



Fox River Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Oneida's Experience

Tribal NRDA/OPA Conference
July 20, 2011

Lisa Miotke, Environmental
Supervisor, Oneida Tribe

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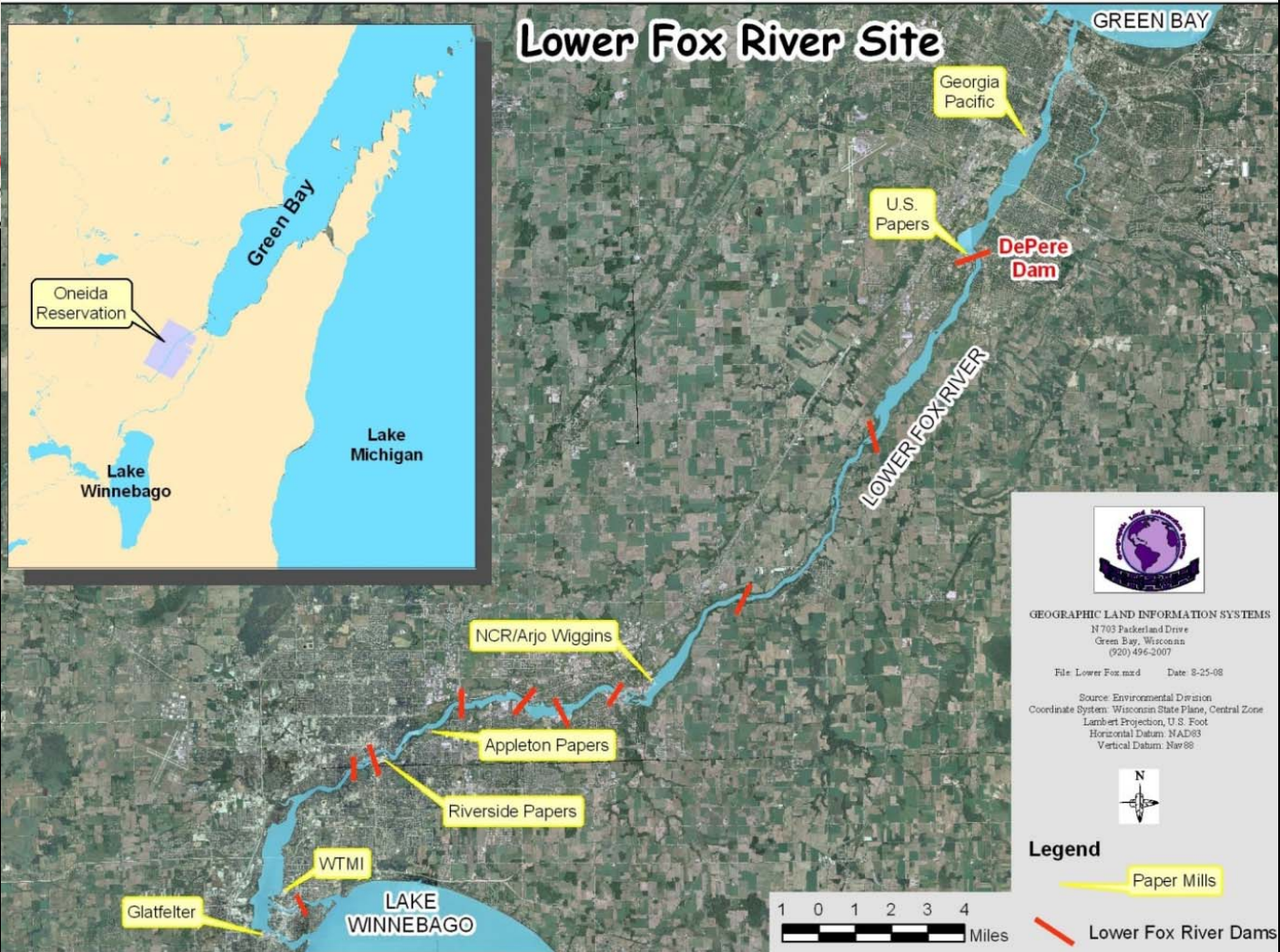


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Lower Fox River Site



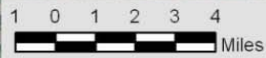
GEOGRAPHIC LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS
 N 703 Packerland Drive
 Green Bay, Wisconsin
 (920) 496-2007

File: Lower Fox.mxd Date: 8-25-08

Source: Environmental Division
 Coordinate System: Wisconsin State Plane, Central Zone
 Lambert Projection, U.S. Foot
 Horizontal Datum: NAD83
 Vertical Datum: Nue 88

