



LITTLE RAPIDS RESTORATION PROJECT

ST. MARYS RIVER | SAULT STE. MARIE, MI

The **St. Marys River** is a unique body of water connecting Lake Superior and Lake Huron with a binational channel. In 1987, the St. Marys River was designated as an **Area of Concern** by the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in part due to the loss of fish and wildlife habitat and damage to native populations.

The **Little Rapids Restoration Project** was designed to address fish and wildlife habitat concerns. By restoring historic flows to the area, rapids habitat increased by approximately 70 acres. This has **significantly improved habitat** for trout, salmon, walleye, lake herring, lake sturgeon, whitefish and the aquatic invertebrates and forage fish they feed on. The project also resulted in the following:

- 1 Removal of the causeway that blocked natural water flow
- 2 Construction of a bridge that restored free flow of water to historic rapids
- 3 Improved aquatic connection and fish passage in the Little Rapids area
- 4 Better fishing, recreation, and tourism opportunities for the community
- 5 Potential removal of the Area of Concern designation

Continued monitoring and stewardship of the restored rapids will ensure that they can be enjoyed by generations to come. This project is the result of decades of effort by dedicated people from many walks of life. The following partners were critical in completing this project:

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ■ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ■
Great Lakes Commission ■ Chippewa County Road Commission ■ Eastern Upper Peninsula
Regional Planning and Development Commission ■ Lake Superior State University ■
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality ■ St. Marys River Binational Public Advisory Council ■
Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority ■ Michigan Office of the Great Lakes ■ Michigan Department
of Natural Resources ■ St. Marys River Fisheries Task Group ■ Sault Area Sportsmen's Club ■
Edison Sault Electric/Cloverland Electric ■ Sault Tribe of Chippewa Indians ■
Bay Mills Indian Community ■ Chippewa County ■ Sugar Island Township and Residents ■
St. Marys Sportsmen's Club ■ Chippewa/Luce/Mackinac Conservation District

This project was funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative through the NOAA-Great Lakes Commission Areas of Concern Regional Partnership

