



MI Great Lakes Plan:

*Our Path to Protect, Restore, and Sustain
Michigan's Natural Treasures*



Office of the Great Lakes
MI Department of Environmental Quality

www.michigan.gov/deqgreatlakes

...The health of the people of Michigan, our economy, and our quality of life depends on clean water and productive land that is sustainable far into the future.



Overview

- Purpose and Development of the Plan
- MI-Great Lakes Plan Habitat and Species Goal and Recommendations
- Recent Actions



Purpose of the Effort

The objectives of the effort are:

- To position Michigan as the leader in Great Lakes protection and restoration
- To continue and expand implementation of Great Lakes protection and restoration activities in Michigan
- To identify, through a consensus process, priorities for Michigan Great Lakes protection and restoration activities
- To put Michigan in a position to better utilize federal restoration funding
- Develop a process where Michigan stakeholders can all work together collectively and collaboratively towards protecting and restoring the Great Lakes

Background of MI-Great Lakes Plan

- The GLRC Strategy reflects the efforts needed throughout the Great Lakes Basin.
- The MI-Great Lakes Plan provides specific direction to address the recommendations of the GLRC and to take further steps to address the specific needs within Michigan.
- The MI-Great Lakes Plan stresses that the health of the Great Lakes is dependent on the health of the waters that feed the lakes, and the near-shore areas that buffer the lakes.

MI Great Lakes Plan Development

Development of the MI-Great Lakes Plan took into consideration:

- The GLRC Strategy recommendations
- The recommendations of the MUCC's report, *Michigan's Role in Great Lakes Protection and Restoration; Analysis and Recommendations* including the gap analysis
- Michigan's current activities, programs and policies
- Input received from more than 2000 stakeholders at public meetings held through the state

Public's Perspective

- Michigan citizens and organizations agree that we must be firmly committed to the Great Lakes environmental and economic importance, adopt sustainable development policies that protect our water resources, and act to take advantage of the unique, long-term economic opportunities and responsibilities provided to the Great Lakes state.

Background

- The Great Lakes are Michigan's natural resource treasures.
- This effort builds upon the tremendous investment of time, passion, and money this state has made to protect, restore, and remediate the forces that continue to threaten the health of the Great Lakes.
- Michigan has been a leader within the Great Lakes region in protecting these spectacular waters.
- State and local units of governments have invested billions of dollars towards this effort in addition to extensive efforts by local watershed groups and others.

Economic Benefit and Opportunities

Studies indicate Michigan's Great Lakes provide:

- 823,000 jobs that represent nearly 25 percent of Michigan's payroll. (33% increase in coastal tourism related jobs 2000-2007. MI Sea Grant)
- Potential in economic growth based around new specialized industries related to water technologies, wind energy production, pollution remediation, and eco-tourism.
- Water-related technology sector worth \$500 billion annually, and approximately 22,000 jobs that could be generated for every \$1 billion invested in water conservation programs (Alliance for the Great Lakes).

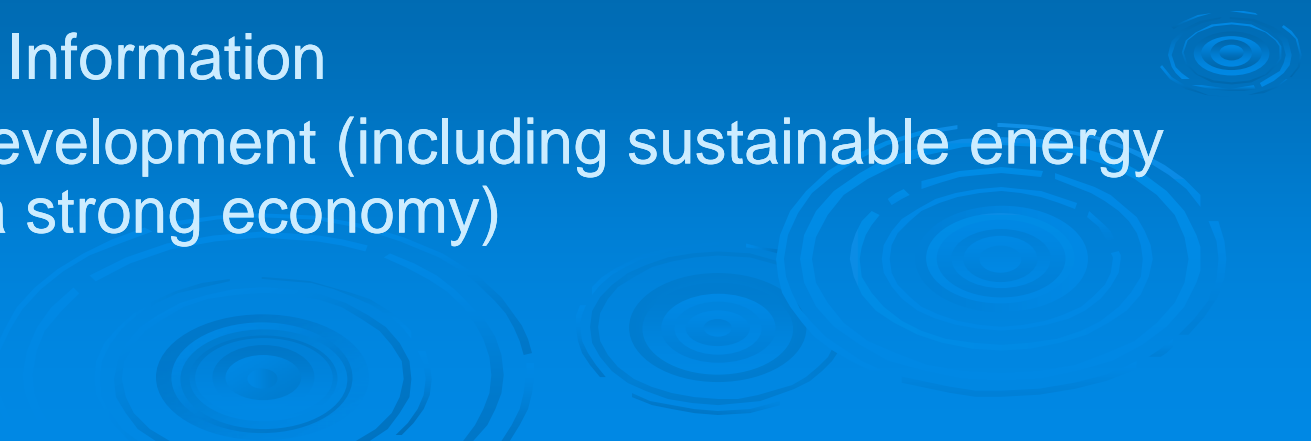
MI-Great Lakes Plan Vision

- It is our collective vision that the Great Lakes and the rivers bringing water to the Great Lakes will be the premier freshwater resource in the world and will sustain a healthy environment, strong economy, and high quality of life long into the future.



