



Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER)

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Issue: The restoration of fish and wildlife habitat, removal of dams and other barriers to fishery migration, and the prevention and control of invasive species like the sea lamprey are among the top priorities of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI).

Authority: Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration, or GLFER, is a program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for implementing projects that accomplish all of the above priority actions. GLFER is also helping states and local communities eliminate beneficial use impairments in order to delist Areas of Concern (AOCs). 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.

A wide range of projects are being built under this program, including restoration of wetlands and aquatic habitat on public lands, parks, and preserves, dam removals to re-establish free flowing rivers, fish passages over existing structures, 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: USACE base funding for GLFER is through annual Energy & Water Appropriations. Over \$15 million funding has been appropriated since FY2002 from this source, with most recent E&W funding provided in FY2013. Approximately \$75.5 million funding has been provided for GLFER projects through the GLRI since FY2010. Optimal funding for GLFER projects would be \$10 million in FY2021 and \$15 million in FY2022.

Status: 25 GLFER projects are completed or currently under construction, including four projects that were studied/designed under the GLFER authority, but implemented via other means. Two projects are scheduled to have construction contracts awarded in FY2021. Approximately 30 additional GLFER projects are in the planning or design phase.

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

New York, PA and Ohio

Mike Greer

Buffalo District

716-879-4229

michael.j.greer@usace.army.mil

Michigan, MN and WI

Steve Check

Detroit District

313-226-2074

steven.g.check@usace.army.mil

Illinois and Indiana

Gene Fleming

Chicago District

312-846-5585

eugene.j.fleming@usace.army.mil

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) - Selected¹ Restoration Projects

Project Location	State	Construction Status	Project Benefits
63 rd 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 acre 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	Under construction	Restoring 200 acres of coastal, beach and bluff habitat and offshore reefs along Lake Michigan shoreline
Jeorse Park Beach, East Chicago	IN	Under construction	Restoring 25 ac. near shore habitat and reestablish native plants along 14 acres of Lake Michigan shoreline
River Riparian, Chicago	IL	Under construction	Restoring 2 miles of riverine habitat and improving connectivity along the North Branch Chicago River
Port Clinton Coastal Port Clinton	OH	Under Construction	Rehabilitating 18 acres of coastal wetland habitat, including removal of invasive species.
St. Marys / E. AuGres Rivers Sea Lamprey Traps	MI	Ready in 2021	Enhance spawning phase assessment, capture and removal of Sea Lamprey on the St. Marys and E. AuGres Rivers

¹ Partial listing. Approximately 30 GLFER restoration projects (not listed) are currently in the planning or design phase.