

Restoring the  
Reservation –  
Oneida's  
experience with the  
Fox River NRDA

Jennifer Hill-Kelley



Environmental, Health & Safety Division

P.O. Box 365 || Oneida, WI 54155 || 920.496.5330 || [www.oneidanation.org/environment/](http://www.oneidanation.org/environment/)

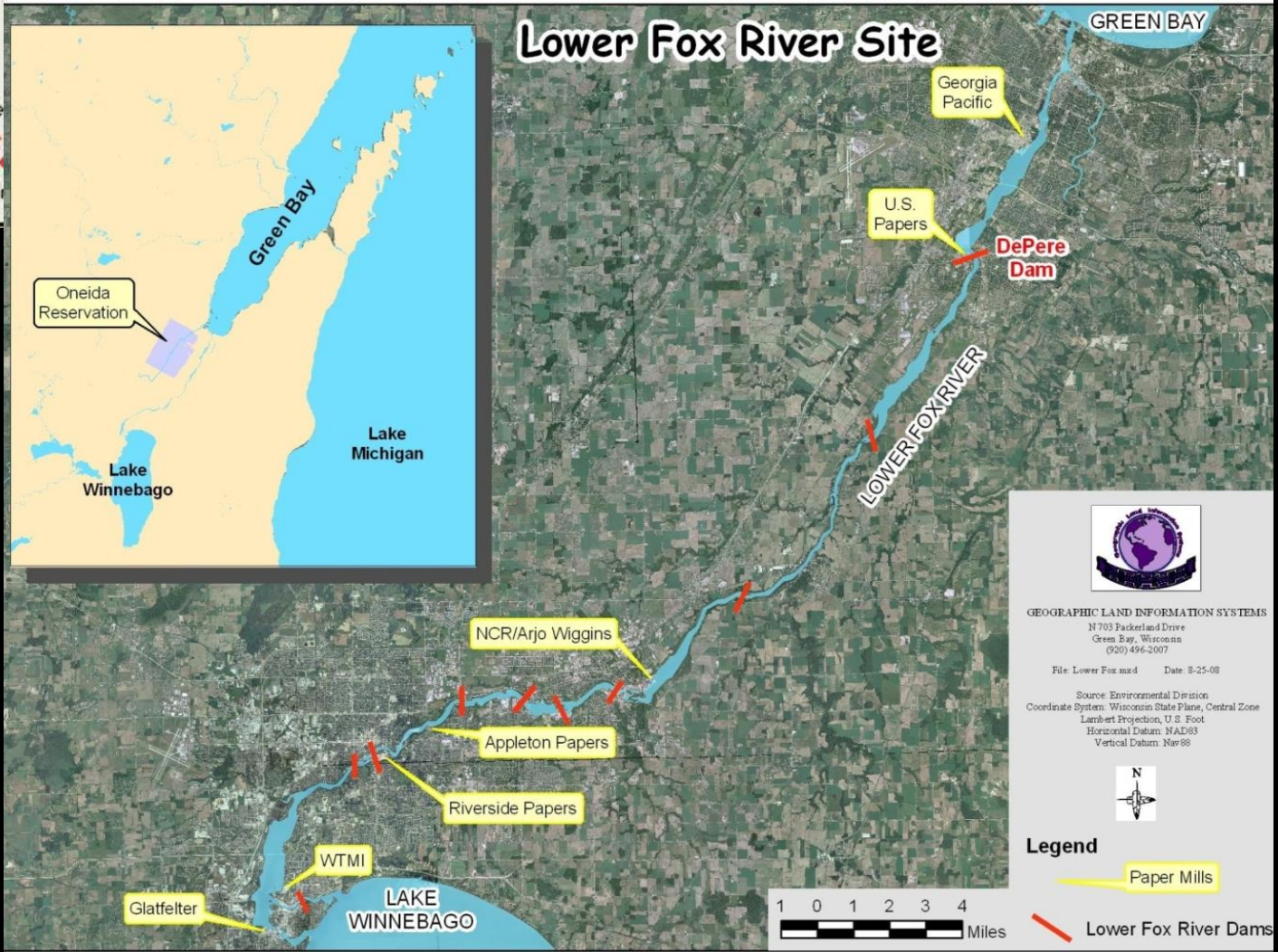

Latihwyatsya?nikó·lale?

