



MARCH 2018

Great Lakes Restoration at work

in Ohio



The state of Ohio – together with local communities, tribes, 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 Ohio's economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of Ohio 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: Vital Economic Assets

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. The lake provides water for drinking and industry, shipping goods and commodities, commercial and sport fishing, and water-borne transportation and recreation. Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spent more than \$14.1 billion in 2015. Approximately 124,000 northern Ohio jobs are directly linked to Lake Erie, and tourism in the region generates \$1.8 billion in state and local taxes. The Lake Erie region also contributes to:

- exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities that annually attract an estimated 1.5 million hunters and anglers who spend \$2 billion;
- a recreational boating industry that supports more than 19,500 jobs with an economic impact of \$3.6 billion annually;
- maritime shipping operations that generate more than 28,000 jobs, \$2.1 billion in personal income and \$3 billion in business revenue; and
- drinking water for 3 million Ohio residents.

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 Ohio's Waterfront Communities

Investments through the GLRI provide significant benefits to Ohio's waterfront communities. For example, Great Lakes Legacy Act projects clean up contaminated sediments from harbors. GLRI funds have restored fish habitat along the Ashtabula and Cuyahoga river urban waterfronts, advancing the delisting of these Areas of Concern. Other projects are protecting public health by tracking and reporting beach health in urban areas, and reducing the impacts of urban storm water on local rivers and streams and near-shore areas of Lake Erie.

The GLRI is guided by an Action Plan with detailed performance goals and clear accountability standards. An interagency task force, led by U.S. EPA, is coordinating federal efforts and directing funding to states, cities and nongovernmental groups that are best able to address local restoration priorities.

Great Lakes Restoration in Ohio

\$246 million for 334 projects through FY2017

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

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. NOAA's *Economic: National Ocean Watch* program provides data on how coastal, ocean and Great Lakes economies impact the states. This shows that Ohio's maritime economy is responsible for over \$2 billion in GDP annually, more than one billion dollars in wages and tens of thousands of jobs. For example, in Erie County, Ohio 95% of the GDP, with a value of \$202 million in 2013, is related to tourism. In Cuyahoga County, 30% of the GDP, with a value \$231 million in 2013, is related to marine transportation.

Solving Problems Facing Lake Erie

The GLRI supports state and local efforts to solve problems facing Lake Erie. This includes actions to prevent harmful algal blooms which, in August 2014, contaminated drinking water for close to half million people near Toledo, Ohio. The GLRI is part of a multi-faceted, multi-year collaborative approach to reduce discharges and runoff that contribute to nuisance and toxic algal blooms. The GLRI is directing significant funding to federal, state and local agencies to detect and respond to algal blooms; enable farmers to reduce nutrient runoff; and measure nutrient levels in tributaries to Lake Erie. The Maumee River watershed is also designated as one of three priority watersheds targeted for funding to reduce nutrient runoff. The GLRI will continue to target resources to prevent algal blooms and safeguard drinking water in western Lake Erie and other parts of the Great Lakes.

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: Projects

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.



Using the Map: Congressional Districts

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.glr.us>.