

The state of New York – 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 bipartisan support, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve New York's economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of New York 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 New York

The Great Lakes are among New York's most valuable natural resources and have extraordinary economic value for the state. Over 700 miles of shoreline and 42 percent of New York's surface area fall within the Great Lakes basin. New Yorkers use the lakes and the St. Lawrence River for drinking water, recreation, power generation, agriculture and transportation. New York's Great Lakes provide:

- Drinking water for over four million New York residents;
- a sport fishery valued at more than \$2.27 billion that generates nearly 12,000 jobs;
- the foundation for a multi-million dollar tourism industry in the New York Seaway Trail region;
- a vital water resource for hydropower generation and manufacturing industries;
- a maritime transportation system that generates 2000 jobs and more than \$400 million in economic activity; and
- recreational boating opportunities that contribute over \$600 million a year to New York's economy.

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 New York'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 supported by sound science and guided by an Action Plan with detailed performance goals and clear accountability

Great Lakes Restoration in New York

\$198 million for 338 projects through FY2017

See GLRI projects in New York and across the region at glrimap.glc.org

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.

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 up to \$1.1 billion for the Buffalo metro area alone.

Solving Problems Facing the Great Lakes

New York's Great Lakes restoration efforts are guided by both the federal GLRI Action Plan and New York's interim Great Lakes Action Agenda (GLAA), an evolving planning tool that integrates state resources with the GLRI and other initiatives. The GLAA facilitates collaborative, science-based decision-making among federal, state and local agencies, organizations and stakeholders. It also supports efforts to promote citizen engagement and stewardship to ensure the long-term conservation of New York's precious Great Lakes resources.



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 2,600 restoration projects funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in its first eight years, FY 2010-2017. 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 <u>http://www.glri.us</u>.