

Newburgh Lake

A publication of the Wayne County Rouge River National Wet Weather Demonstration Project

THE ROUGE RIVER PROJECT
A WORLD CLASS EFFORT



BRINGING OUR RIVER BACK TO LIFE

Objective

Newburgh Lake had offered recreational opportunities, but this resource suffered from various problems. Since Newburgh Lake was created in the early 1900s, sediments have accumulated. These sediments, some contaminated with pollutants, have significantly degraded the recreational quality of Newburgh Lake. Shallow water depths resulting from the sediment accumulation and nutrient-rich water have led to excessive growth of aquatic plants. Moreover, some of these sediments contain toxic contaminants such as polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) that have entered the food chain and are currently present in the fish. These contaminated fish result in a potential human health hazard associated with fish consumption. To eliminate this possible hazard, it was necessary to remove the contaminated sediments.

The Newburgh Lake Project focused on the following objectives.

- Eliminate PCB fish advisory
- Enhance water quality
- Enhance recreation

Owner

County of Wayne, Michigan

Location

Hines Drive/Newburgh Road

Dates

Planning Start Date: 1993
Design Start Date: 1996
Construction Start Date: 1997
Operation Start Date: 1998

Cost

\$12,600,000

Demonstration Aspects

The restoration plan included the removal of contaminated sediment from the lake bottom. Removal of contaminated sediment was accomplished by using mechanical and hydraulic equipment to remove the sediments from the lake bottom. The contaminated sediment was disposed of at a secure landfill.



Newburgh Lake Dedication - October 16, 1998

Project Highlights

Problems Before Restoration

- PCB-contaminated fish
- Fish Consumption Advisory in place
- PCB-contaminated sediments
- 55 acres of the 105-acre lake had very limited use
- Water level control at dam was inoperable
- Odor problems

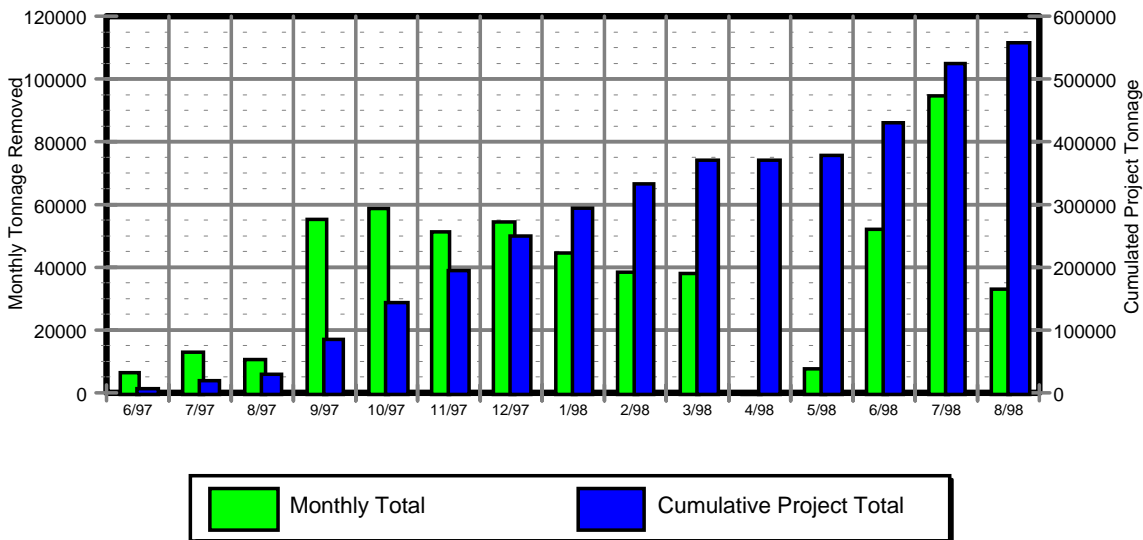
Benefits After Restoration

- 558,000 tons of sediment removed
- Approximately 350,000 tons contained PCBs, now securely land filled
- Lake deepened to a minimum of 8 feet, except for designed vegetation areas
- 30,000 pounds of contaminated and undesirable fish removed
- Creation of new fish habitat
- Creation of fish spawning beds
- Creation of additional park land
- Restocking with game fish

Major Elements

- Sediment removal
- Lake excavation
- Fish kills
- Fish restocking
- Restoration of upland areas with new floating docks
- Installation of paved parking lots
- Increased recreational and picnic areas

Newburgh Lake
Sediment Removal Data



To obtain further information on the Rouge Project, including documents, maps and general information, visit us at:

<http://www.rougeriver.com>

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