Sheboygan River: Area of Concern to Area in Recovery

Mike Vandersteen
Mayor
City of Sheboygan, WI
What is an AOC?

Why is the river an AOC?
Restoring an AOC

Dredging

Habitat Restoration

Monitoring/Assessment

Photos by Stacy Hron, WDNR
You need a lot of people!

Photos by Deb Beyer
Monitoring Projects

Pre/During
- Waterfowl Tissue (Advisory)
- Fish Tumors
- Fish Tissue (Advisory)
- Plankton & Benthos
- Tree Swallows
- Fish Community
- Macroinvertebrates
- Aquatic Habitat
- Herptiles
- Breeding Birds
- Bats
- Mussels
- Wintering Birds
- Fish-Eating Birds
- Small Mammals and Mink
- Natural Community/Rare Plant/Invasive Plant

Post
- Waterfowl Tissue (Advisory)
- Fish Tissue (Advisory)
- Plankton & Benthos
- Tree Swallows
- Mink
- Fish Community
- Macroinvertebrates
- Aquatic Habitat
- Passive Samplers
Sheboygan River Dredging Projects

- **Upstream of 14th Street Bridge**: Some Superfund (PCB) & Legacy Dredging
- **Between 14th St. & Penn Ave. Bridges**: Legacy Dredging & Camp Marina Superfund
- **Downstream of 8th Street Bridge**: Navigational Dredging (No Superfund or Legacy)

**Sheboygan River Area of Concern**
- Lower River & Inner Harbor (Legacy Act Activities)
Habitat Restoration

- 7 projects implemented by DNR and partners
- Projects vetted by Fish & Wildlife TAC
- Miles of river corridor & acres of habitat restored
- Vetting to completion in under 2 years!
Schuchardt Property Conservation Planning

Photo by Jon Gumtow, SRBP

Photo by DNR
In-Stream Habitat Improvements

• 2 sites in the upper river (Sheboygan Falls and Kohler)

• Assessed benthic habitat of entire 14 mile stretch of river

• Added boulder habitat in river and woody debris along shorelines

Photos by Stacy Hron, WDNR
Targeted Invasive Species Control

- 58 sites along the 14 mile long AOC Corridor
- Japanese Knotweed, Phragmites, Garlic Mustard, Buckthorn
The “Big Projects”
Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration

Photos by Stacy Hron, WDNR
Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration

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Photo by Deb Beyer, UWEX
Kiwanis Park Shoreline Restoration

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Wildwood Island Area Restoration

Photo by Stacy Hron, WDNR
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Taylor Drive & Indiana Avenue Area
Wetland Restoration

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Photos by Deb Beyer, UWEX
Taylor Drive & Indiana Avenue Area Wetland Restoration

Photos by Deb Beyer, UWEX
Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area

Photo by Stacy Hron, WDNR
Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area
Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area
Esslingen Park
Long Term Gains...

- Redevelopment Opportunities of underutilized property & enhancement of existing properties.
  - Allows for reinvestment of the riverfront with up to 10 feet of depth for development docking from 8th Street to 14th Street Bridge.
  - Enhancement of South Pier District.
  - Indiana Avenue Revitalization Project
  - Lower Downtown 8th Street Revitalization
Overview of Redevelopment Opportunities
Long Term Gains

- Allow for additional cruise ships, mega yachts, marine boat shows, tall ships, etc like:
Long Term Gains...
Indiana Avenue Revitalization

Indiana Avenue - Kohler to Lake Michigan Connection
Long Term Gains

• Waterfront: current local economic benefit of $8.7M…. Hope to increase this.

• With current water levels, one of the few Great Lakes Ports with usable channels (Now 11-15 foot depths)/marinas. Est. 80% of Great Lakes Harbors unusable.

• Changes the perception of "its got the perception of being dirty, I wouldn’t go swimming in it as you might glow!", stated a local resident.

• Potential for New Tax Base.. New jobs... new uses for the river and surrounding areas.

• Creation of a wayfinding signage system to direct people from the Interstate to key economic corridors.
Long Term Gains...

Expansion of Bicycle/Trail Infrastructure

Redevelopment Opportunities along the trail.
Funding Sources

GLRI $6,400,000
Legacy $20,000,000
Superfund & Techumseh $30,000,000
WP&S $10,000,000
City $300,000
County $300,000
DNR & DOT $10,000,000
ALLIANCE DES VILLES
ASSEMBLÉE ANNUELLE ET CONGRÈS
Villes et partenariats stratégiques

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