

## EPA, DNR Prepare to Revise Little Lake Butte des Morts Cleanup Plan

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

With the amended cleanup plan for the Lower Fox River from Appleton to Green Bay behind them, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources are looking at a similar plan for Little Lake Butte des Morts.

Although about 70 percent of the PCBs in the lake will have been removed under the original cleanup plan by November, the agencies are considering capping and less dredging in areas where contamination is above their cutoff of 1 part per million. Sediment with PCB levels under 1 ppm is considered to be safe and can be left behind.

According to EPA Remedial Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg, the new plan would meet the cleanup goal of an average of .25 ppm. "We want to remove, contain or cover sediment with PCBs over 1 ppm," he said. "The overall average left in the top, or surface, layer of sediment would be .25 ppm."

Hahnenberg added that next year, lower levels of PCBs would be removed in deeper areas. "This usually results in the removal of clean sediment that is picked up along the way," he stated.

If a new plan is approved for the lake, many aspects of the original plan finalized in 2002 will be included. "We will still have people monitoring the cleanup and dredging will remain an important part," Hahnenberg said.

There was a "contingency plan" in the original cleanup document that allowed for the use of capping, he

added. The new plan, if adopted, would use a sand cover technology similar to the one for the downriver cleanup.

Before EPA and DNR approve a revised lake cleanup plan, they would sponsor another 60-day comment period this fall and a public meeting would most likely be held in the Appleton area. All documents in their final form would be sent to the information repositories listed on page 7 and would be posted online.

WTM I and Glatfelter, the companies responsible for the ongoing lake cleanup, would be required to continue their work next year using the modified plan under a new legal agreement which would be entered in federal court.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOLDT TEAM  
*A sand spreader similar to this might be used at Little Lake Butte des Morts if the lake's cleanup plan is revised.*

# Downriver Cleanup Hits 'Hot Spot'

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

"They are really hitting the hot spot." That is how U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Project Manager Jim Hahnenberg described the cleanup of the most contaminated part of the Lower Fox River.

Since May, EPA and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources have been overseeing dredging just below the DePere Dam. The work, which is being done by NCR Corp. and Sonoco-U.S. Mills (formerly U.S. Paper Mills) through a 2006 legal agreement with the agencies, will include dredging about 140,000 cubic yards of sediment (mud) contaminated with PCBs and installing a sand cover at least six inches thick over the areas after they have been dredged because some PCB contamination will remain.

A piece of equipment called a sand spreader has been used since late August to cover the dredged areas of the river. Dredging is divided into "rows," according to Hahnenberg. Once a row is dredged, sand covering can start while dredging continues in the next row.

Each row of clean and to-be-cleaned sediment is separated by a fabric barrier called a silt curtain. This commonly used technology will prevent "cross contamination." "A silt curtain has been installed around the entire project to define the work zone," Hahnenberg explained. "It prevents contamination from leaving the area although we haven't seen any sediment movement into the previously dredged area. They err on the side of caution."

In May and June, up to 59 trucks per day moved sediment with PCBs at levels of more than 50 parts per million to a landfill in Michigan that is licensed to accept this type of waste. "The trucks run Monday through Friday," Hahnenberg said. "They are sealed and covered with tarps to prevent spills."

During the design phase of the project in 2004, about 26,000 cubic yards of sediment with PCB levels over



PHOTO COURTESY OF SHAW ENVIRONMENTAL

*Special equipment is used to cover dredged areas of the river with sand.*

50 ppm were discovered. In some places, the levels reached 3,000 ppm. The federal Toxic Substances Control Act requires sediment over 50 ppm to be handled differently than sediment under 50 ppm and disposed of in a specially designed facility. The remaining sediment containing less than 50 ppm is being taken to a landfill in Calumet County.

When this cleanup is done by the end of October, nearly 10 percent of the river's PCBs will have been removed.

For the remainder of the cleanup extending from Appleton to Green Bay, work won't begin under the new cleanup plan approved in June until 2009. A legal document called a consent decree would have to be issued in federal court. However, the companies that sign this agreement would be able to begin preparations next year. They could order equipment, build work areas, locate utilities and make disposal arrangements.

## Trustee Council Approves DNR Land Purchase

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The purchase of 974 acres including about 1.5 miles of frontage along the Wolf River was recently approved by the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources purchased the Outagamie County property in August for \$2.8 million using natural resource damage assessment settlement dollars. The property, which is adjacent to lands already owned by DNR, will protect a large contiguous section of important bottomland (floodplain) wetland habitat. Previously, it was owned by a hunting club that managed the lands for duck and deer hunting.

