

Great Lakes Stewardship Synergy

How ecological restoration can enable vibrant communities

- **The International Joint Commission (IJC)** helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over shared waters on 5,525 miles of boundary, including the Great Lakes.
- There are major efforts in the Great Lakes to tackle historical pollution and repair ecosystems. In communities where clean-ups occur, social and economic well-being is linked to restoration.
- The IJC **Great Lakes Water Quality Board** is developing resources to help leaders integrate ecological, social and economic factors into their environmentally-focused decision-making.

Linking social, economic and ecosystem benefits

Building up, and building on, community capacity through Great Lakes restoration

Individuals, organizations and communities are engaging in the complex processes of Great Lakes clean-up. Efforts focus most often on fixing legacy pollution problems (remediation) and rectifying ecological damage (restoration) at toxic hotspots along the Great Lakes' coasts and tributary rivers.

In many cases, remediation and restoration of Great Lakes landscapes also brings social and economic benefits to the communities where clean-ups occur (revitalization). Further, each community contributes unique resources (capacity) that enhances cleanup efforts.

Scan for more
about this project!

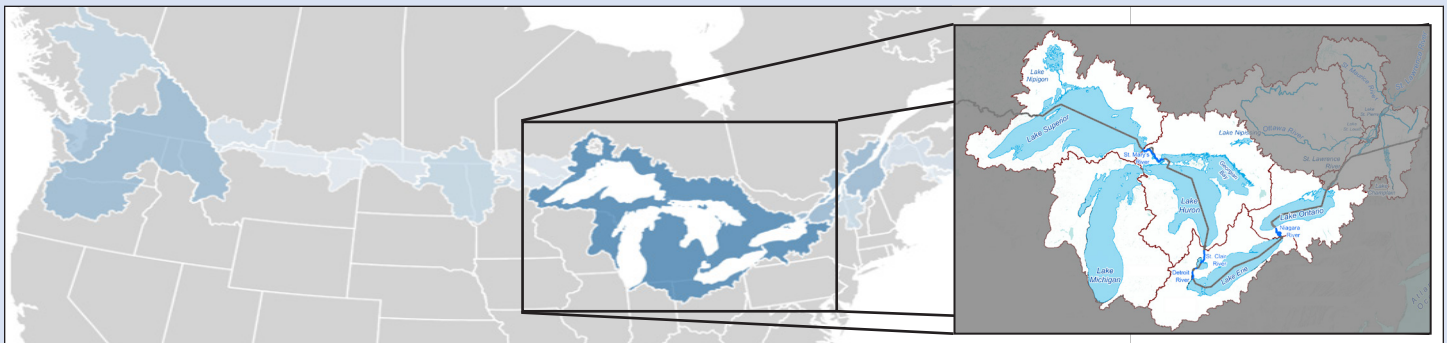


About the Project

The IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's *Social Dimensions of Great Lakes Restoration* project seeks to document the synergistic linkages between remediation, restoration and revitalization outcomes and community capacity. The project will identify community resources (such as leadership and networks) that strengthen and contribute to enhanced engagement and stewardship, and thus support Great Lakes stewardship outcomes.

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Where will this work impact?



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Social Dimensions of Great Lakes Restoration

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

The activities and outcomes of the *Social Dimensions of Great Lakes Restoration* project will include:

- Convening a workshop to learn from practitioners engaged in linking social, cultural, economic and ecological outcomes,
- Developing a portfolio of resources to support decision makers' stewardship activities,
- Evaluating the decision-making resources through focus groups with representatives from three Canadian and three US communities, and
- Summarizing the findings of the project in a culminating final product.



Work underway at the Toe of Katherine Street Peninsula project site, a habitat restoration project in the Buffalo River Area of Concern. Credit: Great Lakes Commission

The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, Canadian and United States governments established remedial action plans to restore impaired water quality at 43 Areas of Concern. The Agreement charges the Great Lakes Water Quality Board with assisting the IJC by providing recommended strategies and approaches for preventing and resolving the complex challenges facing the Great Lakes.

About the International Joint Commission

The IJC was established in 1909 under the Boundary Waters Treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over shared waters. The IJC's responsibilities include reporting on progress made by the governments under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board advises the IJC to support the achievement of the Agreement.

The Great Lakes ...



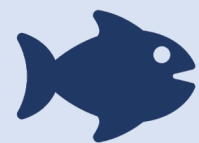
contain roughly
20 percent of the world's
fresh surface water



support a
US\$6 trillion (CAD\$7.5
trillion) regional economy



are a source of
drinking water for
36 million people



are home to
4,000 species of
plants and animals



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