

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION at work in New York



March 2011

The State of New York – together with local communities, tribes, 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 New York’s economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting New York and showcases restoration projects now underway.



See p. 2 for details on these Great Lakes restoration projects underway in New York

The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for New York

The Great Lakes are among New York’s most valuable natural resources and have extraordinary economic value for the state. Over 700 miles of shoreline and 42 percent of New York’s surface area fall within the Great Lakes basin. New Yorkers use the lakes and the St. Lawrence River for drinking water, recreation, power generation, agriculture, industry and transportation. New York’s Great Lakes provide

- jobs for more than four million New York residents;
- a sport fishery valued at more than \$2.27 billion that generates nearly 12,000 jobs;
- the foundation for a multi-million dollar tourism industry in the New York Seaway Trail region;
- a vital water resource for hydropower generation and manufacturing industries;
- a maritime transportation network linking the state to markets throughout the world; and
- recreational boating opportunities that contribute over \$600 million a year to New York’s economy.

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 New York’s 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, including

- shutting the door on 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; and
- 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 non-governmental 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 conducted by the Brookings Institution found that fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate \$80 billion to \$100 billion in short and long term benefits, including

- \$6.5 billion to \$11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- \$12 billion to \$19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including up to \$1.1 billion for the City of Buffalo alone.

Great Lakes Restoration in New York

The GLRI is off to a strong start in New York, with nearly \$40 million coming into the state to implement more than 75 restoration projects. New York's citizens and coastal communities will benefit in many ways from this funding:

- Fish and wildlife habitat will be improved as local groups remove invasive species, restore wetlands and reduce shoreline erosion
- Public health will be protected by strengthened pollution prevention efforts and increased education on the risk of consuming tainted fish
- Beach closures due to bacterial contamination will be prevented through pollutant source trackdown, abatement and improved monitoring
- Economic and urban redevelopment in waterfront areas will be facilitated by cleaning up contaminated sediments in New York's Areas of Concern and removing them from the list of "toxic hotspots"

These activities will benefit the next generations of New York 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 the problems facing New York's Great Lakes. The state's restoration work is guided by *New York's Great Lakes Basin: Framework for Action 2011*, which establishes restoration goals that are aligned with GLRI priorities. The framework's top priorities are to

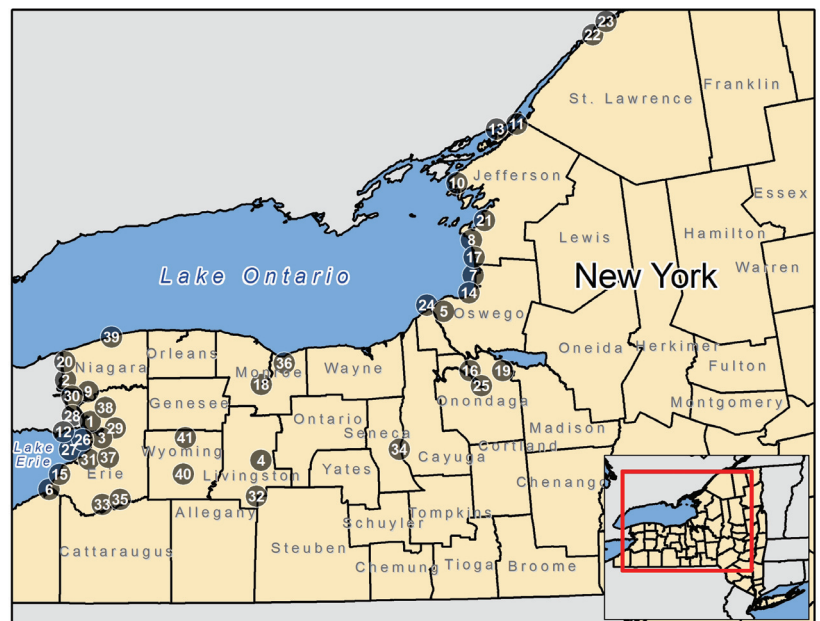
- clean up pollution and restore beneficial uses in New York's Areas of Concern and remove them from the list of Great Lakes "toxic hotspots";
- conserve natural resources and combat aquatic invasive species;
- Promote sustainable development and climate change adaptation
- foster long-term, coordinated action among government and non-government partners; and
- maintain a strong scientific basis for decisions.

