



Sheboygan River Area of Concern Closer to Restoration

Sheboygan, Wisconsin

August 2012

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. Eleven federal agencies are working together on five priorities:

- Cleaning up toxics and Areas of Concern.
- Combating invasive species.
- Protecting watersheds from polluted runoff.
- Restoring wetlands and other habitats.
- Raising public awareness, tracking progress and working with partners.

GLRI's Legacy Act

As part of the GLRI Action Plan, the Task Force committed to taking the actions needed to remove five Areas of Concern from the cleanup list by the end of FY2014. The Great Lakes Legacy Act helps make this possible by providing up to 65 percent of the cost of a sediment removal/remediation project. The remaining funding comes from cities, states and businesses.

Legacy Act partnerships have cleaned up 13 sites and remediated more than 2.1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment. Completed cleanups have been a springboard for communities to build a foundation for future growth. Areas that were once toxic hot spots are now valuable waterfront assets.

Contact EPA

For more information or questions, visit www.epa.gov/greatlakes/aoc/sheboygan/ or contact:

Great Lakes Legacy Act

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Aerial view of the Sheboygan River, Sheboygan, Wisconsin

Starting in mid-August, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will use Great Lake Restoration Initiative funds for two sediment removal projects in the Sheboygan River. Through an EPA grant to the State of Wisconsin, GLRI has also funded three habitat restoration projects here. These GLRI projects totaling \$60 million are the final actions needed to "delist" the river as an "Area of Concern" on the Great Lakes. Another EPA dredging project in Sheboygan Harbor is already in progress.

By the end of the year, the river and harbor projects -- totaling over \$80 million-- will be finished. Taken together, they will complete the Sheboygan River's transformation into an area of recovery.

The Sheboygan River AOC extends 14 miles from Sheboygan Falls through the City of Sheboygan to Lake Michigan. This AOC encompasses a federal Superfund site. The Sheboygan River is one of the 43 Great Lakes AOCs listed in the 1987 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. So far, only one U.S. AOC has been "delisted."

EPA is beginning a \$30-35 million Great Lakes Legacy Act (*see box, left*) sediment removal project. About 160,000 cubic yards of sediment contaminated with PCBs and polyaromatic hydrocarbons, or PAHs, will be removed from the river. Workers will remove about 1,800 pounds of PCBs and 37,000 pounds of PAHs. Another benefit of the dredging will be greater depth in the Sheboygan River, improving navigation.

A separate EPA dredging project is already under way in the Inner Harbor, downstream from the 8th Street Bridge. This \$20 million project is focused on removing about 170,000 cubic yards of sediment from Sheboygan Harbor by the end of the year. WDNR, the City of Sheboygan and Sheboygan County are also contributing to this project.

In addition, contaminated sediment from the area upstream of the 8th Street Bridge is currently being removed as part of the Superfund cleanup. Hydraulic dredging began in 2011 and should be completed in September.

By the end of the year, over 400,000 cubic yards of sediment will be removed from the Sheboygan River. Dredging will proceed around-the-clock to complete the projects. All the contaminated sediment will be processed and taken to a licensed landfill for disposal.

Also, about \$5.5 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds have gone to the WDNR and the City of Sheboygan for habitat restoration projects along the Sheboygan River. These include shoreline restoration projects at Kiwanis Park, Wildwood Island, and in the area of Taylor Drive and Indiana Avenue, as well as bank stabilization and in-stream habitat projects. That work will be completed later this year.



Dredging with machinery like this clamshell bucket will remove approximately 160,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the portion of the Sheboygan River running from Kiwanis Park to the 8th Street bridge as part of the Great Lakes Legacy Act dredging project. Similar equipment will remove approximately 170,000 cubic yards of additional sediment downstream of the 8th Street Bridge.