



Wisconsin Lakesider

Great Lakes Area of Concern Newsletter

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Fall 2017

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2018 Great Waters Photo Contest and Writing Project Open through February 1

The Office of Great Waters invites entries for its tenth annual photo contest and writing project. Send us your best photos, poetry or prose showcasing Lake Michigan, Lake Superior or the Mississippi River.

Photos from all seasons are needed and will be accepted in the following categories:

- people enjoying our Great Waters
- natural features and wildlife
- cultural and historic features
- stewardship activities.

Stewardship Category

There's a lot of excellent work happening to protect and restore Wisconsin's Great Lakes and Mississippi River. Show us how you or a local group is protecting or restoring the shore, tributaries, backwaters, wetlands or beaches of Lake Michigan, Lake Superior or the Mississippi River. Send us a photo of your work and a brief description of the partners involved, your funding source and what you hope to accomplish. Include a web link, if applicable. If people appear in the photo, please ask their permission before submitting photos.

Writers

Share your favorite writings with us. The Office of Great Waters is also accepting short essays, stories, poems and songs about the Great Lakes or Mississippi River. Submissions should be approximately 180 words.

Judging and Awards

Photos and writings will be judged by a panel of Department of Natural Resources staff. Criteria for judging will include creativity, composition, visual and technical merit.

Winning photos and writings will be used in our annual "[Wisconsin's Great Waters](#)" calendar and in other DNR publications, presentations, websites and displays.

Contest winners will be announced in May.

The deadline for photo and written submissions is **February 1, 2018**. Spread the word to family and friends! For contest rules and details on how to enter, visit [DNR.wi.gov](#) and search "[Great Waters Photo Contest](#)."

For more information, contact: Susan Tesarik, 608-266-5228, Susan.Tesarik@wisconsin.gov. — By Susan Tesarik



Cover of Wisconsin's Great Lakes 2017-18 Calendar. Photo by John Cardamone.



Cave Point Splash. Photo by Bill McClenahan.



Mother Nature Unleashed. Photo by Brian Wolf.

Lower Menominee River



Susan Tesarik

Menekaunee Harbor Dedication Celebrates Progress and Partnerships

Progress and partnerships were emphasized at the Lower Menominee River Area of Concern Celebration held on August 16, at Menekaunee Harbor in Marinette. The event was held in conjunction with Cabela's National Walleye Tour Championship and a dedication ceremony for the harbor. The incredible partnerships of dedicated organizations and individuals who revived the Lower Menominee River were showcased.

About 75 people attended the celebration. Speakers from the AOC Citizens Advisory Committee, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin DNR, and Michigan Department of Environmental Quality provided an overview of the AOC's history, recent progress, and milestones, including the completion of required management actions and removal of the Restrictions on Dredging and Degradation of Benthos beneficial use impairments. Booths set up around the tent highlighted eight different projects and organizations. Participants could see some of

the restoration projects firsthand by joining bus and boat tours.

The CAC used Michigan Statewide Public Advisory Council grant funding to provide the tent, tables, chairs, and transportation for the tours. For more information about the CAC and how to join, contact AOC Coordinator Laurel Last at laurel.last@wisconsin.gov or (920) 662-5103. - By Laurel Last.

What's Happening?

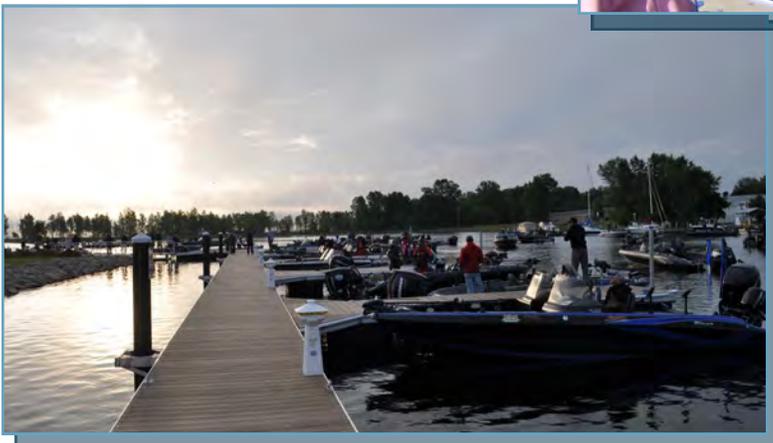
To learn more about the Lower Menominee River AOC projects and events visit: <http://dnr.wi.gov> search "[Menominee River AOC](#)"

For more information

contact:
Laurel Last, Lower Menominee River AOC Coordinator
DNR, Green Bay
920-662-5103
Laurel.Last@Wisconsin.gov



Community members listen to an AOC progress report and enjoy cake at the Menekaunee Harbor Dedication and Celebration event (photo above from Kendra Axness; photo below from Vic Pappas).



