

# KLETZSCH PARK RIVER ACCESS & FISH PASSAGE PROJECT

## OVERVIEW

The Kletzsch Park improvements will expand critical ecological connections between the northern Milwaukee River and greater Milwaukee Estuary, improve public access to the Milwaukee River, and perform vital repairs to the dam.

## COMPONENTS

- East Abutment Dam Repairs
- Public River Access, Portage and Overlook
- Fish Passage



Current view of dam & shoreline



Proposed view of river access & shoreline

## BENEFITS



Creates passage for native fish to reach higher quality habitats and effectively spawn



Improves public access to the Milwaukee River for everyone



Maintains and repairs the dam for enjoyment of future generations



Improves water quality for fish, wildlife and people

## WHY NOW?

- This project is a key to unlocking the health of our waterways. As well as improving water quality and habitats in the immediate area, the project provides an historic opportunity to secure federal funding from the EPA.
- A fish passage will allow fish native to the Milwaukee Estuary (including northern pike and lake sturgeon) to move from Lake Michigan to areas upstream of the dam.
- Current access to the river in Kletzsch Park is limited for many of our neighbors and residents.
- Mandated repairs are needed on the east abutment of the dam.
- Because the health of the river, estuary, and Lake Michigan are at risk.
- Project partners are coming together in this unique moment to fund these improvements primarily with state and federal dollars.

# MILWAUKEE ESTUARY AOC

## WHAT IS AN AOC?

In 1987, 43 Areas of Concern (AOCs) were initially identified in the US and Canada as places where legacy pollution - from industrial, agricultural and urban sources - severely interfered with the public's use of water resources for activities like swimming and fishing. All AOCs include Great Lakes tributaries with significant pollution and habitat problems.

## LONG-TERM BENEFITS



Cleaner water in our rivers and lakes



Significantly fewer environmental contaminants in our water



Thriving, healthy and diverse habitats



Improved recreational opportunities



More clean beach days



Healthier fish and wildlife



Healthier communities at home, across the region, state and country

## WHAT IS THE MILWAUKEE ESTUARY AOC?

The Milwaukee Estuary AOC is the confluence of three major tributaries to Lake Michigan including the Milwaukee, Menomonee, and Kinnickinnic Rivers, plus segment of several local creeks. It also includes the shoreline of Lake Michigan. The Milwaukee Estuary encompasses seven counties, 1.3 million people, and 880 sq. miles. Impairments have been found with these waterways, and the public isn't able to safely use their waterways for eating, drinking, swimming, fishing, etc. Known impairments include fish tumors, bird and animal deformities, restrictions on fish and wildlife consumption, loss of fish and wildlife habitat, beach closings, and the presence of undesirable algae. The proposed improvements at Kletzsch Park will address specific impairments at this site.



## THE BIG GOALS

- To address the adverse impacts of Milwaukee's industrial past on our lakes, rivers and streams.
- To improve overall water quality
- To 'de-list' Milwaukee as an AOC

## HOW WE GET THERE

- By partnering with other government agencies and local partners
- By utilizing millions of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding for improvements across the Milwaukee Estuary AOC

## WE NEED YOUR HELP

In this unique moment, \$2 million in funding is currently available from the EPA, state, and other local partners to complete the improvements at Kletzsch. Together, as a community, we have an historic opportunity to lead and leave a lasting environmental legacy – in the Milwaukee area and the region – by ensuring this work happens to improve the health of our waterways and environment for future generations.