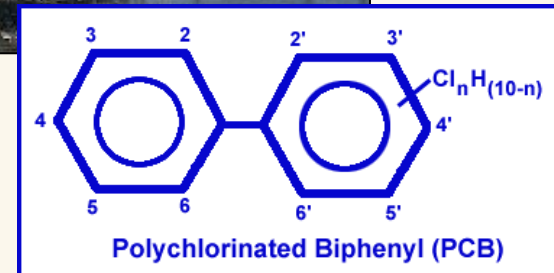
Legend

- Paper Mills
- Lower Fox River Dams



Fox River/Green Bay NRDA

- The Lower Fox River is Wisconsin's largest tributary to Lake Michigan
- Once called "the hardest working river in the world" because of heavy use by industry
- Paper companies used PCBs in carbonless copy paper
- About 125 tons of PCBs were discharged into the river from 1954~1971



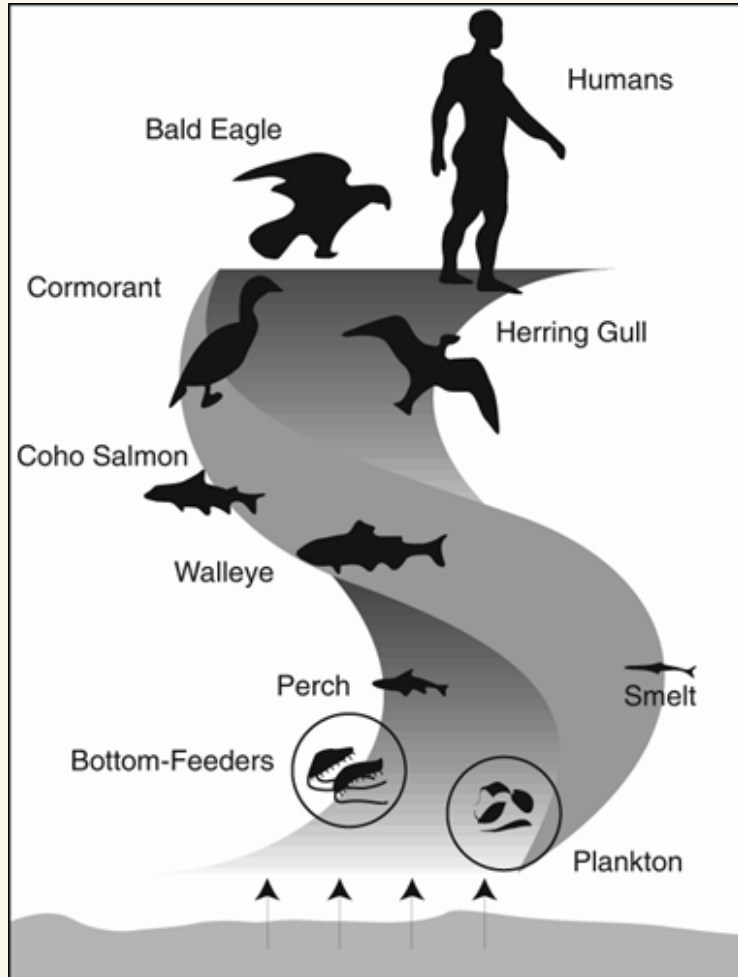
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The Problem with PCBs



- Small river organisms eat sediment with PCBs
- PCBs accumulate in fatty tissue and get passed up the food chain
- PCBs cause
 - ~ wildlife deformities
 - ~ immune system and reproductive problems
 - ~ developmental delays
 - ~ possibly cancer

