



# Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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**Background:** The Great Lakes watershed, spanning over 94,000 square miles, is the largest freshwater system on earth, accounting for 20% of the world's freshwater supply and making the Great Lakes an invaluable international resource. Over the past two centuries, actions throughout the Great Lakes basin have resulted in substantial environmental degradation, which negatively affects fisheries, the ecosystem, beneficial uses, and the economies of Great Lakes states. The Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration Program (GLFER) is a program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) designed to improve the health of the more than 60 million-acre Great Lakes by implementing a series of relatively small projects to provide fishery and environmental restoration across the Great Lakes watershed.

**Authority:** Authorized under Section 506 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000, as amended, GLFER is a full-service program to plan, design, and construct projects that restore ecosystems across the large landscape of the Great Lakes watershed. The GLFER program is implemented in partnership with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission, which coordinates the review of project proposals by state, tribal and federal agency representatives. Individual projects require a non-Federal partner(s) to provide 35% of project costs (including all lands, easements, rights-of-way, relocations and disposal) and to operate and maintain the completed projects. State, tribal, and local agencies, as well as non-profit and private interests are eligible to sponsor GLFER projects.

**Opportunities:** A wide range of projects are being implemented under this program, including restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat on public lands, parks, and preserves, dam removal to re-establish free flowing rivers, fish passage over existing structures, improving spawning and nursery habitat, restoration of coastal habitat along the Great Lakes shorelines, and structures to control the invasive sea lamprey. A partial listing of completed and active GLFER projects is provided on the attached table.

**Funding:** Base funding for the GLFER program is through annual Energy & Water (E&W) Appropriations. Over \$18 million funding has been appropriated since Fiscal Year (FY) 2002 from this source, including \$2.822M E&W funding provided in FY2022. Approximately \$75 million funding has been provided for GLFER projects from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) since FY2010. Optimal funding for GLFER projects would be \$15 million in FY2024 and \$15 million in FY2025.

**Status:** 26 GLFER projects are completed or currently under construction, including four projects that were studied/designed under the GLFER authority, but implemented via other means. These projects have restored over 1,400 acres of high-quality fish spawning and juvenile recruitment habitat, and reconnected over 580 miles of stream habitat critical for aquatic species and fisheries in the Great Lakes Basin. Approximately 25 additional GLFER projects are in the planning or design phase.

**Points of Contact:** Contact the following USACE POCs for GLFER support in these states:

**NY, PA and OH**

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More information regarding the GLFER program can be found at:

<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Home/Great-Lakes-Fishery-Ecosystem-Restoration-Program/>

## Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) - Selected<sup>1</sup> Restoration Projects

<b>Project Location</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Construction Status</b>	<b>Project Benefits</b>
63 <sup>rd</sup> Street Dune/Beach, Chicago	IL	Completed	Restored 21 acres of coastal, dune, beach, and fish habitat in urban park along Lake Michigan shoreline
Red Mill Pond, LaPorte County	IN	Completed	Protected and restored 160 acres of wetlands and stream habitat in association with a dam removal
Chautauqua Creek, Chautauqua County	NY	Completed	Removed two dams to restore fishery passage on Lake Erie tributary
Burnham Prairie, Burnham	IL	Completed	Restored 93 acres of marsh, sedge meadow, savanna, and wet prairie habitat in an urban area
Orland Perimeter, Cook County	IL	Completed	Restored 275 acres of aquatic habitat and oak savannah habitat in an urban forest preserve
Frankenmuth Dam, Cass River	MI	Completed	Restored fishery access to 1,765 miles of river and spawning habitat in Saginaw Bay tributary
Calumet Prairie/Ivanhoe, Lake County	IN	Completed	Restored over 194 acres of rare wet sand prairie, savanna and wetlands in an Area of Concern
Little Calumet Riparian, Porter County	IN	Completed	Restored 42 acres of floodplain forest in an urban corridor in northwest Indiana
Boardman River Dams, Traverse City	MI	Completed	Removed 3 dams, restored 8 miles of cold-water stream and reconnected 211 miles of aquatic habitat to Lake Michigan
Underwood Creek, Milwaukee	WI	Completed	Restored river habitat and function in one mile of concrete-lined channel adjacent to Area of Concern
Northerly Island, Chicago	IL	Completed	Constructed 40 acres of savanna, wet prairie, marsh and lake habitat along the Lake Michigan shoreline
Rosewood Park, Highland Park	IL	Completed	Restored 7 acre beach, dune and ravine habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline
Jackson Park, Chicago	IL	Completed	Restored 155 acres of marsh, pond, sedge meadow, and savannah habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline
Lake County Ravine 8, Lake County	IL	Completed	Restored and protected 8 acres of rare ravine and near-shore habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline
Clinton River Mouth, Macomb County	MI	Completed	Restored 11 acres of wetlands and 4 acres of coastal habitat at the confluence with Lake St. Clair
Harpersfield Sea Lamprey Barrier, Geneva	OH	Completed	Constructed barrier to control sea lamprey populations on 1,266 miles of the Grand River and its tributaries
Elkhart Dam, Elkhart	IN	Completed	Restored fishery passage to over 47 miles in the Elkhart River, a tributary to the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan
Ft. Sheridan Coastal/Reefs Lake County	IL	Completed	Restored 200 acres of coastal, beach and bluff habitat and offshore reefs along Lake Michigan shoreline
Jeorse Park Beach, East Chicago	IN	Completed	Restored 25 ac. near shore habitat and reestablish native plants along 14 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline
River Riparian, Chicago	IL	Completed	Restored 2 miles of riverine habitat and improving connectivity along the North Branch Chicago River
Port Clinton Coastal Port Clinton	OH	Completed	Rehabilitated 18 acres of coastal wetland habitat, including removal of invasive species.
E. AuGres River Sea Lamprey Trap	MI	Under Construction	Enhance spawning phase assessment, capture and removal of invasive Sea Lamprey on the E. AuGres River

<sup>1</sup> Partial listing. Approximately 25 GLFER restoration projects (not listed) are currently in the planning or design phase.