

Dredging

Hydraulic dredging involves removing sediment from the riverbed and pumping the dredged sediment to the processing facility where sand and water are removed before the resulting filter cake is landfilled.



Photo: The Boldt Company

Capping and Sand Covering

Capping is the practice of containing PCB sediment by placing sand, gravel and quarry s on top of the sediment to prevent the PCBs from moving in the river.



Photo: The Boldt Company



Photo: WIDOT

The Project was designed to reduce risk to human health and the environment due to the presence of PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) in river sediment from Little Lake Butte des Morts to the river mouth at Green Bay. The 17-year cleanup effort included dredging, capping and sand covering. Long term monitoring will continue for decades. Oversight of all work is conducted by Wisconsin DNR and USEPA.

- **Dredged sediment total: 6.5 million cubic yards**
- **Processed sediment to the landfill: 4 million tons**
- **Treated water returned to river: 10 billion gallons**
- **Area of river bottom capped: 275 acres**
- **Area of river bottom sand covered: 780 acres**



Photo: Mick Thompson



Photo: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin

Long Term Monitoring

Good results in areas upstream of De Pere Dam. Downstream areas start testing in 2021.

- PCB reductions of 90% in river water and 80-90% in sediment (since 2006).
- PCBs in Walleye (human health indicator) average 65% lower since 2006 based on collections in 2018.



Photo: Oneida Nation of Wisconsin

Restoration and Recreation

The Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council includes Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, US Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin DNR. Trustees allocate PCB Project settlement funds to support natural resource restoration projects for the public and wildlife.

<https://www.foxrivernrda.org/>

Key Players of the Fox River PCB Cleanup

