

An aerial photograph of the Milwaukee River Estuary area, showing a dense urban landscape with a grid of streets and buildings. The river flows through the city, and the estuary is visible on the right side, where the river meets the water. The text "MILWAUKEE RIVER ESTUARY: AREA OF CONCERN" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

**MILWAUKEE RIVER ESTUARY:  
AREA OF CONCERN**

# GREAT LAKES: Quick Facts

**40,000,000**

people rely on this resource for drinking water

**95%**

of the surface freshwater in United States

**99 YEARS**

amount of time to replace the water in Lake Michigan



## **WHAT IS AN AREA OF CONCERN?**

An AOC is a location that has experienced significant environmental degradation and the public is unable to fully use the resource in a safe or beneficial way.

# WHAT IS THE MILWAUKEE ESTUARY?

The Milwaukee River Estuary represents the confluence of the three major rivers in Milwaukee, the Milwaukee the Menomonee and the Kinnickinnic Rivers and Lake Michigan. This area has deeper water than elsewhere in the Milwaukee River Basin.





## **MILWAUKEE DESIGNATED AN AREA OF CONCERN**

The Milwaukee Estuary was designated an Area of Concern (AOC) in the 1980's because historical contamination has impaired public benefits such as fish consumption, healthy fisheries, water quality, and wildlife habitat.



## HOW DO WE FIX AN AOC?

To reach our goal and 'de-list' Milwaukee as an Area of Concern, we must clean up our rivers and Lake Michigan, to restore some of their natural function by: creating habitat, removing invasive species, planting vegetation, reducing pollutants, etc.

# WHAT IS A BUI?

The term BUI stands for “Beneficial Use Impairment.” The presence of these BUIs in our waterways, means the public isn’t able to fully use or enjoy their water resources in a safe way for eating, drinking, swimming, fishing, etc.

**Milwaukee has 11 of 14 possible BUIs.**

1. **Restrictions** on Dredging Activities
2. **Fish Tumors** or Other Deformities
3. Bird or **Animal Deformities** or **Reproduction Problems**
4. **Restrictions on Fish and Wildlife Consumption**
5. **Degradation** of Benthos
6. **Degradation** of Phytoplankton and Zooplankton Populations
7. **Loss of Fish** and Wildlife Habitat
8. Degradation of Fish and **Wildlife Populations**
9. **Beach Closings/Recreational Restoration**
10. Eutrophication or **Undesirable Algae**
11. Degradation of **Aesthetics**

# ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY GAINS!

**\$2-\$3 for every \$1**

as a result of remedial actions and restoration work

**\$50,000,000,000**

in benefits from tourism to increased property values and  
decreased costs for cities



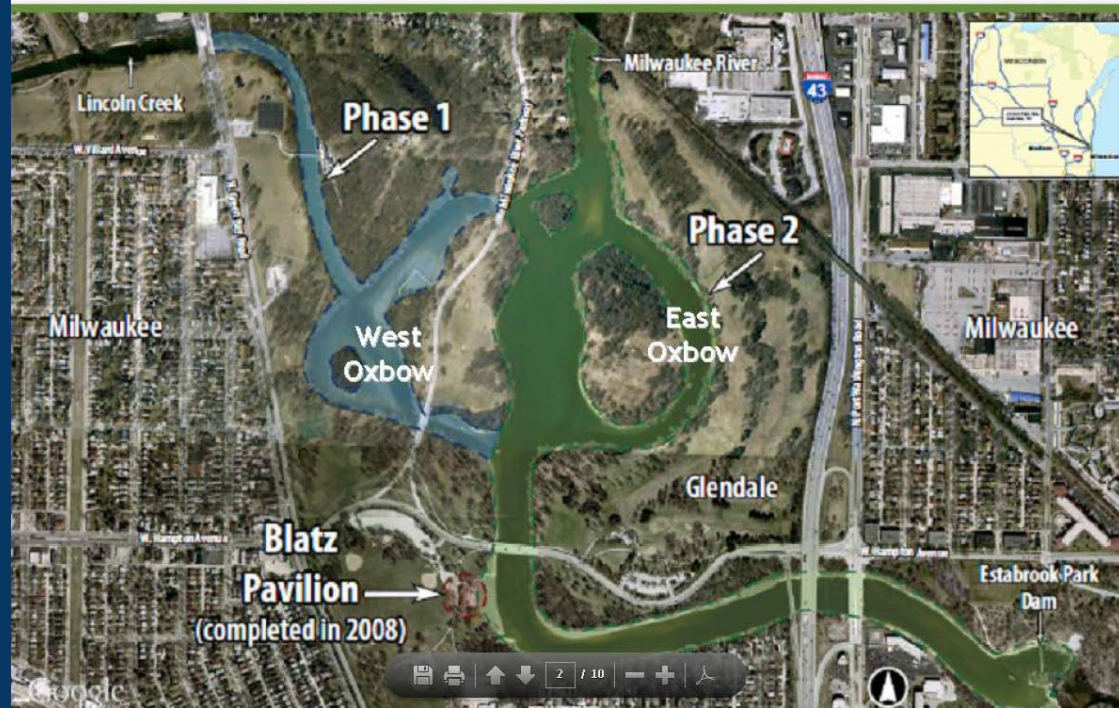
# Lincoln Park and Milwaukee River Channels Sediment Projects – AOC work in 2011

Sediment Cleanup & Habitat Restoration

Achieved public health and water quality goals

Milwaukee County was a financial sponsor

## Lincoln Park Project Area



# September 2019 PEEC and County Board Action Item: Project Agreement for the Great Lakes Legacy Act Project: *The Milwaukee River Downstream*

## Project Partners

- WDNR
- MMSD
- City of Milwaukee – RACM
- WE Energies
- US EPA - GLNPO

## Project Goals

- Feasibility Study, design, and work for the removal and remediation of known contaminants such as PCBs

## Project Cost

- Approximately \$29m
- Milwaukee County would be a non-fiscal partner, providing site access for the project

