

# TMDL Development Factsheet

December 2006



The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is developing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to address sediment and phosphorus pollution in the Upper and Lower Rock River watersheds in south-central Wisconsin.

## ***What's a TMDL and how does it work?***

Section 303 of the federal Clean Water Act requires every state to evaluate its waterways, and maintain a list of waters that are considered "impaired" either because the water exceeds water quality standards or does not achieve its designated use. For each water on Wisconsin's "303(d) Impaired Waters List", DNR must develop and implement a plan to reduce pollutants so that the waterway is no longer impaired and can be de-listed.

A Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report identifies the amount of a pollutant(s) that a waterway can tolerate and still meet water quality standards. To generate the TMDL report, water quality data is analyzed using engineering models, and the calculated amount of pollutant is allocated between point and nonpoint sources of the pollutant. A TMDL report also includes an implementation plan to reduce the pollutants from each source.

## ***Why is this important for the Rock River Basin?***

There are many lakes, rivers or streams in the Rock River Basin that are included on the 303(d) List. This effort is focused on those waters that are impaired by either excessive sediment, high phosphorus concentrations, or both sediment and phosphorus (see Table 1). These pollutants cause impacts to waterways which include low dissolved oxygen concentrations, degraded habitat, and excessive turbidity. All of these problems result in harm to fish and aquatic life, water quality, recreation and even navigation. Everyone who lives or recreates in the Rock River basin will benefit from the improved water quality that will result from reduced sediment and phosphorus.

## ***What's the process and timeline for Rock River TMDL development?***

A consultant has been hired to update past studies and incorporate new information while developing a draft TMDL report in coordination with DNR. The project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Rock River TMDL development will occur during 2007, and a draft report will be available for public comment in 2008. The final Rock River TMDL report must be submitted to EPA for approval prior to implementation.

## ***Where can I get more information?***

Information and regular updates on the Rock River TMDL Development will be posted on DNR's website at: [www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/RockRiverTMDL](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/RockRiverTMDL).

If you have questions, contact Liesa Lehmann, DNR South Central Region TMDL Coordinator at (608) 275-3472 or by e-mail at:

[Liesa.LehmannKerler@wisconsin.gov](mailto:Liesa.LehmannKerler@wisconsin.gov). For general information about TMDLs and DNR's impaired waters program, go to [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) and search on the word "TMDL".



**Table 1. Waterways in Rock River Basin on the 303(d) List for Phosphorus or Sediment**

Waterbody	County	Description	Pollutant	Impairment
Alto Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-6.8	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Bark River	Waukesha	Mile 35-41	Phosphorus	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)
Battle Creek	Waukesha	Mile 2.1-4.6	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Beaver Dam R. (mouth to Reeseville)	Dodge	Mile 0-12	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Blackhawk Creek	Rock	Mile 2-4	Sediment	Degraded habitat; turbidity
Calamus Creek	Dodge	Entire length (Mile 0-17)	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Casper Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-2	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Dead Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-3	Sediment	Degraded habitat
East Branch Rock River	Dodge	Hwy 67 to confluence w/ West Branch	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Flynn Creek	Washington	Mile 0-6	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Fox Lake	Dodge	Lake	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; eutrophication; fish kill
Gill Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-6	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat
Horicon Marsh	Dodge		Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat, DO
Irish Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-3	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat
Johnson Creek	Jefferson	Entire length (Mile 0-17.5)	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Kohlsville River	Washington	Mile 0-9	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Kummel Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-11.54	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat
Kummel Creek	Dodge	Mile 11.54-18	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat
Lake Koshkonong	Jefferson, Rock, Dane	Lake	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO; eutrophication; sediment
Lau Creek	Dodge	Entire length (Mile 0-6)	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Limestone Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-1.2	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Markham Creek	Rock	Mile 0-5	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Mason Creek	Dodge, Waukesha	Mile 0-5.2	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO; temperature
Mauneshia River (above Marshall)	Dane	Mile 13.5-32	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Mauneshia River (Crawford to Waterloo)	Jefferson	Mile 0-5.4	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Mauneshia River (Waterloo to Marshall)	Dane	Mile 5.4-13.5	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Mud Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-10	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Nine Springs Creek	Dane	Mile 0-6.0	Phosphorus; Sediment	DO; temperature
Park Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-3	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Pheasant Branch Creek	Dane	Entire length	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat, DO
Rock River (above Sinnissippi)	Dodge	Mile 285-294	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Rock River (Ashippun to Sinnissippi)	Dodge	Mile 258-281	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Rock River (Watertown to confluence w/ Ashippun)	Jefferson	Mile 238-258	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Rock River (above Hwy 14)	Rock	Mile 184.4 -190.6	Phosphorus; Sediment	DO; sediment
Rock River (Janesville to Hwy 14)	Rock	Mile 176.4 -184.4	Phosphorus; Sediment	DO; sediment
Rock River (State line to Janesville WWTP)	Rock	Mile 164.4-176.4	Phosphorus; Sediment	DO; sediment
Rock River (Watertown to Lake Koshkonong)	Jefferson	Mile 191-238	Phosphorus	DO; eutrophication
Schultz Creek	Dodge	Mile 0-5	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Sinnissippi Lake	Dodge	Mile 281-285	Phosphorus; Sediment	Eutrophication
South Branch Rock River	Dodge	Mile 0-3	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
South Branch Rock River	Fond du Lac	Mile 3-20	Phosphorus; Sediment	DO; sediment
Spring (Dorn) Creek	Dane	Mile 1.0-6.0	Sediment	Degraded habitat, temperature
Spring Creek	Jefferson	Mile 0-5	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; temperature
Steel Brook	Jefferson	Jefferson/Walworth Co. line to Bluff Road	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO; temperature
Stevens Creek	Rock	Mile 0-8	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Stony Brook	Dane, Jefferson, Dodge	Entire length (Mile 0-15)	Sediment	Degraded habitat
Turtle Creek (Comus to County Line)	Walworth	Mile 24.5-32.5	Phosphorus	DO
Wayne Creek	Washington	Mile 3.1-4.5	Sediment	Degraded habitat
West Branch Rock River	Dodge, Fond du Lac	Entire length (Mile 0-39)	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat
Yahara River (Badfish C. Rock River)	Rock	Mile 0-8.7	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Yahara River (Badfish C. to Stoughton)	Dane	Mile 8.7-18.7	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO
Yahara River (Stoughton to L. Kegonsa)	Dane	Mile 18.7-27.7	Phosphorus; Sediment	Degraded habitat; DO