Examples of How the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Benefits Wisconsin Communities

Federal funding, totaling more than **$816 million** through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is accelerating Wisconsin's progress to restore the health of Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. 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. Building community partnerships, engaging local citizens, leveraging funding and resources, innovating to solve problems, assessing water quality and environmental health, and monitoring fish and wildlife populations are other important aspects of our restoration efforts.

Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern: Sustained Partnerships Build on Successful Projects and Accelerate Remaining Contaminated Sediment Cleanup

- $24.6 million project removed 175,000 cubic yards (cy) of sediment contaminated with PCBs and other toxins from Milwaukee River at Lincoln Park. Cleanup and restoration of Lincoln Park improved environmental health, access and recreational value of this popular urban park and vibrant community asset. See: Milwaukee River Estuary Area of Concern: Connecting Milwaukee's Youth.
- $22 million project removed 167,000 cy of toxic sediment from Kinnickinnic River, which is now a waterfront destination for business, recreation and tourism. Investments to redevelop and revitalize this area would not have been possible without first cleaning up the pollution here.
- $450 million GLRI and GLLA Project Agreement in 2023 leverages federal, state, local and private funding and resources to build a new dredged material management facility and accelerate cleanup of nearly two million cy of polluted sediments in the Milwaukee Estuary.
- Coalition of 20+ long-standing, trusted partners in greater Milwaukee region formed the Waterway Restoration Partnership — giving all community members meaningful ways to participate in AOC projects and fostering innovation to get the work done. To learn more watch, A Toxic Legacy: Cleaning Up Milwaukee's Waterways.

People enjoy the Milwaukee River at Lincoln Park

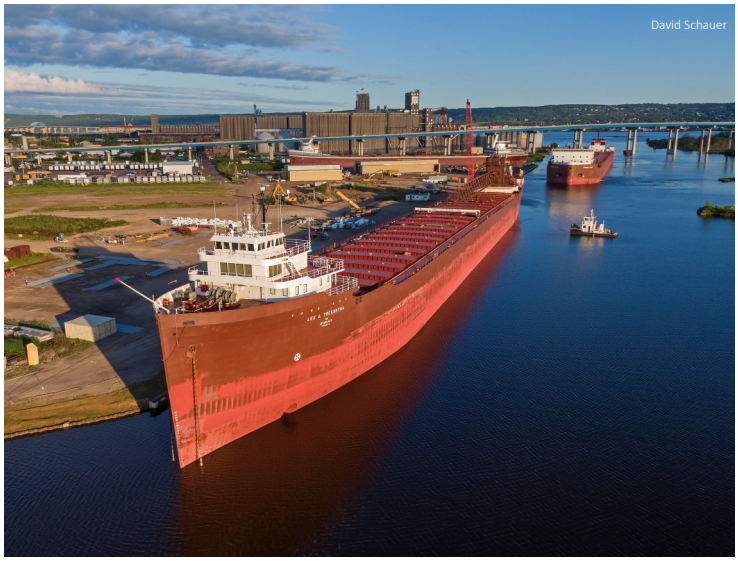
Milwaukee River at Third Ward

Children enjoy Bradford Beach on Lake Michigan

Contaminated sediment removed from Lincoln Park

Howards Bay Pollution Cleanup Completed, Restoring Important Shipyard on Lake Superior

- Polluted sediment was removed from Howards Bay — one of many projects to restore the St. Louis River Area of Concern.
- $21.5 million project funded through GLRI, leveraged with in-kind and cash contributions from non-federal partners. Public-private partnership with Fraser Shipyards Inc., City of Superior, Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Army Corps of Engineers.
- 84,660 cy of sediments contaminated with lead, mercury, tributyltin and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons removed from Howards Bay and three shipping slips.
- Navigational channel maintenance dredging removed 34,000 cy of sediment.
- Dredged material that met strict safety criteria was used to improve the cap and cover on the closed Wisconsin Point Landfill. As part of the project, City of Superior is restoring the former landfill site for use as a new public recreational area.
- The bay now better serves shipping and commerce while also providing important habitat for fish like musky and northern pike, migratory waterfowl and other aquatic life.



M/Vs Lee A. Tregurtha and Stewart J. Cort at Fraser Shipyards in Howards Bay, a hub for maritime commerce, sawmills and grain industries for more than a century. The only U.S. shipyard above the Soo Locks and largest grain elevator in the Duluth - Superior Harbor are located here.

Harbor Projects Benefit Economy and Environment

Beneficial Reuse of Clean Dredge Material from Navigation Channels

- Restoration of 272 acres of the Cat Island Chain in Green Bay provides a triple benefit of improved shipping channels, cost-effective reuse of 20-30 years of dredged sediment, and vital fish and wildlife habitat. The highest diversity of shorebirds, including endangered species such as piping plovers, are now documented on Cat Island compared to any other place in Wisconsin. To learn more, watch Plovers are Back in Green Bay and Cat Island - Rebirth of an Environment.
- At Wisconsin Point and Interstate Island, clean sediment that had to be dredged from the Duluth-Superior Harbor was put to good use restoring essential habitat for endangered piping plovers and threatened common terns. 87,485 cy of dredged sediment was used to create 14 acres of new beaches at Wisconsin Point. To learn more, watch Protecting Dunes and Restoring and Piping Plover Habitat on Wisconsin Point.
- 5.5 acres of new beaches created at Interstate Island, in the St. Louis River between Duluth and Superior, providing vital nesting habitat for threatened common terns.

Islands take shape with clean sediment dredged from Green Bay Harbor (above) and Duluth-Superior Harbor (below). It's a cost-effective way for Great Lakes ports to maintain shipping channels.

Endangered shorebirds raise young, rest and refuel during their migration journeys on new beaches and islands created with clean dredge material from shipping channels.

Lower Menominee River — Delisted from Great Lakes Areas of Concern

Lower Menominee River was removed from the international list of most polluted sites on the Great Lakes in 2020 — a key milestone in the binational agreement between the U.S. and Canada to restore the Great Lakes, and Wisconsin's first of five Areas of Concern to be delisted.

- 30 million pounds of hazardous waste and contaminated sediment removed from Green Bay.
- 302,000 cy of arsenic-coated sediments and 15,000 cy of coal tar wastes removed from the Menominee River.
- 59,000 cy of contaminated and excess sediment removed from Menekaunee Harbor. It's now cleaner and deeper for shipping and recreational and commercial fishing boats.
- Fish passage restored over the Park Mill and Menominee dams, returning a 21-mile stretch of prime spawning habitat for endangered lake sturgeon.
- Over 133 acres of shorelands, wetlands, floodplain woodlands restored at Menekaunee Harbor and along Menominee River, returning vital habitat for fish, birds and other wildlife.
- Over $170 million in pollution cleanup and habitat restoration projects accomplished with combination of federal GLRI funding, matching state, local and private funding, and government regulatory actions. Wisconsin and Michigan worked closely with businesses, industries, agencies and local citizens.
- As a result of AOC cleanup and restoration, Menekaunee Harbor was chosen for three recent Cabela's National Walleye Tours — events that contribute to the revitalized economic prosperity of the area. A single weekend-long walleye fishing tournament can bring in more than $1 million to the local economy. To learn more: Menekaunee Harbor: Remediated, Restored, Revitalized.

Menekaunee Harbor restored

Launch of USS Milwaukee at Marinette Marine

Cabela's National Walleye Tour at Menekaunee Harbor

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