

# The Facts

## RETURN FLOW



PROTECT OUR GREAT LAKES  
RESPECT THE COMPACT

### THE GREAT LAKES COMPACT SAYS WAUKESHA MUST :

**Return all of the water** it withdraws to the Lake Michigan watershed, minus an allowance for consumptive use.

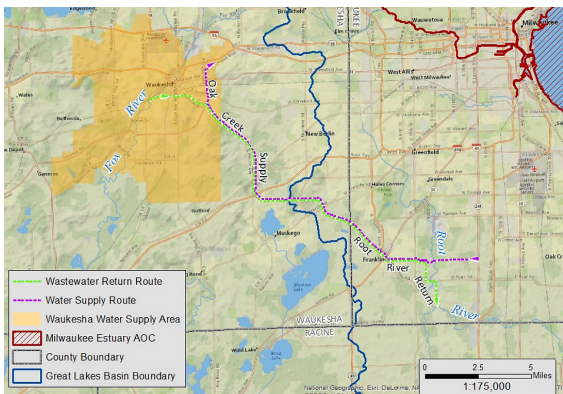
**Minimize** the amount of water from the Mississippi River Basin that is introduced into the Great Lakes Basin.

**Treat** all surface **water** or groundwater from the Mississippi River Basin **to meet** applicable water quality discharge **standards** and to prevent the introduction of invasive species.

**Protect and sustain** the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the **receiving water**, considering the state of the receiving water before the proposal is implemented and considering both low and high flow conditions and potential adverse impacts due to changes in temperature and nutrient loadings.

## WAUKESHA'S APPLICATION

### DOES NOT MEET FEDERAL COMPACT REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURN FLOW.



During low flow periods (normally summer months), Waukesha's **return flow will make up about 80-90%** of the water in the Root River making it an "effluent dominated" stream. This could pose **risks for human health**, as State law requires bacteria testing but not testing of viruses or pathogens that are likely to make people sick.

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## WAUKESHA'S APPLICATION DOES NOT MEET FEDERAL COMPACT REQUIREMENTS FOR RETURN FLOW.

**EPA and DNR both agree** that the new discharge could result in a **"significant lowering of water quality"** for some of the discharged pollutants from Waukesha's return flow. Waukesha will need to do both significant planning and **improvements to its facilities** to ensure its discharge does not result in backsliding of water quality and harm significant improvements that have already been made in the Root River Watershed.

**DNR's own analysis shows** that Waukesha's wastewater discharge will **not meet** the **temperature** standards for parts of the year and will have a difficult time meeting **phosphorus**, and **chloride standards without** significant effort and **upgrades** to its facilities. Because this wastewater discharge will be a new discharge into a river that is already impaired by low water quality, these issues should be resolved before the discharge permit is given to Waukesha.



## SO, WHAT ABOUT THE FOX RIVER IN THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN?

The Fox River will see about 2-3 Millions of Gallons per day of flow, a **15% reduction**. This is likely to have **significant impacts** on fisheries and other aquatic life.

