

Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

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Great Lakes
RESTORATION



What is the GLRI?

- Started in 2010
- **Non-regulatory** program devoted to protecting the world's largest system of fresh surface water
- A catalyst for unprecedented agency cooperation
- Over 8,000 projects totaling over \$4 billion



*Every GLRI dollar spent leads to
\$3.35 of additional economic
activity.*

GLRI Action Plan

- Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern
 - AOCs, fish consumption education, contaminant monitoring
- Focus Area 2: Invasive Species
 - Invasive species control, early detection, rapid-response, and prevention
- Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution
 - Agricultural nutrients, stormwater runoff, riparian buffers and wetlands
- Focus Area 4: Habitat & Species
 - Habitat restoration and aquatic connectivity
- Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration Actions
 - Experience-based education and lake-wide monitoring and planning



GLRI Successes

-  Removed 120 Beneficial Use Impairments (130 total removed).
-  Delisted 6 AOCs (7 total delisted).
-  Taken actions to keep self-sustaining populations of Invasive Carp out of the Great Lakes from the Illinois River.
-  Prevented more than 2.5 million pounds of phosphorus from entering the Great Lakes.
-  Protected and restored over 529,000 acres of habitats.

Focus Area 1: Toxic Substances & Areas of Concern

Spirit Lake Sediment Remediation



Aerial view of Spirit Lake project features, including new shallow sheltered bay, delta upland cap and the upland confined disposal facility.

Cascade Valley Metro Park – Valley View Area Restoration Project



View of the Cuyahoga River flowing through restored habitat in Cascade Valley View.

Focus Area 2: Invasive Species

Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe Continues Invasive Species Control to Protect Wild Rice



Manoomin (wild rice) is native to the Great Lakes and culturally significant to Tribes.

Image: Michigan Sea Grant

Preventing Invasive Carp from entering the Great Lakes through the Illinois River



Sampling for Invasive Carp on the Illinois River.

Image: Ryan Hagerty, USFWS

Focus Area 3: Nonpoint Source Pollution

Stopping Stormwater Runoff to Lake Superior



The project rerouted storm drain discharge from Lake Superior (left) to wetland plantings (right), where it is filtered.

Healthy Soil Improves Profitability



The first time Roger Karrels of Lake Breeze Farms planted corn no-till into a standing cover crop.

Focus Area 4: Habitats & Species

Piping Plover Numbers Rising in the Great Lakes



A banded piping plover chick.

Image: Joel Trick, USFWS

Lakeview Wildlife Management Area Restoration Project



Aerial photo of the Lakeview Wildlife Management Area project site post-restoration.

Image: NYSDEC

Focus Area 5: Foundations for Future Restoration Actions

EPA Great Lakes Monitoring Programs Protect Water Quality



The EPA's Research Vessel *Lake Guardian* sampling in Lake Huron.

Addressing Harmful Algal Blooms in Lake Erie



HABs in Lake Erie seen from an aerial perspective.

Funding Opportunities

- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
 - Sustain our Great Lakes, Chi-Cal Rivers Partnership, Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund, Conservation Partners Program
- USEPA GLRI Notices of Funding Opportunity
- US Forest Service
 - Cooperative Weed Management Areas; Invasive Species Control; Nonpoint Source; Habitat Restoration
- Great Lakes Commission - Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program
- US Fish and Wildlife Service – Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Community- and State-driven nearshore habitat; Fish Habitat Restoration

Great Lakes Community Projects Grant Program

- Restore America's Estuaries – Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program
- Buffalo-Niagara Waterkeeper – Western New York Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program
- Ohio Lake Erie Commission – Ohio's Lake Erie Community Grant Program
- Southeast Michigan Counsel of Governments – Southeast Michigan Great Lakes Restoration Community Grant Program
- Alliance for the Great Lakes - Southern Lake Michigan Watershed Partnerships Community Grant Program

Questions?

Federal Partners