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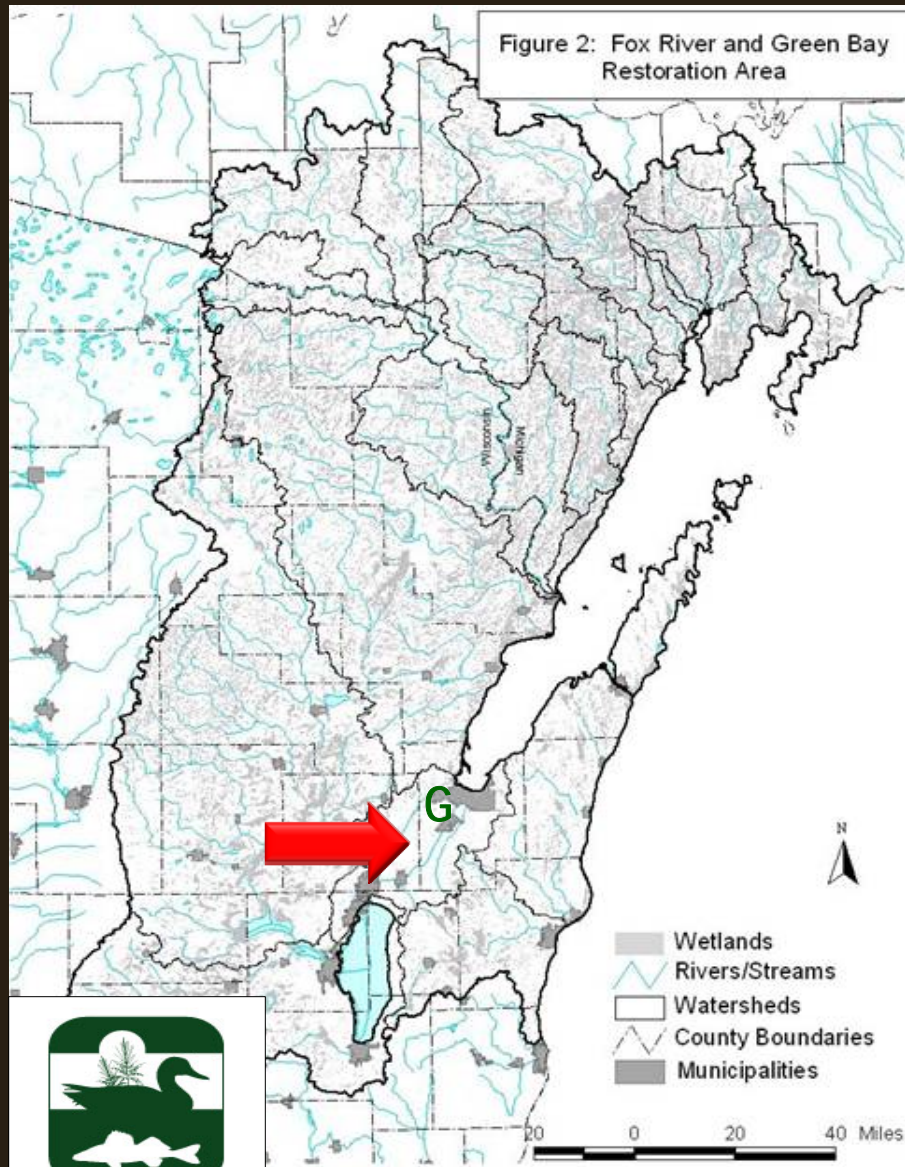


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Fox River/Green Bay NRDA Injuries





Trustees:

- Oneida Tribe
- Menominee Nation
- Federal Agencies (F&WS for DOI & NOAA)
- State of Wisconsin
- State of Michigan (dropped out 2009)



Lower Fox River/Green Bay

NRDA Trustee Council

Trustees

Tehassi Hill
Business
Committee
Member
Oneida Nation

Charlie Wooley
Deputy Director
Region 3, US
FWS

Ken Johnson
Water Division
Administrator
WI DNR

Craig Corn
Tribal
Legislator
Menominee
Tribe

Technical Team

Lisa Miotke
Environmental
Supervisor
Oneida Nation

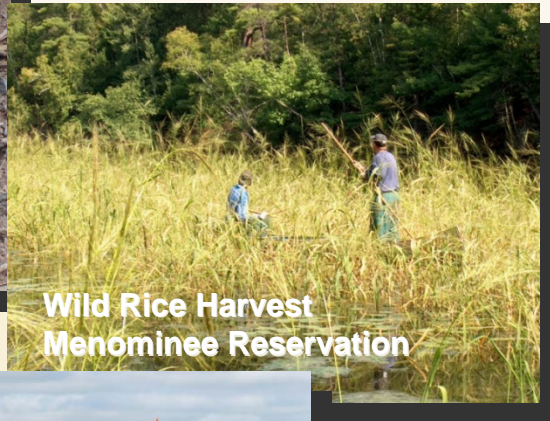
Betsy M. Galbraith
Trustee Council
Coordinator
US FWS