Anglers getting ready to head into Green Bay for the final leg of Cabela's National Walleye Tour Championship, held at the new Menekaunee Harbor in Marinette (photo from Susan Tesarik).



St. Louis River

Culvert Inventory Prioritizes Fish Passage Restoration

What's Happening?

To learn more about St. Louis River AOC projects and events visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> search "[St. Louis AOC](#)"

For more information, contact:

Matt Steiger
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The UW-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute was contracted by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to assess the 159 stream crossings for fish passage (photo from DNR).



A Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded inventory of fish passage barriers at road crossings was completed in the Wisconsin portions of the St. Louis River Area of Concern in fall 2017.

The tributaries in the AOC support cold, cool, and warm water species, such as brook trout, muskellunge, and walleye (respectively). White suckers, a primary prey species for muskellunge, also depend on tributaries for spawning and rearing. Both walleye and muskellunge are species with specific population targets listed in the Remedial Action Plan under the Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations Beneficial Use Impairment.

An initial assessment of all crossings in the AOC was conducted by DNR using Lidar data to identify the highest probability of the crossing being a barrier. Out of 599 crossings, 159 were identified for field inventory.

The University of Wisconsin-Superior Lake Superior Research Institute was contracted by DNR to assess the 159 stream crossings for fish passage.

During development of the RAP,

road-stream crossings were identified as likely barriers to fish passage and contributing to the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat BUI in the Wisconsin portion of the AOC. This inventory was the first step necessary to understand the status of stream connectivity in the AOC.

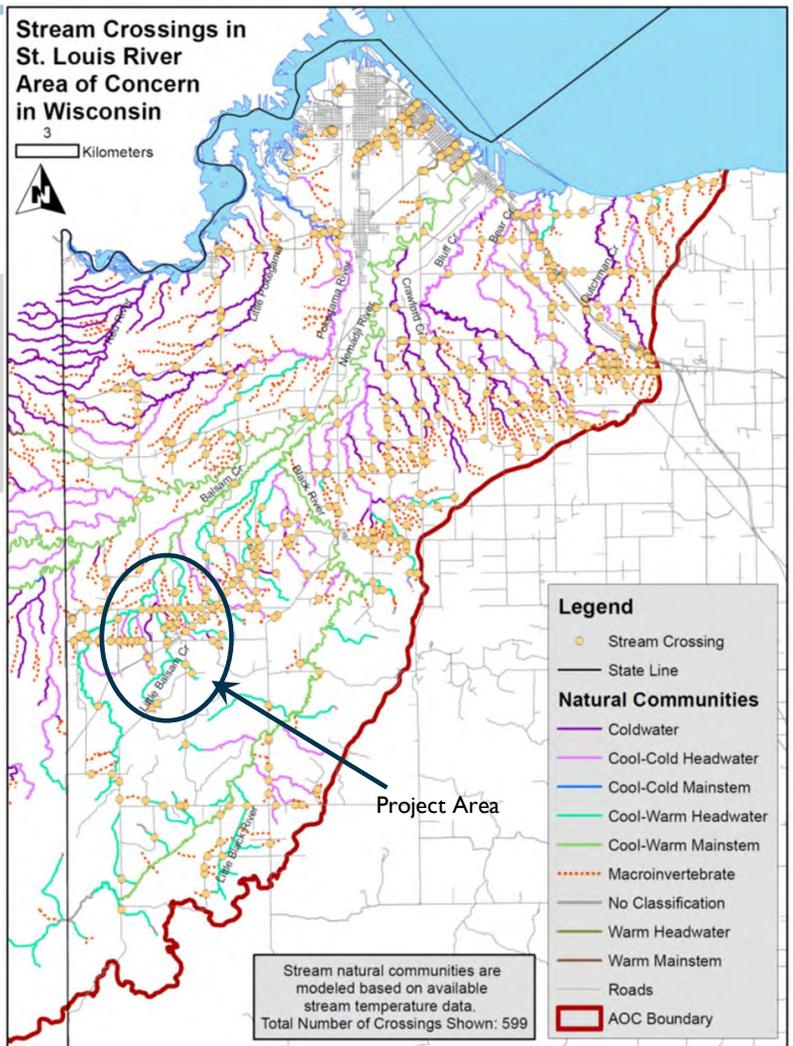
A passability score was calculated for 159 crossings in the AOC:

