

# Milwaukee River remediation project



## Spring 2023 update

After years of planning, permitting and outreach to stakeholders, We Energies, along with our contractors GEI Consultants and J. F. Brennan, will soon begin the cleanup of contaminated sediment in portions of the Milwaukee River near the Third Ward.

We Energies has received all necessary permits to remediate approximately 45,000 cubic yards of sediment, in 0.6 miles of river, associated with the operation of the former Third Ward Manufactured Gas Plant.



### Work areas

**Area A** is a small zone west of the North Water Street Bridge, near the confluence of the Milwaukee and Menomonee rivers.

**Area B** is a linear section southeast of the North Young Street Bridge on the northeast side of the Milwaukee River, adjacent to East Erie Street.

### Building on extensive outreach

Cleanup work in Area A and B follows several years of planning, including two years of intensive outreach, such as:

- Letters and informational materials mailed to residents and businesses
- Meetings with residents, businesses and boat owners to understand concerns
- Permit applications, public notices, hearings and public comment opportunities
- Construction site signage
- Waterway Restoration Partnership public forums and website information ([www.mkewaterwaypartners.org/milwaukee-river-third-ward/](http://www.mkewaterwaypartners.org/milwaukee-river-third-ward/))

### Project benefits

We are partnering with local, state, and federal agencies on the project to protect and restore this vital part of the Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern (AOC). Long-term AOC project benefits include public health, enhanced recreation, water quality, fish and wildlife habitat improvements.

Our company's commitment to fund this project is expected to unlock matching federal funds under the Great Lakes Legacy Act for additional cleanup projects in other areas of the Milwaukee Estuary AOC. By addressing contaminated sediment, we are one step closer to removing the U.S. and Canadian federal governments' AOC designation for the benefit of the Milwaukee metropolitan area and Lake Michigan.

# Milwaukee River remediation

Cleanup work will involve:

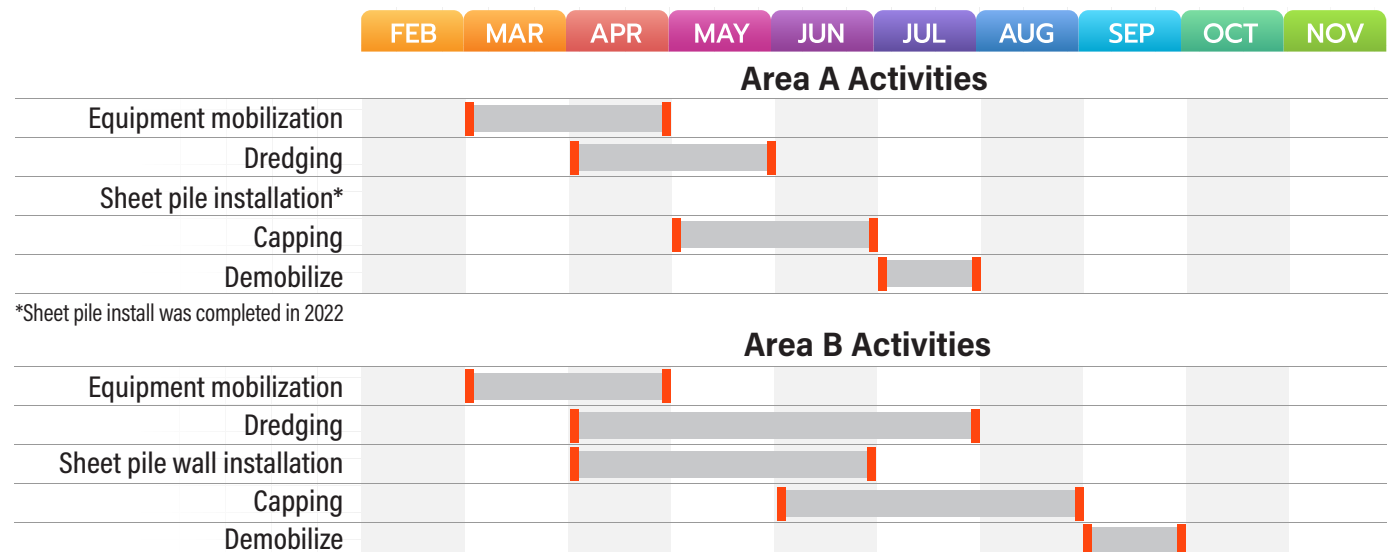
- Hydraulic dredging (similar to an underwater vacuum)
- Installation of a steel sheet pile
- Applying engineered caps (layers of clean sand) to portions of the riverbed