Priority Areas

The eight restoration priority areas are:

- Aquatic Invasive Species
 - Habitat/Species
 - Coastal Health
 - Areas of Concern/Sediments
 - Nonpoint Source
 - Toxic Pollutants
 - Indicators and Information
 - Sustainable Development (including sustainable energy and assuring a strong economy)
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Habitat/Species Goal

- Conserve, enhance and restore Michigan's fish and wildlife by restoring and protecting natural communities, the diverse habitats they provide and the ecological processes that sustain them.



Plan Content

For each priority area the Plan includes:

- Actions that can be accomplished without any significant new money but within existing funding constraints through increased collaboration
- Actions that we know need to happen but that would need significant new funding to accomplish.
- Recommendations requiring Michigan legislative action
- Recommendations requiring Congressional action


Regional Watershed Perspective

- Protect and restore critical fish and wildlife habitat
- Consider dam removal (when and where appropriate), including long term funding
- Prevent the introduction and control the spread of invasive species including phragmites
- Implement and share effective land use planning tools throughout state and across communities especially related to shoreline development and nearshore water use
- Commit funding at state and federal level to develop long term sustainable protection and restoration programs
- Increase opportunities for public to access Great Lakes and our inland lakes and streams

Increased Collaboration

- Evaluate wetland protection methods and explore opportunities to work with other agencies to protect these investments
- Improve coordination through the Michigan Wetland Working Group to accelerate restoration efforts and achieve restoration goals
- Coordinate with regional non-profit groups willing to take on local annual monitoring programs
- Protect 500 acres of high priority coastal communities per year using funding from existing federal programs
- Partner with NGOs to build capacity and improve effectiveness of land protection efforts to create habitat connectivity and decrease fragmentation
- Collaborate with stakeholders under the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Plan to coordinate priorities

Increased Collaboration

- Develop and expand partnerships with nonprofits and foundations to maximize outreach and leverage resources for dam removal and river restoration
 - Maintain, enhance, and rehabilitate self-sustaining populations, emphasizing development and implementation of recovery plans for threatened species
 - Continue to develop and evaluate lake trout restoration efforts
 - Initiate steps to preserve natural stream structure and function to promote healthy aquatic and terrestrial environments
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Actions Requiring Additional Funding

- Restore 500,000 acres of wetlands and 1,000,000 acres of associated uplands by 2079. (Would require a 50% increase in current efforts)
- Protect at least 1,000 acres of high quality wetlands, and 2,000 acres of associated uplands per year through easements or fee simple purchase to achieve 50,000 acres of protected wetlands by 2059.
- Develop a strategy to address invasive species that identifies promotes and implements management techniques to control or eliminate invasive species
- Enhance Michigan's partnership with the federal Farm Service Agency's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

Actions Requiring Additional Funding

- Restore critical fisheries by restoring armored shoreline areas in bayous and marshes
- Complete delisting targets for those AOCs that have Beneficial Use Impairments for the “Loss of Fish and Wildlife Habitat” and “Degraded Fish and Wildlife Populations” and initiate restoration and remove BIUs
- Develop a strategy to reduce or eliminate the construction of new shoreline protection structures and incorporate mitigation measures

Michigan Legislative Needs


- Long term funding for
 - Species and habitat conservation and restoration
 - Implementation of the Great Lakes Coastal Wetland Consortium's coastal wetland monitoring program
 - Conservation Districts
 - CREP program
 - Natural resource regulatory programs including monitoring
- Transfer development rights
- Development of new regulations/laws to protect species of greatest conservation need and vulnerable natural features

Federal Action Priorities

Habitat and Species

- Appropriate \$16 million annually to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act to encourage conservation, restoration, and management of fish and wildlife habitat.
- Support passage of the Clean Water Restoration Act legislation and authorize/appropriate funding for state implementation for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act to protect important Great Lakes wetlands.
- Appropriate \$40 million annually for Great Lakes coastal shore and upland habitat conservation programs.
- Reauthorize and fully fund the new Coastal Zone Management Act for Great Lakes and coastal protection and management programs.

Implementation

- January 13 – Release of MI-Great Lakes Plan and presentation of Michigan’s federal priorities
 - February 25, Great Lakes Day in Washington D.C.
 - March 11, MI-Great Lakes Plan Implementation Workshop, Setting Near Term Priorities
 - Other Funding Opportunities
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Workshop Goals

- To identify near-term actions that can be implemented within the next 1-2 years, have strong stakeholder support and don't need a new major funding source to accomplish

Draft Michigan Near-Term Priorities

- Examine responsibilities and authorities for aquatic invasive species management in Michigan
- Implement and share planning tools across communities (e.g. DEQ/SEMCOG Low Impact Development Manual).
- Identify measures to ensure stormwater management is effective and efficient by providing flexibility and local funding.
- Expand Great Lakes educational efforts
- Raise awareness, promote, and mobilize volunteer opportunities to encourage stewardship
- Promote successful Great Lakes protection and restoration efforts and finding better ways to inform the public as to the environmental state of the Great Lakes.

Opportunities

- Collaboration, coordination and sharing information



Contact

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