

ST. CLAIR RIVER HABITAT RESTORATION



Cottrellville Township Shoreline Restoration: \$2,500,000 GLRI

The Cottrellville Township shoreline project included the removal of nearly 400 feet of failing steel seawall, restoring the shoreline to a natural state with cobble, woody structure and native vegetation. In addition, rock breakwalls were placed within the shallow shelf of the river to create calm areas for fish to feed and take cover.

Cuttle Creek Habitat Restoration: \$2,600,000 GLRI

Cuttle Creek, a tributary to the St. Clair River, was restored using the techniques of Natural Channel Design. The project goals that were accomplished include reconnecting the creek to the floodplain and surrounding wetland, restoring benthic habitat for aquatic insects with cobble and woody structure and restoring fish passage throughout the entire 3,000 foot project area.



Marine City Drain Habitat Restoration: \$980,000 GLRI

At the confluence of the Marine City Drain and the St. Clair River, over 1/4 acre of river habitat and 63 feet of shoreline was restored with the construction of in-water rock breakwalls, cobble substrate and woody structure benefitting fish and wildlife.

Port Huron Shoreline – South: \$500,000 GLRI

In the upper St. Clair River, invasive species along the streambank were treated and removed, native shrubs and trees were planted and large whole trees were anchored into the streambank providing cover for young fish.



Photo Credit: Adam Lintz



St. Clair River Reef Restoration: \$4,390,000 GLRI

Three fish spawning reefs were installed in three locations throughout the river. The Middle Channel reef, constructed in 2012 is 1 acre in size. The Harts Light and Pointe aux Chenes reefs were installed in 2014 and are 3.8 acres and 1.5 acres respectively. These reefs provide spawning substrate for a variety of native fish including the state threatened Lake Sturgeon.

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Marysville Living Shoreline: \$1,500,000 GLRI

The shoreline just south of Chrysler Park Beach was enhanced by removing over 1,800 feet of failing steel seawall and replacing it with rock in addition to many species of native trees and wildflowers. These improvements provide habitat for a variety of fish and wildlife species.

Blue Water River Walk: \$2,250,000 GLRI

Nearly one mile of shoreline was restored just south of the Maritime Center in Port Huron using rock along the shoreline edge and to create in-river breakwaters. Native shrubs and wildflowers were planted providing food and cover for wildlife. The area also serves as a destination for the public and is the site of the annual Port Huron Sturgeon Festival.



St. Clair County Parks Wetland: \$1,039,500 GLRI

Just south of the Blue Water River Walk shoreline, 2.75 acres of an upland brownfield was cleaned up and converted to wetland providing habitat for reptiles, amphibians and migrating waterfowl. With a pedestrian and bike trail bisecting the various wetland habitats, the area is also able to be fully enjoyed by the public.

Port Huron Shoreline - North: \$1,200,000 GLRI

One of the first funded projects under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), the Port Huron North shoreline project included planting native wildflowers and installing rock along the 300 foot shoreline in addition to cobble placed in the river to create a substrate benefitting fish and aquatic insects.



Krispin Drain Restoration: \$4,000,000 GLRI

The Krispin Drain runs through Harsens Island and out to Lake St. Clair. Decades of sediment and invasive species had severely degraded the habitat of the drain. The Krispin Drain restoration project included 3 miles of strategic dredging to re-shape the drain along with treatment and removal of Phragmites. The Drain is now St. Clair County's newest Blueways paddle route.