



# Redeveloping vacant land as green infrastructure in Great Lakes cities

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**Great Lakes  
Protection Fund**

# Cleveland Botanical Garden





# Cleveland Botanical Garden: Green Corps





# Cleveland Botanical Garden: Green Corps

## Green Corps: Agricultural urban work study

- est. 1996
- 6 learning farms, 1 – 10 parcels each
- 300 students



# Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF)

*Redeveloping vacant land as green infrastructure in Great Lakes cities*

- Geri Unger & Sandra Albro, Cleveland Botanical Garden
- Rumi Shammin, Oberlin College
- Kyle Dreyfuss-Wells, Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District
- William Shuster, US EPA

1-year planning grant

- Can we justify large-scale green infrastructure projects?



OBERLIN



# Great Lakes Protection Fund (GLPF)

- A permanent environmental endowment
- Funding priorities:
  - collaborative, regional projects
  - tangible ecosystem improvements
  - ecological and economic health



Great Lakes  
Protection Fund

[glpf.org](http://glpf.org)



# Project Background

## 1. Widespread water contamination

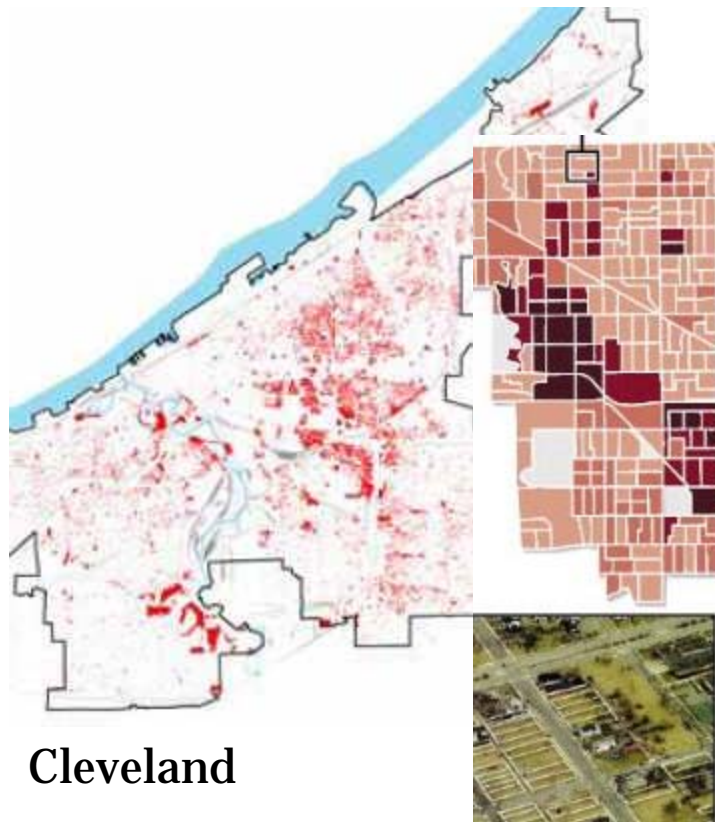
- Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) and stormwater treatment bypasses
- 24 billion gallons untreated water per year
- 18 of 20 largest Great Lakes cities within AOCs
- US EPA: Clean Water Act





# Project Background

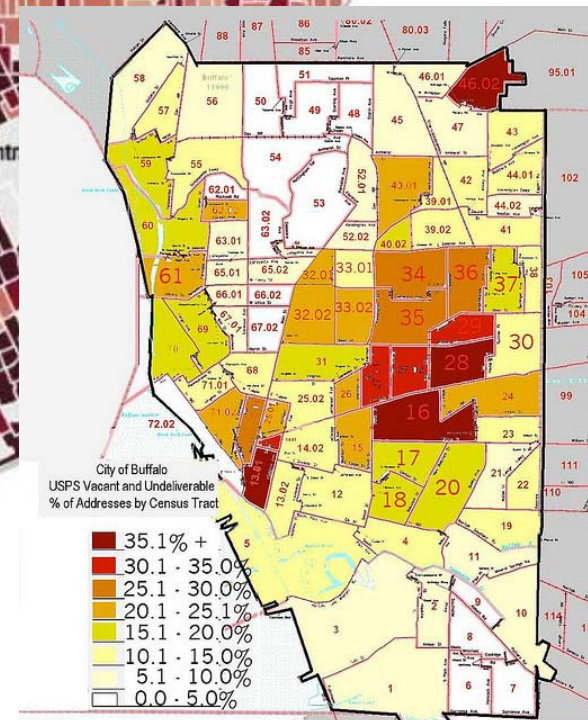
## 2. Abundance of vacant urban land



Cleveland



Detroit



Buffalo



# Project Background

## 3. Revitalization efforts in Great Lakes cities

- local
- small scale
- variable

Large-scale, regional revitalization: Does it make sense?