- 0 = Not passable by most species at most flows (42%)
- 0.5 = Not passable by some species/life stages at most flows (46%)
- 0.9 = Not passable at high flows (7%)
- 1.0 = Passable by most species/life stages at most flows (5%).

After the field assessments were completed and pass-

ability scores calculated, the technical team prioritized the crossings based on several factors including:

- The stream's potential value and its ability to support the target fish species: walleye, muskellunge or resident brook trout.
- Maximum ecological benefit including miles of stream connected and quality of habitat connected.
- Ability to connect the entire stream if barriers were removed.
- Site access and ownership.
- Road or crossing maintenance or replacement scheduled within project timeframe.
- Local expertise and knowledge about the stream, roads and crossings (continued on page 8).



Lower Green Bay & Fox River

UW-Green Bay Scientists Create Fish and Wildlife Assessment Tool for AOC

For the past three years, University of Wisconsin-Green Bay researchers Dr. Robert Howe, Dr. Amy Wolf, and Erin Giese, with collaborators Mike Grimm and Nicole Van Helden of The Nature Conservancy, staff from UW-Green Bay's Cofrin Center for Biodiversity, and more than 30 UW-Green Bay student assistants have been developing a plan that will lead to delisting two Beneficial Use Impairments in the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern.

The two BUIs, Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat and Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations, are key elements of efforts to restore and revitalize Lower Green Bay, one of the largest and most important freshwater estuaries in the world. UW-Green Bay and TNC researchers have worked in close partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency with funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

During the first phase of this project, the UW-Green Bay team gathered existing information about AOC fish and wildlife habitats and populations, including historical documents dating back to pre-settlement

land surveys. Students and staff organized the information into a conservation project catalog, which documents current and historic AOC conservation projects, and a biota database, which contains annotated lists of animals and plants known or expected to occur in the AOC.

With the help of dozens of contributors, including agencies, universities, First Nation tribes, non-profits, and other organizations, the researchers documented nearly 1,600 species in the AOC and recorded over 200 conservation-related projects.

In building these databases, the UW-Green Bay scientists discovered that very little current information is available for many wildlife species, so from 2015 to 2017 they conducted standardized field surveys on:

- remnant AOC natural habitats;
- sensitive plants, including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity hotspots;
- breeding land birds and migratory waterfowl;
- frogs and toads;
- dragonflies and damselflies; and
- bats. (Continued on page 11.)

What's Happening?

To learn more about Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC projects and events visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> search "[Green Bay AOC](#)"

For more information,
contact:

Victor Pappas, Lake Michigan Basin Supervisor
DNR, Plymouth
920-893-8512
Victor.Pappas@wisconsin.gov



Pictured above is the AOC habitat mapping field crew from 2015 (photo from Robert Howe). Pictured at right is an aerial view of Point au Sable, one of the areas inventoried by UW-Green Bay scientists. Point au Sable is a vital habitat area for fish and wildlife in the Green Bay AOC (photo from Erin Giese).



Canvasback Duck resting during migration in Peter's Marsh, Brown County (photo from Erin Giese).



Sheboygan River

What's Happening?

To learn more about Sheboygan River AOC projects and events visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> search "[Sheboygan River AOC](#)"

For more information, contact:

Victor Pappas, Lake Michigan Basin Supervisor
DNR, Plymouth
920-893-8512
Victor.Pappas@wisconsin.gov



Sarah DeZwarte

Citizen Science Monitoring for Community Engagement

More than \$90 million worth of work was done to remove sediments contaminated with polychlorinated biphenyls and restore fish and wildlife habitat in the Sheboygan River Area of Concern. We are now in the healing phase: watching, listening, and sampling to see how the environment, fish and wildlife respond to the clean-up and restoration actions.