The *Framework for Action* integrates existing plans and coordinates the efforts of state agencies and local stakeholders. This collaborative process will enable New York to successfully secure funding under the GLRI and apply it to the most pressing problems.

Great Lakes Restoration Projects Underway in New York

The map shows the major restoration projects currently being implemented in New York; 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 New York

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Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Funding
1	Buffalo River Wetlands Restoration at Seneca Bluffs	Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper	\$200,000
2	Niagara River Regional Habitat Restoration Strategy	Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper	\$243,936
3	Buffalo River AOC Habitat Restoration - Riverbend	Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper	\$657,245
4	Restore Wetlands at Conesus Inlet Fish and Wildlife Management Area	Conesus Lake Association	\$35,714
5	SUNY Oswego - Fallsbrook Dam Removal	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$61,685
6	Clear Creek Stream Habitat Restoration and Fish Passage Project	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$90,211
7	Salmon River Stream Habitat Restoration to Improve Fish Passage	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$96,685
8	Sandy Creek Stream Habitat Restoration to Improve Fish Passage	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$104,094
9	Implementation of the New York State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$792,000
10	Joint Ventures: Indian River Lakes Wetland Protection	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	\$432,865
11	Coastal Fisheries Habitat Restoration in the St. Lawrence River	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	\$999,803
12	Stream Sanitary Surveys	Erie County Department of Health	\$79,076
13	Beach Sanitary Surveys at 16 St. Lawrence River Beaches	Health Research, Inc./New York State Dept. of Health	\$250,000
14	Beach Sanitary Surveys at 9 Lake Ontario Beaches	Health Research, Inc./New York State Dept. of Health	\$250,000
15	Sanitary Surveys at 13 Lake Erie Beaches	Health Research, Inc./New York State Dept. of Health	\$250,000
16	Restoring Degraded Upland Tributaries of Onondaga Lake	Izaak Walton League of America	\$118,312
17	Sandy Creek Stream Bank Stabilization Project	Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$600,000
18	Total Maximum Daily Load for Phosphorus in the Upper Black Creek	New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	\$305,000
19	Cicero Swamp Wildlife Management Area Eastern Massasauga Habitat Restoration	New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation	\$60,264
20	Sanitary Surveys: Erie/Ontario/Niagara River NY State Parks	New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	\$250,000
21	Sanitary Surveys: Ontario/St. Lawrence River NY State Parks	New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation	\$250,000
22	Massena-Akwesasne AOC - Lake Sturgeon Restoration	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division	\$723,107
23	Massena-Akwesasne AOC St. Lawrence River-BUIs Advancement	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, Environment Division	\$1,229,415
24	Source Tracking the Oswego River Phosphorus	The Research Foundation of SUNY at SUNY - ESF	\$289,552
25	Onondaga Creek, Syracuse Lakefront	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$27,000
26	South Park Lake	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$27,000
27	Buffalo Outer Harbor	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000
28	Ontario St., Buffalo	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000
29	Scajaquada Creek	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000
30	Environmental Dredging: Niagara River	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$60,000
31	Buffalo River Watershed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
32	Canaseraga Creek Watershed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
33	Cattaraugus Creek Watershed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
34	Finger Lakes Multi-Purpose	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
35	Springville Dam	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$150,000
36	Irondequoit Creek	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$310,000
37	Environmental Dredging: Buffalo River	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$8,240,000
38	Buffalo River Area of Concern Contaminated Sediment Remedial Design	U.S. EPA-Great Lakes Legacy Act and Buffalo-Niagara Riverkeeper and Honeywell Corp.	\$739,000
39	18 Mile Creek Area of Concern Contaminated Sediment Site Characterization	U.S. EPA-Great Lakes Legacy Act and State of New York	\$279,000
40	North Branch Wiscoy Creek Restoration	Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$55,314
41	Black and Oatka Creeks Sediment Reduction Project	Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District	\$536,000