Why not treat the sediment?

Grain size separation
(Sieve out the clean sand for beneficial use)

Calumet sediment contains small pieces of slag and coke, which contaminate the sand fraction.

Solidification/stabilization
(Immovilize the pollution by binding it into a concrete matrix, including making bricks or pavement)

Organics prevent hardening; only a small fraction of sediment can be used; pollution still remains in concrete – what happens in the future when we demo the site? Safe in residential areas?

Chemical Extraction
(Use solvents to “wash” pollutants from the sediment)

Doesn’t destroy the pollution; same solvents don’t work for metals and organics.

Biological Treatment
(Use microorganisms to break down the pollutants)

Doesn’t work on metals; can create dangerous by-products; takes a long time and lots of handling of material.

Combustion/Thermal Treatment
(Burn the contaminants)

Doesn’t work on metals; creates air pollution and by-products (dioxins); leaves slag and ash for disposal.

Calumet River sediment contains metals, PCBs, other organic compounds (from combustion and oil).

Types of Treatment

Updated April 2018
Ecosystem Restoration

The Chicago District has completed, or is in the process of implementing, 33 habitat protection and restoration projects. These projects account for:

- More than 4,000 acres of habitat
- More than 70 miles of river and stream.
There are 22 active CDFs in the Great Lakes. The Corps has constructed 47 CDFs around the Great Lakes since the 1960s to manage dredged material in a way that protects human health and the environment.

Closed CDFs can be used for a variety of purposes. The Corps will hand over the facility to its non-federal partner once it is full. The non-federal sponsor ultimately determines the future use of the site and is responsible for ensuring that the cap is safely maintained.

Examples of other post-closure uses around the Great Lakes include:

- Marina expansion
- Wildlife area
- Parking lot
- Port and park expansion
- Landfill
- Airport expansion
- Recreation/park space
- Aggregate storage
- Dewatering/transfer site
- Small boat harbor