

Great Lakes Restoration at work in Illinois



The state of Illinois – together with local communities, nongovernmental organizations, business and industry – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong support from Congress and the Administration, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Illinois' economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of Illinois 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 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 6 million residents in Lake and Cook counties;
- drinking water for 7 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 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 Areas of Concern;
- controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches;
- restoring degraded wetlands; and
- conserving and enhancing 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, led by U.S. EPA, 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.

Great Lakes Restoration in Illinois

\$100 million for 88 projects through FY2015

See site-specific projects in Illinois and across the region at projects.glc.org/restore/qlrimap

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 \$7.4 billion to \$13.3 billion for the Chicago metro area alone.

Solving Problems Facing Lake Michigan

The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve problems facing Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline. Multiple local agencies and organizations along the Illinois' shoreline have developed habitat restoration projects that will improve Lake Michigan's environment and leverage it as a resource to generate jobs and enhance economic vitality. Federal, state, and local agencies have focused significant effort and GLRI resources on cleaning up the Waukegan Harbor Area of Concern – contaminated sediments have been cleaned up and three out of six beneficial use impairments have been removed. 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.

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

projects.glc.org/restore/glrimap

Interactive map showcases Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects



Great Lakes Restoration At Work is an interactive map developed by the Great Lakes Commission showcasing more than **1,600 site-specific restoration projects** funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in its first six years, FY 2010-2015. 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. The site emphasizes on-the-ground actions and does not include some projects involving research, monitoring, public education and other broad-scale activities not focused on a specific site.



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 <http://www.glr.us>.