

# **The Great Lakes Legacy Act Sheboygan River AOC Project**

**Marc Tuchman**  
**Great Lakes Legacy Act Program Manager**  
**U.S. EPA**  
**Great Lakes National Program Office**

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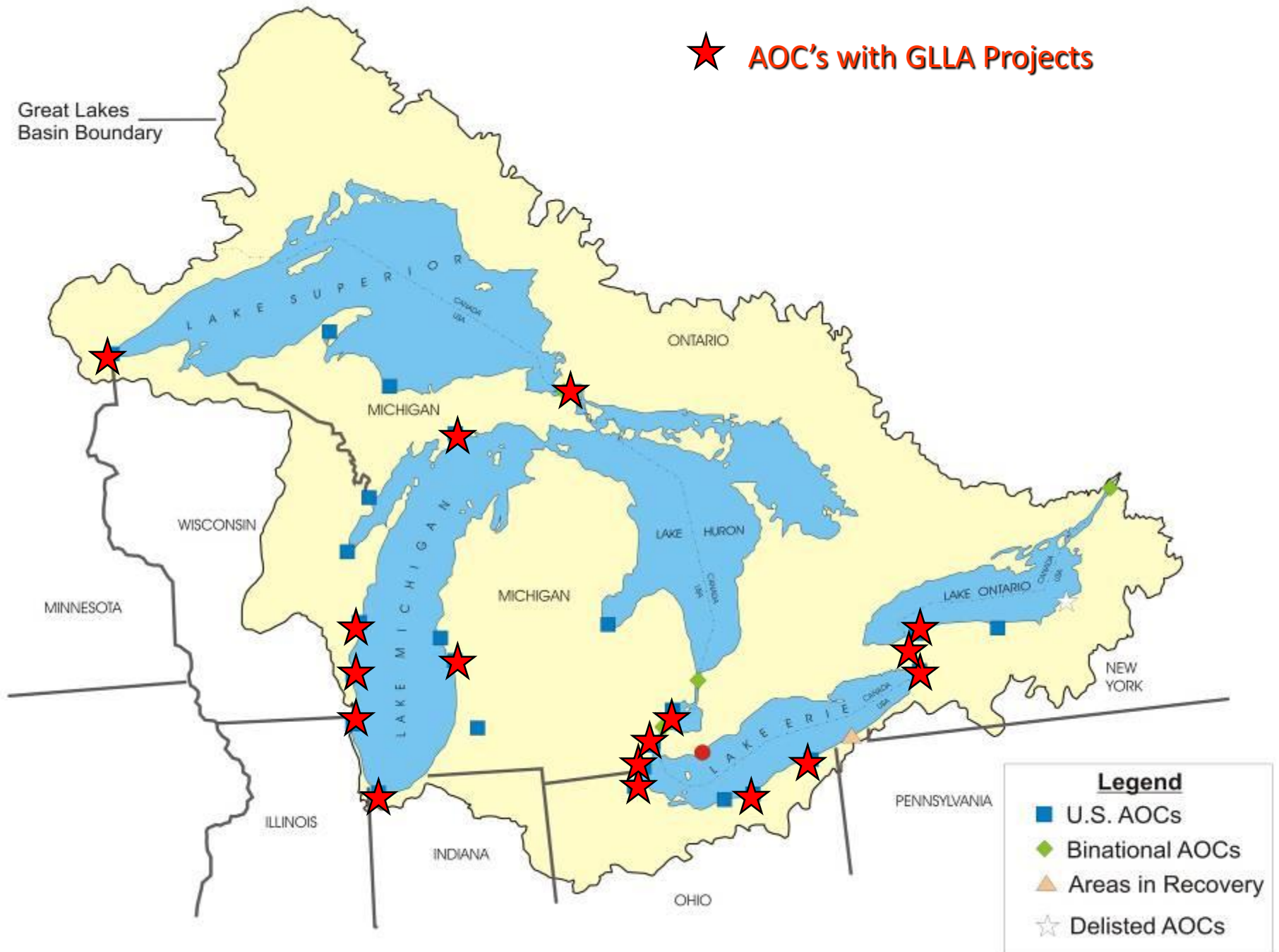


