

February 2015

# Great Lakes Restoration at work in Ohio

The state of Ohio – together with local communities, tribes, nongovernmental organizations and business and industry – is collaborating with the federal government to implement a comprehensive restoration strategy for the Great Lakes. With strong support from Congress and the Administration, this partnership is generating on-the-ground actions that will improve Ohio's economy, environment and quality of life. This fact sheet describes how Great Lakes restoration is benefiting Ohio and showcases selected restoration projects now underway.

## The Great Lakes: A Vital Economic Asset for Ohio

Lake Erie is one of Ohio's most valuable natural resources and an essential element in Ohio's economic development strategy. The lake provides water for drinking and industry, shipping of commodities, commercial fishing, and waterborne transportation. Visitors to Ohio's Lake Erie region spend more than \$10.7 billion annually – nearly 30 percent of Ohio's total tourism dollars. Regional tourism also supports more than 100,000 northern Ohio jobs and generates \$750 million in state and local taxes. The Lake Erie region also contributes to

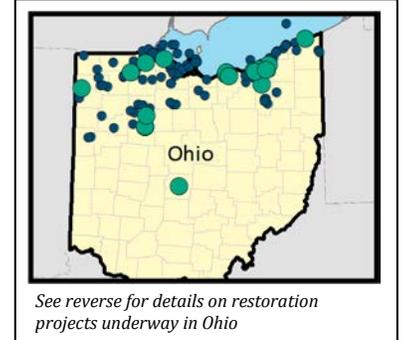
- exceptional hunting and fishing opportunities that annually attract an estimated 1.5 million hunters and anglers who spend \$2 billion;
- a recreational boating industry that supports more than 26,000 jobs with an economic impact of \$3.5 billion annually; and
- drinking water for 3 million Ohio residents.

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

## Investing in Ohio'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, and business and industry. Begun in 2009, the Initiative builds on years of work to identify solutions to key problems facing the Great Lakes:

- Combating aquatic invasive species, such as Asian carp
- Cleaning up contaminated sediments in Areas of Concern
- Controlling polluted runoff and cleaning up beaches
- Restoring degraded wetlands
- Conserving and enhancing valuable fish and wildlife resources



See reverse for details on restoration projects underway in Ohio

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 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 the 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 \$3.7 billion for the Cleveland metro area alone.

## Solving Problems Facing Lake Erie

The GLRI supports state and local efforts to solve problems facing Lake Erie. This includes actions to prevent harmful algal blooms, which in August 2014 contaminated drinking water for close to half a million people near Toledo, Ohio. In response, the GLRI provided \$12 million across the watershed to help drinking water suppliers and beach managers detect and respond to algal blooms; enable farmers to reduce nutrient runoff; and measure nutrient levels in tributaries to Lake Erie.