The wetlands along the Wolf River frontage are critical walleye spawning marshes for the river system. The trustees believe the acquisition of this valuable habitat is an important step to achieving the restoration of natural resources injured due to the release of PCBs into the Fox River and Green Bay.

The natural resource trustees are comprised of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at 920-866-1726.



## Out and About...

By Susan Pastor, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

The Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership is made up of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin. These partners, as well as other supporting agencies, regularly provide speakers to organizations in the Fox Valley area. The following people recently made presentations:

### August

- ◆ *Greg Hill, DNR: Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, Stevens Point; 2007 amended record of decision.*

### September

- ◆ *Jim Hahnenberg, EPA: Science and Technology Advisory Committee, Ashwaubenon; 2007 amended record of decision.*

*The Fox River Current is featuring promising natural resource damage assessment projects in and near the Lower Fox River.*

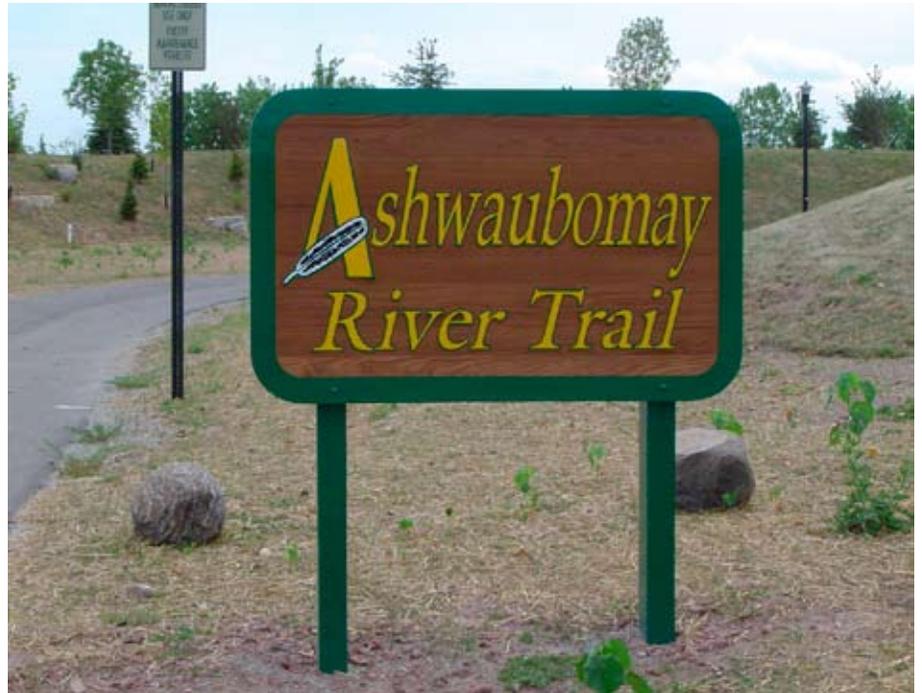
# Spotlight On: Ashwaubomay River Trail

By Colette Charbonneau, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

A new trail has been developed along the west shore of the Fox River in Ashwaubenon, Wis. The Ashwaubomay River Trail, the first to be built on the west side of the river, is about a block from Ashwaubomay Park. It can be found on Broadway Street near Bay Harbor Circle. The one-mile trail follows along the river and leads underneath the State Highway 172 bridge. The trail ends, or begins depending on where you start, at Marina Lane within one block of the National Railroad Museum.

Families from the west side can now go down to the Fox River for a walk, jog or bike ride. The path is 12 feet wide, paved and lit. Benches can be found along the trail for a brief rest or longer visit with a hiking friend. The benches offer fantastic views of the river and habitat along the shores. While enjoying this new trail, private property adjacent to it should be respected, according to Ashwaubenon Village Administrator Steve Kubacki.

“The trail is a great addition to Ashwaubenon,” he added. “It is an attraction to residents and visitors. We were looking for a way to tie the National Railroad Museum to Ashwaubomay Park along the river.”



*Ashwaubomay River Trail begins at Marina Lane and spans one mile.*

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council approved this project as part of the Fort James/Georgia-Pacific final natural resource damage assessment and restoration agreement. The natural resource-based public use projects provide recreation and enjoyment related to aquatic habitats that are similar to those damaged by the presence of PCBs in and around the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. These types of projects are expected to bring people to the river and bay for their pleasure and help them

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# Little Lake Butte des Morts Cleanup Stays on Track

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The cleanup in Little Lake Butte des Morts continues to move along.