# Great Lakes Legacy Act

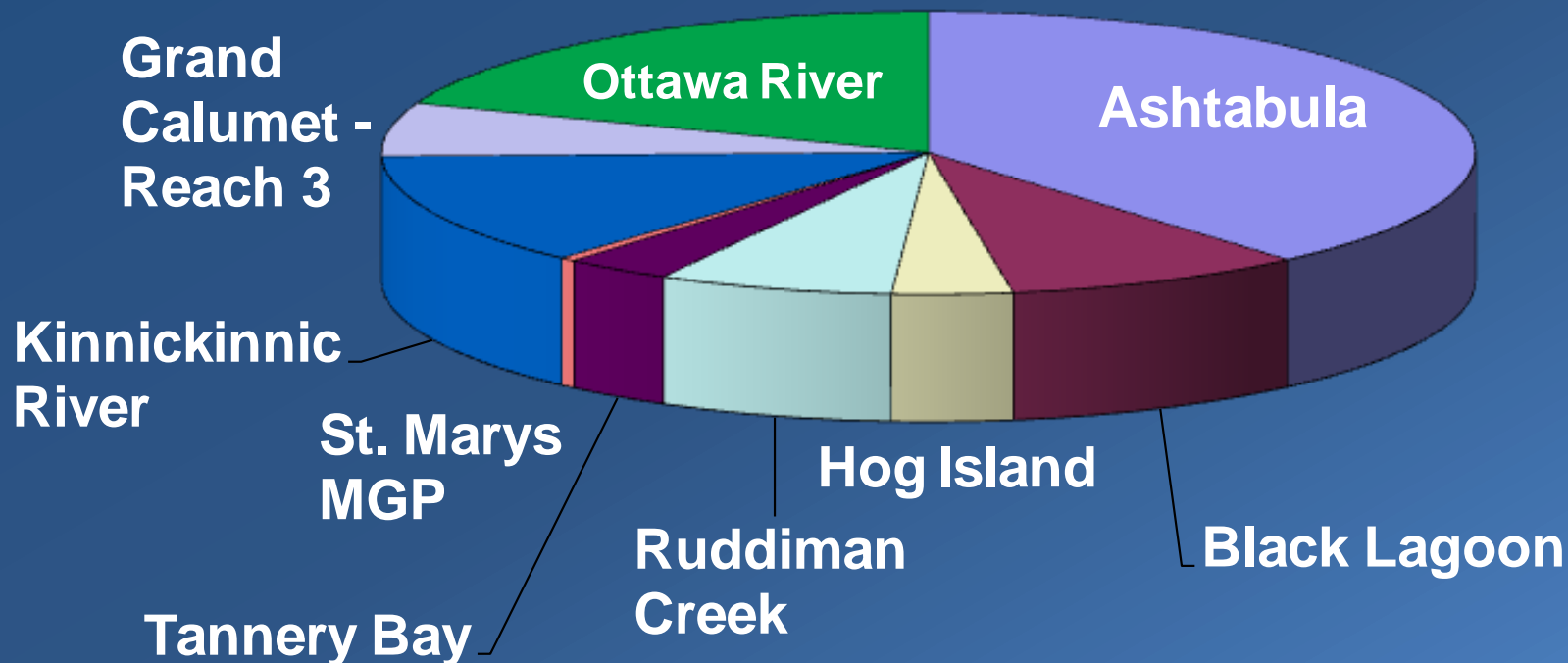
- ⇒ Goal: Accelerate the pace of sediment remediation at Areas of Concern (AOCs)
- ⇒ Mechanism: Use partnerships as an innovative approach to conducting sediment remediation
- ⇒ Minimum 35% Non-Federal match required



## ★ AOC's with GLLA Projects



# GLLA Remediation to date:



**1,294,000 cubic yards remediated**



# Sheboygan River Great Lakes Legacy Act Project

- Step 1 – Site Characterization (Sampling)
- Step 2 – Feasibility Study & Cleanup Design
- Step 3 – Remedial Action: Cleanup of Contaminated Sediments



