

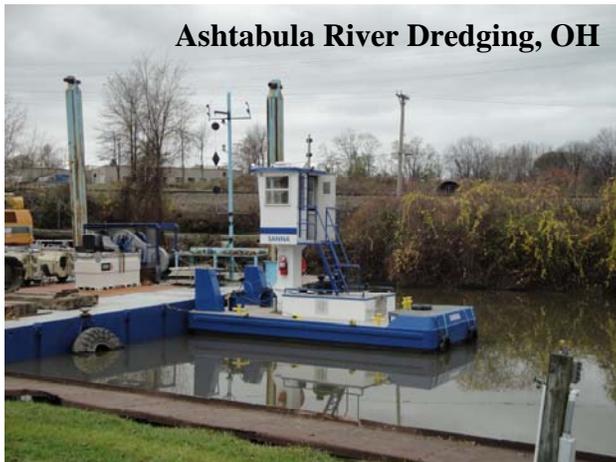


Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Overview: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is one of 16 Federal agencies that are supporting the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Ten restoration projects have been completed or are under construction with funding from this Administration's initiative for the restoration of the Great Lakes ecosystem. This fact sheet will briefly describe the restoration projects



that the USACE is building in collaboration with states and local partners and those planned for construction with future GLRI funding. Projects are presented under the Focus Areas identified in the GLRI Action Plan.

Toxic Substance and Areas of Concern:

The USACE has worked closely with the EPA to remove contaminated sediments from Areas of Concern (AOCs) through a combination of navigation dredging and EPA's Legacy Act authority. The USACE has already removed over 800,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from the River

Raisin, Buffalo River, and Ashtabula River (shown above) AOCs with navigation and GLRI funding. The USACE is also preparing to remove an additional 100,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments at the Waukegan Harbor AOC.

The USACE is also helping state and local agencies plan and design restoration projects at Great Lakes Areas under the Corps' Remedial Action Plan support program with a combination of GLRI and base funding. Technical assistance is currently being provided to eight AOCs.

Habitat and Wildlife Protection and Restoration

The USACE has completed or started construction of six projects with GLRI funds that are restoring over 560 acres of habitat and 8,000 feet of shoreline. These projects are constructed under the Corps' Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) authority. Several of these projects are restoring aquatic habitat in or near urban areas, like the project on the Lake Michigan shoreline at 63rd Street in Chicago (shown on right).

The USACE is scheduled to start construction on three additional habitat restoration projects in 2013 with GLRI funding, including a fishery passage around a dam on the Grand River in Michigan. A dozen more habitat restoration projects will be ready for construction in 2014, if funding is available.



Invasive Species: The first project constructed with GLRI funding was a 13-mile long physical barrier (right) in between the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal and the DesPlaines River in Illinois to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from bypassing the electric barriers during flooding conditions.



In 2013, the USACE will start construction of the first of several projects in the battle against another aquatic invader, the sea lamprey. A barrier to prevent the sea lamprey from migrating upstream and spawning will be constructed on the Manistique River in Michigan. Ten other sea lamprey control projects are being planned and designed.

In 2012, the USACE started construction of a project in Buffalo, NY to demonstrate and compare different approaches for eradicating a highly invasive aquatic plant, called Phragmites.



Nearshore Health and Nonpoint Source Pollution: The largest GLRI-funded project the USACE is constructing is at the Fox River/Green Bay AOC in Wisconsin. The Cat Island project (left) will re-create a series of barrier islands that restore and protect over 1,200 acres of coastal wetlands and provide a facility for disposal of 2 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments. Additional projects for restoring nearshore and coastal ecosystems are being readied for construction in 2014-15.

GLRI is supplementing the USACE base funding for the Great Lakes Tributary Model program which is developing watershed models and other tools to help state and local agencies compare the effectiveness of options for soil conservation and nonpoint source pollution prevention in Great Lakes tributaries. These tools are also being used to measure the progress being made by GLRI funding.

Accountability, Education, Monitoring, Evaluation, Communication and Partnerships: The USACE is working in collaboration with the International St. Lawrence River Board and Lake Ontario LaMP to develop monitoring systems and models to support real-time water management decisions that can restore and enhance wetlands in Lake Ontario.

Summary: The USACE is constructing 18 projects for restoring the Great Lakes with the first three years of GLRI funding. These funds were also used to plan and design dozens of other restoration projects that will be ready for construction in 2014-2015. More than 70 percent of GLRI funds received by the USACE are going to contracts with private companies that create jobs.

Point of Contact: Jan Miller, USACE Great Lakes & Ohio River Division, 312-353-6354, jan.a.miller@usace.army.mil