#### **MARCH 2018**



### **Great Lakes Restoration at work**

# in Indiana



The state of Indiana – together with local communities, nongovernmental organizations, business and industry – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong bipartisan support, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Indiana's economy, environment and quality of life. These activities will benefit the next generation of Indiana citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to support their quality of life and economic well-being.

### The Great Lakes:

### A Vital Economic Asset for Indiana

Lake Michigan is one of Indiana's most valuable natural resources and is fundamental to the state's identity and quality of life. The lake also has extraordinary economic value for the state. Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline supports:

- the largest steel producing region in the United States;
- a waterborne shipping industry that generates 48,000 jobs and nearly \$14 billion per year in economic activity;
- a commercial and sport fishery with an annual value of nearly \$400 million;
- tourism dollars from two million annual visitors to Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore and 1.2 million visitors to Indiana Dunes State Park; and
- recreational boating opportunities that contribute over \$2 billion annually to Indiana's economy.

As these figures show, cleaning up the Great Lakes isn't just about correcting mistakes of the past, but leveraging a vital resource to build a better future.

# **Investing in Indiana's Waterfront Communities**

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is supporting implementation of a comprehensive cleanup plan that has been broadly endorsed by the region's governors, tribes, cities, conservation groups, business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes, including:

- combating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp;
- cleaning up contaminated sediments in toxic hotspots;
- controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches;
- restoring degraded wetlands; and
- conserving and enhancing fish and wildlife resources.

The GLRI is supported by sound science and guided by an Action Plan with detailed performance goals and clear accountability standards. An interagency task force, led by U.S. EPA, is coordinating federal efforts and directing a majority of funding

### **Great Lakes Restoration in Indiana**

\$134 million for 105 projects through FY2017

See GLRI projects in Indiana and across the region at glrimap.glc.org

to states, cities and nongovernmental groups that are best able to address local restoration priorities.

## **Economic Benefits from Restoring the Great Lakes**

Restoring the Great Lakes advances our region's broader strategy to create jobs, stimulate economic development and invest in freshwater resources and waterfront communities. A detailed study by The Brookings Institution found that fully implementing the Great Lakes restoration strategy would generate \$80 billion to \$100 billion in benefits, including:

- \$6.5 billion to \$11.8 billion in direct benefits from tourism, fishing and recreation;
- \$50 million to \$125 million in reduced costs to municipalities; and
- \$12 billion to \$19 billion in increased property values in degraded shoreline areas, including up to \$300 million for the Gary metro area alone.

### **Solving Problems Facing Lake Michigan**

The GLRI builds on state and local efforts to solve the problems facing Indiana's Lake Michigan shoreline. Indiana's Lake Michigan Coastal Program is partnering with the Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition® and Save the Dunes to coordinate restoration efforts being implemented under the GLRI. Building on this partnership and drawing on existing restoration plans will ensure continued success in securing GLRI funding for Indiana.



# See Great Lakes Restoration at Work in Your State, County or Congressional District!

## glrimap.glc.org

Interactive map showcases Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects



#### **Great Lakes Restoration At Work**

is an interactive map developed by the Great Lakes Commission showcasing nearly **2,600 restoration projects** funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) in its first eight years, FY 2010-2017. The map allows users to see projects by state, county or congressional district. Projects are fully searchable and can be sorted by title, lead agency, state and other parameters.



### **Using the Map**

Selecting a project from the table will orient the map to the project site. The project locations may represent a specific site or the watershed in which restoration work is being conducted. In some cases the site is the location of the lead agency.



The map allows users to see the U.S. congressional districts in which projects are located. Selecting a congressional district on the map will show the member of Congress for that district, their website and the percentage of the district within the Great Lakes basin.

For additional background on the GLRI and specific projects, go to http://www.glri.us.