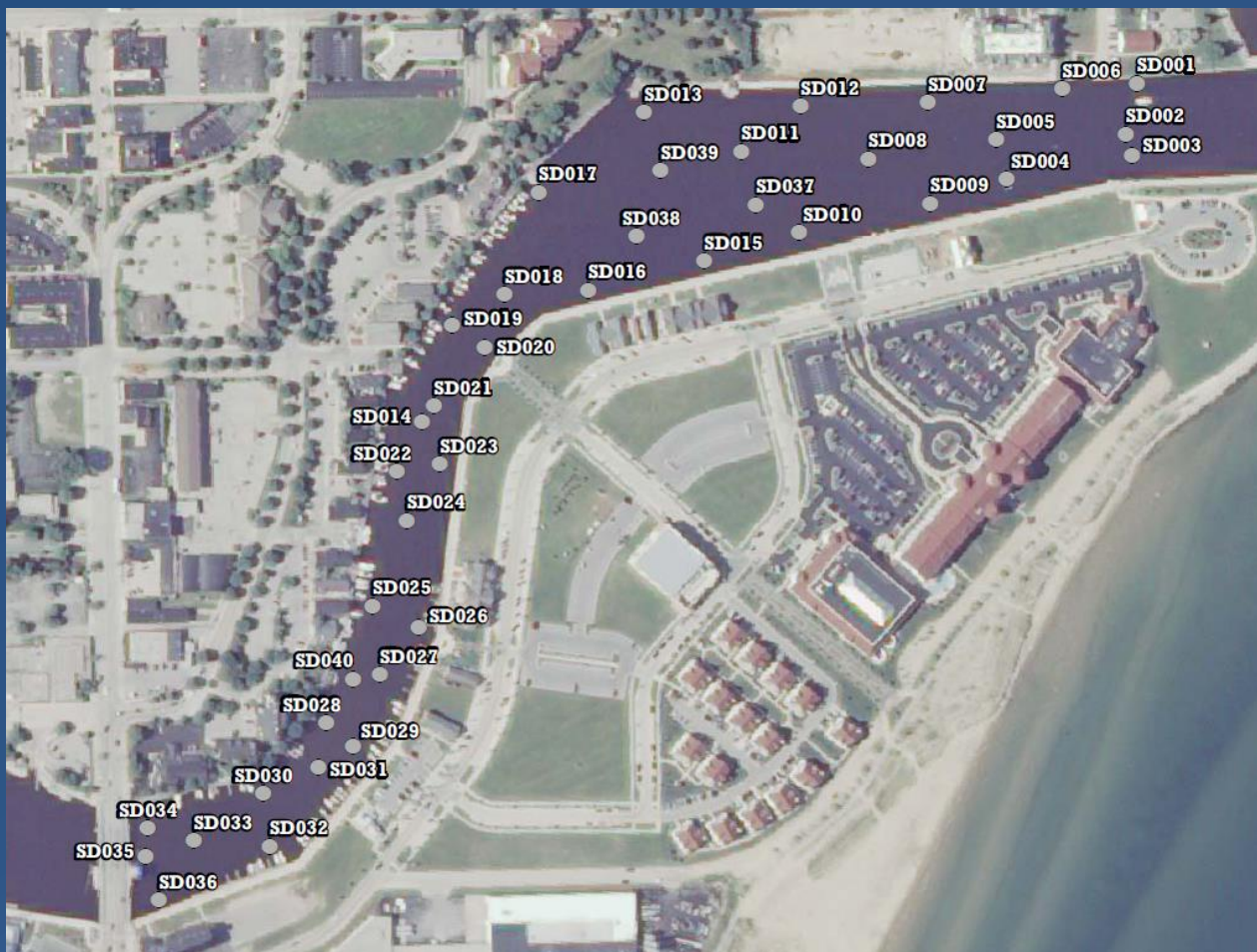
# Step 1: Great Lakes Legacy Act Site Characterization

- Sampling from Kiwanis Park Area to Harbor Mouth
- Results show additional cleanup work is needed, above and beyond what will be required under Superfund
- Additional cleanup work would be required to further improve the quality of the river