Camp Y-Koda Outdoor Skills and Education in Sheboygan has been a longstanding partner in the AOC, with staff serving on both the Citizens and Technical Advisory Committees, leading educational activities about the Sheboygan River AOC, and communicating to the public on clean-up progress. Now that the dredging and restoration is complete, we have switched gears to community engagement through citizen monitoring.

Camp Y-Koda, a branch of the YMCA, provides year-round environmental education for over 10,000 students, provides public programming for adults and families, and runs a summer camp with approximately 1,800 campers per summer.

With funding from the Department of Natural Resources, Camp Y-Koda is gathering data to assist with

Camp Y-Koda volunteers monitor mussels on the Sheboygan River; 19 people participated in summer 2017. Both adults and students have opportunities to learn about the Sheboygan AOC through Camp Y-Koda programs (photos from Sarah Dezwarte).

Beneficial Use Impairment delisting and to engage area citizens in caring for the river. Citizen monitoring projects include: mussels, frogs, toads, bats, birds, and nest box surveys. The data collected is being used to measure ecological response to clean-up and habitat restoration efforts in the Sheboygan River AOC, in preparation for BUI removal. The project goals are to:

1. Engage community interest in AOC issues and the Sheboygan River's resources.
2. Create an understanding of impaired beneficial uses along the Sheboygan River AOC and of the delisting process.
3. Perform monitoring to strengthen the database of information available to provide support for BUI removal.
4. Promote citizen-led stewardship so the community can become the long-term caretakers of the river's resources and the AOC projects that have been implemented, such as managing invasive species at habitat restoration sites.

Survey protocols established by the DNR citizen based monitoring network are followed. All volunteers are thoroughly trained on protocols in both a classroom session and field session to ensure data validity. A Camp Y-Koda staff member always accompanies volunteers to ensure that monitoring protocols are followed in the field. (Continued on page 10.)



Milwaukee Estuary

Restoring Fish Passage above Estabrook and Kletzsch Dams

To learn more about Milwaukee Estuary AOC projects and events visit <http://dnr.wi.gov> search “[Milwaukee AOC](#)”

For more information, contact:

Stacy Hron, Milwaukee Estuary AOC Coordinator
DNR Milwaukee
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Fish passage will be restored above the Estabrook and Kletzsch Park Dams on the Milwaukee River by the end of the 2018.

These dams are the furthest downstream and the last remaining fish and aquatic life passage barriers on the Milwaukee River. Kletzsch Park Dam is located 10 miles upstream of the confluence with Lake Michigan, and Estabrook Dam is located seven miles upstream.

Removing these barriers will restore natural movement of native fish species such as lake sturgeon, walleye, northern pike, and other important fish and aquatic life between Lake Michigan, the Milwaukee River Estuary, 25 miles of river, 29 miles of tributary, and 2,400 acres of wetlands upstream. These

projects will provide vital access to spawning and nursery habitats in the upstream portions of the Milwaukee River—habitats that are lacking between these dams and Lake Michigan.

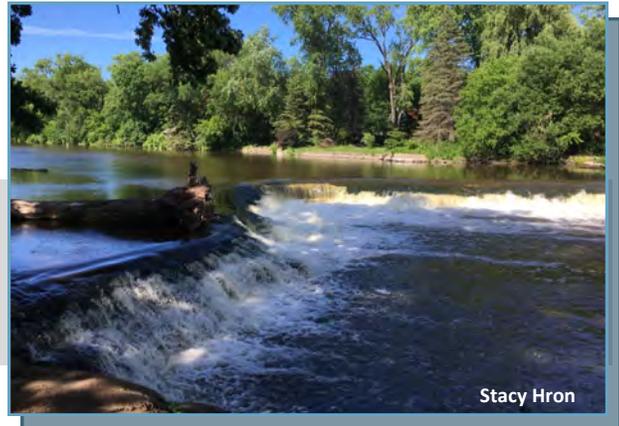
The type fish passage was selected by the dams’ owners. Estabrook Dam’s owner, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District, chose dam removal to restore fish passage.

