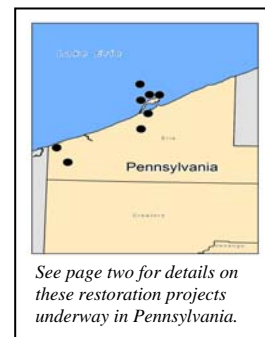


GREAT LAKES RESTORATION at work in Pennsylvania



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



The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Pennsylvania

Lake Erie is among Pennsylvania’s most valuable natural resources and has extraordinary economic value for the state. Pennsylvania’s Lake Erie coastal region supports

- a home for over 3 million Pennsylvanians, almost a quarter of the state’s population;
- over one million jobs for Pennsylvania residents;
- Pennsylvania’s most-visited park, Presque Isle State Park, which attracts an estimated four million visitors annually and generates over \$67 million annually in visitor spending;
- harbors and marinas that support a \$71 million annual recreational boating industry; and
- a growing steelhead fishery that attracts over 200,000 angler trips to the region each year, with nearly \$10 million in expenditures and \$6 million in value-added activity in Erie County.

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 Pennsylvania’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:

- 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
- 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 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 \$400-\$500 million for the City of Erie alone.

Great Lakes Restoration in Pennsylvania

The GLRI is off to a strong start in Pennsylvania, with almost \$3.5 million coming into the state to implement a dozen restoration projects. Pennsylvania's citizens and coastal communities will benefit in many ways from this funding:

- Fish and wildlife habitat will be enhanced as local groups restore streams, protect coastal dunes and stop streambank erosion
- Beach closures due to bacterial contamination will be prevented through strengthened pollution control efforts and improved monitoring
- Public health will be safeguarded through increased public education on the risks of consuming tainted fish

These activities will benefit the next generations of Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania's Lake Erie shoreline and watershed. Pennsylvania's restoration priorities include:

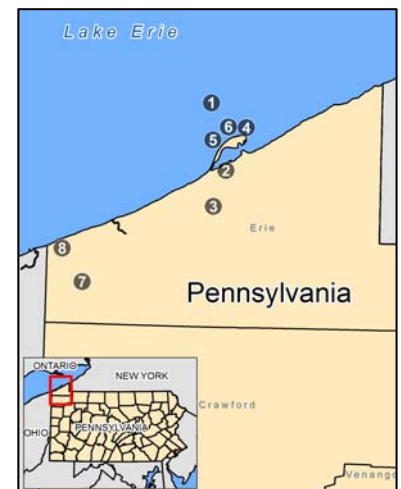
- removing Presque Isle Bay from the list of Great Lakes "toxic hotspots";
- improving beach health to prevent the loss of tourism dollars from beach closures; and
- restoring habitat along Lake Erie and in the rivers and streams in its watershed.

Pennsylvania is developing the *Lake Erie Watershed Integrated Water Resource Management Plan* to prioritize restoration actions. This will position the state for further success in securing GLRI funds.

Great Lakes Restoration Projects Underway in Pennsylvania

The map shows the major restoration projects currently being implemented in Pennsylvania; details are provided on the list below. 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>

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Funding
1	Implementation of the Pennsylvania State Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	\$792,000
2	Cascade Creek/Presque Isle Bay Watershed Restoration	Erie County Conservation District	\$485,212
3	Cassidy Park Fish Habitat and Hyporheic Zone Improvement	Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission	\$30,000
4	Great Lakes Piping Plover Habitat Restoration at Presque Isle State Park	Pennsylvania Game Commission	\$63,440
5	Presque Isle Beaches-Bacterial Forecasting Model	Regional Science Consortium at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle	\$124,346
6	Presque Isle Beaches-Bacteria source and role of Cladophora	Regional Science Consortium at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center at Presque Isle	\$145,596
7	Conneaut Creek	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$410,000
8	Joint Venture: Roderick Wildlife Reserve Expansion	Western Pennsylvania Conservancy	\$497,820