



Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

February 2018

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 the most 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. This process for delivering restoration projects is fundamentally different from grants, which are issued by other federal agencies with GLRI funding. USACE projects typically begin with planning that evaluates the feasibility of a restoration project, including various alternatives, their impacts and cost estimates. As part of this planning process, infeasible alternatives are screened and the solution that can deliver the most environmental benefits for the least amount of funds is identified. This evaluation is documented and fully vetted with the public and regulatory agencies before the project moves to detailed design and construction. When ready to build, the USACE uses a competitive bid process to select a private-sector contractor to construct the project. The USACE administers construction and monitors the results to ensure ecological success is achieved. USACE also conducts studies to evaluate and assess environmental problems and provides technical assistance for remedial actions completed by others.

Funding Summary: From FY2010-2017, USACE has received \$318 million, or about 12 percent of total GLRI funding. Approximately 90 percent of GLRI funds obligated by USACE have been used for the planning, design, and construction of projects. The remaining percentage has been used to provide studies and technical assistance that support restoration actions by other agencies and organizations. The attached table summarizes several projects that have been completed or are under construction by USACE. In FY2017, USACE was provided approximately \$60 million to fund a variety of priority projects, including award of multiple construction contracts, which will continue through FY2018. Final FY2018 and FY2019 GLRI budgets are pending, but USACE capability remains high if funding is provided.

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 FY2017, USACE has leveraged over \$32 million of non-Federal contributions as part of GLRI restoration projects completed or under construction, and also leveraged over \$20 million from USACE base funding (Energy & Water Appropriations) to complement GLRI dollars received for implementation of projects. In addition, USACE base funding has provided over \$210 million (FY10-17) 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. GLRI funds received by the USACE and utilized on contracts with private-sector companies have supported over 2,800 jobs in the construction, engineering and design, and other professional services sectors.

Looking Ahead: In 2018-2019, 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.



Great Lakes Restoration Projects Constructed with GLRI Funds

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
Chicago Botanical Garden, IL	Restored 5,000 feet of shoreline and riparian habitat and protected 26 acres of lacustrine habitat	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
Northerly Island, IL	Create 40 acres of savanna, wet prairie, marsh and lake habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline	Under construction
Rosewood Beach, IL	Construct soft structures to restore 5 acres of beach and coastal habitat benefitting fishery within 25 miles along Lake Michigan	Under construction
Horner Park, IL	Restore 15 acres of riparian and wetland habitat in urban park	Under construction
Jackson Park, IL	Restore and protect 155 acres of diverse habitat along Lake Michigan shoreline in Chicago	Under construction
Great Lakes Hydrilla Collaborative	Demonstrate alternative techniques for eradicating invasive aquatic plant that is on the doorstep of the Great Lakes	Under construction
Soo Gate Automation, MI	Automate gates at the Compensating Works on the St. Marys River to enhance 80 acres of critical fish spawning habitat	Under construction
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	Under construction
Boardman River, MI	Remove dams to restore 8 miles of cold-water stream and reconnect 211 miles of aquatic habitat to Lake Michigan.	Under construction
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 to remove BUI and contribute to Clinton River AOC delisting.	Under construction
River Riparian, IL	Remove dam to restore 48 miles of fishery access on the Chicago River	Under construction
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	Under construction
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.	Under construction

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