Project plans and specifications were prepared by MMSD’s consultant team this year, and they requested bids for construction this fall. A contract for construction was awarded to Terra Engineering and Construction

Corp. in early December, with demolition activities expected in early 2018. The Department of Natural Resources assisted MMSD in securing funds to implement the project.

Kletzsch Park Dam’s owner, Milwaukee County, chose construction of a fish passage structure to restore aquatic connectivity upstream. The structure will be a rock ramp fishway. It acts like a moderate-gradient riffle or rapids section of the river extending from the spillway. These types of fishways are proven to be effective at many other dam sites for fish native to the Lake Michigan and Milwaukee River watersheds. The fishway will require little to no operation cost, and will permanently allow fish and other aquatic life to travel upstream in the Milwaukee River.

The County hired a design consultant team in fall 2017, and a kickoff meeting was held in October. The concept designs are expected in early 2018, with construction to follow in summer 2018. (Continued on page 10.)



Stacy Hron

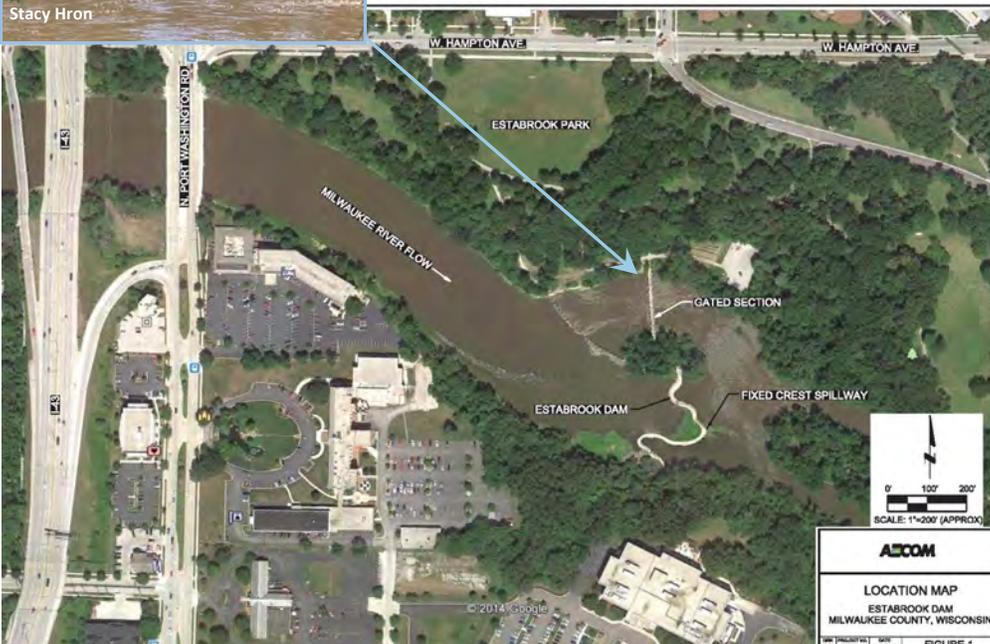


Stacy Hron

View of Kletzsch Park Dam (top) and Estabrook Dam (below).



Stacy Hron



Menekaunee Harbor Restoration in Need of Volunteers

After years of work and dedication by many partners, Menekaunee Harbor in the Lower Menominee River AOC has become a shining example of “remediation to restoration to revitalization.” The harbor was chosen as the home base for the 2017 Cabela’s National Walleye Tour Championship. An event such as this would never have happened a few years ago, before the city of Marinette and DNR worked together to dredge the harbor and restore the shoreline and nearby wetlands.

Sediment quality and fish and wildlife habitat in Menekaunee Harbor were degraded due to many years of industrial and urban activities in the watershed. The city of Marinette and DNR worked with contractors to dredge contaminated and excess sediment from the harbor in 2014, leaving it cleaner and deeper. They completed habitat restoration work in the eastern part of the harbor and nearby wetland in 2015 and early 2016. The restoration work included planting native vegetation, controlling invasive

plants, and installing various habitat structures, including rock piles, brush piles, bird nesting boxes, bat houses, and in-water wood structures for fish.