After hydraulic dredging, sediment will be pumped through pipe to the Port Milwaukee's existing Dredged Management Disposal Facility (DMDF) for disposal.



## 2023 work timeline

Weather permitting, we plan to begin our work in April and anticipate being complete by the end of August. We expect to be fully demobilized by October. Schedule may vary due to weather or other factors.



# Impact mitigation and monitoring

Based on feedback from residents and businesses during the planning phase, we adjusted some of our operations to mitigate disruptions to the community. While the public may be intermittently affected from river cleanup operations, all activities are temporary and are scheduled to take place during the hours allowed by City of Milwaukee ordinances.

## Sound/Vibration

Instead of the traditional pounding method used for sheet pile installation, we will use equipment that vibrates sheet pile into the underlying riverbed. It will result in a consistent humming sound while the sheets are being installed. Other general equipment-related sounds also may be experienced during work hours.

We will monitor vibration levels before and during construction at strategic locations along the shoreline to measure, evaluate and adjust our work as needed.

## Odor

We do not anticipate any odor will be generated from the dredged sediment. Rather than transporting dredged sediment to the storage site on barges, material will be contained in a pipe and pumped to the DMDF. General equipment-related odors may be experienced intermittently during work hours.

A comprehensive air-monitoring plan has been developed to monitor the surrounding air. The plan has been approved by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WI DNR) and will be implemented to ensure that the air quality is not adversely affected by the project.

## Foot traffic

For public safety, sections of the River Walk will be closed intermittently in the immediate vicinity of construction during work hours. All closings will be coordinated with the City of Milwaukee.

The River Walk will be reopened on evenings and weekends for public enjoyment. River Walk closings will not affect street access to residences or businesses.

## Recreation on the river

The Milwaukee River will continue to be navigable throughout the duration of the project; however, access to the remediation areas will be prohibited – including access to some public and private docks. Markers and signage will be placed in the river with navigation information.

The submerged pipe that will transport the dredged material to the DMDF will be laid on the riverbed deep enough to not restrict general boat movements along the river.







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## Third Ward

## Milwaukee River Remediation project

Cleanup to start in April

### Comments or questions

Contact us with questions or to get a status update about the project.

Call: 877-380-0522

Email: [thirdwardproject@we-energies.com](mailto:thirdwardproject@we-energies.com)

### Milwaukee Estuary AOC

An AOC is an area on the Great Lakes that has significant environmental degradation, preventing people and wildlife from fully using or enjoying the local waterways. The Milwaukee Estuary AOC includes the three major rivers in Milwaukee — Milwaukee, Menomonee and Kinnickinnic — and Lake Michigan. Portions of the Milwaukee Estuary became an AOC in 1987 because of historical contamination that endangered fish consumption, water quality and wildlife habitat.

### Waterway Restoration Partnership

The Waterway Restoration Partnership is a robust group of long-standing, trusted partners in the community that have been working together for years to improve water quality in the area. With a once-in-a-generation opportunity on the horizon, these organizations have formalized their partnership and strengthened their commitment to work together to clean up our waterways so the Milwaukee Estuary AOC is no longer on the Environmental Protection Agency's list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern. [mkewaterwaypartners.org](http://mkewaterwaypartners.org).



**WATERWAY  
RESTORATION  
PARTNERSHIP**  
MILWAUKEE ESTUARY AREA OF CONCERN