*They protect the earth*

# Fox River/Green Bay NRDA




## Lower Fox River Site



**GEOGRAPHIC LAND INFORMATION SYSTEMS**  
 N 703 Packerland Drive  
 Green Bay, Wisconsin  
 (920) 496-2007

File: Lower Fox.mxd Date: 8-25-08

Source: Environmental Division  
 Coordinate System: Wisconsin State Plane, Central Zone  
 Lambert Projection, U.S. Foot  
 Horizontal Datum: NAD83  
 Vertical Datum: NAV88

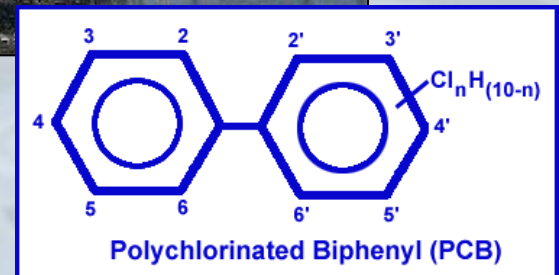


**Legend**

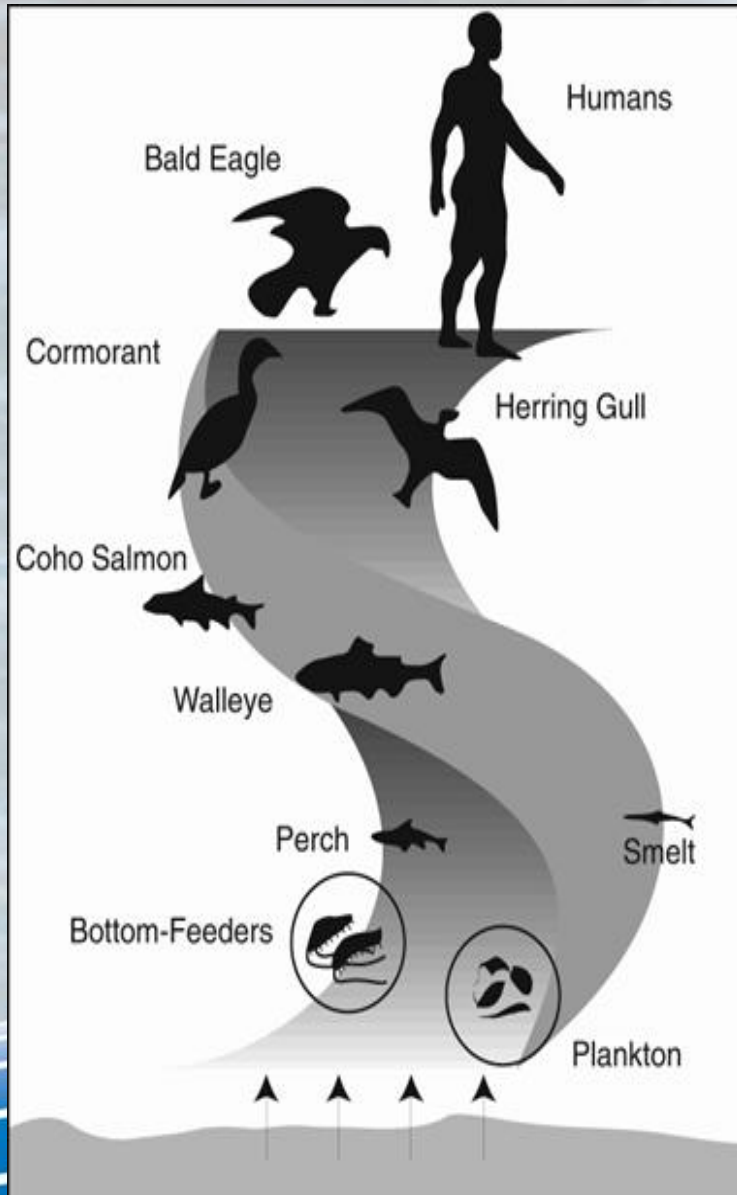
-  Paper Mills
-  Lower Fox River Dams

# Fox River/Green Bay NRDA

- The Lower Fox River is Wisconsin's largest tributary to Lake Michigan
- Paper companies used PCBs in carbonless copy paper
- About 125 tons of PCBs were discharged into the river from 1954~1971