On October 26, 2017, wild rice was seeded in the harbor to continue efforts to bring it back to the area. Members of the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin visited the harbor and performed a ceremony to celebrate the reseeded of wild rice.

Wild rice, which was historically present here, has great significance for the Menominee Nation, whose members trace their origins to the mouth of the Menominee River. The name “Menominee” is a version of “Omaeqnomenew,” which translates to “people of the wild rice.”

This restoration project has been popular with local citizens. However, it needs the support of local groups and people to maintain it after the project contract ends in 2018. Dr. Keith West

and his UW-Marquette students have been monitoring and maintaining the site, including checking the bird and bat houses to see if they have been used and installing the floating tern nesting platforms in the spring and removing them in the fall for winter maintenance and storage by the city.

We are looking for additional partners willing to help maintain this habitat and protect it for future generations. Please contact AOC Coordinator Laurel Last at 920-662-5103 or laurel.last@wisconsin.gov if you or your group would like to help.

— By Laurel Last

Cheryl Bougie



Native plantings in bloom at Menekaunee Harbor (above). Dr. Keith West and his UW-Marquette students (left) help monitor and maintain restoration sites. Wild rice was seeded in Menekaunee Harbor this Fall (below). Members of the Menominee Tribe performed a ceremony to celebrate the reseeded of wild rice; which used to thrive here. Photos from Cheryl Bougie.



Cheryl Bougie



A Community Approach to Restoring the St. Louis River

The St. Louis River Area of Concern includes a large portion of the St. Louis River's watershed and the entire Nemadji River watershed. Land use practices dating back to the mid-1800s have resulted in accelerated erosion and sedimentation in the river and in the estuary. These watershed inputs are a main contributor to the Excessive Loading of Nutrients and Sediment Beneficial Use Impairment.

To address this BUI, the AOC program is working with citizen landowners in the Wisconsin portions of the Nemadji River watershed. Reducing the impact from privately owned lands is essential to improve sediment and nutrient conditions in the watershed.

The DNR is partnering with Douglas County to promote watershed based land use practices, including stormwater runoff management, nutrient management, and erosion control.

The County convened a stakeholder group of local residents to guide planning efforts, ensuring that the approach would be appropriate for the community. Through a series of newsletter articles, field tours, public gatherings and site visits, the County identified projects with five landowners that meet their interests, and also take care of the Nemadji River. Two of those landowners moved forward on projects to improve forest management on their property.

Working with local communities builds greater awareness of the issues in Areas of Concern. In the case of the St. Louis AOC, it also lets local people know what they can do to improve the condition of the place they call home. Investing people in the process provides greater support for action on the ground.

This project was successful in kick-starting a targeted effort of better land use practices on private lands that will continue well beyond the delisting of the AOC. — By Michele Wheeler.



Local landowners (above) walk their property with resource professionals to identify actions that will improve watershed conditions, and meet the needs and interests of landowners (photo from Douglas County).



Local landowners (above) tour a restoration project site to learn more about forest establishment practices that they could implement on their own property (photo from Douglas County).

Culvert Inventory Prioritizes Fish Passage Restoration (continued from Page 3)

The highest priority system chosen for barrier removal was Little Balsam Creek, in the Town of Summit, Douglas County. Four stream crossing barriers exist on the system. The AOC program will pursue removal of all four barriers to reconnect 5.07 miles of class I trout waters. This is one of the actions that need to be completed in order to remove the Loss of Fish and Wildlife BUI.

Design of the four stream crossings will begin in December of 2017, with construction occurring in 2018 and 2019.

To learn more about St. Louis River Area of Concern projects and progress visit <http://dnr.wi.gov>, search "[St. Louis River AOC](#)." For more details, refer to the Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Updates.

— By Matt Steiger.



These culverts on Little Balsam Creek do not allow fish to travel at most flows. The AOC program will fix these, plus two other barriers on this creek to reconnect 5.07 miles of class I trout waters. This project is a key step towards removing the Loss of Fish and Wildlife BUI (photos from DNR).

St. Norbert College Students Monitor Aesthetics for the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC

The Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance has partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the past two years, working to coordinate volunteers for the Aesthetics Monitoring Program in the Lower Green Bay and Fox River Area of Concern.

