

A GRAND VISION

in the spirit of collaboration

TO RESTORE AND PROTECT A PRIORITY WATERSHED

This estuary and wetlands of the lower Pigeon River corridor are undergoing a series of habitat restoration projects that will improve function of the river system for fish and wildlife and improve public access to this important coastal resource.



WHAT IS A WATERSHED?
An area of land and its network of rivers, streams and groundwater that drain to a common outlet.

YOU ARE IN THE PIGEON RIVER WATERSHED, one of six that make up the Sheboygan River Basin. All runoff water, including rainfall and snowmelt in this watershed flows into area streams and rivers that empty into Lake Michigan. As water travels it picks up pollutants and sediment from many sources.



THE PIGEON RIVER WATERSHED — within the Sheboygan River Basin

The Pigeon River Watershed covers 79 square miles of land and runs more than 110 river miles from its headwaters near Pigeon Lake in Manitowoc County to the confluence with Lake Michigan, right here, in Sheboygan. Tributaries include the Meeme River, Fisher Creek, Grandma Creek, and nine other unnamed streams. *How we build and maintain our cities, towns, roads, farmland, and parkland all determine the quality of this watershed.*

1 First steps

In the restoration of the Pigeon River estuary and uplands

Mapping and Plant Inventory

Plant surveys identified the need to remove two very aggressive invasive species that have degraded the area; Phragmites in the wetlands and Eurasian bush honeysuckle in the forested areas.

2



DENSE STANDS OF PHRAGMITES CHOKO OUT ALL OTHER VEGETATION

Removing Invasive Species

Over 80 acres of this coastal wetland have been negatively impacted by Phragmites. This plant forms large dense, clones that choke out all native vegetation, destroy habitat diversity, degrade the waterways, and reduce the ability for public access.

Next Steps:

- Removal of Invasive Species
- Plant Native Trees, Shrubs and Seeds
- Improve Trails and Public Access

Welcome to THE LOWER PIGEON RIVER CORRIDOR

Just before entering Lake Michigan, the waters of the Pigeon River create a rare coastal estuary that runs along the delicate margins between water and land.

This remnant wetland ecosystem is critical habitat for migratory shorebirds, hawks waterfowl and songbirds and supports a warm water fishery with seasonal runs of salmon and trout.

But over a century of human impacts have severely degraded the river and coastal habitats. The area no longer supports a healthy, functioning ecosystem.



EFFORTS ARE UNDERWAY TO RESTORE THE ESTUARY

A series of projects have begun to restore the river and reforest upland habitats for the benefit of wildlife, aquatic resources and community.

Join Us

Our vision includes a dedicated collaboration of public, private, governmental and non-profit partners.

TOGETHER WE WILL

Co-manage, monitor and maintain all elements of the restoration process. Our ultimate goal is to improve the coastal estuary for wildlife, conserve and care for this legacy landscape and create new opportunities for recreation and stewardship by improving access to the Pigeon River.



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