

MARCH 2013

Great Lakes Restoration at work in Illinois



The state of Illinois – 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 support from Congress and the Administration, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Illinois' economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Illinois and showcases selected restoration projects now underway.

The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Illinois

Illinois' 63-mile stretch of Lake Michigan shoreline is among the state's most valuable natural and cultural resources, and has extraordinary economic value. Lake Michigan provides

- a coastal home to 6 million residents in Lake and Cook counties;
- drinking water for 7 million Illinois residents;
- a tourism industry that brings 20 million people to the Lake Michigan shoreline each year;
- recreation opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming that generate \$3.2 billion annually and support 33,000 jobs; and
- a maritime transportation network linking the nation's heartland to world markets.

As these figures show, cleaning up the Great Lakes isn't just about correcting mistakes of the past, but of leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

Investing in Illinois' 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, and business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes:

- Combating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp
- Cleaning up contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern
- Controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches
- Restoring degraded wetlands
- Conserving and enhancing valuable fish and wildlife resources

The GLRI is supported by sound science and 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 a majority of funding to states, cities and nongovernmental groups that are best able to address local restoration priorities.



See reverse for details on projects underway in Illinois

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 \$7.4 billion to \$13.3 billion for the Chicago metro area alone.

Solving Problems Facing Lake Michigan

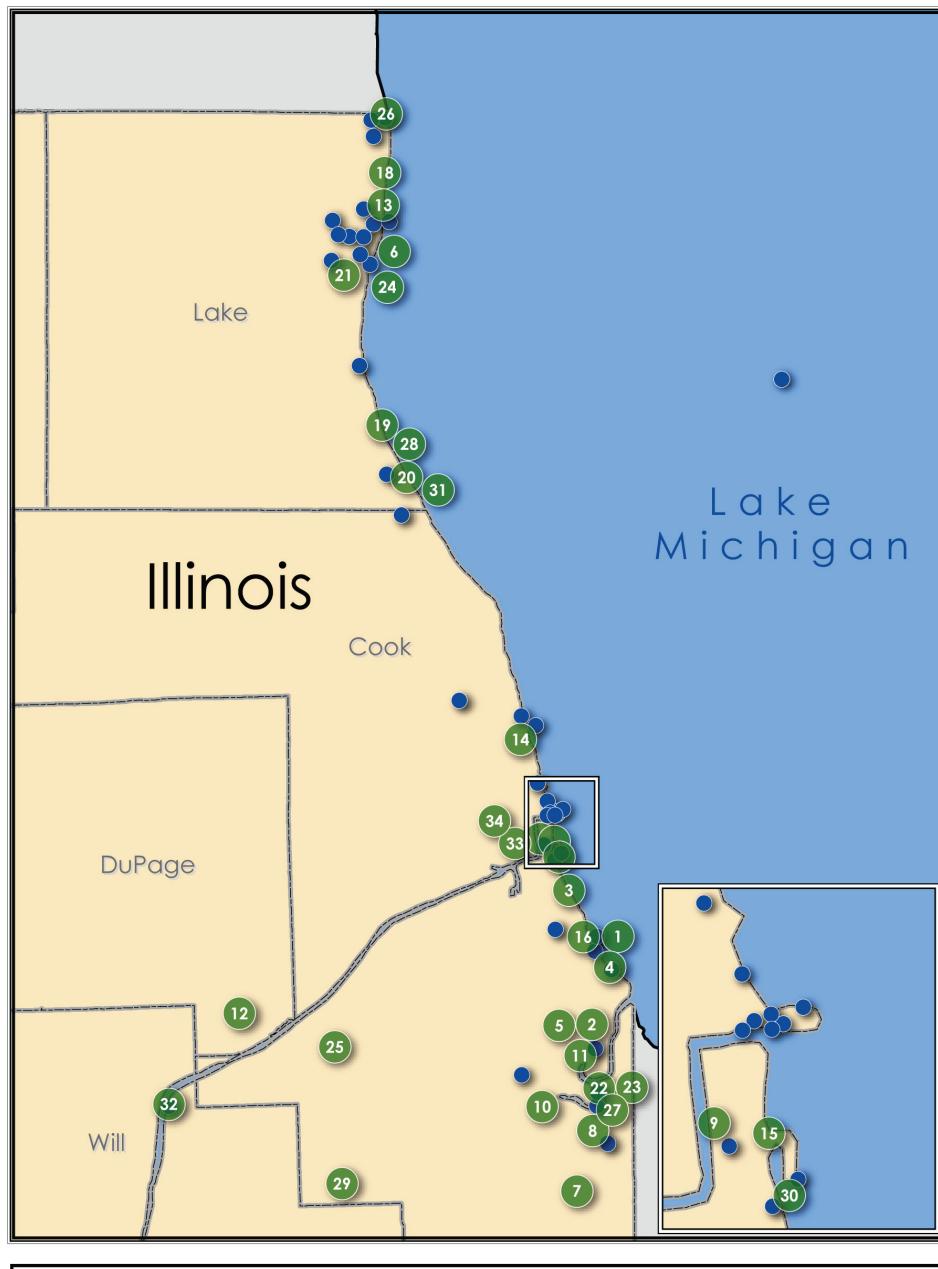
The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve problems facing Illinois' Lake Michigan shoreline. State agencies have collaborated with the City of Chicago and other partners to develop restoration projects that will improve Lake Michigan's environment and leverage it as a resource to generate jobs and enhance economic vitality. State and local entities in Illinois have been highly successful in securing funding under the GLRI and are preparing additional restoration projects for future funding.

