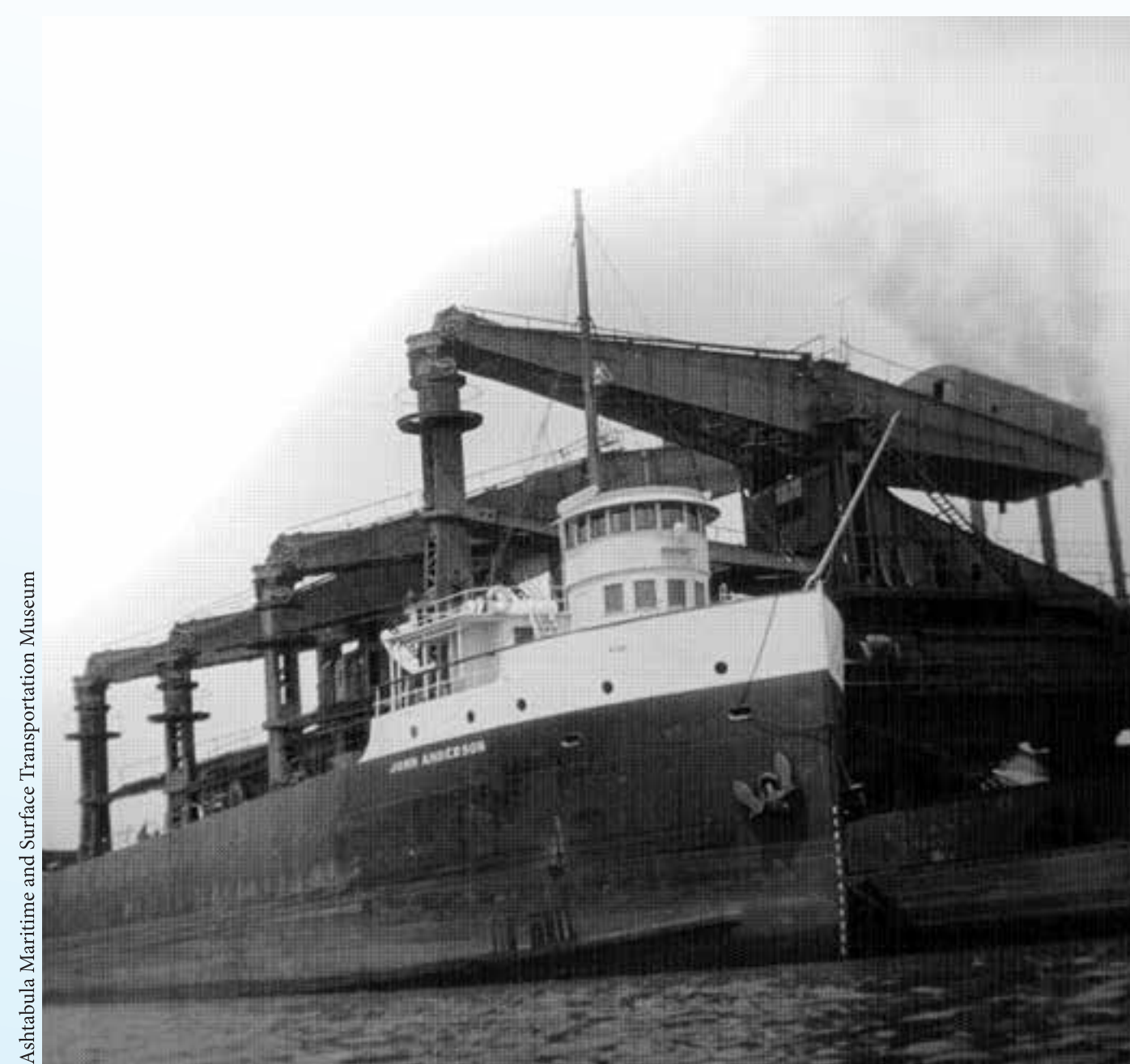
