

Great Lakes Restoration at work in Michigan

The state of Michigan – together with local communities, tribal governments, 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 Michigan's economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of Michigan 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 Michigan

The Great Lakes are Michigan's most valuable natural resource and are fundamental to the state's identity and quality of life. The Great Lakes also have extraordinary economic value for Michigan. Despite difficult economic conditions, the last decade saw a 33 percent increase in tourism-related employment in Michigan's coastal counties, generating almost 20,000 new jobs. More broadly, the lakes provide:

- jobs for more than 800,000 Michigan residents;
- a world-renown commercial and sport fishery with an annual value of more than \$4 billion;
- the foundation for a \$12.8 billion travel industry;
- water resources for manufacturing industries, which produce 60 percent of our nation's steel and 60 percent of our automobiles;
- a maritime transportation network; and
- harbors and marinas that support a \$2 billion annual recreational boating industry.

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 Michigan'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

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\$606 million for 760 projects through FY2016 See GLRI projects in Michigan and across the region at glrimap.glc.org

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.

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 \$3.7 billion to \$7 billion for the Detroit metro area alone.

Solving Problems Facing the Great Lakes

The GLRI is accelerating the pace of restoration in the Great Lakes, with a focus on cleaning up highly degraded toxic hotspots, or "Areas of Concern." With investments from the GLRI, two of Michigan's 14 Areas of Concern—White Lake in west Michigan and Deer Lake in the Upper Peninsula—have been cleaned up and removed from the list of Great Lakes toxic hotspots. The GLRI aims to complete cleanup work in seven more areas in coming years. This work is reducing threats to public health, creating recreational opportunities, and strengthening the local economy in Michigan's waterfront communities.



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 http://www.glri.us.