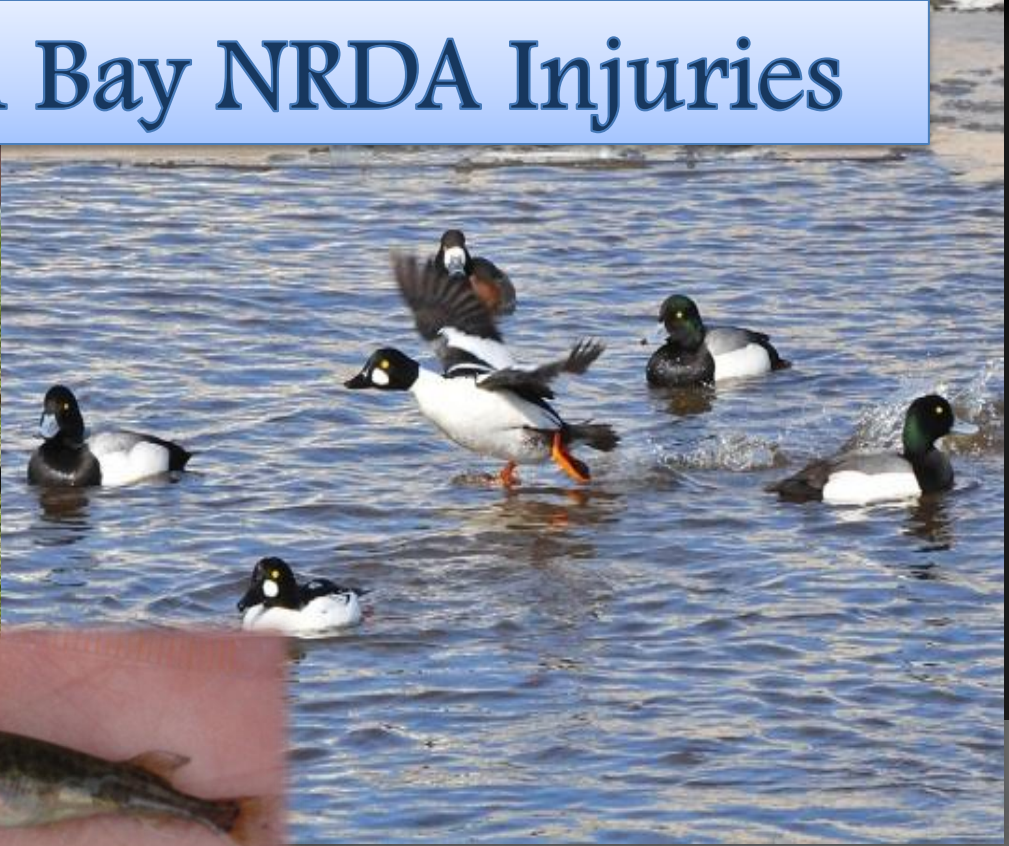


# The Problem with PCBs



- Small river organisms eat sediment with PCBs
- PCBs accumulate in fatty tissue and get passed up the food chain
- PCBs cause
  - ~ wildlife deformities
  - ~ immune system and reproductive problems
  - ~ developmental delays
  - ~ possibly cancer

# Fox River/Green Bay NRDA Injuries







Ukwehuwehne tehethwanuwel@tuhe shukway<>tisu  
– the words that come before all else





# Seven Generations Philosophy

"In our way of life, with every decision we make, we always keep in mind the seventh generation of children to come. When we walk upon Mother Earth, we always plant our feet carefully because we know that the faces of future generations are looking up at us from beneath the ground"