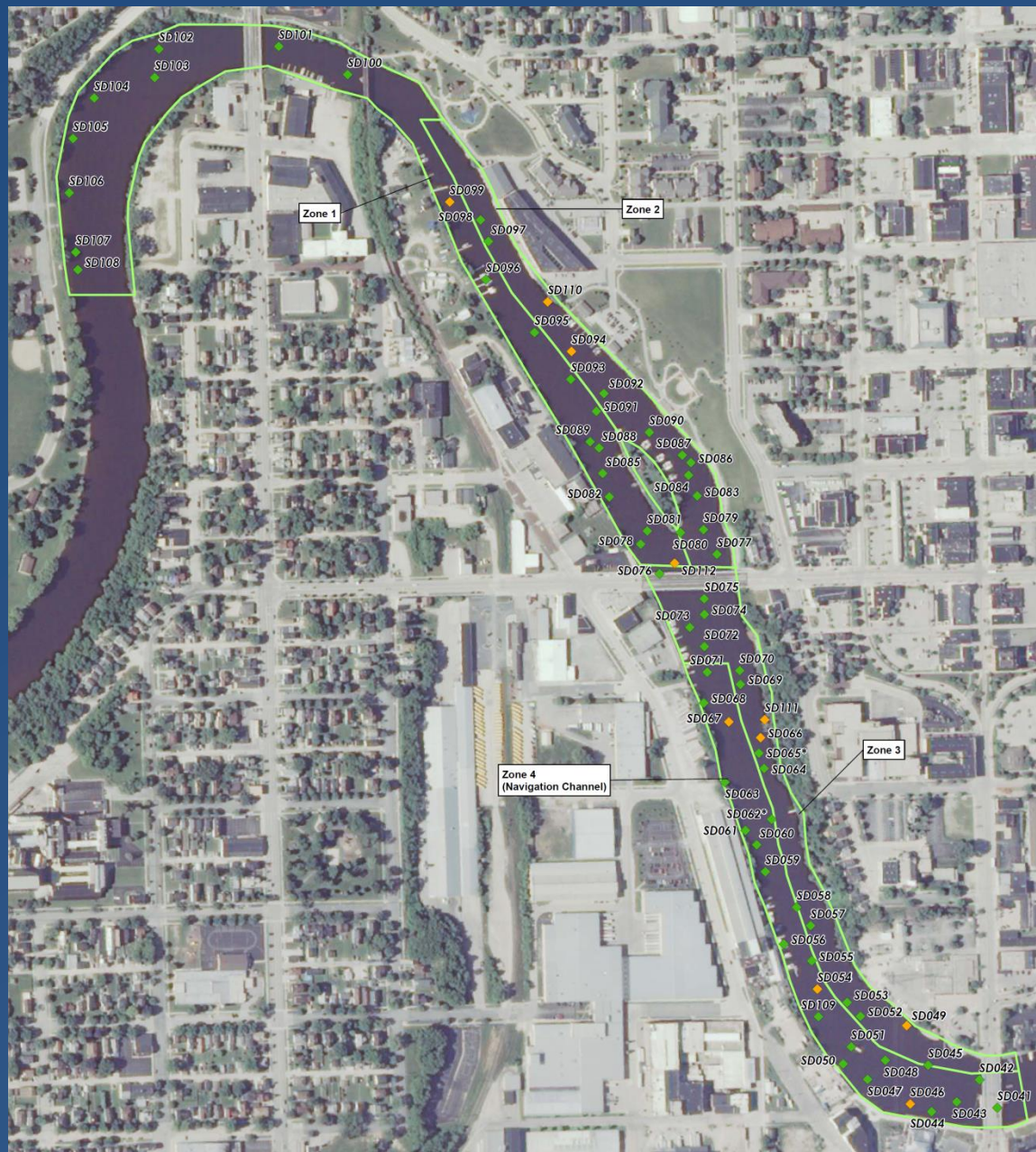




# Sampling Locations 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge to Harbor Mouth September 2010







# Sampling Locations

November 2010

Kiwanis Area to  
8<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge





# Step 2: Great Lakes Legacy Act Project Partners for Feasibility Study & Remedial Design

- Contributed \$100,000 Each
  - Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
  - City of Sheboygan
  - Sheboygan County
  - Wisconsin Public Service Corporation / Integrys

