



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

March 2021

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

BUILDING STRONG®

Background: The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) was launched in 2010 to accelerate efforts to protect and restore the Great Lakes, and is authorized under Section 118 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by Section 5005 of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2016. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is the lead Federal agency for implementing and administering the GLRI, and has authority to receive and distribute congressionally appropriated funds to several Federal, state and local entities. These entities undertake restoration activities and projects throughout the Great Lakes under various existing authorities. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is one of 16 Federal agencies involved with implementing the GLRI and delivers on-the-ground restoration projects in a manner that provides economical solutions, including the leveraging of other funding and use of competitive bid contracts.

Restoration Project Delivery: The USACE uses GLRI funds to plan, design, and construct long-lasting restoration projects in cooperation with non-Federal partners. GLRI funds are transferred to USACE from USEPA through Interagency Agreements (IA's), which provide reimbursable funding to supplement USACE appropriations for projects executed under USACE programs and authorities. In addition, USEPA provides GLRI funding to USACE on IA's under our Interagency and International Services (IIS) program for specific projects/efforts identified in corresponding statements of work, utilizing USEPA authority for execution. USACE also monitors the results of projects to ensure ecological success is achieved, and provides technical assistance for various initiatives and remedial actions completed by others throughout the Great Lakes basin.

Funding Summary: From FY2010-FY2020, USACE received \$446 million, equating to over 12.7 percent of total GLRI appropriations. The vast majority of GLRI funds obligated by USACE have been used for the planning, design, and construction of projects. Some funds have been used to prepare studies and provide technical assistance to support restoration actions by other agencies and organizations. The attached table summarizes select USACE projects that have been completed or are currently under construction. USACE was provided approximately \$54 million of FY2020 GLRI funding on 115 projects, including the potential award of 8 construction contracts. Final FY2021 and FY2022 USACE GLRI budgets are pending, but capability remains high.

Timely Use of Funds: GLRI funds expire after two years and are prioritized to specific projects by USEPA in coordination with representatives from all involved Federal agencies. Funding for USACE projects has been provided in increments to ensure obligations and expenditures are rapidly processed on viable projects.

Leveraging Funds: Most of the authorities USACE utilizes for restoration projects require cost-sharing from non-Federal project partners, including state, local and tribal governments, and non-profit organizations. Through FY2020, USACE has leveraged over \$40 million of non-Federal funding to complement GLRI dollars received for implementation of projects completed or under construction. In addition, USACE base funding has provided \$256.5 million (FY10-20) to the Asian Carp Framework.

Creating Jobs: Almost all USACE construction and a significant percentage of USACE planning and design efforts are implemented through competitively bid contracts. Since 2010, GLRI funds received by the USACE and utilized on contracts with private-sector companies have supported over 5,000 jobs in the construction, engineering and design, and other professional services sectors.

Looking Ahead: In 2021-2022, the USACE will have several additional restoration projects ready to start construction while also continuing planning, design and technical assistance efforts on several other priority initiatives in each of the five GLRI focus areas.

USACE Point of Contact: Carl Platz, Great Lakes Program Manager (LRD)
616-842-5510 x25521; carl.a.platz@usace.army.mil



