

Regional Stormwater Protection Team Presents “Creek News”

Weekly updates of regional surface water information

Hog Island Inlet – Finally, a Safe Place to Swim

Cleanup of contaminated sediment in Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet in the Duluth-Superior Harbor began in July 2005, with the completion of the sediment cleanup portion in November 2005. The WI DNR joined forces with the EPA Great Lakes National Program Office to complete the \$6.3 million project in record time. Over 50,000 cubic yards of petroleum-contaminated sediment and soil from Newton Creek and parts of Hog Island Inlet were dug up and safely disposed. The banks of the creek and inlet were then landscaped to prevent erosion. The result will be a healthier habitat for fish and other aquatic life, and a safer place for swimming and fishing.



The Inlet was drained to be able to remove petroleum-contaminated sediment. (photo: USEPA Great Lakes)

Approximately \$4.1 million were provided by the US Great Lakes Legacy Act for this project, which authorizes \$270 million over a five-year period to clean up contaminated sediment in Great Lakes toxic hot spots called “Areas of Concern” (AOC). Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet are part of the St. Louis River AOC. Wisconsin and other parties are providing 35% of the project cost, or about \$2.2 million.



In November 2005, GLNPO Director Gary Gulezian (R) joined Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle (L) to present Hog Island Inlet's "No Swimming" sign to Wisconsin residents instrumental in the cleanup.

November 28, 2005 marked the completion of the sediment cleanup. Great Lakes National Program Office Director Gary Gulezian joined Wisconsin Governor Jim Doyle and 85 residents, local officials, and legislative aids to celebrate this event. The project removed nearly 55,000 tons of contaminated sediment from Newton Creek and Hog Island Inlet. Replanting and re-seeding will occur in the spring of 2006, and the local community is developing plans for further restoration of the area in the future (USEPA Great Lakes Legacy Act).

To learn more about the Hog Island Inlet cleanup, click [HERE](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/legacy/hogisland/index.html) (or go to <http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/sediment/legacy/hogisland/index.html>)

Creek news is a weekly press release of happenings along our streams, lakes and rivers. For more information contact the Regional Stormwater Protection Team c/o Marnie Lonsdale, City of Duluth (218) 730-4063