

Will Fourth of July events be affected by the dredging?

Since dredging in this portion of the river will not occur until August 2012, we do not anticipate any impacts. However, the John Michael Kohler Arts Center has decided to suspend the cardboard boat races for this year.

Will dragon boat races during Lakeshore Weekend for the Kids be affected by dredging?

No. The city has requested the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contractor to cease dredging on Sunday, July 29, to allow the dragon boat races to occur.



Will the cleanup or restoration activities affect fish derbies on the river?

We do not foresee any major impacts to fish derbies. However, please be aware that the dredging will cause noise, dust, bright lights at night, and truck traffic. Boat traffic on the river will continue, but we are discouraging small non-motorized boating, such as kayaking and canoeing, from the mouth of the river to Esslingen Park.

HABITAT QUALITY

Will fish and wildlife be stocked as part of the habitat restoration projects?

No. There is already some fish stocking in Sheboygan River, but



nothing additional is planned as part of the projects. However, the projects are improving and expanding habitat to help fish and wildlife recover and flourish naturally. A specific goal is to improve stopover land habitat for birds that migrate along the lakeshore in huge numbers during spring and fall.

How long will it take for the new plant life to become established in the habitat restoration areas?

New plant life grows at different rates depending on the type (trees, shrubs, grasses, or wildflowers) and whether it is planted as a seed or starter plant. Most wildflowers and grasses become established in 1-3 years, whereas most trees and shrubs take 3-5 years. During the three growing seasons following planting, these areas will be monitored and maintained by the landscape contractor to assure that the plant life becomes established.

When will it be safe to eat fish and waterfowl from the river?

While the agencies cannot provide an exact timeframe, we know that it will be much faster than if the contamination had not been removed. Other Wisconsin waters that have been dredged have seen improvement in polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) fish concentrations. For example, in Little Lake Buttes des Morts, where contaminated sediment was dredged from 2004-2009, the PCB concentrations in fish decreased 73 percent by 2010.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

How many jobs have these cleanup projects created?

Restoration projects employ environmental engineers, environmental scientists, hydrologists, ecologists, biologists, landscapers, landscape architects, excavators, and more. Although we do not have an exact total for the number of jobs created by the Sheboygan River cleanups, a research review by Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant shows that approximately 20 jobs are created or maintained for every \$1 million spent on restoration projects. In addition, these projects also create a temporary economic boom for local business, such as increased use of hotels and restaurants by workers, which may also result in job growth.

How will these projects affect the local economy?

According to the Brookings Institution, Great Lakes restoration yields a \$2-\$3 return for every \$1 spent. Projects like the ones in Sheboygan River raise property values, reduce costs to municipalities, and lead to direct economic benefits of tourism, recreation, and fishing. For example, a similar Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanup in the Kinnickinnic River in Milwaukee, WI resulted in 100 new jobs, 26 new boat slips, and a 30 percent revenue increase along Kinnickinnic River with the reopening of a local business, Pier Milwaukee. The Sheboygan River cleanup will likely produce similar results, making the region more attractive for business investment, redevelopment, and tourism.