Select Great Lakes Restoration Projects Constructed with GLRI Funds¹

Project	Outputs	Status
Chicago Sanitary & Ship Canal Dispersal Barrier, IL	Created 13-mile long barrier to prevent aquatic nuisance species (including Asian carp) from bypassing electric barriers	Completed
Monroe Harbor (River Raisin), MI	Removed 69,000 cy of contaminated sediments from Federal channel to complement sediment cleanup and delisting of River Raisin AOC	Completed
Buffalo River, NY	Repaired existing CDF and removed 475,000 cy of contaminated sediments from Federal channel within Buffalo River AOC	Completed
63 rd Street Dune and Beach, Chicago, IL	Restored 21 acres of dune and savanna habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline	Completed
Duluth-Superior Harbor, MN/WI	Removed 34,000 cy of contaminated sediments from St. Louis River AOC, used sediments for demonstrating restoration of strip mines	Completed
Burnham Prairie, IL	Restored 93 acres of ridge and swale complex	Completed
Cleveland Harbor Breakwater Demo, OH	Enhanced near shore fishery habitat on 128-foot reach of breakwater within Cuyahoga River AOC	Completed
Calumet & Ivanhoe Ridge and Swale, IN	Restored 171 acres of wet sand prairie and sedge meadow wetlands within Grand Calumet River AOC	Completed
Times Beach CDF Phragmites Demo, NY	Demonstrated alternative techniques for eradicating invasive aquatic plant on 31 acres within Niagara River AOC	Completed
Orland Tract Perimeter, IL	Restored 300 acres of wet mesic savanna and prairie shrub land habitat that are on Lake Michigan flyway for migratory birds	Completed
Ashtabula Harbor, OH	Removed 126,000 cy of contaminated sediments to support delisting of Ashtabula River AOC	Completed
Green Bay Dredged Mat'l Disposal Facility, WI	Constructed new facility for 2 million cy of sediments from the Fox River AOC and restored/protected 1,200 acres of coastal wetlands	Completed
Little Calumet Riparian, IN	Restored natural floodplain forest on 42 acres in an urban corridor within Northwest Indiana	Completed
Ashtabula Harbor Breakwater Demo, OH	Enhanced near shore fishery habitat on reach of breakwater within Ashtabula River AOC	Completed
Menominee Rookery, MI	Restored scarce island habitat to delist Menominee River AOC	Completed
Menomonee River, WI	Removed concrete lining from one mile of river channel and restored natural river features and native plants in the Milwaukee Estuary AOC	Completed
Black Rock Channel, NY	Removed 250,000 cy contaminated sediments from Niagara River AOC	Completed
Frankenmuth Fish Passage, MI	Created rock ramp to enable fish to swim over dam and access 1,765 miles of upstream spawning habitat.	Completed
Pike River, WI	Restored 90 acres of riparian habitat and improved 1.2 miles of river to reduce phosphorous and nitrogen loads to Lake Michigan	Completed
Underwood Creek, WI	Remove concrete lining from 0.75 miles of river channel and restore natural river features and native plants in the Milwaukee Estuary AOC	Completed
Boardman River Dams, MI	Remove two dams to restore 8 miles of cold-water stream and reconnect 211 miles of aquatic habitat to Lake Michigan.	Completed
Northerly Island, IL	Create 40 acres of savanna, wet prairie, marsh and lake habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline	Completed
Rosewood Beach, IL	Construct soft structures to restore 5 acres of beach and coastal habitat benefitting fishery within 25 miles along Lake Michigan	Completed
Jackson Park, IL	Restore and protect 155 acres of diverse habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicago	Completed
Soo Gate Automation, MI	Automate gates at the Compensating Works on the St. Marys River to enhance 80 acres of critical fish spawning habitat	Completed
Horner Park, IL	Restore 15 acres of riparian and wetland habitat in urban park	Completed
Clinton River, MI	Restore 11 acres of wetland, 4 acres of coastal habitat, 1,300 feet of riverbank and provide ecosystem restoration to 1 mile of cold water tributary	Completed
River Riparian, IL	Remove dam to restore 48 miles of fishery access on the Chicago River	Completed
St. Louis River, MN	Beneficially use dredged sediments from the St. Louis River AOC to provide habitat restoration at two separate restoration sites in Duluth, MN	Completed
Electric Dispersal Barrier, IL	Convert existing steel cable electrodes to more durable steel billets to ensure the fish barrier on the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal functions as needed.	Completed
Harpersfield Sea Lamprey Barrier, Geneva, OH	Constructing barrier to control sea lamprey populations on 1,266 miles of the Grand River	Completed
Elkhart Dam, Elkhart, IN	Restore fishery passage to over 47 miles in the Elkhart River, a tributary to the St. Joseph River and Lake Michigan	Completed
Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative	Demonstrate alternative techniques for eradicating invasive aquatic plant that is on the doorstep of the Great Lakes	Continuing

¹Partial listing