John Huff
Wildlife Biologist
WI DNR

Jonathan
Pyatskowit
Environmental
Services
Department
Menominee Tribe

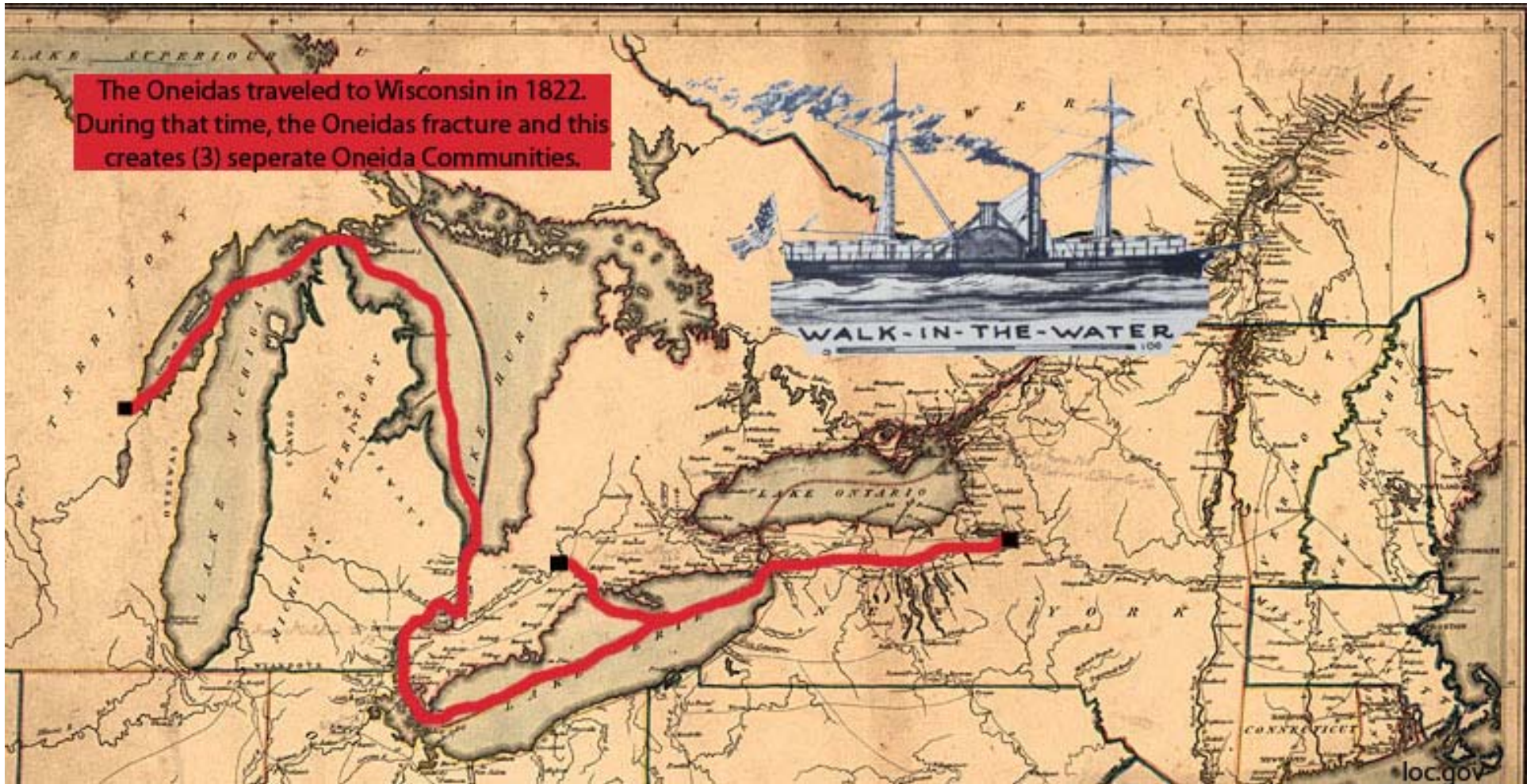


NRDA Restoration Accomplishments



- \$36,000,000 NRDA settlement funds approved for 110 restoration projects
- Over \$22,000,000 leveraged from outside sources
- Over 60 restoration projects completed to date

The Oneidas traveled to Wisconsin in 1822. During that time, the Oneidas fracture and this creates (3) separate Oneida Communities.



When we first got here (the Oneidas) there were different kinds of fish: trout, red horse fish, walleyed pike, sucker, rock bass, and shiners.

Works Progress Administration Papers 1939 (WPA Project): Oscar Archiquette



Ceremonies centered around the seasons:

- Harvest maple sap
- Spring fish runs
- Berry/medicines
- Harvest 3 Sisters (white corn, beans & squash)
- Hunting wild game

