



# 2020 INITIATIVES

## U.S. AND CANADA

### REPORT CARD

- **Launch of the Stimulus Water Restoration Initiative**

An ongoing effort to influence the federal governments in Canada and the U.S. to increase funding for water infrastructure and erosion mitigation projects and provide revenue replacement funds to assist cities recover from the financial crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our successful campaign helped Canadian municipalities secure funds to respond to financial impacts from the pandemic. We are working with key members of the Great Lakes Congressional Delegation and members of the Canadian Parliament to advance funding for water infrastructure and coastal erosion mitigation.



- **Amplified Mayors' Voices with the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament**

Supporting key priorities such as Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River restoration, water infrastructure, agricultural conservation and nutrient reduction, Asian Carp control, and commercial navigation, working in collaboration with regional organizations such as the Great Lakes Commission, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition and the Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative.



- **Formation of the Cities Initiative's Mayors Commission on Water Equity**

A commission specifically focused on the water equity challenges facing many of our cities, including lead service lines, water affordability and water shutoffs, aging infrastructure and climate resilience.



- **Formation of the Cities Initiative Advisory Council on Coastal Resilience**

The council will recommend solutions to coastal erosion, flooding, severe storm events and other impacts from high lake levels and climate change. The council will seek federal and state/provincial funding, identify best practices, exchange technical information, and facilitate communication and collaboration with agencies and organizations working to strengthen coastal resilience around the region.



- **Completion of the Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes & St. Lawrence 2020-2030**

Developed by five regional organizations, the report recommends key initiatives to guide Canadian policy for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.



- **Cities Initiative Webinar Series**

This series of twelve informative webinars covered topics ranging from Asian Carp, high water levels and how to fund water infrastructure projects. We also co-hosted presentations from the Trump and Biden campaigns, including White House Deputy Chief of Staff John Fleming and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs Doug Hoelscher, and former South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

