

A Decade of Experience with Beneficial Use of Sediment in Illinois

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the Illinois River

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Many Collaborators Made the Mud to Parks Projects Possible Including:

- The Illinois Scientific Surveys within the Prairie Research Institute at the University of Illinois
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- University of Illinois (NRES)
- Artco Fleeting, Midwest Foundation and several other private companies
- Cities of Chicago and East Peoria, Chicago and Fon du Lak Park Districts, and other units of local government
- Political leaders including Gov. Pat Quinn, former Cong. Ray LaHood, and Attorney. Gen. Lisa Madigan, former Lt. Gov. Corrine Wood.

Fresh Water Bodies are losing about 1 % of their capacity annually to sedimentation.

Sediment removal will be increasingly important as means of addressing this issue.

Much sediment can be viewed as a resource out of place and may be useful if returned to the land.


Many areas near waterways and water bodies need soil for landscaping, remediation and restoration.

Clean sediment can help address these issues if returned to the land as soil.


Anticipated Sediment Accumulation in Illinois Water Supply Reservoirs 1990--2030


- Lake Decatur 8 million cu.yds.
- Lake Bloomington 1.6 “
- Lake Taylorville 4.7 “
- Lake Springfield 8.4 “
- All W. S. Res. 153.0 “


Millennium Reserve: Calumet Core Project Area and Expansion Area


 Nature Centers


Trails

 Existing


 Planned


 Grand Illinois Trail

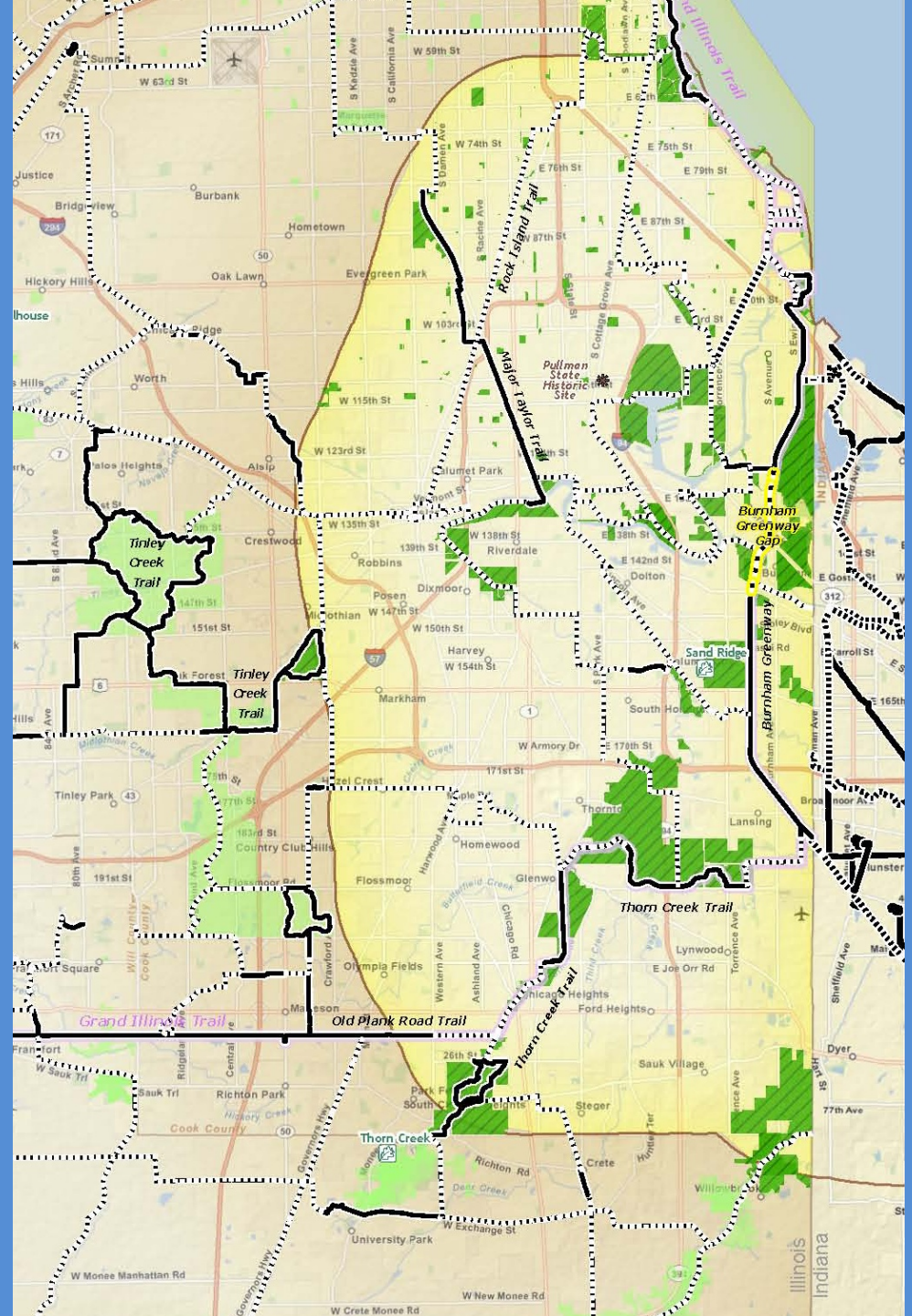
 Millennium Reserve Lands

 Publicly Owned/Managed Green Space

Millennium Reserve Project Zones

 Core Boundary

 Expansion Zone



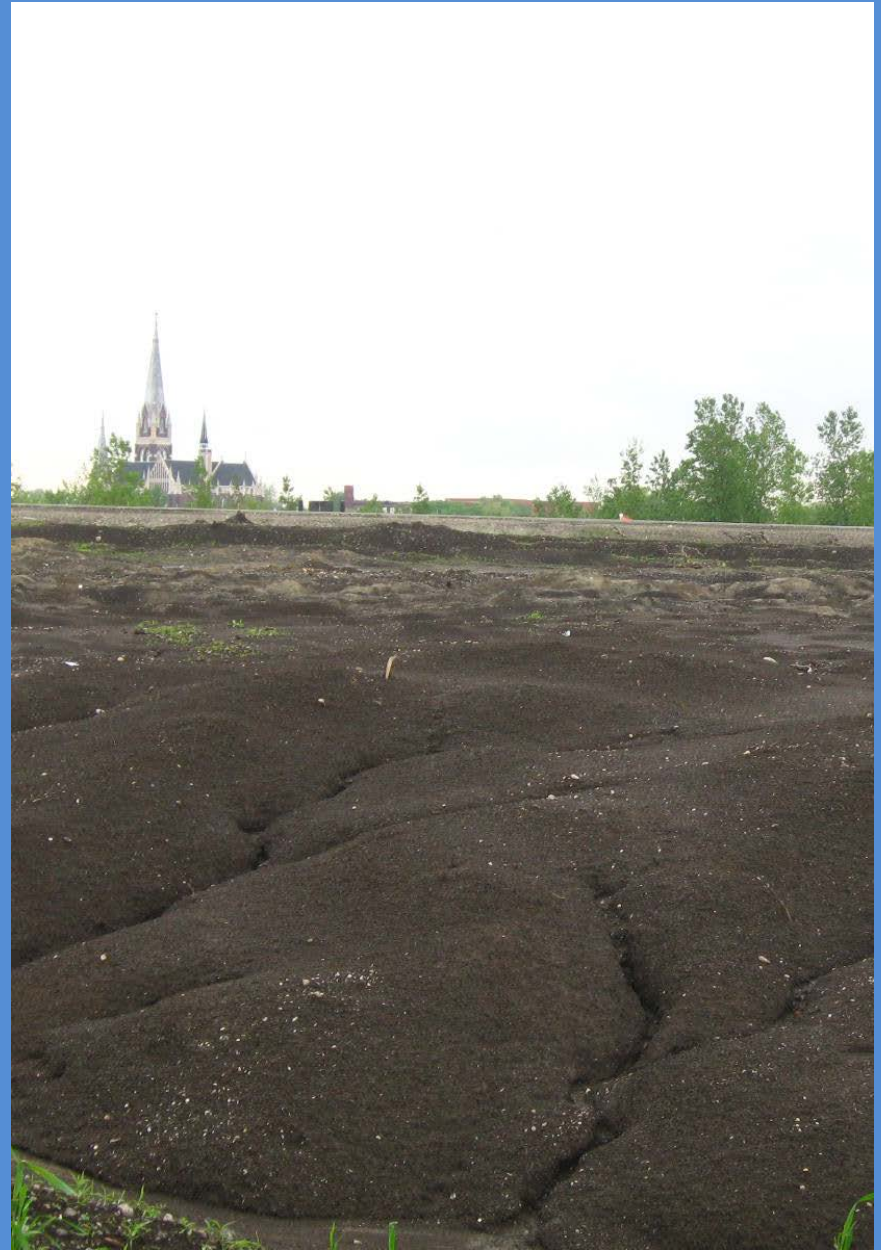
State of Illinois

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

“Clean” Urban Soil



Reclaimed topsoil from Lower Peoria Lake



Beneficial Use as Soil can

Restore economic and ecological values in aquatic systems

Provide soil for restoration and remediation

Reduce truck traffic in urban areas

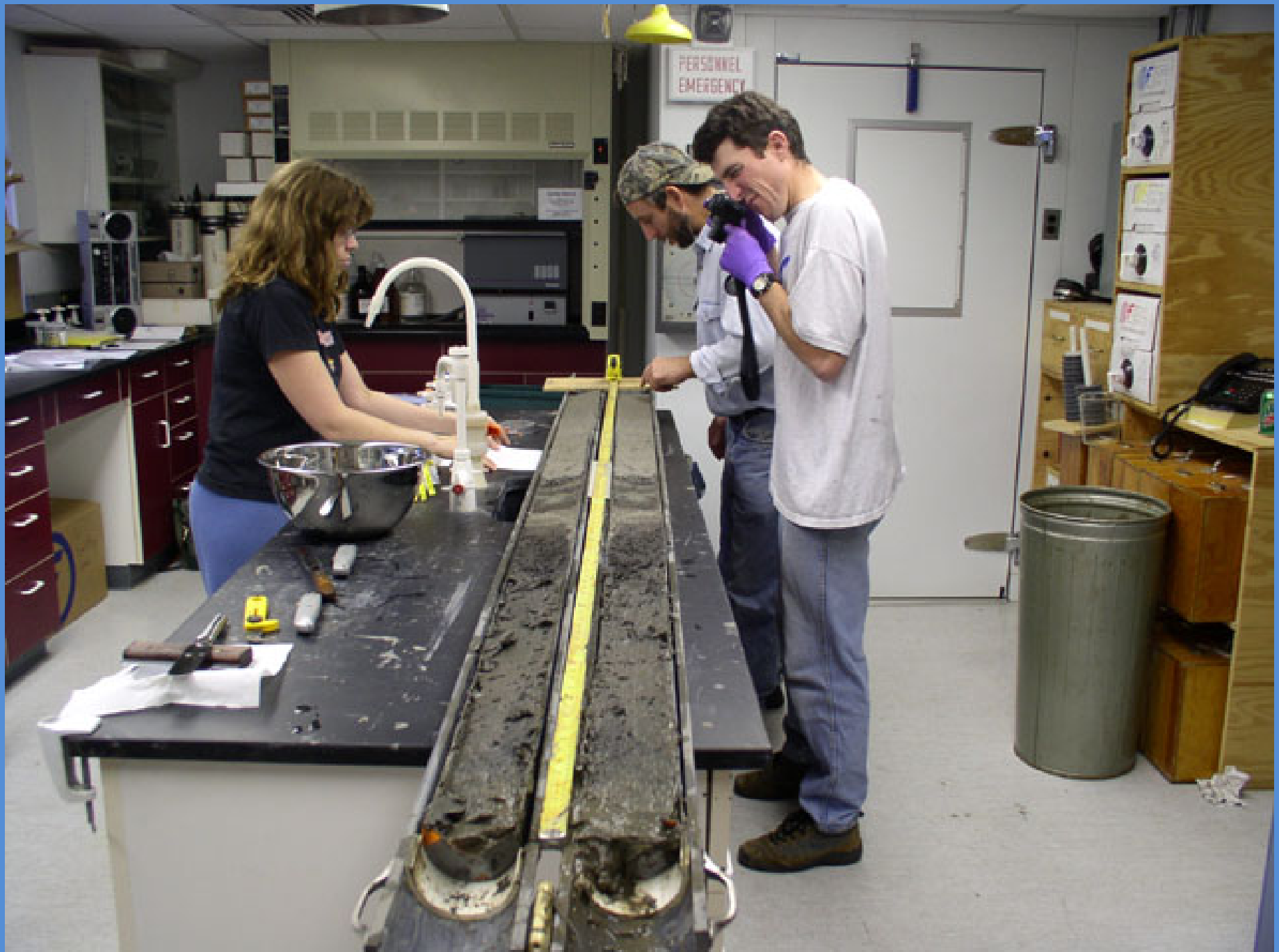
Reduce the need for taking soil from one area to benefit another

