

Black Hawk County Water Trails Master Plan



Dredging

For a variety of reasons, the Water Trails Master Plan will not include any dredging activities:

1.) It is very expensive

There may have been a time when dredging was economical. However with rising costs and increased environmental protections, dredging has become a very expensive activity.

2.) It is temporary

Dredged areas become filled with sediment after flood events, and can require re-dredging on an annual basis even when there are no major floods.

3.) It destabilizes riverbanks

Water flow is less restricted by sediment (which has been dredged out) and acts as a stronger force against the riverbed and river banks.

4.) It's bad for fishing

Removing riverbed material results in the loss of fish spawning grounds which can negatively affect fishing and overall aquatic health.

5.) It's not very green

Dredging is not only bad for fish habitats, it is also a very energy-intensive activity. Fuel alone can easily make up 30 percent of the total project cost. A large dredge can use thousands of gallons of fuel per day.