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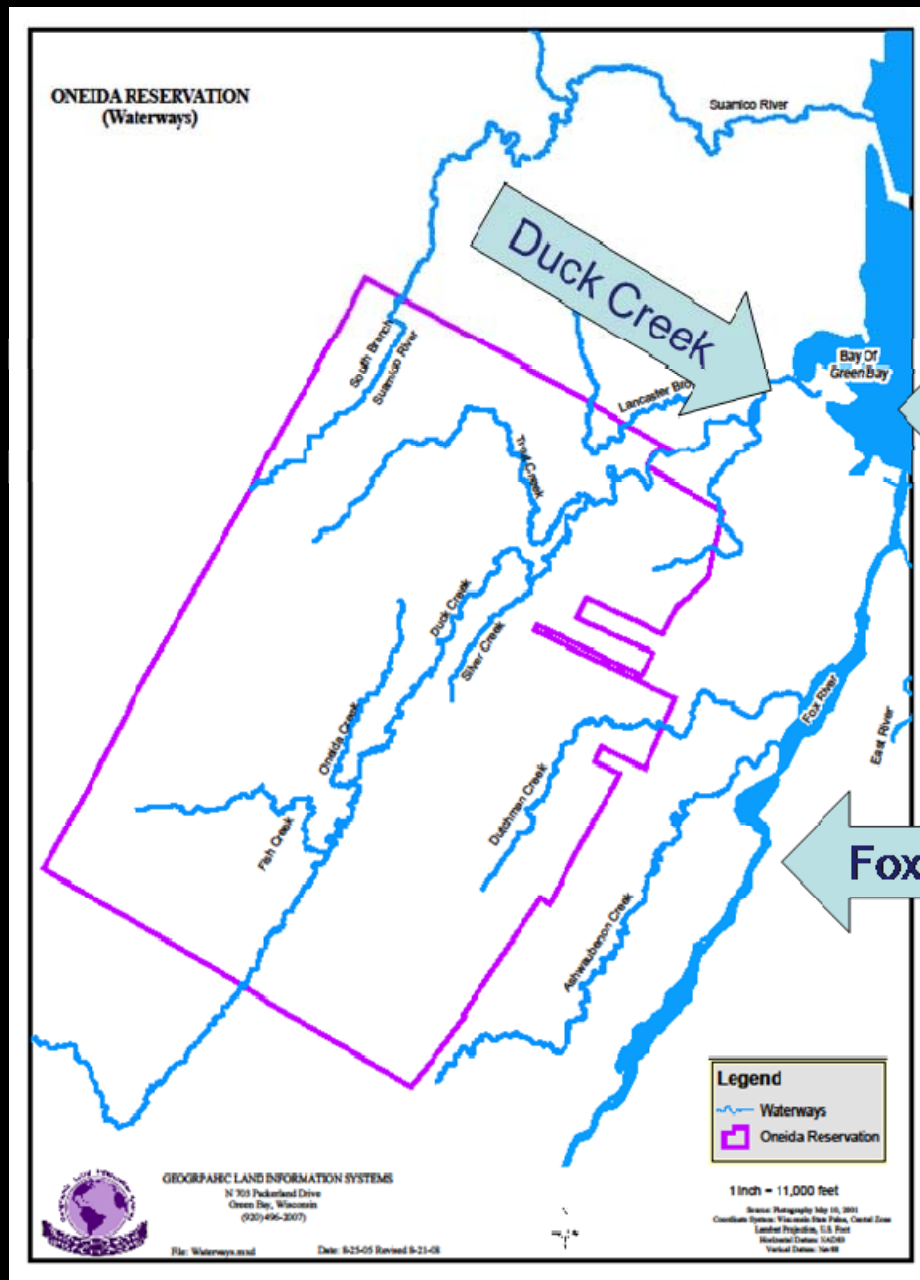




Oneida's as a NRDA Trustee

- Documented injuries to fish, waterfowl, mink & eagles from PCBs
- Loss of cultural uses of natural resources
- Goal is to replace, restore or acquire injured natural resources





The fish in the Fox River have been studied and shown to migrate into Green Bay and up Duck Creek.

Green Bay

Oneida people have a history of fishing in Duck Creek. These fish are now unable to be eaten due to contamination.

Fox River

Oneida's claim is related to the lost cultural resources & the fishery.



Features of Oneida...

