

Great Lakes Fishery & Ecosystem Restoration (GLFER) Program

WATER RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2000, SECTION 506

Congress has found that the Great Lakes comprise a nationally and internationally significant fishery and ecosystem that should be developed and enhanced in a coordinated manner. The Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2000 authorized \$100 million for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to cooperate with other federal, state, and local agencies and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission to plan, implement, and evaluate projects supporting the restoration of the fishery, ecosystem, and beneficial uses of the Great Lakes, with 35 percent matching funds from nonfederal project sponsors.



For More Information

For more information on the program or to submit a specific proposal for the program, please visit the website at www.glfer.org and provide the following information:

1. The name of the nonfederal partner, and the name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address of the contact person
2. Project title
3. Project's waterway, county, and state
4. A brief description of the potential project, why it is being requested, its approximate size, its budget, any applicable time restraints, and specific problems or needs

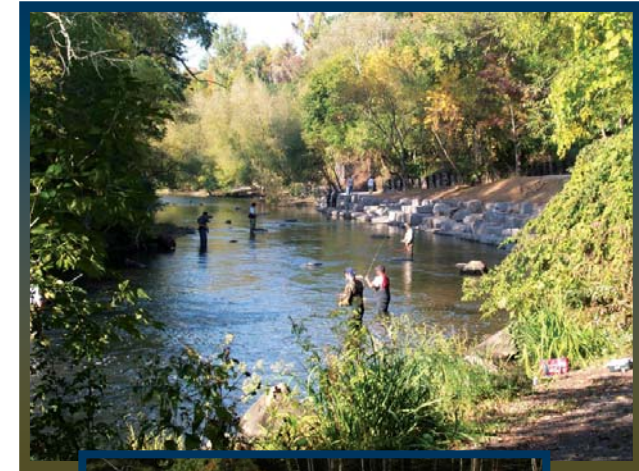
Applicants should be aware that Corps projects require nonfederal sponsors to share costs of the feasibility study, design, and project construction. Therefore, applicants will be required to provide the local cost sharing prescribed by the authority used for their project, or be willing and able to do so, if an acceptable plan is developed.

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www.glfer.org



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**



Support Plan

In 2003 a GLFER support plan was developed in cooperation with state, provincial, tribal, international, and regional organizations and federal agencies in the United States and Canada that have responsibilities or programs related to the management and/or protection of the Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem or research on these topics. The support plan outlines the opportunities and priorities for Great Lakes fishery and ecosystem restoration projects.

Ecosystem in Distress

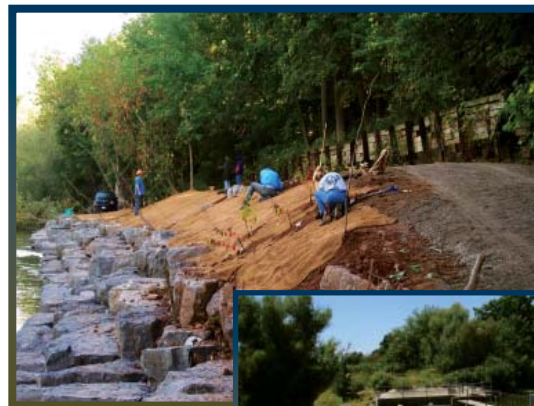
The physical, biological, and chemical changes over the last 150 years related to settlement of the basin have all contributed to the deterioration of water quality, reduction of available physical habitat, and irreversible alterations of the biological components of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Development activities responsible for these adverse changes include:

- Fragmentation of available habitat associated with the construction of dams on nearly all major tributaries
- Alteration of natural river flow regimes and increase in sedimentation due to runoff from urban development and farming
- Modification and destruction of Great Lakes and inland waters shoreline habitat, including valuable wetlands
- Changes in natural flows and depositional zones in shoreline areas near Great Lakes navigational structures (e.g., piers, jetties, bulkheads, and breakwaters)
- Reduction in indigenous fish populations and in some cases extirpation of Great Lakes fish species due to excessive harvest
- Irreversible changes in the types and interaction of species caused by the intentional and accidental introductions of nonindigenous aquatic organisms

Opportunities for Restoration

Restoration of the fisheries and other critical elements of the Great Lakes ecosystem will require both structural and nonstructural solutions (e.g., research, application of best management land use practices, pollution control, public education, monitoring, etc.). The primary focus of Section 506 is restoration of fisheries habitat and related ecosystem elements through structural projects. Project examples include:

- Removal of unnecessary barriers in Great Lakes tributaries
- Creation of fish passage facilities
- Creation of soft structures (shoreline enhancement)
- Restoration of historical reefs and construction of artificial reefs in support of fish community objectives
- Restoration of estuaries and rapids (particularly in connecting channels such as the St. Clair River and the Detroit River)
- Restoration and creation of riffle areas in Great Lakes tributaries
- Restoration and creation of wetlands



Criteria

To be considered for funding, a project must comply with three main screening criteria. To be eligible, a project must be

- Consistent with Great Lakes Fishery and Ecosystem Restoration program priorities;
- Consistent with management objectives established by the various committees operating under the Great Lakes Fishery Commission; and
- Unopposed by the appropriate state management agency and/or any public agency owner of property on which the project will be located.

A project review committee comprising the USACE, in cooperation with the Great Lakes Fishery Commission and appropriate federal, state, and local agencies, will participate in project review.

For additional information, visit the program website at www.glfer.org or contact:

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