Volunteers in the area have been encouraged to have their voices heard by monitoring their local waterways. FWWA has promoted the program using social media, working with the Green Bay Volunteer Center, coordinating with area schools and businesses, and spending several days throughout the monitoring season traveling to monitoring sites and inviting anglers and other residents to participate in the program.

On August 25, freshman students from St. Norbert College in De Pere were sent out into the community as part of the school's "Into the Streets" Program. Into the Streets, a college welcome week event, is a one-day First Year Experience community immersion event that takes new students off campus and into the greater Green Bay community. This unique opportunity gives students a chance to get to know the incredible community that surrounds the college and become acquainted with their peers.

The day began with a short kickoff program and then students were bussed to volunteer sites off-campus, or taken to an on-campus project, where they learned about volunteer opportunities and took part in a community service project. Following Into the Streets, students participated in a session to reflect upon their experiences and learned about other community service opportunities at St. Norbert College and throughout Brown County.

This was Fox-Wolf Watershed Alliance's second year participating in the program, and the second year leading a group of students at Voyageur Park in De Pere. The students learned about the Fox-Wolf River Basin, local conservation efforts to improve water quality, and the Aesthetics Monitoring Program. FWWA covered how the monitoring program works and the other monitoring sites in the Green Bay area.

The group monitored the aesthetics of the water and shoreline conditions of the



Kelly Reyer

St. Norbert College students completed surveys to assess the aesthetics, or visual appearance, of the Fox River at Voyageur Park in De Pere. Degraded Aesthetics is one of the Beneficial Use Impairments in the AOC. Data is being collected to determine if appearance of the river improves after AOC projects to clean up the waters are implemented.



Kelly Reyer

In addition to monitoring the appearance of the Fox River, St. Norbert College students volunteered to clean up trash along the Fox River as part of the College's Into the Streets community immersion event.

Fox River on the west side of Voyageur Park. Data was collected on standardized assessment forms that are consistent for Areas of Concern with aesthetic impairments.

Afterwards, the students spread out to clean up trash in the park. In total, they collected eight bags of trash including fishing waste, food packaging, a shoe, and a helmet. The students did a great job, and we look forward to working with them again next year!

To learn more about volunteer opportunities in the Green Bay and Fox River AOC, contact the [Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance](#) at 920-915-1502.

— By Kelly Reyer, FWWA Outreach Coordinator.



Kelly Reyer

Citizen Science Monitoring for Community Engagement (continued from page 5)

Data is then submitted to the DNR, Sheboygan River AOC technical advisory committee, and to the inventory databases. The technical advisory committee analyses the data and compares it to previous years' results. Data is also shared with the participating volunteers and at an annual community presentation by Camp Y-Koda and Maywood Environmental Park.

Volunteers are also recruited to assist with invasive species control in the AOC's habitat restoration sites. Camp Y Koda hosts between 15 - 20 three-hour invasive species removal outings annually.

Volunteers learn how to identify invasive plants and the methods used for removal and disposal. The species we focus on are common and glossy buckthorn, dame's rocket, honeysuckle, garlic mustard, and teasel.

We have had tremendous results with this project! In the 3 years of monitoring we have worked with hundreds of families, adults, and students. We most commonly see adults between 51 - 70 years old. Master Naturalist certifications, also offered at Camp Y-Koda, are common in this age group. These dedicated volunteers complete 40 hours annually of natural resources work to keep their certification. Citizen monitoring is an effective way to maintain this certification, and it

keeps this age group engaged from year to year.

Our second largest audience is school groups, so we provide specific dates where we just work with students, hoping to instill a lifelong interest in caring for our natural resources. We train a team of high school students from all the high schools in Sheboygan County annually. They are each assigned a stretch on the river that they monitor twice annually, then share and analyze their data at an annual symposium. This is not valid data, however— it's just to help students understand the process of BUI delisting. College aged students also intern with us and work extensively for a short period of time.

Citizen based monitoring is a cost effective way to obtain reliable data to measure ecological response to clean-up and habitat restoration efforts in the Sheboygan River AOC. It also has the added benefits of helping the community to better understand their environment and engaging local citizens in caring for the river. An involved, motivated community will protect the investments made in this AOC for years to come. — By Sarah DeZwarte, Camp Y-Koda Education Director.