Testing Lower Peoria Lake Sediment for Agricultural Soil Characteristics

- Texture and particle size
- Basic fertility and nutrients
- Organic matter
- pH
- Cation exchange capacity

RESULT: Sediment deposited in the lake is generally similar to natural central Illinois topsoil.

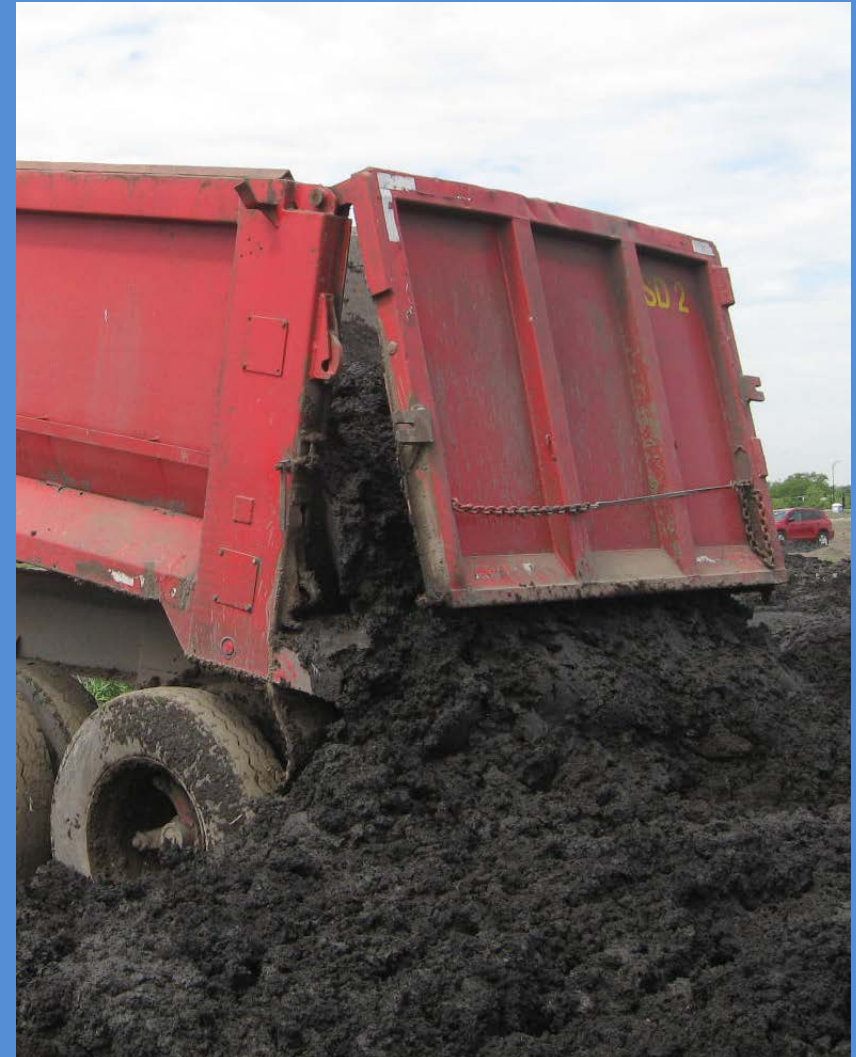




Recently deposited uniform material from near the navigation channel in Lower Peoria Lake flows easily from trucks