Project Total: \$1.14 Million

Project Agreement Signed December 2010



# Sheboygan River Great Lakes Legacy Act Project Timeline

- Legacy Act Proposed Project Timeline
  - Site Characterization - Fall 2010
  - Feasibility Study - Summer 2011
  - Cleanup Design - Fall 2011
  - (Step 3) GLLA Cleanup Action - 2012



# Community involvement & support critical to project success

## Before projects:

- Communities help bring projects to GLNPO
- Public information/feedback meetings

## During and after projects:

- Press events, news releases, public meetings, newsletters, presentations, awards
- Collect info on site uses, restoration, recovery, economics

## Muskegon Chronicle

MAY 18, 2006 • MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN • 22 PAGES • 50 CENTS

### A cleaned-up dream come true

*Ceremony to mark end of biggest job at Ruddiman Creek*

By Jeff Alexander  
CHRONICLE STAFF WRITER

The first time Theresa Bernhardt suggested Muskegon residents campaign for a cleanup of Ruddiman Creek, she said a neighbor dismissed the idea as a "pipe dream."

That was nearly a decade ago. Today, Bernhardt still join a group of local residents, scientists and politicians who will celebrate a dream come true.

Government contractors have finished dredging 29,830 cubic yards of contaminated bottom sediment from Ruddiman Creek and Lagoon. The sediment removal was the centerpiece of the \$13.5 million creek cleanup and restoration project.

"This shows that a small group of people can accomplish big things," said Bernhardt, who chairs the Ruddiman Creek Task Force.

"This project is so much more for our community than getting rid of some contaminated sediments in Ruddiman Creek," she said. "It's like a stepping stone — this could be the foundation for other projects to restore the beauty of the community to what it was before mankind took advantage of nature with industrialization."

The project was the first sediment cleanup funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Legacy Act program. The EPA contributed \$8.6 million toward the Ruddiman Creek cleanup. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality paid the other \$4.7 million.

Government contractors are still removing cleanup equipment and planting vegetation in areas hit hard during the project.

The project will end on schedule around June 1, but will come in nearly \$2 million over budget. The only work remaining is planting vegetation along the creek banks and placing a layer of sand on the bottom of Ruddiman Lagoon.

The project's cost soared because contractors had to dredge more contaminated sediment than originally estimated to meet the project's cleanup criteria, said Marc Tuchman, manager of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Great Lakes Legacy Program.

"We feel like we've done a pretty good job; we've cleaned up the bad

Please see RUDDIMAN 4A ▶



Chronicle photo • Alexia Presley

Geoff Gowin secures one of five 60-inch concrete pipes Thursday before it is removed from Ruddiman Creek. The pipes were put in to allow a continued flow of water during the 10 months of construction and cleanup.



File photo • The Chronicle

Theresa Bernhardt, who began her crusade to help clean up Ruddiman Creek in 1995, said, "This shows that a small group of people can accomplish big things."



Chronicle photo • James Peck

Adam Beggs cleans concrete blocks that had been used to line the roads of the Ruddiman cleanup site. The blocks will be used again in other projects.

#### Ruddiman Creek cleanup

■ Cost: \$13.5 million, nearly \$2.9 million over budget.

■ Accomplishments: Removed 29,830 cubic yards of contaminated bottom sediment from creek and lagoon; placed a one-foot-thick layer of clean sand and stones on the bottom; and restored the creek's

meandering channel near Barclay Street.

■ Checks, phone: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency contributed \$8.6 million toward the project, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality paid the other \$4.7 million.

■ Signs of change: Salmon, grasshopper and native plants have returned to the restored creek.

■ What's next: Finding and eliminating the sources of ongoing habitat pollution that often make the creek unsafe for swimming or drinking.



# ***For More Information***

**Marc Tuchman**

**USEPA-Great Lakes National Program Office**

**77 W. Jackson Blvd. (G-17J)**

**Chicago, IL 60604**

**312-353-1369**

**tuchman.marc@epa.gov**

**[www.epa.gov/glla](http://www.epa.gov/glla)**