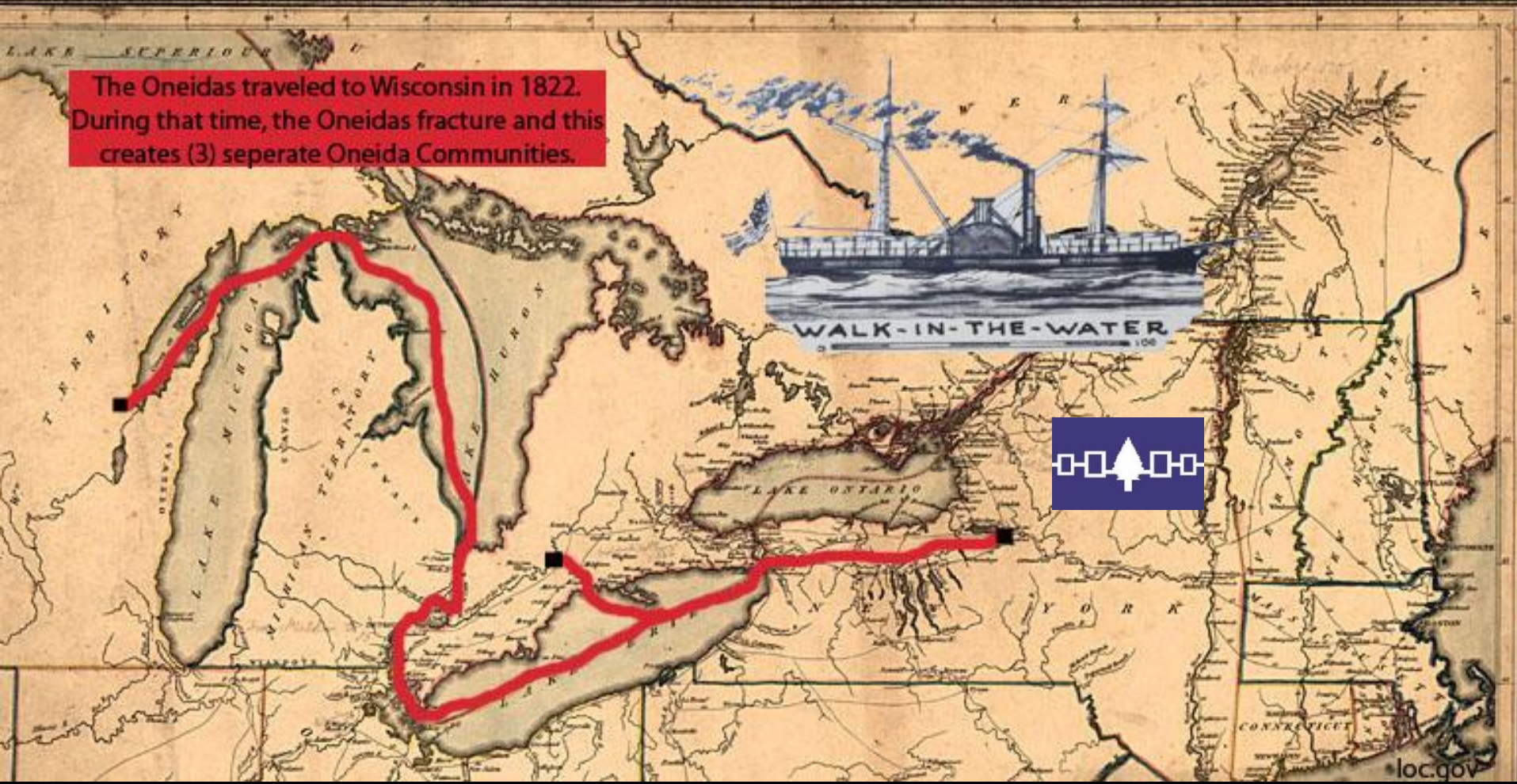
Oren



Iroquois  
Five Nations  
c. 1650



The Oneidas traveled to Wisconsin in 1822. During that time, the Oneidas fracture and this creates (3) separate Oneida Communities.



When we first got here (the Oneidas) there were different kinds of fish: trout, red horse fish, walleyed pike, sucker, rock bass, and shiners.

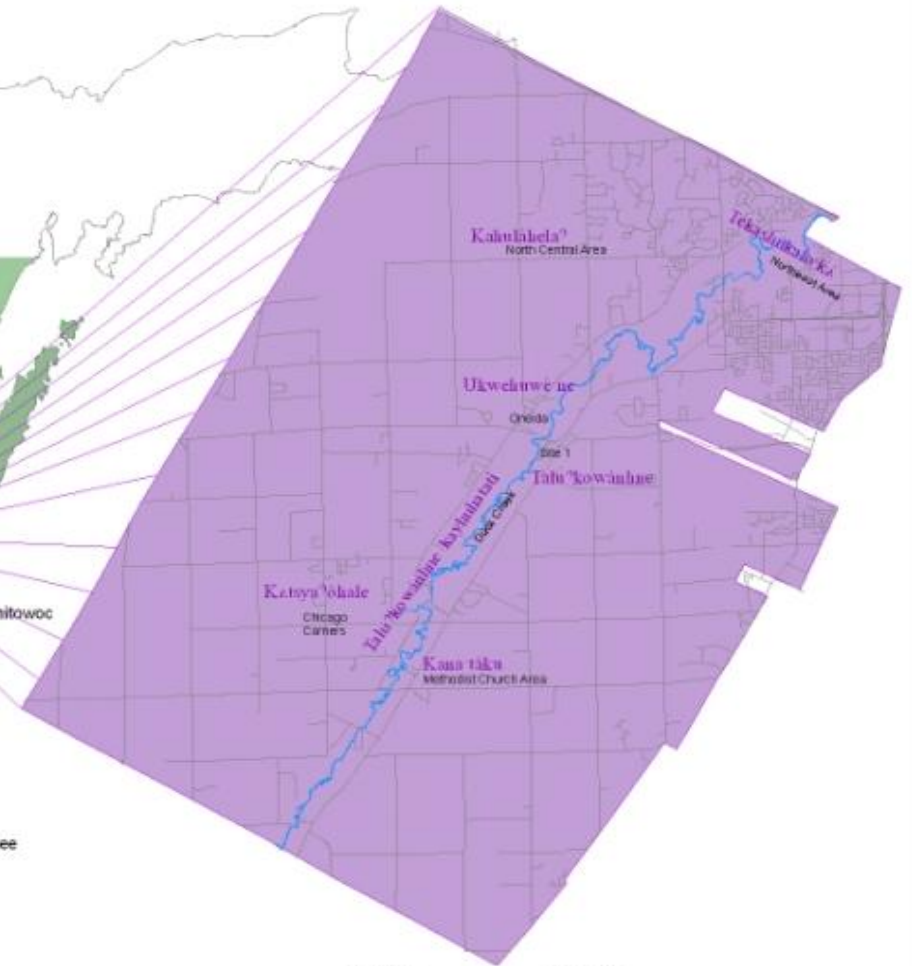
*Works Progress Administration Papers 1939 (WPA Project): Oscar Archiquette*

## Changes to Oneida Territories in Wisconsin



- Menominee / Oneida Territory - 1822 - approx. 6 Million acres
- Oneida Territory - 1831 - approx. 500 Thousand acres
- Oneida Territory - 1838 - 85,400 acres

