

Palisade Head on Lake Superior  
in Tettegouche State Park near  
Silver Bay, Minnesota



# 2024 Federal Priorities

## Fully fund the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

Appropriate \$450 million to maintain progress in restoring North America's greatest freshwater resource.

## Build a resilient Great Lakes basin

Support federal, tribal, state, and local actions to ensure the economy and environment of the Great Lakes region are resilient to the adverse impacts of a changing climate.

## Comprehensively address harmful algal blooms

Fund conservation programs that reduce nutrient pollution; fund research to expand forecasting and treatment capabilities and understanding of health impacts.

## Fund the Great Lakes Commission to fulfill its unique role in the region

Provide dedicated, sustainable funding to the GLC to fulfill its unique role in the region.

## Ensure equitable access to clean and safe water

Upgrade infrastructure to ensure equitable access to clean and safe water.

## Unlock the potential of the Great Lakes Navigation System

Strengthen the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River navigation system to support safe, efficient, and cost-effective movement of passengers and goods.

## Protect against invasive species

Invest in a comprehensive approach to management that will protect the Great Lakes from aquatic invasive species.

## Support integrated binational science and data collection

Support coordinated regional science and data collection to improve planning and evidence-based decision-making.

These priorities reflect well-established needs and opportunities for strengthening the economic and environmental health of the Great Lakes basin. They enjoy broad support among state and local leaders, business and industry, and the environmental community. **Investing in these priorities will foster a more equitable Great Lakes region, increase economic opportunity, and improve the health of important ecosystems throughout the Great Lakes basin.**





## Crosscutting Great Lakes Programs

- Appropriate no less than \$450 million for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in FY 2025, as authorized by the *Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act of 2019*. **These funds should be in addition to the supplemental \$200 million for FY 2024 included in the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)*.**
- Reauthorize the GLRI for an additional five years at \$500 million per year.
- Ensure full funding and maximize utilization of regional collaborative efforts under the GLRI, including the Great Lakes Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) Collaborative, Invasive Mussel Collaborative, Great Lakes *Phragmites* Collaborative, and European Frog-bit Collaborative.
- Appropriate \$5 million to the GLC in FY 2025 so it has adequate resources and capacity to: ensure states and the federal government are coordinated and communicating on the implementation of important federal and regional programs; track the region's progress toward shared goals for the Great Lakes; and proactively identify and advance priorities for congressional and federal agency action.
- Fund crosscutting planning efforts to coordinate and develop regional science and data collection in the Great Lakes, including the International Joint Commission decadal science plan and the U.S. Geological Survey science plan.
- Ensure science funding is adequately allocated to support Great Lakes science and data gathering, regional observing systems and recapitalization of science vessels.
- Amend U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project partnership agreement (PPA) requirements to harmonize nonfederal sponsor obligations with established cost sharing percentages. This includes limiting the duration of operations, maintenance, repair, replacement and rehabilitation (OMRR&R) obligations and making indemnification proportional to cost-sharing responsibilities. USACE should also be required to secure necessary state permits for projects.

## Resilient Great Lakes Basin

- Ensure funding for federal forecasting and modeling for lake level variability, extreme storm events, precipitation, and flooding impacts on the Great Lakes basin.
- Ensure federal grants for coastal resilience projects provide dedicated funding to the Great Lakes region. These grants should support technical assistance, coastal resilience planning, and mitigation in both high- and low-water conditions, and nonfederal cost-sharing requirements should be minimized to assist smaller and disadvantaged communities.
- Increase funding for nature-based solutions in upstream areas that store water and mitigate the effects of extreme storm events.
- Fully fund the Federal Priority Streamgauge (FPS) program, which collects and provides data crucial to understand, plan for, and build collective capacity to improve the nation's resilience to extreme weather events.

## Clean and Safe Water

- Reauthorize the Harmful Algal Bloom Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act (HABHRCA) to comprehensively address Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs).
  - Increase funding for development of mitigation and treatment technologies to address HABs in freshwater systems.
  - Accelerate research into HAB dynamics, including early detection and forecasting of potential toxicity of blooms.
  - Fund research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to increase understanding of the human health effects of HABs.
- Enact a five-year Farm Bill in 2024 that funds conservation programs that reduce the nutrient pollution leading to HABs.
  - Increase funding for programs and projects that restore natural systems, which slow the flow of nutrient-laden water.
  - Instruct federal agencies to coordinate and collaborate with states that are working on constructed or restored wetland systems to increase efficacy and reduce potential duplication of efforts.
  - Appropriate regular annual funding for Farm Bill programs in addition to funds provided through the Inflation Reduction Act.
  - Direct USDA and NRCS to coordinate with states to ensure conservation and nutrient reduction practices are implemented in areas that will have the greatest impact.
- Prioritize projects funded by the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds that improve water quality in historically underrepresented areas.
- Prohibit usage of Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds for congressionally directed spending (CDS). States should be allowed to utilize SRF funding according to intended use plans. CDS for water projects should be funded through a separate appropriation.
- Implement U.S. EPA's PFAS Action Plan; establish a federal drinking water standard for PFAS; and support efforts to improve monitoring, detection, and coordination between state and federal agencies to clean up PFAS pollution from former military bases and other sources.
- Fund specific research to better understand and target reductions and remediation of the highest risk sources and forms of mercury contamination, and how climate stressors may impact mercury pollution and exposure in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River region.

## Sustainable and Equitable Water Use

- Provide grants to states to improve water use data collection and reporting programs.
- Fully fund the Secure Water Title (Title F) of P.L. 111-11 to assure the continued protection of the freshwater resources of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River.

