

1991 Stage 1 RAP Report. This includes an upgrade to the Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant in 2008, ongoing separation of combined sewers, the construction of a combined sewer overflow retention treatment basin in 2011 and an upgrade to the Amherstburg Wastewater Treatment Plant in 2012.

As well, the underground Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Retention Basin (RTB) on Riverside Drive installed in Windsor in 2014, captured 476 million litres (ML or megalitres) of combined stormwater and sewer overflows that would have previously discharged directly into the Detroit River without any treatment. This project has significant benefits to reducing pollution into the water system.

RESULTS

The results of this assessment show that the Detroit River sites rarely exceeded the closing benchmark and were not different than the upstream and downstream locations (Sandpoint and Holiday). This means the BUI is now **Not** Impaired, and is considered to be the same water quality of the rest of the Great Lakes. It is important to note that these beaches are still subject to E.coli being present, but due to many projects addressing local water quality, the results demonstrate the Detroit River has improved.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

It is important to note that swimming in undesignated areas of the Detroit River is highly discouraged due to dangers related to water current and shipping traffic. The public is encouraged to contact the WECHU to obtain information regarding the condition of a designated swimming beach in the Windsor-Essex Region: <http://www.wechealthunit.org/inspect/beaches> or call: 519-258-2146 x.426.

REFERENCES

Detroit River Canadian Cleanup (DRCC). 2013. Re-designation Report: An Assessment of 'Beach Closings' (BUI #10) in the Detroit River Canadian Area of Concern. Windsor, Ontario, Canada.

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Who is the Detroit River Canadian Cleanup?

The Detroit River Canadian Cleanup implements the Remedial Action Plan on behalf of a community-based partnership working together to protect, restore and enhance the Detroit River ecosystem. The federal, provincial and municipal government, local industries, scientific researchers, local environmental organizations and many dedicated citizens are key partners and play an important role in the cleanup process. The DRCC's member organizations provide leadership in identifying partnerships and funding opportunities to support and implement clean up goals.

Restoring our River Together!

When the Windsor-Detroit area underwent rapid industrialization at the turn of the 20th century, the Detroit River became notoriously polluted. Issues facing the Detroit River are combined sewer overflows, urbanization and land use or degradation of habitat and toxic contaminants such as mercury, polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB), polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and metals in the water and sediment. These environmental issues have been identified as being related to, or the cause of, the impairment of several beneficial uses.

A beneficial use is defined as the ability of living organisms (including humans) to use the Great Lakes without adverse consequences. A Beneficial Use Impairment (BUI) is a condition that interferes with the enjoyment of a water use. The Canada-United States Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement (GLWQA) identifies 14 Beneficial Use Impairments (BUIs) that must be restored in order to remove the water body as an Area of Concern (AOC). An AOC is a location where environmental quality is degraded compared to other areas in the Great Lakes Basin.