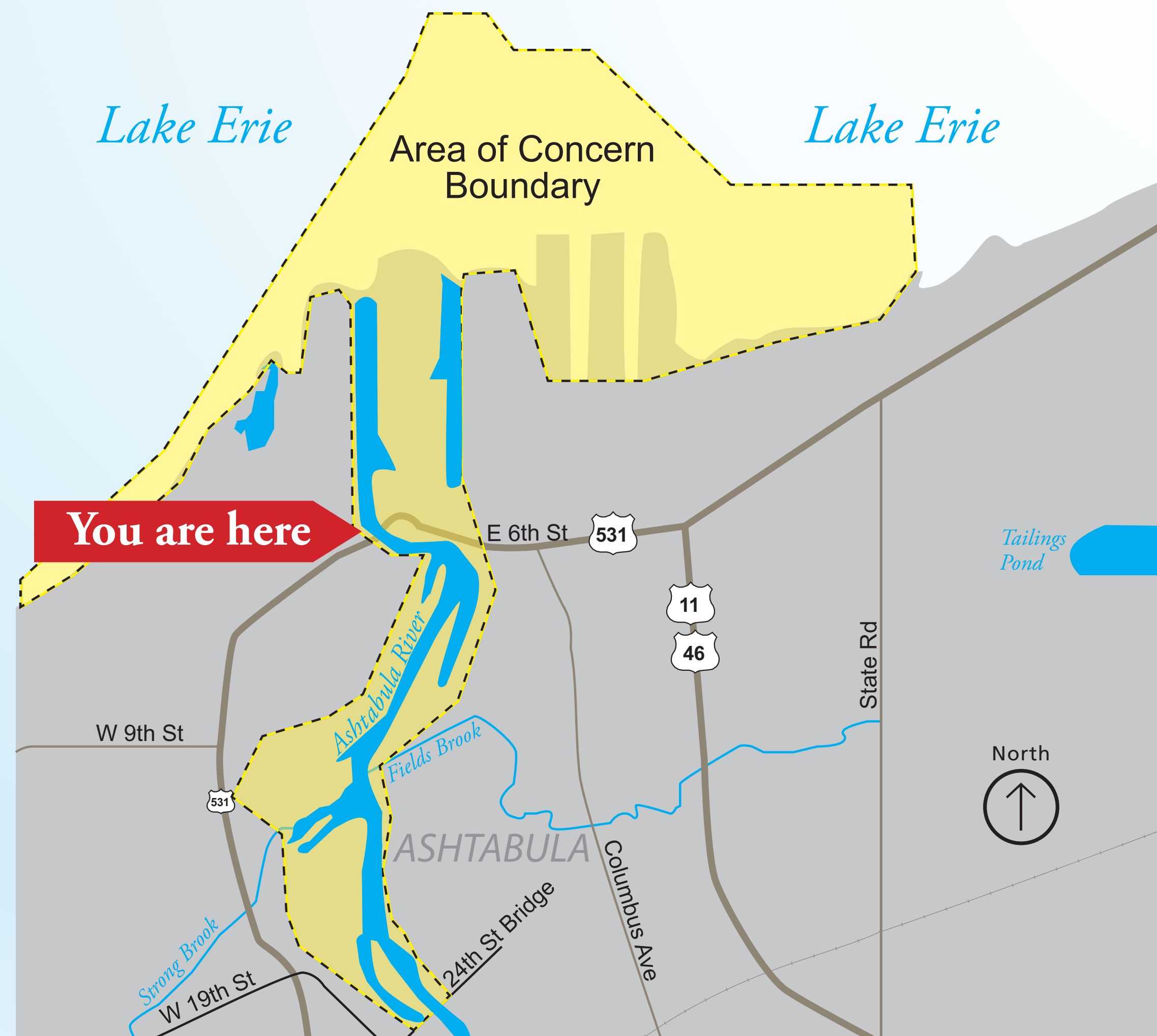