## Safe and Reliable Waterways

- Appropriate \$500 million for the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP). These funds should be in addition to the supplemental \$450 million for FY 2025 included in the *IIJA*. The Great Lakes region should receive an equitable share of grant funds.
- Appropriate \$55 million for construction of a new heavy icebreaker for the Great Lakes and maintenance of existing icebreaking vessels.
- Congress should provide an exemption to the Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) for non-bulk cargo transported between U.S. ports and between Canada and the U.S. in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River navigation system to enable short sea shipping on the Great Lakes.
- Appropriate funds to address the shallow draft and recreational harbor dredging backlog. These funds should be in addition to the funding currently allocated to address the dredging backlog related to deep draft commercial harbors.
- Provide funding through the Great Lakes and Lake Champlain Invasive Species Program to assist in development of measures and treatment technologies that can be implemented by the Great Lakes fleet to minimize the risk of aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread.
- Appropriate funds and provide direction to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to dedicate adequate resources to facilitate movement of cargo and passengers on the U.S./Canada border, including timely clearance of containerized cargo in Great Lakes ports.

## Healthy Aquatic Ecosystems

- Authorize the Brandon Road Project at full federal expense, including construction, OMRR&R, and nonstructural measures.
- Fund essential AIS programs including regional panels and state management plans established under the National Invasive Species Act, the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's sea lamprey control program, and the Invasive Carp Action Plan.
- Continue to fund U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service AIS surveillance activities through the Great Lakes Aquatic Invasive Species Early Detection program.

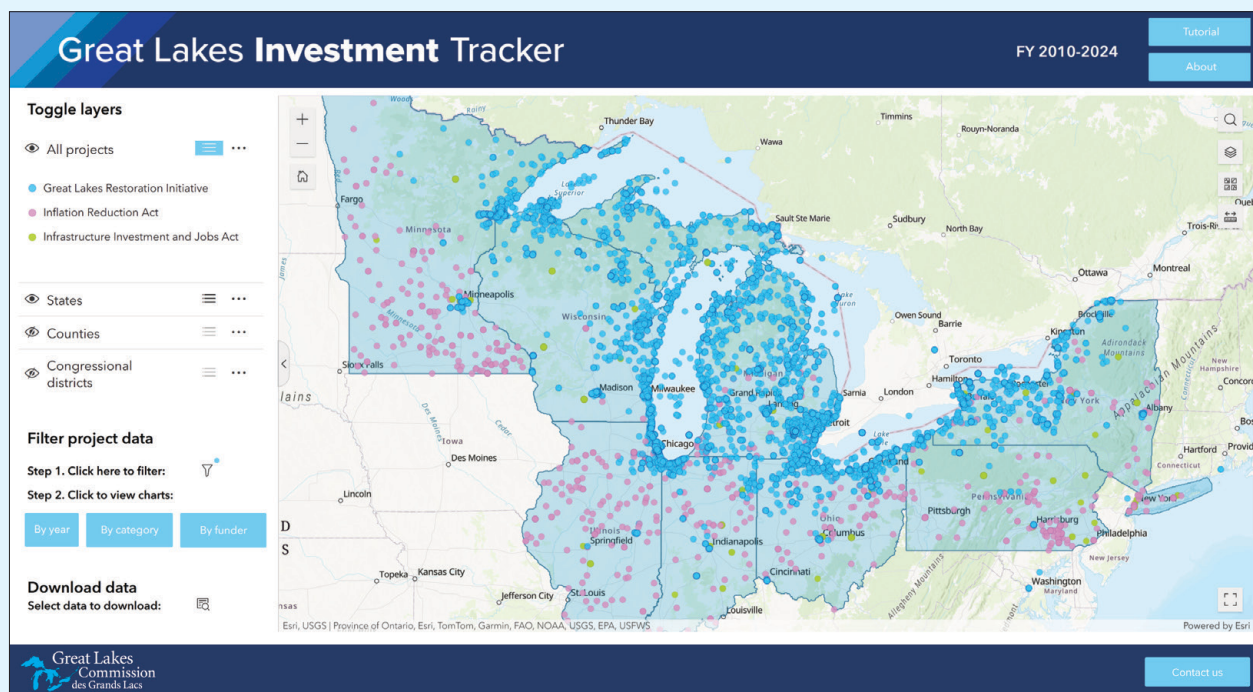


# Great Lakes Investment Tracker

Ice on the shore of Lake Erie near Cleveland, Ohio

The **Great Lakes Investment Tracker** is an interactive mapping application developed by the Great Lakes Commission to showcase federally-funded projects in Great Lakes states. The app maps and categorizes projects funded through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). Users can see what projects have benefited a specific area, sort by features including funding amount and lead agency, export project data for their own use, and download a summary report for any state, county, or congressional district.

Visit the **Great Lakes Investment Tracker** at [investments.glc.org](https://investments.glc.org)



**About the Great Lakes Commission** The Great Lakes Commission is a binational government agency established in 1955 to protect the Great Lakes and the economies and ecosystems they support. Its membership includes leaders from the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes basin. The GLC recommends policies and practices to balance the use, development, and conservation of the water resources of the Great Lakes and brings the region together to work on issues that no single community, state, province, or nation can tackle alone.



1300 Victors Way, Suite 1350, Ann Arbor, MI 48108-5203  
Contacts: Erika Jensen, [ejensen@glc.org](mailto:ejensen@glc.org); Eric Brown, [ebrown@glc.org](mailto:ebrown@glc.org)  
734-971-9135 [www.glc.org](http://www.glc.org) MARCH 2024  
[facebook.com/greatlakescommission](https://facebook.com/greatlakescommission) [@GLCommission](https://twitter.com/GLCommission)