How is sediment currently managed?

USACE operates Confined Disposal Facilities (CDFs)

A CDF contains sediment that is too contaminated to be placed in the water. USACE has built and operated 45 CDFs safely around the Great Lakes over the last 40 years.

The Chicago Area CDF

- The Chicago Area CDF was opened in 1984. USACE disposes sediment from Calumet River in this facility
- More than 1,500,000 cubic yards of sediment have been placed in the facility (enough to fill 800 Olympic swimming pools)

1981 *2016* *2000* *2005*

***The CDF is at its designed capacity** and can't accept more sediment after 2022**

*Based on current dredging needs

Future of this Site

- After closure, USACE will cap the CDF with clean fill and topsoil and then turn it over to the Chicago Park District
- The Chicago Park District will determine how to use the land
- The cap must remain in place; typical uses could include:

Parks   Open Space

Embankments

Walls made of soil and rock contain dredged material.

Rock dike   Soil berm

Dredging material and placing it in the facility

Step 1: Dredge with crane

Step 2: Place in barge and transport

Step 3: Place inside the CDF

Vegetation

Vegetation grows rapidly in the CDF. It holds sediment in place, removes water, and controls dust and erosion.

Maintenance activities

Periodic maintenance activities focus on draining and drying the sediment. Earth moving equipment is used for these activities.

Dump trucks (*left*), excavator (*middle*), and bulldozers (*right*)

Sampling, monitoring, testing

Sampling and monitoring occur regularly to ensure the CDF is operating as designed.

Sampling sediment   Testing sediment   Monitoring groundwater

What's the difference between a Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) and a Dredged Material Disposal Facility (DMDF)?

They are the same thing. The terminology was changed in the Water Resources Development Act of 1986, but the regulations in the Clean Water Act for protecting human health and the environment still apply.