The Ashtabula River

From Shipping Mecca to Contaminated Waterway to Revitalized Harbor

More than 400 years ago, the Iroquois and Algonquin Native American tribes settled in the Ashtabula River basin, and named the river “**Hash-tah-buh-lah**”—“river of many fish.”

The Ashtabula River became a shipping hub over the following centuries. Expanding industrial uses brought environmental degradation that reduced harbor activity.



Up to 19 industrial facilities operated near Fields Brook during the height of the industry in the 1950s, producing metal products and chemicals. A lack of environmental regulations led to unregulated discharges of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) into Fields Brook, seriously contaminating the Ashtabula River.

In the 1970s, passage of the Clean Water Act improved water quality considerably, but sediments

remained contaminated in both waterways. Fields Brook was remediated in 1996 under the federal Superfund program, but safe removal of the contaminated Ashtabula River sediments remained a challenge. Ashtabula River was named one the 43 most contaminated areas of concern in the Great Lakes. **The Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan (RAP)**, organized in 1988, continued to work on the river contamination.

Partnering for Progress

Bringing Everyone Together

The Ashtabula River Partnership (ARP, 1994 to 2008) was the first successful effort to bring together local, state, and federal partners to complete the safe, successful clean-up of a highly contaminated river.

A Plan for the Future

The ARP completed its mission in 2008, and the Ashtabula Remedial Action Plan Coordinating Committee (RAP) was reformed to continue the restoration of the River.

Participants in the Remedial & Restorative Programs for the Ashtabula River:

Ashtabula City Council and City Managers
Ashtabula City Port Authority
Ashtabula County Commissioners
Ashtabula County Health Department
Ashtabula River Remedial Action Plan (RAP) Advisory Council
Ashtabula River Cooperating Group (Partnering Companies)
Ashtabula Township Trustees
Concerned Citizens of the Ashtabula Area
Governors of the State of Ohio
Growth Partnership
Ohio Attorney General's Office
Ohio Department of Health
Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Ohio Environmental Protection Agency
Ohio Sea Grant College Program
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Department of Justice
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Representatives and Senators



