Healing Our Waters®
Great Lakes Coalition

# The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is Producing Results for Communities in Indiana

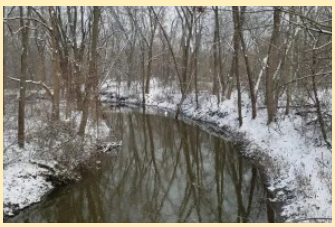
For over a decade, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been producing results for communities. Cleaning up toxic pollution has rid harbors and rivers of cancer-causing pollutants and led to new waterfront development. Restoring wetlands have provided habitat for fish and wildlife and have led to cleaner sources of drinking water and increased outdoor recreation opportunities. Removing old and dangerous dams have opened up fish habitat and increased safety for river recreation. Building rain gardens, green spaces, and urban habitat has reduced neighborhood flooding and provided new spaces to play and congregate. These restoration investments have also led to economic benefits. A 2018 report found that every $1 invested in Great Lakes restoration produced at least $3 in increased economic activity. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has benefited the environment and the economy.

**The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been producing results in local communities in Indiana.** Federal investments in Indiana total more than $146 million, which have led to 193 local projects that are working to protect our drinking water, safeguard public health, spur economic growth, and support thriving and vibrant communities.

While these projects have had a tremendous impact on Indiana communities, serious threats remain, underscoring the need for sustained and ongoing federal investment in Great Lakes restoration and local clean water priorities. We need to tackle these problems now, before they become more difficult and expensive to solve. We look forward to working with members of Congress to support continued federal investments in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative to support our drinking water, public health, and economy.

## EXAMPLES OF HOW THE GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE HAS BENEFITED INDIANA COMMUNITIES

### Wetland Restoration Reduces Runoff into Lake Michigan



Restoring 9 acres of critical wetlands near Michigan City, Ind., is preventing 37.5 million gallons of polluted urban runoff from flowing into a local creek and ultimately, Lake Michigan.

### Nature-based Infrastructure Fights Pollution

The installation of natural drainage and water-fixing plants near Hobart, Ind., has prevented more than 800,000 gallons of polluted urban storm-water from entering Lake Michigan every year. This has also improved drinking water and wildlife habitat.

### Marsh Restoration Improves Wildlife Habitat, Reduces Basement Flooding

More than 600 acres of marshland were restored near Chesterton, Ind., and Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, providing crucial wetland habitat and greatly increasing the ability of the landscape to absorb rain during heavy storms—decreasing the number of basements that get flooded every year.