## Place Names on the Oneida Reservation

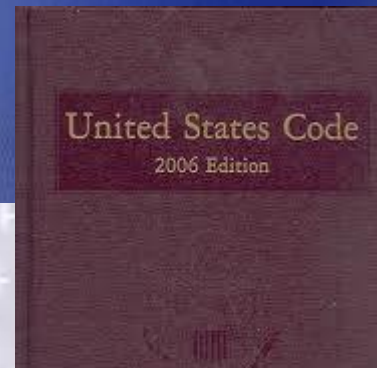


Ojibwe Language	English Language
Kaluhihela	gun hanging on (on wall)
Ukwelawewec	the place of the original people (indigenous)
Tekachukula Ka	out to the woods (in tent)
Taku'kowanah	the place of my ducks
Katsya'ohale	expated fish
Kano'aku	within the town
Taku'kowanah (tributaries)	the place of my ducks - river going along (to wing)



# Sovereignty

- Internationally recognized concept
- The power of a people to govern themselves
- The federal government did not “give” tribes sovereignty



## Ceremonies centered around the seasons:

- Harvest maple sap
- Spring fish runs
- Berry/medicines
- Harvest 3 Sisters (white corn, beans & squash)
- Hunting wild game



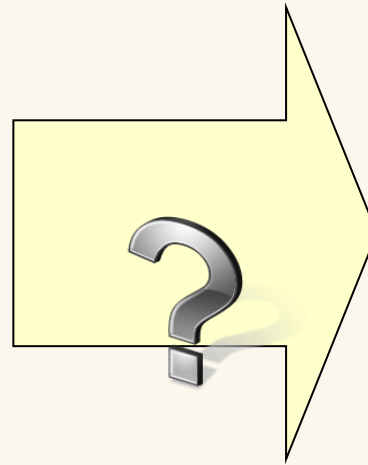
Onlayote?a·ká



LIVE SUSTAIN GROW



# Restoration vs. Economic Evaluation



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# Oneida's as a NRDA Trustee

- Documented injuries to fish, waterfowl, mink & eagles from PCBs
- Loss of cultural uses of natural resources
- Goal is to replace, restore or acquire injured natural resources