One dredge is working north of the State Highway 441 bridge, and the second is working in the navigation channel and just north of the Friendship Trail area. The contractors for WTM I and Glatfelter, the paper companies doing the work, are somewhat

ahead of schedule and expect to dredge more sediment than originally planned for this year. The companies are installing sand covers to address the PCBs that remain in the areas already dredged. This will reduce the exposure of fish to the remaining PCBs in the river system.

Work will wrap up for the year by November.

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gain appreciation of the resource so they will want to protect it into the future.

The natural resource trustees are comprised of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Michigan Attorney General, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

For further information on NRDA projects, contact Trustee Council Coordinator Colette Charbonneau, FWS, at [Colette\\_Charbonneau@fws.gov](mailto:Colette_Charbonneau@fws.gov) or at 920-866-1726.



*Ashwaubomay River Trail goes underneath Highway 172 bridge.*

# Safe Sediment Transport Remains Top Priority

By Greg Swanson, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

The process for transporting dried sediment from the dredging sites on Little Lake Butte des Morts and near the DePere Dam is an exact process and well-planned effort.

Studies show that loading sediment onto trucks after water has been squeezed out and then taking it to a nearby landfill is the most practical and economical way to dispose of it.

The “dewatered” sediment from Little Lake Butte des Morts is hauled by both conventional tri-axle 20-yard and semi trailer dump trucks. Trucks from a Kaukauna company haul 25 to 50 loads of sediment daily. For the Phase 1 dredging project in DePere, tri-axle 20-yard dump trucks from a Pu-

laski firm haul about 50 loads per day of dewatered sediment. Hauling occurs from about 6 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday for both projects with some Saturday hauling done as needed from DePere. Sediment from both locations is taken to the Veolia Environmental Services Hickory Meadows Landfill near Chilton.

The transport process starts on the dewatering area of the sediment treatment site where an excavator loads the sediment into the trucks. Once loaded, the trucks are decontaminated. High-pressure washers are used to remove any sediment that may have accumulated on the exterior of the trucks or their tires during the loading process. Once the trucks have been decontaminated, their tops are cleaned and the

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PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BOLDT TEAM

*After trucks are loaded with sediment, they enter a decontamination area where high-pressure washing removes any remaining sediment from the exterior.*

## Sediment *from Page 6*

loads covered to prevent any sediment from being blown out of the trucks as they travel on the highway.

All trucks are outfitted with permanent dump box liners, tarps that cover the sediment during transport and tailgates with rubber seals and turnbuckles to prevent accidental opening. The paper companies doing the cleanups and their contractors also have a plan in place to deal with problems like road construction, traffic accidents or accidental spills along the haul route. After the trucks dump their loads at the landfill, they are decontaminated

again before returning to the dewatering facilities.

“The DNR is pleased with the progress that’s been made in both Little Lake Butte des Morts and the Phase 1 project in DePere,” said DNR Project Coordinator Greg Hill. “We’re continuing to move forward with planning for the work to be done in 2008.”

Plans for next year include sediment cleanup in the northern portion of the lake.

## Information Available at Local Libraries

The Intergovernmental Partners invite the public to review technical reports, fact sheets and other documents related to the Lower Fox River cleanup at information repositories set up in the reference sections of the local libraries listed below. Information repositories at the public libraries in De Pere, Kaukauna, Little Chute, Neenah and Wrightstown have been discontinued. However, binders containing fact sheets are being maintained at these locations as well as at the following repositories:

- **Appleton Public Library**, 225 N. Oneida St., Appleton, Wis.; 920-832-6170
- **Brown County Library**, 515 Pine St., Green Bay, Wis.; 920-448-4381, Ext. 394
- **Door County Library**, 107 S. Fourth Ave., Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; 920-743-6578
- **Oneida Community Library**, 201 Elm St., Oneida, Wis.; 920-869-2210
- **Oshkosh Public Library**, 106 Washington Ave., Oshkosh, Wis.; 920-236-5205



### *Check out these Web sites:*

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/foxriver/index.html>

<http://www.epa.gov/region5/sites/foxriver>

<http://contaminants.fws.gov/Issues/Restoration.cfm>

<http://www.fws.gov/midwest/nrda/index.html>

*An administrative record, which contains detailed information upon which the selection of the final site cleanup plan was based, is also available for review at two DNR offices: 801 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, Wis. and 101 S. Webster St., 2nd Floor, Madison, Wis. An administrative record is also available at the EPA Record Center, 77 W. Jackson Blvd., 7th Floor, Chicago, Ill.*



Prepared by the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership: Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Supporting agencies include Wisconsin Department of Health and Family Services, U.S. Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Disclaimer: The opinions expressed in these articles are solely those of the authors and are not necessarily shared by all members of the Fox River Intergovernmental Partnership.

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