

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is Producing Results for Communities in Ohio

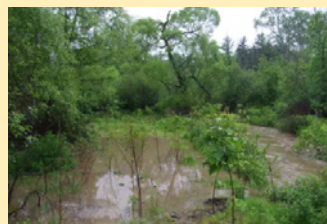
For over a decade, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative has been producing results for communities. Cleaning up toxic pollution has rid harbors and rivers of cancer-causing pollutants and led to new waterfront development. Restoring wetlands have provided habitat for fish and wildlife and have led 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 Ohio. Federal investments in Ohio total more than \$131 million, which have led to 412 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 Ohio 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 OHIO COMMUNITIES

Floodplain Restoration Reduces Erosion and Improves Native Plant Diversity



Restoring a natural floodplain connection along with 1,354 linear feet of streambank have significantly improved water quality and reduced

erosion, further protecting Lake Erie.

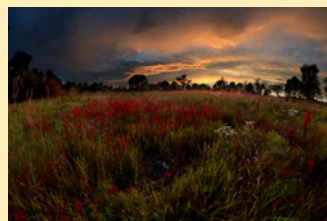
Removing Invasive Plants Restores Native Plant Community



The removal of harmful phragmites, an invasive reed, has allowed native plants to flourish in Mentor Marsh, along Lake Erie's shoreline. With over 200 acres

restored, fish and wildlife not seen in the marsh for years or even decades have begun returning, including river otters and beavers.

Restored Wet Prairie Filters Pollution, Enhances Habitat



More than 467 acres of wet prairie and wetland were restored near Holland, greatly increasing their capacity to filter toxins out of

stormwater runoff before it enters Lake Erie, in addition to providing habitat for native species.