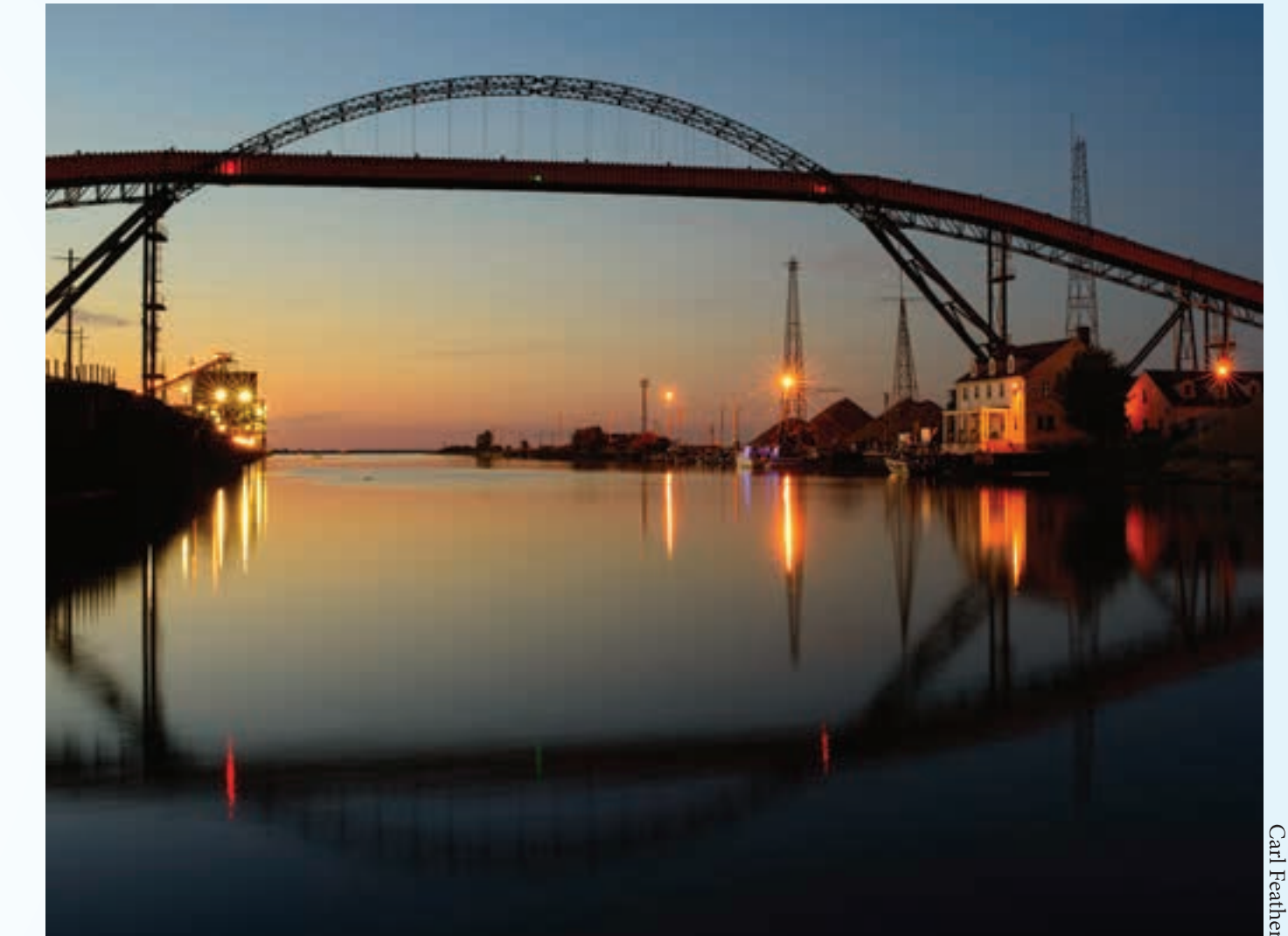
Restoration & Revitalization



Managing Contamination

Partnering companies purchased a 19-acre parcel in Ashtabula Township for a Sediment Consolidation Facility, where contaminated sediments from the riverbed would be stored. This facility was completed in 2006.

