

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION at work in Ohio



March 2011

The State of Ohio – 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 Ohio's economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Ohio and showcases restoration projects now underway.



The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Ohio

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. The lake provides water for drinking and industry, shipping of commodities, commercial fishing, and waterborne transportation. Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spend more than \$10.7 billion annually – nearly 30 percent of Ohio's total tourism dollars. Regional tourism also supports more than 100,000 northern Ohio jobs and generates \$750 million in state and local taxes. The Lake Erie region also contributes to

- exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities that annually attract an estimated 1.5 million hunters and anglers who spend \$2 billion;
- a recreational boating industry that supports more than 26,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$3.5 billion annually; and
- drinking water for 3 million Ohio residents.

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 Ohio's Waterfront Communities

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

- shutting the door on aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp
- cleaning up contaminated sediments
- controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beach pollution and eliminating noxious algae blooms
- restoring degraded coastal wetlands
- conserving and enhancing valuable fish and wildlife resources

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:

- \$50 billion in long term economic benefits;
- \$30 billion to \$50 billion in short term benefits;
- \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- direct benefits of up to \$3.7 billion to the Cleveland area alone.

Great Lakes Restoration in Ohio

Restoration is off to a strong start in Ohio, with more than \$50 million coming into the state to implement over 60 restoration projects for Lake Erie. Ohio's coastal communities will benefit in many ways from this funding:

- Nearly 2,000 acres of Lake Erie shore will be improved for tourism and wildlife by removing invasive plants

- Strengthened pollution control and monitoring will prevent beach closures due to bacterial contamination, improving swimming opportunities and associated economic activity
- Tracking and preventing sediment and phosphorus transport to the lake will reduce noxious algae blooms, improving public health, and reducing cost for dredging and water treatment
- Restoring habitat and beneficial uses along the shoreline with special attention to Ohio's four Areas of Concern

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

Solving Problems Facing Lake Erie

The GLRI builds on local and state efforts to solve the problems facing Lake Erie. The *Lake Erie Protection & Restoration Plan 2008* outlines actions that the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and its member

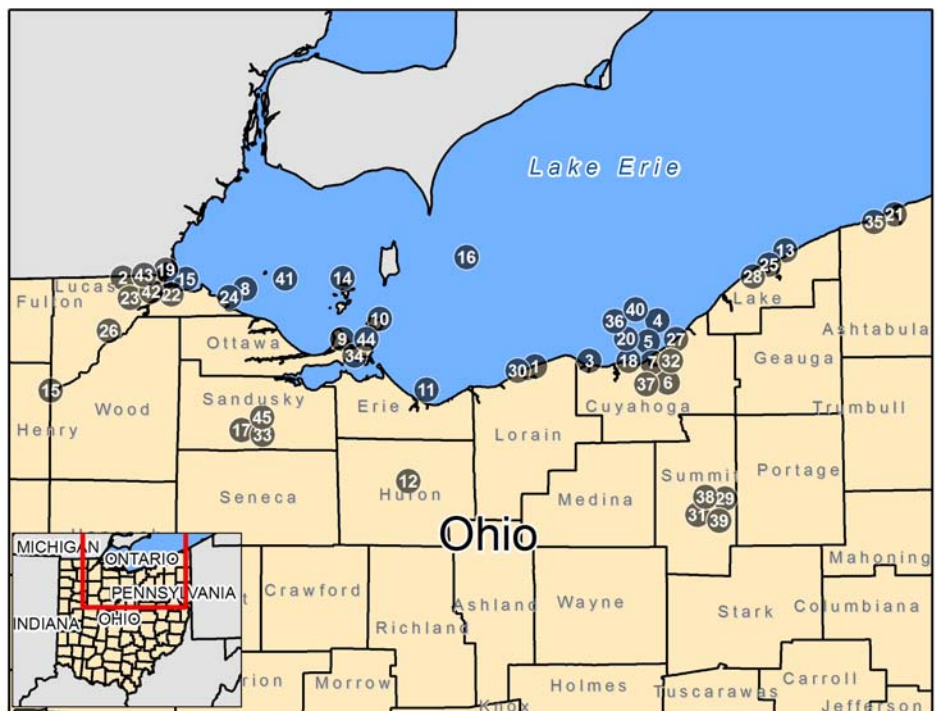
agencies will take to restore Lake Erie and its watershed. The plan outlines 10 priorities for action including

- reducing nonpoint source pollution;
- minimizing impacts from invasive species;
- providing safe, healthy, accessible coastal areas;
- removing the Maumee, Black, Cuyahoga and Ashtabula rivers from the list of "toxic hotspots";
- preventing the release of and exposure to toxic substances;
- restoring habitat to support valuable fish and wildlife resources;
- measuring the effectiveness of efforts to improve and protect Lake Erie;
- promoting sustainable practices;
- reducing impacts of water withdrawals;
- adapting to climate change; and
- using the Lake Erie Lakewide Management Plan to track progress, share information and build partnerships.

