

# Great Lakes Restoration at work in Wisconsin



The state of Wisconsin – together with local communities, tribes, nongovernmental organizations and business and industry – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong bipartisan support, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Wisconsin's economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of Wisconsin citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to support their quality of life and economic well-being.

#### The Great Lakes:

#### **A Vital Economic Asset for Wisconsin**

The Great Lakes have profound effects on Wisconsin's environment, culture and quality of life. Lakes Michigan and Superior provide:

- sport fishing opportunities for more than 250,000 anglers, bringing \$252 million to lakeshore communities annually;
- the foundation for a \$3 billion tourism industry in lakeshore counties;
- water vital for manufacturing;
- harbors and marinas that annually support
   a \$9.4 billion recreational boating industry; and
- a maritime transportation network that annually supports the movement of \$7 billion in cargo through Wisconsin ports.

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

### **Investing in Wisconsin'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, business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes, including:

- combating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp;
- cleaning up contaminated sediments in toxic hotspots;
- controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches;
- restoring degraded wetlands; and
- conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife resources.

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

#### **Great Lakes Restoration in Wisconsin**

\$331 million for 416 projects through FY2016

See GLRI projects in Wisconsin and across the region at glrimap.glc.org

## **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 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 up to \$2.3 billion for the Milwaukee metro area alone.

#### **Solving Problems Facing the Great Lakes**

The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve problems facing the Great Lakes. The Wisconsin Great Lakes Strategy, developed in partnership by the Wisconsin DNR, local communities, tribes and non-governmental organizations, outlines actions needed to restore Wisconsin's Great Lakes and their watersheds. Actions include managing water use and water transfers out of the basin; preventing exotic species introductions; cleaning up contaminated sites; controlling pollution from nonpoint sources; promoting beach safety; restoring and protecting habitat and species; eliminating the introduction of persistent bioaccumulative toxins; adopting sustainable development practices; and improving methods for indicators and information.



## See Great Lakes Restoration at Work in Your State, County or Congressional District!

#### glrimap.glc.org

Interactive map showcases Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects



#### **Great Lakes Restoration At Work**

is an interactive map developed by the Great Lakes Commission showcasing nearly 2,200 restoration projects funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in its first seven years, FY 2010-2016. The map allows users to see projects by state, county or congressional district. Projects are fully searchable and can be sorted by title, lead agency, state and other parameters.



#### **Using the Map**

Selecting a project from the table will orient the map to the project site. The project locations may represent a specific site or the watershed in which restoration work is being conducted. In some cases the site is the location of the lead agency.



The map allows users to see the U.S. congressional districts in which projects are located. Selecting a congressional district on the map will show the member of Congress for that district, their website and the percentage of the district within the Great Lakes basin.

For additional background on the GLRI and specific projects, go to <a href="http://www.glri.us">http://www.glri.us</a>.