

East River Recreational Trail Master Plan

A partnership between Allouez, Bellevue, De Pere, Green Bay, and Ledgeview



EAST RIVER THREATS AND CONCERNS

FLOODING

Flooding is a natural process but has increased in frequency and scale due to historic changes in land use within the East River watershed. This is due to a loss of wetlands in the watershed and increase in impervious surfaces (i.e. roads, sidewalks, roofs, etc) that results in more water from rain and snow melt events reaching the river faster. Flooding is also influenced by water levels in Lake Michigan, when lake levels are higher it “backs up” the Fox and East River resulting in more flooding.

LOSS OF HABITAT

Wildlife habitat such as wetlands, forests, and prairie that surround the East River have been degraded over time due to human impacts. This degradation of habitat is due to a number of factors including spread of invasive species, degraded water quality, and development.

POOR WATER QUALITY

Water quality in the East River is degraded due to many of the same factors as those that have led to increases flooding. Water runoff from agriculture and urban areas carry nutrients and other chemicals into the stream. Increases in river flows have also led to erosion of streambanks which results in high amounts of sediment in the river. The increases in nutrients and sediment have negative effects on how the river functions for both wildlife and recreation.

RIVER ACCESS

While the trail runs adjacent to the East River, there are limited access points to get into the river and recreate whether that is for fishing or paddling.