Main land use is Agriculture

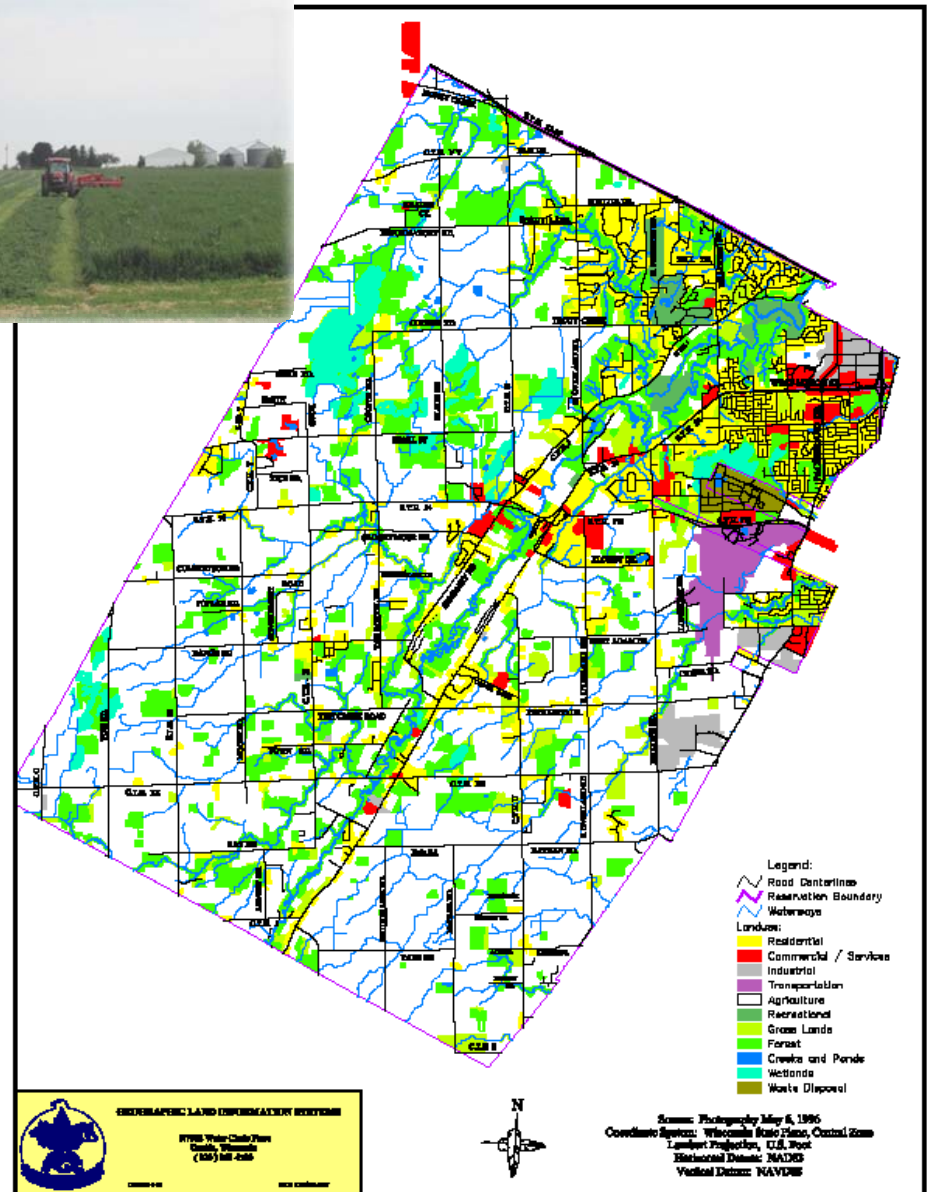
Gently rolling topography and silty-clay till soils

Remaining forests are typically wooded wetlands that were too wet for agriculture

Duck Creek valley bisects in SW-NE direction

233 miles of rivers, creeks, & streams

Austin Straubel Airport is within the Reservation boundary.



Habitat Restoration & Protection on the Oneida Reservation



- Land Acquisition & Protection
- Wetland & stream restorations
- Invasive species control program
- Best Management Practices (buffers, etc)
- Fish habitat enhancement

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Restoring the Fishery



Oneida Tribal Community is Unique

- Approx 7000 residents living on or near the reservation
- General Tribal Council
- Tribal schools
- Culturally based programs
- Sovereignty



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Community Events & Ceremonies

- Pow~Wows, General Tribal Council Meetings, Youth & Elder Fishing Day, Fall Fest, etc...
- Prizes and giveaways
- Make it fun!
- Gather community input
 - ~ mini-surveys
 - ~ addresses
 - ~ anecdotal

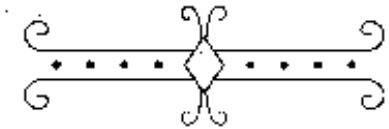


Please join us for the
Tobacco Burning
at the
Lake Site

Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2006

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Corner of Crook Rd. & Cty. U
Use County U entrance



For more information contact:

Betsy Gallbraith at 496-5327 or

Jennifer Hill-Kelley at 496-5354

Community meetings are encouraged to attend

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Youth Programs



- Field trips to restoration and clean-up sites
- Solicit input for lake design & restoration projects
- Partnerships with Summer Recreation Program & Tribal Schools

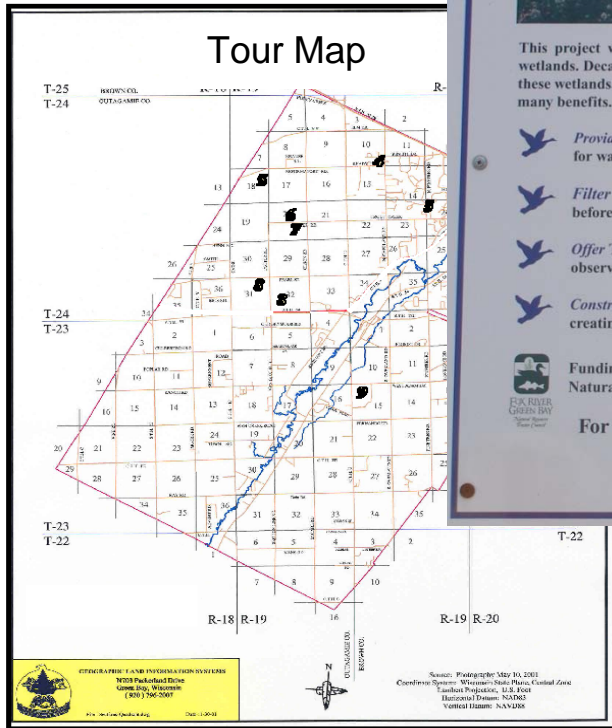
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Tours & Signage








