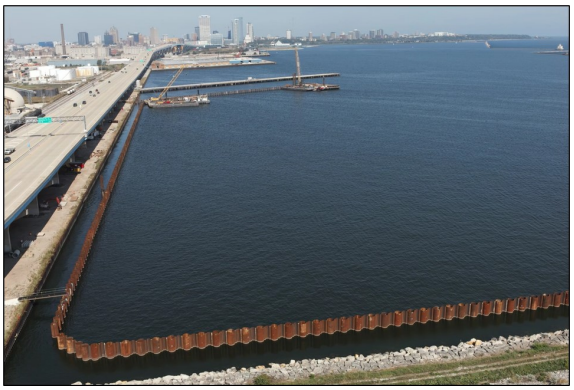
Great Lakes RESTORATION at Work in Wisconsin

Federal funding, totaling more than **$962 million** through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is driving Wisconsin's progress to restore the health of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. GLRI is a tangible return on investment: economic studies show, for every federal dollar spent, GLRI generates at least an additional $3.35 in regional economic activity. From cleaning up toxic hotspots, to restoring vital fish and wildlife habitats and improving the health of Wisconsin's beaches — these projects increase the economic, recreational and ecological value of our Great Lakes. Here are a few examples of benefits to Wisconsin communities.

Partners Clean Up Toxic Sediment in Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern (AOC)

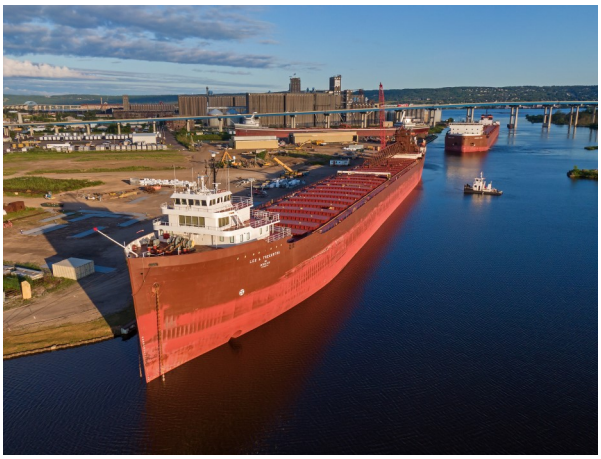


- Joint project agreement leverages federal, state, local and private funding and resources to build a new dredged material management facility and advance clean-up of nearly two million cubic yards of toxic sediment in the Milwaukee Estuary.
- Agreement includes 22 separate contributions from Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD), City of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County Parks, We Energies and Wisconsin DNR.
- Historical industrial activities caused toxic pollution to accumulate in the sediments at the bottom of over 12 miles of Milwaukee's rivers and Lake Michigan harbor. The cleanup will improve public health and safety, provide clean water, bring back healthy fish and wildlife, and enhance economic and recreational opportunities.
- MMSD is constructing the facility in the Milwaukee harbor on lakebed owned by the city. When completed in 2026, it will provide safe storage of toxic sediment that will be removed from the waterways. Its design and construction costs are the primary local cost share to match with federal dollars to complete the sediment cleanup.
- After the facility is filled and sealed, the site will become usable as newly created land, to be developed for port commercial expansion and other public uses.

Cleaning up pollution and restoring heathy habitats in our AOCs will get them off the list of most polluted sites on the Great Lakes and help our region reach its full economic potential.

Pollution Cleanup Revitalizes Shipyards on Lake Superior

- The Duluth-Superior Harbor at the mouth of the St. Louis River is key to Lake Superior commerce. It's been home to shipyards, grain terminals, commercial fishing operations and other industries for over 100 years. This history of industrial use polluted sediments with toxins such as lead, mercury, dioxins and tributyltin. These pollutants increased costs to shipping, because routine dredging was unfeasible and this limited access for large vessels.
- Remediation of toxic sediment was completed for industrial shipping slips in Howards Bay and C. Reiss Dock at the Port of Superior. Plans are also underway to clean up four more contaminated slips — as part of the overall effort to restore the St. Louis River AOC.
- Public-private partnerships share costs and other resources to complete the work.
- Projects support local businesses and provide good jobs.
- Cleaning up toxic sediment improves public health and safety, provides clean water, brings back healthy fish and wildlife, and enhances economic and recreational opportunities.



Harbor Projects Benefit Economy, Fish and Wildlife Habitat

- Clean sediment that needs to be dredged from navigation channels annually is used to rebuild and fortify the 272-acre Cat Island Chain. It's a cost-effective place for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to put this material for the next 20-30 years, which helps the Port of Green Bay, while also bringing back vital fish and wildlife habitat.
- Building on successful reconstruction of the islands, the Cat Island Fisheries and Wetland Improvement Project aims to improve spawning and rearing habitat for muskellunge, northern pike and other species by installing a variety of underwater features that they need for shelter and food along the islands.
- It's one of many projects underway to restore naturally reproducing sport fish populations while also benefitting a variety of other fish and wildlife species in the Lower Green Bay and Fox River AOC.
- According to the most recent Port of Green Bay Economic Impact Study, the port contributes $217 million to the economy while supporting 1,620 jobs.
- Fishing is also a prominent component of the regional tourism economy. The Green Bay sport fishery has an annual economic impact of $264 million to the region, according to a recent study by UW-Whitewater. This fishing-related economic activity in turn generates $14.8 million annually in state and local tax revenue, as well as provides 2,711 full-time equivalent jobs.

Projects Reconnect Waters, Improving Fisheries

Kletzsch Dam Fish Passage

- The Kletzsch Dam Fish Passage Project on the Milwaukee River addressed needed dam repairs while also providing fish passage for imperiled species as part of the overall effort to bring back healthy fish and wildlife populations to the Milwaukee Estuary AOC.
- At Kletzsch Park in Glendale a new 500-foot channel was constructed around the dam on the east side of the river. Fish such as lake sturgeon, northern pike and other species can now swim up the Milwaukee River to access food sources, reproduce and establish healthy populations.
- Before this project, Kletzsch Dam was the largest remaining barrier to fish passage on the Milwaukee River between Lake Michigan and Grafton. The new passage now allows fish in the Milwaukee Estuary to move from Lake Michigan to upstream areas encompassing 25 miles of river, 29 miles of tributary streams and 2,400 acres of wetlands – reconnecting river habitats so fish can migrate throughout the region.

Little Balsam Creek Fish Passage

- The Little Balsam Creek Fish Passage Project reconnected over five miles of fish habitat along this Class 1 trout stream with Lake Superior, as part of a larger ongoing effort to restore fish and wildlife habitats in the St. Louis River AOC.
- Culverts under roads crossing Little Balsam Creek in the Town of Summit, Douglas County, were replaced with structures that better handle higher flood waters and allow fish to swim through at any water level, even in very low flows. With these obstacles removed, trout and other species now have a clear path for over five miles to swim upstream from Lake Superior to the headwaters of the creek, creating a healthy and thriving fishery.
- The Town of Summit roads are also now more resilient against floods, and the wash-outs that these roads had previously suffered will no longer happen.

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