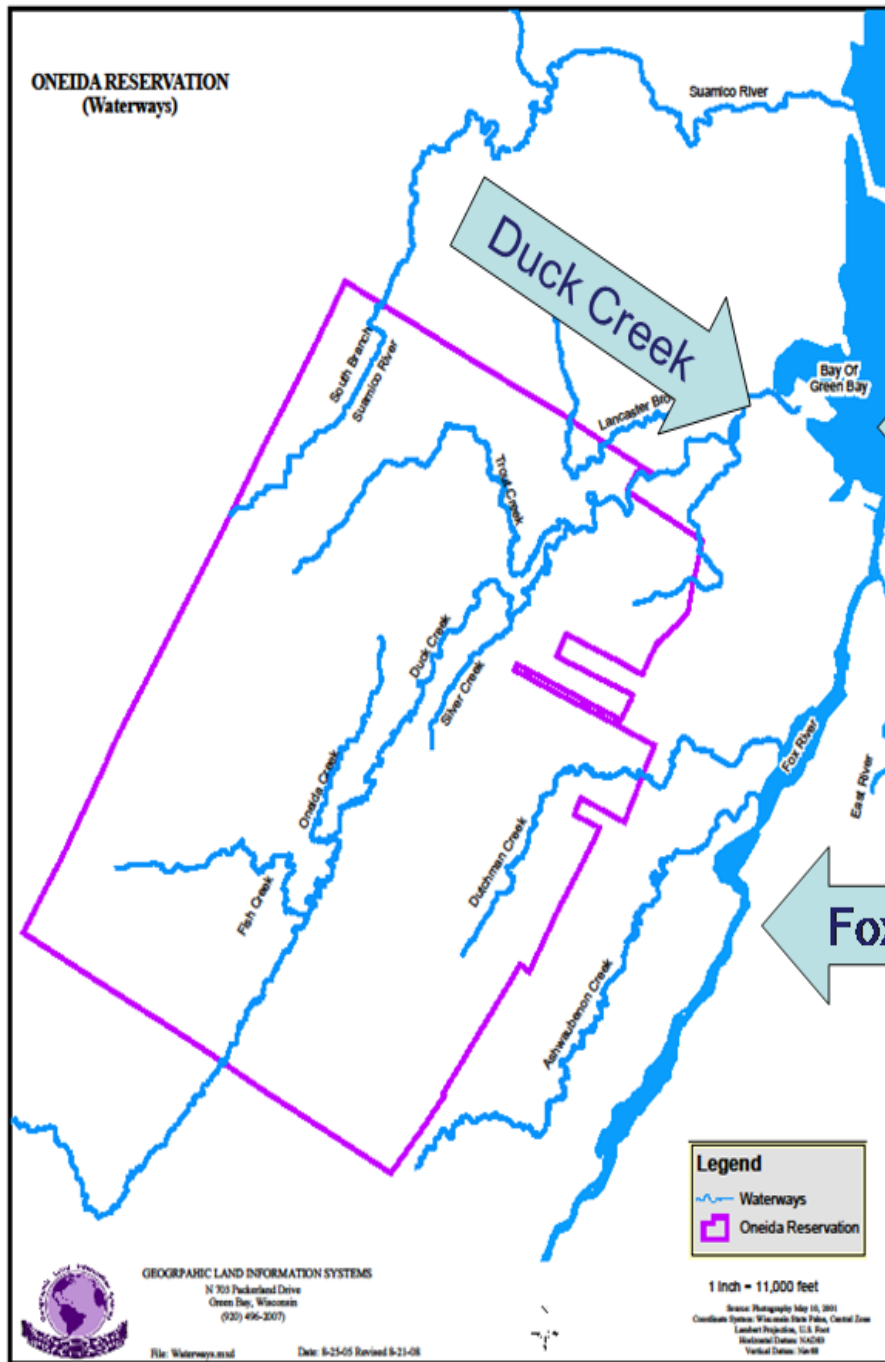


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The fish in the Fox River have been studied and shown to migrate into Green Bay and up Duck Creek.

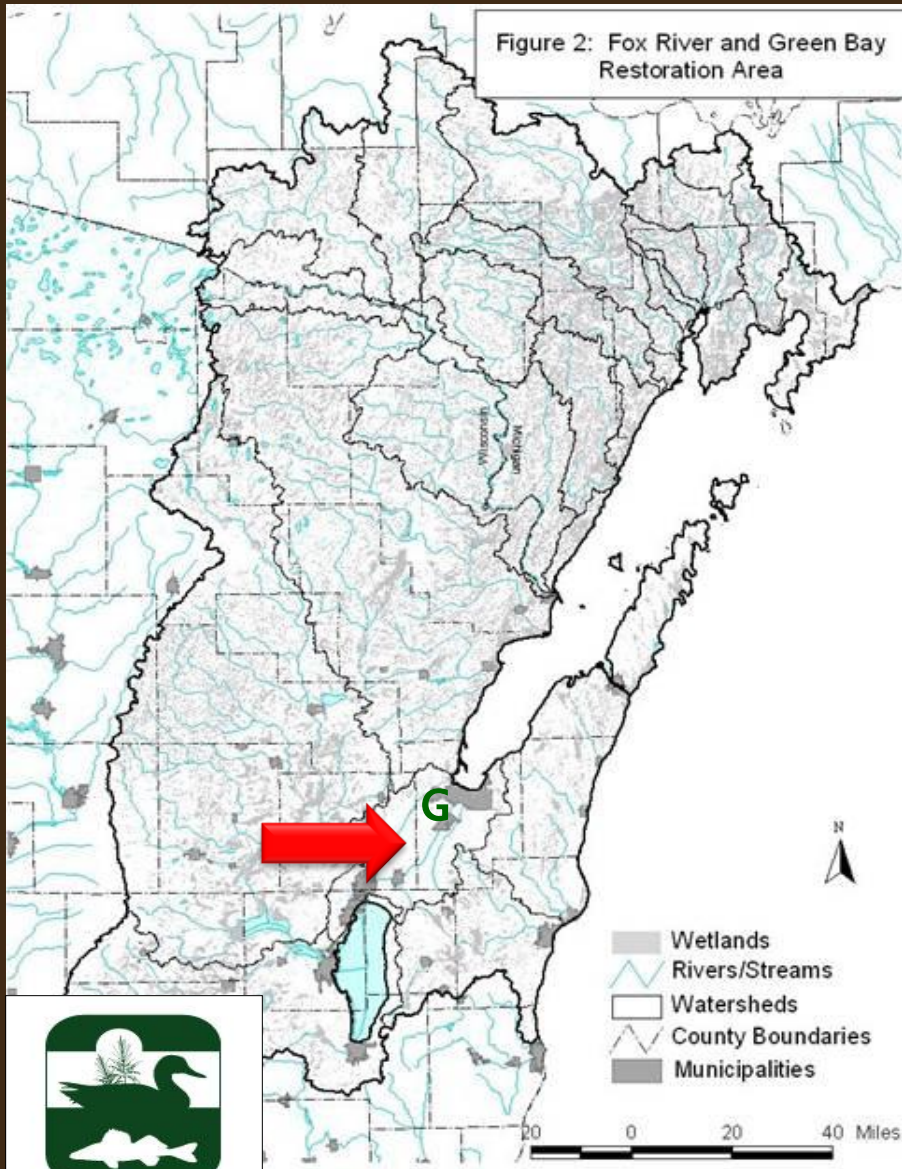
Oneida people have a history of fishing in Duck Creek. These fish are now unable to be eaten due to contamination.

Oneida's claim is related to the lost cultural resources & the fishery.





