

Kinnickinnic River Stream and Habitat Rehabilitation, Milwaukee Estuary AOC Project Data Sharing Plan

The Kinnickinnic River Stream and Habitat Rehabilitation Milwaukee Estuary AOC Project feasibility study to be implemented by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) will generate environmental data and build on existing data that was generated by a previous MMSD study, Kinnickinnic River Flushing Station Improvements Feasibility Study. This data will include water quality data; hydraulic and hydrologic data; geomorphological data; fish population data, including species richness and biotic integrity; and specific information on the number of fish that are deformed or diseased (having deformed fins, lesions, parasites, or tumors). This information will be used to determine the channel form and profile alternative that will be designed and constructed to improve aquatic habitat and water quality. This data will also provide insight on how the proposed channel form and profile alternative will impact the overall health of individual species and general overall health of the fish community within the project area.

MMSD used staff and students from the Wisconsin Lutheran College to conduct fish sampling and habitat assessments during the Kinnickinnic River Flushing Station Improvements Feasibility Study planning study. The fish monitoring was conducted under the supervision of Professor Robert Andersen, Ph.D. in fisheries biology. Additional habitat and fisheries data will be collected for this feasibility study by Wisconsin Lutheran College staff and students, assisted by a consultant hired under a competitive bid process. Wisconsin Lutheran College has over 15 years of experience conducting qualitative and quantitative fish sampling on Southeastern Wisconsin streams and rivers. For this project, a fish sampling, sediment sampling, and water quality monitoring program will be set up and conducted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service with assistance from the Wisconsin Lutheran College Biology Department and MMSD. The sampling and monitoring program will be set up within the project area to ensure an adequate number of samples to aid in the development of an appropriate channel enhancement alternative to improve aquatic habitat improve water quality. Fish sampling will be conducted in May 2015 and September 2015 and for two years after the project design and construction of the recommended channel alternative recommended by the feasibility study.

Water quality data sampling and analysis will be conducted by the MMSD laboratory that is accredited by the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The water quality data will be collected and analyzed using United States Environmental Protection Agency standard methods and sampling procedures.

The collected data and details about the methods will be available starting January 1, 2015. Contact David C. Fowler, MMSD Senior Project Manager, at DFowler@mmsd.com for more information or to make a data request. MMSD does not plan to submit these results to a peer reviewed journal, but will share this information with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Fisheries staff, the Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan Stakeholders, and Milwaukee Estuary Fish and Wildlife Technical Team.