Great Lakes Restoration Projects Underway in Ohio

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

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Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Funding
1	Lower Black River Fish Habitat Restoration Project	City of Lorain	\$1,697,800
2	Ottawa River Watershed Scrap Yard Pollution Prevention Program	City of Toledo Division of Environmental Services	\$270,600
3	A Holistic Watershed Approach to Health at Huntington Beach	Cuyahoga County Board of Health	\$247,518
4	Cuyahoga AOC Urban Riparian Habitat Restoration Phase 1	Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office	\$1,500,000
5	Cuyahoga AOC Urban Riparian Habitat Restoration Phase 2	Cuyahoga County Engineer's Office	\$1,500,000
6	Lacustrine Refuge in Cuyahoga AOC	Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District	\$1,396,050
7	Scranton Road Peninsula Integrated Habitat Restoration with the Cuyahoga River Area of Concern	Dept. of Interior-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$208,000
8	Joint Venture: Magee Marsh: Restoring and Enhancing Wetlands in Southwest Lake Erie	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	\$150,013
9	Restoring Lake Erie Hydrology and Coastal Marsh at Middle Harbor, OH.	Ducks Unlimited Inc.	\$643,397
10	Kelleys Island Monagan Road Preserve Acquisition	Erie Metroparks	\$332,500
11	Old Woman Creek Sediment Reduction Initiative	Erie Soil and Water Conservation District	\$137,552
12	North Central Ohio Sediment Reduction Project	Huron County Soil & Water Conservation District	\$812,000
13	Lake Erie Bluff Preservation Project	Lake Metroparks	\$883,700
14	North Bass Island Habitat Restoration	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$125,000
15	Reforestation of Maumee Bay & Mary Jane Thurston State Parks	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$168,000
16	Support for Ohio's Aquatic Invasive Species State Management Plan	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$792,000
17	First Phase Removal of the Ballville Dam, Sandusky River Tributary to Lake Erie	Ohio Department of Natural Resources	\$2,000,000
18	Cuyahoga AOC Habitat and Fish Restoration Opportunities	Ohio DNR, Division of Wildlife	\$500,000
19	TMDL for Ottawa River (Lima) Watershed	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$250,000
20	Cuyahoga County Surface Water Improvement Grants Program	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$1,000,000
21	Ashtabula River Area of Concern Habitat Restoration	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$1,500,000
22	Toledo Harbor Sediment Management & Reuse	Ohio Lake Erie Commission	\$250,000
23	Restoring Ottawa River Wetlands & Habitat in the Maumee AOC	Partners For Clean Streams, Inc. (Maumee RAP)	\$1,365,684
24	Phragmites Control in Western Lake Erie Coastal Wetlands	The Nature Conservancy	\$497,331

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Funding
25	Invasive Plant Prevention and Control, Grand River Watershed	The Nature Conservancy	\$843,852
26	Wet Prairie Restoration in the Maumee AOC	The Nature Conservancy	\$1,452,419
27	Dugway Creek	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000
28	Mentor Marsh	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000
29	Cuyahoga River & Tributaries, Summit County	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$96,000
30	Black River Watershed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
31	Cuyahoga River Watershed	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$97,000
32	Cleveland Harbor	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$100,000
33	Ballville Dam	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$100,000
34	East Harbor State Park	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$100,000
35	Environmental Dredging: Ashtabula Harbor	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$100,000
36	Beneficial Use of Dredged Material	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$128,000
37	Environmental Dredging: Cleveland Harbor	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$150,000
38	Cuyahoga River, Akron	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$300,000
39	Little Cuyahoga River, Akron	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$300,000
40	Sea Lamprey Traps and Barriers	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$339,000
41	Western Lake Erie Basin	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$697,000
42	Maumee River Area of Concern-Ottawa River Contaminated Sediment Remediation	U.S. EPA-Great Lakes Legacy Act and Ottawa River Group	\$400,000
43	Maumee River-Duck and Otter Creek Contaminated Sediment Site Characterization and Remedial Investigation	U.S. EPA-Great Lakes Legacy Act, State of Ohio and Duck and Otter Creek Industrial Partners	\$380,000
44	Protecting Critical Habitat at Kelleys Island Preserve	Western Reserve Land Conservancy	\$999,999
45	Making Sense out of Soil Savings	WSOS Community Action Committee and Sandusky River Watershed Coalition	\$581,926