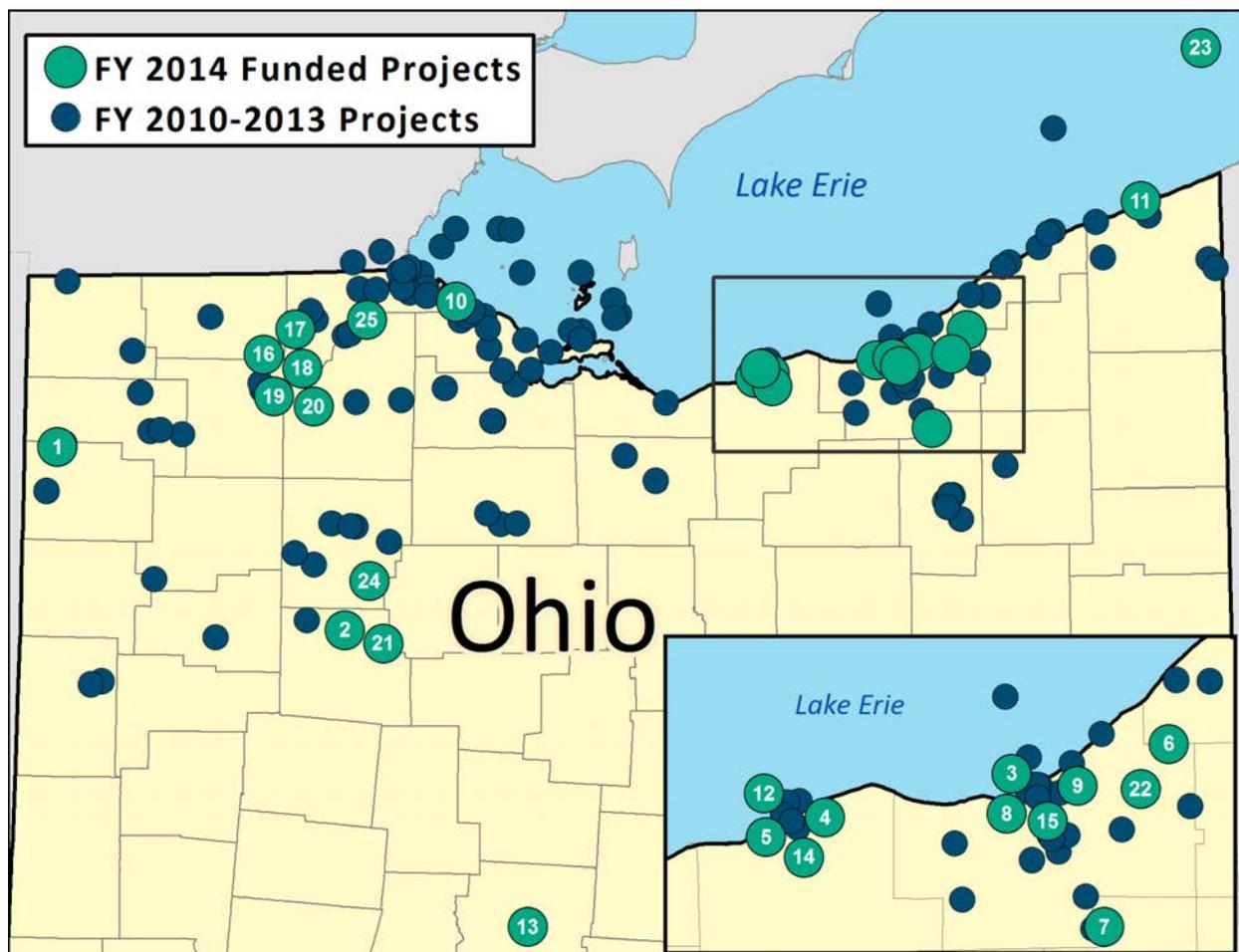
The GLRI is part of a multi-faceted, multi-year collaborative approach to reduce discharges and runoff that contribute to toxic algal blooms. The GLRI will continue to target resources to prevent harmful algal blooms and safeguard drinking water in western Lake Erie and other parts of the Great Lakes.

## Great Lakes Restoration in Ohio

The GLRI is well underway in Ohio, with nearly \$100 million coming into the state to implement 170 local and on-the-ground restoration projects in the first five years, FY 2010-2014. This federal support is leveraging substantial resources from state and local governments. Restoration projects funded in fiscal year 2014 are featured on the map below and more details are provided in the attached table. In addition to these site specific projects, Ohio will also benefit from funding for broad-scale projects and activities that are underway under the GLRI that will strengthen restoration efforts across the region:

- **Engineering and design** of sustainable restoration projects, new technologies to detect bacterial contamination, and techniques to monitor invasive species.
- **Pollution prevention** to keep the Great Lakes clean, prevent beach contamination, safeguard investments in restoration and prevent polluted runoff that contributes to harmful algal blooms.
- **Outreach** to engage citizens in restoration efforts; promote best practices to prevent the introduction of invasive species; improve fish consumption and beach advisories; and keep pesticides, pharmaceuticals and other pollutants out of the lakes.
- **Monitoring** of mercury pollution to protect children's health; beaches to inform swim advisories; and Great Lakes water, fish and wildlife to detect contaminants.
- **Research to strengthen management**, including on control methods for invasive species such as Asian carp, Phragmites and sea lamprey; preventing the introduction of invasive species in ballast water; enhancing knowledge of the Great Lakes ecosystem; protecting endangered species; identifying habitat for sensitive species; and understanding climate change impacts.
- **Capacity building** to help states and local governments implement restoration projects, improve collaboration, and educate health care providers about fish consumption advisories.
- **Sound science and accountability** to ensure that funds are spent effectively and that the GLRI reflects a strong, science-based understanding of the Great Lakes.

These activities will benefit the next generation of Ohio citizens who will look to the Great Lakes as an important resource to support their quality of life and economic well-being.



# Great Lakes Restoration Initiative in Ohio

## Site Specific Projects Funded in Fiscal Year 2014

An **interactive map** featuring Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects funded in fiscal years 2010 through 2014 is available at [projects.glc.org/restore/grimap](http://projects.glc.org/restore/grimap).

Map Number	Project Title	Recipient Agency or Organization	Total Funding Amount	Fiscal Years Funded
1	Restoring Great Black Swamp	Black Swamp Conservancy	\$95,000	2014
2	Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation Tree Planting Plan	Blanchard River Watershed Partnership	\$94,370	2014
3	Mitigating Emerald Ash Borer in Cleveland	City of Cleveland	\$100,000	2014
4	Black River Landing and Heron Rookery Restoration Project	City of Lorain	\$1,347,644	2014
5	Near-shore Re-vegetation in the Lower Black River Area of Concern	City of Lorain	\$88,000	2014
6	Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation in Rocky River Reservation	Cleveland Metroparks	\$100,000	2014
7	Invasive Species Control and Habitat Restoration in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park	Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park	\$124,000	2014
8	Fish Habitat Improvement in the Cuyahoga River Ship Channel	Cuyahoga River Community Planning Organization	\$293,221	2014
9	Improving Fish Passage and Aquatic Habitat in Doan Brook	Doan Brook Watershed Partnership	\$179,927	2014
10	The Howard Farms Habitat Restoration Phase II Project in the Maumee AOC	Ducks Unlimited	\$1,488,944	2014
11	APC - Walnut Beach Demo, OH	Engineering Research and Development Center	\$100,000	2014
12	Maintenance dredging of approximately 100,000 CY of sediment in the Black River (Lorain Area of Concern)	Lorain Harbor Port Authority	\$10,000	2014
13	Technical Assistance for agricultural producers through Farm Bill Programs	Natural Resources Conservation Service	\$3,970,773	2013, 2014
14	Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation in the Black River Area of Concern	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$100,000	2014
15	Emerald Ash Borer Mitigation in the Cuyahoga River Area Of Concern	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$100,000	2014
16	Nutrient Reduction - Enhancement of Subsurface Controlled Drainage Systems	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$900,000	2014
17	Nutrient Reduction - Manure Storage Structures and Roofed Feedlots	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$1,500,000	2014
18	Nutrient Reduction - Soil Testing & Fertilizer Recommendations for Unengaged Ohio Farmers	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$360,000	2014
19	Nutrient Reduction - Systems Approach in the Lower Maumee Watershed	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$1,500,000	2014
20	Nutrient Reduction - Winter Cover Crops	Ohio Dept. of Natural Resources	\$1,680,000	2014
21	Expanded Maumee Tributary Monitoring to Measure Success of Agricultural Conservation Actions	Ohio Environmental Protection Agency	\$1,548,800	2014
22	Acacia Reservation Stream Restoration	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$151,500	2014
23	Lake Trout and Lake Sturgeon Restoration Activities in the Lower Great Lakes	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	\$260,000	2014
24	Maumee River Edge of Field Monitoring	U.S. Geological Survey	\$1,023,848	2014
25	Microbial Source Tracking at Maumee AOC	U.S. Geological Survey	\$140,000	2014