Little Suamico Headwaters Wetland Restoration

PROJECT SCHEDULE

This project will restore over 200 acres of Little Suamico River headwater wetlands. Decades of farming, ditching, and invasion by exotic plants degraded these wetlands. Once returned to natural conditions, these wetlands will provide many benefits.

-  Provide necessary food, habitat, and nesting opportunities for waterfowl and other wildlife.
-  Filter harmful pollutants and sediment draining from 1700 acres before entering the Little Suamico River, which leads to Green Bay.
-  Offer Tribal members the opportunity for hunting, wildlife observation, hiking, education, and cultural activities.
-  Construction will involve filling ditches, digging ponds, creating berms, and installing water control structures.


 Funding is provided by the Fox River/Green Bay Natural Resource Trustee Council

For more information, contact Tony Kuchma
 Wetland Program Coordinator
 920-496-5346

PROJECT SCHEDULE

FALL 2005

Site planning, surveying, and technical work

WINTER/SPRING 2006

Project design and permitting

SUMMER 2006

Site preparation

FALL 2006

Construction and revegetation



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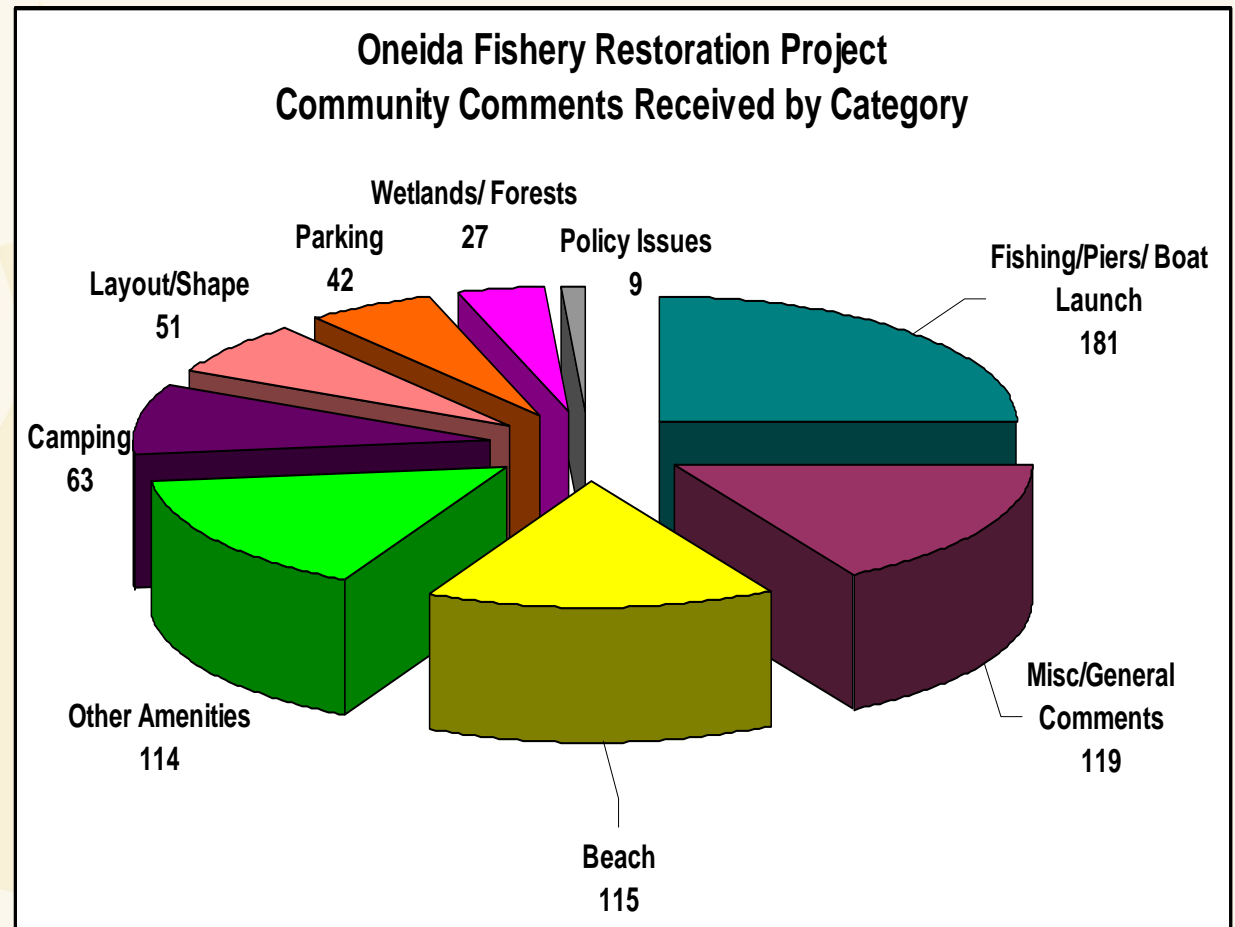