Figure 2: Fox River and Green Bay Restoration Area



## Trustees:

- Oneida Tribe
- Menominee Nation
- Federal Agencies (F&WS for DOI & NOAA)
- State of Wisconsin
- State of Michigan (dropped out 2009)



# NRDA Restoration Accomplishments



Killsnake Wildlife Area



● \$36,000,000 settlement funds = 110 restoration projects

● Over \$22,000,000 leveraged

● Over 60 restoration projects completed



Wild Rose Fish Hatchery

# Tsi niyukwalihot^

- Approx 7000 residents living on or near the reservation
- General Tribal Council
- Tribal schools
- Culturally based programs
- Sovereignty



Please join us for the  
*Tobacco Burning*  
at the  
*Lake Site*

**Date:** Tuesday, October 17, 2006  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Corner of Crook Rd. & Cty. U  
Use County U entrance



For more information contact:  
Betty Gallbreith at 496-5327 or  
Jennifer Hill-Kelley at 496-5354  
Community members are encouraged to attend.

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# Youth Programs



- Field trips to restoration and clean-up sites

- Solicit input for lake design & restoration projects



- Partnerships with Summer Recreation Program & Tribal Schools

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# NRDA Restoration Projects In Oneida

\$2.1 million, \$722,000 in matching funds, 11 projects

- Land Acquisitions
- Wetland & stream restorations
- Invasive species control
- Watershed Model
- Nesting habitat project
- Lake Planning & Design



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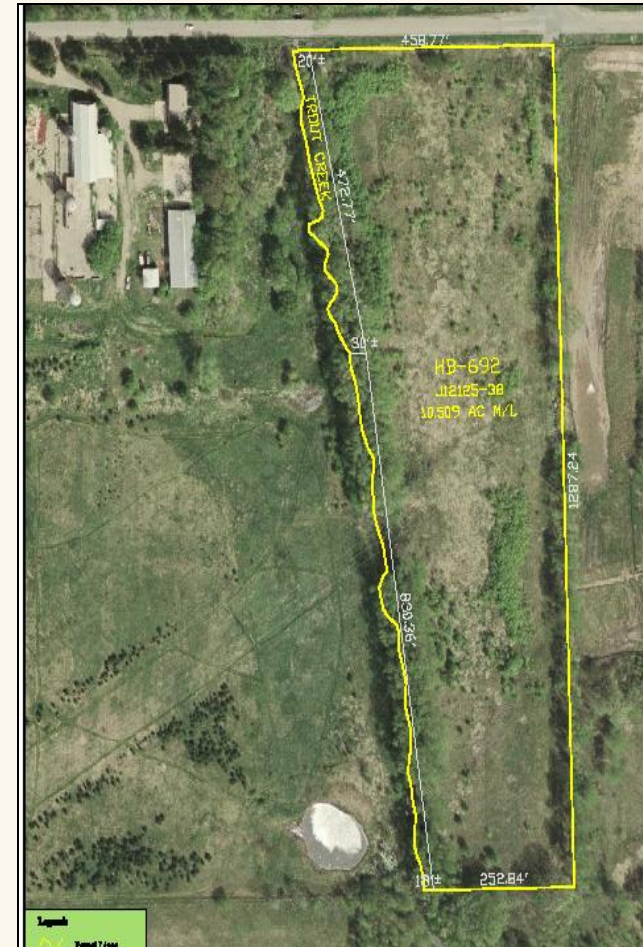


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# Land Acquisition & Protection

- Focus on wetlands and waterways
- Many funding partners
- Some limitations to funding programs



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# Habitat Restoration & Protection on the Oneida Reservation



- Land Acquisition & Protection
- Wetland & stream restorations
- Invasive species control program
- Best Management Practices (buffers, etc)
- Fish habitat enhancement

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# Wetland Restoration & Enhancement

- 20 restoration projects
- over 850 acres of enhanced or restored wetlands
- Many project partners