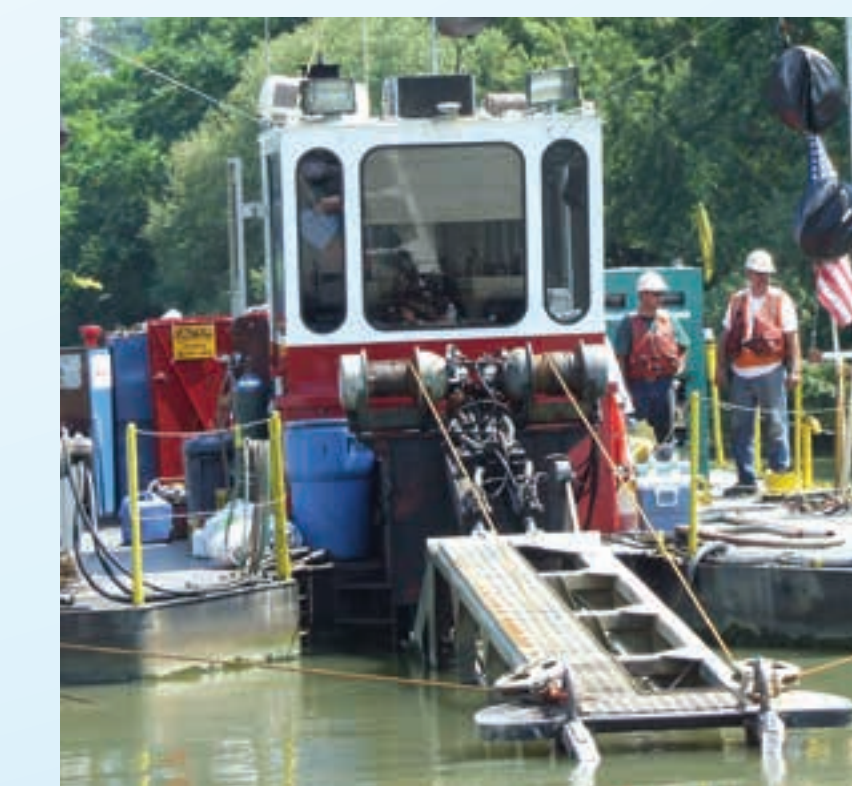
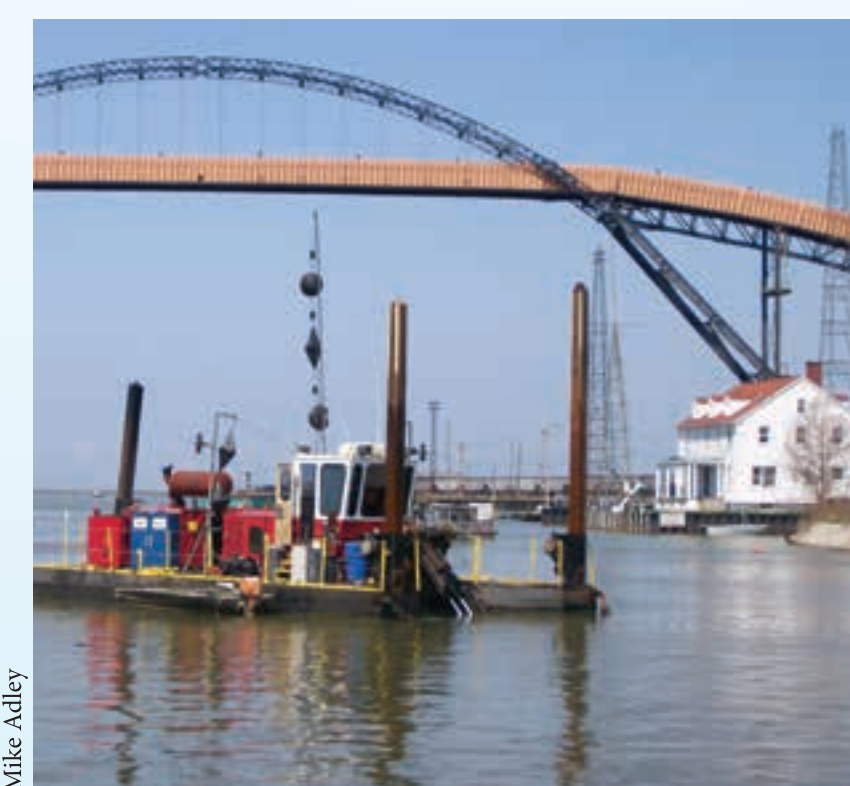
State and federal agencies implemented dredging of the Ashtabula River between 2006 and 2011, removing over 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment from the river and reopening it for commercial shipping and recreational boating. The contaminated material was pumped into a specifically designed landfill and isolated from the environment.



Restoring the River

Restoration of the Ashtabula River began in 2008. About 2,500 feet of fish shelves and a total of 10.5 acres of river, wetland, and upland habitat were created, providing a home for mammals, birds, and fish.

Through the efforts of many, the Hash-tah-buh-lah River is returning to its former glory as a “river of many fish.”



Using funds from the US EPA, US ACE, industry and the State of Ohio, approximately 700,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediment were removed from the river between 2006 and 2008, pumped uphill through a 2.5 mile pipeline to a upland sediment containment facility, and into geotextile tubes, bags that separate contaminated sediment from the slurry water.

The Recovery

Today both commercial and pleasure craft are returning to the river and we have a healthier community of fish species finding the river more hospitable.



The removal of contaminated sediments eliminated the likelihood of the contaminants migrating from the river into Lake Erie, protecting our greatest aquatic resource.

The ultimate goal is to restore all the impaired uses of the Ashtabula River and

Harbor and remove Ashtabula from the list of Great Lakes Areas of Concern.

The Ashtabula River Partnership is used as a model approach to environmental cleanup holding great promise as an example for addressing complex projects.