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Surveys

- Both officially & unofficially
- Use survey knowledge for planning purposes
- Offer prize incentives



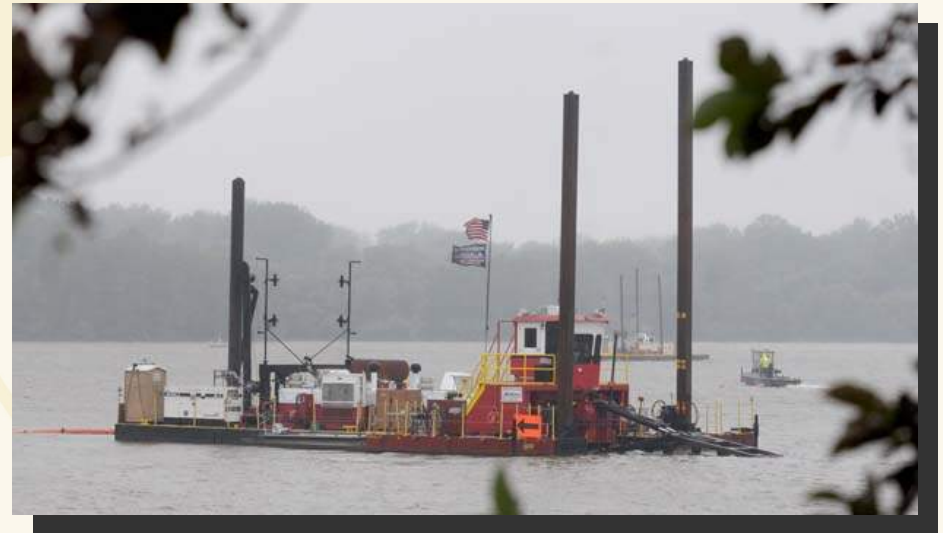
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Status of the Case

- In 3rd year of cleanup on the River
- \$36,000,000 in settlements for restoration
- About \$4.3 million more in restoration settlement pending court approval
- Dept of Justice & State of WI filed lawsuit in October 2010

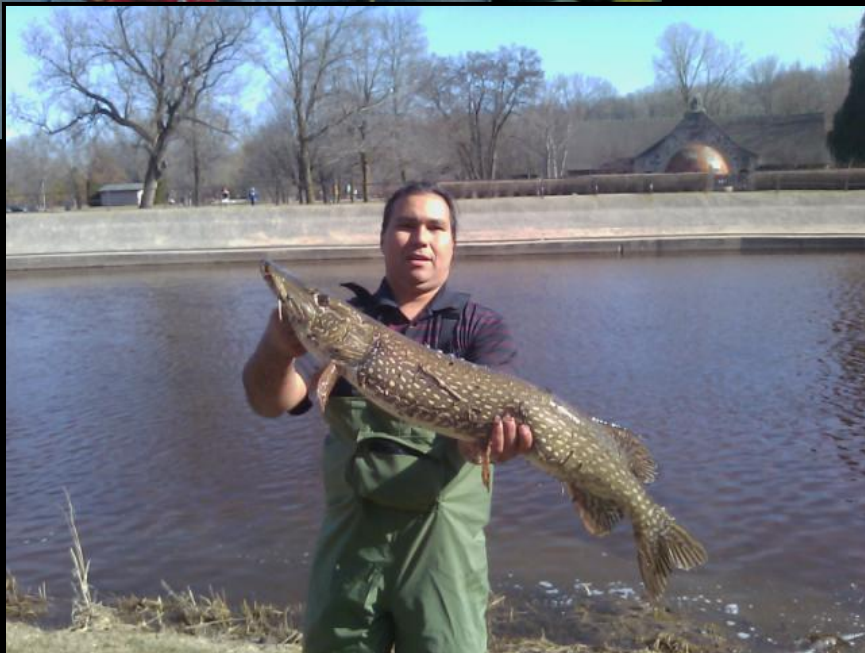


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Contact Information –

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