Camp Y-Koda volunteers (above) monitoring birds in the Sheboygan River AOC (photo from Sarah DeZwarte).



Sheboygan Area School District students (above) help pull buckthorn during an invasive species removal work day this fall at Esslingen Park. Steve Klock (below) with Camp Y-Koda uses a chainsaw to cut larger buckthorn (photos from Sarah DeZwarte).

Restoring Fish Passage in the Milwaukee River (continued from Page 6)

DNR assisted Milwaukee County in securing funding to restore fish passage along with other improvements that Milwaukee County was pursuing in the park.

These projects are part of a larger group of AOC habitat improvements that DNR is working on with landowners and partners, including the City, County, and MMSD. A Fish and Wildlife Technical Team helps determine restoration projects needed to address degraded habitat and impaired populations of fish and wildlife. Eleven projects were identified by the Tech Team to address the Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Beneficial Use Impairment. Once there is agreement on priority restoration projects to meet the goals of the AOC program, DNR works with local partners and the federal government to identify funding opportunities for implementation. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a key funding source.

These and other AOC projects provide both economic and ecological benefits: they provide more opportunities for recreation, tourism, and improved property values, in addition to healthier fish and wildlife in the Milwaukee Estuary. — By Susan Tesarik



UW-Green Bay Scientists Create Fish and Wildlife Assessment Tool for AOC (continued from Page 4)

During the second phase of this project, the team used the newly acquired information to identify critical fish and wildlife habitats and populations in the AOC. They developed an objective assessment process and two simple, easy-to-use tools using Microsoft® Excel that calculate the overall condition of each of the BUIs.

This innovative framework provides a single number ranging from 0 to 10, where values close to 0 indicate that the BUI is in very poor condition, while values close to 10 indicate the best possible condition.

These tools will assist AOC managers with a quantitative method for evaluating the status of these two fish and wildlife BUIs and determining what needs to be done to eliminate the AOC designation. Frequent meetings with collaborators Mike Grimm and Nicole Van Helden from

The Nature Conservancy, staff scientists from the DNR and EPA, and other local experts have helped refine a transparent and achievable goal that will have both economic and quality of life benefits for people in northeastern Wisconsin.

Currently, the scientists are completing a final report that summarizes all aspects of this project and will recommend a list of cost-effective projects that, if completed, would ultimately justify the delisting of these two BUIs. Project information, field data, assessment tools, and reports will soon be made available to the public on a website, which is still under construction.

For more information about this project, please contact Erin Giese (giesee@uwgb.edu). — By Erin Giese and Robert Howe.



Plant biodiversity hotspot survey crew members in 2016, Brown County (photo by Robert Howe, UW-Green Bay).

Stakeholders to Address Algae in Lower Green Bay & Fox River AOC

The DNR Office of Great Waters will be convening Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC stakeholders in 2018 to talk through the Eutrophication or Undesirable Algae Beneficial Use Impairment in a series of facilitated meetings. The goal will be to finalize a revised delisting target and establish a list of prioritized AOC projects for the BUI. The discussions will build on the work that was done in 2015 by a subset of stakeholders to craft a proposed revised delisting target, which has remained as a working draft.

Developing a prioritized project list for this BUI is challenging because watershed sources far beyond the AOC boundary contribute to Green Bay eutrophication. Therefore, charting the path for the BUI requires defining the

contribution that the AOC can make toward a larger watershed effort.

Stakeholders can help shape the AOC target and project list so that they align with AOC program goals while complementing other watershed efforts such as the Save the Bay initiative, the Lower Fox River Total Maximum Daily Load implementation effort, and the Green Bay Conservation Partners Landscape Blueprint.

For more information, contact Kendra Axness by e-mailing Kendra.Axness@Wisconsin.gov or calling 608-267-0700.



Killdeer chick along the Cat Island Causeway in Green Bay during an algae bloom. Undesirable algae is one of the BUIs in the AOC (photo by Erin Giese, UW-Green Bay).



Wisconsin DNR Office of Great Waters

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Learn more about
Wisconsin's AOCs on
our website!
www.dnr.wi.gov
Search: "[AOC](#)"