Lower Peoria Lake sediment with a peaty layer under recently deposited material is almost granular



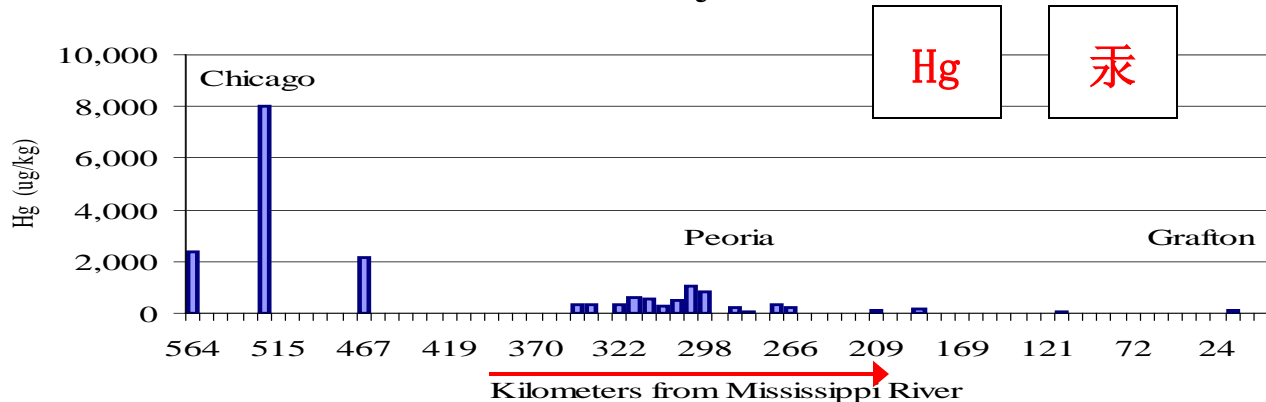
Light gray sticky material below the recently deposited sediment layer from near Lower Peoria Lake shore is hard to handle



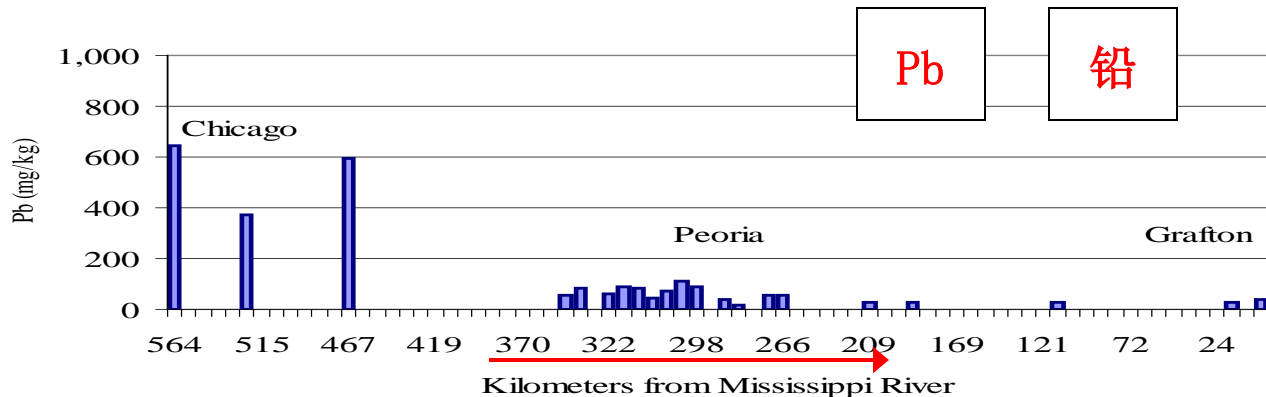
Contaminant Testing

- 24 metals
- 22 pesticides
- 7 PCB arachlors
- 72 semi-volatile organics, including PAH

