

## Sheboygan River: Area of Concern to Area in Recovery

Mike Vandersteen

Mayor

City of Sheboygan, WI



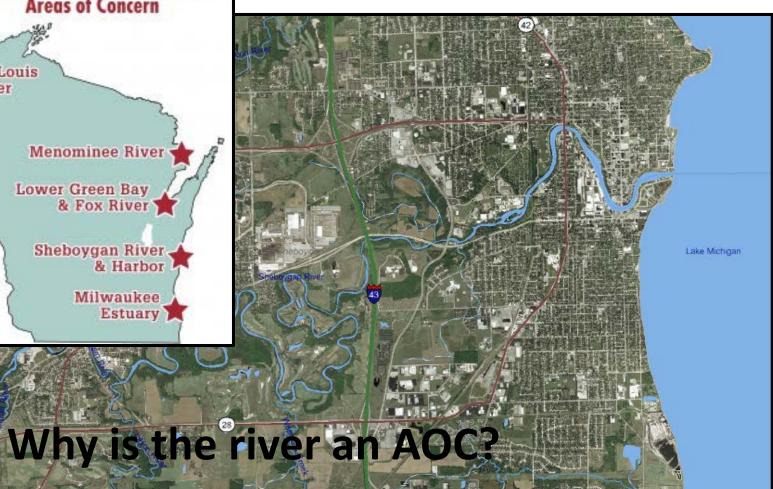






#### Wisconsin's Great Lakes **Areas of Concern** St. Louis River Menominee River Lower Green Bay & Fox River Sheboygan River & Harbor Milwaukee Estuary 7

#### What is an AOC?



















### Restoring an AOC

#### Dredging



#### Habitat Restoration



#### Monitoring/ Assessment





### You need a lot of people!











### Monitoring and Assessment











#### **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



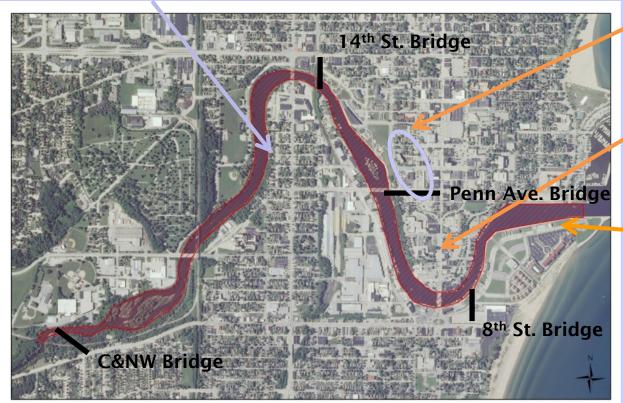


#### **Sheboygan River Dredging Projects**

Upstream of 14th Street Bridge Between 14th St. & Penn Ave. Bridges

Some Superfund (PCB) & Legacy Dredging

Legacy Dredging & Camp Marina Superfund



#### Sheboygan River Area of Concern

Lower River & Inner Harbor (Legacy Act Activities)

0.25 0.5 Miles

#### **Between Penn** Ave. & 8th St. **Bridges**

Main Area of **Superfund & Legacy Projects** 

#### Downstream of 8th Street Bridge

**Navigational Dredging** (No Superfund or Legacy)

















#### **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









#### 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







#### **Targeted Invasive Species Control**

- 58 sites along the 14 mile long AOC Corridor
- Japanese Knotweed,
   Phragmites, Garlic
   Mustard, Buckthorn

