

Typical Concentration for the Fox River Watershed:

- Total Suspended Solids: less than 50 mg/L in the upper watershed and 50-100 mg/L in the lower watershed.

Impacts to Ecosystem:

- When sediment settles out, it covers the highly valued aquatic habitat (like gravel and sand beds) and harms the aquatic organisms that form the foundation of the aquatic food chain (macroinvertebrates). It also covers habitat need by mussels, as well as spawning habitat used by game fish.

Impacts to Drinking Water:

- Sediment in rivers where drinking water is taken from can clog water intake structures, increasing costs for routine maintenance and dredging.

Impacts to Recreation:

- Deep water areas of streams and rivers are filled in with sediment, which degrades fishing and poses navigational hazards to boaters.

References

- IEPA, Illinois Water Quality Report 2000, April 2000.
- IEPA, Baseline Loadings of Nitrogen, Sediment, and Sediments from Illinois Watersheds, Nov. 1999.