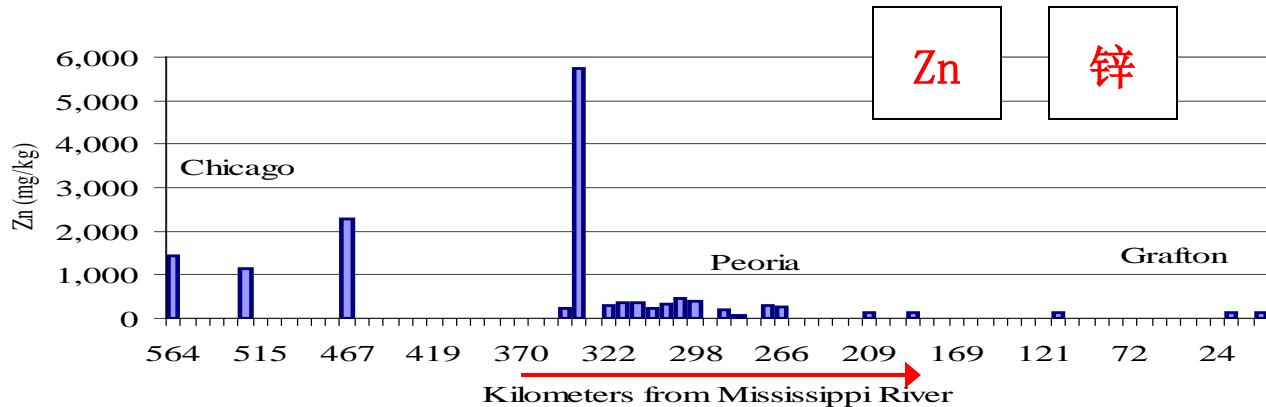
Mercury



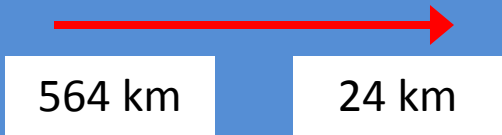
Lead



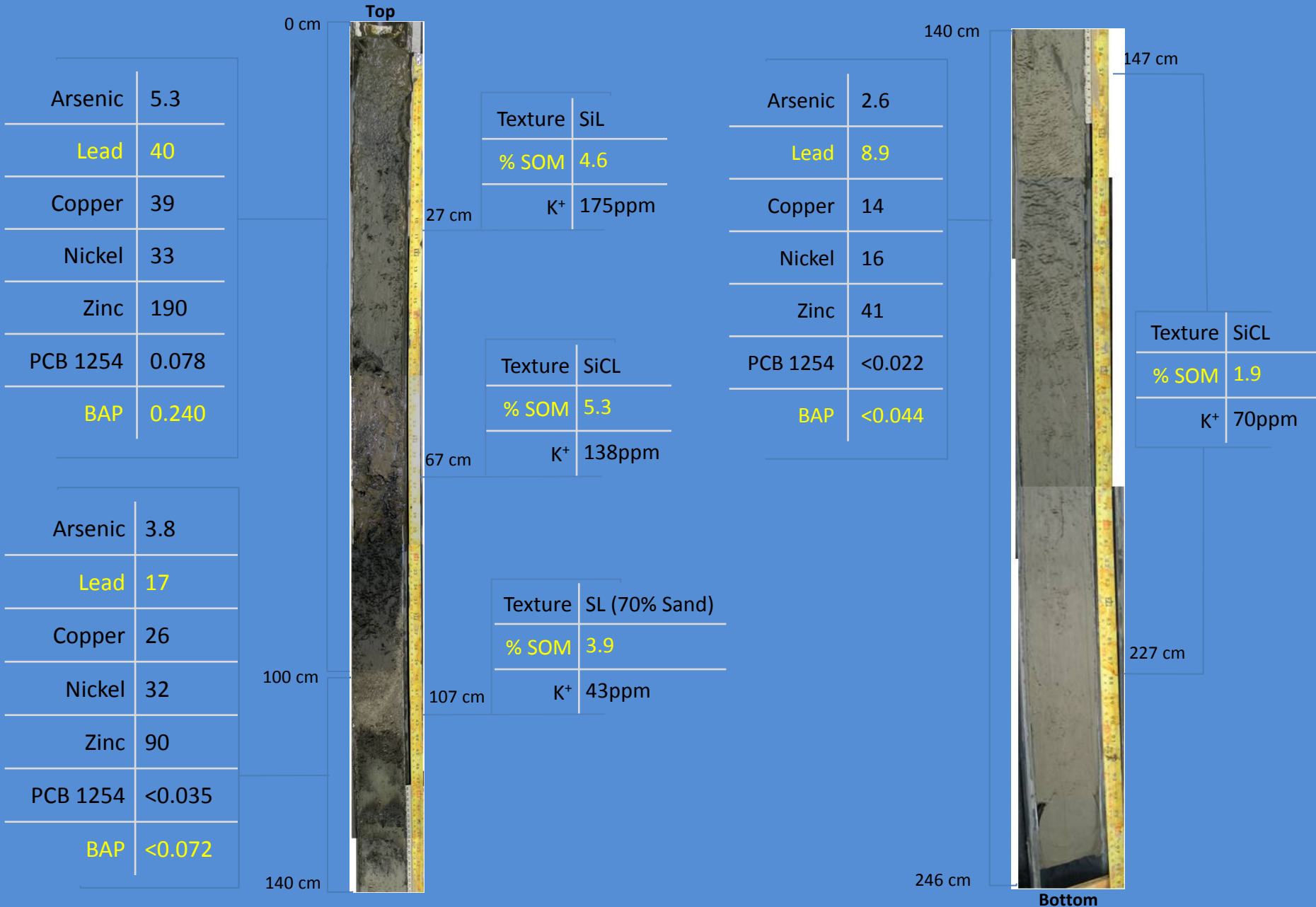
Zinc



Levels of selected metals in Illinois River sediment from Chicago to Grafton --ISGS



Core 197 From Lower Peoria Lake Chemical (mg/kg) and Agronomic Properties



East Port Marina, East Peoria, IL.

- Use innovative dry dredge with concrete pump directly to trucks
- Remove sediment from dock area
- Provide reclaimed topsoil to urban redevelopment sites
- ongoing









Walton Lake, Litchfield IL.

- Mechanical dredging from temporarily drained lake
- Placed directly in trucks
- Add depth to aquatic habitat
- Provided reclaimed topsoil to new water treatment plant, and park district sites including archery range
- Completed 2013











US Steel South Works Site, E. Peoria to Chicago, IL.

- Mechanical dredging from Lower Peoria Lake
- River barges took wet sediment to Chicago where it was trucked on site for placement
- Provide topsoil for extension of lakefront park system
- Three phases completed

April 22, 2004



Sept. 19, 2012



Fox Waterway Agency, Cooper's Farm Dewatering Facility Antioch Twp., Lake Co. IL.

- Specially designed settling and dewatering basins
- Allow rapid dewatering of hydraulically dredged sediment
- Reclaimed topsoil is then trucked to a drying area to develop soil structure



Chain O Lakes State Park