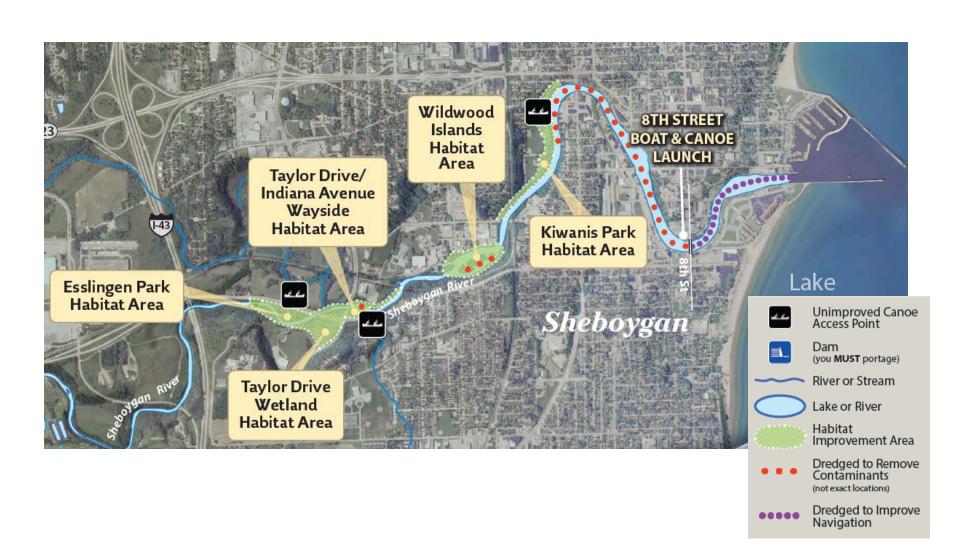




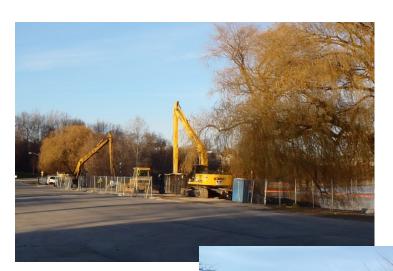


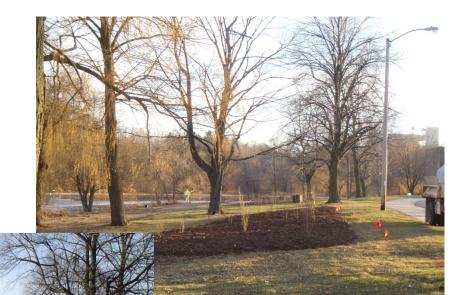


### The "Big Projects"









Photos by Stacy Hron, WDNR





































Photos by Deb Beyer, UWEX





































#### Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area







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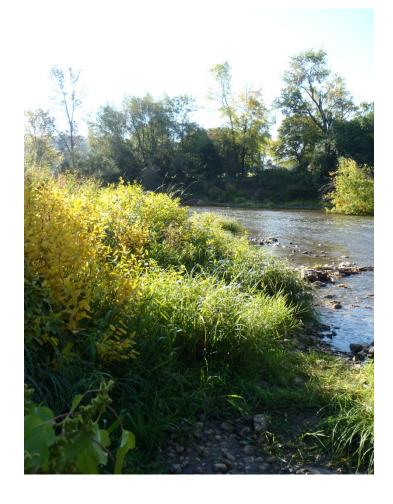
#### Roy Sebald Sheboygan River Natural Area





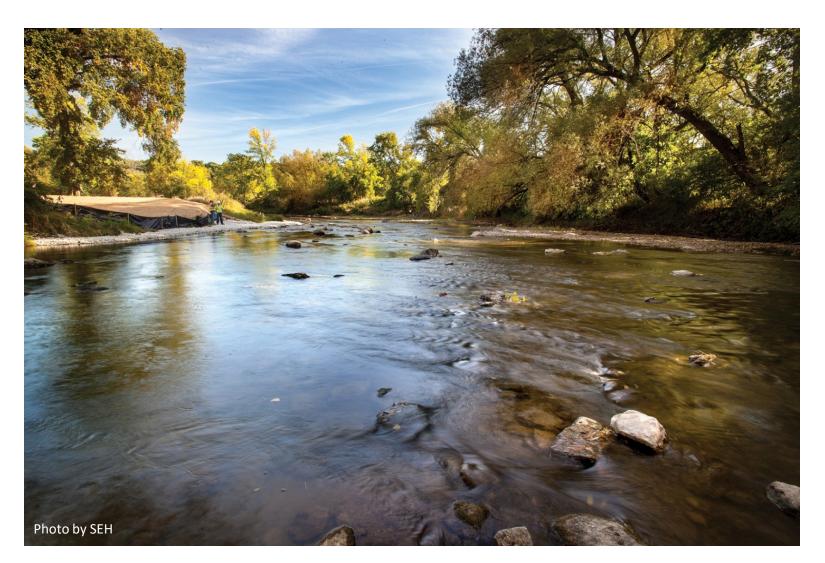
## Esslingen Park







## 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 8<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge.
  - Enhancement of South Pier District.
  - Indiana Avenue Revitalization Project
  - Lower Downtown 8<sup>th</sup> Street Revitalization





#### Long Term Gains

 Allow for additional cruise ships, mega yachts, marine boat shows, tall ships, etc like:





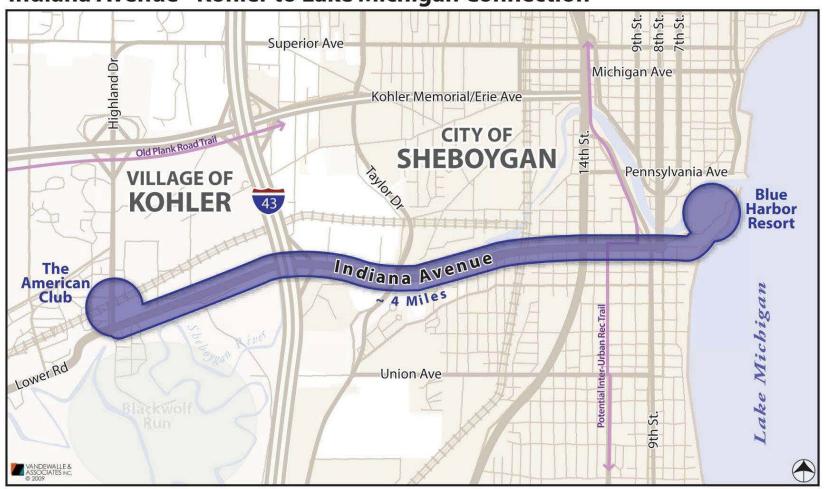






## Long Term Gains... Indiana Avenue Revitalization

**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



