

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION at work in Illinois



March 2011

The State of Illinois – together with local communities, business and industry, and nongovernmental organizations – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. This partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Illinois' economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Illinois and showcases restoration projects now underway.



The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Illinois

Illinois' 63-mile stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline is among the state's most valuable natural and cultural resources, and has extraordinary economic value. Lake Michigan provides

- a coastal home to six million residents in Lake and Cook counties;
- drinking water for seven million Illinois residents;
- a tourism industry that brings 20 million people to the Lake Michigan shoreline each year;
- recreation opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming that generate \$3.2 billion annually and support 33,000 jobs; and
- a maritime transportation network linking the nation's heartland to world markets.

As these figures show, cleaning up the Great Lakes isn't just about correcting mistakes of the past, but of leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

Investing in Illinois' Waterfront Communities

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is supporting implementation of a comprehensive cleanup plan that has been broadly endorsed by our region's governors, tribes, cities, conservation groups, and business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes:

- preventing and eradicating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp
- cleaning up contaminated sediments in Great Lakes "toxic hotspots"
- controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beach pollution

- restoring degraded wetlands
- conserving and enhancing valuable fish and wildlife resources

The GLRI is supported by sound science and guided by an Action Plan with detailed performance goals and clear accountability standards. An interagency task force is coordinating federal efforts and directing a majority of funding to states, cities and nongovernmental groups that are best able to address local restoration priorities.

Economic Benefits from Restoring the Great Lakes

Restoring the Great Lakes advances our region's broader strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities. A detailed study by the Brookings Institution found that fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate \$80-\$100 billion in benefits, including

- \$6.5 billion to \$11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- \$50 million to \$125 million reduced costs to municipalities; and
- \$12 billion to \$19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including \$7.4 billion to \$13.3 billion for the City of Chicago alone.

Great Lakes Restoration in Illinois

The GLRI is off to a strong start in Illinois, with over \$90 million coming into the state to implement nearly 50 restoration projects and related work. Illinois' citizens and coastal communities will benefit in many ways from this funding:

- ongoing monitoring and control actions to prevent Asian carp from entering Lake Michigan through local waterways
- enhanced fish and wildlife habitat as local groups restore wetlands, streams and coastal areas
- improved pollution control and monitoring that will reduce beach closures due to bacterial contamination

These actions will benefit the next generation of Illinois citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to improve their quality of life and economic well-being.

Solving Great Lakes Problems

The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve problems facing Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline. State agencies have collaborated with the City of Chicago and other partners to develop restoration projects that will improve Lake Michigan's environment and leverage it as a resource to generate jobs and enhance economic vitality. State and local entities in Illinois have been highly successful in securing funding under the GLRI and are preparing additional restoration projects for future funding.

Great Lakes Restoration Projects Underway in Illinois

The map shows the major restoration projects currently being implemented in Illinois; details are provided on the attached list. Other projects and activities are underway to strengthen the GLRI:

- **Public Outreach** to engage citizens in restoration efforts; improve beach health and fish consumption advisories; and keep pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants out of the Great Lakes.
- **Monitoring** of mercury pollution to protect children's health; beaches to enhance swim advisories; and Great Lakes water and wildlife to detect contaminants.
- **Engineering and Design** of sustainable restoration projects, new technologies to detect bacterial contamination, and techniques to monitor invasive species.
- **Research** on ways to control Asian carp and eradicate Phragmites, prevent the introduction of invasive species in ballast water, enhance knowledge of the Great Lakes ecosystem, protect endangered species, and predict impacts of climate change.
- **Capacity Building** to help states and local governments implement restoration projects, improve collaboration, and educate health care providers about fish consumption advisories.
- **Sound Science and Accountability** to ensure that funds are spent effectively and that the GLRI reflects a strong, science-based understanding of the Great Lakes.
- **Pollution Prevention** to keep the Great Lakes clean, safeguard investments in restoration, and prevent polluted runoff from agricultural land and city streets.



Information on GLRI projects is available online at <http://greatlakesrestoration.us>

Great Lakes Restoration Projects Underway in Illinois

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Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Funding
1	Calumet Hydrologic Master Plan Implementation at Big Marsh	Chicago Department of Environment	\$401,500
2	A Comprehensive Communications Program for Chicago Beaches	Chicago Park District	\$99,340
3	Development of Swimcast Models at Four Chicago Beaches	Chicago Park District	\$245,420
4	Sanitary Surveys and Stormwater Impacts at Chicago Beaches	Chicago Park District	\$250,000
5	Implementation of the Illinois State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$8,550,000
6	Calumet Wetland and Upland Habitat Restoration Project	Friends of the Forest Preserves	\$177,599
7	Electric Barrier Defensive Removal of Asian Carp	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$300,000
8	Ring-billed Gull Management for Lake Michigan Beach Health	Chicago Department of Environment	\$250,236
9	Illinois Beach Sanitary Surveys	Illinois Department of Public Health	\$245,000
10	Chiwaukee Illinois Beach Lake Plain Restoration	Lake County Forest Preserve District	\$973,557
11	Waukegan Harbor AOC-Glen Flora Tributary Hydrology Study	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission	\$118,500
12	Kellogg Watershed-Dead Dog Creek/Water Quality BMPs Project	Lake County Stormwater Management Commission	\$832,850
13	Using Restoration and Management to Recover Pitcher's Thistle and Improve Habitat Conditions for Great Lakes Piping Plover	Morton Arboretum	\$72,817
14	Restoring Native Diversity to Aquatic Ravine Ecosystems	Park District of Highland Park	\$200,000
15	Rosewood Park	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$15,000
16	Lake Plain, IL/WI	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$25,000
17	Orland Tract Perimeter	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$55,000
18	Washington Park	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$300,000
19	63rd St. Beach and Dune	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$725,000
20	Burnham Prairie	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$949,000
21	Great Lakes & Mississippi River Interbasin Study	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$5,429,000
22	Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal Dispersal Barriers	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$7,466,000
23	Lake Bluff Ravine Restoration for Erosion Control	Village of Lake Bluff	\$788,900
24	Illinois Beach State Park Southern Buffer Restoration	Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern Citizens Advisory Group	\$1,433,350