Rice Lake State Fish and Wildlife Area

Fulton Co., IL.

- Mechanically dredge boat ramp using small lake barges
- Truck wet sediment 6 miles to Banner Marsh SFWA
- Provide reclaimed topsoil to strip mined area to enhance wildlife plots at Banner Marsh State Fish and Wildlife Area



March 18, 2005 Banner Marsh



July 7, 2007 Banner Marsh



Other Mud to Parks Projects

- Reclaimed soil for a park at the Celotex site in Chicago (pending)
- Fish channel and floodplain hardwood enhancement at Woodford Co. SFWA (pending)
- Soil for a park in an old industrial site at Sterling (Pending)
- Pekin Landfill, Tazewell Co., IL.
- Lake Decatur, Decatur, IL.
- Banner Marsh SFWA, Fulton Co., IL.

Some Thoughts and Questions

- For the foreseeable future, sediment is a renewable resource
- Can lake managers cooperate on dredging equipment and contracting?
- Should reclaimed topsoil be stockpiled for future use?
- Can sediment be blended with biosolids and compost to create a high quality manufactured soil?
- Is there a need to regulate the removal and relocation of topsoil?
- Do dredging regulations need updating?

Some Issues to Consider for the Future of Beneficial Use

- Bond “guidelines” limit options for use
- How procurement rules relate to cost, selection of engineers, and timing
- How to enhance intra- and interagency review and cooperation
- How can the concept be commercialized