

# Grand Calumet River Sediment Remediation and Restoration Project

East Branch Great Lakes Legacy Act Project  
Northwest Indiana

July 2013

## Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

The GLRI is the largest investment in the Great Lakes in two decades. Eleven federal departments and agencies are working together on five priorities:

- Cleaning up toxics and Areas of Concern.
- Combating invasive species.
- Protecting the Lakes from polluted runoff.
- Restoring wetlands and other habitats.
- Raising public awareness, tracking progress and working with partners.

## GLRI's Legacy Act

Under the first priority, the Great Lakes Legacy Act provides up to 65 percent of the cost of a project. The rest comes from cities, states and businesses. Legacy Act partnerships have cleaned up 15 sites within 9 Areas of Concern and remediated about 2.4 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment.

Completed cleanups have been a springboard for communities to build a foundation for future growth by transforming former toxic hot spots into attractive locations. Areas that were obstacles to economic growth are now valuable waterfront assets.

## Contact EPA

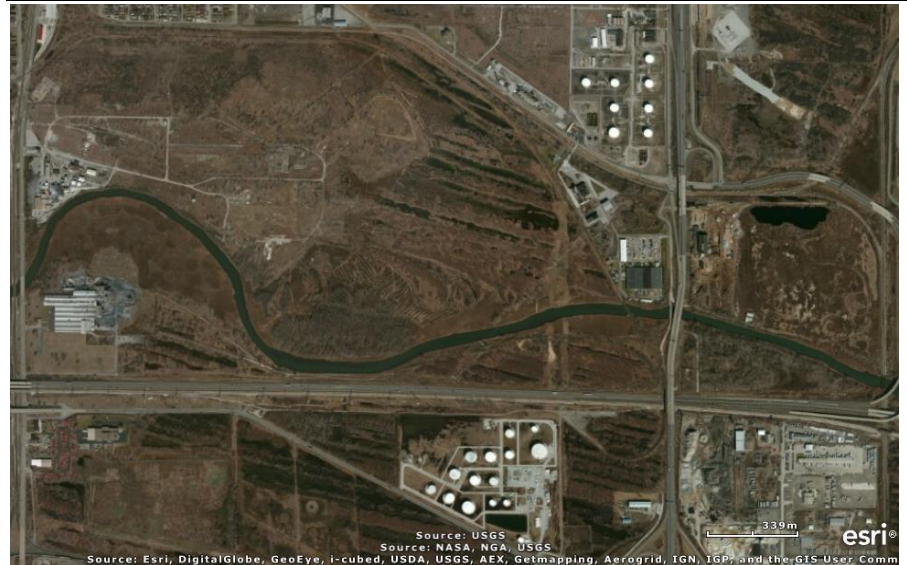
For more information, questions or to apply for a Legacy Act project, visit [www.epa.gov/glla](http://www.epa.gov/glla) or contact:

## Great Lakes Legacy Act

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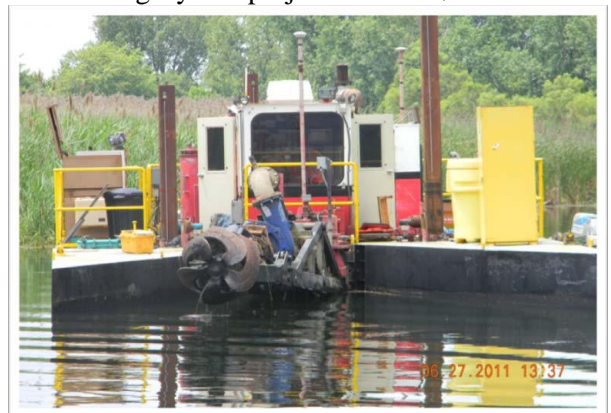


*This aerial photo shows the Grand Calumet River and adjacent wetlands between Kennedy Avenue on the left and Cline Avenue on the right.*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Great Lakes National Program Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources have started cleaning up and restoring habitat at a 1.8-mile stretch of the East Branch of the Grand Calumet River in East Chicago, Ind. (*see above*).

Through this project calls about 350,000 cubic yards of polluted sediment (mud) will be dredged from the river. The dredged areas will then be capped. Wetlands and nearshore areas will be restored with native plants. This project is expected to take three years to complete, and will be conducted in phases, based on the availability of funding.

The total cost of this Great Lakes Legacy Act project is about \$80 million. Federal GLRI funds cover 65 percent, or \$52 million. Using Natural Resources Damage Assessment funds, Indiana provides the required nonfederal 35 percent share, about \$28 million.



## Project activities

Since May, contractors have been preparing the project for cleanup. An abandoned railroad bridge has been demolished and sheet pile has been installed in the river to construct a sedimentation basin. Construction of the sediment unloading and dewatering areas and water treatment plant is underway. Dredging will begin this summer and is expected to take about seven months. Other activities that will happen over the next three years include:

- Removing sediment from the wetlands.
- Placing cap material in the river and sand in the dredged wetlands.
- Removing rail ties and ballast from the south bank of the river.
- Restoring habitat on the banks of the river and adjacent wetlands.
- Monitoring and maintenance of the habitat restoration areas.

## For more information

To learn more about this project, visit [www.epa.gov/glla/grandcal/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/glla/grandcal/index.html) or [www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qc2drk-sO8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Qc2drk-sO8). You may contact Project Manager Diana Mally at 312-886-7275, or [mally.diana@epa.gov](mailto:mally.diana@epa.gov); Jim Smith, IDEM, at 317-232-3451, or [jsmith@idem.in.gov](mailto:jsmith@idem.in.gov); or Carl Wodrich, IDNR, at 317-232-1291, or [CWodrich@dnr.in.gov](mailto:CWodrich@dnr.in.gov).



*Geotubes (photo above) are pumped full of wet sediment (mud) during dredging. Geotubes trap contaminated sediment and drain excess water.*



*Wetland restoration using native plants.*



*Marsh buggy dump truck used to move excavated material and fill marsh.*