- triple bottom line: social, environmental, economic
- justification



# Project Overview

## 1-year planning grant

### A. Analysis: Triple bottom line

- Post-doctoral research opportunity

### B. Regional dialogue: 3 in-person meetings

- Current GI efforts
- Barriers
- Key questions

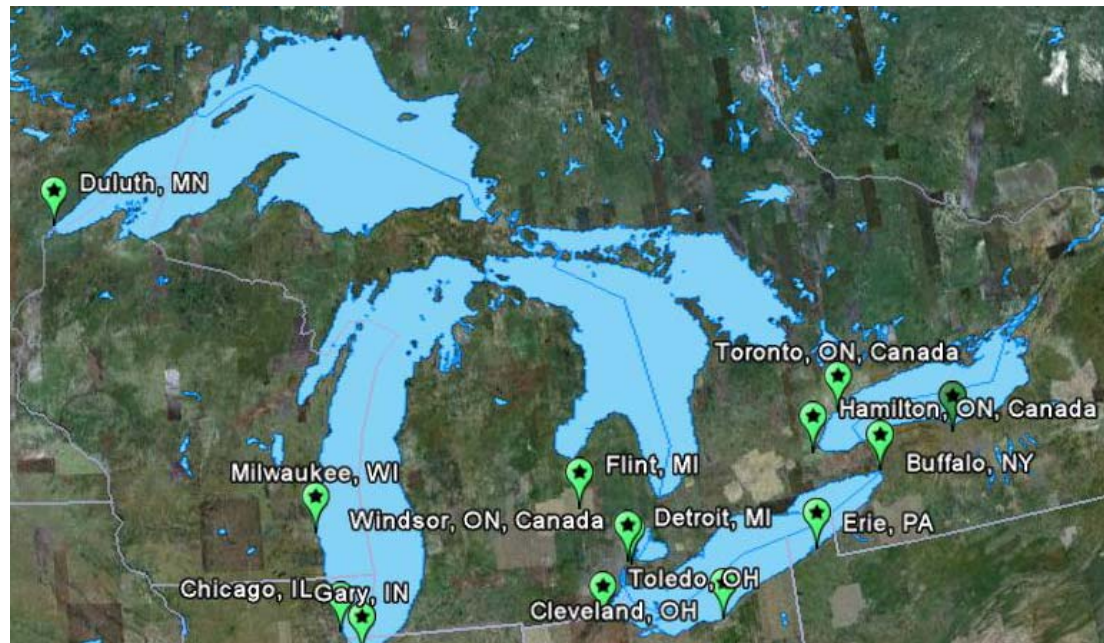
### C. Product: A 5-year action plan

- Can we justify large-scale green infrastructure projects?
- 4 – 6 projects to answer critical questions
  - Installation & maintenance costs
  - Hidden costs/benefits (social & environmental)
- Potential funding sources

# Project Overview

## Focal cities:

- Duluth, MN
- Milwaukee, WI
- Chicago, IL
- Gary, IN
- Flint, MI
- Detroit, MI
- Cleveland, OH
- Toledo, OH
- Erie, PA
- Hamilton, ON
- Toronto, ON
- Windsor, ON
- Buffalo, NY
- Rochester, NY





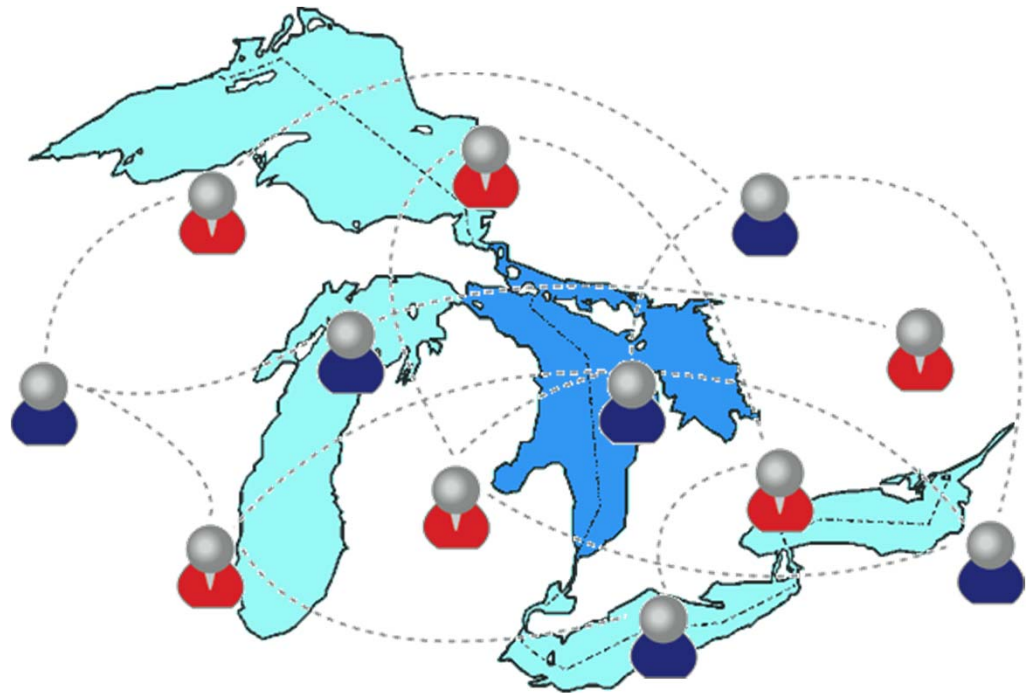
# Project Overview

How you can be involved:

- Feedback
- Participation
- Recommend contacts
- Introductions

What we can offer:

- Regional networking
- Tie-in to local projects
- Input into future funding decisions
- Collaborative funding opportunities



## Contact Us

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