Great Lakes Restoration in Illinois

The GLRI is well underway in Illinois, with more than \$70 million coming into the state to implement 75 local and on-the-ground restoration projects in the first three years, FY 2010-2012. This federal support is leveraging substantial resources from state and local governments. Restoration projects funded in fiscal year 2012 are featured on the map below and more details are provided in the attached table. In addition to these site specific projects, Illinois will also benefit from funding for broad-scale projects and activities that are underway under the GLRI that will strengthen restoration efforts across the region:

- **Engineering and design** of sustainable restoration projects, new technologies to detect bacterial contamination, and techniques to monitor invasive species.
- **Pollution prevention** to keep the Great Lakes clean, prevent beach contamination, safeguard investments in restoration and prevent polluted runoff from agricultural land and city streets.
- **Outreach** to engage citizens in restoration efforts; promote best practices to prevent the introduction of invasive species; improve fish consumption and beach advisories; and keep pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants out of the lakes.
- **Monitoring** of mercury pollution to protect children's health; beaches to enhance swim advisories; and Great Lakes water and wildlife to detect contaminants.
- **Research to strengthen management**, including on control methods for invasive species such as Asian carp, Phragmites and sea lamprey; preventing the introduction of invasive species in ballast water; enhancing knowledge of the Great Lakes ecosystem; protecting endangered species; identifying habitat for sensitive species; and understanding climate change impacts.
- **Capacity building** to help states and local governments implement restoration projects, improve collaboration, and educate health care providers about fish consumption advisories.
- **Sound science and accountability** to ensure that funds are spent effectively and that the GLRI reflects a strong, science-based understanding of the Great Lakes.

These activities will benefit the next generation of Illinois citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to improve their quality of life and economic well-being.



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in Illinois

Selected Restoration Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 2012

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Organization or Lead Agency	GLRI Award Amount	Fiscal Year
1	South Shore Park Nature Sanctuary	Chicago Park District	\$27,000	2012
2	Big Marsh Wetland Phytoremediation	Chicago Park District	\$190,236	2012
3	Burnham Wildlife Corridor	Chicago Park District	\$370,870	2012
4	Stormwater Filter at Rainbow Beach	Chicago Park District	\$500,000	2012
5	CIMBY Gets WET	Chicago Public Schools, District #299	\$94,340	2012
6	EAB Waukegan Harbor	Delta Institute	\$250,000	2012
7	Thornton-Lansing Road Habitat Restoration Project	Forest Preserve District of Cook County	\$100,000	2012
8	Restoring and Connecting Natural and Human Communities in Calumet	Forest Preserve District of Cook County	\$365,000	2012
9	Chicago River Schools Network	Friends of the Chicago River	\$44,500	2012
10	Millennium Reserve- Calumet River Corridor Green Infrastructure	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$300,000	2012
11	Green Corps Invasive Species Removal Jobs in the Millennium Reserve	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$396,380	2012
12	Asian Carp Control Strategy Framework Support, Projects, and Action Items	Illinois Department of Natural Resources	\$20,523,612	2010, 2011, 2012
13	Coastal Wetlands Restoration Project for Species of Concern	Lake County Forest Preserve District	\$874,081	2012
14	Non-Native Invasive Plant Species Control	Northeastern Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership	\$180,000	2010, 2011, 2012
15	Education/Outreach to public on invasive species control	Shedd Aquarium, Chicago, IL	\$55,000	2012
16	GLFER - Jackson Park, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$25,000	2012
17	GLFER - Sauk Lake Dam, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000	2012
18	CAP 204 - Illinois Beach State Park, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$50,000	2012
19	GLFER - Ft. Sheridan Coastal, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$92,000	2012
20	GLFER - Millard Park, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$164,000	2011, 2012
21	GLFER - Bonnie Brook, Waukegan, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$187,000	2011, 2012
22	GLFER - Hegewisch Marsh, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$250,000	2012
23	GLFER - Powderhorn Lake, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$270,000	2011, 2012
24	"Strategic" Navigation Dredging - Waukegan Harbor, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$309,000	2011, 2012
25	GLFER - Saganashkee Slough, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$579,000	2011, 2012
26	GLFER - Zion Beach & Ridge, IL/WI	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$864,000	2010, 2011, 2012
27	GLFER - Burnham Prairie, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$1,162,000	2010, 2011, 2012
28	GLFER - Lake County Ravine #8	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$1,312,000	2011, 2012
29	GLFER - Orland Tract Perimeter, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$1,846,689	2010, 2011, 2012
30	GLFER - Northerly Island, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$2,855,000	2011, 2012
31	GLFER - Rosewood Park, IL	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$4,919,911	2010, 2011, 2012
32	SA - CSSC Dispersal Barrier, IL - IA	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	\$9,460,500	2010, 2011, 2012
33	Medical Screening to Predict Elevated Prenatal Mercury Levels	University of Illinois-Chicago	\$192,258	2012
34	Great Lakes Sediment Surveillance Program	University of Illinois-Chicago	\$1,330,508	2010, 2011, 2012

An **interactive map** featuring Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects funded in fiscal years 2010 through 2012 is available at www.glc.org/restore.