



The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative: Creating Jobs and Revitalizing Communities



- The Great Lakes provide the backbone for a **\$5 trillion regional economy**. They directly generate more than **1.5 million jobs and \$60 billion in wages annually**.
- With strong bipartisan support and a proven record of success, the **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** is creating jobs and revitalizing struggling communities across the eight-state Great Lakes region.
- The bipartisan GLRI was formally authorized by Congress in 2016 at \$300 million for five years. It is **very much a collaboration** among multiple federal agencies, the Great Lakes states, local communities and businesses.
- GLRI is the **most important line of defense against Asian carp**, with six million pounds of Asian carp trapped and removed from the Illinois River – an important pathway to Lake Michigan – helping to protect the **\$7 billion Great Lakes fishing economy**.
- GLRI is helping **protect drinking water for 48 million people** by working with farmers to prevent polluted runoff that can cause algae blooms. In 2014, a toxic bloom cut off access to clean drinking water for more than 500,000 people. Blooms also threaten Lake Erie’s critical **\$12.9 billion tourism industry**.
- GLRI is **accelerating cleanup of Great Lakes toxic hotspots**. Work in one of these hotspots in Muskegon, Michigan, is projected to increase property values by nearly \$12 million, contribute \$600,000 in new tax revenues annually, and attract 65,000 new visitors, generating more than \$1 million in new recreational spending. In another city benefiting from a GLRI-led cleanup, an old industrial site is being repurposed as a solar manufacturing plant, bringing jobs back and revitalizing waterfront areas.
- The GLRI is cleaning up a **legacy of toxic sediments** in waterfront areas. Cleanups are underway at 16 sites in six states, with more sites being investigated. **Nearly \$100 million is needed in FY 2018 and 2019** to implement these cleanups, which are projected to leverage more than \$100 million from non-federal partners.
- Communities across the Great Lakes region are benefiting from economic recovery and re-investment thanks to the GLRI. Full implementation of the initiative is projected to generate **\$50 billion in long-term economic benefits for the region and a 2-1 return on investment**.

Thanks to the GLRI, environmental cleanup in communities across the Great Lakes basin
is paving the way for regional economic revitalization.