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# Stream Restoration

- 6 stream habitat projects
- Over 3,000 linear feet of stream restored



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# Fish Restoration

- Brook Trout Stocking



# Restoring the Fishery



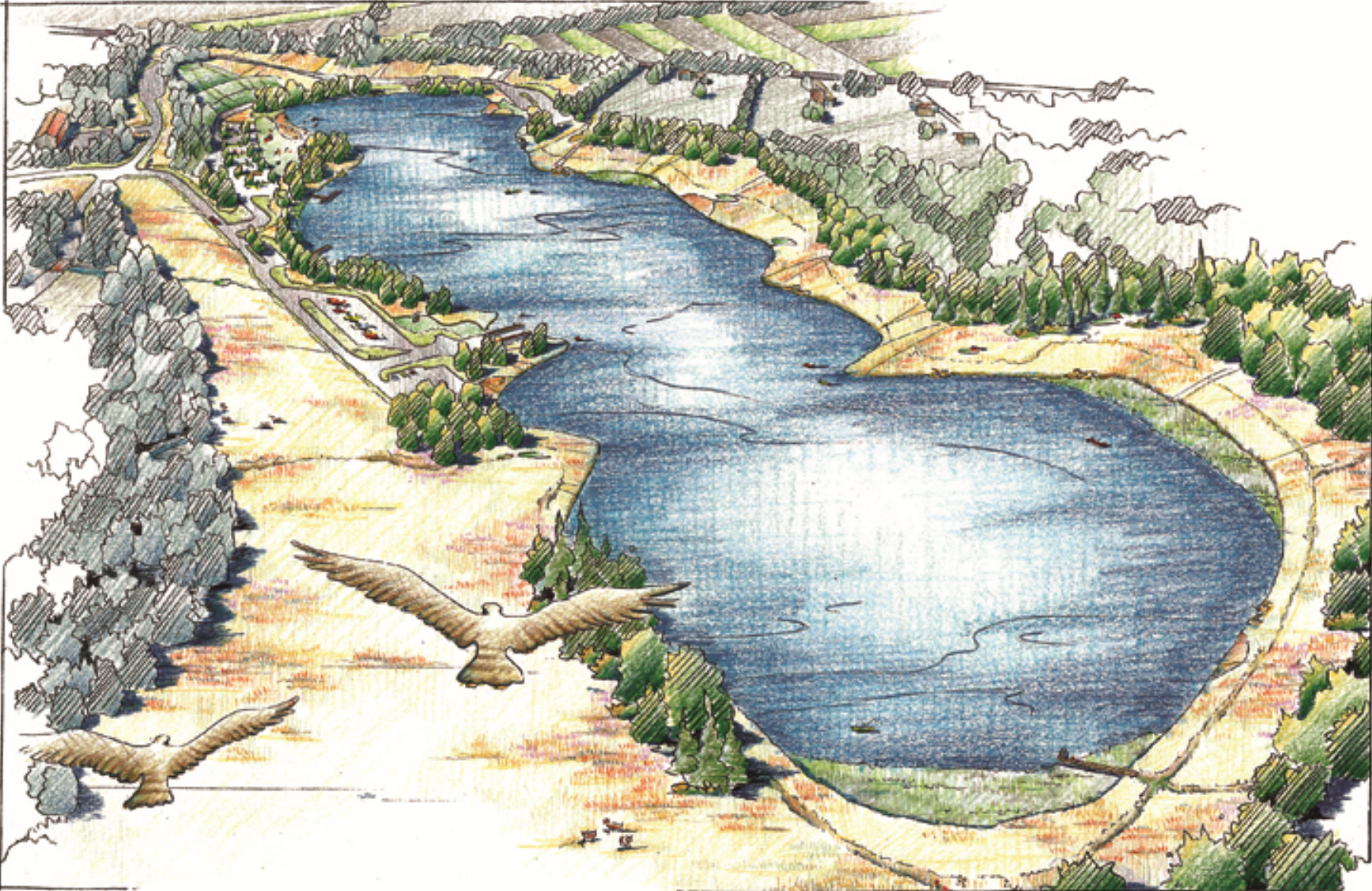
ONEIDA

Fishery Restoration



Restoring Our Nation

VIEW FROM NORTH



SAA

July 28, 2007



# • PARTNERS

Natural Resource Conservation  
Service (NRCS)

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

WI DNR

U.S. Environmental Protection  
Agency (EPA)

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

The Nature Conservancy

Brown County

Outagamie County

UW-Extension

Duck Apple Priority Watershed  
Program

Fox River/Green Bay NRDA

Legacy Bogs

Wisconsin Waterfowl Association

Lakeshore Natural Resource  
Partnership

Wisconsin Tribal Advisory  
Council

Local Landowners &  
Municipalities



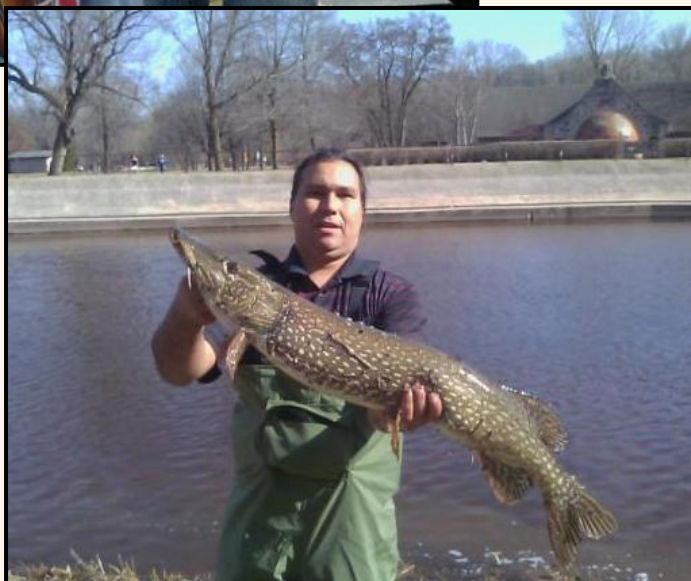
# Indian Reservations Today



## Contact Information

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[lmiotke@oneidationation.org](mailto:lmiotke@oneidationation.org)



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