

DNR Office of Great Lakes

Wisconsin Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Activities and Projects

The Wisconsin DNR Office of the Great Lakes worked with many individuals and organizations to develop the “Wisconsin Great Lakes Restoration and Protection Strategy” which addresses the Collaboration’s priority issues here in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Strategy is the first step in defining the actions we must take to ensure that the Great Lakes are protected for future generations. With the guidance of the Wisconsin Strategy many partnerships have been formed and many projects have been initiated. The following is a sample of projects the DNR’s Office of the Great Lakes has funded in part over the past several years toward improving our Great Lakes.

Habitat Improvement – Lake Michigan Tributaries:

- ❖ North Avenue Dam Removal Project on the Milwaukee River
- ❖ Blatz Pavilion sediment clean up adjacent to the Milwaukee River
- ❖ Fish passage, stream and wetland habitat improvement project in partnership with the City of Mequon on the Milwaukee River
- ❖ Menominee River, Underwood Creek, Lincoln Creek clean up in partnership with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- ❖ Lake sturgeon restoration project in partnership with River Edge Nature Center
- ❖ Riparian Buffer Programs in partnership with Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Dept. Agriculture, Trade, & Consumer Protection (DATCP) – Ozaukee, Manitowoc Brown, Kewaunee, and Sheboygan Counties
- ❖ Study of effects of dredging in Green Bay in partnership with Lawrence University
- ❖ Rain Garden demonstration project installations – grants to Alverno College, Wisconsin Lutheran College, Mount Mary College, Marquette University

Habitat Improvement – Lake Superior Tributaries:

- ❖ Forest Cover and Stream Flow Effects study in partnership with the DNR Bureau of Forestry and UW-Madison
- ❖ Bark River Brook Trout Restoration Project
- ❖ Bark River channel stabilization study in partnership with UW-Madison
- ❖ Flow-deflecting vanes for erosion/sedimentation reduction study in partnership with UW-Madison and USGS
- ❖ Fish passage at Whittlesey Creek to improve spawning
- ❖ Land use change evaluation and monitoring project in partnership with UW-Superior
- ❖ Installation of steel decking plate to prevent mink predation on tern eggs at Ashland nesting site
- ❖ Riparian Buffer Programs in partnership with CREP and DATCP –Bayfield, Douglas Ashland, & Iron Counties

Habitat and Water Quality Improvement -Land Acquisitions:

- ❖ 40 acres adjacent to Point Beach State Forest in Manitowoc County
- ❖ 120 acres, part of the South Shore of Lake Superior Fish & Wildlife area, 3 miles north of the City of Washburn in Bayfield County
- ❖ 200 acres of land located within the boundary of the Nourse Sugarbush State Natural Area in Bayfield County
- ❖ 20 acres located on Four Mile Creek, which is part of the Sioux part of the South Shore Fish & Wildlife Project Area in Bayfield County

Invasive Species/Ballast Water Initiatives:

- ❖ Ballast water on-shore treatment study in partnership with the Milwaukee Port Authority

Coastal Health and Water Quality:

- ❖ Beach Monitoring Studies in partnership with City of Racine, UW-Oshkosh, and Milwaukee Center for the Great Lakes
- ❖ Redesign of parking lot adjacent to Bradford Beach to reduce runoff and contamination to the adjacent beach partnership with the Milwaukee County
- ❖ Permit program for mechanical removal of Cladophora on beaches
- ❖ Cladophora heavy metal study
- ❖ Cladophora, zebra/quagga mussel connection studies in partnership with UW-Milwaukee
- ❖ Enhancing community involvement in partnership with Centerville Cares, Door County and the Lake Michigan Stakeholder's Group
- ❖ Provide financial incentives to land owners for riparian buffer strips for CREP – see habitat improvement
- ❖ Advanced wastewater treatment system – grant to City of Bayfield

Persistent Bio-accumulative Toxins:

- ❖ Pharmaceutical Recycling Pilot Mail-Back Program in partnership with UWEX-Milwaukee
- ❖ Rebate incentives for Amalgam Separators for the dental industry in partnership with Green Bay Metropolitan Sewerage District
- ❖ Mercury Manometer collection at dairy farms – 400 lbs of Hg collected
- ❖ Newton Creek Sediment Clean up, first Wisconsin AOC clean up completed
- ❖ Kinnickinick River Sediment Clean up will receive Legacy Act Funds for clean up in 2009 to remove 170,000 cubic yards of sediment containing over 1200 lb of PCBs and 13,000 lbs of PAH.
- ❖ Blatz Pavilion Sediment Remediation – Milwaukee River. Funded through State Great Lakes Harbors and Bays program. Removed 5700 tons of sediment containing over 300 lbs of PCBs. This was the first step in a larger sediment remediation project (planning underway) within the Estabrook Impoundment. Milwaukee County will be applying for Great Lakes Legacy Act funding for the larger project.

Great Lakes Education and Outreach:

- ❖ Construction of outdoor classroom in the Superior Municipal Forest and development of educational materials in partnership with the City of Superior
- ❖ Development of “*Discovering Wisconsin's Great Lakes!*” calendar and brochure and distribution at State Fair, State Parks and WEAC and WAEE meetings; initiation of annual photo contest and Great Lakes story writing submission
- ❖ Development of Wisconsin Natural Resources magazine special supplement, publication date December 2008
- ❖ Development of curriculum and teacher training on regional impacts of climate change in partnership with UW-Madison

For more information, visit these DNR websites:

<http://dnr.wi.gov/> - Wisconsin DNR

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/greatlakes/> - Office of the Great Lakes

<http://dnr.wi.gov/fish/> - Fisheries

<http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/> - Wetlands

<http://dnr.wi.gov/wetlands/strategy.html> WI Wetlands Strategy

<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/facilities/> - Lands and Facilities